

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2009
NEW EXTENDED DEADLINE NEEDED TO RETURN TO COMPLIANCE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

EXTENT UNKNOWN

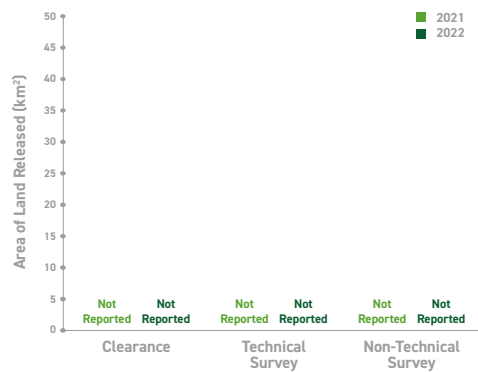
AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2022

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2022

NOT REPORTED

NOT REPORTED

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **NONE**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Having previously reported that there were no mined areas in its territory, during a presentation at Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) intersessional meetings in June 2023, Burkina Faso declared that improvised anti-personnel (AP) were mines being emplaced by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) and that there had been an escalation in the number of reported incidents from 2017 to May 2023. Given Burkina's Faso acknowledgement of its new AP mine contamination, it should now submit an APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request for consideration by the other States Parties.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Burkina Faso should submit an Article 7 report detailing all suspected or confirmed mined areas under its jurisdiction or control and should report systematically on explosive device incidents detailing the number, location, and device type.
- Burkina Faso should request a new APMBC Article 5 deadline from the other States Parties as a matter of urgent priority.
- Burkina Faso should establish a central mine action database and collect data on the location, type, and extent of mined areas.
- Burkina Faso should seek assistance to build a national mine action programme, including survey and clearance capacities.

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Commission for the Control of Arms (CNCA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit of the Military Engineers

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Mine Advisory Group (MAG)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Burkina Faso remains embroiled in ongoing violence perpetrated by armed groups, in particular Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) and Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM). The violence is concentrated in the Liptako-Gourma area, spanning the border areas with Mali and Niger. This encompasses several regions: the Sahel, Est, Nord, and Boucle du Mouhoun in Burkina Faso; Gao Menaka, and Mopti in Mali; and Tillabery in Niger. ISGS first emerged in Burkina Faso in September 2016, launching its first major attack near the city of Markoye. The following year, al-Qaeda affiliates merged to form JNIM, which has gained control over territory in northern and central Mali. As a result of clashes with JNIM that began in 2020, ISGS has been confined to northern Burkina Faso and western Niger.¹ Successive coups in Burkina Faso, the most recent occurring in September 2022, have further complicated efforts to quell the violence.

The extent of AP mine contamination in Burkina Faso is not known. In June 2023, Burkina Faso, during the APMB

interessional meetings, reported before the Committee on Article 5 Implementation that deployment of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by NSAGs was increasing. Burkina Faso has limited access to the areas where the contamination is found, which complicates its efforts to identify the type of device and confirm whether they are victim-activated. From 2017 to end-May 2023, Burkina Faso documented 592 IED incidents resulting in 569 fatalities and 582 injuries. The majority of the IEDs encountered are said to have been improvised AP mines. They amounted to 26 of the 45 IEDs discovered during a logistics escort mission from 6 to 27 March 2023.²

Incidents have been recorded in 11 of Burkina Faso's 13 regions with most occurring in the Sahel region (186), followed by Est (139), Centre-Nord (103), Nord (75), and Boucle du Mouhoun (45).³ While the defence and security forces were originally the targets, civilians account for 42% of total casualties.⁴

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The National Commission for the Control of Arms (Commission Nationale de Contrôle des Armes, CNCA) is responsible for overseeing mine action in Burkina Faso.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) first deployed to Burkina Faso in 2019 as part of the UN Secretary-General's Emergency Task Force for Burkina Faso, and then established a presence following a request from the Government of Burkina Faso and the UN Resident Coordinator. UNMAS is working with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Security, and the CNCA to enhance mine action capabilities and develop a sustainable, long-term capacity. UNMAS provides advisory and technical support, including in information management at national and regional levels, as well as training and equipment, and assistance in developing national strategies and norms to help improve the management of IED mitigation activities.⁵

Burkina Faso reported that the Anti-Mine Task Group (GTLAM) was established in 2019 bringing together the CNCA, Military Engineers, UNMAS, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).⁶ In 2020, UNMAS established a Mine Action Area of Responsibility in partnership with the CNCA.⁷

In July and August 2018, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) supported Burkina Faso to undertake a comprehensive national Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) baseline assessment.⁸ In September 2022, UNIDIR, in partnership with UNMAS, assisted the CNCA to apply UNIDIR's Counter-IED Capability Maturity Model (CMM) and self-assessment tool in order to inform the development of Burkina Faso's national strategy to counter threats posed by IEDs.⁹

1 The Center for Preventive Action, "Violent Extremism in the Sahel", 10 August 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/47GoFR6>.

2 Statement of Burkina Faso, APMB Intersessionals meeting, 20 June 2023.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.; and UNMAS, Burkina Faso, data as at January 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3P0Cra6>.

5 UNMAS, Burkina Faso, data as at January 2022.

6 Presentation of Burkina Faso, Intersessional Meetings, 20 June 2023.

7 UNMAS, Burkina Faso, data as at January 2022.

8 UNIDIR, 'Country Insight Series: Burkina Faso weapons and ammunitions management', 2020.

9 Email correspondence with the Associate Researcher, UNIDIR Conventional Arms and Ammunition Programme, 3 October 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of AP mines in Burkina Faso in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Burkina Faso reported that it has an agenda on women, peace and security in line with UN Resolution 1325 (2000). Women and young people are engaged in explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in Burkina Faso and recently the first woman was registered for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) 2 training.¹⁰

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Burkina Faso reported that as at June 2023, that it was in the process of developing a national information management system and expected an initial version to be available by the end of the year.¹¹

As at September 2023, Burkina Faso had yet to submit an APMBC Article 7 transparency report covering 2022, but as of writing, informed Mine Action Review that they were working with the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the APMBC to submit an Article 7 report.¹² Its last Article 7 report was submitted in November 2021. No information was provided on the extent of contamination, or on any AP mine survey or clearance.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Burkina Faso reported that it has a National Strategy for Countering IEDs for 2023–27 with four main objectives:

- Strengthening the legal and institutional framework
- Building the capacities of stakeholders engaged in countering IEDs (providing technical equipment, laboratories, etc.)
- Fostering stronger regional and international cooperation
- Enhancing the coordination and management of the strategy.¹³

It is not known if this strategy includes any realistic goals for land release.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Burkina Faso reported that it has developed eight national mine action standards: a glossary of terms and abbreviations, accreditation of organisations, risk education, information management, victim assistance, community liaison, task allocation procedures, and non-technical survey (NTS).¹⁴

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The EOD unit of the Military Engineers made up of personnel from the military, police, and Gendarmerie, have sole responsibility for locating and destroying mines and IEDs. The EOD unit is deployed to regions with substantial security challenges and is supported by the Combat Engineers. Since 2019, military, police, and Gendarmerie personnel have been undergoing training on IED threat mitigation with EOD training conducted with the support of the United States (US) between 2019 and 2021. As at June 2023, a mine detection dog training and breeding centre had been established and a demining training centre was under construction with support of Germany through the German Expert Group in Military Engineering.¹⁵

There are currently no international or national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) conducting mine survey or clearance activities in Burkina Faso.

10 Email from Capitaine Ollo Palenfo, Chef de service des mines et des explosifs, CNCA, 25 September 2023.

11 Interview with Capitaine Ollo Palenfo, CNCA, at the Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

12 Email from Pambary Cyrille Pascal Bonzi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to Geneva, 29 September 2023.

13 Presentation of Burkina Faso, Intersessional Meetings, 20 June 2023.

14 Presentation of Burkina Faso, Intersessional Meetings, 20 June 2023.

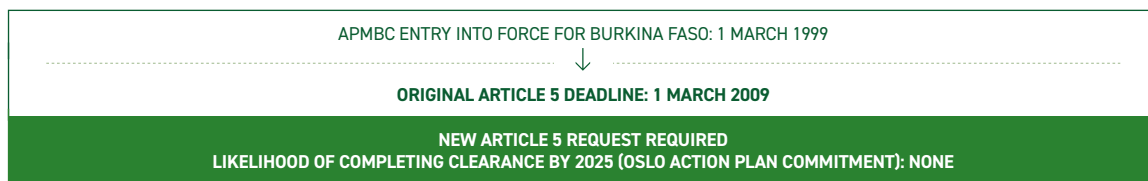
15 Presentation of Burkina Faso, Intersessional Meetings, 20 June 2023; and email from Capitaine Ollo Palenfo, CNCA, 25 September 2023.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

Burkina Faso has reported to Mine Action Review that mine clearance operations were conducted during 2022 but has not provided any data on the amount of area surveyed or cleared, nor has it clarified on whether any devices were found and destroyed.¹⁶

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Burkina Faso was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control not later than 1 March 2009. In its last Article 7 report, submitted in November 2021, Burkina Faso said it had no mined areas containing AP mines.¹⁷ But in June 2023, Burkina Faso reported new use of improvised AP mines by NSAGs. Burkina Faso reported its data on IED incidents in its territory since 2017 which included improvised AP mines but could only provide very limited information on the extent of contamination and did not say whether any survey or clearance activities have taken place.

Burkina Faso should request a new extended Article 5 deadline, which should be for no more than two years, affording it the opportunity to conduct any necessary survey and provide an assessment of the extent of AP mine contamination. It must also fulfil its reporting obligations under the APMBC, including by reporting on the location of all suspected or confirmed mined areas under its jurisdiction or control and on the status of programmes for the destruction of all AP mines therein. Burkina Faso informed Mine Action Review that it was planning to submit an Article 5 deadline extension request with the support of the APMBC ISU but did not provide a timeframe for submission.¹⁸

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

It is not known whether Burkina Faso has plans in place to address residual contamination once its Article 5 obligations have been fulfilled.

¹⁶ Email from Capitaine Ollo Palenfo, CNCA, 25 September 2023.

¹⁷ Article 7 Report (2021), Form C.

¹⁸ Email from Pambary Cyrille Pascal Bonzi, Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to Geneva, 29 September 2023.