



NPA Mine Action Sudan – Third Quarter 2008 – 01 July to 30 September

Dated 15 October 2008

Introduction

The quarter has been marked by an incident which took place in immediate proximity to Loka Senior Secondary School in Lainya County, Central Equatoria. On Sunday 21 September, one person was killed and two others seriously injured when a small truck detonated an Anti-Tank mine – the vehicle was being used for driving lessons. The incident is a grave reminder of the mine hazard that continues to hamper the development of South Sudan. The fact that the incident took place in proximity to the Yei-Juba road also serves as a reminder to the precautions that need to be observed - namely to stay on known tracks.



AT incident at Loka, Lainya County – 21.09.2008



Benjamin Lagu Nicholas, Team Leader, briefs Dr Stephan Keller at Kenyi, Lainya County

Stakeholders

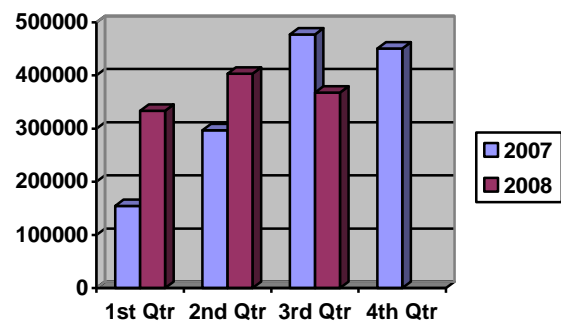
There were a number of visitors to the programme including Dr Stephan Keller of the German Embassy (the German Federal Foreign Office funds the programme Manual capacity) and also Ms Helga Einarsdottir, representing the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The UN Voluntary Trust Fund grant for Mechanical Operations commenced in June and the implementation is described below. The programme thanks UNMAO Sudan for facilitating this grant. The programme has also worked closely with UNMAO in relation to Land Release methodology.

The programme thanks staff from SSDC for their involvement in a number of recent task handovers.

Operational deployment and productivity

Teams were deployed in Central Equatoria (Morobo, Yei, Lainya and Juba counties), Western Equatoria (Mundri West) and also Rwanda. The graph to the right shows that mechanical productivity (not including Rwanda) has not been as high as the Third Quarter for 2007 however the general trend remains good.



Productivity – m2 processed (mechanical)



Central Equatoria

The UN MineWolf worked at three tasks: SS 476 Kuda, SS 596 Ngangala and SS 601 Liria, all in Juba County. In total 367,860 m² were processed. The latter two tasks are of high priority because the repair of this section of the Juba-Torit road has been hindered by the presence of Anti-Tank mines.

The following tasks were handed over to local communities: SS 581 Atende Primary School (Yei County), SS 433 Kenyi, SS 564 and SS 565 Loka (Lainya County) and SS 476 Kuda (Juba County).

The survey teams are engaged in 're-surveys' of the Yei-Bele and Yei-Morobo corridors – the objective of these projects is to clean up existing survey information within the IMSMA database. A number of Cancellations have been made and the scale of many existing Dangerous Areas (DAs) has been reduced; a small number of new discoveries have also been made.



UXO contamination at SS 601, Liria Road, Juba County



Reconnaissance at SS 596 Ngangala, Juba County: Drazen Sigir, MineWolf; Johan Maree, UNMAO; Batali Gabriel, Deputy Operations Manager

Western Equatoria

On 11 September the NPA field camp in Mundri West was attacked by an angry mob. The incident followed the funeral of a local man – NPA Mine Action staff had been suspected of involvement. The incident is of great concern to the programme and the team has been extracted from the location. At the time of writing three individuals remain in custody although no formal charge has been made; this is a very worrying abuse of legal process.

The task itself was being prepared for handover when the incident happened; the Programme Manager and SSDC representatives handed over the task on 25 September.



PM1 findings at SS 576, Mundri West

The team is now working at SS 601 Liria in Juba County where there is a heavy concentration of UXO.



NDO Deminer conducts REDS drill

Rwanda

The NPA Mechanical team has made good progress at the Kanombe task and is likely to finish ahead of schedule. As at 30 September, 160,721 m² had been processed – more than 50% of the task area. The ground conditions have been challenging for the MineWolf – there is dense vegetation – however the tempo has been maintained with careful area reduction. Deminers from the National Demining Office (NDO) are conducting follow-up to the mechanical application – the Rake Excavation and Detection System (REDS) is being applied as per the NPA Sudan methodology.

Support Operations

An obvious challenge for the programme is to ensure that the Operations and Logistics departments work hand in hand. Field Camp Supervisors are deployed to team locations and are expected to provide teams with the requisite level of support and follow-up. This is a new initiative for 2008 and the system is starting to work well.

The Logistics department is guided by the NPA Sudan Logistics team – this is a control function and the programme is obliged to adhere to central procurement and supply guidelines.



Göran Wesslau, NPA Sudan Logistics Manager, briefs Logistics staff at Logobero Camp.

Capacity-building, Training and Personnel

Training courses for NPA Mine Action Sudan staff have included the Medical Supervisors course at IMATC (John Taban), ICT Network, Hardware and Software Support (Robert Khemis) and Operator training with the MineWolf Bagger.

Christian Andersen made excellent use of his university vacation by working on the programme between June and August – we thank him for his hard work. Peter Andreas Wold Eide follows as the Operations Technical Adviser – welcome! Lastly, we say farewell and thank you to Joao Dumba – former TA (Mechanical).



Christian Andersen, Operations TA, debriefs Male Jackson, Team Leader at SS 575, Lutaya

Programme staffing as at 15 October 2008 is 264 national and 10 international staff.



Conclusion

While other agencies were preparing for a new demining season, NPA Mine Action Sudan has maintained operations at a high intensity. Quality has not suffered thanks to a well-functioning Quality Management System - in partnership with UNMAO. The programme remains on track for good results against the core objectives of Capacity-Building, Land Release and Productivity.

NPA Mine Action Sudan thanks its donors for the 2008 funding period:



Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Federal Foreign Office

German Federal Foreign Office



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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