



NPA Mine Action Sudan – Third Quarter (01 July to 30 September 2007)

Introduction

The SPLM decision on 11 October to suspend its participation in the Government of National Unity has sent a clear signal to the international community that there is an urgent need to re-engage with the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) lest Sudan's North-South war resume. (ICG 12 Oct)

Against this challenging setting, there is positive news to report: work is underway in Nimule, Eastern Equatoria, to establish South Sudan's first safari park – a clear sign of development and stability within the region.



Yei-Juba road

The annual rains have presented serious challenges – the primary Yei-Juba route has suffered, with many bridgeheads collapsing. Re-supply has been the biggest issue however the Programme was able to maintain operations during the reporting period. Survey and Clearance operations continued in Central and Western Equatoria.

The Programme was able to facilitate a field visit for the UNDP-SSDC workshop 'Capacity-Development for Mine Action Management' at the integrated Mile 38 Task in Juba County. There was excellent co-operation between the Programme and the UN Mine Action Office for the Annual Accreditation.



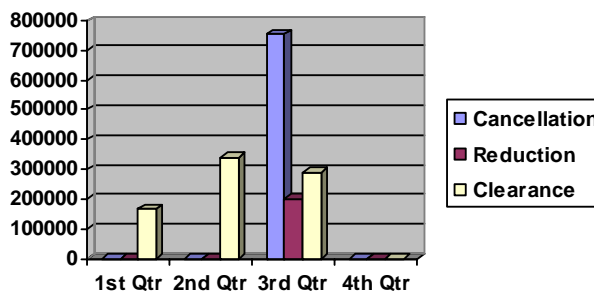
Mundri, Western Equatoria

NPA Task Impact Assessment (TIA)

A total of 24 Pre-Clearance (Phase 1) assessments were conducted in Yei and Juba counties, Central Equatoria. The current task at Mile 38 was assessed for impact. It emerges that the land will be used by approximately 800 beneficiaries following handover. The BAC task at Mundri was handed over. A Post-Clearance Assessment will follow after a 6 month period (to confirm land use). Lastly, the NPA TIA department has been sharing information with Action Against Hunger (AAH) as to high-priority agricultural land affected by mines and UXO.

NPA Land Release and Productivity

(See graph opposite). During the Third Quarter, reporting of Cancellation, Reduction and Completion has been implemented (figures show m2). The biggest gain is clearly Cancellation – ground that was previously surveyed and identified as Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) is now after thorough survey and information gathering declared to be free of mines and UXO and released. This is a cost effective method without any treatment of the ground.



Land Release output 2007



Norwegian People's Aid

The total area for Cancellation was 754,616m². Reduction during the Third Quarter was carried out solely by the MineWolf and 200,992m² was covered. Clearance was effected by the Manual Teams and by the MineWolf and 289,989m² covered. Items found and destroyed were: AP – 58, AT - 16, UXO - 147. The BAC team, prior to the completion of the Mundri task, conducted 54,100m² of sub-surface clearance. 10 PM1 sub-munitions were located. The EOD teams carried out 17 tasks both in support of the operations and independently.



NPA Sudan Team and Section Leader Training

Personnel and Training

The Operations Manager, Kjell Ivar Breili, and the Medical Co-ordinator, Jon Sørbø, ran a very successful leadership training programme for Section and Team Leaders. This included both practical skills and discussion as to the moral demands of leadership in the field. A seminar for Senior Staff followed in which the Programme Manager outlined the Capacity Building Plan and Programme Strategy for 2008. There was also a discussion as to how to achieve better 'Co-operation' within the Programme.

The Logistics Department is now nationalised. The team has been challenged by the heavy deterioration of the roads however they have prevailed!

Other training has included IT training. This is an ongoing process for many of the Programme Staff but currently focused on senior field staff. With regards to mechanical capacity, 4 staff were successful in passing the MineWolf operators course, under the guidance of 2 MineWolf Technicians.

Staffing on the programme as at 10 October 2007 is 143 Operational Staff, 116 Support Staff.

Conclusion

In summary, while many organisations were on standown, productivity has been maintained during the rainy season. The intention in the next quarter is to complete work at the Mile 38 task and continue work within Central Equatoria. By the end of the year, NPA Mine Action Sudan hopes to have a clear picture as to the clearance requirement within the State of Central Equatoria.

Lastly, the Programme says farewell to Christian Illman (Manual Demining), Henrik Laukstein (EOD/BAC), Howard Barnes (Support) and Rune Kristian Andresen (Programme Manager), and thanks them for their hard work and dedication to the job.

NPA thanks its donors for the 2007 funding period:



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