

**ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

#### CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION:

BELIEVED TO BE LIGHT BUT  
NO NATIONAL BASELINE ESTIMATE

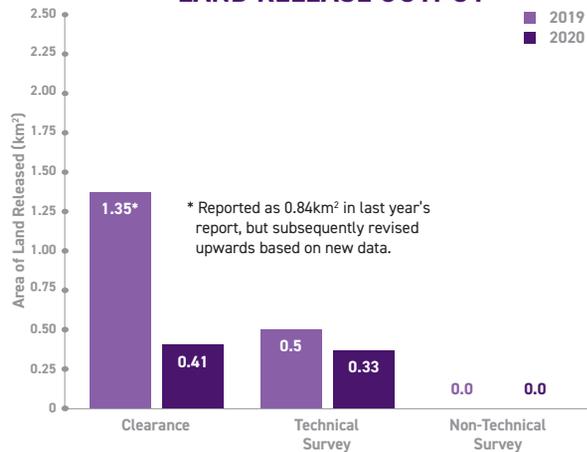
SUBMUNITION CLEARANCE IN 2020

**0.41** KM<sup>2</sup>

SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED IN 2020

**2** SUBMUNITIONS **1** DISPENSER

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Chad suspended mine action operations for around five months of 2020 as part of its measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The National High Commission for Demining (HCND) reported that international operator Humanity and Inclusion (HI) was able to conduct technical survey and clearance in the Fada region of Ennedi which it also identified as the last area of known cluster munition remnants (CMR) contamination. After three decades in power, President Idris Déby died in April 2021, ushering in a chapter of political transition and uncertainty.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Chad should provide a comprehensive report detailing all areas that have been surveyed for CMR; all areas that have been cleared; and areas where CMR are suspected to be present that have not been subjected to survey or clearance.
- Chad should draw up a work plan providing for CMR survey and clearance, particularly in the Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti regions.
- Chad should introduce national standards specific to CMR survey and clearance.
- Chad's Ministry of Economy and Planning should develop a resource mobilisation strategy for the mine action sector.
- International donors willing to support Chad's mine action should ensure that funding is linked to a concrete and measurable work plan.
- Chad's national mine action authority should disaggregate CMR from other explosive ordnance in reporting results of survey and clearance.
- Chad should ensure that it establishes a sustainable national capacity to address any residual CMR contamination discovered following fulfilment of Article 4.
- Chad should establish a country coalition, to bring together key stakeholders on a quarterly or biannual basis to discuss progress and challenges, and agree on an Article 4 completion plan.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	5	4	Chad provided an estimate of cluster munition contamination for the first time in 2019 but as a result of gaps in Chad's reporting the basis for that estimate is unclear. The location and extent of remaining CMR contamination has not been clearly determined.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	3	3	Chad's mine action authority coordinates the sector but the consistently low level of achievement calls into question the level of national authorities' commitment to mine action. The National Commission for Demining (HCND) struggles with limited resources. Government financial support is limited to paying staff salaries and some administrative costs while operations depend wholly on donor funding. The COVID-19 pandemic and the change of regime in 2021 presented challenges likely to eclipse support for mine action.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	Gender and diversity considerations do not appear in Chad's national plans but women are employed in a number of roles, though mainly in office support functions, risk education, and victim assistance. The first, and so far only, female team leader was appointed by Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in 2019.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	The HCND's national mine action database has benefitted from an extensive data clean-up by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), which conducted survey verification in 2020, but data suffer from reporting delays and persistent inconsistencies between official results and operator reports. Chad has submitted Article 7 reports for each of the past five years.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	3	3	Chad has never presented a strategic plan or identified priorities for survey or clearance of CMR contamination. Chad's claims to be on the brink of meeting its Article 4 obligations are regarded as premature.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	5	5	Chad has International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)-compatible national standards but none is specific to CMR survey or clearance.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	5	5	Chad reported that it released 0.7km <sup>2</sup> through technical survey and clearance in 2020 representing significant progress towards completing clearance of known CMR hazards, although HI reporting did not corroborate these results.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: POOR</b>

## CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

- National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- HCND

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanity and Inclusion (HI)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

### OTHER ACTORS

- None

## UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Chad has never produced a baseline estimate of CMR contamination so the extent to which it has been, or is, affected is uncertain, though its contamination has never been assessed as heavy. Chad informed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) signing conference in 2008 that it had "vast swathes of territory" contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance, including cluster munitions,<sup>1</sup> but it provided no details. In 2021, despite the absence of any baseline data or detailed record of survey and clearance results, Chad claimed to be close to completing clearance of the last known CMR hazard and meeting its Article 4 obligations.<sup>2</sup>

No baseline of cluster munition-contaminated area was reported as at the end of 2020. Chad identified 146,638m<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area in 2019, almost entirely located in the northern Ennedi region (see Table 1).<sup>3</sup> The reliability of this data is unclear. In March 2019, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) spotted some cluster bomb containers in the Wouda area of Borkou,<sup>4</sup> and most of the submunitions cleared in Chad since then were also in Borkou province.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, insecurity has prevented operators from conducting any survey in the northern province of Tibesti, an area believed to have been one of the most affected by cluster munitions.

**Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by region (at end 2019)<sup>6</sup>**

Province	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Borkou	2	2,782
Ennedi	1	143,856
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>146,638</b>

Chad's cluster munition contamination dates back to conflicts with Libya, which occupied northern areas between 1980 and 1987. Chad stated in 2012 that while the precise extent of CMR contamination was not known, it was certain cluster munitions had been used in the Fada region and highly likely they had been used in other parts of the north.<sup>7</sup> Chad also reported that, after Libyan troops withdrew in 1987, members of the French Sixth Engineers Regiment found and destroyed CMR around former Libyan positions and it suspected additional contamination remained in the Tibesti region.<sup>8</sup>

Chad claimed there was heavy CMR contamination in palm groves around Faya Largeau, which had caused many casualties.<sup>9</sup> In January 2015, four children (three girls and one boy) were reportedly injured after handling a submunition in Faya Largeau.<sup>10</sup> Also in 2015, MAG identified and destroyed a limited number of CMR, including two empty RBK-250-275 cluster bomb containers in the Tibesti region and an AO-1-SCh submunition in the Borkou region.<sup>11</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Chad's mine action programme is coordinated by the HCND, which comes under the Ministry of Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation.<sup>12</sup> The HCND is responsible for preparing a national demining strategy, annual work plans, and proposing a budget to support them.<sup>13</sup>

Government funding for mine action is limited to payment of salaries for national staff.<sup>14</sup> Threats by former deminers over non-payment of salaries prevented some planned survey and clearance activities from proceeding in 2018.<sup>15</sup> The long-running strike by deminers included threats by former personnel that have prevented operations in areas of Tibesti earmarked for survey and clearance.<sup>16</sup>

A June 2019 decree provided for re-organisation of the HCND, resulting in four main divisions covering: operations and logistics; planning; administrative and financial affairs; and human resources.<sup>17</sup> Operators say constant changes in coordination staff have hampered efficiency.<sup>18</sup> They also report lengthy delays obtaining the permits required to import equipment as well as in other bureaucratic procedures.

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Chad does not address gender or diversity in its latest Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in 2019 or subsequent statements on mine action. Recruitment of female staff is not a priority for the HCND, which has undergone drastic downsizing since 2018 and still faces demands for back pay from staff.

The HCND employed nine women (less than 5%) among its staff of 207 in 2019, the last year for which official data were available. They were employed in a range of management, administrative, and field roles and included the HCND's assistant director, the administration and finance assistant director, and the head of risk education.<sup>19</sup>

International operators have gender and diversity policies but under agreement with the HCND employ deminers provided by the national authority, which limits the opportunities for employing female technical staff. Women made up 13% of HI's total programme staff in Chad but only one of the 76 mine action employees, who worked as a community liaison officer.<sup>20</sup> MAG's total staff of 91 included six women, representing a little under 7% of its work force. They include the first woman in Chad to attain an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Level 3 certification, who is employed as a team leader, but women made up only about 1.5% of field staff compared with nearly 22% of office support staff.<sup>21</sup>

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The HCND is equipped with an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database operated with the support of FSD. Poor maintenance and shortages of trained information technology (IT) staff meant data available became unreliable because of lost reports and duplication. FSD started a clean-up of the database in 2017 under the EU-funded PRODECO project which has resulted in cancellation of large numbers of duplicate entries.<sup>22</sup> To improve the quality of reporting and data, the HCND, with FSD support, introduced a system of comprehensive weekly and monthly reporting for the operators. In 2020, FSD conducted two missions to Borkou province to confirm non-technical survey results and conducted a series of quality assurance and quality control missions to Borkou and Ennedi provinces. By the end of 2020, FSD gave the quality of data an informal mark of “6 out of 10”.<sup>23</sup>

## PLANNING AND TASKING

Chad does not have a strategic plan for CMR survey and clearance. In the CCM Article 7 report Chad submitted in July 2020, the authorities noted plans to conduct non-technical survey to identify the location of cluster munition containers in Tibesti and Ouaddaï regions in 2020–21 and to clear any contamination found in those areas,<sup>24</sup> but it appears those plans were never implemented.

The HCND prioritises tasks according to requests from local authorities. It issues task orders to operators usually after receiving their input on technical and resource requirements of the task. Operators are also usually able to recce tasks with the HCND and local authorities prior to deploying staff.<sup>25</sup> HI said it prioritised tasks according to local community development priorities.<sup>26</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Chad has national mine action standards that HCND says comply with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) but has no CMR-specific standards.

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

HI's mine action programme in Chad included three multi-task teams (MTTs) with a total of 35 personnel (two 15-strong MTTs and one 5-person MTT) among a total staff of 76, along with a five-strong non-technical survey team. HI also had a mechanical team operating a GCS 200 multi-purpose vehicle used for ground preparation. In 2020, HI worked on mined and battle area tasks mainly in Ennedi West province, particularly in the Fada and Wadi Doum areas, but it did not tackle any cluster munition-contaminated areas.<sup>27</sup>

HI worked with a private company testing the use of drones for non-technical survey of mined areas using infrared and thermal technologies. HI found the drones enhanced mapping of hazardous areas, the identification of high- and low-threat areas, helping the project to save time and assign more precisely the resources needed to tackle specific tasks.<sup>28</sup>

MAG operated with three 12-strong EOD teams comprising a total of 26 deminers. It also had one survey team and a mechanical team operating an ARMTRAC 100-350 to assist technical survey. In 2019, it worked in northern Chad's Borkou region, including road clearance operations to enable communications between towns in the north. In 2020, it shifted operations to the western part of northern Ennedi province where teams continued working in 2021, tackling mined areas around Fada and other unexploded ordnance around Kalait and conducting spot EOD tasks.<sup>29</sup>

FSD employed a total of 12 people at the end of 2020 with four international staff, four national programme staff, and four support personnel. In addition to developing Chad's IMSMA database and training HCND staff, activities in 2020 included assisting non-technical survey operations.<sup>30</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

Mine action in 2020 was set back by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Operations were suspended for up to five months from May 2020.<sup>31</sup> In addition to basic personal measures of using hand sanitizers and wearing face masks operators adopted a range of measures for field teams, testing staff for COVID-19 before deployment, restricting the number of passengers in each vehicle and limiting contacts with local populations.<sup>32</sup>

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

Chad reported release of 742,657m<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2020, all of it resulting from survey and clearance by HI in the vicinity of Delbo village in the Fada district of Ennedi West province.<sup>33</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2020

Chad said 330,647m<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area was reduced through technical survey conducted by HI in 2020 around Delbo village.<sup>34</sup>

### CLEARANCE IN 2020

Chad reported that HI cleared 412,010m<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2020 during operations around Delbo village in Ennedi West. It also said the operation resulted in destruction of two submunitions and one cluster munition dispenser.<sup>35</sup>

Updated results from Chad and operators show slightly increased outputs from operations in 2019 than the 0.84km<sup>2</sup> previously recorded. MAG reported the CM task cleared in 2019 amounted to 1,353,959m<sup>2</sup> (previously reported as 837,453m<sup>2</sup>).<sup>36</sup> The 28 submunitions destroyed by MAG in that operation were previously recorded as the only CMR destroyed in 2019. Chad's latest Article 7 report says HI also destroyed nine submunitions and 27 A01-SCH containers in 2019.<sup>37</sup>

### ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

CCM ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CHAD: 1 SEPTEMBER 2013



ORIGINAL ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: UNCLEAR

Chad reported release of land through technical survey and clearance in 2019 and 2020, that was modest in extent but still represented significant progress after years of prior inactivity in dealing with cluster munitions (see Table 2).

Chad has announced that the task HI worked on in Ennedi represents its last known CMR hazard. It expected completion of the task in July 2021 and said if HCND's QA/QC confirmed completion of the task Chad would make a formal statement that it had fulfilled its Article 4 obligations.<sup>38</sup>

The Mine Action Review considers such a declaration would be premature in view of:

- the absence of baseline contamination data;
- the lack of clarity on what areas have been subjected to comprehensive non-technical survey and clearance;
- the possibility of additional cluster munition contamination in areas not previously identified as suspected hazardous areas (SHA) as experienced in Borkou province which accounted for most of the cluster munitions cleared in 2019; and
- the inability of operators to access, and conduct survey in Tibesti province, where past conflicts involving cluster munitions use point to a strong possibility of CMR contamination.

As it looks ahead to completion, Chad also needs to outline what, if any, national capacity and support it has in place to address residual CMR discovered post completion. Such planning is particularly important in view of the uncertain funding outlook for Chad's mine action programme. The EU-financed PRODECO project, which has provided the only funding for survey and clearance operations since 2017, was due to end in September 2021. Operators expressed the hope that operating delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic could lead at least to a no-cost extension of the PRODECO project until the end of the year but, as of June 2021, the operating consortium implementing the project had not yet applied for the extension. Discussions with donors had yet to identify any successor to the PRODECO project.

**Table 2: Five-year summary of CMR clearance**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2020	0.41
2019	1.35 <sup>39</sup>
2018	0
2017	0
2016	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.76</b>

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- 1 Statement of Chad, Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Signing Conference, Oslo, 3 December 2008.
- 2 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 3 Email from Soultani Moussa, Manager/Administrator, National High Commission for Demining (HCND), 27 April 2020.
- 4 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019.
- 5 Email from Gérard Kerrien, Country Director, MAG, 20 May 2021.
- 6 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 7 Statement of Chad, CCM Third Meeting of States Parties, Oslo, 13 September 2012.
- 8 Article 7 Report (covering 2013), Form F.
- 9 Statement of Chad to the Ninth Meeting of States Parties, 2-4 September 2019.
- 10 Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form H.
- 11 Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form F; and email from Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), 31 May 2016.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 10.
- 14 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019.
- 15 Email from Romain Coupez, Country Director, MAG, 4 March 2019.
- 16 Ibid. "Tchad: grève des démineurs restés 10 mois sans salaire", ("Chad: deminers strike after 10 months without pay"), Agence de Presse Africaine, 10 May 2017, at: <http://bit.ly/30Cz25g>; and email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 26 September 2017.
- 17 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2019, p. 10.
- 18 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 19 Emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019 and 29 May 2020.
- 20 Email from Marie-Cécile Tournier, Country Director, HI, 2 June 2021.
- 21 Email from Gerard Kerrien, Country Director, MAG, 20 May 2021.
- 22 Email from Moussa Soltani, HCND, 27 April 2020.
- 23 Email from Olivier Shu, Senior Technical Adviser, FSD, 18 May 2021.
- 24 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 25 Email from Daniel Davies, MAG, 27 April 2020.
- 26 Email from Seydou Gaye, HI, 3 June 2020.
- 27 Email from Marie-Cécile Tournier, HI, 2 June 2021.
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 Email from Gérard Kerrien, Country Director, MAG, 20 May 2021.
- 30 Email from Olivier Shu, FSD, 18 May 2021.
- 31 Email from FSD on behalf of Soultani Moussa, HCND, 10 June 2021.
- 32 Emails from Gérard Kerrien, MAG, 20 May 2021, and Marie-Cécile Tournier, HI, 2 June 2021.
- 33 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F. HI, however, did not report releasing any cluster munition-contaminated area through survey or clearance in 2020. Email from Marie-Cécile Tournier, HI, 2 June 2021.
- 34 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Emails from Daniel Davies, Programme Support Coordinator, MAG, 21 May 2021; and Caroline Bruvier, Programme Officer, MAG, 5 August 2020.
- 37 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 38 Ibid.; and Skype interview with Olivier Shu, Senior Technical Adviser, FSD, 29 June 2021.
- 39 Reported in *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2020* as 0.84km<sup>2</sup>, but subsequently revised upwards based on new data provided to Mine Action Review by MAG.