

# CHAD

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2020**  
(NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

## PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

	2017	2016
Problem understood	6	7
Target date for completion of mine clearance	3	3
Targeted clearance	6	6
Efficient clearance	4	4
National funding of programme	3	3
Timely clearance	2	3
Land-release system in place	5	6
National mine action standards	7	7
Reporting on progress	5	5
Improving performance	7	8
<b>PERFORMANCE SCORE: POOR</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>

## PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

In 2017, no survey or clearance operations were undertaken in Chad. In a positive development new European Union (EU) funding for mine action in Chad was secured in September but as at May 2018 survey and clearance had still to be initiated. Chad is not on track to meet its extended Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline and is planning to submit a

fourth extension request in 2019. In 2018, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) was set to begin operations in Tibesti and Lac regions while Humanity and Inclusion (HI) would operate in Borkou and western Ennedi. The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) will provide support to the National High Commission for Demining (HCND) to increase its technical and managerial capacity.

## 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 the remaining period up to January 2020 under its extended Article 5 deadline.
- Chad needs urgently to 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 ensure that demining personnel and resources are fully mobilised and deployed on areas which are confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines.

## CONTAMINATION

As at December 2017, Chad reported it had identified seven confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 421 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), covering a combined total of 122km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>1</sup> These figures should be approached with caution, however, as we can see from Table 1 the size and extent of mined areas varies widely from Salamat with one CHA and seven SHAs said to total only 592m<sup>2</sup> all the way up to 185 SHAs in Tibesti totalling 75km<sup>2</sup>. In December 2015, Chad reported it had identified a total of 123 mined areas, albeit from a partial national survey.<sup>2</sup> 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 103.5km<sup>2</sup>.

Chad also has a significant problem with explosive remnants of war (ERW); in 2014, it identified 221 ERW-contaminated areas covering 2.5km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

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 1,236km<sup>2</sup>. This comprised 123 mined areas across seven regions (covering 104km<sup>2</sup>) and 664 ERW-contaminated areas across nine regions (covering 1,132km<sup>2</sup>). Chad reported that it had already addressed ten mined areas and 443 ERW-contaminated areas.<sup>4</sup>

As at the end of 2017, three of Chad's twenty-three regions contained confirmed mined areas while a further seven had SHAs, 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: Mine contamination by region (at end-2017)<sup>5</sup>**

Region	CHA	SHA	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Borkou	0	112	26,961,249
Chari-Baguirmi	0	3	8,699
Ennedi	0	42	16,524,754
Moyen-Chari	0	19	3,273,243
Ouaddai	1	19	0
Salamat	1	7	592
Sila	5	12	6,004
Tibesti	0	185	75,184,525
Wadi Fira	0	18	662
Lac	0	4	798
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>121,960,526</b>

CHA = Confirmed hazardous area

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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> In regions to the south, east, and west, the impact of mines is thought to be relatively low, with the primary threat coming from ERW: both unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned explosive ordnance.<sup>8</sup> Chad has reported that 136 people were injured or killed by mines or UXO in Borkou and Tibesti regions in 2017.<sup>9</sup>

In April 2018, 22 soldiers were killed and a further 75 wounded during a series of operations in the Lake Chad region against Boko Haram forces who used landmines and other forms of attack.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> In 2017, numerous incidents involving both civilian and military casualties from landmines, including mines of an improvised nature emplaced 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 mines of an improvised nature produced by Boko Haram, which functioned as either anti-personnel mines or anti-vehicle mines.<sup>12</sup> In 2017, Chad sent risk education teams to inform the affected population in the Lake Chad region about the dangers of improvised devices and other ERW.<sup>13</sup>

## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national mine action programme is managed by what is effectively a national mine action centre, the National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND).<sup>14</sup> The National Demining Centre (Centre National de Déminage, CND), which earlier conducted clearance operations, appears to have been dissolved. In July 2017, a new governmental decree restructured the HCND, reducing the number of personnel by more than half from 744 to 329.<sup>15</sup>

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.<sup>16</sup> Under this project, MAG conducted survey and clearance of mines and ERW, focusing on Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti. 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.<sup>17</sup>

In September 2017, the EU agreed to support a new four-year mine action project (PRODECO) in Chad.<sup>18</sup> As part of this project, HI is focusing on survey and clearance in the Borkou and Ennedi regions while MAG is working in the Tibesti and Lake Chad regions.<sup>19</sup> The targets for the PRODECO project for survey and clearance are to conduct non-technical survey in 30 zones in the Lake Chad and Tibesti region, to release 2.7km<sup>2</sup> of mined land in Borkou, Tibesti and Ennedi, to release 200,000m<sup>2</sup> of mined land along roads in Tibesti, and, in the Lake Chad and Tibesti regions, to release 50,000m<sup>2</sup> of land contaminated with other ERW or conduct 100 spot tasks.<sup>20</sup> A third international operator, FSD, is to provide technical support, training, and capacity building to the HCND, including support for the use of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).<sup>21</sup>

Since 2008, Chad's mine action programme has suffered from a lack of international funding, weak government oversight, and mismanagement issues within the CND.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup>

## Strategic Planning

Following the request of the APMB's 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 Moyen Chari
- In September 2015 – February 2016, operations would be conducted in Sila
- In November 2014 – November 2019, operations would be conducted in Tibesti.<sup>24</sup>

As at June 2018, the national mine action plan was in the process of being updated.<sup>25</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE

No survey or clearance operations were conducted in Chad during 2017. Nearly 0.58km<sup>2</sup> was released by clearance and technical survey the previous year.<sup>30</sup>

In 2016, MAG and HI conducted survey in the Tibesti and Borkou regions, confirming over 16.24km<sup>2</sup> as contaminated with mines.<sup>31</sup> 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 40km<sup>2</sup> of area as mined, 2.7km<sup>2</sup> as contaminated with ERW, and a total of 147 open suspected or confirmed hazardous areas.<sup>32</sup>

## Legislation and 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 national mine action standards had been updated and issued, following HCND approval.<sup>26</sup>

## Quality Management

In 2017, Level 1 EOD [explosive ordnance disposal] quality assurance training was carried out with HCND as part of the PRODECO project.<sup>27</sup>

## Information Management

The HCND uses the IMSMA database. As part of the PRODECO project, the database was being updated in 2018 by the HCND's information management team, under the supervision of an FSD expert.<sup>28</sup>

## Operators

MAG has been the main clearance operator in recent years. In 2016, MAG concluded operations under the EU PADEMIN project. MAG was planning to deploy demining teams under the new EU PRODECO project in June 2018 but, as of three months later, had not yet been able to start clearance due to issues with security in Tibesti. They have started their operations in the Lake Chad region and, as at September 2018, had conducted non-technical survey in seven areas.<sup>29</sup>

HI also conducts demining in Chad and in 2018 was believed to be focusing on survey and clearance in the Borkou and Ennedi regions, though no details had been provided.

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## Progress in 2018

The priorities for 2018 were the Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti regions in which six manual demining teams, one non-technical survey team and two mechanical demining teams were to be deployed, as well as a non-technical survey/community liaison team in the Lake Chad region.<sup>33</sup>

## 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 will not meet this deadline and will require a further extension.

As at June 2018, Chad was in the process of preparing its fourth extension request.<sup>34</sup> 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. As at 2018, however, the full extent of the challenge remains unknown, as further survey still needs to be conducted.

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. As at mid-2018, it had yet to do so.<sup>35</sup>

Chad's mine action plan for 2014–19 foresaw expenditure of US\$61 million (\$40 million for operations and technical assistance, \$4.5 million for equipment, and \$16.6 million for the HCND's running costs). Chad planned to contribute almost one-third of total funding (\$16.6 million). In 2017, the Chadian government paid the salaries of HCND staff and provided classrooms

and practice areas<sup>36</sup> but MAG and HI reported that the government had not provided any funding for operational mine action in recent years.<sup>37</sup> According to its national plan, Chad's budget for mine action activities in 2017 was just over \$10.3 million, in actuality Chad's budget for 2017 was 1.116 billion francs (almost US\$2 million)<sup>38</sup>

In September 2017, Chad secured new EU funding for mine action operations as part of the PRODECO project. Under the new project, MAG is set to begin operations in Tibesti and Lac regions and HI will 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.<sup>39</sup> FSD is providing technical support to the HCND to train new demining teams and increase the technical and managerial capacity of senior HCND staff.<sup>40</sup>

**Table 2: Mine clearance in 2013–17**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2017	0.0
2016	0.5
2015	0.3
2014	N/R
2013	N/R
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8</b>

- 1 Email from Soultani Moussa, Manager/Administrator, HCND, 19 June 2018.
- 2 Statement of Chad, APMBC 14th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2 December 2015. This was also reported in Chad's APMBC Article 7 transparency report (for 2015), Form C.
- 3 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.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 19 June 2018.
- 6 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014; 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 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form J.
- 10 "Nigeria: Boko Haram – Military Winning the Lake Chad War Despite Losses – General Irabor" Premium Times, 29 April 2018, at: <https://allafrica.com/stories/201804290020.html>.
- 11 "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>.
- 12 M. P. Moore, "This Month in Mines, February 2017", 7 March 2017, at: <https://landminesinfrica.wordpress.com/2017/03/07/the-month-in-mines-february-2017/>; "This Month in Mines: April, May and June", 25 July 2017, at: <https://landminesinfrica.wordpress.com/2017/07/25/the-months-in-mines-april-may-and-june/>; "This Month in Mines, September and October 2017", 30 November 2017, at: <https://landminesinfrica.wordpress.com/2017/11/30/the-months-in-mines-september-and-october-2017/>.
- 13 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form I.
- 14 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 4 July 2018.
- 15 Emails from Soultani Moussa, Manager/Administrator, HCND, 19 June and 3 July 2018.
- 16 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
- 17 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](http://www.handicap-international.us/landmine_clearance_efforts_begin_in_chad).
- 18 HI "Country Profile Chad", September 2017, at: [https://www.handicapinternational.be/sites/default/files/paginas/bijlagen/201710\\_fp\\_tchad\\_fr.pdf](https://www.handicapinternational.be/sites/default/files/paginas/bijlagen/201710_fp_tchad_fr.pdf).
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 September 2018.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 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.
- 23 "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.
- 24 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.
- 25 Email from Soultani Moussa, 19 June 2018.
- 26 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
- 27 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 19 June 2018.
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 13 September 2018.
- 30 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 email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
- 31 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 September 2017.
- 32 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 5 and 26 September 2017.
- 33 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 19 June 2018.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 "Preliminary observations of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Switzerland, Chile, Colombia and the Netherlands)", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7–8 June 2018.
- 36 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 19 June 2018.
- 37 Responses to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
- 38 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014 and email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 14 September 2018.
- 39 Responses to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
- 40 Response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.