



Government of Uganda - UNDP Mine Action Programme



Context

The Uganda Mine Action Programme was established in 2005 to assist Government of Uganda in responding to the effect of landmines and Explosive remnants of war. This follows interstate conflicts the country experienced since 1980s. The long LRA conflict left Northern and North Eastern parts of Uganda highly contaminated with Explosive Remnants of War with over 1.9m people displaced and settled in IDP camps.

The advent of relative peace has necessitated multi-stakeholder humanitarian mine action interventions to create safe environments free from hazardous contamination of landmines and Explosive remnants of war.

Uganda Mine Action Programme continues to foster national ownership through continual engagement and interaction with line ministries, namely:

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development,
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Local Government,
- Ministry of Education,
- District local governments,
- non-governmental organisations,
- UN agencies, and other development partners.

The programme is implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Ministry of Health, with support from UNDP.

UNDP has continued to provide financial and technical support to the programme since its start in 2005. Other funding partners are governments of Norway, Germany, Ireland, Canada, Austria, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, and United Kingdom,

Objectives

The overall aim of the Mine Action Programme is to:

1. Advance government's obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention;
2. Facilitate IDP return, and increase the release of formerly contaminated land for socio-economic development initiatives.
3. The programme aims to strengthen national mine action capacities to facilitate the re-integration and recovery of affected communities.

Activities and Results

All five pillars of mine action are being implemented and considerable achievements have been made.

- **Mine Clearance**

A regional mine action centre has been established to manage a team of 67 humanitarian clearance personnel and coordinate mine action activities in the region. Currently, clearance operations are covering Gulu, Pader, Amuru, Oyam, Kitgum, and Kasese districts. Other districts completed are Lira, and Kaberamido.

UNDP supported an assessment of two suspected mined areas in Kitgum district, which assessment revealed presence of 2 mine fields in Agoro and Ngomoromo. A technical survey conducted revealed that in Agoro area, 130,000sqm are suspected to be mined. Since clearance began in April last year, over 17,431sqm have been cleared. In Ngomoromo area, 140,000sqm are suspected to be mined, out of which 13,395 sqm have been cleared so far.

A total of 342 SHAs have been cleared for productive use. At least 772 villages have been covered by the EOD response activity and 31 APMs, 9 ATMs, 1,802 UXOs, 7 air bombs, and 6,634 SAAs were found and destroyed.

- **Victim Assistance**

Implemented by Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development through a community based rehabilitation framework, Victim Assistance interventions have been scaled up, and are currently targeting 4 highly affected districts. This year, at least 227 landmine/ERW survivors have been targeted for social economic rehabilitation, while 327 survivors have been targeted for medical rehabilitation.

- **Mine Risk Education**

This has largely been implemented by INGOs operating in this sector. UNDP funded a one year activity to increase coverage and coordination of Risk education activities especially in districts which had not been effectively reached. Risk Education has been maintained mainly focusing on ERW/UXO. 3 districts in Acholi-Sub-regions were targeted and reached, covering a total of 63,927 people, of which 25,203 are boys, 22,708 are girls, 7,630 men and 8,380 women.

- **Stockpile Destruction**

UNDP has continued to support government in monitoring and reporting on its stockpiles, thereby complying with treaty reporting requirements.

- **Advocacy**

UNDP has continued to support active participation of the programme in all major advocacy discussions. In December 2009, Government of Uganda was effectively represented in the Cartagena review conference where government renewed its commitment to achieve treaty obligations by 2010. The government also signed the 2009 Cartagena Declaration.

Total funding to date

UNDP has mobilised over 6 million USD dollars for the programme since 2005. UNDP is still the major funding partner supporting government efforts to maintain this programme. An integrated Mine Action Programme document has been developed and approved by the National Mine Action Steering Committee with a funding shortfall of USD 12 million to cover 3 years of programme implementation.

Future plans

- Expand current team capacity by training, equipping and deploying 40 additional personnel to ensure compliance with the 3 years mine clearance extension.
- Fully integrate UMAC in the National Emergency Coordination and Operation Centre.
- Expand Risk Education to 3 other districts.

- Extend Victim Assistance activities to 4 other affected districts.

Summary

Considering government's commitment to meet its Ottawa Treaty obligation, UNDP is confident that with continued support to the programme and maintaining the strong partnership with government, the Uganda Mine Action Programme will be able to achieve its objectives by 2012.

Contact address:

United Nations Development Programme
15B Clement Hill Road
P.O Box 7184 Kampala
Tel: +256-414 233440/1/2/5
Fax: 256-414-344801
e-mail: registry.ug@undp.org
Website: <http://www.undp.or.ug>