



NEEDS
DRIVEN
PEOPLE
CENTRED

Updated October 2022



United Nations Mine Action Service, Sudan

IMPACT

Since its independence in 1956, Sudan has suffered a number of conflicts that have contaminated the country with landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) used by all parties in the conflict. Today, the states of South Kordofan, West Kordofan and Blue Nile remain affected by landmines and ERW, while the five states that make up the Darfur region are affected by ERW only. As of 1 October 2022, the results of mine action efforts undertaken in the region were as follows:



137.60 km² of **hazardous areas** have been released for productive use

38,529 km of **roads** have been verified or cleared
10,391 **anti-personnel mines**, **3,348** **anti-tank mines**, and **173,816** **unexploded ordnance** have been found and destroyed



4.9 million people received **mine risk education (MRE)**



1,239 mine **victims** received assistance

ABOUT

UNMAS supports the Sudan National Mine Action Center (NMAC) in building institutional capacity to meet Sudan's obligation under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention ('Ottawa Treaty'), to make its territory mine-free by April 2023, and to provide humanitarian mine action. UNMAS mobilises funds and manages land release (survey and clearance), explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and victim assistance (VA) activities in coordination with NMAC and ensures mine action activities are coordinated to support humanitarian, development and peacebuilding needs. UNMAS also provides technical advice and training for NMAC and national mine action NGOs.

UNMAS first engaged in Sudan in 2002. It handed over its lead role to NMAC in 2013. In 2015, the UNMAS Programme was re-established at the invitation of the Government of Sudan with an advisory and support role.

In January 2021, UNMAS Sudan was integrated into the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) to provide mine action service in support of the mission's mandate.

UNITAMS was established in June 2020 with the mandate to support Sudan's democratic transition and comprehensive peace process. Mine action is stipulated in support of strategic objectives (iii) *Assist peacebuilding, civilian protection and rule of law, in particular in Darfur and the Two Areas.*

With the operational closure of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), UNMAS took over responsibility for the ERW response in Darfur from the Ordnance Disposal Office (ODO) of UNAM



ACTIVITIES



1. Mine Clearance

UNMAS supports the Government of Sudan in its efforts to achieve Ottawa treaty compliance and dispose of other explosive hazards. UNMAS works in support of NMAC to release land through survey and clearance operations in local communities to facilitate safe and dignified return of displaced population and to assure safe access to the humanitarian community to enable the delivery of life-saving aid. As of 1 October 2022, 137.60 km² (80%) out of the recorded 171.9 km² of contaminated land has been released.



2. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Victim Assistance

Explosive accidents often happen due to a lack of knowledge of the safe handling of found explosive devices. UNMAS provides risk education to populations living with the threat of explosive ordnance and to humanitarian workers. UNMAS also supports victims of explosive ordnance and other persons with disabilities through data collection, advocacy, and provision of support. As of 1 October 2022, 2,539 mine/ERW victims were registered in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). The actual number of victims, however, is likely to be much higher.



3. National Capacity-building

UNMAS Sudan strengthens the national capacity of mine action interventions by providing technical advice and training to NMAC and national NGOs on operations, leadership, quality assurance, and project management. The Government of Sudan ratified the Ottawa treaty on 13 October 2003 and became a State Party in April 2004. Sudan met its obligation under Article 4 of the treaty in March 2008 by completing the destruction of all its stockpiles of anti-personnel mines. The deadline for the country to complete its Article 5 obligation of removing all anti-personnel mines from its territory was extended to April 2023. In 2020, Sudan was the President of the Ottawa Treaty, chairing the 18th Meeting of States Parties.

FUNDING

UNMAS thanks the following donors for their generous support through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for assisting Mine Action in Sudan during the year 2022: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs/Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Japan, and the Republic of Korea. UNMAS also thanks the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) for its contribution to an inter-agency programme in South Kordofan, to the Government of Switzerland as well as the Government of Italy for the provision of in-kind personnel; and to the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) for the continued support since June 2020. In

addition, in 2022, the Government of Sudan allocated 500k to the mine action sector.

For the remaining of the year, UNMAS will require more funding to provide urgent humanitarian mine action activities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and ERW response in Darfur. Increased financing is critical to achieve a mine-free Sudan.

For more information

Sediq Rashid, Chief of the Mine Action Programme, UNMAS Sudan, rashid5@un.org

Takuto Kubo, Chief of Programme Management and Support Section, UNMAS NY, kubo@un.org

Updated October 2022

