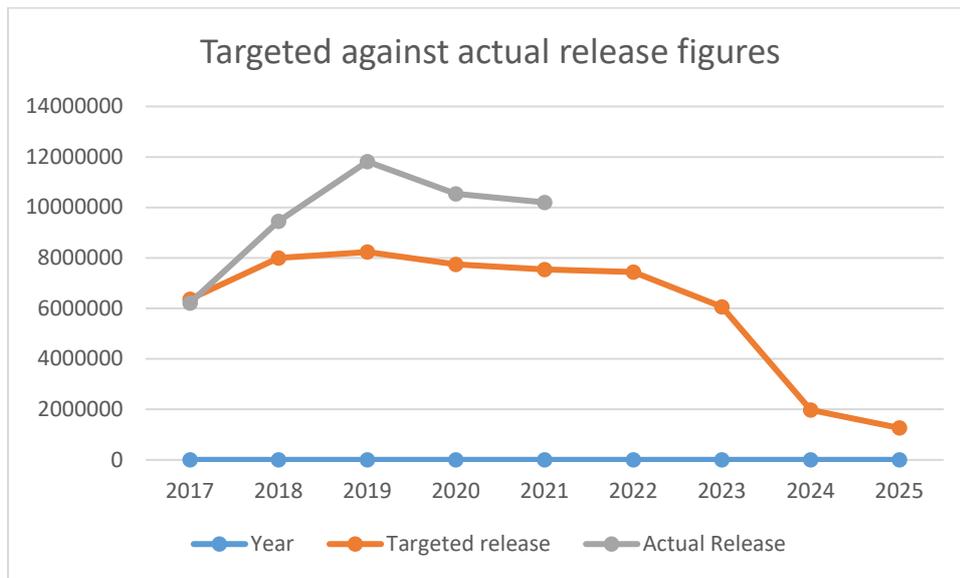


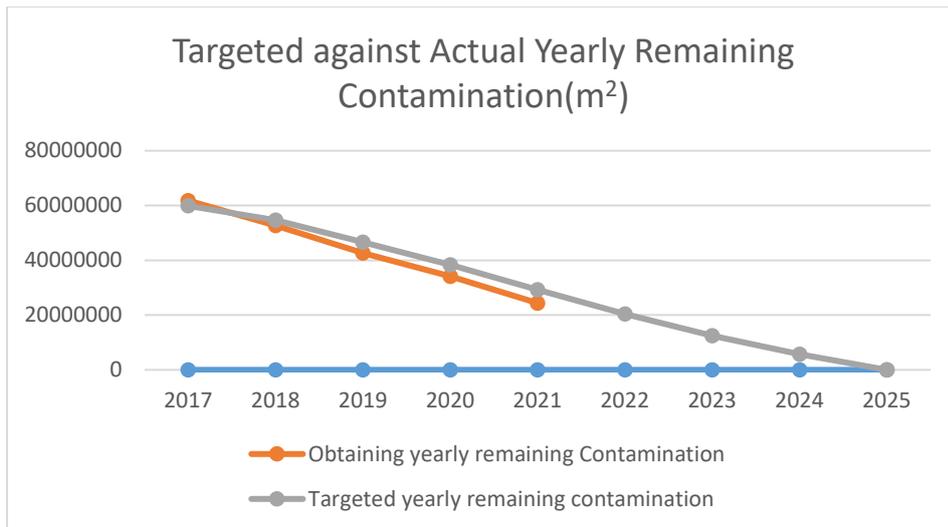
## ZIMBABWE'S UPDATE TO THE 19TH MSP 15-19 NOVEMBER 2021

### INTRODUCTION

1. As you are aware, Zimbabwe is sitting on an eight-year extension period expiring on 31 December 2025. According to the National mine action Strategic Plan 2018 to 2025, this should hopefully be the last. This meeting comes when Zimbabwe is half way (four years into the both extension period and the National Strategic Plan. I am happy to notify this meeting that Zimbabwe has managed to keep the 2025 ambition and achieving its Article 5 obligation a possibility. Thanks to the consistent support from the donor world. The graphs below shows the annual release figures against the planned for the past four years.



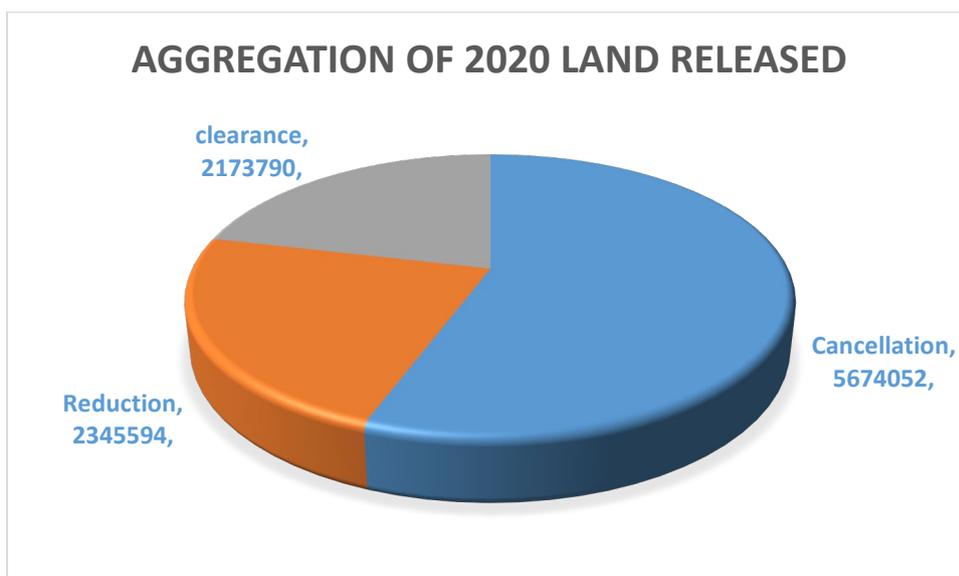
Zimbabwe has managed surpass year on year targets. The actual yearly remaining contamination line has been kept below the targeted even though there are some additional square metres emanating from resurveys. Thus, if the current capacity was to be maintained or increased, chances of completion by 2025 are high.



Keeping the orange line below the grey one is the annual objective and in that process, zero remaining by 2025 can be achieved. However, this is only achievable with continued international support.

### **PROGRESS IN 2021**

2. During the 18 MSP, Zimbabwe reported a remaining contamination of **35,238,441m<sup>2</sup>** (35.2km<sup>2</sup>) as at 31 October 2020. A lot of land has since been released albeit the COVID – 19 environment. Since 1 January up to 31 October 2021, a total of **10,193,436m<sup>2</sup>** have been released giving a remaining contamination figure of **24,371,324m<sup>2</sup>**. The 2021 land release figures are aggregated by clearance, cancellation and reduction as follows:



The 2021 target is to release **9,343,166m<sup>2</sup>** and as you can see this has been achieved even before December 2021. Zimbabwe continue expanding the other methodologies with new machines coming in and also envisage expansion of the MDD teams. Zimbabwe wishes to

thank the donors who finally supported the commencement of operations by APOPO in January 2021. The organisation has contributed a lot to the achievement of the 2021 target which could have been impossible given the restricting covid 19 environment.

### **RESOURCE MOBILISATION**

3. The launch of the Communication and Resource Mobilisation Strategy which was approved by Government in 2019 once again could not be done due to the pandemic. Its implementation was also severely disturbed by the lockdowns and COVID related restrictions. However, a lot of mobilisation efforts by the operators is ongoing thus keeping the programme up. The announced exclusion of Zimbabwe on the FCDO 2022 funding plans will deal a major blow to the programme. The FCDO was one of the major funders contributing about half of the total funding received in the programme as such you can imagine the catastrophe. ZIMAC and the operators will continue engaging potential donors as well as kindly requesting those who have been with us all the way to increase their allocations for Zimbabwe programme.

### **EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCE RISK EDUCATION**

4. The 2021 RE efforts were affected by the lockdowns. On the other hand, there hasn't been any new civilian accidents maybe because during the year people were mostly locked up until recently. Operators could only start effective RE and Community Liaison (CL) within their operational areas in October 2021. ZIMAC continues to have plans to conscientise communities living in non-landmine contaminated regions of the country on the dangers of tempering with ERWs as recently ERWs have claimed more victims than mines.

### **MONITORING THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

5. Zimbabwe is keeping track of the National Strategic Plan and making positive adjustments where possible. In line with Action 20 of the Oslo Action Plan, these adjustments are reported yearly through the Article 7 reports. It is pleasing to note that even though there has been adjustments, the main goal of a 2025 landmine free Zimbabwe remains achievable. With GICHD's assistance, a mid-term National Strategic Plan Review Workshop has been planned for end of this month.

### **CHALLENGES**

6. The Zimbabwe Mine Action Programme is progressing well albeit some challenges which include:

- a. The Economic Environment. The economy of Zimbabwe has been going through hard times. As such the Government could not maximise its National Mine Clearance Unit capacity but has managed to maintain current capacity. The Government is, however, doing its best with the resources available. There are high

hopes that the economic environment will improve in the nearest future, this will definitely result in increased national funding.

b. Donor Funding. The programme lost considerable FCDO funding in 2021 and is set to lose the whole FCDO funding in 2022. This will greatly affect the projections if the gap is not covered in time. Zimbabwe is hopeful to attract new donors and that the current donors will continue assisting or even increase funding to enable the achievement of the 2025 goal.

c. COVID-19 Pandemic. The global devastating pandemic did not spare Zimbabwe and the programme to be specific. Lockdowns and some restrictions resulted in restricted working environment which then resulted in low output.

## **CONCLUSION**

7. Zimbabwe is committed to maintain an effective programme which can be exemplary to other States Parties who seek to achieve their Article 5 obligations. ZIMAC acknowledges the contribution of the donors, operators as well as assistance by GICHD and ISU to all the achievements registered to date.