

Mozambique



Implementation Update – November 2012

- In the 1990s, the devastation of anti-personnel mines in Mozambique meant that its plight drew world attention to the suffering caused by these weapons. A 1994 [Human Rights Watch report](#) noted that “the devastation caused by landmines in Mozambique – not only to the many civilian victims, but also to the socio-economic well-being of the nation – is undeniable and appalling. Clearance of mines will take many years, and probably decades.”
- Mozambique in the early 1990s also highlighted the inadequacies of the international legal regime governing landmine use at the time – the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons’ landmines protocol. In 1994, Human Rights Watch wrote that “the experience of Mozambique suggests that the Landmines Protocol has been wholly ineffective” and that “there should be an international ban on the production, stockpiling, trade and use of anti-personnel mines.”
- Mozambique played a leading role in the Ottawa Process, which culminated in 1997 in the adoption of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Mozambique was one of the first States to ratify the Convention and it hosted the Convention’s First Meeting of the States Parties in 1999.
- Mozambique was required to clear all mined areas within ten years after entry into force of the Convention. As it was unable to do so, Mozambique used the Convention’s provisions to request an extension on its deadline. In 2008, the deadline was extended to 1 March 2014.
- Within its 2008 extension request, Mozambique indicated that it still needed to address 541 areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling more than 12 million square metres. Mozambique also committed to carry out additional surveys to obtain more precise information on the location and size of mined areas.
- Between 2008 and 2011, surveys identified an additional 512 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling approximately 22.2 million square metres. In response, since 2008 the demining capacity in Mozambique was increased to tackle the newly discovered hazard areas. From 2008 to October 2012, 867 areas totalling over 26 million square metres have been demined with 96 of Mozambique’s 128 districts having been declared “mine-free.”
- As of October 2012, Mozambique projected that it still needed to address 265 task sites totalling 11.6 million square metres. This includes approximately 2.9 million square metres of mined areas along Mozambique’s border with Zimbabwe.
- While it was once thought that it would take decades to clear mines from Mozambique, it is now clear that completion of clearance is within sight. If sufficient resources are provided, Mozambique will complete implementation of its mine clearance obligations by its 2014 deadline.

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