Center for International Rehabilitation

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El-Bashir also said the GONU has in- cluded mine action in its national budget for 2006 and will allocate funds for mine action in the coming years. Realizing the long-term nature of Sudan’s landmine/ERW contamination problem, El-Bashir urged that GONU continue mine action into all reconstruction, recovery, and development plans and projects. He highlighted that, given the magnitude of the landmine/ERW contamination problem, Sudan would need financial and technical support as well as the cooperation of the donor community, the United Nations, and national and international in stitutions for many years to come.

Working session. During this session, representatives of the National Mine Action Center and key U.N. mine-action agencies (UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR) gave presentations highlighting the magnitude of the landmine/ERW contamination problem in Sudan, achievements to date, ongoing activities/projects, the limited nature, challenges faced and future plans. In particular, presentations highlighted the following: Of the 350 suspected mined areas identified so far, 240 have been cleared, 3,221 kilometers (2,000 miles) of roads have been verified as safe, 617 kilometers (383 miles) of roads have been cleared, and more than 571,000 Sudanese people have been benefited.

In addition, the importance and urgency of continued mine action efforts vis-à-vis the mine-action capacities to enhance Sudanese ownership and leadership in addressing the landmine/ERW problem and the need for additional financial support to various parts of the country, and the country’s poor communication system were identified as key challenges in addressing landmine/ERW contamination.
Ethiopian Mine Action Office: Tackling Landmine Problems in Ethiopia

Ethiopia’s landmine/unexploded ordnance problem is largely due to past wars and conflicts. The Ethiopian Mine Action Office was created in an attempt to address the situation. This article discusses the country’s history and the efforts made to make it safer.

by Zewdu Derebe

Zewdu Derebe heads the Director’s Assistance Office for the Ethiopian Mine Action Office.

EMAO plans to acquire mechanical demining-dwelling machines and expand the mine detection dog program to be deployed in the mine-clearance activities, which will be integrated with its existing mine-clearance forces.

see Endnotes, page 110