

**Comments on Chad's Extension Request
Intersessional Meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty
22-24 May 2019**



This is Chad's fourth extension request, in which the area suspected of contamination has increased. (the number of hazards areas increased since its last extension request: from 113 suspected mined areas to 137). We note the efforts undertaken by Chad in recent years to obtain a better understanding and estimate of the extent of its contamination, notably thanks to the support from the European Union.

However, the full extent of the problem remains unknown as additional survey was still required to be conducted and the database was still under construction. Hence, new contamination might be identified, and this would mean that further time and resources than what was currently reported in the extension request might be needed. After careful consideration of Chad's request, we remain puzzled how, if at all, Chad intends to complete its clearance by 2024 or any time soon. We hope Chad will do more serious planning and will present a revised request in the coming months.

Among the positive points:

- Chad has recognized that problems in financial and human resources management and the lack of transparency contributed to the difficulties in meeting its clearance obligations. It is encouraging to see that Chad is taking steps to build up the capacity of its national mine action center. This should result in an improvement in effectiveness, better ownership and help rebuilt trust with the donor community.
- Chad has elaborated a national action plan for 2020-2024 providing general information on the number, location and size of the mined areas, as well as a provisional timeline for operations and overall budget with annual breakdown. However the action plan remains too general and lack sufficient details. It would be useful if Chad could elaborate more on its priorities for survey and clearance. Chad should also specify what capacity it expects to deploy to which tasks at least in the first year of the plan, and the reasons motivating those choices.
- Chad has developed a resource and partnership mobilization strategy covering 2018-2024 and is committed to make some national contributions to its mine action programme (to cover the salaries and running costs).

Among the points requiring further clarification/ work:

- Regarding funding, while it is positive that Chad included in its request a resource mobilization strategy, additional and more detailed information on concrete actions taken to secure and diversify funding as well as attracting financial and technical support would be useful. Given that Chad will only cover salaries and other running costs of its mine action programme, what resources have already been received or pledged to support operations, especially for 2019 and 2020? In recent years, the EU has been Chad's sole donor. The EU funded project (PRODECO) runs until 2021 and covers the Lake Chad region and the regions of Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti (operations in the latter have not started yet due to security issues). As the lack of funding was one of the recurring difficulties faced by Chad in completing its Article 5 obligations during its previous

extension periods, it is essential that appropriate measures are taken to secure funding in order to ensure operations can start in 2020 as planned, as well as to allow operations to continue after the termination of PRODECO project.

- There are numerous discrepancies in the schedule of operations, the budget, and the number of mined areas provisional timeline presented page 29 and annex 10 (regarding the schedule for operations in Moyen Chari), as well as in the budget and the number of mined areas presented in the extension request and the action plan 2020-2024. Those require to be updated accordingly.
- As of today, information in the database was not accurately reflecting the areas already released. Chad reported this was an ongoing task as part of the update of the database.
- One of the main challenges is the inaccessibility of some contaminated areas due to ongoing insecurity in Tibesti region (89 out of the 137 suspected mined areas identified are located in this region). According to Chad's action plan, 20% of the contaminated areas in this region will be addressed between 2020-2024. While being a realistic assessment of the situation, it raises the question of the remaining four-fifths and how this is consistent with the goal of achieving completion by 2024?!

While insecurity remains an obstacle for activities in the Tibesti region, Chad should ensure contaminated areas currently accessible are addressed as quickly as possible.

Lastly, it is of outmost importance that Chad keeps States Parties informed about changes in access and progress in survey and clearance implementation, as well as the database update.