

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

SUBMUNITION
CLEARANCE IN 2022

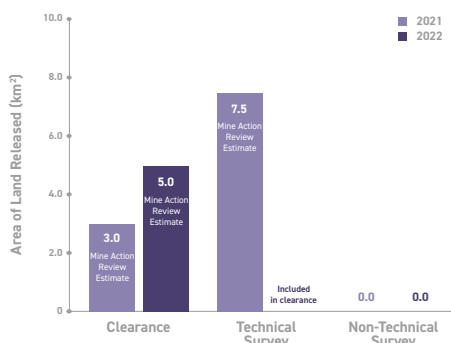
5km²

MINE ACTION
REVIEW ESTIMATE

SUBMUNITIONS
DESTROYED IN 2022

738

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The six-week armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in September–November 2020 ended with Azerbaijan regaining control over seven districts and a large part of Nagorno-Karabakh. All parties to the conflict used cluster munitions in the course of the conflict but the extent of the resultant contamination from cluster munition remnants (CMR) in areas under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction and control is not yet known. A massive clearance effort of areas containing mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including CMR, accelerated in 2022.

In 2022, the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA, formerly the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action) reported releasing just over 44km² of cluster

munition-contaminated area through clearance and technical survey (TS), with the destruction of 738 submunitions.¹ These figures, however, are based on the total size of area for task polygons in which submunitions were found during land release as ANAMA does not currently disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other battle area clearance (BAC) tasks. In order to avoid inflating CMR clearance data, Mine Action Review has estimated that the amount of land actually containing CMR, released through clearance in 2022, was 5km² in 2022. This compares to an estimate of clearance output for 2021 of 3km², with the destruction of 387 submunitions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Azerbaijan should commit to never again use cluster munitions and should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- ANAMA, which serves as the de facto national mine action centre, should work to establish a nationwide baseline of CMR-contaminated area using evidence-based non-technical and technical survey.
- ANAMA should ensure that survey, clearance, and contamination data related to CMR are disaggregated from data relating to other ERW and mines.
- Azerbaijan should adopt the revised National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) without delay to allow cancellation of areas through non-technical survey (NTS), which is not permitted under the existing standards.

¹ Email from Ramil Azizov, Head of risk education, international and public relations department, ANAMA, 19 July 2023.

- ANAMA should elaborate a separate methodology for clearing CMR specifically, distinct from BAC, ensuring that the footprint of a cluster strike is identified and clearance is conducted to fadeout.
- ANAMA should ensure that fencing is used, and not only hazard signs, at the edge of polygons cleared of explosive ordnance where contamination continues beyond edge of the area cleared.
- ANAMA should finalise and adopt the new draft mine action strategy to replace the strategy that expired in 2018, reflecting the significant increase in contamination now under Azerbaijan's control.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA, formerly the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- ANAMA
- The Demining Battalion of the Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Emergency Situations
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- The State Border Service
- Four national commercial demining companies, each with an international commercial sub-contractor:
 - Qaya Safety Solutions partnering with Safelane Global
 - Safe Point partnering with RPS (a Tetra Tech company)
 - Alpha Demining partnering with Altay Group
 - Azerbaijan Demining Company partnering with Piper
- International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Azerbaijan)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Turkish Armed Forces

OTHER ACTORS

- APOPO
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Survey in Azerbaijan is ongoing, but according to ANAMA's preliminary data, a total of 8,236km² is contaminated with all types of explosive ordnance (including mines, CMR and other ERW). Of this, nearly 1,480km² is classified as highly contaminated (and high threat) and an estimated 6,756km² as medium and low threat areas.² However, not all of the 8,236km² is thought to be actually contaminated, especially as the total size of this area roughly equates to size of the entire area in question, and it is therefore likely to include roads, lakes, and other uncontaminated areas. The highly contaminated areas mainly cover territories located along the 254km long former line of contact, defensive frontage around the now liberated district capitals, strategic military points, and confirmed hazard areas from the 1990s hostilities.³ According to ANAMA, the liberated territories comprise 60% flat agricultural land, 30% grassy hills, and 10% mountains.⁴

CMR only make up a small proportion of total contamination, and while the precise extent of contamination from CMR in Azerbaijan is unknown, it is not believed to be heavy. In 2022, ANAMA identified 44.1km² of cluster munition-contaminated-area through TS and NTS survey in the territory over which it regained control in 2020.⁵ This was, however, based on the total size of task polygons in which submunitions were found and therefore the size of actual CMR contamination is likely to have been far smaller.

ANAMA has vague plans to establish a national baseline of explosive ordnance contamination through NTS, which will include cluster munition-contaminated areas but the survey will not specifically disaggregate these areas from other ERW.⁶ As at May 2023, however, the only actor conducting NTS was the non-governmental organisation (NGO)

2 Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA), Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, pp. 2 and 3; email from Ramil Azizov, then Operations Manager, ANAMA, 17 May 2023, and interview with Samir Poladov, Deputy Chairman, and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, in Baku, 24 May 2023.

3 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 3.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid., p. 9.

6 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and tasked by ANAMA.⁷

CMR contamination resulted first from the 1988–94 conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and ammunition abandoned by the Soviet army in 1991. Following the cease-fire in 1994, tensions flared up in April 2016 when fighting broke out briefly along the then line of contact and included the use of cluster munitions. In July 2020, fighting broke out on the international borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and on 27 September 2020, Azerbaijan launched a fully-fledged military operation. Fierce fighting for just over six weeks was brought to an end by a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement, which came into effect on 10 November 2022. Under the agreement, Azerbaijan regained full control in the seven districts adjacent to Nagorno-Karabakh: the four districts (Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Qubadli, and Zangilan) which it took back control from Armenia, and the three districts (Aghdam, Kalbajar, and Lachin) from which Armenia agreed to withdraw its forces, returning the districts to Azerbaijani control.⁸ The fragile ceasefire has since been interrupted by sporadic fighting by both parties to the conflict.

Azerbaijan also regained control of a substantial part of Nagorno-Karabakh, the rest of which is patrolled by Russian peacekeeping forces but still governed by the de-facto Nagorno-Karabakh authorities.⁹ (See the Mine

Action Review *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on Nagorno-Karabakh for further information).

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan used cluster munitions in the course of the six-week conflict in 2020. Human Rights Watch documented repeated use of LAR-160 cluster munition rockets and M095 dual-purpose submunitions by Azerbaijan in a civilian neighbourhood in Hadrut and Stepanakert (or Khankendi in Azeri).¹⁰ Another Human Rights Watch report described cluster munition use by Armenia in Barda, Goranboy, and Tartar districts, including Smerch rockets containing 9N235 submunitions.¹¹ Amnesty International documented four cluster munition strikes resulting in civilian casualties by Armenian forces in towns and villages in Azerbaijan in October 2020. These consisted of three strikes in Barda dispersing dozens of 9N235 submunitions and a fourth in Qarayusufli.¹²

In addition to the cluster munitions reported by the media and humanitarian organisations, the Azerbaijan Campaign to Ban Landmines (AZCBL) reported that the following types of cluster munitions were found in areas regained by Azerbaijan since the 2020 conflict: 9N-210, AO-2.5PTM, PTAB-1M, and ShOAB-05. Submunitions were found in the districts of Fuzuli, Aghdam, Tartar, and Yevlakh.¹³ Between the 2020 trilateral statement and 31 December 2022, four persons were injured or killed due to CMR-related incidents. These constituted 1.4% of the total 279 victims to explosive ordnance-related incidents that occurred during the same period.¹⁴

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Many areas, including those formerly occupied by Armenia, are confirmed or suspected to contain ERW, both unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). These include former military testing areas and a former shooting range.¹⁵ Azerbaijan is also contaminated with landmines, the precise extent of which is unknown, but is believed to be massive following Azerbaijan's regaining of control of considerable territory as a result of the 2020 conflict (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Azerbaijan for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

ANAMA, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action, was established by Presidential Decree 854 in 1998. It started its humanitarian demining operations in 2000 to eliminate the socio-economic impact of landmines and ERW. In February 2021, by Presidential decree, ANAMA was restructured and given the status of a public legal entity as the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.¹⁶ The rebranded ANAMA has the mandate to plan, coordinate, and oversee humanitarian demining activities of national and international operators.¹⁷ ANAMA currently has a national headquarters in Baku and two regional offices in Horadiz and Goygol.¹⁸ In 2021, a national mine action law was drafted with the support of UNDP. As at June 2023, it was still pending approval.¹⁹

7 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

8 See, e.g., International Crisis Group (ICG), "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 7 May 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3ui0ou2>.

9 ICG, "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 7 May 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3ui0ou2>.

10 Human Rights Watch (HRW), "Azerbaijan: Cluster Munitions Used in Nagorno-Karabakh", 23 October 2020, at: <https://bit.ly/3bt3QXE>.

11 HRW, "Armenia: Cluster Munitions Kill Civilians in Azerbaijan", 30 October 2020, at: <https://bit.ly/3wv4UIT>; and HRW, "Armenia: Cluster Munitions Used in Multiple Attacks on Azerbaijan", 15 December 2020, at: <https://bit.ly/3vhYQ6v>.

12 Amnesty International, "In the Line of Fire", Report, 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3zHXp3H>, pp. 10–11.

13 AZCBL, "Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance Problem in The Liberated Territories of Azerbaijan", Report, November 2022, pp. 1 and 3.

14 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 4.

15 ANAMA, "Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action 2018", p. 17.

16 "Azerbaijan establishes Mine Action Agency", APA news, 15 January 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/35MhtEu>.

17 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.

18 UNDP, assessment report, "Gender Organisational Assessment of Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)", February 2023, p. 12.

19 Email from Mark Buswell, Strategic Advisor, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

Prior to the 2020 conflict, ANAMA had been conducting demining operations with two contracted national operators: Dayag-Relief Azerbaijan (RA) and the IEPF. In March 2020, RA's field personnel were incorporated within ANAMA while RA as an organisation continued to provide logistical support to ANAMA.²⁰ Since the end of the 2020 conflict, both ANAMA and clearance operations in Azerbaijan have been rapidly scaled up to address the significant mine and ERW contamination newly under Azerbaijan's control. An interministerial mine action working group, chaired by ANAMA, continued to meet twice a month in 2022 and included Azerbaijan's most significant ministries, including of defence, interior, and emergency situations, as well as the State Border Service.²¹

The Azerbaijani government has been funding the vast majority (90%)²² of the mine action programme's operating costs,²³ and mine action is considered a national priority by the government of Azerbaijan.²⁴ It is integrated into the Azerbaijan Socio-Economic Development plan 2019–2023 and is considered a key contributor to meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁵ Azerbaijan has adopted national SDG 18 for mine action for safe return, settlement, recovery, prosperity and peace.²⁶

ANAMA has set the following key priorities for international assistance: enhanced planning through the use of data management and technology, including scaling up Remote Aerial Minefield Survey (RAMS) capacity; TS and feasibility studies for accelerating and streamlining humanitarian mine clearance; increase in demining capacity through establishment and accreditation of additional national NGOs; continued support to the institutional capacity building of ANAMA; an increase in ANAMA's mechanical demining capacities; further development of mine detection dog (MDD) training and advising capacity; establishment of and support for female demining teams; demarcation and permanent fencing; explosive ordnance risk education (EORE); and mine victim assistance.²⁷

ANAMA says that it stands ready to actively engage with potential donors and organisations interested in contributing to mine action in Azerbaijan.²⁸ On 31 March–1 April 2022, ANAMA and the UNDP organised an international conference on Mine Action and the SDGs in Baku. The conference brought together key actors from the international mine action community to share best practices and lessons learned in mine action, including in the use of advanced technologies. Among the recommendations made at the conference were

the establishment of an in-country donor coordination mechanism, such as a Mine Action Forum, and of technical working groups (TWGs) to address key challenges (such as land release, information management, EORE, and victim assistance).²⁹ Since then, ANAMA also organised an international conference "Mine Action: Challenges and Opportunities" in Baku November 2022, while in May 2023, an international conference entitled "Mine Action – the Path to SDGs" was organised in collaboration with UNDP. Another international conference "Explosive Ordnance Seminar: Europe 2023" was planned by ANAMA and Intelligence-Sec (a conference and exhibition company) for July 2023 to discuss clearance methodologies, tools, and equipment in demining operations.³⁰

UNDP provides strategic and technical capacity development to ANAMA.³¹ In 2020, the capacity development project was extended to 2023.³² UNDP has supported the creation of an enabling mine action environment, including for the drafting of the national mine action law, and the revision of the NMAS. An analysis by UNDP in May 2022 of ANAMA's "National Needs and Priorities" informs the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, foreign diplomats, and donors. A third edition of the report was published in January 2023. UNDP has also drafted a generic mine action strategy, which was submitted to ANAMA in October 2022 for its consideration. UNDP also elaborated a gender needs assessment, leading to the adoption of a gender policy and strategy and the organisation of a workshop on gender in March 2023. Additional consultancies on victim assistance and EORE are planned for 2023.³³

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) also supported ANAMA in 2022, in particular with respect to information management. The GICHD provided the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core to ANAMA, and gave supporting training in the use of the system.³⁴

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ANAMA in December 2021, with funding from the United States (US) and Canada. MAG provided a 10-month supervision technical and practical training in 2022, with 16 ANAMA trainees successfully completing the training. Trainees also received refresher on the deployment of MDDs and mechanical assets. A separate two-week supervision training was provided to 19 ANAMA supervisors. A post-training workshop was held on 19 December 2022, which was attended by the Head and Deputy Head of ANAMA's training and methodological assurance

20 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 28 July 2020.

21 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; interview with Vugar Suleymanov, Chairman of the Board, ANAMA; and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

22 Presentation by Hikmet Hajiyev, Assistant to the President, Head of Division for Foreign Policy, Office of the President, Baku, 25 May 2023.

23 Emails from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June and 7 July 2022.

24 ANAMA, quarterly report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 3.

25 UNDP, assessment report, "Gender Organisational Assessment of ANAMA", February 2023, p. 10.

26 Presentation by Huseyn Huseynov, Head of Department for Sustainable Development and Social Policy, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Aghdam, 24 May 2023.

27 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 2.

28 Ibid., p. 12.

29 Statement of the International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

30 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: priorities and needs", January 2023, p. 12.

31 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

32 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 21 May 2021.

33 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

34 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 8.

department.³⁵ MAG had previously been present in Azerbaijan in 2000–02, training deminers, section and team leaders, and personnel from the training department, of RA.

ANAMA is also receiving capacity development support from the European Union (EU), France, United Kingdom (UK), the US Department of State; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI).³⁶ The ICRC provides training for ANAMA site paramedics³⁷ and conducts EORE and other activities.³⁸ The Counter Explosive Defence Engagement office of UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) is providing technical support to ANAMA on explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).³⁹ MLI has been operational in Azerbaijan since 2005, with an MDD partnership programme. It has provided 60 MDDs to ANAMA to date and agreed a new two-year partnership in 2021, funded by Azerbaijan and the private sector in the United States.⁴⁰

In 2022, ANAMA stepped up its operational capacity and established new mobile field camps for deminers in Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Lachin, Shusha, Xodjavand, and Zangilan. It planned a further increase in the number of mobile camps in 2023. In addition, a base camp was set up in Shusha and a training centre in Goygol.⁴¹ ANAMA plans to use these mobile camps to expand mine clearance operations and increase personnel. The mobile container-type camp can be moved to other areas, depending on the location of demining activities.⁴²

Turkey reported training Azerbaijan Armed Forces personnel in mine action, mine clearance, and mine detection, and mine/improvised explosive device (IED) awareness, in addition to deploying Turkish military demining teams and machines (see section on Operators and Operational Tools).⁴³ It is unclear if Turkish personnel are also addressing CMR as part of their operations in Azerbaijan.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Azerbaijan's newly revised, but as at June 2023 yet to be adopted, national standards (ANMAR), cover all demining activities and include a dedicated chapter on Environmental Protection in its national standards.⁴⁴

According to the ANMAR, "it is the intent of the National Mine Action Programme (MAP) of the Republic of Azerbaijan that these requirements shall be complied with to ensure that the environment is not degraded by mine action work and land is returned in a state that is similar to, or where possible better than, before mine action operations commenced, and that permits its intended use." The Environmental Protection chapter includes information on Azerbaijan's mine action environmental management system (EMS); requirements for

mine action organisations; requirements for the identification, assessment, and mitigation of environmental aspects (including waste disposal, water supplies, burning and removal of vegetation, animals, open burning and demolition, environmental aspects of mechanical mine action operations, emergency preparedness, monitoring, cultural and historical sites, and completion and remediation).

The Government of Azerbaijan may also require the conduct of a formal environmental impact assessment (EIA) in relation to large or publicly significant mine action projects, or ones that will take place in areas of known environmental vulnerability.⁴⁵

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

In 2022, UNDP, with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) funding, supported ANAMA in reviewing gender in mine action, and in partnership with ANAMA developed ANAMA's Gender Policy and Strategy documents.⁴⁶ UNDP carried out a gender needs assessment, which led to the drafting of a gender policy and strategy. A workshop on gender was organised in March 2023, and as at June 2023, UNDP was shortly to submit a gender strategy.⁴⁷ The assessment underlines ANAMA's willingness to advance gender and diversity mainstreaming.⁴⁸

35 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, Programme Manager, MAG, 16 May 2023.

36 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

37 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 8.

38 ICRC, "Azerbaijan: Activity highlights for 2022", February 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3PmE07w>.

39 Presentation by Bert Appleton, Head of the Counter Explosive Defence Engagement office of UK MoD, on "Building capacity through Government to Government (G2G) Initiatives", 25 May 2023.

40 Presentation by Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI), International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

41 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

42 "Azerbaijan Plans to Clear 40,000 Hectares of Liberated Land from Armenian Landmines", *Caspian News*, 30 January 2022.

43 Statement by Turkey to the 8th International Pledging Conference to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), 24 March 2023; and Turkey APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Forms D and I.

44 Emails from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

45 Azerbaijan National Mine Action Requirements (ANMAR), Section IV Management Systems, Chapter 9 Environmental Protection.

46 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

47 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

48 UNDP, "Gender Organisational Assessment of ANAMA", Report, February 2023, p. 4.

The national Code of Labour denounces any type of discrimination in labour relations, including between men and women. It does, however, include so-called "protective measures" which legally prohibit women from being hired into a wide array of jobs. Traditional norms and gender stereotyping also lead to women and men not being equally included in the different organisational levels. UNDP's assessment underlines the fact that concerns over women's reproductive health (for example, regarding pregnancy) are deeply rooted (if well-intended) cultural norms that aim to protect women rather than exclude them, but yet do present barriers to women's participation in the labour force.⁴⁹

In ANAMA, women are mostly concentrated in the headquarters in Baku and cover administrative roles. In ANAMA's headquarters, women constitute 31% of the team, but only 5% of the total employees in ANAMA's suboffices.⁵⁰ No or very few women are in operations or in leadership positions. On the other hand, few men are in non-operational roles, for example in human resources (HR) department.⁵¹ Women make up around 8% of ANAMA's total workforce, mainly employed in administrative positions. In 2022, no women were trained in demining in Azerbaijan.⁵²

ANAMA has been working to mainstream gender and diversity and increase the proportion of women in its workforce. Through the EU-UNDP funded project, MAG, in partnership with IEPF, will support ANAMA in deploying two fully equipped women-only multi-task teams conducting

clearance, BAC, TS, animal detection systems (ADS), EORE, and NTS in 2023. MAG and IEPF will also establish two gender balanced/mixed teams through the 12-month US State Department Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA) funding. All four teams began training in June 2023. APOPO will develop the MDD capacity of the four teams alongside the team deployment.⁵³

According to ANAMA, survey and community liaison personnel are mostly from affected communities and there are no restrictions on the basis of ethnic groups or religious affiliation. Risk education teams create a network of affected communities, which include women and children. The government's reconstruction and rehabilitation programme is aimed at returning internally displaced persons (IDPs), including women and children, and ensuring sustainable development of repatriated communities in a safe environment.⁵⁴

The rapid upscaling of ANAMA's mine action operations taking place provides a valuable opportunity for ANAMA to improve the proportion of women in operational roles and to mainstream gender and diversity throughout its programme. The development of the gender strategy and the goals set to create female operational teams are hoped to translate into improved female participation in the mine action sector, both in terms of inclusion in positions other than administrative ones, and increase the overall number of females in the workforce.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Azerbaijan's newly revised national mine action standards include the establishment of a single, unified, information management system, which ANAMA is implementing.⁵⁵ As at May 2023, ANAMA was still transitioning to IMSMA Core but had established an Online ArcGIS Portal.⁵⁶

In 2022, UNDP and the GICHD supported ANAMA's information management (IM) efforts, including evaluations and assessment on how to implement IMSMA Core in compliance with International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 5.0. The following was achieved in 2022: digitisation and standardisation of data collection forms; production of most land release output and quality management (QM) forms, production of multiple dashboards demonstrating different outputs and analysis; data cleaning and migration; and

capacity building of a new IM staff member who joined the programme in 2022.⁵⁷ As at May 2023, an IMSMA charter on mine action procedures had been signed by Prime Minister, and ANAMA was subcontracting a local company, rather than the GICHD, to house its IMSMA database.⁵⁸

ANAMA's efforts, including data quality checks and system improvements to improve the quality of data in the mine action database are ongoing.⁵⁹ Verification occurs initially at the regional level and then at headquarters. With the significant upscaling of operations and area of responsibilities since 2020, the progress reporting period was reduced from two weeks to one.⁶⁰ ANAMA plans to generate daily progress reports once it has migrated to IMSMA Core.⁶¹

49 Ibid.

50 Ibid., p. 11.

51 Ibid., p. 4.

52 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 11; and interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

53 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 16 May and 3 July 2023; online interview with Greg Crowther, Director of Programmes, MAG, 26 July 2023; and UNDP, "Gender Organisational Assessment of Mine Action Agency of ANAMA", Report, February 2023, p. 11.

54 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

55 Presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

56 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

57 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

58 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

59 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

60 Emails from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 21 May 2021; and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

61 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

All data on clearance operations, including those of the military, are reported centrally to ANAMA.⁶²

But despite improvements being made in IM, ANAMA does not yet fully disaggregate survey, clearance, and contamination data related to CMR, from battle area data related to other types of ERW.

PLANNING AND TASKING

The existing national mine action strategy was for 2013–18. Its main aims were to continue mine and ERW clearance in support of government development projects and to provide safe conditions for the local population in affected regions.⁶³ The strategy expired at the end of 2018 and had not been replaced as of writing. As at March 2023, UNDP had developed and submitted to ANAMA a new mine action strategy but ANAMA was said to be working on a second strategy with the government.⁶⁴

According to its January 2023 progress report, ANAMA said that the area cleared of landmines and ERW so far constitutes around 6.9% of the overall high, medium, and low threat areas. The work plan for 2023 foresaw a massive (and highly improbable) 500km² of release through clearance, and the draft strategy for the medium term is to further increase clearance capacity to achieve output of 650km² annually.⁶⁵ This includes all forms of explosive ordnance clearance, as well as visual search of battle areas, which is not clearance. ANAMA foresees that, over the long term, this level of predicted output will not be maintained, once high priority areas have been cleared and only high-density, but low threat/priority, areas remain.⁶⁶

ANAMA successfully coordinates various activities of several state implementing agencies, NGOs, and commercial contractors in order to execute a work plan elaborated with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and approved by

the Government.⁶⁷ ANAMA performs NTS of polygons prior to tasking operators on clearance,⁶⁸ but this is more akin to task preparation rather than comprehensive NTS. Therefore, most polygons selected and prioritised by the Cabinet of Ministers and tasked by ANAMA to implement have not been subject to rigorous NTS in advance. IEPF is the only organisation tasked by ANAMA to conduct NTS and generate hazardous area polygons, with support from UNDP, but its capacity is limited.⁶⁹

The Cabinet of Ministers, as the highest level executive body in the country, determines which polygons are cleared with priorities are set in accordance with rehabilitation and reconstruction plans in the regained territories.⁷⁰ According to ANAMA'S quarterly report on progress from January 2023, in accordance with its policy of ensuring the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of IDPs, the Government of Azerbaijan prioritises the demining of areas of high importance such as main access roads, key infrastructure (highways, railroads, and electricity lines), agriculture, and planned residential areas.⁷¹ Thus, highly contaminated areas do not necessarily equate to areas that are a high priority for clearance. According to ANAMA, much of the former line of contact (LOC) will not be cleared for years, with the exception of areas where construction of roads, railway lines, or power lines and other infrastructure are required.⁷²

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Azerbaijan has its own NMAS, known as the Azerbaijan National Mine Action Requirements (ANMAR), which were adopted in 2001 and subsequently revised in 2003, 2004, and 2010.⁷³ In 2021, all chapters of the ANMAR were fully revised in line with IMAS.⁷⁴ As at June 2023 the revised standards were still in the process of being formally adopted,⁷⁵ but had been provided to all operators.⁷⁶ It is extremely important that the revised standards are formally adopted, as the existing standards do not allow for land release through NTS.

62 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.

63 Email from Sabina Sarkarova, ANAMA 2 May 2018.

64 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

65 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 10.

66 Ibid.; and interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

67 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 9.

68 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

69 Interview with UNDP, Baku, 24 May 2023.

70 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023; presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022; and emails from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022; and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

71 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, pp. 3, 5, and 8.

72 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

73 Email from Turat Mammadov, ANAMA, 19 October 2016.

74 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.

75 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

76 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

One of the challenges of conducting NTS in the regained territories is that many of the areas are unpopulated and therefore no local communities are present who can be asked about contamination.⁷⁷ There are, though, reports that approximately 800km² of land not formally cleared is already being used for agriculture. According to ANAMA, all incidents (including involving the military) are plotted in maps, which can serve as evidence points. ANAMA said that the demand for clearance is so high, however, that it is not always possible to conduct TS each time there is an accident involving a munition.⁷⁸

ANAMA takes into account planned land use in its prioritisation and tasking, and all clearance is conducted to three metres depth in the plots where foundations will be laid for construction.⁷⁹ In its January 2023 report, ANAMA referenced an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Technical Assessment Visit Report which reportedly implied that in order to speed up the clearance process and reduce the risk to individual deminers, “a mix of mine-resistant heavy plant (bulldozers, backhoe loaders, and similar protected earth moving machinery)” was needed.⁸⁰

At present, only hazard signs and not also fencing are placed at the edge of each polygon, even when explosive ordnance contamination is known to continue beyond the edge of the cleared polygon. ANAMA said it is considering using fencing, in addition to hazard signs, for polygons in which people will be returned and communities established. In addition, at least 50m² is cleared from the polygon boundary.⁸¹ Clearance

is not conducted to full fade-out for CMR clearance, so if contamination extends beyond the polygon boundary tasked to the operator, it is not addressed. This risks losing valuable information on the exact location and footprint of cluster munition strikes, by not clearing the full footprint at the time.

ANAMA delivered on its plan to train operators on the revised standards in 2022.⁸² The revised draft ANMAR include a chapter on BAC, but not specifically on CMR clearance.⁸³ A further review of the ANMAR was underway as at May 2023, and the results were expected to be issued in the second half of 2023.⁸⁴ Together with ANAMA and UNDP, MAG is supporting the evaluation and revision of 29 mine action standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the revised national standards. As at May 2023, 10 of the 30 SOPs had been updated and ANAMA expected the process to be completed in the next six months.⁸⁵ In 2023, ANAMA was planning to organise training sessions on 22 different topics for mine clearance personnel of all agencies.⁸⁶ UNDP considers that the revised ANMAR are in line with IMAS and suitable to the context. However, more work is required for implementing NTS and to disaggregate data.⁸⁷

In 2022, ANAMA did not disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other BAC tasks, prior to tasking polygons for clearance. Land release data for 2022 reported by ANAMA was therefore based on the polygons in which submunitions were found,⁸⁸ rather than TS and clearance of areas suspected or confirmed to contain CMR.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Survey and clearance of CMR is covered in ANAMA's overall training programme, and ANAMA does not have personnel dedicated to CMR operations. ANAMA has undergone a significant restructuring and upscaling following the conflict with Armenia in 2020.⁸⁹ According to UNDP, ANAMA had initially planned to train, equip, and deploy an additional 100 deminers per month in order to respond to the surge in need since the end of the 2020 conflict. This monthly upscaling rate, however, could not be sustained and ANAMA has been encouraging the expansion of other operator capacities instead, including a significant commercial base, as well as seeking to strengthen its role as the national mine action centre.⁹⁰

At the end of 2022, ANAMA's operational capacity consisted of 920 deminers, 34 MDDs, and 24 mine clearance machines.⁹¹ The number of deminers has significantly increased in 2022 compared to 2021 where ANAMA operated with 762 deminers, 34 MDDs, and 25 mine clearance machines.⁹² In 2023, ANAMA expects that 630 new recruits will join basic humanitarian demining and BAC courses, and 295 staff members will join in-service training at the ANAMA training centre in Goygol.⁹³

The Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and the State Border Service also conduct mine action activities. At the end of 2022, the Ministry of Defence

77 Ibid.

78 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

79 Ibid.; and email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 19 July 2023.

80 ANAMA, Quarterly Report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, p. 7.

81 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

82 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

83 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.

84 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

85 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 16 May 2023; and interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

86 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

87 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

88 ANAMA, Quarterly Report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, p. 12.

89 “Dying To Go Home: Displaced Azerbaijanis Risk Mines, Munitions To See Homeland”, *Radio Free Europe*, 18 February 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3vgaKh5>; and “Following war, Armenia and Azerbaijan Reckon with Unexploded Ordnance”, *EurasiaNet*, 23 December 2020.

90 Email from Guy Rhodes, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP, 23 June 2021.

91 ANAMA, Quarterly Report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, p. 7.

92 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.

93 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and ANAMA, quarterly report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, p. 8.

had a capacity of 450 deminers, 4 MDDs, and 20 machines. The Ministry of Emergency Situations was operating 50 deminers, 10 MDDs, and 4 machines, while the State Border Service had at its disposal 30 deminers.⁹⁴

ANAMA is responsible for accrediting and monitoring all humanitarian mine action operators, including state actors involved in demining process in Azerbaijan.⁹⁵ As at December 2022, there were also four national commercial demining companies, each with an international commercial sub-contractor, to assist with operational planning and help build capacity. These are: Qaya Safety Solutions partnering with Safelane Global; Safe Point partnering with RPS (a Tetra Tech company); Alpha Demining partnering with Altay Group; and Azerbaijan Demining Company partnering with Piper.⁹⁶

The four commercial companies combined had a capacity of 222 deminers, 11 MDDs, and 7 machines. In addition, as at December 2022, two national NGOs were working in mine action.⁹⁷ Only one national demining NGO, IEPF was working on mine clearance in 2022.⁹⁸ As noted above, IEPF is the only entity conducting NTS for which purpose it is tasked by ANAMA and supported by UNDP.⁹⁹

The national operator, RA, was conducting EORE. All actors are accredited and trained by ANAMA, in accordance with the Decree, and all data are reported and entered into ANAMA's IMSMA database. ANAMA conducts monitoring and external quality assurance (QA) for operators and issues hand-over certificates after QA.¹⁰⁰

Table 1: Operational resources for explosive ordnance clearance (at 31 December 2022)¹⁰¹

Operator	Operational staff	MDDs	Machines
ANAMA	920	34	24
Ministry of Defence	450	4	4
Ministry of Emergency Situations	50	10	4
State Border Service	30	0	0
Alpha Demining	63	5	2
Qaya Safety Solutions	46	2	1
Safety Point	79	0	1
Azerbaijan Demining Company	34	4	3
Totals	1,672	59	55

The Turkish Armed Forces are also conducting mine and ERW clearance in Azerbaijan. According to Türkiye, eight military demining teams have been conducting demining operations since December 2020 to support mine clearance.¹⁰² In addition, six demining machines (MEMATT-I) manufactured in Türkiye were sent to Azerbaijan in 2021 and it plans to complete the deployment of 20 demining machines (MEMATT-II) to Azerbaijan in the coming years.¹⁰³

Azerbaijan continued using RAMS in 2022 to identify suspected areas as part of establishing a baseline survey,¹⁰⁴ collecting information on mines and ERW, and other information, such as the location of trenches and military positions.¹⁰⁵ As at May 2023, there were two RAMS teams which can cover approximately 300km² per year. ANAMA is

looking to increase RAMS capacity, but the technology is of limited use in areas with thick vegetation.¹⁰⁶

ANAMA now has a QM division, reporting to the Chairman of ANAMA and QM capacity has been increased by around 300%, reflecting the significant upscaling of clearance operations in the reclaimed territories of Azerbaijan. Previously, quality control (QC) was conducted on 10% of land, but this has been reduced to 5%, while frequent site visits have been maintained.¹⁰⁷ UNDP supported efforts to enhance ANAMA's QM system by conducting a QM evaluation and organising a workshop on QM for ANAMA staff in 2022.¹⁰⁸

⁹⁴ Ibid., p. 7.

⁹⁵ ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.

⁹⁶ Ibid.; and interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.

⁹⁷ Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.

⁹⁸ AZCBL, "Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance Problem in The Liberated Territories of Azerbaijan", p. 6.

⁹⁹ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

¹⁰⁰ Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.

¹⁰¹ Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.

¹⁰² Statement by Turkey to the 8th International Pledging Conference to the APMBC, 24 March 2023.

¹⁰³ Turkey APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Forms D and I.

¹⁰⁴ Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.; and interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.

¹⁰⁶ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

¹⁰⁷ Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.

¹⁰⁸ Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

DEMINER SAFETY

ANAMA has reported that no personnel were injured or killed by CMR as a result of survey or clearance operations in Azerbaijan in 2022.¹⁰⁹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

ANAMA reported a total of 44.1km² of area where CMR were found and the land released in 2022, with the destruction of 738 submunitions. Of this total, almost 4.4km² (roughly 10%) was said to be reduced through TS and 39.73km² through clearance.¹¹⁰ No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through NTS in 2022.¹¹¹ The 44.1km² of CMR-contaminated area released in 2022 is a more than fourfold increase from that of 2021 when 10.5km² of area was released through survey and clearance combined and 387 submunitions destroyed.¹¹² The reported total of CMR-contaminated area released in 2022 was little more than 10% of the total 419km² of clearance (containing all types of explosive ordnance, including mines and ERW other than CMR) identified and cleared in 2022, during which a total of 27,863 mines and items of ERW were destroyed.¹¹³

However, the CMR-contaminated area released in 2022 corresponds to the total size of tasks (polygons) in which submunitions were found. Therefore, the size of the actual cluster munition contamination (i.e. the contaminated area resulting from cluster munition strikes) addressed, is far smaller. To avoid inflating CMR clearance output, Mine Action Review has estimated that 5km² was clearance of actual cluster munition contamination, including through clearance of lanes during TS.

SURVEY IN 2022

A total of almost 4.4km² of land with CMR was addressed by TS in 2022. All of this land was located in areas previously under the control of Armenia or the de facto Nagorno-Karabakh authorities, and inaccessible to Azerbaijan, until it regained control of the territory in 2020.¹¹⁴ This TS comprises the lanes through polygons in which CMR were subsequently discovered. In this respect, it represents a form of clearance, and is included in the 5km² clearance figure.

No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through NTS in 2022, but according to ANAMA, non-technical and technical surveys conducted in 2022 identified a total of 44.1km² of polygons containing submunitions.¹¹⁵ The 44.1km² is believed to be the total size of task polygons found to contain submunitions, therefore significant portions of polygons are likely to contain ERW other than submunitions, and the actual size of the cluster munition-contaminated area is thought to be far smaller than 44.1km². The majority of these areas are believed to have been cleared the same year.

CLEARANCE IN 2022

ANAMA reported a total of just over 39.73km² was released through clearance in 2022, with the destruction of 738 submunitions.¹¹⁶ But the reported clearance was based on the total size of task polygons in which submunitions were found during land release, as ANAMA does not currently disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other BAC tasks. Therefore, to avoid inflating clearance output, Mine Action Review has estimated that 5km² was clearance of actual cluster munition-contaminated area, including the TS lanes mentioned above. See Table 2, for reported 2022 land release of CMR-contaminated area through clearance and TS combined, disaggregated by district and operator.

109 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 19 July 2023.

110 Ibid.

111 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

112 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

113 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, pp. 9 and 10.

114 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

115 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 9.

116 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 19 July 2023.

Table 2: Reported land release through clearance and TS combined of polygons containing CMR in 2022¹¹⁷

District	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed*
Agdam**	ANAMA	5,664,685	117
	SPT	1,719,365	
Fuzuli**	ALD	3,547,401	119
	ANAMA	5,814,492	
Qubadli	ANAMA	813,042	3
Jabrayil**	ADC	2,450,007	338
	ANAMA	13,527,767	
	QSS	494,721	
Khojavend**	ALD	3,443,969	17
	ANAMA	3,757,197	
Shusha**	ANAMA	0	80
	MOD	0	
Tartar		2,867,495	4
Totals		44,100,141	738

* Figures include items destroyed during technical survey.

** Previously inaccessible territory over which Azerbaijan regained control in 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Azerbaijan has yet to join the CCM. It should do as a matter of priority. In May 2019, Azerbaijan had stated that it would only accede to the Convention once all of its territories are liberated from occupation by Armenia and all IDPs and refugees return to their lands.¹¹⁸

No target date has been set for the completion of CMR clearance in Azerbaijan, as the extent of remaining CMR contamination is unknown.¹¹⁹ In order to plan and address CMR contamination effectively, ANAMA must first quantify the problem. NTS is proceeding slowly, as the main focus is on clearing land to enable the return of IDPs to the regained territories. The establishment of an accurate baseline of CMR contamination is, therefore, still a long way off and there is currently no prioritisation of clearance tasks based on the type of contamination (e.g. prioritising CMR clearance, over clearance of other types of ERW). In addition, ANAMA struggles to disaggregate CMR from other types of ERW, in both data on the extent of contamination and data on the amount of land released. This is something that ANAMA will seek to improve as it strengthens its IM system and reporting.¹²⁰

ANAMA is making impressive progress in rapidly scaling up clearance efforts, and the process is nationally led, drawing on international expertise, such as UNDP and MAG, for capacity development. Systems to support the huge upscaling of the mine action programme in Azerbaijan, such as elaboration of a national mine action strategy and of revised national mine action standards, are being put in place. And applying efficient, evidence-based survey and clearance methodology, supported by strong national standards and a good IM and QM system, will be pivotal for the success of demining efforts in Azerbaijan. ANAMA is also seeking to increase demining capacity through establishment of additional national NGOs accredited to conduct demining. ANAMA believes they could play a vital role in managing a residual risk to support safe repatriation of IDPs.¹²¹

¹¹⁷ Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May and 19 July 2023.

¹¹⁸ Email from Sabina Sarkarova, ANAMA, 21 May 2019.

¹¹⁹ Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

¹²⁰ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

¹²¹ ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 10.