

**NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME
IN GUINEA-BISSAU**

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION**



**Standing Committee Meetings
JUNE 2005 - GENEVA**

Background

Two successive periods of conflict have affected Guinea-Bissau: The Liberation War (1963-1974) and the internal conflict (1998-1999). These two periods of conflict have prompted a situation of extreme poverty in Guinea-Bissau.

Mine/UXO contamination left by these two conflicts has further affected the social and economic welfare of Guinea-Bissau. It has resulted in mine/UXO victims who must struggle to survive and has deprived communities of agricultural land and social infrastructure.



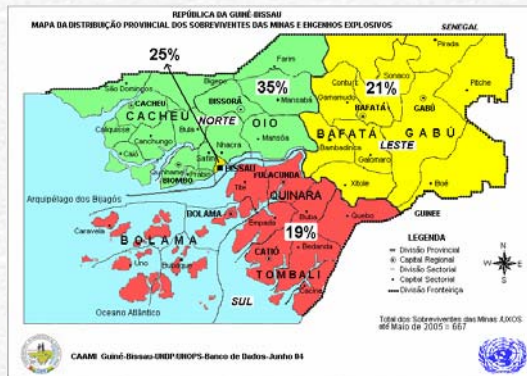
Current Situation

According to the national survey of 2005 of colonial and civil war victims conducted by the National Mine Action Centre (CAAMI) through local NGOs

- ❖ 667 Mine accidents were recorded
- ❖ 612 Individuals were injured
- ❖ 104 were children
- ❖ 124 were women
- ❖ 439 were men
- ❖ 55 people died as a result of these accidents

Distribution of Mine Accidents

- The northern province (35%)
- Bissau (25%)
- Eastern province (21%)
- Southern province 19%



Emergency and continuing Medical Care

Situation

-Cost of treatment is major hurdle for many victims, and even when they do have access to a public hospital, the hospital itself frequently suffers from inadequate resources;

Objectives

-Enhance first-response support to victims and their families;
- Strengthen the capacity of National Hospital and community based organizations that deal with the rehabilitation of landmine/UXO victims.

Request for Assistance

- Develop first response support, including training in first aid and follow up services.

Physical Rehabilitation/Prosthetics

Situation

Currently, there is only one functioning rehabilitation centre in Guinea-Bissau. Other programmes and facilities which operated previous to the civil war were closed at the onset of that conflict.

The only functioning centre carries out rehabilitation care for survivors and provides prosthetics and orthotic devices to survivors. The centre has the capacity to fabricate 16 prosthetic devices per month and to attend 26 patients in terms of physiotherapy.

Objectives

- Improve access for Physically Disabled Persons (PDP) and increase the national capacity in health services mainly in physiotherapy and orthopaedics.

Activities

- Further improve the capacity of national organizations, to care for landmine survivors their families and promote their reintegration into society.

Socio-Economic Reintegration and Psychological and Social Support

Situation:

Within the economic and social situation currently faced by Guinea-Bissau, reintegrating mine/UXO survivors into their communities is a significant challenge. The population as a whole faces significant challenges in terms of finding work and ensuring that their children have access to education.

As a result, the plight of mine/UXO survivors is a severe one in Guinea-Bissau. In addition, there is little capacity regarding psycho-social assistance. There is currently no organization offering this type of assistance to survivors which has a definite impact on their ability to recover from their injuries.



Objectives

1. Create capacity for psycho-social assistance;
2. Empowering survivors to integrate into the economy with new opportunities.

Activities for economic assistance:

1. Training for adult victims in sewing, garment making, and local crafts;
2. Support for small micro-credit funds;
3. Grants and scholarships through the Education Ministry for mine/UXO survivors;

Laws and Public Policies

Situation:

- Currently, mine victims are not explicitly included in the category of “war victims” in Guinea-Bissau. As a result, there is not as much legal and socio-economic support for mine/UXO survivors as for other war victims.

Objectives:

- The non-discrimination between the victims of the Liberation war and the victims of the 1998-99 conflict;
- Legal and social recognition of the rights of the disabled within society in Guinea-Bissau

Activities:

Reinforce Article 5 of the National Constitution, in order to include the landmine/UXO victims assistance concept.

- A complete and comprehensive national plan which includes awareness campaigns on the needs of people with disabilities.
- Inclusion of mine/UXO victims in the category of “war victims” so that they can access the same rights for compensation.

THANK YOU

