

CHAD



ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 20
(NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	For 2016	For 2015
Problem understood	7	6
Target date for completion of mine clearance	3	4
Targeted clearance	6	6
Efficient clearance	4	4
National funding of programme	3	4
Timely clearance	3	2
Land release system in place	6	5
National mine action standards	7	6
Reporting on progress	5	6
Improving performance	8	8
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	5.2	5.1

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Chad's mine action programme showed signs of continuing improvement in 2016 over the previous year with more than double the amount of clearance by Mines Advisory Group (MAG), despite difficult operating conditions. Together with Handicap International (HI), MAG also substantially increased the amount of mined area confirmed by survey compared to 2015. However, large portions of the northern regions of Chad remain heavily contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), where survey has yet to be completed, and Chad is not on track to meet its extended Article 5 deadline. Facing the loss of the only international donor and the cessation of mine action operations in Chad in December 2016, the securing of European Union (EU) funding for a new four-year demining project starting in 2017 was a critical, positive development.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Chad should complete its nationwide survey to enable it to provide a comprehensive estimate of its mine contamination.
- Chad should revise its existing national mine action strategy with updated information, clarify the amount of contamination remaining, and submit a new workplan with clear annual targets for 2017–20 under its current extension request.
- Chad needs to urgently elaborate a resource mobilisation strategy to secure and diversify funding and attract international technical and operational support.
- Chad should take the necessary measures to strengthen the effectiveness of its national mine action centre. It should strive to ensure that available national demining personnel and resources are fully mobilised and deployed for survey and clearance on areas which contain anti-personnel mines, and allocated on the basis of humanitarian priorities.

CONTAMINATION

In December 2015, Chad reported it had identified a total of 123 mined areas albeit from survey of only part of the country.¹ It expected more contaminated areas to be identified in four regions: Borkou, Ennedi, Moyen Chari, and Tibesti. In May 2014, Chad had 113 areas confirmed to contain mines with a total size of 103.5km². It did not include a revised estimate for contamination in its latest Article 7 transparency report, for 2016.

Chad also has a significant problem with explosive remnants of war (ERW); in 2014, it identified 221 ERW-contaminated areas covering 2.5km².²

Chad's contamination is the result of the 1973 Libyan invasion and 30 years of internal conflict. Chad's mine action plan for 2014–19 indicated that, based on a national technical survey conducted in 2010–12 and information available as at May 2014, it faced a total of 787 hazardous areas covering 1,236km². This comprised 123 mined areas across seven regions (covering 104km²) and 664 ERW-contaminated areas across nine regions (covering 1,132km²). Chad reported that it had already addressed ten mined areas and 443 ERW-contaminated areas.³

In December 2015, Chad stated that demining by MAG and the National Demining Centre (Centre National de Déminage, CND) had released a further four areas of anti-personnel mine contamination with a total size of 0.32km² in the Tibesti region to the north, and in Sarh Kyabé, Moyen-Chari region in the south. It also reported that while "it was not possible to provide precise figures", non-technical survey activities by MAG and HI in Tibesti and in the south had identified 14 previously unrecorded mined areas,⁴ bringing the total number of mined areas remaining once again to 123.

As at May 2014, five of Chad's twenty-two regions contained confirmed mined areas, as set out in Table 1. Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti are located in northern Chad at the border with Libya; Sila is located at the border with Sudan; and Moyen-Chari is in southern Chad at the border with the Central African Republic.

Table 1: Anti-personnel mine contamination by province (as at May 2014)⁵

Province	CHAs	Area [km ²]
Borkou	28	20.78
Ennedi	7	16.45
Moyen-Chari	1	0.06
Sila	1	0*
Tibesti	76	66.26
Totals	113	103.55

CHAs = Confirmed hazardous areas
*100m²

Mines and ERW are said to obstruct safe access to housing, roads, pastures, water points, and mining areas, especially in northern Chad. Contamination is an ongoing threat to local populations and its negative impact on the socio-economic development of Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti, which are among its poorest regions, is particularly severe.⁶ Mined roads obstruct key transport routes, and diversions opened through potentially contaminated areas present risks to local populations seeking to access basic state services, such as medical coverage and higher education and training facilities,

provided mainly in regional capitals.⁷ To the south, east, and western regions, the impact of mines is thought to be relatively low, with the primary threat coming from ERW, including both unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned explosive ordnance.⁸ In 2016, Chad reported that 27 people were injured by mines or UXO in Borkou and Ouaddaï regions.⁹

In August 2016, four Chadian soldiers were reported to have been killed when the vehicle they were traveling in hit a mine allegedly laid by Boko Haram in Kaiga Kindji, near to the Chad-Niger border in the Lake Chad

region. This followed Chad's increased participation in joint military offensives against Boko Haram as part of a Multi-National Joint Task Force launched in 2015.¹⁰ In 2015 and 2016, numerous incidents involving both civilian and military casualties from "landmines", including locally produced mines planted by Boko Haram, were reported as part of the insurgency, which spread from north-east Nigeria to involve neighbouring areas of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Most reports appeared to describe use of locally produced mines made by Boko Haram, which functioned as either anti-personnel mines or anti-vehicle mines.¹¹

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national mine action programme is managed by a national mine action authority, the National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND), and a mine action centre, the CND.

In December 2016, funding for a two-year EU-funded mine action project (Projet d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad, PADEMIN) came to an end.¹² Under this project, MAG conducted survey and clearance of mines and ERW, focusing on Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti. In 2016, it employed a total of 35 national deminers, and deployed a four-strong mechanical demining support team for its technical survey operations. HI provided capacity-building support to the CND, in particular for information and quality management, and carried out non-technical survey in three southern regions of the country thought to be contaminated by mines and ERW.¹³

But as the two-year EU funding was coming to an end, the EU agreed to support a new four-year mine action project in Chad, and MAG and HI were set to resume mine action activities during 2017. A third international operator, the Swiss Foundation for Demining (La Fondation Suisse pour le Déminage, FSD), was preparing to provide technical support to the CND.¹⁴

Since 2008, Chad's mine action programme has suffered from a lack of international funding, weak government oversight, and mismanagement issues within the CND.¹⁵ CND demining operations have also been plagued by poor equipment and lack of funding. On 10 May 2017, a media source reported that 755 deminers employed by the CND began a strike over 10 months of wages which had not been paid by the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning. According to the report, the deminers had carried out several missions in the north, east, and west of the country to open roads linking Chad to neighbouring Libya and Niger and to secure settlement areas, during which a number were killed and others suffered traumatic amputations in mine blasts.¹⁶

Strategic Planning

Following the request of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, the CND elaborated a national mine action plan for 2014–19, with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The plan gave details on the number, location, and size of remaining mined areas, and provided the following timeline:

- In June 2015 – June 2019, operations would be conducted in Borkou
- In January 2015 – April 2019, operations would be conducted in Ennedi
- In May–December 2015, operations would be conducted in Moyer Chari
- In September 2015 – February 2016, operations would be conducted in Sila
- In November 2014 – November 2019, operations would be conducted in Tibesti.¹⁷

Standards

HI began a review of Chad's national mine action standards for land release and quality management at the start of 2016. In September 2017, HI reported that 11 revised national mine action standards had been updated and released, following approval by the CND.¹⁸

Quality Management

MAG and HI reported that a number of external quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) visits were carried out by the CND in 2016. Two QA/QC activities were conducted by CND staff on HI's risk education teams in the Lake Chad area, and two visits were made by the CND to mine action operations in the north, including one independent mission by CND staff to Tibesti to QC MAG's operations prior to land release, and another to Borkou for QC of clearance operations, with support from HI.¹⁹

While HI continued providing technical support on quality management to the CND throughout 2016, it remained concerned that considerable further efforts were still required to establish a fully functional quality management system with adequate capacity within the CND.²⁰

Information Management

HI reported that while progress on information management capacity had been made in 2015, no further development was achieved during 2016, and, as at September 2017, the CND still lacked internet access, making it difficult for the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) team to carry out their daily work. HI also highlighted that, despite some improvements, further efforts were needed to consolidate data checking, correction, and validation.²¹

LAND RELEASE

In 2016, a total of nearly 0.58km² of mined area was released by clearance and technical survey, following the 0.26km² of clearance in 2015. The amount of mine contamination confirmed by survey increased significantly to close to 16.24km² in 2016, up from 1.2km² in 2015.²²

Survey in 2016

MAG reported confirming six areas with a total of just over 14.63km² of mine contamination in Tibesti region in 2016.²³ HI reported confirming as mined seven suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) with a size of just over 1.61km² in Borkou region, including three small areas in Faya department and two areas in Kouba department with a combined size of 1,609,500m².²⁴ Additionally, MAG reported that in 2015–16, technical survey was conducted on 74 areas with an estimated size of 14,800m².²⁵

In December 2016, HI carried out an evaluation of the needs for survey and clearance in Borkou and the west of Ennedi region to prepare for the start of the new four-year EU-funded demining project. It reported identifying more than 40km² of area as mined, 2.7km² as contaminated with ERW, and a total of 147 open suspected or confirmed hazardous areas, following a desk assessment of existing data, including from a 2001

Operators

In addition to national CND teams, as described above, in 2016 HI and MAG were the international demining operators in Chad.

Landmine Impact Survey, the IMSMA database, and operators' records, along with a number of field visits and meetings with local stakeholders.²⁶

Previously, in 2015, a total of more than 1.2km² of SHA was confirmed by MAG and HI as contaminated with anti-personnel mines in the Tibesti, Moyen-Chari, and Chari Baguirmi regions.²⁷

Clearance in 2016

MAG reported releasing a total of 575,120m² of mined area in Tibesti region in 2016, with the destruction of 96 anti-personnel mines and 21 anti-vehicle mines. It stated that this figure included some area reduced by technical survey, but was unable to provide the precise amount. As stated above, MAG reported that in 2015–16, technical survey was conducted on 74 areas with an estimated size of 14,800m², but it was unable to specify the amount of technical survey carried out in 2016.²⁸ This was an increase on land released from 2015, when MAG reported clearing 263,009m² in Tibesti region.

In total, when MAG concluded operations in 2016 under the EU PADEMIN project, which began in February 2015, it reported releasing 98 areas with a size of nearly 1.4km², along with more than 100,000m² of traffic routes.²⁹

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the six-year extension granted by states parties in 2013), Chad is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 January 2020. Chad is highly unlikely to meet this deadline.

Chad's Article 5 deadline has already been extended three times. Its latest extension request, granted in 2013, noted as circumstances impeding compliance with its Article 5 obligations: lack of financial support; the size of the country and poor road network; information management problems; mismanagement at CND; and lack of transparency in resources management, as well as security issues.

In 2014, Chad submitted its mine action plan for the extension period, which provides a more precise idea of its remaining contamination covering 103.5km² and indicates a provisional and general timetable. However, the full extent of the challenge remains unknown, as further survey needs to be conducted. This, combined with the lack of a concrete plan to complete survey and intermittent clearance in previous years, makes it very difficult to believe that Chad is capable of meeting its 2020 deadline.

In 2013, Chad was requested by states parties to report on the result of a mid-term evaluation of its national mine action strategy by the end of 2015, and to revise the strategy on the basis of updated information, if required. It was also requested to report on an annual basis on the clarity of remaining contamination, efforts to diversify funding, efforts to improve information management, and on weather conditions which affect Chad's ability to meet its Article 5 obligations. As of mid-2017, it had yet to do so.³⁰

In early 2017, both HI and MAG reiterated that Chad will not meet its 2020 deadline unless funding for mine action and capacity significantly increases.³¹ Challenges also include the distance of contamination in northern Chad and the difficult conditions, including the desert climate, high temperatures, sand, and wind, as significant challenges for logistics and human resources, alongside a lack of capacity and internal organisation of the national mine action authorities.³²

Chad's mine action plan for 2014–19 foresees expenditure of US\$61 million (\$40 million for operations and technical assistance, \$4.5 million for equipment, and \$16.6 million for the CND's running costs). Chad has planned to contribute almost one-third of total funding (\$16.6 million). In 2014, Chad reported contributing \$2.76 million to the CND; no funding was, though, allocated to land release operations.³³ In 2017, MAG and HI reported that the government had not provided any funding for operational mine action in recent years.³⁴ According to its national plan, Chad's budget for mine action activities in 2017 is just over \$10.3 million.³⁵

Facing the loss of the only international donor and the cessation of mine action operations in Chad with the end of the PADEMIN project in December 2016, the securing of EU funding for a new four-year demining project starting in 2017 was critical. Under the new project, MAG was set to begin operations in Tibesti and Lac regions and HI would carry out survey and mine clearance in Borkou and the west of Ennedi region. MAG expected to increase its non-technical survey and risk education capacity, and deploy a community liaison team for seven months.³⁶ FSD was set to provide technical support to the CND to train new demining teams and increase the technical and managerial capacity of senior CND staff.³⁷

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- 1 Statement of Chad, 14th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2 December 2015. This was also reported in Chad's Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C.
 - 2 National High Commission for Demining (HCND), Mine Action Plan 2014–2019 [Plan d'action prévisionnel 2014–2019 de mise en œuvre de la composante déminage et dépollution de la Stratégie de l'action contre les mines au Tchad], May 2014.
 - 3 Ibid.
 - 4 Statement of Chad, 14th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2 December 2015. Translation from the original. This was also reported in Chad's Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C.
 - 5 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014.
 - 6 Ibid.; and response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 7 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 8 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.
 - 9 Article 7 Report (for 2016), Form J.
 - 10 "Boko Haram landmine kills 4 Chadian soldiers", *Reuters*, 27 August 2016; at: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-nigeria-security-chad-idUKKCN1120KP>; and "Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)", *GlobalSecurity.org*, at: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/int/mnjtf.htm>.
 - 11 M. P. Moore, "This Month in Mines, February 2015", *Landmines in Africa* blog, 12 March 2015, at: <https://landminesinfrica.wordpress.com/2015/03/12/the-month-in-mines-february-2015/>
 - 12 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 13 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and HI, "Landmine Clearance Efforts Begin in Chad", undated, at: http://www.handicap-international.us/landmine_clearance_efforts_begin_in_chad.
 - 14 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 15 Presentation of Chad at African Union/ICRC Weapons Contamination Workshop, Addis Ababa, 3–5 March 2013; and Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013, p. 12.
 - 16 "Tchad: grève des démineurs restés 10 mois sans salaire", [*"Chad: deminers strike after 10 months without pay"*], *Agence de Presse Africaine*, 10 May 2017, at: <http://mobile.apanews.net/index.php/fr/news/tchad-greve-des-demineurs-restes-10-mois-sans-salaire>; and email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 26 September 2017.
 - 17 HCND, "Mine Action Plan 2014–2019", May 2014. Previously, in 2013, the Government of Chad had approved a strategic mine action plan for 2013–17 that aimed, among other things, to develop and maintain an effective data collection and management system, strengthen national mine action capacities, and clear contaminated areas. Mine Action Strategic Plan 2013–2017, annexed to Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013.
 - 18 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
 - 19 Ibid.; and email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 19 September 2017.
 - 20 Response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 21 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
 - 22 Responses to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and email, 21 September 2017; response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017; and emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017 and 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.
 - 23 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 24 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
 - 25 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and email, 19 September 2017.
 - 26 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 and 26 September 2017.
 - 27 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.
 - 28 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and email, 19 September 2017. MAG reported carrying out an additional 16,843m² of battle area clearance and 57,469m² of road clearance, for a total of 649,432m² of land released in 2016. In its Article 7 report for 2016, Chad reported demining in Zouar and Zouarké, in Tibesti region, by MAG, with clearance of just under 650,000m² and the destruction of 94 anti-personnel mines, 21 anti-vehicle mines, and 2,847 items of UXO. Article 7 Report (for 2016), Form J.
 - 29 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and email, 19 September 2017.
 - 30 "Preliminary observations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Zambia)", *Intersessional meetings*, Geneva, 8–9 June 2017.
 - 31 Responses to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 32 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.
 - 33 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014.
 - 34 Responses to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 35 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014.
 - 36 Responses to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 37 Response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.