

**Mine Action Programme of Zimbabwe:
Status and Challenges in Implementation
Wednesday, 20 December 2017**

Introduction and participants

On 20 December 2017, Zimbabwe and the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention with the support of the Implementation Support Unit invited state and civil society representatives to engage on Zimbabwe's needs and challenges in mine action. Following a presentation by Zimbabwe, participants engaged in an informal discussion about possible avenues of cooperation and assistance in support of Zimbabwe's efforts. Participants received a package including [Zimbabwe's extension request](#), minefield profiles, Zimbabwe's National Mine Action Strategy, and Zimbabwe's presentation. Where not publicly available, these can be obtained through the ISU (isu@apminebanconvention.org) by those in a position to provide assistance.

Participants

States: Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom.

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention representatives: Austria (Convention Presidency); the Netherlands, Canada, Thailand, Uganda (Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance); Belgium (Committee on Victim Assistance); Zambia (Committee on Article 5 Implementation); Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU).

Organizations: European Union, HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), APOPO, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Mine Action Review.

Presentation

Zimbabwe inherited eight distinct minefields at its independence in 1980. Its initial deadline under Article 5 of the Convention was March 2009. Zimbabwe has subsequently submitted 4 extension requests to assess the remaining extent of the challenge and to develop plans accordingly. Zimbabwe has made significant progress in addressing contaminated areas. During its previous extension request, Zimbabwe finalized survey of its remaining mined areas and has acquired precise information on the magnitude of its remaining contamination. A fifth extension request was granted at the Convention's Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in Vienna which included a plan to fulfil its mine clearance obligations by 31 December 2025.

Presently, 61,916,027 square meters of contaminated area remains to be addressed with clearance costs estimated at USD 123 million over the 8 year extension request period, of which Zimbabwe has committed to contribute USD 12.7 million. In order to meet its deadline, Zimbabwe has prepared a national mine action strategy for the 2018-2025 period, which will be launched in Harare in early 2018. Zimbabwe is using up to date land release standards, policies and is open to the use of new clearance methods such as mine detection dogs and mechanical clearance which are currently being piloted.

The remaining contamination has significant social and humanitarian implications. Some villages are as close as 100 meters to minefields. The remaining contaminated areas are located on Zimbabwe's border with Mozambique. The presence of mined areas inhibits access to water, resources, land for grazing and cultivation and restricts movement. People have been injured while herding cattle, women are injured while gathering firewood, and children are injured while walking to school. In addition, due to the minefields, farmers have difficulty harvesting timber and cattle often die as a result of stepping into minefields, both of which are economic hardships.

Key challenges identified by Zimbabwe include:

- Low level of international and national awareness of the mine problem;
- Need for increased funding to implement Zimbabwe's mine clearance plan;
- Limited resource for assessing the needs of survivors and health care facilities to support persons with disability, including landmine survivors.

Current donors to mine clearance in Zimbabwe are Ireland, Japan, Norway, the UK and the US, along with the organization World Without Mines. HALO Trust, MAG, NPA, and APOPO are presently accredited in Zimbabwe. HALO Trust has been present in Zimbabwe for some time, MAG has begun work in December 2017, and APOPO is awaiting equipment from Mozambique in order to begin. ZMAC is open to including additional operators if it will help to get the job done.

Additional information by mine action NGOs working with Zimbabwe

HALO: is working to clear a professionally-laid, very dense minefield with kilometres of border frontage and some villages, both near patrol roads. Given the experience gained and characteristics of the minefields, they are only clearing a 5 meter buffer from last mine found, which makes the operations very effective. The contamination is very significant. They have removed 16,500 mines this year. Almost all of the mines are within 200 meters of villages or agricultural areas.

In general, HALO has found that local populations are aware of the threat of mines and have grown up with this threat their entire lives. People experience significant stress about walking to school with their children every day. They have also noted that it is a struggle to get funds for victim assistance in Zimbabwe, including prosthetics.

MAG: found it to be a lengthy process to get started in Zimbabwe, despite strong support from ZMAC for MAG to begin its work. They found Zimbabwe's process to develop its national strategy, which was facilitated by the GICHD and included multi-ministry stakeholder engagement, to be very refreshing, and a good process. MAG strongly endorses Zimbabwe's mine action plan and sees it as a genuine roadmap. MAG highlighted the need for increased international awareness of the mine situation in Zimbabwe. Even people living in Zimbabwe are forgetting the border areas and the people there are being left behind.

NPA: sees tailored approaches as the best way forward for the sector. It is enthusiastic about the improvements in Zimbabwe over the last 6 years, and notes that ZMAC is one of top five programs in the world in the Mine Action Review. NPA notes the use of land release and quality non-technical survey in Zimbabwe and is pleased at Zimbabwe's openness to employing the full toolbox including dogs and mechanical clearance, as well as Zimbabwe's strong national ownership.

APOPO: Support from the Government of Zimbabwe for Apopo to begin work has been phenomenal, although the organization is not yet operational. Once it begins work, it will be operating in a difficult, sparsely-populated region where protection of wildlife is an essential aspect of the work. It will mostly use mechanical means. Apopo noted that once Angola and Zimbabwe are completed, all

of Southern Africa, once one of the most contaminated sub-regions in the world, will be cleared of anti-personnel mines.

GICHD: Facilitated the drafting of Zimbabwe's new mine action strategy, noted strong national ownership, and good cooperation on information gathering. Discussions during the drafting of the strategy were honest and open, and they have resulted in an ambitious but realistic plan which would see Zimbabwe free of mines by 2025 if sufficient funding is received. GICHD noted that it was important to make sure that Zimbabwe disseminates information on progress and impact, and that for this reason, it was important for all operators to complete post clearance reports. They also noted that to facilitate this, standardized impact assessment criteria for Zimbabwe would be agreed among operators. GICHD highlighted that the fact that the mine action program is nationally owned and includes local capacity means that dealing with residual contamination will not be a major obstacle.

Discussion

States and organizations alike were broadly supportive of the process and the ongoing work in Zimbabwe, noting in particular the good working relationship between Zimbabwe and demining operators as well as the national ownership demonstrated by Zimbabwe. Many called on donors to join the good work underway in Zimbabwe to rid the country of the remaining contamination.

Some of the organizations indicated that their previous work in Mozambique allows the organization to transfer their knowledge of working in the region, and in some cases on very similar minefields. Some operators which could assist in this way are awaiting release of their equipment from Mozambique. Zimbabwe and the affected operators asked participants to provide any assistance they could in persuading Mozambique to release the equipment.

Participants asked Zimbabwe if there has been an exchange of best practices with Mozambique or Angola. Zimbabwe indicated that it *had* worked with Mozambique to draft memoranda of understanding on clearance of their common border areas but there has not been any progress on this since *Mozambique completed clearance of their side of the border minefields*.

Participants noted that Zimbabwe's new strategy includes victim assistance, and clear, time-bound, measurable objectives on this under goal three. Participants also noted Zimbabwe's challenge regarding the conducting of a nation-wide survey on victim assistance, and asked what the budget would be to fund such work. Zimbabwe committed to follow up on the budget for such work (see budget attached). Speaking of Zimbabwe's plan to include victims of mines in the next census, the Committee encouraged Zimbabwe not to wait until then (2022) to evaluate the needs of victims.

Participants asked Zimbabwe if mine action is referenced in its national development strategy and indicated that having it mentioned in the national development strategy would be necessary/helpful in order to unlock development support. Zimbabwe responded by stating its aim to ensure that issues related to anti-personnel mines are embraced in its economic blueprint and that it is recognized as an important factor to the development of the country.

Zimbabwe was asked about its Institutional capacity development needs as well as its efforts to reach out to the donor community and any support it would need to implement its new strategy. ZMAC replied that they have no personnel issues as they are well trained and can train others as well but that there is a need for more equipment. Zimbabwe committed to providing a list of equipment needed in follow-up to the meeting (see attached). In terms of reaching out to the donor community ZIMAC and NAMAAZ will continue working closely with its partners to ensure the National Strategy is well funded as per the financial requirement.

Zimbabwe was asked how international support would need to change in order for Zimbabwe to achieve completion of mine clearance obligations by 2025. Zimbabwe responded by indicating that,

beyond its own national funds, none of the funding necessary to implement its work plan has been committed, so it would like to see continued donor commitment at the levels proposed in its work plan.

Zimbabwe was asked if mechanical clearance assets and mine detection dogs were on their way to be used in Zimbabwe or if this was a consideration for the longer term. Zimbabwe replied that dogs and mechanical clearance are part of pilot projects and that they hope to fully incorporate these assets in the short term. Zimbabwe also indicated that and that mechanical clearance is being used on deeply buried mines.

Participants indicated that they would share the information provide by Zimbabwe with their capitals and encouraged Zimbabwe to consider sharing this presentation with Embassies in Harare.

Participants asked if the new political situation has impacted mine action in Zimbabwe. One operator advised that for them, there had always been a question mark about a future political transition in its risk matrices and that it sees things as being in a better position now than before. Zimbabwe responded that the new political representation is a positive development and that the fact that their Secretary of Defence had led the Individualized Approach meeting shows how serious they are. They underscored that the recent transition of power in Zimbabwe was peaceful and that the situation in Zimbabwe is peaceful.

Follow up

The launch of Zimbabwe's national strategy is going to take place on 9 March 2018 and embassy representatives from current and possible donor states will be included as primary participants. Zimbabwe is open to further interaction, including bilateral engagement. It will hold a donor meeting in Harare, along with a demining demonstration, likely as a part of the strategy launch.

Questions about the Mine Action Program in Zimbabwe should be directed to: **Col. MB Ncube, Director, Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre, zimacaction@gmail.com.**

EQUIPMENT FOR A DEMINING SQUADRON

Technical Equipment

SER	ITEM	QUANTITY	ESTIMATE UNIT PRICE	ESTIMATE COST	REMARKS
01	Vallon VMH4	60	\$3,000	\$180,000	
02	Demining tools Kit	60 sets	\$575	\$34 500	
03	Demining PPE and Visor	60 Sets	\$600	\$36 000	
04	GPS	6	\$550	\$3 300	
05	Detector Battery Charger	30	\$25	\$750	
06	Range Finders	10	\$400	\$4 000	
07	Magnet sticks	60	\$80	\$4 800	
08	Subscription to ArccGIS				
09	Cameras	10	\$250	\$2500	
10	Laptops	5	\$500	\$2500	
11	TOTAL			\$268 350	

Camping Equipment

SER	ITEM	QUANTITY	ESTIMATE UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE	REMARKS
01	16 X16 Tents	10	\$1 500	15 000	
02	Marque Tents	03	\$2500	\$7 500	
03	One man Tents	06	\$500	\$3 000	
04	Electricity Generator	5	\$700	\$3 500	6.5 KV
05	Solar Mobile units (5000w)	4	7500	\$30 000	To power camp lighting and Entertainment
07	Water Bowsers/Tanks	5	\$1500	\$7 500	Vehicle toured
10	TOTAL			\$66 500	

Vehicles Requirement

SER	ITEM	QUANTITY	ESTIMATE UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE	REMARKS
01	Ambulance Vehicles	05	\$75 000	\$ 375 000	Preferably 4x4 Toyota land cruisers
02	Trauma Kits	05	\$25 000	\$100 000	
03	TOTAL			\$475 000	

ESTIMATED GRANT TOTAL FOR A SQUADRON		
01	Technical Equipment	\$268 350
02	Camping Equipment	\$66 500
03	Vehicles	\$475 000
04	GRANT TOTAL	\$809 850

National Mine/ ERW Victim and Survivor Survey

SER	ITEM	QUANTITY	ESTIMATE UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE	REMARKS
01	Vehicles	05	30 000	\$ 150 000	5 teams of 3 man each
02	Fuel	50 000	\$1.25	\$75 000	250L /day for 200 days
03	Laptops	05	\$450	\$3 000	
04	Stationary			\$5000	
05	TOTAL			\$233 000	