



South Sudan
Presentation of request for extension submitted for
consideration by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States
Parties

Hon Jurkuch Barach, Chairperson National Mine Action
Authority

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Summary of all land release activity 2011-2020

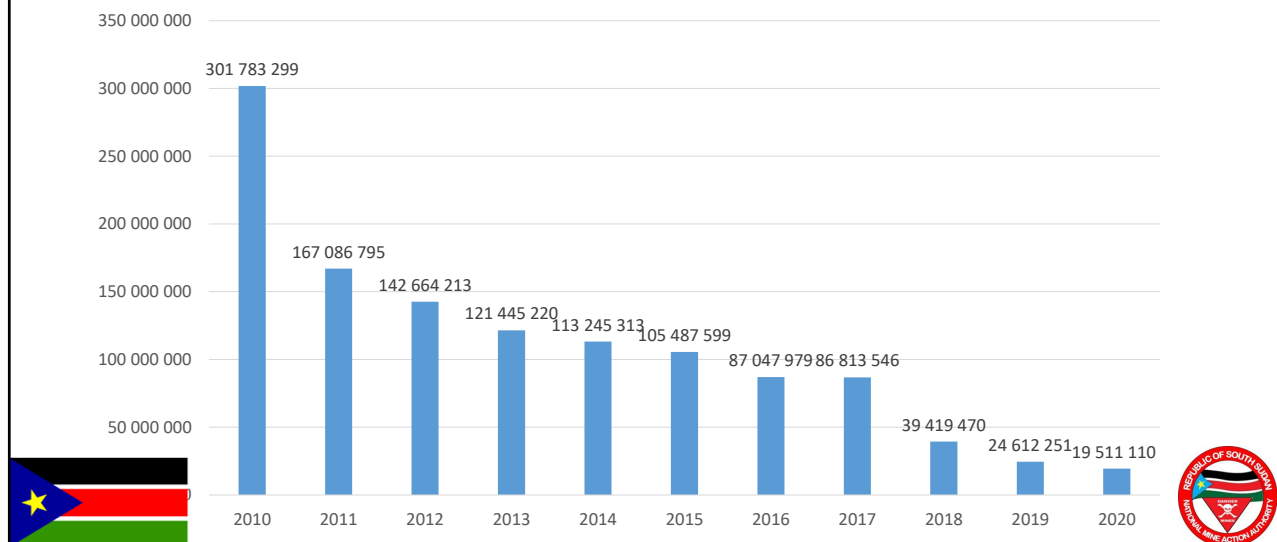
Year	# of Cleared/ Cancelled Hazards	New Area Found (sqm)	Minefield Area Cleared (sqm)	BAC Area Cleared (sqm)	Cancelled Area (sqm)	# of Remaining Hazards	Remaining Area (sqm)
2011	154	12,133,740	3,077,746	2,755,508	128,863,250	629	167,086,795
2012	279	20,314,782	7,644,281	6,325,218	30,767,866	565	142,664,213
2013	217	19,695,147	7,062,427	842,348	33,009,364	559	121,445,220
2014	164	9,768,800	2,927,901	3,430,256	11,610,550	518	113,245,313
2015	170	11,045,197	4,491,633	3,039,436	11,271,842	532	105,487,599
2016	158	8,765,776	2,534,010	4,590,825	20,080,561	501	87,047,979
2017	71	7,741,854	760,566	5,222,404	1,993,317	495	86,813,546
2018	261	14,950,517	2,699,672	5,842,819	53,802,102	368	39,419,470
2019	99	10,429,592	2,184,845	4,055,852	18,996,113	360	24,612,251
2020	36	3,674,701	1,226,061	2,118,431	5,431,349	353	19,511,110
Total	1,609	118,520,105	34,609,142	38,223,097	315,826,314		

Since 2011, 388km² have been released and now just 19.5km² remain.



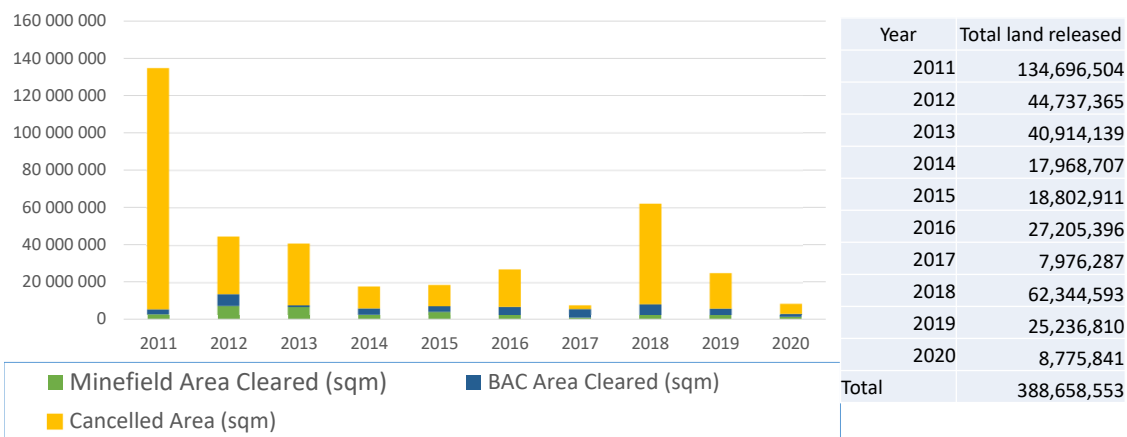
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Year on year progress South Sudan remaining contamination (All hazard types (sqm)):



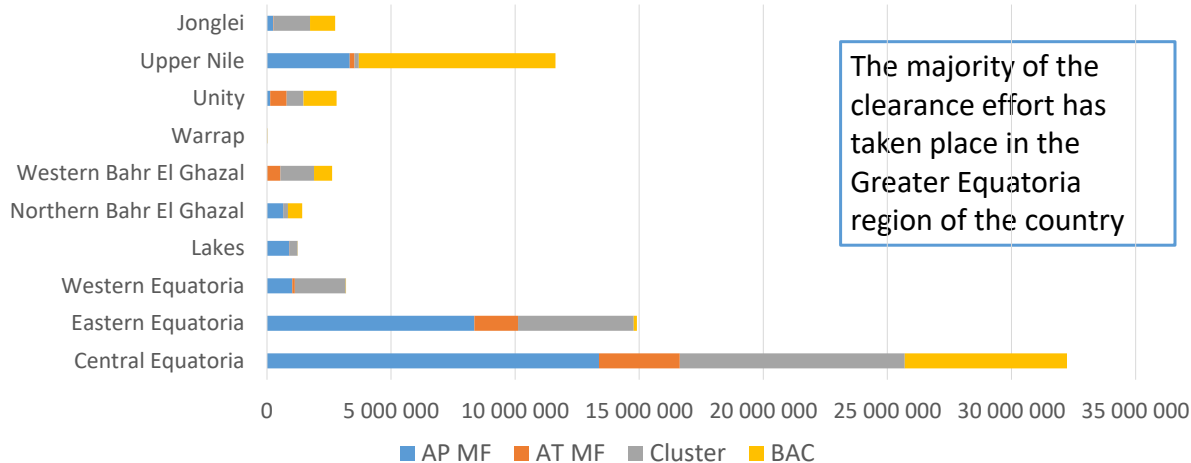
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Land Release by year Total remaining contamination 19.5million m²



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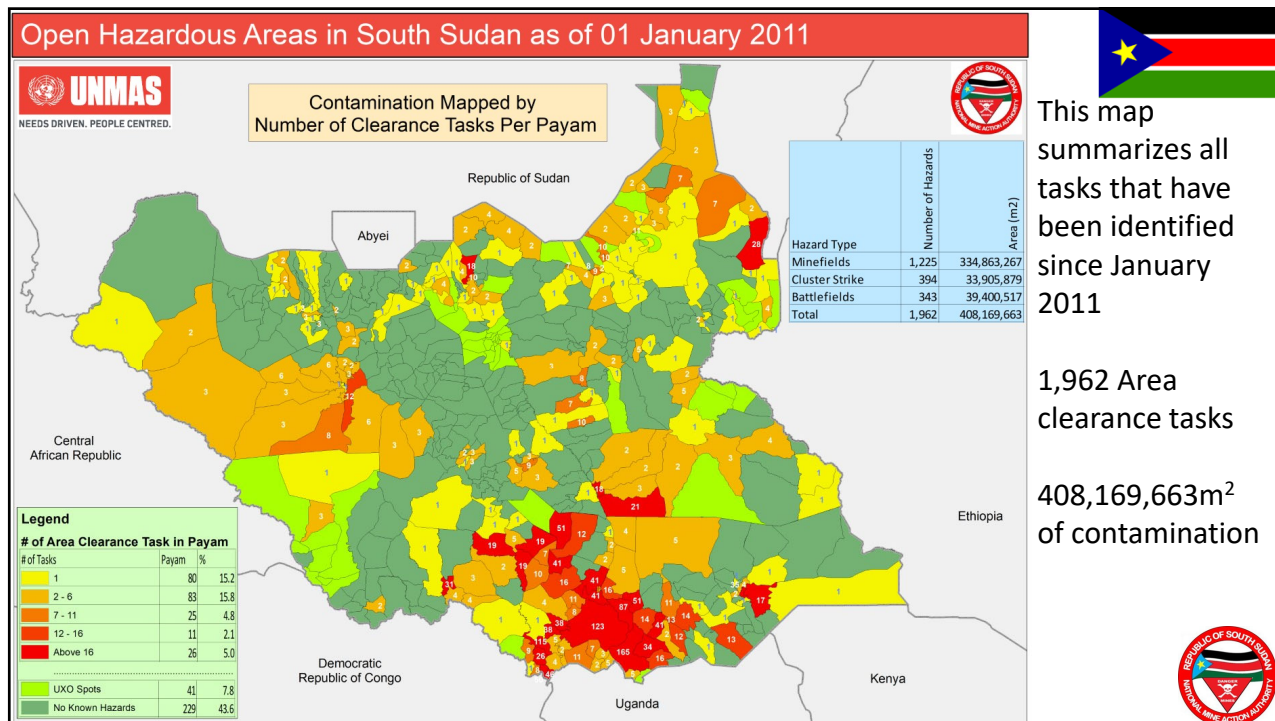
Where the mine clearance taken place



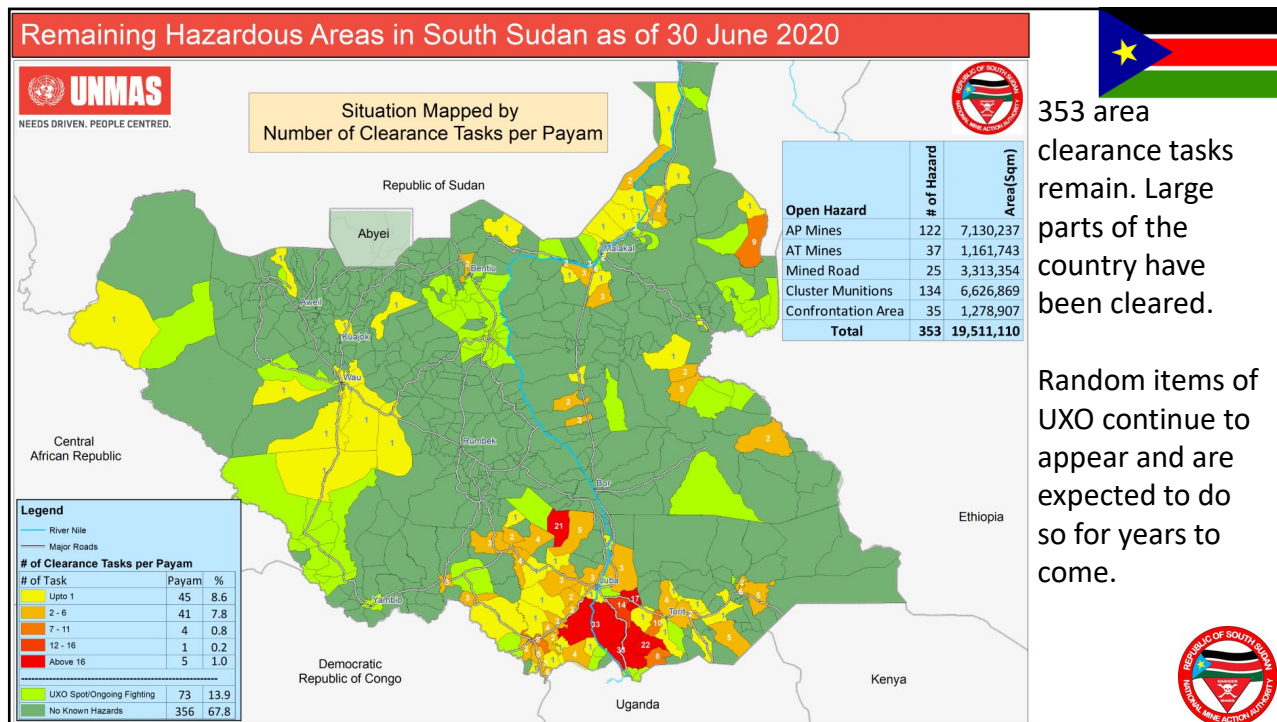
The majority of the clearance effort has taken place in the Greater Equatoria region of the country



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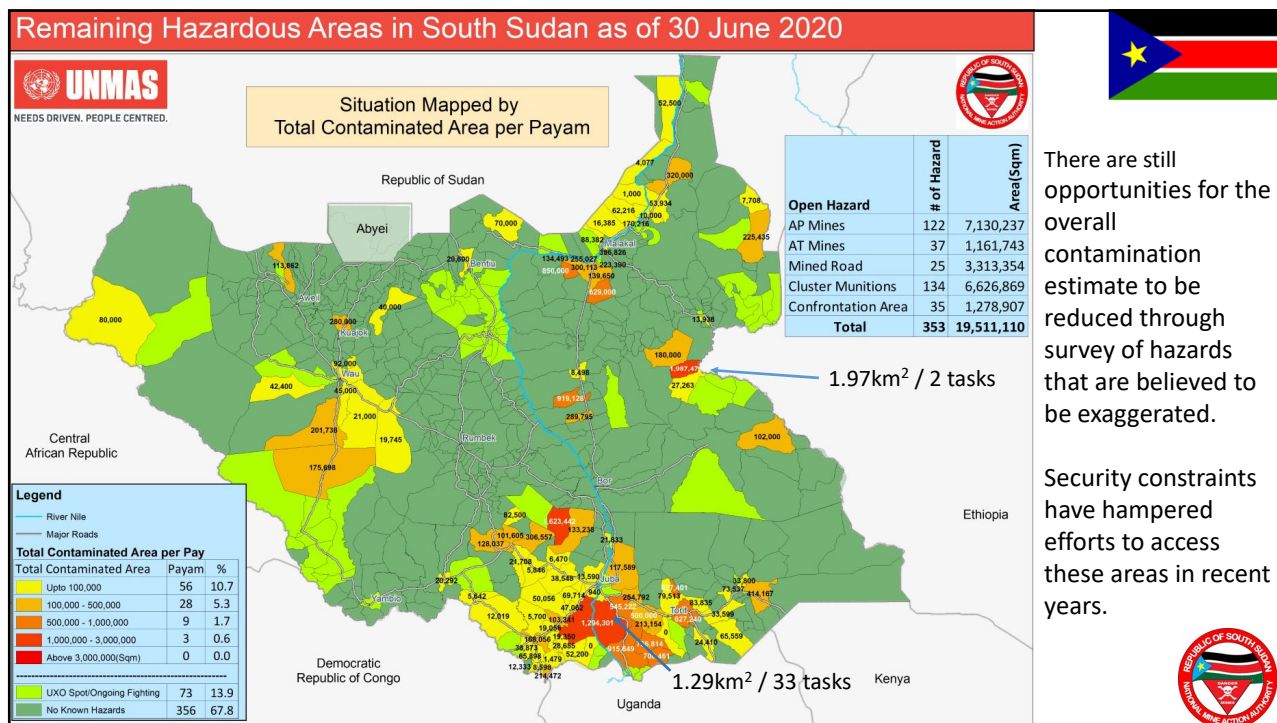
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353 area clearance tasks remain. Large parts of the country have been cleared.

Random items of UXO continue to appear and are expected to do so for years to come.

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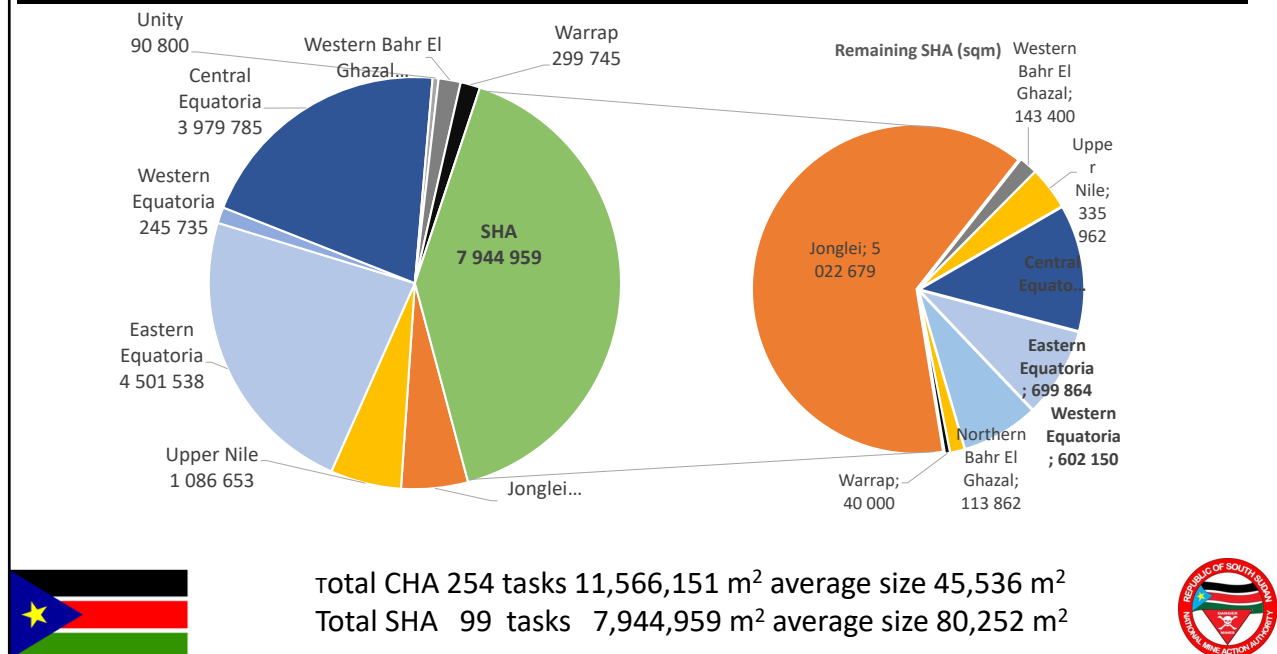


There are still opportunities for the overall contamination estimate to be reduced through survey of hazards that are believed to be exaggerated.

Security constraints have hampered efforts to access these areas in recent years.

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Remaining Challenge: Distribution of CHAs and SHAs



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The remaining Clearance Challenge in South Sudan

Open Hazard	# of Hazard	Area (Sqgm)
AP Mines	120	7,320,021
AT Mines	40	1,222,044
Mined Road	28	3,410,784
Cluster Munitions	135	6,144,260
Confrontation Area	35	1,209,408
Total	358	19,306,517

More than 50% of the remaining tasks are in Equatoria which is where the majority of clearance has taken place to date

120 AP minefields (avg 61,000m²)
Cleared at 300m²/day

40 AT minefields (avg 30,000m²)
Cleared at 2,000m²/day

135 Cluster Strikes (avg 45,500m²)
Cleared at 1-2,000m²/day

28 Mined roads (avg 122,000m²)
Cleared at 5,600m²/day

35 Battlefields (avg 34,500m²)
Cleared at 1-2,000m²/day

South Sudan's clearance estimates are based on the proven existing clearance rates. There is an expectation that further cancellation will assist the process.

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Circumstances impeding completion

- **Security** - Fighting continues in South Sudan, and general banditry impedes safe access is particularly in Equatoria. Elsewhere, inter-tribal differences are impairing the ability of teams to deploy across the country
- **Flooding and poor infrastructure** – Seasonal flooding continues to hamper access across the country.
- **Funding uncertainty** – There is very little multi year funding, which leads to inefficiencies.
- **There are too many small teams and not enough large ones** – Small teams are more efficient for spot tasks and less efficient for area tasks. There need to be more large teams to address the clearance requirement efficiently.



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Extension Period and Rationale

- Amount of time requested: South Sudan is requesting five years from 9 July 2021 to 9 July 2026.
- Rationale: The five year period is based on an assessment of actual clearance requirement and established clearance rates.
- The plan foresees a reconfiguration of existing clearance resources to form more efficient clearance teams that have a greater proportion of clearance personnel.
- The costs of clearance are based on existing rates and factor in inflation.
- The plan envisages a small increase in funding to help achieve efficiencies.



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Activities to be carried out:

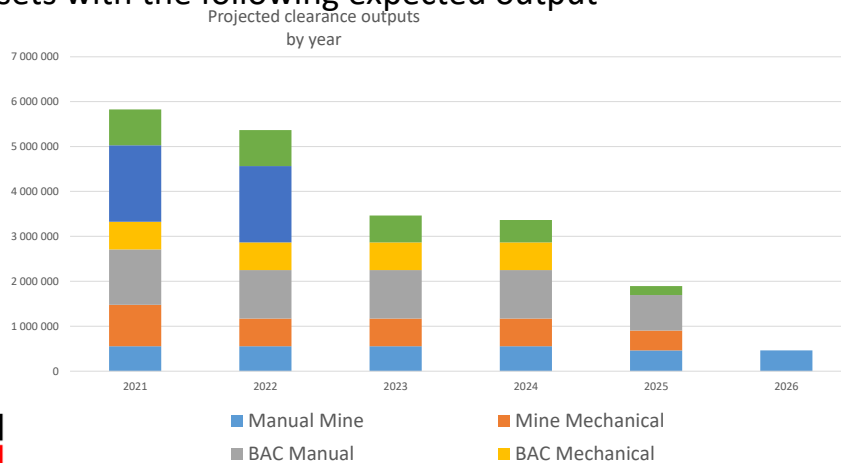
- Tasks for re-survey have been identified
- The programme is being reconfigured to provide a tailored solution that is appropriate for the respective clearance requirement.
- Continued development of a sustainable national capacity, to address any residual contamination
- Clearance of all hazards to be done concurrently



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Expected Milestones

- South Sudan's extension request is based around the deployment of clearance and survey assets with the following expected output



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Challenges and requirements for cooperation and assistance

(Guiding Question) What, if any, are the main challenges faced by your State in the implementation of its commitments under Article 5? for example:

- Peace must prevail to allow access to all areas
- Funding certainty will assist all actors to plan and will make - insufficient funding
- Logistical challenges remain

(Guiding Question) What are the priorities for external assistance in the fulfilment of your State's Article 5 obligations during the requested extension period? For example:

- Assistance to implementing organizations to reconfigure to field expanded clearance teams
- Further assistance with the development of a sustainable national capacity
- expertise ...

Statement by Hon Jurkuch Barach, Chairperson, South Sudan National Mine Action Authority

SLIDE ONE

Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for giving me the floor and the opportunity to deliver a brief overview of my country's Article Five extension request.

SLIDE TWO

Since entering into the Convention a total of 408 square kilometres of land has been classified as hazardous, but through our survey and clearance efforts this figure has been reduced to 19.5 square kilometres.

SLIDE THREE

Accordingly, South Sudan is now requesting an additional five years to complete its clearance obligations.

SLIDE FOUR

As the table in front of you shows, the overwhelming majority of the land released has been through survey activities. Survey has therefore been a mainstay of the mine action programme in South Sudan and shall remain so throughout the remaining years.

SLIDE FIVE

This next chart shows where the clearance work has been conducted and shows clearly that the main focus of our clearance efforts have been in the Greater Equatoria region of our country.

SLIDE SIX

This map shows all of the hazards that have been identified since 2011 and disaggregates it by the number of area clearance tasks per administrative district.

SLIDE SEVEN

This next map, compiled by the same methodology, shows where we now stand and clearly indicates the significant progress that has been made, and that completion is not a dream but a very achievable reality. It is clear that the

majority of the remaining problem remains in the Greater Equatoria region, which is what we would expect.

SLIDE EIGHT

However, this map disaggregates the same problem by the actual estimates of contaminated area. Ordinarily one would expect to see a clear correlation between the two charts, which by and large is the case. However, we can see that there are a number of districts where there is a clear distortion. For example in Lobonok in Equatoria we have 33 tasks that are believed to contaminate 1.3 square kilometres, whereas in Bilkey in Jonglei just two tasks were recorded as contaminating almost 2 square kilometres. We are very confident that survey will reduce these estimates significantly.

In the extension request we have broken the problem down and assessed every single remaining task in terms of the clearance methodology to be used, including identifying those that are to be resurveyed. We have then aggregated the figures to quantify the total extent of the area of minefields, cluster strikes and battlefields that can be cleared with mechanical assistance, and which of the tasks will need to be cleared using manual methods.

We have reviewed the clearance rates that each of these approaches yields and thereby calculated the number of teams and the length of time that will be needed to clear all of the remaining tasks in the most efficient manner. We have factored in our expectation that survey work will yield further dividends, but we have also provided a contingency for as yet undiscovered tasks, not that we believe that many more tasks will be found. Nevertheless, it is an unfortunate reality that in South Sudan while we have over-estimated the size of many minefields, we have similarly tended to under-estimate the size of cluster strikes.

SLIDE NINE

These next charts show how the problem is distributed. There is a clear focus on Equatoria. This is the same area where the majority of clearance has taken place and so is the part of the country that we know the best. So we remain confident that there will be few surprises to be found in Equatoria. In contrast, it is clear that the majority of our uncertainty, those tasks still classified as "Suspect Hazardous Areas", lie in Jonglei. In recent years, we have also been affected very badly by flooding in the east of the country. This coupled with poor infrastructure as well as inter-tribal fighting has hampered our ability to

get survey teams into Jonglei to re-assess those tasks that cry out for re-survey.

SLIDE TEN

So based on a realistic assessment of the overall problem and a detailed assessment of each and every remaining task we have, in our extension request, shown how each clearance task will be addressed and quantified the resources needed to do so, and for those tasks where there is uncertainty, we have erred on the side of caution and planned on manual clearance approaches being needed. I would like to stress that our request is based on firm evidence, proven clearance rates and costed against recent budgets.

Unfortunately although we know to a high degree of confidence what we need to do and how we need to do it, we are less clear on when each of the tasks will be addressed.

SLIDE ELEVEN

Even though we are in a period of reconciliation, fighting continues in our country most notably in the Equatoria region where Thomas Cirilo's "National Salvation Front" continues to disrupt activity and hinder our ability to deploy demining teams safely.

Our extension request is based on the assumption that peace will prevail. In recent years, we have shown, that even when fighting disrupts one part of the country, we can efficiently deploy our clearance teams somewhere else. But as the problem is distilled it will inevitably become more and more concentrated in the Equatoria region, and thus the cessation of hostilities in that part of our country will become ever more important.

Our extension request has quantified the most efficient combination of team types to clear the country. We believe that efficiencies can be made by reconfiguring our small teams into larger ones that are needed to conduct manual demining. So the plan requires the existing capacity to reconfigure so that we field more deminers and fewer support staff. We would therefore ask all donors to consider favourably the requests from our excellent NGOs, both national and international, for assistance to undergo this transformation and to support increased capacities.

This transition has already started, but the single greatest contributor of support for demining in South Sudan is the United Nations Mission - UNMISS,

whose own budget and future are of course uncertain. Indeed there is a cruel irony that the peace that is needed to allow this plan to work might also see a reduction in funding for UNMISS and hence a drop in support for Mine Action.

SLIDE TWELVE

South Sudan is requesting an additional five years to complete its Article Five obligations and to clear all known anti-personnel minefields within the country. Within this same period it is also our intention to clear all of our anti-tank minefields, our former battlefields and our cluster strikes. The difficulties of moving teams around our country are immense, for example right now we have two teams deploying by barge to the Upper Nile that journey will take weeks just to get to their first task, so clearly it makes no sense for them to leave an area with other task types unaddressed.

SLIDE THIRTEEN

Meanwhile, we currently can only deploy teams into eastern Jonglei by helicopter on account of the current severe flooding. Thus, it is impractical for us to make projections as to where the clearance will take place each year.

SLIDE FOURTEEN

What we can demonstrate is that our planned clearance capacity will be more than sufficient to address the overall requirement. This chart shows the year on year expected outputs by each of the respected clearance elements and demonstrates that we have planned on sufficient capacity to complete our work.

I would like to thank the many donors who have assisted South Sudan to reach this point as well as the organizations that have undertaken the clearance work, conducted risk education and helped us to develop our own capacity to continue.

SLIDE FIFTEEN

I have stressed that South Sudan's extension is grounded in reality, I would also like to point out that it has been developed with the support and consensus of the demining organisations working in our country, notably the Mines Advisory Group, Danish Demining Group and DanChurchAid as well as the United Nations Mine Action Service. As such this extension request represents the consensus of opinion of the key stakeholders who know most about the situation in our country.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for this opportunity to brief on our plan and for your consideration of our request.

END