

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 2023
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:

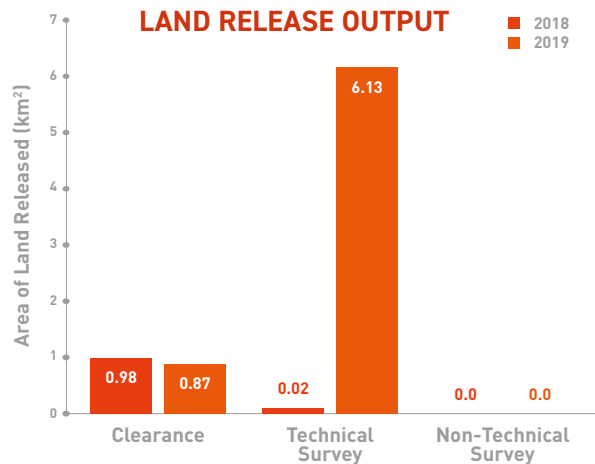
MEDIUM, 10 KM²
(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE)

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2019

0.87 KM²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2019

1



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per Oslo Political Plan commitment): **MEDIUM**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Sudan's land release output increased in 2019, exceeding its land release target for the year, due to an improved security situation and an increase in funding. However, during clearance Sudan only found and destroyed one anti-personnel mine, indicating extremely poor survey. Positively, Sudan initiated a baseline survey in 2019, which should allow it to establish a more accurate estimate of contamination. Completion is, though, heavily dependent on improvements in the security situation in both Blue Nile and South Kordofan states..

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Sudan should ensure it only clears land where there is firm evidence of mine contamination.
- Sudan should clarify land release targets and ensure that land release and contamination figures are consistent and correct in any official reporting.
- Sudan should provide updated work plans as the baseline survey progresses and it has a more accurate understanding of remaining contamination.
- Sudan should continue its efforts to encourage international operators to return, which could significantly boost mine action capacity and output.
- Sudan should endorse the new national mine action strategic plan for 2019-2023 and the revised national mine action standards (NMAS).

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	Sudan initiated non-technical survey towards the end of 2019 to establish a national baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination. Survey will take place across South Kordofan, West Kordofan, Blue Nile and the five Darfur states with planned completion by the end of 2021. However, this is dependent upon access being granted to currently insecure areas. It is expected that newly found contamination will be added to the database but that a large proportion of existing suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) will be cancelled.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	7	7	Sudan's national mine action programme is entirely nationally owned. It benefits from experienced national mine action centre staff and national mine action operators. The government has provided consistent funding for mine action reported at US\$2 million per year. Sudan projects that \$33 million is required for land release from 2020 to 2023.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	Gender is said to be mainstreamed in the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 and in the national mine action standards, with an emphasis on gender-balanced survey teams and the employment of women. At the same time, Sudan acknowledges difficulties in employing women in operational roles due to local customs and traditions. However, Sudan has managed to achieve gender parity in non-technical survey teams and in 2019, the programme hired its first female deminer.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	8	The process of upgrading Sudan's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is ongoing. During 2019, improvements were made to the reporting process and staff were given additional training to reflect the changes. At the request of States Parties, Sudan submitted its updated work plan to 2023 and while the objectives are sound the plan is let down by numerous errors and discrepancies in contamination and land release figures, causing the plan to lack clarity.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	A new national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 has been finalised and, as at April 2020, is still awaiting endorsement. Sudan has provided updated land release targets in its work plan to 2023 which require some clarification. It is expected that this plan will be updated as survey progresses and should security improve and access increase.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	6	7	Sudan's revised National Mine Action Standards were still awaiting endorsement as at April 2020. During clearance of mined areas in 2019, Sudan only found and destroyed one anti-personnel mine, indicating extremely poor survey. There was no change in operational capacity in 2019 but it was planned that Sudan would increase its non-technical survey capacity in 2020. A mine action training centre was established in 2019.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	6	Sudan exceeded its land release target for 2019 with a massive increase in technical survey output. Its clearance output fell from 2018, however, with only one anti-personnel mine found and destroyed. Sudan's updated work plan to 2023 projects large amounts of cancellation through non-technical survey though none has taken place in the past two years. Ongoing peace talks are encouraging and increased access through improved security would allow Sudan to complete its baseline survey and increase land release output providing it has the required capacity in place.
Average Score	6.5	6.8	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Sudanese National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)
- Sudan National Mine Action Centre (NMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD)
- JASMAR for Human Security
- Friends for Peace and Development Organization (FDPO)
- Global Aid Hand

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2019, Sudan reported a total of 95 areas suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines, covering a total area of just under 13.28km². According to the Sudanese National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), of this total, 52 areas covering 2.4km² are confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), while a further 43 areas covering almost 10.9km² are suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). For details, see Table 1.¹ This is a decrease from the 18.9km² of total anti-personnel mine contaminated area reported as at the end of 2018. The main difference between the 2018 and 2019 figures is in the total area covered by SHAs, which has decreased by 5.64km².² This difference cannot be explained by land release during 2019.

Sudan reported in its multiyear work plan 2020–23 that as at 1 March 2020 there were 90 recorded hazardous areas contaminated with anti-personnel mines in eight localities within the Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan states covering 19km².³

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by state (at end 2019)⁴

State	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m ²)
Blue Nile	4	219,663	7	840,889	11	1,060,552
South Kordofan	48	2,182,597	33	10,014,564	81	12,197,161
Western Kordofan	0	0	3	21,991	3	21,991
Totals	52	2,402,260	43	10,877,444	95	13,279,704

South Kordofan is believed to be the most heavily contaminated state, as set out in Table 1.⁵ On 4 April 2019, Abu Karshola town in South Kordofan state, once heavily contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), was declared free of known contamination, a positive indication of increasing access and improvements in the security situation.⁶ No mines have been reported in Darfur, where the main threat is from ERW.⁷ The extent of mine and ERW contamination within the disputed area of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) between Sudan and South Sudan is unknown due to security and political issues.⁸ An additional 28 areas covering nearly 11km² are suspected to contain only anti-vehicle mines, as set out in Table 2.⁹

Table 2: Mined area (at end 2019)¹⁰

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Anti-personnel mines	52	2,402,260	43	10,877,444
Anti-vehicle mines	0	0	28	10,849,256
Totals	52	2,402,260	71	21,726,700

Sudan's mine and ERW contamination results from decades-long conflict since the country's independence in 1956. Twenty years of civil war, during which mines and other explosive ordnance were used heavily by all parties to the conflicts, resulted in widespread contamination that has claimed thousands of victims.¹¹ In January 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ostensibly ended the civil war. A Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) was conducted in 2007–09 covering Blue Nile, Gadaref, Kassala, Red Sea, and South Kordofan states, before armed conflict erupted again in 2011 and continued until 2016. It is expected that more areas will be found to be contaminated with explosive ordnance including anti-personnel mines. There have been "ad hoc" reports of additional mined and ERW-contaminated areas which have been registered as "dangerous areas" in the national database. This has caused the LIS baseline of 221 hazards to expand significantly, including by encompassing areas not originally surveyed.¹²

NMAC reported that significant survey is required to more accurately determine the actual extent of anti-personnel mine contamination in Sudan.¹³ NMAC initiated non-technical survey in November 2019, which was due to continue throughout 2020 and 2021 across South Kordofan, West Kordofan, Blue Nile, and the five Darfur states to establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination for all explosive ordnance.¹⁴ The NMAC predicts that up to 90% of existing SHAs will be cancelled, based on historical Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) data.¹⁵ Once surveys have been completed a revised clearance plan will be shared with States Parties to the APMBC.¹⁶ However, insecurity and lack of access is a major impediment to the completion of survey as most of the known impacted communities in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Jabal Marra areas in the Darfur states are still inaccessible.¹⁷ The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reported that all affected communities are being consulted during non-technical survey, with special attention being paid to at-risk communities.

In 2019, a total of 65,083m² of previously unrecorded legacy anti-personnel mine contamination across two mined areas in the states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan was added to the database.¹⁸

EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS

Sudan also has a significant problem with ERW, including very limited contamination from cluster munition remnants, primarily as a result of the more than 20 years of civil war that led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and South Sudan's independence in July 2011 (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on Sudan for further information). While no mines have been found in Darfur, ERW there includes unexploded air-delivered bombs, rockets, artillery and mortar shells, and grenades.¹⁹ According to the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), 81 localities in Darfur are highly affected by ERW, 431 localities in the medium category, and 84 localities that have low impacts from contamination.²⁰

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Sudanese National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and NMAC manage Sudan's mine action programme. Upon the independence of South Sudan, NMAC assumed full ownership of national mine action with responsibility for coordinating and supervising the implementation of all mine action activities, including quality assurance (QA), accreditation and certification of clearance operators. Sudan adopted the Mine Action Bill by Presidential Decree No. 51 in March 2010. The act is comprised of 29 articles divided into four chapters. Chapter four covers APMBBC obligations, such as clearance of contaminated areas and reporting, and penalties for those who work in mine action without obtaining a licence from NMAC.²¹

After starting an emergency programme in 2002, UNMAS re-established activities in Sudan in 2015, following an invitation from the Sudanese Government, in an advisory and support capacity, to further enhance the national mine action capacity and support the country to meet its APMBBC obligations.²² As part of its mandate, UNMAS provides organisational and individual capacity development to NMAC.²³

As UNISFA does not have a mandate to conduct mine clearance, UNMAS continued its UN Security Council-mandated role in Abyei, which includes identification and clearance of mines and route assessment in the SDBZ and Abyei through its implementing partners, in support of peacekeeping operations, humanitarian aid delivery, safe return of internally displaced populations (IDPs), and the nomadic migration of animals.²⁴

In Darfur, under the umbrella of UNAMID, UNMAS works under the name of the Ordnance Disposal Office (ODO) in direct support of UNAMID priorities.²⁵ UN Security Council Resolution 2429 (2018) called the complete closure of UNAMID by June 2020.²⁶ As at May 2020, UNAMID teams were still working and UNMAS reported that they might continue working throughout 2020.²⁷

Sudan is part of the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARPC) and as part of this programme, which is coordinated by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the NMAA attend regional trainings and workshops. In December 2019, the NMAA attended the ARPC annual conference where they discussed and approved recently translated IMAS into Arabic and shared experiences of their own NMAS.²⁸

In 2019, the Government of Sudan contributed a total of US\$2 million to the running costs of NMAC and for demining activities. It has consistently funded the national mine action programme at this level for the past four years.²⁹ In addition, international donors contributed US\$5.84 million through UNMAS to undertake mine action activities. UNMAS reported that, in 2020, a total of \$15.8 million would be required to meet mine action needs in the country, including demining in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and ERW response in Darfur.³⁰

In 2018, Sudan reported that as a result of enhanced cooperation, both nationally and internationally, in particular stemming from a meeting on Sudan of the APMBBC's Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance's "individualised approach" initiative in 2017, a number of positive developments had resulted. This initiative, Sudan reported, alongside nationally convened mine action events and donor field visits to mine-affected areas, had resulted in an increase in earmarked funds to the mine action programme, with some US\$7.1 million in new funding for mine action pledged by the governments of Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.³¹

Sudan's resource mobilisation strategy aims to increase donations from existing donors; increase the number and sources of donations; and increase the amount of the government's contribution. This includes identifying new donors, including Gulf States; emerging economies receptive to becoming "donor" governments; and "non-conventional" partners such as philanthropists, private individuals and foundations; and commercial companies and corresponding funding modalities and mechanisms. Sudan has estimated in its 2020–23 work plan that \$33.7 million will be required for land release. In 2020, Sudan has reported that sufficient funding is in place for the year but that if currently inaccessible areas open up then the programme will need additional funds for an emergency post-conflict mine action response.³²

In Sudan, not including Jabal Maarah and Abyei, UNMAS and NMAC lead mine action sub-cluster meetings to coordinate progress, challenges, and support for Article 5 implementation in Sudan. All relevant implementing partners, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), UN agencies and government authorities participate. During these meetings mine action projects for the annual Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) are developed and prioritised through a consultation process with all stakeholders.³³

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

In 2019, NMAC reported that it has a gender and diversity policy in place and that gender is mainstreamed in the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 and in the national mine action standards. It stated that under those standards, all survey and community liaison teams are to be gender balanced, and that women and children are consulted during survey and community liaison activities. It said that gender is also taken into account in the prioritisation, planning, and tasking of survey and clearance, as per the national standards and the new standard IMSMA forms.³⁴

Mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.³⁵ UNMAS reported working with NMAC and implementing partners to improve this aspect of mine action reporting and information management because sex and age disaggregated data of land release beneficiaries were not being captured in IMSMA.³⁶ New reporting tools were added to the system and new reporting formats were developed for the NGOs to include this information.³⁷

NMAC says it always encourages women to apply for employment in the national programme, whether at the office level or in the field. Positively, it reported that almost 40% of NMAC staff employed at the managerial or supervisory levels are women. But it acknowledged that few women were employed in operational roles in survey and clearance teams due to "local customs and traditions".³⁸ UNMAS reported that, as at May 2020, around 55% of the new non-technical survey teams are female. One female deminer started in late 2019, and it is hoped to increase in the number of female deminers in the future.³⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

As at April 2020, NMAC informed Mine Action Review that it was using both the IMSMA legacy version in parallel with the newer version, IMSMA-NG.⁴⁰ In 2018, NMAC began a process of upgrading the IMSMA software to the newer New Generation version, with assistance from the GICHD. Significant efforts to correct errors in the database were also undertaken.⁴¹ In 2019, new reporting tools were designed and new reporting formats were developed in IMSMA-NG, IMSMA staff and NGO staff were trained, and all old forms were removed. However, some data still need to be migrated and the GICHD has been contacted to support this. In 2020, NMAC planned to commence online data collection and to obtain the ArcGIS and Esri License.⁴² The database contains old information about the disputed Abyei area.⁴³ However, UNMAS informed Mine Action Review in June 2019 that UNISFA was working with NMAC on database sharing and had co-located an IMSMA officer within the NMAC office in Khartoum to help share historical data, while it was also providing NMAC a monthly report on activities in Abyei.⁴⁴

Sudan's extension request submitted in 2018 was notably thorough, generally of good quality, and includes a work plan with annual targets for completion.⁴⁵ The request does, however, contain discrepancies in the total amounts of survey and clearance output projections.⁴⁶ Sudan submitted its Article 7 report in a timely fashion and, as per the extension request decision, an updated work plan for 2020 to 2023. Again, the major issue is with errors in the figures.⁴⁷

PLANNING AND TASKING

In May 2019, NMAC reported that a new national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 had been finalised and was awaiting approval. The plan aims to fulfil Sudan's APMBBC obligations, and was developed in coordination with the GICHD to replace its previous national strategy for 2016–19.⁴⁸ NMAC stated that detailed annual work plans had been developed for each year under the new strategic plan.⁴⁹ As at April 2020, the strategic plan was still awaiting approval.⁵⁰

Sudan's 2018 extension request contained a detailed work plan with annual survey and clearance projections on a state-by-state basis with a total planned release for all types of ordnance of 224 hazardous areas with a size of 26.5km² by 1 April 2023 (see Table 3). During 2019, Sudan planned to release 16 SHAs and 2 CHAs, cancelling 4.9km² through non-technical survey, and releasing 0.5km² through technical survey and clearance.⁵¹ In 2019, Sudan released only four SHAs but massively surpassed its technical survey/clearance target with a total area of just over 7km². There was, however, no cancellation through non-technical survey.⁵² The main reason for this was limited access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile due to insecurity.⁵³

Table 3: Annual land release targets (2017–23)⁵⁴

Year	SHAs	CHAs	Cancelled through NTS (km ²)	Released through TS/clearance (km ²)	Total SHAs/CHAs	Total area (km ²)
2017–18	80	3	3,783,116	420,346	83	4,203,462
2018–19	54	3	11,944,390	1,327,154	57	13,271,544
2019–20	16	2	4,943,930	549,326	18	5,493,256
2020–21	4	16	1,045,828	116,203	20	1,162,031
2021–22	13	7	1,054,315	117,146	20	1,171,461
2022–23	4	22	1,044,614	116,068	26	1,160,682
Totals	171	53	23,816,193	2,646,243	224	26,462,436

In 2020, in accordance with the terms of its latest Article 5 extension, Sudan submitted an updated work plan for 1 March 2020–31 March 2023 with revised estimates of contamination, annual targets for land release, and budgetary requirements. Sudan has also promised to provide annual updates to this work plan based on new evidence and to report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports, including information on the number and size of the contaminated areas to be addressed and on how priorities have been established.⁵⁵ Sudan included updated annual land release projections to 2023, though again this was not disaggregated by type of ordnance (see Table 4). This table differs from the annual land release projections provided in Sudan's latest Article 7 report.

Table 4: Annual land release targets (2019–23)⁵⁶

Year	SHAs	CHAs	Cancelled through NTS (km ²)	Released through TS/clearance (km ²)	Total SHAs/CHAs	Total area (km ²)
2019-20	50	8	5,486,687	147,267	58	5,633,954
2020-21	69	16	10,332,944	147,153	85	10,480,097
2021-22	66	19	7,785,727	1,457,643	85	9,243,370
2022-23	22	8	1,450,916	462,678	30	1,913,594
Totals	207	51	25,056,274	2,214,741	258	27,271,015

One of the main operations in 2020 will be opening the roads and routes in newly accessible areas in support of humanitarian aid delivery. Sudan also plans to initiate clearance on the border with Chad. Dependent on the security situation, re-survey of recorded hazardous areas and survey of communities close to these areas will take place in Abyei. UNMAS planned to deploy four multi-task teams throughout Darfur in addition to the UNAMID teams that are working in the area.⁵⁷

UNMAS reported that all task dossiers relating to survey and clearance are issued in accordance with agreed criteria and prioritisation. NMAC and UNMAS are working together on planning and tasking to meet the need for further development.⁵⁸ A systematic prioritisation system will be introduced as part of the new NMAS and linked with IMSMA with each SHA and CHA classified as high, medium, or low impact and prioritised accordingly.⁵⁹ During prioritisation, in addition to taking the affected communities needs into account, all stakeholders are consulted to also take their objectives into account. NMAC expects the prioritisation process to be more effective once the baseline survey has been completed.⁶⁰

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In May 2019, NMAC reported that a review of Sudan's NMAS had been completed and the revised standards were awaiting endorsement.⁶¹ As at August 2020, these were still awaiting endorsement.⁶² NMAS were reviewed by a technical committee comprised of representatives from NMAC, UNMAS, and national operators with the support of an international expertise from UNAMID-ODO. Once the NMAS are endorsed they will be uploaded on the NMAC website and all mine action operators will need to ensure their SOPs comply with the new NMAS.⁶³

NMAC confirmed that in 2018, QA and quality control (QC) activities were carried out according to the NMAS.⁶⁴ During 2019, NMAC has completed 46 accreditations and 33 QA visits. During 2019, the accreditation of Global Aid Hand was reviewed and survey and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) were added to their EORE existing accreditation.⁶⁵

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2019, no international NGOs were demining in Sudan. National operators are JASMAR for Human Security (JASMAR), National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD), the Friends for Peace and Development Organization (FPDO), and Global Aid Hand. A commercial demining company (Dynasafe) and national mine action organisation (NUMAD) continue operations in Darfur funded by UNAMID to conduct non-technical survey, surface/subsurface battle area clearance and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks.⁶⁶

Table 5: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2019⁶⁷

Operator	Manual clearance teams (MCTs)/ Multi-task teams (MTTs)	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines
FPDO	2 MCTs	16	0	0
NUMAD	4 MCTs 5 MTTs	32 20	9 dogs & 3 handlers	0
JASMAR	3 MTTs	12	0	0
Totals	14	80	9/3	0

* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers.

Table 6: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2019⁶⁸

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel*	TS teams	Total TS personnel*
JASMAR	3	6	Clearance capacity is also technical survey capacity	
NUMAD	0	0		
Global Aid Hand	7	14		
Totals	10	20		

According to NMAC there was no change in operational capacity from 2018 to 2019 until November 2019 when additional non-technical survey capacity was deployed by JASMAR and Global Aid Hand.⁶⁹ According to UNMAS, the MCTs and MTTs were not only working on anti-personnel mine clearance but also on priority areas contaminated with anti-vehicle mines and ERW. This is because most of the anti-personnel mine contaminated areas are located in Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLMN)-controlled areas.⁷⁰ In Darfur, in 2019, clearance operations continued to be conducted by commercial operator Dynasafe and NUMAD.⁷¹ The clearance capacity was not fully operational throughout the year with the FPDO deployed only until May 2019. Two of the NUMAD MTTs were tasked with investigating residual risk in Kassala state, which was announced free from known mined areas and ERW contamination in 2018. Some of the teams only became operational in October 2019 as the season in most parts of Sudan, especially South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, runs from October to June the following year.⁷²

Demining in Sudan is carried out primarily using manual clearance, as well as through the use of mine detection dog (MDD) teams. In 2019, a mine action training centre was established, MDD training and accreditation sites were re-established with increased number of training and accreditation boxes, two non-technical survey training courses were also delivered. It is planned that new mechanical assets would be deployed in 2020.⁷³

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

A total of 7,001,425m² of mined area was released in 2019, of which 874,068m² was cleared and 6,127,357m² was reduced through technical survey. Just one anti-personnel mine was found and destroyed. A total of 65,083m² of previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination was added to the database in 2019.⁷⁴

SURVEY IN 2019

In 2019, a total of 6,127,357m² of mined area was reduced through technical survey by NUMAD in South Kordofan.⁷⁵ A massive increase from the 21,000m² that was reduced in 2018.⁷⁶ No areas were reported cancelled through non-technical survey in 2018 nor 2019.

Table 7: Reduction through technical survey in 2019⁷⁷

State	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
South Kordofan	NUMAD	6,127,357
Total		6,127,357

CLEARANCE IN 2019

In 2019, a total of 874,068m² was cleared by NUMAD, JASMAR, and FPDO in Blue Nile and South Kordofan.⁷⁸ This is a decrease from the 979,448m² that was released through clearance in 2018. In 2018 and in 2019, the number of anti-personnel mines found and destroyed was low, from 31 in 2018 to just one in 2019.⁷⁹ In five of the six areas cleared in 2018 no anti-personnel mines were found but a small number of anti-vehicle mines, 11 in total, were found in all but two of the mined areas.

Table 8: Mine clearance in 2019⁸⁰

State	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Blue Nile	NUMAD	179,900	1	4	7
	JASMAR	2,956	0	2	114
	FPDO	9,396	0	1	2
South Kordofan	NUMAD	660,436	0	4	5747
	JASMAR	11,527	0	0	35
	FPDO	9,853	0	0	3
Totals		874,068	1	11	5,908

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

NMAC and UNMAS reported that four mined areas were cleared in 2019 which proved to contain no anti-personnel mines. Overall there was a significant increase in the amount of land release in 2019, compared to 2018, due to an increase in the amount of funding and an improvement in security situation with expansion in access for the demining teams, both in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.⁸¹

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the four-year extension granted by States Parties in 2018), Sudan 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 April 2023. It is not on track to meet this deadline.

The updated work plan for 2020 to 2023 foresees a considerable increase in land release output to nearly 10.5km² in 2020 and over 9.2km² in 2021. It is planned that the majority of this, 92%, will be land released by cancellation through non-technical survey of which there was none in 2018 nor 2019. However, Sudan did exceed its land release target for 2019 with a massive increase in its reduction through technical survey output. Sudan's clearance output fell from 2018 to 2019 with just one anti-personnel mine found and destroyed. Sudan is planning to increase its non-technical survey capacity in 2020 and is conducting survey to establish a more accurate baseline of contamination which would improve planning to 2023. While Sudan does expect to cancel a large amount of suspected hazardous area there is also the possibility that a large amount of contamination will be added to the database.

Table 9: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	0.87
2018	0.98
2017	0.71
2016	1.04
2015	0.42
Total	4.02

The main impediment to survey and clearance is the security situation and the lack of access to most of the known impacted communities in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states.⁸² During 2019, access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile was improved, which allowed for roads to be assessed and cleared opening access for humanitarian assistance and population movement. It is hoped that with the establishment of the transitional government and the onset of peace talks between government and opposition groups that this may lead to a comprehensive nationwide peace agreement. As at June 2020, it was reported that Sudanese parties were entering the final stages of negotiation and were planning to sign an initial peace deal on 20 June.⁸³ This would improve accessibility for the mine action programme but, Sudan reports, it would also pose a challenge as roads and other routes will need to be cleared before people can move safely and humanitarian assistance can be provided and Sudan does not currently have the capacity to be able to do this.⁸⁴

In addition, Sudan reported that obstacles to completion include: inadequate funding for mine action, outdated demining equipment that is not fit for purpose which restricts Sudan's ability to operate at full capacity, poor infrastructure which also impedes access and, difficult climatic conditions.⁸⁵ A further significant factor which continues to impede progress is a lack of clearance capacity formerly provided by international demining operators. Sudan has made numerous requests for technical and logistical support and appeals for international operators to return.

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

Sudan has a plan to deal with residual risk and liability post-completion, but it requires that the national capacity is restructured. As at April 2020, NMAC deals with any residual contamination in the eastern states.⁸⁶

- 1 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, Technical Advisor, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 2 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019.
- 3 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 15.
- 4 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form C.
- 5 According to NMAC, however, as these two states have been inaccessible due to insecurity for many years, the information recorded in the database for these states may no longer be accurate, and survey will be carried out as soon as the security situation permits. NMAC, "Updated Work Plan to Meet Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Article Five Extended Deadline by April 2019", 30 April 2017.
- 6 Statement of Sudan, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 May 2019.
- 7 Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Forms C and F.
- 8 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan".
- 9 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Email from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, Chief of Operations, NMAC, 9 May 2016.
- 12 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, 25 November 2013, pp. 2-3.
- 13 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 14 Ibid.; and Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 17.
- 15 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 22.
- 16 Ibid., p. 23.
- 17 Ibid., p. 14.
- 18 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and Aimal Safi, Senior Operations and QM Advisor, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 19 UNMAS, "2018 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan", at: bit.ly/2GjD3nm.
- 20 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan", at: bit.ly/3d0FtVH.
- 21 GICHD, "Transitioning Mine Action Programmes to National Ownership: Sudan", March 2012; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 22 UNMAS, "Sudan (excluding Darfur)", Updated March 2019, at: bit.ly/2Y3IDUg.
- 23 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 24 UNMAS, "About UNMAS in Abyei", updated May 2016, at: bit.ly/32DIUPk; UNISFA, "UNISFA Mandate"; and UNMAS "UNMAS Annual Report 2019", New York, 2019, p. 8.
- 25 UNMAS, "2017 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan".
- 26 UNMAS, "Sudan (excluding Darfur)", Updated March 2019, at: bit.ly/2Y3IDUg.
- 27 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 28 Email from Hayder AlShakeri, Programme Officer, GICHD, 13 August 2020.
- 29 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 30 UNMAS, "Sudan (excluding Darfur)", Updated March 2019.
- 31 Statement of Sudan, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 28 November 2018.
- 32 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 15.
- 33 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan" at: bit.ly/3d0FtVH; and email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 34 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 35 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 36 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 37 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 22 July 2020.
- 38 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019.
- 39 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 40 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 41 Emails from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, NMAC, 9 May and 8 June 2016; and Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, March 2018, pp. 37-38.
- 42 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 43 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 44 Email from Dandan Xu, Associate Programme Management Officer, UNMAS, 28 June 2019.
- 45 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 26, p. 53.
- 46 Sudan's extension request also states that a total of 53 CHAs with a size of 22.2km² and 171 SHAs with a size of 24km² will be released, with a total land release projection of 26.4km² on p. 51 and then claims 53 CHAs with a size of 26.4km² and 171 SHAs with a size of 23.8km² will be addressed, again with a total land release projection of 26.4km² on p. 18.
- 47 In Sudan's Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, Table 4 (p. 11) and Table 6 (p. 12) purport to show the same information but have differing land release figures. Likewise, Table 5 does not match with land release figures in Tables 4 or 6 or with figures provided by NMAC to Mine Action Review on land release of anti-personnel mines in 2018 to 2019. Remaining anti-personnel mine contamination on p. 15 does not match the figures in Table 9, and neither figure matches reported land release. In Table 13 on p. 21, area cancelled through NTS and released through TS/clearance do not add up to total area released and do not match figures in operations plan by state (pp. 22-26). Projected land release figures to 2023 in the Article 7 report (covering 2019) do not match the projections in the work plan.
- 48 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019 and 13 May 2018.
- 49 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019.
- 50 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 51 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 26, p. 53.
- 52 Article 7 report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 53 Ibid.
- 54 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request Detailed Narrative, 17 August 2018, Table 14, p. 18.
- 55 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 17.
- 56 Ibid., p. 21.
- 57 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 58 Ibid.
- 59 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 14.
- 60 Ibid., p. 30.
- 61 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019 and 13 May 2018.
- 62 Ibid., 9 April 2020.
- 63 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 64 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019.
- 65 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 11 August 2020.
- 66 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 67 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 68 Ibid.
- 69 Ibid.
- 70 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 22 July 2020.
- 71 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 72 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 7 September 2020.
- 73 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 74 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 75 Ibid.; and email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020; and Article 7 report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 76 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019.
- 77 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019.
- 80 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F. UNMAS and NMAC did not report 2,500m² of clearance in Kassala (not included in total above) which was reported in the latest Article 7 Report (covering 2019).
- 81 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 82 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 14.
- 83 Sudan Tribune, "Sudanese parties close to signing off on initial peace deal: Arman", 11 June 2020.
- 84 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 36.
- 85 Ibid.
- 86 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.