

UNDAC Mission



NIGERIA

City of Lagos

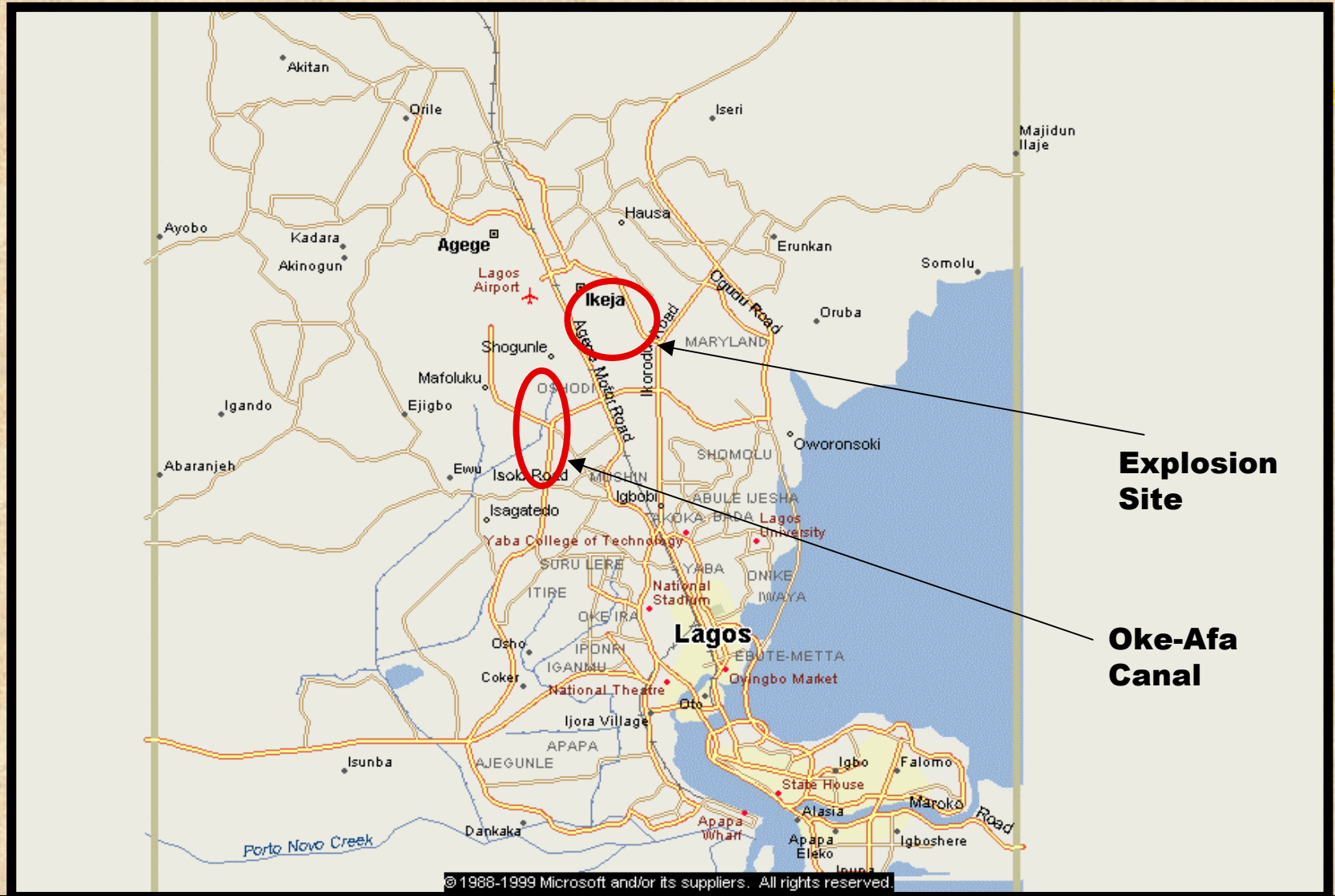
Ammunition Dump Explosion

January-February 2002

Map of Nigeria



Lagos, Nigeria



Incident Details



- Ammunition dump in a military cantonment started exploding on Sunday 27 January.
- Large explosions continued into the next day, resulting in massive damage at the centre of the cantonment covering 1.5 km².



Humanitarian Impact

- About 300 people killed in direct blast area.
- Some 800 people perished in subsequent panic outside the cantonment.
- Many families became separated.





Humanitarian Impact (cont'd)



- Some 20,000 people directly affected by this incident to varying degrees of severity.
- Number of displaced military dependants is estimated at between 4,500 and 10,000.



**LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT
CENTRE II**

IKEJA POLICE COLLEGE

**SITE FOR REHABILITATION
OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY
LAGOS BOMB EXPLOSION**

Humanitarian Impact (cont'd)



- Humanitarian situation compounded by subsequent ethnic clashes between Yoruba and Hausa tribes in Lagos
- Additional burden on relief services and diversion of resources from blast victims



Socio-Economic Impact



- Total of 27 schools affected and three schools inside the cantonment heavily damaged or destroyed completely.
- 33 ammunition warehouses completely destroyed; army barracks severely damaged; several accommodation blocks destroyed and over 100 damaged

Humanitarian–Military Interlinkages

- Incident at military site
- Affected military staff and dependents
- Civilian population affected at both the military site and beyond
- Scope and limitations of military and governmental authorities
- Consequences of military response and clean-up operations for civilians

The Mission



- UNDAC mission organised by OCHA, with support from Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Section.
- Team included experts seconded by the Governments of Austria and the United Kingdom.

Mission Objectives



- A rapid assessment of the situation from humanitarian perspective
- Close collaboration with international experts on unexploded ordnance in assessing the situation
- Preparation of recommendations for immediate response and longer-term activities

Assessment

- Visits to the disaster site
- Visits to camps for displaced people
- Meetings with Lagos State Government authorities, Federal Government and military authorities
- Coordination and cooperation with the UN Country Team
- Close collaboration with experts on unexploded ordinance
- Meetings with Red Cross Movement

Results & Achievements



■ **A rapid assessment resulting in a report:**

- To allow the national authorities and the international community to follow the evolution of events and gain a better understanding of the incident and its impacts
- To help the Government of Nigeria, military authorities and potential donors to address short- and longer-term problems

Conclusions



- Typical example of a man-made incident in densely populated areas
- Evident lack of prevention, preparedness and awareness
- Lack of central and local disaster management capacity and contingency planning
- Coordination problems at different national levels

Conclusions (cont'd)



- The humanitarian situation is largely under control thanks to efforts of the national authorities and the international community
- At the same time, there is a continuing need to provide support to most affected population
- Strong connection between humanitarian and technical aspects of this incident

Recommendations



Immediate phase

- Monitoring of the humanitarian situation
- Provision of 500 tents, taking into account the possibility of increased number of displaced persons
- Funding of any revised IFRC appeal should the humanitarian situation deteriorate

Recommendations (cont'd)



Immediate phase

- Funding a project proposal of UNICEF, which addresses some key areas, including education sector
- Urgent activities related to unexploded ordnance

Recommendations (cont'd)



Medium- and Long-Term Phase

- Environmental impact assessment by national authorities
- Application of UNEP's Awareness and Preparedness at Local Level (APELL) process to hazardous sites in Nigeria
- Support a programme suggested by UNEP and UN-Habitat to improve the national disaster management capacity

Lessons Learned



- Importance of a strong national disaster management structure
- Need for an efficient coordination at all levels and between different partners – Federal, State, Military
- Need of contingency planning at all levels
- Importance of prevention, preparedness and awareness

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE: INCIDENT



- **Site originally used as ammunition transit centre**
- **Poor munitions management: old and unserviceable stock**
- **Unknown quantities and types of ordnance: foreign peace-keeping campaigns, Nigerian civil war**
- **Artillery (up to 155 mm), tank, mortar, mines, anti-aircraft, cannon and small arms ammunition**
- **No chemical or depleted uranium rounds (unconfirmed reports)**



IMPACT: CANTONMENT AREA

- **Epi-centre of blast: 400 m² completely obliterated**
- **Primary blast area: 1.5 km² massive destruction and deep concentration of UXO**
- **Very unstable conditions, UXO “cooking off” randomly**
- **Site contaminated with high explosives, propellant and detonators**
- **provided area is kept isolated, site not intrinsically unsafe**



OUTSIDE CANTONMENT AREA

- **Secondary blast area: radius of approx. 5 km from epicentre, both inside and outside cantonment, more minor damage and unknown quantities of UXO**
- **Impact reported up to 18 km from cantonment**
- **Random UXO found in densely populated residential urban areas**
- **Injuries reported, especially dangerous for children**

CLEAR UP EFFORTS TO DATE



- **Exclusion zone limited and not enforced**
- **Unrestricted access, both military personnel and civilians**
- **Initial clearance work by Nigerian armed forces and police: shovelling and carrying UXO into “piles” – movement and concentration of problem**
- **Highly dangerous situation – injuries already sustained by military personnel**
- **Nigerian military lack technical experience, sufficient personnel and equipment to do the task**



REDUCING THE IMMEDIATE THREAT FROM UXO



- **Expand and control the exclusion zone**
- **Establish command centre for UXO in civilian areas – coordinate with police for safe removal/destruction of UXO**
- **Increase awareness campaigns, especially targeting children**
- **Small team for 2 – 3 months, requiring operational budget**

CANTONMENT SITE CLEAN-UP



- **Major operation requiring multiple teams of trained clearance personnel**
- **Six month to one year timeframe depending on level of effort**
- **Likely to cost several million US dollars**

PROACTIVE MEASURES



- **Training/refresher courses in UXO and ammunition management for Nigerian military personnel**
- **Technical support for immediate review of all existing munitions sites in Nigeria; corrective actions**

IMPORTANT !



- WE SHOULD BE FULLY READY FOR FUTURE EMERGENCIES