

KEY DATA

NO ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

Unknown, but massive

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (km ²)	Release in 2024 (km ²)
Clearance*	56.62	60.13
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
Submunitions destroyed	10,832 (including 1,349 in TS and 1,558 in spot tasks)	10,857 (including 1,250 in TS and 1,379 in spot tasks)

* Results of clearance by international humanitarian demining organisations only.

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025

- Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The prime minister called in early 2026 for clearance of all unexploded ordnance (UXO) by 2045 as mine action authorities continued preparation of a 20-year mine action strategy. After years of deliberations, Vietnam issued 15 national standards in 2025. The Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC) continued upgrading its information management system from the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation to IMSMA Core. Clearance by three international NGOs dropped by 6% in 2025. A stop work order issued by the United States, the principal donor of international NGOs, slowed the start of operations and Vietnam's wide-ranging administrative reforms, merging some provinces from July and eliminating district-level government structures, caused disruption in the second half of the year. Heavier-than-usual rainfall led to flooding and significant loss of work.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Vietnam should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Vietnam should expedite finalisation and release of the National Mine Action Plan for 2026-45.
- Vietnam should report in detail on progress toward national mine action goals by all key actors.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of Defence
- Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC)
- Provincial mine action centres and authorities (e.g. the Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC) and Quang Binh Database and Coordination Unit (DBCUI))

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- VNMAC

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (Golden West)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Vietnam is massively contaminated by CMR but still does not have a meaningful estimate of the extent. An explosive remnants of war (ERW) impact survey, which was started in 2004 and completed in 2014 (but only published in 2018), said that 61,308km² or 19% of Vietnam's land surface area was affected by ERW. It did not specify the area affected by CMR but found they affected 32 of Vietnam's 63 provinces and cities.¹ According to VNMAC, the total area contaminated with bombs, mines, and explosive ordnance today in Vietnam is 56,000km², which accounts for 17% of its territory.

Contamination is concentrated in central provinces, including Quang Tri and Quang Ngai, which were enlarged by administrative reforms (see below), as well as in Ha Tinh and Nghe An.² The new Quang Tri province, covering 12,700km², has among the highest levels of contamination. In March 2026, it estimated confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) totalling 524km² remained, with CHAs totalling 330km² in the former Quang Tri province and 194km² in former Quang Binh province. But continuing survey may add substantial additional contamination to the database. At the end of 2025, technical survey (TS) had been completed in less than a quarter of former Quang Binh communes.³

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Vietnam has huge contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO) and an unquantified mine problem (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Vietnam for further information). The ERW impact survey identified the most heavily contaminated regions as the central coastal provinces, the Central Highlands, the Mekong River delta,

and the Red River delta.⁴ The experience of international operators in central Vietnam points to wide variations in contamination types from district to district.

International operators report encountering mainly projectiles, mortars, grenades, and some aircraft bombs.⁵

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

VNMAC was established in 2014 by Prime Ministerial decree to strengthen the direction of mine action and provide a focal point for mine action operations.⁶ A Decree on the Management and Implementation of Mine Action Activities (Decree 18), which entered into force in 2019, confirmed the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the lead authority for the

national mine action programme, acting in coordination with other relevant ministries and sectors.⁷ Under the direction of the Prime Minister and management of the MoD, VNMAC will "monitor, coordinate and implement mine action tasks".⁸ The government's Circular 195, which came into effect in 2020,⁹ details how the decree is to be implemented.

1 VNMAC, "Report on Explosive Remnants of War Contamination in Vietnam, based on the Explosive Remnants of War Contamination Survey and Mapping – Phase 1", provided by VNMAC on 19 April 2018, p. 38.

2 Email from VNMAC, 14 July 2023.

3 Emails from NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026, citing data from Quang Tri Mine Action Centre dated March 2026; and from Sarah Goring, Country Director, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), 17 April 2026.

4 VNMAC, "Report on Explosive Remnants of War Contamination in Vietnam", Hanoi, 2018, pp. 33–36.

5 Interviews with Resad Junuzagic, Jan Eric Stoa, and Magnus Johansson, NPA, Hanoi, 17 April 2018; and with Simon Rea and Michael Raine, MAG, Quang Tri, 19 April 2018; and emails from Clinton Smith, DDG, 23 March 2017 and 19 April 2018.

6 Prime Ministerial Decree (No. 738 of 2013) on the management and implementation of mine action activities, Hanoi.

7 Decree on Implementation and Management of Mine Action, No. 18/2019/ND-CP, 1 February 2019.

8 Decree on the management and implementation of mine action activities, Hanoi, April 2018.

9 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 6 April 2020; and Tim Horner, Senior Technical Adviser, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

According to VNMAC, government support for mine action has included the following:

- establishing coordinating agencies and associations to support all levels of mine action;
- completing a legal framework, mechanism, and policies for demining (the MoD cooperates with other ministries to develop Circulars guiding QCVNs, TCVNs, and standing operating procedures (SOPs) on quality management (QM), survey, and clearance, and related issues);
- facilitating the capacity development of demining organisations in management, administration, survey, and clearance;
- setting up a national QM system for survey and clearance in accordance with international standards; and
- developing an information management system.¹⁰

Decree 18, currently the highest-level legal instrument governing mine action activities in Vietnam, applies to all domestic and foreign organisations operating in mine action.¹¹ It established the legal basis for revising and updating National Technical Regulations (QCVNs) and standards (TCVNs) and for regulating information management. Decree 18 is due to be superseded by a Mine Action Ordinance which has been in preparation in line with an original order by the Prime Minister in 2022 that was reiterated by Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh in January 2026.¹²

National authorities did not share information on the contents with operators but the ordinance is expected to provide a more detailed legal framework for mine action, including guidance on coordination, accreditation, standards, and reporting. Discussion by government ministries continued in 2025. In early 2026, the MoD was reportedly reviewing a final draft which was expected to be approved later in the year.¹³

Far-reaching administrative reforms in 2025 caused temporary disruption as operators adjusted to new structures and procedures. Reforms included mergers of ministries at the central level and, departments at a provincial level, the elimination of district-level administration and the merging of communes. With effect from 1 July 2025, Quang Tri and Quang Binh provinces were merged into a single province keeping the name Quang Tri; Quang Ngai absorbed Kon Tum province and Binh Dinh province was absorbed into Gia Lai. Regional mine action centres in Quang Tri and Quang Binh had coordinated operations at the regional level with support from operators until mid-2025 but were due to merge as a result of the reforms. Changes to administrative procedures included revised requirements for obtaining access for international staff to task sites in border areas. The process for obtaining licences to transport explosives also changed from periodic

approvals to requiring applications for each individual transport, increasing the administrative burden.¹⁴

VNMAC participates in a Mine Action Working Group (MAWG), co-chaired in 2024–25 by PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which provides a platform for discussion and joint planning. Its usual schedule of meetings was disrupted by administrative reforms but it met twice in 2025, in October and December, discussing sector concerns, including the planned mine action ordinance, and was complemented by a range of meetings of task forces including two meetings of the task force on environment and one meeting each of the task forces dealing with gender, risk education, and capacity development.¹⁵

VNMAC is collaborating with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNDP in the Korea-Vietnam Peace Village Project (KVPVP), which combines mine action with a programme for sustainable rural development in central Vietnam. The \$20 million first phase in 2018–21 involved ERW survey and clearance in Binh Dinh and Quang Binh provinces. The \$25 million second phase was originally planned to start in 2022 but officially launched in May 2024 after delays receiving governmental approval. This second phase which was due to run until 2027, focuses on survey and clearance of explosive ordnance in Gia Lai (including the former province of Binh Dinh), Quang Ngai province, and Hue city, working on priorities set by provincial authorities with an emphasis on maximising post-clearance land use.¹⁶

Vietnam also receives capacity development support from Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), PTVN, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (Golden West).¹⁷ NPA supported VNMAC with two international staff, a Senior Technical Adviser and information management adviser, and a team of five national staff. It also worked with Quang Binh and Quang Tri mine action centre, including facilitating their merger in line with wider administrative reforms. NPA continued to support VNMAC and the US Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) delivering the IMAS explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training programme 2025 for six VNMAC instructors and 12 trainees.¹⁸ PTVN cooperated with VNMAC arranging an EOD Level 3 training course for technicians of both organisations and contributed to discussions on information management in preparation for the planned introduction of IMSMA Core.¹⁹

UNDP supported the drafting of the Mine Action Ordinance, provided technical consultation on the development of key indicators for the National Mine Action Programme 2026–2045, and developed a mine action capacity assessment tool to help VNMAC assess its core capacities.²⁰

10 Email from Tim Horner, VNMAC, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

11 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023.

12 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023; "Vietnam strives to clear all land contaminated by unexploded ordnance by 2045: PM," *Vietnam News Agency*, 13 January 2026.

13 Interview with Senior Colonel Ha Huy Khanh, Deputy Commander, Army Engineering Corps, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.

14 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026; Ph m Hoàng Hà, Country Director, PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN), 22 May 2026; and Goosoon Kwon, Chief Technical Adviser for Mine Action, UNDP, 29 May 2026.

15 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; and NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026.

16 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 21 May 2025.

17 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024; Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 27 May 2024.

18 Emails from NPA Vietnam management, 24 April and 21 June 2026.

19 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

20 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 23 June 2026.

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

VNMAC is nationally funded, but the National Mine Action Programme (Program 504) is funded by both the State and international donors.²¹ A Prime Ministerial Decision (16/2024/QĐ-TTg) taking effect from the start of December 2024 nearly doubled deminers' daily allowance from VND 180,000 (US\$7) to VND 350,000 (US\$14), increasing operational costs for KOICA-funded PVPVP which is implemented by Army Engineers. Appropriation adjustments were made to manage the impacts and maintain delivery of the project, which received US\$7.7 million in 2025 and was due to receive US\$6.7 million in 2026. Canada's Department of National Defence provided a grant to UNDP to support gender and diversity initiative in mine action during 2025–2026.²²

The US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) remained the major donor of

MAG, NPA, and PTVN. MAG also received support from the US Department of Defence's Humanitarian Demining Research and Development (HDR&D) and the Government of Japan and small grants from the Government of New Zealand and Canada, while not directly financing mine action, supported cross-cutting organisational development projects including, for example, managing environmental impacts.²³ NPA, which is also supported by HDR&D and the US Army Pacific Command (USARPAC), had Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) as a major donor in 2025.²⁴ PM/WRA was, and in 2026 remains, the only donor funding PTVN.²⁵

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Vietnam on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.²⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Vietnam's Constitution prohibits gender discrimination and it is State policy to guarantee equal gender rights and opportunities. VNMAC has been gradually promoting the greater involvement of women in mine action through roles in community liaison, risk education, administration, planning, and coordination. It has also started facilitating women's participation in relevant technical and management training opportunities.²⁷ In 2024, VNMAC put forward a female candidate to undertake EOD training for the first time. A MAWG sub-task force on gender was established in 2022 and renamed the GDI task force in December 2023 to emphasise the focus on inclusivity.²⁸

While MoD policy encourages female participation in the sector, survey, clearance and information management are still male-dominated and managed by the Vietnam Army due to existing recruitment patterns, deployment systems, and the demanding conditions of field duty stations.²⁹ UNDP and VNMAC jointly conducted the first assessment of gender and diversity mainstreaming in 2025 as part of the project "Advancing Gender Equality in Viet Nam Armed Forces through Gender Mainstreaming Initiatives", which was funded

by a Canadian military training cooperation programme. The assessment used both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to better understand the current situation, bottlenecks, good practices in the country of gender and diversity in mine action and put forward recommendations for further strengthening the gender and diversity in mine action in Viet Nam.³⁰

Among the international operators, the level of female employment remained broadly unchanged in 2025 from the previous year, approaching a third of total employment and operational staff (see Table 1). MAG conducted an internal assessment in line with its Global People and Culture initiative and updated its internal conditions of employment for women, including better provisions for maternity and hygiene. It also conducted an awareness raising campaign highlighting women's role and leadership in MAG's mine action work.³¹ NPA contributed to UNDP's and VNMAC's gender assessment and was an active participant in the GDI task force, which facilitated access to GICHD's three Gender & Diversity training modules and their translation into Vietnamese.³²

Table 1: Gender composition of NGO operators in 2025³³

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
MAG	784	249 (32%)	83	16 (19%)	736	229 (31%)
NPA	430	137 (32%)	17	6 (35%)	357	102 (29%)
PTVN	348	91 (26%)	14	3 (21%)	305	70 (23%)
Totals	1,562	477 (31%)	114	25 (22%)	1,398	401 (29%)

21 Email from Tim Horner, VNMAC, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

22 Emails from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 29 May and 23 June 2026.

23 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026.

24 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026.

25 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

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

27 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 29 May 2026.

28 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April and 19 May 2023, and 17 May 2024.

29 Emails from the GICHD, 5 May 2023; and from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 29 May 2026.

30 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 29 May 2026.

31 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026.

32 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026.

33 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The Ministry of Science and Technology published a new standard, TCVN 10299, in 2025 addressing the consequences of unexploded ordnance and landmines after the war. It did not include a standalone section on environmental management but it states that “all projects, items, and tasks related to mine investigation, surveying, and clearance must include environmental impact assessments and remediation and environmental protection plans in accordance with the law.”³⁴

VNMAC's Korean-funded KVPVP project follows UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) applying a “do no harm” approach that includes environmental risk screening and mitigation measures in planning and operations. Demining teams are required to minimise land degradation, vegetation disturbance and waste. The standards also provide for construction of climate-resilient houses and community health stations. A Mekong–Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF) also plans to explore innovative approaches to reduce the environmental footprint of mine action through eco-friendly disposal, improved waste management, and climate-sensitive operational planning.³⁵ UNDP planned to develop guidelines on environmental and climate change considerations in mine action through its MKCF-funded project, which would serve as a reference for VNMAC in drafting a national standard on environmental management.³⁶

MAG and NPA apply their global organisations' approaches to environmental management adapted to local conditions. MAG, with Canadian funding, developed a MAG Vietnam Climate & Environment Plan and rolled out new SOPs on waste

reduction and management and detailed waste segregation guidelines. It worked on a new environmental management plan which it expected to finalise in the course of 2026.³⁷ NPA Vietnam enhanced the organisation's Green Field Tool (GFT) which integrates risk assessments into planning, survey and clearance by digitalising the system through Survey123 and introducing more structured data collection. It also collaborates with local authorities to strengthen environmental data monitoring and improve operational performance.³⁸

PTVN applies a General Code of Conduct on environmental management for its staff, partners, and the communities it supports along with measures to minimise and manage waste by office and field staff, promoting use of environmentally-friendly materials. It conducted tree planting in Huang Hoa–Dakrong Protection Forest to strengthen the local eco-system and continues to support reforestation in the Special-Use Forest of South Quang Tri, which was severely eroded by flooding in 2020.³⁹

Flooding is a seasonal risk for operators in Vietnam for which they prepare through risk assessments and operational planning but heavy rainfall and flooding in recent years repeatedly cut access to task sites, disrupting operational schedules and are expected to get worse. MAG assessed that prolonged heavy rainfall and flooding experienced in 2025 lost 7,580 work hours across all teams.⁴⁰ PTVN said it lost 2,190 hours, equivalent to a month-long shut down, due to adverse weather.⁴¹

Table 2: Environmental policies and action

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
MAG	Yes	Yes	Yes
NPA	Yes	Yes	Yes
PTVN	Yes	Yes	Yes

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

VNMAC has made strengthening information management a priority and is in the process of upgrading the national database from IMSMA New Generation to Core. It completed consolidation of five IMSMA databases into a central national database using IMSMA New Generation at the end of 2022 and since 2024 has been preparing the ground for Core. VNMAC held two workshops in 2025 piloting its implementation and roll-out procedures. Throughout 2025,

the GICHD supported VNMAC's transition from IMSMA NG to IMSMA Core by providing technical assistance to strengthen system localisation and promote national ownership and delivering an IMSMA Core Administrator Training course in Hanoi.⁴²

34 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.
35 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 29 May 2026.
36 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 23 June 2026.
37 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026.
38 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026.
39 Emails from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025 and 22 May 2026.
40 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.
41 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.
42 Email from the GICHD, 1 July 2026.

By the end of 2025, VNMAC had completed system installation, the development of reporting forms, and piloting of data entry. VNMAC said it planned to deploy IMSMA Core officially in the last quarter of 2026.⁴³ VNMAC had trained staff in its headquarters and some provinces in 2025 and

planned to provide information management training to more than 100 Engineering Command personnel in the first half of 2026. It expected to complete the upgrade to Core nationwide by the end of 2027.⁴⁴

PLANNING AND TASKING

Programme 504, approved by the Prime Minister in April 2010, set out a National Mine Action Plan for 2010–25 for dealing with explosive ordnance, including mines, cluster munition remnants, and other ERW. This aimed to “minimise and finally create impact-free environment for social economic development”, targeting clearance of 8,000km² of ERW between 2016 and 2025.⁴⁵ In January 2026, the Prime Minister raised the level of national ambition calling for completing clearance of all UXO in Vietnam to a depth of 0.5 metres by 2045, the centenary of Vietnam’s declaration of independence.⁴⁶ It expects to spend US\$8 billion from the national budget on implementation.⁴⁷

Programme 504 planned to complete an impact survey to map contamination nationwide; develop national standards; and establish a database management centre.⁴⁸ A 2021–25 plan adopted in 2023 called for improved organisational structures, enhanced legislation and national standards, and the establishment of a national mine action database

management centre.⁴⁹ A new 10-year plan prepared by VNMAC for 2026–35 was reportedly under review by the MoD and other government agencies in 2025 while mine action authorities were also working on a 20-year programme for the period 2026 to 2045.⁵⁰ Its main objectives reportedly included laying out a roadmap for operations, strengthening evidence-based prioritisation, improving the efficiency of survey and clearance operations, strengthening coordination, and promoting cross-cutting issues such as gender.⁵¹

Vietnam has set highly ambitious targets for the first phase of its plan from 2026 to 2030. It identifies two priorities, land release and recovery of remains of soldiers killed in the war. Targets include release of 11,000km² through non-technical survey (NTS), TS, and clearance. To achieve this, Engineering Command aimed to quadruple capacity, increasing the number of teams conducting survey and clearance from 314 to 1,250 teams by 2030.⁵²

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

Vietnam has two types of national standards: QCVNs, which are mandatory for all operators, and TCVNs, which are only guidelines for organisations that do not receive Vietnamese funding.⁵³

After lengthy review, the Ministry of Science and Technology released 15 TCVNs in June 2025 under Decision No. 1269/QĐ-BKHCN.⁵⁴ The TCVNs are: (1) General regulations, (2) Appraisal and certification of MA organisations’ capacity, (3) Monitoring & Evaluation, (4) Contamination inspection, (5) Survey, (6) Safety assurance, (7) Survey and clearance, (8) Disposal of landmines/bombs, (9) Medical insurance, (10) Inspection over incidents, (11) Collecting, processing, and providing mine action information, (12) Quality management,

(13) Risk management, (14) Risk education, and (15) Victim assistance.⁵⁵ A further TCVN on environmental protection in mine action was expected but has not yet been issued.

QCVNs were promulgated by the MoD in a Circular (No. 59) in 2022 after extensive review over the course of several years by four working groups. The process was co-chaired by VNMAC, and included consultation with operators and international organisations, including the GICHD.⁵⁶ The QCVNs were updated by Circular 101/2025/TT/BQP with effect from 28 October 2025.⁵⁷ The QCVNs include general provisions, technical regulations, regulations on safety and on management, and the responsibilities of organisations and individuals.⁵⁸

43 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

44 Interview with Senior Colonel Ha Huy Khanh, Army Engineering Corps, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.

45 Prime Minister, “Decision on Approval of the National Mine Action Plan Period 2010–2025”, Hanoi, 21 April 2010.

46 “Vietnam strives to clear all land contaminated by unexploded ordnance by 2045: PM,” *Vietnam News Agency*, 13 January 2026.

47 Interview with Senior Colonel Ha Huy Khanh, Army Engineering Corps, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.

48 STA Capacity Development Project (NPA), “Vietnamese legal framework in mine action”, January 2023.

49 Ibid.

50 Emails from mine action stakeholders, April 2025.

51 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

52 Interview with Senior Colonel Ha Huy Khanh, Army Engineering Corps, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.

53 Email from Resad Junuzagic, NPA, 6 May 2019.

54 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

55 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023; Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

56 Emails from Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 8 April 2021 and 21 April 2022; Valentina Stivanello, MAG, 29 April 2022; GICHD, 24 April 2022; and Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

57 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 June 2026.

58 STA Capacity Development Project (NPA), “Vietnamese legal framework in mine action”, January 2023.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Most clearance in Vietnam is conducted by the Army Engineering Corps, which deploys 314 teams⁵⁹ and some 43 military-owned commercial companies. International operators and KVPVP work in the central provinces of Quang Tri (including former Quang Binh province), Hue (including former Thua Thien Hue province), Quang Ngai in the Central Highlands (including former Kon Tum province) and Gia Lai (including former Binh Dinh province).

MAG's survey capacity included one NTS team, one team conducting cluster munition remnant survey (CMRS), and a TS team all deployed in former Quang Binh province together with 10 clearance teams with 110 personnel. It had a further 35 clearance teams with 379 personnel working in former Quang Tri, including one team operating a Scorpion mine and UXO detection system supplied by the US HDR&D. The total represented an increase of three clearance teams on the capacity it deployed in the previous year, but in 2026, a drop in funding necessitated laying off three clearance teams.⁶⁰

NPA had most of its survey capacity in former Quang Binh province where it deployed 20 NTS and 36 TS searchers, with 12 NTS personnel working in Hue. Its clearance capacity was strongest in former Quang Tri province where it had 15 teams and 203 personnel, with one 14-person clearance team in Hue. In the last quarter of 2025, NPA started operating in Kon Tum, where the 2018 national survey found close to 47% of the land area contaminated by ERW. NPA had three NTS surveyors and a three-person multi-task team deployed in

Kon Tum, now part of Quang Ngai province, joining with a VNMAC nine-strong NTS team and seven-person multi-task team (MTT).⁶¹

PTVN added two CMR clearance teams to its operation in former Quang Binh in 2025, bringing the total to eight teams with 72 personnel, and in former Quang Tri it worked with 12 clearance teams and 140 personnel. Four of the former Quanh Binh teams and two of the former Quang Tri teams were multi-task whose main responsibility was EOD but who conducted area clearance when available. In 2026, PTVN planned to expand operations into Thua Thien Hue and Quang Ngai provinces.⁶²

KVPVP employed 694 VNMAC personnel with 14 survey teams totalling 182 personnel and 34 clearance teams totalling 510 personnel deployed in Gia Lai, Quang Ngai, and Thua Thien Hue. This marked a significant reduction from the 834 personnel employed in 2024 but after the 120% pay increase ordered by the government at the end of 2024, KVPVP slashed capacity in the second half of 2025 to three TS teams, one in each of the three provinces, and ten clearance teams. KVPVP's capacity revived in 2026 to include in 12 TS teams with 156 personnel and 30 clearance teams with 450 deminers. The surge in capacity was intended to enable the project to complete its land release targets by the end of the year, but it was also decided to scale down the target from 58.3km² to 51.05km².⁶³

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 3: INGO land release outputs in 2025

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (km ²)	Comments
Clearance	56.62	
Technical Survey	0	
Non-Technical Survey	0	
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks		Comments
Submunitions destroyed	10,832	Includes CMR destroyed in TS, clearance, spot tasks, and BAC by KVPVP

Most clearance in Vietnam is undertaken by Army engineers and military-owned commercial companies. Engineering Command says they release around 300km² to 350km² a year, but it does not provide details of who has conducted it or the methodologies used.⁶⁴ Clearance recorded by three international NGOs working in central provinces amounted

to 56.62km² in 2025, a drop of 6% from the 60.13km² they cleared in 2024. The total number of submunitions destroyed during TS and clearance edged higher to 9,345 in 2025, but remained below the level achieved in 2023.⁶⁵

59 Interview with Senior Colonel Ha Huy Khanh, Army Engineering Corps, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.
60 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026.
61 Emails from NPA Vietnam management 24 April and 9 June 2026.
62 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.
63 Emails from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 29 May and 1 June 2026, and telephone interview, 2 June 2026.
64 Interview with Senior Colonel Ha Huy Khanh, Army Engineering Corps, in Geneva, 23 April 2026.
65 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026; Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026; and Goosoon Kwan, UNDP, 29 May 2026.

SURVEY IN 2025

International NGOs surveyed 57% more area and confirmed nearly 40% more contamination in 2025 compared with the previous year. MAG's survey in what was formerly Quang Binh province continued at much the same level as in 2024 and the increase in 2025 was delivered by NPA. An increase in the

number of NPA survey teams in 2025 enabled it to confirm one-third more contamination in former Quang Binh province but also to deploy surveyors to Hue city and Quang Ngai province. The number of submunitions destroyed in the course of TS also increased but only marginally (by less than 1%).⁶⁶

Table 4: Confirmation of cluster munition-contaminated area through TS in 2025 (NGO data)⁶⁷

Operator	Province	Area surveyed (m ²)	Area confirmed (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
MAG	Quang Tri North	827,500	559,657	60	6
NPA	Quang Tri North	26,782,500	62,505,497	1,112	57
	Quang Ngai	652,500	418,168	37	9
	Hue City	1,445,000	3,341,392	140	57
Totals		29,707,500	66,824,714	1,349	129

CLEARANCE IN 2025

After rising 9% in 2024, CMR land release through clearance by international NGOs dropped 6% in 2025 (see Table 5). The Stop Work order issued by the United States in early 2025 proved a significant setback for MAG's operations in former Quang Tri province, where its clearance was down by more than a quarter on the 2024 level. The 9.8km² that MAG cleared in Quang Tri North (former Quang Binh) included almost 1.5km² cleared by a TS team as part of a test to see if it is more efficient to conduct clearance as they proceed, rather than following a two-stage process of conducting CMRS to define CHAs and later clearance.⁶⁸

NPA cleared marginally more area (3%) and slightly fewer submunitions (13%) in 2025 while PTVN's deployment of additional clearance teams in 2025 enabled it to raise

the area it cleared by a quarter. In Quang Tri North, all submunitions and other explosive ordnance found during NPA's survey are handed over to PTVN for disposal as agreed within the consortium of MAG, NPA, and PTVN.⁶⁹ Battle area clearance by KVPVP released another 16.6km² in three provinces but the UXO it destroyed included only 52 submunitions.⁷⁰

The total number of 7,873 submunitions destroyed in CMR clearance in 2025 fell from 8,228 in the previous year but the 1,558 submunitions destroyed in spot tasks, mostly by PTVN's multi-task teams working in former Quang Binh province, was up from 1,379 destroyed in 2024. NPA EOD operations destroyed 26 submunitions (25 in Quang Tri North and 1 in Kontum) in addition to those shown in Table 5.⁷¹

Table 5: CMR clearance in 2025 (NGO data)⁷²

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Submunitions destroyed in spot tasks	Other UXO destroyed
Quang Tri North	MAG	9,794,723	1,906	65	1,519
Quang Tri South	MAG	21,428,807	2,843	0	1,691
Quang Tri South	NPA	11,819,926	1,426	18	1,897
Hue City	NPA	829,088	118	109	185
Quang Tri South	PTVN	9,096,133	704	57	320
Quang Tri North	PTVN	3,652,050	876	1,283	97
Totals		56,620,727	7,873	1,532	5,709

⁶⁶ Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026, and NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026.

⁶⁷ Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; and NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

⁶⁸ Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April and 2 June 2026.

⁶⁹ Email from NPA Vietnam management, 21 June 2026.

⁷⁰ Emails from Goosoon Kwan, UNDP, 29 May and 23 June 2026. KVPVP reported clearing 3.99km² in Thua Thien Hue, 6.69km² in Quang Ngai, and 5.88km² in Gia Lai. In addition to 52 submunitions, the programme reported destroying 3,372 other items of UXO.

⁷¹ Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

⁷² Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 April 2026; NPA Vietnam management, 24 April 2026; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 22 May 2026.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

The government has set an ambitious goal of completing clearance of all UXO by 2045 and continued to build capacity through the upgrading of information management and finally releasing national operating standards. Lack of comprehensive data on the methodology or results of survey and clearance by national actors prevent a meaningful determination of Vietnam's progress towards either defining the extent of its contamination or clearing it.

Table 6: Five-year summary of NGO clearance

Year	Area (km²)
2025	56.6
2024	60.1
2023	55.3
2022	51.2
2021	48.0
Total	271.2