

GICHD Comments on Sudan's Article 5 Extension Request

Progress & Achievements

- The Mine Action Programme in Sudan has progressed well since 2013. The States of Gedaref and the Red Sea were declared free from known landmine contamination in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Also the State of Kassala was announced free from landmines on the 4th April this year.
- The Sudanese government has increased its investment in mine action activities over the period 2014-2017 tenfold, to a level of US\$2M in 2017.
- Furthermore, last year the national mine action database was upgraded to the most recent version of IMSMAng after years of an embargo on such software support

Remaining Challenge

- Questions remain however about the extent of the remaining level of contamination.

Data submitted does not only include APM specific data but is confused by the contamination as a result of AVM and UXO which should be disaggregated to obtain a clearer picture of the extent of the remaining AP Mine contamination.

Additional explosive ordnance contamination as a result of the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States is a complicating factor for the programme

Concerns

- Sudan should provide more detail on the calculations used to project the figure of US\$40.7M to address the remaining 98 hazardous areas over 19.3 square km. From 2014-2017 only US\$11.2M was required to release a similar size of area. It is assumed that the terrain and conditions are more challenging, that there may be costs incorporated to support security arrangements and that operations may not be restricted to local NGO efforts in these calculations - but this should be explained
- Finally, the number of anti-personnel mines destroyed since 2014 compared to the area cleared is relatively low. There appears to be opportunity for enhanced survey approaches. Improvements here would help advance the programme considerably.

Thank you