

CHAD

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

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	2017	2016
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	2
Timely clearance	2	2
Land-release system in place	6	6
National mine action standards	7	7
Reporting on progress	3	3
Improving performance	2	3
PERFORMANCE SCORE: VERY POOR	3.5	3.6

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

While the extent of remaining contamination from cluster munition remnants (CMR) is not known, it is thought to be low. But large portions of the northern regions of Chad, which are heavily contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), are still to be surveyed, and it is possible CMR contamination could remain there.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Targeted survey is needed, particularly in the northern Borkou and Tibesti regions, to identify mine and ERW contamination, including CMR.
- Chad should elaborate a resourced workplan/action plan to complete survey and clearance of CMR as soon as possible.

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 In 2017, MAG did not receive any reports of casualties due to CMR or conduct any survey or clearance operations in Chad.²

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.³ In 2011, MAG found unexploded Soviet anti-tank PTAB-1.5 submunitions during survey in an area close to Faya Largeau.⁴

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.⁵ In January 2015, four children (three girls and one boy) were reportedly injured after handling a submunition in Faya Largeau.⁶

In May 2017, both MAG and Humanity and Inclusion (HI, formerly Handicap International) informed Mine Action Review 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 significant 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 still to be surveyed, and there were few local informants who might know of contamination. It also noted the possibility that CMR might be found around former Libyan military bases. This will be confirmed once MAG deploys to the field.⁷

In 2012, Chad stated that while the precise extent of CMR contamination was not known, it was certain cluster munitions had been used in the Fada region and highly likely 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.⁸ 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.⁹

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 (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Chad for further information). Mines and ERW are said to obstruct safe access to housing, roads, pastures, water points, and mining areas, especially in northern Chad. Contamination is said to be an ongoing threat to communities and to have a severe negative impact on the socio-economic development of Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti (among its poorest regions).¹⁰

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national mine action programme is managed by what is effectively a national mine action centre, the National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND).¹¹ The National Demining Centre (Centre National de Déminage, CND), which earlier conducted clearance operations, appears to have been dissolved. In July 2017, a new governmental decree restructured the HCND, reducing the number of personnel by more than half from 744 to 329.¹²

In December 2016, funding for a two-year European Union (EU)-funded mine action project (Projet d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad, PADEMINE) 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

In September 2017, the EU agreed to support a new four-year mine action project (PRODECO) in Chad.¹⁵ As part of this project, HI is focusing on survey and clearance in the Borkou and Ennedi regions while MAG is working in the Tibesti and Lake Chad regions.¹⁶ A third international operator, the Swiss Foundation for Demining (La Fondation Suisse pour le Déminage, FSD), is to provide technical support, training, and capacity building to the HCND, including support for the use of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).¹⁷

Since 2008, Chad's mine action programme has suffered from a lack of international funding, weak government oversight, and mismanagement issues within the HCND.¹⁸ Demining operations, previously conducted by the CND, 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 in addition to the release of contaminated areas.¹⁹

Following the request of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the HCND 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.²⁰ According to MAG, the HCND assigns areas for clearance and decides on priorities in consultation with mine action operators.²¹

Legislation and Standards

There are no CMR-specific standards in Chad.

Quality 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 2016.²² 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 HCND carried out a number of external QA/QC visits, evaluations, and accreditations during the year.²³ In 2017, Level 1 EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) quality assurance training was carried out with HCND as part of the PRODECO project.²⁴

Information Management

The HCND uses the IMSMA database. As part of the PRODECO project, the database was being updated in 2018 by the HCND's information management team supervised by an expert from FSD.²⁵

Operators

MAG has been the main clearance operator in recent years. In 2016, MAG concluded operations under the EU PADEMIN project. As at May 2018, MAG had not yet deployed its demining teams under the new EU PROCECO project due to delays in obtaining the correct permissions from the administrative authorities without which their demining equipment will not be released by customs.²⁶ MAG was planning to finally begin deployment in June 2018.²⁷

LAND RELEASE

No CMR survey or clearance occurred in 2017. In 2016, MAG concluded operations under the EU PADEMIN project, with the release of a total of 98 hazardous areas with a size of nearly 1.4km², along with over 100,000m² of traffic routes in the Tibesti region.²⁸

Survey in 2017

There was no reported CMR survey in 2017.

Clearance in 2017

There was no reported CMR clearance in 2017.

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. It has conducted no clearance of CMR-contaminated areas in the last five years.

Table 1: Five-year summary of CMR clearance²⁹

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2017	0
2016	0
2015	0
2014	0
2013	0
Total	0

In its Article 7 transparency report for 2016, Chad reported that two submunitions had been found and cleared in the regions of Borkou and Tibesti.³⁰ In Chad's Article 7 report for 2017, Form F (which concerns contamination and clearance) was reported as "Not Applicable".³¹

In May 2017, MAG reiterated its concerns over the lack of financial resources provided by the Government of Chad for the HCND and demining activities.³² 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.³³

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- 1 Email from Jeannette von Däniken, Programme Support Coordinator, Sahel and West Africa, MAG, 19 July 2017.
- 2 Email from Romain Coupez, Country Director, MAG, 17 May 2018.
- 3 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.
- 4 Emails from Liebeschitz Rodolphe, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 21 February 2011; and Bruno Bouchardy, MAG Chad, 11 March 2011.
- 5 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F; and email from Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, MAG, 31 May 2016.
- 6 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form H.
- 7 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 10 May 2017 and 31 May 2018; and response to questionnaire, 3 May 2017.
- 8 Statement of Chad, CCM Third Meeting of States Parties, Oslo, 13 September 2012.
- 9 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2013), Form F.
- 10 National High Commission for Demining (HCND), Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014; and emails from Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017; and Benjamin Westercamp and Seydou N'Gaye, HI, 22 March 2017.
- 11 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 4 July 2018.
- 12 Emails from Soultani Moussa, Manager/Administrator, HCND, 19 June and 3 July 2018.
- 13 Email from 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 HI "Country Profile Chad", September 2017, at: https://www.handicapinternational.be/sites/default/files/paginas/bijlagen/201710_fp_tchad_fr.pdf
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 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.
- 19 Mine Action Strategic Plan 2013–2017, annexed to Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013.
- 20 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014, p. 4.
- 21 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
- 22 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 Email from Soultani Moussa, HCND, 19 June 2018.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 31 May 2018.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
- 29 See Cluster Munition Monitor and Mine Action Review reports on clearance in Chad covering 2013–16.
- 30 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2016), Form F.
- 31 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F.
- 32 Email from Romain Coupez, MAG, 3 May 2017.
- 33 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F.