

KEY DATA

NO ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

80km²

Medium
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (km ²)	Release in 2024 (km ²)
Clearance	(MAR estimate) 13*	(MAR estimate) 12*
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
Submunitions destroyed	1,783	2,882

* ANAMA reported clearing more than 63.6km² of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2025. However, this figure reflects the total size of tasks in which submunitions were subsequently found, rather than clearance of area that was actually CMR-contaminated. The actual area containing CMR as a result of cluster munition strikes within the task polygons is therefore far less than the total size of the polygons reported. Given the relatively small number of submunitions found and destroyed, Mine Action Review has estimated that, of the 63.6km² of clearance claimed by ANAMA, actual clearance of CMR concerned 13km².

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025

- Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)
- Alpha Demining
- Azerbaijan Demining Company
- Delta Clearing Solutions (partnering with Global Clearance Solutions (GCS))
- International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF)
- Ministry of Defence Demining Battalion
- Ministry of Emergency Situations Qaya Safety Solutions
- Safe Point CJSC

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Following the adoption of the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities in February 2025, Azerbaijan adopted revised national mine action standards (ANMAR) between September and November 2025. Its mine action programme will be guided by the "Second State Programme on the Great Return to the Liberated Territories of Azerbaijan" ("The Second Great Return Programme") from 2027 until 2030. Azerbaijan continues its massive clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munition remnants (CMR). Based on data provided by the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) on battle area clearance (BAC), Mine Action Review has estimated that 13km² of cluster munition-contaminated area was released through clearance in 2025. ANAMA reported that 1,783 submunitions were destroyed. This estimated clearance figure is an increase on the previous year; in 2025 Azerbaijan destroyed 1,099 fewer submunitions in polygons but over an estimated area 11.8km² greater than that estimated in 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Azerbaijan should commit to never again use cluster munitions and should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- ANAMA should work to establish a nationwide baseline of CMR-contaminated area using evidence-based non-technical survey (NTS) and technical survey (TS).
- ANAMA should ensure that CMR survey, clearance, and contamination data are disaggregated from data relating to other ERW and mines.
- Azerbaijan should allow cancellation of areas through NTS, which is not permitted under existing standards, and should revise its national mine action standards (NMAS, known as ANMAR) to allow this.
- ANAMA should elaborate a separate methodology for clearing CMR, distinct from BAC, ensuring that the footprint of a cluster strike is identified and that clearance is conducted to an appropriate fade-out distance.
- ANAMA should finalise and adopt a new draft mine action strategy to replace the one that expired in 2018, reflecting the significant increase in explosive ordnance (EO) contamination now under Azerbaijan's control.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA, formerly the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- ANAMA
- Ministry of Defence Humanitarian Demining Units
- Ministry of Emergency Situations
- Five national commercial demining companies, one of which has an international commercial sub-contractor:
 - Alpha Demining LLC
 - Azerbaijan Demining Company LLC
 - Delta Clearing Solutions partnering with Global Clearance Solutions
 - Qaya Safety Solutions
 - Safe Point CJSC
- International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF, an NGO based in Azerbaijan)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)*
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

* MAG went into operational suspension in May 2025, and since autumn 2025 has maintained only a legal presence in Azerbaijan. ** UNDP ceased operations in Azerbaijan in May 2025.

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Azerbaijan has not established a national baseline of areas suspected or confirmed to contain CMR. Unexploded submunitions comprise only a small proportion of total EO contamination, which Azerbaijan estimated at 9,201km² at the end of 2025 – down from an estimated 11,677km² of EO contamination at the end of 2020 (when Azerbaijan suggests that 13.4% of its territory was EO-contaminated) as a result of survey and clearance conducted in the intervening years.¹ While the precise extent of CMR contamination in Azerbaijan is significant, it is not believed to be exceptionally heavy. ANAMA does not disaggregate CMR clearance from clearance of other types of ERW or of mines in the area it reports as

released through TS and clearance. No CMR contamination was discovered and added to the database in 2025.²

ANAMA does, however, systematically categorise the type of EO destroyed during clearance, and records the number of CMR identified and destroyed by district.³ In 2025, ANAMA identified and destroyed 1,783 unexploded submunitions during TS and clearance of polygons totalling more than 63.6km².⁴ However, the area cleared was based on the total size of task polygons in which submunitions were found and therefore the size of CMR contamination was far smaller.

1 Email from Nariman Gasimov, Deputy Head of International Relations Department, ANAMA, 8 May 2026, 23 June and 2 July 2026; "Mine action as a humanitarian challenge in Azerbaijan", *Asia+*, 3 February 2026, <https://bit.ly/4vi000v>; Presentation by ANAMA at the International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors & UN Advisers (NDM29), Geneva, 24 April 2026.

2 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

ANAMA has in the past indicated an interest in establishing a national baseline of EO contamination through NTS,⁵ and there are no specific plans to develop a dedicated baseline survey for CMR. Clearance continues in accordance with the national work plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, according to which all types of EO are addressed without distinction. ANAMA asserts that due to extensive military activity across territories formerly occupied by Armenia, the precise nature and distribution of contamination is not known with any degree of precision.⁶ The former lines of contact (LOCs), which experienced prolonged fortification and military use, are considered high-risk and have been designated as confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs).⁷ Clearance has included certain areas along the former LOCs, particularly where land is needed for development, agricultural use, and safe return, but significant contamination remains.⁸

As at the end of 2024, ANAMA had assessed that along the former LOCs, almost 1,738km² was CHA as it was contaminated with some type of EO. At the end of 2025, less than 650km² of contaminated area was designated as CHA, and under 8,552km² was suspected hazardous area (SHA, an increase from 8,133km² in 2024⁹).¹⁰ According to ANAMA, these SHAs remain classified as such based on NTS conducted in previous years, as TS has not yet been conducted in these areas.¹¹ ANAMA confirms that NTS serves as the initial step in the identification process while TS is primarily used to confirm and further define contamination.¹² It says that CHA and SHA data should be seen as “dynamic”, and subject to regular revision based on the results of NTS, TS, and clearance.¹³ While the extent to which the identified CHAs/SHAs contain CMR is unknown, ANAMA has reported that overall, the extent of contamination is reducing as clearance progresses.¹⁴

CMR contamination resulted first from the 1988–94 conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and ammunition abandoned by the Soviet army in 1991. Following the cease-fire in 1994, tensions in April 2016 saw fighting along the then LOC, including renewed use of cluster munitions. There were intermittent attacks and use of heavy weaponry on the

front lines until 2020, when on 27 September, a fully-fledged international armed conflict restarted.¹⁵ Fierce fighting was ended by a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement, which came into effect on 10 November 2020. Under the agreement (the Trilateral Statement), Azerbaijan regained full control of the seven districts adjacent to the former Nagorno-Karabakh (now within Azerbaijan's Garabagh Economic Region¹⁶) as well as two thirds of the former Nagorno-Karabakh itself.¹⁷

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan used cluster munitions in the course of the six-week conflict in 2020. Human Rights Watch documented repeated use of LAR-160 cluster munition rockets and M095 dual-purpose submunitions by Azerbaijan in a civilian neighbourhood in Hadrut and Khankendi (called Stepanakert by Armenia).¹⁸ Azerbaijan denies using cluster munitions in the conflict.¹⁹ Another Human Rights Watch report described cluster munition use by Armenia in Barda, Goranboy, and Tartar districts, including Smerch rockets containing 9N235 submunitions.²⁰ Amnesty International documented four cluster munition strikes resulting in civilian casualties by Armenian forces in towns and villages in Azerbaijan in October 2020. These consisted of three strikes in Barda dispersing dozens of 9N235 submunitions and a fourth in Qarayusuflı.²¹

In addition to the cluster munitions reported by the media and humanitarian organisations, the Azerbaijan Campaign to Ban Landmines reported that the following types of cluster munitions were found in areas regained by Azerbaijan since the 2020 conflict: 9N-210, AO-2.5PTM, PTAB-1M, and ShOAB-05. Submunitions were found in the districts of Aghdam, Fuzuli, Tartar, and Yevlakh.²²

On 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a 24-hour large-scale military offensive.²³ As a result of the military action, Azerbaijan regained full control of the former Nagorno-Karabakh (which has formed part of Azerbaijan's Garabagh Economic Region since 7 July 2021), adding to cluster munition contamination already under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction and control.²⁴ No use of cluster munitions was reported during the September 2023 offensive.

5 Email from Samir Poladov, Deputy Chairman, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

6 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 23 June 2026.

11 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 23 June 2026.

12 Email from Nariman Gasimov, 8 May 2026.

13 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

14 Ibid.

15 International Crisis Group (ICG), “The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer”, Last updated 16 September 2023, <https://bit.ly/3uiOou2>.

16 The Garabagh Economic Region was established by decree of the President of Azerbaijan on 7 July 2021 as part of a reorganisation of Azerbaijan's economic regions. The capital, Baku, became its own separate economic region, and two new regions were created: Garabagh Economic Region (encompassing Khankendi city, as well as the regions of Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Barda, Fuzuli, Khojali, Khojavend, Shusha, and Tartar), and East Zangazur Economic Region (encompassing Jabrayil, Kalbajar, Lachin, Gubadli, and Zangilan). In this report, references to Nagorno-Karabakh relate to the historical area or to events occurring before the establishment of the Garabagh Economic Region.

17 ICG, “The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer.”

18 Human Rights Watch, “Azerbaijan: Cluster Munitions Used in Nagorno-Karabakh”, 23 October 2020, <https://bit.ly/3bT3QXE>.

19 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025; and online interview, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

20 Human Rights Watch, “Armenia: Cluster Munitions Kill Civilians in Azerbaijan”, 30 October 2020, <https://bit.ly/3wv4UIT>; and “Armenia: Cluster Munitions Used in Multiple Attacks on Azerbaijan”, 15 December 2020, <https://bit.ly/3vhYQ6v>.

21 Amnesty International, “In the Line of Fire”, Report, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3zHXp3H>, pp. 10–11.

22 Azerbaijan Campaign to Ban Landmines, “Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance Problem in The Liberated Territories of Azerbaijan”, Report, November 2022, pp. 1 and 3.

23 W. Landgraf and N. Seferian “A Frozen Conflict Boils Over: Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023 and Future Implications”, Report, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Eurasia Program, January 2024, <https://bit.ly/3wWwsgj>.

24 ICG, “The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer”, and “Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists”, BBC, 21 September 2023, <https://bbc.in/3rcVK0e>.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Many areas, including those formerly occupied by Armenia, are confirmed or suspected to contain ERW, both unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). These include former military testing areas and a former shooting range.²⁶ Azerbaijan is also contaminated with anti-personnel (AP) and anti-vehicle (AV) landmines, the precise extent of which is unknown, but is believed to be massive (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Azerbaijan for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

ANAMA (formerly the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action) was established by presidential decree in 1998. The Agency initiated demining operations in 2000. In February 2021, again by Presidential decree, ANAMA was restructured and given the status of a public legal entity as the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.²⁷ The rebranded ANAMA has the mandate to plan, coordinate, and oversee demining by national and international operators.²⁸ ANAMA has a national headquarters in Baku, two regional offices in Horadiz and Goygol, and mobile base camps operating in ten regions (Aghdam, Gubadli, Hadrut, Jabrayil, Khankendi, Khojavend, Lachin, and Zangilan, with Aghdara and Gazakh added since 2024) of the regained territories.²⁹ Goygol Regional Training Centre is the main demining training centre.³⁰

In February 2025, the Law on Demining Activities, which had been in development for several years, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was adopted.³¹ The Law, consisting of three sections and fourteen articles, regulates the organisation and implementation of mine clearance activities in the country. Mine clearance conducted by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces for national security and defence purposes are excluded from the Law, though ANAMA has run training for the Ministry of Defence on the scope of humanitarian demining to ensure safe and effective operations based on international standards.³²

Prior to the 2020 conflict, ANAMA conducted demining operations with two contracted national operators: Dayag-Relief Azerbaijan (RA) and the IEPF. In March 2020, RA's field personnel were incorporated within ANAMA while RA as an organisation continued to provide logistical support to

ANAMA.³³ Since the end of the 2020 conflict, both ANAMA and clearance operations have been rapidly scaled up to address the significant mine and ERW contamination that came under Azerbaijan's control. An interministerial mine action working group, chaired by ANAMA, has overall responsibility for coordinating the mine action programme, while ANAMA coordinates the work of operators.³⁴ The working group continued to meet regularly in 2025 (twenty times, including two meetings in the regions, in Jabrayil and Khankendi³⁵) and included Azerbaijan's most significant ministries, including defence, interior, and emergency situations, as well as the State Border Service.³⁶ It plays a central role in coordinating mine action activities, including survey and clearance operations, among national authorities and operational actors. Moreover, it serves as the primary mechanism for discussing progress, addressing challenges, and ensuring alignment with national priorities related to reconstruction and the "First State Program on the Great Return to the Liberated Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan" ("The Great Return Program" – see the section "Planning and Tasking" below).³⁷

Mine action is considered a national priority by the Government of Azerbaijan.³⁸ It was integrated into the Socio-Economic Development plan 2019–2023; has since been incorporated into the updated strategy, the "Social and Economic Development Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan 2022–2026"; and is considered a key contributor to meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).³⁹ Azerbaijan has adopted a national SDG 18 for mine action for safe return, settlement, recovery, prosperity and peace,⁴⁰ and has proposed a dedicated global SDG as part of the Agenda 2030 process.⁴¹

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

26 ANAMA, "Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action 2018", p. 17.

27 "Azerbaijan establishes Mine Action Agency", *APA news*, 15 January 2021, <https://bit.ly/35MhtEu>.

28 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.

29 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 2 July 2026.

30 Email from Ramil Azizov, Operations Manager, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.

31 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

32 "President Ilham Aliyev approves new law on mine action activities", *Azvision.az*, 3 February 2025, <https://bit.ly/3HEWV7e>; "Azerbaijan's Parliament adopts draft law 'On Demining Activities' in third reading", *apa.az*, 13 December 2024, <https://bit.ly/4kAwk9J>; and "ANAMA Trains Military On Humanitarian Mine Clearance", *menafn.com*, 4 March 2025, <https://bit.ly/4kYnX3>.

33 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 28 July 2020.

34 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

35 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

36 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023 and 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025; interview with Vugar Suleymanov, Chairman of the Board, ANAMA; and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

37 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

38 ANAMA, quarterly report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 3.

39 UNDP, "Gender Organisational Assessment of ANAMA", Report, February 2023, p. 10; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

40 Presentation by Huseyn Huseynov, Head of Department for Sustainable Development and Social Policy, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Aghdam, 24 May 2023.

41 ANAMA, Quarterly Update, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", October–December 2023, undated, p. 14.

ANAMA has identified direct funding as its most critical need for international assistance. Other priorities include procuring armoured heavy support machinery (bulldozers and excavators); explosive containment chambers; ground penetrating radar; and explosive materials transportation vehicles. ANAMA says that enhancing mechanical demining capabilities, including obtaining specialised equipment for uneven terrain; and mine detection dog (MDD) training are also priorities.⁴²

International partners provided a range of capacity-building support to ANAMA in 2025. In terms of training and operational capacity building, the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) delivered specialist training to ANAMA on mine clearance operations in forested and mountainous areas in 2025, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) plans to deploy a demining team to Azerbaijan in 2026. The Embassy of China in Azerbaijan has assisted the mine action programme with equipment, donating portable X-ray equipment in December 2025 (China has also provided funding for mine action, see below).⁴³

To support institutional strengthening and technical cooperation, ANAMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in July 2025, focusing on joint projects, experience exchange, and support in areas such as standards, operations, and sustainable development.⁴⁴ The GICHD has previously supported ANAMA with the installation of Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core and on innovation in mine action.⁴⁵ Similarly, under an MoU of November 2025, the Hungarian Mine Action Centre for Quality and Collaboration (HUNMAC-QC) is collaborating with ANAMA on strengthening quality assurance and quality control in line with international standards.⁴⁶

As regards the use of mine detection animals, the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) continued to provide MDDs to ANAMA under an MoU signed in 2025 to provide up to 30 dogs in 2025 and 2026. As at May 2026, MLI were on track to provide a total of 21 MDDs to ANAMA by the end of the year.⁴⁷ APOPO provided a total of 24 MDDs to Delta Clearing Solutions, Qaya

Safety Solutions, and SafePoint (collectively these dog teams searched a total of just under 3.6km² of EO-contaminated area in 2025).⁴⁸ In addition, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), through a project launched by APOPO in the final quarter of 2025, is supporting MDD capacity building, including the deployment of six ANAMA handlers to Cambodia for training. Of these six, four ANAMA staff members completed the MDD handlers' course, while two completed the MDD trainers' course.⁴⁹

UNDP continued to provide support to ANAMA until it ceased to operate in Azerbaijan on 2 May 2025.⁵⁰ This included a land release consultant, who built on an initial consultancy started in 2024 and reviewed release methodologies and standard operating procedures (SOPs), capacity development, and institutional strengthening of mine action practices in Azerbaijan.⁵¹ Another UNDP consultant assessed ANAMA's MDD programme and developed a capacity enhancement plan.⁵²

Following the statement of intent that ANAMA signed with UNDP in May 2024, various steps have been taken towards setting up an International Centre of Excellence in Training for Mine Action in Azerbaijan.⁵³ A comprehensive feasibility study has been conducted,⁵⁴ and a UNDP-engaged international expert produced a three-phase plan in 2025 that aimed for full operation from the middle of 2026.⁵⁵ The Centre is to provide national, regional, and international training and capacity building; and to promote research and innovation.⁵⁶ In May 2026, ANAMA said that work on a project document was ongoing, including coordination with relevant stakeholders and development partners. The project will be taken forward after the project documentation is approved.⁵⁷

Another UNDP-ANAMA project, launched in February 2024 covering 20 villages, with €4.25 million of European Union (EU) funding, concluded in March 2025.⁵⁸ The aims included enhancing local capacity, strengthening information management systems, and applying innovative solutions in demining operations.⁵⁹ A key achievement was the establishment of female demining teams, which were fully integrated into a local NGO's (IEPF) operations.⁶⁰

42 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 29 June 2026.

43 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026; and "Tajik specialists conduct mine clearance training for ANAMA personnel", *The Azerbaijan State News Agency*, 18 August 2025, <https://bit.ly/3RpRfCX>.

44 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026; and "ANAMA and GICHD sign memorandum to boost humanitarian mine action in Azerbaijan", *News.az*, 8 August 2025, <https://bit.ly/4dzmBj5>.

45 Email from Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, Regional Focal Point, GICHD, 2 May 2025.

46 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

47 Emails from Indre Sabaliunaite, Program Director, MLI, 23 March and 2 June 2026; and Nariman Gasimov, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

48 Emails from Mikael Bold, Program Manager, APOPO Dogs, 13 April and 16 June 2026; and Nariman Gasimov, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

49 Ibid.

50 "UNDP ceases its activity in Azerbaijan", *caliber.az*, 2 May 2025, <http://bit.ly/4IHLH0q>; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

51 Email from Qadeem Tariq, Mine Action Strategic Specialist, UNDP Azerbaijan, 31 March 2025.

52 Ibid.

53 "ANAMA, UNDP to set up Center of Excellence for combating mine threats", *News.az*, 30 May 2024, accessed 3 June 2024, <https://bit.ly/4b1tepX>; and email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.

54 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

55 Emails from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 31 March 2025; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 7 July 2025.

56 Ibid.; and Presentation by ANAMA at the International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors & UN Advisers (NDM28), Geneva, 11 April 2025.

57 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

58 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 7 July 2025.

59 "Azerbaijan faces huge de-mining challenge with little help from West", *Azernews*, 20 March 2024, <https://bit.ly/4aCxs7c>.

60 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) has provided a range of capacity building support to Azerbaijan in recent years, and continued to provide capacity building support to the IEPF until the end of February 2025, including team leader training for 14 IEPF deminers.⁶¹ However, MAG Azerbaijan went into a phased hibernation from the end of May until the end of summer due to administrative issues relating to its registration to work in Azerbaijan.⁶² Since this time, MAG has maintained only a legal presence in Azerbaijan.⁶³

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In 2025, the national authorities allocated US\$102 million to ANAMA⁶⁴ a decrease from the US\$114.6 million it allocated to ANAMA in 2024, for both running costs and capital expenditure.⁶⁵ The Azerbaijani government has funded most of ANAMA's running costs in recent years, as well as survey and clearance. The national contribution to running costs was expected to increase by 1.2% in 2025, to almost US\$50 million but actually increased by 14%.⁶⁶

In 2025, funding for mine clearance from foreign donors remained at approximately 5% of total demining funding, and by May 2026, this had decreased to 4%.⁶⁷ ANAMA continues to work towards securing new funders, welcoming potential donors and organisations interested in contributing to mine action in Azerbaijan.⁶⁸ It has held various conferences to attract interest and share good practice,⁶⁹ and held its third international conference together with UNDP, in May 2024.⁷⁰ Its fourth conference, "Humanitarian Demining for Urban Recovery: Setting Standards of Excellence for Safe Settlements" is planned for September 2026.⁷¹ ANAMA indicated that, at the end of 2025, 13 donor countries support mine action in Azerbaijan, as do 11 international organisations.⁷²

The European Union and its Member States are the leading international donors for humanitarian demining in Azerbaijan.⁷³ The "Team Europe Initiative on Mine Action in Azerbaijan" was announced on 3 May 2024, when the EU was

It was reported in 2025 that amendments to broader national regulations and national compliance could improve the potential of demining NGOs to attract international funding, thereby contributing to an enabling environment for mine action. Examples of where improvements could be made include ensuring timely approvals for national NGOs to receive international funding and timely registration renewals and MoUs for international operators.

expected to contribute a total of around €13 million to mine action in Azerbaijan during the year.⁷⁴ In December 2025, the EU and the Azerbaijan Ministry of Economy signed the "Support for Mine Action and Sustainable Development in the Water and Transport Sectors in Azerbaijan" agreement, which included an initial allocation of €5 million of support for mine action activities, including capacity-building and institutional strengthening of ANAMA.⁷⁵ The European Union has also indicated its intention to provide financial assistance for mine action-related activities through ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF).⁷⁶ In May 2026, Team Europe's total support was reported to have reached €22 million, with €10 million allocated to demining equipment and to the International Centre of Excellence for Mine Action.⁷⁷ In addition in 2025, Italy confirmed its intention to support mine action activities in Azerbaijan through a dedicated project.⁷⁸

Other funding came from China in 2025, under an MoU on "Strengthening Humanitarian Mine Action Cooperation between the ANAMA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China," signed on 23 April 2025, and China donated approximately US\$324,541 to ANAMA.⁷⁹ Media sources indicate other potential donors including the United States, which may provide financial support and technology.⁸⁰

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Azerbaijan on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.⁸¹

61 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, Country Director, MAG Azerbaijan, 24 June 2025.

62 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG Azerbaijan, 24 June 2025; and Jessica Hyland, Regional Director – Eastern Europe, MAG, 26 June 2025.

63 Email from Jessica Hyland, MAG, 17 March 2026.

64 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

65 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, 8 May 2026 and 7 July 2025; and "Azerbaijan increases funding for Mine Action Agency in 2025 Budget", *Azernews*, 27 June 2024, <https://bit.ly/43FPXar>.

66 "Azerbaijan increases funding for Mine Action Agency in 2025 Budget"; and emails from Nariman Gasimov, 7 July 2025 and 14 June 2026.

67 "Farid Shafiyev: Azerbaijan is among the top five countries for landmine contamination", *Azertac*, 5 April 2025, <https://bit.ly/45msUTs>; "Shafiyev points to insufficient donor support for demining in Azerbaijan", *aze.media*, 5 April 2025, <https://bit.ly/4e0ylcZ>; and emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA 7 July 2025 and 12 June 2026.

68 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 12; ANAMA, Quarterly Update, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", October–December 2023, undated, pp. 11 and 15; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

69 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.

70 Ibid.

71 "Humanitarian Demining for Urban Recovery: Setting Standards of Excellence for Safe Settlements", 2–3 September 2026, at <https://bit.ly/4nXw33k>.

72 "Mine action as a humanitarian challenge in Azerbaijan", *Asia+*, 3 February 2026; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

73 "Hipper: EU ready to expand support for demining in Azerbaijan – EXCLUSIVE", *Report Informasiya Agentliyi*, 17 April 2026, <https://bit.ly/3S5JWjR>.

74 EU, "Launch of Team Europe Initiative on Mine Action in Azerbaijan", 3 May 2024, <https://bit.ly/431Rd6l>.

75 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

76 Ibid.

77 "EU ambassador: Negotiations underway on new project aimed at strengthening ANAMA's capabilities", *apa*, 22 May 2026, <https://bit.ly/3PU2If1>.

78 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

79 Ibid.

80 "US to expand humanitarian demining cooperation with Azerbaijan", *Operative Information Centre*, 10 February 2026, <https://bit.ly/4vgSG58>.

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

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

While the Azerbaijani Labour Code denounces any type of discrimination in labour relations, including between men and women, it does include so-called “protective measures” which legally prohibit women from being hired into a wide array of jobs. Traditional norms and gender stereotyping also lead to women and men not being equally included at different organisational levels. A UNDP assessment underlined the fact that concerns over women’s reproductive health (for example, regarding pregnancy) are deeply rooted in cultural norms intended to protect women rather than exclude them. However, these norms, despite being well-intentioned, still create barriers to women’s participation in the labour force.⁸²

In the mine action sector, a Gender Policy and Strategy, developed by UNDP since 2022, was being implemented in 2024.⁸³ A UNDP consultant on gender issues supported ANAMA in implementing the strategy in 2024 and developed a dashboard for monitoring,⁸⁴ and UNDP Uzbekistan seconded

its gender specialist to Azerbaijan to deliver gender training for UNDP staff.⁸⁵ According to ANAMA, gender and diversity are integrated into mine action in Azerbaijan, and ANAMA is keen to increase female demining team capacity and to employ injured people and people with disabilities.⁸⁶ In 2026, however, ANAMA said that gender and diversity were not integrated into any national mine action strategy (though there is no current strategy dedicated to mine action), and neither does Azerbaijan have a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan.⁸⁷

As at the end of 2025, the number of women in operational positions at ANAMA remained very low (the breakdown of female staff working for other operators was not available⁸⁸).⁸⁹ Nevertheless, this is a considerable improvement on the situation three years earlier when no women were trained in demining in Azerbaijan,⁹⁰ and where at ANAMA, women had historically been concentrated in administrative roles at its Baku headquarters.

Table 1: Gender composition of ANAMA (at end 2025)⁹¹

Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
2,829	194 (7%)	397	7 (2%)	2,335	33 (1%) (18 deminers, 4 handlers, and 11 paramedics (including 2 IEPF paramedics))

Two women-only demining teams were operating in IEPF in 2025 under the ANAMA umbrella.⁹² Female demining capacity has increased in recent years in large part through the EU-UNDP funded 2023 project whereby MAG, in partnership with IEPF, supported ANAMA in deploying two fully equipped women-only multi-task teams conducting mine clearance, BAC, NTS, TS, animal detection systems (with APOPO providing support with animal detection systems including MDDs and mine detection rats (MDRs)⁹³), and risk education.⁹⁴ Furthermore, MAG trained the first seven female demining team leaders as part of its training of 14 new team leaders in 2024, all of whom received accreditation.⁹⁵ ANAMA confirmed that women participated for the first time in 2024 in the training for MDD handling.⁹⁶ Moreover, two female ANAMA MDD handlers, participated in a four-month basic

humanitarian demining and dog handler training in Cambodia from the end of November 2025.⁹⁷

According to ANAMA, operations, survey and community liaison personnel are mostly from affected communities, and there are no restrictions on the basis of ethnicity or religious affiliation. Mine action data continues to be collected and disaggregated in accordance with the adopted SOPs, including by date, location, age, and gender. There are no restrictions on access or participation based on ethnicity or religious affiliation. ANAMA has highlighted that risk education and awareness teams, which include volunteer groups, are inclusive and age- and gender-mixed.⁹⁸

82 UNDP, “Gender Organisational Assessment of ANAMA”, Report, February 2023, p. 4.

83 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023 and 20 May 2024.

84 Email from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 9 September 2024.

85 Email from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 31 March 2025.

86 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.

87 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

88 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 8 July 2025.

89 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

90 ANAMA, Quarterly Report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, p. 11; and interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

91 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

92 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 12 June 2026.

93 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO Dogs, 30 April 2025; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

94 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 16 May and 3 July 2023; online interview with Greg Crowther, Director of Programmes, MAG, 26 July 2023; UNDP, “Gender Organisational Assessment of Mine Action Agency of ANAMA”, Report, February 2023, p. 11; and “I have no regrets: the Azerbaijani women trained to clear mines”, *EU Neighbours East*, 18 March 2024, <https://bit.ly/3UY0Lv8>.

95 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG Azerbaijan, 24 June 2025.

96 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

97 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

98 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 12 June 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

ANAMA recognises the paramount importance of environmental management in demining.⁹⁹ It has developed an environmental management policy that guides all mine action operations in accordance with both national legislation and international best practice.¹⁰⁰ Climate and environmental considerations are reported to be integrated into Azerbaijan's operational work plans. These considerations are said to be reflected in task prioritisation, planning processes, and field-level operational procedures.¹⁰¹

Azerbaijan approved the revised ANMAR in 2025 (see the section below "Standards and Land Release Efficiency").¹⁰² These included a dedicated chapter on environmental protection,¹⁰³ and the standard for environmental management in mine activities has been revised to align with the International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13 (second edition, July 3, 2024).¹⁰⁴ ANAMA has also developed an SOP incorporating guidelines from IMAS 07.13.¹⁰⁵

According to the ANMAR (drafted in 2022), "the national programme sought "to ensure that the environment is not degraded by mine action work and land is returned in a state that is similar to, or where possible better than, before mine action operations commenced, and that permits its

intended use." The environmental protection chapter includes information on Azerbaijan's mine action environmental management system and requirements for the identification, assessment, and mitigation of environmental aspects. These include waste disposal, water supplies, burning and removal of vegetation, animals, open burning and demolition, environmental aspects of mechanical demining, and completion and remediation. Moreover, measures are in place to ensure IMAS compliant procedures for the discharge of drainage water, the gathering of munition remnants, and the inspection and restoration of craters caused by detonations.¹⁰⁶ Geographic characteristics and seasonal conditions in each region are considered to ensure effective operations.¹⁰⁷

During TS and clearance, demining experts are required to work with environmental specialists to assess environmental impact operations and minimise harm.¹⁰⁸ This includes close cooperation with the regional branches of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to ensure compliance with national environmental standards and to address region-specific environmental sensitivities in mine action operations.¹⁰⁹

Table 2: Environmental policies and action for ANAMA¹¹⁰

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

The Government of Azerbaijan can also require the conduct of a formal environmental impact assessment (EIA) in relation to large or publicly significant mine action projects, or those that will take place in areas of known environmental vulnerability.¹¹¹ It routinely applies environmental considerations such as drainage water control and mitigation

of environmental disruption during clearance.¹¹² It has taken additional steps to minimise environmental harm, establishing designated waste collection centres in all operational regions for the environmentally safe collection of ERW, including CMR.¹¹³

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Azerbaijan's recently adopted, national mine action standards included establishing a single, unified, information management (IM) system, which ANAMA had already been implementing for several years.¹¹⁴ By January 2025, the transition to IMSMA Core had been completed, with the previous system (IMSMA Legacy) remaining accessible in parallel for reference and data verification purposes. The adoption of IMSMA Core is said to have significantly enhanced the efficiency of data processing by introducing greater automation and improving the accuracy and timeliness of reporting.¹¹⁵

99 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.
100 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
101 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 8 May 2026.
102 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
103 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.
104 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
105 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.
106 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
107 Ibid.
108 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.
109 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
110 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 8 May 2026.
111 ANMAR, Section IV Management Systems, Chapter 9: Environmental Protection.
112 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
113 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 8 May 2026.
114 Presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.
115 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

In 2025, ANAMA continued to implement measures to ensure and improve the quality of data in the mine action database. Continuous quality control remains a priority, and efforts to further refine and optimise data validation and management processes are ongoing.¹¹⁶

PLANNING AND TASKING

ANAMA is guided by the following key documents, issued at cabinet level, which together influence clearance and EORE priorities: "The Great Return Program"; "Azerbaijan-2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development", and "The Socio-Economic Development Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan 2022-2026".¹¹⁷ Clearance is directed by the annually approved "Plan for the Clearance of the Liberated Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as "Other Areas Affected by War and Military Operations from Landmines, Unexploded Ordnance, Devices Containing Explosives, and Other Explosive Remnants", endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers.¹¹⁸

The last adopted mine action strategy was for 2013-18. Its main aims were to continue mine and ERW clearance in support of government development projects and to provide safe conditions for the local population in affected regions.¹¹⁹ In March 2023, UNDP indicated that it had developed a new mine action strategy, though it was reported at the time that ANAMA was working on a second strategy with the government.¹²⁰ In 2025, work was underway to develop a new strategic document, "The Mine Action Roadmap 2035" with the timeline for finalisation and adoption still to be determined.¹²¹ The Roadmap had not been launched as at May 2026, when ANAMA reported that it would work within the framework of the "The Second Great Return Program" (2027-2030) for the next four years, which as at June 2026 had yet to be formally adopted.¹²²

The draft mine action strategy of 2023 had called for an increase in clearance capacity so as to eventually achieve annual clearance output of 650km².¹²³ This included all forms of EO clearance, as well as visual search of battle areas. According to ANAMA, all tasks are subject to TS during which a certain percentage is physically cleared. If no evidence of landmines is found, the remaining area of the polygon is systematically searched mainly with a quick visual search supported by magnetometers.¹²⁴ ANAMA predicted that, over the long term, this level of output would not be maintained once high-priority areas had been cleared and only low

threat/priority areas remained.¹²⁵ Azerbaijan currently maintains high levels of EO clearance. In line with the plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, Azerbaijan aimed to release almost 651km² of EO-contaminated area in 2025,¹²⁶ and exceeded its target, clearing a total of 692km². For 2026, the general clearance plan covers approximately 650.3km² of land, after which, according to the Second Great Return Program (2027-30), the plan will be to clear 650km² annually.¹²⁷

ANAMA coordinates the activities of several State implementing agencies, NGOs, and commercial contractors to implement its work plans.¹²⁸ ANAMA performs NTS of each project area/polygon prior to tasking operators on TS and clearance.¹²⁹ As part of the NTS process, ANAMA collates information through interviews with locals and with the personnel of construction companies, although limited data is typically obtained from members of newly resettled communities. ANAMA also works in close collaboration with the military and consults minefield records, survey and clearance data, and incident data when available.¹³⁰ While the results of NTS do inform decisions on clearance methodologies for each task, NTS is not typically used to prioritise the tasking of polygons for TS and clearance. Instead, polygons are mostly selected and prioritised by the Cabinet of Ministers based on rehabilitation and reconstruction plans.

According to a report by ANAMA in early 2023, in accordance with its policy of ensuring the return of IDPs, the government prioritises demining of areas of high importance such as main access roads, key infrastructure (highways, railroads, and electricity lines), agriculture, and planned residential areas.¹³¹ Thus, highly contaminated areas are not necessarily a high priority for clearance. According to ANAMA, much of the former LOC with Armenian forces will not be cleared for years, with the exception of areas where construction of roads, railway lines, and power lines or other infrastructure are required.¹³²

116 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

117 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.

118 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

119 Email from Sabina Sarkarova, ANAMA, 2 May 2018.

120 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

121 Emails from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 31 March 2025; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

122 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

123 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 10.

124 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.

125 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 10; and interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

126 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May and 24 June 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025; and presentation by ANAMA, 27th NDM, Geneva, 30 April 2024.

127 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

128 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 9.

129 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023; and email from Ramil Azizov, 22 July 2024.

130 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.

131 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, pp. 3, 5, and 8.

132 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

Survey and clearance are conducted within the framework of the general annual clearance plan. Tasking is carried out based on requests from relevant government institutions, in line with reconstruction, rehabilitation, and resettlement priorities under the Great Return Program. In 2026, priority areas continued to include residential infrastructure, agricultural lands, energy infrastructure, and road networks. The specific nature of contamination continues to be determined through TS and subsequent clearance operations in assigned areas.¹³³

A coordination headquarters has been created by the Government of Azerbaijan, with an Interagency Centre operating under the supervision of the Presidential Administration. Within this framework, the Working Group on Mine and ERW Clearance plays a central role in coordinating mine action activities. In addition, ANAMA has established an internal Methodological Commission consisting of the heads of relevant departments, divisions, and units within ANAMA.¹³⁴ The Commission is responsible for reviewing the scope, form, and timeline of planned operations and makes recommendations on tasking following internal discussions among representatives of relevant ANAMA departments and structural units.¹³⁵

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In 2025, the new ANMAR, which had been in development for several years, were formally adopted under Cabinet of Ministers Decisions No. 271 dated 18 September 2025, on the "Requirements for Mine Clearance Activities"; No. 321 dated 28 October 2025, on the "Rules for conducting assessment (accreditation) for the implementation of demining activities"; and No. 346 dated 27 November 2025, on the "Rules for conducting training on standard operating procedures for demining personnel".¹³⁶

UNDP consultants engaged at the start of 2025 worked to align the draft ANMAR with the new legal framework introduced by the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities (February 2025) prior to their adoption.¹³⁷ ANAMA's Methodological Commission is responsible for the development and revision of SOPs, and for ensuring that clearance operations are conducted in accordance with the SOPs.¹³⁸ Updates to the ANMAR and SOPs are reported to be undertaken in close consultation with operators.¹³⁹ No updates to the SOP on survey and clearance of CMR were required in 2025.¹⁴⁰

The new ANMAR formally replace the old version, which were previously revised in line with IMAS In 2021, and again in 2023.¹⁴¹ UNDP considered that the ANMAR revised in 2023 were in line with IMAS, but that more work was needed on the conduct of NTS and the disaggregation of data.¹⁴² Various organisations have been involved in the revision of the ANMAR since 2023. ANAMA, UNDP, and MAG began supporting the evaluation and revision of 29 mine action SOPs for the revised national standards.¹⁴³ ANAMA reported

that in December 2024, it re-developed 29 of 30 SOPs reviewed in the earlier process as part of the technical adaptation process, and made some fundamental changes.¹⁴⁴ While the revised ANMAR of 2023 were provided to all operators, they were never formally adopted by the government.¹⁴⁵

There is no indication that ANAMA will start using NTS to cancel SHA in the near future. ANAMA reports that while information gathered through NTS plays an important role in understanding of contamination, cancelling areas and assessing contamination solely on the basis of NTS remains highly challenging in the Azerbaijani context. Operational experience is reported to indicate that even in areas where NTS suggests there is no contamination, anti-personnel (AP) mines and UXO are frequently discovered during subsequent clearance or other technical interventions. As a result, ANAMA does not routinely cancel areas through NTS alone but, as mentioned, it serves as an initial step in the identification process and is used to prioritise the "reduction of threat", while the primary basis for the confirmation and delineation of CHAs and SHAs is TS, which provides evidence-based verification of contamination.¹⁴⁶

One of the challenges of conducting NTS in the regained territories is that many of the areas are unpopulated and therefore no local communities can serve as key informants on contamination.¹⁴⁷ According to ANAMA, all mine incidents (including those involving military personnel) are plotted in maps, which can serve as evidence points. ANAMA says, however, that the demand for clearance is so high that TS cannot be conducted each time there is an incident involving

133 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

134 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

135 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 29 June 2026.

136 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

137 Email from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 31 March 2025.

138 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

139 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

140 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

141 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.

142 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.

143 Emails from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 16 May 2023 and 24 June 2025; and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 25 June 2024; and interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

144 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 7 July 2025.

145 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

146 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 8 May 2026.

147 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

a munition.¹⁴⁸ All areas identified for intervention are subject to full clearance in accordance with applicable standards.¹⁴⁹

ANAMA considers planned land use in its prioritisation and tasking, and all clearance is conducted to three metres depth in the plots where foundations will be laid for construction.¹⁵⁰ Clearance has not, been conducted to full fade-out in case of CMR being found, so if contamination extends beyond the polygon boundary tasked to the operator, it is not addressed as part of that task.¹⁵¹ This means there is a risk of losing valuable information on the exact location and footprint of cluster munition strikes as the full footprint is not cleared at the time. In 2026, however, ANAMA reported each area subject to intervention is fully cleared to full fade-out,¹⁵² and has previously said that the coordinates of all CMR

discovered are carefully recorded and plotted on a map and saved for future reference.¹⁵³

ANAMA has started fencing off hazardous areas, primarily those along the former contact lines, which are considered as CHAs due to the high level and complexity of contamination.¹⁵⁴ Previously only hazard signs were placed at the edge of each polygon and fencing was not consistently used, even when EO contamination was known to continue beyond the edge of cleared polygons.¹⁵⁵ However, around 60% of injuries and fatalities (previously about 70%¹⁵⁶) have occurred in areas outside the line of contact, including in cemeteries, agricultural areas, buildings, forests, and around water sources, so preventive actions have been considered in such areas in recent years.¹⁵⁷

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

CMR survey and clearance are covered in ANAMA's overall training programme and no clearance personnel are dedicated to CMR operations. While the organisational structure grew in 2025, the total number of operational personnel reportedly dropped. ANAMA, however, notes that staff numbers are dynamic and vary during the year. It says that the number of personnel have generally continued to grow.¹⁵⁸ At the end of 2025, Azerbaijan's total operational capacity for addressing all EO consisted of 1,955 personnel (315 survey staff, most of whom conducted both NTS and TS, and 1,640 deminers – down from a total operational capacity of 2,485 in 2024); 208 MDDs (up from 182 in 2024); and 92 mine clearance machines (up from 87 in 2024). See Tables 3 and 4 for details.¹⁵⁹

In 2025, the State Border Service stopped undertaking survey and clearance. Delta Clearing Solutions was a new operator for survey and clearance. In contrast to the year before, in 2025, the Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Emergency Situations had teams dedicated to TS, while Qaya Safety Solutions had teams dedicated to NTS and TS as well as clearance.¹⁶⁰

Azerbaijan increased its use of mechanical assets in EO clearance operations in 2025, with some assets produced domestically.¹⁶¹ Due to funding constraints, APOPO's 11 mine detection rats (MDRs) were not operational in Azerbaijan in 2025 (as they had been in 2024). There are, however, ongoing efforts to mobilize resources, with the objective of deploying these assets in 2026 and the UK funding announced in December 2025 will train ANAMA personnel to use mine detection rats in 2026.¹⁶²

Table 3: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed for all explosive ordnance in 2025¹⁶³

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS teams	TS personnel	Total survey personnel	Comments
Alpha Demining	N/A	N/A	3	18	18	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
ANAMA	N/A	N/A	27	102	102	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
Delta Clearing Solutions	N/A	N/A	1	3	3	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
IEPF	N/A	N/A	2	15	15	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
Ministry of Defence	N/A	N/A	4	19	19	

¹⁴⁸ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

¹⁴⁹ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁵⁰ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023; and emails from Ramil Azizov, 19 July 2023; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 12 June 2026.

¹⁵¹ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

¹⁵² Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

¹⁵³ Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.

¹⁵⁴ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 8 May 2026.

¹⁵⁵ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

¹⁵⁶ Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.

¹⁵⁷ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 29 June 2026.

¹⁵⁸ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 12 June 2026.

¹⁵⁹ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026 and 7 July 2025.

¹⁶⁰ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

¹⁶¹ "Machines take over one of the world's most dangerous jobs – clearing landmines", AOL, 2 March 2026, <https://bit.ly/4ZZZojS>.

¹⁶² Emails from Mikael Bold, 13 April 2026; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025; and "Britain launches new project to support mine clearance in Azerbaijan", *apa*, 5 December 2025.

¹⁶³ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June, and 8 and 9 July 2025.

Table 3 continued

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS teams	TS personnel	Total survey personnel	Comments
Ministry of Emergency Situations	1	3	2	12	15	
Qaya Safety Solutions	1	10	10	75	85	
Safe Point	N/A	N/A	6	58	58	
Totals	2	13	55		302	

ANAMA did not use Remote Aerial Minefield Survey (RAMS) multispectral data analysis in 2024, which it had used in 2023, to identify suspected areas as part of establishing a baseline survey, collecting information on mines and ERW, and other information, such as the location of trenches and military positions.¹⁶⁴ However, ANAMA continues to receive proposals and to explore emerging remote sensing technologies¹⁶⁵ and has used advanced equipment and technology, including

high-precision mine detectors capable of identifying metal objects buried up to six metres underground.¹⁶⁶ In 2025, Azerbaijan increased its use technology in survey and clearance operations.¹⁶⁷ Drones were used for survey to improve area assessment and mapping, while X-ray devices were used during the clearance of buildings to safely identify explosive hazards. These technologies are reported to enhance both safety and efficiency.¹⁶⁸

Table 4: Operational clearance capacities deployed for all explosive ordnance (at end 2025)¹⁶⁹

Operator	Clearance teams	Operational staff	MDD Teams (dogs/handlers)	Total deminers (including MDD handlers)	Machines	Comments
ANAMA	27	1,019	3 (143/108)	1,127	57	
Alpha Demining	9	65	2 (20/15)	80	2	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Azerbaijan Demining Company	5	45	1 (7/6)	51	3	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Delta Clearing Solutions	5	38	1 (6/3)	41	2	
IEPF	2	95	1 (0/4)	99		ANAMA supported IEPF with MDDs and machines.
Ministry of Defence	4	100	1 (9/4)	104	19	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Ministry of Emergency Situations	4	22	1 (5/5)	27	4	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Qaya Safety Solutions	5	60	4 (8/4)	64	3	
Safe Point	4	32	5 (10/15)	37	2	
Totals	65	1,476	19 (208/164)	1,60	92	

ANAMA is responsible for accrediting, training, and monitoring all mine action operators, including State actors involved in demining.¹⁷⁰ As at December 2025, one national commercial demining company, Delta Clearing Solutions (a new operator in Azerbaijan in 2025), was partnering international commercial clearing company, Global Clearance Solutions (GCS). For the last few years,

two national commercial demining companies each worked with an international commercial sub-contractor, to assist with operational planning and help build capacity (Qaya Safety Solutions, partnering with SafeLane Global, and the Azerbaijan Demining Company, partnering with Piper)¹⁷¹ which now work independently.

¹⁶⁴ Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025; and interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.

¹⁶⁵ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁶⁶ "ANAMA using cutting-edge technology to detect and clear landmines, unexploded ordnance", *caliber.az*, 29 May 2025, <https://bit.ly/44ITPwD>.

¹⁶⁷ "Personnel of Emergency Situations Ministry equipped with special demining robots", *Report Informasiya Agentliyi*, 17 February 2026, <https://bit.ly/3RC2ckT>.

¹⁶⁸ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

¹⁶⁹ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

¹⁷⁰ ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.

¹⁷¹ Interviews with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 8 May 2026.

All data are reported and entered into ANAMA's IMSMA database. ANAMA's quality management system operates through a structured framework encompassing accreditation, internal and external monitoring, and quality control (QC) mechanisms.¹⁷² ANAMA conducts monitoring and quality assurance (QA) for operators and issues hand-over

certificates after QA.¹⁷³ It has an Operational Capability Assessment Division (two staff), a Monitoring Division (with three staff), and an External Quality Control Division (three staff). In addition, there is an External Quality Inspection team (79 personnel), and an External Monitoring team (nine personnel).¹⁷⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

ANAMA reported a total of more than 63.6km² of hazardous area where CMR were found and land released through TS and clearance in 2025, with the destruction of 1,783 submunitions.¹⁷⁵ ANAMA did not provide disaggregated data for land released through TS and land released through clearance for 2025.¹⁷⁶ No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through NTS in 2025, as Azerbaijan does not use NTS for land release.¹⁷⁷ However, as noted above, the claimed CMR-contaminated area released in 2025 corresponds to the total size of tasks (polygons) in which submunitions were found. Therefore, the size of the actual CMR contamination (i.e. the contaminated area resulting from cluster munition strikes) addressed, is far smaller.

Table 5: Land release outputs in 2025¹⁷⁸

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (km ²)	Comments
Clearance	13	Mine Action Review estimate
Technical Survey	0	
Non-Technical Survey	0	
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	Comments
Submunitions destroyed	1,783	

SURVEY IN 2025

While ANAMA did conduct TS in 2025, it did not disaggregate land released through TS from land released through clearance.¹⁷⁹ No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through NTS in 2025 or 2024 in Azerbaijan, for reasons already outlined.

CLEARANCE IN 2025

ANAMA reported that less than 64km² of polygons containing CMR were released in 2025 with the destruction of 1,783 CMR.¹⁸⁰ This compares to 2024, when ANAMA reported that 2,882 submunitions were discovered during TS and clearance of polygons totalling 51.8km².¹⁸¹ Thus, although more land was cleared in 2025, 1,099 fewer CMR were cleared. ANAMA says that the increase in the area cleared was primarily due to a higher level of tasking assigned to clearance teams, which led to an increased volume of operations.¹⁸²

To avoid inflating CMR data clearance, Mine Action Review estimated that the amount of land actually containing CMR that was released through TS and clearance in 2025 was 13km², one square kilometre more than the MAR estimate of 12km² of CMR-contaminated area released in 2024. The table below summarises reported 2025 land release of CMR-contaminated area through clearance and TS combined, disaggregated by district. In addition, a total of 4,587 AP mines and 39,680 items of UXO were destroyed across the same districts.¹⁸³

¹⁷² Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁷³ Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.

¹⁷⁴ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 12 June 2026.

¹⁷⁵ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁷⁸ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

¹⁷⁹ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 8 May 2025.

¹⁸⁰ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

¹⁸¹ Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁸² Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

¹⁸³ Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026 and 7 June 2025.

Table 6: Reported land release through clearance and TS of polygons containing CMR in 2025^{*184}

District	CHAs/SHAs	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed
Aghdam	9	18,866,715	201
Aghdara	7	6,956,125	117
Fuzuli	23	9,709,406	323
Jabrayil	11	17,253,099	679
Khojaly, Khankendi city	9	4,425,282	35
Khojavend	7	3,341,486	16
Lachin	4	2,463,832	401
Gubadli	1	405,395	9
Shusha	1	186,190	2
Totals	72	63,607,530	1,783

* In addition, a total of 4,587 AP mines and 39,680 items of UXO were destroyed across the same districts.¹⁸⁵

A range of mechanical assets and MDDs were deployed in Azerbaijan in 2025. Clearance of CMR continued to include visual and sub-surface clearance in 2025. Depending on the level of contamination, each cluster munition strike is addressed according to the footprint method within a radius of up to 25 metres around it.¹⁸⁶ As ANAMA does not conduct tasks specifically targeting CMR, no disaggregated data are available for tasks cleared that were suspected of containing only CMR but yielded none.¹⁸⁷

DEMINER SAFETY

ANAMA reported that, in 2025, there were four demining accidents in which four ANAMA personnel were injured, but these occurred as a result of AP mine explosions, not CMR explosions. All accidents are immediately investigated by an internal investigation team and the causes shared among clearance operators. Accidents are also investigated and evaluated by the relevant state entity (the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection or Labour Protection Agency).¹⁸⁸ Media reports of casualties from landmines among ANAMA personnel, including at least one fatality, continued into 2026.¹⁸⁹

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Azerbaijan has yet to join the CCM. It should do as a matter of priority. In May 2019, Azerbaijan had stated that it would only accede to the Convention once all of its territories are liberated from occupation by Armenia and all IDPs and refugees return to their lands.¹⁹⁰ Developments on such matters are ongoing. In August 2025, Azerbaijan and Armenia, initialled a draft peace agreement,¹⁹¹ and efforts towards border delimitation continue.¹⁹²

No target date has been set for the completion of CMR clearance in Azerbaijan, as the extent of CMR contamination remains unknown.¹⁹³ As indicated above, clearance operations are not conducted as separate tasks targeting CMR, as contamination in the regained territories is largely undifferentiated. The exact locations or boundaries of CMR-contamination are unknown, and there is no reliable data distinguishing CMR from other EO.¹⁹⁴ Overall, based on government data, international experts estimate that it will take nearly 30 years and US\$25 billion to address all of the country's demining challenges.¹⁹⁵

184 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

185 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

186 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.

187 Ibid.

188 Ibid.

189 Humanitarian worker injured in landmine explosion in Ağdara's Qızıloba village", *Azernews*, 11 January 2026, <https://bit.ly/433A8t4>; "ANAMA employee injured in mine incident in Khojaly", *Report İnformasiya Agentliyi*, 18 February 2026, <https://bit.ly/49IX8qP>; and "Azerbaijani demining worker killed in mine explosion", OC Media, 15 April 2026, <https://bit.ly/4nTeLnX>.

190 Email from Sabina Sarkarova, ANAMA, 21 May 2019.

191 "Mine action as a confidence-building mechanism in the South Caucasus", *commonsplace.eu*, 26 March 2026, <https://bit.ly/4vi6s7M>.

192 Ibid.; and "Armenia and Azerbaijan border delimitation talks in Azerbaijan", OC Media, 1 December 2025, <https://bit.ly/4swXa61>.

193 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

194 Ibid.

195 "Civilians Injured in Azerbaijan as Armenian Mine Threat Persists", *caspiannews.com*, 2 June 2025, <https://bit.ly/3ZpHtlI>; and "President Aliyev Highlights Reconstruction Progress, Mine Threat in Liberated Lands", 21 April 2026, <https://bit.ly/4dBvety>.

Furthermore, there is currently no prioritisation of clearance tasks based on the type of contamination (e.g. prioritising CMR clearance, over clearance of other types of ERW). All clearance is conducted in accordance with the national work plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers within the framework of the "The Great Return Program", with the "Second Great Return Program" due to take effect in 2027. As such, clearance priorities are determined based on broader humanitarian and reconstruction needs—clearing land to enable the return of IDPs to the regained territories—rather than the type of contamination.¹⁹⁶ This has reportedly included giving priority to demining the Karabakh and East Zangazur regions.¹⁹⁷

In order to plan and address CMR contamination effectively, ANAMA must first quantify the problem. Establishing an accurate baseline of CMR contamination, however, is still a long way off, and Azerbaijan has yet to commit to do this. In addition, ANAMA struggles to disaggregate CMR from other types of ERW, in both data on the extent of contamination and data on the amount of land released. This is something that ANAMA has previously said that it will seek to improve as it strengthens its IM system and reporting,¹⁹⁸ but to date the issue does not appear to have been prioritised.

ANAMA continues to make impressive progress in rapidly scaling up and maintaining clearance, and the process is nationally led, drawing on international expertise for capacity development, such as UNDP (until May 2025) and MAG (until May 2025). Systems to support the huge upscaling of the mine action programme in Azerbaijan, such as the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities, the elaboration of revised national mine action standards, and the adoption of IMSMA Core are now in place. Applying efficient, evidence-based survey and clearance methodology, supported by strong national standards and a good IM and QM system, will be pivotal for the success of demining efforts in Azerbaijan.

Table 7: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2025	*13.00
2024	*12.00
2023	*8.00
2022	*5.00
2021	*3.00
Total	41.00

* Mine Action Review estimate.

¹⁹⁶ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁹⁷ "Ambassador: Mines are main obstacle for return of displaced persons to Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur", *report.az*, 5 June 2025, <https://bit.ly/3ZW1H6o>.

¹⁹⁸ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.