

Lead Nation



United States

Other Contributors



Germany



Italy



Luxembourg



Spain



Switzerland



Turkey



United Kingdom

Background

The Mauritania II project will contribute to the security and safety of the civilian population while enhancing the operational efficiency of the Mauritanian National Army (MNA) followed by a request for assistance from Mauritania in March 2014 in continuation of the first Trust Fund in Mauritania. The project will also contribute to strengthening the relationship between NATO and Mauritania and to changing the civilian population's perception of NATO.

The 3 initiatives to be implemented are:

1. Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)
 - Ammunition Stockpile Security (ASS)
 - Ammunition Stockpile Management (ASM)

2. Destruction, Demilitarisation and Disposal (D3)
 - Destruction of unserviceable and obsolete ammunition
 - Destruction of decommissioned military ordnance and engineer vehicles
3. Defence Reform (DR)
 - Reintegration of Redundant Military Personnel
 - Enhancing Education and Training for gender integration
 - Local civil – military collaboration

The Trust Fund project is divided in 3 phases in accordance with fund raising, each of them implementing the described initiatives.

Objectives and Achievements



Reference Ammunition depot built in Aleg and Akjoukt

1. Physical Security and Stockpile Management

Ammunition Stockpile Security

Two new Ammunition Storage Areas were built near Néma and F'Dérik and delivered to MNA handed over respectively in August 2018 and in January 2019. These depots meet current NATO safety and security standards and will host the ammunition from regional depots that will be closed. Each includes an appropriate number of magazines to store about 750 tonnes of ammunition, an ammunition maintenance building and appropriate physical security measures. The design is based on the reference Ammunition Storage Areas built during the first Mauritanian NATO PFP Trust Fund.

Ammunition Stockpile Management

The Trust Fund supported MNA in the development of an in-house Ammunition Stockpile Training. The final objective was to provide MNA personnel a dedicated course and curriculum to conduct ammunition depot operations safely and efficiently through teaching safe ammunition handling, storage, issuance, and maintenance procedures. MNA organized two in-house training sessions. Two times, a total of 40 personnel were successfully trained to basic storeman (14) and ammunition depot manager (06) levels each session. The courses consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions at the depot in Akjoukt as well as evaluation sessions.

Milestones

- March 2014: Request for Assistance of Mauritania to NATO
- 06 May 2015: Phase I project plan presented to EAPC
- 21 October 2015: Implementation Agreement between Mauritania and NSPA
- 19 November 2015: Financial Management Agreement between USA and NATO
- January 2016: Executing Agent Agreement between USA and NSPA
- February 2016: Start of project implementation in Mauritania
- April 2017: NSPA and US signed the first addendum to the project proposal
- January 2018: NSPA and USA signed the second addendum to the project proposal

Financial information

- The total forecasted cost of Phase 1+ is 2 MEUR over 40 months
- The financial threshold of 650,000 EUR has been reached
- Current contributions are at 2 MEUR.

2. Destruction, Demilitarisation and Disposal (D3)

Destruction of unserviceable and obsolete ammunition

The first phase of this Trust Fund contributed to the destruction of 1,322 tonnes gross weight of obsolete and unserviceable conventional ammunition (CA) and 159 MANPADS by means of Open Burning and Open Detonation (OB/OD). The consumables were delivered during the first Mauritania Trust Fund.



(a) MANPADS destruction



(b) Open Detonation of MANPADS and CA



(c) Conventional Ammunition (CA) Destruction

Destruction of decommissioned military ordnance and engineer vehicles

This first phase supported the MNA in the destruction of 82 decommissioned military ordnance and engineer vehicles, including mortar systems, light howitzers, anti-aircraft, radar vehicles and tanks. The decommissioned weapon systems have been demilitarized and dismantled in Nouakchott (70 items) and Nouadhibou (12 items).



(a) Mortar systems



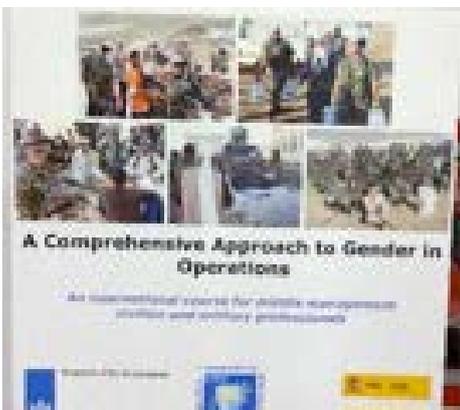
(b) Anti aircraft gun



(c) Light howitzer gun



(d) Tank T55



(a) Information screen of the XIII edition of the "Comprehensive approach to Gender in Operations" course in Madrid.

3. Enhancing Education and Training for gender integration

The Trust Fund supported the participation of 4 Mauritanian officials to the international course titled "A comprehensive approach to Gender in Operations". The course is based on the comprehensive approach to integrated missions and crisis management, and builds on synergies between defence, diplomacy and development with regards to gender and human rights aspects. The first course was organized by US AFRICOM at the Peace and Conflict Studies School (PCSS) in Karen, Nairobi, Kenya. The second course was in Madrid organized by the Bi-lateral Spanish-Dutch Initiative (BSDI) on Gender in Operations under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

For further information

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