

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION:

RESIDUAL THREAT ONLY

SUBMUNITION
CLEARANCE IN 2023

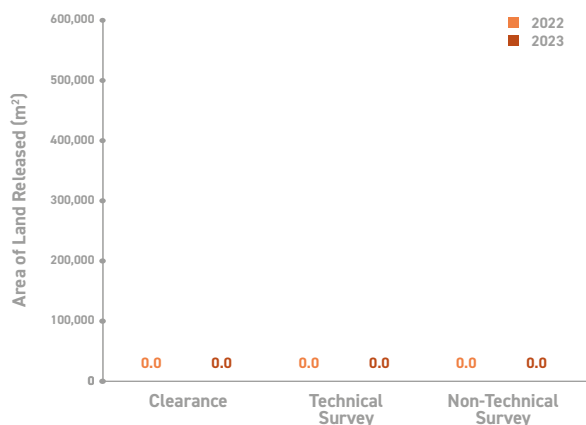
0M²

SUBMUNITIONS
DESTROYED IN 2023

9

(6 DURING SPOT TASKS AND
3 DURING MINE CLEARANCE)

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

- Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development (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. Since 2017, a total of 69 submunitions have been found and destroyed. The majority of these, 43 submunitions or 62% of the total, were during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) call-outs. The remainder were found during mine clearance operations.¹

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.² Between 2005 and 2012, The HALO Trust (HALO) destroyed unused cluster munitions in military storage areas containing a total of 7,284 submunitions.³

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 Angolan National Mine Action Agency (ANAM). Its mandate is to regulate and supervise mine action work by public and private institutions as well as NGOs. ANAM is a government agency and is subject to the oversight of the president through the Minister of State and the Chief of Staff.⁴

ANAM was formerly known as the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH).⁵ In previous years, there were tensions between CNIDAH and the Executive Commission for Demining (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. The CED was dissolved in 2022,⁶ and a National Demining Centre (Centro Nacional de Desminagem, CND) was created by presidential decree. The CND is the only public mine action 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).⁷

In 2018, a draft resource mobilisation strategy was developed, but at the time of writing, the strategy had not been finalised.⁸ Operators continue to report smooth collaboration with the Angolan authorities.

Two longstanding challenges for operators have been visas and tax exemptions, which have eased somewhat since ANAM

took over these responsibilities. APOPO reported improved legal processes for tax exemptions, with all their requests approved.⁹ Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) received assistance from ANAM with tax exemption applications in 2024, enabling the importation of vehicles and equipment tax-free, giving NPA confidence in future exemptions.¹⁰ HALO reported continuing difficulties in securing Temporary Stay Visas for international staff.¹¹ Since 2021, Mines Advisory Group (MAG)'s international staff have been permitted to enter Angola on a tourist/business visa and apply for a Temporary Stay Visa (VPT) in-country, although the VPT process remains prolonged due to required document translations and legalisations that must be prepared in their country of origin before they travel to Angola. In January 2024, Angola introduced a visa waiver for European Union (EU), G7, and G20 nations as well as a number of other countries, allowing short-term, 30-day visas on arrival for up to 90 days a year.¹²

ANAM leads quarterly mine action coordination meetings attended by the national authorities and clearance operators, as well as, on occasion, donors.¹³ In November 2023, operators collaborated with ANAM to develop mine action sector priorities for the National Development Plan (2023–27), which were submitted to the Ministry of Planning. In April 2024, ANAM confirmed to MAG that these priorities have been included, potentially paving the way for additional financial resources for the sector, such as EU funding. However, MAG is yet to receive a copy of the document referencing the inclusion of these priorities.¹⁴

- 1 Emails from Sarah Coomb, Donor Relations Manager, HALO, 8 May 2024; Chris Pym, Angola Programme Manager, HALO, 14 June 2023; and Daniel Richards, HALO, 25 June 2022; CNIDAH, Article 5 Implementation Workplan 2020–2025, November 2019, p. 4; and telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, Country Director, NPA, 22 February 2021. Submunitions found during 2023: 9 (6 spot tasks, 3 mine clearance), 2022: 7 (spot tasks), 2021: 29 (6 spot tasks and stockpile destruction, 23 mine clearance), 2017–19: 24 (spot tasks and community call outs). 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.
- 2 Interviews with Jose Antonio, Site Manager, Cuando Cubango, HALO; and with Coxé Sucama, Director, INAD, in Menongue, 24 June 2011.
- 3 Response to questionnaire by Gerhard Zank, HALO, 19 March 2013.
- 4 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form A.
- 5 Telephone interview with Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 22 February 2021; and email, 28 April 2021.
- 6 Email from Mário Nunes, Capacity Development Advisor to ANAM, (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022.
- 7 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F, and emails from Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022 and 10 May 2023.
- 8 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra (on behalf of CNIDAH), 1 April 2020; Mário Nunes (on behalf of ANAM), NPA, 14 September 2022 and 10 May 2023.
- 9 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, Program Manager, APOPO, 29 April 2024.
- 10 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.
- 11 Email from Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024.
- 12 Emails from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May and 25 June 2024.
- 13 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024; Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024; and Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024.
- 14 Emails from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May and 25 June 2024.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender and diversity are integrated into Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 as a cross-cutting issue. Disaggregated data collection requirements have been integrated into all relevant standing operating procedures (SOPs) and data collection tools.¹⁵ Although Angola has no gender and diversity implementation plan, the mine action sector has made significant strides towards gender equity. This is demonstrated in the increased participation of women in mine action at all levels. In 2023, 36% of ANAM's employees were female with women holding 48% of operational positions and 33% of managerial positions.¹⁶ This is unchanged from 2022.¹⁷

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

There are no formal policies related to environmental management that are specific to mine action in Angola,¹⁸ but ANAM has been developing national mine action standards on occupational health, safety, and the environment. ANAM has also enforced some measures to mitigate mine action's environmental impact, including by banning vegetation burning and tree cutting and restricting the use of fuel and lubricants for demining machines.¹⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

ANAM manages a national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database which is now considered reliable.²⁰ It has been fully reconciled with operator data, and the previous data backlog and inflated contamination figures have been cleared.²¹ APOPO has worked with ANAM to eliminate discrepancies in the national database.²² ANAM and MAG collaborate closely to address any data discrepancies between the national database and MAG's database. This ongoing effort includes regular (typically quarterly) visits by the ANAM IM team to MAG's operational base.²³

ANAM requested IMSMA Core from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) as a means to increase programme efficiency.²⁴ In December 2023, ANAM organised a workshop for operators with support from the GICHD to introduce IMSMA Core and discuss information management principles during the project implementation.²⁵ Meanwhile, MAG reported that ANAM has made efforts to improve on the format of reporting, updating reporting forms so that they are better suited to collecting information on the ground.²⁶

PLANNING AND TASKING

Angola's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025 was developed by CNIDAH in 2019, with the support of the GICHD. But the strategy has still to be formally adopted by the government.²⁷ The strategy sets five objectives, two of which refer to explosive ordnance, though there is no specific mention of CMR. The accompanying APMB Article 5 Implementation Work Plan 2020–2025 provides a figure for the number of submunitions destroyed in spot tasks in 2017–19 but there is no further mention of CMR in the plan.

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

16 Email from Narciso Paulo Simão Tiacafe, Head of the Demining Operations Accreditation and Certification Department, ANAM, 26 June 2024.

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

18 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.

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

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

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

22 Email from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

23 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 25 June 2024.

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

25 Emails from Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024; Sarah Coomb, HALO, 8 May 2024; and Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

26 Email from Catherine Harris, MAG, 3 May 2024.

27 Emails from Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 4 May 2022; and Narciso Paulo Simão Tiacafe, ANAM, 26 June 2024.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Ten chapters of national mine action standards (NMAS) were completed and fully adopted in 2021.²⁸ Angola's NMAS are adequate and cover the main topics related to land release.²⁹ They do not contain provisions specific to CMR survey or clearance. Three additional standards on animal detection systems, EOD, and residual contamination management, were drafted with GICHD support.³⁰ The NMAS on animal detection systems and EOD were launched in 2023, however, the standard on residual contamination management has yet to be approved.³¹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Four international NGOs conducted humanitarian demining in Angola in 2023—APOPO, HALO, MAG, and NPA—, and one national NGO: APACOMINAS. Since the dissolution of the CED and the organisations that work under its supervision, the CND has become the only public operator conducting demining. None of the operators conducted any CMR survey or clearance in 2023.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

There was no reported survey or clearance of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2023. HALO found and destroyed nine submunitions, three during clearance of a mined area and six during EOD call-outs.

SURVEY IN 2023

There was no reported survey of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2023 and no affected areas were identified.

CLEARANCE IN 2023

As noted above, in 2023 and in 2024 as of June, HALO found and destroyed a total of nine submunitions.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Angola signed the CCM in December 2028, but has yet to become a State Party. 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.³² 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 should consider declaring that CMR clearance has been completed.

28 APMB Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form J.

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

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

31 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 2 May 2024; and Manuel João Agostinho, APOPO, 29 April 2024.

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