



Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Office-SMACO

March, 2020 Fact Sheet

Who We Are & What We Do



Vision: A developed Western Sahara, mines and ERW impact-free, where all people, including those affected by mines/ERW accidents, enjoy a free and safe life.

Mission: SMACO plans, coordinates, and facilitates mine action in Western



Sahara according to local and international standards to achieve its vision.

About: Western Sahara is contaminated with an unknown quantity of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) as a result of the war between both parties to the conflict. Although no full Landmine Impact Survey has been conducted, a survey that was completed in 2008 has concluded that Western Sahara is one of the most heavily mined areas in the world, which continues to pose a daily threat to the local, nomadic and refugee population.

SMACO was created by a presidential decree in 2013, which established the office as the authority to coordinate humanitarian mine action activities in Western Sahara, east of the berm, in line with International Mine Action Standards. In cooperation with well-known international organizations (such as the United Nations, DDG and NPA), SMACO participates in the planning, implementation, follow-up and reporting of all demining activities conducted east of the berm. SMACO is also the point of contact for all reporting of mine/ERW accidents and they cooperate for the collection, coordination and dissemination of this information to reach people who are living or travelling through Western Sahara, east of the berm. SMACO is additionally responsible to support and coordinate all other mine-related activities conducted by local and international NGOs, such as the dissemination of mine risk education to the local and nomadic population, as well as the provision of assistance to survivors of mines/ERW accidents.

Since 2008, SMACO has contributed to achieving the following in Western Sahara, east of the berm:

- ✓ 10,516 kilometres of roads and 148.8 million square metres of land in the Territory of Western Sahara, east of the berm, assessed as safe from explosive hazards, enabling MINURSO peacekeeping operations.
- ✓ 37 of 61 known minefields and 459 of 515 known cluster strike areas cleared
- ✓ 24,494 sub-munitions, 8,830 items of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and 7,870 landmines removed and destroyed, east of the berm, enhancing the safety of MINURSO peacekeepers, locals and nomadic herdsmen.
- ✓ 3,321 MINURSO personnel and 73,343 men, women, boys and girls, including nomadic herdsmen, east of the berm, received ERW awareness briefings and explosive ordnance risk education, enhancing awareness on the dangers posed by ERW.
- ✓ 48 survivors of mine/ERW accidents and 400 of their dependents, east of the berm, benefited from victim assistance projects, allowing for survivor socio-economic reintegration into their communities.