

Article 5
Eritrea Statement in the 21-25 May 21, 2012 Standing committee
Meeting

Co-chairs for the Meeting

Delegates of States Parties and Representatives of Mine Action
Organizations

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of my government and the state of Eritrea allow me to begin with expressing my gratitude and thanking you for getting this usual opportunity in attending here this floor and update you the Current progress of Mine Action in Eritrea led by the Eritrean DEMINING Authority.

It was reported in the 11th meeting of states parties which was convened in Phnom Penh, Cambodia that Eritrea could not accomplish its Article 5, Mine Clearance obligations detailing certain impeding circumstances and hence have requested an extension period until February 2015 to identify the exaggeratedly LIS recorded areas. Based on that we have drafted a national Mine Action strategic plan 2011 to 2015 with the following general objectives.

- To make area reduction by at least 50% until our second request submission period in 2014, focusing our activity mainly on non-technical surveys to eliminate the recorded impacted areas.
- Continue clearance with the priorities of remaining High and Medium impacted areas until 2015.
- Continue to conduct MRE activities to prevent new casualties until full clearance is justified.

Since the request for the extension period, Eritrea is conducting Demining and already started to execute non technical means of surveys in the LIS recorded areas of the regions.

From the start of 2011 until the first quarter of 2012, the demining teams conducted mine clearance mainly focusing on Zoba Anseba and made **10** communities or villages mine free in the Sub Zobas of Hamelmalo, Keren, Halhal and Habero by clearing **33** mined locations and destroying **1012** AP, **25** AT and also destroyed **995** ERW in four Zobas (regions). The amount of cleared areas in figure is **3,227,860** square meters.

In general, Mine Clearance and destruction of ERW is conducted in the following Zobas and Sub Zobas,
 Zoba Gash Barka, in Sub Zoba Shabuko.
 Zoba Maakel, in Sub Zobas Gala Nefhi and Berik.
 Zoba Anseba, in sub Zobas Keren , Halhal and Habero.
 Zoba Semienawi Keih Bahri, in Sub Zoba Afabet.

Clearance progress from the start of 2011 to the first quarter 2012

Type of Mine	AP	AT	ERW	No. Cleared Locations	Cleared Area in sq.ms
Quantity destroyed	1012	25	995	33	3,227,910

Communities or Villages visited in the Six Zobas (Regions) and verified by Non – Technical survey to be Free from Land mines and ERW are **31** in number and area verified to be free of mines is **12,850,318**. sq.mtrs.

Ser. Number	Name of Zoba (region)	Number of Comm. or villages visited	Verified Area in square meters
1	Dehub	6	330,515
2	Dehubawi Keih B	3	10,833,676
3	Semienawi Keih B	2	48,696
4	Maakel	12	617,665
5	Gash Barka	7	957,529
6	Anseba	1	12,237
Total	6	31	12,850,318

In the sphere of Mine Risk Education repeated awareness is delivered by the teams out reaching the impacted communities through out the country.
 Visited Zobas and SubZobas are the following:

In Zoba Maakel, Sub Zobas Gala Nefhi and Berik
Zoba Anseba, Subzoba Keren
Zoba Dehub, Subzobas AdiQuala, Adi-Keih and Tsorona

**Zoba Gash barka, Subzobas Shambuko and Lae lay Gash
Zoba Semienawi Keih Bahri, Subzobas Nakfa and Ghindae.**

Sensitizing workshops were also conducted for students, teachers, health focal persons and community volunteers. To specify some of the main activities:

- In January 2011, capacity building for 48 community volunteers residing in the Zobas Semienawi Keih Bahri and Anseba was delivered in keren town.
- In February 2011, MRE assisted with exhibitions was delivered for 25,000 people in Massawa during the Fenkil Operation memorial ceremony.
- In April 2011, MRE work shop was given to 523 teachers training Institute students in Asmara.
- In July 2011, During the Eritrean national festival, EDA prepared MRE exhibition and delivered Mine Risk awareness for about 300,000 participants in asmara Expo Venue.
- In November 2011, MRE work shop was conducted for 42 Health Focal Persons in Afabet, Zoba Semienawi Keih Bahri and simultaneously for other 74 health focal persons in Massawa , the same Zoba.

As a result all the activities conducted by our teams, the total number of MRE beneficiary people since the start of January 2011 until the first quarter of 2012 are **368,413**.

The MRE teams also reported that there were **21** Mine and ERW victims during the afore mentioned period out of which **2** were deceased and 19 injured. From the injured victims 5 were females.