AZERBAIJAN

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

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 2025 (km²)	Release in 2024 (km²)
Clearance	4.67	5.32
Technical Survey	0	*65
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	4,963 (incl. 86 in spot tasks)	4,286

* 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 (SHAs) 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 estimated that of the 134.9km² of area reduction claimed by ANAMA in 2024, actual reduction of AP mined area concerned 65km².

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2025:

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Following the adoption of the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities in February 2025, Azerbaijan adopted revised national mine action standards (ANMAR) between September and November 2025. Azerbaijan continued its massive clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Its mine action programme will be guided by the "Second State Program on the Great Return to the Liberated Territories of Azerbaijan" ("The Second Great Return Program") from 2027 until 2030. In 2025, the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA) reported that less than 4.7km² of AP mined area was cleared and 4,963 anti-personnel (AP) mines destroyed. While clearance of overall explosive ordnance (EO) contaminated area increased in 2025, the AP mined area released decreased significantly overall as no AP mined area was reduced through technical survey (TS), whereas in 2024 an estimated 65km² was reduced through 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 ensure that survey, clearance, and contamination data related to AP mines are disaggregated from data relating to anti-vehicle (AV) mines and ERW.**
- **Azerbaijan should allow cancellation of areas through non-technical survey (NTS), which is not permitted under existing standards, revising the ANMAR to allow this.**
- **ANAMA should finalise and adopt a new draft mine action strategy to replace the one that expired in 2018, reflecting the significant increase in EO contamination now under Azerbaijan's control.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

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

NATIONAL OPERATORS

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

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO

OTHER ACTORS

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

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

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 region has been recognised as one of the most heavily mined in the world.[1] The areas along the LOC were mined and re-mined over the three decades after 1990 by all parties to the conflict.[2] Further minefields and other EO, including abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO), were found in areas previously occupied by Armenia in the territory of Azerbaijan, including areas outside the former Nagorno-Karabakh (now within Azerbaijan's Garabagh Economic Region[3]). As at the end of 2024, remaining mined areas were along the former LOC (1,738km^2 of which was assessed as CHA EO contamination at the end of 2024[4]), in the Garabagh Economic Region,[5] and in four villages in Gazakh district returned to Azerbaijan in 2024 as a result of border delimitation (where 7.3km^2 of confirmed hazardous area (CHA) containing EO was

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

4 Email from Nariman Gasimov, Deputy Head of International Relations Department ANAMA, 21 July 2025.

5 Interview with Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 25 July 2025.

identified in 2024, and where clearance continued in 2025[6]).[7] There may still be mined areas outside the former LOC, and ANAMA's operational experience has shown that mined areas have been identified in other SHAs in the course of survey and clearance.[8]

The full extent of contamination across Azerbaijan will only be better understood after completion of requisite survey, focusing on territory that it has regained since 2020. ANAMA has been surveying these areas through a variety of methodologies including animal detection systems (ADS) (both mine detection dogs (MDDs) and mine detection rats (MDRs)) to help identify suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).[9] There are, however, currently no plans to establish a comprehensive national baseline of AP mine contamination. Survey and clearance activities are carried out within the framework of a general operational plan, based on tasking and priorities linked to reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, which addresses all types of EO without distinction.[10]

Azerbaijan reports that, at the end of 2025, it had recorded over 9,201km^2 of land contaminated with EO – 649.5km^2 of CHA, and another 8,552km^2 of SHA (up from 8,133km^2 in 2024[11]).[12] According to ANAMA, these SHAs remain classified as such based on NTS conducted in previous years, as TS has not yet been conducted in these areas. It says that CHA and SHA data should be seen as "dynamic", and subject to regular revision based on the results of NTS, TS, and clearance.[13]

In a bulletin published at the end of 2025, Azerbaijan reported that as at 2020, 11,677km^2 of its territory was EO-contaminated, repeated an earlier (and unlikely) claim that 13.4% of Azerbaijan's territory had been EO-contaminated,[14] and said that over one million mines had been planted on its territory (Azerbaijan has previously asserted that the country was contaminated with 1.5 million landmines[15]).[16]

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[17] (see "Planning and Tasking" below for further details). Since 2020, ANAMA reports that 2,489km^2 of hazardous area has been cleared (bringing the remaining contamination to 9,201km^2, as indicated above).[18] While ANAMA cannot provide baseline data regarding AP mined area, it can provide details of the number of landmines destroyed, and has indicated that 63,284 landmines were cleared between November 2020 and December 2025 (40,301 AP mines and 22,983 AV mines).[19]

Clearance has included certain areas along the former LOC, particularly where land is needed for development, agricultural use, and safe return, but significant contamination remains. ANAMA has reported that EO-contaminated area beyond the former LOC, in territory within the Garabagh Economic Region, is SHA.[20] 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.[21] The risk of finding AP mines beyond the LOC remains significant, and these areas continue to be subject to NTS and TS.[22]

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 (IEDs).[23] ANAMA previously estimated that IEDs covered 5% of total mined area,[24] but has since acknowledged the lack of precise data on the scale of IED contamination. These are frequently encountered during clearance operations and spot tasks, and are most commonly found in residential areas.[25]

Azerbaijan requested that Armenia immediately release information on the location of the remaining minefields following the war in 2020.[26] 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.[27] 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,[28] and it maintains that Armenia has yet to provide

6 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025 and 8 May 2026.
7 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July and 1 September 2025.
8 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 September 2026.
9 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 9 September 2024 and 7 June 2025.
10 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
11 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
12 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
13 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
14 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
15 See, e.g., 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, http://bit.ly/3H2dAS6.
16 "Mine action as a humanitarian challenge in Azerbaijan", *Asia+*, 3 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4vi000v; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 1 September 2025.
17 Email from Ramil Azizov, Operations Manager, 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, https://bit.ly/3DDz9D1.
18 "Mine action as a humanitarian challenge in Azerbaijan", *Asia+*, 3 February 2026.
19 Ibid.
20 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
21 Ibid.
22 Ibid.
23 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 1 September 2025; and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 16 August 2022.
24 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 16 August 2022.
25 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
26 Statement of Azerbaijan, APMBC Intersessional Meetings (online), 22–24 June 2021.
27 Statement of Armenia, Intersessional Meetings (online), 22–24 July 2021.
28 Ibid.; "Armenia and Azerbaijan exchange detainees for mine maps", *EurasiaNet*, 23 June 2021, https://bit.ly/3gXYWdx; and ANAMA, "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", Quarterly report, January 2023, p. 4.

accurate mine maps.[29] In fact, it has been stated, including by officials from Armenia and the former *de facto* authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh, that accurate minefield maps do not exist.[30] In 2024, Armenia presented eight new maps of minefields in the Karabakh region.[31] ANAMA complains, however, that the maps are "inaccurate, unreliable, and incomplete",[32] and has continued to demand the transfer of landmine maps.[33]

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 conflict, media reported that retreating Armenian forces emplaced mines in multiple locations.[34] 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, as well as two thirds of the Nagorno-Karabakh itself[35] (all of which is now within Azerbaijan's Garabagh Economic Region) and most mined areas came under Azerbaijan's control. Azerbaijan regained the remainder of the territory during a renewed offensive on 19 September 2023.[36]

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 2026* 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.[37] The rebranded ANAMA has the mandate to plan, coordinate, and oversee humanitarian demining by national and international operators.[38] ANAMA has a national headquarters in Baku and two regional offices in Horadiz and Goygol, and mobile base camps operating in ten regions (Aghdam, Hadrut, Jabrayil, Khankendi, Khojavend, Lachin, Qubadli, and Zangilan, with Aghdara and Gazakh added since 2024) in the regained territories. Goygol Regional Training Centre is the main demining training centre.[39]

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 is, though, excluded from the Law, although ANAMA has provided training for the Ministry of Defence on the scope of humanitarian demining to ensure operations are based on international standards.[40]

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.[41] Since the end of the 2020 conflict, both ANAMA and clearance in Azerbaijan as a whole 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, continued to meet regularly in 2025 (twenty times, including two meetings in the regions, in Jabrayil and Khankendi[42]) and included the ministries of defence, interior, and emergency situations, as well as the State Border Service.[43] The working group has overall responsibility for coordination of mine action, while ANAMA coordinates mine action operators.[44] It plays a central role in coordinating mine action activities, including survey and clearance operations, among national authorities and operational actors. Moreover, it serves as the primary mechanism for discussing progress, addressing challenges,

29 "Farid Shafiyev: Azerbaijan is among the top five countries for landmine contamination", *Azertag*, 5 April 2025, http://bit.ly/3GUdqMC.

30 International Crisis Group (ICG), "Post-War Prospects for Nagorno-Karabakh", 9 June 2021, https://bit.ly/4dclod8.

31 "Azerbaijan Urges Armenia for Accurate Minefield Maps", *Caspian News*, 27 January 2024, https://bit.ly/4deZVBH.

32 "Azerbaijan says Armenia presented 8 new maps on minefields in Karabakh", *Anadolu Agency (AA)*, 13 February 2024, https://bit.ly/3LuZF5I.

33 "Azerbaijan Keeps Pressing Armenia for Landmine Maps", *Caspian Post*, 26 December 2025, https://bit.ly/4uV1gG7.

34 "Mines, Karabakh and Armenia's Crisis", *New Eastern Europe*, 16 April 2021, https://bit.ly/3vezeaC.

35 See, e.g., ICG, "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer, Last updated 7 May 2021, https://bit.ly/3uiOou2.

36 ICG, "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 16 September 2023, https://bit.ly/3uiOou2; and "Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists", *BBC*, 21 September 2023, https://bbc.in/3rCVK0e.

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

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

39 Emails from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 2 July 2026.

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

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

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

43 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.

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

and ensuring alignment with national priorities related to reconstruction and the "First State Program on the Great Return to the Liberated Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan" ("The Great Return Program" – see the section "Planning and Tasking" below).[45]

Mine action is considered a national priority by the Government of Azerbaijan.[46] 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).[47] Azerbaijan has adopted national SDG 18 for mine action for safe return, settlement, recovery, prosperity and peace,[48] and has proposed a dedicated global SDG as part of the Agenda 2030 process.[49]

ANAMA has identified direct funding as its most critical need for international assistance. Other priorities include procuring armoured heavy support machinery (bulldozers and excavators); explosive containment chambers; ground-penetrating radar; and explosive materials transportation vehicles. ANAMA says that enhancing mechanical demining capabilities, including obtaining specialised equipment for uneven terrain; and MDD training, are also priorities.[50]

International partners provided a range of capacity building support to ANAMA in 2025. In terms of training and operational capacity building, the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) delivered specialist training to ANAMA on mine clearance operations in forested and mountainous areas in 2025, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) planned to deploy a demining team to Azerbaijan in 2026. The Embassy of China in Azerbaijan has assisted the mine action programme with equipment, donating portable X-ray equipment, in December 2025 (China has also provided funding for mine action, as noted below).[51]

To support institutional strengthening and technical cooperation, ANAMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in July 2025, focusing on joint projects, experience exchange, and support in areas such as standards, operations, and sustainable development.[52] The GICHD has previously supported ANAMA with the installation of Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core and on innovation in mine action.[53] Similarly, under an MoU of November 2025, the Hungarian Mine Action Centre for Quality and Collaboration (HUNMAC-QC) is collaborating with ANAMA on strengthening quality assurance and quality control in line with international standards.[54]

As regards the use of mine detection animals, the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) continued to provide MDDs to ANAMA under an MoU signed in 2025 to provide up to 30 dogs in 2025 and 2026. As at May 2026, MLI were on track to provide a total of 21 MDDs to ANAMA by the end of the year.[55] APOPO provided a total of 24 MDDs to Delta Clearing Solutions, Qaya Safety Solutions, and SafePoint (collectively these dog teams searched a total of just under 3.6km² of EO-contaminated area in 2025).[56] In addition, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), through a project launched by APOPO in the final quarter of 2025, is supporting MDD capacity building, including the deployment of six ANAMA handlers to Cambodia for training. Of these six, four ANAMA staff members completed the MDD handlers' course, while two completed the MDD trainers' course.[57]

UNDP continued to provide support to ANAMA until it ceased to operate in Azerbaijan on 2 May 2025.[58] This included a land release consultant, who built on an initial consultancy started in 2024 and reviewed release methodologies and standard operating procedures (SOPs), capacity development, and institutional strengthening of mine action practices in Azerbaijan.[59] Another UNDP consultant assessed ANAMA's MDD programme and developed a capacity enhancement plan.[60]

Following the statement of intent that ANAMA signed with UNDP in May 2024, various steps have been taken towards setting up an International Centre of Excellence in Training for Mine Action in Azerbaijan.[61] A comprehensive feasibility study has been conducted,[62] and a UNDP-engaged international expert produced a three-phase plan in 2025 that aimed for full operation from the middle of 2026.[63] The Centre is to provide national, regional, and international training and capacity building; and to promote research and innovation.[64] In May 2026, ANAMA said that work on a project

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

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

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

48 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

58 "UNDP ceases its activity in Azerbaijan*", caliber.az,* 2 May 2025, http://bit.ly/4lHLH0q; and email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

document was ongoing, including coordination with relevant stakeholders and development partners. The project will be undertaken after the project documentation is approved.[65]

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) has provided a range of capacity building support to Azerbaijan in recent years, and continued to provide capacity building support to the IEPF until the end of February 2025, including team leader training for 14 IEPF deminers.[66] However, MAG Azerbaijan went into a phased hibernation from the end of May 2025 until the end of summer due to administrative issues relating to its registration to work in Azerbaijan.[67] Since this time, MAG has maintained only a legal presence in Azerbaijan.[68]

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

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In 2025, the national authorities allocated US$102 million to ANAMA[69] (a decrease from the US$114.6 million it allocated in 2024): funds covered both running costs and capital expenditure.[70] The Government of Azerbaijan has funded most of ANAMA's running costs in recent years, as well as survey and clearance. The national contribution to running costs was expected to increase by 1.2% in 2025, to almost US$50 million but actually increased by 14%.[71]

In 2025, funding for mine clearance from foreign donors remained at approximately 5% of total demining funding, and by May 2026, this had decreased to 4%.[72] ANAMA continues to work towards securing new funders, welcoming potential donors and organisations interested in contributing to mine action in Azerbaijan.[73] It has held various conferences to attract interest and share good practice,[74] and held its third international conference together with UNDP, in May 2024.[75] Its fourth conference, "Humanitarian Demining for Urban Recovery: Setting Standards of Excellence for Safe Settlements" was held at the beginning of September 2026.[76] ANAMA indicated that, at the end of 2025, 13 donor countries were supporting mine action in Azerbaijan, along with 11 international organisations.[77]

The European Union (EU) and its Member States are the leading international donors for humanitarian demining in Azerbaijan.[78] The "Team Europe Initiative on Mine Action in Azerbaijan" was announced on 3 May 2024, when the European Union was expected to contribute a total of around €13 million to mine action in Azerbaijan during the year.[79] In December 2025, the European Union and the Azerbaijan Ministry of Economy signed the "Support for Mine Action and Sustainable Development in the Water and Transport Sectors in Azerbaijan" agreement, which included an initial allocation of €5 million of support for mine action activities, including capacity-building and institutional strengthening of ANAMA.[80] The European Union has also indicated its intention to provide financial assistance for mine action-related activities through ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF).[81] In May 2026, Team Europe's total support was reported to have reached €22 million, with €10 million allocated to demining equipment and to the International Centre of Excellence for Mine Action.[82] In addition in 2025, Italy confirmed its intention to support mine action activities in Azerbaijan through a dedicated project.[83]

Other funding came from China in 2025, under an MoU on "Strengthening Humanitarian Mine Action Cooperation between the ANAMA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China," signed on 23 April 2025, and China donated approximately US$324,541 to ANAMA.[84] Media sources indicate other potential donors including the United States, which may provide financial support and technology.[85] For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Azerbaijan on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[86]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

73 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.

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

75 Ibid.

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

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

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

79 EU, "Launch of Team Europe Initiative on Mine Action in Azerbaijan", 3 May 2024, https://bit.ly/431Rd6I.

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

81 Ibid.

82 "EU ambassador: Negotiations underway on new project aimed at strengthening ANAMA's capabilities", *apa*, 22 May 2026, https://bit.ly/3PU2fIf.

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

84 Ibid.

85 "Saudi aid agency behind $294m mine-clearance programs", *Arab News*, 5 April 2026, https://bit.ly/4f5Vs8x; and "US to expand humanitarian demining cooperation with Azerbaijan", *Operative Information Centre*, 10 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4vgSG58.

86 https://the-monitor.org.

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. A UNDP assessment underlined the fact that concerns over women's reproductive health (for example, regarding pregnancy) are deeply rooted in cultural norms intended to protect women rather than exclude them. Despite being well-intentioned, these norms create barriers to women's participation in the labour force.[87]

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.[88] A UNDP consultant on gender issues supported ANAMA in implementing the strategy in 2024 and developed a dashboard for monitoring.[89] 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.[90] In 2026, however, ANAMA said that gender and diversity were not integrated into any national mine action strategy (though there is no current strategy dedicated to mine action); nor did Azerbaijan have a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan.[91]

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

Table 1: Gender composition of ANAMA (at end 2025)[92]

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

Two women-only demining teams were operating in IEPF in 2025 under the ANAMA umbrella.[93] Female demining capacity has increased in recent years in large part through the EU-UNDP funded 2023 project whereby MAG, in partnership with IEPF, supported ANAMA in deploying two fully equipped women-only multi-task teams conducting mine clearance, battle area clearance (BAC), NTS, TS, animal detection systems (with APOPO providing support with animal detection systems including MDDs and MDRs[94]), and risk education.[95] Furthermore, MAG trained the first seven female demining team leaders as part of its training of 14 new team leaders in 2024, all of whom received accreditation.[96] ANAMA confirmed that women participated for the first time in 2024 in the training for MDD handling.[97] Moreover, two female ANAMA MDD handlers participated in a four-month basic humanitarian demining and dog handler training in Cambodia from the end of November 2025.[98]

According to ANAMA, operations, survey and community liaison personnel are mostly from affected communities, and there are no restrictions on access or participation on the basis of ethnicity or religious affiliation. Mine action data continues to be collected and disaggregated in accordance with the adopted SOPs, including by date, location, age, and gender. ANAMA has highlighted that risk education and awareness teams, which include volunteer groups, are inclusive and age- and gender-mixed.[99]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

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

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

According to the ANMAR (drafted in 2022), the national programme sought "to ensure that the environment is not degraded by mine action work and land is returned in a state that is similar to, or where possible better than, before mine action operations commenced, and that permits its intended use." The relevant chapter includes information on Azerbaijan's mine action environmental management system and requirements for the identification, assessment, and mitigation of environmental aspects. These include waste disposal, water supplies, burning and removal of vegetation, animals, open burning and demolition, environmental aspects of mechanical demining, and completion and remediation. Moreover, measures are in place to ensure IMAS compliant procedures for the discharge of drainage water, the gathering of munition remnants, and the inspection and restoration of craters caused by detonations. Geographic characteristics and seasonal conditions in each region are considered to ensure effective operations.

During TS and clearance, demining experts are required to work with environmental specialists to assess the environmental impact of operations and minimise harm. 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.

Table 2: Environmental policies and action for ANAMA[100]

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.[101] It routinely applies environmental considerations such as drainage water control and mitigation of environmental disruption during clearance.[102] 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.[103]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Azerbaijan's recently adopted, national mine action standards included establishing a single, unified, information management (IM) system, which ANAMA had already been implementing for several years.[104] By January 2025, the transition to IMSMA Core had been completed, with the previous system (IMSMA Legacy) remaining accessible in parallel for reference and data verification purposes. The adoption of IMSMA Core is said to have significantly enhanced the efficiency of data processing by introducing greater automation and improving the accuracy and timeliness of reporting.[105]

In 2025, ANAMA continued to implement measures to ensure and improve the quality of data in the mine action database. Continuous quality control remains a priority, and efforts to further refine and optimise data validation and management processes are ongoing.[106]

PLANNING AND TASKING

ANAMA is guided by the following key documents, issued at cabinet level, which together influence clearance and explosive ordnance risk education (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–

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

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

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

103 Ibid.

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

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

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

2026".[107] 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.[108]

The last adopted mine action strategy was for 2013–18. Its main aims were to continue mine and ERW clearance in support of government development projects and to provide safe conditions for the local population in affected regions.[109] 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.[110] In 2025, work was underway to develop a new strategic document, "The Mine Action Roadmap 2035" with the timeline for finalisation and adoption still to be determined.[111] The Roadmap had not been launched as at May 2026, when ANAMA reported that it would work within the framework of "The Second Great Return Program" (2027–2030) for the next four years, which as at June 2026 had yet to be formally adopted.[112]

The draft mine action strategy of 2023 had called for an increase in clearance capacity so as to eventually achieve annual clearance output of 650km^2.[113] 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.[114] 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.[115] Azerbaijan currently maintains high levels of EO clearance. In line with the plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, Azerbaijan aimed to release almost 651km^2 of EO-contaminated area in 2025,[116] and exceeded its target, clearing a total of 692km^2.[117] For 2026, the general clearance plan covers approximately 650.3km^2 of land, after which, according to the Second Great Return Program (2027–30), the plan will be to clear 650km^2 annually.[118]

ANAMA coordinates the activities of several State implementing agencies, NGOs, and commercial contractors to implement its work plans.[119] ANAMA performs NTS of each project area/polygon prior to tasking operators on TS and clearance.[120] As part of the NTS process, ANAMA collates information through interviews with locals and with the personnel of construction companies, although limited data is typically obtained from members of newly resettled communities. ANAMA also works in close collaboration with the military and consults minefield records, survey and clearance data, and incident data when available.[121] 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.[122] 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.[123]

Survey and clearance are conducted within the framework of the general annual clearance plan. Tasking is carried out based on requests from relevant government institutions, in line with reconstruction, rehabilitation, and resettlement priorities under the Great Return Program. In 2026, priority areas continued to include residential infrastructure, agricultural lands, energy infrastructure, and road networks. The specific nature of contamination continues to be determined through TS and subsequent clearance operations in assigned areas.[124]

A coordination headquarters has been created by the Government of Azerbaijan, with an Interagency Centre operating under the supervision of the Presidential administration. Within this framework, the Working Group on Mine and ERW Clearance plays a central role in coordinating mine action activities. In addition, ANAMA has established

107 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.
108 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
109 Email from Sabina Sarkarova, ANAMA, 2 May 2018.
110 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.
111 Emails from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 31 March 2025; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
112 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
113 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 10.
114 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.
115 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.
116 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.
117 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026; and ANAMA presentation at the "International panel discussion event – From Contamination to Recovery: Mine Action as the Foundation for Reconstruction", NDM29, Geneva, 24 April 2026.
118 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
119 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 9.
120 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023; and email from Ramil Azizov, 22 July 2024.
121 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.
122 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, pp. 3, 5, and 8.
123 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.
124 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

an internal Methodological Commission consisting of the heads of relevant departments, divisions, and units within ANAMA.[125] The Commission is responsible for reviewing the scope, form, and timeline of planned operations and makes recommendations on tasking following internal discussions among representatives of relevant ANAMA departments and structural units.[126]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In 2025, the new ANMAR, which had been in development for several years, were formally adopted under Cabinet of Ministers Decisions No. 271 dated 18 September 2025, on the "Requirements for Mine Clearance Activities"; No. 321 dated 28 October 2025, on the "Rules for conducting assessment (accreditation) for the implementation of demining activities"; and No. 346 dated 27 November 2025, on the "Rules for conducting training on standard operating procedures for demining personnel").[127]

UNDP consultants engaged at the start of 2025 worked to align the draft ANMAR with the new legal framework introduced by the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities (February 2025) prior to their adoption.[128] ANAMA's Methodological Commission is responsible for the development and revision of SOPs, and for ensuring that clearance operations are conducted in accordance with the SOPs.[129] Updates to the ANMAR and SOPs are reported to be undertaken in close consultation with operators.[130] No updates to the SOPs on survey and clearance of AP mines were required in 2025.[131]

The new ANMAR formally replace the old version, which were previously revised in line with IMAS in 2021, and again in 2023.[132] UNDP considered that the ANMAR revised in 2023 were in line with IMAS, but that more work was needed on the conduct of NTS and the disaggregation of data.[133] Various organisations have been involved in the revision of the ANMAR since 2023. ANAMA, UNDP, and MAG began supporting the evaluation and revision of 29 mine action SOPs for the revised national standards.[134] 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.[135] While the revised ANMAR of 2023 were provided to all operators, they were never formally adopted by the government.[136]

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 the 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, as mentioned, it serves as an initial step in the identification process and is used to prioritise the "reduction of threat", while the primary basis for the confirmation and delineation of CHAs and SHAs is TS, which provides evidence-based verification of contamination.[137]

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.[138] 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.[139] All areas identified for intervention are subject to full clearance in accordance with applicable standards.[140]

ANAMA considers planned land use in its prioritisation and tasking, and all clearance is conducted to four metres depth in the plots where foundations will be laid for construction.[141] Clearance has not been conducted to full fade-out in the case of AP mines being found, so if contamination extends beyond the polygon boundary tasked to the operator, it was not addressed as part of that task.[142] This meant there was a risk of losing valuable information on the exact location

125 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
126 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 29 June 2026.
127 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
128 Email from Qadeem Tariq, UNDP Azerbaijan, 31 March 2025.
129 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
130 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
131 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
132 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022.
133 Email from Mark Buswell, UNDP, 20 March 2023.
134 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.
135 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June and 7 July 2025.
136 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.
137 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 8 May 2026.
138 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.
139 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.
140 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
141 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023; and emails from Ramil Azizov, 19 July 2023; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 12 June and 8 September 2026.
142 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 8 September 2026.

and footprint of an AP minefield as the full footprint was not cleared at the time. In 2026, however, ANAMA reported each area subject to intervention is fully cleared to full fade-out,[143] and has previously said that the coordinates of all AP mines discovered are carefully recorded and plotted on a map and saved for future reference.[144]

ANAMA has started fencing off hazardous areas, primarily those along the former contact lines, which are considered as CHAs due to the high level and complexity of contamination.[145]

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.[146] However, 60% of injuries and fatalities (previously about 70%[147]) have occurred in areas outside the LOC, including in cemeteries, agricultural areas, buildings, forests, and around water sources, so preventive actions have been considered in such areas in recent years.[148]

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. While the organisational structure grew in 2025, the total number of operational personnel reportedly dropped. ANAMA, however, notes that staff numbers are dynamic and vary during the year. It says that the number of personnel has generally continued to grow.[149] At the end of 2025, Azerbaijan's total operational capacity for addressing all EO consisted of 1,955 personnel (315 survey staff, most of whom conducted both NTS and TS, and 1,630 deminers – down from a total operational capacity of 2,485 in 2024); 208 MDDs (up from 182 in 2024); and 92 mine clearance machines (up from 87 in 2024). See Tables 3 and 4 for details.[150]

In 2025, the State Border Service stopped undertaking survey and clearance. Delta Clearing Solutions was a new operator for survey and clearance. In contrast to the previous year, in 2025, the Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Emergency Situations had teams dedicated to TS, while Qaya Safety Solutions had teams dedicated to NTS and TS as well as clearance.[151]

Azerbaijan increased its use of mechanical assets in EO clearance operations in 2025, with some assets produced domestically.[152] Due to funding constraints, APOPO's 11 MDRs were not operational in Azerbaijan in 2025 (as they had been in 2024). There are, however, ongoing efforts to mobilize resources, with the objective of deploying these assets in 2026. The UK funding announced in December 2025 will train ANAMA personnel to use mine detection rats in 2026.[153]

Table 3: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed for all explosive ordnance in 2025[154]

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS teams	TS personnel	Total survey personnel	Comments
Alpha Demining	N/A	N/A	3	18	18	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
ANAMA	N/A	N/A	27	102	102	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
Delta Clearing Solutions partnering with GCS	N/A	N/A	1	3	3	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
IEPF	N/A	N/A	2	15	15	TS personnel also conduct NTS.
Ministry of Defence	N/A	N/A	4	19	19	
Ministry of Emergency Situations	1	3	2	12	15	
Qaya Safety Solutions	1	10	10	75	85	
Safe Point	N/A	N/A	6	58	58	
Totals	**2**	**13**	**55**	**302**	**315**	

N/A = Not applicable.

ANAMA did not use Remote Aerial Minefield Survey (RAMS) multispectral data analysis in 2024, which it had used in 2023, to identify suspected areas as part of establishing a baseline survey, collecting information on mines and ERW, and other information, such as the location of trenches and military positions.[155] However, ANAMA continues to receive proposals

143 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
144 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 22 July 2024.
145 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 8 May 2026.
146 Interview with Samir Poladov and Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, Baku, 24 May 2023.
147 Email from Ramil Azizov, ANAMA, 20 May 2024.
148 Ibid.
149 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025 and 12 June 2026.
150 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026 and 7 July 2025.
151 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
152 "Machines take over one of the world's most dangerous jobs — clearing landmines", *AOL*, 2 March 2026, https://bit.ly/42ZZojS.
153 Emails from Mikael Bold, 13 April 2026; and Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025; and "Britain launches new project to support mine clearance in Azerbaijan", *apa*, 5 December 2025.
154 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June, and 8 and 9 July 2025.
155 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.

and to explore emerging remote sensing technologies[156] and has used advanced equipment and technology, including high-precision mine detectors capable of identifying metal objects buried up to six metres underground.[157] In 2025, Azerbaijan increased its use of technology in survey and clearance operations.[158] Drones were used for survey to improve area assessment and mapping, while X-ray devices were used during the clearance of buildings to safely identify explosive hazards. These technologies are reported to enhance both safety and efficiency.[159]

Table 4: Operational clearance capacities deployed for all explosive ordnance (at end 2025)[160]

Operator	Clearance teams	Operational staff	MDD Teams (dogs/ handlers)	Total deminers (including MDD handlers)	Machines	Comments
ANAMA	27	1,019	3 (143/108)	1,127	57	
Alpha Demining	9	65	2 (20/15)	80	2	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Azerbaijan Demining Company	5	45	1 (7/6)	51	3	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Delta Clearing Solutions	5	38	1 (6/3)	41	2	
IEPF	2	95	1 (0/4)	99	0	ANAMA supported IEPF with MDDs and machines.
Ministry of Defence	4	100	1 (9/4)	104	19	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Ministry of Emergency Situations	4	22	1 (5/5)	27	4	All personnel conduct TS, NTS, and clearance.
Qaya Safety Solutions	5	60	4 (8/4)	64	3	
Safe Point	4	32	5 (10/15)	37	2	
Totals	**65**	**1,476**	**19 (208/164)**	**1,630**	**92**	

ANAMA is responsible for accrediting, training, and monitoring all mine action operators, including State actors involved in demining.[161] As at December 2025, one national commercial demining company, Delta Clearing Solutions (a new operator in Azerbaijan in 2025), was partnering with international commercial clearing company, Global Clearance Solutions (GCS). For the last few years, two national commercial demining companies each worked with an international commercial sub-contractor, to assist with operational planning and help build capacity (Qaya Safety Solutions, partnering with SafeLane Global, and the Azerbaijan Demining Company, partnering with Piper),[162] which now work independently.

All data are reported and entered into ANAMA's IMSMA database. ANAMA's quality management system operates through a structured framework encompassing accreditation, internal and external monitoring, and quality control (QC) mechanisms.[163] ANAMA conducts monitoring and quality assurance (QA) for operators and issues hand-over certificates after QA.[164] 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).[165]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

ANAMA reported that a total of less than 4.7km^2 of AP mined area was cleared in 2025 with the destruction of 4,963 AP mines. No AP mined area was reduced through survey in 2025.[166]

156 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
157 "ANAMA using cutting-edge technology to detect and clear landmines, unexploded ordnance", *caliber.az*, 29 May 2025, https://bit.ly/44lTPwD.
158 "Personnel of Emergency Situations Ministry equipped with special demining robots", *Report Informasiya Agentliyi*, 17 February 2026, https://bit.ly/3RC2ckT.
159 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
160 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May and 12 June 2026.
161 ANAMA, Quarterly Report "Mine Action in Azerbaijan: Priorities and Needs", January 2023, p. 7.
162 Interviews with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and emails from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 July 2025 and 8 May 2026.
163 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 7 June 2025.
164 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.
165 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 12 June 2026.
166 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.

Table 5: Summary of land release outputs in 2025[167]

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)	Comments
Clearance	4.67	
Technical survey	0	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**	
AP mines destroyed	4,963	(Including 86 during spot tasks)

SURVEY IN 2025

In 2025, no AP mined area was reported as reduced through TS or cancelled through NTS.[168] Azerbaijan does not use NTS for land release, as mentioned.[169] It has, however, previously released AP mined area through TS. ANAMA reported that in 2024, 134.9km² was reduced through TS, and Mine Action Review estimated that of this, 65km² of AP mined area was released through TS (in Jabrayil, Gubadli, and Zangilan in the Garabagh Economic Region).[170]

CLEARANCE IN 2025

ANAMA reported clearance of less than 4.7km² in Azerbaijan in 2025 with 4,963 AP mines destroyed (see Table 6).[171] This is less than the 5.3km² cleared in Azerbaijan in 2024, although the number of AP mines destroyed increased by 677 from the 4,286 AP mines destroyed in 2024.[172]

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2025[173]

Districts/Location	CHAs/SHAs	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Aghdam*	11	1,127,717	1,850	880	3,214
Aghdara	5	41,652	21	217	2,016
Fuzuli*	9	741,516	237	261	5,163
Gazakh**	9	255,811	314	13	436
Jabrayil*	8	608,050	1,863	261	5,795
Kalbajar*	8	779,325	51	19	21
Khankendi City***	0	0	****9	0	9,991
Khojaly***	2	4,657	131	28	17,992
Khojavend* ***	6	237,894	385	153	6,414
Lachin*	0	846,296	98	12	540
Gubadli* (spot tasks)	0	1	****1	1	173
Shusha*	1	28,338	1	13	156
Tartar* ***	0	0	0	0	4
Zangilan* (partial clearance)	1	1,136	1	2	21
Other (spot tasks)	0	0	1	1	456
Totals	**60**	**4,672,393**	**4,963**	**1,861**	**52,392**

* Previously inaccessible territory which Azerbaijan regained in 2020, plus parts of Khojavend and Tartar. ** 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 Tartar. **** Nine AP mines were discovered during planned infrastructure clearance inside buildings in Khakendi; and one AP mine was discovered during planned infrastructure clearance inside a building in Gubaldi.[174]

167 Ibid.
168 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
169 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
170 Ibid.
171 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
172 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 21 July 2025.
173 Email from Nariman Gasimov, ANAMA, 8 May 2026.
174 Emails from Nariman Gasimov, 8 September 2026 and 12 October 2026.

The 4,963 AP mines destroyed included 256 IEDs in 17 hazardous areas. A total of 230 IEDs were destroyed during clearance operations and 26 as spot tasks. A total of 86 AP mines were reported destroyed in spot tasks, and comprised: five spot tasks in Aghdam with 27 AP mines found; five spot tasks in Aghdara with 12 AP mines found; one spot task in Jabrayil with 14 AP mines found; one spot task in Neftchalah with one AP mine found; three spot tasks in Gazakh with three AP mines found; one spot task in Shusha with one AP mine found; two spot tasks in Khankendi with three AP mines; and two spot tasks in Khojavend with 25 AP mines found.[175]

ANAMA says that in 2025, a total of 103 suspected or confirmed hazardous areas, extending over 1,081,279m^2, were cleared which proved to contain no AP mines. However, AV mines and UXO were found in these areas.[176] Across Azerbaijan, ANAMA reported that, in 2025, during clearance of 692km^2 of EO-contaminated area, in addition to the 4,963 AP mines destroyed, a total of 1,861 AV mines, and 52,392 items of UXO were found and destroyed.[177]

DEMINER SAFETY

ANAMA reported that in 2025, there were four demining accidents in which four ANAMA personnel were injured as a result of AP mine explosions. All accidents are immediately investigated by an internal investigation team, and the causes shared among clearance operators. Accidents are also investigated and evaluated by the relevant state entity (the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection or Labour Protection Agency).[178] Media reports of casualties from landmines among ANAMA personnel, including at least one fatality, continued into 2026.[179]

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Following the armed conflict with Armenia in 2020, the extent of AP mined area falling under Azerbaijan's control hugely increased, increasing further 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. Overall, based on government data, international experts estimate that it will take nearly 30 years and $25 billion to address all of the country's demining challenges.[180]

Azerbaijan has yet to join the APMBC. It should do so as a matter of priority. Azerbaijan regularly participates as an observer at Meetings of States Parties and intersessional meetings. It submitted voluntary APMBC Article 7 transparency reports in 2008 and 2009, but has not submitted a report since. It has though, used Convention meetings to call on the States Parties as well as UN agencies, to help it to mobilise international support for demining Azerbaijan.[181]

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."[182] In 2023 it said that it could not join the APMBC due to the "military posture of neighbouring Armenia".[183] At the end of May 2024, Armenia returned four border villages to Azerbaijan following a process to demarcate the border,[184] and in August 2025, Azerbaijan and Armenia initialled a draft peace agreement.[185] Developments on such matters are ongoing, and efforts towards border delimitation continue.[186]

The accuracy 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. Furthermore, 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). All clearance is conducted in accordance with the national work plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers within the framework of "The Great Return Program", with the "Second Great Return Program" due to take effect in 2027. As such, clearance priorities are determined based on broader humanitarian and reconstruction needs—clearing land to enable the return of IDPs to the regained territories—rather than the type of contamination.[187]

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.

175 Ibid.

176 Ibid.

177 Email from Nariman Gasimov, 8 May 2026; and ANAMA presentation at the, "International panel discussion event - From Contamination to Recovery: Mine Action as the Foundation for Reconstruction", NDM29, Geneva, 24 April 2026.

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

179 Humanitarian worker injured in landmine explosion in Ağdərə's Qızıloba village", *Azernews*, 11 January 2026, https://bit.ly/433A8t4; ""ANAMA employee injured in mine incident in Khojaly", *Report Informasiya Agentliyi*, 18 February 2026, https://bit.ly/49lX8qP; and "Azerbaijani demining worker killed in mine explosion", OC Media, 15 April 2026, https://bit.ly/4nTeLnX.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The establishment of an accurate baseline of AP mined area is, therefore, still a long way off. In addition, ANAMA has struggled to disaggregate mined areas from battle areas, for both contamination and land release. This is something that ANAMA has said that it will seek to improve as it strengthens its information management system and reporting,[188] and for 2024 and 2025, it reported AP mine clearance separately.

ANAMA has pointed to other challenges to survey and clearance activities which it links to the complex nature of contamination in the liberated territories. It has highlighted the presence of plastic-cased mines, which are difficult to detect using standard metal detection methods, and the corrosion of EO over time, making them more sensitive, thereby increasing the risk to clearance personnel. In addition, dense and seasonal vegetation presents a major operational obstacle.[189]

Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2025	4.67
2024	5.32
2023	*10.00
2022	3.52
2021	*18.38
Total	**41.89**

* Clearance output estimated by Mine Action Review.

ANAMA continues to make impressive progress in rapidly scaling up clearance efforts, and the process is nationally led, drawing on international expertise, such as UNDP (until May 2025) and MAG,[190] for capacity development. Systems to support the huge upscaling of the mine action programme in Azerbaijan, such as the Law on Humanitarian Demining Activities, the elaboration of revised national mine action standards and the adoption of IMSMA Core are now in place. Applying efficient, evidence-based survey and clearance methodology, supported by strong national standards and a good IM and QM system, will be pivotal for the success of demining efforts in Azerbaijan.

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

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

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