

ICBZ

SENEGAL

Senegal has made limited progress in meeting its Article 5 obligations, with almost no land cleared to date to humanitarian standards and no clear picture of the true extent of the contamination. While the conflict with the MFDC made it difficult to begin demining operations before the end of 2004, if the national authority and mine action center had been set up earlier, demining operations might have been able to begin much more quickly after the nominal end of the conflict. Reasons for the continued lack of progress—especially given apparent success in raising funds for demining—are not clear. While some areas remain difficult to access for security reasons, there appear to be several places where the demining operations could begin immediately.

Even considering the special security challenges Senegal is facing, given the level of estimated contamination and predictions of even less contamination after technical survey, an extension of seven years seems to be excessive. Senegal needs to set out plans to conduct technical survey of all its suspected hazardous areas to identify contaminated areas and then revise its strategic plan accordingly. It should be expected that significant and rapid progress will also be made on clearance of known mined areas, beginning with the few high priority areas.