

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2024

TWO-YEAR INTERIM DEADLINE EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 OCTOBER 2026

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION:

BELIEVED TO BE LIGHT,
BUT NO NATIONAL
BASELINE ESTIMATE

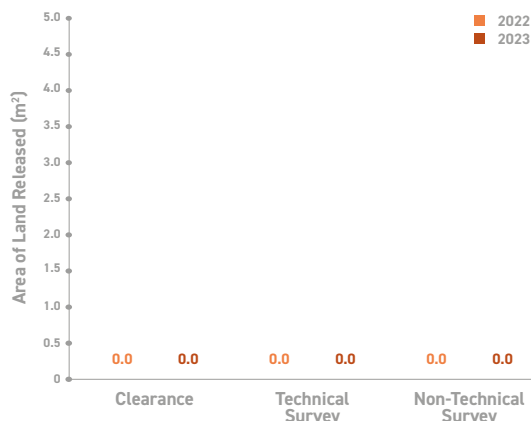
SUBMUNITION
CLEARANCE IN 2023

0m²

SUBMUNITIONS
DESTROYED IN 2023

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2023, Chad did not carry out the requisite non-technical survey (NTS) in Tibesti, the last province suspected to be contaminated by cluster munition remnants (CMR) owing to a lack of funding and the volatile security situation. Chad is requesting a second interim deadline extension to its Article 4 clearance obligation under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The new deadline of 1 October 2026 is intended to allow the survey to take place and any requisite clearance to be planned.

In 2022 and 2023, the government supported clearance of explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Kanem, Borkou, and Ennedi East and West provinces after clashes between

armed groups and the armed forces in 2021. Following the conclusion of a four-year European Union (EU) project in April 2022, survey and clearance by international operators did not take place for almost two years. At the end of 2023, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National au Déminage, HCND) started a one-year project supported by France to conduct battle area clearance (BAC), spot-task explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in four provinces, but these operations target types of ERW other than CMR. Chad did not report any survey or clearance of CMR contaminated-areas in 2023 nor in the previous year.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Chad should reinforce its resource mobilisation efforts to raise the necessary international funds and receive operational support to enable it to fulfil its CCM Article 4 obligations.
- Chad should urgently conduct the requisite NTS in Tibesti province to confirm or deny the presence of CMR and accurately determine the location and extent of any contamination.
- Chad should explain the circumstances that prevent access to Tibesti and fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	5	Chad asserted in 2021 it had completed clearance of all cluster munition-contaminated areas under its jurisdiction. It later accepted it still needed to survey parts of Tibesti province and acknowledged "a high probability" of finding CMR there, but the lack of funding and a volatile security environment have prevented the survey from being carried out until now. Chad indicated in its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request that the NTS for CMR and other explosive remnants of war will be carried out in the five departments of Tibesti (Bardaï, Wour, Zouar, Aouzou and Emi Koussi), but the surface area to be surveyed was not specified.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	3	The National Commission for Demining (HCND) struggles with limited resources. Government financial support has long been limited to paying staff salaries and some administrative costs. In both 2022 and 2023, however, the government did fund some clearance operations of ERW contaminated-areas and mined areas. In its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request, Chad said it is willing to contribute financially and in-kind to the NTS in Tibesti but still needs international assistance to eliminate cluster munition contamination.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	Chad's national plans make no reference to gender and inclusion. Chad also fails to adequately address gender in its 2024 extension request, except with brief reference to mine risk education and disaggregated victim data. It also highlighted that socio-cultural norms are very strong in Tibesti province. Therefore, the HCND will strive to recruit local women to support the surveyors in the field during interviews. Eight women are employed at the HCND, though mainly in office support functions, risk education, and victim assistance. One woman is an EOD level 3 team leader.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION* (10% of overall score)	2	Not Scored	Chad said it does not have, for now, a policy or standard on environmental management in mine action and does not make reference to the environment in its 2024 Article 4 extension request.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	4	The HCND's national mine action database benefitted from an extensive data clean-up by FSD in 2020–21 but the national authority has very limited information management capacity. Chad has submitted a CCM Article 7 report in most years, including in 2024 (covering 2023). Chad also provided additional CMR-specific information in its Article 4 deadline extension request, as well as bilaterally to Mine Action Review in response to queries. Nonetheless, Chad's reporting under the CCM has often been late and lacks accuracy.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	4	Until its first extension request in 2022, Chad had never presented a strategic plan or identified priorities for survey or clearance of CMR. In its 2024 deadline extension request, Chad planned for an initial period of four months to mobilise resources and conduct the NTS in Tibesti. Once Chad has accurately determined the location and extent of the contamination, it will develop a comprehensive CMR work plan accordingly. Chad indicated that it could request another extension deadline depending on the results of the NTS. The 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request makes no reference to prioritisation of CMR tasks.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM** (10% of overall score)	5	5	FSD completed revision of 17 national standards in 2021. Chad did not review its national standards in 2023. Its 2024 Article 4 extension request listed 22 national standards that are said to be compatible with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), including a national standard on NTS. The standards are, however, not specific to CMR.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	4	In 2021, Chad was preparing to declare fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations but then changed position and in 2022 submitted a request for a 13-month extension. Having failed to secure international funding and because of security constraints, in 2024 Chad requested a further two-year extension to October 2026, to mobilise resources and undertake the NTS in the last remaining hazardous departments of Tibesti province. Chad did not report any survey or clearance operations of CMR-contaminated areas in 2023 or the previous year.
Average Score	4.3	4.3	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

* New criterion introduced in 2024 to assess performance.

** The weighting of this criterion was previously 20% of overall performance score, but is now given a 10% weighting.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- HCND

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG) (only for BAC and spot-tasks)

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Chad has never produced a baseline estimate of CMR contamination but had initially claimed it was heavy. Explosive ordnance contamination dates back to the conflict with Libya in 1987–88 that affected the former Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET) region—now split into four provinces—and which covered around one third of the country's surface area.¹ Chad informed the CCM signing conference in 2008 that it had "vast swathes of territory" contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance, including cluster munitions,² but it provided no details and the extent to which it is affected remains uncertain.

Chad carried out a national "impact study" in 1999, which was considered a useful initial assessment but failed to determine the exact location and extent of the contamination and did not cover Tibesti.³ Chad also conducted a technical survey (TS) in 2006 and 2007 in the southern parts of Tibesti,⁴ which have since been affected by armed conflict and require new survey.⁵ Between 2010 and 2012, Chad completed a national survey, but which did not cover the northern parts of Tibesti (only Bardaï, Yebbibou, and Zoumri were covered) and the province of Moyen-Chari. The combined results of the impact study and the national survey enabled Chad to conclude that it had a contamination from mines and ERW covering 77.62km² in 120 hazardous areas outside parts of Tibesti

province. No disaggregated estimate of CMR contamination was produced.⁶

During the four-year EU-funded PRODECO project, TS and CMR clearance were carried out in the provinces of Ennedi West (Delbo site where 742,657m² were cleared and 11 submunitions destroyed) and Borkou (Kaourchi site where three cluster munition containers were destroyed).⁷ In 2021, Chad said it had completed clearance of CMR hazards and would announce compliance with its Article 4 obligations⁸ but in 2022 it amended that position to allow for survey of Tibesti province where, it acknowledged, it did not "have a precise reading" of CMR contamination.⁹

No international operators were able to access Tibesti throughout the PRODECO project (2017–22).¹⁰ In 2023, the HCND initiated clearance using national funding at Hadjar-Magdoud minefield in the Kori-Bogodi area of Tibesti, but the team experienced a security incident in August and the clearance was not completed.¹¹ Access to Tibesti is constrained by political and security developments. The incursion by an armed group in April 2021 that resulted in the death of President Idriss Déby and violence surrounding gold mining have further affected security in the province.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Chad is contaminated by ERW other than cluster munition remnants. Clashes between armed groups and the national army left ERW that the national clearance capacity destroyed in 2022 and 2023 using national funding.¹² The country is also contaminated by anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines.

In February 2024, Chad stated that it is also confronted with an increasing threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) used by non-State armed groups particularly in the Lake Chad Basin.¹³ In March 2024, an explosive device killed seven Chadian soldiers during a patrol in the west of the country, near Lake Chad.¹⁴ Another similar incident involving an explosive device reportedly took place in May 2024 injuring three soldiers.¹⁵ (See Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Chad for further information on the mine problem).

1 2024 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

2 Statement of Chad, CCM Signing Conference, Oslo, 3 December 2008.

3 2022 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 3; and 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.

4 Ibid.

5 Email from Soultani Moussa, Director of Operations and Logistics, HCND, 7 June 2024; and 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

6 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; and Presentation by Chad on Article 4, CCM Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 11 to 14 September 2023, p. 5.

7 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020).

8 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F; and Statement of Chad, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) 19th Meeting of States Parties, 15–19 November 2021.

9 2022 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

10 Online interviews with Caroline Bruviers, Chad Project Manager and Francois Fall, HMA Advisor for West Africa, MAG, 16 April 2024; and Seydou Gaye, HMA Specialist, HI, 22 April 2024.

11 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

12 Presentation by Chad on Article 4, CCM Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 11–14 September 2023, p. 10.

13 Presentation by Chad, Regional Conference on Improvised AP Mines, Ghana, 13–15 February 2024, p. 7.

14 Africanews and Associated Press, "Tchad : au moins 7 soldats tués par un engin explosif", *Africanews*, 26 March 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4aQ8Vvz>.

15 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Chad's mine action programme is coordinated by the National High Commission for Demining (HCND), which was set up by government decree in 1998 with a mandate to implement a humanitarian programme tackling mines and explosive ordnance.¹⁶ The HCND, which is under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, is responsible for preparing the national demining strategy, annual work plans (and corresponding budgets), and implementing the mine action programme.¹⁷

A 2019 decree provided for re-organisation of the HCND, resulting in four main departments, covering: operations and logistics; planning, monitoring and victim assistance; administrative and financial affairs; and training and human resources.¹⁸ In addition to a head office in N'djamena, the HCND has six provincial offices: in Bardai (Tibesti province), Faya (Borkou province), Fada (Ennedi West province), Abéché (Ouaddaï province), Bol (Lake province), and Amdjarass (Ennedi East), and two provincial sub-centres: in Zouar (Tibesti province) and Amtiman (Salamat province).¹⁹

Mine action in Chad is hampered by a lack of funding. Government financial support has long been limited to the payment of staff salaries and some administrative costs, which in the past are said to have amounted to around \$1.5 million per year.²⁰ In 2017, the HCND was restructured, reducing its staff from 744 to 329. Non-payment of salaries for the reduced workforce led to a long-term strike by some

deminers from 2018, and prevented some planned survey and clearance activities in Tibesti from taking place.²¹ According to the HCND, the payment of salary arrears is no longer the main obstacle to accessing Tibesti, but the lack of funding for CMR survey and clearance.²² The volatile security environment is also an important constraint.

In 2022 and 2023, the government supported clearance of ERW after the clashes between armed groups and the armed forces in 2021.²³ In 2023, the Chadian government's financial contribution is said to have amounted to US\$1.8 million, covering the running of the HCND, staff salaries, and operations. The HCND deployed three multi-task teams with 51 personnel in total.²⁴ Chad said it will partially contribute financially and in-kind to the NTS in Tibesti, but that it requires international assistance to eliminate all CMR contamination.²⁵

At the 27th UN National Directors Meeting in Geneva on 29 April to 1 May 2024, Chad said it had made renewed contact with a number of donors, including Japan, Norway, and the United States.²⁶ France made a statement at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Intersessional Meetings in June 2024 in support of Chad's resource mobilisation efforts and deplored that it is currently the only donor. France also highlighted the importance of setting up coalitions of States to help forgotten countries in their mine action programmes.²⁷

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Chad's national plans make no reference to gender and inclusion. Chad also fails to adequately address gender in its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request, except with brief reference to mine risk education and disaggregated victim data. In its extension request, Chad highlights that socio-cultural norms are very strong in Tibesti province. Therefore, the HCND will strive to recruit local women to support the surveyors in the field during interviews.²⁸ Eight women are employed in a number of roles at the HCND, though mainly in office support functions, risk education, and victim assistance. One woman is an EOD Level 3 team leader.²⁹

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Chad said it does not have, for now, a policy or standard on environmental management in mine action.³⁰ It also did not make reference to the environment in its 2024 Article 4 extension request. MAG does not have a policy or SOPs on environmental management for Chad.³¹

16 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

17 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

18 Ibid., p. 10.

19 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

20 Emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 May 2019 and 27 April 2020.

21 Email from Romain Coupez, Country Director, MAG, 4 March 2019; APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 9.

22 Interview with Gen. Brahim Djibrine, HCND Coordinator, and Soultani Moussa, HCND, in Geneva, 30 April 2024.

23 Ibid.

24 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

25 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

26 Ibid.

27 Statement of France, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18 June 2024.

28 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

29 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

30 Ibid.

31 Email from Francois Fall, MAG, 5 June 2024.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The HCND has an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, which, under the PRODECO project, operated with the support of FSD. Poor maintenance and shortages of trained information technology staff meant data had become unreliable because of lost reports and duplication. FSD started a clean-up of the database in 2017.³² With the closure of the PRODECO project in 2022, HCND's information management system has been managed by an IMSMA unit chief and database operator. FSD concluded that maintaining and developing HCND's information management

system posed a major challenge in view of the small number of qualified staff and the risks of staff leaving for better-paid jobs.³³ The database has not been updated or maintained since the end of the PRODECO project.

In 2023, three HCND staff received training in Senegal with the support of Humanity and Inclusion (HI), two on IMSMA and the third on quality assurance and control.³⁴ MAG is not focusing on information management and does not have ready access to the database.³⁵

PLANNING AND TASKING

Chad has never had a strategic plan for CMR survey and clearance. A series of CCM Article 7 reports indicated plans to conduct NTS to identify the location of cluster munitions in Tibesti (and previously also Ouaddaï) provinces and to clear any contamination found, but in the absence of international donor and owing to the volatile security situation, this has not been possible.³⁶

Chad's CCM second extension request of 2024 is largely based on its first, submitted two years earlier. It plans for an initial period of four months that includes two months to mobilise resources and five weeks to deploy five teams (four NTS teams and one risk education/victim assistance team) to carry out the survey in Tibesti. A detailed work plan covering the remaining period will be drawn up based on the results of the NTS.³⁷

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

FSD completed a three-year revision of Chad's national standards in November 2021.³⁸ Chad did not review its national standards in 2023.³⁹ In its 2024 extension request, Chad says it has 22 national mine action standards that are said to comply with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). In 2022, Chad indicated that it was still missing a national standard for NTS. In 2024, its Article 4 deadline extension request stated that it now had a national standard on NTS.⁴⁰ None of these standards is CMR-specific.⁴¹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The HCND has said it has the requisite equipment as well as skilled and trained human resources to undertake demining.⁴² In 2023, it employed three multitask teams, comprising a total of 51 personnel.⁴³ The HCND carried out battle area and minefield clearance with national funding in 2022 and 2023,⁴⁴ but did not address CMR contamination.⁴⁵

The EU's PRODECO project, which is believed to have cost €23 million,⁴⁶ started in 2017 and concluded in April 2022 after a no-cost extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁷ It funded operations by a consortium of four organisations in which FSD provided technical support; HI and MAG conducted survey and clearance; and Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV) supported victim assistance. HI and FSD concluded mine action operations in Chad with the end of the PRODECO project.⁴⁸

32 Emails from Moussa Soultani, HCND, 27 April 2020; and Eugenio Balsini, Programme Manager, FSD, 28 April 2022.

33 Email from Eugenio Balsini, FSD, 28 April 2022.

34 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

35 Email from Caroline Bruvier, MAG, 30 April 2024.

36 Article 7 Reports (covering 2019), Form F; (covering 2021), Form I; (covering 2022), Form F; and (covering 2023), p. 3; and 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 4, 8, and 12.

37 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10 and 12.

38 Email from Eugenio Balsini, FSD, 28 April 2022.

39 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

40 2022 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 4; and 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

41 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

42 Presentation by Chad on Article 4, CCM Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 11 to 14 September 2023.

43 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.

44 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2022), p. 4; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 3.

45 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 3.

46 EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, "PRODECO: déminage humanitaire, une approche", 31 January 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3tHBOY5>.

47 Emails from Gérard Kerrien, Country Director, MAG, 4 April 2022; and Eugenio Balsini, FSD, 28 April 2022.

48 Email from Matt Wilson, Head of Operations, FSD, 22 May 2024; and online interview with Seydou Gaye, HI, 22 April 2024.

MAG is implementing a weapons and ammunition management programme. Additionally, MAG and the HCND started a one-year project in October 2023 supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The tasks include BAC and EORE in Massaguet, Hadjer-Lamis province; spot tasks and EORE in Kanem, Bahr-el-Gazal, and Hadjer-Lamis provinces; and EORE in Lac province. MAG had 30 national and international staff in Chad at the end of 2023. The HCND is seconding six deminers, a team leader and support staff to MAG for the BAC in Massaguet, as well as three deminers and support staff for mobile EOD and spot tasks.⁴⁹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

Chad did not report release of any cluster munition-contaminated area through survey or clearance in 2023.⁵⁰ Some clearance of mined area started in Tibesti in 2023, but this was interrupted by a security incident.⁵¹ According to the HCND, Tibesti is the last remaining province with likely CMR contamination.⁵²

DEMINER SAFETY

In August 2023, 11 HCND staff were abducted when conducting clearance at Hadjar-Magdoud site, in the Kori-Bogodi area of Tibesti province. They were released after nine months in captivity at the end of April 2024.⁵³

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 4 of the CCM (and based on a 13-month extension granted in 2022), Chad is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 October 2024. It will not meet this deadline and has requested a further two-year extension to 1 October 2026 to allow it time to conduct NTS of the northern province of Tibesti. The request was due to be considered at the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties in September 2024.

Chad proposes to deploy four NTS teams to conduct the survey in the five departments of Tibesti (Aouzou, Bardaï, Emi Koussi, Wour, and Zouar), but the surface area to be surveyed was not specified.⁵⁴ Chad said it has sufficient

trained capacity to conduct the survey but has identified the inability to mobilise resources for the NTS and climatic conditions as possible obstacles to implementing the proposed plan. The volatile security situation in Tibesti may also prove to be a problem.⁵⁵

The NTS budget is estimated at €115,038 of which Chad said it would contribute €15,244 and provide in-kind support of four vehicles and communication equipment.⁵⁶ In its 2024 CCM Article 4 deadline extension request, Chad said the government would pay for the salaries of the personnel and operating costs of the HCND, which it calculated at €1,331,520 per year.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ Emails from Caroline Bruvier, MAG, 30 April and 5 June 2024.

⁵⁰ CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 3.

⁵¹ Emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 and 17 June 2024.

⁵² 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8 and 10.

⁵³ Interview with Gen. Brahim Djibrine and Soultani Moussa, HCND, in Geneva, 30 April 2024; and emails from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 and 17 June 2024.

⁵⁴ Ibid., pp. 8 and 11.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ 2024 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 10.

Table 1: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2023	0
2022	0
2021	0.74
2020	0.41
2019	1.35
Total	2.50

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Chad indicated having set up a multi-task unit to deal with residual contamination.⁵⁸ There is no active planning for the management of residual contamination.

58 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 7 June 2024.