

KEY DATA

NO CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

1.6km²

Light
(Partial estimate of battle area)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Release in 2023 (m ²)
Clearance	75,186	214,192
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
Submunitions destroyed	10	26

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2024:

- Centre for Humanitarian Demining Expertise (CHDE)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2024, the Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) cleared 75,186m² of battle area, which included cluster munition remnants (CMR). This was partial clearance of a confirmed hazardous area (CHA) in Vayots Dzor province. The total area cleared in 2024 was a significant reduction on the 214,192m² cleared the year before. 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.
- Armenia should ensure it disaggregates CMR contamination and clearance from other explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- CHDE

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

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

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2024, the CHDE reported 1.6km² of battle area in Armenia, a small decrease on the 1.64km² recorded at the end of 2023. The CHDE does not distinguish CMR from other ERW.¹ Contamination is recorded in two provinces that border Azerbaijan – Syunik and Vayots Dzor. As set out in Table 1, in Syunik, a total of 685,852m² is recorded in two CHAs and five suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). At the end of 2024, Vayots Dzor had only one recorded CHA (covering 883,612m²), in which the CHDE had cleared 75,186m² of battle area in the course of the year. No CMR were found outside these areas in 2024.²

Recorded battle area in Armenia is only a partial national estimate. Prior to the 2020 conflict with Azerbaijan (known as the Forty-four Day War or Second Karabakh War), there was only one cluster munition-contaminated area in Armenia – a CHA in Kornidzor, Syunik province, covering an estimated 385,000m², which was partially surface-cleared in 2021 (45,000m² of clearance).³

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. Following further hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan in mid-September 2022, the CHDE—again with UNDP support—conducted “refreshed” NTS in Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Vayots Dzor provinces to assess new contamination.⁴ In addition, a baseline survey initiated earlier in 2022 was completed in Syunik, Gegharkunik, Tavush, Ararat, and Vayots Dzor provinces.⁵ In May 2024, however,

the CHDE reported that further survey was needed in areas under military control but that it would only be undertaken with “appropriate security guarantees”.⁶

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 it has recorded were reported to result from fighting during the Forty-Four Day War in 2020, while the two CHAs in Vayots Dzor were a legacy of the hostilities in September 2022.⁷

In the course of the armed conflict with Azerbaijan that broke out in September 2020, Azerbaijan as well as Armenia and/or allied Karabakh forces are reported to have used cluster munitions,⁸ although Armenia declared it had not used cluster munitions.⁹ The CHDE reported direct evidence of new explosive ordnance (EO) contamination from the 2020 conflict,¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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.¹²

Table 1: Battle area by province (at end 2024)¹³

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total CHAs/SHAs	Total area (m ²)
Syunik	2	356,222	5	329,630	7	685,852
Vayots Dzor	1	883,612	0	0	1	883,612
Totals	3	1,239,834	5	329,630	8	1,569,464

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

2 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

8 Amnesty International, “In the Line of Fire”, 14 January 2021, at: <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 at: <https://bit.ly/4cjc3By>, pp. 1–3.

9 Email from the CHDE, 13 June 2025.

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

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

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

13 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

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.¹⁴ In 2013, in conformity with a government decree, the CHDE began developing national mine action legislation, but as at May 2024, the draft mine action law was still reported to be under development.¹⁵ No further progress has been reported since.

Key decisions on mine action are taken centrally by the CHDE, which is the only entity now conducting land release activities in Armenia. The HALO Trust no longer has a presence in the country, and last undertook limited demining there in 2021.¹⁶ The National Mine Action Coordination Platform, however, which was established in 2023 with UNDP support, serves as a coordination mechanism supporting mine action.¹⁷ Separate technical working groups cover land release, 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).¹⁸

In addition, under its "green label" approach, which places mine action within socio-economic development, the CHDE collaborates with a range of organisations.¹⁹ 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 2022.²⁰ An advisory group established in 2023 incorporates representatives from some of these agencies and also includes the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The GICHD advises the CHDE on mine action, including on use of the latest tools and technologies for the sector.²¹

The GICHD continues to support the CHDE to install the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core (see the section below, Information Management and Reporting).²² The CHDE and the GICHD are also cooperating in the field of innovation, with CHDE participating in the GICHD's Innovation Hub – Mine Action Innovation Technical Group, which was initiated in 2024.²³ The GICHD and UNDP also continued to support the CHDE with a review of the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) in 2024.²⁴

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In 2023, the CHDE received funding from the State budget, which also made an allocation for survey and clearance activities (amounts not disclosed);²⁵ an update for 2024 was not reported.

Under Armenia's five-year mine action strategy for 2023–27, mobilising resources from national and international donors is a priority.²⁶ It aims to expand cooperation with other international, foreign, and national actors, viewing this as a key way of supporting the implementation of the strategy.²⁷ At the time of writing, however, no progress had been reported.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The CHDE reports that gender and diversity have been mainstreamed in Armenia's 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.²⁸ The strategy is not, though, explicit about precisely how gender and diversity have been

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

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

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

17 Emails from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 5 July 2024 and 17 April 2025.

18 Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 17 April 2025.

19 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, at: <https://bit.ly/3REVuHX>.

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

21 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, at: <https://bit.ly/4iXMPuU>.

22 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.

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

24 Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP 17 April 2025.

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

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

27 Ibid., p. 26; and CHDE, "International Cooperation", accessed 20 May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3V7VVvE>.

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

mainstreamed. Although the CHDE has not confirmed whether it has a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan, it plans to establish a female demining team, with training said to be in process in May 2024.²⁹ No further progress was reported at the time of writing.

The CHDE says it offers equal employment opportunities to both men and women. In May 2024, 14 of 51 CHDE employees were women (27%, down from 32% in 2021), while women held 4 of 17 managerial positions and 2 of 14 operational positions.³⁰

Table 2: Gender composition of the CHDE (at May 2024)³¹

Total staff employed	Women employed	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total staff operational	Women in operational positions
51	14 (27%)	17	4 (24%)	14	2 (14%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The CHDE has reported that it is developing an environmental management policy; that its NMAA on environmental management in mine action is in line with International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13; that it conducts environmental assessments to support the planning and delivery of survey and clearance; and that it takes measures to prevent or at least minimise environmental harm.³² When planning and prioritising survey and clearance, the CHDE says it takes into account climate-related and extreme-weather risks.³³

The 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 activities, ensuring the minimal impact of mine action on the environment and the intended use of these lands after clearance, land clearance (land release) ‘green label’ rank that guarantees each person’s right of both present and future generations to live in a dignified environment conducive to health and well-being”.³⁴ The CHDE has previously reported using methods and tools that do not damage the environment wherever possible.³⁵

Table 3: Environmental policies and action³⁶

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
CHDE	Yes	Yes	Not known

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The CHDE manages the national IMSMA database³⁷ and has established an information management and analytical department.³⁸ The CHDE says it disaggregates different types of contamination, but CMR are not disaggregated from other ERW, and CMR clearance is not disaggregated from general battle area clearance (BAC).³⁹ In 2023, with UNDP and GICHD support, IMSMA Core was installed on CHDE servers,

and the implementation of the system and transfer of data continued in 2024.⁴⁰ The GICHD continues to provide support with information management. As at May 2025, the GICHD was supporting the CHDE in the testing phase of IMSMA Core implementation.⁴¹ CHDE personnel have also continued to participate in GICHD training and workshops.⁴²

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid.

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.

33 Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.

34 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 23.

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

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

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

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

39 Emails from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024; and the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

40 Emails from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 7 June 2024; and Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.

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

42 Ibid.

PLANNING AND TASKING

The national mine action strategy for 2023–27 and operational plans were adopted by the CHDE in June 2023.⁴³ Among its 15 strategic objectives are listed: implementation of Armenia's international obligations in demining; clearance of all mines and ERW; and support for environmental protection issues.⁴⁴ Urgent demining and improvements to the coordination, regulatory, and management role of the CHDE are two priorities.⁴⁵

The strategy described EO contamination in the four provinces of Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor,⁴⁶ 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 2023–2027, but the total area to be cleared (1.35km²) does not disaggregate mine clearance from clearance of ERW, including CMR,⁴⁷ and annual clearance targets are not provided for the different areas.

The strategy does, however, indicate that in 2023, the CHDE planned to clear 50,000m² of mined and ERW-contaminated area using State funding and, if funds allow, in each subsequent year to add another 25,000m² of clearance to the target until the end of the strategy in 2027. The CHDE confirmed that it planned to clear 75,000m² of battle area in 2024,⁴⁸ and reported just meeting the target, clearing 75,186m² during the year.⁴⁹ In addition, the strategy cites CHDE plans to reduce or cancel 30,000m² through survey (and releasing additional area if funding permits),⁵⁰ although no cluster munition-contaminated area or mined area was released through survey in 2024.⁵¹

Other targets listed in the strategy include deploying additional professional demining groups and expanding collaboration with national and international operators.⁵² It is not known whether any progress was made with these targets in 2024.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The CHDE developed the Armenian NMAS, which were approved by the government in 2014.⁵³ The CHDE says these have been reviewed to ensure consistency with IMAS⁵⁴ and in 2022 and 2023, UNDP supported a review of the NMAS.⁵⁵ The overall quality of the NMAS on land release were said to vary, with some chapters overly prescriptive more akin to standing operating procedures (SOPs). There are sections on "All Reasonable Effort" (ARE), evidence of criteria, liability, and residual risk. Some are taken from IMAS although the text has been adapted.⁵⁶ With support from the GICHD and UNDP, the CHDE initiated a further review of the NMAS in 2023, which continued into 2024, to ensure compliance with IMAS. The CHDE intended to develop an NMAS on accreditation.⁵⁷

The CHDE has been developing SOPs for several years.⁵⁸ SOPs on manual mine clearance, BAC, marking of hazardous areas, and medical support were all elaborated by 2018.⁵⁹ In 2020, the CHDE prepared SOPs on information management, NTS, technical survey (TS), explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and quality management (QM).⁶⁰ 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.⁶¹

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

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

45 Ibid., p. 10.

46 Ibid., pp. 11–14.

47 Ibid., p. 21.

48 Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.

49 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

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

51 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

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

53 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 19 April 2019.

54 Emails from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 19 April 2019 and 26 April 2021.

55 Emails from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 15 March 2023 and 5 July 2024.

56 Email from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May 2023.

57 Emails from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May and 23 June 2023; Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 17 April 2025.

58 Email from Varsine Miskaryan, Operations Manager, CHDE, 8 August 2016.

59 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 8 August 2018.

60 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 26 April 2021.

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

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The CHDE was the only operator in Armenia in 2024 (as in the previous year), deploying two NTS teams with a total of twelve staff, and two clearance teams with a total of fourteen deminers in 2023.⁶² In 2024, the CHDE planned to increase its operational teams by one,⁶³ but it is not known whether this was achieved as no update was provided for 2024.

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.⁶⁴ Quality control is conducted once clearance has been completed but prior to handover of the land.⁶⁵

Table 4: CHDE operational capacities deployed in 2023⁶⁶

Activity	No. of teams	No. of personnel
NTS	2	12
Clearance	2	14
Totals	4	26

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

In 2024, a total of 75,186m² of battle area was released, all through clearance, with the destruction of 10 submunitions and one other item of unexploded ordnance (UXO).⁶⁷

Table 5: Land release outputs in 2024⁶⁸

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Comments
Clearance	75,186	
Technical Survey	0	
Non-Technical Survey	0	
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	
Submunitions destroyed	10	One item of UXO was also destroyed.

SURVEY IN 2024

No cluster munition-contaminated area was reduced through TS or cancelled through NTS in 2024 or in 2023.⁶⁹ In both years, land release activities were conducted in accordance with the 2023–27 national mine action strategy.⁷⁰

⁶² Ibid., and email from CHDE, 6 May 2024.

⁶³ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁶⁴ Email from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 8 June 2015.

⁶⁵ Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 8 August 2018.

⁶⁶ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁶⁷ Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2024.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Emails from the CHDE, 6 May 2025; and Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁷⁰ Emails from CHDE, 6 May and 13 June 2025.

CLEARANCE IN 2024

The CHDE cleared 75,186m² of battle area in 2024, partially clearing the one remaining recorded CHA in Vayots Dzor, and destroying 10 submunitions and 1 item of UXO. Of the released, 6,978m² was through surface clearance only. No previously unrecorded areas of cluster munition-contaminated area were discovered in 2024.⁷¹ This is a reduction on the battle area cleared in 2023, when 214,192m² was cleared, all of it both surface and sub-surface, with 26 submunitions and 8 other items of UXO destroyed.⁷²

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.⁷³ 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, but Armenia should increase its annual clearance rate if it is to meet its CMR clearance target of between 2029 and 2034.

Table 6: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (m ²)
2024	75,186
2023	214,192
2022	111,616
2021	50,999
2020	3,850
Total	455,843

71 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.
72 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
73 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.