

KEY DATA

**CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:
1 NOVEMBER 2028**

Not on track to meet deadline
(will require multiple extensions, due to the extent of CMR)

**CMR CONTAMINATION:
228km²**

Heavy
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (km ²)	Release in 2024 (km ²)
Clearance	38.5	7.58
Technical Survey	0.11	4.5
Non-Technical Survey	0.45	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
Submunitions destroyed	3,665	7,424 (including 1,230 through TS and spot tasks)

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025

- Ministry of Defence
- Norwegian People's Aid
- Ministry of Interior/Civil Defence

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Federal Iraq reported a fivefold increase in clearance of CMR-affected land in 2025 but provided no details of which operators achieved it. The number of submunitions destroyed was roughly half the previous year's result.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The Iraqi government should provide the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) with the legal authority, funding, human resources, and training to strengthen its effectiveness as the national mine action authority.
- The Iraqi government should set out detailed plans for funding the DMA and the mine action sector.
- The DMA should report comprehensively on the progress of CMR survey and clearance, detailing results by operator and location.
- The DMA should increase and stabilise recruitment and training of information management staff.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	6	6	Iraq continues to find significant amounts of previously unrecorded CMR and with little capacity committed to survey, the programme is years away from developing an evidence-based baseline estimate of contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	Survey and clearance of cluster munitions was concentrated in Federal Iraq where the DMA's Regional Mine Action Centre – South, based in Basra leads management of the programme. Government financial support for the programme is unclear and reduced donor funding left only one international humanitarian operator active in 2025.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	7	Iraq's 2023–28 mine action strategy acknowledges the importance of diversity to the sector although gender issues became politically sensitive in the last three years. Mine action authorities with United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and operator support continued to encourage recruitment of women but their participation remained limited in the face of conservative societal norms.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	5	4	The Ministry of Environment drafted a national standard on environmental management in mine action in 2025 that is aligned with international standards, but it still awaited final approval in 2026. Mine action planning increasingly has to take account of climate extremes and operators continue to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) to manage the environmental impact of demining.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	5	The DMA is upgrading Federal Iraq's database from IMSMA New Generation to Core and started cleaning and migrating data to the new system. Stakeholders report shortages of dedicated staff appear to have hampered the DMA's ability to process results of operations.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Planning and tasking for survey and clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas has benefitted from good coordination between RMAC-South, humanitarian operators, and local authorities, but work plans have suffered from shrinking funding.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	7	7	Federal Iraq adopted the cluster munition remnant survey (CMRS) methodology for survey and clearance as a national standard in 2019. An ongoing process of reviewing and updating national standards by the DMA and the Iraq Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) with UNMAS support continued in 2025.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	5	CMR land release occurred only in Federal Iraq in 2025. The DMA reported a fivefold increase in land released through clearance in 2025 but confidence in the result suffered from the absence of details on who conducted it, as well as the 50% drop in the number of submunitions destroyed and major discrepancies between official and operator data.
Average Score	5.7	5.7	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Higher Council of Mine Action
- Directorate of Mine Action (DMA)
- Iraq Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Ministry of Interior (Civil Defence)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- iMMAP

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Iraq estimated that CMR affected 228km² at the end of 2025, making it one of the world's most heavily contaminated countries.¹ This was 10% more than the contamination at the end of 2023, underscoring that Iraq continued to find more CMR-affected areas than it is clearing.

Federal Iraq accounted for 99% of total CMR contamination with 90% of the total concentrated in three southern governorates (see Table 1). The 227.17km² of CM

contamination in Federal Iraq comprised 653 CHAs totalling just over 224km² and 8 SHAs totalling just over 3km².² The KRI reduced its estimate of CMR contamination by more than half from the previous year's, all of which was reported as one CHA, although potentially affected areas close to the border with Türkiye where insecurity has previously prevented survey remain to be examined.

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area (at end 2024 and 2025)³

	Province	Area at end 2025 (m ²)	Area at end 2024 (m ²)
Southern region	Basra	74,268,473	66,953,052
	Missan	450,147	450,147
	Muthanna	94,651,511	101,268,489
	Thi Qar	37,389,734	41,671,599
Middle Euphrates	Babylon	559,339	559,339
	Baghdad	248,118	0
	Karbala	3,953,560	141,910
	Najaf	3,704,571	3,704,571
Northern region	Anbar	11,425,273	11,216,039
	Kirkuk	79,109	79,109
	Ninewa	442,767	14,727
Federal Iraq	Sub-totals	227,172,602	226,058,982
Kurdistan Region of Iraq	Sub-totals	1,305,110	1,305,110
Totals		228,477,712	227,364,092

Federal Iraq's contamination dates back to the Gulf War of 1991 and the United States (US)-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, and follows the path of allied forces' advance from the south to Baghdad. Coalition aircraft also struck Iraqi army positions in the northern governorate of Kirkuk.

In 2025, Federal Iraq reported finding 47km² of additional CMR hazardous areas, but without specifying the locations.⁴ Contamination data, however showed that Survey added 7.3km² (11%) to the estimate of CMR contamination in Basra governorate. This reportedly followed an influx of population into the governorate's sparsely populated Zubair district bordering Kuwait taking advantage of increased rainfall to pursue farming. The DMA notes survey is continuing in Zubair and will likely add additional CMR hazardous areas to the database. Survey in 2025 also added previously unrecorded contamination in Baghdad governorate.⁵

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)'s estimate of CMR contamination has fluctuated from year to year. At the end of 2025, it reported 3.7km², mostly concentrated in Duhok and Erbil governorates (see Table 2), up from 1.3km² a year earlier and 2.9km² at the end of 2023.⁶ The Iraq Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) noted that CMR are dispersed over wide areas taking up more non-technical survey (NTS) time and lowering clearance productivity.⁷

Table 2: KRI: CMR contamination (at end 2025)⁸

Governorate	Area (m ²)
Duhok	1,074,519
Erbil	1,753,000
Garmyan	80,200
Slemani	800,000
Total	3,707,719

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 6, Form F; email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, National Focal Point for CCM, DMA, 24 April 2026.

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 28.

3 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 6, 28, and Form F; and email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 April 2026.

4 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F.

5 Emails from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 and 28 April 2026.

6 Email from Niyazi Khalid, Deputy Head, IKMAA, 5 May 2026; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form F.

7 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 5 May 2026.

8 Ibid.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The mine action programme in Iraq is largely managed along regional lines. An inter-ministerial Higher Committee of Mine Action,⁹ which reports to the Prime Minister, oversees and approves mine action strategy, policies, and plans. The committee, which is chaired by the prime minister, includes representatives of the prime minister's office and the ministries of defence, interior, oil and environment as well as the National Security Council and IKMAA.

The DMA has represented Iraq internationally and oversees mine action for humanitarian purposes in Federal Iraq, covering 15 of the nation's 19 governorates. Mine action in the KRI's four governorates is overseen by IKMAA, which acts as both regulator and operator. The two bodies have functioned largely autonomously, but a memorandum of understanding (MoU) drafted in 2022 to facilitate cooperation between them was signed in May 2024.

The DMA and IKMAA collaborated in drawing up Iraq's draft National Mine Action Strategy 2023–28, the first produced jointly by the two authorities.¹⁰ The strategy sets increasing national ownership as a key objective and says this will be achieved by strengthening both authorities and "ensuring these national entities are empowered, appropriately structured and sufficiently equipped and resourced to allow them to fulfil their responsibilities."¹¹

The Prime Minister's Office is considering a draft Law on Banning Landmines and Cluster Munitions drafted in 2025 to replace a patchwork of existing laws with a comprehensive legal framework for explosive remnants of war (ERW), introducing general prohibitions on production, possession, stockpiling, transfer, and use of prohibited munitions. The bill aims to clarify the mandates of government institutions, establish a coordination and reporting mechanism, strengthen victim assistance, and reinforce penalties.¹²

FEDERAL IRAQ

The DMA "plans, coordinates, supervises, monitors and follows up all the activities of mine action" in Federal Iraq. It draws up the national strategy and is responsible for setting national standards, accrediting, approving the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of demining organisations, and certifying completion of clearance tasks.¹³

The DMA's authority over mine action is weakened by its status as a directorate of the Ministry of Environment, ranking well below the powerful ministries of defence, interior, and oil that are major actors in the sector. Its policy making and implementation has also suffered from a rapid turnover of directors. The DMA has had at least 20 directors general since 2003. All but one were appointed on an acting basis, which also limited their authority.

The present incumbent, Eaktiffaa Mezher al-Hasnawi, took over in January 2025 but also has the position and responsibilities of the Deputy Minister of Environment and stood as a candidate in Iraq's November 2025 parliamentary election.

Her predecessor as Director General, Shawkat Tayeh Masoud, restructured the DMA, closing two regional mine action centres (RMACs). The third RMAC, located in Basra City and covering the south, remains the focal point for Federal Iraq's response to CMR, overseeing mine action in four southern governorates: Basra, Missan, Muthanna, and Thi Qar. It collects and uploads results of survey and clearance to Federal Iraq's IMSMA database and is responsible for tasking operators in its area of operations.¹⁴

KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

IKMAA functions as both the regulator and an operator in the KRI. It reports directly to the Kurdistan Regional Government's Council of Ministers and is led by a director general with ministerial rank. It coordinates four directorates in Dohuk, Erbil, Garmian, and Sulaymaniyah (Sleman). IKMAA had a total staff of more than 900 personnel in 2025, including 432 in operations, largely unchanged from the previous year, but a budgetary crisis in the KRI in recent years has imposed severe constraints on the mine action sector.¹⁵

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) opened an additional mine action centre in Halabja governorate with UNMAS support in 2024 in what IKMAA said was a response to heavy explosive ordnance contamination in the area, with a view to accelerating clearance.¹⁶

OTHER ACTORS

UNMAS established a presence in Iraq in 2015 to assess the explosive ordnance threat in areas liberated from Islamic State and set three priorities: explosive hazard management to support stabilisation and recovery; delivery of risk education; and technical support to build capacity of government entities to manage, regulate, and coordinate Iraq's response to explosive

9 The Council, which is led by the Prime Minister, includes representatives of the ministries of defence, interior, oil, and environment, as well as the National Security Adviser and the head of IKMAA.

10 Interview with Ahmed Aljaseem, Director of Information Management, DMA, Baghdad, 11 May 2023.

11 Iraq National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–28, p. 36.

12 Emails from Ban Yaseen, Programme Team Lead, UNMAS Iraq, 6 and 12 May 2026.

13 "Document of roles and responsibilities", undated but 2019, received by email from the DMA, 13 May 2019.

14 Interview with Gus Guthrie, NPA, in Geneva, 12 February 2020.

15 Email from Niyazi Khalid, Deputy Director, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

16 Ibid.

ordnance contamination. Since 2021, UNMAS has switched its focus from explosive hazard management to providing technical support to the mine action authorities and their implementing partners. The UNMAS mission in Iraq employed 100 people with 43 international staff in 2019, dropping to 23 staff, including three internationals by the start of 2025.¹⁷ In 2026, UNMAS was employing 15 national staff.¹⁸

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In 2023, the government earmarked 20 billion Iraqi dinars (US\$17 million) over three years to support implementation of the CCM¹⁹ but the funding was not disbursed on mine action and appears to have been used by the Ministry of Environment for other projects. A \$400 million export credit negotiated with the United Kingdom over many years also did not materialise. The DMA said it had no clear information on funding for CMR survey and clearance in 2025 and no information on possible donor support in 2026.²⁰

State funding is provided for CMR survey and clearance through a number of channels. Federal Iraq's government funds the salaries and operating expenses of the DMA, a directorate under the Ministry of Environment, including some EORE and victim assistance costs. The Ministry of Oil covers costs of survey and clearance by commercial operators in and around oilfields. The Ministry of Defence budget similarly covers expenses of military engineers, who conduct survey and clearance of CMR and mines and are responsible for all demolitions of explosive remnants of war.²¹

International donors provided most of the funding for mine action in Iraq following the 2015 defeat of Islamic State, but support has dropped sharply given Iraq's status as a significant oil exporter and middle-income country. The number of donors funding operations in Iraq through UNMAS has dropped from a peak of 21 in 2019 to 8 in 2024²² and the same number in 2025.²³ The volume of donor funding channelled through UNMAS dropped from its high point of US\$77 million in 2019 to around \$6 million in 2024 and

\$4.7 million in 2025.²⁴ Donors also focused aid on clearing areas occupied by Islamic State in western and northern governorates, largely bypassing the south, where most of Iraq's CMR are found.

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the only international NGO conducting CMR survey and clearance in Federal Iraq, received funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA), and the US Army's Humanitarian Demining Research & Development Program. The two US organisations continued their support in 2026. The German Federal Foreign Office also provided funding in 2026 but this was due to stop after July.²⁵

IKMAA received funding from the Kurdistan Regional Government and a small number of international donors. PM/WRA funded information management technical support, which was provided by iMMAP. Financial support from Slovenian Aid provided through the ITF Enhancing Human Security since 2022 continued in 2025, used mainly to fund the hire of vehicles for demining teams.²⁶ The funds have financed the hiring of vehicles enabling IKMAA to deploy demining teams.²⁷

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Iraq on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.²⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Mainstreaming gender in Iraq's mine action sector remains challenging in the face of deeply conservative social norms, particularly in the southern governorates of Basra, Muthanna, and Thi-Qar which account for 90% of estimated CMR contamination. Iraq's 2023–28 strategic plan recognises that the impact of contamination varies according to gender, age, and ethnic or religious affiliations, and requires specific

activities targeting those needs, for which disaggregated data is a prerequisite.²⁹ Gender issues became politically sensitive in 2023 amid heated public debate over LGBTQ issues, which led the DMA to drop reference to gender mainstreaming and saw the Communications and Media Commission issue a directive in August 2023 banning use of the term "gender" in public communications.³⁰

17 Emails from Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS Iraq, 4 May 2019, 6 April 2020, 11 May 2023, and 16 May 2025.

18 Email from Ban Yaseen, UNMAS Iraq, 6 May 2026.

19 Interviews with Bakr Sahib Ahmed, DMA, in Baghdad, 11 May 2023.

20 Email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 April 2026.

21 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form I.

22 Interview with Pehr Lodhammar, Chief Mine Action Programme Iraq, UNMAS, in Geneva, 23 June 2023; and emails from Ban Yaseen, Programme Management Specialist, UNMAS, 23 June 2024; and Shinobu Mashima, Programme Team Lead, UNMAS, 16 May 2025.

23 Donors in 2025 included Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sweden and the UN Peace & Development Trust Fund.

24 Emails from Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 11 May 2023 and 16 May 2025; and Ban Yaseen, UNMAS, 6 May 2026.

25 Email from Craig McDiarmid, Head of Basra Sub-office, NPA, 3 May 2026.

26 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 5 May 2026.

27 Emails from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 15 April and 13 May 2024.

28 <https://the-monitor.org>.

29 Iraq National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028, p. 15.

30 T. Alkuhadry, "As Iraq backslides on gender equality where are its women MPs?", *Al Jazeera*, 9 September 2023.

UNMAS Iraq deployed a Gender Task Force to help strengthen representation of women in mine action, whether in administration, field operations and management. It supported UNMAS's implementing partner, Shareteah Humanitarian Organisation (SHO), organising a "She Speaks" workshop which provided a platform for women employed in mine action to discuss their role and challenges they face working in the sector.³¹

NPA introduced new recruitment channels in operational areas in 2024 designed to facilitate access for women and holds community meetings to promote awareness of the role of women's in mine action but female employees made up 22% of its total staff and a little under 20% of operations staff.³²

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Iraq's Ministry of Environment prepared a national standard, Management of the Environment and Mine-related Climate Change (NMA 07.13) in September 2025 that is aligned with international mine action standards (IMAS) after consultations between the DMA, IKMAA, and international stakeholders. The new standard requires operators to draw up environmental management plans that detail measures for mitigating the impact of their operations and include climate action perspectives.³³ As of July 2026, the Ministry of Environment had not approved the standard.³⁴

IKMAA said it has not adopted any specific climate adaptation measures but had already aligned its procedures with IMAS and is actively seeking ways to integrate climate resilience measures in mine action. Pre-clearance task assessments take account of environmental factors; operations prioritise manual or low-impact mechanical clearance; and teams are trained to dispose of explosive remnants and waste in environmentally safe ways. IKMAA reports it has a focal point in the KRI's high committee for environment and also

coordinates with local authorities and landowners on post-clearance land use and rehabilitation.³⁵

Iraq ranks among the five most vulnerable nations to effects of climate change, including drought, water scarcity, seasonal flash floods, frequent sand and dust storms, and extreme heat which increasingly need adapting operational plans to conditions. Operators adjust working hours, rest periods and enhance safety measures in response to extreme temperatures.³⁶

NPA developed a dedicated Environment and Climate standard operating procedure (SOP) in 2025, integrating environmental considerations across all its operations. NPA Iraq had a dedicated environmental adviser funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and environmental focal points within field locations, supporting implementation of environmental SOPs, data collection, and day-to-day environmental risk management.³⁷

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The DMA and IKMAA have separate databases which operate different information management systems. The DMA database is located at its Baghdad headquarters but RMAC South, headquartered in Basra, is the focal point for cluster munitions, responsible for collecting and uploading CMR data.

The DMA operates an IMSMA New Generation database and, after years of discussion, has started the process of upgrading to IMSMA Core with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The DMA is cleaning data prior to migrating it to the new system, starting with EORE and victim assistance data. It expected to complete the transfer in the first half of 2026 before working on operational data.³⁸ In the meantime, operators report DMA's data processing struggles with shortages of IM staff raising questions about its ability to accurately represent operating results.

IKMAA previously operated an IMSMA New Generation database but replaced it in 2024 with a tailor-made Open-Source database for Mine Action (OSMA) database using open-source software, including PostgreSQL and PHP. In 2025, IKMAA largely completed migration of data to the new system.³⁹ IKMAA's work plan for 2026 included expanding access to the system to key implementing partners, strengthening technical capacity, and improving data management practices. IKMAA also introduced a five-year implementation plan (2025–2029) focused on capacity development which includes training in data entry for new staff and targeted training for senior and operational staff. Priority groups include operations teams, planning staff, EORE personnel, and quality assurance staff, ensuring that all levels of the workforce can effectively use and sustain the system.⁴⁰

31 Emails from Ban Yaseen, UNMAS Iraq, 6 May 2026; and Ismat Selevany, Director, SHO, 6 May 2026.

32 Email from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026.

33 Email from Ban Yaseen, UNMAS Iraq, 6 May 2026.

34 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, Programme Manager, NPA, 7 July 2026.

35 Emails from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025 and 5 May 2026.

36 Emails from Lisa Jean, Country Director, MAG, 1 May 2025; and Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 16 May 2025.

37 Email from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026.

38 Interview with Ahmed Aljaseem, DMA, in Geneva, 3 December 2025.

39 Emails from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 13 May 2024 and 5 May 2026; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 40–42.

40 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 5 May 2026.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Iraq's Article 4 deadline extension request, submitted in November 2022 and updated in April 2023, included a work plan for the first time based on the capacity available in 2022, but this has been overtaken by funding shortfalls reducing the clearance capacity of international NGOs and by the discovery of substantial previously unrecorded CMR contamination.

The Article 4 deadline extension request aimed to complete clearance of four governorates—Babylon, Kerbala, Missan, and Ninewa—with small amounts of CMR in 2024. At the end of 2025, all four remained affected, some with increased estimates of contamination (see Table 1). The plan also provided for completing clearance of Najaf (4.1km²) in 2026

and Anbar (9.1 km²) in 2028.⁴¹ At the end of 2025, Najaf still had more than 3.7km² of CMR contamination and Anbar more contamination than at the time the request was approved.⁴²

The DMA issues tasks requested by operators after consultation with DMA operations and RMAC staff and taking account of requests from government, local authorities, development plans, and prioritisation criteria.⁴³ In much of Federal Iraq, tasking has suffered from cumbersome procedures but in the south, operators have reported planning and tasking for CMR survey and clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas benefitted from good coordination with RMAC-South.⁴⁴

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The DMA adopted the cluster munition remnant survey (CMRS) methodology as a national standard in 2019, citing the benefits it has delivered for survey, planning, and clearance.⁴⁵ In 2021, after a review of NMAS 09.11 for battle area clearance, Iraq increased the national standard for depth of CMR clearance from 20cm to 30cm, because in areas with moving sand or soft ground, some CMR, most commonly larger BLU-97 submunitions, had been found to penetrate deeper than 20cm. NPA said the new standard did not affect operations because 30cm was within the range of its existing detectors.⁴⁶ NPA data also showed that the great majority of CMR were found within 5cm of the surface.⁴⁷

The DMA has been engaged in a long-running process of reviewing and updating national mine action standards. It reviewed, updated, and released 23 of 35 national mine action standards between 2020 and 2023.⁴⁸ It reviewed and updated eleven standards in 2024, including for NTS, TS, manual clearance, battle area clearance (BAC), marking, clearance of buildings, mechanical clearance, and accreditation for mine action organisations.⁴⁹ In 2025 UNMAS organised three roundtables to review 18 national standards, with a focus on harmonising the standards applied by the DMA and IKMAA. The Ministry of Environment approved 13 of these standards in September 2025.⁵⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The DMA identified eight national and commercial operators and one international humanitarian operator as engaged in CMR survey and clearance but it was unclear which national or commercial organisations were active in 2025 or which conducted the clearance reported in 2025.

The DMA only identified the capacity of the Ministries of Defence and Interior/Civil Defence and COPC (see Table 3). It also named a number of Iraqi commercial companies, including Taaz Company for Mine Clearance, Al-Siraj Company, AKAD International, and the Jordan-based Arab Mine Action Clearance Company. The DMA indicated commercial companies conducted clearance on behalf of State agencies undertaking major energy and infrastructure development projects without providing any details.⁵¹

Since mid-2024, NPA has been the only international humanitarian organisation conducting CMR survey and clearance in Iraq, working in close coordination with RMAC-South. As in 2024, it continued to operate five NTS teams, but in 2025 it added a CMRS team of eight people. These worked alongside five BAC/explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams conducting clearance. GFFO funding looked set to end in July 2026 leaving uncertain the prospects for maintaining this capacity.⁵²

41 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Annex B.

42 Ibid.

43 Emails from Marie-Josée Hamel, DRC, 30 March 2022; Peter Smethers, FSD, 22 February 2022; Tim Marsella, HALO Trust, 17 March 2022; and Chris Tierney, NPA, 17 April 2022.

44 Interview with Chris Ramsden, NPA, 7 May 2023.

45 Email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, RMAC-South, 12 August 2020.

46 Emails from Chris Tierney, NPA, 17 April and 2 May 2022.

47 Interview with Chris Ramsden, NPA, 7 May 2023; and email, 12 May 2023. NPA data showed that 85% of M77 submunitions, which accounted for over half of cleared CMR, were found at a depth of 0–5cm and 70% of BLU-97 submunitions were also found within this range.

48 Email from Safa Jamal, UNMAS, 27 May 2024.

49 Email from Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 16 May 2025.

50 Email from Ban Yaseen, UNMAS Iraq, 6 May 2026.

51 Emails from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 and 28 April 2026.

52 Email from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026.

Table 3: Selected operator capacities deployed in Iraq in 2025

Operator	NTS Teams/personnel	TS Teams/personnel	Manual Teams/personnel
MoD ⁵³	0	5/13	2/14
MoI ⁵⁴	3/6	3/15	3/21
NPA ⁵⁵	5/13	1/8	5/28
Totals	8/19	9/36	10/63

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Iraq reported release of 39.1km² in 2025, more than triple the amount reported in 2024, all of it in Federal Iraq and almost all of it (98%) through clearance (see Table 4).⁵⁶ The area clearance result was the highest reported by Iraq but that record was offset by destruction of 3,665 submunitions, less than half the number destroyed in 2024 and the fewest recorded in recent years. Adding to the uncertainty over what these figures represent, official data and operator results show major discrepancies.

Table 4: Land release outputs in 2025 (official data)⁵⁷

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (m ²)	Comments
Clearance	38,502,900	The only international NGO conducting CMR clearance reported clearing 3.9km ² .
Non-Technical Survey	453,266	
Technical Survey	114,378	
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	Comments
Submunitions destroyed	3,665	Including 1,108 items destroyed “not through clearance”.

SURVEY IN 2025

Survey continues to add significant areas of previously unrecorded CMR contamination. The DMA reported identification of 47km² in 2025 but gave no details of their location or which agencies identified them.⁵⁸ NPA, the only international humanitarian operator working in cluster munitions-affected areas, identified new hazardous areas covering 19,416,328m².⁵⁹

The DMA said it released close to 0.6km² through survey in 2025, a sharp drop from the 4.5km² released by survey in the previous year. The 2025 official result included 453,266m² cancelled through non-technical survey and 114,378m² reduced through technical survey. All of it was released in the south but the DMA did not specify in which governorates.⁶⁰ However, NPA reported cancelling 9,694,956m² in Thi-Qar governorate and reducing 2,139,161m² in Basra.⁶¹ The discrepancy raised the possibility of delays uploading operating results into the database.

53 Emails from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 and 28 April 2026.

54 Ibid.

55 Email from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026.

56 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F; emails from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 April 2026; and Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 5 May 2026.

57 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F; and email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 April 2026.

58 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F.

59 Email from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026.

60 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F; and email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 April 2026.

61 Email from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026.

CLEARANCE IN 2025

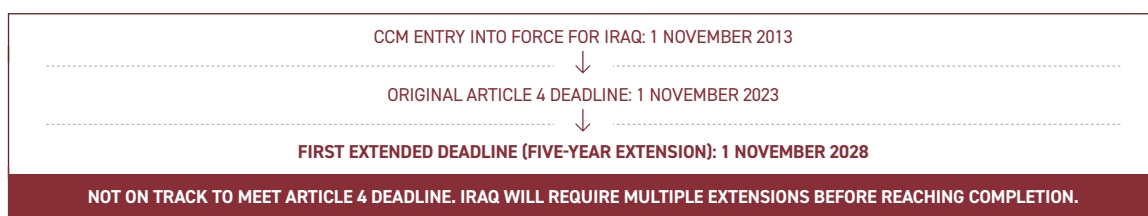
Federal Iraq reported clearing 38.5km² of CMR-contaminated land in 2025, five times the 7.6km² it reportedly cleared in 2024. The DMA said all the cleared area was in the south and that national teams had accounted for 33.7km² (88%) of the total and international operators for 5.4km², but it did not provide details of which operators conducted this clearance or in which governorates. Despite the jump in the area cleared, official data showed only 2,557 submunitions destroyed in clearance operations, down from 6,194 destroyed in clearance in 2024.⁶²

NPA, which reported clearing a little under 4km² in 2025, said it cleared 2,855 submunitions (see Table 5). NPA cleared significantly less land in 2025 than the previous year as a result of receiving a stop work order in January from PM/WRA, a key donor, which lasted for two months. But NPA said its spot tasks resulted in destruction of another 2,854 submunitions, bringing the total destroyed to 5,709, a third more than the previous year.⁶³

Table 5: NPA clearance of cluster munition remnants in 2025⁶⁴

Governorate	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	CMR destroyed	Other UXO cleared
Muthanna	1	1,586,882	1,263	14
Basra	26	2,360,603	1,592	255
Totals	27	3,947,485	2,855	269

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 4 of the CCM, Iraq is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 November 2028. In 2025, the DMA has made clear the available operating capacity is insufficient to meet the extended deadline, and it will need to apply for a further extension.⁶⁵

The DMA estimated in 2023 that its five-year strategy for completion needed 34 operational teams.⁶⁶ Its back-up strategy based on the 15 teams available in 2023 projected completion would take up to 16 years.⁶⁷ It based these estimates on an average clearance rate of 1.15km² per team per year.⁶⁸ On that basis it would have required 33 teams to achieve the clearance the DMA reported in 2025, but the DMA said that only 10 teams were operational, the same as in 2024, half of them provided by NPA.⁶⁹

At the same time, continuing identification of previously unrecorded CMR contamination has undermined the planned timetable for land release. Despite the record level of clearance amounting to 38km² claimed by Federal Iraq in 2025 it was still exceeded by the discovery of an additional 47km² of CMR hazardous areas.⁷⁰ Iraq's Article 4 deadline extension request set the goal of completing clearance of six governorates with total contamination estimated at almost 16.5km² in the first five years. These included completing clearance of four governorates with small amounts of CMR in 2024: Babylon (0.7km²), Kerbala (1.5km²), Missan (1.1km²), and Ninewa (0.02km²). Missan was reported cleared in 2023 but discovery of additional hazardous areas in the same year returned it to the list of affected governorates (see Table 1).⁷¹ Contamination in the other three governorates was estimated at almost 5km² at the end of 2025 compared with 1.3km² two years earlier.

⁶² Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F; and email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 24 April 2026.

⁶³ Emails from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026; and Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025.

⁶⁴ Email from Craig McDiarmid, NPA, 3 May 2026.

⁶⁵ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form F; interview with Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, in Geneva, 7 April 2025.

⁶⁶ 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Annex A.

⁶⁷ The extension request of 11 April 2023 cites 15.2 years (p. 10) while Annex B of the request puts the figure at 16 years.

⁶⁸ 2023 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

⁶⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F, #6.

⁷⁰ Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form F.

⁷¹ Email from Haitham Fattah Lafta, DMA, 28 April 2026.

Table 6: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Federal Iraq (km ²)	KRI (km ²)	Totals (km ²)
2025	38.5	0	38.5
2024	7.6	0.3	7.9
2023	13.3	0	13.3
2022	16.6	0	*16.6
2021	10.2	0	10.2
2020	5.7	N/R	5.7
Totals	91.9	0.3	92.2

* Based on Mine Action Review calculation. N/R = Not reported

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Iraq’s 2023–28 strategy commits to develop a strategy for managing residual contamination but no action appears to have been taken yet to follow-up.⁷² IKMAA said efforts to complete survey of contamination is hampered by insecurity and access restrictions, notably in border areas, and it has not yet developed a strategy for managing residual contamination.⁷³

72 Iraq National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028, p. 23.
73 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 5 May 2026.