General Scope

Mauritania is the second Mediterranean Dialogue nation that expressed needs for international cooperation through a NATO Trust Fund project. Following visits conducted from September 2007 to April 2008 and then February 2010, the project aims at establishing the following four initiatives.

- Building two reference ammunition depots
- Delivering ammunition depot management training
- Supporting the destruction of obsolete and unserviceable ammunition stockpile, notably MANPAD’s.
- Supporting military personnel returning to civilian life through the enhancement of Training and Education Technical Center hosting and equipment capacity and the delivery of training in five specialties: electricity, carpentry, plumbing, welding and masonry-scap.

The Trust Fund project contributes to increase the safety and security of the civilian population, reducing the risk of theft of ammunition by terrorist group, enhancing specialized personnel skill and contributing to the reintegration of Military Personnel returning to civilian life in coming years.

The total cost of the project is EUR 2,250,000 over 24 months. EUR 1,900,000 has already been pledged. Shortage corresponds to half the cost of building one depot.
Achievements
Reference Ammunition Depots

One new ammunition depot was built near Aleg and delivered to Mauritania Armed Forces in September 2012. A second depot is forecasted near Akjoujt. These depots meet current NATO safety and security standards and will host the ammunition from Nouakchott 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. They will serve as reference for any depot MNA might improve in the future.

Ammunition Destruction

The Trust Fund provided funding for the destruction of 1,747 tonnes of ammunition and 141 MANPADS stored at 20 ammunition depots throughout Mauritania as well as the provision of equipment and training to destruction best practices. Destruction started on 13 June 2011 under supervision of international expert seconded by Handicap International and was completed on 23 March 212. The final objective to ensure safe and secure destruction of MNA stockpiled ammunition identified by MNA as obsolete and unserviceable was successfully achieved. The Trust Fund also provided MNA with the capability to destroy obsolete ammunition for the next 10 years.

Ammunition Depot Management Training

The Trust Fund will provide funding for enhancing MNA Training and Education Programme to ammunition depot management to include dedicated course and curriculum. Final objective is to provide MNA personnel with the knowledge, training, and capability to conduct ammunition depot operations safely and efficiently through teaching safe ammunition handling, storage, issuance, and maintenance procedures. A contract was issued in April 2012. Implementation was impacted by the situation in Mali. It will be implemented in September 2013.

Reintegration of Military Personnel

The Trust Fund provided funding for enhancing CFTAN hosting capacity. This included the construction of a 125 bed dormitory and a canteen with a 100 seat capacity. From 18 June 2012 to 01 October 2012, the Trust Fund directly supported the training of 125 personnel in five specialties: electricity, carpentry, plumbing, welding and masonry-scrap through the provision of supervision during training periods and the provision of dedicated equipment and consumables. For those who succeeded, MNA guaranteed a job. A second session of 74 personnel is currently on-going.