

Sudan National Mine Action Standards (SNMAS)

Preface to Sudan National Mine Action Standards (SNMAS)

Reference: International Mine Action Standards – website: <https://www.mineactionstandards.org/>

Sudan National Mine Action Standards (SNMAS) are developed based on the latest and up to date edition of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and in consultation with mine action organizations accredited and working in Sudan to include Sudan mine action context specific requirements and best practices and lessons learned. SNMAS for humanitarian mine action in Sudan are essential to provide reference and the requirements to the mine action programme organizations and operators and to enable the National Mine Action Center (NMAC) to coordinate, regulate, oversee and manage mine action programme.

SNMAS cover requirements, methods or specifications mainly in three following ways:

- 1) The requirements, methods or specifications that are to be applied in order to conform to the standards, indicated with the term “shall”.
- 2) The preferred requirements, methods or specifications that are preferred to be applied and indicated with the term “should”.
- 3) The possible method or course of action indicated with the term “may”.

Terms and Definitions covered in SNMAS:

A complete glossary of all mine action terms and definitions is given in IMAS 04.10, which should be referred to; IMAS 04.10 is inclusive and broader in principle, covering all mine action terms and definition that are used globally including in Sudan. However, each SNMAS covers the terms and definitions used in.

The term ‘mine action’ refers to those activities which, together, aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of EO including landmine, ERW and unexploded sub-munitions contamination. Mine action activities comprised of EO Risk Education, Survey and Clearance, Victim Assistance, Advocacy to stigmatize the use of landmines, and support of a total ban on Anti-Personnel Mines, and Stockpile Destruction. However, mine action and its constituent activities cannot be addressed in isolation as there is significant overlap with complementary humanitarian and developmental programmes, and in some cases with peacekeeping and peace support operations.

For better understanding and easy reference to the SNMAS, they are classified as below:

- 1) Planning and Prioritization.
- 2) Management of Mine Action Training.
- 3) Land Release Including Survey and clearance.
- 4) Quality Management System.
- 5) Occupational Health Safety.
- 6) Victim Assistance and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.
- 7) Mine Action Information Management.

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The main purpose of SNMAS is to provide mine action organizations with references for the planning, managing and operationally conducting and reporting of mine action activities in Sudan. SNMAS have been developed using up to date IMAS, experiences gained nationally, and incorporate lessons and best practices learned from the mine action sector globally that are applicable in Sudan.

SNMAS are NOT intended to replace Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) nor does it absolve mine action organizations from the responsibility to develop their own SOPs. SNMAS are covering requirements, methods and specifications, the SOPs should detail the procedure on how to meet these requirements, methods and specification to ensure implementing safe, effective and efficient mine action activities in Sudan.

Variations in procedures and methods of operation can be expected amongst the different mine action organizations, but all the procedures shall in compliance with SNMAS. All mine action organization working in Sudan shall be accredited and the SOPs of already accredited organizations shall be reviewed to ensure their compliance with SNMAS and the to be accredited and approved by NMAC. Organizations that do not conform to the SNMAS shall not be accredited to work in Sudan. Additionally, accredited mine action organizations that do not continue to comply with the requirements of SNMAS, their accreditation should be suspended or removed.

SNMAS are “living” document and shall be reviewed and updated annually, based on the latest changes in IMAS and new development in mine action sector. A dedicated review board is assigned by NMAC to manage and maintain SNMAS up to date with IMAS and to ensure they are maintained relevant to the current EO challenges and keep up with advances in technology.

Authorized by: Brigadier Khalid Hamdan Adam

General Director of National Mine Action Center (NMAC)

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Introduction to Sudan National Mine Action Standards (SNMAS)

Background

The Republic of the Sudan has been affected by series of armed conflicts in the past decades which left the country widely contaminated with Explosive Ordnance (EO) including landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). United Nations Mine Action Office was established in 2002 as an integral part of UNMIS with regional offices in the North, South and Darfur areas of Sudan. With the expiration of the UNMIS mandate in July 2011, the mine action programme in Sudan has been transitioned to the national ownership under the lead role of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC). UNMAS re-started its intervention in mine action in 2015 upon invitation of the Government of Sudan.

The Government of Sudan (GoS) ratified and become a state party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (also known as “Ottawa Treaty”) in April 2004 and has been committed to meet its requirements. After Sudan met its obligation under Article 4 of the treaty in March 2008, by completing the destruction of all AP stockpiles, the country is left with the Article 5 obligations of removing all the anti-personnel mines in its territory. The deadline for achieving the obligation was extended until 01 April 2019; however, due to several challenges such as resumed armed conflicts and limited resources, the Government of Sudan submitted the third extension request to the State Parties, extending the deadline until April 2023, which is approved by the state parties.

To ensure that the mine action programme is capable to achieve Sudan’s obligation under the APMBC and is able to effectively respond to the urgent and consistent needs of the EO affected communities, mine action beneficiaries and stakeholders, development and maintenance of National Mine Action Standards is key to successful planning, management and implementation of mine action activities in Sudan. National Mine Action Standards are also crucial for ensuring the quality of mine action services and provide framework for safety, effectiveness and operational efficiency. SNMAS also constitutes a firm base for continual improvement of the mine action procedures, methodologies, and keeping up with evolving mine action technologies.

UNMAS Sudan continues to support NMAC, providing technical advice, consultation and developing Sudan National Mine Action Standards (SNMAS) and active participation in the review board meetings.

The Structure of SNMAS

SNMAS are comprised of the following standards:

- 1) SNMAS 03.01 Planning and Prioritization.
- 2) SNMAS 04.01 Management of Training.
- 3) SNMAS 05.01 to 05.04 Land Release, NTS, TS and Marking.
- 4) SNMAS 06.01 to 06.05 Land Release, Clearance Requirements, BAC, EOD, MDD and Mechanical.
- 5) SNMAS 07.01 to 07.04 Quality Management System, Accreditation, Monitoring and Environmental Management System.
- 6) SNMAS 08.01 to 08.05 Occupational Health and Safety Standards.
- 7) SNMAS 09.01 to 09.02 EORE and Victim Assistance.

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8) SNMAS 10.01 Information Management System in Mine Action.

All these national standards have been developed based on the last edition of IMAS, relevant TNMAS and IATGs; in consultation with accredited mine action organizations within the Sudan Mine Action Programme. The SNMAS cover the minimum requirements for the planning, management, implementation and information management of mine action activities. SNMAS also cover requirements for Occupational Health and Safety, Quality and Environmental Management Systems.

The safety of mine action personnel and the beneficiaries is the higher priority in mine action and shall be adhered to throughout the course of mine action activities.

All the accredited mine action organizations working in Sudan shall develop their SOPs, Training Management Packages (TMPs) and policies in accordance with the requirements of SNMAS and submitted to NMAC for review and approval before being implemented as part of the mine action activities in the field. Any new tools, equipment and technology shall also be communicated in written with NMAC, including their detailed specifications, purpose of use, related procedures and TMPs, for a comprehensive review, approval and accreditation prior to their application and use.

General Requirements

- 1) The SNMAS shall be adhered to and followed by all mine action organizations working and intending to work in Sudan.
- 2) The SNMAS provide requirements on “what to be done”, the SOPs shall detail “how to achieve the requirements”.
- 3) All mine action organizations shall provide NMAC with a complete set of their SOPs in soft and hard copies written in English and translated to Arabic covering all those activities they are intending to implement, after being approved and accredited.
- 4) In circumstances where a mine action organization intends to use specific procedures which are not covered in SNMAS or IMAS, the organization shall submit details of the procedure to NMAC for authorizing to undertake review, test, trial and accreditation of the procedures. The specific requirement can then be added to related SNMAS and an amendment record maintained.
- 5) All mine action organizations shall establish their internal quality management system in accordance with the requirements of SNMAS 07.01.
- 6) NMAC shall ensure reviewing and updating SNMAS on yearly basis through the review board, however, any applicable changes or amendments in IMAS should be considered immediately after the release of amended IMAS.
- 7) Any amendments to the SNMAS shall be approved by the general director of NMAC and be recorded properly in the amendment record document and to be reflected in related SNMAS.