

# Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Project Summary

South Sudan - January 2023



## Context

South Sudan's dark legacy of conflict has lasting impact today. During the lengthy fight for independence, it was common to drop explosives from the sky and bury them underground, limiting the movement of South Sudanese people. Today, many unexploded remnants of war, including cluster munitions and mines continue to put civilians at risk. Small arms and light weapons were used throughout the different conflicts in 2013 and 2016 and remain a problem up, until today.



Agness in her garden that was cleared from contamination by DRC.  
Photo credit, Rose Mwelu.



A group of DRC Mine Action deminers during a morning briefing as they embark on duty to clear lands from contamination. Photo credit, Rose Mwelu.

Project Location	Magwi, Akobo, Maban
Donor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
Budget	2,110,040 Euro
Duration	2020-2023
Partners	Community in Need Aid (CINA)

## Objective

As part of DRC's Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding programme, the Dutch-funded project contributes to rebuilding safer communities. The Mine Action team conducts land surveys and clears areas contaminated with landmines and cluster munitions underground, responds to reports of dangerous items by community members as well as educates landmine affected community members about the risks and safe behaviors when encountering unexploded ordnances.

- To reduce the number of deaths and injuries related to unexploded ordnances, as well as create a hazard-free environment within affected communities.
- To enhance resilience of affected communities and improve conditions for socio-economic development.
- To educate civilians about the dangers of unexploded ordnances to prevent accidents as well as strengthen reporting channels to local and UN authorities.

## Target

The project targets communities in Maban, Akobo and Magwi that have been affected by the presence of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. They hinder access to critical infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, roads, as well as agricultural lands desperately needed to increase food production and improve food security in South Sudan. The Danish Refugee Council deminers clear roughly 2,000 square meters per day, depending on the weather and soil conditions. In the course of the project, approximately 11,300 people will be able to successfully use their land once it is cleared from unexploded ordnances.

## Achievements

Since the project started in September 2020, the team of deminers and community liaisons has been able to:

- Clear an area of about 1,009,192 square meters from contamination in Magwi.
- Educate 34,500 community members (6,008 women, 3,450 men, 13,543 boys and 11,499 girls) in Maban, Akobo and Magwi about the risks and safe behaviors when encountering unexploded ordnances.
- Respond to 30 community reports in Maban and Magwi.
- Refer 25 farmers to a local food security and livelihoods partners that provided training on modern agricultural methods to strengthen productive land use.



DRC deminers on a field mission detecting unexploded explosives on one of the fields in Magwi County. Photo credit, Rose Mwelu.

- Refer ten people to a partner organization focusing on housing, land and property for increased understanding of land rights among community members.

Our team composition demonstrates our commitment to building national capacity as well as gender equality: 40% of our deminer and 50% of our risk education/community liaison staff are women. We have trained a local community organization local partner, Community in Need Aid (CINA) to be successfully accredited as deminers.

## DRC-South Sudan