

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2027  
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

#### ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

**7** KM<sup>2</sup>

AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2021

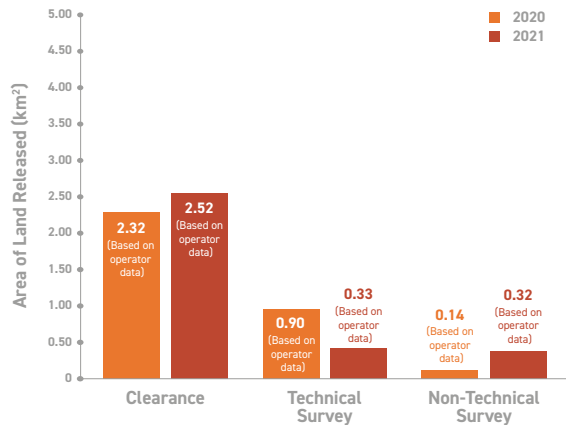
**2.52** KM<sup>2</sup>

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2021

**74**

(19 DESTROYED DURING SPOT TASKS)

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Somalia lacks an accurate baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination but according to Somalia's Anti-Personnel Mine Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request nationwide non-technical survey was due to commence in October 2022. Operators conducted non-technical survey of some areas in 2021 with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) committing to complete survey of Puntland state by early 2023. While clearance increased slightly, overall land release output decreased slightly in 2021 compared to the previous year and the number of anti-personnel mines found and destroyed remains extremely low. The Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA), while recognised as a government institution by presidential decree in 2012, still lacks access to State funding, significantly impeding its ability to fulfil its coordination function effectively.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Somalia should elaborate a new National Mine Action Strategic Plan, updating the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018-2020.
- Somalia should develop a more detailed and structured work plan which should include detailed information on the planned non-technical survey (including what proportion of mined areas are currently accessible for survey and which, due to security concerns, are not), as well as land release targets.
- Somalia should submit comprehensive, annual Article 7 transparency reports and include details regarding anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.
- Somalia should also make available its capacity development plan and resource mobilisation strategy, both of which will be essential for the success of Article 5 implementation in Somalia.
- Somalia should ensure that the most relevant land-release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), are in place to ensure that targeted clearance is being conducted as part of a comprehensive land release methodology.

- Somalia should strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on challenges in implementing its Article 5 clearance obligations.
- Somalia should detail its plans for establishing a sustainable national capacity to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas following completion (i.e. residual contamination).
- Having been recognised as a government institution by presidential decree in 2013, SEMA's status should be officially recognised in law and national resources budgeted annually for its operating costs.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2021)	Score (2020)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	5	4	There is no accurate baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination in Somalia, and the authorities have not provided an estimate of anti-personnel mine contamination since the end of 2019. According to Somalia's Article 5 deadline extension request, a nationwide non-technical survey was due to begin in October 2022. In 2021, the HALO Trust conducted non-technical survey in parts of the Southwest State, Hirshabelle State, and Galmudug State while NPA has completed non-technical survey of mine contamination in one of the border districts of Puntland and has committed to completing non-technical survey in Puntland by early 2023.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	SEMA was recognised as a government institution by presidential decree in 2013, but legislation and budget approval remained pending and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) still does not fund its operations. SEMA continued to receive external capacity development and financial support for salaries throughout 2021 from The HALO Trust.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 includes provisions on gender and diversity. SEMA has been positive towards action on gender and diversity, particularly within survey and community liaison teams. However, cultural challenges exist to achieving gender mainstreaming in Somalia. Clan affiliation is also an important consideration when considering diversity. SEMA has not reported on any additional progress on this issue in 2021.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	SEMA has assumed full ownership and responsibility for the national mine action database, resulting in reported improvements in information management. As at September 2022, Somalia had still to submit its Article 7 report covering 2021.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 was approved in 2020 and extended for one year to allow SEMA sufficient time to develop a new strategy, but as at September 2022, SEMA had not reported on whether a new strategy has been developed. SEMA stated in the extension request that it is working with stakeholders on a costed operational work plan that was to be presented in 2021 but as at September 2022 this had yet to be published. Operators reported that while improvements had been made in tasking by SEMA, the process would benefit from greater ownership by the authority while SEMA expressed concern that operators task themselves without any agreement from its side.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	5	5	A process to revise Somalia's National Technical Standards and Guidelines was due to be completed in 2019 but was still awaiting approval as of writing. Current standards are not deemed fit for purpose.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	4	4	Somalia is not on track to meet its Article 5 deadline. While clearance output increased slightly in 2021, compared to the previous year, survey output and overall land release fell in 2021.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: POOR</b>

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA)
- Mine Action Department within the Somaliland Ministry of Defence (MoD)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Federal Member States (FMS) non-governmental organisation (NGO) consortium

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Ukroboronservice

### OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Somalia has not provided an estimate of anti-personnel mine contamination as at the end of 2021. However, in November 2021, SEMA reported its remaining total explosive ordnance challenge as 74 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), covering an estimated 68.44km<sup>2</sup> and 122 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering an estimated 58.2km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>1</sup> Operators report that CHAs containing landmines are mainly concentrated along Somalia's border with Ethiopia. Data gathered through historical surveys indicate that most recorded minefields were contaminated with anti-vehicle mines or had very minimal information about the type of contamination.<sup>2</sup> Anti-personnel mine contamination in Somalia is believed to be low.<sup>3</sup> That said, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reports that all reported mined areas are believed to have mixture of anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, and unexploded ordnance (UXO).<sup>4</sup>

Contamination from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) exists across Somalia's three major regions: south-central Somalia, including the capital Mogadishu; Puntland; and Somaliland, a self-proclaimed, though unrecognised state in the north-west. Mines along the border with Ethiopia, mainly in legacy minefields, also continued to affect civilians in south-central Somalia.<sup>5</sup>

Previously, SEMA had reported 125 suspected and confirmed mined areas across Somalia covering an estimated total area of 16.2km<sup>2</sup> as at end of 2019 (see Table 1).<sup>6</sup> This estimate includes CHAs and SHAs believed to contain a mixture of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, as well as those believed to contain only anti-personnel mines.

**Table 1: Mine contamination (at end 2019)<sup>7</sup>**

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
AP mines	29	6,098,846	1	0
AP/AV mines	91	9,999,390	4	121,744
<b>Totals</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>16,098,236</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>121,744</b>

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle SHA = suspected hazardous area

It was estimated, at the end of 2019, that 29 CHAs contained only anti-personnel mines, covering a total area of 6.1km<sup>2</sup>, along with one suspected hazardous area (SHA) of an unknown size in Puntland, see Table 2.<sup>8</sup> This is a massive reduction from the more than 72.2km<sup>2</sup> of anti-personnel mine contamination across 72 SHAs/CHAs reported in Somalia's Article 7 report (covering 2018).<sup>9</sup> SEMA, however, believes that the true extent of contamination is far greater.

1 Presentation by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, National Director General, SEMA, of Somalia's request for an Article 5 deadline extension, 19th MSP to the APMBC, virtual meeting, 15–19 November 2021.

2 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, Head of Programme Management Office, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; and Claus Nielsen, Country Director, NPA, 23 July 2020.

3 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, Country Director, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

4 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 21 August 2022.

5 UNMAS, "UN-suggested Explosive Hazard Management Strategic Framework 2015–2019", undated, pp. 6 and 12.

6 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 11 May 2020.

7 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 11 May 2020.

8 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 11 May 2020.

9 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form J.

**Table 2: Anti-personnel mine contamination, excluding mixed anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mine contamination (at end 2019)<sup>10</sup>**

State	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total CHAs/SHAs	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Galmudug	18	3,482,660	0	0	18	3,482,660
Hirshabelle	3	381,922	0	0	3	381,922
Puntland	1	N/K	1	N/K	2	N/K
South-West	7	2,234,264	0	0	7	2,234,264
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6,098,846</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6,098,846</b>

N/K = Not known

While no comprehensive estimates yet exist of mine contamination in Somalia, surveys completed in 2008 in Bakol, Bay, and Hiraan regions revealed that, of a total of 718 communities, around one in ten was contaminated by mines and/or ERW.<sup>11</sup> Other contaminated areas lie along the border with Ethiopia, in Galguduud and Gedo regions, as well as in Hiraan. Non-technical survey initiated in 2015 identified more than 6km<sup>2</sup> of mined area.<sup>12</sup> However, a baseline of mine contamination is still lacking in Somalia, primarily due to a lack of resources to deploy sufficient survey teams and lack of access to areas due to security concerns and al-Shabaab control.<sup>13</sup> According to the 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, a nationwide non-technical survey is planned to be carried out between October 2022 and October 2027.<sup>14</sup>

In Somalia's 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, a two-phase work plan has been provided of which non-technical survey of currently accessible areas is a key focus. Phase one which is from April 2021 to 1 October 2022 (the period prior to the date from which the extension request becomes effective) will focus on the planning of non-technical survey, while phase two will focus on implementation.<sup>15</sup> Lack of safe access continues to be a major obstacle to the completion of survey. Fighting between clans and the presence of Al-Shabaab restricts mobility and places operators' and security personnel at risk.

In 2021, the HALO Trust conducted non-technical survey across Southwest state, Hirshabelle state, and Galmudug state, recording 1,427,664m<sup>2</sup> of landmine contamination across 31 CHAs. Of these, four newly surveyed minefields have a confirmed or suspected anti-personnel mine threat, totalling 213,767m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>16</sup>

In Somaliland, The HALO Trust reported that, as at June 2022, 5.46km<sup>2</sup> remains to be cleared. This includes 18 mixed anti-personnel and anti-vehicle minefields with a total size of 3.9km<sup>2</sup> as well as 65 roads with a mine threat equalling 1.4km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>17</sup> This compares to the almost 5.8km<sup>2</sup> that remained at July 2020.<sup>18</sup>

The HALO Trust continued to deploy survey teams across Somaliland in order to build a more accurate assessment of the remaining contamination. While the general extent of contamination has been established by comprehensive survey that HALO has undertaken over the last 20 years in Somaliland, a combination of low-density minelaying and lack of first-hand survey information means that new contaminated areas are still being found.<sup>19</sup>

In the Puntland state administration, mine contamination was assessed during Phase 2 of a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS), implemented by the Survey Action Centre (SAC) and the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC) in the regions of Bari, Nugaal, and the northern part of Mudug.<sup>20</sup> Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), funded by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), has completed non-technical survey of mine contamination in one of the border districts of Puntland. NPA has committed to complete non-technical survey across the whole of the Puntland state by the early 2023.<sup>21</sup> In 2021, NPA identified 90 SHAs measuring a total of 2,666,998m<sup>2</sup> within Puntland state which are mainly suspected to contain anti-vehicle mines. However, given the nature and history of the minefields in Somalia, the chance of finding anti-personnel mines in the same minefields is possible.<sup>22</sup>

10 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 11 May 2020. Somalia submitted its Article 7 report (covering 2019) in September 2020 and there were some minor differences in the contamination figures (the number of CHAs is 18 and total area of CHA was 6,098,836m<sup>2</sup>; the number of SHAs is 11 and total area of SHA was 10.4km<sup>2</sup> (recorded as only 10.4m<sup>2</sup> in the Article 7 report)), but the overall estimate of contamination and total CHAs/SHAs were the same.

11 UNMAS, "Annual Report 2011", New York, August 2012, p. 68.

12 Email from Tom Griffiths, Regional Director North Africa, HALO Trust, 25 May 2016.

13 Emails from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 May 2019; and Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

14 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 58.

15 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, pp. 43-44.

16 Email from Daniel Redetlinghuys, Country Director, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

17 Email from Tobias Hewitt, Programme Manager - Somaliland, HALO Trust, 20 June 2022.

18 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 10 July 2020.

19 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

20 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, Director, SEMA, 14 October 2016; and SAC, "Landmine Impact Survey, Phase 2: Bari, Nugaal and Northern Mudug Regions", 2005, p. 5. Phase 1 and Phase 3 of the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) covered regions of Somaliland in 2003 and 2007, respectively.

21 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, Country Director, NPA, 1 June and 20 August 2022.

22 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 1 June 2022.

As a result of the Ethiopian-Somali wars in 1964 and 1977–78 (also known as the Ogaden war), and more than 20 years of internal conflict, Somalia has both mines and especially ERW contamination. According to the UN, mines were laid as recently as 2012 in the disputed regions of Sool and Sanaag.<sup>23</sup> According to SEMA, Somalia has seen an increase in the use of mines of an improvised nature in recent years. The extent of the threat is not well known, and SEMA was planning to begin recording this information in 2020.<sup>24</sup> NPA has reported that non-State actors are using mines of an improvised nature in areas of Northern Puntland, which has been confirmed by the Puntland Ministry of Security. In 2020, eight mines of an improvised nature collected by locals in Puntland were disposed of outside task sites.<sup>25</sup> No improvised mines were reportedly found during 2021.

Somalia also has a limited contamination from cluster munition remnants (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022* report on Somalia for further information).

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Mine action management in Somalia is the responsibility of SEMA. There is a separate regional office in Somaliland, the Mine Action Department within the Somaliland Ministry of Defence (formerly, the Mine Clearance Information and Coordination Authority (MCICA), and before that the Somaliland Mine Action Centre, SMAC) in Somaliland.<sup>26</sup>

SEMA maintains a presence across Somalia through its five Federal Member States (FMS): the Galmudug State Office, Hirshabelle State Office, Jubaland State Office, Puntland State Office, and South West State Office.<sup>27</sup> Under each of the five states is an independent consortium of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) implementing mine action activities.

SEMA was established in 2013 as the mine action centre and serves as the de facto mine action authority for Somalia, replacing the Somalia National Mine Action Authority (SNMAA) created two years earlier.<sup>28</sup> SEMA's aim was to assume full responsibility for all explosive hazard coordination, regulation, and management by December 2015.<sup>29</sup> SEMA was established by presidential decree in 2013 with endorsement from the Cabinet of Ministers, and legislation and a budget for SEMA were submitted to the Federal Parliament for approval in 2015.<sup>30</sup> However, SEMA's legislative framework was not approved by the Parliament in 2016 as expected, and progress was further stalled by elections in February 2017 that resulted in a period of government paralysis.<sup>31</sup> Due to this lack of parliamentary approval, SEMA has not received funding from the Federal

Government of Somalia since the expiry of its grant in 2015.<sup>32</sup> Salaries at SEMA were covered by NPA from 2015 to March 2021.<sup>33</sup> UNMAS was supporting SEMA state offices with operational incentives from January to December 2021.<sup>34</sup> UNDP supported SEMA with two months of stipends for staff from January 2022.<sup>35</sup> Throughout 2021 and to date at the time of writing, SEMA had received financial support for salaries from The HALO Trust. As well as an absence of government funding, SEMA highlights lack of international funding as a major impediment to being able to fulfil its role effectively.<sup>36</sup>

The Government of Somalia does not provide any national funding for survey or clearance.<sup>37</sup> However, the Ministry of Defence in Somaliland provides a financial allocation to two manual clearance teams totalling 18 personnel.<sup>38</sup>

In its revised Article 5 deadline extension request, Somalia reported that SEMA expected to receive parliamentary approval in 2022 but, as at June 2022, this had still to happen.<sup>39</sup>

UNMAS, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), The HALO Trust, and NPA all provided capacity development support to SEMA during 2021. UNMAS provided technical and financial support to SEMA to participate in national and international advocacy forums; information management capacity support; "extensive" technical support for the Somalia's Article 5 deadline extension request; and training in Gender and Diversity in Mine Action.<sup>40</sup>

23 UNMAS, "Annual Report 2012", New York, 2013, p. 21. Sovereignty over these territories is claimed by both the self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland and Puntland.

24 Emails from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 April 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

25 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 6 April 2021.

26 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016; and telephone interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 19 August 2020.

27 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016.

28 Interview with Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, in Geneva, 9 April 2014; and email from Kjell Ivar Breili, UNMAS, 12 July 2015.

29 Response to questionnaire by Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 19 June 2015.

30 "UNMAS Somalia – #NDMUN24 Booth", Global Protection Cluster, accessed 24 September 2022 at: <https://bit.ly/3UA110C>.

31 Emails from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 June 2016; and Hilde Jørgensen, NPA, 3 May 2017.

32 Emails from Terje Eldøen, Programme Manager, NPA, 22 October 2016; and Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016.

33 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 26 May 2021.

34 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 3 August 2020 and 4 July 2021.

35 Email from Helen Olafsdottir, UNDP, 7 June 2022.

36 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 23 September 2022.

37 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

38 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May 2022.

39 Revised APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 61.

40 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

In 2021, SEMA was one of the virtual participants in online activities conducted by the GICHD, which could not take place in person due to COVID-19 restrictions. Activities included workshops and webinars on national mine action standards, mine action operations, information management, and gender and diversity. In addition, SEMA received in-person training on the gender focal point capacity development programme, which aims to improve gender and diversity mainstreaming in mine action operations and employment policies.<sup>41</sup>

In 2021 and early 2022, the HALO Trust provided support to SEMA on information management, geographic information systems (GIS), and quality management.<sup>42</sup> NPA is providing support to the Puntland State Office on information management until 2023.<sup>43</sup>

UNDP launched a capacity development project in January 2022 with funding allocated to NPA to conduct non-technical survey in Puntland state and provide information management capacity building to SEMA; to The HALO Trust to provide capacity development support to SEMA on technical survey and land release; and for IT equipment and a vehicle provided directly to SEMA.<sup>44</sup> A draft capacity development framework was also jointly developed by NPA, UNMAS, and HALO Trust, and submitted to SEMA for approval. At the time of writing, approval was still pending. It is hoped that the framework will improve coordination of capacity development support to SEMA and avoid duplication of activities by partners.<sup>45</sup>

SEMA concurs that, together with operators, it should establish a comprehensive capacity development framework for Somalia.<sup>46</sup> SEMA also believes that capacity-building support for mine action in Somalia is “crucial” to land release efforts, including in areas such as coordination and management, and has appealed to the international community for technical support.<sup>47</sup>

SEMA began conducting quarterly meetings with all mine action implementing partners in 2018, with a focus on monitoring of operations.<sup>48</sup> However, SEMA has raised concerns about the level of coordination by the operators, on issues such as tasking and prioritisation.<sup>49</sup> In turn, operators have reported that coordination remains ineffective due to the uncertain legal status of SEMA.<sup>50</sup> In 2021, SEMA announced plans to convene regular technical meetings with operators as well as broader national level meetings.<sup>51</sup>

The lack of parliamentary approval of SEMA is seen as a major obstacle to mine action in Somalia as this hampers SEMA's ability to become an integrated part of the annual State budget and hinders their capacity for long-term planning for staff. This results in high staff turnover within SEMA outside senior management.<sup>52</sup> Somalia is currently wholly reliant on international financial resources for its mine action programme. In its 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, Somalia provided an estimate of the annual cost for implementing the operational work plan to 2027 which is estimated to be US\$6.4 million per year. This includes: SEMA operations at Federal and State levels (five offices) at US\$900,000 per year; UN agency support to Article 5 compliance at US\$500,000 per year; and implementation of projected land release at US\$5 million per year.<sup>53</sup> However, there is no information on where this funding will come from and how much will be contributed by the FGS.

In 2021, in accordance with the extension request, SEMA was working with local stakeholders on a national capacity-building plan, a resource mobilisation strategy, and a detailed budget for activities under the work plan.<sup>54</sup> UNMAS confirms that, in line with Somalia's Article 5 deadline extension, it will work with SEMA to develop an Action Plan that will map capacity building of the national authority and prioritisation of land release activities during the extension period.<sup>55</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

A section on environmental management is contained within Somalia's national mine action standards. As at June 2022, however, they were still awaiting approval.<sup>56</sup>

41 Emails from Noor Zangana, Advisor, Information Management Capacity Development, GICHD, 6 May and 16 June 2022.

42 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

43 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

44 Email from Helen Olafsdottir, Technical Specialist, UNDP, 7 June 2022.

45 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 20 August 2022.

46 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 22 June 2022.

47 Presentation by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, APMBC Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.

48 Emails from Chris Pym, HALO Trust, 9 May 2019; and Claus Nielsen, NPA, 13 April 2019.

49 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 3 July 2021.

50 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

51 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.; and Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 52.

52 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 6 April 2021.

53 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 47.

54 Ibid., p. 10.

55 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 5 July 2022.

56 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

UNMAS, NPA, and the HALO Trust all reported that they have an environmental policy in place.<sup>57</sup> In 2021, UNMAS and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) adopted the Health, Safety, Social and Environment (HSSE) standards for mine action sites, which is a social and environmental management plan for mine action operational sites. This, along with UNMAS's health and safety plan for mine action sites, make up the two plans needed for operational compliance with their HSSE obligations. The HSSE standards cover the following major areas:

- Waste Management
- Site specific social/environmental risk assessment
- Social and Environmental Quality Assurance; and
- Contractor Monthly Reporting.<sup>58</sup>

All UNMAS tasks are preceded by a comprehensive situational analysis report on the various security and environmental factors surrounding the specific task site. These are then reviewed by the UNMAS project team, along with UNMAS Security and senior management if required, for mitigation where necessary and for an alternative task site selection if the situation is untenable.<sup>59</sup> The HALO Trust mitigates the environmental impact of clearance by removing the minimum vegetation necessary to conduct safe demining in Somalia, recognising that most of the mined land in Somalia is located along the Ethiopian border where most livelihoods are dependent upon grazing lands for animals and where drought is extremely common.<sup>60</sup>

## PUNTLAND

The SEMA Puntland State Office, formerly known as the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC), was established in Garowe with UNDP support in 1999. Since then, on behalf of the regional government and SEMA, the Puntland State Office has coordinated mine action with local and international partners, NPA, and the Puntland Risk Solution Consortium.<sup>61</sup>

In 2021, SEMA reported that the Puntland State Office coordinated mine action under SEMA, working with its international partner, NPA.<sup>62</sup>

In 2021, NPA relocated its main country office from Mogadishu to Puntland in order to be closer to its operations. SEMA stated that this move was done without its permission.<sup>63</sup> A decision was taken in August 2021 to re-focus NPA operations on non-technical survey of Puntland as the amount of contamination found during land release to date has been consistently low and it was deemed a better use of resources to define existing hazardous areas with the intention of cancelling areas without contamination before any further clearance takes place. It is expected that non-technical survey will be completed by April 2023.<sup>64</sup> NPA will solely focus its land release activities on completion within Puntland state for the foreseeable future while maintaining a lean coordination office in Mogadishu to support its conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) project and provide capacity development support to SEMA.<sup>65</sup>

## SOMALILAND

As part of a larger process of government reform in early 2018, the Somalia Mine Action Centre (SMAC), which was responsible for coordinating and managing demining in Somaliland since 1997, was restructured and renamed the Mine Clearance Information and Coordination Authority (MCICA). The Agency underwent a change of line ministry from the Office of the Vice President to the Ministry of Defence.<sup>66</sup> It was renamed the Mine Action Department in January 2019.<sup>67</sup>

In Somaliland, The HALO Trust, working in collaboration with the government and through Swiss consulting firm, Small Arms Survey, is developing a National Action Plan to include a comprehensive plan for Explosives Hazards Management. At the time of writing, this was expected to be completed by mid-2022 and will be a five-year plan.<sup>68</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–20 recognises gender and diversity as cross-cutting issues for the national mine action programme, in line with Somalia's National Development Plan objectives to "implement gender equality in education and mainstream gender in all of its programmes with a focus on adolescent girls". The National Mine Action Strategic Plan stipulates that the mine action programme must reflect gender objectives and ensure the specific needs of women, girls, boys, and men are taken into account, including through delivery of gender-equality programming and adoption of a gender-sensitive approach by consortia and implementing partners. The Plan also recognises the importance of conducting context analyses in areas of mine action operations to clarify important gender and diversity issues, such as clan

57 Ibid.; and emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

58 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

59 Ibid.

60 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

61 UNMAS, "UN-suggested Explosive Hazard Management Strategic Framework 2015–2019", p. 9; and emails from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 23 July 2020 and 26 May 2021. SEMA has claimed that this NGO is no longer functioning.

62 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 22 June 2022.

63 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 17 June 2022.

64 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March and 20 August 2022.

65 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

66 Email from Chris Pym, HALO Trust, 9 May 2019.

67 Email from Chris Pym, HALO Trust, 2 June 2019.

68 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 26 June 2022.

affiliation, movement patterns of local populations, and barriers to participation for different gender and age groups.<sup>69</sup> SEMA reported that gender and diversity have also been integrated into the national mine action standards.<sup>70</sup>

In May 2019, SEMA informed Mine Action Review that it does not have an internal gender or diversity policy or implementation plan. It acknowledged that this was “unfortunate” and pledged that it would strive for gender balance in the future, by ensuring equal employment opportunities for qualified men and women.<sup>71</sup> In Somalia's revised Article 5 deadline extension request, a gender policy for mine action was due to be developed by October 2022.<sup>72</sup>

SEMA also reported that within the federal State national mine action NGO consortia, emphasis was placed on gender balance in survey and community liaison teams to ensure the inclusive participation of all affected groups, including women and children.<sup>73</sup> Operators are working towards gender-balanced survey and clearance teams. This is a challenge in Somalia as a traditionally patriarchal society where women are not usually encouraged to engage in physical work or to take up leadership roles.<sup>74</sup> SEMA confirmed that data collection was disaggregated by sex and age, and gender considered in the prioritisation, planning, and tasking of survey and clearance activities,<sup>75</sup> although it is unclear how gender is being taken into account.

All operators confirmed that clan affiliation was also an important consideration when recruiting and deploying operational staff. It is important that the hiring process includes people from across the different clan and ethnic groups to ensure diversity and that there is sensitivity to this when teams are deployed.<sup>76</sup> Employing more women typically enables operators to access all strata of Somali society to gain information and consider the views of all relevant groups.<sup>77</sup> In Somaliland, 35% of the population are nomadic pastoralists, with many transiting between Somaliland and Ethiopia. HALO in Somaliland ensures that it employs survey staff from both a rural and urban background, and from

various regions in Somaliland, to ensure there is a strong understanding of all sections of Somaliland society.<sup>78</sup>

In 2021, 39% of NPA's total workforce were women with 4% of managerial/supervisory roles held by women and 12% of operational roles. NPA has four women embedded within its non-technical survey teams, two of whom have been seconded from the police.<sup>79</sup>

When contracting an implementing partner, UNMAS provides targets on the proportion of women and young people that should make up the operator's team including aiming for a minimum of 50% women and 35% young people. However, UNMAS acknowledges that this target is difficult to achieve due to Somalia's traditional patriarchal society where women are generally discouraged from participating in manual demining. This challenge notwithstanding, the proportion of women among all recruited teams by UNMAS implementing partners was up to 15% with up to 35% youth recruitment. In 2021, 42% of all UNMAS Somalia personnel overall were women. However, only 20% of all managerial/supervisory positions and 22% of operational positions were occupied by women.<sup>80</sup>

Since 2020, HALO Somaliland has been making an active effort to recruit women to its demining teams and in support of these efforts has worked with local communities to increase acceptance of women spending time away from their communities and families to work as deminers. Additionally, to promote retention of female recruits, HALO Somaliland has implemented 20-week-long maternity leave, a childcare stipend for mothers of children up to two years old, yearly medical check-ups, and hygiene kits made available in camps. Overall, 10% of HALO Somaliland staff are female with four women in managerial/supervisory positions and forty women in operations positions.<sup>81</sup> In HALO Somalia, 23% of all employees are women, filling 14% of managerial/supervisory positions and 18% of operations positions.<sup>82</sup> In SEMA, 17% of the workforce in 2021 were female.<sup>83</sup>

69 SEMA, “Somalia National Strategic Plan, 2019”, pp. 21–22.

70 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 11 May 2020.

71 Email from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshow, SEMA, 9 May 2019.

72 Revised APMB Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 50.

73 Email from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshow, SEMA, 9 May 2019.

74 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

75 Email from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshow, SEMA, 9 May 2019.

76 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 April 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

77 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

78 Ibid.

79 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

80 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

81 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May 2022.

82 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

83 Email from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 4 July 2021.



## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

In 2017, ownership of the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database was fully transferred from UNMAS to SEMA, with support and capacity-building from NPA.<sup>84</sup> SEMA received technical advisory support on information management from the GICHD and UNMAS during 2021, with UNMAS supporting SEMA with the recruitment of an Information Management (IM) Assistant in September 2021 and providing IMSMA training to the IM assistant. UNMAS will also be providing IT equipment to SEMA which was expected to be delivered in 2022.<sup>85</sup> The HALO Trust provided training for SEMA personnel on IMSMA and database quality control to improve the quality of data in the mine action database. The HALO Trust has continued to work with SEMA in 2022 on database information quality and information sharing.<sup>86</sup>

SEMA decided to upgrade its database to IMSMA Core starting in 2022 but the data within the database are considered to be of poor quality, which leads to issues with reporting. Although data collection forms have been introduced there is no sustainable process of entering the data into the information management system.<sup>87</sup>

That said, SEMA states that, working with international partners, it has made significant progress towards elaborating an accurate picture of existing contamination through data consolidation and confirms they will continue to work on this with partners. SEMA has also restated its intention to migrate data to IMSMA Core to improve operations, planning, and survey capabilities.<sup>88</sup> Implementation of IMSMA Core began in July 2022 and a work plan and timeline for completion were being finalised at the time of writing. In collaboration with the GICHD and UNMAS, work has also begun on developing the system design documentation.<sup>89</sup>

In 2021, NPA established an IMSMA database for the Puntland State Office and provided training on information

management to its staff. It is expected that this will improve information sharing of mine action data between the Puntland authorities and SEMA. NPA has fully synchronised its land release, risk education, and survey assessment data for Puntland state with the IMSMA database at the Puntland State Office. Once the non-technical survey of Puntland state is completed this will also be updated in the IMSMA database so that baseline contamination data are accurate and available for planning.<sup>90</sup>

The Mine Action Department, the mine action authority in Somaliland, manages a separate IMSMA database. The HALO Trust stated that its data undergo monthly QA before being reported to the Mine Action Department, which uploads it onto the central database. In Somaliland, HALO creates its own data collection forms, which it says ensure accurate collection of data by its survey teams.<sup>91</sup>

In July 2018, SEMA submitted its first Article 7 transparency report for several years covering calendar year 2017, reflecting improvements in its information management and reporting capacity and greater transparency and efforts to engage with the APMBC community. However, subsequent reporting has been of poor quality, lacking basic details on the size of and progress to address remaining contamination, and with considerable inconsistencies in year-to-year reporting. In September 2020, Somalia submitted its Article 7 report covering 2019, though there were some data discrepancies between national authority and operator data.

In April 2021, SEMA submitted Somalia's Article 5 deadline extension request seeking an extension through to 2027, but it was poorly formulated and requires significant revisions as it lacks sufficient detail and clarity. SEMA has stated that it will present a detailed costed operational work plan in addition to the request in 2021 although, as at September 2022, SEMA has yet to submit the work plan or its latest Article 7 report.

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 was developed with input from SEMA, UNMAS, international operators, national NGO consortia, and international institutions in late 2017.<sup>92</sup> The strategic plan finally received approval from the Somali Minister of Internal Security at the end of 2020 and has been extended for one year to provide SEMA with sufficient time for the development of a new strategy.<sup>93</sup> As at September 2022, SEMA has not reported on whether a new strategy has been developed.

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84 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 22 March 2018.

85 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

86 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

87 Email from Noor Zangana, GICHD, 6 May 2022.

88 Presentation by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, APMBC Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.

89 Email from Rory Logan, Head of Strategies, Performance and Impact, GICHD, 12 July 2022.

90 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

91 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

92 Emails from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshow, SEMA, 9 May 2019; and Claus Nielsen, NPA, 13 April 2019.

93 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 26 May 2021.

The old plan focused on setting “achievable” goals over the three-year period. The strategy’s five goals, identified by SEMA, were as follows:

- To enhance SEMA’s ability to lead and enable effective and efficient mine action
- To develop the Somali mine action consortia into a wholly national mine action capacity
- To engage with stakeholders in order to understand, and better respond to, their mine action needs
- To achieve a mine-impact-free Somalia; and
- To comply with treaties binding Somalia on mines and other explosive threats.

In February 2018, an updated second “phase” of the five-year “Badbaado Plan for Multi-Year Explosive Hazard Management for 2018–2022”, first developed in 2015 by SEMA, UNMAS, and the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), was officially launched in Geneva. It claimed to be a plan to “make Somalia mine free by 2022”, but it is not realistic, without detail as to the amount of contamination remaining or targets for completion.<sup>94</sup> According to UNMAS, the Badbaado plan lacked consultation with other stakeholders and will be usurped by Somalia’s strategic plan.<sup>95</sup> In Somaliland, The HALO Trust has encountered a lack of political will to conclude a strategic plan or handle residual risk.<sup>96</sup>

SEMA developed a mine action work plan for 2020, in cooperation with the SEMA state offices, and operators. NPA supported SEMA with an implementation plan for 2021 for SEMA specific activities, an overall operational implementation plan was also discussed but due to time constraints was postponed until 2022.<sup>97</sup> According to Somalia’s Article 5 extension request SEMA is working with stakeholders on a costed operational work plan, which will include plans for desktop survey and non-technical survey, to be presented in addition to its extension request. SEMA said

it would produce a detailed budget in 2021 for activities under the work plan.<sup>98</sup> As at September 2022, this had still to be submitted and in the draft decision the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties requested that Somalia submit an updated detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for survey and clearance by 30 April 2023.<sup>99</sup>

Somalia has split its extension request into two phases but does not provide any annual projections for land release or provide a timeline for planned activities. Phase 1 is for April 2021–1 October 2022 (i.e. the period prior to the date from which the extension request becomes effective) and will focus on capacity building of national demining institutions, planning of non-technical survey in accessible areas, and continuation of land release activities. Phase 2 is from 1 October 2022 to 1 October 2027. During this period Somalia will continue with phase 1 activities but with a greater focus on the implementation of non-technical survey in currently accessible areas to identify the extent of contamination.<sup>100</sup>

NPA reported that in Puntland survey and clearance task dossiers are issued in a timely and effective manner.<sup>101</sup> The HALO Trust reported an improvement in tasking in Somalia since the new Director of SEMA was appointed with the Authority becoming much more responsive to requests.<sup>102</sup> This remains an area needing further strengthening. According to UNMAS, there are no agreed prioritisation criteria and task dossiers are not issued in a timely and effective manner due to the limited capacity of the national mine action authority responsible for task issuance.<sup>103</sup> SEMA, however, expressed concern that operators task themselves without its agreement.<sup>104</sup> A clear tasking order request system was planned to be developed and implemented by October 2022.<sup>105</sup> However, at the time of writing no update on this was available. In Somaliland, The HALO Trust manages its own tasking and prioritisation.<sup>106</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

There is no national mine action legislation in Somalia. UNMAS developed National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) for Somalia in 2012–13.<sup>107</sup> However, according to The HALO Trust, since their introduction they have not been updated and do not accurately reflect the clearance standards required for Somalia. They allow for methodologies such as

94 SEMA, “Badbaado Phase II: Meeting the Obligations of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty 2018–2022”.

95 Interview with Qurat-al-Ain, UNMAS, Geneva, 14 February 2020.

96 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 10 July 2020.

97 Skype interview with Claus Nielsen, NPA, 10 February 2020; and email, 26 May 2021.

98 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 10.

99 Decisions on the request submitted by Somalia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, 19 MSP, 16 November 2021.

100 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 43–44.

101 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 6 April 2021.

102 Email from Abdullah Alkhasawneh, HALO Trust, 16 May 2021.

103 Email from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 4 April 2021.

104 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 3 July 2021.

105 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 53.

106 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

107 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 5 June 2016; and response to questionnaire by Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 19 June 2015.

detector-assisted prodding, which should be critically reviewed on the basis that it has resulted in missed mines in Somalia.<sup>108</sup> SEMA conducted a review of the NTSGs in 2019 with technical support from NPA and in compliance with IMAS. It was expected that the NTSGs would receive approval from the Ministry of Internal Security during 2021<sup>109</sup> but, as at September 2022, no update on this had been provided.

In Somaliland, The HALO Trust confirmed that the Mine Action Department Information Management Unit occasionally visit survey and clearance operations.<sup>110</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2021, international NGO, The HALO Trust, conducted both battle area clearance (BAC) and mine clearance operations in Somalia and Somaliland, along with UNMAS-contracted commercial clearance company, Ukroboronservice. NPA conducted clearance of mined areas.<sup>111</sup>

**Table 3: Operational mine and battle area clearance capacities deployed in 2021<sup>112</sup>**

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines**	Comments
Ukroboronservice (UNMAS)	6	120	0	0	Increase from 6 teams of 46 deminers in 2020. Conduct BAC and mine clearance.
HALO Somalia	20	190	0	0	Increase from 20 teams of 169 deminers in 2020. Conduct BAC and mine clearance although increased focus on mine clearance in 2021.
HALO Somaliland	32	289	0	3	Increase from 34 teams of 272 personnel in 2020. Conducting manual and mechanical clearance.
NPA	2	9	2 dogs/2 handlers	0	Increase from one team of 6 in 2020. Conduct mine clearance.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>2 dogs/2 handlers</b>	<b>3</b>	

\* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers. \*\* Excluding vegetation cutters and sifters.

UNMAS, through its implementing partner Ukroboronservice, deployed two quick reaction teams totalling ten personnel which conducted non-technical survey and technical survey and four teams of community liaison officers totalling eight people conducted non-technical survey.<sup>113</sup> UNMAS increased its clearance capacity from 2020 to 2021 with a total of 120 deminers deployed in Galmudug and Puntland states. In 2022, UNMAS expected capacity to decrease due to a reduction in funding.<sup>114</sup>

In 2021, HALO Somalia increased its focused on manual mine clearance with improved security conditions enabling access for clearance along the Ethiopian border. There was an increase in survey and clearance personnel deployed from 2020 to 2021 due to greater funding with the amount of personnel also expected to increase again in 2022. The HALO Trust reported no significant change in operational capacity in Somaliland between 2020 and 2021. As well as clearance teams, HALO Somaliland also deployed two survey and EOD teams totalling ten personnel (eight survey personnel and two drivers), 35 technical survey teams totalling 311 personnel, and two "Village by Village" teams of three people each. The Village by Village teams plan to review all villages in Somaliland by the end of 2023, to assess whether they are "mine-impact free". HALO Somaliland expected no significant change in operational capacity in 2022.<sup>115</sup>

108 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO Trust, 14 June 2020.

109 Revised APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 38.

110 Email from Chris Pym, HALO Trust, 20 May 2021.

111 DDG and MAG continued to operate in Somalia and Somaliland in 2021, but did not carry out demining.

112 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022; and Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

113 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

114 Ibid.

115 Emails from Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May and 26 July 2022.

In 2021, NPA was working in Puntland conducting survey and clearance and capacity building, entering into partnership with the local NGO consortia. NPA reported no significant change in operational capacity compared to 2020. NPA deployed six non-technical survey teams totalling 12 personnel with its clearance capacity also conducting technical survey. From August 2021, all field personnel could also undertake non-technical survey. NPA did not expect any major change to capacity in 2022.<sup>116</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

A total of 3.17km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was released in 2021 across Somalia and Somaliland, of which 2.52km<sup>2</sup> was cleared, 0.33km<sup>2</sup> was reduced by technical survey, and 0.32km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled by non-technical survey. A total of 74 anti-personnel mines were found and destroyed, of which 19 were destroyed during EOD spot tasks and 4 during BAC.

### SURVEY IN 2021

In 2021, a total of 0.65km<sup>2</sup> was released through survey: 0.32km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through non-technical survey (see Table 4) and 0.33km<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey (see Table 5).<sup>117</sup> This is a decrease from 2020 when a total of 1.03km<sup>2</sup> was released through survey: 0.14km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through non-technical survey and close to 0.90km<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey.<sup>118</sup>

### CLEARANCE IN 2021

In 2021, a total of 2.52km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was cleared with the destruction of 51 anti-personnel mines, 35 anti-vehicle mines, and 22 items of UXO. The vast majority of anti-personnel mines were found and destroyed in Somaliland.<sup>119</sup> This is a slight increase on overall clearance of 2.32km<sup>2</sup> in 2020.<sup>120</sup>

In addition, eight anti-personnel mines and four anti-vehicle mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks by The HALO Trust in Somalia in 2021.<sup>121</sup> In Somaliland, HALO Trust destroyed 11 anti-personnel mines during EOD spot tasks.<sup>122</sup>

In 2021, NPA cleared one task with no explosive ordnance contamination found totalling 165,068m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>123</sup> The HALO Trust cleared one task in Somaliland with no mines found totalling 138,499m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>124</sup> In the rest of Somalia, all mined areas The HALO Trust cleared proved to have anti-personnel mines.<sup>125</sup>

In Puntland, The HALO Trust also destroyed four anti-personnel mines during BAC. HALO notes that the majority of their tasks in Somalia concern areas containing only anti-vehicle-mines. They found and destroyed a single anti-vehicle mine during clearance of a mined area covering 230,101m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>126</sup>

**Table 4: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2021<sup>127</sup>**

State	Operator	Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )
Galmudug	HALO Trust	196,388
Hirshabelle	HALO Trust	95,730
Puntland	HALO Trust	22,465
South West Somalia	HALO Trust	5,460
<b>Total</b>		<b>320,043</b>

**Table 5: Reduction through technical survey in 2021<sup>128</sup>**

Province	Operator	Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )
Mudug	NPA	332,629
<b>Total</b>		<b>332,629</b>

116 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

117 Ibid.; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

118 Emails from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 6 April 2021; and Chris Pym, HALO Trust, 20 May 2021.

119 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022; Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May 2022; Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022; and Jasmine Dann, Operations Officer, HALO Trust, 18 July 2022.

120 Emails from Abdullah Alkhasawneh, HALO Trust, 16 May 2021; Claus Nielsen, NPA, 6 April 2021; and Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 4 April 2021.

121 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

122 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May 2022.

123 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

124 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May 2022.

125 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

126 Email from Jasmine Dann, HALO Trust, 18 July 2022.

127 Emails from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022; and Aislinn Redbond, Programme Officer, HALO Trust 27 August 2022.

128 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

NPA reported no significant change in land release output from 2020 to 2021.<sup>129</sup> The area cleared by the HALO Trust through manual mine clearance substantially increased in 2021. This increase was due to a greater focus on manual mine clearance rather than BAC and security conditions enabling clearance with minimal interruptions along the Ethiopian border.<sup>130</sup> UNMAS reported a reduction in overall explosive ordnance clearance from 2020 to 2021 as a result of fewer clearance teams deployed throughout the year.<sup>131</sup>

**Table 6: Mine clearance in 2021<sup>132</sup>**

Location	Operator	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Mudug (Puntland)	NPA	47,630	0	1	3
Mudug (Puntland)	HALO	256,541	0	1	0
Galmudug State (MF-0052)	UNMAS/HALO Somalia	263,236	6	3	1
Galmudug State (MF-0016)	HALO Somalia	41,485	0	0	
Galmudug State (MF-0079)	HALO Somalia	*9,950	0	0	0
Galmudug State (MF-0124)	HALO Somalia	129,697	0	7	0
Hirshabelle State	UNMAS/HALO Somalia	96,842	1	1	0
Western Somaliland (Maroodi Jeex)	HALO Somaliland	308,111	20	0	9
Central Region (Togdheer)	HALO Somaliland	1,085,422	24	8	8
South West State	HALO Somalia	283,309	0	14	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,522,223</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>22</b>

\* This task has been suspended due to security concerns.<sup>133</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



129 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

130 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May 2022.

131 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

132 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; Tobias Hewitt, HALO Trust, 21 May 2022; Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022; Jasmine Dann, HALO Trust, 18 July 2022; and Aislinn Redbond, HALO Trust, 23 July and 4 September 2022.

133 Email from Aislinn Redbond, HALO Trust, 23 July 2022.

**Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2021	2.52
2020	2.32
2019	1.82
2018	1.60
2017	0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.15</b>

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Somalia is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 October 2027. It is unlikely that Somalia will be able to meet this deadline.

Overall land release decreased slightly in 2021 compared to the previous year. The number of anti-personnel mines found and destroyed during clearance was also lower than 2021 with 51 anti-personnel mines found during clearance activities, compared to 146 anti-personnel mines found and destroyed during clearance in 2020.

Based on stakeholder engagement during preparation of the Article 5 Extension Request, Somalia identified the following six major challenges which impeded its ability to complete clearance by its Article 5 deadline:

- Insufficient information about the extent of contamination.
- Insufficient information about the impact of contamination.
- Limited access to contaminated areas, due to security concerns.
- Limited access to supervise teams in contaminated areas, due to security concerns.
- Other types of contamination, (such as improvised explosive devices (IED)), having taken priority.
- Lack of training, lack of resources and lack of effective coordination and prioritisation.<sup>134</sup>

## PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

According to NPA, Somalia's new national mine action strategy will include provisions for addressing previously unknown areas, with capacity in place to conduct survey and clearance, as necessary.<sup>139</sup> Somalia is planning to introduce state-level consortia of local NGOs who will be tasked with dealing with residual contamination.<sup>140</sup> There is no reference to this in Somalia's latest Article 5 deadline extension request.

SEMA describes the lack of funding as a "serious concern", which could impede Somalia's ability "to make incremental progress towards clearance".<sup>135</sup> A further impediment is that SEMA's legislative framework has yet to be approved by the FGS. This has hindered effective coordination by SEMA and negatively impacted staff turn-over and is likely to continue to do so until SEMA is incorporated into the state budget. This issue has been ongoing since 2016 and has meant that salaries and other costs at SEMA have been covered by external funding. It is unclear when SEMA will be granted parliamentary approval.

In 2021, insecurity in Somalia continued to impede both access to some contaminated areas, and the progress of ongoing clearance operations. In some areas, inter-clan clashes broke out, forcing clearance teams to temporarily retreat to safe locations.<sup>136</sup> UNMAS, NPA, and the HALO Trust reported instances of demining equipment being confiscated by clan militia, a vehicle being hijacked and used as a battle wagon, and a member of staff being taken hostage along with demining equipment, respectively.<sup>137</sup> In other locations, teams could not access task sites due to disagreements among the affected community regarding the benefits that could be derived from the clearance operations. Some areas are under the control of armed opposition groups, which means that where teams do have access an escort is required.<sup>138</sup>

Somalia has made the decision to not include Somaliland in its plans within the extension request despite the fact that Somaliland remains part of Somalia de jure and is therefore under the jurisdiction of the FGS. However, the FGS have reported that Somaliland is currently under their de facto control for the purposes of planning, coordinating, and conducting clearance of anti-personnel mines. Therefore, Somalia interprets its current obligations under the APMBC to encompass anti-personnel mine contamination in the remaining states of Somalia. The FGS has reported that it will keep the situation under review and report any changes in its Article 7 reports. This is, however, legally incorrect as Article 5 extends over *either* jurisdiction *or* control of mined areas.

134 Statement of Somalia, 19<sup>th</sup> MSP to the APMBC (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021.

135 Presentation by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, APMBC Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.

136 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

137 Ibid.; and emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO Trust, 29 May 2022.

138 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

139 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 April 2020.

140 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 11 May 2020.