

SUDAN  
Updated

Mine Clearance  
Tue 21/6/11

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, the results of the referendum in Sudan, that took place on 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, determined that on 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 the Sudan will become two separate countries. Sudan, as one country, is a state party to the Ottawa Treaty since 2004 and has committed to meet the Article 5 deadline by April 2014.

Since the launch of the Sudan Mine Action Programme in 2002, over 80% percent of the identified hazards were already cleared in North Sudan. This was only possible because of the support and joint efforts by the Sudanese government and the international community. The remaining landmine problem in North of Sudan can be eliminated in a three years timeframe but it needs further attention and renewed support from all sides.

North Sudan is in a very good position to be declared Mine Impact Free by April 2014. All planning documents and strategies, used by the Sudanese National Mine Action Centre and other stakeholders in the Sudan Mine Action Programme use April 2014 as the date for Mine Impact- Free Sudan. The Sudan Mine Action sector consisting of the national government, the UNMAO, UNICEF and implementing agencies, local and international NGOs. All stakeholders estimate, as stated in the Multi Year Work Plan, that approximately 68US million dollars is needed for the next three years in order to clear the remaining mine threat in North Sudan.

Since January 2011 then the management of mine action has been conducted jointly between the staff of both offices and NMAC has been taking over gradually the responsibilities and duties of the program. The handover of most of these responsibilities will be achieved by June 30, 2011 in the North.

The National Mine Action Centre, on behalf of the Government of Sudan and the United Nations Mine Action Office in Sudan urgently requests further international assistance in order to ensure that we meet our goals and declare Sudan Mine Impact Free within our current obligations of the Article 5 of Ottawa Treaty.

On behalf of the Government of Sudan, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, donor government and institutions for their previous assistance in ensuring that Sudan rids itself from the problem of landmines. Without you, none of our achievements would have been possible. Furthermore, without your continuing assistance we might not be able to meet the April 2014 deadline. Please help us maintain the momentum of clearance. We, the government of Sudan, would like to stand by and honour our commitments to the international community.

Thanks for attention.