Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Article 4 CCM Extension Request Template

A. Executive Summary

1. **Duration of the proposed extension:**
   a. The proposed extension period is from 01August, 2026 to 01August, 2028.
   b. If it's the second/third/ extension requested, please mention. It's the third extension request
2. **Rational and resource mobilization:**
   a. The proposed extension is necessary because

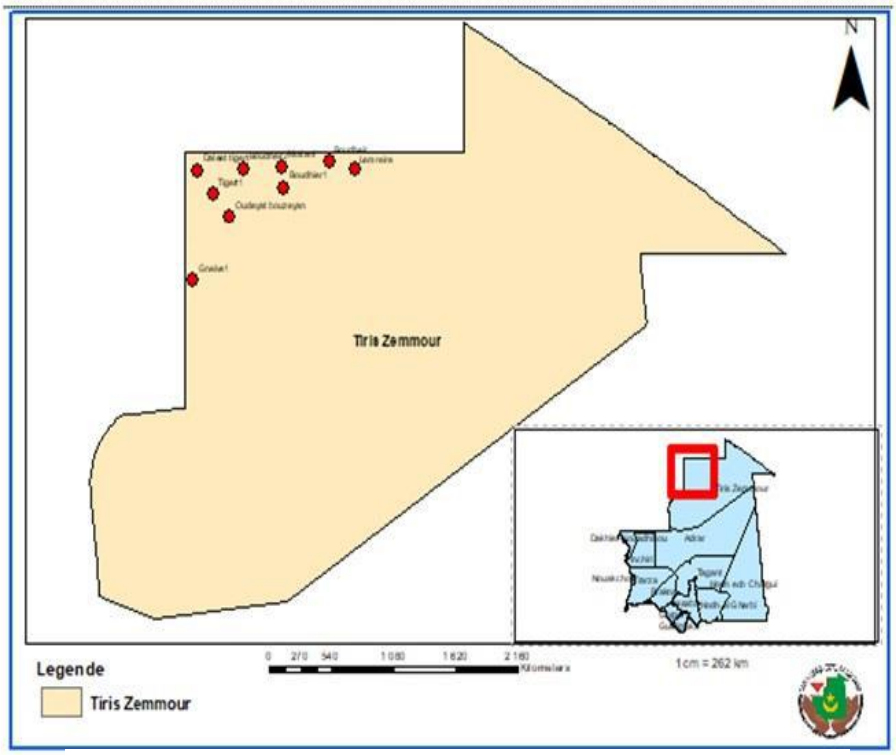
The PNDHD has received limited international financial support for the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) activities. While Mauritania initially declared completion in 2014, previously unknown cluster munition (CM) contamination was discovered in the country's far north in 2019.

Significant time was dedicated in 2020 and 2021 to conduct the initial survey work and estimate the remaining contamination. The joint assessment mission conducted by the PNDHD and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) NGO to assess the newly discovered CM contamination was completed in March 2021.

To date, Mauritania is in need of international assistance to completely clear the CM contamination. Additional time will be required to mobilize support from the international mine action community for further technical surveys and clearance activities in the identified areas. Therefore, Mauritania anticipates that completing the clearance before the CCM deadline of August 1, 2026, will not be possible.

Unfortunately, Mauritania has not secured any funding from the international community since the one obtained from NPA in 2012-2013 allowing the clearance of a certain number of territories. The PNDHD managed to decontaminate a certain area using the state's own resources, but the fact remains that without international assistance, significant progress will not be achieved.

Map 1: Mauritania Administrative division



Map 2: Location of cluster munitions contaminated areas

b. The State Party has the following financial and technical means available for the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants during the proposed extension:

Tableau 1: Financial and technical means available

Designation	Quantity	Observation
Financial means		
Mauritania will participate by providing 360 000 $		
Human resource		
Operational Personal	23	4 teams
Personal support	17	
Equipment		
Detectors	19	8 news/11 olds
Deminer's toolkit	18	8 news/10 olds
Operational Vehicle	03	
Ambulance	01	

c. The State Party is requesting assistance for the following financial, technical and material resources:

Tableau 2: Financial resources requiring

Line Item	2026	2027	2028	Amount(USD)
HumanResources	320000	320000	320000	960000
PNDHD salaries, perdiem (inclus engineers)	150000	150000	150000	450000
Operations	735000	440500	435500	1505000
Vehicles	350000	100000	100000	550000
Detectors and Clearance matérial	15000	50000	50000	25000
Personnal Protection Equipment, Uniforms	10000	10000	5000	15000
Camping otherfield equipment	100000	32500	32500	165000
Marking	140000	133000	133000	400000
Risk Education	120000	115000	115000	350000
Support and admin costs	260000	165000	165000	590000
Operationnal running costs	160000	120000	120000	400000
Overhead Costs	100000	45000	45000	190000
Total Project Costs		1655000	1300000	3055000
Mauritania Governemental Contribution	120000	120000	120000	360000
Total Resources to mobilize from the International community				2695000

3. **Preparation of future work and the status of work already conducted under national clearance and demining programmes during the initial 10-year period and any subsequent extensions:**

a. The State Party has developed a comprehensive plan for the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants during the proposed extension period.

Tableau 3: Plan for the clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants during the proposed extension

Name of Area	m^2	Type of Contamination	Location	Clearance Duration estimated (days)	Method to be employ
Boudheir	20,556	Blu63	Tires Zemmour	12	Manual
Boudheir1	38,667	Blu63		23	
Boudheir2	243,147	Blu63		39	
Gneive	4,683,196	Blu63		150	
Lemriera	2,587,276	Blu63		110	
Motlani	120,365	Blu63		30	
Oudeyat Lekhyame	5,326,856	MK118		170	
Tigert	651,830	MK118		45	
Dhbeiyatt	807532	Blu63		70	
Dhbeiyatt1	693670	Blu63		52	

Total	701

b. The State Party has completed [49,95%] of the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants in areas under its jurisdiction or control since entry into force of the Convention.

4. **Total area containing cluster munition remnants at the time of entry into force of the Convention for that State Party and any additional areas containing cluster munition remnants discovered after such entry into force:**

a. At the time of entry into force of the Convention, the total area containing cluster munition remnants in areas under the jurisdiction or control of the State Party was**10 180 108m²**

Tableau 4: Total area containing cluster munition at the time of entry into force of the convention

	NAME OF AREA	Initial 2012 SHA Size
1.	AYDIYATT	180108[1]
2.	AGHWACHIN	1 000 000
3.	DOUEIK	1 200 000
4.	OUDEYATT BOUZEYAN	1 200 000
5.	WINIGHET	1 000 000
6.	BIR MARIAM	1 250 000
7.	OUM DBEIATT	1 000 000
8.	TIGERT	1 500 000
9.	GHARET EL HEMAID	1 850 000
	TOTAL AREA	10 180 108**m²**

b. Since entry into force of the Convention, the State Party has discovered additional areas containing cluster munitions remnants of **16 869 114m².**

5. **Total area containing cluster munition remnants cleared since entry into force of the Convention (land release methodologies applied):**

a. Since entry into force of the Convention, the State Party has cleared a total of **11876 157m²**containing cluster munition remnants.

6. **Total area containing cluster munition remnants remaining to be cleared during the proposed extension:**

a. The total area containing cluster munition remnants remaining to be cleared during the proposed extension**15 173065 m²**

7. **Circumstances that have impeded the ability of the State Party to destroy all cluster munition remnants located in areas under its jurisdiction or control during the initial 10-year period, and those that may impede its ability during the proposed extension:**

a. The State Party has faced a number of challenges in clearing and destroying cluster munition remnants, including

- Staff training
- Acquisition of equipment
- Resources to conduct risk education, decontamination, and victim assistance.

b. The State Party is planning to overcome these challenges and continue its efforts to clear and destroy all cluster munition remnants by.

- Funding
- Capacity building for the PNDHD:
- Training
- Equipment
- Vehicles (acquisition of necessary vehicles for transportation)

8. **The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the proposed extension:**

The proposed extension will have a number of positive humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications for the State Party, including

The impact of cluster munition (CM) contamination in Mauritania is primarily observed through its social and economic consequences, resulting in restricted access to crucial community resources, such as pasture, and occasional livestock fatalities. The period from 2009 to 2023 witnessed a number of human accidents leading to injuries. Upon completion of the clearance process, released land is predominantly utilized for pasture by nomadic and semi-nomadic communities. Notably, Mauritania possesses substantial mineral deposits, which can be explored for development purposes following

[1]Indeed, this figure was not included in our previous reports due to the omission of the Aydiyatt, which covers an area of 180,108 m². This result stems from work carried out by NPA in 2013, indicating that 30,000 m² were cleared through technical survey and 150,108 m² through clearance operations.

the successful clearance operations. Due to the low population density (0.22/sq mi) and the absence of permanent settlements in the Tires Zemmour area, there is currently no immediate requirement for decontamination in relation to environmental pollution. In accordance with international standards, waste sweeping operations related to hazardous waste will be conducted following each clearance. The accomplished clearance operations have fostered an environment conducive to socio-economic advancement in the initially affected province. These achievements encompass enhanced freedom of movement for nomadic communities to access grazing areas, a significant reduction in accidents caused by contamination, and expanded opportunities for mining research.

Ensuring inclusivity, gender sensitivity, and diversity are integral considerations within the program in Mauritania. Engaging all segments of the population, including men, women, boys, and girls, will be sought during the design and implementation of all activities. Striving for gender balance and diverse survey and battlefield area clearance (BAC) teams is a program objective, recognizing that attaining complete gender balance within the seconded staff from the Corps of Engineers might present certain limitations.

9. Provide full contact details of the national focal person with whom follow-up will be conducted:

Name: Colonel Mouhamedou Baham Mohamed Laghdaf
Title: PNDHD Coordinator
Email: pndhdmrt@gmail.com
Phone Number: +222 20505015

B. Detailed Narrative

The State Party signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 19 April, 2010, ratified it on 1 February 2012, and the Convention entered into force for it on 1 August 2012.

1. **Total area to be addressed** at entry into force, as defined in Article 2, paragraph 11, and Article 4, paragraph 6.e was

Tableau 5: total area to be addressed at entry into force

Num	**NAME OF AREA**	**Initial 2012 SHA Size (m²)**
1.	AYDIYATT	180108
2.	AGHWACHIN	1 000 000
3.	DOUEIK	1 200 000
4.	OUDEYATT BOUZEYAN	1 200 000
5.	WINIGHET	1 000 000
6.	BIR MARIAM	1 250 000
7.	OUM DBEIATT	1 000 000
8.	TIGERT	1 500 000
9.	GHARET EL HEMAID	1 850 000
	TOTAL AREA	**10 180 108 m²**

Total area discovered since the entry into force in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.d was **27 049 222m².**
Total new contamination including date of contamination since entry into force in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1.b**n.a**].

1. Tableau 6: Area addressed since entry into force disaggregated by cancellation through NTS, reduction TS or cleared

N°	Name of Area	Size(m²)	NTS(m²)	TS(m²)	Clearance (m²)	Year
1.	Aydiyatt	180108	180108	30000	150108	2012-2013
2.	Aghwachin	1 000 000	1 000 000	648707	351293	2012-2013
3.	Doueik	1 200 000	1 200 000	941018	258982	2012-2013
4.	Oudeyatt bouzeyan	1 200 000	1 200 000	887376	312624	2012-2013
5.	Winighet	1 000000	1 000 000	893405	106595	2012-2013
6.	Bir Mariam	1 250000	1 250 000	1 080 600	169400	2012-2013
7.	Oum dbeiatt	1 000 000	1 000 000	966428	33572	2012-2013
8.	Tigert	1 500 000	1 500 000	1194788	305212	2012-2013
9.	Gharet el hemaid	1 850 000	1 850 000	1573046	276954	2012-2013
10.	Gneive2	177574	177574	96300	81274	2021
11.	Gneive1	392998	392998	29050	363948	2022
12.	Daalet Teghert	345703	345703	243000	102 703	2024

13.	Dhbeiyatt	1587276	1587276	779774	planned[2]	2025
Total		**12 683 659**	**12 683 659**	**9 363 492**	**2 512 665**	

2. Quantity and type of cluster munitions destroyed.

Tableau 7: Quantity and type of cluster munitions destroyed

Type	Quantity	Location	Destruction method (if information is available)
BLU 63	48	Bir Mariam	DSP (Destruction conducted on-site)
MK 118	481	Gharet El hemeid	DSP
MK118	91	Teghert	DSP
BLU63	200	Oum Edhbaitt	DSP
BLU63	28	Agwachin	DSP
MK118	01	Eweineget	DSP
M42 BLU63	23 21	Oudeyatt bozeyan	DSP
M42	347	Aldouik	DSP
MK118	06	Ayadiyatt	DSP
BLU63	07	Gneive2	DSP
BLU63	113	Gneive1	DSP
MK118	29	Daalet tegert	DSP
Total	1395		

3. Estimated **area remaining to be addressed (specify SHA, CHA)** in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.f

Tableau 8: area remaining to be addressed

Location	Method employed	Confirmed Hazardous Area	Commentsn(Types)	Year planned for clearance
Dhbeiyatt	CHA	807502	Blu 63	2025
Dhbeiyatt1	SHA	693670	Blu 63	2025
Bodheir	CHA	20556	Blu 63	2026
Boudheir 1	CHA	38667	Blu 63	2026
Boudheir2	CHA	243147	Blu 63	2026
Gneive	CHA	4683196	Blu 63	2027
Lemreire	CHA	2587276	Blu 63	2027
El motlani	CHA	120365	Blu 63	2028
Oudeyatlekhyam	CHA	5326856	MK 118	2028
Tighert 1	CHA	651830	MK 118	2028
Total	**15 173 065m²**			

1. Amount of time requested, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.a:

c. 1 August, 2026 to 1 August, 2028.

2. Circumstances which impeded the ability of the requesting State Party to fulfil its obligations, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.g

Mauritania has been unable to fulfill its obligations due to a lack of funding. It is important to note that the country has received limited assistance from the international community. Unfortunately, it is through such funding that Mauritania would be able to decontaminate these areas and meet its obligations. The PNDHD has managed to decontaminate certain areas using the state's own limited resources, but progress has been slow due to these constraints. With support from the international community, Mauritania could fulfil its obligations within the set deadlines. However, without this assistance, the PNDHD will continue its decontamination efforts, but it will take longer to fully meet the country's commitments.

3. National laws and standards in place? Info on national demining structure.

a. National laws: Law n° 2011-050 autorising the republic president to ratify the convention on cluster munitions.

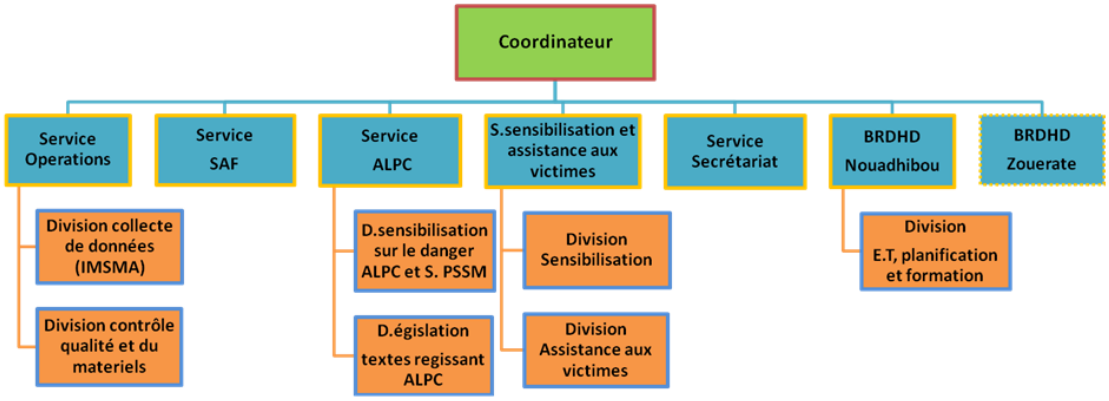
b. National Mine Action Standards (NMAS); and whether they based on the **International Mine Actions Standards (IMAS)**

In Mauritania, the clearance operations adhere to the Mauritanian Standards of Antimine Action (NMAM), which align with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) while being customized to suit the specific geographical and equipment-related conditions in Mauritania. The NMAMs were developed and endorsed by the National Program for Humanitarian Demining and Development (PNDHD) and subsequently presented to

[2] 807,502 m^2 of Dhbeiyatt remain to be addressed after the technical survey, and the clearance of this area is planned for 2025.

the Government for approval in 2007. These standards undergo regular annual updates, incorporating valuable insights gained from field experiences. The revisions aim to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of clearance operations in Mauritania while maintaining compliance with international best practices outlined in the IMAS.

c. National Demining Structure



4. **Methodologies utilized are in compliance with international standards including IMAS in accordance with Article 4.3**
   (NTS, TS, clearance)
   The methodologies used comply with international standards.
5. **Annual projections** of Cluster Munitions Remnants (CMR)contaminated areas to be addressed and by what method (NTS, TS, clearance), in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

Tableau 9: Annual projections

Number oh teams	Number of deminer per team	Daily capacity of a deminer in m²	Daily capacity of a team in m²	Observations
04	04	From 258 to 600	From 10032 to 24000	We would like to emphasize that the figures provided are preliminary, rough estimates and may not fully reflect the final clearance outcomes. The actual figures will depend on several factors, which have not been factored thus far as it would take time and resources to do so, including but to restricted to: the complexity and nature of the terrain, weather conditions, the density and type of contamination. These variables can significantly influence the pace and extent of clearance operations. Subsequently, this area was confirmed through a non-technical survey. During the technical survey, there is a strong likelihood that it will decrease. However, if funding is secured, the PNDHD will call upon the Military Engineering Corps, which can provide from06 to 10 demining teams. This will help optimize personnel and daily productivity

Proposed Work Plan

Mauritania is requesting an extension period of two years in order to complete clearance of the newly identified confirmed hazardous areas.

To fulfil the obligations of the Government of Mauritania under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the PNDHD will undertake a range of activities. These activities encompass clearance operations, non-technical survey (NTS), risk education, and marking.

The clearance operations will involve systematic and methodical removal of explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, from affected areas. This activity aims to mitigate the threat posed by these hazardous remnants and restore safety to the impacted regions.

The non-technical survey (NTS) will be conducted to assess and gather crucial information about the presence, extent, and nature of contamination. By employing a systematic approach, NTS enables targeted and efficient allocation of resources for subsequent clearance efforts.

Risk education will play a vital role in raising awareness among local communities and humanitarian actors about the dangers associated with explosive remnants, including cluster munitions. This educational component seeks to empower individuals to recognize, avoid, and report potential risks, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents and injuries.

Marking contaminated areas with appropriate signage and indicators will be implemented to ensure their identification and avoidance. This marking activity serves as a visual reminder for both the local population and humanitarian workers to steer clear of these hazardous zones, contributing to their safety and well-being.

Through the implementation of these multifaceted activities, the PNDHD aims to achieve the Government of Mauritania's obligations under the CCM. These efforts underscore the commitment to promoting human security, safeguarding lives, and creating an environment free from the threat of cluster munitions, in alignment with the provisions of the international convention.

CLEARANCE

According to estimates, an initial mobilization period of three (3) months is anticipated to complete the necessary preparations. These preparations involve securing funding, assembling a skilled workforce, acquiring essential equipment, and allocating other required resources for the deployment of four (4) Battlefield Area Clearance (BAC) teams to address the remaining contamination. The composition of each BAC (Battle Area Clearance) team includes five members, consisting of four deminers who possess a minimum EOD1 capacity, and one team leader who holds either an EOD2 or EOD3 qualification. All deminers are affiliated with the PNDHD and have previous experience in the military Engineer Corps. If the need arises for additional personnel and sufficient funds are available, the PNDHD has the capability to request extra deminers from the military engineer corps, thereby allowing for a maximum management of seven (7) clearance teams. Operators can implement all humanitarian demining activities but priority will be given to the PNDHD and national deminers.

Once these four teams have been deployed, if the estimated amount of contamination remains the same, it will be possible to complete additional technical survey and clearance of the areas identified over the course of approximately 18 months. Implementation of activities will depend on the availability of fund to perform demining. An additional six-month timeframe will be allocated for the purpose of addressing any additional contamination that may be encountered during the demining process. This period will also be utilized for the finalization of reporting and documentation of the clearance activities, prior to the submission of the final completion report.

As the demining teams are formally affiliated with the Engineer Corps, the knowledge they acquire during ongoing operations with the PNDHD will greatly contribute to the effective management of future residual risks related to cluster munitions. This expertise will enable them to identify, handle, and mitigate potential risks associated with the presence of unexploded cluster munitions in the area.

By leveraging their experience, the demining teams can employ best practices and implement appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the communities and minimize the long-term impact of residual risks. Their familiarity with the characteristics and behavior of cluster munitions will enable them to develop comprehensive risk management strategies.

Discussions on how residual risk from cluster munitions will be managed will be conducted in collaboration with relevant authorities and stakeholders during the extension period. By engaging all key stakeholders, including local communities, experts, and international organizations, comprehensive plans and strategies can be developed to address residual risks in a coordinated and effective manner. These efforts will prioritize the safety of the affected communities and support the long-term sustainable development of the region.

Below, a comprehensive working plan is provided, which outlines the estimated time required for each task/location identified. The calculations and estimations in the plan are based on informed assumptions derived from prior experience working in Mauritania.

In Mauritania, the clearance operations adhere to the Mauritanian Standards of Antimine Action (NMAM), which align with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) while being customized to suit the specific geographical and equipment-related conditions in Mauritania. The NMAMs were developed and endorsed by the National Program for Humanitarian Demining and Development (PNDHD) and subsequently presented to the Government for approval in 2007. These standards undergo regular annual updates, incorporating valuable insights gained from field experiences. The revisions aim to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of clearance operations in Mauritania while maintaining compliance with international best practices outlined in the IMAS.

Note:Methods to be used to render CMR contaminated areas no longer dangerous, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b (ANNEX 1)

Tableau 10: Method to be used

Localisation	Surface area	Types	Method employed
Bodheir	20556	Blu 63	Manual depollution Following the land release process (TS – Clearance – QC-RE) in accordance of the results
Boudheir 1	38667	Blu 63	
Boudheir2	243147	Blu 63	
Gneive	4683196	Blu 63	
Lemreira	2587276	Blu 63	
El motlani	120365	Blu 63	
Oudeyatlekhyam	5326856	MK 118	
Tighert 1	651830	MK 118	
Dhbeiyatt	807502	Blu 63	

Dhbeiyatt1	693670	Blu 63	
Total	**15 173065 m²**		

Risk education

Risk Education is an initiative to reduce the risk of civilian casualties caused by CM. It involves providing information to the public about the dangers of CM and instructing people on how to identify, avoid, and reduce the risk of being harmed by these weapons. Risk education campaigns are most effective when they are carried out in locations where CM have been used, as this increases awareness and understanding of the issue. It is also important to ensure that the information provided is tailored to the age and level of understanding of the target audience, as this will help maximize the effectiveness of the campaign.

PNDHD mobilizes its risk education teams to communities affected by the presence of cluster munitions. Each team consists of five (5) PNDHD personnel deployed at the community level. The training sessions are conducted in person, with a specific emphasis on school-aged children. Furthermore, community liaison officers provide training to local community focal points. This approach guarantees the continuity of message dissemination.

These risk education activities are carried out in various forms. Thus, the PNDHD conducts training sessions for trainers among the local population, particularly within associations and NGOs, to better disseminate the message. The program also organizes sessions in public places such as markets, schools, workshops, or any other gathering areas. Finally, during each campaign, awareness materials are distributed, including T-shirts, caps, notebooks, and posters. Additionally, signs with telephone numbers are displayed to allow people to contact the program in case of discovering explosive devices.

6. Financial, technical, material, personnel needs per year

Financial requirements

Tableau 11: Financial requirements

Line Item	2027	2028	Amount (USD)
HumanResources	480000	480000	960000
PNDHD salaries, perdiem (inclus engineers)	225000	225000	450000
Operations	875000	530000	1405000
Vehicles	350000	100000	450000
Detectors and Clearance matérial	15000	10000	25000
Personnal Protection Equipment, Uniforms	10000	5000	15000
Camping otherfieldequipment	100000	65000	165000
Marking	200000	200000	400000
Risk Education	200000	150000	350000
Support and admin costs	300000	290000	590000
Operationnal running costs	200000	200000	400000
OverheadCosts	100000	90000	190000
Total Project Costs	1655000	1300000	2955000
MauritaniaGovernemental Contribution	180000	180000	360000
Total Resources to mobilizefrom the International community			2695000

Technical needs:

- Training
- Assistance

Tableau 12: Materialrequirements

Designation	Quantity	Observations
Operations		
Operational Vehicles	04	
Ambulance with medical equipment	02	
Water truks	02	
Personnal Protection Equipment	30	
Face shields	30	
Mine detectors	10	
Demineurs kits	20	
Accommodation		
Electrogene Group	02	
Tents	10	

Prefabricated lodge	06	
Fridge	02	
Mobile split	10	
Kitchen equipment		
IT Equipment		
Computers	04	
Tablettes	06	
Printer	02	
Photcopier	02	
TV	03	
Binoculars	10	
Furniture and equipment for operational camps		
Radio		

Tableau 13: Personnel needs:

Num	Function	Number	Observation
1.	Coordinator	01	
2.	Chief operations	01	
3.	EOD Expert	01	
4.	Data base gestionnary	01	
5.	Quality management	01	
6.	Gender adviser	01	
7.	Platoon leader	01	
8.	Team leaders	04	
9.	Deminers	16	
10.	Medical personnal	02	
11.	Drivers	05	
12.	chef	02	
13.	guardian	02	
14.	Cleaner	02	

Tableau 14: Training program

Training course	Places	Observations
EOD 1	25	Refreshing
EOD 2	08	
EOD 3	03	
QC - QA	05	
IMAS and Conventions Training	10	
IMSMA Core training	05	

7. **National financial resources** required, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b.
   Currently, the Mauritanian state supports the PNDHD's activities with an amount of 180,000 USD/year

Financial planning:
The PNDHD relies on its experience in the field of decontamination and its knowledge of the terrain, contaminated areas, and the environment to make estimates and determine the material and equipment needs.

Sustainability measures:
At the national level, the funds allocated to the PNDHD are integrated into the state's annual budget, while at the international level, the PNDHD is constantly seeking partners for a long-term agreement to enhance effectiveness. This portion, although very limited compared to the needs, still allows the PNDHD to decontaminate certain areas.

Financial accountability:
The PNDHD is a national program directed by an interministerial committee that ensures the proper functioning and diversity of the members of the steering committee, aiming to guarantee transparency regarding the use of funds. This committee holds periodic meetings for monitoring. The program produces regular reports on its activities, including achievements and action plans.

8. **Assistance needs incl. financial resources** required, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

   The State Party needs international assistance of 2595000 USD.

Tableau 15: Financial resources needed

Needs	Year 1	Year 2	Amount USD
Human resources	480000	480000	960000
Operation	875000	530000	1405000
Support and admin costs	300000	290000	590000
National allocation	180000	180000	360000
Total international assistance required			2695000

9. Resource mobilization plan

Despite the challenging international circumstances of recent years and the limited availability of national funding, the government of Mauritania has consistently allocated an annual contribution to the National Program for Humanitarian Demining and Development (PNDHD). This financial support has enabled the PNDHD to carry out essential activities in compliance with the obligations stipulated by the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

In 2024, an amount of $180 000 USD was allocated to the PNDHD, providing critical resources to fulfill its responsibilities. With this funding, the PNDHD successfully conducted clearance operations in two specific areas, namely Daaret Teghert (covering 345 703 m²) and a technical survey of Dhbeiyatt, reducing 779 774 m² of suspected contaminated land.

The allocated budget played a crucial role in facilitating the clearance of these areas, ensuring the safe removal of cluster munitions and contributing to the overall implementation of the CCM. Despite financial constraints, the Mauritanian government's commitment to maintaining this annual contribution underscores its determination to meet its obligations under the Convention and to promote a safe environment for its population.

In addition to clearance operations in Daaret Teghert and the technical survey in Dhbeiyatt, efforts were reinforced through the implementation of risk education campaigns and marking operations.

The current extension request for mine action activities in Mauritania requires a total budget of approximately 3 055 000 USD. Of this amount, Mauritania will allocate360 000 USD (for the extension period) from the national budget, leaving 2 695 000 USD to be secured from external sources.

However, it is important to note that the international community has not yet provided the 1 765 000 USD of financial assistance anticipated in the previous extension request. This unmet funding component presents a significant challenge to the timely and comprehensive clearance of areas contaminated by cluster munitions.

Despite limited resources, Mauritania remains determined to contribute financially and in-kind to its mine action program, demonstrating strong political will.

The government, through the PNDHD, has provided demining teams, technical expertise, work equipment, support vehicles, regional offices, victim assistance, and logistical support.

International Assistance Requested

To complete the survey and clearance of identified cluster munition (CM) contaminated sites within the specified timeframe, $2,695,000 USD in external funding is required. The Mauritanian government and the PNDHD are seeking assistance from the international mine action community to mobilize these funds.

Mauritania plans to engage previous supporters, including Norway, Germany, the UK, France, and Japan. To this end, it proposes the establishment of a National Coalition, involving the government, interested donor governments, and international mine action NGOs.

This collaborative initiative would pool expertise and resources to complete demining operations and provide victim assistance. The National Coalition model has proven effective in other programs. Mauritania's efforts aim to ensure the comprehensive completion of its mine action program, promoting safety and security for its population.

Some PNDHD operations are already funded by foreign sources, contributing to global efforts in risk education, surveying, and clearance activities. For a detailed breakdown of the budget, please refer to the attached documentation.

Governmental Contribution

The government of Mauritania is committed to supporting the project by providing infrastructure and personnel. Staff members, primarily from the Corps of Engineers, will receive daily per-diems instead of regular salaries. The Corps of Engineers will also assist in transporting teams to remote areas by providing trucking services for fuel and water, especially in the northern regions of the country.

PNDHD personnel will actively contribute to the project, ensuring smooth implementation. They will be provided with office space and will take on responsibilities such as coordinating with national, local government, and military officials.

Resource Mobilization

Mauritania has initiated efforts to secure funding for its CM clearance program. These include:
Presenting its extension request at future CCM meetings, highlighting existing gaps in implementation;
Continuing outreach to international financial and technical partners and CCM States Parties in a position to provide assistance;

Inviting partners with a presence in Mauritania to attend briefings on its humanitarian demining program;
Regularly updating progress through its national website and the CCM's dedicated country page for transparency and accessibility;
Providing updates during informal and formal CCM meetings and in its transparency reports.

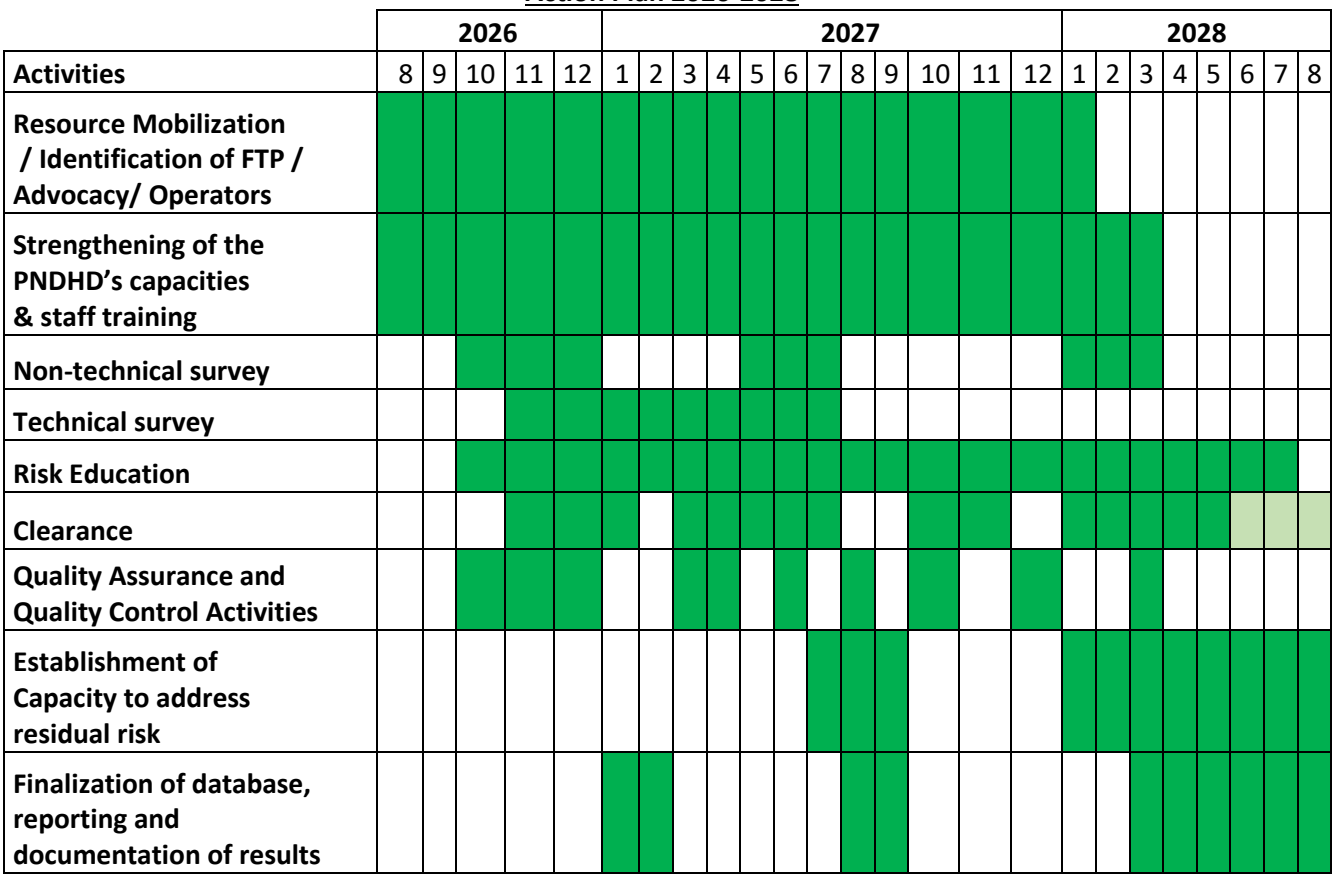
Contingency Plan

Mauritania remains confident in its ability to meet its obligations within the proposed extension period but recognizes the need for alternative solutions if national and foreign donor support falls short. The option of requesting an additional extension remains open to ensure the successful completion of its CCM obligations.

Justification for the Requested Extension

The PNDHD has received limited international financial support for CCM-related activities. While Mauritania initially declared completion in 2014, previously unknown cluster munition (CM) contamination was discovered in the country's northern regions in 2019.
A significant portion of 2020 and 2021 was devoted to conducting initial surveys and estimating the remaining contamination. A joint assessment mission between the PNDHD and the NGO "Norwegian People's Aid" (NPA) to evaluate this new cluster munition contamination was conducted in March 2021.
To date, Mauritania still requires international assistance to fully clear CM-contaminated areas. Additional time is needed to mobilize support from the international mine action community for further technical surveys and clearance operations. Therefore, Mauritania anticipates that it will not be able to complete clearance operations by the CCM deadline of August 1, 2026.

Action Plan 2026-2028



Implementation period

Potential risk residual clearance

Monitoring and Evaluation:

For monitoring and evaluation, the PNDHD will carry out quality assurance missions. Periodic reports will also be produced to communicate the progress of the work.

4. **Humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications** of the extension, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.h

a. **Humanitarian implications**:

The impact of cluster munition (CM) contamination in Mauritania is primarily observed through its social and economic consequences, resulting in restricted access to crucial community resources, such as pasture, and occasional livestock fatalities. The period from 2009 to 2023 witnessed a number of human accidents leading to injuries. Upon completion of the clearance process, released land is predominantly utilized for pasture by nomadic and semi-nomadic communities. Notably, Mauritania possesses substantial mineral deposits, which can be explored for development purposes following the successful clearance operations.

b. **Social implications**:

The contamination of these lands is an obstacle to development and poses a threat to the safety of the population by restricting their freedom of movement. This extension would provide a new opportunity; with the acquisition of funding, these lands could be decontaminated, allowing for their use and reducing the risk of accidents caused by Cluster Munitions. The clearance will enable populations to live in safe areas free from any accidents related to Cluster munitions. It will also contribute to social development by facilitating free movement and access to land for exploitation.

c. **Economic implications**:

Decontaminating these areas will contribute to development. Indeed, the presence of Cluster Munitions prevents the development and use of these lands, while the nearby populations mainly rely on livestock farming, transport, and agriculture. In addition to this, the contaminated areas are located in a mining region, which is one of the main industrial activities of the country.

d. **Environmental implications**:

Due to the low population density (0.22/sq mi) and the absence of permanent settlements in the Tires Zemmour area, there is currently no immediate requirement for decontamination in relation to environmental pollution. In accordance with international standards, waste sweeping operations related to hazardous waste will be conducted following each clearance

e. **Cross-cutting considerations**:

Ensuring inclusivity, gender sensitivity, and diversity are integral considerations within the program in Mauritania. Engaging all segments of the population, including men, women, boys, and girls, will be sought during the design and implementation of all activities. Striving for gender balance and diverse survey and battlefield area clearance (BAC) teams is a program objective, recognizing that attaining complete gender balance within the seconded staff from the Corps of Engineers might present certain limitations. The PNDHD actively integrates women into its activities, enabling them to participate in risk education campaigns, discussion groups, and international meetings. In 2024, two women were deployed in the field: one as a nurse and the other in logistical support.

f. **Monitoring and mitigation**:

PNDHD conducts monitoring through quality control missions. An impact study will be carried out through surveys of the local population, discussions, and exchanges.

g. **Research Studies Conducted:**

In the preliminary phase, the PNDHD will conduct reconnaissance and meetings with local populations to gather information on gender dynamics, community impact, and environmental effects.

10. **Any other information** relevant to the request, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.i

Other scenarios/ and inaccessible areas:

This region is characterized by difficult terrain and a desert climate, marked by extreme heat during certain times of the year. The PNDHD is committed to taking all necessary measures to overcome these challenges despite its limited resources.

Gender and diversity considerations:

Ensuring inclusivity, gender sensitivity, and diversity are integral considerations within the program in Mauritania. Engaging all segments of the population, including men, women, boys, and girls, will be sought during the design and implementation of all activities. Striving for gender balance and diverse survey and battlefield area clearance (BAC) teams is a program objective, recognizing that attaining complete gender balance within the seconded staff from the Corps of Engineers might present certain limitations.

National Mine Action Strategy Plan:

Mauritania is requesting an extension period of two years in order to complete clearance of the newly identified confirmed hazardous areas.

To fulfil the obligations of the Government of Mauritania under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the PNDHD will undertake a range of activities. These activities encompass clearance operations, non-technical survey (NTS), risk education, and marking.

The clearance operations will involve systematic and methodical removal of explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, from affected areas. This activity aims to mitigate the threat posed by these hazardous remnants and restore safety to the impacted regions.

The non-technical survey (NTS) will be conducted to assess and gather crucial information about the presence, extent, and nature of contamination. By employing a systematic approach, NTS enable targeted and efficient allocation of resources for subsequent clearance efforts.

Risk education will play a vital role in raising awareness among local communities and humanitarian actors about the dangers associated with explosive remnants, including cluster munitions. This educational component seeks to empower individuals to recognize, avoid, and report potential risks, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents and injuries.

Residual contamination management:

Given the vast and sparsely populated deserts in northern Mauritania, it has always been recognized that additional previously unknown contamination maybe discovered in the future. To effectively tackle the residual risk, comprehensive discussions will be conducted with all relevant stakeholders, including those currently or potentially involved. The aim is for the PNDHD to develop a sustainable plan that can be implemented after the completion of clearance operations. Through inclusive engagement, Mauritania seeks to foster collaboration and ensure the establishment of a robust and enduring framework for managing residual risk. Even after clearing the newly identified areas, there is a possibility of new, currently unknown areas of cluster munition (CM) contamination emerging in the future. The Corps of Engineers will handle future residual risks, and the PNDHD will continue to enhance the capacity of this national entity to address any further contamination that may arise after completing the current CM tasks.

Mauritania is committed to maintaining and strengthening its in-country capacity to manage residual risk. If previously unidentified CM-contaminated areas are identified after the proposed deadline, Mauritania will take prompt action to accurately assess the extent of contamination and safely dispose of all discovered CM in line with international and national standards. Additionally, Mauritania will fulfill its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention by reporting any newly identified contaminated areas and sharing relevant information with stakeholders and States parties through formal and informal channels.

RISK EDUCATION

Picture 1: A PNDHD Community Liaison team during a Risk Education session

Risk Education is an initiative to reduce the risk of civilian casualties caused by CM. It involves providing information to the public about the dangers of CM and instructing people on how to identify, avoid, and reduce the risk of being harmed by these weapons. Risk education campaigns are most effective when they are carried out in locations where CM have been used, as this increases awareness and understanding of the issue. It is also important to ensure that the information provided is tailored to the age and level of understanding of the target audience, as this will help maximize the effectiveness of the campaign.

The PNDHD mobilizes its risk education teams to communities affected by the presence of cluster munitions. Each team consists of five (5) PNDHD personnel deployed at the community level. The training sessions are conducted in person, with a specific emphasis on school-aged children. Furthermore, community liaison officers provide training to local community focal points. This approach guarantees the continuity of message dissemination.

MARKING

A fixed marker indicating the presence of mines

In the context of humanitarian mine action, the marking of areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war, particularly cluster munitions, plays a pivotal role in the overall clearance process. By clearly demarcating and signifying these contaminated zones, local communities and humanitarian personnel are alerted to their presence, enabling them to avoid inadvertent contact and potential harm caused by CM. This proactive measure is crucial for ensuring the safety and protection of individuals within the affected areas.

Moreover, the act of marking a zone as contaminated with CM serves as a valuable source of information for humanitarian organizations engaged in clearance efforts. It provides essential data that aids in assessing the extent and severity of contamination within the specific area.

This information further facilitates the strategic allocation of resources and determination of appropriate measures required to effectively and safely clear the contaminated zone of CM.

Consequently, the act of marking contaminated areas with CM serves as a critical component in the comprehensive and systematic approach to humanitarian mine action. It not only safeguards lives but also contributes to the overall success of clearance operations by providing vital intelligence for planning and executing demining activities in a targeted and efficient manner.

Tableau 16: Victim Assistance (VA):

Activitys	*Description*	*Period*	*Needs*
- Orthopedic support for victims of cluster munitions - Integration of victims into active life	- Funding for income-generating activities - Psychological assistance - Integration of victims	*From 2020 to 2026*	Capacity building for the PNDHD (funding, equipment, and staff training) Acquisition of ambulances for the benefit of the PNDHD

Donors: past and present donors
Past donors: NPA
Present donors: n/a
Implementation Agencies: *Provide information on implementing agencies that are supporting your country to meet its obligations under Article 4 of the CCM.* [N.A]

11. Annexes:

1. **Annex 1**: Battle Area Clearance (BAC) Methodology Summary
2. **Annex 2**: Picture of cluster munitions

ANNEX 1

Battle Area Clearance (BAC) Methodology Summary

Introduction

Battle Area Clearance (BAC) is the term used to describe a systematic search of an area contaminated by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). BAC assets are an important component in any mine action operation. To be fully effective, BAC resources should be carefully managed and controlled to ensure that they are properly employed and that clearance is able to proceed safely, efficiently and effectively.

Aim

This chapter covers the minimum requirements for the conduct of BAC procedures by the Mauritania clearance teams. The aim of all activities is to release land that is confirmed to be, or suspected to be contaminated by ERW.

General Procedures

In general BAC methods are not used in an area with a threat from landmines. However, with appropriate risk management procedures or confirmation of the threat by technical survey, BAC methods can be used in areas contaminated with high-metal content landmines only.

BAC can be conducted in any of the following three (3) applications as described below (Visual Search, Instrument Aided Visual Search, Shallow Search) individually or in combination, depending on perceived threat, risk assessment and PNDHD requirements.

Surface Search Method

Visual Search is conducted as an effective method to locate surface ERW within an area with given boundaries.

Instrument Aided Visual Search is conducted as an effective method to locate surface and partially buried ERW within an area with given boundaries where vegetation and ground conditions may prevent an efficient visual search only. This method shall be assisted by the use of metal detectors/ locators.

The above two surface search methods are carried out in the same manner with the exception that the second method is assisted with metal detectors/ locators.

Subsurface Search Method

Shallow Search is conducted as an effective method to locate sub-surface buried ERW to a specified depth, normally 13cm, within an area with given boundaries. This method requires the use of metal detectors/ locators.

Procedures Surface Search Methods

Prior to searching the area, the BAC team should conduct the set up and marking of the search boxes/ areas.

The searchers should line up across the base line facing the area to be searched with the Team Leader (TL) suitably located to allow good command and control of the team. The surface search method should be conducted as a visual search or as an instrument aided visual search enabling a non-intrusive search of vegetation and other obstacles.

The search line shall progress forward and cover the full width of the defined search area. The search shall progress in a systematic manner to ensure that all the area is covered. Each searcher shall search the ground to the left and right and in front of him, ensuring overlap with the adjacent searcher. When reaching the end of the search area/lane, the search party should repeat the search until the whole area has been completed.

Start point and end point, left and right, for the search party shall be marked using flags, coloured small bags or wooden pickets. They shall be used as a guide for the search party ensuring a clear definition on what area that has been searched within the designated search area/box. The marking will also aid the team ensuring that an appropriate overlap of a minimum of 1m is achieved throughout the search.

During the search, progressive marking may be used depending on the size of the search areas/ boxes, using the same marking material as for the start point. The search party should mark left-hand and right-right hand search perimeters. The marking should placed / inserted to the ground and be at a maximum every 15 m.

Any member of the search party, who identifies an ERW item and/or suspicious item, shall immediately stop, raise his hand and alert the remainder of the search party and the Team Leader. On hearing the alert, the remaining searchers in the party shall stop and stand still.

After an assessment by the Team Leader, the ERW shall be suitably marked and recorded before continuing with the search.

The ERW may be marked using a tall marker, in case the area is widely contaminated, with tape attached to it. The marker will be placed at a minimum 30 cm away from the item and the ground checked with an instrument before inserting the marker.

Once an area has been searched and all ERW located has been marked, the search party can move onto the next BAC search box/area.

Except for search instructions and on the identification of an ERW by one of the search party, searching shall always be carried out in complete silence.

Any number of working parties may be employed on an area provided that appropriate command and control is in place, and a minimum safety distance of 25m is maintained between each search party depending on the threat.

All items that have been located, investigated and identified should be either destroyed in situ or if determined safe to do so, moved to a central demolition site (CDS) for disposal.

Areas of thick vegetation or rubble that require an intrusive search shall be marked off and addressed at a later stage with an appropriate search method.

Procedures Subsurface Search Methods

Shallow Search Method

Shallow Search is normally subsequent to a visual search however, there may be situations whereby a site may not be first subjected to a visual search but may go directly to a shallow search. This may be dependent on the perceived threat.

The method used to conduct a shallow search should depend upon the location of the task and the ERW threat, i.e. built up areas, cultivated areas or open ground. The method employed should ensure that each search/clearance lane and/or box is systematically searched and all readings are investigated.

Search boxes/areas may be subdivided into search lanes with ropes, pickets and/or tape depending on the type of metal detector/ locator to be used.

Searchers should operate in search parties as per surface search procedures or individually.

When operating as individuals, searchers should be assigned a box/ lane where he should carry out the instrument search. Each searcher should be responsible for the movement of the box/lane marking ropes.

The lane should be marked with two lines 1m apart to a maximum of 50m in length, depending on the terrain. The lanes should be searched using a designated instrument/locator. On the completion of each lane, the left hand line (if search direction is to the right) should be moved over the right hand line by 1m to create the new working lane.

On completion of each lane, the searcher should close the lane with two crossed red-topped pickets or two rocks to indicate the boundary between cleared and un-cleared areas.

If the detector/ locator gives no signal, the searcher should progress along the 1m lane at a slow walking pace until he reaches the end of the lane at which point he should search a 1m wide overlap parallel to the base line and insert a peg 1m from the last. He should then move the left hand rope over the right hand rope and attach it to the peg. He should return to the base line through the cleared lane and move the left hand rope over the right rope on to the next peg whereby creating a new search lane. This procedure should be repeated until the box has been completed.

If the detector gives a signal, the searcher should investigate the signal and carry out investigation drills as per the Mauritania SOP for Manual Demining and apply the appropriate level of PPE.

All searchers in adjacent boxes should work in the same direction across the search box to maintain safety distances. The Worksite Supervisor or the Team Leader shall ensure that the minimum safety distances are maintained at all times.

If an ERW is confirmed during the investigation drill, it shall be marked in accordance with NPA procedures. The searcher should report the find to the Team Leader, who should confirm the type of ERW and ensure that the appropriate action is taken.

All items located, investigated and identified as ERW should either be destroyed in situ or if determined safe to do so, moved to a central demolition site (CDS) for disposal.

Investigating a Contact During BAC Search Methods

To investigate a reading/signal, a searcher equipped with a handheld detector (sensitivity set according to target) shall pinpoint the signal and investigate the indications. A minimum safety distance to other personnel should be applied based on the perceived threat.

In general, when unexploded munitions are encountered during BAC search operations, they have already malfunctioned and usually have a high metal content, on or near the surface and constitute less of a hazard than mines. A thorough risk assessment shall be made by the Operations Manager or Worksite Supervisor on what type of explosive ordnance could be encountered when investigating indications.

ANNEX 2

Pictures of cluster munitions funded this year