INNOVATION IN MINE ACTION: LESSONS FROM NIGERIA

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NIGERIA: OVERVIEW

• Population ~ 212m
• Decade long violent insurgency in north east Nigeria with EO Contamination
• Farmer herder clashes in north central
• Banditry in the north west
• Stockpile of landmines in south east from the civil war of 1967-1970
2019  Ad-hoc Inter-ministerial Committee for Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention set up

2022  Presidential directive to set up HMA Committee for all types of Explosive Ordnances + Inclusion of MA in North East Stabilization & Development Master Plan of NEDC

2023  Development of draft Nigeria National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023 – 2028) – to be validated by all mine action stakeholders in July, 2023

2023  Submission of Article 7 Report (last time report was submitted was 2012)

2023  Identification of contaminated areas in the south-east

EORE efforts by UNMAS, NEDC, MAG, DRC, UNICEF and local NGOs

Destruction of anti-personnel mines in the inventory of the Nigerian Army
1. Technical survey not conducted - extent and size of contaminated areas not determined

Approval obtained to establish a National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and field offices in the NE and to re-activate a mine action field in the SE

2. Nigeria needs great support to meet Article 5 obligations by 2025

NHAMAC working with ICRC and the 10th Assembly to draft and pass a Bill to give legal backing to Nigeria’s humanitarian mine action programme

3. Limited EORE in affected communities including IDP camps in the north east
CONVENTIONAL EFFORTS IN MINE ACTION

Military – conventional use of metal detectors for road-side and victim activated IEDs

Humanitarian Actors – mine risk education (using local languages) and victim assistance
CHALLENGES

Proven technologies that have worked in other climes may not work in Nigeria

For e.g. in Mali the robots used to destroy roadside IEDs

Bureaucracy and its attendant delays in setting up the national mine action centre

Transition period – new government

No concrete information on mined areas as surveys have not been done

Lack of advanced detectors for road-side IEDs
INNOVATIONS

Use of Technology

- Nigerian Army exploring the use of new technologies to mount on drones for the identification of IEDs

- Expanding membership of the NMAC committee to include relevant MDAs to support use of technology innovation

Risk Education

- Electronic talking device used for literacy and numeracy transfer in nomadic communities employed for EORE

- Peer training for primary school children
INNOVATIONS

Information Management

• Expanding membership of the NMAC committee to include relevant MDAs at federal and state level to drive innovation in mine action information management system

• Use of HEAT maps to define boundaries in the absence of technical surveys

• UNMAS’s IMSMA will transition into the NMAC’s IM system
EO Incidents Vs Access

HEAT MAP
• Establishing and empowering NMAC
• Expanding membership of the NMAC committee to include relevant MDAs
• Regular mine action coordination meetings

Empowering Mine Action Operations
THANK YOU