

CHAD



ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2023
 (UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	2016	2015
Problem understood	3	3
Target date for completion of cluster munition clearance	3	3
Targeted clearance	3	3
Efficient clearance	4	4
National funding of programme	2	3
Timely clearance	2	2
Land release system in place	6	6
National mine action standards	7	6
Reporting on progress	3	3
Improving performance	3	3
PERFORMANCE SCORE: VERY POOR	3.6	3.6

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

No cluster munition remnants (CMR) were encountered by international mine action operators in Chad in 2016. A limited number of CMR have been found by operators in the past, as recently as 2015. While the extent of remaining contamination is not known, the level is thought to be low. However, large portions of the northern regions of Chad, which are heavily contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), remain un-surveyed, and it is possible CMR contamination could remain.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

→ Targeted survey is needed, particularly in the Borkou and Tibesti regions, to identify mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination, including CMR.

CONTAMINATION

The extent of CMR contamination remaining in Chad is unknown, but is not believed to be heavy. In July 2017, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) reported that its programme in the north of the country has, to date, only found very limited evidence of CMR.¹

Following the end of armed conflict with Libya in 1987, unexploded submunitions and cluster munition containers were found in the three northern provinces of Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti; in the Biltine department in Wadi Fira region in the north-east; and east of the capital, N'Djamena.² In 2011, MAG found unexploded Soviet anti-tank PTAB-1.5 submunitions during survey in an area close to Faya Largeau.³

The most recent discovery of CMR was in 2015, when MAG identified and destroyed a limited number of CMR, including two empty RBK-250-275 cluster bomb containers in the Tibesti region and an AO-1SCh submunition in the Borkou region.⁴ In January 2015, four children (three girls and one boy) were reportedly injured after handling a submunition in Faya Largeau.⁵

MAG did not encounter any CMR in its survey and mine clearance operations in 2016 in Tibesti.⁶ Likewise, Handicap International (HI), the only other international organisation carrying out mine action activities in the country, did not report finding any CMR in its survey operations in Borkou and Ennedi regions during the year.⁷ According to MAG, there were no reports of casualties from submunitions in 2016.⁸

In May 2017, both MAG and HI informed Mine Action Review that they had not seen any evidence of significant CMR contamination remaining in Chad. According to MAG, since the beginning of its activities in 2004, no area of CMR contamination had been reported or identified. However, MAG emphasised that the majority of the

Tibesti region, thought to be one of the most heavily contaminated regions with mines and ERW, had yet to be surveyed, and that there were few local informants who might know of contamination. It also noted the possibility that CMR might be found around ex-Libyan military bases in the future.⁹

In 2012, Chad stated that while the precise extent of CMR contamination was not known, it was certain the weapons had been used in the Fada region and highly likely that they had been used in other parts of the north. Chad said that the Tibesti region was being surveyed to determine the extent of the contamination.¹⁰ In 2014, Chad reported that, after Libyan troops withdrew in 1987, members of the French Sixth Engineers Regiment discovered and subsequently destroyed CMR around Libyan positions, prior to the building of the national mine action centre. It reiterated its suspicion of additional contamination in the Tibesti region.¹¹

Other Explosive Remnants of War and Landmines

Chad has a significant mine and ERW problem as a result of the 1973 Libyan invasion and more than 30 years of internal conflict. Mines and ERW are said to obstruct safe access to housing, roads, pastures, water points, and mining areas, especially in northern Chad. Contamination is an ongoing threat to local populations and its negative impact on the socio-economic development of Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti, which are among its poorest regions, is particularly severe.¹²

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 the national mine action centre (Centre National de Déminage, CND).

In December 2016, funding for a two-year European Union (EU)-funded mine action project (Projet d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad, PADEMIN) came to an end.¹³ Under this project, MAG conducted survey and clearance of mines and ERW, focusing on Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti. HI provided capacity-building support to the CND, in particular for information and quality management, and carried out non-technical survey in three southern regions of the country thought to be contaminated by mines and ERW.¹⁴

But as the two-year EU funding ended, the EU agreed to support a new four-year mine action project in Chad, and MAG and HI were set to resume mine action activities during 2017. A third international operator, the Swiss Foundation for Demining (La Fondation Suisse pour le Déminage, FSD), was preparing to provide technical support to the CND.¹⁵

Since 2008, Chad's mine action programme has suffered from a lack of international funding, weak government oversight, and mismanagement issues within the CND.¹⁶ CND demining operations have also been plagued by poor equipment and lack of funding.

Strategic Planning

In 2013, the Government of Chad approved a new strategic mine action plan for 2013–17. The goals of the plan included the development and maintenance of an effective data collection and management system, strengthened national capacities, and the release of contaminated areas.¹⁷

Following the request of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the CND elaborated a national mine action plan for 2014–19, with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The plan notes that Chad adhered to the CCM but does not detail plans to clear CMR.¹⁸ According to MAG, the CND assigns areas for clearance and decides on priorities in consultation with mine action operators.¹⁹

Standards, and Quality and Information Management

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 2016.²⁰ 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.²¹

LAND RELEASE

In 2016, MAG concluded operations under the EU PADEMIN project, with the release of a total of 98 areas with a size of nearly 1.4km², along with over 100,000m² of traffic routes. During the year, it focused operations on mine survey and clearance in the Tibesti region.²²

In December 2016, HI conducted a survey in Borkou and the west of Ennedi region to prepare for the start of the new four-year EU-funded demining project. It reported identifying more than 40km² as contaminated with mines, 2.7km² as contaminated with ERW, and a total of 147 open suspected or confirmed hazardous areas.²³

As noted above, no CMR survey or clearance occurred in 2016, nor did MAG or HI report encountering any CMR in their activities. Likewise, no CMR survey or clearance occurred in 2015, though MAG found and destroyed two empty cluster munition containers in Zouar and a submunition was found and destroyed by the CND in Faya Largeau in the Borkou region.²⁴

ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 4 of the CCM, Chad is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 September 2023. It is unclear whether Chad is on track to meet this deadline.

Facing the loss of the only international donor and the cessation of mine action operations in Chad with the end of the PADEMINE project in December 2016, the securing of EU funding for a new four-year demining project starting in 2017 was a critical development. Under the new project, MAG was set to begin operations in Tibesti and Lac regions and HI to commence survey and mine clearance in Borkou and the west of Ennedi region. MAG expected to increase its non-technical survey and risk education capacity, and deploy a community liaison team for seven months.²⁵ FSD was set to provide technical support to the CND for training new demining teams and increasing the technical and managerial capacity of senior CND staff.²⁶

In May 2017, MAG reiterated its concerns over the lack of financial resources provided by the Government of Chad for the CND or demining activities.²⁷ Previously, in 2015, Chad requested international cooperation and assistance in the form of two Multi-Task Teams to carry out non-technical survey, risk education, and explosive ordnance disposal for CMR.²⁸

-
- 1 Email from Jeannette von Däniken, Programme Support Coordinator, Sahel and West Africa, MAG, 19 July 2017.
 - 2 Handicap International (HI), *Fatal Footprint: The Global Human Impact of Cluster Munitions*, Brussels, 2006, p. 17; HI, *Circle of Impact: The Fatal Footprint of Cluster Munitions on People and Communities*, Brussels, 2007, p. 48; Survey Action Centre, "Landmine Impact Survey, Republic of Chad", Washington DC, 2002, p. 59; and Human Rights Watch and Landmine Action, *Banning Cluster Munitions: Government Policy and Practice, Mines Action Canada*, Ottawa, 2009, p. 56.
 - 3 Emails from Liebeschitz Rodolphe, UNDP, 21 February 2011; and Bruno Bouchardy, MAG Chad, 11 March 2011.
 - 4 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F; and email from Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, MAG, 31 May 2016.
 - 5 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form H.
 - 6 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, Country Director, MAG, received by email via Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 7 Response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp, Head of Mission, and Seydou N'Gaye, Senior Technical Advisor, HI, received by email via Julien Kempeneers, Deputy Desk Officer, Mine Action Department, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 8 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 10 May 2017.
 - 9 *Ibid.*; and response to questionnaire, 3 May 2017.
 - 10 Statement of Chad, CCM Third Meeting of States Parties, Oslo, 13 September 2012.
 - 11 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2013), Form F.
 - 12 HCND, *Mine Action Plan 2014–2019*, May 2014; and response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 13 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 14 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and HI, "Landmine Clearance Efforts Begin in Chad", undated, at: http://www.handicap-international.us/landmine_clearance_efforts_begin_in_chad.
 - 15 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 16 Presentation of Chad at African Union/ICRC Weapons Contamination Workshop, Addis Ababa, 3–5 March 2013; Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013, p. 12.
 - 17 Mine Action Strategic Plan 2013–2017, annexed to Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013.
 - 18 HCND, *Mine Action Plan 2014–2019*, May 2014, p. 4.
 - 19 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 20 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.
 - 21 *Ibid.*
 - 22 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 23 Response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 24 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 31 May 2016; and CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F.
 - 25 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 26 Response to questionnaire by Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
 - 27 Response to questionnaire by Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
 - 28 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F.