

# ALGERIA



**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 2017**  
 (ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

<b>PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE</b>	For 2015	For 2014
Problem understood	8	8
Target date for completion of mine clearance	9	9
Targeted clearance	8	8
Efficient clearance	7	7
National funding of programme	10	10
Timely clearance	9	8
Land release system in place	7	7
National mine action standards	7	7
Reporting on progress	7	6
Improving performance	9	8
<b>PERFORMANCE SCORE: VERY GOOD</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.8</b>

## PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Algeria improved its clearance output in 2015 and completed demining in two further provinces; it is on target to meet its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Algeria should continue its excellent progress and aim to declare fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations at the Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties.

## CONTAMINATION

Algeria is affected by anti-personnel mines as a result of World War II, the French colonial occupation, and the insurgency of the 1990s. During Algeria's struggle for independence, mines were laid by the French along the Challe and Morice lines on the eastern and western borders of the country. Algeria has estimated that more than 10 million mines were laid.<sup>1</sup> Some 80% are blast mines while most of the remainder are fragmentation mines.<sup>2</sup>

In clearance between 1963 and 1988, some 500km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was cleared by manual and mechanical means, resulting in destruction of more than 7.8 million anti-personnel mines.<sup>3</sup> A second clearance phase began in November 2004, which continues to this day, resulting in the destruction of more than one million mines from 100km<sup>2</sup> of mined area by the end of 2015.<sup>4</sup> As of that date, fifteen municipalities in four *wilaya* (provinces) remained affected (see Table 1); though by April 2016 further clearance had reduced this to two contaminated *wilaya* (Guelma and Nâama).

In the west of the country, clearance of Tlemcen *wilaya* was completed in November 2015. The demining teams were due to be moved to Nâama *wilaya*, where demining was continuing in three municipalities: Nâama, Ain Sefra, and Kasdir.<sup>5</sup> In the east of the country, demining in Tebessa *wilaya* was completed in August 2015, 18 months ahead of schedule, while operations in Souk-Ahras were close to completion by the end of the year. Additional demining was, though, needed in Guelma *wilaya*.<sup>6</sup> As of early April 2016, demining operations were close to completion according to the Ministry of National Defence, with only a section in Nâama *wilaya* and, in the east, a section between Oum Tebboul and Tigrine left to release.<sup>7</sup> By July 2016, clearance in Nâama was reportedly complete also.<sup>8</sup>

**Table 1: Anti-personnel mine contamination by province as at end 2015<sup>9</sup>**

Province ( <i>wilaya</i> )	Municipalities with CHAs
Nâama	3
Souk-Ahras	1
Guelma	3
El Tarf	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

Occasionally, "isolated" anti-personnel mines are also found outside known mined areas. In addition, the north of the country is said to be contaminated by an unknown number of improvised mines and other explosive items laid by insurgent groups.<sup>10</sup>

The total number of mine survivors in Algeria is unknown.

1 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 17 August 2011, p. 5.

2 APMBC Article 7 Report, 31 December 2015, p. 24.

3 Ibid., 31 March 2015.

4 "Le déminage coûte à l'Algérie 10 milliards \$" ("Demining has cost Algeria US\$10 billion"), *France-algerie.com*, 30 January 2016, at: <http://france-algerie.com/le-deminage-coute-a-lalgerie-10-milliards/>. Slightly lower figures were presented in Algeria's latest Article 7 report: 994,227. APMBC Article 7 Report, December 2015, p. 29.

5 APMBC Article 7 Report, 31 December 2015, pp. 16, 17.

6 Ibid., p. 17.

7 APS, "Algérie: l'opération de déminage des zones frontalières devrait bientôt prendre fin [MDN]" ("Algeria: demining of the border areas should soon be over [MOND]"), 3 April 2016, at: <http://www.maghrebemergent.com/actualite/breves/fil-maghreb/57441-algerie-l-operation-de-deminage-des-zones-frontalieres-devrait-bientot-prendre-fin-mdn.html>.

8 "Naâma: fin du déminage de la bande frontalière ouest sur plus de 10.100 hectares", *Actualité Algérie*, 4 July 2016, at: <http://www.actualite-algerie.com/2016/07/04/naama-fin-du-deminage-de-la-bande-frontaliere-ouest-sur-plus-de-10-100-hectares/>.

9 APMBC Article 7 Report, 31 December 2015, p. 36.

10 Ibid., 31 March 2015.

## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Interministerial Committee on the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, set up by presidential decree in 2003, is the governmental focal point for all mine action activities in Algeria.

### Operators

All demining in Algeria is carried out manually by the Algerian army.

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## LAND RELEASE

### Clearance in 2015

As in previous years, Algeria has not reported clearly on clearance for the previous calendar year. A total of 12.83km<sup>2</sup> of mined areas was reportedly released in the course of 2015 with the destruction of 55,265 anti-personnel mines.<sup>11</sup> A further 79 mines were destroyed in 46 ad hoc operations.<sup>12</sup>

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## ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the five-year extension granted by states parties in 2011), Algeria is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 April 2017.

Algeria's accelerated clearance in 2015 means it is on track to complete clearance in advance of its deadline. Algeria has systematically funded its mine action programme through its own resources.

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<sup>11</sup> Article 7 Report, 31 December 2015, Annex 3, p. 85. Some of the clearance may relate to operations in 2014.

<sup>12</sup> Algeria's Article 7 Report of 31 December 2015 reports different figures for destruction of isolated anti-personnel mines in 2015 (79 and 94). See pp. 20, 101-102.