ARMENIA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

4.8KM²

Light
(National authority partial estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m²)	Release in 2024 (m²)
Clearance	5,406	16,762
Technical Survey	103,245	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	83	417

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2025:

- Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, the Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) released a total of 0.1km² of anti-personnel mined area, including 5,406m² that was cleared, destroying in the process 83 anti-personnel (AP) mines. This is only the second time since 2019 that Armenia has conducted AP mine clearance, having previously prioritised clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Clearance of AP mines resumed in 2024, when there was a partial clearance (16,762m²) of nearly 1.6km² of newly recorded AP mined area. The speed of mine clearance, however, remains low.

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 CAPACITY

- 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 2025, a total of 11.2km^2 of Armenian territory was reported to be mined. Of this, 63 AP mined areas covered a total of just under 4.8km^2, some of it mixed with anti-vehicle (AV) mines. In addition, just over 6.4km^2 was AV mined area without AP mines (see Table 2).[1] Most recorded AP mined area in Armenia is in confirmed hazardous area (CHA); there were 58 recorded CHAs and only five suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) at the end of 2025. 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 2025.

The above compares with the end of 2024, when the CHDE recorded a total of 68 hazardous areas containing AP mines covering just under 4.9km^2,[2] and in 2025, it reduced five of these areas through technical survey (TS). The CHDE had previously reported to Mine Action Review that it had recorded a total of 66 hazardous areas containing AP mines covering 4,880,031m^2 at the end of 2024, but did not include two hazardous areas containing AP mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Syunik, covering 12,775m^2, for a total of 4,892,806m^2 at the end of 2024.[3]

Table 1: Mined area (at end 2025)[4]

Type of mine contamination	Province	CHAs	Area (m^2)	SHAs	Area (m^2)	Total CHAs/ SHAs	Totals (m^2)
AP mines only	Syunik	32	1,668,567	3	37,570	35	1,706,137
	Gegharkunik	4	587,348	2	105,123	6	692,471
	Tavush	6	255,726	0	0	6	255,726
Totals		**42**	**2,511,641**	**5**	**142,693**	**47**	**2,654,334**
AV and AP mines	Syunik	9	685,022	0	0	9	685,022
	Tavush	7	1,444,799	0	0	7	1,444,799
Totals		**16**	**2,129,821**	**0**	**0**	**16**	**2,129,821**
Grand Totals		**58**	**4,641,462**	**5**	**142,693**	**63**	**4,784,155**

Table 2: Mined area containing only AV mines, by province (at end 2025)[5]

Province	CHAs	Area (m^2)	SHAs	Area (m^2)	Total CHAs/SHAs	Total area (m^2)
Syunik	20	270,024	0	0	20	270,024
Gegharkunik	5	2,428,128	3	3,728,442	8	6,156,570
Tavush	2	2,527	0	0	2	2,527
Totals	**27**	**2,700,679**	**3**	**3,728,442**	**30**	**6,429,121**

A Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) was conducted in 2005, followed by partial survey of 17 sites by The HALO Trust (HALO) in 2012, and again by the Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD) in 2012–13. FSD identified 17 SHAs estimated to cover 26km^2 and 114 CHAs that covered 21km^2 in four districts bordering Azerbaijan. Thirteen of these areas, totalling 1.8km^2, contained only UXO and not mines.[6] In 2019, the CHDE conducted non-technical survey (NTS) in Syunik province, but military-restricted zones continued to be off limits for survey and clearance.[7]

1 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.
2 Email from the CHDE, 13 July 2026.
3 Emails from the CHDE, 13 July 2026; and Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 11 May 2022.
4 Emails from the CHDE, 1 April and 13 July 2026.
5 Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.
6 CHDE, "FSD non-technical mine action survey", Yerevan, 2013, p. 12.
7 Emails from Margaret Lazyan, Head of Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance, CHDE, 19 April 2019 and 25 June 2020.

A baseline NTS of explosive ordnance (EO) contamination began in 2022,[8] supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),[9] including of new contamination arising from the 2020 six-week conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. The CHDE has reported that this was completed in Ararat, Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor provinces.[10] 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,[11] which it reported to the CHDE.[12] The CHDE has stated that further survey is still needed in areas under military control, which will only be conducted when security guarantees are in place,[13] and there was no progress in surveying these areas in 2025.[14]

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.[15] 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.[16] The implications for AP mine survey and clearance of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Armenia's borders in 2024 are unclear. Armenia has not reported on the situation on the Turkish border in recent years, and no data were available regarding possible AP mine contamination there for 2025,[17] though demining was reported to have begun on the Turkish side of the border with Armenia in July 2022.[18] In late 2022, the CHDE signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the national mine action centre of Iran (IRMAC).[19] It was reported in June 2023 that demining would begin in the near future on the Iranian border.[20] No further details were available at the time of writing.[21]

Prior to the six-week 2020 conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, only minimal mine clearance occurred in Armenia, and no release of AP mined area occurred between 2019 and 2023.[22] Reported contamination in Armenia remained constant in the two years to the end of 2021,[23] but in 2022, two CHAs covering a total area of 0.27km^2 were identified in Syunik and added to the database.[24] Armenia stated that the two minefields resulted from military action by Azerbaijan in 2020.[25] Another three CHAs in Gegharkunik province covering a total of some 45,000m^2 were added to the database in 2022.[26] In 2024, just under 1.6km^2 of previously unrecorded AP mined area in Tavush province was added to the database. The vast majority of the new contamination recorded in 2024 (five CHAs covering just under 1.5km^2) contained a mix of AP and AV mines, while another CHA covering less than 0.1km^2 contained only AP mines.[27]

Mine and ERW contamination in Armenia is primarily the consequence of armed conflict with Azerbaijan in 1988–94, in which both sides used mines. 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".[28] In August and September 2022, Azerbaijan alleged that Armenia had used PMN-E mines on territories and supply roads between the positions of Azerbaijani army units, including in the Lachin region, allegations that Armenia denied. Technical sources have since attributed the production of the PMN-E to Armenia, and Landmine Monitor has added Armenia to the list of countries that produce, or retain the right to produce, AP mines.[29]

For more information on production and use, please see the country profile on Armenia on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[30]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Armenia reported 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 2026* report on Armenia for further information).

8 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, Director, CHDE, 11 May 2022; and Karine Shamiryan, Head of International Affairs, CHDE, 27 May 2022.

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

10 CHDE, "Non-Technical Survey", accessed 20 May 2024, https://bit.ly/3QRwXPs.

11 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.

12 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.

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

14 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

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

16 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.

17 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

18 "Mine Clearance operations begin on Turkish-Armenian border", *Arka News Agency*, 13 July 2022, 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, https://bit.ly/4k6XTXq.

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

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

21 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 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, https://bit.ly/3NwBKEG, para. 19.

29 Landmine Monitor, "Armenia" (last updated 21 November 2025), https://bit.ly/4dZQwzO.

30 https://the-monitor.org.

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.[31] An Advisory Board oversees the CHDE at the Deputy Ministerial level, with representation from key ministries.[32] In 2013, in conformity with a government decree, the CHDE began developing national mine action legislation. As at April 2026, the CHDE reported that the draft law was complete, but the "process" had not been finalised.[33] Armenia has indicated that it has not acceded to the APMBC mainly for security reasons,[34] but says it supports its primary objective and adheres to national policies that are consistent with the APMBC.[35]

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 2021.[36] 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.[37] 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).[38] There is no other in-country coordination platform for dialogue among all stakeholders, including donors.[39]

In addition, under its "green label" approach, which places mine action within socio-economic development, the CHDE collaborates with similar organisations.[40] 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.[41] An advisory group, established in 2023, incorporates representatives from some of these agencies along with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).[42]

The GICHD continued to support the CHDE to install the latest version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), IMSMA Core (see further details in the section below on Information Management and Reporting).[43] The CHDE and the GICHD have also cooperated in the field of innovation, with the CHDE participating in GICHD's Mine Action Innovation Technical Group, which was initiated in 2024.[44] In 2025 and into 2026, UNDP, with the support of the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (EC FPI), provided capacity-development support to the CHDE, which focused on strengthening its institutional, technical, and operational capacity. This included:

- Supporting an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Levels 1 and 2, and Level 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 the CHDE's Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–2027 and Action Plan to inform the CHDE's adaptive planning and the development of the next strategic framework (see the section below, "Planning and Tasking").[45]

Under Armenia's five-year mine action strategy for 2023–27, mobilising resources from national and international donors is a priority.[46] The CHDE aims to expand cooperation with international, foreign, and national actors, viewing this as a key way of supporting the implementation of the strategy.[47] In 2025, the only international funding reported for AP mine clearance was that under the European Union (EU, see section below, "Funding for AP Mine Survey and Clearance").[48] The CHDE does, however, list several United

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

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

33 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

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

35 Statement of Armenia on Universalization, APMBC Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 1–5 December 2025.

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

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

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

39 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

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, 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), 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 Emails from Kristine Hovhannisyan, Project Task Analyst, EU Support to Clearance Action for Safety and Security in Explosive Ordnance-Affected Communities in Armenia, UNDP, 13 April and 20 May 2026; and Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 7 May 2026.

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

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

48 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

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.[49] Collaboration with these organisations and countries has involved signing MoUs, negotiating, and making initial arrangements to work with the CHDE.[50]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE 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).[51] Funding for survey and clearance of AP mines 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 EC FPI, and implemented by UNDP in close collaboration with the CHDE (signed in March 2025 with operations starting in August/September 2025).[52] There were no new donors in 2025, but the EU CASSIA funding for AP mine release was continuing in 2026.[53] For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Armenia on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[54]

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.[55] 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.[56]

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, however, be incorporated into the CHDE's next mine action strategy, due to take effect in 2027 (see below).[57]

The CHDE had planned to establish a female demining team, with training in process in May 2024, but has since reported it will instead deploy women in mixed teams. Three female deminers were recruited in 2024 with one still involved in clearance as at April 2026 who was to undergo EOD Level 1 and 2 training.[58]

Table 3: Gender composition of the CHDE (at end 2025)[59]

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 female staff remained about 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 25% 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.[60]

The CHDE reported that efforts to attract more female staff in 2025 did not draw any applications from women.[61] 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 group members.[62]

49 CHDE Bulletin, 2025, pp. 52–54.
50 Email from the CHDE, 13 July 2026.
51 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
52 UNDP, "Marking the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action", 9 April 2026, https://bit.ly/47Z50xJ; email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026; meeting with the CHDE and UNDP Armenia, in Geneva, 24 April 2026; and emails from Kristine Hovhannisyan, UNDP, 13 April and 20 May 2026.
53 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
54 https://the-monitor.org.
55 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
56 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
57 Meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, in Geneva, 24 April 2026.
58 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026; and meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, in Geneva, 24 April 2026.
59 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
60 Emails from the CHDE, 1 April 2026; and Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
61 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
62 Emails from Kristine Hovhannisyan, UNDP, 13 April 2026; and Karinée Khojayan 7 May 2026.

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 is in line with International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13, and that it conducts environmental assessments to support survey and clearance. When planning and prioritising survey and clearance, the CHDE takes into account climate-related and extreme-weather risks.[63] 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 with the revised IMAS 07.13 (Edition 2, as revised on 3 July 2024).[64] The CHDE has previously reported using methods and tools that do not damage the environment wherever possible.[65]

Table 4: Environmental policies and action (as reported in May 2025)[66]

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 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".[67]

The CHDE does not yet take specific measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm, including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.[68] Environmental considerations will, however, be incorporated into the new national mine action strategy in 2027.[69]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The CHDE manages the national IMSMA database[70] and has established an information management and analytical department.[71] As at the beginning of April 2026, with GICHD support,[72] the transfer and implementation of IMSMA Core was reported to be in its final stages.[73] In 2025, the CHDE implemented the IMSMA Core system using Survey123, strengthening data collection.[74] The GICHD continues to provide support for application of the IMAS in Armenia.[75] In addition, CHDE personnel have continued to participate in GICHD training workshops.[76]

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

PLANNING AND TASKING

The national mine action strategy for 2023–27 and operational plans were adopted by the CHDE in 2023,[77] and annual plans were in place for 2025 and 2026 covering survey and clearance of AP mines.[78] 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.[79] Urgent demining for humanitarian purposes and improving the coordination, regulatory, and management work of the CHDE are two other key priorities.[80]

63 Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.
64 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
65 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 11 May 2022.
66 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
67 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 23.
68 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
69 Meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, Geneva, 24 April 2026.
70 Email from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 19 March 2014.
71 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
72 Email from Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, GICHD, 2 May 2025.
73 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
74 Emails from the CHDE, 1 and 30 April 2026.
75 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
76 Email from Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, GICHD, 2 May 2025.
77 Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 5 July 2024.
78 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
79 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 9.
80 Ibid., p. 10.

The strategy outlines EO contamination in the four provinces of Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor,[81] 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 (1.35km^2) does not disaggregate mine clearance from that of ERW[82] and annual targets are not provided for the different areas. Criteria exist for prioritising AP mined areas for clearance, based on the principles of ensuring security and safety, and on socio-economic development needs.[83]

The strategy planned for clearance of 50,000m^2 of mined and ERW-contaminated area in 2023 using State funding and, if funds allow, in each subsequent year to add another 25,000m^2 of clearance to the target until the end of the strategy in 2027. For the first year of the strategy, there was no release of AP mined area. With EU support, UNDP had planned to support clearance of 130,000m^2 of mined area in 2023,[84] but the funding ensured clearance of 155,354m^2 of area contaminated with CMR and other ERW instead.[85] In 2024, the CHDE planned to clear at least 75,000m^2 of contaminated area.[86] It achieved clearance of 16,762m^2 of AP mined area, plus 75,186m^2 of battle area.[87] In 2025, the CHDE released 108,651m^2 of AP mined area.[88] Overall, during 2025, the CHDE surpassed the release targets in its strategy, releasing a total of 317,444m^2 of EO-contaminated area through the EU CASSIA project.[89]

Other targets listed in the strategy include deploying additional professional demining groups and expanding collaboration with national and international operators.[90] 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").[91] No specific progress regarding expanded collaboration with national and international operators has been reported.[92]

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,[93] and will inform the new strategy due to take effect in 2027.[94]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The CHDE developed the Armenian NMAS, which were first approved by the government in 2014.[95] Several reviews have been undertaken, most recently in 2023–24 with GICHD and UNDP support.[96]

The CHDE has also been developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for several years.[97] SOPs on manual mine clearance, battle area clearance (BAC), the marking of hazardous areas, and medical support were all elaborated by 2018.[98] In 2020, the CHDE elaborated SOPs on Information Management, NTS, TS, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and quality management (QM).[99] 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.[100]

NMAS are revised as needs emerge during mine action activities and taking into account the IMAS requirements.[101] Updates to NMAS and SOPs are reported to be made in consultation with clearance personnel. As of April 2026, SOPs relating to new demining equipment and machinery, and the marking of hazardous areas were in process.[102] The GICHD has supported the CHDE with NMAS development training.[103]

81 Ibid., pp. 11–14.
82 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 21.
83 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
84 Email from Karinée Khojayan, UNDP, 15 March 2023.
85 Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 10 July 2024.
86 Email from Karine Shamiryan, CHDE, 21 June 2024.
87 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.
88 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
89 CHDE Bulletin, 2025, pp. 28, 34, 35, and 37; and email from Kristine Hovhannisyan, UNDP, 13 April 2026.
90 Armenia National Mine Action Strategy, 2023–2027, p. 21.
91 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
92 Ibid.
93 Email from Kristine Hovhannisyan, UNDP, 13 April 2026.
94 Meeting with CHDE and UNDP Armenia, Geneva, 24 April 2026.
95 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 19 April 2019.
96 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.
97 Email from Varsine Miskaryan, CHDE, 8 August 2016.
98 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 8 August 2018.
99 Email from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 26 April 2021.
100 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
101 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
102 Ibid.
103 Ibid.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The CHDE continued to be the only operator in Armenia in 2025 (as in the previous two years).[104] In 2024, the CHDE had planned to increase its operational teams by one,[105] but operational capacities in 2025 have reduced since 2023 (the last year when operational personnel were reported), when the CHDE deployed two NTS teams with a total of twelve staff, and two clearance teams with a total of fourteen deminers.[106] There was no significant change in survey and clearance personnel in 2025, but another team was planned in 2026 under the auspices of the CASSIA project.[107] It will be established separately from the CHDE and will be composed of contracted deminers.[108]

There were no demining accidents during land release activities in Armenia in 2025 or any insecurity issues obstructing access for AP mine clearance operations.[109] There were, however, reports of incidents outside release activities.[110]

Table 5: CHDE operational capacities deployed in 2025[111]

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.[112]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

In 2025, a total of 108,651m^2 of AP mined area was released in Armenia. A total of 5,406m^2 was released through clearance in Tavush province (a partial release of a hazardous area), and another 103,245m^2 was released through TS across Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Tavush provinces.[113]

Table 6: Summary of land release outputs in 2025

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Comments
Clearance	5,406	Partial clearance of a mixed mined area in Tavush.
Technical survey	103,245	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**	
AP mines destroyed	83	

SURVEY IN 2025

In 2025, as in 2024, no AP mined area was released through NTS.[114] The CHDE reported reducing 103,245m^2 of AP mined area through TS across Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Tavush provinces, with the smallest area reduced in Syunik.[115] The release of AP mined area through TS included, among other areas, reduction of one hazardous area of AP mined area in Syunik where 2,218m^2 was released, and an area of mixed mine contamination in Tavush where 49,961m^2 was released through TS.[116] In 2024, no AP mined area was released through TS.[117]

No area of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination was added to Armenia's information management database in 2025.[118]

104 Ibid.
105 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
106 Emails from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024; and the CHDE, 6 May 2024.
107 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
108 Ibid.
109 Ibid.
110 "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.
111 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
112 Email from Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 8 June 2015.
113 Emails from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
114 Emails from the CHDE, 1 April 2026, and 6 May and 8 and 11 July 2025.
115 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
116 Ibid.
117 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.
118 Emails from the CHDE, 1 April 2026, and 6 May and 11 July 2025.

Table 7: Release of mined area through TS in 2025[119]

Province	Operator	CHAs/SHAs reduced	Area reduced (m²)	Comments
Gegharkunik	CHDE	2	41,838	
Syunik	CHDE	2	3,535	Including one area of 2,218m² contaminated with AP mines and UXO.
Tavush	CHDE	1 + 1 partial	57,872	The partially cleared area of 49,961m² was contaminated with AP and AV mines and UXO.
Totals		**5/1 partial**	**103,245**	

In addition, during TS in Syunik, two AV mines were found and destroyed in an AV-contaminated CHA, and 2 items of UXO were found and destroyed in an EO-contaminated CHA in 2025.[120] In 2024, the CHDE reported 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).[121]

CLEARANCE IN 2025

The CHDE cleared 5,406m² of a mixed mined area (a CHA) in Tavush province in 2025, destroying 83 AP mines in the process.[122] This was the continuation of the partial clearance of the same CHA in 2024,[123] when the CHDE cleared 16,762m² of mixed mined area in Tavush province, destroying 417 AP mines, including three of an improvised nature, along with six AV mines and five items of UXO.[124]

Table 8: Mine clearance in 2025[125]

Province	Operator	CHAs/SHAs	Area cleared (m²)
Tavush	CHDE	1 partial	5,406
Totals		**1 partial**	**5,406**

Although there was a decrease in AP mined area cleared in 2025 compared with the previous year there was, overall, a considerable increase in the total area released (from 16,762m² in 2024 to 108,651m² in 2025) as a result of the increase in reduction of AP mined area through TS (no AP mined area was reduced through TS in 2024[126]).[127]

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Armenia, as stated above, is not a State Party to the APMBC and has said that its decision not to join links to "the security environment in our region" and the "principle of reciprocity".[128] At the end of 2025, Armenia confirmed that, "we fully support and align with its overarching objective: to confront the humanitarian challenges posed by anti-personnel landmines and to ensure the protection of civilian lives".[129] The full extent of AP mine clearance required in Armenia remains unknown, with survey still to be conducted in military-restricted areas to determine a national baseline, which the CHDE has said will only be conducted when there are appropriate security guarantees in place.[130] The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2027 did not set a target date for even partial mine clearance, and in 2026, the CHDE confirmed it was still not possible to determine when AP mine clearance would be complete.[131]

The CHDE has highlighted a number of factors that continue to obstruct AP mine clearance, including insufficient funding, and lack of demining capacity, with a need to train additional personnel and acquire mechanical demining assets.[132] 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.[133] Moreover, the CHDE has highlighted that delimitation and demarcation is a key challenge holding back progress with

119 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
120 Ibid.
121 Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.
122 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
123 Email from the CHDE, 13 July 2026.
124 Emails from the CHDE, 6 May and 11 July 2025.
125 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
126 Email from the CHDE, 6 May 2025.
127 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
128 Statement of Armenia, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 21 June 2021, cited by the Landmine Monitor, "Armenia" (last updated 21 November 2025), https://bit.ly/4dZQwzO.
129 Statement of Armenia on Universalization, APMBC Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2 December 2025.
130 Email from Vaghinak Sargsyan, CHDE, 10 May 2024.
131 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.
132 CHDE, Bulletin, 2025, p. 42.
133 Emails from Margaret Lazyan, CHDE, 10 August 2020; and Ruben Arakelyan, CHDE, 28 April 2017.

survey and clearance of AP mines, though it was hoped that the peace agreement with Azerbaijan—initialled but not signed[134]—in Washington in August 2025 would have a positive impact on AP mine clearance.[135]

Work by the Armenian and Azerbaijani commissions on border delimitation continued through 2025.[136] It is said to be a complex and detailed process, and likely to take considerable time.[137] Further survey in military-controlled areas is still needed to determine the full extent of landmine contamination, which will affect the date that completion can be achieved. If release rates continue at their current pace, however, clearance of the remaining known AP mine contamination alone will take many years.

Table 9: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2025	0.01
2024	0.02
2023	0
2022	0
2021	0
Total	**0.03**

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.[138]

134 "The Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Process Enters 2026", *Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst*, 15 January 2026, at https://bit.ly/4sTRZwZ.

135 Email from the CHDE, 1 April 2026.

136 "Armenia, Azerbaijan Discuss Border Delimitation and Demining", *hetq*, 5 September 2025, https://bit.ly/41F1rt0; "Armenia and Azerbaijan border delimitation talks in Azerbaijan", *OC Media,* 1 December 2025, https://bit.ly/4swXa61; and "Mine action as a confidence-building mechanism in the South Caucasus", commonspace.eu, 26 March 2026, https://bit.ly/3S3IFtG.

137 "Border delimitation and TRIPP implementation involve additional nuances: Pashinyan", *ArmenPress,* 11 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4dXnLpd.

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