The IED threat and issues in Mali
IED THREAT IN MALI

• INTRODUCTION

• IMPACT OF THE IED THREAT IN MALI

• SPECIFICITY OF THE IED THREAT IN MALI

• RESPONSE TO THE TREAT

• CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
INTRODUCTION

- Mali has had an historical challenge integrating dissatisfied rebel Groups in the North, despite numerous peace agreements over the past (1992, 2002 and 2006).
- Further, the Sahel and Sahara regions are historical trade routes for both legal and illegal goods (trafficking/smuggling).
- The increasing instability in the region, including the fall of the Gadhafi regime in Libya, has resulted in the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and ammunitions as well as a significant increase in the number of fighters (local and foreigners) making northern Mali their base.
The fluctuating regional situation combined with the fragility of the political situation resulted in open window for the outbreak of the conflict in 2012. A new Explosive Remnants of War problem emerged from this crisis. Further, storages have been looted, insecure caches of weapons and ammunition have been found fuelling the conflict.

Mali faces an asymmetric threat with the use by armed groups of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Northern Mali. IEDs are increasingly the weapon of choice to target Malians forces and others perceived to be supporting the government.
IMPACT OF THE IED THREAT
Impact of the IED threat

- Lives are lost
- Negative and immediate political impact on the stabilization process
- Direct impact on the security
- Negative impact on the ability to provide humanitarian assistance
- Negative impact on the ability to settle state-institutions in the North
- Negative impact on the socio-economic development of Mali
• The IED threat includes the dynamic use of antitank mines as well as the indirect fires
• Even if the threat is concentrated in the North, the impact is at country level
Persistent threat to civilians

- IED are a persistent threat to the civilian lives, as well as to the stabilization process
- The level of threat continuously increased since 2013
SPECIFICITY OF THE IED THREAT
An evolving threat

- Greater dynamic and accurate use of antitank mines
- Increasing number of indirect fires and more deadly precise use of mortar attacks
The regional dimension of the threat

• Access to resources: porous borders and availability of components in other countries.

• Contribution of the IED system to organized criminality: the networks are mixed.

• Transnational migration of IED skills is believed to be quite low at the moment.

• There is a risk to spread the use of IED as a political asset in the region.
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT
Role of the National Commission and International Assistance: 1

- The main role of the NATCOM is to implement the ECOWAS Convention on SALW including the mines

- The National Commission to Fight Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NATCOM) is a key actor to bring together all these actors. Created in 1996 and directly attached to the Presidency, the National Commission is a transversal and inter-ministerial entity.
Partners

BARKHANE
EUTM
UNREC
MAG
DCA
Since January 2013, UNMAS supports the national authorities for the development of their capacities in mitigating the IED risk and its impact. Advisory support and technical assistance are provided focusing on:

• Information management

• EOD/IED: compliance with international standards, training / training of trainers, equipment, EOD/IED operations (survey, neutralization, disposal)

• Weapons and ammunition management: compliance with best practices, rehabilitation of storage facilities, training / training of trainers, destruction of stocks

• Awareness and sensitization to the risks

• Critical infrastructure protection
Survey, destruction, neutralization

Results of the operations conducted by MINUSMA/UNMAS and implementing partners from January 2013 to March 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Villages surveyed</th>
<th>sqm cleared</th>
<th>Devices destroyed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 400</td>
<td>3 618 766</td>
<td>102.356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 388 unexploded ordnance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 219 small arms ammunition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>749 miscellaneous</td>
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</table>
## Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EOD level 1</th>
<th>EOD level 2</th>
<th>EOD level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># trainees</td>
<td># trainees</td>
<td># trainees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 60 trained / 57 qualified UNMAS
- 46 trained / qualified UNMAS/CPADD

- 18 trained EUTM 2013
- 12 trained, EUTM 2014
- 6 trained UNMAS/CPADD, 2015

- 20 trained (6 qualified), UNMAS/CPADD, 2014
Information - sensitization

162 elements of the MDSF trained in EOD (EUTM and MINUSMA/UNMAS), and more than 1,000 sensitized to the risks
Risk education

From December 2012 and January 2015, 3.942 RE sessions and 564.935 people sensitized to the risks of explosives by UNICEF and UNMAS implementing partners.
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Challenges:

- Find a long term political solution for the North that works for the Government of Mali and the population.
- IEDs and illegal caches of weapons and ammunition can be found anywhere at any time.
- The lack of communication on SALW at national and community levels (No statistics, failure in information collected, etc.)
- Corruption.
CHALLENGES

- The fragile security situation all over the country,
- Ignorance of the population on the high level of proliferation of SALW,
- Ignorance of existing texts on SALW by decisions makers at national level,
- The lack of awareness activities within communities,
- The non-implementation of the Local extensions of the national commission;
- The lack of adequate training for state actors and members of civil society,
- The lack of gender mainstreaming in management issues of SALW and IEDs
• Developing the capacities for resources mobilization and management (human, technical, logistical and financial)
• Integration risks mitigation measures into national transition and development policies
• Strengthening the national coordination framework (CCO and other core structures)
OPPORTUNITIES:

- **The** ECOWAS Convention on SALW including mines
- The existence of our NATCOM
- The Regional Focal Points setting up with the support of UNMAS
- Elaboration and validation of the National Action Plan 2014-2018 with the support of UNDA via UNREC and the financial support of the German Federal Government
- Mali is a State Party on CCW
- The UN’S SG Resolution 2164 in the Chapter 32 about SALW in accordance with the ECOWAS’s Convention;
Thank you for your attention

Br. General Coulibaly Kani Diabate