

KEY DATA

NO ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

1.4km²

Light (partial national estimate
of battle area)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (m ²)	Release in 2024 (m ²)
Clearance	72,107	75,186
Technical Survey	7,554	0
Non-Technical Survey	45,756	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
Submunitions destroyed	9	10

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2025

- Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, the Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) cleared 72,107m² of battle area, which included cluster munition remnants (CMR), slightly less than the 75,186m² it cleared in 2024. In addition, it released 53,310m² of battle area through survey, in contrast with 2024, when no battle area containing CMR was released through survey. The release of CMR in 2025 was a further partial clearance of a confirmed hazardous area (CHA) in Vayots Dzor province. No other cluster munition-contaminated area was released during the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Armenia should commit to never again use cluster munitions and should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- In the meantime, Armenia should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- Armenia should submit voluntary Article 7 reports annually under the CCM.
- Armenia should expedite the adoption of national mine action legislation.
- Armenia should clarify the extent of remaining cluster munition-contaminated area as soon as possible.
- Armenia should disaggregate contamination and clearance of CMR from other explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- CHDE

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2025, the CHDE reported more than 1.4km² of battle area in Armenia,¹ down from less than 1.6km² recorded at the end of 2024. The CHDE does not distinguish CMR from other ERW,² and has indicated it has no stand-alone CMR contamination, and does not have the capacity to disaggregate CMR from other ERW.³ Recorded battle area in Armenia is only a partial national estimate, as areas under military control have yet to be surveyed.⁴

Contamination is recorded in two provinces that border Azerbaijan – Syunik and Vayots Dzor. As set out in Table 1, in Syunik, a total of 632,542m² was recorded in two CHAs and two suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) at the end of 2025, CHDE having released three SHAs of battle area containing CMR extending over 53,310m² through survey in the course of the year.⁵ At the end of 2025, Vayots Dzor had only one recorded CHA of 811,505m², in which the CHDE cleared 72,107m² of battle area during the year.⁶ No CMR were found outside these areas in 2025.⁷

Table 1: Battle area by province (at end 2025)⁸

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total CHAs/SHAs	Total area (m ²)
Syunik	2	356,222	2	276,320	4	632,542
Vayots Dzor	1	811,505	0	0	0	811,505
Totals	3	1,167,727	2	276,320	4	1,444,047

Prior to the 2020 six-week armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, which ended with Azerbaijan regaining most of its internationally recognised territory except for a part of Nagorno-Karabakh,⁹ there was only one cluster munition-contaminated area in Armenia – a CHA in Kornidzor, Syunik province, covering an estimated 385,000m². This was partially surface-cleared in 2021 (45,000m² of clearance); contamination of approximately 340,000m² remains.¹⁰ Between April and September 2022, the CHDE, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), conducted non-technical survey (NTS) in the border provinces of Ararat, Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor.

In 2022, there were periodic violations of the 10 November 2020 ceasefire that ended the six-week conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, with the most significant of these on

13–14 September 2022,¹¹ though there were no allegations of CMR use by either Armenia or Azerbaijan during the 2022 violations. In mid-September 2022, the CHDE—again with UNDP support—conducted “refreshed” NTS in Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Vayots Dzor provinces to assess new contamination.¹² In addition, a baseline survey initiated earlier in 2022 was completed in Syunik, Gegharkunik, Tavush, Ararat, and Vayots Dzor provinces.¹³

The CHDE identified two SHAs in Syunik province and two CHAs in Vayots Dzor during NTS in 2022 with a total surface area of 1.38km², which were added to the database. CHDE attributes the contamination to the Azerbaijani armed forces: the two SHAs in Syunik were reported to result from fighting during the conflict in 2020, while the two CHAs in Vayots Dzor were a legacy of the conflict in September 2022.¹⁴

1 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

2 Emails from the CHDE, 6 May 2025; and Vaghinak Sargsyan, Director, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

3 Comments made by Arshak Kocharyan, Head of Information Management, Analysis and Projects, CHDE, at a meeting with CHDE and UNMAS, Geneva, 24 April 2026.

4 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and meeting with CHDE and UNMAS, Geneva, 24 April 2026.

5 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 T. De Waal, “Unfinished Business in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict”, Carnegie Europe, 11 February 2021, <https://bit.ly/3PFvArz>.

10 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 11 May 2022; and CHDE, 5 June 2026.

11 Explainer: What happened in Armenia and Azerbaijan on 13–14 September”, Open Caucasus Media (OC Media), 15 September 2022, <https://bit.ly/3RUAD6v>.

12 Emails from Karinée Khojayan, Project Coordinator, UNDP, 15 March and 16 June 2023.

13 CHDE, “Non-Technical Survey”, accessed 20 May 2024, <https://bit.ly/3QRwXPs>.

14 Email from Karine Shamiryan, Head of International Affairs, CHDE, 27 June 2024.

In May 2024, however, the CHDE reported that further survey was needed in areas under military control, along border areas, but that it would only be undertaken with “appropriate security guarantees”.¹⁵ As at April 2026, there had been no progress in surveying these areas and CHDE did not report any plans to conduct any further survey.¹⁶ Demarcation and delimitation along the Armenian-Azerbaijan border started in 2024, resulting in new contamination being registered along an 8.2km border stretch (adding almost 1.6km² of landmine contamination) in Tavush province. The process was ongoing at the time of writing.¹⁷

In the course of the armed conflict with Azerbaijan in September 2020 over Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan as well as Armenia and/or allied Karabakh forces are reported

to have used cluster munitions,¹⁸ although Armenia denied doing so.¹⁹ The CHDE reported direct evidence of new explosive ordnance (EO) contamination from the conflict,²⁰ including unexploded M095 submunitions, in Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Tavush provinces bordering Azerbaijan. The conflict ended with Azerbaijan regaining control over most of its internationally recognised territories except for a part of Nagorno-Karabakh. On 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a 24-hour military offensive which resulted in it regaining control of the rest of the territory.²¹ There were no reports of the use of cluster munitions during the 2023 conflict.

Armenia has stated that it cannot accede to the CCM due to military and security issues.²²

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

In addition to other ERW, Armenia is contaminated with anti-personnel mines – see Mine Action Review’s *Clearing the Mines* report on Armenia for further information.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The CHDE was established by the Armenian government in 2011 as a non-commercial State body responsible for conducting survey and clearance and identifying contaminated areas. In 2014, the CHDE was designated the national mine action authority (NMAA) for Armenia.²³ In conformity with a government decree, the CHDE began developing national mine action legislation in 2013. As at April 2026, CHDE reported that the draft law was complete, but the “process” had not been finalised.²⁴

Key decisions on mine action are taken centrally by the CHDE, which is the only entity now conducting land release in Armenia. The HALO Trust no longer has a presence in the country, and last undertook limited demining there in 2021.²⁵ The National Mine Action Coordination Platform, however, which was established in 2023 with UNDP support, serves as a coordination mechanism supporting mine action.²⁶ National Mine Action Coordination Platform technical working groups cover clearance and land release, explosive ordnance risk

education, and victim assistance (all led by the CHDE), as well as emergency preparedness and protection (led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ Rescue Service).²⁷ There is no other in-country coordination platform for dialogue among all stakeholders, including donors.²⁸

In addition, under its “green label” approach, which places mine action within socio-economic development, the CHDE collaborates with a range of organisations.²⁹ It has thus coordinated action with UNDP, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), local organisations, and with local self-governing authorities, to translate the results of clearance of explosive ordnance into long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits, running pilot projects since 2022.³⁰ An advisory group established in 2023 incorporates representatives from some of these agencies and also includes the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).³¹

15 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and meeting with CHDE and UNMAS, Geneva, 24 April 2026.

16 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

17 CHDE Bulletin, 2025, p. 17.

18 Amnesty International, “In the Line of Fire”, 14 January 2021, <https://bit.ly/4d09o40>, pp. 7, 10–13, and 15; and Human Rights Watch, “Technical Briefing Note: Cluster Munition Use in the Karabakh Conflict”, July 2021, <https://bit.ly/4cjc3By>, pp. 1–3.

19 Email from the CHDE, 13 June 2025.

20 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 11 May 2022.

21 “Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists”, *BBC*, 21 September 2023, <https://bbc.in/3rCVK0e>.

22 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 26.

23 Emails from Ruben Arakelyan, Director, CHDE, 8 June 2015; and Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 10 August 2020.

24 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

25 Email from Fiona Kilpatrick-Cooper, Head of Region – Europe (South Caucasus), HALO, 2 September 2022.

26 Emails from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 5 July 2024 and 17 April 2025; from the CHDE, 1 April 2026; and Kristine Hovhannisyan, Project Task Analyst, EU Support to Clearance Action for Safety and Security in Explosive Ordnance-Affected Communities in Armenia, UNDP, 13 April 2026.

27 Emails from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 17 April 2025; and the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

28 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

29 Interview with Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, Geneva, 28 April 2024; and CHDE website, “Greening Mine Action in Armenia as a component of sustainable development in the economy of the country”, 21 May 2024, <https://bit.ly/3REVuHX>.

30 CHDE, “Greening Mine Action in Armenia as a component of sustainable development in the economy of the country”, 21 May 2024.

31 Vaghinak Sargsyan, “Greening Mine Action in Armenia as a Component of Sustainable Development in the Economy of the Country”, James Madison University, 21 October 2024 (last updated 17 January 2025), <https://bit.ly/4iXMPuU>.

The GICHD continued to support the CHDE to install the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core (see the section below, "Information Management and Reporting").³² The CHDE and the GICHD have also cooperated in the field of innovation, with CHDE participating in the GICHD's Innovation Hub – Mine Action Innovation Technical Group, which was initiated in 2024.³³ Throughout 2025 and into 2026, UNDP, with the support of the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (EC FPI) provided comprehensive and targeted capacity development support to CHDE,³⁴ which focused on strengthening its institutional, technical, and operational capacity.

This included:

- Supporting an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Level 1/2 and 3 certification programme for CHDE personnel.
- Providing metal detectors and an emergency casualty evacuation vehicle.
- Establishing a Mine Action Innovation Lab, which uses augmented and virtual reality based demining simulation training, and an EO contamination mapping and data visualisation platform.

- Supporting the systematic integration of gender equality and diversity across Armenia's mine action in 2025 (for further detail see the section below, "Gender and Diversity").
- Introducing an IMAS-aligned external quality assurance function for land release operations, working closely with the GICHD.
- Supporting an assessment of CHDE's Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–2027 and Action Plan to inform CHDE's adaptive planning and the development of the next strategic framework (see the section below, "Planning and Tasking").³⁵

Under Armenia's five-year mine action strategy for 2023–27, mobilising resources from national and international donors is a priority.³⁶ CHDE aims to expand cooperation with international, foreign, and national actors, viewing this as a key way of supporting the implementation of the strategy.³⁷ In 2025, the only international funding reported for CMR clearance was that under the European Union (EU, see section below, "Funding for CMR Survey and Clearance"),³⁸ although the CHDE lists several United Nations organisations, China, the United States, and NATO, along with the mine action centres of Lebanon and Iran, among others, as being involved in international cooperation on its programme.³⁹

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In 2025, the CHDE continued to receive funding from the government budget, which also funded some survey and clearance (the amounts were not disclosed).⁴⁰ Funding for survey and clearance of CMR also came from the European Union Support to Clearance Action for Safety and Security in Explosive Ordnance-Affected Communities in Armenia Project (EU CASSIA Project), funded by the European Union through the EC FPI, and implemented by UNDP in close collaboration

with the CHDE (signed in March 2025 with operations starting in August/September 2025).⁴¹ There were no new donors in 2025, but the EU CASSIA funding for CMR release was continuing in 2026.⁴²

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Armenia on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.⁴³

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The CHDE reports that gender and diversity have been mainstreamed in Armenia's current national mine action strategy, and that the needs of women and children in communities affected by CMR are taken into account in the prioritisation, planning, and tasking of survey and clearance.⁴⁴ The strategy is not explicit about precisely how gender and diversity have been mainstreamed although the CHDE has reported that gender and diversity are considered in

accordance with relevant Armenian legislation and that all mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.⁴⁵

The CHDE has not confirmed whether it has a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan. Recommendations from a UNDP gender equality and social inclusion assessment in 2025 will be incorporated into the CHDE's next mine action strategy, due to take effect in 2027 (see further details below).⁴⁶

32 Emails from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 15 March 2023; Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May 2023; and Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, Regional Focal Point, GICHD, 2 May 2025.

33 Emails from Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, GICHD, 2 May 2025; and the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

34 Email from CHDE, 5 June 2026.

35 Emails from Kristine Hovhannisyanyan, UNDP, 13 April and 20 May 2026; and Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 7 May 2026.

36 CHDE, National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 10.

37 Ibid., p. 26; and CHDE, "International Cooperation", accessed 20 May 2024, <https://bit.ly/3V7VVwE>.

38 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

39 CHDE Bulletin, 2025, pp. 52–54.

40 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

41 UNDP, "Marking the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action", 9 April 2026, at <https://bit.ly/47Z50xJ>; emails from the CHDE, 1 April 2026; and Kristine Hovhannisyanyan, UNDP, 13 April and 20 May 2026; and meeting with the CHDE and UNDP Armenia, in Geneva, 24 April 2026.

42 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

43 <https://the-monitor.org>.

44 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

45 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

46 Meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, in Geneva, 24 April 2026.

The CHDE had planned to establish a female demining team, with training in progress in May 2024,⁴⁷ but has since reported that it will instead deploy women in mixed teams. Three female deminers were recruited in 2024. One was still involved in clearance as at April 2026 and was to undergo training EOD Level 3 training.⁴⁸

Table 2: Gender composition of the CHDE (at end 2025)⁴⁹

Total staff employed	Women employed	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women in operational positions
50	14 (28%)	11	0 (0%)	18	6 (33%)

The CHDE says it offers equal employment opportunities to both men and women. While the proportion of CHDE’s female staff remained more or less the same at the end of 2025 as it was in May 2024 (the last date the relevant data were provided), there were no women in supervisory positions, which is a sharp decrease from the four who occupied one quarter of all supervisory positions in May 2024. The number of women in operational positions had though increased to six (33% of total operational staff) at December 2025, an increase from the two (14% of total operational staff) in May 2024.⁵⁰

The CHDE reported that efforts to attract more female staff in 2025 did not draw any applications from women.⁵¹ UNDP, however, provided support on gender and diversity to the CHDE in 2025, including undertaking an institutional gender assessment of the organisation; developing a Gender Equality Institutional Improvement Action Plan; and providing ongoing support for the integration of gender considerations across the programme, including by delivering dedicated sessions for CHDE staff and National Mine Action Coordination Platform working groups members.⁵²

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The CHDE has previously reported developing an environmental management policy; it also said that its national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management in mine action was in line with International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13, and that it conducts environmental assessments to support the planning and delivery of survey and clearance.⁵³ When planning and prioritising survey and clearance, the CHDE takes into account climate-related and extreme-weather risks.⁵⁴

No updates were made to the way in which climate and environmental considerations were integrated into its 2025 work plans, but the CHDE is now considering updating its NMAS on environmental management in mine action to bring it into line the revised IMAS 07.13 (Edition 2, as revised on 3 July 2024).⁵⁵ The CHDE has previously reported using methods and tools that do not damage the environment wherever possible.⁵⁶

Table 3: Environmental policies and action⁵⁷

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
CHDE	Yes	Yes	No

The current national mine action strategy lists 14 “environment protection priorities”, including the “green label” approach outlined above. The first of these stipulates that during mine action activities, the NMAA implements environmental protection measures to ensure minimal impact on the environment.⁵⁸

The CHDE does not yet take specific measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm, including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁵⁹ Environmental considerations will, however, be incorporated into the new national mine action strategy in 2027.⁶⁰

47 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
48 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026; and meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, Geneva, 24 April 2026.
49 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
50 Emails from the CHDE, 1 April 2026; and Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
51 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
52 Emails from Kristine Hovhannisyan, UNDP, 13 April 2026; and Karinée Khojayan 7 May 2026.
53 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
54 Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.
55 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
56 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 11 May 2022.
57 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
58 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 23.
59 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
60 Meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, Geneva, 24 April 2026.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The CHDE manages the national IMSMA database⁶¹ and has established an information management and analytical department.⁶² As at May 2025, the GICHD was supporting the CHDE in the testing phase of IMSMA Core implementation,⁶³ and by the beginning of April 2026, the transfer and implementation of IMSMA Core was reported to be in its final stages.⁶⁴ In 2025, the CHDE implemented the IMSMA Core system using Survey123, thereby strengthening the data collection process.⁶⁵ The GICHD continues to provide professional and technical consultancy support

for application of the IMAS in Armenia.⁶⁶ In addition, CHDE personnel have continued to participate in GICHD training and workshops.⁶⁷

Historically, the CHDE has not disaggregated CMR from other ERW, and CMR clearance has not been disaggregated from general battle area clearance (BAC). As at April 2026, the CHDE reported that disaggregation of CMR from other ERW takes place following survey and clearance which clarify the type of contamination.⁶⁸

PLANNING AND TASKING

The national mine action strategy for 2023–27 and operational plans were adopted by the CHDE in June 2023,⁶⁹ and annual plans were in place for 2025 and 2026 covering survey and clearance of CMR.⁷⁰ Among its 15 strategic objectives are: implementation of Armenia's international obligations in demining; clearance of all mines and ERW; and support for environmental protection issues.⁷¹ Urgent demining and improvements to the coordination, regulatory, and management role of the CHDE are two priorities.⁷²

The strategy describes EO contamination in the four provinces of Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor,⁷³ but the document does not clearly or consistently disaggregate CMR from other ERW. Under the strategy, the Jermuk and Kechut areas in the Vayots Dzor province and Davit Bek in Syunik province were deemed priorities for the clearance of mines and ERW in 2023–27, but the total area to be cleared (1.35km²) does not disaggregate mine clearance from clearance of ERW, including CMR,⁷⁴ and annual clearance targets are not provided for the different areas. Criteria exist for prioritising cluster munition-contaminated areas for clearance, with proximity to populated and agricultural areas among the most important.⁷⁵

The strategy does, however, indicate that in 2023, the CHDE planned to clear 50,000m² of mined and ERW-contaminated area using government funding and, if funds allowed, in each subsequent year to add another 25,000m² of clearance to the target until the end of the strategy in 2027. In addition, the strategy cites CHDE plans to reduce or cancel 30,000m² through survey (and releasing additional area if funding permits).⁷⁶ In 2025, the CHDE surpassed the release targets in its strategy, releasing a total 317,444m² of EO-contaminated area with the support of the EU CASSIA Project.⁷⁷

Other targets listed in the strategy include deploying additional professional demining groups and expanding collaboration with national and international operators.⁷⁸ The number of deminers has, however, reduced since May 2023, the last date when the information was provided (see the section below, "Operators and Operating Tools").⁷⁹ No specific progress regarding expanded collaboration with national and international operators has been reported.⁸⁰

In 2025, supported by UNDP, the CHDE conducted a mid-term assessment of its national mine action strategy, along with its multiyear action plan and annual operational plans. This will improve the alignment between strategic objectives, operational capacity, and available resources,⁸¹ and will inform the new strategy due to take effect in 2027.⁸²

61 Email from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 19 March 2014.

62 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

63 Email from Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, GICHD, 2 May 2025.

64 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

65 Ibid.; and email from the CHDE, 30 April 2026.

66 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

67 Email from Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, GICHD, 2 May 2025.

68 Emails from CHDE, 1 April and 5 June 2026.

69 Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 5 July 2024.

70 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

71 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 9.

72 Ibid., p. 10.

73 Ibid., pp. 11–14.

74 Ibid., p. 21.

75 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

76 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 20.

77 CHDE Bulletin, 2025, pp. 28, 34, 35, and 37; and email from Kristine Hovhannisyan, UNDP, 13 April 2026.

78 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 21.

79 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

80 Ibid.

81 Email from Kristine Hovhannisyan, UNDP, 13 April 2026.

82 Meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, Geneva, 24 April 2026.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The CHDE developed the Armenian NMAS, which were first approved by the government in 2014.⁸³ There have been a number of reviews of the NMAS, most recently in 2023–24 when the GICHD and UNDP supported the process to ensure compliance with IMAS.⁸⁴

The CHDE has been developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for several years.⁸⁵ SOPs on manual mine clearance, BAC, marking of hazardous areas, and medical support were all elaborated by 2018.⁸⁶ In 2020, the CHDE prepared SOPs on information management, NTS, technical survey (TS), explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and quality management (QM).⁸⁷ The CHDE reviews its SOPs regularly as necessary, updating them in 2023 and again in 2024, when additions were made to the SOPs on QM, marking, and BAC.⁸⁸

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The CHDE continued to be the only operator in Armenia in 2025 (as in the previous two years).⁹² In 2024, the CHDE had planned to increase its operational teams by one,⁹³ but operational capacities in 2025 have reduced since 2023 (the last year when operational personnel were reported to Mine Action Review), when the CHDE deployed two NTS teams with a total of twelve staff, and two clearance teams with a total of fourteen deminers.⁹⁴ The CHDE confirmed that there was no significant change in the number of survey and clearance personnel in 2025, but another team was planned in 2026 under the auspices of the CASSIA project.⁹⁵ It will be established separately from the CHDE and will be composed of contracted deminers.⁹⁶

There were no demining accidents during land release activities in Armenia in 2025 or any insecurity issues obstructing access for CMR clearance operations.⁹⁷

NMAS are revised as needs emerge during mine action activities and taking into account the IMAS requirements.⁸⁹ Updates to NMAS and SOPs are reported to be made in consultation with clearance personnel. In 2026, SOPs relating to new demining equipment and machinery, and the marking of hazardous areas were in process.⁹⁰ The GICHD is supporting the CHDE in reviewing and updating the NMAS on mechanical land release, as well as developing SOPs to guide the implementation of mechanical operations. In March 2026, the GICHD convened a workshop on mechanical land release in Armenia to identify gaps, challenges, and operational needs.⁹¹

There were, however, reports of incidents outside release activities.⁹⁸

Table 4: CHDE operational capacities deployed in 2025⁹⁹

Activity	No. of teams	No. of personnel
NTS	1	5
TS/clearance	3	12
Totals	4	17

QM has previously been reported as being conducted in accordance with IMAS and the NMAS. Quality assurance is conducted by dedicated officers who make regular field visits to inspect cleared land.¹⁰⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

In 2025, a total of 125,417m² of battle area was released through survey and clearance in Armenia, with the destruction of nine submunitions.¹⁰¹

83 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 19 April 2019.
84 Emails from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May and 23 June 2023; Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 17 April 2025; and from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
85 Email from Varsine Miskaryan, Operations Manager, CHDE, 8 August 2016.
86 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 8 August 2018.
87 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 26 April 2021.
88 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
89 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
90 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
91 Email from the GICHD, 1 July 2026.
92 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
93 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
94 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and the CHDE, 6 May 2024.
95 Emails from the CHDE, 1 April 2026 and 13 July 2026.
96 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
97 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
98 "2 Armenia soldiers sustain landmine injury", *News.am*, 28 November 2025, <https://bit.ly/49gCBDR>; and "Seven cattle killed by landmine explosion in Armenia's Gegharkunik", *panorama.am*, 2 August 2025, <https://bit.ly/4ucDrJZ>.
99 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
100 Email from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 8 June 2015.
101 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

Table 5: Land release outputs in 2025¹⁰²

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (m ²)
Clearance	72,107
Technical Survey	7,554
Non-Technical Survey	45,756
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025
Submunitions destroyed	9

SURVEY IN 2025

In 2025, 45,756m² of cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through NTS and 7,554m² was reduced through TS,¹⁰³ in contrast to the previous two years, when there was no release of cluster munition-contaminated area through survey.¹⁰⁴ As in 2024, no previously unrecorded areas of cluster munition-contaminated area were discovered in 2025.¹⁰⁵

Table 6: Cancellation through NTS in 2025¹⁰⁶

Operator	Province	SHAs	Area cancelled (m ²)
CHDE	Syunik	1	45,756
Totals		1	45,756

Table 7: Reduction through TS in 2025¹⁰⁷

Operator	Province	SHAs	Area reduced (m ²)
CHDE	Syunik	2	7,554
Totals		2	7,554

CLEARANCE IN 2025

The CHDE cleared 72,107m² of battle area in 2025 and destroyed nine submunitions as it continued clearing the one remaining recorded CHA in Vayots Dzor.¹⁰⁸ This is a slight reduction on the 75,186m² of battle area that the CHDE cleared in the same CHA in 2024, when it destroyed 10 submunitions and 1 item of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

A total of 31,453m² was surface clearance only,¹⁰⁹ a significant increase on the 6,978m² cleared through surface clearance only in 2024.¹¹⁰ CMR were found in all areas cleared.¹¹¹ The increase in clearance was achieved as a result of the budget allocation by the Armenian government and the EU CASSIA Project.¹¹²

Table 8: CMR clearance in 2025¹¹³

Operator	Province	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Comments
CHDE	Vayots Dzor	1 (partial)	72,107	9	No AP mines or UXO were reported destroyed during CMR clearance
Totals		1 (partial)	72,107	9	

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

¹⁰⁴ Emails from the CHDE, 6 May 2025; and Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

¹⁰⁵ Emails from the CHDE, 6 May 2025 and 1 April 2026.

¹⁰⁶ Email from the CHDE 1 April 2026.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

¹¹¹ Email from the CHDE 1 April 2025.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

In 2024, the CHDE said that it planned to complete clearance of CMR in five to eight years if donor support was forthcoming,¹¹⁴ although in 2026, CHDE said it was not possible to determine the implementation timeframe for the completion of CMR clearance.¹¹⁵ CHDE has highlighted a number of factors that could obstruct CMR clearance, including insufficient funding and international cooperation, and lack of demining capacity.¹¹⁶

Further survey in military-controlled areas is still needed to determine the full extent of CMR and other EO contamination, which will affect the date that completion can be achieved. Moreover, the CHDE has highlighted that delimitation and demarcation is another key challenge holding back progress with survey and clearance of CMR, though it was hoped that the peace agreement with Azerbaijan—initialled but not signed¹¹⁷—in Washington in August 2025 would have a positive impact on CMR clearance.¹¹⁸ Work by the Armenian and Azerbaijani commissions on border delimitation

continued through 2025.¹¹⁹ It is said to be a complex and detailed process, and likely to take considerable time.¹²⁰ Armenia will need to increase its annual clearance rate if it is to get close to the CMR clearance target it indicated in 2024 of achieving completion between 2029 and 2034.

Table 9: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (m ²)
2025	72,107
2024	75,186
2023	214,192
2022	111,616
2021	50,999
Total	524,100

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Management of residual contamination is conducted through monitoring, and as at April 2026, there were no sustainable national capacities in place to address previously unknown CMR contaminated areas discovered following completion.¹²¹

114 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.
115 Email from the CHDE 1 April 2025.
116 CHDE, Bulletin, 2025, p. 42.
117 "The Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Process Enters 2026", *Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst*, 15 January 2026, at <https://bit.ly/4sTRZWZ>.
118 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
119 "Armenia, Azerbaijan Discuss Border Delimitation and Demining", *hetq*, 5 September 2025, <https://bit.ly/41F1rt0>; and "Armenia and Azerbaijan border delimitation talks in Azerbaijan", *OC Media*, 1 December 2025, <https://bit.ly/4swXa61>.
120 "Border delimitation and TRIPP implementation involve additional nuances: Pashinyan", *ArmenPress*, 11 February 2026, <https://bit.ly/4dXnLpd>.
121 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.