

# GUINEA-BISSAU

MINE  
ACTION  
REVIEW

## CLEARING THE MINES 2023

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2024  
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

#### ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

**1.09** km<sup>2</sup>

(PARTIAL NATIONAL ESTIMATE, BUT LIKELY TO INCLUDE  
AREAS ONLY CONTAINING EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR)

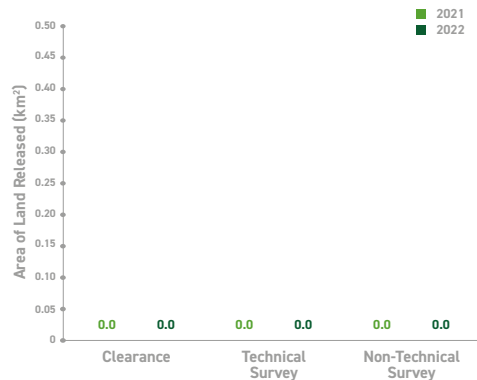
AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2021

**0** km<sup>2</sup>

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2021

**0**

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Guinea-Bissau has not made progress in implementing its survey and clearance obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), although as at July 2023 it was planning to initiate a long-awaited national non-technical survey (NTS) of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- In order to comply with the APMBC, Guinea-Bissau should urgently conduct the national non-technical survey of all hazardous areas in order to confirm or deny the presence of anti-personnel (AP) mines, and accurately determine the location and extent of any contamination.
- Guinea-Bissau should reinforce its resource mobilisation efforts, both nationally and internationally, to enable the mine action activities necessary to fulfil its Article 5 obligations.
- Guinea-Bissau should adopt national mine action standards (NMAS) as soon as possible and ensure they are in line with the international mine action standards (IMAS).
- Guinea-Bissau should proceed with its efforts to establish a reliable Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.
- Guinea-Bissau should adopt clear and efficient procedures for organisational accreditation process to allow for an efficient functioning of operators.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2022)	Score (2021)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	4	4	An NTS by national operator Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID) in 2014 revealed a little over 1.09km <sup>2</sup> of area suspected to contain landmines or other explosive ordnance. Since then, no progress has been made to better understand the contamination. In July 2023, however, a new national NTS was about to start. It is unclear to what extent—and indeed whether—the hazardous areas contain anti-personnel mines as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	4	3	Guinea-Bissau's National Mine Action Centre (CAAMI)'s activities have been limited since 2012 due to a lack of funding. CAAMI's workforce in 2022 consisted of 16 staff members, some of whom do not receive salaries. The Government of Guinea-Bissau does not fund operational costs, but thanks to secured funding in 2022, Guinea-Bissau has started rehabilitating and capacity building CAAMI, which has started to assume its lead role for mine action nationwide.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	Guinea-Bissau's 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request states that the proposed action plan promotes gender and diversity inclusivity at all stages of the mine action programme. It also promises that CAAMI will elaborate its own gender and diversity policy and require operators to constitute their operational teams taking into consideration these issues. The extension request and work plan do not, however, contain specific policies nor measurable gender and diversity targets.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	3	3	Guinea-Bissau does not have a functioning information management system for mine action. Guinea-Bissau made a formal request to the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in 2023 for assistance in seeking to retrieve its old data, which had been lost since its declaration of completion. Guinea-Bissau's work plan of 2022–24 has allocated US\$367,000 for that purpose. As at March 2023, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) was discussing with GICHD its recommendations on the suitable technology for the information management following an assessment carried out by the latter in October 2022. CAAMI is yet to formally request an information management system from the GICHD. In the meantime, data are being kept on Excel-based databases. MAG organised an IM workshop in August 2023, with participation of HUMAID and The HALO Trust (HALO). The workshop defined the data collection processes and reviewed the content of data collection forms. Guinea-Bissau's Article 7 report, submitted in 2023 (covering 2022), was timely and comprehensive.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	7	6	In its 2022 extension request, Guinea-Bissau presented a detailed two-year work plan, costed at almost US\$5.7 million. The work plan aims to conduct a national technical and non-technical survey, and to submit a final extension request for completion of its Article 5 obligations by 31 March 2024. As at June 2023, Guinea-Bissau has started implementing some of the provision of its work plan, albeit with delayed timelines due to the lack of sufficient funding.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	4	3	At the reporting of discovery of new contamination (2021), Guinea-Bissau did not have national standards in place, but sought US\$112,000 for the development of new NMAS. As at June 2023, seven standards had been drafted with the support of MAG, but they had not yet been approved. The need to continue developing NMAS, prioritising the most critical ones, is paramount.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	5	5	Guinea-Bissau was granted an interim extension request with a deadline of 31 December 2022, but did not achieve progress during the interim period due to the lack of resources. Guinea-Bissau then sought another interim deadline extension request, through to 31 December 2024, which was granted by the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP) to the APMBC. Despite the start of activities in 2022, Guinea-Bissau had yet to secure funding to be able to advance as per its proposed work plan, although it aimed to submit a final Article 5 deadline extension request by March 2024.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: POOR</b>

# DEMINEING CAPACITY

## MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Council for Humanitarian Demining (Concelho Nacional de Desminagem Humánitaria, CNDH)
- The National Mine Action Coordination Centre – (Centro Nacional de Coordenação da Acção Anti-Minas, CAAMI)

## NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID)

## INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

## OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

# UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Guinea-Bissau declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations on 5 December 2012 at the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP) to the APMBC,<sup>1</sup> but reported the discovery of previously unrecorded mined areas suspected to contain AP mines at the Intersessional Meetings in June 2021.<sup>2</sup> In 2014, a survey by the national non-governmental organisation (NGO) Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID) revealed explosive ordnance covering a little over 1.09km<sup>2</sup> across nine confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and a further 43 SHAs whose size had not been determined.<sup>3</sup> An additional 402,304m<sup>2</sup> of contamination was identified across five battle areas as well as three sites of spot tasks. The identified areas are suspected to be contaminated by different types of explosive ordnance, including AP mines, anti-vehicle (AV) mines, and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

The HUMAID survey was based on reports by the local populations and used only rough estimates of the extent of contamination and non-technical methods to determine its presence.<sup>4</sup> It did not delimit the SHAs or disaggregate by type of hazard. Since then, there was no progress in better understanding the nature or extent of contamination due to the lack of national capacity for survey.<sup>5</sup> Following the funding to MAG from the Netherlands and Norway in 2022, Guinea-Bissau has been building up its mine action capacities, and was planning to start a national NTS in August and September 2023.<sup>6</sup> As at August 2023, there were also discussions about the possibility of conducting TS.<sup>7</sup>

Contamination in Guinea-Bissau is spread mostly across the north, south, and east of the country.<sup>8</sup> Accidents caused by explosive ordnance have also been reported in sectors where no hazardous areas were identified, which indicates that the

contamination data is incomplete, and highlights the need to conduct a comprehensive and evidence-based national survey to confirm the extent and nature of contamination.<sup>9</sup> It is unclear to what extent—and indeed whether—the hazardous areas contain AP mines as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance. But according to Guinea-Bissau, the contamination caused by unexploded ordnance (UXOs) is far more widespread than that caused by AP mines.<sup>10</sup>

In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau submitted an interim Article 5 deadline extension request through to 31 December 2022, which was granted by the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties (19MSP) in November 2021. This was the second Article 5 deadline extension request since Guinea-Bissau became a State Party to the APMBC.<sup>11</sup> According to the request, the interim period would allow Guinea-Bissau the opportunity to mobilise national and international resources, investigate the suspected contamination, and better determine the nature and scale of the problem.<sup>12</sup> Following this work, Guinea-Bissau would be in a position to submit a follow-up extension request by 31 March 2022 for consideration at the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties (20MSP).<sup>13</sup>

Given the lack of financial resources, however, Guinea-Bissau did not achieve the intended progress, and in June 2022, it submitted a third interim Article 5 extension request seeking another two-year extension. The interim request was granted by the 20MSP in November 2022, and a new deadline was set for 31 December 2024.<sup>14</sup> During the period between the two latest extension requests (June 2021 to June 2022), the National Mine Action Coordination Centre (Centro Nacional de Coordenação da Acção Anti-Minas, CAAMI) engaged in

1 Guinea-Bissau declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC at the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP), Geneva, 3–7 December 2012.

2 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slide 9; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, pp. 9–12.

3 Ibid.

4 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request to the APMBC (dated April 2022 but submitted in June 2022), p. 9.

5 Emails from Nautan Mancabu, National Director of CAAMI, 28 March 2023; and Nicole Ntagabo, Regional Programmes Manager, MAG, 13 April 2023.

6 Interview with Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2023.

7 Email from Francois Fall, Humanitarian Mine Action Advisor, MAG, 30 August 2023.

8 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 9–11.

9 Ibid., pp. 11 and 30–31.

10 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15.

11 Guinea-Bissau had submitted a two-month Article 5 Extension Request before its declaration of completion in 2011.

12 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, para. 11.

13 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021, slides 10 and 11.

14 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

dialogue with national and international stakeholders, leading to the identification of five key elements: the widespread explosive ordnance contamination across Guinea-Bissau, which is only partially known and was never systematically assessed; the lack of capacity to demarcate, mark, and remove the threat posed by explosive ordnance; the lack of a functional information management system to support mine action; the lack of NMAS to frame and improve the safety, quality, and efficiency of mine action; and the current exposure of population to the threat of explosive ordnance.<sup>15</sup>

According to its latest request, submitted in June 2022, Guinea-Bissau will accomplish the following goals during

the new two-year extension period: completion of a national NTS, preparation of resources for spot tasks, technical surveys and clearance, development of a national information management system and national standards in line with the IMAS, resumption of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), carrying out emergency spot tasks, preparation of a strategy to address residual risk, and fundraising. The extension request featured a two-year work plan (2022–24) with a planned budget of US\$5,688,000. The work plan aims for Guinea-Bissau to develop and submit a final extension request by 31 March 2024, including a detailed plan for completion of its Article 5 obligations.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 1: Mined areas (at end of 2021)<sup>17</sup>**

Province	Region	Sector	Community	CHA	CHA area (m <sup>2</sup> )
North	Cacheu	São Domingos	Djequemondo	1	15,000
North	Gabú	Pitche	Buruntuma	1	116,700
North	Oio	Bissorã	Encheia	1	600,000
North	Oio	Farim	Bricama	1	90,000
North	Oio	Farim	Cuntima	1	50,000
North	Oio	Farim	Demba Dabo	1	51,000
South	Quebo	Empada	Gubia	1	2,345
South	Tombali	Quebo	Imbai-Baila	1	60,000
South	Tombali	Quebo	Medjo	1	108,800
<b>Totals</b>				<b>9</b>	<b>1,093,845</b>

The landmine contamination in Guinea-Bissau dates back to its independence war 1963–74, the 1998–99 civil war, and the four-decade-old Casamance conflict. Landmine and UXO contamination is primarily located in the north and the east of the country around the national borders with Senegal and Guinea. According to Guinea-Bissau, a faction of the Movement of Democratic Forces in Casamance (MDFC) laid both factory-made and improvised AP mines in 2006 in the northern regions bordering Senegal.<sup>18</sup> The capital, Bissau, was declared free of landmines in March 2006, following which clearance was extended throughout the country in accordance with a national five-year clearance plan (2004–09) developed by CAAMI.<sup>19</sup>

In its initial APMBC Article 7 transparency report submitted in 2002, Guinea-Bissau reported that "an impact survey was to be initially carried out in and around Bissau to assess the anti-personnel mines contamination and respond adequately".<sup>20</sup> The first coordinated effort to assess landmine and ERW contamination on a national level, however, only took place in 2006–08. During this period, CAAMI conducted a preliminary opinion collection (POC), followed by a landmine impact survey (LIS) conducted by a British NGO, Landmine Action. The LIS covered all but seven of the 278 areas covered by the POC and identified 12 mined areas in addition to a total impact area of nearly 2.24km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., pp. 19 and 26.

<sup>17</sup> Article 7 report (covering 2022); Form D. The total is reported as 1,093,840m<sup>2</sup> in the report.

<sup>18</sup> Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 2.

<sup>19</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form C.

<sup>20</sup> Article 7 Report (covering November 2001 to April 2002), Form C.

<sup>21</sup> Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, pp. 2–4.

By June 2010, nine mined areas remained to be addressed, in the sectors of São Domingos, Cacheu, Bigene, Oio, Quinara, and Tombali, covering a total of 1.35km<sup>2</sup>. In addition to these areas, there was a requirement to survey additional 29 areas and 16 communities that had not been visited but where contamination was reported by community members or NGOs. In December 2012, Guinea-Bissau declared that it

had fulfilled its Article 5 obligations having cleared 50 mined areas containing AP mines and covering a total of 6.52km<sup>2</sup>, destroying in the process 3,973 AP mines, 207 AV mines, and 309,125 items of UXO.<sup>22</sup> In the same document, Guinea-Bissau stated that “battle area clearance tasks remain, as well as an expected residual contamination, which will be addressed by the CAAMI”.<sup>23</sup>

## OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Since its declaration of completion in 2012, Guinea-Bissau has registered a total of 13 accidents, which have claimed 73 victims. It is likely that other accidents occurred without having been recorded in the absence of a formal reporting mechanism and an information management system.<sup>24</sup> In its Article 7 report covering 2022 however, Guinea-Bissau reports having recorded 1,500 incidents caused by explosive ordnance.<sup>25</sup> The continued casualties led CAAMI to task the local NGO, HUMAID, to conduct additional survey in 2014,<sup>26</sup> the results of which are indicated above. The last reported incident involving explosive ordnance occurred in 28 January 2021 in Buruntuma, Gabú region, where two children were killed and another six injured as a result of the explosion of a hand grenade.<sup>27</sup>

In its statement to the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC in November 2019, Guinea-Bissau reported that, as at the end of 2019, 0.56km<sup>2</sup> of ERW contamination remained to be cleared along with almost 1km<sup>2</sup> still needing to be surveyed in its northern, southern, and eastern regions.<sup>28</sup> In its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 7 report covering 2019, Guinea-Bissau stated that it had cleared all its cluster munition contamination before entry into force of the CCM.<sup>29</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

CAAMI was established in March 2001 in accordance with the decree of Council of Ministers (Decree 4/2001-17). In addition, the National Council for Humanitarian Demining (Conselho Nacional de Desminagem Humánitaria, CNDH) was created to serve as a steering committee appointed by the Government. Under the aegis of State Secretary of Veteran Affairs and the CNDH, CAAMI functions as the policy setting and coordination body. It plans, coordinates, and supervises all mine action activities, and mobilises resources necessary for the implementation of the national humanitarian mine action programme (PAAMI).<sup>30</sup> CAAMI's activities have been limited since 2012 due to a lack of funding.<sup>31</sup> CAAMI, however, reports that it maintains a good human resources capacity.<sup>32</sup> As at March 2023, CAAMI had 16 staff members: 11 men and 5 women,<sup>33</sup> some of its staff members were not receiving salaries.<sup>34</sup>

In the course of 2021-22, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), The HALO Trust (HALO), and Humanity & Inclusion (HI) provided support to Guinea-Bissau, notably in the preparation of its Article 5 deadline extension request.<sup>35</sup> In 2022, MAG

and HALO also started providing training and capacity building to CAAMI.<sup>36</sup>

Following the MAG-secured funding from the Netherlands and Norway in 2022, Guinea-Bissau started rebuilding its mine action capacities. On 28 February 2023, Guinea-Bissau reactivated the CNDH, which according to its statement, “is an organ that plays a determinant role in the process of humanitarian demining”, and with the support of MAG, has established the internet connection for CAAMI. This has facilitated CAAMI's capacity building efforts and engagement with its national and international partners by means of online communication. CAAMI has also advanced its outreach to communities by setting up a hotline dedicated to receiving community reports of the presence of mines and other explosive devices.<sup>37</sup>

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) conducted a visit to Guinea-Bissau in October 2022 and supported CAAMI in organising a workshop on “gender and diversity in the demining sector”. CAAMI and MAG also jointly organised a workshop on classification of hazardous

22 Ibid.

23 Ibid., pp. 2-4 and 5.

24 Article 7 report (covering 2022); Form H.

25 Ibid.

26 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

27 Article 7 report (covering 2022); Form H.

28 Statement of Guinea-Bissau, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 25-29 November 2019.

29 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019).

30 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2010), Form A.

31 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

32 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 22-24 June 2021, slide 12.

33 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023.

34 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 12-14.

35 Presentation of CAAMI to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20-22 June 2022.

36 Emails from Nicole Ntagabo, Regional Programmes Manager, MAG, 13 April 2023; and Yamireth D'Almeida, Global Construction Manager, HALO, 28 March 2023.

37 Statement of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19-21 June 2023.

areas with participation from the GICHD. Trainings on technical survey (TS), quality control (QC), spot tasks, and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Level I, II, and III took place in June-July 2023 with participation from CAAMI and HUMAID.<sup>38</sup>

In 2022, MAG secured funding from Norway and the Netherlands for capacity development in Guinea-Bissau, including conducting a capacity and needs assessment, review of the IMSMA, training in information management, a review of the NMAS, support for the development of an accreditation process, as well as some support for NTS and EORE.<sup>39</sup>

Throughout 2022, MAG supported the CAAMI in accessing the internet. It developed tools and terms of reference for capacity development, which were presented to CAAMI in February 2022. MAG was also planning to initiate discussions with the CAAMI on the basis of recommendations by the GICHD following a needs assessment it conducted in October 2022. MAG plans to provide four computers to CAAMI in 2023: one to be used in each of the areas of support services, EORE and community liaison (CL), information management (IM), and for quality management (QM).<sup>40</sup>

HALO continued collaboration with CAAMI and provided it with capacity building and training. In 2022, HALO provided five days of medical information and communication

technology (ICT) training to CAAMI personnel, and planned to conduct the ICT refresher and casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) trainings.<sup>41</sup>

Since 2012, the government of Guinea-Bissau has provided an annual contribution of approximately US\$40,000 to support the functioning of CAAMI by providing premises, running costs, salaries of some staff members, and a few spot clearance tasks. No financial support has been provided for field operations.<sup>42</sup> CAAMI said that it continued to undertake quality control activities on the punctual clearance and spot task operations by HUMAID and the cleaning of the accident and victim data without contributions from international donors or organisations. According to Guinea-Bissau's latest Article 5 deadline extension request, the lack of resources has affected CAAMI's capacity to carry out its mandate to conduct EORE, survey, and clearance. It also affected other key areas such as information management, representation, and fundraising. Over the last ten years, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) funded some of the work carried out by HUMAID.<sup>43</sup>

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the APMB has supported Guinea-Bissau with its resource mobilisation, as well as in organising a national dialogue on victims and persons with disability in January 2022.<sup>44</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Guinea-Bissau's most recent Article 7 submission states that land release operations will seek to enable an environment favourable to socio-economic development (agriculture, pasture, and infrastructures), and will seek to promote the integration of mine action issues with other development and humanitarian plans as recommend in the Oslo Action Plan.<sup>45</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Guinea-Bissau said that its proposed action plan (2022–24) follows best practices by promoting gender and diversity inclusion at all stages of its programme.<sup>46</sup> Its latest extension request also mentions that "EORE activities and tools will also be tailored taking into account gender and diversity aspects, as well as the at-risk groups", and that CAAMI will seek to build its own gender and diversity policy, and "will require operators to constitute their operational teams taking into consideration matters related to gender and

diversity.<sup>47</sup> Guinea-Bissau's latest extension request and work plan, however, do not contain any measurable gender and diversity targets.<sup>48</sup> In 2022, five of the seventeen CAAMI staff (18%) were women, of whom three (18%) were in managerial positions, but none in operational ones.<sup>49</sup> In May 2023, CAAMI participated in a "Gender, Inclusion and Conflict Sensitivity" assessment carried out by MAG. Some of the conclusions of the assessment will be used by CAAMI in the development of its gender and diversity policy.<sup>50</sup>

38 Ibid.; and email from Francois Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

39 Emails from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023; Roxana Bobolicu, MAG, 29 September 2022; and François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

40 Email from Nicole Ntagabo, MAG, 13 April 2023.

41 Email from Yamireth D'Almeida, HALO, 28 March 2023.

42 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

43 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

44 Ibid., pp. 8 and 23.

45 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

46 Ibid.

47 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 16, 22, and 24.

48 Ibid., pp. 12–14.

49 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023.

50 Email from Francois Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Guinea-Bissau considers that a functional information management system is a prerequisite to resuming its mine action activities and an essential component of its mine action strategy.<sup>51</sup> In 2001–12, CAAMI used the IMSMA Version 5 with the support of GICHD, but since the declaration of completion in 2012, the physical server was no longer in use.<sup>52</sup> In 2022, CAAMI contracted an external consultant to retrieve the data from the previous server. However, data retrieval was not successful and the old data has been lost.<sup>53</sup> In July 2023, CAAMI made a formal request to the GICHD for support to retrieve all or part of its old databases.<sup>54</sup>

As at March 2023, MAG was discussing with the GICHD its recommendations on the suitable technology for the information management following an assessment carried out by the GICHD in October 2022. As at September 2023, CAAMI has reportedly decided to use the IMSMA Core system, but had yet to formally request it from the GICHD. Meanwhile, a temporary Excel-based system will be put in place to gather and manage the data.<sup>55</sup> CAAMI and MAG organised an IM workshop in August 2023, which focused on revision of forms. During the first quarter of 2023, MAG provided CAAMI with a high-specification computer dedicated to IM. By August 2023, an IM specialist was being recruited by CAAMI and was expected to assume position by October 2023.<sup>56</sup>

Guinea-Bissau expected that the development of a fully functional system covering all components of the mine action programme could take an initial six months. Afterwards, additional components could be added and maintenance done.<sup>57</sup> In its planned 2022–24 budget, CAAMI has allocated US\$367,000 for the development of an information management system.<sup>58</sup>

Guinea-Bissau's latest Article 7 report to the APMBC, submitted in 2023, was detailed.

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

In its 2022 extension request, Guinea-Bissau submitted a detailed two-year action plan that comprises 11 objectives over the course of 2022–24 as follows. In 2022: development of an information management system; development of IMAS-compliant national standards; preparation for NTS; preparation for TS, marking, and clearance; resumption of EORE; and mobilisation of financial resources. In 2023–24: implementation of nationwide NTS; emergency spot task clearance and marking; continuation of EORE; capacity building of CAAMI and national operators; and definition of residual risk management strategy. The action plan is costed at US\$5,688,000.<sup>59</sup>

Guinea-Bissau has already started implementation of some of the provisions of its work plan albeit with delays. The development of NMAS, preparations for the national NTS, and the foundational work for the data management system were progressing following the funds acquired by MAG in 2022.<sup>60</sup> However, the financial resources given to Guinea-Bissau remain short of allowing full implementation of its work plan.<sup>61</sup> HALO noted that operators have supported CAAMI with their planning and extension, but also noted that organisations' support remains limited in the absence of international funding.<sup>62</sup> As at March 2023, HALO was still seeking funds and operational support for its mine action activities in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>63</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

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Guinea-Bissau does not have NMAS, but considers the establishment of IMAS-compliant national standards as a prerequisite to the resumption of mine action activities, ensuring safety, quality, and efficiency.<sup>64</sup> Guinea-Bissau sought US\$112,000 for the development of NMAS.<sup>65</sup>

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51 Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form D; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

52 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10, and email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023.

53 Email from Nicole Ntagabo, MAG, 13 April 2023.

54 Email from François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

55 Article 7 report to the APMBC (covering 2022), Annex I; and email from François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

56 Emails from Nicole Ntagabo, MAG, 13 April 2023; and François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

57 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20.

58 *Ibid.*, p. 26.

59 *Ibid.*, p. 19.

60 Interview with Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2023.

61 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.

62 Statement of HALO on Guinea-Bissau's presentation of its Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

63 Email from Yamireth D'Almeida, HALO, 28 March 2023.

64 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

65 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26, and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.



The 2022–24 work plan foresees the establishment of a working group to follow the development and review of NMAS by a panel of national and international actors.<sup>66</sup>

Guinea-Bissau began elaborating its NMAS in 2022, but have not yet had them approved.<sup>67</sup> MAG has been supporting CAAMI in developing its NMAS and, at the end of 2022, had already submitted a set of six national standards in Portuguese for processing by CAAMI.<sup>68</sup> By June 2023, CAAMI reported having seven NMAS ready for approval. These are: glossary, land release, NTS, TS, accreditation, manual demining, deactivation and EOD.<sup>69</sup>

As part of its capacity development activities, MAG will also support CAAMI to define and implement the NMAS drafting and development process. There are currently no standards on EORE or NTS. In line with the GICHD recommendations,

MAG supported CAAMI organise a workshop on the definition of land classification criteria, which has resulted in the drafting on NTS standards.<sup>70</sup>

In the absence of standards on accreditation process, CAAMI refers to IMAS 07.30. However, there is no clear process in place, which has led to delays in the accreditation. According to MAG, the lack of well-defined accreditation process has posed a potential hurdle for the roll-out of operators' activities.<sup>71</sup> In 2023, three operators: HALO, HUMAID, and MAG all received accreditation.<sup>72</sup>

According to Guinea-Bissau's declaration of completion in 2012, all clearance work had been conducted in accordance with IMAS. Technical and non-technical surveys were only applied in 2010; prior to this, land was released solely through clearance.<sup>73</sup>

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

CAAMI's activities have been largely restricted since 2012 due to a lack of funding.<sup>74</sup> CAAMI's capacity as at April 2022 was 17 staff members.<sup>75</sup> As at March 2023, one national (HUMAID) and two international mine action operators (HALO and MAG) were present in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>76</sup>

HALO has been operating in Guinea-Bissau since November 2017. It is implementing a Weapons and Ammunition Safety Programme in support of the armed forces. HALO constructed a secure storage facility for serviceable ammunition and has been working alongside the Guinea-Bissau armed forces to carry out the cutting, burning, and demolition of obsolete weapons and ammunition. HALO has also been providing training in ammunition storekeeping, store management, and EOD in the north-east region of Gabú.<sup>77</sup> At the request of CAAMI, HALO organised a visit in March 2022 to assess the state of contamination in some villages.<sup>78</sup> HALO provided training and capacity building to CAAMI in 2022, and continues seeking funds and operational support for its programme in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>79</sup>

HUMAID is a national demining NGO that has been active since 2000. HUMAID receives reports of incidents and victims reported by communities and, when financially possible, makes field visits to verify the information. HUMAID has also conducted some demining and spot task

operations with the support of UNOPS. As at June 2021, HUMAID's capacity consisted of more than 20 deminers formerly trained at different EOD levels and functions, who can be mobilised upon request. HUMAID has one vehicle, an ambulance, one global positioning system (GPS), 13 detectors, personal protective equipment, and destruction equipment. However, the equipment is old and requires maintenance or replacement.<sup>80</sup> In 2014, HUMAID conducted the assessment survey of the newly discovered AP mine and ERW contamination.<sup>81</sup> A national operator, Lutamos Todos Contra As Minas (LUTCAM), which was present prior to the declaration of completion in 2012, is no longer active in Guinea-Bissau, but CAAMI considers to either reactivate it or integrate former LUTCAM staff into HUMAID as means to increase national capacities.<sup>82</sup>

HI has been working in Guinea-Bissau since 2000, but suspended its operations from 2008–14, due to the political unrest and security risks, then resumed working in 2015.<sup>83</sup> As present, HI is not directly engaged in mine action activities.

Since 2021, MAG has supported CAAMI in identifying challenges, opportunities, and resources needed for the resumption of mine action activities, as well as in a preliminary diagnostic in terms of information management. For this purpose, MAG has been coordinating with the GICHD,

66 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

67 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023.

68 Email from Nicole Ntagabo, MAG, 13 April 2023.

69 Statement of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19-21 June 2023.

70 Email from Nicole Ntagabo, MAG, 13 April 2023.

71 Ibid.

72 Email from François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

73 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3-7 December 2012, p. 4.

74 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

75 22 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 12-14.

76 Email from Nautan Mancabu, CAAMI, 28 March 2023.

77 Email from James Scott, HALO, 9 August 2021.

78 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

79 Email from Yamireth D'Almeida, HALO, 28 March 2023.

80 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15.

81 Presentation of Guinea-Bissau to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, online, 22-24 June 2021, slide 9; and 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

82 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

83 HI website, accessed on 7 August 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3vLIJ3k>.



which has supported CAAMI in the use of IMSMA in 2001–12.<sup>84</sup> MAG supported the capacity development of CAAMI in 2022, including support in the organisational accreditation, drafting of NMAS, recruitment of key staff, and establishing connectivity and internet capacity. MAG started the identification of national partners: one partner for community liaison, NTS, and EORE, and a second partner for EOD. MAG expected to continue capacity development support and to initiate survey in 2023. As at August 2023, partner community liaison teams were undergoing training and were expected to be tasked by CAAMI in September–October 2023.<sup>85</sup>

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) was present in Guinea-Bissau until 2012 conducting survey and clearance.<sup>86</sup> NPA also

conducted a national survey of mine and UXO contamination, working in partnership with LUTCAM, which was active at the time.<sup>87</sup> During the first quarter of 2012, NPA conducted mainly EOD spot tasks and, despite concerns of possible residual contamination, it eventually closed the programme in 2012 due to the lack of evidence of other AP mined area.<sup>88</sup>

Prior to Guinea-Bissau's declaration of fulfilment of Article 5 obligations in 2012, all mine clearance had been conducted manually with deminers equipped with metal detectors and excavation tools.<sup>89</sup> Several organisations conducted clearance in conjunction with the national operators HUMAID and LUTCAM, including, HI,<sup>90</sup> Landmine Action,<sup>91</sup> NPA,<sup>92</sup> and a British NGO: Clear Ground Demining.<sup>93</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

No mined area was reported to have been released in Guinea-Bissau in 2022.

### SURVEY IN 2022

There were no reports of any survey of mined areas in Guinea-Bissau in 2022.

### CLEARANCE IN 2022

There was no clearance of mined areas in Guinea-Bissau in 2022.

In 2021, HALO destroyed five PRB M409 AP mines from a military ammunition storage area and reported that other stockpiled mines were left at locations around Guinea-Bissau as at February 2021.<sup>94</sup> Guinea-Bissau's deadline for stockpile destruction expired on 1 November 2005.

### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



84 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

85 Emails from Nicole Ntagabo, MAG, 13 April 2023; and François Fall, MAG, 30 August 2023.

86 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.

87 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, pp. 3–4.

88 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.

89 Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 4.

90 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

91 Email from James Scott, HALO, 9 August 2021.

92 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 10 August 2021.

93 Article 7 Report (covering November 2001 to April 2002), Form C.

94 Ibid.

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Guinea-Bissau is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2024. Guinea-Bissau will not meet this deadline and intends to submit a fourth extension request by 31 March 2024.

Guinea-Bissau's original Article 5 deadline of 1 November 2011 was previously extended for two months. Guinea-Bissau had declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations at the 12MSP in December 2012, but in June 2021, reported at the Intersessional Meetings the discovery of 1.09km<sup>2</sup> of CHA and 43 SHAs of an unknown size containing AP mines and ERW. Guinea-Bissau did not specify what proportion of contamination was believed to contain AP mines as opposed to other types of explosive ordnance.

In June 2021, Guinea-Bissau submitted an interim extension request through to 31 December 2022, which was granted at the 19MSP in November 2021. Guinea-Bissau said it would use the interim period to further investigate the contamination and mobilise the necessary resources in order

to be in a better position to submit a follow-up extension request by 31 March 2022.<sup>95</sup> Due to the lack of resources, however, little progress has been achieved during the interim period, and Guinea-Bissau submitted a third interim Article 5 deadline extension request in June 2022, through to 31 December 2024, which was granted by the 20MSP.

The latest interim extension request featured a detailed work plan that aims to complete a national NTS to better understand the contamination, develop NMAS and information management system; resume EORE activities; prepare resources for spot tasks, technical survey, and the clearance; and lay out a strategy of management of residual risk, with a view of submitting a final extension request by 31 March 2024, with a detailed plan for completion of its Article 5 obligations.<sup>96</sup> Guinea-Bissau has started delivering on the objectives it had set out to achieve in 2022, albeit with delayed timelines due to the insufficient funds. Guinea-Bissau has to step up its resource mobilisation resources in order to be able to follow its proposed plan.

## PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

In its declaration of completion of Article 5 obligations under the APMBC in 2012, Guinea-Bissau stated that "battle area clearance tasks remain, as well as an expected residual contamination, which will be addressed by the CAAMI".<sup>97</sup> Guinea-Bissau also stated that, in the event of discovery of new previously unknown mined areas, it would report in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention, ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, and destroy or ensure the destruction of all AP mines as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties as appropriate.<sup>98</sup>

In its extension request submitted in June 2022, Guinea-Bissau stated that it "will work on defining a national strategy for the residual risk management and on strengthening national capacities for its conduct". Guinea-Bissau also said that "the results of the national survey and subsequent clearance will be critical to further ensure the establishment of an appropriate sustainable demining capacity to address any contamination identified following completion".<sup>99</sup> In its latest Article 7 report covering 2022, Guinea-Bissau stated that the development of a residual risk management strategy would require the organisation of workshops with national and international stakeholders, based on the outputs of which, an action plan could be further developed.<sup>100</sup>

MAG endorsed the importance for Guinea-Bissau to establish sustainable national capacities to address mined areas discovered after completion, and to manage remaining contamination from other explosive ordnance. In June 2022, MAG also stated in the Intersessional Meetings that it was working with Guinea-Bissau and national implementing partners to ensure a more sustainable approach to completion.<sup>101</sup> As part of its planning for residual risk, Guinea-Bissau must plan how and where it will maintain a sustainable national mine action information database. This is especially important in light of its inability to access some historical mine action data.

<sup>95</sup> Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 22 June 2021, paras. 10–11.

<sup>96</sup> 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 19.

<sup>97</sup> Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12MSP, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012, p. 5.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4–5.

<sup>99</sup> 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

<sup>100</sup> Article 7 report to the APMBC (covering 2022), Annex I.

<sup>101</sup> Statement of MAG to the APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.