

KEY DATA

NO CCM 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 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	(Mine Action Review estimate) *12	(Mine Action Review estimate) 8
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
Submunitions destroyed	2,882	1,818

* ANAMA reported clearing almost 51.8km² of cluster munition-contaminated area in 2024. However, this figure reflects the total size of tasks in which submunitions were subsequently found, rather than clearance of area that is 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 51.8km² of clearance claimed by ANAMA, actual clearance of CMR contamination concerned 12km².

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)
- Ministry of Defence Demining Battalion
- Ministry of Emergency Situations
- State Border Service
- Qaya Safety Solutions (partnering with SafeLane Global)
- Safe Point CJSC
- Alpha Demining
- Azerbaijan Demining Company
- International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF)
- APOPO

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Azerbaijan adopted the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities in February 2025, but has not yet adopted its revised national standards (ANMAR) and a new national mine action strategy. Azerbaijan continues to scale up a massive clearance effort of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munition remnants (CMR). In 2024, the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) reported releasing more than 51km² of cluster munition-contaminated area through clearance and technical survey (TS), with the destruction of 2,882 submunitions.¹ These figures, however, are based on the total size of area for task polygons in which submunitions were found during land release as ANAMA does not disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other battle area clearance (BAC) or mine clearance. In order to avoid inflating CMR clearance data, Mine Action Review has estimated that the amount of land actually containing CMR released through clearance in 2024, was 12km². This estimated figure is nonetheless a 50% increase on the previous year.

1 Email from Nariman Gasimov, Deputy Head of International Relations Department, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

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 TS.
- ANAMA should ensure that CMR survey, clearance, and contamination data are disaggregated from data relating to other ERW and mines.
- Azerbaijan should adopt the revised National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) without delay and allow cancellation of areas through NTS, which is not permitted under existing standards.
- 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

- 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
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- The State Border Service
- Four national commercial demining companies, two of which have an international commercial sub-contractor:
 - Qaya Safety Solutions partnering with SafeLane Global
 - Safe Point CJSC
 - Alpha Demining LLC
 - Azerbaijan Demining Company LLC, partnering with Piper
- 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)

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, and while the precise extent of CMR contamination in Azerbaijan is significant, it is not believed to be 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.

ANAMA does, however, systematically categorise the type of EO destroyed during clearance, and records the number of CMR identified and destroyed by district.² In 2024, ANAMA identified and destroyed 2,882 unexploded submunitions during TS and clearance of polygons totalling almost 51.8km².³ 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 will have been far smaller.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

ANAMA has in the past indicated an interest in establishing a national baseline of EO contamination through NTS, but which would not disaggregate cluster munition-contaminated areas from those containing other ERW,⁴ 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. NTS is used to confirm and further define contamination.⁵ ANAMA avers 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 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. Another 8,133km² was designated as suspected hazardous area (SHA).⁸ According to ANAMA, the designations of CHA and SHA were made primarily as a result of NTS.⁹ The extent to which the identified CHAs/SHAs contain CMR is unknown.

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 flared up in April 2016 when fighting broke out briefly along the then LOC and saw 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.¹⁰ 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 known in Azerbaijan as the Karabakh Economic Region) and also a substantial part of the former Nagorno-Karabakh itself.¹¹

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan are believed to have 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).¹² Azerbaijan denies using cluster munitions in the conflict.¹³ Another Human Rights Watch report described cluster munition use by Armenia in Barda, Goranboy, and Tartar districts, including Smerch rockets containing 9N235 submunitions.¹⁴ 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 Qarayusufli.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

On 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a 24-hour large-scale military offensive.¹⁷ As a result of the military action, Azerbaijan regained full control of Nagorno-Karabakh (now referred to by Azerbaijan as the Karabakh Economic Region), adding to cluster munition contamination already under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction and control.¹⁸ No use of cluster munitions was reported during the September 2023 offensive.

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.¹⁹ 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).

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

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

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

9 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 July 2025.

10 International Crisis Group (ICG), "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 16 September 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3ui0ou2>.

11 Ibid. On 7 July 2021, the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, signed a decree increasing the number of economic regions in Azerbaijan from 11 to 14. The capital, Baku, became its own separate economic region, and two new regions were created: Karabakh (encompassing Khankendi city, as well as the regions of Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Barda, Fuzuli, Khojali, Khojavend, Shusha, and Tartar), and East Zangazur (encompassing Jabrayil, Kalbajar, Lachin, Qubadli, and Zangilan).

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 ICG, "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 16 September 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3ui0ou2>; and "Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists", BBC, 21 September 2023, at: <https://bbc.in/3rCVK0e>.

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

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.²⁰ The rebranded ANAMA has the mandate to plan, coordinate, and oversee demining by national and international operators.²¹ ANAMA has a national headquarters in Baku, two regional offices in Horadiz and Goygol, and mobile base camps operating in eight regions (Aghdam, Hadrut, Jabrayil, Khankendi, Khojavend, Lachin, Qubadli, and Zangilan) of the regained territories.²² Goygol Regional Training Centre is the main demining training centre.²³

In February 2025, the Law on Demining Activities was adopted, which had been in development for several years, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) involvement.²⁴ 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.²⁵

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.²⁶ 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 newly 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.²⁷ The working group continued to meet regularly in 2024 (meeting a total of 19 times) and included Azerbaijan's most significant ministries, including defence, interior, and emergency situations, as well as the State Border Service.²⁸

Mine action is considered a national priority by the government of Azerbaijan.²⁹ It was integrated into the Azerbaijan 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).³⁰ Azerbaijan has adopted national SDG 18 for mine action for safe return, settlement, recovery, prosperity and peace,³¹ and has proposed a dedicated global SDG as part of the Agenda 2030 process.³²

ANAMA's priorities for international assistance focus on the search for funding. Other key areas identified for support include: technical surveys and feasibility studies, data management and technological innovations (including geo-spatial methodologies), developing female demining teams, upgrading mechanical demining capabilities, mine detection dog (MDD) training, demarcation and fencing, and risk education.³³

In 2024, there were several new donors to the demining programme in Azerbaijan (for details see the subsection below, "Funding for CMR survey and clearance"), and additional capacity building support was provided to ANAMA. UNDP continued to provide strategic and technical capacity development to ANAMA and to support the creation of an enabling mine action environment.³⁴ UNDP consultants provided expert guidance on land release and MDD operations for the first four months of 2025, before UNDP ceased to operate in Azerbaijan on 2 May 2025.³⁵ A land release consultant, building on an initial consultancy started in 2024, reviewed release methodologies and standard operating procedures (SOPs), capacity development, and institutional strengthening of mine action practices in Azerbaijan.³⁶ Another UNDP consultant assessed ANAMA's MDD programme and developed a capacity enhancement plan resulting in a structured capacity-building plan focused on staff training, infrastructure upgrades, veterinary care, and long-term sustainability.³⁷

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

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

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

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

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

25 "President Ilham Aliyev approves new law on mine action activities", *Azvision.az*, 3 February 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3HEWV7e>; "Azerbaijan's Parliament adopts draft law 'On Demining Activities' in third reading", *apa.az*, 13 December 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4kAwk9J>; and "ANAMA Trains Military On Humanitarian Mine Clearance", *menafn.com*, 4 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4kYnNx3>.

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

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

28 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.

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

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

31 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.

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

33 *Ibid.*, pp. 15–16; and emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

34 Emails from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023; and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024 and 25 June 2024.

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

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

37 *Ibid.*

Following the statement of intent signed by ANAMA and UNDP in May 2024, to set up an International Centre of Excellence in Training for Mine Action,³⁸ a comprehensive feasibility study was conducted.³⁹ The Centre is to provide national, regional, and international training and capacity building; and to promote research and innovation. A UNDP-engaged international expert supported the design and planning process.⁴⁰ A three phase plan was drawn up: preparatory phase to mid-2025, start up from mid-2025, with full operation from mid-2026.⁴¹ As at June 2025, ANAMA was expecting a final report with detailed recommendations.⁴²

A UNDP-ANAMA demining project, launched in February 2024 covering 20 villages, with €4.25 million of EU funding, concluded in March 2025.⁴³ The aims included enhancing local capacity, strengthening information management systems, and applying innovative solutions in demining operations.⁴⁴ A key achievement was the establishment of female demining teams, which have been fully integrated into a local NGO's operations.⁴⁵ Further EU support was announced on 3 May 2024, with the launch of the "Team Europe Initiative on Mine Action in Azerbaijan", with the EU and its Member States expecting to increase funding to around €13 million in 2024. Funding was to support capacity-building and institutional strengthening of ANAMA, risk education, and victim assistance.⁴⁶ No updates on this work were available as at June 2025.⁴⁷

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. This included team leader training for 14 IEPF deminers who were all accredited by ANAMA.⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹ The Geneva International Centre for

Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has been providing support to ANAMA since 2022 for the installation of Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core, though by 2024/25 only minimal support was deemed necessary. ANAMA and the GICHD also cooperate on innovation, with ANAMA representatives participating in GICHD's Innovation Session on AI applications for Mine Action and in the work of the Innovation Hub - Mine Action Innovation Technical Group, initiated in 2024.⁵⁰

Other ongoing partners which provided capacity building support in 2024 were the US Department of State's Bureau of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the Marshall Legacy Institute. Support included the provision of training, technical assistance, and operational strengthening through partnerships with implementing organisations, including UNDP and MAG.⁵¹ Croatia became a new capacity-building partner in 2024, providing ANAMA with eight MDDs and an associated two-month training course.⁵² In addition, the Marshall Legacy Institute provided 12 MDDs to ANAMA in 2024, and expected to provide another 10 MDDs in 2025,⁵³ while the ITF donated two MDDs.⁵⁴ Azerbaijan has also expressed interest in collaborating on demining with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),⁵⁵ and with the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya.⁵⁶

Amendments to broader national regulations and national compliance could improve the potential of demining NGOs to attract international funding, and their operations, 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 memoranda of understanding for international operators.

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In 2024, the national authorities contributed US\$114.6 million to ANAMA for both running costs and capital expenditure. 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.⁵⁷ In 2024, it was reported that mine action, including survey and clearance efforts, was government-funded, except for less than 5% that came from international donors. ANAMA continues to work towards securing new funders,

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

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

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

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

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

43 Ibid.; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

44 "Azerbaijan faces huge de-mining challenge with little help from West", Azernews, 20 March 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4aCs7c>.

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

46 EU, "Launch of Team Europe Initiative on Mine Action in Azerbaijan", 3 May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3R2QEU>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

53 Emails from Indre Sabaliunaite, Program Director, Marshall Legacy Institute, 30 May 2024 and 19 March 2025.

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

55 "Azerbaijan highlights interest in OSCE cooperation on mine clearance in liberated", *trend.az*, 25 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3ZYGY1M>.

56 "Azerbaijan, Kenya seek enhanced cooperation on humanitarian demining", *caliber.az*, 31 May 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3HRPqU>.

57 "Azerbaijan increases funding for Mine Action Agency in 2025 Budget", Azernews, 27 June 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/43FPXar>; and email from Nariman Gasimov, 7 July 2025.

welcoming potential donors and organisations interested in contributing to mine action in Azerbaijan.⁵⁸ It has held various conferences to attract interest and share good practice,⁵⁹ and held its third international conference together with UNDP, in May 2024.⁶⁰

The EU, is reported to have allocated more than €6 million to demining in Azerbaijan in recent years, with another €10 million for the International Centre of Excellence in Training for Mine Action now due to be provided in 2026.⁶¹ Other donors in 2024 included UNDP, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).⁶² Additional international funding was pledged at the end of 2023 for demining: \$3 million from Saudi Arabia, which has already been provided, and €1.5 million from Italy via UNDP, which was pending as at July 2025.⁶³ New donors in 2024 included the United Arab

Emirates (providing US\$5 million to support demining efforts in the Karabakh Economic Region)⁶⁴, Belgium, Croatia, and Germany.⁶⁵

Belgium pledged €250,000 in 2024 through the Belgian NGO APOPO, to continue its work with dogs and rats in Aghdam and Tartar in collaboration with ANAMA, MAG, and IEPF. In addition, APOPO continued providing MDD teams to ANAMA operators in Aghdam and Jabrayil in 2024.⁶⁶ UNHCR and UNICEF have funded risk education to support the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).⁶⁷

China was identified as a new donor in 2025 and was expected to provide material and technical support in 2025.⁶⁸ In 2025, funding for mine clearance from foreign donors remained at about 4.8% of total demining funding.⁶⁹ US PM/WRA donor support, however, concluded in February 2025.⁷⁰

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Azerbaijani Labour Code denounces any type of discrimination in labour relations, including between men and women. It does, however, 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. UNDP's assessment underlines 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.⁷¹

In the mine action sector, a Gender Policy and Strategy, developed by UNDP since 2022, was being implemented in 2024.⁷² A UNDP consultant on gender issues supported ANAMA in implementing the strategy in 2024 and developed a dashboard for monitoring.⁷³ 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.⁷⁴ Azerbaijan does not, however, have a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan. UNDP Uzbekistan seconded its gender specialist to Azerbaijan to deliver gender training for UNDP staff in 2024.⁷⁵

As at the end of 2024, the number of women in operational positions at ANAMA was reported as 134, all based in regional offices, including 8 paramedics and 126 general and technical staff (not all of whom can be considered operational staff).⁷⁶ In addition, IEPF's 150 staff include 15 women deminers and two women paramedics; MAG and IEPF also established two gender balanced/mixed teams in 2024.⁷⁷ The breakdown of female staff working for other operators was not available.⁷⁸ Nevertheless, this is a considerable improvement on the situation two years earlier when no women were trained in demining in Azerbaijan.⁷⁹

58 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.

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

60 Ibid.

61 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 and 11 July 2025.

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

63 ANAMA, Quarterly Update, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", October–December 2023, undated, p. 12; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

64 "UAE and Azerbaijan Ink \$5 Billion Deal for Nagorno-Karabakh Demining", *Devdiscourse*, 27 November 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3yHBzmfv>.

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

66 Email from Mikael Bold, Program Manager, APOPO Dogs, 30 April 2025.

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

68 "China expresses readiness to support Azerbaijan in demining operations", *Azerbaijan24*, 20 December 2024, <https://bit.ly/45g7p6F>; "China ready to continue assisting Azerbaijan in enhancing its demining capacity", *apa.az*, 23 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4e0ra4h>; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

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

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

71 UNDP, "Gender Organisational Assessment of ANAMA", Report, February 2023, p. 4.

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

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

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

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

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

77 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.

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

79 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.

and at ANAMA, women were historically concentrated in administrative roles at its Baku headquarters. Furthermore, MAG trained the first seven female demining team leaders as part of its training of 14 new team leaders in 2024; all of them were accredited.⁸⁰

Female demining capacity has increased 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 (APOPO provided support with animal detection systems – technical support dogs and mine detection rats⁸¹), and risk education.⁸² The two gender balanced/mixed teams were

established by MAG and IEPF using 12-month US Department of State PM/WRA funding in 2024,⁸³ and APOPO developed the MDD capacity of the teams.⁸⁴ ANAMA reports that women participated for the first time in 2024 in the training for MDD handling, and it planned to deploy female MDD handlers in 2025.⁸⁵

According to ANAMA, survey and community liaison personnel are mostly from affected communities, and there are no restrictions on the basis of ethnic groups or religious affiliation. ANAMA has highlighted that risk education teams are particularly inclusive and mixed-gender.⁸⁶ Operations data are disaggregated by sex, and disaggregation by age has been implemented in risk education reporting.⁸⁷

Table 1: Gender composition of ANAMA (at end 2024)⁸⁸

Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
2,765	184 (7%)	375	7 (2%)	2,590	*134 (5%)

* The 134 women staff include 8 paramedics and 126 general and technical staff; ANAMA did not deploy any female deminers at the end of 2024.⁸⁹

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

ANAMA says it recognises the paramount importance of environmental management in demining.⁹⁰ It has developed an environmental management policy that guides all mine action operations in accordance with both national legislation and international best practice.⁹¹ Climate and environmental considerations are reported to have been integrated into Azerbaijan's (as yet unadopted) national mine action strategy and operational work plans. These considerations are said to be reflected in task prioritisation, planning processes, and field-level operational procedures.⁹²

By 2022, Azerbaijan had revised its ANMAR, but not formally adopted them (as at June 2025, the ANMAR were reported to have been finalised and undergoing internal governmental review prior to formal adoption).⁹³ The ANMAR

cover all demining activities, with a dedicated chapter on environmental protection.⁹⁴ According to the draft ANMAR (developed in 2022), "the national programme sought with "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.

⁸⁰ Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG Azerbaijan, 24 June 2025.

⁸¹ Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO Dogs, 30 April 2025; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

⁸² 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, at: <https://bit.ly/3UY0Lv8>.

⁸³ Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.

⁸⁴ Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO Dogs, 30 April 2025; Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG, 16 May and 3 July 2023; online interview with Greg Crowther, Director of Programmes, MAG, 26 July 2023; and UNDP, "Gender Organisational Assessment of Mine Action Agency of ANAMA", Report, February 2023, p. 11.

⁸⁵ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

⁸⁶ Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

⁸⁹ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 8 July 2025.

⁹⁰ Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.

⁹¹ Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

⁹² Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

⁹³ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

⁹⁴ Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

Table 2: Environmental policies and action for ANAMA⁹⁵

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

ANAMA has developed an SOP incorporating guidelines from the relevant International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13.⁹⁶ During TS and clearance, demining experts are required to work with environmental specialists to assess environmental impact operations and minimise harm.⁹⁷ 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.⁹⁸

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.⁹⁹ It routinely applies environmental considerations such as drainage water control and mitigation of environmental disruption during clearance.¹⁰⁰ 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.¹⁰¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Azerbaijan's revised, but (as indicated above) as yet unadopted, national mine action standards included establishing a single, unified, information management (IM) system, which ANAMA is implementing.¹⁰² 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. Field staff have undergone detailed training and are now using the new platform in their daily operations. 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.¹⁰³

In 2024, measures were taken to further improve the quality of data in the mine action database. All data entries are subject to multi-tiered verification by both regional staff and headquarters personnel. With the integration of automated data processing in IMSMA Core, the system now includes built-in mapping tools and analytical features designed to detect inconsistencies or potential errors.¹⁰⁴ These tools, combined with ANAMA's systematic multi-step review process, significantly reduce the risk of data inaccuracies or gaps. But despite improvements being made in IM, ANAMA does not yet fully disaggregate survey, clearance, and contamination data related to CMR from other data.

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".¹⁰⁵ 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.¹⁰⁶

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

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

97 Ibid.

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

99 ANMAR, Section IV Management Systems, Chapter 9: Environmental Protection.

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

101 Ibid.

102 Presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

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

104 Ibid.

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

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

The last 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.¹⁰⁷ 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.¹⁰⁸ At the time of writing, ANAMA had not yet launched a new national mine action strategy, but work was underway to develop a new strategic document, “The Mine Action Roadmap 2035”. The timeline for finalisation and adoption was still to be determined.¹⁰⁹

The draft strategy called for an increase in clearance capacity so as to eventually achieve annual clearance output of 650km².¹¹⁰ 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.¹¹¹ 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.¹¹² In line with its annual work plans and the draft strategy – with its focus on residential, agricultural and ecological sites, and on roads and other infrastructure – ANAMA cleared 620km² of hazardous area in 2024, exceeding its target of 605km², and was aiming to release almost 651km² in 2025, in line with the plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.¹¹³

ANAMA coordinates the activities of several State implementing agencies, NGOs, and commercial contractors to implement its work plans.¹¹⁴ ANAMA performs NTS of each project area/polygon prior to tasking operators on TS and clearance.¹¹⁵ As part of the NTS process, ANAMA collates information through interviews with locals and with the personnel of construction companies, although generally limited data can be 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.¹¹⁶ 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.¹¹⁷ 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.¹¹⁸

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In 2021, all chapters of the ANMAR were fully revised in line with IMAS, and they were revised again in 2023.¹¹⁹ While the revised ANMAR had been provided to all operators, they have not been formally adopted by the government.¹²⁰ UNDP considered that the ANMAR revised in 2023 were in line with IMAS, but that more work was needed for implementing NTS and to disaggregate data.¹²¹

All NMAS and SOPs must now align with the new legal framework, and the UNDP consultants engaged at the start of 2025 worked towards this.¹²² As at June 2025, draft ANMAR were in the process of formal adoption, undergoing internal governmental procedures.¹²³ In 2023, ANAMA, UNDP, and MAG began supporting the evaluation and revision of 29 mine action SOPs for the revised national standards.¹²⁴ ANAMA reported that in December 2024, it re-developed

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

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

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

110 ANAMA, Quarterly Report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, p. 10.

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

112 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.

113 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.

114 ANAMA, Quarterly Report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, p. 9.

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

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

117 ANAMA, Quarterly Report “Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs”, January 2023, pp. 3, 5, and 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

124 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.

29 of 30 SOPs reviewed in the earlier process as part of the technical adaptation process, and made some fundamental changes.¹²⁵ Updates to NMAS and SOPs are undertaken in close consultation with operators.¹²⁶

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, 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 uses it to prioritise the “reduction of threat”, while TS is primarily used to confirm and further define contamination.¹²⁷

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.¹²⁸ 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 a munition.¹²⁹ All areas identified for intervention are subject to full clearance in accordance with applicable standards.¹³⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

CMR survey and clearance are covered in ANAMA's overall training programme and ANAMA does not have personnel dedicated to CMR operations. The number of survey and clearance personnel continued its upward trajectory in 2024, and ANAMA's organisational structure was scaled up in parallel. At the end of the year, Azerbaijan's total operational capacity for addressing all EO consisted of 2,485 personnel (up from 2,281 in 2023¹³⁷), 182 MDDs (up from 151 in 2023), and 87 mine clearance machines (up from 70 in 2023). See Tables 3 and 4 for details. ANAMA continued to use mine detection rats, “HeroRATs”, in 2024 through its collaboration with APOPO, complementing other detection technologies.¹³⁸

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.¹³¹ Clearance is not, however, 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.¹³² 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. That said, ANAMA asserts that the coordinates of all CMR discovered are carefully recorded and plotted on a map and saved for future reference.¹³³

ANAMA has started fencing off hazardous areas, primarily covering areas along the former contact lines, which are considered as CHAs.¹³⁴ 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.¹³⁵ However, around 70% of injuries and fatalities have occurred in areas outside the line of contact, including in cemeteries, agricultural areas, buildings, forests, and around water sources, so preventive actions are also being considered in these areas.¹³⁶

NTS capacity was increased from only one IEPF team (supported by UNDP), tasked by ANAMA to conduct NTS and generate hazardous area polygons in 2022,¹³⁹ to three IEPF teams by July 2024.¹⁴⁰ By the end of 2024, no personnel were listed as specifically undertaking TS, but 314 staff across four organisations were listed as dedicated to NTS and TS activities (see Table 3). A further increase in total demining personnel is anticipated in 2025, in particular as operations expand into previously inaccessible or newly prioritised areas.¹⁴¹

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

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

127 Ibid.

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

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

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

131 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023; and email from Ramil Azizov, 19 July 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

137 In *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2024* report on Azerbaijan, the total number of deminers was reported as 2,281, when this was in fact the total number of all survey and clearance personnel.

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

139 Interview with UNDP, Baku, 24 May 2023.

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

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

Table 3: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed for all explosive ordnance in 2024¹⁴²

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS teams	TS personnel	Comments
ANAMA	N/A	N/A	37	242	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
IEPF	N/A	N/A	2	15	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
Alpha Demining	N/A	N/A	3	21	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
Safe Point	N/A	N/A	4	36	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
Totals	0	0	46	314	

ANAMA has not resumed the use of Remote Aerial Minefield Survey (RAMS) multispectral data analysis, last 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.¹⁴³ However, ANAMA continues to receive proposals and to explore emerging remote sensing technologies.¹⁴⁴ It uses advanced equipment and technology, including high-precision mine detectors capable of identifying metal objects buried up to six metres underground.¹⁴⁵

Table 4: Operational clearance capacities deployed for all explosive ordnance (at end 2024)¹⁴⁶

Operator	Operational staff	MDDs/handlers	Machines	Comments
ANAMA	1,458	126/107	54	
Ministry of Defence	132	3/6	19	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Ministry of Emergency Situations	44	6/6	4	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
State Border Service	43	0/0	0	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Alpha Demining	46	20/12	2	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Qaya Safety Solutions	68	8/6	3	
Safe Point	80	10/6	2	
Azerbaijan Demining Company	56	9/6	3	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
IEPF	83	0/12		ANAMA supported IEPF with MDDs and machines.
Totals	2,010	182/161	87	

ANAMA is responsible for accrediting, training and monitoring all mine action operators, including State actors involved in demining.¹⁴⁷ As at December 2023, there were two national commercial demining companies each working with an international commercial sub-contractor, to assist with operational planning and help build capacity. These were: Qaya Safety Solutions, partnering with SafeLane Global, and the Azerbaijan Demining Company, partnering with Piper.¹⁴⁸

All data are reported and entered into ANAMA's IMSMA database. In 2024, ANAMA's quality management system continued to operate through a structured framework encompassing accreditation, internal and external monitoring, and quality control (QC) mechanisms.¹⁴⁹ ANAMA conducts monitoring and quality assurance (QA) for operators and issues hand-over certificates after QA.¹⁵⁰ It has an Operational Capability Assessment Division (two staff), a Monitoring Division (with three staff), and an External

¹⁴² Ibid.; and emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 and 9 July 2025.

¹⁴³ 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.

¹⁴⁴ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁴⁵ "ANAMA using cutting-edge technology to detect and clear landmines, unexploded ordnance", *caliber.az*, 29 May 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/44lTPwD>.

¹⁴⁶ Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June, 7 and 9 July, and 5 August 2025.

¹⁴⁷ ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.; and interviews with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

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

¹⁵⁰ Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.

Quality Control Division (three staff). In addition, here is an External Quality Inspection team (79 personnel), and an External Monitoring team (nine personnel). In 2024, a total

of 1,736 sites were formally accepted following successful quality inspections, and 1,069 monitoring missions were conducted across various operational tasks.¹⁵¹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

ANAMA reported a total of almost 51.8km² of hazardous area where CMR were found and land released through TS and clearance in 2024, with the destruction of 2,882 submunitions.¹⁵² ANAMA did not provide disaggregated data for land released through technical survey and land released through clearance for 2024.¹⁵³ No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through NTS in 2024, as Azerbaijan does not use NTS for land release.¹⁵⁴ However, as noted above, the claimed CMR-contaminated area released in 2024 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 2024

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Comments
Clearance	12	Mine Action Review estimate
Technical Survey	0	
Non-Technical Survey	0	
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	Comments
Submunitions destroyed	2,882	

SURVEY IN 2024

While ANAMA did conduct TS in 2024, it did not disaggregate land released through TS from land released through clearance.¹⁵⁵ No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through NTS in 2024 or 2023 in Azerbaijan, for reasons already outlined.

CLEARANCE IN 2024

As already noted, ANAMA does not currently disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other BAC tasks and mine clearance, and reported that almost 52km² of polygons containing CMR were released in 2024 with the destruction of 2,882 CMRs.¹⁵⁶ This compares to 2023, when ANAMA reported that 1,818 submunitions were discovered during TS and clearance of polygons totalling 452.6km².¹⁵⁷

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 2024 was 12km², in contrast with the Mine Action Review estimate of 8km² of CMR-contaminated area released in 2023. The

table below summarises reported 2024 land release of CMR-contaminated area through clearance and TS combined, disaggregated by district.

A range of mechanical assets and animal detection systems were deployed in Azerbaijan in 2024. Moreover, approximately 200,000m² of land was surface cleared only.¹⁵⁸ As ANAMA did not conduct tasks specifically targeting CMR, no disaggregated data are available for tasks cleared that were suspected of containing only CMR but yielded none.¹⁵⁹

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

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

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

154 Ibid.

155 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 25 July 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

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

157 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 24 and 25 July 2024.

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

159 Ibid.

Table 6: Reported land release through clearance and TS of polygons containing CMR in 2024*¹⁶⁰

District	CHAs/SHAs	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed
Aghdam	27	10,706,172	410
Fuzuli	56	21,553,979	692
Jabrayil	18	8,045,991	338
Khojaly, Khankendi city	1	115,220	1,269
Khojavend	11	3,778,589	113
Lachin	8	3,371,446	16
Qubadli	5	2,284,466	18
Shusha	2	1,160,205	5
Terter	1	754,398	21
Totals	129	51,770,466	2,882

* In addition, a total of 2,151 AP mines and 17,918 items of UXO were destroyed across the same districts.¹⁶¹

DEMINER SAFETY

There were no reported demining accidents in 2024 involving casualties from demining organisations. There were, however, at least two reports of ANAMA personnel being injured in accidents in April 2025, one in Jabrayil,¹⁶² and another in Gazakh district.¹⁶³ In addition, an army engineer was injured while conducting clearance in Kalbajar district in May 2025.¹⁶⁴

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.¹⁶⁵

No target date has been set for the completion of CMR clearance in Azerbaijan, as the extent of CMR contamination remains unknown.¹⁶⁶ 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.¹⁶⁷ Overall, based on government data, international experts have estimated that it will take nearly 30 years and US\$25 billion to address the country's demining challenges,¹⁶⁸ though CMR contamination is a small part of overall EO contamination.

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 "First State Program on the Great Return to the Liberated Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan". 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.¹⁶⁹ This has reportedly included giving priority to demining the Karabakh and East Zangazur regions.¹⁷⁰

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.¹⁷¹

ANAMA continues to make impressive progress in rapidly scaling up clearance, and the process is nationally led, drawing on international expertise, such as UNDP (until May 2025) and MAG, for capacity development. Systems to support the huge upscaling of the mine action programme

¹⁶⁰ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 July 2025.

¹⁶² "ANAMA employee injured in mine explosion in Jabrayil", 6 April 2025, *Azernews*, at: <https://bit.ly/3FKwrR5>; and "Azerbaijan Mine Action Agency worker loses left leg after Jabrayil mine blast", *Caliber*, 7 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4n6pWJd>.

¹⁶³ "Azerbaijani deminer injured in mine explosion in Gazakh", *caliber.az*, 28 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4nd00dc>.

¹⁶⁴ "Mine blast injures Azerbaijan Army serviceman in Kalbajar district", *Azertac*, 29 May 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4tJ7D7n>.

¹⁶⁵ Email from Sabina Sarkarova, ANAMA, 21 May 2019.

¹⁶⁶ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ "Civilians Injured in Azerbaijan as Armenian Mine Threat Persists", *caspiannews.com*, 2 June 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3ZpHtLL>.

¹⁶⁹ Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

¹⁷⁰ "Ambassador: Mines are main obstacle for return of displaced persons to Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur", *report.az*, 5 June 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3ZW1H6o>.

¹⁷¹ Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.

in Azerbaijan, such as the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities, and the elaboration of revised national mine action standards (albeit yet to be formally approved), and the adoption of IMSMA Core, are being put 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)
2024	*12.00
2023	*8.00
2022	*5.00
2021	*3.00
2020	**0.10
Total	28.10

* Mine Action Review estimate

** Includes release through survey and clearance