



NPA Mine Action Sudan – First Quarter 2007 (01 January to 31 March)

Introduction

In the United Nations and Partners Work Plan for 2007, it is stated that Sudan is at a critical moment in its history. The Work Plan identifies that the way is open for a shift towards recovery and development (although it recognises that events in Darfur are having a destabilising effect).

The shift is especially pronounced in South Sudan where, for the first time, the targeted recovery and development programme funding (\$356 million) exceeds that of humanitarian activities (\$280 million).



Mine Action in South Sudan is relevant as both a humanitarian activity, which translates as emergency clearance, especially roads and tracks, yet it also plays its part in the recovery and development phase - typically the clearance of contaminated land in order to allow for resettlement, agriculture, the repair of infrastructure and other community needs.

NPA Mine Action has recognised the change in the conditions and that of the clearance requirement. Funding requested and the activities conducted are focused on the release of land.

The political and security situation was sufficiently stable, during the reporting period, for all planned activities to take place.

NPA Mine Action has made active efforts to recognise the South Sudan Demining Commission as the most relevant body to provide strategic directives for all mine action activities in South Sudan.

The programme was visited by a number of external visitors including USAID (a Food Security Monitoring Team), UNMAS (as part of an external audit of the UN Mine Action Programme in Sudan) and NPA Head Office.



Operations

NPA Operations were conducted on the Yei-Juba route. Manual tasks were completed at Peramasuk and Limbe Bridge. Total clearance statistics for the 4 manual teams were: 47 Anti-Personnel mines (AP) and 5 Anti-Tank mines (AT). 10,160 square metres (m²) were cleared.

The MineWolf flail continued to prove to be a key operational asset. 154,343m² were cleared and the machine destroyed 1 AP and 64 AT. The machine worked at Bungu throughout the reporting period. It is anticipated that up to 6,000 beneficiaries will re-occupy the area when the task is completed.

The Battle Area Clearance (BAC) team completed clearance of a cluster strike at Limbe. 114 sub-munitions were located and destroyed. It should be remembered that these sub-munitions are the common cause of accidents in Sudan. The EOD teams responded to spot tasks and also conducted bulk demolitions – they destroyed a total of 1983 items



Norwegian People's Aid

The three survey teams received training in the NPA Task Impact Assessment (TIA) methodology from two technical advisers from the NPA Mozambique programme. The TIA system addresses the socio-economic impact of clearance. The involvement of the local community and regional government allows for the priority setting of tasks. A post-clearance impact assessment is conducted to ensure that the land released is used as anticipated. The survey teams completed a total of 45 pre-clearance assessments and Dangerous Area reports (28 in Central Equatoria and 17 in Western Equatoria).

Support Operations

The medical co-ordinator supervised the training of the programme medics according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support standards (PHTLS). The training includes a rotation of staff through the Kaluva Teaching Hospital in Uganda thus ensuring that medics are well practiced in handling trauma patients.

The Logistics department strengthened supply lines both within the region and within South Sudan.



Personnel

Total staffing as at 31 March 2007 was 233 national staff and 14 expatriates. A number of the expatriate staff have come from other NPA programmes, including Mozambique and Angola. This means that the expertise that is generated from the region is passed on to the Sudan programme.

The capacity building of national staff is of primary importance to the programme. A training programme for 2007 was agreed and finalised.

Conclusion

NPA has made a good start to work in 2007. In line with the move from emergency towards recovery and development, NPA has placed greater emphasis on nationalisation of the programme.

The strategy for the next quarter includes the following:

- Task Impact Assessment of Central Equatoria
- Implementation of the NPA Land Release Methodology with use of mechanical technical survey and Casspir area reduction
- BAC and EOD tasks in the area of Mundri

It is encouraging for NPA to see the progress of development in South Sudan. During the next quarter, the Sudanese pound will be actively enforced as the single currency – this is just one example of the recovery process.

NPA thanks its donors for 2007.