



SECOND NATIONAL STANDARDS WORKSHOP IN ZIGUINCHOR, SENEGAL

The second national mine action standards workshop took place in May 2009 in Ziguinchor, Senegal.



It was organised by the Senegalese Mine Action Centre (CNAMS) and some 30 participants from mine action stakeholders were invited. The aim was to discuss the draft national standards and to receive comments from the participants, including the GICHD. These standards were:

- > accreditation
- > training
- > MRE
- > community liaison
- > marking of hazards
- > demining
- > survey
- > handling of explosives
- > EOD
- > worksite safety
- > monitoring
- > inspection of cleared land
- > post clearing documentation
- > protection of the environment.

The mine/ERW problem in Senegal results from an internal armed conflict between the Senegalese army and the “Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance” (MFDC) from 1982 to the end of 2004. Mine contamination is confined in the south of the country, in the Casamance region.

An “Emergency Landmines Impact Survey of Casamance” was conducted by Handicap International (HI) from October 2005 to April 2006. This survey revealed that approximately 11 square kilometers of land and 73 kilometers of tracks and/or paths are suspected mine-contaminated areas. In August 2006 the CNMAS was established, and in November 2007 the National Commission and CNMAS drafted a national mine action strategic plan which aimed, among other goals, for the elimination of the landmine problem by 2016. Senegal therefore, has plans to develop its national and institutional capacity on many fronts, and to expand the number of demining resources in order to meet its objectives. Currently HI is the only demining organization in the country with one demining team of 10 deminers.

Senegal started the development of its national standards in 2008. When the first draft was ready, the GICHD was asked for support. An initial standards workshop was held in Ziguinchor in September 2008. Since then the CNMAS has amended the drafts and developed some additional standards and circulated them to mine action actors and the GICHD for comments. In November 2008, the GICHD conducted a desk review of the

standards and provided written comments. The CNMAS amended their national standards based on comments received during the first quarter of 2009.

The May workshop was a follow-on from earlier efforts by the CNMAS to get these draft standards approved by all the stakeholders. CNMAS will now further amend its national standards based on agreements reached in this workshop, and will produce a final version for endorsement by the government of Senegal.

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