

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

4.9 KM²

Medium
(National authority partial estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Release in 2023 (m ²)
Clearance	16,762	0
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	417	0

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2024:

- Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2024, a total of just under 1.6km² of contaminated area in Tavush province containing anti-personnel (AP) mines was discovered and added to Armenia's database. The Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) cleared 16,762m² of the newly recorded AP mined area – a mix of AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mine contamination – which was a partial clearance of a confirmed hazardous area (CHA). This is the first time since 2019 that Armenia has reported release of AP mined area, with priority being given previously to clearance of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Armenia should commit never again to use AP mines and should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- In the meantime, Armenia should submit voluntary Article 7 reports annually under the APMBC.
- Armenia should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear AP mines on territory under its jurisdiction as soon as possible.
- Armenia should clarify the extent of remaining mine contamination.
- Armenia should expedite the adoption of national mine action legislation.

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- CHDE (survey and clearance)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2024, Armenia reported that mined area containing AP and/or AV mines covered more than 11.3km² of its territory,¹ a significant increase from the 9.8km² reported for 2023.² Of this, a total of almost 4.9km² contained AP mines, with under 2.7km² of AP mined area only—almost all in confirmed hazardous area—and under 2.2km² in 16 CHAs also containing AV mines (see Table 1).³

Just under 1.6km² of previously unrecorded AP mined area in Tavush province was added to the database in 2024. The vast majority of the newly recorded contamination (five

CHAs covering just under 1.5km²) contained a mix of AP and AV mines, while another CHA covering less than 0.1km² contained only AP mines.⁴

During the year, 16,762m² of the newly discovered mined area in Tavush province was cleared.⁵ In addition, just under 75,623m² of AV mined area was released through non-technical survey (NTS) and technical survey (TS) – two CHAs covering 8,171m² in the Tavush region, and three suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering 67,452m² in the Vayots Dzor region.⁶

Table 1: Mined area (at end 2024)⁷

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total CHAs/SHAs	Totals (m ²)
AP mines	46	2,562,707	4	132,136	50	2,694,843
AV mines	34	2,715,985	3	3,728,442	37	6,444,427
AP and AV mines	16	2,185,188	0	0	16	2,185,188
Totals	96	7,463,880	7	3,860,578	103	11,324,458

Three of Armenia's eleven administrative areas, all situated along the eastern border with Azerbaijan, were recorded as having AP mined areas at the end of 2024.⁸

Table 2: AP mined area by province, excluding mixed AP and AV mined areas (at end 2024)⁹

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total CHAs/SHAs	Total area (m ²)
Syunik	33	1,669,884	2	27,013	35	1,696,897
Gegharkunik	6	629,186	2	105,123	8	734,309
Tavush	7	263,637	0	0	7	263,637
Totals	46	2,562,707	4	132,136	50	2,694,843

A Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) was conducted in Armenia in 2005, followed by partial survey of 17 sites by The HALO Trust in 2012, and again by the Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD) in 2012–13. FSD identified 17 SHAs estimated to cover 26km² and 114 CHAs that covered 21km² in four districts

bordering Azerbaijan. Thirteen of these areas, totalling 1.8km², contained only unexploded ordnance (UXO) and not mines.¹⁰ In 2019, the CHDE conducted NTS in Syunik province, but military-restricted zones continued to be off limits for survey and clearance.¹¹

1 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

2 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, Director, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

3 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

4 Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

8 Ibid.

9 Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.

10 CHDE, "FSD non-technical mine action survey", Yerevan, 2013, p. 12.

11 Emails from Margaret Lazyan, Head of Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance, CHDE, 19 April 2019 and 25 June 2020.

Armenia's border with Georgia has been cleared of mines whereas the border with Türkiye, also mined during the Soviet era, was reported as still containing AP mines in 2017.¹² While NTS in 2012-13 by FSD did not find evidence of mines outside the buffer zones in Ararat province, which borders Türkiye, certain areas have not yet been surveyed because they were controlled by Russian border troops.¹³ Demining was reported to have begun on the Turkish side of the border with Armenia in July 2022.¹⁴ In addition, in late 2022, CHDE signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the national mine action centre of Iran (IRMAC).¹⁵ It was reported in June 2023 that demining would begin in the near future on the Iranian border.¹⁶ No further details or updates were available at the time of writing. The implications for AP mine survey and clearance of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Armenia's borders in 2024 were not known at the time of writing.¹⁷

Prior to the conflict with Azerbaijan in September–November 2020, only minimal mine clearance occurred in Armenia and, as indicated above, no release of AP mined area occurred between 2019 and 2023.¹⁸ Reported contamination in Armenia remained constant in the two years to the end of 2021,¹⁹ but in 2022, two CHAs covering a total area of 0.27km² were identified in Syunik and added to the database.²⁰ Armenia stated that the two minefields resulted from military action by Azerbaijan in 2020.²¹ Another three CHAs in Gegharkunik province covering a total of some 45,000m² were added to the database in 2022.²² No new hazardous area was identified in 2023.²³

A baseline NTS of explosive ordnance (EO) contamination began in 2022,²⁴ supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),²⁵ including of new contamination arising from the 2020 conflict. The CHDE has reported that this was completed in Ararat, Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor provinces.²⁶ The HALO Trust conducted NTS over three previously unrecorded AP mined areas dating back to 1998 near Pambak village in Gegharkunik province in 2022, identifying a single AP mine in each one,²⁷ which it reported to the CHDE.²⁸ The CHDE has stated that further survey is needed in areas under military control, which will only be conducted when security guarantees are in place.²⁹

Mine and ERW contamination in Armenia is primarily the consequence of armed conflict with Azerbaijan in 1988–94, in which both sides used mines. The heaviest contamination exists in areas in Nagorno-Karabakh regained by Azerbaijan during the armed conflict in 2020, including a massive mined area along the 350km-long line of contact (LoC) that previously separated Armenian and Azerbaijani forces. The Second Karabakh War (also known as the Forty-Four Day War) ended in November 2020 with Azerbaijan regaining control over most of its internationally recognised territories except for a part of Nagorno-Karabakh.³⁰ Armenia has acknowledged laying mines since the end of 2020, contending that it has done so "exclusively within the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia for self-defence purposes only".³¹ On 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a 24-hour military offensive which resulted in it regaining control of the remainder of Nagorno-Karabakh.³²

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Armenia reported cluster munition remnants (CMR) and other ERW in Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Tavush provinces as a result of the conflict with Azerbaijan in 2020 (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2025* report on Armenia for further information).

12 Emails from Ruben Arakelyan, Director, CHDE, 19 March 2014 and 28 April 2017; and interview in Geneva, 1 April 2014.

13 CHDE, "FSD non-technical mine action survey", CHDE, Yerevan, 2013, p. 9; and emails from Varsine Miskaryan, Operations Officer, CHDE, 8 August 2016; and Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 28 April 2017.

14 "Mine Clearance operations begin on Turkish-Armenian border", *Arka News Agency*, 13 July 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/4e5Go8g>; and "Armenia not carrying out demining operations on its side of border with Turkey- defense ministry", *Arka News Agency*, 14 July 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/4k6XTxq>.

15 "Iran, Armenia ink MoU on humanitarian demining cooperation", *Iran Press News Agency*, 19 September 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3WyehpJ>.

16 Email from Narges Jahanparast, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 6 June 2023.

17 "Russia to withdraw troops from Armenia's border", *Politico*, 9 May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3XO1JwX>.

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

19 Emails from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 25 June 2020 and 26 April 2021.

20 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and Karine Shamiryan, Head of International Affairs, CHDE, 10 July 2024.

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

22 Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 10 July 2024.

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

24 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 11 May 2022; and Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 27 May 2022.

25 Emails from Karinée Khojayan, Project Coordinator, UNDP, 15 March and 10 July 2023.

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

27 Emails from Fiona Kilpatrick-Cooper, Head of Region – Europe (South Caucasus), HALO, 16 March 2022; and David Crawford, Programme Manager, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, HALO, 14 July 2023.

28 Emails from David Crawford, HALO, 14 July 2023; and Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 10 July 2024; and Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 14.

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

30 T. De Waal, "Unfinished Business in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict", Carnegie Europe, 11 February 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3PFvARz>.

31 International Court of Justice, *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)*, Order, 23 February 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3NwBKEG>, para. 19.

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

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 made Armenia's national mine action authority.³³ An Advisory Board oversees the CHDE at the Deputy Ministerial level, with representation from key ministries.³⁴ 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,³⁵ and no further progress has been reported since. Armenia has indicated that it has not acceded to the APMBC mainly for security reasons.³⁶

Key decisions on mine action are taken centrally by the CHDE, and it is the only entity now conducting land release activities in Armenia (The HALO Trust no longer has a presence in the country, last undertaking limited demining there in 2021³⁷). The National Mine Action Coordination Platform, however, which was established with the support of UNDP in 2023, serves as a key coordination mechanism supporting mine action.³⁸ 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 Rescue Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs).³⁹

FUNDING FOR AP MINE 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),⁴⁰ updates for 2024 were not reported. Under Armenia's five-year mine action strategy for 2023–27, mobilising resources from national and international donors is a priority.⁴¹ The government aims to expand cooperation with other international, foreign, and national actors, viewing this as a key way of supporting the implementation of the strategy.⁴² At the time of writing, however, no progress had been reported.

In addition, under its "green label" approach, which places mine action within socio-economic development, the CHDE collaborates with similar organisations.⁴³ It has coordinated work with UNDP, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), local organisations, and with local self-governing authorities, to translate the results of mine and ERW clearance into long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits, running pilot projects since 2022.⁴⁴ An advisory group, established in 2023, incorporates representatives from some of these agencies along with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). It advises the CHDE on mine action, including on use of the latest tools and technologies for the sector.⁴⁵

The GICHD continues to support the CHDE to install the latest version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), IMSMA Core (see further the section below, Information Management and Reporting).⁴⁶ The CHDE and the GICHD are also cooperating on innovation, with the CHDE participating in the GICHD's Mine Action Innovation Technical Group, which was initiated in 2024.⁴⁷ The GICHD and UNDP also continued to support the CHDE with a review of Armenia's national mine action standards (NMAS) in 2024.⁴⁸

³³ Emails from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 8 June 2015; and Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 10 August 2020.

³⁴ Emails from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 13 July 2022; and Ani Zakaryan, Head of Information Management, CHDE, 21 July 2022.

³⁵ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

³⁶ National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, pp. 4 and 9.

³⁷ Email from Fiona Kilpatrick-Cooper, HALO, 2 September 2022.

³⁸ Emails from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 5 July 2024 and 17 April 2025.

³⁹ Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 17 April 2025.

⁴⁰ 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>.

⁴¹ CHDE, "Greening Mine Action in Armenia as a component of sustainable development in the economy of the country", 21 May 2024.

⁴² V. 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>.

⁴³ 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.

⁴⁴ Email from Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, GICHD, 2 May 2025.

⁴⁵ Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP 17 April 2025.

⁴⁶ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁴⁷ CHDE, National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 10.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 26; and CHDE, "International Cooperation", accessed 20 May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3V7VVwE>.

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 EO are considered in prioritisation, planning, and tasking of survey and clearance.⁴⁹ However, the strategy is not explicit about how gender and diversity are to be

mainstreamed. While the CHDE does not appear to have a gender and diversity policy in place, it planned to establish an all-female demining team with training said to be underway in May 2024.⁵⁰ No further updates on progress were available. The CHDE has also confirmed that mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.⁵¹

Table 3: Gender composition of the CHDE (as reported in May 2024)⁵²

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

The CHDE reports that it offers equal employment opportunities to men and women. But as of May 2024, only 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.⁵³

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The CHDE has developed an environmental management policy and says that its NMAS on environmental management in mine action is in line with International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13, and that it conducts environmental assessments to support survey and clearance. It further

claims to take measures to prevent or at least minimise environmental harm.⁵⁴ When planning and prioritising survey and clearance, the CHDE says it considers climate-related and extreme-weather risks.⁵⁵

Table 4: Environmental policies and action (as reported in May 2024)⁵⁶

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

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".⁵⁷ The CHDE has previously reported deploying methods and tools to avoid damaging the environment where possible.⁵⁸

⁴⁹ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.

⁵⁶ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁵⁷ Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 23.

⁵⁸ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 11 May 2022.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The CHDE manages the national IMSMA database⁵⁹ and has established an information management and analytical department.⁶⁰ In 2023, with UNDP and GICHD support, IMSMA Core was installed on CHDE servers, and data migration and system development continued in 2024.⁶¹ GICHD support with information management continued into 2025.⁶²

Armenia has not submitted a voluntary Article 7 report under the APMBC.

PLANNING AND TASKING

The latest five-year national mine action strategy and operational plans were adopted by the CHDE in 2023.⁶³ Among its 15 strategic objectives are clearance of all mines and ERW (which suggests that Armenia could join the APMBC) and support for environmental protection.⁶⁴ Urgent demining for humanitarian purposes and improving the coordination, regulatory, and management roles of the CHDE are two other key priorities.⁶⁵

The strategy outlines EO contamination in the four provinces of Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor,⁶⁶ but the document does not clearly or consistently disaggregate mines from other munitions. Under the strategy, the Jermuk and Kechut areas in the Vayots Dzor province (where the CHDE has not reported any AP mined area) and Davit Bek in Syunik province were deemed priorities for mine and ERW clearance in 2023–27, but the total area to be cleared (1.35km²) does not disaggregate mine clearance from ERW⁶⁷ and annual 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. With EU support, UNDP was planning to support the clearance of 130,000m² of mined area in 2023,⁶⁸ but the CHDE has confirmed that UNDP funding actually ensured clearance of 155,354m² of area contaminated with CMR and other ERW.⁶⁹ The CHDE has since confirmed plans to clear at least 75,000m² of contaminated area in 2024.⁷⁰ As indicated above, it cleared 16,762m² of AP mined area, plus 75,186m² of battle area in 2024,⁷¹ while 75,623m² of AV mined area was released through survey.⁷²

Other targets listed in the strategy include expanding collaboration with national and international operators.⁷³ No progress with these targets in 2024 has been reported.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

NMAS developed by the CHDE were approved by the government in 2014.⁷⁴ The CHDE says these have been reviewed to ensure consistency with IMAS,⁷⁵ and in 2022 and 2023, UNDP supported a review of the standards.⁷⁶ The overall quality of Armenia's NMAS on land release varies, with some chapters overly prescriptive and more akin to standard operating procedures (SOPs). There are sections

on "All Reasonable Effort", evidence of criteria, liability, and residual risk. Some standards are taken directly from the IMAS although the text has been adapted to the local context to a certain extent.⁷⁷ The CHDE initiated a new review of the NMAS in 2023, which was ongoing as at May 2024. It intends to develop an NMAS on accreditation.⁷⁸

⁵⁹ Email from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 19 March 2014.

⁶⁰ Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁶¹ Emails from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 7 June 2024; and Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 5 July 2024.

⁶⁴ Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 9.

⁶⁵ Ibid., p. 10.

⁶⁶ Ibid., pp. 11–14.

⁶⁷ Ibid., p. 21.

⁶⁸ Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 15 March 2023.

⁶⁹ Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 10 July 2024.

⁷⁰ Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.

⁷¹ Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.

⁷² Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.

⁷³ Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 21.

⁷⁴ Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 19 April 2019.

⁷⁵ Emails from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 19 April 2019 and 26 April 2021.

⁷⁶ Emails from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 15 March 2023 and 5 July 2024.

⁷⁷ Email from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May 2023.

⁷⁸ Emails from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May and 23 June 2023; Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 10 July 2024.

The CHDE has also been developing SOPs for several years.⁷⁹ SOPs on manual mine clearance, battle area clearance (BAC), the marking of hazardous areas, and medical support were all elaborated by 2018.⁸⁰ In 2020, the CHDE elaborated SOPs on Information Management, NTS, TS, explosive ordnance

disposal (EOD), and quality management (QM).⁸¹ The CHDE reviews its SOPs regularly as necessary, updating them in 2023 and again in 2024, when additions were made to QM, marking, and BAC.⁸²

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The CHDE was again the only demining operator in Armenia, as reported at May 2024, deploying two NTS teams with a total of twelve staff, and two clearance teams, with a total of fourteen deminers.⁸³ In 2024, the CHDE planned to increase its operational teams by one,⁸⁴ but it is not known whether this was achieved.

Quality assurance (QA) is conducted by dedicated officers who make regular field visits to inspect cleared land.⁸⁵ Quality control is conducted once clearance has been completed but prior to handover of the cleared area.⁸⁶

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

In 2024, 16,762m² of mixed AP and AV mined area was released through clearance in Tavush province in Armenia, a partial release of a CHA. No area containing AP mines was released through survey, though 75,623m² of AV mined area was released through survey.⁸⁷

Table 5: Summary of land release outputs in 2024

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Comments
Clearance	16,762	Partial clearance of a mined area in Tavush.
Technical survey	0	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	
AP mines destroyed	417	Includes 3 improvised mines. A further 6 AV mines and 5 items of UXO were destroyed in Tavush.

SURVEY IN 2024

No AP mined area was released through survey in 2024. This compares with 2023, when no AP mined area was released by any means.⁸⁸

The CHDE did report, however, that 75,623m² of AV mined area was released through NTS and TS in 2024 (two CHAs covering 8,171m² in Tavush province and three SHAs covering 67,452m² in Vayots Dzor province).⁸⁹ A total of 1,588,442m² of mined area with AP mines was discovered and added to the database during 2024. This comprised one AP mined area of 96,086m² and five mixed mined areas extending over 1,492,341m² (of which 16,762m² of mixed mine contamination was subsequently cleared).⁹⁰

⁷⁹ Email from Varsine Miskaryan, CHDE, 8 August 2016.

⁸⁰ Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 8 August 2018.

⁸¹ Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 26 April 2021.

⁸² Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Email from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 8 June 2015.

⁸⁶ Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 8 August 2018.

⁸⁷ Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 8 and 11 July 2025.

⁸⁸ Emails from the CHDE, 6 May 2025; and Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁸⁹ Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

CLEARANCE IN 2024

The CHDE cleared 16,762m² of mixed AP and AV mined area in Tavush province in 2024 (a partial clearance of a single hazardous area), destroying in the process 417 AP mines, including three of an improvised nature, along with six AV mines, and five items of UXO.⁹¹ In 2019–23, no AP mined area was cleared.⁹²

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

The full extent of AP mine clearance remains unknown, with survey still needed in military-restricted areas to determine a national baseline, which CHDE has said will only be conducted when there are appropriate security guarantees in place.⁹³ The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2027 has not set a target date for even partial mine clearance. BAC has been the focus since 2021 but in 2024, 16,762m² of mined area was cleared in Tavush province, part of an area (also of mixed mine contamination) covering 1,492,341m² discovered during the year,⁹⁴ and another 75,623m² of AV mined area was released through survey.⁹⁵ This is the first AP mine clearance in Armenia since 2019, when a similarly small area was cleared.

Armenia has in the past claimed that challenges in mine clearance have included the low level of contamination and the random distribution of mines and a lack of funding.⁹⁶

Table 6: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	0.02
2023	0
2022	0
2021	0
2020	0
Total	0.02

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

According to the CHDE, Armenia has included provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas following completion in national strategies, though this is not clear from the new national mine action strategy. It is reported to have a limited but sustainable capacity to conduct survey and clearance. In addition to its own staff, the CHDE says it can also recruit additional staff from an internal roster of trained people.⁹⁷

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.

⁹⁵ Email from the CHDE, 11 July 2025.

⁹⁶ Emails from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 10 August 2020; and Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 28 April 2017.

⁹⁷ Emails from Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May and 24 July 2023.