

KEY DATA

CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2026

Not on track to meet deadline
Three-year extension requested to 1 March 2029

CMR CONTAMINATION: 8.99km²

Medium
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Release in 2023 (m ²)
Clearance	0	1,029,908
Technical survey	0	0
Non-technical survey	331,513	0

Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
Submunitions destroyed	1,506 (330 during BAC and the remainder in spot tasks)	*977

* DMAC previously reported 1,139 submunitions destroyed in 2023, but revised the figure to 977 in its 2025 Article 4 deadline extension request

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024

- Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Afghanistan cancelled 0.3km² of cluster munition-contaminated area through non-technical survey (NTS) in 2024, but due to lack of funding did not conduct any clearance. In early 2025, it requested a two-year extension to its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 deadline which it later increased to three years. The request was due to be considered at the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties in September 2025. In January 2025, the United States, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)'s principal donor, halted funding, leading to cuts in the UN's Mine Action Technical Cell (MATC) and operating capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government should commit funding to support implementation of Afghanistan's CCM Article 4 deadline extension request.
- International donors should expedite funding for the MATC to underpin critical coordination, planning, information management, and quality management functions.
- International donors should also seek to support survey and clearance of the nine remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas, to enable Afghanistan to fulfil its Article 4 obligations.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Afghanistan assesses its CMR contamination as covering almost 9km ² although it acknowledges survey may add to the present national estimate.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	The MAPA is nationally managed but is dependent on donor funding, which has fallen sharply since the August 2021 Taliban takeover and as a result of US aid cuts in 2025.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	3	4	The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) remains committed to mainstreaming gender and says the government permits employment of women in mine action, but operators say their activities are restricted and women's employment in the sector has fallen further as a result of funding cuts.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	6	6	Afghanistan has a national standard on environmental management and operators have standing operating procedures to mitigate the adverse impact of mine action.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	6	5	Information management stabilised in 2024 and DMAC prepared in 2025 to start upgrading the database from IMSMA New Generation to Core with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	4	Afghanistan submitted an Article 4 deadline extension request that included a detailed work plan, but implementation depended on attracting donor support.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	6	Afghanistan has national standards compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and DMAC released updated standards for NTS, technical survey (TS), and clearance at the end of May 2025. It plans to follow IMAS TNMA 08.20/2 on cluster munition remnant survey (CMRS) to confirm CMR-contaminated area and release it.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	5	No clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas occurred in 2024 due to lack of funding and the only area released was 0.3km ² , which was cancelled after re-survey.
Average Score	5.7	5.6	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC)
- Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)
- Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA)
- Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA)
- Mine Detection and Dog Centre (MDC)
- Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- The HALO Trust
- Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Afghanistan estimated that areas containing cluster munition remnants (CMR) totalled 8.99km² in May 2025,¹ down 3% from 9.28km² at the end of 2023. Contamination is concentrated in two south-eastern provinces (see Table 1). Three-quarters (77%) of the total is in Paktya province with another 20% in Nangahar, consisting of what remains of 248,056 US submunitions dropped between October 2001 and early 2002. There are additionally small confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) in Bamyan, which contain Soviet-era submunitions, and in Samangan, where unexploded US BLU submunitions remain.²

Until 2021, armed conflict limited access to areas affected by CMR, resulting later in persistent discoveries of previously unrecorded hazardous areas.³ Since then, security and access have improved and DMAC acknowledges that survey in previously inaccessible areas may find some further areas of contamination. None was reported in 2024, but most submunitions destroyed by implementing partners (IPs) were in areas outside established CHAs.

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area (at end 2024)⁴

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)
Bamyan (Central region)	1	258,887
Nangarhar (Eastern region)	3	1,824,132
Samangan (Northern region)	2	11,715
Paktya (South-eastern region)	10	6,894,263
Totals	16	8,988,997

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

CMR pose a much smaller threat than do landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). This includes 391km² of mined area⁵ and 166km² contaminated by a wide range of ERW other than CMR, not including 38 former NATO firing ranges. DMAC assessed these ranges as covering 632km² but said it is confident the size will be substantially reduced by survey.⁶

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

MAPA's management structure has remained unchanged since the Taliban takeover of government in 2021. The mine action sector falls under the authority of a High Commission for Disaster Management led by a first deputy prime minister and supported by an interministerial board.⁷ Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) remains in the role of a national mine action authority, setting overall policy, while DMAC continues to be responsible for strategic planning, managing and coordinating survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance, information management, and quality management (QM). The IEA-appointed director of DMAC has commented that the only change resulting from the change of government was in the personnel running it.⁸

DMAC's capacity remains severely constrained by international sanctions imposed on the IEA regime and a sharp downturn in the donor funding on which the MAPA has always been largely dependent. DMAC completed the

transition from being a project of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to national management in 2018. By 2021, the Government of Afghanistan paid salaries of only 15 of DMAC's 155 staff, the rest being paid by UNMAS and the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) through ITF Enhancing Human Security.⁹

After August 2021, international sanctions imposed on the IEA ended the cooperation agreement between UNMAS and DMAC, and DMAC technical staff on internationally funded salaries mostly transferred to UNMAS. In March 2025, DMAC employed 13 civil servants, including its director, and one contractor. Other DMAC staff included the QM Senior Manager, the Chief of Operations, the Head of Coordination, and managers of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), planning, mechanical demining, mine detection dogs (MDDs), risk education, information, and investigations.¹⁰

1 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 Extension Request, submitted June 2025, p. 2.
2 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form F; and email from Aimal Safi, Senior Technical Advisor, DMAC, 20 May 2025.
3 Afghanistan's Article 4 deadline extension request reported a total of 30 CHAs covering 17.4km² were identified between becoming a party to the CCM in 2013 and 2023 (p. 4). DMAC data received annually by the Mine Action Review between 2018 and 2022 recorded 28 hazardous areas covering 20.4km². These comprised two areas/1.6km² in 2018; four areas/3.26km² in 2019; three areas/1.7km² in 2020; eleven areas/5.7km² in 2021; and twelve areas/8.1km² in 2022.
4 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 7.
5 Email from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 26 March 2025. The total includes 103km² of anti-personnel mines, 79km² of improvised mines, and 209km² of anti-vehicle mines.
6 2024 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.
7 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, pp. 9–10.
8 Interview with Qari Nooruddin Rustamkhail, Director, DMAC, in Kabul, 4 June 2022.
9 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.
10 Email from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 26 March 2025.

A UN Security Council resolution in March 2022, renewed in 2025, mandated UNAMA to “advise and coordinate explosive ordnance threat mitigation measures in support of humanitarian and development initiatives, support the coordination of the humanitarian mine action sector.”¹¹ DMAC and UNMAS cooperated through a series of interim arrangements designed to continue UN coordination and technical support for the MAPA, but they proved short term due to disagreements and financial shortfalls.¹² These culminated in an October 2023 agreement on the UN providing cooperation through a Mine Action Technical Cell (MATC).

The MATC employed 51 people at the end of 2024, supporting planning and prioritisation, operations coordination (six staff), information management (five staff), and QM (14 staff), along with risk education, victim assistance, and gender and diversity. It also operated four regional offices in Kabul (covering the central region), Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kunduz. All except the Kabul office closed at the end of 2024.¹³

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

National funding for mine action since 2021 was limited to the government paying the salaries of 14 DMAC staff and “some operational expenses,” reportedly amounting to a total of about \$40,000 a year.¹⁴ Afghanistan’s updated Article 4 deadline extension request submitted in 2025 reported DMAC had established a Resource Mobilisation Team which met ANDMA’s leadership in December 2024 and later with the Prime Minister’s Office. The team concluded that “it is highly likely that the IEA will consider some funding” for clearance of explosive ordnance, including CMR.¹⁵

Historically, international funding for CMR survey and clearance came largely from the United States. Afghanistan’s first Article 4 deadline extension request in 2021 said that PM/WRA had committed to providing the funding needed to complete its CCM obligations.¹⁶ MATC, which survived on a series of short-term donor agreements in 2024, was due to receive PM/WRA funding for the period January through October 2025. PM/WRA suspended funding for the MAPA in January 2025, resulting in MATC cutting its staff by 70% to 14, and closing three of its four provincial offices (Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kunduz) with the loss of regional staff.¹⁷

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Draconian Taliban policies excluding women from public life have still left some space for their engagement in sectors such as health and mine action. Afghanistan’s Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in 2024 said that DMAC, in consultation with IPs, had developed a gender and diversity mainstreaming policy for the MAPA.¹⁸ The Article 4 deadline extension request affirms that its mine action programme is gender sensitive; that planning and prioritisation take into account the needs and priorities of women, men and children; and that IPs have gender focal points. It says implementing gender and diversity policies will be a goal of the new National Mine Action Strategy due for release in 2025.¹⁹

DMAC says it has government permission for women to work in the mine action sector and they can operate without facing any issues in all 32 provinces with the exception of Kandahar and Uruzgan.²⁰

In practice, IPs report that, although they continue to deploy women in *maharam*²¹ teams for risk education and victim assistance, their involvement is limited. Operators say it depends on what local authorities permit, which is not consistent, and that it limits outreach to women and children. Not all IPs have gender focal points and funding cuts are contributing to the drop in the number of women employed in the sector. MCPA, which employed six women in its staff of 133, said they would be out of a job in May 2025.²²

11 UN Security Council Resolution 2626, 17 March 2022, operative para. 5(j). Operative para. 3 of Council Resolution 2777 of 17 March 2025 extended UNAMA’s mandate until 17 March 2026 “as defined in” Resolution 2626.

12 For more details on mine action coordination and the role of the UN after August 2021 see *Clearing the Mines 2023*, pp. 31–34.

13 Emails from Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi, Senior Technical Adviser, Mine Action Section, UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, 12 March 2025; and Mohammad Akhbar Oriakhil, Mine Action Operations Officer, UNMAS Afghanistan, 11 June 2025.

14 Email from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 12 January 2025.

15 Email from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 12 January 2025; and updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 15.

16 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 12. Afghanistan later specified that the PM/WRA committed to clear all CMR tasks listed in three provinces: Bamyan, Paktya and Samangan. Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

17 Email from Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi, Mine Action Section, UNAMA, 12 March 2025; and ‘Funding Cessations Impact on Mine Action Coordination, MATC PowerPoint Presentation, 7 April 2025.

18 2024 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 41.

19 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, pp. 17–18.

20 Email from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 26 March 2025.

21 Maharam teams combine a female staff member and male relative.

22 Email from Mir Mohammad, Executive Operations Manager, MCPA, 27 March 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Afghanistan has a national standard on environmental management in mine action, AMAS 07.06 Environmental Management, which makes environmental impact assessments mandatory in land release activities. It has reported that all destruction of CMR is “carried out in accordance with the safety and environmental standards, to minimize damages to the private and public properties and to the environment.”²³

Afghanistan's 2025 Article 4 deadline extension request states that the programme will give priority to clearance of contaminated areas located on hillsides to reduce the effects of climate change and to avoid the risk of items being washed down by rainfall. Gullies close to contaminated areas would also be searched for items that may have been washed down. Additionally, it calls for special attention to be paid to removal of vegetation and bans burning of vegetation. It said that the MAPA had also halted use of “machinery with environmental impacts” but did not specify the types of machinery covered by this restriction.²⁴

IPs apply a range of measures to mitigate the environmental impact of demining in line with the AMAS and their own in-house standard operating procedures (SOPs). Among national IPs, MCPA said it prioritises manual over mechanical clearance to minimise soil disruption.²⁵ The HALO Trust, in addition to applying its global SOPs, said it is completing a project focused on regenerative agriculture in Kandahar province and that it employs solar panels to power offices and demining camps. It takes advice on post-clearance activities from Ecology and Conservation of Afghanistan (ECO-A), a local non-profit NGO.²⁶

Warmer temperatures and reduced snowfall resulting from climate change have increased the seasonal access to some contaminated areas in Paktya province²⁷ but IPs also identified increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and flooding that displaces ordnance as a challenge in 2024.²⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The MAPA is supported by an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation database overseen by DMAC with support in 2024 of five IM staff from MATC. After major disruption in information management between the change of regime in August 2021 and DMAC's agreement with MATC in October 2023, it inherited a backlog of around 28,000 unprocessed reports. It reported clearing the backlog in 2024 alongside the year's reports of IP operations. MATC retained five IM staff in 2025 despite sharp workforce cuts imposed in January 2025 as a result of suspension of PM/WRA funding.²⁹

DMAC had planned to upgrade the database to IMSMA Core since before the change of government in August 2021. DMAC expected to start the upgrade in May 2025 with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and said that the process would last more than a year. The GICHD visited Kabul in May 2025 to conduct a preliminary assessment and planned to hold two workshops later in the year.³⁰

PLANNING AND TASKING

Afghanistan's Article 4 initial deadline extension request, submitted in January 2025 and revised in March, asked for two years to clear all remaining known CMR contamination, which consists of 16 CHAs in four provinces covering almost 8.99km².³¹ A second revision of the request, submitted in June 2025, asked for an extension of three years until the end of February 2029 to tackle the same area. It explained that “stakeholders” had recommended a longer extension period

to allow more time to mobilise the necessary resources.³² It said DMAC's Resource Mobilisation Team had already met ANDMA and the government, and that some funding from the national budget was “highly likely”. DMAC and ANDMA had also approached potential regional donors and welfare foundations for funding and said initial contacts were “quite promising”. DMAC had been asked to prepare concept notes and detail the funding required, the request noted.³³

23 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form B.

24 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 17.

25 Email from Mir Mohammad, MCPA, 27 March 2025.

26 Email from Farid Homayoun, Programme Manager, HALO, 16 April 2025.

27 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 9.

28 Email from Mir Mohammad, MCPA, 27 March 2025.

29 Email from Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi, Mine Action Section, UNAMA, 12 March 2025.

30 Emails from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 26 March 2025; and from Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi, Mine Action Section, UNAMA, 12 March 2025; and interview with Russell Bedford, Country Director, and with Mats Hektor, Senior Technical Adviser, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 5 May 2025.

31 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, 13 March 2025.

32 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 8.

33 Ibid., pp. 11–12.

A detailed work plan included in the revised request planned for clearance of 3,778,887m² in the first year, completing release of three small remaining CHAs in Bamyan and Samangan provinces totalling 0.2km², one CHA in Nangahar totalling 0.9km², and four CHAs in Paktya totalling 2.6km². In the second year, the plan called for clearance of 2,885,723m²: two CHAs in Paktya totalling 2.3km² and one in Nangahar amounting to 0.58km². In the third year, the plan provided for clearance of 2,324,387m²: one CHA of 0.4km² in Nangahar and four CHAs in Paktya totalling 1.97km².³⁴

The plan calls for deploying six teams with a total of 60 deminers in the first year, dropping to five teams/50 deminers in the second year and four teams/40 deminers in the third. It projects total costs amounting to US\$2,227,777, including \$935,275 in the first year dropping to \$714,216 in the second year and \$575,216 in the third.³⁵ The request said MAPA Quick

Response Teams qualified for survey, EOD, and risk education were available to deal with any residual contamination.³⁶

Afghanistan has reportedly prepared a national mine action strategic plan as part of a national strategic plan for disaster management, but the plan was said to be under review by DMAC's parent body, ANDMA, and the details were unknown at the time of writing.³⁷ The English version of the strategy was planned to be launched in August 2025.³⁸

DMAC holds monthly meetings of IPs, the UN and international agencies and donors. Tasking is determined by the availability of donor funding. DMAC also proposed to hold monthly meetings of a resource mobilisation team established in early 2025 to raise funds for mine action.³⁹ As at the end of May 2025, no funding had been confirmed for CMR clearance.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Afghanistan has comprehensive national mine action standards that are IMAS-compatible and before August 2021 were subject to regular review. CMR survey and clearance are addressed in AMAS 06.02 (Battle Area Clearance).⁴⁰ The third iteration of the 2025 Article 4 deadline extension request stated that all standards were under review by a technical working group on standards and that DMAC planned to update all standards by August 2025.⁴¹

Release of CMR hazardous areas in the past relied on NTS and clearance but the Article 4 deadline extension request makes a point of including technical survey (TS), using the cluster munition remnant survey (CMRS) methodology in planned interventions. This followed consultation with IPs and taking account of their experience clearing large battle areas and finding relatively few items. The extension request stipulates that IPs will conduct new NTS on all cluster munition-contaminated areas, cancelling areas with no explosive ordnance threat, followed by TS/CMRS. The MAPA will conduct the technical survey as per the IMAS Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) TNMA 08.20/02 on CMRS, to identify the confirmed hazardous area for clearance and release the remaining area through area reduction.⁴²

Operators identified the search depth previously required on battle area tasks as a significant operational challenge, but reported that DMAC had held meetings and tests to resolve the issue.⁴³

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The MAPA had a total of 285 operational teams at the end of 2024 employing a total workforce of 2,450 people and covering clearance, weapons and ammunition destruction, risk education, and victim assistance. This represents a sharp fall from the 360 MAPA teams employing 3,600 people a year earlier.⁴⁴ By the start of March 2025, the MAPA's active capacity had fallen to a total of 188 teams and 1,649 staff, including survey, clearance, risk education, and victim assistance. In the absence of funding, no teams were engaged on tasks related to CMR.⁴⁵

34 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, Cluster Munitions Survey and Clearance Plan, 2026–2029.

35 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 13.

36 Ibid., p. 19.

37 Ibid.

38 Ibid.

39 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 16.

40 Statement by Mohammed Shafiq, Director, DMAC, at GICHD workshop, Geneva, 26 March 2019.

41 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 9.

42 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, pp. 8 and 12.

43 Email from Farid Homayoun, HALO, 16 April 2025.

44 Emails from Aimal Safi, DMAC999, 26 March 2025; and Nick Pond, Chief of Mine Action Section, UNAMA, 26 May 2024.

45 MAPA Operational Teams and Workforce, DMAC, 3 March 2025. Of the total, 139 teams employing 1,463 were active on survey and/or clearance.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Afghanistan's release of cluster munition-contaminated areas was largely at a standstill in 2024 because of a lack of funding. Resurvey by MATC quality management teams in September and October 2024 resulted in cancellation of 0.3km² (see Table 2) but no other area was released through either survey or clearance in 2024.⁴⁶ As a result, EOD spot task operations accounted for most of the submunitions destroyed in 2024.

Table 2: Land release outputs in 2024⁴⁷

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Comments
Clearance	0	
Technical Survey	0	
Non-Technical Survey	331,513	205,479m ² attributed to a joint assessment by MATC QM staff and DRC, and four tasks totalling 126,034m ² in joint assessment by MATC QM and MCPA.

Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	Comments
Submunitions destroyed	1,506	Most items destroyed in EOD operations. HALO reports destroying 330 submunitions during BAC.

DMAC initially reported destruction of 718 submunitions, 36% less than the previous year, but after processing a backlog of reports it revised the number to 1,506, a 32% improvement on 2023.⁴⁸ IPs, however, recorded destroying 1,061 submunitions in 2024. HALO reported destroying 330 submunitions in the course of battle area clearance and another 307 items in spot tasks, mostly Soviet-era submunitions. These included 101 in the Kabul area, which has 11 scrap metal-processing factories that collect substantial amounts of explosive ordnance.⁴⁹ MCPA reported destroying 322 submunitions in spot EOD tasks and DRC 102.⁵⁰

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 4 of the CCM, Afghanistan is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2026. It will not meet this deadline.

Afghanistan submitted a deadline extension request in January 2025, updated in March 2025, seeking two more years until the end of February 2028 to clear the remaining 8.9km². In June 2025, it submitted an updated request, now seeking a three-year extension until 1 March 2029.

The request says Afghanistan can complete CMR clearance by deploying six clearance teams in the first year, five teams in the second year and four teams in the third year at a cost of a little over US\$2.2 million.⁵¹ The MAPA has more than sufficient manpower and experience to complete clearance of the remaining 8.9km², but prospects for meeting the deadline without funding from national or international sources are remote. By March 2025, the MAPA had a total of 23 projects operational, but none related to survey or clearance of cluster munitions.⁵² Moreover, MATC's funding for critical planning, coordination and information management functions was running out on 1 July 2025.

46 Emails from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 26 March and 24 April 2025.
47 Emails from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 26 March and 20 May 2025.
48 Ibid.
49 Emails from Farid Homayoun, HALO, 16 April 2025; and Thomas Claughton, HALO, 24 April 2025.
50 Emails from Mir Mohammad, MCPA, 27 March 2025; and Hannah Rose Holloway, Head of Humanitarian Disarmament, DRC, 1 May 2025.
51 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, pp. 14–15.
52 MAPA Operations, Teams and Workforce, February 2025, DMAC, 3 March 2025.

DMAC set up a resource mobilisation team (MRT) at the end of 2024 with three sub-groups tasked to approach 1) the government, banks, and the private sector; 2) regional donors including the Gulf States; and 3) UN agencies and other international donors. The MRT had held several meetings with the government which it reported had given a positive response to its request for funding. As at the end of May 2025, though, it had not received any firm commitments of financial support.⁵³

Table 3: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	0
2023	1.0
2022 ⁵⁴	1.6
2021	3.6
2020	0
Total	6.2

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Afghanistan has not provided a detailed blueprint for addressing residual contamination but said IP Quick Response Teams qualified for survey, EOD, and risk education were available to deal with any residual contamination. The MAPA also has established a number for communities to call to deal with any missed devices or residual contamination.⁵⁵

53 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025.
54 DMAC initially recorded release of 3.4km² in 2022, but later revised the figure down to 1.6km². Email from Aimal Safi, DMAC, 20 May 2025.
55 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2025, p. 19.