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The scourge of landmines on the Sengwe Communal areas,

Chiredzi District, Zimbabwe, 1980-2019.

Declaration

I, Dzidzai Chigapa declare that this dissertation is my own academic product. It is being submitted in the partial fulfilment of Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in History and International studies.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my late father, Fidelis Chigapa. He was a source of inspiration. May his soul rest in peace. I also dedicate this piece of work to my beloved mother, Espina Chigapa and my supportive sisters Rosewitha, Eustina and Eugenia.

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LIST OF ACCRONYMS

APL	Anti-Personnel Landmines
GOZ	Government of Zimbabwe
GTLP	Great Limpopo Trans frontier Park
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
MBT	Mine Ban Treaty
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
PVs	Protected Villages
RSF	Rhodesian Security Forces
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds
ZMA	Zimbabwe Military Army
ZIMAC	Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZANLA	Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union

Abstract

The research provides an analysis of the scourge faced by Shangaan people in Sengwe Communal area in South Eastern Lowveld as a result of the deadly landmines, a legacy of the liberation struggle. The research contends that the scourge faced by the Shangaan, Sengwe dwellers as a result of landmines was under researched. The research emphasized the dwellers that is borderland villages continues to suffer the scourge of landmines deployed by the RSF in the hinterland. Landmines recognized no treaty, it continues to cause grave consequences to the inhabitants of Sengwe after Zimbabwe gained its independence. Landmines killed, maimed and caused permanent disability. Economically, it reduced the area for cultivation and the resultant food insecurity. Dwellers loss large herds of livestock and the menace of landmines prevented the development of infrastructure. The study further explores the predicament faced by Shangaan children to prove them as the worst victims of landmines. Children suffer directly and indirectly to landmines. The study further explores strategies devised by Sengwe dwellers to live side by side with landmines and the measures devised by the Government of Zimbabwe in partnership with Non-Governmental Organization to deal with the threats of landmines. The research contends that Sengwe corridor was being neglected in terms of demining since demining started late in 2012 after demining in other minefields already started. The effectiveness of the interventions are also discussed by the study. The research made use of both primary and secondary sources.

Introduction

Landmines according to Khayyat are munitions placed under or near the ground and designed to be exploded by the presence or contact of a person or a vehicle.¹ Croll defined them as mass produced, victim operated explosive traps.² So landmines are ammunitions designed to be exploded by the presence of a person. The research explores the scourge of landmines on Sengwe Communal Areas. Sengwe is a remote area under Chiredzi District in the South Eastern part of Zimbabwe along the border of Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is the area inhabited by the minority group called the Hlengwe who are commonly known as the Shangaan. Unexploded landmines negatively affected rural livelihoods in mine affected areas of Sengwe areas. The study therefore focused on the socio-economic and political impact of landmines on rural Sengwe Communal area after colonial era covering the period 1980 to 2019. It also analysed the effectiveness of the intervention by the government of Zimbabwe to alleviate challenges faced by the Sengwe dwellers.

Historical Background

The history of landmines in Sengwe dates back to the liberation war of Zimbabwe which started from the 1960s and ended in 1980. According to Hove, Sengwe area which is the homeland of the Shangaan was a deeply contested terrain during the liberation struggle of Zimbabwe between the Rhodesian Security Forces and the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) a military wing of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU).³ Landmines in Zimbabwe were planted by both the liberation fighters and Rhodesian Security Forces during the decolonisation process. However, the landmines that are the main subject of this study are those that were planted by the Rhodesian Security Forces. It was a strategy by the Rhodesian Army to counter the free movement of guerrillas from Zimbabwe to and from neighbouring Mozambique. Hove notes that it was complementary to the chemical and biological warfare

adopted by the Rhodesian Security Forces in the liberation struggle in order to neutralise ZANLA troops.⁴ The minefield which was established by the Rhodesia Army Sengwe areas was named Malvernia– Crooks’ Corner minefield as it stretched from what was then Malvernia (Sango) to Crooks’ Corner which is along the Zimbabwe-Mozambique-South Africa border. ZANLA freedom fighters and their recruits were endangered by the 61 km Malvernia-Crooks’ Corner minefield. The mine warfare strategy was also aimed to block the conduct between the peasants and the guerrillas. Landmines were planted on important infrastructure such as roads and near or around water bodies. In order to further cut the interaction between the guerrillas and the peasants, the colonialists introduced Protected Villages also known as Keeps. Peasants were forcibly removed from their homes which were set on fire and their villages were declared no go areas. In these protected villages however the Rhodesian soldiers made sure that the villagers and the guerrillas could not interact. The Rhodesian Security Forces believed that such a move would in turn deny guerrillas material supplies, food and intelligence information.⁵The people who were found guilty of this offence were either arrested or in worst case scenarios killed. In these Keeps the conditions were horrible and villagers were susceptible to death, starving, flogging and rape at the hands of the security forces. However, desertions from Protected Villages to mingle with guerrillas exposed peasants to many deaths due to landmines that surrounded the Protected Villages. During the liberation war era landmines targeted guerrillas but after independence landmine victims became the innocent civilians living close to minefield areas. The year 1980 marked Zimbabwe independence and it also, marked the genesis of demining process.

Statement of the problem

While the scourge of landmines globally is widely known and well documented, the existing literature has tended to only make a passing reference to the effects of mines on rural Sengwe in the South Eastern Lowveld of Zimbabwe inhabited by the Shangaan. There has not been

much determination by the scholars to examine the scourge of landmines on Shangaan the inhabitants of Sengwe. The Sango-Crooks minefield, a minefield adjacent to Sengwe areas, was neglected in terms of demining thereby continued to cause problems such as death of people, high rise number of orphans, death of large herds of livestock and increase number of disabled people. These people have suffered economically, socially, physically and political impacts of landmines. With this regard, the researcher seeks to add literature on the existing body of knowledge on the scourge of landmines, specifically on Sengwe communal areas inhabited by the Shangaan.

Objectives

The study seeks to

1. To find out why Sengwe area became a landmine infested area.
2. To analyse the general effects of landmines in Sengwe area.
3. To identify effects of landmines on children making them worst victims.
4. To assess local strategies in line with landmines and strategies use by the government in partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations in dealing with the threats of landmines among the Shangani in Sengwe.

Research questions

1. Why did Sengwe area become one of the landmines infested in Zimbabwe?
2. What were the effects of landmines on the general population of Sengwe areas?
3. What were the direct effects and indirect effects of landmines on Sengwe children?
4. What are the strategies adopted by Sengwe and how has the Government of Zimbabwe in partnership with Non- Governmental Organisations has been able to alleviate the threats of landmines on Sengwe dwellers?

Literature review

The topic under study attracted a lot of scholarly views. Global landmines scholars and African scholars have put forward different arguments concerning the topic. Large volume of literature were well document on the effects of landmines globally and on the effects of landmines on African countries. These scholars played a vivid role to come up with this research.

Martin Rupiah in an article published in 1995 emphasized on the history of laying landmines in Zimbabwe. He indicated that Zimbabwe inherited seven minefields of landmines laid by the Rhodesian Security Forces during the Liberation Struggle.⁸ Rupiah also focuses on the distribution landmine fields throughout along the borders of Zimbabwe. He argues that the Rhodesian Security Forces embarked on the use of mine warfare in order to separate the local population from infiltrating guerrillas along the North Eastern border.⁹ Whilst the work by Rupiah was important for providing history surrounding the tragedy that is the landmines in Zimbabwe, it did not provide the impact of these deadly legacies to Sengwe communal areas inhabited by the Shangaan. Therefore, the study was found relevant to vividly articulate the scourge of landmines on Sengwe Communal areas in the South Eastern part of Zimbabwe.

Hove traces landmines in the South Eastern of Zimbabwe from the Rhodesian Security Forces operation during Zimbabwe's liberation War on the Hlengwe/ Shangaan in the period 1976-1979. He argues that the homeland of the Hlengwe was deeply contested terrain by ZANLA and the Rhodesian Security Forces and the inhabitants were terrorised by the Rhodesian Security Forces and were susceptible to the chemical and biological warfare such as mine warfare and poisonous water.¹⁰ He also argues that the establishment of Malvernia- Crooks' Corner minefield was jointed with the emergency of protected villages where the Shangaan people of the South East Zimbabwe were forced into Protected Villages a strategy designed to cut interaction of civilians and guerrillas by the Rhodesian Security Forces.¹¹ Hove's work was

found of great use in the sense that it traces the history of landmines on Shangaan area and the emergency of Malvernia Crooks Corner minefield. Nevertheless, he tackled the effects of landmines in passing, hence the study was relevant to deeply analyse the effects of landmines on the general population of Sengwe areas.

Opping and Kalipeni examines the health and environmental implications of landmines in Africa. They argue that landmine undermine human livelihoods and overpower health care system and impedes the process of finding solutions to Africa's development problems.¹² They add on landmines produce famine, poverty and spread infections.¹³ They note that frequency conflicts within Africa produce minefields every day, denying people access to safe drinking water and obstructing health care delivery.¹⁴ Opping and Kalipeni's study is crucial in the sense that it shade light on landmine implications on health sector in Africa. Nevertheless, the current study is relevance in the sense that it tackled on the effects of landmines on all sectors on the population of Sengwe Communal areas on the South Eastern of Zimbabwe.

Laws, E explores the impact of landmines on gender groups. He examined the impact of landmines from a gender and age perspective. He argues that males and females, women, girls, boys and men are affected differently by landmines in community since they have distinct gender roles.¹⁵ He also argues that the gendered division of labour and related mobility patterns, along with differences in literacy rates among gender groups are key factors which explain the different types of risks faced by men and women in relation to landmines and explosive remnants of war.¹⁴ He came to the conclusion that children represent a large proportion of mine and explosive remnants of war victims and the majority of child victims are boys because they tend to be more involved in outdoor activities..¹⁶ Laws 's study emphasized on the impact of landmines on gender groups worldwide whilst the study focussed on the impact of landmines specifically in Sengwe area located in the South Eastern part of Zimbabwe.

Berhe emphasized on the contribution of landmines on land degradation in developing world. He argues that landmines caused disruption of land's stability, pollution and loss of biodiversity and the resultant loss of productivity and land degradation.¹⁷ He notes that landmines damage the ecosystem that is soil, fauna and flora and he documents that landmines deny access to land leading to limited production and exacerbate poverty and malnutrition.¹⁸ Nevertheless, Berhe documents the impacts of landmines on the environment in developing world, therefore the current study is relevant in the sense that it seeks to explore deeply the scourge of landmines on the general population of Sengwe areas in Zimbabwe.

Chioveli, Michalopoulos and Papanioannou document the economic consequence of landmines clearance in Mozambique. They argued that demining in Mozambique was a challenge because landmines were scattered everywhere which made documentation a challenge.¹⁹ Their study was of use because it explores the consequence of demining. However the current study looks into effects of the presence of landmines in Sengwe, Zimbabwe and the demining process in Sengwe areas.

Ahmed documents the threats of landmines on sustainable development. He notes that landmines have devastating impact on economy led to soil contamination, food insecurity and impact on health, poverty and social marginalisation.²⁰ He also argues that landmines perpetuate conflicts due to access denial to important resources.²¹ He also argues that landmines hinders relief operations by preventing access to aid agencies, disrupting road network and hinders landmine clearance operations because they are expensive.²² However, the study of Ahmed was found of use for discussing briefly the impact of landmines on sustainable development, therefore, the current study is of use because it explores the scourge of landmines on the population of Sengwe areas and measures devised by the government to clear the landmines in these area.

Therefore this research seeks to unpack the scourge of landmines specifically on Shangani the inhabitants of Sengwe areas in the South Eastern Lowveld. The study shall unveils the reasons behind the deployment of landmines in Sengwe. It shall also unmask the general effects of landmines on the general population of Sengwe areas. It is also the purpose of this research to discuss the direct and indirect effects of landmines on children, thereby prove them as worst victims. The study shall concludes with analysing local strategies, adopted by the dwellers in order to live side by side with landmines. The measures devised by the government of Zimbabwe in partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations in alleviating the threats of landmines in Sengwe shall also be captured.

Methodology

The study is a research which made use of both primary and secondary sources. Secondary data are data that has been collected by other researchers.²³ Text books, journal articles, thesis, published and unpublished reports that commented on landmines and its effects on borderlands communities were also consulted in this research. The researcher also made use of these sources mainly because they help to clarify the research questions and they are both cheap and accessible to the researcher. Secondary sources were used to show deep well thought and analysed existing knowledge on the Landmines.

Also published Reports commenting on landmines were consulted. In this study the researcher consulted published reports tacked on landmines published by Landmine Monitor, Human Rights Watch, United Nations and UNICEF which displayed statics and world impact of landmines on children.

Newspapers reports on the landmines in Zimbabwe were also used in this work to enlighten the social and economic impact of landmines on the general population of Sengwe areas and Zimbabwe at whole. Newspapers also displayed the current information on demining of

landmines by the government of Zimbabwe and NGOs. The newspapers consulted in this study included the Sunday mail, Herald, Newsday and the Financial Gazette. Secondary sources are more important in the sense that they provide deep analysed information, easy to access and low cost required and some have up to date information about landmines in Zimbabwe.

Primary method of research in the form of extensive field work in Sengwe communities was also used in this study because the research was mainly field based. Primary data is the data that the researcher collects by himself or herself through a range of collection tools such as interviews, observations and questionnaires rather than simply relying on existing data sources.²⁴ The main reason why the researcher mainly focused on primary data is that there are limited articles written on the scourge of landmines in Sengwe areas in the South Eastern part of Zimbabwe. Most of the literature available on landmines focus on the history of landmines in Zimbabwe as a whole and effects on minefields were written partially. In this study, the researcher employed interviews, questionnaires and observations.

Interviews were also very important for this research because they gave a depth of information. Interviews gave the researcher room to probe and ask further questions for clarity of important issues. Kvale argues that interviews are more powerful in eliciting narrative data that allows researchers to investigate people in great depth.²⁵ The main advantage is that this method provides for a wide geographic coverage. The researcher interviewed Village headsmen, Councillors, Chiefs, Child Health Workers, Zimbabwe National Army, National Parks members, Zimbabwe Republic Police, Rural Development Council, children and peasants (farmers) those who have knowledge on this subject. One main advantage of interviews is that it allows interviewees to speak in their own voice and express their thoughts and feeling.²⁶ The research made use of pseudo names since the informants were not comfortable to reveal their real names especially when commenting on sensitive information about the political impacts of landmines on Sengwe.

Observations were very important because they enabled the researcher to draw own conclusions on the topic under study. The method was found of more use because the informants might be fearing to expose some sensitive information hence observations become important since they play a complementary role to other methods of research.

Questionnaires were also used in this study. A questionnaire is a way used to collect data in a research and it contains recorded questions that people respond to directly on the questionnaire without the aid of an interviewer. Francisco asserts that a questionnaire is a way of eliciting feelings, experiences, beliefs, perceptions or attitudes of individuals.²⁷ Questionnaires are appropriate. They help in easy access of information since informants might not be interested to deliver or comment on sensitive issues. It becomes easy for the participants because they give their own views to a structured question. In this study twenty questionnaires were distributed to areas of Sengwe infested with landmines, five at each area and one to the Zimbabwe National Army Corps of Engineers responsible for demining process. However, only ten were completed. The remainder were not completed while some were spoiled. This was due to ignorance and illiteracy.

Scope and limitations

The research focused on Sengwe area in the South East Lowveld of Zimbabwe under Chiredzi District. The researcher was however, limited by largely language barrier since the researcher is a Karanga and the study took place in an area inhabited by the Hlengwe (Shangaan). The restrain was overcome by employing an interpreter who translated Shangaan to Shona, thereby making understanding easier between the interviewee and the interviewer.

Chapter breakdown

Chapter 1

Provides a long history of landmines in Zimbabwe and Sengwe from the Liberation struggle up to 1980. The chapter also seeks to unpack guerrilla-counter insurgency strategies working side by side with landmines in Sango-Crooks Corner minefield.

Chapter 2

Explores the socio-economic and political impact of landmines on the inhabitants of Sengwe area where the Hlengwe constitute the largest percentage.

Chapter 3

Focuses on the effects of landmines on children and argues that children are the most victimised group.

Chapter 4

Unveils the measures that have been adopted by the Hlengwe in order to survive side by side with landmines in their area and also explores measures devised by the government of Zimbabwe in partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations in dealing with the threats of landmines in Sengwe.

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Chapter 1: Background to the laying of landmines in Zimbabwe.

1.1 Introduction.

The chapter seeks to present the history to the laying of landmines in Zimbabwe in general and Sengwe communal area, Chiredzi in particular during the Liberation struggle. It traces the emergency of Zimbabwe's seven minefields in the liberation struggle which continued to wound peasants in rural areas after independence. The chapter presents the development and evolution of Liberation from North Eastern part of Zimbabwe to South Eastern part of Zimbabwe where Sengwe is located. The chapter seeks to explore why Sengwe was important to the ZANLA forces and the methods, chemical and biological warfare landmines employed by Rhodesian Security Forces used to counter guerrilla infiltration in the South Eastern part of Zimbabwe. The chapter also explores other strategies employed by Rhodesian Security Forces in Sengwe working side by side with these deadly legacies. Sengwe was important to the ZANLA guerrillas because it was the gate way area to Mozambique where ZANLA have several bases and as a result the area was deeply contested between the ZANLA and the Rhodesian Security Forces.

1.2 The Liberation Struggle and the laying of landmines in Zimbabwe's Border Areas

The history of landmines in Zimbabwe and Sengwe Communal areas cannot be discussed outside the discourse of the Liberation Struggle. Starting from 1960s to 1970 the wind of change blew across Africa and many African countries embarked on the route to decolonization against the colonialists. Zimbabwe like any other African countries also embarked on the route to decolonization and it took its arms in the Liberation war to liberate itself from ruthless British Colonial rule. The war escalated from the North and North Eastern part of Zimbabwe. According to Rupiah, guerrillas' fighters had fortified base sanctuaries in Zambia and Tanzania for training combatants before re-infiltration.¹ They went on to sub-

divided the North in to four zones that is Nehanda, Takawira, Chaminuka and Rubatsiro thus making the zone a chief funnel of men and equipment through Chiweshe Tribal Trust Lands in to rest of the country. Chiweshe comprised Centenary, Mount Darwin, Umvekwe and Bindura, ensued in to these areas flatter in to contested districts during the opening stages of the war.

In upkeep of ZANLA general tactic, they instigated mine warfare along the border areas from which they were re-entering the country. They went and attached the Altena Farm of Marc Borckgrave in Centenary on 21 December 1972 in an effort to compel the Rhodesian Security Forces in to deployment and subsequent battle with the ZANLA Troops. According to Martin and Johnson, the landmine episode at Altena farm slayed one white, and maimed six.² They progressed attacking Whistle field farm and positioned landmine on the roads which was on the interior of two farms. When responding Rhodesia Security Forces detonated a landmine which killed and wounded many soldiers. Thus, incident became a turning point of the war as it marked the decisive phase of the liberation war. According to Human Rights Watch, guerrillas used landmines for military drives to demoralise the colonial army disrupt the country and to cut road communications.³

More so, soon after the occasion, all villages in and around Centenary fall victims of the circumstances. Villages like Chiweshe, Chapitura and Mleze were taken to Concentration camps by the Rhodesian Security Forces. In 1974, war spread in the whole of Dande area. Through Mao's principles of the People's war, the guerrillas comprehended there was the necessity to generate a cordial relationship between the peasants and the military in order to grasp military support. They therefore initiated mass mobilization and political orientation to stimulate peasants supported the war. Guerrillas believed in the Maoist Doctrine of fish and water relationship towards the Second *Chimurenga* where Mao noted that people are the sea

and the guerrilla are the fish that swim in water when there is need.⁵ The ZANLA, which was the revolutionary wing of ZANU, relied heavily on the support of the villagers during the war.

Furthermore, ZANLA went on to mine roads as a scheme to curb the free movement of the Rhodesian Security Forces and to calm their base areas. Mine the roads led the RSF died in their tracks. Pockie alluded that landmines were placed on dusty roads where the digging was easily noticeable and were later carried on tarred roads with the whole being masked with the elephant dung or buy melting tar fragments.⁶ Mines were positioned so as to cut off the enemy from reinforcing an ambushed party, isolating the garrison from resupply, terrorising the survivors and propaganda for the masses of the war being fought.⁷ Guerrillas acquired landmines from Eastern Block and China. Nhondo alluded that ZANLA's main anti-mobility weapon of ZANLA being the Soviet TM46 anti-tank mine.⁸ Whilst, Rupiah alluded that a series of TM57, TM46, TMH46 anti-tank mines and TMD-B and POMZ type anti-personnel mines from China and Eastern Block were used.⁹ Anti-tank mines are landmines designed to destroy vehicles and their occupants and anti-personnel mines are designed to injure victims not kill. Zimbabwe was overloaded with many sites of wartime violence such as minefields on the former bases of ZANLA guerrillas.

From 1972 the war took a dramatic turn as it was no longer concentric to the North, but blew to all directions. The ZANLA strategy turned to a more complex guerrilla's tactic that was deteriorate into a total war that stretched the hands of the RSF in all directions. Landmines were also found inwards in hinterland as they were caused widespread destruction to Rhodesian property. The guerrillas also laid mines on the roads, cattle dip tanks, bridges and buildings where colonial officials were housed. Landmines proved to be a counter mobility tool denying the Rhodesian Forces mobility to pursue fleeing guerrillas who could now hit them in broad daylight and died in large numbers. The mine proved to be an effective and potent weapon for 'area denial' and it took heavy toll on Rhodesians.

In response, in 1974 the RSF expressed unrest about the heavy toll guerrillas mine warfare exacting on vehicles and lives. They set up a Counter Offensive guerrilla tactic known as Joint Operation Command Hurricane. The Hurricane covered Centenary, Bindura, Mt Darwin, Mutoko and Murehwa. The RSF employed simple yet deadly counter mobility tactic obstacles in farm landmines which impeded the ZANLA and ZIPRA force from penetrating the lines of RSF in Hurricane and as a of deterring guerrilla incursion in to Rhodesia. The RSF started to plant landmines in areas covered by Hurricane where the war began that is Mt Darwin, Bindura, Centenary, Mutoko and Murehwa. Cilliers notes that from 1972 to 1979 a period when incursions, the Rhodesian government invested not less than RH\$10 million creating a barrier of Anti-Personnel mine obstacles.¹⁰ More so, as part of its Import Substitution and Sanctions busting measures, during the liberation struggle embattled Rhodesian had set up an arms plant in Salisbury now Harare which produced most of the mines that haunt guerrillas and villages in remote area. The Rhodesian Security Forces laid landmines to thwart Sabotage attempts by guerrilla units to hinder Zambian post Federal moves towards asserting physical control of the jointly owned minefields.

Landmines were planted by the Rhodesian Army along movement corridors used by the two National liberation parties ZANLA and ZIPRA. Landmines were planted in order to curb the movement of ZIPRA and ZANLA guerrillas from Mozambique, Zambia, and to Zimbabwe. The mines were planted in seven minefields in communities bordering the borders which wavered in guerrilla support. Rupiah estimates that Zimbabwe inherited about 1, 5 million landmines laid by the RSF during the Liberation Struggle.¹¹ He also notes that civilians were removed from their areas where the minefields were established at the height of the war and the areas were declared, “No go areas”.¹² It is important to note that these landmines were the one which continued to cause havoc to villages even after independence. The first areas to be mined were the Border areas where war began that is Centenary, Murehwa, and Chiweshe and

to the North Eastern they mined Mt Darwin. In the Zambia-Zimbabwe border area used which was mainly ZIPRA's entry point from bases in Zambia, mines were planted in the Kariba, Victoria to Mlibizi border area. In the Eastern area, the border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique mines were planted from Sheba forest in the north of Forbes border post to the city of Mutare. Going further south along the same eastern border area between Mozambique and Zimbabwe mines were planted from Junction gate to South of Muzite mission which was in the ZANLA –frontier to forestall the movement of guerrillas coming from Mozambique going into areas of Zimbabwe. From Mukumbura to Musengezi a guerrilla entry point to Mozambique more mines were planted. An area which is the focus area of this study is the minefield stretches from Sango border post, (formerly Malvernia) to Crooks' Corner which is the meeting point of South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. This last stretch is the border area between Zimbabwe's Sengwe Communal area and Mozambique.

Rhodesians Security Forces laboured to contain the ZANLA and ZIPRA guerrillas' infiltration from Mozambique and Zambia. Moorcraft and McLaughlin also noted that the RSF sowed thousands of mines along guerrilla infiltration routes in to Rhodesia inside neighbouring countries.¹³ The Rhodesian Security Forces strove to stop guerrilla recruitment of new soldiers to neighbouring Mozambique and Zambia. Minefields are used to produce a specific effect on the enemy maneuver, create vulnerability that can be exploited by friendly forces, disrupting the enemy's command and control, inflict damage to personnel, equipment and to protect friendly forces from enemy maneuver both in defense and offensive operations.¹⁴ The forces strove to ensure total closure of the routes followed by the guerrillas to and from during the war. According to Kenya a ZANU PF war veteran, it is true and most relevant that most guerrillas lost their limbs, arms and life due to these landmines and this is alone instilled fear amongst fear among the peasants to join the liberation struggle.¹⁵

1.3 The planting of landmines in Sengwe Communal areas from 1976

By the mid-1976, the war zone had escalated to as far as the South Eastern region, Lowveld stretching from Zambezi to Sango Border Post. The South Eastern region was also the region where Sengwe communal area was located in the South Eastern corner of Lowveld under Chiredzi District. The war also stretches to cover the whole of Sengwe Communal area adjacent to Sango border post. It is the part of Zimbabwe which shares a border with both Mozambique and South Africa. ZANLA had widened its area of operation by opening Gaza province. Gaza Province covered all areas of Sengwe and the Lowveld. Sengwe was crucial to ZANU because it was the gate way area used by ZANLA and their recruits to Mozambique and to re-infiltrate in Zimbabwe. Sengwe became visible to the liberation struggle simply because of its vicinity to the South Eastern border with Mozambique where ZANLA cadres had their major bases and camps.

The South Eastern Border of Zimbabwe where Sengwe is located was also preferred because it had no natural barriers as compared to the Zambia-Rhodesia Front which was marked by the crocodile infested Zambezi deploy River. As a result, the ZANLA guerrillas preferred to use that route to get into Mozambique and to infiltrate back into the country. In support of the ongoing point, Godwin and Hancock guerrillas used Sengwe area inhabited by the Hlengwe and other groups speaking similar languages who now prefer to be called Tsonga to escape into the country from Mozambique.¹⁶ Furthermore, during the war of liberation South Eastern Zimbabwe and Sengwe was targeted by RSF because it was part of the ZANLA operation areas called Gaza Province.

In an attempt to curb guerrilla infiltration in Sengwe areas inhabited by the Hlengwe, the Rhodesian Security Forces employed chemical and biological warfare which involved the laying of landmines. The methods used by RSF to counter guerrilla infiltration from Mozambique in Tete Province to Sengwe were more hurtful than good to the guerrillas. Hove alluded that the area was deeply contested terrain between the ZANLA and Rhodesian

Security.¹⁷ As a result of the serious contestations the war of liberation left deep scares and war time sites of violence and destroyed livelihoods of the inhabitants of South Eastern Zimbabwe. This is confirmed by many sites of war violence in Sengwe such as minefields on the former bases of ZANLA guerrillas.

The Rhodesian Security Forces planted landmines on a minefield which covers an extensive area of 63 km from Crooks' Corner to (Malvern) Sango Border Post stretching from the border and inland. The minefield covered villages of Sengwe Communal areas adjacent to Sango Border Post and landmines were planted on declared "no go areas" where peasants were removed from their traditional homes by RSF to Protected Villages. Inspector Koma at Chiredzi Police station revealed some of the areas of Sengwe communal land infested with landmines, which are as follows Chilohlela, Davata, Dumisa, Gezani, Gwaivhi and Ngwenyeni.¹⁹ Nevertheless, it is important to note that these landmines were the one which continue to pose scourge to peasants even after independence. The minefield also passed through party of Gonarezhou National Park and it is important to note these landmines pose threat to wild animals after independence. The United Nations Mine Action Service put Sengwe minefield on the third position in length with Anti-personnel landmines and ploughshares minefield after Victoria Falls minefield and Kariba minefield.²⁰

Landmines such as ploughshares, antipersonnel landmines, booby traps were laid on Sango-Crooks minefield where Sengwe is located. Anti-personnel mines are landmines designed to injure not to kill their victims. Ploughshares are very dangerous than Anti-personnel landmines since they contained fragments of steel. Rupiah has confirmed that the Rhodesian Security Forces planted some Anti -personnel landmines and some plough shares in Sengwe areas. ZANLA freedom fighters and their recruits were endangered by the minefield during combat as they crossed the Sango Crooks- Corner minefield. Rupiah estimated about... laid in that minefield.²¹ The minefield was a deterrent to border violators that is ZANLA and their recruits

and was designed to psychologically prevent those attempting to cross the border from Mozambique and re-infiltrate in Rhodesia. According to Bocchina, the Rhodesian Army laid mines on the strip of land that stretches from Sango border to the Gonarezhou National Park an area known as Sengwe Communal land to prevent weapons, goods and rebels from entering the country from the South East border.²² The Rhodesian Security Forces laid landmines along the border, roads, around key infrastructure, around water bodies and right round PVs targeted mainly the ZANLA forces to wipe them off. Hence landmines were a counter guerrilla strategy to block their free movement from neighbouring Mozambique in Sengwe, Rhodesia

1.4 Other strategies Used alongside Landmines in Curbing Guerrilla infiltration

Protected Villages proved to be another tactic introduced by the Rhodesian Security Forces complement mine warfare to curtail guerrilla infiltration and as a Guerrilla Counter Insurgency. Rhodesia Security Forces forcibly removed peasants from their homes and were housed in Keeps. Protected Villages were first introduced to create required no go areas where landmines were to be planted. Also, the Rhodesia Security Forces realized that the factor that sustained the guerrillas was the support from the rural population. The Rhodesian Security Forces embarked on forceful relocation of the people in to the Protected Villages or Keeps. According to Abbot Protected Villages are typical villages consisted of a compound fenced by wire and manned by the members of Internal Affairs and Guard Force troops.²³ However to Mazambani Protected Villages were camps surrounded by high security fence topped with barbed wire displaced through mass population removals and were, manned by regime troops such as Guard Force, Police, soldiers and District Security Assistants.²⁴ The Rhodesian Security Forces created Protected Villages during the pick of the Second Liberation Struggle in order to cut contact between guerrillas and peasants who were supporting the war. Protected Villages were first established in 1973 as a counter insurgency to isolate the guerrillas in Zambezi Valley.²⁵ Villages which wavered guerrilla support firstly in the North part of Rhodesia such as

Chiweshe, Chapitura and Mleze were taken to Concentration camps by the Rhodesian Security Forces. One of the respondents called Bahloyi indicated that in the South Eastern of Zimbabwe which is the area of study Protected Camps were at Malipati, Gezani, Chikombedzi, Dumisa, Chicualacuala, Boli, Rutandare, Chilonga, Mupakati, Pahlela, Chibwedziva, Chipinda Pools and Sengwe.²⁶ However, Schmidt argues an estimated 750 000 people were resettled in 200 Protected villages throughout the country.²⁷

Protected Villages was a military tactic to eliminate the insurgence from the people and resources to eliminate the guerrilla organization. Mashingaidze and Mazambani alluded that Protected Villages were constructed to cut off the guerrillas and deny them of civilian support.²⁸ Protected Villages were meant to deny guerrillas material supplies, food and intelligence information. This was also meant to curb the ZANLA from attaining an upper hand in the Liberation struggle for independence. People inside Protected Villages were vital for the survival of the guerrillas as they provided food, shelter and information. The shooting of cattle, burning of granaries and the use of defoliants on crops in areas from which the peasants had been removed contributed to suffering of the people in the Protected Villages (PVs) as shortages of food worsened as alluded by Hove.²⁹ By depriving peasants of food insecurity, the Rhodesian Army thrived to starve the guerrillas. The RSF even planted landmines on abandoned homes to prevent guerrillas from using them as shelter. Therefore, most roads around Protected Villages were mined by either the guerrillas or Regime Security Forces. Roadblocks and curfews were set up to limit the movement of civilians who need to run away from the Protected Villages.

Protected Villages were also put in place to make impossible the Maoist strategy of fish and water tactic where Mao noted that the people are the sea and guerrillas are the fish that swim in water when there is need. PVs were meant to deprive guerrilla peasant support thus starving the guerrillas. Peasants during the Liberation Struggle supported the war in many ways and

guerrillas were labelled sons of the village. Lyons points out that young women and men became the *chimbwidos* and *mujibas* acted as messengers and carriers providing information on the whereabouts of Rhodesian soldiers to the guerrillas.³⁰ Mazambani in his PhD thesis, which unmasked the “Plight of children in Protected Villages by the Rhodesian Security Forces,” indicated that *mujibas* were young boys below the age of 18 who were engaged by the guerrillas to perform war related tasks and the *chimbwidos* were young girls below the age of 18 who carried out menial tasks assigned by guerrillas.³¹ *Mujibas* were the ears and eyes of the guerrillas during the liberation struggle. Not only the youngsters important in the Liberation struggle, women also played crucial roles as they provided food, clothing, and medical personnel. Peasants also provided moral to the guerrillas at night vigils known as *pungwes*. *Pungwes* were meetings done during the night by the guerrillas to teach peasants about the crucial of fighting the colonialist. Moyo notes that during *pungwes*, guerrillas educated and enlightened the masses about the war strategies in order to seed war consciousness.³² Since the masses were now housed in PVs no *pungwes* or interaction could occur during the night between the guerrillas and the civilians.

Furthermore, PVs were meant to eliminate guerrillas and distance them from supporters. Cilliers alluded that PVs deter any form of communication with the enemy guerrilla force,³³ thus won the support of peasants and destroy the support for the guerrillas. To cement the isolation of guerrillas from people, the CCJP indicated that in these Protected Villages throughout the country Rhodesian Security Forces used propaganda to attack the guerrillas were they were labelled as murderers, beating recruits and accused of starving the recruits and infecting women and young girls with STIs.³⁴ Hence Protected Villages were meant to distances peasants from guerrillas.

However, life in the Protected Villages was very unbearable to peasants. Women and young girls were raped. Many women bore fatherless children, bastard children as a result of the rape

they suffered at the hand of Keep Attendances.³⁵ Chung alluded that women and young girls were regarded as warm blankets during the night in the Keeps.³⁶ Punishments were frequent to peasants to cut co-operation with the guerrillas as noted by Mazambani and Marongwe that hut burning and cattle slaughter became frequent as Security Forces method of punishing civilian cooperation with guerrillas.³⁷ The aim of these harsh punishments was only to contain peasants in Protected Villages or Keeps and to deprive guerrillas of food and other essentials. However, peasants were vulnerable as both sides depended on them for military support and overall victory. Villagers suspected as *vatenges* “sell-outs” to the Rhodesian authorities and those refused aid to guerrilla from fear of punishment by the security forces, guerrillas resorted to intimidation. *Chimbwidos* and *mujibas* were in danger since they were called collaborators and as for Godwin and Hancock, the Rhodesian army killed everyone suspected as collaborators by firing squad and their corpses were thrown in mine pits.³⁸ Alexander et al, indicated that the Zimbabwe struggle was associated with death, violence, homeless, starvation and pain in Protected Villages.³⁹ Many Protected Villages have no sanitation, as a result diseases such as dysentery and cholera rampant. This therefore shows that Rhodesia Counter Insurgency were very harsh to both guerrillas and innocent peasants.

1.5 Conclusion

The chapter emphasized that Sengwe communal land is one unique minefield still infested with landmines. The region was heavily mined since it was the operational area for both nationalists and Rhodesian soldiers. Sengwe located in the Lowveld, South Eastern part of Zimbabwe was visible during the liberation because it was the gate way area to Mozambique where ZANLA had secured several bases and camps. Sengwe was also part of what was called ZANLA Gaza Province. The South Eastern part of Zimbabwe where Sengwe is located had no natural barriers as compared to Zambia-Rhodesia Front which was marked by the crocodile infested Zambezi deploy River. The area was deeply contested terrain between ZANLA and

RSF. The Rhodesia Security Forces thus planted landmines in South Eastern part of Zimbabwe as a deterrent to border violators that is ZANLA and their recruits and was designed to psychologically prevent those attempting to cross from Mozambique and re-infiltrate in Rhodesia.

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Chapter 2: Impact or effects of landmines in Sengwe

2.1 Introduction

The chapter discusses the effects of landmines in Sengwe. The chapter will explore the socio-economic and political impact of landmines on Sengwe areas. Forty years after the cessation of fighting along Zimbabwe and Mozambique border, families and communities living within the area stretching from Sango Border Post to Crooks' Corner, where Sengwe Communal area shares borders with Mozambique and South Africa daily suffer the scourge of landmines. Landmines affect negatively the normal rural livelihoods. The existence of landmines is considered a main socio-economic and environmental problem facing Sengwe areas as it affects all sectors of rural livelihoods, including agriculture, hunting, pastoralism, tourism, and trade. Politically, landmines fueled tensions between the Hlengwe and the VaShona government of Zimbabwe. The broader effects of landmines in Sengwe manifested in diverse economic, social, physical, political facets of life.

2.2 The Impact of Landmines on the Economic Activities of the People of Sengwe Communal Area.

Prior to the outbreak of the war of liberation of Zimbabwe, the people of Sengwe who are mainly of Hlengwe origin and Ndebele who were resettled in the Malipati area in the 1950s, were engaged in a number of economic activities including, hunting, pastoralism, agriculture, gathering firewood and macimbi and trade with free access to all their land up to the border. Oral tradition has it that land symbolize economic sovereignty to the Hlengwe. During the liberation struggle, the land which is 61 square kilometers was mined by the Rhodesian Security Forces, until then the land remained no go areas there by changing the life style of people after the liberation. Practicing the economic activities they used to do in the mined area became critical. Retired Brigadier Calisto Gwanetsa reported to Sunday News that the area

affected by landmines is 40 000 to 45 000 hectares of land and is not utilized economically either for ploughing or for pastures.¹ He adds on that due to these landmines development is nearly to zero in Sengwe.² Landmines are considered threats and barriers to economic and social development.

To begin with by being evicted by the colonial regime from the area in order to create required no go areas it meant they lost their farming lands and were forced to overcrowd in one area. Most of the evictees from the area said that the new dwellers turned their grazing areas to farming lands. Their move to other areas even created overcrowding which resulted in serious problem for the Hlengwe who were cattle herders. In a field interview with the Local Councilor ward 15, he narrated that the Malipati dwellers complained about the newcomers from mine infested areas who took their land reserved for their children.³ Ncube of Gwaivhi even alluded that it created land conflicts between the dwellers and the new comers.⁴ Sengwe is in the Lowveld with low carrying capacity which received little rainfall averaging 300mm per annum. The evacuation of larger population from mine infested areas to these areas strained the land and people resorted to plough on river banks and marginal lands. Even low population evacuated they created overcrowded because the land's carrying capacity is low.

Furthermore, these lethal landmines denied peasants and small-scale farmer's access to residential and agricultural land. The people of Sengwe are mainly peasant farmers, who grow crops such as sorghum, *mahuva* (millet), *phovo* (rapoko), *timanga* (groundnuts), *tindluwu* (roundnuts) and *xifake* (maize). In an interview with the locals in Gwaivhi village, or in most villages of Sengwe communal area, it came out that the landmines area was so critical to crop production since it is one of the well-watered areas in Sengwe. Ruteyo even said, the present of landmines on arable land rendered the land unusable and chased away farmers from their fertile lands to safer zones because they feared for their lives.⁵ This is confirmed by Berhe's argument that the present of landmines caused denial farmers access to arable land.⁶

Nevertheless it came out among villagers that due to land pressure to accommodate large population evicted for ploughing, members returned to their mined arable lands. In a field interview with Emelia, she narrated that the small pieces of land allocated to newly resettled people was not enough to accommodate large population and out of desperation they resorted to cultivate mined fields in order to feed their families.⁷ The unlucky ones were reported to have lost life and limb after stepping on landmines in their mined arable fields. Chilonga a landmine victim argued that he lost one of his leg while ploughing and he estimated about 100 victims who lost limb and 5 deaths in a landmine incident while ploughing in Gwaivhi from 1998 to 2016.⁸ Most of the villagers in Ngwenyeni, Dumisa, Gwaivhi, Davata and Chilohlela indicated that many casualties occurred in farm lands to those who were trying to reoccupy their farmlands. Ngwenya of Davata estimated about 120 000 of people in Sengwe from 1980 to 2018.⁹ Thus, in a nutshell, landmines in peasant's arable lands caused access denial.

Furthermore, the present of landmines in arable lands disrupted the pattern of peasant's production. The presence of landmines in their fertile arable caused a reduction in agricultural production as land under cultivation was reduced. Prior to the colonization which ushered in lethal landmines on arable land of Sengwe areas, Rhuhlani reported that in good agricultural years they grew variety of crops on large land and they produce excess food that they managed to reach next farming season with their produce.¹⁰ However, landmines reduced space for cultivation as 40 000 hectares are mined and the consequent is low farm produce. There is inadequate room for expansion because of it is under landmines. This is actually a continuation of war to these people. The war desire to regain land is still on. The land remained no go areas with unexploded landmines especially in Gwaivhi, Dumisa and Davata. According to Hlaisi a denizen of Gwaivhi, his village is becoming too small for the population and there is serious shortage of land.¹¹ This has forced people in that area cultivate small pieces of land which are

merely gardens because most of their lands remained enemy zones. In that gardens they grew crops like *xifake* (maize), *tinyawa* (beans), *marhakarhaka* (cucumbers) and *makavathla* (watermelons). Besides, members nowadays relied on selling food from shops. This is a total departure from their lifestyle before colonialism. This is in these areas that the Rhodesians are still winning the war because the land is still not in local use. In an interview with Mukatshana, he narrated that the kind of situation is similar to that period of liberation struggle where the British occupied the Blacks' fertile lands and the local population occupied the reserves because the land is still not in the use of the local population.¹² Additionally, the loss of cultivable land worsened food shortages with the resultant malnutrition and sickness. Food insecurity characterized by critical food shortages and the consumption of narrower diets among poor households. Mazambani in his study of the plight of Protected Villages in the whole of Zimbabwe confirmed that landmines affected agriculture activities and it had a toll, as many died of starvation related diseases.¹³ Therefore, landmines on Sengwe arable land caused reduction on agricultural and food shortages with the resultant malnutrition.

Landmines have also had detrimental effects on one of the people of Sengwe's economic activities which is pastoralism. Sengwe is in Zimbabwe agricultural region 5 suitable for cattle ranching, except in Ngwenyeni who lived in tsetse infested area near the Save-Runde junction.¹⁴ The area used to be well known for keeping a variety of livestock small and big. South Eastern Zimbabwe was used to be known as good cattle country, pastoral land or sweet veld and the inhabitants of the area were named cattle people.¹⁵ Besides *tihomu* (cattle), they also keep *timbuti* (goats), *tinyimpfu* (sheep) and *tidoki* (donkey). Thereafter, landmines rendered Sengwe unsuitable for livestock rearing. Landmines reduced or killed number of livestock at alarming levels every day. People failed to have larger herd they had before colonization. In a field interview with Dumisa headman, he estimated about 120 000 cattle died in Sengwe from 1980 to 2019 and unknown number of goats to landmines.¹⁵ Most of villagers

alluded that livestock died each time they crossed the minefields to reach water sources during the dry season. They also reported that sometimes they died after straying in mine infested areas searching for pastures. Therefore, landmines makes Sengwe unsuitable for livestock rearing.

In addition, cattle and other livestock represent indispensable livelihoods assets to the Hlengwe, loss of livestock therefore has devastating impacts on communities' secure and sustainable livelihoods. One respondents in Davata narrated that one cattle is worth \$4 000, which means loss of 120 000 means \$48 000 000 lost.¹⁶ Most villagers in Dumisa, Gwaivhi and Davata have revealed that livestock is a symbol of wealth, source of currency or income, can be used as source of food and relief in times of drought. Hlengwe also cattle to pay lobola or pay reparations in cases where people have wronged each other *kuriha ti mhaka* and to pay *ngozi or pfuko* avenging spirits. Donkeys are also very important to these people since they are being used for ploughing and as a source of transport. So loss of these animals means loss of transport. Therefore, the loss of livestock reduced the only source of wealth and threatened the livelihoods of the villagers.

What makes the scourge worse is that these deadly landmines are even found in designated paddocks, set for grazing purposes thereby reducing grazing areas with the resultant poor quality cattle. Also when cattle, goats, sheep detonate landmines it is risk to recover the carcasses to rot there. Nothing is recovered. The result is that the local people have been forced to abandon the designated grazing areas and squeeze their livestock on the grazing areas along the banks of rivers such as Maose, Mwenezi, Limpopo and Runde where they face again risk of attacks by crocodiles. The Dumisa headman said that they also lost cattle to crocodiles when they thought they had avoided the dangerous paddocks.¹⁷ Livestock produced are of poor quality as a result of poor grazing and they only rely on tree lives. With population growing and crop production requiring more land, this leaves little space for livestock grazing.

Expanding towards the border area is impossible, yet that is where possible virgin lands are found. Landmines are in most parts of Sengwe area but especially in Gwaivhi, Davata, Dumisa and Pafuri. While conducting interviews I observed that these areas clearly marked no go areas along the border have lots of overgrown grass and vegetation because of non-use. Most villagers said that in times of drought or dry seasons it is this vegetative cover which attracts livestock. Livestock strayed in these areas hence they died in their large numbers.

Landmines menace in Sengwe areas also manifested through poverty and aid dependency. Poverty is at its climax on Hlengwe. Landmines crippled the capacity of people to survive by killing their livestock and denied access to arable lands. Villagers revealed that death of livestock which is the only source of wealth is the key cause of poverty. Death of livestock means loss of income. Poverty is a problem as it fuelled youth illegal migration to Joni (South Africa). Besides, the impoverishment attracts donor aid. The local people relied on donors apart from border jumping. Chief Sengwe narrated that many donors are operating in his area that came to the relief of his subjects and these are Care International, Christian Care, Lean, Mundende and Caractas.¹⁸ Many people relied on food aid and monetary aid from these donors a condition that is abnormal because dependency syndrome was rampant since 1980 to 2019. Thus the presents of landmines impoverished peasants and in the process led to donor dependency.

Furthermore, tourism has remained a challenge in a huge area of the Great Limpopo Trans frontier Park (GLTP) a tripartite tourism project by Zimbabwe South Africa and Mozambique. The project failed because the contaminated area remain uncleared. In a field interview with a member of Gonarezhou National Parks Pasvane, narrated that large number of wild animals died in Sengwe corridors (Gonarezhou).¹⁹ However, the project If successful was supposed to benefit the local people in many ways such as development of tarred roads, development of lodges and rural electrification. Sengwe is backward with still gravel roads and areas not

electrified and with no basic roads. In a field interview the locals revealed that If the deal was successful, it might have modernized the area and attract more tourists. The coming in of tourists means the government and the government of Zimbabwe gained foreign currency. Besides landmines also burred the construction of buffer roads or tarred roads. If this had been done in this area could have made it easy to link the Gonarezhou to Kruger National Park and Mozambique. It came out among villagers that If this had been done it was going to benefit the people of through expanded business opportunities and jobs through selling fruits to tourists. Therefore landmines hindered the development of tourism industry.

2.3 Landmines and Low Infrastructural Development.

Furthermore, the presence of landmines in some of Sengwe areas delayed the development of huge social and economic infrastructure. Members of the Rural District Council found it difficult to construct huge infrastructure since large scale of land is still under threats of landmines. An estimated 40 000 hectares of land is under landmines. To begin with landmines menace hindered the construction of many schools in Sengwe area. There are only few schools in Sengwe areas with low school enrolments. In an interview with a City council member, Shumba narrated that the presence of unexploded landmines on large scale of land in rural Sengwe areas blocked the prospects for the construction of various schools.²⁰ For most children the areas with landmines would have been more central especially to children from Chilohlela and those in northern parts of Sengwe. Unfortunately schools are located in safer areas and this situation put many children at risk as they tried to find shorter routes to school which crossed through minefield areas. As a result many children lost life and limbs after stepping on landmines. Most villagers reported children are the most victims of landmines lost life and limp while crossing the minefield. Most of the villagers reported that children are not aware of mine infested areas, some not able to read and also because of high curiosity they venture in mined area endangering their lives. Dhingisinini alluded that his 5 year child lost one of his limp in

2016 after stepping on a landmine whilst coming back from school and he estimated about 50 child lost limb and 10 lost life in the Sengwe from 2000 to 2015.²¹ This then led to low school enrolment of children. The problem of landmines also led to low school enrolment mainly because parents seize to send their children to schools for fear. Many villagers revealed that they feared for their children. The school headmaster of St Marys which serves children from Dumisa, Chilohlela and Gwaivhi confirmed that there are less than 400 pupils at the school with five teachers.²² The above statement indicated that the presence of landmines led to low school enrolment and high rate of turnover of teachers.

In addition, the presence of landmines and failure of rural electrification led to high rate of turnover of teachers. Teachers feared for their lives. Most interviewed teachers indicated that they preferred safer zones free of landmines and that landmines chased away teachers from their jobs. Senior teacher at Pahlela Primary schools, Mzenda even reported that schools are not electrified and they found it difficult to do school work like typing, photocopying, printing paper work or end of term examination papers is difficult.²³ Most teachers in Sengwe reported that because schools are not electrified they were forced to venture in the forest gathering firewood where they were also at danger of landmines. The Headmaster Makanaka Primary School reported 3 female teachers lost limb and 2 lost life in a landmine incident in 2008.²⁴ Lack of manpower means they do double job teaching children and gathering firewood. The Sengwe rural electrification failed completely. The Rural Development Council found it impossible to construct power lines since some areas remained no go areas.

Landmines menace led to development of scattered clinics in Sengwe. Clinics are very few and they were constructed on safer zones far away from people. Most villagers in an interview complained that Sengwe where cases of landmines incident are rampant it must have more clinics to attend the victims of landmine faster. Therefore, the development of few clinics is a disadvantage especially where cases of landmines are rampant. In a field interview with the

local Health Worker, Gogo Rhuhlani narrated that the victims of landmines especially children lost life before they reach clinics due to loss of lot blood.²⁵ Nurse Aid at Dumisa clinic, Chuma even confirmed that landmine wound take time to clot, thus victims died due to loss of lot of blood.²⁶ The construction of many clinics might have made it easier for the patients to receive services faster before they lose lot of blood and in the process reduced death. Villagers at some point complained that the clinics have no medical facilities and the victims were to be ferried to Chikombedzi Mission Hospital which is 50 km away from Sengwe. Besides, Nurse at Chikombedzi indicated that it is difficult to operate landmine wound.²⁷ However due to poverty most of families failed to afford hospital bills and members lived with deep wounds.

2.4 Social Impact of landmines on Sengwe community.

Landmines barred social activities and social development in Sengwe areas. Prior to the colonisation the Hlengwe relied on their environment for firewood, wild fruits and they gathered *macimbi* and *gandari*. Macimbi and *gandari* supplemented their diet. Men practised hunting of wild animals. These activities required vast expanse of land, so the deployment of landmines on 61 km² of land reduced their area of operation. Practising these activities became critical after the deployment of landmines. Gathering firewood and macimbi has become a critical issue for women and girls after independence. In safer zones there is scattered firewood that people spent more than three hours searching for firewood. If the area infested with landmines is over 40 000 ha, then that means loss of 40 000 ha of firewood. People got tempted by seeing lots of firewood in mined areas and they ventured in mined forest. In these mines they got heavily injured or lose limbs. Most of the villagers from Gwaivhi, Dumisa, Davata and Ngwenyeni have reported that people got maimed or lost their limbs in the forest. Once lose limbs, which means loss of manpower which becomes dependent and a social burden to the already overburdened people. Tinyiko a landmine even has revealed that he lost one of his limb after stepping on landmines in Mugiviza gathering firewood.²⁸ While Mrs Chilukwa has

estimated 20 victims including both children and women got injured gathering firewood in Gwaivhi between 2010 and 2016.²⁹ This then shows that gendered house chores taken by women put them on risk of landmines.

Also landmines barred hunting. Prior to the colonisation, game was plentiful. According to Chisi in the pre-colonial times the S.E. Lowveld had large forests and was a hunter's paradise.³⁰ Hlengwe hunt wild animals such as hare, impala, rhinos and elephants for meat and ivory. Nevertheless, the deployment of landmines on large scale of land and the introduction of Gonarezhou National Park barred the activity as the game was reduced. Shonhai in a field interview confirmed that landmines and Gonarezhou National Park barred hunting, but out of the dire need for meat villagers risked their lives by venturing in a mined area.³¹ Consequently, they lost life and limbs. Dumiso a Gonarezhou National Parks reported that 5 men lost limb in Gonarezhou National Park and he even indicated that the number might be high.³² This then shows the gendered roles taken by men risked their lives.

Furthermore, the establishment of Sango-Crooks Corner minefield distanced the Hlengwe in Zimbabwe side with their kins in Mozambique side because the border from Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner is heavily infested with active landmines. Prior to construction of the minefield they used to interact freely and frequently visited each other with their relatives in Mozambique. However, the establishment of Malvernia Crooks Corner minefield cut the free interaction between the Hlengwe in Zimbabwean side and their relatives in Mozambique side. Villagers reported that they used to visit each other freely and they cross the border by foot but the minefield exerted fear. The minefields prevent community members from seeing and socializing with relatives and friends. However, Mupapa narrated that some have attempted to cross these minefields in order to maintain contact with relatives and the unlucky ones have been injured or killed by mines.³³ One of the respondents said that they risked their lives by crossing Malvernia Crooks Corner minefield because they are graves of their ancestors in

Mozambican side. Charity even said this is a problem because our children grew distanced from their relatives.³⁴ Children only heard stories about their relatives in Mozambique side. This caused breakdown of ties among families. This in turn impacts on the socialization with relatives across the mined areas.

In some cases landmines kill the breadwinner. The death of a bread winner means no income generation. This is another key cause of poverty among families in Sengwe areas and poverty is at its climax among families headed by women. Taika has alluded that poverty rates are high on families headed by women and children.³⁵ The death of a breadwinner means there is no one to go to Joni to earn money, one of the lifestyle of Hlengwe. Income generating responsibilities within the family often changed significantly. There are many cases in Sengwe where the bread winner died and children and family relied on them suffered. The death of a bread winner means no one to go and work in the field, to send children to school and to go to Joni. Maposa has alluded that the death of his husband left him with the burden to look after a family of five children.³⁶ It is clear that family headed by women were undermined and exposed to oppression. Most women reported families headed by women were skipped on important programmes and they were looked down upon in the community. Maposa adds on that that the death or injury of a bread winner and accompanying loss of income can also result in parents being forced to take children out of school as they can no longer afford to education related costs.³⁷

Pressure also arose on the landmine survivors and on those who takes care of them. Landmine survivors may be disproportionately disadvantaged as a result of incidents and suffer multiple forms of discrimination as survivors. Once injured, it means it a higher dependence burden and created a burden on already impoverished family. The victims become depended for everything such as food, clothes and money. In interview with Sibanda a landmine victim reported that he lost his limp in Gwaivhi in 1998 and is not able to go to work like others.³⁸ Nevertheless, being

crippled is a problem but the stigmas associated with being crippled. Laws noted that landmine survivors face isolation from relatives or friends and they were also looked down upon by the community.³⁹ They were viewed as nothing. In a field interview with Jairos Officer Chivhangire reported that disabled persons are often abandoned by their partner or family, and can encounter difficulties in finding a new partner because of their supposed inability to take care of familial and household tasks.⁴⁰ Both men and women once crippled their odds of getting married or marry is considered compromise.

Additionally, it can come out among villagers from Sengwe that women are mostly likely to face isolation than men did. This is in line with the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes (UN 2010) which indicated that women who are injured by mines and ERW are often more likely than men to face isolation and stigmatisation as a result.⁴¹ Female landmine survivors face immediate divorce as their ability to engage in physical labour and child rearing is considered compromised. Women were deserted by their husbands. Miriam of Dumisa a landmine victim confirmed that her husband deserted her going to *Joni* (South Africa) and she recalled that she knew more than more than 20 women landmine in Gwaivhi deserted by their husbands.⁴² Mine incidents impact not only the direct casualties but also family members struggling under new physical, psychological, and economic pressures. Most people who take care of victims revealed that to take care of the victims is a burden.

2.5 Political Impact of landmines on Sengwe Community

The presence of landmines worsened tension between the Hlengwe and the VaShona government of Zimbabwe. The major point of tension is land conflict. According to Chisi the Hlengwe-Karanga land conflict is centred on rights to land.⁴² The presence of landmines on Hlengwe residential fields added the already wound. The hatred emanated back from colonialism where the Karanga and Ndebele were resettled on Hlengwe land.⁴³ So landmines on Hlengwe fields worsened tension. The presence of VaShona on Hlengwe residential land

was viewed as a sign of marginalisation. To Chisi the Hlengwe viewed the land as theirs and the Shona as outsiders.⁴⁴ However, feelings of marginalization remained strong among the Hlengwe given the stance by the government of Zimbabwe to take long to clear the Sango-Crooks Corner mine field. The Hlengwe activists take it to mean neglect by government or marginalisation. The Hlengwe-Tsonga viewed the delaying as a sign that the VaShona or Vanyai Government does not care for them. Demining started late in 2012. Villagers reported that the Sengwe is being neglected in terms of demining because they are VaShangaan or Hlengwe. Also the heart of the Hlengwe-Shona conflict, is lack development in Sengwe. Since Zimbabwe gained its independence there is no basic infrastructure development due to the presence of landmines. There are scattered clinics, schools and no big hospital. Lack of infrastructure development and clearing landmines for infrastructure development was attributed to lack of commitment by the government of Zimbabwe. The Hlengwe activists viewed this as a marginalisation because they are the Hlengwe.

2. 6 Conclusion

In conclusion, landmines in Sengwe have humanitarian cost, economic cost, social cost and political impact. Landmines barred the development of large infrastructure such as tarred roads, various schools and there are scattered clinics with no medical facilities. Denied farmers access to arable land and changed the patterns of agricultural production. Livestock died in their large numbers and denial of access to grazing lands led to production of poor quality livestock. Tourism failed to develop due to mine menace. Socially, the Sango- Crooks Corner minefield distanced the Hlengwe people in Sengwe with their relatives in Mozambique side. Landmines is also the key cause of poverty and malnutrition. Politically, landmines fuelled tensions between the Hlengwe and the VaShona government of Zimbabwe. They believed they were being marginalised because of the stance by the government to start demining late in Sengwe.

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Chapter 3:

CHILDREN AS THE WORST VICTIMS OF LANDMINES.

3.1 Introduction

Whilst all sections of the population of Sengwe were affected by landmines, this chapter proves that children were the worst affected victims of landmines in the area. It shall first trace the responsibilities or duties carried by a boy and girl child of Hlengwe which then exposed them to different landmine incident. Socio-cultural and economic conditions in Sengwe which make children the worst victims of landmines. The chapter explores the impact of landmines on Hlengwe children and impact can be categorized into direct impact of landmines on children and indirect impact of landmines on children.

The chapter emphasized that the existence of some certain socio-cultural and economic conditions in Sengwe make the children the worst victims of landmines. Sengwe is subsistence society and their economy depends on agriculture. They also reared domestic animal big and small. Children are seen as key players in the Subsistence economy. In Sengwe culture, children may require to perform tasks critical to the survival of the family. Boys are responsible for many outdoor activities such as herding livestock, ploughing, digging the garden and hunting wild animals. Boys are seen as herd boys. In Sengwe culture girls are responsible for collecting water, gathering firewood, gathering macimbi and gathering magandari from the forest. They also engaged in gathering wild fruits along Limpopo River to supplement their diet. In Sengwe areas that have been extensively mined, these activities expose children to grave risks.

Also, Sengwe cultural belief on the disabled disadvantaged children. Sengwe viewed disabled persons as useless and a burden to the society. As a result children who got disability from landmines tend to be subjugated in all sectors of social life. They are hardly married when

grown up and hardly go to school. Hence, the Sengwe cultural belief on the disabled disadvantaged children and is one of the causes which proves children as worst victims.

Economically, scattered infrastructure development in Sengwe, is a factor that worsened the impact of mines to children. The absence of many clinics exacerbate the impact on children. Also, scattered clinics with limited medical facilities along the South Eastern border areas with only clinics at Davati, Dumisa, and Malipati worsened the scourge on children. Also, the existence of scattered schools in Sengwe constructed on safer zones away from villagers. Due to that children risked their risked their like crossing the minefield. Landmines menace prevents the building of many schools.

Another factor which worsened the scourge on children is poverty. Poverty is at its climax in Sengwe that pushed children to engage in risk activities to find a living. Unemployment breeds poverty. Due to poverty young youths tend to temper with landmines, out of need to make a living. Tempering with landmines is a great risk to children.

More so, lack of campaigning campaigns in Sengwe exposed children to risk, thereby making them the worst victims. Landmines Awareness campaigns are in short supply. Campaigning campaigns where children were enlightened how to identify landmine and precautions to take when came across a landmine rarely done. The reason attributed to the backwardness of the area. This disadvantaged children because information hardly reach them and they end up temper with dangerous objects.

3.2 Direct impact of landmines on children

The landmines have had a devastating impact on the Sengwe community in general but, children appear to be the worst affected. This is because the children are affected directly and indirectly that coping with the effects of landmines is so difficult. By direct impact I mean

effects occurring at the same time when the incident happened, while indirect impact means after effects after the incident happened.

To begin, one of the reasons why the children casualty rate is very high in Sengwe is that of children are key players in subsistence economy. Hlengwe children are involved in many outdoor activities, which is a risk in an extensive mined area like Sengwe. In a field interview with Mkachana narrated that in Sengwe culture boy child is responsible for herding livestock, ploughing and hunting.¹ He adds on that they are seen as herd boys sometimes not going to school.² Despite knowing the danger in their forest, children are forced by the supposed responsibility to venture in the mined forest. Children usually lost limb, legs, eyesight and death whilst carrying out these duties. Carrying out the above activities in Sengwe is a risk since vast track of land was mined. Their vast land stretch of 61 km² of land was mined which is approximately 40 000 – 45 000 hac of land was mined. Boys ventured into mined forests following strayed livestock in minefield searching for pastures and search for water. Their livestock were attracted by tall grass in mined area towards the border. Most interviewed villagers from Gwaivhi, Davata, Dumisa and Ngwenyeni agreed that many children lost life and limbs and even lost blood whilst trying to retrieve strayed livestock.

Hetisani estimated about fifty boys who lost life and limbs in mined area herding cattle in Sengwe between 2000 to 2015.³ Newsday 2015 recorded Tsovani of Dumisa who has his right leg shattered by explosives herding cattle when ventured in to an area invested with landmines when he was 17 years old in 2004.⁴ Dumisa Headman, Samu Mashaba reported that thirty people were killed in his area between 1980 and 1998.⁵ Among, the victims there were ten boys and five killed, herding cattle and scavenging. The Sunday News 2016 has recorded Musabaiwa Chimunda who lost limb in a landmine while ploughing with his uncle in Dumisa in 1998.⁶ Given the above evidence it is clear that the duties performed by children exposed them to vulnerable hence depict them as worst victims.

In line with the above point, the duties performed by girls also exposed them to high risk of landmines. According to Sengwe culture, girls are key players in fetching water, gathering firewood, gathering macimbi and magandari from the forest, hence more susceptible to the risk of landmines.⁷ Likewise, they encounter landmines when carrying out these traditional chores. Most interviewed elder children reported that carrying out these traditional chores is a risk, since the forests were mined. They add on gathering firewood is the greatest risk taken by girls in Sengwe. Girls were attracted by lots of firewood in mined forest, and they tend to venture in mined forest. Hence, even though they know the forests were mined, economic necessity that is need for man power pushed them to venture in mined forest. Most interviewed girls from Gwaivhi, Dumisa, Davata reported that they spent more than three hours gathering firewood in a free environment and most of them felt tempted by the existence of lots of firewood in a mined forest. The resultant loss of limb, legs and maimed. In an interview with Gambiza, he estimated that more than 50 girls getting hurt attending to their traditional chores in Sengwe between 1980 and 2000.⁸ Memory a victim of landmines articulated that her foot was blown off in a landmine incident in 2005 in Davata gathering firewood.⁹ Another victim Khetani says she lost her limb in a landmine incident in 2006 in Katiza Sengwe gathering fire wood in a mined forest.¹⁰ Therefore, the traditional chores performed by children in Sengwe made children vulnerable to landmines.

Whilst children suffer the same grave consequences like adults as being injured and maimed and attain permanent disabilities. It became difficult for a child to cope to the new condition especially when they have to go to school and wanting to play with colleagues. The stigmas associated with being disabled disadvantaged children. Sengwe is a society which viewed the disability as inability. As a result, disabled persons are looked down upon and they suffer isolation from other colleagues. In an field interview with, Jairos Jiri officer Manezhu narrated that landmines exact enduring disability on children and they easily dissociated by their

partners.¹¹ He adds on that at school they also face isolation from other fellow pupils.¹² Most of my interviews disabled children indicated that none of Hlengwe children wants to play with disabled persons. Tichaona another landmine victim who is now in his 30s alluded that isolation in all areas of education causes loss of concentration and forced some dropouts.¹³ He estimated that 50% of disabled children If not all drop school.¹⁴ As a result disabled children in Sengwe are often pulled out of school.

Education is seldom available for disabled or for the victims of mines. Laws concurs that child survivors end their education prematurely.¹⁵ As a result education rates among child victims are lower which results in diminished employment prospects in later life. By so doing landmines shattered the dreams of many children victims.¹⁶ Narrating in an interview with Titshalo alluded that his dreams of becoming a dynamos player was shattered because he was now one legged and no longer balance.¹⁷ Employment prospects for the disabled are scarce because of the stigmas associated with it. According to local Child Health Worker child victims have little chance of going to school and of receiving counselling and of learning skills that could help them to adopt to their new conditions.¹⁸ Therefore, children found it difficult to cope with new conditions which prove them as worst victims.

The scattered of clinics in Sengwe is one of the issues which worsened the scourge of landmines on children. As a result children from Sengwe face difficult on health grounds. Scattered clinics with limited medical facilities along the South Eastern border areas with only clinics at Davati, Dumisa, and Malipati worsened the scourge on children. In an interview with Dumisa Nurse Aid narrated that sometimes children died before they receive medicals because of too much loss of blood before they reach far away hospitals.¹⁹ There is no one clinic near them. This disadvantaged children as they most of them died before receiving medical attention and they rarely receive medical checkups. Chief Sengwe estimated about 100 children died in Gwaivhi an area which is heavily mined between 1980 and 2019 before they receive medicals.²⁰ Most

of my interviews villagers expressed themselves that Sengwe as an area extensively mined, it should have many clinics for the benefit of the victims of landmines especially children. In addition, majority of facilities are ill equipped to deal with landmines injuries and often unnecessary loss of limb and life, from poor medical facilities with unnecessary conditions and inexpert surgical skill. Most of the interview population reported that the Mozambique side at Pafuri and Espungabera did not have any medical facilities to treat Anti- Personal mines. Only Chikombedzi Mission Hospital which is 150 km away from Sengwe was reported to have some medical facilities. Therefore, scattered clinics in Sengwe which are at a distance in addition to lack of drugs in clinics put children on risky of death. Opping and Kalipeni even confirms that that landmines are a sinister environmental problem with direct consequences on people's health and well- being.²¹

In addition to the above, victims face lack of transportation which is coupled to the fact that medical facilities are long distances from the location of landmine incidents. Narrated in an interview with Precious a Nurse at Chikombedzi said that children victims need frequent medical check-ups and new prosthesis.²² Landmine wound require x-ray, blood transfusion and antibiotics. Blood transfusion, surgical time, pain killers, antibiotics, artificial limbs, rehabilitation and stretch resources to breaking point are necessary and all cost money and impoverishing the family. In contrast that is not the case in remote Sengwe, children victims rarely receive the long term care they require because of limited resources to acquire that. As a result children suffer grave consequences of death and deep wound. Varo and Hamo confirmed reveals that lack of immediate health care causes death of children from serious injuries.²³ Therefore, long hours taken by children before receiving health care negatively affect children. Also because of poverty which is at its climax in Sengwe areas, members could not afford to pay bills, rarely treated which causes psychological stress on children. Therefore,

lack of medical infrastructure to respond to the needs of children landmine victims in Sengwe landmine contaminated exposed children to vulnerable.

One of the reasons why the children casualty rate is very high in Sengwe is that of lack of continuous Landmine Awareness Campaigns on dangers of landmines among children. According to George Chilonga, sometimes children in Sengwe pick up such things as live bullets and expose them to excessive heat where they explode in their faces and injure them.²⁴ Due to lack of continuous awareness curious children in Sengwe were reported of mistaking landmines as toys and it explode causing loss of eyesight, deafness and handicapped. While there is no evidence that landmines are designed like toys to attract children, children are attracted to landmines because they are easily attracted to unknown objects. The results can be deadly. Additionally, lack of Landmine Awareness Campaigns disadvantaged children as they are not enlightened of mined areas. Even Ngwenya in a field interview reported that children are not aware of mined areas.²⁵ As a result they always ventured in danger zone areas and the resultant injuries and death of children. Tshaka argues that lack of awareness exposed children to danger because they do not know how to identify landmines and what to do after coming across landmines.²⁶ Children were reported to have touch landmines and burn landmines which is not allowed. This also negatively affected children as landmines explode on their faces. In 2007, ZIMAC reported seven mine casualties in which 4 boys died and 3 men were injured in Gwaivhi.²⁷

Parents felt children are vulnerable to landmines simply because they are children because of their size and their natural curiosity and lack of awareness make it worse. Children are reported to be too small to see mines that are visible to adults. Makura narrated that adults have mastered the art of navigating following known paths, but children are unable to keep up with adults traveling by foot, children stray off safe routes into mine fields and may not recognise minefield warning signs.²⁸ Some children below the age were reported by most parents not to be able to

read written warnings at all. The resultant loss of limb and death. Fungai estimated about 5 children died in Sengwe in a mined field and 10 lost limb between 2000 and 2015 in their out walking.²⁹ A landmine victim Christian reported that his foot was blown off when he stepped on a landmine in Davata.³⁰ Such is the predicament faced by the children in Sengwe mined areas due to lack of Landmine Awareness Campaigns.

Furthermore, vicious cycle of poverty in Sengwe exposed children to deadly landmines. Due to poverty young youths tampered with landmines in order to make a living. Mr Muradzikwa also attributed the high incidences of children being harmed by landmines in Sengwe area to myths, misinformation and ignorance among the youth.³¹ He said that there is a strong belief among the young people that landmines contain red mercury, which they believe fetches a lot of money on the black market where it is sold.³² It is believed that it is bought by the organization who use it to make atomic bombs. So the unemployed youth from poor backgrounds tamper with landmines so that they get the mercury. However, one of the participants who refused in digging alluded that they risked their life by digging landmines because they don't have anything to do.³³ Most of interviewed participants in digging alluded that digging drew the attention of the youth because they do not have anything to do. Despite knowing that landmines are dangerous, poverty which is at its climax pushed the youth to venture in mine infested areas. Ward 15 councillor revealed that many young men and boys from the age of 15 engage dig up the dangerous explosives for economic gain.³⁴ Accordingly children got heavily injured. Inspector Koma confirmed that 50% of young youths from Sengwe were endangered by landmines in trying to dig up landmines.³⁵ Therefore, vicious cycle of poverty in Sengwe pushed children to temper with deadly landmines and they risked their life.

3.3 Social Direct impact

Socially landmines implications shattered the opportunities of Sengwe female children and boy children victims to get married or to marry respectively. Stigmas attached to having a disability prevented them from marrying when they are grown up. According to Sengwe culture disabled persons are viewed as helpless and a burden to the family and society. The society degrade the disabled. Most of the interviewed persons reported that as a result no one once his or her child to marry a disabled persons. However, getting married is cherished by every Hlengwe girl child.³⁶ The argument is supported by the *Khomba* culture whereby the Hlengwe were girls were initiated into womanhood and were taught socio-cultural norms that include dating, sexual conduct and art of sex. From my own observation Khomba culture is a prerequisite for a Hlengwe girl child to be married. The fact that each Hlengwe girl child undergo the process of Khomba it shows that marriage is cheered by every Hlengwe girl child and disability barred the chances. In addition, disabled children in Sengwe are abandoned by their partners and they encounter difficulties in finding new partners because of their supposed inability to take care of families and even encounter difficulties in finding new partners because of their supposed inability to take care of families and household tasks.³⁷ Most of the interviewed persons most of them now married women confirmed that disabled children in Sengwe were deserted by their lovers. Therefore, the Sengwe cultural belief played a bigger role in subjugating children as they were made to believe that disability means inability.

Be that as it may, many girl mine survivors are more socially downgraded and disliked than boys in Sengwe. This was also confirmed by UN Gender Guidelines 2010 for Mine Action Programmes that girls who are injured are more likely to face isolation and stigmatization than men did.³⁸ Most of the interviewed married person in Sengwe confirmed that women landmine survivors faced divorce immediately because of their disability to engage in physical labour and child rearing is considered compromised. Even Emelia a landmine victim estimated 25 young youths who have been deserted by their lovers after being disabled.³⁹ Rhuhlani another

landmine victim has confirmed that she lost her legs when she was 16 years in 1998 and suddenly her boyfriend broke up with her.⁴⁰ Hence, landmines barred the odds of children to get married.

In addition, landmines barred the free movement of children in the Sengwe area. Children normally lost limb and life after stepping on landmines in their outwalking with fellow students. Eliza of Dumisa village concurs with dwellers of Gwaivhi in that children in their out walking tend to leave known paths and stray in hazardous areas.⁴¹ Moses articulated about 50 children landmine victims died and lost limb in Sengwe infested areas between 1980 and 2010.⁴² Kennedy of Katiza another landmine victim said he lost one of his right leg in 2010 in a landmine incident roaming around with his friend in the nearest forest.⁴³ Makasani another landmine victim reported that his left limb was shattered by a landmine in Chiukudu, Sengwe.⁴⁴ Most of my interviewed population reported that adults persons in mined areas have now mastered the art of navigating the way across the minefields and sticking to known paths except children. Adult people in Sengwe follow known paths and they knew mined areas. Children in their curiosity tend to avoid known paths and follow hazardous areas. In the process they got heavily injured and killed by the landmines. Chief Sengwe said children were barred from moving around freely but lived in fear every day.⁴⁵ He adds on that since the attainment of independence continued to be cautious as if they still in war.⁴⁶ This therefore, shows that landmines barred the free movement of children in Sengwe.

Furthermore, unearthed landmines prevent children from enjoying their right of access to a free environment to play. In mined areas of Sengwe such as Gwaivhi, Davata, Chilohlela, Chiukudu and Dumisa landmines can be found on children's playing grounds, on roads, on fields and on places where people carried out their daily activities. These deadly legacies barred adolescent's games (mahumbwe). Angeline in Katiza village agreed with other parents

and confirmed that they feared for their children to play outside the yard.⁴⁷ Even, UNICEF in its observations worldwide in countries affected by landmines noted that, landmines violate nearly all articles of the Convention on the Rights of the child, a child's right to life, to a safe environment in which to play, to health, clean water, sanitary conditions and adequate education.⁴⁸ Also landmines barred child games of Hlengwe children are *tsoro*, *nhodo* and *mahumbwe*. According to Wright Edward observe that many social skills can be learnt through traditional children's games.⁴⁹ The games also provide the children with opportunities for mastery of play. For example, *nhodo* played by Hlengwe girls teaches numeracy and they learn to count in an orderly amount manner in ascending order. Children are barred by the deadly legacies to play alone these games because their parents feared for them, of which each Hlengwe cheered them. Therefore, landmines are a sinister which violate all rights of children to a free environment to play.

3.4 Indirect Impact of landmines on children

Landmines besides having a direct impact on children where many died, while some got maimed or injured for life also had an indirect impact, which still makes children the worst victims. Indirect impact refers to after effects after the landmine incident happened. The worst impact for most children was when they lost their parents or guardians through landmines leaving them as absolute orphans. One feature which emerged especially in the early 1980s before people had become aware of the existence of landmines was the rise of child headed families as parents became victims of landmines. The death of parents shattered the lives of children as they were left with no one to look after them. Most of the interviews are now married adults, narrating their ordeals as orphans most indicated that being orphaned left vulnerable to all forms of physical abuse and exploitations. They add that what one sees is a vicious cycle of poverty as a result of the deaths of parents and guardians which negatively affect the livelihoods of children, who fail to go to school, get jobs and at times lose all means

for survival. Girls were raped especially when thugs know they are alone. They were also being left out on important programmes. Narrating the plight of orphans in Sengwe, Taguta alluded that they have no access to government programmes such as food aid and Donor Aid like Care, Christian Care and children not access education aid.⁵⁰ Such is the predicament faced by orphans in Sengwe. Chauke reported fifty families in Gwaivhi village headed by children after both parents killed by landmines leaving behind children alone recorded between 1980 and 2000.⁵¹ Therefore, landmines perpetuate poverty among children.

Parents felt that the deprivation that follow directly affect children, forcing them to leave school to look after injured parents and somehow supplement the family income. Miriam Hlaisi revealed that the struggle for these children to pay school fees forced them to leave school without adequately learned.⁵² The death of breadwinners that is fathers means loss of fees. Also the situation witnessed many early marriages for a girl child and large volume of border jumping to Joni (South Africa) to supplement the family with remittances sending back home. In an interview with Emilda, who is now in his 40s and her parents perished in landmine incident narrated that she got married at the age of 16 so that she finds someone to look after her.⁵³ However, some young children were forced to quickly adopt adult roles when parents became physically incapacitated by the landmines. Most of the interviewed parents from Ngwenyeni, Gwaivhi, Davata and Dumisa agreed that the death of parents left elder children with the burden of taking care other children. They had to take care of the injured parents and the family as a whole. The injury of the father and mother disrupted the family's social fabric as it caused a lot of suffering. The lives of children forever changed when a parent becomes a mine casualty. Therefore, landmines creates the vicious cycle of poverty on parents when their parents died.

Furthermore, death of parents mostly disadvantaged children at tender ages below the age of five and on food security. Food insecurity remains a problem but landmines worsened the

problem. According to local Davata Children Health Care Moyo the death of mothers' disadvantaged children, especially those at tender ages who can hardly feed for themselves.⁵⁴ It is worse for those under the age of five if there are no loving relatives to take care of them. Death of parents and loss of employment and resulting impact on food security directly affects children. Families headed by children failed to feed themselves and losing parents they least afford proper food with all nutrients needed by the body. According to Theresa alluded that orphaned children in Sengwe survived mostly on wild fruits gathered along Limpopo River.⁵⁵ The resultant malnutrition. Most of my interviewed population agreed that children who lost their parents at tender age in Sengwe mostly suffer from malnutrition and Kwashiorkor. In a field interview with a local Health Worker reported that they recorded 70 deaths of children in Sengwe between 2 000 attributed to malnutrition.⁵⁶ Hence malnutrition rampant among children speculated to landmines.

3.5 Conclusion

Overall, children are the worst victims of landmines in Sengwe. The chapter emphasized that landmines have direct impacts and indirect impacts to children. Lack of continuous landmine awareness campaigns disadvantaged children as children tend to tamper with dangerous weapons and the result is deadly. Also the scattering of clinics with no one clinic near them disadvantaged children as most of them died before receiving medical attention. Children are key players in subsistence economy and these risked their life to landmines carrying out traditional chores. Whilst children suffer the same grave consequences like adults as injured or maimed people, children found it difficult to cope with new conditions especially when they have to go to school. Disabled children are often pulled out of school at tender stage due to isolation from other colleagues. The stigmatization associated with disability in Sengwe degrade children. Landmines barred disabled female and male children to get married and

marry respectively. Landmines also barred free socialization of children and blocked the right to a free environment to play. Indirect impacts of landmines on children are it orphaned children, leaving children with no one to look after them. Orphaned children are often pulled out of school because of the failure to pay school fees, hence dropping schools without fully learned. Death of parents created a vicious cycle of poverty among children as they have no one to depend on.

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CHAPTER 4

RESPONSES OF THE PEOPLE OF SENGWE COMMUNAL AREA AND MEASURES DEvised BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT OF LANDMINES.

4.1 Introduction

The chapter seeks to explore various strategies adopted by Sengwe dwellers to live side by side with landmines. Communities in mined areas have adopted and developed various strategies in order to make a living. Economic necessity leaves with them with no option other than daily entering known minefields in search of food, water and land for cultivation. It also seeks to presents measures devised by the government of Zimbabwe in partnership with NGOs in dealing with the threat of landmines in Sengwe. The role played by various NGOs included ICRC, Halo Trust, APOPO and NPA shall be explored. The chapter shall conclude with exploring the effectiveness of measures and the challenges faced by the deminers in demining Sengwe Corridor.

4.2 Local Strategies to Survive the Mines

There are complex underlying factors which forced people to continue use these dangerous areas for economic activities. Economic necessity leaves them with no option other than daily known minefields in search of food, water, to cultivate, gather firewood or gather building materials. Pressure over land where people were relocated is one of the underlying causes which causes villagers to continue use mined areas. There is not enough space in newly areas to accommodate larger population for cultivation and large herds of livestock. According to Retired Brigadier Gwanetsa, Member of Parliament in Sengwe the area affected by landmines is 40 000 hectares.¹ The area was lying idle without being put to an economic or social use not put for farming, ranching or tourism. As a result there is not enough space for expansion to

accommodate large population. However, to escape drought which is a norm in Sengwe and worsened by landmines, members risked their life by venturing in mined area which is also a risk.² As a result of lack of enough land in free land for farming leaves the dwellers were left with no option but to daily entering their mined fields for cultivation.

More so, scattered firewood and lots of firewood in mined areas forced villagers to daily entering mined fields. Catherine concurred with villagers in Dumisa and Gwaivhi that villagers were attracted by lots of firewood in mined areas.³ In Sengwe, landmines made it difficult for City Council members found to construct power lines of electricity. Therefore, need for manpower pushed villagers to venture in mined areas. Also in an interview with villagers they alluded that they daily entering mined fields in search of *macimbi* which supplemented their diet. Lots of *Mopane* tree in mined areas attracted many *macimbi*.⁴ As a result they ventured in mined forests in search of *macimbi* and *magandari*. More so, need for game and the reduced area for hunting in free zone pushed villagers to daily entering mined fields.

The local villagers of Sengwe area who live close to in mined areas have developed strategies to survive in this landmine infested area. Villagers of Sengwe have mastered the art of navigating their way across the minefield, sticking to known paths. Madzvamuse of Gwaivhi village revealed that the people now know all the areas mined and have mastered safety measures to take when coming across an Anti-Personal landmines.⁵ In an interview with villagers, they reported that when roaming around they follow well known walking paths. Everyday people cross dangerous land infested areas along well known foot paths with landmines to reach schools, clinics, water sources and homes. Paths were graded by the villagers and the areas were marked to guard villagers to make the roads are safe.⁶ Pegs of tree poles were put in place on each side of the roads or paths used by villagers around the area, which demarcated safe paths used by people. Villagers follow pegged roads when roaming around the area. According to local Councilor Gezani, pegs replaced the ones put forward by

the colonialists which were long removed by villagers for domestic use.⁷ Gezani said villagers do not stray off safe paths demarcated by pegs.⁸ Even Khelina narrated that when moving around the field they rarely venture far in mined area.⁹ By so doing they avoid death and injuries by straying in hazardous places. Therefore, mine casualty is high on children and on foreigners to the land.

However, the above measure was effective to a lesser extent. This is so because landmines continues to take a heavy on children and livestock.¹⁰ Most of my interviewed population reported that adults' persons in mined areas have now mastered the art of navigating the way across the minefields and sticking to known paths except children. Children in their curiosity tend were reported to avoid known paths and follow hazardous areas. Children in their out walking were reported to stray off safe zones. As a result landmines incidence are high on children. Rupiah even confirmed that it is in these areas that landmines take a heavy toll on new comers,¹¹ because adults have mastered cautious measures. In support of that the Herald 1992, indicated that mines posed danger to the local people but mostly to unwary travelers who appeared not to have knowledge of the existence of the minefield.¹²

More so, villagers have put across landmine awareness road sign posts. The alarming death of people was the drive towards the measure. According to Hlaisi on each side of road landmine awareness sign posts which reads "beware of landmines" were put in place.¹³ Signposts were made of bricks and a designer was hired to design the posts that cautioned villagers of landmines. Villagers in Dumisa, Gwaivhi, Katiza and Davati reported that they partnered in constructing signposts and mark mined areas. Sign posts were made of bricks and they hired designers who draw. Even when driving towards Sengwe community from Chiredzi town, sign posts which reads "landmines are dangerous, beware of landmines" welcomed people.¹⁴ While I am carrying my research, I observed many landmine signposts on all paths used by people. Signposts are very crucial in Sengwe as they as they cautioned villagers on the possibility of

landmines in the area.¹⁵ Signposts also notifies villagers not to drive into a restricted zones.¹⁶ Kato alluded that there is nothing that ensures safe in Sengwe when respected landmines sign posts.¹⁷ However, signposts have their own failures. Children below the age of five are not able to read signposts and they are still on risk. Also villagers reported that the measure proved to be unsuccessful because animals do not read sign posts and they do not know safer areas. As a result they continue to stray in mined areas and accordingly they got heavily injured and died in large numbers.

It has also been discovered that people in the Sengwe area are no longer as scared of the landmines as some of them have found ways of detonating them using their crude and unsafe methods. Cecilia said that some villagers used their own hands, hoes and sticks to remove the soil that covers the landmines and after exposing the landmines they then make fire on them and wait for them to explode.¹⁸ Lack of enough land in newly settled area and the need for land for cultivation was the drive towards the measure. Members agreed and admitted that though the strategy is dangerous, many now do it. There are even men who are hired for a fee to do it, showing that they have mastered this art. Nevertheless, the was found ineffective as villagers have in the past lost lives as they tried to use their own hands, hoes and sticks to clear their own lands.

4.3 Government measures in dealing with the landmines problem in the Sengwe Communal area.

Having become so concerned about the devastating effects of landmines on the communities in the eastern border areas the Government of Zimbabwe devised various measures to try and deal with the problem of landmines in Sengwe communal area, The government engaged the services of companies that specialize in demining and landmine risk education such as the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC). Having identified that there were high levels of

ignorance about the dangers of landmines among the Sengwe community the government moved fast to launch programmes of landmine risk education.

ZIMAC sponsored the educational programmes and the Zimbabwe National Army began to hold Anti- Personnel Galas in all mined areas. The drive towards the measure is that the area has no network, no access to TV and radio broadcast to access news about effects of landmines. According to Major Chinhongo these programmes were first held in Sengwe in June 2006 in Gwaivhi.¹⁹ Demining followed later in 2012 whilst Landmine risk education already started in Sengwe. From there, the programme spread to other areas of Sengwe such as Gwaivhi, Davata, Dumisa, Chilohlela and Chiukudu. ZNA, spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Alphious Makotore said, they held awareness galas every year to disclose information gap about effects of landmines such as killing, maiming and caused permanent disabilities.²⁰ The ZNA also dramatized measures do and don'ts when coming across landmines such avoid touch and do not burn landmines. The most successful Gala was the one held in 2016 where the villagers were entertained by veteran Sungura musician Nikolas Zakaria and was supported by several musical groups and the ZNA band in the communities.²¹ The musicians were reported dramatizing the risk of landmines such as killing, injuring and caused permanent disability and orphaned children. The 2016 Landmines Awareness Gala was successful because it was attended by thousand young youths from all communities of Sengwe which is the worst victim group. Zimbabwe Military Army also managed to clear myths among youths that there is aluminum in landmines by disclosing the deadly costs of landmines.²² However the fact that Landmines Awareness Galas were held once in a year, has its own disadvantage. Lack of continuous campaigns disadvantaged children as children continue to tamper with landmines and mistaking landmines to toys. The result is deadly.

More so, Zimbabwe National Army has been carrying out Anti- Personal Landmines Awareness in schools and on public institutions. Major Chinhongo has revealed that as for 2006 to 2019 they managed to reach all schools in Sengwe communities.²³ They made use of social and national gatherings as ZANU PF Meetings. Landmines awareness campaigns reached all corners of Sengwe, at Dumisa Primary School, Gwaivhi, Chilohlela Primary School, Chikombedzi Business Center and Gezani Bottle Store just to mention a few. The awareness campaigns were employed to educate civilians on the dangers of landmines, steps they should take when they came across landmines and other explosive remnants of war to prevent injuries, loss of life and damage to property. Villagers were urged to notify the police, Army or Chiefs whenever they came across landmines and other explosive remnants of war.²⁴ They were also advised not to try to touch or use stick to contact or set fire on landmines because these deadly legacies explode upon contact.

In the same vein, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has facilitated training in mine risk education for ZIMAC and donated 5, 000 children's text books to schools giving guidance on how to identify and avoid anti-personnel mines.²⁵ The books were distributed in all schools around Sengwe area. This measure adopted by ICRC and ZIMAC was supposed to go a long way reducing the predicament of landmines among children. However, the measure was found of use to adults youths and not to younger because they cannot be able to read and write. As a result children continue to die in Sengwe areas.

In addition, there are also measures taken by the government toward the victims. The victims were given wheel chairs, crutches and artificial limbs to support their movement. Philemon Tsovani revealed that the Zimbabwe government donated crutches to 50 people in 2012.²⁶ He also said he received an artificial limb from minister Sekeramayi in 2012.²⁷ However, it is important to note that there is no Act in Zimbabwe to look after the welfare of the victims of landmines but they were treated like any other disable persons under the Disabled Persons Act.

However, in an interview with villagers, they alluded that they do not do it regularly. It was just a once off donation. Also not everyone has received artificial limbs or help. In my observation, It was a campaign gimmick because it was done towards 2013 elections.

The effort of the Zimbabwe government was also being realized through the government funded demining program taking place from Sango Border Post to Crooks Corner along the Mozambique–Zimbabwe–South Africa border. The demining by the Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ), was done in compliance with the Anti -Personnel Mine Ban Treaty of 1999 under Ottawa treaty.²⁸ The demining by the Government of Zimbabwe was done in compliance with the Anti –Personnel Mine Ban Treaty of 1999 under Ottawa Treaty. The Treaty prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of Antipersonnel Mines. States parties to the Mine Ban Treaty are obligated to destroy their stockpile of antipersonnel mines, identify and clear mines under their jurisdiction or control as soon as possible but not later than 10 years after becoming a State Party, provide assistance to mine victims and report to the UN secretary-general their total Antipersonnel Landmines Stockpile, the technical characteristics of their APLs, the location of all mined areas. In 1999, Zimbabwe became a signatory to the 1996 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the use, Stock Piling Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction.²⁹

According to the treaty, Zimbabwe was supposed to complete clearing its seven minefields by the year 2009. However, Zimbabwe failed to meet the deadline and it was extended another ten which it also failed to meet that is 2017. Demining of Sango- Crooks Corner Minefield was carried by the Zimbabwe Military Army Corps (ZMAC) of Engineers. Demining of the Sango Border Post-Crooks Corner minefield in the Sengwe started late in 2012 that is 32 years after independence and is still in progress. Major Chinhongo in an interview revealed that, the Zimbabwe Military Army had a vision 2025 on landmine clearance.³⁰ The vision is that by the year 2025 Sengwe area should be free of landmines. Demining started late in Sengwe because

of lack of information over the years. Demining started late in Sengwe after the government finishing exercise in other big minefields. According to villagers, the starting of demining late after 32 years is a sign of marginalization of the MaShangani by the VaShona government. Villagers revealed that the Vashona do not care for them because they watch for so many years whilst people are dying.

From the year 2012, Zimbabwe Military Army Corps of Engineers partnered International Committee of Red Cross in clearing Sango Border Post-Crooks Corner minefield. This saw the ICRC partnering the government of Zimbabwe on a landmine removal in Gwaivhi village. ICRC donated modern weapons which are bulldozers, detectors and metal sensors in 2012 used for demining.³¹ It also donated 50 full gear and trauma for medical evacuations. ICRC also offer technical training to soldiers to 54 soldiers to demine Sengwe area. Apart from that, the ICRC also donated protective clothing for soldiers that same year 2012. However, the partnership was successful as they managed to clear the whole of Gwaivhi one of the densest area.

Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development (APOPO) was also another demining mission which operated in Sengwe in 2016. APOPO was tasked for demining the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GTLP) the largest conservation area in the world spanning South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.³² The minefield lies to the South of Gonarezhou National Park in Sengwe Wildlife Corridor, an area designated to allow for the free movement of wildlife between Kruger National Park in South Africa and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. The gross death of wild animals was the drive towards the mission. The mission introduced the use of giant rats, nicknamed Herero rates. Giant sniffed landmines and help the miners quickly identify landmines. However, the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park remained a challenge since wild animals continue to die at alarming levels. The area was supposed to boost tourism, if the measure was successful.

4.4 Problems encountered in demining landmines on Sango-Crooks Corner Minefield or Sengwe Corridor

The largest hindrance to the process of demining in Sengwe areas is lack of funding. Poor funding was the first problem encountered by the Zimbabwe Military Army Corps of Engineers. The problem slowed down progress. Lack of sufficient money by the Government of Zimbabwe made it difficult to purchase required modern machines and pay man power. The problem worked against the vision of the deminers. Deminers reported that they have the vision of clearing the last landmine in Sengwe by the year 2025 but because of insufficient money they revealed that they would fail to meet the deadline. Economic sanctions imposed by Britain and her allies blocked Zimbabwe from receiving foreign currency for demining from IMF and World Bank.³³ The seclusion had resulted in lagging behind in mine clearance techniques and minimum funding.

More so, lack of advanced equipment and the use of few old fashioned equipment was the factor behind demining moving at low pace. In 2012, the Defence Secretary Martin Rushwaya said the Zimbabwean Military Corps of Engineers are facing challenges of use of old and antiquated equipment which has proved difficult the use.³⁴ Due to that, Zimbabwe missed 2009 mine clearance deadline and was granted a 22 month extension which it also failed to meet. Deminers reported that due to limited resources they rely on old surveys conducted in 1994. However, due to lack of machinery, personal and sufficient money to carry out demining, the ZMA extended the time span to 2035. This is so because 10 years of the time span were not put in to progress. The government is currently being assisted by International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) which are helping with the training of Army Engineers and the formulation of demining policies. Be that as it may shortage of funding, equipment and severe weather patterns have hindered the progress. Therefore, the use of ageing tools and lack of modern tools goes a long way in making the task difficult.

In addition, clearance in Sengwe areas is seasonal because of the effects of weather. The Zimbabwe National Army Engineers could not partake clearance when it is raining. This is so because landmines have tendencies of moving. Also no demining was done in the afternoon but operations was carried out in the morning as the area is too hot. The places are very dry, very hot such that deminers could not with stand the heat too long before they get exhausted. Thomas and Vincent argue South Eastern is very hot with temperatures averaging 30 degrees Celsius daily.³⁵ Severe weather hindered progress. More so, the task was difficult because of presence of many wetlands especially in Dumisa. Also the presence of concentrated trees in Dumisa made the job difficult. In some areas the ground was so hard to unearth there by reduced pace. Hence weather conditions not conducive for human survival hindered the task.

Furthermore, lack of information which indicated minefield, the type of landmines and patterns hindered the progress. Lack of maps which indicated places mined and lack of specific records that indicate the type of a landmine and patters of landmines in a specific area acted as a back drop. According to Zhou the job proved difficult because of the absence specific records and maps.³⁶ Maps would have gone a long way to quickly indicate where the minefields were planted. The Engineers have complained that some minefields were marked but they have no actual records which shows the patterns and types of landmines in an area which made the process difficult. Maps and actual records were reported to have destroyed by the white man after the War of Liberation in 1980. The ICRC Head of delegations, Olivier Dubois argues that demining in Zimbabwe is very tricky and it will take many years to be addressed because the markings have been removed.³⁷ Zimbabwe is different from other countries such as Mozambique and Angola where minefields were mapped, as a result demining took a faster pace.

More so the removal of perimeter fence or tags that indicated minefield hindered also progress. The perimeter fence was damaged by the animals. The perimeter fence was long removed by

the local people for domestic use.³⁸ The locals used it for fencing their gardens, their homes and their fields. Since the removal of the perimeter fence not another fence was put in place to indicate the minefield. The absence of mine tags caused the process to move at a slow pace because they much time to discover the minefield.

In addition, the fact that some landmines are in Gonarezhou Park, deminers were at the prey of wild animals such as wild dogs, cheetah, elephants, buffalo and lions. Some of the deminers were injured and mimed by wild animals. Major Shonhai revealed that 2 of the deminers were injured in Gwaivhi, Sengwe by a cheetah in 2012.³⁹ Hence the task was not easy as the deminers were at the greatest risk of dangerous wild animals.

More so, the slowing of demining in Sengwe was connected to politics of demining and politics of marginalization. Demining of Sengwe area started late in 2012 after completion of big minefields such as Victoria Falls and Mutare minefields. Sengwe was one of the densest mined area but it was neglected in terms of demining. VaShangaan or Hlengwe cited this as marginalization by the government of Zimbabwe. One of the respondents who refused with his name alluded that the *VaShona* government took long to clear landmines because it wants them to die because they are *VaHlengwe*. Villagers thus cited the delay of demining process in Sengwe to lack of commitment by the ruling government of Zimbabwe. Even Clifford Sibanda a parliamentary from the former opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and chair of a committee with oversight of the Defence Ministry, said demining was not a priority issue for President Robert Mugabe's Government.⁴⁰ Even the Zimbabwe Standard concurs, stating that demining efforts have been slow over the years due to lack of commitment on the part of Zimbabwe.

4.5 CONCLUSION.

The chapter emphasized that villagers in Sengwe areas have adopted local strategies in order to survive in these hazardous areas. The measures were ineffective since people especially children continue to die and livestock died in alarming levels. Livestock cannot read sign posts and as a result they venture in mined areas. In the same vain, the Government partnered NGOs in demining Sengwe and in carrying out Anti - Personnel Landmine risk education. The measures by the Government of Zimbabwe and NGOs failed. They were supposed to boost tourism in Sengwe and it was supposed to release land for farming and for commercial activities. They were supposed to releasing grazing lands and reduce death of livestock. However, demining in Sengwe was a challenge. Deminers faced a number of challenges that hindered progress. Lack of funding, inadequate equipment, unavailability of information such as maps and specific actual records hindered progress. Also the he death of deminers from wild animals hindered progress. Also demining was seasonal because of weather like raining, being too hot and the availability of concentrated vegetation hindered progress. As a result the area is still an enemy zone due to landmines.

End Notes

1. Demining activities underfunded, *Newsday*, 2 February 2016.
2. Interview with P. Phiri, Age (56), Farmer, Dumisa, 12 April 2020.
3. Interview with C. Chimuka, Age (33), Student Teacher, Marinda Primary, 11 April 2020.
4. Interview with P. Masukume, Age (34), Single Mother, Dumisa, 11 April 2020.
5. Interview with D. Madzvamuse, Age (70), Gwaivhi, 10 February 2020.
6. Interview with D. Gezani, Age (56), Local Councillor, Gezani, 13 April 2020.
7. Interview with K. Ncube, Age (33), Shopkeeper, Chikombedzi Growth Point, 13 April 2020.
8. Interview with Z. Gavi, Age (50), Farmer, Davati, 12 April 2020.
9. Interview with A. Zevure, Age (45), Curator, Gweru Museum, 21 February 2020.
10. Interview with O. Makesha, Age (60), War Veteran, Gwaivhi, 9 April 2020.
11. M. Rupiah, "A Historical Study of landmines in Zimbabwe 1963- 1995, Department of History, African Journal Project," *Zambezia* xxii (1), 1995, p. 64.
12. *The Herald* 1992, Zimbabwe.
13. Interview with H. Hlaisi, Age (50), Farmer, Davati, 12 April 2020.
14. Interview with M. Sibanda, Age (35), Nurse Aid, Dumisa clinic, 9 April 2020.
15. Interview with P. Dube, Age (30), Single mother, Katiza, 10 April 2020.
16. Interview with P. Chuma, Age (45), Headmaster, Chitanga Primary, 12 April 2020.
17. Interview with S. Kato, Age (40), Business man, Chikombedzi, 11 April 2020.
18. Interview with C. Mutana, Age (34), Pastor, Davata, 9 April 2020.
19. Interview with M. Chinhongo, Age (50), Major, Sengwe, 15 February 2020.
20. Sanctions won't stop demining, *The Herald*, 3 August 2017.
21. Ibid.
22. Interview with M. Chinhongo, Age (50), Major, Sengwe, 15 February 2020.

23. Ibid.
24. Interview with K. Koma, Age (45), Police, Chiredzi town, 15 February 2020.
25. ICRC, “Double Stretch: The Journey to clearing Zimbabwe’s landmines,” 03 February 2016, available at <http://archives.icrc.org>, retrieved on 13 April 2020.
26. P. Tsovani, a villager in Sengwe, approximately 50 years, interviewed on 11 Feb 2020.
27. Ibid.
28. Article 5, Deadline Extension Request Report (revised), 27 May 2008.
29. D. Kimball, “The Ottawa Convention: Signatories and States-Parties,” January 2018, available at www.armscontrol.org , accessed 3 July.
30. Interview with Chinhongo, 15 February 2020.
31. ICRC, “Double Stretch: The Journey to clearing Zimbabwe’s landmines,” 03 February 2016, available at <http://archives.icrc.org>, retrieved on 13 April 2020.
32. APOPO, “New beginnings in Zimbabwe: APOPO to begin clearings landmines,” 28 November 2017, available at <http://reliefweb.int.newbeginnings.apopo>, retrieved 6 June 2020.
33. Article 5, Landmines clearance deadline Extension Request Report, (revised), 27 May 2008, p.22.
34. M. Rushwaya, Defence Secretary in IRIN, Zimbabwe’s demining neglected, 25 March 2014, available at <http://www.refword.org/docid/53395.cozw.html>, accessed 10 April 2020.
35. C. Vincent and R. G. Thomas, An Agriculture Survey of South Rhodesia, part 11, The Agriculture Economic Survey, Salisbury, Federal Government Printer, 1961, p. 85.
36. Interview with C. Zhou, Age (50), Lieutenant Colonel, Gwaivhi, 12 April 2020.
37. ICRC, “Double Stretch: The Journey to clearing Zimbabwe Landmines,” 3 Feb 2016, available at <http://archives.icrc.org>, retrieved on 13 April 2020.

38. Article 5, Landmine Clearance Deadline Extension Report, (Revised), 27 May 2008, p.22.
39. Interview with S. Pedzisai, Age (45), Major, Masvingo Four brigade, 21 February 2020.
40. C. Sibanda, A Parliamentarian from MDC, in IRIN, Zimbabwe's demining neglected, 25 March 2014, available at <https://www.refworld.org/org/docid/53395.co.24.html>, accessed 10 April 2020.

5.0 Conclusion

The foregoing study has demonstrated that landmines were a guerrilla-counter insurgency strategy adopted by the Rhodesian Security Forces to curb guerrilla movement and their recruits from Mozambique and re-infiltration after completing training. The Rhodesian Security Forces created what were called “no go areas” to create the required area to deploy landmines. Peasants were relocated to Protected Villages. Therefore, landmines were also deployed to separate guerrillas from the support of peasants. The RSF planted landmines in Sengwe and it was targeted because it was the gate way area to neighbor Mozambique. The study therefore emphasized that the RSF introduced Protected Villages in Sengwe that work side by side with landmines.

The research contends that landmines recognized no treaties because even because even after independence landmines posed threats to innocent peasants. Landmines deployed by the Rhodesian Security Forces inland during the liberation struggle were the once continues to pose threat on the people of Sengwe after independence. Demining process in Sengwe started late and the people and the people continues to suffer the scourge of landmines. Landmines have humanitarian cost on peasants, physical impact, economic impact, social impact and political impact. Landmines killed and maimed peasants. Landmines reduced the area of cultivation for peasants as it causes of access denial. Landmines causes access denial to farmers to their arable fertile. Agriculture was disruption of agriculture. The resultant food insecurity and malnutrition. Peasants lost their livestock the only source of wealth to landmines. Economically, the menace of landmines barred the development of huge infrastructure such as schools, clinics and towns.

The study also narrated that children are the worst victims of landmines in Sengwe. Factors such as poverty, lack of health facilities, scattered schools and lack of awareness campaigns

made children more vulnerable to landmines. The study emphasized that children in Sengwe are key players in subsistence economy and this is a risk in an extensive mined area like Sengwe. Children suffer directly and indirectly. Landmines orphaned children and caused permanent disabilities. The scarcity of clinics coupled with lack of medical facilities at a distance caused death of children before they receive medicals. Lack of Landmines Awareness Campaigns causes children to play with dangerous landmines and the resultant death. Socially, landmines barred the odds of disabled children to get married and to marry. Indirectly, the death of parents disadvantaged children as they were left with no one to look after them. The study emphasized that food insecurity as a result of landmines in arable landmines caused death of children as result of malnutrition and Kwashiorkor.

The research revealed that the government of Zimbabwe partnered various NGOs in dealing with the threat of landmines. The Government of Zimbabwe in partnership with APOPO and ICRC organized Landmines Awareness campaigns where villages were taught measures to be done when coming across landmines. NGOs also distributed textbooks in schools enlightening children about the impact of landmines. Villagers were upheld not to touch, to use stick and to burn landmines. Nevertheless, interventions by the NGOs were not effective because Awareness campaigns in Sengwe are in short supply and were rarely done. As a result people especially children continues to suffer the scourge. The study presents that Sengwe Corridor was being neglected in terms of demining and as a result people continues to suffer the scourge. Demining started late in Sengwe in 2012 and the process was slow. The Zimbabwe National Army faces a lot of challenges such as lack of enough funds, lack of personnel, unavailability maps and records of minefields in Sengwe delayed the process. The strategies by the government of Zimbabwe in Sengwe failed because it was supposed to release arable land for farming and for commercial activities.

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