
**Fourth Review Conference 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**

30 September 2019

English
Original: French

Oslo, 26–29 November 2019
Item 11 of the provisional agenda
**Consideration of submissions from
States parties as provided for in article 5**

**Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the
destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with
article 5 of the Convention**

Executive summary

Submitted by Chad

1. In 1987, following the withdrawal of Libyan troops from northern Chad, the Government of Chad discovered the extent of contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the Aozou Strip, an area in Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti Regions claimed by Libya that covers about one quarter of the country; this added to the previously existing contamination that affects the whole of the national territory to varying degrees.
2. A landmine impact survey – a socioeconomic survey – was carried out by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Handicap International and the Survey Action Centre between 1999 and 2001. In view of the constraints related to insecurity in the north of the country, the study could not be conducted in Tibesti Department, which is known to be one of the departments most affected by contamination by mines and ERW. The survey was an excellent tool for providing an initial assessment but has shown its limits as to exact knowledge of the locations and boundaries of the affected areas. To that end, the National High Commission for Demining began conducting technical surveys to assess more precisely the level of landmine contamination, to complement the data collected during the landmine impact survey.
3. From 2010 to 2012, Chad conducted a technical survey of the whole country, with the exception of Moyen-Chari Department and the northern part of Tibesti Department. The results confirmed that, after Tibesti, Borkou and Ennedi are the departments most affected. Tibesti: 36 areas, Borkou: 24 areas; and Ennedi: 4 areas. The findings of the landmine impact survey and the 2010–2012 technical survey showed that the high risk areas cover a total of 61,231,143 square metres.
4. The PADEMIN project, funded by the European Union, was implemented between 2014 and 2016 by a consortium formed by Handicap International and the Mines Advisory Group. The project made it possible to deploy teams in the south (Moyen-Chari) and the north (Borkou and Tibesti) of the country to conduct non-technical and technical surveys, mine risk education missions, mine clearance and demining operations and support the National High Commission for Demining.



5. During the project, the Mines Advisory Group cleared 15 areas: 8 in Borkou, 5 in Tibesti, 1 in Wadi Fira and 1 in Moyen-Chari, for a total area of 1,116,369 square metres. Of the 15 areas, 6 were declassified, 2 were reduced in size and 6 were cleared and made available for unspecified activities. During the operations, 7 anti-personnel mines and 276 other explosive devices were discovered and destroyed.

6. PRODECO, a project to provide support to demining, development and social protection for vulnerable persons in the north and west of Chad, was launched in October 2017. It is implemented by a consortium of international NGOs: Handicap International (lead organization), the Mines Advisory Group and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) France, together with a Chadian NGO, le Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV). The objective of the project is to provide support for demining, social protection and development for vulnerable persons in the north and west of Chad. Under PRODECO, Chad deploys teams in Tibesti, Borkou and Ennedi-Ouest Departments and Lac Region.

7. Since October 2017, the National High Commission for Demining information management service has, through PRODECO, had a technical adviser with whom it has been able to begin cleaning up the database. The work done so far has made it possible to define a reliable number of landmine hazardous areas – 137 – and determine that a further 60 areas require further investigation. Today, the database shows 137 areas, an increase of 18 per cent increase over the 2013 figure of 113 suspected hazardous areas. The difference is explained by, inter alia, the inclusion of the results of the non-technical surveys conducted under the PADEMIN project and the updating work that began under PRODECO.

Open hazardous areas

<i>Region</i>	<i>Size of open hazardous areas by region</i>			<i>Number of open areas by region</i>		
	<i>Mine</i>	<i>ERW</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>ERW</i>	<i>Total</i>
Borkou	22 786 314	2 637 029	25 423 343	39	18	57
Chari-Baguirmi	241		241	1		1
Ennedi	16 450 551	74 204	16 524 754	7	6	13
Lac		872	872		5	5
Moyen-Chari	45 098	3 094 615	3 139 713	1	11	12
Salamat		593	593		6	6
Sila		6 005	6 005		5	5
Tibesti	72 695 838	34 077	72 729 915	89	5	94
Wadi Fira		662	662		1	1
Total	111 978 042	5 848 057	117 826 099	137	57	194

8. By 2020, the National High Commission for Demining should have a database capable of providing reliable information and thus becoming the decision support tool it needs to help it coordinate the work.

9. At Zouarké, on the border between Chad and Libya in the north of the country, the Mines Advisory Group confirmed the presence of a minefield of the same type of configuration as at Wadi Doum, i.e. lines of anti-tank mines protected by anti-personnel mines, during the PADEMIN project. It had not been possible to map the minefield and the protection lines during the technical survey. The access routes are blocked by randomly placed mines.

10. A technical survey still needs to be carried out as soon as possible in the south of the country, along the border with the Central African Republic, to confirm that the problem of anti-personnel mines has been successfully dealt with. This will be done when funds are available. The region was identified during the non-technical survey conducted by Handicap International under the PADEMIN project. It is located on the outskirts of Ikea commune.

11. Since 2014, as a result of the PADEMIN project, it has been possible to set up permanent markings in Tibesti, including along the Bardaï-Aouzou road. In addition, sites identified during technical surveys as being confirmed or strongly suspected landmine areas have been systematically marked using conventional marking tape and signs indicating the presence of mines in French and Arabic. Support and guidance have also been provided to the local populations who are at risk.

12. Resources of US\$ 26,573,340 enabled the progress made during the 2014–2019 period. The national financial contribution was 8,087,845,000 CFA francs (US\$ 13,591,100), or 52 per cent of the total amount.

13. The National High Commission for Demining also has gained access to 69 Libyan plans showing mine contaminated areas. The plans mainly cover the Ennedi and Tibesti Regions. If operators have to work in the areas indicated on the plans, they are provided with important data containing all the information they need to ensure the work can be carried out with the highest level of security.

14. Twenty-two years after the end of the conflict between Chad and Libya, anti-personnel mines and other ERW continue to kill and maim both sedentary and nomadic populations, particularly in Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti Departments in the north of the country, and remain a real obstacle to the region's development. Mines are a major obstacle to access to infrastructure such as housing, roads, pasture, water points, irrigated plantations and non-agricultural land, as well as the development of tourism and mining exploration.

15. According to the National High Commission for Demining Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, accidents caused by landmines or ERW claimed 165 victims between 2014 and 2019.

16. Demining operations in Chad are based on the National Demining Standards, which are in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and are adapted to local conditions in terms of geography and equipment. The national land release procedures were updated between 2014 and 2016.

17. In 2017, after a restructuring exercise decided on by the country's highest authorities, the staff of the National High Commission for Demining was reduced from 712 to 320 officials. A decree issued on 10 June 2019 provides for the Commission's reorganization into four directorates: 1. Operations and technical logistics; 2. Planning, project monitoring and assistance to victims; 3. Administration, finance and equipment; and 4. Training and human resources.

18. Chad has four regional centres and two sub-centres. Each regional centre has a staff of 17 and the sub-centres have 10 members of staff each. The National High Commission for Demining currently has 160 deminers, of whom 54 are contracted by Handicap International and the Mines Advisory Centre.

19. Until 2017, the National High Commission for Demining had operational capacity to implement projects under the national programme. However, the lack of funding has forced the Government to place that capacity on standby in order to focus on the management and coordination of the national programme.

20. There are a number of challenges remaining that regularly frustrate the progress that Chad should be making:

- (a) Lack of financial resources, given the magnitude of the problem;
- (b) Adverse weather conditions for several months of the year;
- (c) Insecurity in the east and the northern regions, including Tibesti, where there is sporadic unrest involving goldpanners, traffickers and the national army. Except for the border with Libya, which remains a military zone, the region is currently under control;
- (d) Geography: the size of the country, the poor communication channels and the absence of paved roads in the most heavily mined areas make conditions difficult to work in;

(e) The information in the database was found to be incomplete and difficult to use;

(f) Poor management of financial and human resources within the National High Commission for Demining has affected resource mobilization and operational planning;

(g) The action taken on landmines in Chad has lacked strategic vision, operational planning, coordination and coherence. This situation has led, at both national and international levels, to a loss of credibility and confidence from partners and a decrease in financial support.

21. Chad has received financial support from the European Union, through the PADEMIN project between 2014 and 2016 and through the PRODECO project since 2017. The international financial contributions are used for field projects and institutional support. The national financial contributions cover staff salaries and the operating costs of the National High Commission for Demining.

22. The previous six-year extension was granted to allow Chad to carry out mine clearing and decontamination work in the areas identified by the technical surveys conducted between 2010 and 2012 and to continue the technical and non-technical surveys in order to collect robust data to consolidate the Centre's national database. The work done in the field in the current period will clarify the country's needs in terms of mine clearance and decontamination, but also in terms of technical and non-technical surveys. The extension requested by the Government covers a five-year period to 1 January 2025.

23. The activities planned during the expansion are: in Borkou Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 39 areas, from January 2020 to September 2021; in Chari-Baguirmi Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 1 area, from January to September 2021; in Ennedi Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 7 areas, from July 2020 to December 2024; in Moyen-Chari Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 1 area from January 2020 to September 2021; and in Tibesti Region: a non-technical survey, a technical survey and clearance work in 89 areas from January 2020 to December 2024, subject to the security situation being stable.

24. Currently only Handicap International and the Mines Advisory Group are working in Chad and there is as yet no sign of a third operator coming in to increase capacity. Activities until September 2021 will be covered under the PRODECO project. Beyond that date, funding will have to be sought, for which a partnership and resource mobilization strategy has been developed.

25. The estimated total for this extension request, for mine clearance and decontamination, non-technical and technical surveys, institutional support and capacity-building for the National High Commission for Demining, amounts to US\$ 34 million, i.e., US\$ 6.8 million per year. The national financial contribution, reserved exclusively for the payment of salaries and the operating expenses of the National High Commission for Demining, will amount to US\$ 537,000 per year. Additional resources of US\$ 3 million per year will be mobilized from international donors (and possibly the commercial sector). To that end, two advocacy meetings with donors are planned; one in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and the other in Khartoum, Sudan.

26. The objectives of the strategic plan, and thus the duration of the extension requested, are realistic if the funding, from both national and international sources, is made available consistently.

27. Risk factors that could have a negative impact on the realization of the plan are: (a) human factors: renewal of key personnel of the National High Commission for Demining; (b) funding shortfalls at the national and international levels, etc., insecurity and conflict.