

Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024 – Senegal
Annual Report 2023 (Submitted on May 1st 2024) – Humanity & Inclusion

Reporting period: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023



Photo: © A. STACHURSKI / HI. Fisti and Enrique, during a training exercise in Ziguinchor, October 2023.

Executive summary

During the reporting period, the implementation of activities has been delayed compared to the original annual plan submitted, especially during the second half of 2023. The main achievements during the reporting period are:

- The signature of partnership agreements with APOPO, ISAD-ASVM and the PFPC.
- The preparation work, acclimatisation, and training of the technical survey dogs.
- A technical workshop with the national authority of Senegal (CNAMS) regarding the accreditation and standard operational procedures for the deployment of the technical survey dogs.
- Development and validation of KAP survey tools.
- Finally, 2,080m² of lands were released using the manual team in the village of Kouring, in Nyassia.

In 2023 HI and its partner APOPO worked to prepare the deployment of technical survey dogs to accelerate the land release process. Despite completing the preliminary work as scheduled in June 2023, the deployment of the technical survey dogs was not achieved in 2023 as planned due to the delay in the assessment and accreditation process by the national authority. Additionally, the manual clearance capacity was restricted to two months of operations due to a delay in the renewal of HI's operational accreditation, which was only received on the 22nd of December 2023. Although considerable efforts have been made regarding the land release indicators, HI is facing operational challenges to limit the delays in the implementation and the achievement of initial targets.

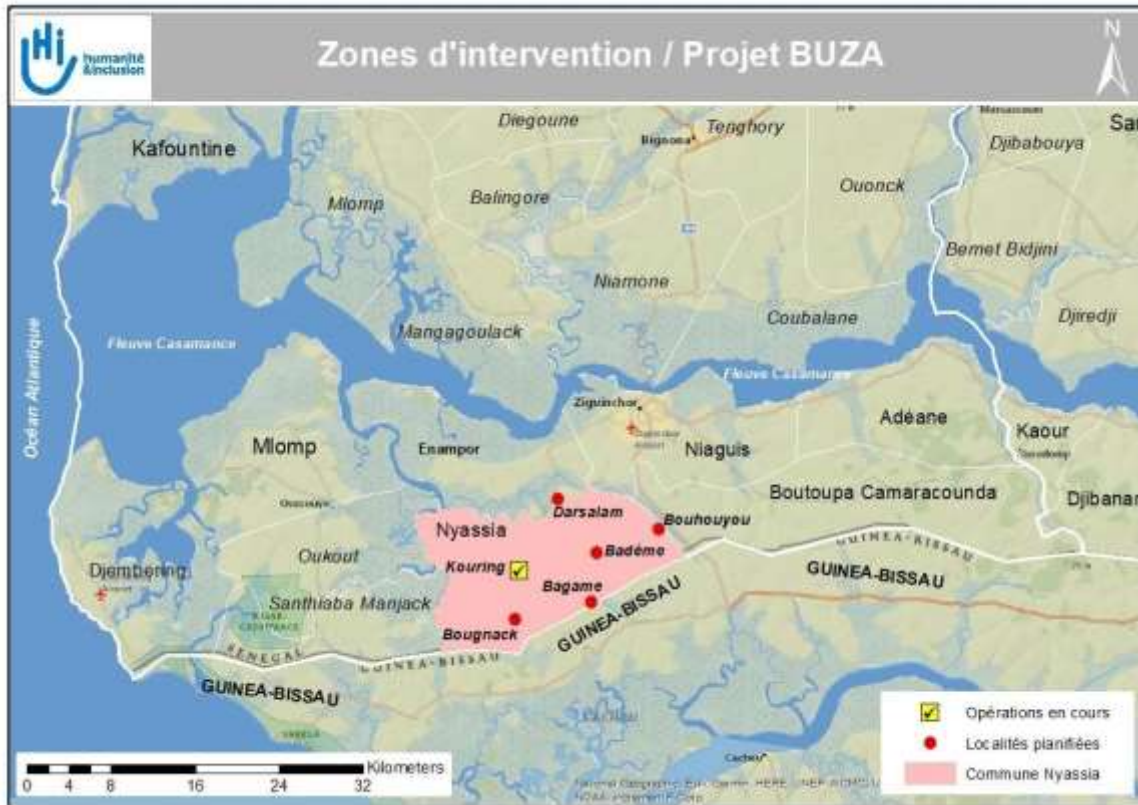
Context Summary and Operational Map

Context Summary

In 2023, the operational context was challenging in the second half of the year, which corresponded to the initial implementation of the land release activities planned under this grant. No significant events related to the decades long conflict were recorded in HI's areas of interventions. The political context in anticipation of the presidential election remained tense, especially in Casamance which is a stronghold of the opposition. Some events led to tensions and sporadic manifestations and violence, but their impact remained limited to occasional interruptions of activities in the field.

However, activities were significantly impacted by a delay in the renewal of HI's operational accreditations by the CNAMS. The accreditation, which lapsed on the 31st of July 2023, was only renewed for a period of two years in late December (HI obtained a temporary accreditation for the month of October 2023). Furthermore, the operational accreditation of the technical survey dogs that HI anticipated to receive in the third trimester of 2023 was not awarded until February 2024. As such, in 2023, HI was only able to implement very limited land release activities through the manual clearance team in the months of July and October. The delay in obtaining the renewal of the operational accreditation, as well as the accreditation for technical survey dogs, coincided with a change of leadership at the CNAMS in August 2023 which impacted the different administrative processes.

ISAD-ASVM also experienced a delay in receiving a new task orders and list of target localities from the CNAMS for explosive ordnance risk education activities. As such, no direct EORE activities were implemented in communities in 2023.



Update on activities

Outcome 1: Outcome 1: Human security is enhanced: people are and feel safer in their communities.

Output 1.1. - Dangerous areas are marked and/or released.

The preparatory work regarding the deployment of the technical survey dogs capacity was implemented as planned in the first half of 2023, including the preparation of the dedicated training site following a preliminary visit of a technical advisor from APOPO. All administrative requirements were met for the arrival in Senegal of the dogs and their handlers in April. Following the three months acclimatisation and training period, the technical survey dogs capacity was ready for the field assessment and accreditation process by the CNAMS, as required by the national norm 02.10. An official communication to CNAMS was delivered on the 24th of June 2023 to proceed with the field assessment. Despite regular engagement by HI and APOPO with the CNAMS, the field assessment by the national authority prior to the delivery of the accreditation only took place in January 2024. To mitigate the impact of the delay in obtaining the accreditation, HI and APOPO designed an additional extended training program to ensure a highly efficient initial operational deployment of the technical survey dogs once accredited.

The implementation of land release activities was further limited in 2023 due to the lack of operational accreditation from the end of July 2023. As a result, during the reporting period, HI was able to survey and clear **2080m²** of lands in the locality of Kouring. In the temporary absence of the mechanical asset and the technical survey dogs, clearance activities in Kouring relied on the **manual clearance team using the full excavation process** due to the type of contamination and national requirements, a time-consuming process. The land release activities benefitted **78 direct beneficiaries** and **5399 indirect beneficiaries**.

Output 1.2 - Mine action processes are adapted to be inclusive (disability, gender, age) and conflict sensitive.

To ensure that mine action activities implemented as part of the project are inclusive, HI and its partners have instituted a consultation mechanism in cooperation with the local authorities, including representatives of the department and the Mayor of Nyassia, the commune of intervention for the current land release activities in accordance with the task order delivered by the CNAMS. Three meetings have taken place with the local authorities and representatives of the communities in Nyassia city hall. HI ensured that the representatives of the communities were inclusive of the different groups (women, youth, persons with disabilities), in line with HI's inclusion guidelines and the AVR quality framework. As part of these consultations, HI explained the whole land release process to the participants. **All land release activities implemented in 2023** in the commune of Nyassia **were prioritised in consultation with the communities** and validated by the CNAMS.

As part of HI's conflict sensitivity approach, a conflict scan exercise was undertaken with the support of the Conflict Transformation Global Specialist during a field visit in May 2023. The specialist trained and supported the project team to assess the possible interactions of local conflict dynamics with the different activities of the project, and to implement mitigating measures. In addition, the project also benefitted from a conflict analysis performed by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) as part of its mandate to mediate with local parties the acceptance of land release activities. **HD has facilitated access to the 6 localities** (Kouring, Darsalam, Badème, Bagame, Bougnack) currently targeted for land release in the commune of Nyassia as part of the current task orders.

Output 1.3 - Targeted communities/people in affected areas improve their knowledge of associated risks.

The implementation of risk education activities by the partner ISAD-ASVM was also delayed in 2023, ISAD-ASVM held a refresher training to **18** community focal points (CFP) in **December 2023**. A new list of target villages for risk education activities was submitted by ISAD-ASVM but was not yet validated by the CNAMS by the end of 2023. As such, the implementation of EORE activities is planned in 2024.

Preliminary work for the deployment of the KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) surveys was undertaken, including the **development of the data collection tools for children and adults** that were finalised in **December 2023**. Training on deploying the KAP survey will be provided to ISAD-ASVM in 2024.

Outcome 2: Communities directly or indirectly affected by the conflict influence power-holders to prioritise their needs for public services and land/infrastructure, thereby contributing to a stronger social contract model in Senegal.

Output 2.1 - Communities articulate their priority mine action response plans for their socioeconomic development.

During the reporting period, land release activities were planned according to the prioritisation assessment carried out with representatives of the 6 communities and the local authorities of the commune of Nyassia currently assigned in the task orders. The working plan was then submitted to CNAMS for validation and approved. HI is prioritising the survey and clearance of tracks to enable freedom of movements for affected populations between villages. The current priority will also enable HI's land release teams to access the villages of Badème and Bagame, which are currently inaccessible due to suspected contamination, eventually allowing displaced populations to return.

Output 2.2 - The national/regional response is coordinated with the needs of returnees and local populations affected by the conflict and the basis for sustainable residual risk management and victim assistance is strengthened.

A three-day workshop was held in May 2023 with the participation of APOPO and the CNAMS regarding the methodology and practices in technical survey dogs surveys in land release activities. The aim of the workshop was to support the CNAMS in their role as authority charged to monitor and supervise mine action activities with the introduction of a new methodology to be deployed in Senegal.

A capacity building plan was initiated with the partner ISAD-ASVM to strengthen their technical and organizational capacities with regards to EORE. Activities to develop a standard operational procedure for EORE, as well as the digitalisation of data collection tools have begun and will continue until the end of project.

Progress against Outcomes

RESULT	INDICATORS LIST	BASELINE	TARGET	ACHIEVED - between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023
Outcome 1: Improved land release process based on innovative surveys benefits conflict affected communities in Lebanon	1.1.a # of direct beneficiaries who benefit from land cleared of explosive remnants	0	23 187	78
	1.1.b # of indirect beneficiaries who benefit from land cleared of explosive remnants	0	46 374	5399
	1.2. % of beneficiaries who report feeling safer in their communities	0	75%	0
	1.3. % of direct beneficiaries demonstrate safer behaviour through Risk Education	0	75%	0
Outcome 2: Communities directly or indirectly affected by the conflict influence power-holders to prioritise their needs for public services and land/infrastructure, thereby contributing to a stronger social contract model in Senegal	2.1. At least 75% of mine action activities assigned by CNAMS address priorities identified by conflict-affected communities	N/A	75%	100%
	2.2 Number of training to the national authority Operations Division to coordinate/manage new methods of technical surveys with dogs and non-technical surveys with UACs	N/A	2	0
	2.3 % of mine victims in project target localities registered and referred to the national authority	N/A	100%	0
	2.4 At the end of the project; 100% of victims identified and passed on to the authorities are communicated to ASVM for follow-up and advocacy.	N/A	100%	0
	2.5 Number of locations where HI has benefited from HD facilitation	N/A	15	6

Progress against the outcomes and outputs has been limited in 2023, most notably due to administrative delays related to accreditation and task orders for risk education. Limited land release activities were carried out as a result, but acceleration of land release activities is planned in 2024 with the full deployment of clearance and technical survey dogs. Risk education activities have been similarly delayed, with the deployment of KAP surveys postponed to 2024.

No new victims or previously unregistered victims of mines have been identified by HI or ISAD-ASVM during the reporting period in the areas of intervention.

HI has benefited from HD's facilitation in all 6 localities in the commune of Nyassia assigned to HI for land release in the current task orders delivered by the CNAMS. Furthermore, 100% of current land

release activities in Nyassia have been prioritized with the participation of the affected communities and the local authorities.

Cross-Cutting

Gender

Gender considerations are accounted at every stage of the project cycle to ensure the representation and effective participation of women in the project's activities. HI has supported the participation of women in the village committees set up in the areas of intervention. The participation of women is also ensured in the development of local development plans with return communities, and in setting the priorities for land release activities. Additionally, the Plateforme des Femmes pour la Paix en Casamance (PFPC) plays a key role in supporting the leadership of women within these consultation mechanisms.

As part of the project, a dedicated training on inclusion with a focus on Age, Gender and Handicap is planned for 20 personnels et HI's project team and the partners (ISAD-ASVM & PFPC) by the programme's Inclusion Specialist. The training was originally planned in 2023 but was postponed due to political events in Casamance restricting activities. The training is now planned to take place in 2024.

Conflict Sensitivity

As part of HI's mine action interventions in Casamance, HI benefits from the conflict analyses and mapping performed by HD in the areas of intervention. These conflict dynamics are accounted for in subsequent activities implemented in the field with regards not only to land release, but also activities supporting the return of displaced populations. Additionally, conflict sensitivity is also a mandatory quality standard in HI's guidelines, as well as in the AVR quality management framework with specific requirements. As such, a conflict scan was conducted with the project's team with the support of the Global Conflict Transformation Specialist in April 2023. A follow up conflict scan is planned in 2024, as well as a conflict sensitivity training for HI's personnel and partners.

Sustainability

As Senegal approaches its 2026 deadline for its obligation under the Treaty of Ottawa, HI is working to support the development of the national capacity, notably with regards to the future management of residual risks. A capacity development plan is underway to strengthen the technical capacities of ISAD-ASVM, including in the development of up-to-date standards of operations and information management. Additionally, personnels of ISAD-ASVM have been trained in non-technical survey in 2022. HI is planning to hold a refresher training and supporting ISAD-ASVM in the accreditation process for NTS in 2024. HI is planning to organize a workshop in 2024 to engage the national authorities, international partners, and local stakeholders towards the development of a national strategy for the management of residual risks post-completion.

HI is also leveraging synergies and resources between projects, including through the regional technical assistance project funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. As part of this project, Senegal has benefitted from training grants at the Centre de Perfectionnement des Actions Post-Conflictuelles de Déminage et de Dépollution (CPADD) in Benin. Furthermore, in partnership with

GICHD, an assessment was carried out regarding the migration of CNAMS towards IMSMA Core, notably for the management of residual risks.

Communication



© A. Faye / HI – Manual clearance (full excavation process) in Kouring, October 2023.



©HI – Awareness raising session on the risks of explosive ordnance delivered by HI's community liaison team as part of land release activities in Kouring, July 2023.