



Fourth review Conference of the States Parties
to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Norway 25 - 29 November 2019



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Residual ERW/UXO clearance in Guinea-Bissau



The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is located in the Western Africa between Senegal (North), Guinea-Conakry (East and South) and the Atlantic Ocean (West). It is one of the twelve poorest countries in the world, with 1,8 M. inhabitants, ranking 177 out 189 countries on the 2018 Human Development Index.

Guinea-Bissau ratified the Convention on 22 May 2001, and the Convention entered into force for Guinea-Bissau on 1 November 2001.

- **Stockpile Destruction (Article 4):** In 15 September 2006, Guinea-Bissau reported that it had completed the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines (11,654 mines) and has reported having retained 9 anti-personnel mines for training in mine detection & mine destruction techniques **Retained Mines (Article 3)**



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Mine Clearance (Article 5): Guinea-Bissau is the tenth State Party in Africa to complete demining activities and **declared in January 2012 that it has cleared all known mined areas** according to its obligation under the APMBC, addressing over 5.8 million of square metres of mined or suspected hazardous areas in seven of Guinea-Bissau's eight regions. A total of 3,724 anti-personnel mines, 318 other mines and over 182,000 other explosive hazards were destroyed.

Victim Assistance : Guinea-Bissau is one of 30 States Parties that have indicated having significant numbers (close to 1,300) of landmine survivors. Guinea-Bissau is also a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



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Like some mine affected countries, Guinea-Bissau still has a problem with the residual Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) remaining (from the independence war 1963-1974) which were to be dealt with the current National Mine Action Authority.

Although the UXO are not part of the APMBT, they impede people to build their livelihoods and are to some extent an obstacle for the country social and economical development.



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555,500 square meters of size remain to be cleared in **Northern region, Eastern region and Southern region** and 979,000 m² to be surveyed in the same regions.

It is still urgent to resume the clearance operation in these eight additional contaminated areas at the soonest. Twenty-two months of work will still be required to conclude this additional demining process, with a total budget of 0,9 M. USD

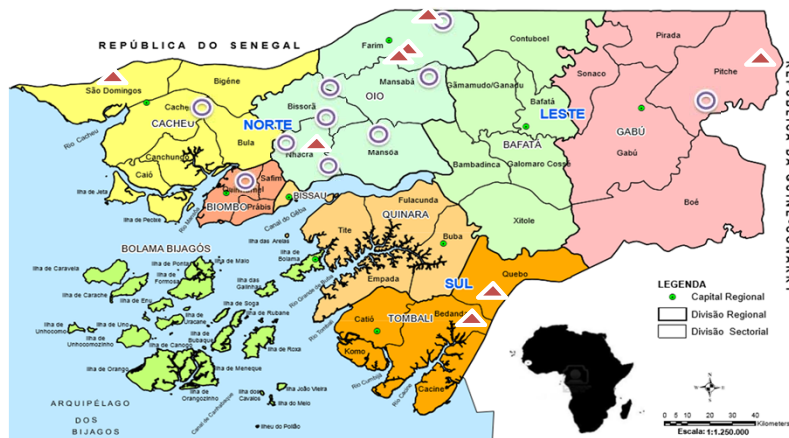
By end of 2019, the electoral exercise will end the fragile period and usher a new chapter in Guinea-Bissau history. This will guarantee the return of constitutional order urged by the international community and it is expected that the international assistance will resume soon.



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Map of contaminated areas



▲ New Confirmed Hazardous Areas (discovered after the Art 5 complete declaration in 2012)

○ UXOs & Spot Tasks



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The existence of additional unexploded ordnances poses a life threat to the population, particularly around the former battle area of the liberation war.

Since 2012 up to date, nine unexploded ordnance accidents have occurred with 27 persons death (47%) and 31 persons injured (53%) in northern and eastern regions.

The complexity of the last conflicts and the nature of contamination in Guinea-Bissau require to maintain appropriate National mine clearance capacities and response mechanism to address new discoveries of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) over the short term.



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The complexity of the last conflicts and the nature of contamination in Guinea-Bissau require to maintain appropriate National mine clearance capacities and response mechanism to address new discoveries of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) over the long term.

Detention of small arms and light weapons by civilians as well as finding of explosive remnants of these past conflicts continue to affect the community security and hamper local development.

Guinea-Bissau's oversight of mine action and the fight against small arms are vested in the Secretary of State's of Veteran's Affairs;

The Government is currently engaged to foster the current National Commission against the proliferation of illicit small arms with the aspects linked to mine action and explosive remnants of war issues to respond in more effective way to the community security challenges and violence reduction.



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Guinea-Bissau is grateful for the indispensable role played by the United Nations System and particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the donor community's efforts in supporting the National Humanitarian Mine Action Programme between 1999 and 2012.



Residual ERW/UXO hotspots clearance in Guinea-Bissau



Many thanks for your kind attention