
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

5 December 2012

English only

Twelfth Meeting

Geneva, 3-7 December 2012

Item 10 of the agenda

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

**Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of
the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling,
production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their
destruction**

Submitted by Uganda*

1. Uganda ratified the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention on 25 February 1999. It entered into force for Uganda on 1 August 1999. In its initial transparency report submitted on 24 May 2002, Uganda reported that there were areas in Uganda that were suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In doing so, Uganda acknowledged that it had an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention to address these areas under its jurisdiction or control and to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines contained in these areas as soon as possible and no later than 1 August 2009.

2. The landmine problem in Uganda originated from civil wars that took place in the country over the past two decades mainly in the North, North-east, West Nile and Rwenzori sub-regions in Western Uganda. The LRA insurgency in particular led to the displacement of 2.4 million people during its peak in 1995-98. However, by 2004 the LRA had been greatly weakened by the Government Forces and by 2005, all the rebels had been flushed out of the Ugandan territory. The Government then embarked on a massive programme of return and resettlement of the former IDP population from 2005. In particular, the mine contaminated land had to be cleared to guarantee safety and the affected communities had to be sensitised on the dangers of mines and UXO to prevent accidents.

3. The Ugandan Mine Action Centre (UMAC) was established within the OPM in April of 2006. The centre consequently took on the functions of accrediting, tasking, monitoring and quality assuring mine action operators, as well as conducting technical survey explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and mine-clearance.

4. Given that the total contamination extent in the country was not known, and that only a portion of the confirmed mined areas was completed, Uganda realised that it would

* Reproduced in the language of submission, without any editorial changes, as received by the Secretariat.

not be in a position to fulfil its Article 5 obligations by 1st August 2009 deadline. Uganda therefore requested for an extension period of three years from August 2009 to August 2012. This was granted by 9th Meeting of States Parties. There were factors contributing to the failure to comply with the original 10-year deadline, including late commencement of the clearance operation, security, and major shortfall in operational financing and equipment until 2008.

5. By March 2010, a total of 141,082 square meters of land at Ngomoromo minefields was cleared with the help of Minewolf machines from Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA), with 224 anti-personnel mines destroyed. During the clearance operation new reports from local communities emerged revealing presence of additional mined areas nearby. Meanwhile, manual clearance at Agoro continued slowly due to the difficult terrain and heavy rains. Nonetheless, additional deminers were trained, equipped and deployed in July 2010, and July 2011, raising the total workforce to 130, greatly improving the mine-clearance productivity.

6. In order to allay fears that Uganda could remain with unknown mined areas, UMAC together with DDG carried out a non technical survey from May-September 2011 in Northern Uganda, and West Nile and Rwenzori sub-regions. This exercise was the first survey solely seeking for mines extending to the entire area where there had been conflicts. The survey confirmed the presence of altogether 46 mined areas in the country, breaking down to 34 new confirmed mined areas and 836,185 square metres of hazardous areas in northern, north-eastern and western parts of the country, adding to the already known 12 mined areas in northern Uganda. Efforts were made to clear all these areas, mechanically and manually as detailed in the table below:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Mined Area</i>	<i>Cleared</i>	<i>Area Cleared</i>	<i>Area discredited</i>	<i>Area released</i>	<i>APM destroyed</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Amuru	1	1	499,473	78,350	499,473	2,705	Mechanically cleared
Kasese	22	22	16,591	199,193	215,784	5	Manually cleared
Bundibugyo	2	2	2,611	2,420	5,031	3	Manually cleared
Maracha	1	1	3,766	0	3,766	7	Manually cleared
Lamwo - Ngomoromo	12	12	591,543	0	591,543	724	Manually cleared
Lamwo - Agoro	8	2	312,787	0	10,500	516	Mechanically cleared
Total	46	40	1,412,841	279,963	1,356,097	3,960	

7. Although Uganda put in place a systematic approach to clear all minefields by August 2012, this was not realised given the number of new mined areas that had been discovered during the non technical survey. Uganda therefore in a transparent manner, requested the President of 11MSP for an additional 3 months period within which to complete the remaining job. In light of the time shortage, clearance efforts were accelerated. 2 teams initially engaged on EOD operations were integrated into the manual

clearance team capacity and by 01 August 2012, Uganda had completed clearance of 40 of the 46 mined areas.

8. At the time on 01 August 2012, approximately 103,655 square meters of land remained to be cleared which Uganda committed to clearing by the end of November 2012 in time for 12th Meeting of the States Parties. Since 01 August to date, Uganda put in place elaborate steps to ensure progress in completing clearance of the remaining six mined areas in Agoro. The completion was achieved by 28th November 2012 as detailed in the table below:

Minefield Name	Status ID	Status 15th Aug 2012	Estimated m2 as per NTS 2011	Cleared m2 in the period 15th Aug - 28th Nov			Total cleared m2 28th Nov 2012		Status 28th Nov 2012
				Cleared	APM	Remaining	APM	Cleared	
Ajalikech	MF-A-001	Clearance ongoing	80,000	20,998	16	0	222	119,618	Completed
Mica	MF-A-002	Clearance ongoing	150,000	19,693	2	0	39	93,864*	Completed
Gunya Doyo	MF-A-004	Clearance ongoing	18,000	59,017	84	0	99	69,818	Completed
Locoro	MF-A-006	Clearance ongoing	60,000	106,934	179	0	341	190,143	Completed
Pokon	MF-A-007	Tech survey due	18,000	1,254	6	0	6	1,254*	Completed
Palamoni	MF-A-008	Clearance ongoing	18,000	5,437	50	0	131	15,945*	Completed
Total			356,430	213,333	337	0	838	490,642	

Re-clearance inclusive Completed

* Remaining areas discredited during technical survey as a result of no further evidence of mines

9. With the above status of the mine-clearance, Uganda has made all reasonable efforts to identify all areas under her jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and has destroyed all mines within these areas. Uganda

therefore, has complied with the Article 5 Provisions and will therefore present this declaration statement to the 12th MSP on 5th Dec 2012 in Geneva.

10. Since 2008, the demining work in Uganda was guided by the Ugandan Mine Action Standards (UMAS 1st Edition Dec 2008), developed from the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Operations in Uganda were carried out through manual and mechanical clearance operations involving strict procedures for documentation and handover process. These activities were all subjected to internal and external quality assurance as well as a final quality assurance inspection as prescribed in the UMAS.

11. Funding for Mine Action Work in Uganda has been mobilised from donors with the Assistance of UNDP (from 2005 to 2009) and the Danish Demining Group (DDG) from 2009 till 2012. The donors have contributed \$ 6,794,186 from 2008 to 2012 through DDG, \$ 3,000,000 (approximated) through UNDP from 2005 to 2007. The Government of Uganda has contributed approximately \$3,500,000 to mine action mainly through payment of taxes, salaries for staff and other in-kind contributions.

12. As a result of the efforts undertaken since Uganda submitted its initial transparency report, Uganda declares that it has fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention by having determined that there are no longer areas under the jurisdiction or control of Uganda in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Upon declaring completion, 46 mined areas were addressed representing a total of 1,617,156 square meters of area that has been released through means of technical survey and clearance, or discredited through means of cancellation. This work has culminated in the destruction of 4,314 antipersonnel mines, 20 antitank mines, 9,273 UXO, and 42 airbombs.

13. In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Uganda will:

- (a) report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means such as the Intercessional Work Programme;
- (b) ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5 and;
- (c) destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties.

14. Uganda is also cognizant of ongoing discussions on political commitments the States Parties as a whole may consider taking with respect to mined areas discovered after deadlines have passed. Should any such commitments be adopted, Uganda shall act in a manner agreed to by the States Parties. Uganda has been open in sharing such information and this will be maintained.

15. Given the nature of conflicts that took place in Uganda over the past two decades, a number of explosive remnants of war still lie un-cleared in different parts of the North, North Eastern, North Western and Rwenzori sub-regions. UMAC's EOD teams cleared thousands of ERW from 2006 till June 2011. This operation was however suspended and all the Personnel were redeployed to clear the mine fields. Given that ERWs still pose a danger to the community, plans are under way to restart EOD operations for three years (2013 to 2015), UMAC plans to engage at least 60 personnel on EOD operation during this period. It is also envisaged that the EOD teams will carry out any other tasks as shall be assigned by UMAC.

16. In ending this declaration, the Government of Uganda gives credit to all partners and donors who supported Uganda's efforts towards a mine-free country. Thanks to UNDP for the seed funding and the initial set up of the Mine Action Programme and Danish Demining

Group for their invaluable technical and logistical support towards the completion of our Article Five obligations. The donors who supported Uganda over the years include the Governments of Australia, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, all highly appreciated. Thanks also to Norwegian Peoples Aid for the support in mechanical clearance and Handicap International for the mine risk education and victim assistance activities. Lastly we appreciate the support of GICHD – particularly the ISU for guidance and capacity building of our personnel.

Annex I

Mined and suspected mined areas in Uganda

District	Region	Geographical coordinates		Area extent m ²	Types and quantities of munitions destroyed			Date when area was released
		Longitude	Latitude		APM	ATM	UXO	
1	Lamwo	Northern	N03:44:39.2 E032:43:17.4	13,930	23	0	0	07/07/2012
2	Lamwo	Northern	N03:44:43.6 E032:43:18.0	37,200	5	0	3	10/02/2012
3	Lamwo	Northern	N03:44:42.4 E032:43:16.0	18,241	3	0	0	02/03/2012
4	Lamwo	Northern	N03:43:56.6 E032:40:40.7	14,400	47	0	0	17/04/2012
5	Lamwo	Northern	N03:43:01.1 E032:38:76.7	71,082	200	0	0	23/04/2012
6	Lamwo	Northern	N03:43:01.1 E032:38:76.7	70,000	66	0	0	13/06/2012
7	Lamwo	Northern	N03:42:35.4 E032:38:39.7	30,649	363		2	04/06/2012
8	Lamwo	Northern	N03:42:43.6 E032:37:45.3	24,399	7	0	0	04/06/2012
9	Lamwo	Northern	N03:42:23.1 E032:36:24.4	25,200	5	0	0	10/06/2012
10	Lamwo	Northern	N03:42:12.6 E032:34:49.3	24,000	2	0	0	14/06/2012
11	Lamwo	Northern	N03:40:09.4 E032:25:10.0	5,000	1	0	0	29/06/2012
12	Lamwo	Northern	N03:40:09.4 E032:25:10.0	257,442	2	0	4	05/06/2012
13	Lamwo	Northern	N03:49:22.9 E032:55:44.4	119,618	222	0	0	10/11/2012
14	Lamwo	Northern	N03:48:58.1 E032:55:6.17	93,864	39	0	0	15/11/2012
15	Lamwo	Northern	N03:48:77.9 E032:55:74.9	9,900	28	0	0	17/04/2010
16	Lamwo	Northern	N03:46:42.4 E032:54:39.7	69,818	99	0	0	24/11/2012
17	Lamwo	Northern	N03:46:42.4 E032:54:39.7	2,530	4	0	0	18/06/2012
18	Lamwo	Northern	N03:47:18.4 E032:53:43.2	190,143	341	0	1	24/11/2012
19	Lamwo	Northern	N03:47:15.5 E032:49:59.8	1,254	6	0	0	28/11/2012
20	Lamwo	Northern	N03:46:26.6 E032:48:41.5	15,945	131	0	0	28/11/2012
21	Amuru	Northern	N03:30:55.6 E032:07:43.2	499,473	2,705	0	0	05/11/2012
22	Kasese	Western	N00:06:53.9 E029:47:52.7	6,198	0	0	0	03/02/2012
23	Kasese	Western	N00:06:33.8 E029:48:02.0	323	1	0	0	25/11/2012
24	Kasese	Western	N00:06:04.5 E029:47:35.8	123	0	0	0	15/11/2012
25	Kasese	Western	N00:07:10.6 E029:46:47.1	1,169	0	0	0	17/11/2012
26	Kasese	Western	N00:06:59.6 E029:47:36.9	180	0	0	0	01/12/2012
27	Kasese	Western	N00:07:03.6 E029:46:52.2	128	0	0	0	15/11/2011

District	Region	Geographical coordinates		Area extent m ²	Types and quantities of munitions destroyed			Date when area was released	
		Longitude	Latitude		APM	ATM	UXO		
28	Kasese	Western	N00:05:30.6	E029:49:48.6	520	0	0	0	03/02/2012
29	Kasese	Western	N00:05:20.8	E029:50:20.1	93	0	0	0	08/12/2012
30	Kasese	Western	N00:05:59.9	E029:52:10.6	0	0	0	0	12/03/2012
31	Kasese	Western	N00:07:55.1	E029:53:39.6	404	0	0	0	17/01/2012
32	Kasese	Western	N00:09:07.8	E029:54:26.0	903	0	0	0	16/02/2012
33	Kasese	Western	N00:05:05.8	E029:49:05.1	676	0	0	0	18/01/2012
34	Kasese	Western	N00:08:46.2	E029:54:34.6	613	0	0	0	27/02/2012
35	Kasese	Western	S00:06:38.5	E029:52:00.3	376	0	0	0	08/12/2011
36	Kasese	Western	N00:08:37.6	E029:51:54.2	1,545	3	0	0	24/04/2012
37	Kasese	Western	N00:07:40.0	E029:52:57.9	902	0	0	0	29/02/2012
38	Kasese	Western	N00:07:14.3	E029:53:20.3	587	1	0	0	16/02/2012
39	Kasese	Western	N00:16:52.4	E030:04:27.9	429	0	0	0	29/02/2012
40	Kasese	Western	N00:16:43.4	E030:03:03.5	680	0	0	0	17/02/2012
41	Kasese	Western	N00:16:57.6	E030:01:22.8	0	0	0	0	21/04/2012
42	Kasese	Western	N00:16:55.5	E030:03:05.6	298	0	0	0	29/02/2012
43	Kasese	Western	N00:14:28.0	E030:01:52.9	545	0	0	0	23/03/2012
44	Bundibugyo	Western	N00:35:17.4	E029:58:34.3	1,580	2	0	0	18/04/2012
45	Bundibugyo	Western	N00:36:05.7	E030:01:11.8	1,031	1	0	0	26/04/2012
46	Maracha	West Nile	N03:13:37.1	E030:54:47.7	3,766	7	0	5	27/05/2012
TOTAL					1,617,156	4,314	0	15	

Note: No antitank mines were found from the mined and suspected mined areas, however 15 UXO were recovered and destroyed out of the total 9,273 UXO in EOD operations.

Annex II

Clearance progress 2006-2012 including EOD and mine-clearance operations

	<i>Number of areas addressed and deemed no longer dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of anti-personnel mines</i>	<i>Area addressed m2</i>	<i>Antipersonnel mines destroyed</i>	<i>Antitank mines destroyed</i>	<i>Air bombs destroyed</i>	<i>UXO destroyed</i>
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	8	1	0	565
2007	0	0	14	0	14	1,162
2008	0	0	14	2	12	2,638
2009	0	30,928	198	9	7	1,802
2010	4	206,971	179	2	6	1,707
2011	5	219,126	587	6	0	878
2012	37	1,160,131	3,314	0	3	521
Total	46	1,617,156	4,314	20	42	9,273