

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

SUBMUNITION
CLEARANCE IN 2021

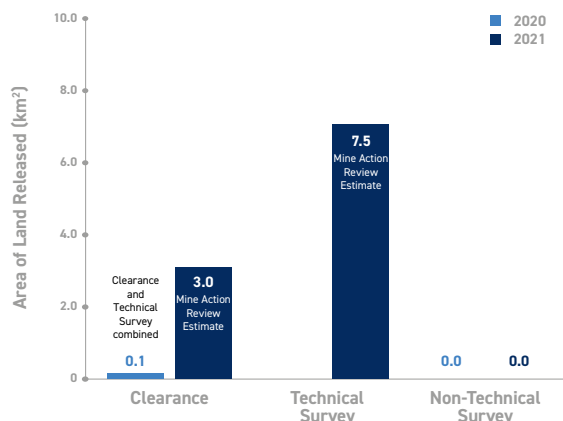
3km²

(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE, BASED ON ANAMA'S
REPORTED TOTAL OF AREA RELEASED OF 10KM² FOR
TASK POLYGONS FOUND TO CONTAIN SUBMUNITIONS)

SUBMUNITIONS
DESTROYED IN 2021

387

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The six-week armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan that broke out in September 2020 ended with Azerbaijan regaining control over seven districts of its internationally recognised territory formally controlled by Armenia, along with part of Nagorno-Karabakh. All parties to the conflict used cluster munitions in the course of the conflict but the extent of the resultant contamination from cluster munition remnants (CMR) in areas under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction and control is not yet known. A massive clearance effort of areas containing mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including CMR, is underway. In 2021, the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA, formerly the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action) reported

confirming, and releasing through combined technical survey and clearance, 10.5km² of cluster munition-contaminated area in the newly regained territory, along with a small amount of existing contamination on areas already under Azerbaijan's control. The 10.5km² clearance land release reported by ANAMA to Mine Action Review was combined technical survey and clearance, and was based on the total size of area for task polygons in which submunitions were found during land release, as ANAMA does not currently disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other BAC tasks. Mine Action Review has therefore estimated the size of cluster munition clearance specifically as 3km² and the remaining 7.5km² as reduction through technical survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Azerbaijan should commit to never again use cluster munitions and should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Azerbaijan should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- ANAMA, which serves as the de facto national mine action centre, should work to establish a nationwide baseline of CMR-contaminated area using evidence-based non-technical and technical survey.
- ANAMA should strive to ensure that the revised National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) are fully understood and routinely implemented by all entities conducting clearance.
- ANAMA should draft a new mine action strategy, to replace the one that expired in 2018, reflecting the significant increase in explosive ordnance (EO) contamination now under Azerbaijan's control. It should also elaborate a resource mobilisation strategy, detailing its funding needs from donors.

- Azerbaijan should systematically collect and report publicly on data on contaminated areas as well as progress in survey and clearance.
- ANAMA should consider establishing a national platform, such as a Mine Action Forum, to bring mine action relevant stakeholders, including donors, regularly to help strengthen coordination.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

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

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- ANAMA
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Emergency Situations
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Four national commercial demining companies, each with an international commercial sub-contractor:
 - Qaya partnering with Safelane Global
 - Safe Point partnering with RPS
 - Alpha Demining partnering with Altay Group
 - Azerbaijan Demining Company partnering with Piper
- One national demining NGO: International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Turkish Armed Forces

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of contamination from CMR in Azerbaijan is unknown, but is not believed to be heavy. During 2021, ANAMA confirmed more than 10km² of cluster munition-contaminated-area in territory which had been previously inaccessible and which it regained control of in 2020. This was, however, based on the total size of task polygons in which submunitions were found and therefore the size of actual cluster munition contamination (i.e. the contaminated area resulting from cluster munition strikes) is likely to have been far smaller than 10km². The CMR-contaminated area identified through survey was also released in 2021, together with a small amount of legacy contamination in areas which were already under Azerbaijan's control (please see Table 2 in the section on Land Release System).¹ The 10km² of polygons which contained submunitions is roughly a quarter of the total 43km² of battle area (including all ERW) surveyed and cleared in 2021, during which a total of 8,232 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) were found and destroyed in liberated territories. It also includes some areas which contained a combination of mines and CMR.²

With respect to a baseline of cluster munition-contaminated area, ANAMA has said that no data are yet available specifically on CMR, which are found in many former battle areas. It did, however, plan to establish a national baseline

of cluster munition-contaminated area as part of the non-technical survey.³ CMR resulted first from the 1988–94 conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and ammunition abandoned by the Soviet army in 1991. Following the cease-fire in 1994, tensions flared up in April 2016 when fighting broke out briefly along the then Line of Contact (LOC), and included the use of cluster munitions.

In July 2020, fighting broke out on the international borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and on 27 September 2020, Azerbaijan launched a fully-fledged military operation. Fierce fighting for just over six weeks was brought to an end by a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement, which came into effect on 10 November 2022. Under the agreement Azerbaijan now again controls in full the seven districts adjacent to Nagorno-Karabakh: the four districts (Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Qubadli, and Zangilan) which it took back control from Armenia, and the three districts (Aghdam, Kalbajar, and Lachin) from which Armenia agreed to withdraw its forces and return the districts to Azerbaijani control.⁴

Azerbaijan also regained control of a substantial part of Nagorno-Karabakh, the rest of which is patrolled by a Russian peacekeeping force but still governed by the de-facto Nagorno-Karabakh authorities.⁵ (See the Mine Action Review *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on Nagorno-Karabakh for further information).

1 Email from Samir Poladov, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA), 6 June 2022.

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

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

4 See, e.g., International Crisis Group (ICG), "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 7 May 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3ui0ou2>.

5 ICG, "The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Visual Explainer", Last updated 7 May 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3ui0ou2>.

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan used cluster munitions in the course of the six-week conflict in 2020. Human Rights Watch documented repeated use of LAR-160 cluster munition rockets and M095 dual-purpose submunitions by Azerbaijan in a civilian neighbourhood in Hadrut and Stepanakert (or Khankendi in Azeri).⁶ Another Human Rights Watch report described cluster munition use by Armenia in Barda, Goranboy, and Tartar districts, including Smerch rockets containing 9N235 submunitions.⁷ Amnesty International documented four cluster munition strikes resulting in civilian casualties by Armenian forces in towns and villages in Azerbaijan in October 2020. These consisted of three strikes in Barda dispersing dozens of 9N235 submunitions and a fourth in Qarayusuflı.⁸ The extent of CMR contamination in areas now under Azerbaijan's control is not yet known, but is not currently thought to be heavy.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Many areas, including those formerly occupied by Armenia, are confirmed or suspected to contain ERW, both UXO and abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). These include former military testing areas and a former shooting range.⁹ Azerbaijan is also contaminated with landmines, the precise extent of which is unknown, but is believed to be massive following Azerbaijan's regaining of control of considerable territory as a result of the 2020 conflict (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Azerbaijan for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

ANAMA, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action, was established by Presidential Decree 854 in 1999 to plan, coordinate, manage, and monitor mine action in the country. In mid-January 2021, 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.¹⁰ As at July 2022, a draft national mine action law was expected to be approved by the end of 2022.¹¹

Prior to the 2020 conflict, ANAMA had been conducting demining operations with two national operators it was contracting – Dayag-Relief Azerbaijan (RA) and the International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF). In March 2020, the mine action programme was restructured and RA's field personnel were incorporated within ANAMA while RA as an organisation continued to provide logistical support to ANAMA.¹² Following the 2020 conflict, both ANAMA and clearance operations in Azerbaijan 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, meets twice monthly and includes Azerbaijan's most significant ministries, including the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Emergency Situations, and the State Border Service.¹³ ANAMA is also proposing that Azerbaijan include mine action as a new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).¹⁴

On 31 March–1 April 2022, ANAMA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised an international

conference on Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, in Baku. The conference brought together key actors from the international mine action community to share best practices and lessons learned in mine action, including in the use of advanced technologies. Among the recommendations made at the conference were the establishment of an in-country donor coordination mechanism, such as a Mine Action Forum, and of technical working groups (TWGs) to address key challenges (such as land release, information management, explosive ordnance risk education, and victim assistance).¹⁵

UNDP provides capacity development to ANAMA. In 2020, the capacity development project was extended to 2023.¹⁶ In March 2021, the UNDP crisis response and UN's Central Emergency Response Fund provided US\$1 million to ANAMA to train, equip, and deploy emergency response teams to clear mines and UXO. UNDP planned to further scale up its financial and technical support to ANAMA.¹⁷ As at June 2022, UNDP was providing ANAMA with a strategic advisor, a non-technical survey advisor, an information management advisor, and with support with equipment and vehicles.¹⁸

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) also supported ANAMA in 2021, in particular with respect to information management. In March 2021, the GICHD visited Azerbaijan at the request of ANAMA to conduct a needs assessment. Information management support was later conducted remotely. In addition, three ANAMA staff also attended an online regional quality management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov, Chairman of the Board, ANAMA; and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

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

15 Statement of the International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

16 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 21 May 2021.

17 "ANAMA and UNDP join forces to support mine action in Azerbaijan", Press release, UNDP website, 17 March 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3hPXtrB>.

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

(QM) training in June 2021 and a staff member attended a non-technical survey regional training in Croatia in November 2021, both of which were conducted under the umbrella of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme (EECCA RCP).¹⁹

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ANAMA in December 2021, with funding from the United States (US) and Canada. MAG, which has a country director and two technical advisors deployed in Azerbaijan, is providing management training for 20 ANAMA demining team supervisors. The training, which began in mid-February 2022, covers survey and clearance of explosive ordnance (including CMR); operational planning, reporting, accident investigation, internal quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC), and deployment of demining assets, including machinery and mine detection dogs (MDDs). MAG had previously been present in Azerbaijan in 2000–02, training deminers, section and team leaders, and personnel from the training department, of the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Dayag-Relief Azerbaijan (RA).²⁰

ANAMA is also receiving capacity development support from the European Union (EU), France, United Kingdom (UK), the US Department of State; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the

Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI).²¹ MLI has been operational in Azerbaijan since 2005, with an MDD partnership programme. It has provided 60 MDDs to ANAMA to date and agreed a new two-year partnership in 2021, funded by Azerbaijan and the private sector in the United States.²²

In January 2022, ANAMA established a new mobile field camp for deminers in Agdam district, which it plans to use to expand mine clearance operations and increase personnel. The mobile container-type camp can be moved to other areas, depending on the location of demining activities.²³

In its Article 7 report covering 2021 under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), Turkey reported the provision of training to Azerbaijan Armed Forces personnel in mine action, mine clearance, and mine detection, and mine/improvised explosive device (IED) awareness, in addition to also deploying Turkish military demining teams and machines (see section on Operators and Operational Tools).²⁴ It is unclear if Turkish personnel are also addressing CMR as part of their operations in Azerbaijan.

In 2021, the Azerbaijani government funded over 95% of the mine action programme's operating costs, with the remaining 4.3% of the total budget funded by donors. There is no separate funding specifically for cluster munition clearance.²⁵

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Azerbaijan's newly revised national standards (ANMAR), which cover all demining activities, include a dedicated chapter on Environmental Protection in its national standards.²⁶

According to the ANMAR, "it is the intent of the National Mine Action Programme (MAP) of the Republic of Azerbaijan that these requirements shall be complied with to ensure that the environment is not degraded by mine action work and land is returned in a state that is similar to, or where possible better than, before mine action operations commenced, and that permits its intended use." The Environmental Protection chapter includes information on Azerbaijan's mine action environmental management system (EMS); requirements for

mine action organisations; requirements for the identification, assessment, and mitigation of environmental aspects (including waste disposal, water supplies, burning and removal of vegetation, animals, open burning and demolition, environmental aspects of mechanical mine action operations, emergency preparedness, monitoring, cultural and historical sites, and completion and remediation).

The Government of Azerbaijan may also require the conduct of a formal environmental impact assessment (EIA) in relation to large or publicly significant mine action projects, or ones that will take place in areas of known environmental vulnerability.²⁷

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

ANAMA does not have a gender and diversity policy in place. While women made up around 30% of ANAMA's total workforce, including 25% of managerial and supervisory positions at ANAMA, no women were working in an operational role as at June 2022.²⁸ ANAMA said that it encourages women to engage in a variety of roles and planned to implement a capacity building project in 2022 for female demining teams.²⁹

19 Email from GICHD, 19 April 2022.

20 MAG presentation, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022; and email from Olivier David, Country Director, MAG, 25 April 2022.

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

22 Presentation by Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI), International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022.

23 "Azerbaijan Plans to Clear 40,000 Hectares of Liberated Land from Armenian Landmines", *Caspian News*, 30 January 2022.

24 Turkey APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Forms D and I.

25 Emails from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June and 7 July 2022.

26 Emails from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

27 Azerbaijan National Mine Action Requirements (ANMAR), Section IV Management Systems, Chapter 9 Environmental Protection.

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

29 Ibid.

The rapid upscaling of ANAMA's mine action operations taking place provides a valuable opportunity for ANAMA to improve the proportion of women in operational roles and to mainstream gender and diversity throughout its programme. One of the goals of the UNDP-ANAMA capacity strengthening project is to introduce a gender-sensitive approach to mine action to Azerbaijan.³⁰ ANAMA is developing a strategy for the deployment of female deminers and plans to integrate gender and diversity into its forthcoming national mine action strategy. In addition, ANAMA planned to deploy a UNDP gender advisor in 2022 to support the setting up of policies and procedures on gender and diversity. Relevant risk education and victim data is disaggregated by gender and age.³¹

According to ANAMA, survey and community liaison personnel are mostly from affected communities and there are no restrictions on the basis of ethnic groups or religious affiliation. Risk education teams create a network of affected communities, which include women and children. The government's reconstruction and rehabilitation programme is aimed at returning internally displaced persons (IDPs), including women and children, to their homelands and ensuring sustainable development of repatriated communities in a safe environment.³²

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Azerbaijan's newly revised national mine action standards include the establishment of a single, unified, information management system, which ANAMA is implementing.³³ As at June 2022, ANAMA was in the process of transitioning to IMSMA Core and had already established an Online ArcGIS Portal. Draft forms to record daily progress, non-technical survey, and hazardous areas, and for external QC were already in place. ANAMA intended to launch the new IMSMA Core system in 2022. Information management approaches will also be used by other ministries to support evidence-based decision making.³⁴

ANAMA reports that efforts are ongoing to improve the quality of data in the mine action database. Verification occurs initially at the regional level and then at headquarters. With the significant upscaling of operations and area of responsibilities since 2020, the progress reporting period was reduced from two weeks to one.³⁵ ANAMA plans to generate daily progress reports once it has migrated to IMSMA Core.³⁶

All data on clearance operations, including those of the military, are reported centrally to ANAMA.³⁷

PLANNING AND TASKING

The existing national mine action strategy was for 2013–18. Its main aims were said to be to continue mine and ERW clearance in support of government development projects and to provide safe conditions for the local population in affected regions.³⁸ The strategy expired at the end of 2018 and had not been replaced as of writing. In May 2021, ANAMA reported that a new strategy was being developed with a UNDP Chief Technical Advisor contracted and deployed to Azerbaijan to contribute to and speed up the process.³⁹ As at June 2022, elaboration of the new strategy was ongoing.⁴⁰

ANAMA develops annual work plans which are approved by the Prime Minister. Priority setting comes from the Cabinet of Ministers, as the highest level executive body in the country. Priorities are set in accordance with rehabilitation and reconstruction plans in the regained territories.⁴¹

30 UNDP, "Review & Recommendation to Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) in Support of its Transformation into International Centre for Demining assessment 2018", 17 July 2018.

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

32 Ibid.

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

34 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

35 Emails from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 21 May 2021; and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

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

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

38 Email from Sabina Sarkarova, ANAMA 2 May 2018.

39 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 21 May 2021.

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

41 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; presentation by ANAMA, International Conference on Humanitarian Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, Baku, 31 March–1 April 2022; and email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Azerbaijan has its own National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), known as the Azerbaijan National Mine Action Requirements (ANMAR), which were adopted in 2001 and subsequently revised in 2003, 2004, and 2010.⁴² In 2021, all chapters of the ANMAR were fully revised in line with IMAS.⁴³ The draft of the revised standards has been provided to all operators,⁴⁴ and ANAMA expected the revised standards to be formally approved in 2022. The revised ANMAR includes a chapter on battle area clearance (BAC), but not specifically on cluster munition clearance.⁴⁵ ANAMA plans to train operators on the new standards.⁴⁶

It is important that all entities conducting clearance apply the latest national standards and update their standing operating procedures (SOPs) accordingly, and that ANAMA monitors to ensure the new standards are being implemented across the board.

In 2021, ANAMA did not disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other BAC tasks, prior to tasking polygons for clearance. Land release data for 2021 reported by ANAMA was therefore based on the polygons in which submunitions were found,⁴⁷ rather than technical survey and clearance of areas suspected or confirmed to contain CMR.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Survey and clearance of CMR is covered in ANAMA's overall training programme, and it does not have personnel dedicated to CMR operations. ANAMA has undergone a significant restructuring following the conflict with Armenia in 2020, with the total number of ANAMA employees having risen from 500 employees in 2020 to between 1,200 and 1,500 employees in 2021.⁴⁸ According to UNDP, ANAMA had initially planned to train, equip, and deploy an additional 100 deminers per month in order to respond to the surge in need since the end of the 2020 conflict. This monthly upscaling rate, however, could not be sustained and ANAMA instead has been encouraging the expansion of other operator capacities, including a significant commercial base; and has been envisaging to strengthen its role as the national mine action centre.⁴⁹

As at July 2022, ANAMA was operating with 762 deminers, 24 machines, and 30 MDDs, in addition to deploying other technical tools such as scanners, ground penetrating radar, and drones.⁵⁰ Capacity in mid 2022 was a significant increase on 2020, when ANAMA had a total capacity of 300 deminers, 6 machines, and 40 MDDs.⁵¹ ANAMA and the Ministry of Defence conduct both technical survey and clearance, using MDDs and machines as well as demining personnel.⁵² ANAMA planned to further increase non-technical survey, technical survey, and clearance capacity in 2022, including with respect to CMR operations.⁵³

The Ministry of Defence established a humanitarian demining battalion, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Internal Affairs also conduct clearance of explosive ordnance in Azerbaijan.⁵⁴ As at March 2022, there were also four national commercial demining companies, each with an international commercial sub-contractor, to assist with operational planning and help build capacity.⁵⁵ In addition, as at June 2022, there was one national NGO conducting demining, IEPF. A second national NGO, Dayag-Relief (RA), was conducting explosive ordnance risk education and was in the process of being trained to also conduct demining.⁵⁶ All actors are accredited and trained by ANAMA, in accordance with the Decree, and all data are reported and entered into ANAMA's IMSMA database. ANAMA conducts monitoring and external QA for operators and issues hand-over certificates after QA.⁵⁷

The Turkish Armed Forces are also conducting mine and ERW clearance in Azerbaijan. According to Turkey, eight military demining teams have been conducting demining operations in Azerbaijan since December 2020, to support the mine clearance activities conducted by Azerbaijan. In addition, six demining machines (MEMATT-I) manufactured in Turkey were sent to Azerbaijan in 2021 and Turkey plans to complete the deployment of 20 demining machines (MEMATT-II) to Azerbaijan in the coming years.⁵⁸ ANAMA expected to have a total of 24 of its own machines by the end of 2022.⁵⁹

42 Email from Tural Mammadov, ANAMA, 19 October 2016.

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

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

45 Interview with Vugar Suleymanov and Samir Poladov, ANAMA, Baku, 29 March 2022; and email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022.

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

47 Ibid.

48 "Dying To Go Home: Displaced Azerbaijanis Risk Mines, Munitions To See Homeland", Radio Free Europe, 18 February 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3vgaKh5>; and "Following war, Armenia and Azerbaijan Reckon with Unexploded Ordnance", EurasiaNet, 23 December 2020.

49 Email from Guy Rhodes, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP, 23 June 2021.

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

51 Emails from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 21 May and 23 July 2021.

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

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

54 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 7 July 2022. "Over 700 mines, munitions defused in liberated lands in April", Azernews, 15 April 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3xfbg1b>; and "Army's engineer-sapper units demine over 2,300 ha of liberated lands in May", Azernews, 1 June 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3xkjmFG>.

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

56 Interview with Samir Poladov, ANAMA, and Mark Buswell, UNDP, in Geneva, 23 June 2022.

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

58 Turkey APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Forms D and I.

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

Azerbaijan is using Remote Aerial Minefield Survey (RAMS) to assess suspected areas and collect information on emplaced mines, and other information, such as the location of trenches and military positions.⁶⁰ ANAMA uses RAMS for non-technical survey in non-populated areas.⁶¹ According to an online media source, 18,000 hectares (18km²) of land in Zangilan, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Tartar and Qubadli regions were analysed last year through artificial intelligence.⁶²

ANAMA now has a QM division, reporting to the Chairman of ANAMA and QM capacity has been increased by around 300%, reflecting the significant upscaling of clearance operations in the reclaimed territories of Azerbaijan. Previously, QC was conducted on 10% of land, but this has been reduced to 5%, while frequent site visits have been maintained.⁶³

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

A total of over 10.5km² was released through technical survey and cleared in 2021, with the destruction of 387 submunitions, 207 other UXO, and 11 anti-personnel mines, including items of EO destroyed during spot tasks. No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2021.

The 10.5km² released was through technical survey and clearance combined, of which Mine Action Review has estimated 3km² was cleared and 7.5km² was reduced through technical survey. It corresponds to the total size of task sites in which submunitions were found. Therefore the size of actual cluster munition contamination (i.e. the contaminated area resulting from cluster munition strikes) is likely to have been far smaller than 10km² reported. The 10km² represents just under a quarter of the 43km² of total battle area (containing all types of ERW) identified and cleared in 2021, during which a total of 8,232 items of UXO were destroyed.⁶⁴

SURVEY IN 2021

ANAMA confirmed more than 10.51km² of polygons containing submunitions through technical survey in 2021 (see Table 1),⁶⁵ all of which was located in areas previously under the control of Armenia or Nagorno-Karabakh, and inaccessible to Azerbaijan, until it regained control of the territory in 2020. Cluster munition-affected areas were mostly in locations closer to the former LOC, including in larger cities such as Barda, Tartar, Yevlakh, and Beylagan.⁶⁶ The 10.5km² is the total size of task polygons found to contain submunitions, therefore significant portions of polygons were likely to have contained ERW other than submunitions and the actual size of the cluster munition-contaminated area will have been far smaller than 10km².

Mine Action Review has estimated that of the 10.5km² of area released through technical survey and clearance combined (see Table 2), 7.5km² was reduced through technical survey and the remainder through clearance.

No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2021.⁶⁷

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area confirmed through technical survey in 2021⁶⁸

| District | Operator | Total size of polygons found to contain submunitions (m ²) |
|--------------|----------|--|
| Agdam | ANAMA | 5,207,936 |
| Fuzuli | ANAMA | 2,961,348 |
| Jabrayil | ANAMA | 1,588,914 |
| Khojavend | ANAMA | 188,903 |
| Shusha | ANAMA | 204,150 |
| Total | | 10,151,251 |

60 Ibid.

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

62 "Over 700 mines, munitions defused in liberated lands in April", *Azernews*, 15 April 2022.

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

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

65 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 23 July 2021.

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

67 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 23 July 2021.

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

CLEARANCE IN 2021

A combined total of more than 10.5km² was released through both technical survey and clearance in 2021 (see Table 2). In total 387 submunitions, 207 other UXO, and 11 anti-personnel mines were destroyed, some during spot tasks.⁶⁹ As the 10.5km² reported by ANAMA to Mine Action Review was combined land release through technical survey and clearance, Mine Action Review has estimated that 3km² was clearance and the remainder reduction through technical survey. Furthermore, the 10.5km² was based on the total size of task polygons in which submunitions were found during land release, as ANAMA does not currently disaggregate cluster munition tasks from other BAC tasks.

The vast majority of the clearance was conducted in areas which Azerbaijan regained control of in 2020 and which it confirmed as contaminated through technical survey in 2021.

ANAMA said that the clearance was mainly surface and immediate subsurface. The types of submunitions found and destroyed were 9N235, 9M525, TAB1M (RBK50), ShOAB 0.5.⁷⁰

CMR clearance output in 2021, estimated by Mine Action Review at 3km², was a significant increase on 2020, during which a little over 0.10km² of cluster munition-contaminated area was released through combined survey and clearance.⁷¹ The increase was due the start of large-scale demining operations, following the 2020 conflict and Azerbaijan's access to regained territory.

ANAMA reported that COVID-19 had very little impact on clearance operations in 2021, due to the strict rules and vaccinations.⁷²

Table 2: Combined technical survey and clearance of tasks containing submunitions in 2021⁷³

| District | Operator | No. of task polygons | Area cleared (m ²) | Submunitions destroyed* | AP mines destroyed | Other UXO destroyed* |
|---------------|----------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Agdam** | ANAMA | 5 | 5,207,936 | 167 | 2 | 10 |
| Barda | ANAMA | 4 | 2,000 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Beylagan | ANAMA | 2 | 150,002 | 29 | 0 | 0 |
| Fuzuli** | ANAMA | 14 | 3,165,348 | 120 | 5 | 101 |
| Goranboy | ANAMA | 2 | 4,100 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Jabrayil** | ANAMA | 4 | 1,588,914 | 37 | 2 | 66 |
| Khojavend** | ANAMA | 1 | 188,903 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Shusha** | ANAMA | 4 | 206,960 | 8 | 2 | 24 |
| Tartar | ANAMA | 1 | 700 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Yevlakh | ANAMA | 1 | 1,000 | 17 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | | 38 | 10,515,863 | 387 | 11 | 207 |

AP = Anti-personnel * Figures include items destroyed during technical survey.

** Previously inaccessible territory over which Azerbaijan regained control in 2020.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

No target date has been set for the completion of CMR clearance in Azerbaijan, as the extent of remaining CMR contamination is unknown.⁷⁴

Azerbaijan has called for support for its mine action efforts. According to its statement at the APMBC Intersessional meetings in June 2022, ANAMA has identified the following needs: 1) data and technology, including for aerial survey; 2) scaling up RAMS capacity as a method for gathering data; 3) support for the institutional capacity building of ANAMA; 4) increasing ANAMA's mechanical demining capacities; 5) further developing its MDD training/advisory capacity; and 6) establishing and supporting female demining teams.⁷⁵

Previously, in May 2019, Azerbaijan had stated that it would only accede to the CCM once all of its territories are liberated from occupation by Armenia and all internally displaced persons and refugees return to their lands.⁷⁶

69 Ibid.

70 Email from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 13 July 2022.

71 Email from Nijat Karimov, ANAMA, 23 July 2021.

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

73 Emails from Samir Poladov, ANAMA, 6 June 2022 and 21 July 2022.

74 Ibid.

75 Statement of Azerbaijan, APMBC Intersessional meetings, 20–22 June 2022.

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