AZERBAIJAN

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2025

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Massive, but unquantified

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km²)	Release in 2023 (km²)
Clearance	5.32	(Mine Action Review est.) 10
Technical Survey	*65	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	4,286	3,495

*ANAMA reported releasing more than 134.9km² of AP mined area through technical survey (TS) in 2024. However, TS was applied to areas previously recorded in the information management system as suspected hazardous areas for all explosive ordnance (EO), rather than areas specifically suspected to contain AP mines. ANAMA does not disaggregate AP mined area from other EO during survey and thus the actual mined area within the task polygons is far smaller than their reported total size. Mine Action Review has estimated that of the 134.9km² of area reduction claimed by ANAMA, actual reduction of AP mined area concerned 65km².

MAIN AP MINE 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 (partnering with Piper)
- 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). In 2024, the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) reported releasing more than 5.3km² of anti-personnel (AP) mined area through clearance, with the destruction of 4,286 AP mines. Mine Action Review has estimated that another 65km² was released through technical survey (TS).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Azerbaijan should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.**
- **In the meantime, Azerbaijan should submit voluntary Article 7 reports annually under the APMBC.**
- **ANAMA should conduct evidence-based survey to better define the location and extent of mined area and enhance the planning and prioritisation of clearance.**
- **ANAMA should ensure that survey, clearance, and contamination data related to AP mines are disaggregated from data relating to AV mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).**
- **Azerbaijan should adopt its revised National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) without delay and allow cancellation of areas through non-technical survey (NTS), which is not currently permitted.**

- **ANAMA should finalise and adopt its new mine action strategy (the last one expired in 2018), reflecting the significant increase in contamination now under Azerbaijan's control.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- ANAMA
- Ministry of Defence Humanitarian Demining Units
- Ministry of Emergency Situations
- 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 Azerbaijan-based NGO

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- APOPO
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (ceased operations in Azerbaijan on 2 May 2025)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of AP mined area in Azerbaijan is unknown, but is certainly massive, especially along the approximately 254km-long, 5km-wide former Line of Contact (LOC) between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The defensive belts of berms, anti-tank ditches, and barbed wire along the LOC contain huge quantities of both AP and AV mines, and the zone has been recognised as one of the largest mined areas in the world.[1] The areas along the LOC were heavily mined over the three decades after 1990 by all parties to the conflict.[2] Further minefields and other explosive ordnance (EO), including abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO), were found in areas previously occupied by Armenia in the territory of Azerbaijan and outside the former Nagorno-Karabakh (now the Karabakh Economic Region[3]). As at the end of 2024, remaining mined areas were along the former LOC or in the Karabakh Economic Region,[4] with the exception of four villages in Gazakh district returned to Azerbaijan in 2024 as a result of border delimitation.[5]

The full extent of contamination across Azerbaijan will only be better understood after completion of a countrywide survey, focusing on territory that it has regained since 2020. ANAMA has been surveying areas that came back under Azerbaijani control since November 2020, deploying a variety of methodologies including mine detection dogs (MDDs), technical survey dogs, and mine detection rats to help identify suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) as part of the baseline survey.[6]

Azerbaijan reports that, at the end of 2024, it had recorded almost 9,871km^2 of land contaminated with some kind of EO – almost 1,738km^2 of confirmed hazardous area (CHA) and 8,133km^2 of SHA. Another 7.3km^2 of EO-contaminated CHA was identified in the four villages in Gazakh district returned to Azerbaijan in 2024 following border delimitation, where less than 0.7km of EO-contaminated area was cleared during the year.[7] Azerbaijan no longer classifies contamination as high, medium, and low threat as it initially did after the Second Karabakh War in 2020.[8] It says this is due to the lack of reliable contamination maps available.[9]

1 Online interview with Steiner Essen, Senior Mine Action Consultant, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Guy Rhodes, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP, 29 April 2021; and email from Guy Rhodes, UNDP, 23 June 2021.

2 Statement of Armenia, APMBC Intersessional Meetings (online), 22–24 June 2021.

3 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, Qubadli, Lachin, and Zangilan).

4 Interview with Nariman Gasimov, Deputy Head of International Relations Department, ANAMA, 25 July 2025.

5 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July and 1 September 2025.

6 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 9 September 2024 and 7 June 2025.

7 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.

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

9 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.

ANAMA has indicated that the 1,738km^2 of CHA recorded at the end of 2024 is AP and AV mined area that has been recorded along the LOC, where all contaminated area is classified as CHA.[10] ANAMA has reported that EO-contaminated area beyond the former LOC, in territory within the Karabakh Economic Region, is SHA.[11] While there is no comprehensive mapping or formal confirmation of all minefields in these districts, many have already been encountered and cleared in areas beyond the LOC after survey or clearance indicated the presence of contamination. It is expected that similar minefields exist that are not recorded and are without visible indicators.[12] The risk of finding AP mines beyond the LOC remains significant, and these areas continue to be subject to NTS and TS.[13]

There are other official indicators of mine and ERW contamination. In May 2024, the President of Azerbaijan cited initial estimates that 12% of the country was contaminated with approximately 1.5 million AP and AV mines.[14] ANAMA subsequently determined, highly improbably, that approximately 13.4% of Azerbaijan is mined.[15] Furthermore, in a letter to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in December 2024, its Ambassador provided the following data, "The minefields in Azerbaijan cover about 11,258 square kilometres of the country's total territory of 86,600 square kilometres. Approximately 14.2 per cent of this area (165,871.5 hectares of land) has been cleared, while only 3.6 per cent of all planted mines and other explosive devices have been detected and neutralized so far (that is, 54,430 mines and 104,940 other explosive devices, as of September 2024)."[16] ANAMA has claimed that minefields cover 11,667km^2 km^2 of Azeri territory.[17]

ANAMA has previously reported that areas with the highest mine contamination include a mix of AP and AV mines. Most cases involve factory produced mines but, in some cases, mines have been of an improvised nature.[18] ANAMA previously estimated that improvised mines covered 5% of total mined area,[19] but now says there is no precise information available on the scale of improvised mine contamination. ANAMA does, however, claim that such mines have mostly been encountered in residential areas, including homes, gardens, and access roads.[20]

Azerbaijan requested that Armenia immediately release information on the location of the remaining minefields following the Second Karabakh War in 2020.[21] Armenia, however, has claimed that most of the mines were emplaced by Azerbaijan in the early years of the conflict to deter Nagorno-Karabakh forces.[22] Azerbaijan disputes this claim. Following extensive international mediation, Armenia released some minefield records, providing information on 263,067 AP mines and 127,427 AV mines as well as other explosive devices. According to ANAMA, these records constitute only 5% of the regained areas and less than one third of the high-threat areas,[23] and it maintains that Armenia has yet to provide accurate mine maps.[24] In fact, it has been stated, including by officials from Armenia and the former Nagorno-Karabakh, that accurate mine maps do not exist.[25] In 2024, Armenia presented eight new maps of minefields in the Karabakh region.[26] ANAMA complains, however, that the maps are "inaccurate, unreliable, and incomplete".[27]

Mine contamination in Azerbaijan is predominantly the consequence of the 1988–94 armed conflict with Armenia, which saw landmines laid by both sides. During the 2020 armed conflict, media reported that retreating Armenian forces emplaced mines in a range of locations.[28] Under the Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement, "The Trilateral Statement", which came into effect on 10 November 2020, Azerbaijan regained full control of the seven districts adjacent to Nagorno-Karabakh: Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Kalbajar, Lachin, Qubadli, and Zangilan,[29] and most mined areas came under Azerbaijan's control. Azerbaijan's 24-hour offensive of 19 September 2023 resulted in it regaining the remainder of the territory.[30] Since the end of the 2020 conflict, ANAMA has undertaken massive clearance in the regained territories, prioritising residential areas, agricultural areas, areas of ecological importance, social infrastructure, roads, and water sources[31] (see "Planning and Tasking" below for further details).

10 Ibid.
11 Ibid.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Statement of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, to the participants of the International Conference themed "Mitigating Environmental Impact of Landmines: Resource Mobilization for Safe and Green Future", 30 May 2024, at: http://bit.ly/3H2dAS6.
15 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 1 September 2025.
16 Letter to the UN Secretary-General from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the UN in New York, 12 December 2024.
17 Email from Nariman Gazimov, ANAMA, 1 September 2025.
18 Ibid.; and email from Ramil Azizov, Operations Manager, ANAMA, 16 August 2022.
19 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 16 August 2022.
20 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
21 Statement of Azerbaijan, APMBC Intersessional Meetings (online), 22–24 June 2021.
22 Statement of Armenia, Intersessional Meetings (online), 22–24 July 2021.
23 Ibid; "Armenia and Azerbaijan exchange detainees for mine maps", *Eurasianet*, 23 June 2021, at: https://bit.ly/3gXYWdx; and ANAMA, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", Quarterly report, January 2023, p. 4.
24 "Farid Shafiyev: Azerbaijan is among the top five countries for landmine contamination", *Azertag*, 5 April 2025, at: http://bit.ly/3GUdqMC.
25 International Crisis Group (ICG), "Post-War Prospects for Nagorno-Karabakh", 9 June 2021, at: https://bit.ly/4dcIod8.
26 "Azerbaijan Urges Armenia for Accurate Minefield Maps", *Caspian News*, 27 January 2024, at: https://bit.ly/4deZVBH.
27 "Azerbaijan says Armenia presented 8 new maps on minefields in Karabakh", *Andaolu Agency (AA)*, 13 February 2024, at: https://bit.ly/3LuZF5I.
28 "Mines, Karabakh and Armenia's Crisis", *New Eastern Europe*, 16 April 2021, at: https://bit.ly/3vezeaC.
29 See, e.g., ICG, "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 7 May 2021, at: https://bit.ly/3uiOou2.
30 ICG, "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 16 September 2023, at: https://bit.ly/3uiOou2; and "Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists", BBC, 21 September 2023, at: https://bbc.in/3rCVK0e.
31 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023; and Centre for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "State Program on the Great Return to the liberated territories of Azerbaijan", 17 November 2022, at: https://bit.ly/3DDz9D1.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Azerbaijan is also heavily contaminated with cluster munition remnants (CMR) and other ERW, both unexploded ordnance (UXO) and AXO. The extent of contamination is not yet known (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2025* report on Azerbaijan for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

ANAMA was established by Presidential Decree 854 in 1998. It initiated demining 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.[32] The rebranded ANAMA has the mandate to plan, coordinate, and oversee humanitarian demining by national and international operators.[33] ANAMA has a national headquarters in Baku and two regional offices in Horadiz and Goygol, and mobile base camps operating in eight regions (Aghdam, Hadrut, Jabrayil, Khankendi, Khojavend, Lachin, Qubadli, and Zangilan) in the regained territories. Goygol Regional Training Centre is the main demining training centre.[34]

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). The Law regulates mine clearance across the country. Mine clearance conducted by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces for national security and defence purposes are, though, excluded from the Law, though ANAMA has provided training for the Ministry of Defence on the scope of humanitarian demining to ensure operations are based on international standards.[35]

Prior to the 2020 conflict, ANAMA had been conducting demining operations with two contracted national operators: Dayag-Relief Azerbaijan (RA) and IEPF. In March 2020, RA's field personnel were incorporated within ANAMA while RA as an organisation continued to provide logistical support to ANAMA.[36] Since the end of the 2020 conflict, both ANAMA and clearance in Azerbaijan as a whole has 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, continued to meet regularly in 2024 (meeting a total of 19 times) and included the ministries of defence, interior, and emergency situations, as well as the State Border Service.[37] The working group has overall responsibility for coordination of mine action, while ANAMA coordinates mine action operators.[38]

Mine action is considered a national priority by the Government of Azerbaijan.[39] 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).[40] Azerbaijan has adopted national SDG 18 for mine action for safe return, settlement, recovery, prosperity and peace,[41] and has proposed a dedicated global SDG as part of the Agenda 2030 process.[42]

In November 2022, the President of Azerbaijan signed a decree approving the "First State Programme on the Great Return to the liberated territories of Azerbaijan" (the "Great Return" programme), which aims to resettle 34,500 families between 2022 and 2026 in three stages, and is contingent on clearance of EO-contaminated land (see "Planning and Tasking" below for further detail).[43] The endorsement of the "Great Return" programme came one month after the

32 "Azerbaijan establishes Mine Action Agency", *APA*, 15 January 2021, at: https://bit.ly/35MhtEu.

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

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

35 "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.

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

37 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023 and 20 May 2024; interview with Vugar Suleymanov, Chair of the Board, ANAMA; and Samir Poladov, Deputy Chair, 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.

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

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

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

41 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.

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

43 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023.

President of Azerbaijan stated that Azerbaijan needed nearly 30 years and a staggering US$25 billion to "solve the issues related to demining".[44] ANAMA has been amassing international support through various fora in recent years, including organisation of several international conferences in Baku, and attending APMBC meetings to mobilise international support.[45]

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, and conducting MDD training, demarcation, and fencing, and providing risk education.[46]

In 2024, several new donors supported demining in Azerbaijan (for details, see the subsection below, "Funding for AP Mine 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. UNDP consultants provided expert guidance on land release and MDD operations for the first four months of 2025, before UNDP ceased operations in Azerbaijan on 2 May 2025. 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.[47] 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.[48]

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,[49] a detailed feasibility study was conducted.[50] The Centre is to provide national, regional, and international training and capacity building and to promote research and innovation. A UNDP consultant supported the design and planning process.[51] A three phase plan was drawn up: preparatory phase to mid-2025, start up from mid-2025, with full operation from mid-2026.[52] As at June 2025, ANAMA was expecting a final report with detailed recommendations.[53]

A UNDP-ANAMA demining project, launched in February 2024 covering 20 villages, with €4.25 million of EU funding, concluded in March 2025.[54] The aims included enhancing local capacity, strengthening information management systems, and applying innovative solutions in demining.[55] A key achievement was the establishment of female demining teams, which have been fully integrated into a local NGO's operations.[56] 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. No updates on this work were available as at June 2025.[57]

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.[58] 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.[59] The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has been providing support to ANAMA since 2022 for the installation of the 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.[60]

44 "Azerbaijan needs nearly 30 years and $25 billion to solve issues related to demining – President Ilham Aliyev", *Trend News Agency*, 13 October 2022, at: https://bit.ly/3qe8edY; and "Civilians Injured in Azerbaijan as Armenian Mine Threat Persists", *Caspian News*, 2 June 2025.

45 "Armenia completes demining of Azerbaijan-boundary village", *Trend News Agency*, 30 April 2024, at: https://bit.ly/3zAjXYz; and "Azerbaijan, Armenia continue joint border demining efforts", *News.Az*, 10 May 2024, at: https://bit.ly/3L3Ervw.

46 ANAMA, Quarterly Update, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", October–December 2023, undated, pp. 15–16; and emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025; and Statement of Azerbaijan on Universalisation, Intersessional Meetings, 20 June 2024.

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

48 Ibid.

49 "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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59 Ibid.; and email from Jessica Hyland, Regional Director – Eastern Europe, MAG, 26 June 2025.

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

Other ongoing partners which provided capacity building support in 2024 were the US Department of State's Office 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.[61] Croatia became a new capacity-building partner in 2024, providing ANAMA with eight MDDs and an associated two-month training course.[62] In addition, the Marshall Legacy Institute provided 12 MDDs to ANAMA in 2024, and expected to provide another 10 MDDs in 2025,[63] while the ITF donated two MDDs.[64] Azerbaijan has also expressed interest in collaborating on demining with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)[65] and the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya.[66]

Amendments to broader national regulations and compliance could improve the potential for demining NGOs to attract international funding, and could contribute to a more 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 AP MINE 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 all national survey and clearance. The national contribution to running costs was expected to increase by 1.2% in 2025 to almost US$50 million.[67] In 2024, it was reported that mine action, including survey and clearance, was government-funded, except for the less than 5% that came from international donors. 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]

The EU is reported to have allocated more than €6 million to demining in Azerbaijan in recent years.[71] 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).[72] 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.[73] New donors in 2024 included the United Arab Emirates (providing US$5 million to support demining in the Karabakh Economic Region),[74] Belgium, Croatia, and Germany.[75]

Belgium pledged €250,000 in 2024 to 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.[76] UNHCR and UNICEF have funded risk education to support the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).[77]

China was identified as a new donor in 2025 and was expected to provide material and technical support during the year.[78] In 2025, funding for mine clearance from foreign donors remained at about 4.8% of total demining funding. US PM/WRA donor support, however, concluded in February 2025.[79]

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

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

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

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

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

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

67 "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.

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

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

73 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.

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

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

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

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

78 "China expresses readiness to support Azerbaijan in demining operations", *Azerbaycan24*, 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.

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

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Azerbaijani Code of Labour prohibits discrimination in labour relations, including between men and women. It does, however, provide for 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 in the 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. Despite being well-intentioned, these norms create barriers to women's participation in the labour force.[80]

In the mine action sector, a Gender Policy and Strategy, developed by UNDP since 2022 with FCDO funding, had been accepted by ANAMA and was being implemented as at May 2024.[81] A UNDP consultant on gender issues supported ANAMA in implementing the strategy in 2024 and developed a dashboard for monitoring.[82] 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.[83]

As at the end of 2024, the number of women in operational positions at ANAMA was reported as 134, all based in regional offices, comprising 8 paramedics and 126 general and technical staff (not all of whom can be considered operational staff).[84] In addition, IEPF's 150 staff include 15 women deminers and 2 women paramedics. MAG and IEPF also established two gender-balanced/mixed teams in 2024.[85] The breakdown of female staff working for other operators was not available.[86] Nevertheless, this is a considerable improvement on the situation two years earlier when no women were trained in demining in Azerbaijan,[87] while in ANAMA, historically women were 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.[88]

Table 1: Gender composition of ANAMA (at end 2024)[89]

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.[90]

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, battle area clearance (BAC), NTS, TS, and animal detection systems, along with risk education.[91] APOPO provided support for animal detection systems, providing technical support dogs and MDRs.[92] The two gender-balanced/mixed teams were established by MAG and IEPF using 12-month PM/WRA funding in 2024[93] while APOPO developed the MDD capacity of the teams.[94] 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.[95]

Azerbaijan does not have a diversity policy and implementation plan. According to ANAMA, however, survey and community liaison personnel are mostly from affected communities and there are no restrictions on the basis of ethnic group or religious affiliation. ANAMA has highlighted that risk education teams are particularly inclusive and mixed-gender.[96]

80 UNDP, "Gender Organisational Assessment of ANAMA", Report, February 2023, p. 4.
81 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 17 May 2023 and 20 May 2024.
82 Email from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 9 September 2024.
83 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.
84 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 7 July 2025.
85 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.
86 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 8 July 2025.
87 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.
88 Email from Jeanette Dijkstra, MAG Azerbaijan, 24 June 2025.
89 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
90 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 8 July 2025.
91 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.
92 Emails from Mikael Bold, APOPO Dogs, 30 April 2025; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.
93 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.
94 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.
95 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
96 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

ANAMA recognises the importance of environmental management in demining.[97] It has developed an environmental management policy that guides all operations in accordance with both national legislation and international best practice.[98] 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.[99]

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.[100] The ANMAR cover all demining activities, with a dedicated chapter on environmental protection.[101] According to the draft ANMAR, the national programme seeks "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.

ANAMA has developed an (as yet unadopted) SOP incorporating guidelines from the relevant International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13.[102] During TS and clearance, demining experts are required to work with environmental specialists to assess environmental impact operations and minimise harm.[103] 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.[104]

Table 2: Environmental policies and action for ANAMA[105]

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.[106] It routinely applies environmental considerations such as drainage water control and mitigation of environmental disruption during clearance.[107] 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.[108]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Azerbaijan's revised national mine action standards provide for a single, unified, information management system, which ANAMA is implementing.[109] 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. IMSMA Core is said to have significantly enhanced efficiency of data processing by introducing greater automation and improving accuracy and timeliness of reporting.[110]

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

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 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. These tools, combined with ANAMA's systematic multi-step review process, significantly reduce the risk of data inaccuracies or potential errors.[111] But despite improvements in information management, ANAMA does not yet fully disaggregate survey, clearance, and contamination data related to AP mines from other EO contamination data.

PLANNING AND TASKING

ANAMA is guided by the following key documents, issued at cabinet level, which together influence clearance and risk education 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".[112] The "Great Return" programme aims to resettle 34,500 families by 2026.[113]

The last mine action strategy covered the period 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.[114] 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.[115] 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 is still to be determined.[116]

The draft strategy called for an increase in clearance capacity so as to eventually achieve annual clearance output of 650km^2.[117] This included all forms of EO clearance, as well as visual search of battle areas. According to ANAMA, all tasks are subject to evidence-based TS, during which a certain percentage is physically cleared. If no evidence of AP mines is found, the remaining area of the polygon is systematically searched mainly with a quick visual search supported by magnetometers.[118] 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.[119] 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 620km^2 of hazardous area in 2024, exceeding its target of 605km^2, and was aiming to release almost 651km^2 in 2025, in line with the plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.[120] 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.[121]

ANAMA coordinates the activities of several State implementing agencies, NGOs, and commercial contractors to implement its work plans.[122] NTS of each project area/polygon is undertaken prior to any TS or clearance.[123] 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, when available, incident data. 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.[124] 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.[125]

111 Ibid.

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

113 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 9 September 2024; and Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), "Landmines in Azerbaijan continue to pose a lethal threat to peace and development", 22 June 2023, at: https://bit.ly/3DCZxgD.

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

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

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

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

118 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 16 August 2022 and 22 July 2024.

119 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.

120 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.

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

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

123 Email from Nariman Gazimov, ANAMA, 1 September 2025.

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

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

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.[126] While the revised ANMAR had been provided to all operators, they have not been formally adopted by the government.[127] 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.[128]

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. As at June 2025, draft ANMAR were in the process of formal adoption, undergoing internal governmental procedures.[129] In 2023, ANAMA, UNDP, and MAG began supporting the evaluation and revision of 29 mine action SOPs for the revised national standards.[130] 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.[131] Updates to NMAS and SOPs are undertaken in close consultation with operators.[132]

There is no indication that ANAMA will start using NTS to cancel SHAs in the near future. ANAMA reports that while information gathered through NTS plays an important role in its 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.[133]

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.[134] According to ANAMA, all mine incidents (including those involving military personnel) are plotted in maps, which can serve as evidence points. According to the International Crisis Group, data on ordnance explosions should be a crucial component of NTS in Azerbaijan, pointing to the experience in Cambodia where survey helped shrink the area earmarked for clearance by one third.[135]

ANAMA considers planned land use in its prioritisation and tasking, and all AP mine clearance is conducted to four metres' depth in the plots where foundations will be laid for construction.[136] In its January 2023 report, ANAMA referenced an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) technical assessment visit report, which suggested that to speed up clearance and reduce the risk to deminers, "a mix of mine-resistant heavy plant (bulldozers, backhoe loaders, and similar protected earth moving machinery)" was needed.[137] Based on the assessment, ANAMA procured more than 50 demining machines and mine-resistant heavy plant machines, including bulldozers and earth-moving equipment, to accelerate clearance.[138]

ANAMA has started fencing off hazardous areas, primarily covering areas along the former contact lines, which are considered as CHAs.[139] 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.[140] 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.[141]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

AP mine survey and clearance are part of ANAMA's overall training programme and ANAMA does not have personnel dedicated to AP mine operations. The number of deminers 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 contamination consisted of 2,485 deminers (up from 2,281 in 2023), 182 MDDs (up from 151 in 2023), and 87 mine clearance machines (up from 70 in 2023[142]). See Tables 3 and 4 below for details. In 2024, ANAMA continued to use MDRs—"HeroRATs"—through its collaboration with APOPO, complementing other detection technologies.[143]

126 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.
127 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.
128 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.
129 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
130 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.
131 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 7 July 2025.
132 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
133 Ibid.
134 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.
135 ICG, "Defusing Azerbaijan's Landmine Challenge", 31 May 2023.
136 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023; and email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 19 July 2023.
137 ANAMA, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", Quarterly report, January 2023, p. 7.
138 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 1 September 2025.
139 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
140 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.
141 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.
142 In Clearing the Mines 2024, the total number of deminers in Azerbaijan was reported as 2,281, when in fact this was the total number of all survey and clearance personnel combined.
143 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.

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,[144] to three IEPF teams by July 2024.[145] By the end of 2024, no personnel were listed as specifically undertaking NTS, 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 was expected in 2025, in particular as operations expand into previously inaccessible or newly prioritised areas.[146]

Table 3: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed for all explosive ordnance (at end 2024)[147]

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 contaminated areas as part of establishing a baseline survey, and to collect other information on mines and ERW, such as the location of trenches and military positions.[148] However, ANAMA continues to receive proposals and to explore emerging remote sensing technologies.[149] It uses advanced equipment and technology, including high-precision mine detectors capable of identifying metal objects buried up to six metres underground.[150]

Table 4: Operational EO clearance capacities (at end 2024)[151]

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	
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	0	
Totals	**2,010**	**182/161**	**87**	

ANAMA is responsible for accrediting, training and monitoring all mine action operators, including State actors involved in demining.[152] As at December 2023, two national commercial demining companies were each collaborating 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.[153]

144 Interview with UNDP, Baku, 24 May 2023.

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

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

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

148 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.

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

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

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

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

153 ANAMA, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", Quarterly report, January 2023, p. 7; and interviews with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

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.[154] ANAMA conducts monitoring and quality assurance (QA) for operators and issues hand-over certificates after QA.[155] 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). 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.[156]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

ANAMA reported that a total of more than 5.3km² of AP mined area was cleared in 2024 with the destruction of 4,236 AP mines, and that 100.9km² was reduced through TS.[157] No AP mined area was cancelled through NTS in 2024, as Azerbaijan does not use NTS for land release.[158] However, as noted above, the claimed AP mined area released through TS in 2024 corresponds to the total size of tasks (polygons) for all EO-contaminated area in ANAMA's database, which does not disaggregate AP mine contamination from other EO contamination. Therefore, the size of the actual AP mine area addressed, is far smaller. To avoid inflating AP mine release output through TS, Mine Action Review has estimated that 65km² was the actual mined area reduced through TS.

Table 5: Summary of land release outputs in 2024[159]

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km²)	Comments
Clearance	5.32	
Technical survey	65	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2024**	
AP mines destroyed	4,286	(including 140 during spot tasks)

SURVEY IN 2024

In 2024, an estimated total of 65km² of AP mined area was released through TS in 2024 in Jabrayil, Qubadli, and Zangilan in the Karabakh Economic Region.[160] While ANAMA did conduct TS in 2023, it did not disaggregate land released through TS from land released through clearance in 2023.[161] No AP mined area was cancelled through NTS in 2024 or 2023 in Azerbaijan for reasons already outlined.[162]

Table 6: Reported release through TS of EO areas with AP mines in 2024 (national authority data)[163]

District	SHAs reduced	Area reduced (m²)
Jabrayil	10	47,089,519
Qubadli	15	37,843,250
Zangilan	12	49,989,184
Totals	**37**	**134,921,253**

154 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
155 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.
156 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
157 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
158 Ibid.
159 Emails from Nariman Gasimov ANAMA, 21 and 25 July and 1 September 2025.
160 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
161 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 25 July 2024.
162 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025; and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 25 July 2024.
163 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.

CLEARANCE IN 2024

ANAMA reported clearance of more than 5.3km² in Azerbaijan in 2024 with 4,286 AP mines destroyed (see Table 7).[164] This compares with 2023, when ANAMA reported releasing, through clearance and TS, 18.1km² of mined area containing solely AP mines and a further 26.23km² of mined area that contained a mix of AP and AV mines, for a total of 44.33km² of AP mined area. As these figures were not consistent with the mine patterns and density, Mine Action Review made a conservative estimate that 10km² of mined area that actually contained AP mines was released through clearance and TS in 2023. According to ANAMA, a total of 3,495 AP mines were destroyed in 2023.[165]

Table 7: Mine clearance in 2024[166]

Districts/Location	CHAs/SHAs	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Aghdam*	9	2,964,699	1,818	853	1,729
Fuzuli*	7	1,023,954	426	441	5,541
Gazakh**	8	216,860	752	61	9
Jabrayil*	3	60,982	816	46	1,273
Kalbajar* (spot tasks)	0	0	127	1	204
Khojaly, Khankendi City***	2	61,136	75	3	5,076
Khojavend* ***	2	49,701	78	0	646
Lachin*	1	2,230	109	3	161
Qubadli* (spot tasks)	0	0	2	1	234
Shusha*	2	4,271	8	0	1,930
Terter* ***	3	932,906	64	12	1,328
Zangilan* (partial clearance)	0	20	0	0	486
Other (spot tasks)	0	0	11	0	605
Terter* ***	3	932,906	64	12	1,328
Zangilan* (partial clearance)	0	20	0	0	486
Other (spot tasks)	0	0	11	0	605
Totals	**37**	**5,316,759**	**4,286**	**1,421**	**19,222**

*Previously inaccessible territory which Azerbaijan regained in 2020, plus parts of Khojavend and Terter. **Previously inaccessible territory which Azerbaijan regained in 2024. ***Previously inaccessible territory which Azerbaijan regained following the September 2023 offensive, including the remainder of Khojavend and Terter.

ANAMA reports that in total across Azerbaijan, it cleared 620.2km² of EO-contaminated area in 2024 and, in addition to the 4,286 AP mines destroyed (see Table 7 above), it destroyed 2,372 AV mines and 59,163 items of UXO.[167] ANAMA has also stated that in 2024, it cleared a total of 1,987 suspected EO- contaminated areas, and did not find AP mines in 1,950 of them (covering a total of 615.9km²). However, other types of EO were found in most of them, including AV mines, UXO, and CMR.[168]

DEMINER SAFETY

Six demining accidents were reported in 2024, all involving ANAMA demining personnel. One member of staff was killed, and 12 others were injured. In the worst incident, where one member of staff was killed, another five were injured. In another incident, three members of staff were injured while one member of staff was injured in each of the other four other incidents reported. All of the incidents are reported to have involved the PMN-E AP mine and all occurred during clearance.[169]

A special commission is established to investigate all demining accidents, and staff from ANAMA headquarters are deployed to the accident site as soon as possible to conduct on-site assessments and gather information. The findings are shared with relevant institutions and stakeholders to ensure transparency, strengthen safety protocols, and inform future operations.[170]

164 Ibid.
165 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 24 July 2024.
166 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July and 1 September 2025.
167 ANAMA presentation, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Operational challenges and priorities", NDM28, Geneva, 11 April 2025.
168 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
169 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 24 July 2025.
170 Ibid.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Following the armed conflict with Armenia in 2020, the extent of AP mined area falling under Azerbaijan's control has increased hugely, increasing again as more territory came under Azerbaijan's control following the 2023 conflict, and again in 2024 following some border delimitation. ANAMA has adapted rapidly to restructure itself and upscale operations to address the increased contamination and workload. In November 2022, Azerbaijan suggested it would need 30 years to complete mine clearance,[171] and in June 2024, ANAMA again indicated that it could take decades to clear all mines.[172]

In order to plan and address AP mine contamination effectively, ANAMA must first quantify the problem. NTS is proceeding slowly, as the main focus is on clearing land to enable the return of IDPs to the regained territories. The establishment of an accurate baseline of AP mined area is, therefore, still a long way off and there is currently no prioritisation of clearance tasks based on the type of contamination (e.g. prioritising AP mine clearance over clearance of other types of EO). In addition, ANAMA struggles to disaggregate mined areas from battle areas, in both data on the extent of contamination and data on the amount of land released. This is something that ANAMA has said that it will seek to improve as it strengthens its information management system and reporting,[173] and for 2024, it reported AP mine clearance separately. Some 600,000 IDPs were poised to return to the 2020 liberated territories under the "Great Return" programme which, ANAMA has confirmed, planned to release 2,800km^2 of land in three stages by the end of 2026.[174]

Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km^2)
2024	5.32
2023	*10.00
2022	3.52
2021	*18.38
2020	0.10
Total	**37.32**

*Clearance output estimated by Mine Action Review.

Azerbaijan has yet to join the APMBC. It should do so as a matter of priority. Azerbaijan participated as an observer in the Meetings of States Parties in November 2022 and November 2023, and in the intersessional meetings in June 2023 and June 2024. In statements at Convention meetings, Azerbaijan has called on the States Parties as well as UN agencies to help it to mobilise international support for demining Azerbaijan.[175] ANAMA has said, on account of the extent of contamination, that it remains severely underfunded.[176]

Azerbaijan previously 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."[177] At the end of May 2024, Armenia returned four border villages to Azerbaijan following a process to demarcate the border.[178] However, there are four enclaves in Armenia that Azerbaijan wants returned to its sovereignty,[179] and it now says it cannot join the APMBC due to the "military posture of neighbouring Armenia".[180]

Azerbaijan submitted voluntary APMBC Article 7 transparency reports in 2008 and 2009, but has not submitted a report since. Accuracy of reporting of contamination, survey, and clearance data continues to be an issue in Azerbaijan. So too are the effectiveness and efficiency of land release methodology, with many areas being released that prove to have little or no mine contamination.

ANAMA continues to make impressive progress in rapidly scaling up clearance efforts, and the process is nationally led, and has drawn on international expertise, such as UNDP and MAG, for capacity development. Systems to support the huge upscaling of the mine action programme in Azerbaijan, such as elaboration of a national mine action standards (albeit yet to be formally approved), are being put in place, and in 2025, mine action legislation was enacted. Applying efficient, evidence-based survey and clearance methodology, supported by strong national standards and an effective information management and QM system, will be pivotal for the success of demining efforts in Azerbaijan. ANAMA is also seeking to increase demining capacity by adding new national demining NGOs. ANAMA believes they could play a vital role in managing a residual risk to support safe repatriation of IDPs.[181]

171 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 16 August 2022; and "Azerbaijan needs nearly 30 years and $25 billion to solve issues related to demining – President Ilham Aliyev", *Trend News Agency*, 13 October 2022.

172 "3rd Global Mine Action Conference Concludes In Baku", *MENAFN*, 1 June 2024, at: https://bit.ly/4bEZqiS.

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

174 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 9 September 2024 and 16 October 2024.

175 Statements of Azerbaijan, Intersessional Meetings, 19–21 June 2023 and 20 June 2024; and Statement of Azerbaijan on Universalisation, 21MSP, Geneva, 23 November 2023.

176 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 16 August 2022.

177 "Azerbaijan and Ottawa Process", undated but published on 13 June 2005, at: https://bit.ly/3KLDbNV.

178 "Armenia returns four border villages to Azerbaijan", *Le Monde*, 24 May 2024, at: https://bit.ly/3WRdxO9; and email from Nariman Gasimov, 21 July 2025.

179 The Jamestown Foundation, "Azerbaijan Calls for Return of Contested Villages", *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, Vol. 21, No. 59, 17 April 2024, at: https://bit.ly/3AcrugJ; and email from Nariman Gasimov, 21 July 2025.

180 Statement of Azerbaijan on Universalisation, 21MSP, Geneva, 23 November 2023.

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