



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

National High Commission for Demining

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**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**EXTENSION REQUEST**

**DEADLINE PRESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 4(1)**

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**N'Djamena, Chad**

## **1. Summary**

Chad signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 3 December 2008 and ratified it on 26 March 2013. To this end, it is in accordance with Article 3 of the CCM which stipulates that all States Parties should not stockpile cluster munitions and transfer them to other countries.

Chad officially declared in December 2021 that to its knowledge all ERW contaminated areas under its jurisdiction are cleared. However, the Province of Tibesti, which has not yet been the subject of a non-technical survey, to assess the extent of the contamination and the volume of work to be done.

Extension duration

Extension start date: 1 September 2023

Extension details requested period: 01 year

Extension deadline: October 2024

Risks:

- Inability to mobilize resources for non-technical survey activities
- The change in the security situation limits access to certain suspected areas in the Province of Tibesti.

Assumption:

- Development of national capacity to resolve any additional risk areas discovered.

## **2. Origins**

1. It was in 1987, after the withdrawal of Libyan troops from Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET), that the Government of Chad discovered the extent of contamination by mines and by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in these regions that cover about a third of the country. With the return of the displaced populations, many accidents took place among the civilian population, in particular around the towns of Faya-Largeau, Fada and Bardaï .
2. To deal with this problem, the Chadian Government has contributed to the operations by deploying a national army engineering unit in Fada to begin demining and clearance of these localities and surrounding villages. Following numerous accidents and faced with the scale of the problem, the decision was taken to transfer this demining and clearance mission to engineering units of the Chadian Army after they had been trained by the French army.
3. During the conflict between Libya and Chad (1987-1988), the Chadian National Army and the French Army were called upon in the departments of L'Ennedi, Borkou and south of Tibesti. A particular effort was given in the sectors of Faya-Largeau, and Bedo . The operations consisted of demining and clearing these localities and the surrounding villages in order to come to the aid of the sedentary and nomadic communities and to allow the forces to move in safety in this region of the North of the country.

4. In 1996, given the persistence of accidents, the President of the Republic of Chad financed recognition of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET) in order to: produce an objective file, obtain the information necessary to appeal to the community to finance the revival of demining and clearance operations. In 1997, the dossier submitted following this recognition enabled the Government to appeal to the United Nations. The United Nations then sends a team to the field to carry out a feasibility study.
5. In 1999, Chad carried out an impact study on the whole country. Due to constraints related to insecurity in the North, the study cannot be conducted in the department of Tibesti, which is recognized as one of the departments most affected by contamination by mines and ERW. The data turned out to be far from the reality on the ground. In addition, the teams that took part in carrying out the survey were forced to stay away from the minefields reported by the communities. This survey was an excellent initial assessment tool, but it showed its limits in terms of exact knowledge of the location and the contours of the affected areas. The information collected did not allow detailed knowledge of the contamination.
6. In 2000, Chad deployed demining teams for the first time. These teams are deployed in Faya Largeau and Fada in the departments of Ennedi and Borkou. The operations are carried out under the supervision of international operators who contract the personnel of the National Demining Centre. In 2004, Chad was forced to relocate most of the resources to the border with Sudan. At the same time, demining activities in the Ennedi (Oadi Doum minefield) continue. Between 2006 and 2007, Chad carried out a technical survey on the southern part of Tibesti (road of wells), and undertook to secure the Zouar-Zouarké-Bardai axis.
7. From 2010 to 2012, Chad carried out a technical survey of the entire country. The results obtained do not include any data on the department of Moyen Chari and the northern part of Tibesti, but confirm that with Tibesti, the two other most affected departments are Ennedi and Borkou: Tibesti: 38 zones, Borkou : 24 zones, Ennedi: 4 zones.
8. The results of the 1999 impact study and those of the technical survey from 2010 to 2012 show that the sectors at risk cover a total area of 61,231,143 square meters. Based on this information, the government decided to prioritize the departments of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti.

From September 2020 to April 2021, in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Chad, with the financial support of the European Union, carried out technical survey and clearance activities in the area of Delbo then known to be contaminated with cluster munitions; a total area of 742,657 m<sup>2</sup> was cleared and 11 AO1 SCH type cluster munitions were destroyed. It is important to note that three (03) containers of cluster munitions were identified and destroyed in Kaourchi in the province of Borkou.

It should be noted that contamination by cluster munitions is simultaneous with that of mines and explosive remnants of war. The last area contaminated by cluster munitions existing under the jurisdiction of Chad is the site of Delbo in Ennedi Ouest which was cleared and made available on 20 October 2021.

#### **Mine action structure:**

The National High Commission for Demining (HCND) was created by Decree No. 133 of 19 May 1998 and reorganized by Decree No./PR/PM/MEP/07, defining central services and regional operations centres.

The HCND's mission is to: implement the national humanitarian program to fight against mines and unexploded ordnance in all their aspects throughout the country, in order to allow populations to live in safety and to make economic, social and healthcare progress possible.

The National High Commission for Demining is organized into Central Services and Regional Centres for Demining Operations. It includes:

#### **Central services**

- Coordination Office
- 04 departments (Operations and Technical Logistics Department; Training and Human Resources Department; Planning, Project Monitoring and Victim Assistance Department; Administrative, Financial and Equipment Department)

#### **Provincial Demining Centers**

- 04 Provincial Centers (Bardai, Faya, Fada, Abéché)
- 02 Sub Provincial Centers (Zouar and Am-timan).

#### **National mine action standards**

Twenty-two standards are in place, which conform to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). All mine action activities are carried out in accordance with the National Standards for Mine Action in Chad (NNAMT). In November 2021, some national standards were revised. Currently, Chad does not have a national standard for NTS but plans to develop one; meanwhile, for the purposes of the case, reference is made to IMAS 08.10

#### **Province of Tibesti**

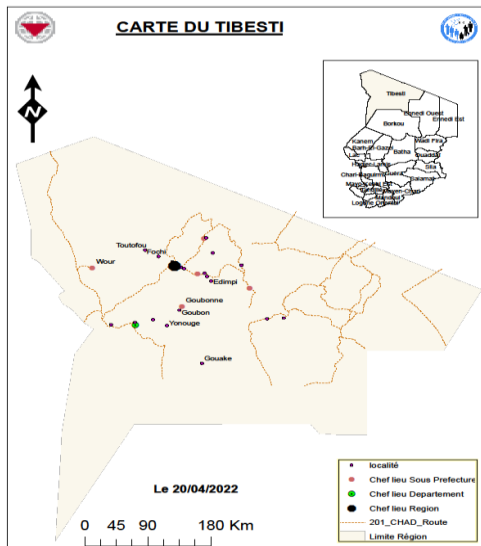
Located in the far north of the country, the Province of Tibesti has five departments. It is an area for tourism and agriculture. After having been the scene of several decades of armed confrontations, the Province of Tibesti is not only the most mined, but also the most contaminated by ERW with a high probability of finding even cluster bombs.

Tibesti is undoubtedly the most disadvantaged province of the regions of Chad socio-economically. This situation is essentially due to its isolation due to natural causes (remoteness from decision-making and commercial centres, difficult terrain) aggravated by the politico-military troubles that Chad experienced which affected this region for four decades and the consequences are still noticeable.



Terrain images of the Province of Tibesti

From this contamination, the result is a deeply dilapidated economic and social situation, painfully felt by the population, which translates into extreme poverty and a feeling of isolation and frustration which cannot continue without risk. A thousand kilometres away from the capital, this province is characterized by an extreme climate, the absence of roads, a rudimentary health infrastructure which make any demining operation difficult from a logistical point of view and which cause premature wear of equipment. In terms of health, an aerial means of evacuation must be essential to ensure the safety of the deminers and to allow, if necessary, their immediate evacuation to the capital.



Much of Tibesti province has not been covered by non-technical surveys. It is possible that other suspected hazardous areas will be identified in the future. In order to remedy any remaining contamination in the Tibesti Province, Chad's National Humanitarian Demining Program, with the support of the Chadian Government and its partners, has planned to carry out a Non-Technical Survey (NTS) to confirm or negate the presence of cluster munitions

### 3. Risk Education and Victim Assistance

Risk Education activities are carried out with communities and other at-risk groups across the country by the National Mine Action Authority supported by accredited implementing partners. Activities are carried out using social behaviour change communication by aligning materials with audience needs and using appropriate means and channels that are:

Deployment of MRE agents in targeted communities, use of materials such as picture boxes suitable for children and adults, billboards and raising awareness of the risk or through mass media. MRE teams will ensure that the public understands the different types of gear, namely, anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, improvised devices, cluster munitions and others. The target group will also be informed about markings and road signs. Explosive ordnance risk education refers to educational activities that aim to reduce the risk of injury from explosive ordnance by raising awareness and promoting behaviour change among “at risk” groups within communities and in the workplace. nationwide population, including the dissemination of public information, education and training, and community liaison. MRE should ensure that men, women and children in affected communities are aware of the risks associated with mines/cluster munitions and are encouraged to behave in ways that reduce the risk to people and their property

- Assistance to victims in Chad, which refers to a set of activities, is the least developed component because due to a lack of financial means, the strategies developed are not implemented, namely: Age- and gender-sensitive assistance to the victims, including emergency and continuing medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as the provision of assistance for their social and economic life. In Chad, generally anything that explodes through ignorance is considered a mine. This is why it is very difficult for us to provide an update on cluster munitions casualties.

However, faced with the gravity of the situation, UNCEF intervenes mainly in Lake Chad in the provision of clothing, food, medical (prosthesis, orthosis) and crutches. Through the PRODECO project funded by the European Union, Humanity and Inclusion intervenes in the socio-economic field in the provinces of Borkou and Ennedi.

#### **4. Proposed work plan**

Chad is requesting an extension period of one year to conduct a non-technical survey to identify the extent of areas contaminated by cluster munitions. The total area of suspected hazardous areas planned for this non-technical survey is 19,049,801 m<sup>2</sup>.

It is estimated that an initial period of two months will be required to complete the team mobilization process. This includes identifying the funding, personnel, equipment and other resources needed to deploy five non-technical survey teams to identify dangerous areas in five departments of the Tibesti Province (Bardaï, Wour, Zouar, Aouzou and Emi Koussi).

Once these five teams have been deployed and the contaminated areas have been identified, a detailed work plan including the estimated time required for each task/location identified will be drawn up, including the assumptions made to carry out the calculation. Because to date Chad does not have a precise reading of the contamination of Tibesti by cluster munitions.

#### **5. Rationale and resource mobilization plan**

The support of partners in the fight against cluster munitions will be invaluable for Chad to guarantee the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention and achieve its completion.

To date, with the closure of the PRODECO project, financial visibility is lacking for the years to come, which naturally makes it difficult to deploy the non-technical survey teams.

Despite this, the HCND continues to advocate with international actors and the Chadian government, in the hope that the European Commission will further invest in the demining sector and that the Chadian government will contribute to some extent to ensure field operations. There is no real visibility that makes it possible to make a concrete projection.

In relation to the Chadian Government, it has the political will and the desire to contribute financially and in kind to the cost of the program that is to say, very likely to maintain its contribution for the payment of salaries and the operating costs of the HCND structure at 1,331,520 Euros per year. The necessary means of transport will be made available by the Chadian State

Provisional budget for the deployment of five non-technical investigation teams:

#### **Amount to be mobilized from donors to conduct non-technical surveys in the 05 departments of the province of Tibesti**

Line items	Amount / Euros
Operational staff costs	45,593
Running cost	65,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,193</b>

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With the technical and financial support of its partners, and in view of the results of the non-technical survey, Chad will take the necessary measures to eradicate cluster munitions from its territory, in particular:

- Present a detailed work plan, providing specific information
- Pursue contacts with international partners and States Parties in a position to provide assistance in support of cluster munitions clearance activities;
- Continue to provide information on the status of implementation of the convention and provide updates on implementation at informal and formal meetings of the Convention as well as through its transparency reports

## **6. Justification for the need for an extended period**

At the beginning of 2022, Chad officially declared the completion of the areas under its jurisdiction contaminated by cluster munitions except the province of Tibesti. Given this situation, it will be imperative to carry out a certification in order to confirm or invalidate the presence of cluster munitions.

Chad has yet to benefit from international assistance for the elimination of contamination by cluster munitions. The lack of funding is one of the factors in non-compliance with international mine action treaty obligations. It will therefore take some time to mobilize the support of the international mine action community to carry out non-technical surveys and clearance work in the areas that will be identified.

It should be noted here that the areas formerly contaminated by cluster munitions that are already liberated have made it possible to create a favourable environment, in particular the free movement of nomads to access pastures, a significant reduction in accidents due to contamination and the extension of mining research.

**From the above, we believe it is appropriate to grant Chad a provisional request of 12 months to undertake non-technical survey that would inform the development of its comprehensive work plan in view of its subsequent extension request.**