

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Angola should ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Angola should confirm whether it believes that cluster munition remnants (CMR) remain on its territory.
- Angola should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- Angola should elaborate specific land release and residual contamination targets that refer to CMR contamination.

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The extent to which Angola is affected by CMR is still unclear. There are no reports of confirmed contamination. According to Angola's national mine action authority, the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humanitária, CNIDAH), 18 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2018, and a total of 164 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2017 as a result of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks and community call-outs.¹ In the APMBC Article 5 implementation Workplan 2020–2025, it is reported that 24 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2017–19.² There were no reports of submunitions being found in 2019 by either CNIDAH or operators and prior to 2017 CNIDAH had not previously reported on the discovery of submunitions.³

CNIDAH reported that no CMR specific survey or clearance was carried out in 2019 and the national database does not contain any polygons pertaining to areas of CMR contamination.⁴ None of the international mine action operators working in Angola has reported finding any significant areas of CMR contamination or submunitions since 2008.⁵ In 2018, in November, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) reported that a single Russian-made AO-1-Sch submunition was brought in for destruction by a local community member to its operations near to Kapuluta village, Luvuei commune, in Moxico province. As at April 2019, community liaison teams had been sent to survey the surrounding farmlands for further information, but MAG did not have any evidence that additional CMR would be found.⁶

Previously, the last reported instance of an international mine action NGO locating CMR was in August 2016, when The HALO Trust found two Alpha submunitions in Cunene province. The submunitions were reported by local residents to a HALO Trust survey team during re-survey operations.⁷ Prior to this, HALO Trust reported finding and destroying 12 submunitions in 2012. The HALO Trust informed Mine Action Review that these were isolated cases and noted that it had seen very little evidence of cluster munition strikes in Angola. With these exceptions, as at May 2019, NGO clearance operators in Angola had not found any other CMR in more than ten years.

The HALO Trust has also reported that the majority of CMR destroyed over the course of its operations were the result of the disposal of old or unserviceable cluster munitions identified by HALO Trust's Weapons and Ammunition Disposal (WAD) teams in military storage areas, some of which were earmarked for destruction by the Angolan Armed Forces. Between 2005 and 2012, HALO Trust WAD teams reported destroying a total of 7,284 submunitions.⁸ In 2018, The HALO Trust confirmed it had not been asked by the military to do any further destruction of cluster munition stockpiles since 2012.⁹

CMR contamination was a result of the decades of armed conflict that ended in 2002, although it is unclear when, or by whom, cluster munitions were used in Angola.¹⁰

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Angola is heavily contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) other than CMR (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines 2020* report on Angola for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Angola's national mine action programme is managed by two mine action structures. CNIDAH serves as the national mine action authority and reports to the Council of Ministers or, in effect, to the Presidency of the Republic. Surprisingly, the other coordination body, the CED, reports to the Ministry of Social Action, Family, and Women's Promotion (MASFAMU). The CED's main role is to coordinate and manage four national operators: The Demining Brigades of the Security Unit of the President of the Republic, the Angolan Armed Forces, the National Demining Institute (INAD) and the Brigades of the Angolan Border Guard Police. And while Presidential Decrees stipulate the mandates of both CNIDAH and the CED, there are clear overlaps and ambiguities as to the exact division of labour and their related roles and responsibilities.¹¹

Tensions between these entities lessened significantly in 2019 as CNIDAH, over the past three years, has focused on reorganising the mine action sector and the CED is now more aligned with their approach and more concentrated on getting the job done.¹² As at April 2020, CNIDAH was in the process of changing its legal status from a commission to the Angola National Demining Agency (ANAM), which, it is hoped, will strengthen coordination mechanisms and information sharing between the different national bodies.¹³

Angola's mine action programme has faced critical challenges in securing financial resources in recent years. In 2019, a draft resource mobilisation strategy was developed and, as at April 2020, was still under review.¹⁴ According to the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 Objective 5 the resource mobilisation strategy will be developed and approved before the end of 2020 with CNIDAH taking the lead in its development.¹⁵

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender and diversity are integrated into Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020-25 as a cross-cutting issue. However, while the Strategy pledges that Angola's mine action programme will ensure that gender and diversity considerations are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of all mine action projects, it does not say how this will be done and there is no mention of gender or diversity in Angola's APMBBC Article 5 Implementation Workplan 2020–2025.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Angola's mine action programme has long suffered from significant problems with information management, in particular the poor quality of the CNIDAH national database. Throughout 2019, the database was reconciled, updated, and quality assured.¹⁶ CNIDAH reported that, as at November 2019, the national IMSMA database had been fully reconciled with operators' data, and the previous data backlog and overinflated contamination figures have been cleared. As a consequence, CNIDAH and operators now consider the national database to be a reliable source of information.¹⁷

PLANNING AND TASKING

Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 was developed by CNIDAH, in 2019, with support from the GICHD. There are five objectives within the strategy, two of which refer to explosive ordnance although there is no specific mention of CMR.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

While national mine action standards (NMAS) are in place in Angola, they do not contain provisions specific to CMR survey or clearance.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Four international NGOs conducted demining for humanitarian purposes in Angola in 2019: APOPO, The HALO Trust, MAG, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). None of the operators carried out any CMR-specific survey or clearance in 2019.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

There was no reported survey or clearance of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2019 and no CMR were found during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Angola is a signatory, but not a state party, to the CCM. It was reported to Mine Action Review in April 2020 that CNIDAH was in the process of engaging the government of Angola to ratify the CCM.¹⁸ In addition to its legal obligations as a treaty signatory, Angola has obligations under international human rights law to clear any CMR on its territory as soon as possible. It has not publicly reported a date as to when it might be able to declare its territory free of CMR contamination nor a strategy for doing so.

- 1 CNIDAH, "Angola Mine Action Programme 2019-2025", Newsletter, 1st Edn, February 2019, at: bit.ly/2E2HVfo. The CNIDAH newsletter reported that 85 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2018; however this was later clarified to have been misreported in the database and that a total of 18 submunitions were found in 2018. Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, Capacity Development Advisor, NPA, 27 April, 19 May, and 4 July 2019.
- 2 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Workplan 2020-2025, November 2019, p. 4.
- 3 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; Ralph Legg, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 30 March 2020; Jeanette Dijkstra, Country Director, MAG, 20 May 2020; Manuel João Agostinho, Programme Manager, APOPO, 9 March 2020; and Miroslav Pisarević, Country Director, NPA, 28 March 2020.
- 4 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, on behalf of CNIDAH, 1 April 2020.
- 5 Prior to this, in February 2008, NPA reported clearing 13 submunitions in Kwanza Sul province; MAG reported clearing 140 submunitions in Moxico province; and The HALO Trust reported clearing 230 submunitions in Bié province. NPA reported finding no CMR during its operations in northern Angola, with the exception of a small number of submunitions found in 2008. Menschen gegen Minen (MgM) reported that no CMR had been discovered in its areas of operations in south-east Angola from 1997 through to May 2016 including near Jamba, an area in the south-east of the province where contamination might have been expected. Response to questionnaire by Gerhard Zank, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 19 March 2013; and emails from Vanja Sikirica, Country Director, NPA, 11 May 2016; Kenneth O'Connell, Technical Director, MgM, 5 May and 15 June 2016; Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2016; Bill Marsden, Regional Director, East and Southern Africa, MAG, 18 May 2016; and Mohammad Qasim, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/CNIDAH, 22 February 2008.
- 6 Email from Shadrack Njamba, Programme Operations Coordinator, MAG, 18 April 2019.
- 7 A number of damaged bomb casings were also found but, according to HALO, it was unclear if the bombs had been fired at a target or if they were jettisoned after an unsuccessful mission and the bomblets scattered on the ground. The Alpha bomblet was developed in Rhodesia in 1970 and later in South Africa in the 1980s. It was produced to be incorporated into the CB470 cluster bomb, which contained 40 Alpha submunitions. Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 2 May 2017; and Weapons Systems, "CB470", at: bit.ly/2JdO1hL.
- 8 Response to questionnaire by Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 19 March 2013.
- 9 Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018.
- 10 Interviews with Jose Antonio, Site Manager, Cuando Cubango, HALO Trust; and with Coxe Sucama, Director, INAD, in Menongue, 24 June 2011.
- 11 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020-2025, pp. 5-6.
- 12 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, (on behalf of CNIDAH), 14 July 2020.
- 13 Wilton Park, "Landmine clearance in Angola: experiences, challenges and implications for national development and international reputation", Report on event organised in association with the British Embassy in Luanda and MAG, 4-7 November 2019, at: bit.ly/31U3VGo.
- 14 Email from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.
- 15 Angola National Mine Action Strategy 2020-2025, pp. 29-31.
- 16 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 9 March 2020; and from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 17 Statement by Angola on Article 5 implementation, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, November 2019; Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 24 August 2020.
- 18 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.