



Government of Mozambique
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United Nations Development Programme
Mozambique

Mine Action Programme in Mozambique, Project 00062797
2008 – 2011
(Agreement Ref. No. 50524)



First Progress Report to
Australian Agency for International Development
(AusAID)

2 June 2009 – 31 December 2009

I. PURPOSE

Almost immediately after its independence in 1975, Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries, endured a civil war, which lasted from 1977 to 1992. The war destroyed much of the country's already limited economic and social infrastructure and up to one million Mozambicans were killed. The conflict left a devastating legacy of huge quantities of landmines, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), uncontrolled firearms, millions of refugees and internally displaced persons often living in conditions of near absolute poverty. Landmines continue to pose dire challenges and threats to community security and sustainable development in Mozambique.

The right to live in a safe and secure environment, be it free from landmines, can be considered fundamental human right and therefore this activity is a cross cutting priority highlighted in Mozambique's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper - PARPA II.

In 2008 the Government of Mozambique and UNDP entered into a partnership to cooperate on projects to support national and local capacities to respond to the challenges that firearms, stockpiled munitions, armed violence, landmines and explosive remnants of war pose to Human Security and Human Development in Mozambique.

This programme represent its part of the UNDP's contribution to the government's efforts to meet its obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty clearing all known mines contaminated areas by 2014.

It is in this framework that UNDP agreed with IND to submit the Concept Note in the context of Mine Action Strategy Plan for Resource Mobilization to be considered for funding by the AusAID.

The project approved by Australian Agency for International Development aims to enhance Mozambique efforts to fulfil its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty and address residual threats posed by other ERW as well as to ensure coordination response to the landmines in partnership with IND, MINEC, The Ministry of Defense and demining operators.

This report is covering the period of 2 June 2009 to 31 December 2009 according to the Cost-sharing Agreement signed between the Australian Agency for International Development and UNDP [AusAID Agreement No. 50524 signed on 2 June 2009].

II. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

a) Enhanced government efforts to meet its obligations under the AP Mine Ban Treaty and address residual threats posed by other ERW

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation led the annual meeting between the GOM and its mine action partners, in February. The objective of this meeting was to review progress made and present its 2009 plan. The key element of the meeting was to present Mozambique's newly approved Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 Extension Request. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MINEC) outlined plans to ensure Mozambique reaches completion of its obligations by 2014. The final section of the meeting was an in-depth presentation of its Resource Mobilisation road map, designed to support mine action activities in Mozambique.

In order to cement the mine action stakeholders' forum, a TOR was formulated for the forum, which was finalized in early 2009, aiming at seeking a more dynamic mechanism to share information and increase the active role of all parties.

During the second semester, IND continued to ensure that coordination and technical meetings with all stakeholders are implemented regularly. This in turn enabled better sharing of information and increasing transparency among government donors and operators. In particular:

- Mine action stakeholders forum was held twice during the second part of the year with the participation of Government entities, some donors, and implementing partners with the objectives to increase coordination and coherence among partners and improve the quality of the dialogue on humanitarian mine action between government and its partners. In general terms, both coordination and demining activities were carried out in accordance with the plans. Progress reports and future plans were among documents that were shared seeking feed-back from all participants.

Government of Mozambique has participated in the International Conference:

- Participation in the AP Mine Ban Convention- Intercessional Meetings of the Standing Committees. Mozambique delegation had its progress on the Article 5 as well as the status of the Victim Assistance Programme. In addition, at the Resource Utilisation Contact Group Meeting, UNDP Mozambique presented its experience on how the land release approaches are being applied, and challenges ahead. This is in particular for the policy level adopted by the national programme to implement Article 5, while remaining within practices was accepted by all States Parties. It was explained to the contact group why it was important to ensure that land release principles are integrated into national policies and frameworks. Furthermore a key message was that application of the land release recommendations adopted by 9MSP remains crucial to ensure speedy and safe implementation of Article 5 obligations, and that all actors need to take their part of the responsibility to make this happen.

Residual threat

In 2007, IND, through a consultation process with the Provincial and District authorities, registered 146 sites as a suspected, contaminated area with Explosive Remnant of War (ERW), as well as in some cases suspected mined areas (Niassa 49, Cabo Delgado 44, Nampula 16, Zambézia 37).

Those findings required a more in-depth investigation to verify the presence and magnitude of the hazards in each location. Hence, at the end of 2009, supported by UNDP, the IND staff had carried out assessment missions to all 146 locations in the 4 Northern provinces resulted with the following information:

Province of Zambezia: 5 SHA and 8 ERW sites

Province of Nampula: 5 SHA and 3 ERW sites.

Province of Niassa: 22 SHA and 15 ERW sites.

Province of Cabo Delgado: 11 SHA and 5 ERW sites.

The total number of hazards was considerably reduced from 146 to 74, comprising of 43 SHAs and 31 sites with ERW. Nevertheless, the problem is now more evident that requires a timely action and resources to deal with.

Subsequently, the updated information was shared with local authorities as well as with the HALO Trust operator for possible additional clarification, and a provisional plan of action for the 4 provinces was submitted to the Ministry of Interior.

It is expected that a residual capacity which is foreseen to be provided by both the Mozambique Defense Force (FADM) and the Policia Republica de Mozambique will need to have a mobile capacity to address the ERW threat.

Concurrently, the IND in collaboration with the provincial police of Zambezia and UNDP is developing a concrete plan to respond to the ERW threat

Resource Mobilisation

During 2009 more than 9 million US dollars were directly allocated to support the national mine action programme. Moreover, the UNDP Country Office has additionally allocated its own resources on mine action, to support direct demining activities. From the GOM, as outlined, during various occasions and Mine Action meetings, governments exhibited greater confidence in the capacity of the IND to coordinate a credible MA programme and allotted around 3 million US Dollars from the state budget.

In order to reaffirm discussions and presentations held in the capital Maputo and abroad, several visits to the field took place. This in turn not only increased the profile of the work of IND, UNDP and mine action operators, but also offered a greater understanding of the programme and its challenges. Among the delegations were the Moz Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, UNDP Senior staff, local media, international companies and Japanese press staff.

The 2010 Portfolio for Mine action was reactivated, coordinated and drafted in coordination with all operators and the IND. The Portfolio of Mine Action as a global resource and reference tool for donors, policy-makers and implementing partners, entails the strategic vision and specific activities in response to the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

b) A coordinate response to the landmines in partnership with demining operators

IND field teams continued their monitoring visits to all demining operators in the 6 provinces. In addition, specific camping equipment was purchased to facilitate visits of remote areas; and

resources were also allocated to visit all communities in the vicinity of demining operations, in order to ensure that local authorities and community members are acquainted with the progress and final removal of any explosive threat.

Process to contract operators for demining operators has already in progress and early in January 2010 contract has been signed with Handicap International for the demining activities in the Vilanculos District, Province of Inhambane, which is one of the top priorities of the provincial government due to its great potential in tourism.

Visibility of Mine Action activities in Mozambique

- Two stories were published during the reporting period the UNDP Mozambique website highlighting the role and impact of the project.
- IRIN also visited Mozambique during October 2009, providing excellent coverage of the Mine Action project in October/November 2009.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86758>

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86892>

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86860>

Another aspect of visibility and sharing of information was working with local media. The IND together with UNDP has organized field missions to local journalists for raise awareness on the remaining mines, ERW problem, and the current action undertaken. It is expected that the mine and ERW subject will be better understood and as a result effectively disseminated to decision making level and entire population.

V. IMPLEMENTATION CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- UNDP's procurement procedures have created some delays in allocating resources to mine operators immediately. The issue was brought to the attention of the UNDP regional and HQ levels. An action has been taken at corporate and CO levels to treat the allocation of mine action resources programmatically. This means that instead of procurement procedures, the funds allocation will be conducted using the annual workplan modality, in line with the framework of simplification and harmonisation.
- Mine action operations have to be more clearly linked with the provincial and district plans and budgeting processes, in order to address mine action problem as a development issue

VI. FUTURE WORK PLAN

Mine Action

1st quarter work plan 2010

- Coordination and information dissemination efforts by the IND will continue to ensure that demining activities are well integrated within key developmental sectors as part of the Provincial Socio-Economic Plans (PES) framework. Continuous development of national

capacity to deal with residual issues of Mines and UXO through the establishment of Provincial Mine Action Committees, including the training of residual technical capacity through the Mozambican Police Force and/or the Ministry of Defense.

- Contracts/Annual Work Plans will be signed with humanitarian operators for mine action activities in the Provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane. In 2010 a large part of the AusAID resources is planned to be allocated for actual clearance operations.
- Finalization of the national mine action standards review process including the Land Release chapters.
- A study on the gender integration within mine action activities in Mozambique will be commissioned

Resource mobilization efforts will continue to ensure workplan for 2010 - 2014.