

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies

Geneva 13-14 June 2005

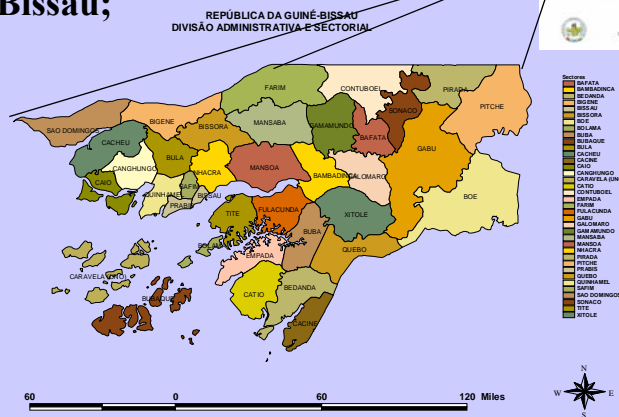
Presented by Cesar de Carvalho



GUINEA-BISSAU MINE ACTION CENTRE

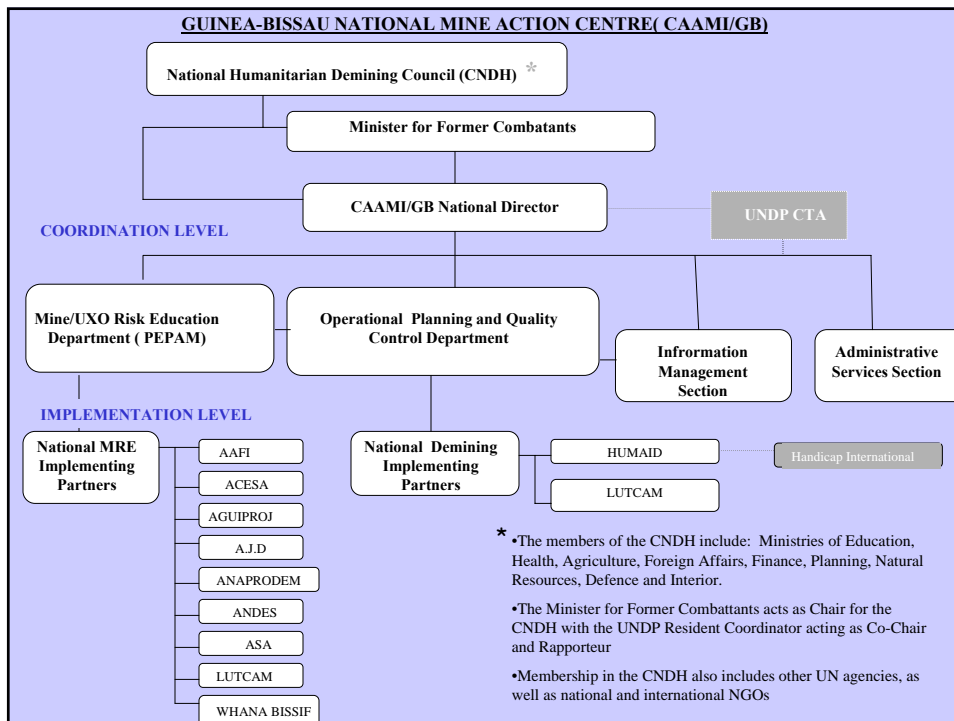
GUINEA BISSAU is located in West Africa

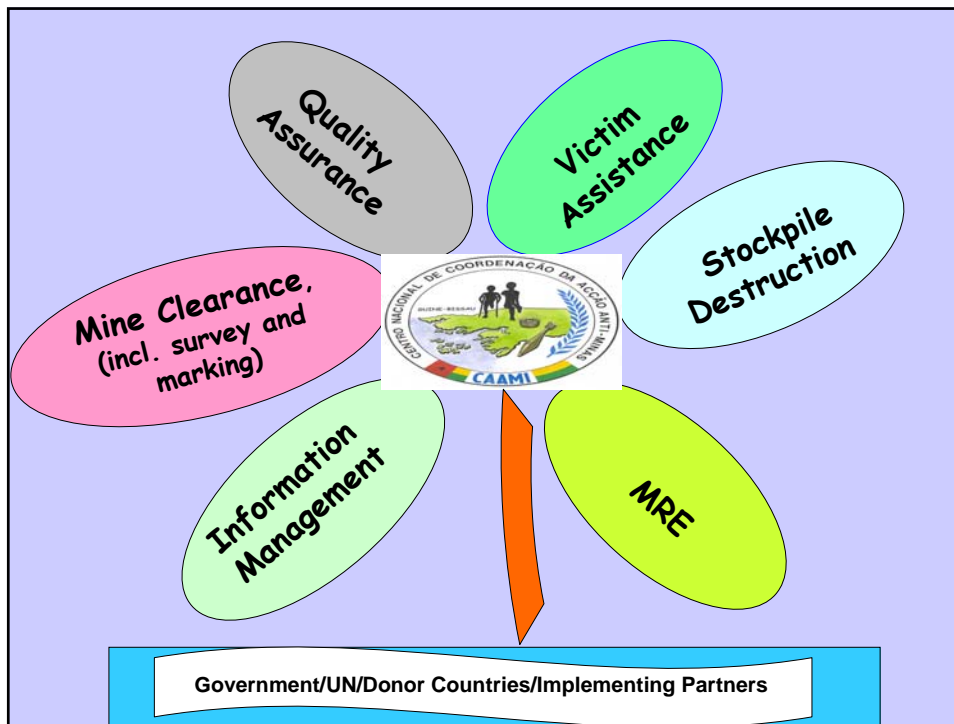
Area : 36.125 km²;
Population:-1.350.000
Language:- Creole, Portuguese
Capital: -Bissau;



Mine Action in Guinea Bissau

- Guinea Bissau signed the Ottawa Convention on 3 December, 1997 and ratified it on 22 May, 2001.
- CAAMI was created as the National Technical Coordination Structure of Humanitarian Mine Action in accordance with the decision made by the Council of Ministers (Decree 4/2001 of 10 September 2001)
- CAAMI was established in March 2001, with the support of UNDP
- CAAMI's role is to establish mine action policy, carry out national planning, define priorities and to coordinate mine action operations (including quality assurance) in Guinea Bissau





Total Mine Action Staff

Admin/Logistics:

NGO HUMAID/HI : 16 Nat.Staff+3 Int.

NGO LUTCAM : 22 Nat.Staff

Coordination Staff (CAAMI):

19 National Staff + 1 Int. (CTA)

Mine/UXO Clearance and MRE:

109 Deminers + 39 Admin/Log = 148 Persons involved in Mine Clearance.

111 activists + 310 facilitators + 81 trained teachers

Total number of people involved in Mine Action = 1175



Mine/UXO Context

- Mine and UXO contamination affects both urban and rural populations in Guinea Bissau.
- Roughly 15% of Guinea-Bissau's survivors are children.
- Mines and UXO have a significant impact livelihoods by depriving the population of agricultural land (i.e for cashew nut cultivation)
- Roughly 25% of accidents are linked to UXO.

The Human Impact of Mines/UXO

- In 2004, 29 people were injured by mines and UXO. During the first quarter of 2005, 2 more accidents have taken place. Since the end of the Independence War (1974), a total of 667 victims of mines and UXO have been registered.

Landmine injuries have occurred throughout the country:

Northern region (35%)

Bissau capital and immediate surrounding (25%)

Southern part of the country (19%)

Eastern region (21%).

Defining the problem

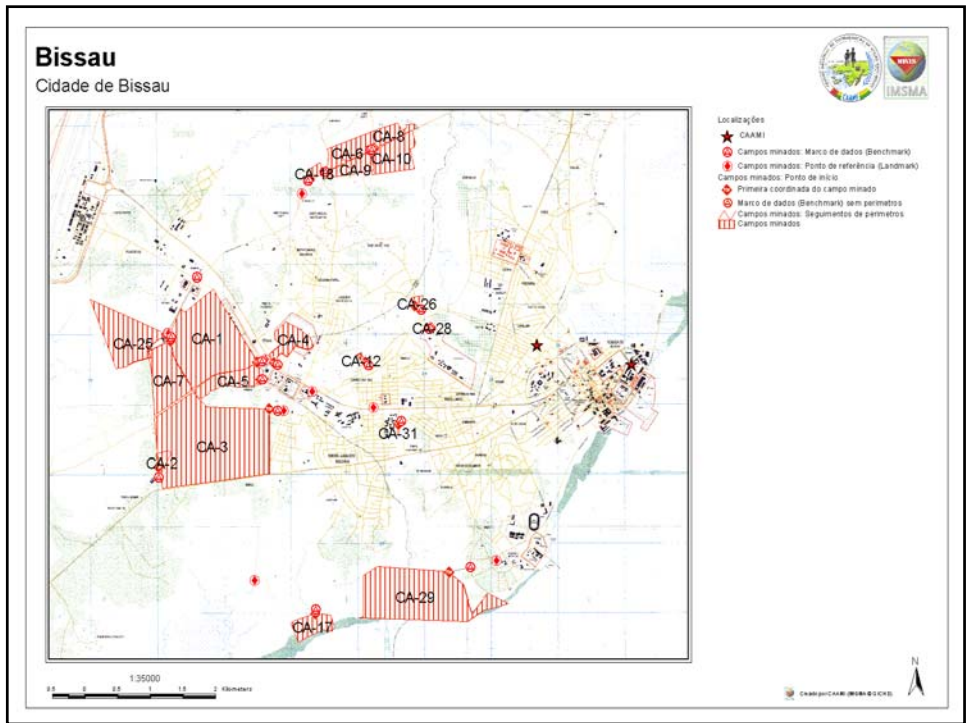
- Establishment of IMSMA Database

General and technical survey
have been carried out for areas
in and around Bissau





Data Collection in Bissau Area

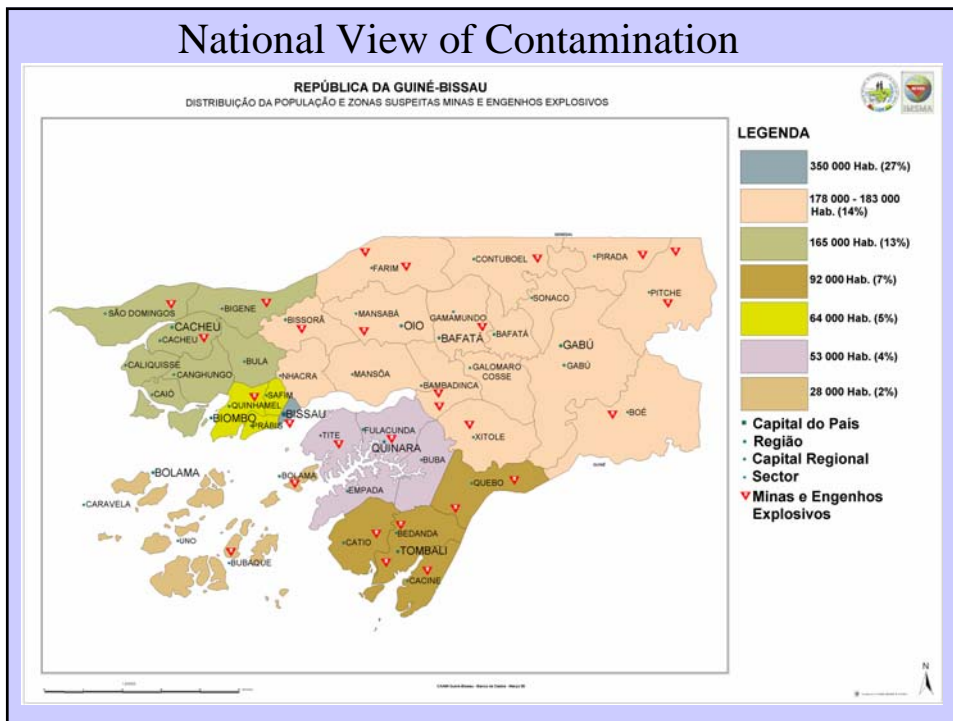


- Areas outside Bissau will require impact and technical survey

- 1) Establishment of priorities
- 2) Definition of problem



National View of Contamination





National Plan Phase I:

- Mine Risk Education for all communities at risk
- Clearance and marking in Bissau and the surrounding area

National Plan: Phase II

- Finish clearing mined areas in Bissau (including QA)
- Begin Battle Area Clearance and EOD in Bissau
- Survey/impact assessment outside Bissau
- Clearance of suspected areas outside Bissau

Critical path

- Assessment of impact and technical survey outside the capital
- Database enhancement
- Establishment of priorities for clearance and MRE outside Bissau
- Revision of five-year work plan
- Budget revision exercise

Strategic Planning

- Essential component of Phase II
- New survey/assessment data will allow new series of priorities to be considered
- Evaluation of output and productivity from Phase I



Support to National Education System

- 50 teachers trained in Bissau
(1400 students)
- 31 teachers trained in the
Regions
(1200 students)



MRE

Building a community network:

**10 NGO implementing
organisations with:**

Bissau:

- 89 Activists
- 160 Facilitators

Regions:

- 22 Activists
- 150 Facilitators



Total number of MRE trainers:

111 activists + 310 facilitators + 81 teachers = 502

Survey

- **Construction of IMSMA database**
- **Expert opinion collected and recorded in IMSMA;**
- **General and Technical Survey carried out in Bissau;**
- **Most areas in and surrounding Bissau have been marked;**

Clearance

- 2 national mine clearance NGOs trained and operating according to IMAS standards

■ NGO – HUMAID	44	} 109 Deminers
■ NGO – LUTCAM	65	



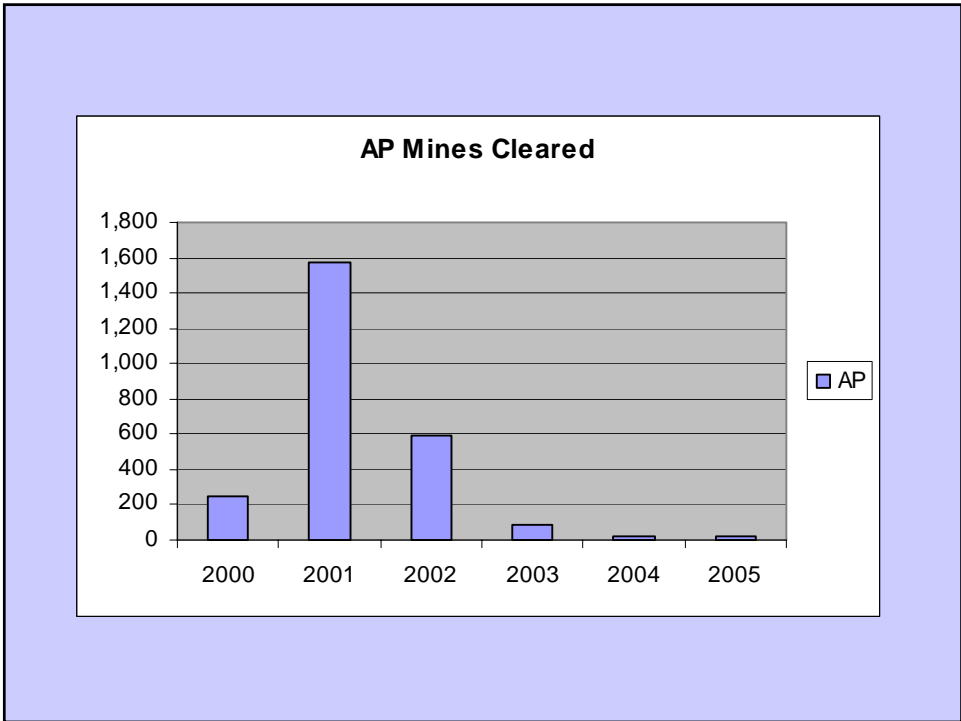
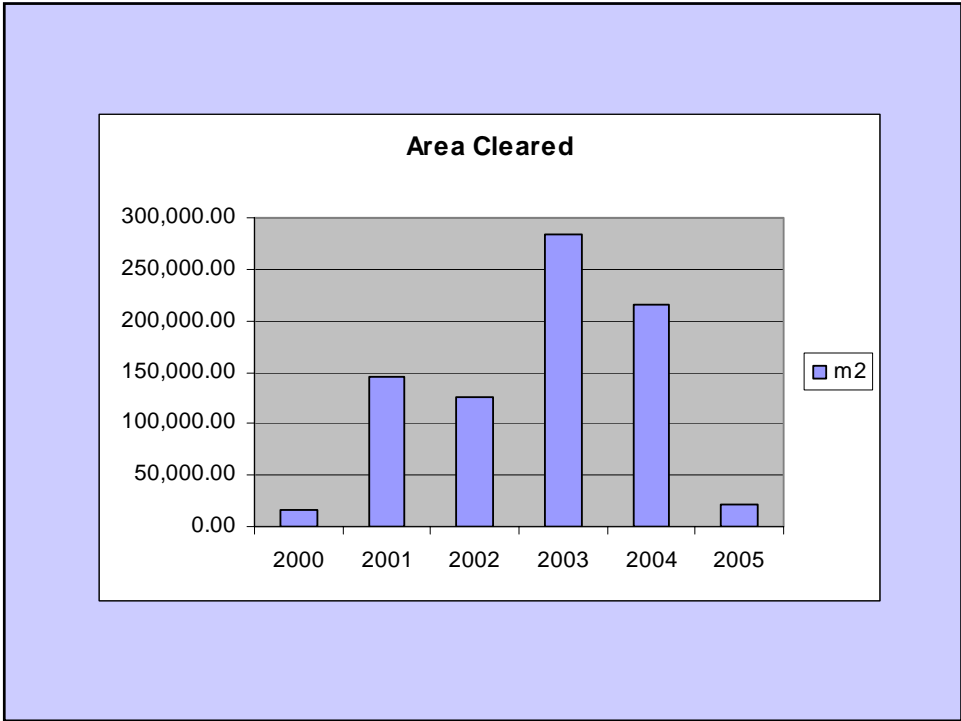
Clearance

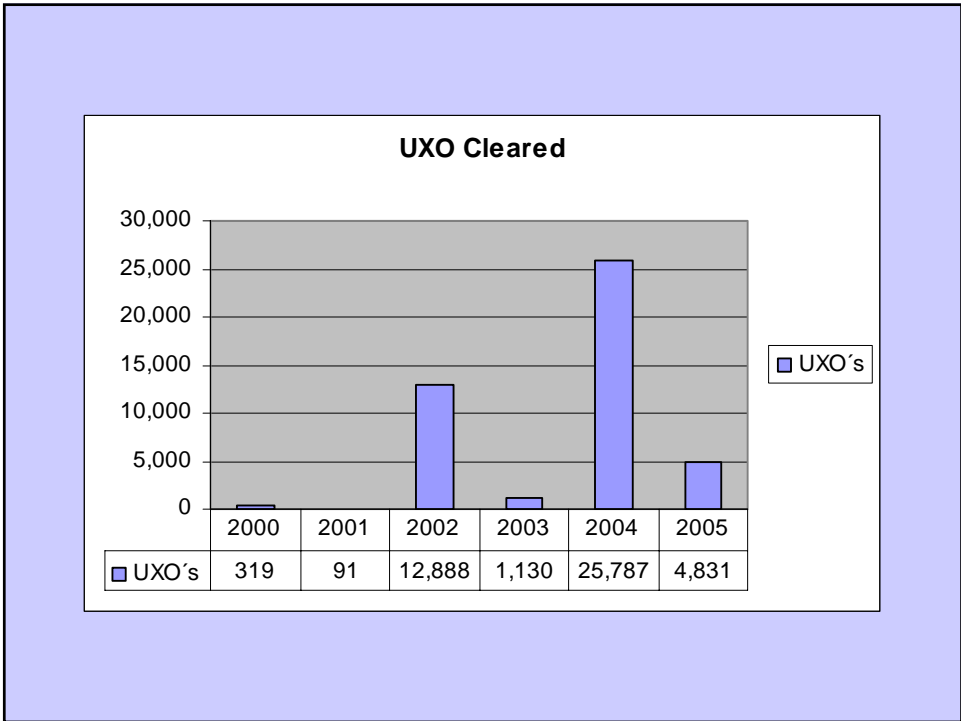
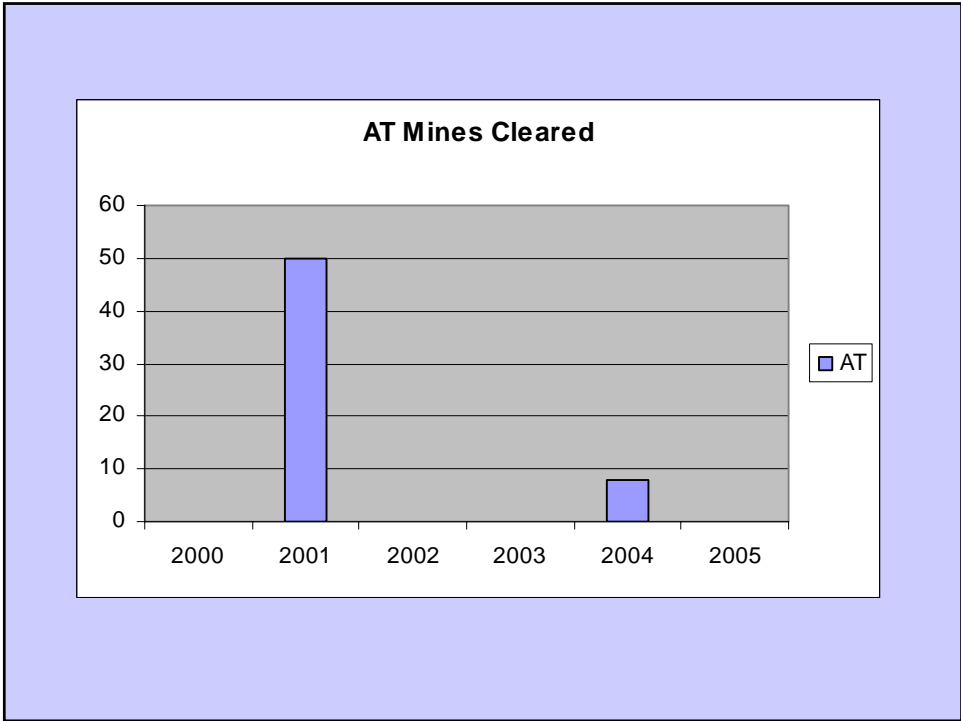
- 808.739,84m2 cleared since 1999
- Completion of most high impact area in Bissau
- Drop in casualty rates

Summary of Clearance to Date

2000		15,494.00	250	0	319
2001		145,839.33	1,579	50	91
2002		125,920.55	593	0	12,888
2003		283,470.39	84	0	1,130
2004		215,871.85	25	8	25,787
2005		22,143.72	17	0	4,831
a)			15	6	164
Total		808,739.84	2,563	64	45,210
a) Ordnance of origin outside clearance areas					

May, 2005







Impact Assessment/Survey

- Need for enhanced information:
 - 1) strategic planning
 - 2) priority-setting
 - 3) development of work plans
 - 4) coordination

Mine Clearance Operations

- **As mine clearance is completed in Bissau, operations will have to begin in the regions**
 - 1) capacity-building support for NGOs operationally moving outside the capital for the first time
 - 2) resources to carry out work outside Bissau (additional equipment, supplies and transport requirements).
 - 3) additional resources to increase productivity and output
 - 4) support for Quality Assurance element of work outside Bissau

EOD Training/Operations

- Need for increased capacity-building and operational support for battle area clearance and EOD
 - 1) Increasing UXO contamination being found in mined areas
 - 2) Considerable areas contaminated by UXO alone
 - 3) Abandoned munitions

Coordination

- Sustainable support for the national coordination body is necessary to ensure that Guinea-Bissau can meet all its obligations under Article 5
 - 1) Coordination/development planning
 - 2) Information collection/maintenance
 - 3) Operational planning
 - 4) Quality assurance
 - 5) Reporting

Conclusion

Guinea Bissau could be one of the first post-conflict African countries to complete its Article 5 requirements, if resources are available to implement our programme!

