The mine and unexploded ordnance contamination in Chad’s war-ravaged areas of decades of internal conflicts, the 1973 conflict with Libya during Libya’s occupation of the Azizia Strip in the north from 1984 to 1987. Most of the known mined areas are in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region in the north and the Biltine region, developed in the east. Areas such as the Wadai Douni Massif are also contaminated with abandoned mines, munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

Chad signed the Ottawa Convention on May 6, 1999, and became a State Party Nov. 1, 1999. A Landmine Impact Survey conducted by December 1999 to May 2001 identified 249 mine-affected communities in 25 of the 28 departments surveyed and a total contamination of over 1,000 square kilometers (364 square miles), not including the Tibesti region. Chad is not known to have produced or exported anti-personnel mines and has not retained any mines for training purposes.

The Lando mine contamination is directly interfering with the livelihood and safety of over 280,000 Chadian refugees blocking access to water, pasture, agricultural land, roads and trails. A lack of comprehensive records and the sharing of mines due to rainfall and drifts sands making mine mark and unexploded ordnance locations difficult. In 2001, 26 new cases were reported as a result of mine- and unexploded ordnance injuries due to mines and explosive remnants of war in Chad; seven people were killed and 122 were injured.

In 2000, 10 people were killed and 54 were injured as a result of N.L. N.D. D.J. D.A. A.D. A.H. D.L. A.A. A.D.

Mine-Action Coordination
HCND has three regional offices, located in Fada, Bardi and Wadi Douni, with a logistics center in Faya. Its role is to coordinate and plan mine-action activities and assure quality control. The organization priorities and survey areas mainly according to impact scoring in the Lando, the discovery of new minefields, and the retrieval of salvage. Priorities are agreed upon in consultation with local authorities and selection of survey areas is also based on development priorities.

In 2004, HCND implemented mine-action operations through the support of the United Nations Development Programme, the non-governmental organizations HELP International and Mine Advisory Group, and the Tunisian Red Crescent. Chad has been in the process of clearance for the past few years. The country is home to many minefields, and the retrieval of salvage. Priorities are agreed upon in consultation with local authorities and selection of survey areas is also based on development priorities.

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Conclusively, Chad is not known to have produced or exported anti-personnel mines and has not retained any mines for training purposes. The Lando mine contamination is directly interfering with the livelihood and safety of over 280,000 Chadian refugees blocking access to water, pasture, agricultural land, roads and trails. A lack of comprehensive records and the sharing of mines due to rainfall and drifts sands making mine mark and unexploded ordnance locations difficult. In 2001, 26 new cases were reported as a result of mine- and unexploded ordnance injuries due to mines and explosive remnants of war in Chad; seven people were killed and 122 were injured as a result of N.L. N.D. D.J. D.A. A.D. A.H. D.L. A.A. A.D.

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Challenges in Egypt
Egypt faces many technical challenges to demining operations due to geology and the aging of weapons. In the Suez Canal and coastal areas, swamps make demining work difficult, and in the Western Desert, sand dunes and wind cause more items to be buried than in the desert. The known mined areas are in the Western Desert, a result of intense fighting during World War II between Allied and Axis forces in the El Alamein perimeter. Approximately five million additional landmines were spread across the Western Desert, and the terrain is scattered with debris ranging from 16.7 to 22 million landmines/pieces of unexploded ordnance, or an estimated one ton-mile of the world’s 200 million landmines. Another 500,000 anti-personnel mines and pieces of UXO are estimated to be located in the Western Desert, a result of intense fighting during World War II between Allied and Axis forces at the El Alamein perimeter. Additionally, in 2001, the Egyptian military estimates 17.9 million mines and pieces of UXO still exist, after nearly three million pieces of UXO were cleared between 1989 and 1999, mostly in the Sinai.2

Casualties/Incidence
The Egyptian government has regarded landmine/UXO contamination as a sensitive issue and limited information on the extent of the problem. Mines/UXO are distributed over approximately 287,000 hectares (1.1029 square miles) with civilians reportedly using mine-affected areas for cultivation, grazing, infrastructures and housing.

There is no national data-collection mechanism, so many mines incidents likely go unreported, leading to less than 20 percent of the total landmines and UXO casualties. Since 2002, at least 10 civilians and 10 military casualties occurred in Egypt. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002. Since 1999 and 2002, there were at least 70 mine/UXO casualties, and in 2004, at least 10 civilians were injured, including five children. No causalities have been reported since 2002.

Survivor assistance varies for civilians and military casualties. While there are military hospitals with emergency facilities, civilian’s emergency services remain inadequate for civil casualties. The Egyptian Red Crescent, through a bilateral agreement, established a Mine Action and Emergency Services Center (M.A.E.S.C) to coordinate mine-clearance and rescue activities. The center is fully equipped to provide emergency medical assistance and specialized personnel in emergency medical situations.

Progress
In December 2002, Egypt was listed as a producer of landmines, but in December 2004, the Nile Project Group, a European environmental organization, called for a moratorium on the exportation and production of anti-personnel mines. Since 2002, Egypt has signed a regular basis in the mine problem with the National Committee of the Ministry of Defense. Egypt’s Mine Clearance by working on an ambitious 20-year strategy to develop Egypt’s north coast to attract tourism to the Western desert, and the Sinai, which may determine future progress in the mine clearance and mass demining effort is needed for economic growth and national development within the country, yet Egypt’s refusal to sign the Ottawa Convention may prevent the country from adequately addressing these key questions: Who pays for and is responsible for Egypt’s costly, ambivalent demining? Can Egypt actively join the movement towards a global mine-free world when there is still political and military instability in the Middle East?

Editorial Assistant
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The two-day International Conference for Development and Landmines Clearance in late December 2005, organized by the National Committee for Human Rights, highlighted the gravity of Egypt’s landmine problem to the world. It ended with participants urging two things: that Egypt reconsider its position on international conventions concerning landmines and that the international community offer Egypt funding and technical support even if Egypt is not a State Party to the Ottawa Convention.

To view endnotes and references for this article, visit http://jmap.org/journal/10/1/profiles/chad/chad.htm#endnotes.