CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2013

Deadline expired
New Article 5 deadline may be needed

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Light, precise extent unknown

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m²)	Release in 2024 (m²)
Clearance	0	0
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	0	1 (spot task)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- MINUSCA explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams
- The Development Initiative (TDI)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Central African Republic (CAR) made significant progress in establishing a national mine action programme in 2025. The National Mine Action Authority (Autorité Nationale de Lutte Antimines, ANLAM) was formally established by presidential decree in September, followed by the appointment of its National Coordinator in November. CAR also resumed transparency reporting under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) after a two-decade gap and strengthened its engagement with the Convention. While the extent of anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination remains unknown, available evidence indicates the presence of victim-activated devices potentially falling within the scope of the APMBC.

In late 2025, DanChurchAid (DCA) began non-technical survey (NTS) in Ouham-Pendé prefecture, marking an initial step towards establishing a reliable contamination baseline. No land release was conducted in 2025, with operations limited to explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks. In 2026, CAR developed its first National Mine Action Strategy for 2026–31 accompanied by a 2026–28 Action Plan. Priorities include operationalising ANLAM, strengthening national capacity to respond to EOD spot tasks, improving understanding of contamination through NTS, and developing national mine action capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **CAR should operationalise the newly established ANLAM and mine action centre (Centre de Lutte Antimines, CLAM), including by providing the human, technical, and financial resources necessary to fulfil their mandated functions.**
- **CAR should implement planned NTS to establish a reliable national contamination baseline, while systematically collecting and technically analysing improvised explosive device (IED) incident data, including activation mechanism, device type, location, and circumstances, to determine the extent of AP mine contamination, including improvised AP mines.**

- **CAR should establish a nationally owned information management capacity and ensure that data clearly distinguish AP mines, including improvised AP mines, from other explosive ordnance (EO). Anti-vehicle (AV) mines sensitive enough to be activated by a person should be recorded as AP mines.**
- **CAR should implement its National Mine Action Strategy and Action Plan, including by developing a detailed budget and resource mobilisation strategy for the national contamination baseline survey.**
- **If AP mined areas are identified and cannot be cleared before the next Meeting of States Parties, CAR should request a new Article 5 deadline in accordance with the agreed approach.**
- **CAR should continue fulfilling its Article 7 reporting obligations, providing updated information on any suspected or confirmed AP mined areas and progress in addressing them.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The National Mine Action Authority ("Autorité Nationale de Lutte Antimines", ANLAM)
- Mine Action Center ("Centre de Lutte Antimines", CLAM)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Central African Armed Forces (FACA)
- National NGOs conduct NTS and/or EORE: Association des Femmes pour la Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat (AFPE); Zo Kwe Zo, both national partners of DCA

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- The Development Initiative (TDI) (UNMAS implementing partner until June 2026)
- United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) EOD teams

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (acting as the National Mine Action Authority under the 2026–28 work plan)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of AP mine contamination in CAR remains unknown, but evidence suggests it is limited. No nationwide NTS has yet been conducted to establish a reliable contamination baseline. Current understanding is largely based on EO incidents and items identified through EOD spot tasks, with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) maintaining the main database based on information from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Central African Armed Forces (FACA), and humanitarian organisations.[1]

In 2025, CAR submitted its first Article 7 transparency report in two decades, covering 2004–24. The report stated that CAR was not contaminated by AP mines when it ratified the APMBC, but that EO contamination had increased since the resurgence of armed conflict in 2020. It identified several areas where explosive devices had been discovered, including Bambari, where MINUSCA neutralised two AP mines in 2022, as well as Équateur, Yade, and Kagas regions. In 2022 and 2023, MINUSCA and UNMAS also neutralised two PRB-M3 AV mines in Équateur. CAR has reported that AV mines were laid on roads "sporadically and on an ad-hoc basis".[2]

The National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, developed in 2026, provides further recognition of the AP mine threat, identifying AP mines among the types of EO present in CAR and specifically listing OZM-72 AP mines among devices encountered through EOD response. The Strategy nevertheless confirms that the extent of contamination remains unknown in the absence of nationwide NTS and identifies improved understanding of contamination as a priority for the national programme.[3]

In 2025, UNMAS recorded 58 incidents involving explosive devices, down from 73 in 2024 and 78 in 2023. Five of the devices met the definition of an AP mine, i.e. victim-activated devices, including AV mines sufficiently sensitive to be readily activated by a person, and booby-traps.[4] CAR's Article 7 report covering 2025 also recorded victim-activated IED incidents, particularly concentrated around Zemio in Haut-Mbomou prefecture, including four incidents between 1 and 16 July alone.[5]

ACLED recorded 23 distinct EO incidents in CAR in 2025, resulting in at least 27 fatalities. Mine Action Review identified at least five incidents whose descriptions were

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C, p. 6; and email from Lt.-Col. Edgar Ghazaka, National Coordinator, ANLAM, 16 April 2026.
2 Article 7 Report (covering 2002–24), Form C, pp. 5–6.
3 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31 ("Stratégie Nationale de Lutte Antimines 2026-2031 »), ANLAM, p. 9.
4 Email from Dorothy Du, Chief of Mine Action Programme, and Alioune Menane, Capacity Building Advisor, UNMAS, 16 April 2026.
5 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 7-8.

compatible with victim-activated devices, resulting in eight fatalities. Three occurred around Zemio in July and involved civilians travelling to or working in agricultural fields. However, the available information does not provide sufficient technical detail to determine whether these devices met the definition of an AP mine under the APMBC.[6] ACLED recorded considerably fewer relevant incidents in the first half of 2026, with none of the incidents reviewed seemingly involving victim-activated devices.[7]

Efforts to establish a more reliable contamination baseline began in late 2025, when DCA started NTS in Ouham-Pendé prefecture. The 2026–28 National Mine Action Plan subsequently made NTS a central operational priority, providing for survey in at least two regions to identify and confirm suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and for the resulting data to be mapped and recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). A nationwide understanding of AP mine contamination has yet to be established.[8]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

In CAR, the EO threat largely stems from successive cycles of armed conflict since independence, which have resulted in the accumulation of explosive remnants of war (ERW) across the country. Contamination increased significantly following the outbreak of conflict in 2012 and renewed fighting in 2020–21, particularly in conflict-affected areas, along roads, and around urban centres and strategic infrastructure. ERW remained the most common explosive threat in 2025.[9]

The 2026–31 National Mine Action Strategy describes EO contamination as widespread and comprising AV mines, ERW, unexploded ordnance (UXO), abandoned ordnance, and IEDs, in addition to AP mines. Items encountered have included grenades, PRB-M3 AV mines, mortar and artillery projectiles, RPG-7 and OG-7 rockets, booby-trapped munitions, and IEDs. Contamination has been reported along strategic roads, around urban centres, former military positions, and key infrastructure.[10]

Between June 2020 and June 2025, UNMAS recorded more than 285 EO-related incidents, resulting in 270 casualties, of whom 188 (70%) were civilians. Most involved ERW, although AV mines also posed a significant threat in western regions.[11] For more information on casualties, please see the country profile on CAR on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[12]

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

CAR made significant progress in establishing national mine action structures in 2025. ANLAM was formally established by presidential decree in September 2025 as an autonomous public body under the authority of the President, followed by the appointment of its National Coordinator in November. ANLAM is responsible for the design, implementation, coordination, supervision, prioritisation, monitoring, and evaluation of all activities relating to mines, ERW, IEDs, and other EO throughout the country. Its mandate includes the development and implementation of the national mine action strategy and national action plan, resource mobilisation, operator accreditation, quality management, information management, and the development of national standards aligned with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).[13]

ANLAM's institutional structure includes a National Secretariat, a national coordination mechanism, and CLAM, which will serve as its operational arm under the National Coordinator. CLAM will comprise four departments: Operations; Risk Education and Victim Assistance; Information Management and Communication; and Administration, Finance, and Logistics. Three regional branches (West, Centre, and East) are also planned to support implementation at regional and local levels. An interministerial Plenary Assembly provides strategic oversight and coordination across relevant government institutions and civil society.[14]

ANLAM is not yet fully operational, with personnel yet to be appointed and financial and technical resources still to be mobilised. Under the National Mine Action Plan 2026–28, ANLAM has temporarily delegated technical oversight of mine action activities—including operator accreditation, quality assurance, and quality control (QA/QC)—to UNMAS. These responsibilities are expected to transfer to the relevant ANLAM departments once the authority becomes operational.[15]

ANLAM and its affiliated structures, including CLAM and the regional branches, are intended to receive funding through the State budget, alongside contributions from technical and financial partners and other authorised grants and donations. However, no State funding had yet been allocated at the time of writing due to lengthy internal financial procedures.[16]

6 ACLED, Data Export Tool, "Filters: 01/01/2025-31/12/2025; Remote explosive/landmines/IED; Central African Republic".

7 ACLED, Data Export Tool, "Filters: 01/01/2026-30/06/2026; Remote explosive/landmines/IED; CAR".

8 National Mine Action Plan 2026-28, (« Plan d'Action de mise en œuvre de la Stratégie Nationale de l'Action Antimines 2026-2028 »), ANLAM, p. 12.

9 National Mine Action Strategy 2026-31, ANLAM, p. 6; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 6.

10 National Mine Action Strategy 2026-31, ANLAM, p. 9.

11 MINUSCA, "Des avancées significatives réalisées dans la lutte antimines avec le soutien de la MINUSCA", 11 June 2025.

12 https://the-monitor.org.

13 Decree No. 25-327 establishing, organising and governing the functioning of ANLAM in CAR, 4 September 2025; and National Mine Action Strategy 2026-31, ANLAM, pp. 12–13.

14 National Mine Action Strategy 2026-31, ANLAM, pp. 12–13; and Side Event, "A global call to strengthen mine action efforts in the CAR", NDM-UN28, 11 April 2025, https://bit.ly/3GXv027.

15 National Mine Action Strategy 2026-31, ANLAM, pp. 12–13.

16 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.

UNMAS continued to provide technical, capacity-building, and logistical support to ANLAM in 2025, including assistance with the development of its legal and institutional framework, the National Mine Action Strategy, and Article 7 reporting. A dedicated Capacity Development Advisor, recruited in December 2024, supports the operationalisation of the authority. UNMAS also renovated ANLAM's offices in Bangui and provided basic equipment and a vehicle to the National Coordinator.[17]

In 2026, CAR developed its first National Mine Action Strategy for 2026–31 and accompanying 2026–28 Action Plan. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) provided comments on the draft strategy, prior to its validation.[18] The Strategy was validated through a national workshop in Bangui on 24–25 June 2026, bringing together 53 representatives from government ministries and technical and financial partners under the auspices of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.[19]

Coordination continued through the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) within the Protection Cluster, co-chaired by UNMAS and ANLAM. Four coordination meetings with mine action and humanitarian stakeholders were held in 2025, focusing on capacity development, integration of mine action into protection activities, and information sharing.[20]

CAR also strengthened its engagement with the international mine action community in 2025. It participated in the 28th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors (NDM-UN28), where it hosted a side event with UNMAS.[21] CAR also participated, for the first time, in the APMBC's Intersessional Meetings and Meeting of States Parties where it called for international support to operationalise ANLAM, strengthen national capacity, and conduct a nationwide contamination survey.[22]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Funding for mine action in CAR is primarily focused on strengthening national capacity and improving understanding of contamination through survey. No clearance is currently conducted, with EO addressed through EOD spot tasks. UNMAS is funded entirely through the MINUSCA Assessed Budget and contracted The Development Initiative (TDI) to provide EOD support to MINUSCA.[23] DCA received funding from the Fonds Humanitaire RCA (FH RCA) for a one-year project in Ouham-Pendé prefecture, which included NTS.[24] For more information on funding, please see the country profile on CAR on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[25]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The 2026–31 National Mine Action Strategy provides for gender, diversity, and inclusion to be systematically mainstreamed across mine action planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. It recognises that women, girls, boys, and men face different risks due to their social roles, economic activities, and mobility patterns, and commits to considering the specific needs of different groups in survey, clearance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), and victim assistance (VA). Casualty data are also to be collected and analysed by sex and age to better target activities and assistance.[26] The 2026–28 National Mine Action Plan further provides for the development, validation and adoption of a national gender equality policy for mine action.[27]

In the meantime, activities implemented by national and international actors incorporate gender and diversity considerations. In its Article 7 reporting, CAR highlighted EORE targeting communities with particular attention to women and children, encouraging the reporting of suspicious objects and promoting safe behaviour. Beneficiary data were also disaggregated by sex and age.[28]

Available UNMAS data for 2020–26 show significant differences in exposure, with men accounting for 70.5% of EO casualties, followed by boys (19%), women (6.5%), and girls (4%). While casualty data collection remains limited, the national strategy links the disproportionate impact on men partly to gender-specific roles and responsibilities and says these differences are taken into account by organisations implementing EORE. It also provides for casualty data to be systematically collected and analysed by sex and age to improve targeting of activities and assistance.[29]

17 Ibid.
18 Email from the GICHD, 30 September 2026.
19 MINUSCA, "Une stratégie pour régir la lutte antimines en RCA », 27 June 2026.
20 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.
21 Side Event, "A global call to strengthen mine action efforts in the CAR", NDM-UN28, 11 April 2025.
22 Statements of CAR on Article 5, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025; and Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 1–5 December 2025.
23 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.
24 Email from Jerome Berson, Country Director, DCA, 3 August 2026.
25 https://the-monitor.org.
26 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, ANLAM, pp. 15–16.
27 National Mine Action Plan 2026-28, ANLAM, p. 8.
28 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form I, pp. 9–10.
29 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, ANLAM, p. 12.

UNMAS reduced its workforce from 46 personnel in 2024 to 33 in 2025, with women accounting for 42% of personnel. This included two supervisors and twelve women in operational roles (see Table 1). In 2025, UNMAS also worked with community leaders to encourage women's participation in EORE and incorporated gender-focused activities into International Mine Awareness Day.[30]

Table 1: Gender composition of operators and UNMAS in 2025[31]

	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
AFPE	6	2 (33%)	2	0	4	2 (50%)
DCA	7	2 (29%)	2	0	5	2 (40%)
TDI	31	2 (6%)	10	1 (10%)	21	1 (5%)
UNMAS	33	14 (42%)	11	2 (18%)	22	12 (55%)
Zo Kwe Zo	6	2 (33%)	2	0	4	2 (50%)
Totals	**83**	**22 (27%)**	**27**	**3 (11%)**	**56**	**19 (34%)**

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

CAR does not have an environmental policy specifically applicable to the Ministry of Defence.[32] UNMAS, as a MINUSCA section, applies MINUSCA's environmental management policies and frameworks.[33]

The 2026–31 Strategy recognises the impact of climate and environmental factors on mine action. Seasonal flooding can restrict access to contaminated areas and potentially displace or bury EO, complicating survey, clearance, and information management. Changing rainfall patterns, prolonged dry seasons, and high temperatures may also constrain operations, while climate-related pressures can increase civilian exposure as rural communities move into potentially contaminated areas in search of agricultural land, pasture, or water. The Strategy therefore calls for environmental and climate considerations to be integrated into the planning and prioritisation.[34] However, the strategy does not provide for the development of a specific environmental protection standard, aligned with the revised IMAS 07.13.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

With the national mine action programme still under development, UNMAS continues to manage the national mine action database, established in June 2020. The database records EO incidents reported by MINUSCA, FACA, and humanitarian organisations. UNMAS seeks to disaggregate incidents by type of contamination, but security and access constraints, as well as limited technical expertise, often prevent post-blast investigations and precise identification of devices.[35] Data are initially collected on paper before being entered into the database.[36]

Under the 2026–28 ANLAM operationalisation plan, responsibility for information management is expected to transfer progressively from UNMAS to ANLAM once the authority becomes operational. ANLAM is in discussions with UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the possible introduction of IMSMA Core to support this transition and the gradual transfer of existing data. The sustainability of the system will depend on the mobilisation of sufficient national human, technical, and financial resources.[37]

CAR submitted Article 7 reports in both 2025 and 2026 and has participated more consistently in APMBC Intersessional Meetings and Meetings of States Parties since the appointment of a National Mine Action Focal Point in March 2023, now National Coordinator of ANLAM. A key priority for future APMBC reporting will be to clearly distinguish AP mines, including improvised AP mines, from other types of EO, such as AV mines, ERW, and command- or time-detonated IEDs. This distinction will be essential in determining whether CAR has outstanding Article 5 obligations and should seek a new deadline extension from the States Parties.

30 Emails from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April and 4 September 2026.

31 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 4 September 2026; and Jerome Berson, DCA, 7 September 2026. National operators AFPE and Zo Kwe Zo were only deployed towards the end of 2025.

32 Email from Lt.-Col. Edgar Ghazaka, MoD, 22 April 2025.

33 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.

34 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, ANLAM, p. 8.

35 Interview with Sophie Van Royen, then Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, in Geneva, 1 May 2024.

36 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.

37 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, ANLAM, p. 19; and email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.

PLANNING AND TASKING

The 2026-31 National Mine Action Strategy was accompanied by a 2026–28 National Mine Action Plan, which operationalises the Strategy in three strategic pillars:

1. Governance, coordination, and national ownership;
2. Addressing EO contamination;
3. EORE and VA.

The plan has a total indicative budget of US$1.28 million and provides for annual reviews to assess progress and adjust priorities. In 2026–27, priority is being given to operationalising ANLAM and strengthening its institutional, technical, and organisational capacity.

Strategic pillar 2, addressing EO contamination, has a budget of US$320,000 and focuses primarily on improving understanding of contamination. The plan provides for NTS in at least two regions to identify and confirm SHAs, followed by the analysis, mapping, and recording of survey data in IMSMA. US$300,000 is allocated to NTS. It also provides for the development and updating of standard operating procedures (SOP) for EOD spot tasks, coordination with local authorities and affected communities, and training of operational teams and national partners, including FACA EOD units.[38]

The plan does not specify the regions to be surveyed or the number of SHAs expected to be identified. Its immediate operational priority is to establish a more reliable contamination baseline while strengthening national capacity to respond to EO through EOD spot tasks.

ANLAM has delegated technical oversight of all mine action activities, including technical accreditation and QA/QC, to UNMAS pending implementation of the National Mine Action Plan 2026–28.[39] UNMAS accredited DCA and its national partners for a project in north-western CAR. As the project was funded through the UN humanitarian fund, DCA was not tasked by UNMAS. However, UNMAS monitored its activities and maintained regular information exchange with DCA.[40]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

CAR does not yet have a fully established set of national mine action standards (NMAS). The 2026–31 National Mine Action Strategy commits CAR to developing NMAS, with technical support from UNMAS, aligned with the IMAS. ANLAM is expected to progressively assume responsibility for their review, updating, and validation.[41] This commitment is translated into the 2026–28 Action Plan, which provides for the development, formalisation, validation, and adoption of NMAS and SOPs, with the aim of establishing a clear and harmonised regulatory framework for the planning, implementation, oversight, and quality management of mine action operations. The Action Plan also specifically provides for the development and regular updating of SOPs for EOD spot tasks.[42]

The national strategy distinguishes between responses to isolated EO contamination and the future release of larger contaminated areas. To date, operational response has primarily consisted of spot tasks involving isolated items of EO, including UXO, grenades, mines, and IEDs. Where larger contaminated areas are identified, CAR plans to apply a land release process in accordance with IMAS and national procedures, comprising NTS, followed where necessary by technical survey (TS), clearance, QA/QC, and formal handover of released land to the authorities and affected communities.[43]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Operations are mainly conducted by EOD teams from MINUSCA and UNMAS implementing partner, TDI. Trained FACA and other national security personnel also conduct EOD spot tasks, involving threat assessment, securing the area, and neutralising or destroying EO in accordance with national procedures. In 2025, DCA also began conducting NTS in Ouham-Pendé prefecture.

MINUSCA was established in 2014. Its mandate includes assisting the authorities in preventing, mitigating, and combating the threat posed by EO. This encompasses the removal and destruction of mines and other explosive devices, as well as strengthening the capacity of FACA, in coordination with UNMAS.[44] In 2024–25, MINUSCA maintained one Force EOD reserve platoon in Bangui and five EOD teams embedded within multirole engineering companies in Bangassou, Bangui, Bouar, Bria, and Kaga-Bandoro.[45] Some infantry battalions also have EOD teams, although their exact capabilities and operational use are not publicly available. In December 2024, MINUSCA inaugurated CAR's first post-blast investigation laboratory, followed in January 2025 by the country's first post-blast investigation training for 25 members of the national defence and security forces.[46]

38 National Mine Action Plan 2026–28, ANLAM, pp. 27–31.
39 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, ANLAM, p. 13.
40 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.
41 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, ANLAM, pp. 18–19.
42 National Mine Action Plan 2026–28, ANLAM, pp. 7 and 11.
43 National Mine Action Strategy 2026–31, ANLAM, p. 27.
44 MINUSCA webpage, https://bit.ly/4dbmJ5v.
45 Emails from Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025 and 4 September 2026.
46 UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General, 14 February 2025, https://bit.ly/47c62Xs, p. 8 (point 36).

UNMAS employed 33 personnel in CAR in 2025, down from 46 in 2024. Personnel were initially based in Bambari, Bangui, Bouar, and Paoua, but the Bambari and Paoua offices closed in 2025, leaving Bouar as the only field office, staffed by two personnel. UNMAS continued to contract TDI, which deployed a multi-task team (MTT) providing EOD spot-task, post-blast investigation (PBI), training, and weapons and ammunition disposal, as well as an explosive risk awareness team conducting EORE and NTS (see Table 2).

UNMAS also continued to strengthen FACA operational capacity in 2025 in EOD, PBI, operational search, and training of national trainers. This built on capacity development since 2023: by September 2024, 33 FACA officers had completed EOD Level 3 training, including 12 who subsequently completed a four-week Training-of-Trainers course enabling them to deliver basic Explosive Ordnance Threat Mitigation (EOTM) training within their units.[47]

DCA launched a 12-month project in Ouham-Pendé prefecture in August 2025, covering EORE, NTS, and VA in Bocaranga, Koui and Ngaoundaye. The project is implemented with two national partners, the Association des Femmes pour la Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat (AFPE) and Zo Kwe Zo. Sixteen personnel (seven women and nine men) were accredited by UNMAS, with NTS beginning in late 2025.[48]

Table 2: Capacity deployed by UNMAS implementing partner as at end of 2025

Capacity	Location	Coverage areas	No. of personnel
TDI – Multi-task Core Team	Mostly Bangui, but also in other locations as necessary	1 EOD support team capable of EOD, EOTM, PBI Training, EOD spot task, weapons and ammunitions disposal.	6 (4 since January 2026 due to budget cuts)
TDI – Explosive risk awareness intervention and training team	Several locations	1 EO Risk Awareness module, capable of implementing Explosive risk awareness, NTS, and trainings to UN agencies and humanitarian partners, and intervene at very short notice on appearing "Early warning" and "Protection of Civilian (PoC) hotspots areas".	6 (0 since January 2026 due to budget cuts) This component is now being undertaken directly by UNMAS staff

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

No land release was conducted in CAR in 2025, with operational response limited to EOD spot tasks. This largely reflects the absence of identified mined areas and the lack of a reliable contamination baseline. TDI conducted 17 EOD spot tasks in Bangui, destroying 863 items of UXO. Most tasks involved a single item, except for three tasks in which 760, 67, and 16 items were destroyed, respectively. MINUSCA EOD teams conducted a further nine spot tasks across six prefectures— Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Lim-Pendé, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Mambéré, and Vakaga—destroying nine items of UXO, with each task involving a single item. No AP mines, AV mines, or IEDs were destroyed during these spot tasks.[49]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CAR: 1 MAY 2003

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2013

NEW ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE MAY BE NEEDED

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, CAR was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, and no later than 1 May 2013. In its first Article 7 report, submitted in 2004, CAR reported that there were no mined areas on its territory.

Since 2020, however, CAR has faced an evolving EO threat, including incidents involving victim-activated devices. Available information remains insufficient to determine the extent of AP mine contamination, including contamination from improvised AP mines, and no nationwide NTS has yet been conducted. Recorded incidents and devices are also believed to represent only a fraction of actual contamination.[50]

47 UNMAS, "MINUSCA, through UNMAS, Strengthens National Capacities in Explosive Ordnance Threat Mitigation and Mine Action in CAR", 11 September 2024; and MINUSCA/UNMAS Press Briefing, 11 June 2025, https://bit.ly/3SLwvGB.

48 Email from Jerome Berson, DCA, 3 August and 7 September 2026; "DCA and partner staff receive UNMAS accreditation in CAR", 24 November 2025, https://bit.ly/4d73yfd; and "Safer Communities, Stronger Futures", DCA CAR, accessed 6 September 2026, https://bit.ly/4cQqgZ9.

49 Email from Dorothy Du and Alioune Menane, UNMAS CAR, 10 April 2026.

50 Email from Sophie Van Royen and Alioune Menane, UNMAS, 21 May 2025.

CAR should continue efforts to determine whether and to what extent it is contaminated by AP mines. This should include conducting NTS and systematically recording and technically assessing IED incidents, including the activation mechanism, device type, location, and circumstances. A nationally owned information management system should support systematic collection and analysis of data on contamination, incidents, casualties, and operations.

Under the approach agreed by States Parties, when a State Party discovers a previously unknown mined area after its Article 5 deadline has expired, it must immediately inform States Parties and destroy the AP mines as soon as possible. If it cannot do so before the next Meeting of States Parties or Review Conference, whichever occurs first, it should submit a request for an extended Article 5 deadline.[51] CAR should therefore clarify whether identified or suspected victim-activated devices constitute AP mines under the Convention and, where mined areas are identified, determine whether a new Article 5 deadline extension request is required.

In the meantime, CAR should continue fulfilling its reporting obligations, including by providing updated information on the location of any suspected or confirmed mined areas and on the status of programmes for the destruction of all AP mines within those areas.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

While CAR does not yet have plans for managing residual contamination, strengthening the capacity of security forces will help build a national capacity to address the threat. UNMAS is supporting this process by promoting sustainable capacity development and reinforcing national ownership of mine action activities. The establishment of the NMAA is expected to be "a transformative step for CAR's mine action sector". The NMAA will oversee and guide EO mitigation efforts, contributing to more structured and effective implementation.[52]

51 "Proposed rational response to States Parties discovering previously unknown mined areas after deadlines have passed", Twelfth Meeting of State Parties, Geneva, 3–7 December 2012; and Final Report of the APMBC Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 21 January 2013, p. 10.

52 UNMAS, "MINUSCA, through UNMAS, Strengthens National Capacities in Explosive Ordnance Threat Mitigation and Mine Action in CAR", 11 September 2024, and MINUSCA/UNMAS Press Briefing, 11 June 2025.