

### KEY DATA

#### CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION:

#### RESIDUAL THREAT ONLY

SUBMUNITION  
CLEARANCE IN 2022

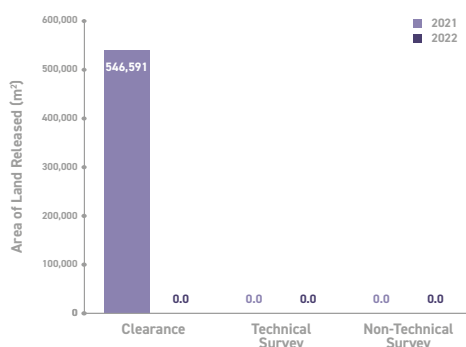
**0** KM<sup>2</sup>

SUBMUNITIONS  
DESTROYED IN 2022

**7**

(ALL DURING EOD SPOT TASKS)

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Angola should ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Angola should consider declaring completion of clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) as findings suggest that any remaining contamination is only residual.
- Angola should ensure that sustainable national capacity exists to deal with any residual unexploded submunitions that may be encountered in the future.

## CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

- National Mine Action Agency (ANAM), formally known as The National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humanitária, CNIDAH).

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- The National Demining Centre (Centro Nacional de Desminagem, CND)
- Association of Angolan Experts of Action against Landmines (APACOMINAS)

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

### OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

## UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Angola has only a residual threat from unexploded submunitions. This is despite the clearance and destruction of 29 submunitions by The HALO Trust (HALO) in 2021 (23 during mine clearance in Bié province and 6 during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) tasks and stockpile destruction tasks from the police)<sup>1</sup> and destruction of a further 7 submunitions during HALO EOD call-outs in 2022.<sup>2</sup> In 2017–19, a total of 24 unexploded submunitions were found and destroyed as a result of EOD spot tasks and community call-outs.<sup>3</sup>

CMR contamination was a result of the decades of armed conflict that ended in 2002, although it is unclear when, or by whom, cluster munitions were used in Angola.<sup>4</sup> Between 2005 and 2012, HALO destroyed unused cluster munitions in military storage areas containing a total of 7,284 submunitions.<sup>5</sup>

### OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Angola is heavily contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) other than CMR (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Angola for further information).

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Angola's mine action programme is managed by the recently established Angolan National Mine Action Agency (ANAM). ANAM is a government agency formerly known as the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH).<sup>6</sup> Its mandate is to regulate and supervise mine action work by public and private institutions as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs). ANAM is subject to the oversight of the Head of State through the Minister of State and Chief of Staff.<sup>7</sup>

In previous years, there were tensions between CNIDAH and the Executive Commission for Demining (Comissão Executiva de Desminagem, CED), the other national coordination body whose main role was to manage four national operators: the Demining Brigades of the Security Unit of the President of the Republic, the Angolan Armed Forces, the National Demining Institute (INAD), and the Brigades of the Angolan Border Guard Police. In September 2022, the CED was

dissolved,<sup>8</sup> while a National Demining Centre (Centro Nacional de Desminagem, CND) was created by presidential decree. The CND is currently the only public operator in Angola. Its mandate is to clear areas in support of socio-economic development projects, and to contribute to the fulfilment of Angola's obligations under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).<sup>9</sup>

In 2018, a draft resource mobilisation strategy was developed, but as at July 2023, the strategy has not yet been finalised.<sup>10</sup> Operators continue to report smooth collaboration with the Angolan authorities. Two longstanding challenges, visas and tax exemptions, eased in 2022 as these responsibilities were transferred to ANAM.<sup>11</sup> Mines Advisory Group (MAG), however, reported that the application for work visas remains lengthy as the humanitarian work visas must be applied for in the country of origin.<sup>12</sup>

### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

There are no formal policies related to environmental management that are specific to mine action in Angola,<sup>13</sup> but ANAM has been developing additional national mine action standards on occupational health, safety, and the environment. ANAM has also enforced some measures to mitigate the environmental impact, including the prohibition of vegetation burning, tree cutting, and control over the use of fuel and lubricants for demining machines.<sup>14</sup>

1 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO, 25 June 2022.

2 Email from Chris Pym, Angola Programme Manager, HALO, 14 June 2023.

3 CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Workplan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 4; and telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021. It was previously reported by CNIDAH that 18 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2018, and a total of 164 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2017 as a result of EOD spot tasks and community call-outs.

4 Interviews with Jose Antonio, Site Manager, Cuando Cubango, HALO; and with Coxe Sucama, Director, INAD, in Menongue, 24 June 2011.

5 Response to questionnaire by Gerhard Zank, HALO, 19 March 2013.

6 Telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021; and email, 28 April 2021.

7 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form A.

8 Email from Mário Nunes, Capacity Development Advisor to ANAM, (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.

9 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F, and emails from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022 and 10 May 2023.

10 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; and Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022 and 10 May 2023.

11 Emails from Robert Iga AFEDRA, NPA, 30 March 2023; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 30 March 2023.

12 Email from Nelson Verissimo, MAG, 6 June 2023.

13 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022; Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 14 March 2022; and Daniel Richards, HALO, 25 June 2022.

14 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), 10 May 2023.

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender and diversity are integrated into Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 as a cross-cutting issue. The strategy recognises that mine action activities need to reflect the distinct needs of different ages, genders, and other diverse groups through targeted design with the collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex and age a key precursor for this. Disaggregated data collection requirements have been integrated into all relevant standing operating procedures, forms, and other data collection tools.<sup>15</sup> Although Angola has no gender and diversity implementation plan, the Angolan mine action sector has made significant strides with regards to gender balance. This is demonstrated in the increased participation of women in mine action at all hierarchical levels. In 2022, 36% of ANAM's employees were women. Women held 48% of operational positions and 33% of managerial positions.<sup>16</sup>

---

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

ANAM manages a national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database which is now considered to be a reliable source of information,<sup>17</sup> as it has been fully reconciled with operators' data, and the previous data backlog and inflated contamination figures have been cleared.<sup>18</sup> ANAM has requested IMSMA Core from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) as a means to increase the efficiency of its information management.<sup>19</sup>

---

## PLANNING AND TASKING

Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 was developed by CNIDAH, in 2019, with support from GICHD. As of June 2023, the strategy had yet to be formally adopted by the government of Angola.<sup>20</sup> There are five objectives within the strategy, two of which refer to explosive ordnance although there is no specific mention of CMR. The accompanying APMBC Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025 provides a figure for the number of CMR destroyed during spot tasks in 2017–19 but there is no further mention of CMR in the plan.

---

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

---

Ten chapters of national mine action standards (NMAS) were completed and fully adopted in 2021.<sup>21</sup> Angola's NMAS are adequate and cover the main topics related to land release.<sup>22</sup> They do not contain provisions specific to CMR survey or clearance. Three additional standards on animal detection systems, EOD, and residual contamination management, have been drafted with support from the GICHD.<sup>23</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

---

Four international NGOs conducted demining for humanitarian purposes in Angola in 2020: APOPO, HALO, MAG, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA); and one national NGO: APACOMINAS. Since the dissolving of the CED and the organisations that work under its supervision, the CND has become the only public operator conducting demining activities. None of the operators conducted any dedicated CMR survey or clearance in 2022.

---

15 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020.

16 Article 7 report (covering 2021), Form J; and email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), 10 May 2023.

17 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 22 March 2022; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

18 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA (on behalf of CNIDAH), 22 March 2021; and Statement by Angola on Article 5 implementation, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, November 2019.

19 Email from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), 10 May 2023.

20 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

21 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

22 Email from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022.

23 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J; and emails from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; and Miroslav Pisarević, NPA, 10 March 2022.

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

---

There was no reported survey or clearance of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2022. HALO found and destroyed seven submunitions during EOD call-outs in Bié province.<sup>24</sup>

As noted above, a total of 29 submunitions were found and destroyed by HALO in Angola in 2021, of which, 23 were destroyed during the clearance of a minefield. HALO disposed of a further six submunitions during EOD call-outs in 2021.<sup>25</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2022

---

There was no reported survey of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2022 and no affected areas were identified.

### CLEARANCE IN 2022

---

Between 1 January and 31 March 2023, HALO found and destroyed seven submunitions in Bie province as part of EOD call-outs. Four ShOAB-0.5 (71 mm) submunitions were found in Kuito municipality and three BLU 63/B (76 mm) submunitions in Andulo and Nharea municipalities.<sup>26</sup>

### PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

---

Angola is a signatory, but not yet a State Party, to the CCM. It had previously been reported to Mine Action Review that ratification of the CCM is not currently a priority for Angola as there is little to no CMR contamination and the authorities believe that full adherence might require a nationwide survey to be conducted for which Angola does not have the resources.<sup>27</sup> In fact, ratification of the Convention would not require a new national survey given the extent of survey and clearance that has already been conducted over the last ten years.

Based on available information, Mine Action Review believes that only a residual CMR threat remains in Angola and that the authorities could declare that CMR clearance has been completed.

---

24 Email from Chris Pym, HALO, 14 June 2023.

25 Emails from Daniel Richards, HALO, 25 June and 1 July 2022.

26 Email from Chris Pym, HALO, 14 June 2023.

27 Telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021.