

CHAD



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

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	For 2015	For 2014
Problem understood	6	5
Target date for completion of mine clearance	4	4
Targeted clearance	6	6
Efficient clearance	4	4
National funding of programme	4	4
Timely clearance	2	2
Land release system in place	5	5
National mine action standards	6	6
Reporting on progress	6	6
Improving performance	8	7
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	5.1	4.9

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Chad's mine action programme showed signs of improvement in 2015 over the previous year with an increase in survey and clearance of mined area by Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Handicap International (HI) despite difficult operating conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Chad should take the necessary measures to strengthen the effectiveness of its national mine action centre.
- Chad needs to urgently elaborate a resource mobilisation strategy to secure funding and attract international technical and operational support in order to avoid further interruption in demining operations.
- Chad should complete its nationwide survey, as soon as security allows, to enable it to provide a comprehensive estimate of its mine contamination and revise its mine action strategy accordingly.

CONTAMINATION

In December 2015, Chad reported that it had identified 123 mined areas based on a partial nationwide survey.¹ However, it was anticipated that more contaminated areas could be identified as survey was still required 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.

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 of 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 317,998m² 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 (NTS) 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.

1 Statement of Chad, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2 December 2015. This was also reported in Chad's APMBC 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, APMBC Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2 December 2015. Translation from the original. This was also reported in Chad's APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form C.

Table 1: Anti-personnel mine contamination by province as at May 2014⁵

Province	Confirmed hazardous areas	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

*100m²

Mines and ERW are obstacles to safe access to housing, roads, pastures, water points, and mining, especially in northern Chad.⁶ In 2015, mine action operators reported that contamination is an ongoing threat to local populations and impedes socio-economic development, especially in the Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti regions.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 2015, Chad reported registering two anti-personnel mine casualties, a significant decrease from the 70 (14 killed and 56 injured) recorded in 2014.⁹

On 27 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 improvised mines planted by Boko Haram were reported as part of the insurgency, which spread from north-east Nigeria to involve neighbouring areas of Cameroon, Niger, and Chad. Most reports appeared to describe use of victim-activated IEDs 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 2015, MAG continued its demining activities as part of a two-year European Union (EU)-funded project (Projet d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad, PADEMIN) to conduct clearance, especially in the northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti.¹² It deployed three multi-task teams (MTTs) for manual demining and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) activities and one Armtrac mechanical support team.¹³

As part of the PADEMIN project, HI continued to build the capacity of the CND, in particular for information and quality management, and carried out NTS in three southern regions of the country, in areas thought to be contaminated by mines and ERW.¹⁴

5 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014.

6 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013, p. 7.

7 Emails from Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, MAG, 7 May 2016; and Julien Kempeneers, Deputy Desk Officer, Mine Action Department, HI, 2 May 2016.

8 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.

9 APMB Article 7 Reports (for 2015), Form J; and (for 2014), 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://landminesinafrica.wordpress.com/2015/03/12/the-month-in-mines-february-2015/>

12 In late 2014, MAG, which had been Chad's sole international demining operator in 2013, had to withdraw from the country due to lack of funding. It resumed its activities with new funds from the European Union in late 2014. MAG, "New Help for More Than 400,000 People in Chad", 15 December 2014, at: <http://www.maginternational.org/our-impact/news/new-project-will-help-more-than-400000-people-in-chad/>.

13 Personnel included a Technical Operations Manager (TOM), three international technical field managers, three deminer supervisors, four team leaders, twenty-eight deminers, three medics, one doctor, and ten drivers, along with one Armtrac international trainer and three machine operators. Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

14 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May; and HI, "Landmine Clearance Efforts Begin in Chad", undated, at: http://www.handicap-international.us/landmine_clearance_efforts_begin_in_chad.

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 Moyen Chari
- In September 2015 – February 2016, operations would be conducted in Sila
- In November 2014 – November 2019, operations would be conducted in Tibesti.¹⁵

Since 2008, Chad's mine action programme has suffered from a lack of international funding, weak government oversight, and mismanagement within the CND, resulting in little or no demining until October 2012 when the EU provided funding to MAG.¹⁶ In 2012, management problems at CND resulted in the dismissal of its director and hundreds of employees. CND reduced its personnel from 720 to 320 and a new director was appointed in 2013.¹⁷ CND demining operations have also been plagued by poor equipment and lack of funding. In 2014, Chad acknowledged difficulties faced by its national mine action centre and called for resumption of technical and operational assistance.¹⁸

Standards

HI reviewed Chad's national mine action standards on land release and quality management in the beginning of 2016, with a new version expected to be produced in June 2016.¹⁹

Quality Management

Both MAG and HI reported that internal quality assurance and quality control activities (QA/QC) were done on a regular basis in 2015, and that the CND carried out a number of external QA/QC visits, evaluations, and accreditations during the year.²⁰

HI continued providing technical support on quality management to the CND throughout 2015. It remained concerned, however, that considerable further efforts were still required to establish a fully functional quality management system with adequate capacity within the CND.²¹

Information Management

In 2015, HI provided technical support to the CND to build its information management capacity for two months, along with trainings for CND's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) team provided by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).²²

HI reported that while progress on information management capacity had been made in 2015, the CND still lacked internet access, making it difficult for the 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.²³

15 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.

16 Presentation of Chad at African Union/ICRC Weapons Contamination Workshop, Addis Ababa, 3–5 March 2013; Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013, p. 12.

17 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013; and interview with Emmanuel Sauvage, UNDP, in Geneva, 16 April 2013.

18 Statement of Chad, APMBC Third Review Conference, Maputo, June 2014.

19 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

20 Ibid.

21 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.

22 Ibid.; and email of Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

23 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.

LAND RELEASE

In its Article 7 transparency report for 2015, Chad reported that demining was conducted in the areas of Ogui, Zouar, and Zouarké, in Tibesti region, and Sahr Kyabé in Moyen-Chari region, resulting in clearance of approximately 0.26km² and the destruction of 39 anti-personnel mines and 1,033 anti-vehicle mines.²⁴ A total of more than 1.2km² of suspected hazardous area (SHA) was confirmed as contaminated with anti-personnel mines in the Tibesti, Moyen-Chari, and Chari Baguirmi regions (see Table 2).²⁵ Previously, in 2014, Chad reported destruction of 21 mines (11 anti-personnel mines and 10 anti-vehicle mines) but did not report figures for survey or clearance of anti-personnel mines.²⁶

Under the PADEMIN project, MAG began mine survey and clearance activities in the Tibesti region in February 2015.²⁷ During the year, MAG reported clearing 263,009m² and destroying 39 anti-personnel mines and 1,033 anti-vehicle mines. MAG began work on a huge Libyan military minefield in the Zouarké sector of Tibesti region with an estimated size of 14.2km² and completed clearance of a small minefield nearby with a size of 24,019m².²⁸

HI did not conduct mine clearance in 2015, but carried out NTS in Chari Baguirmi, Mandoul, and Moyen-Chari provinces, confirming four SHAs with a total size of 7,200m² as contaminated with anti-personnel mines.²⁹

Table 2: Mined area survey in 2015³⁰

Operator	Areas confirmed as mined	Area confirmed (m ²)
HI (Moyen Chari region)	2	3,000
HI (Chari Baguirmi region)	2	4,200
MAG (Tibesti region)	6	1,209,280
Totals	10	1,216,480

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.

24 APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form J.

25 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

26 APMBC Article 7 Reports (for 2014), Forms G and J; and (for 2013), Form G.

27 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 31 May 2016.

28 Ibid., 7 May 2016.

29 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 and 18 May 2016.

30 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.

In May 2016, both HI and MAG confirmed that Chad will not meet this deadline unless funding for mine action significantly increases.³¹ MAG stated that, under present circumstances, it would be impossible for Chad to carry out its strategic plan targets as EU funding for the PADEMIN project, now in its second phase, was set to expire in October 2016 and, as of August of that year, there were no indications of an international donor willing to provide future funding.³² HI cited the remote 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.³³

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 to about 30% 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. According to its national plan, Chad's budget for mine action activities in 2015 had amounted to \$14.8 million, with a further \$11.2 million budgeted for activities in 2016.³⁴

In 2013, the EU decided to contribute €5.4 million (US\$7.1 million) to support demining efforts in Chad, of which €3.5 million (\$4.6 million) would be allocated to demining and land release operations, and €300,000 (some \$400,000 at the time) to information management. This funding has allowed the resumption of clearance

in northern Chad and NTS in Moyen-Chari since the end of 2014.³⁵ However, as of August 2016, this was the only international contribution mobilised for Chad's six-year extension period, implying that \$39 million was still needed.

HI stated that small in-kind support was provided by the national government to HI staff and MAG demining teams in 2015, but stressed that the CND lacked the means to carry out any activity autonomously and that almost all its budget was spent on salaries for CND staff.³⁶ MAG emphasised the detrimental impact of a lack of financial resources for the CND and the overall economic crisis in Chad.³⁷

HI did not anticipate significant changes in mine action capacity in 2016. It intended to launch clearance operations in Borkou and Ennedi regions during the year, in addition to conducting risk education and data collection operations in western Chad.³⁸ MAG was continuing to work in Tibesti in 2016; however, with the expected ending of activities under the EU project on 31 October 2016, its teams were scheduled to end operations by September.³⁹

In order to ensure sustainable results, Chad needs to urgently secure international technical, operational, and financial support, as well as strengthen its mine action institutions. Without continued support, capacity-building efforts will be lost and progress in clearance halted.⁴⁰

31 Ibid.

32 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

33 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.

34 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014.

35 European Commission Decision, C(2013) 7731 Final, 8 November 2013. Annual exchange rate for 2013: €1=US\$1.3281. US Federal Reserve, "List of Exchange Rates (Annual)", 2 January 2015.

36 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.

37 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

38 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.

39 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

40 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016