



IRAN

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Iran should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Iran should report publicly on the extent and location of cluster munition remnants (CMR) and prepare a plan for their clearance and destruction.

CONTAMINATION

The extent of CMR contamination in Iran is not known. Some contamination is believed to remain from the Iran-Iraq war when cluster munitions were widely used in Khuzestan and to a lesser extent in Kermanshah. Iraqi forces used mostly French- and Russian-made submunitions in attacks on oil facilities at Abadan and Mah-Shahr, and Spanish munitions in attacks

on troop positions at Dasht-e-Azadegan. Air Force explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams cleared many unexploded submunitions after attacks but contamination remains around Mah-Shahr and the port of Bandar Imam Khomeini, according to a retired Iranian Air Force colonel.¹

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Iran Mine Action Centre (IRMAC) was established in 2005 and made responsible for planning, data, managing survey, and procurement. It also sets standards, provides training for clearance operators, concludes contracts with demining operators (military or private), and ensures monitoring of their operations. It coordinates mine action with the General Staff of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Interior, the Management and Planning Organisation of Iran, and other relevant ministries and organisations, and handles international relations.

IRMAC is also responsible for overseeing victim assistance and risk education but has partly delegated these roles to entities such as the Social Welfare Organisation and the Iranian Red Crescent Society.²

LAND RELEASE

No data was available on any CMR survey or clearance in 2017, as was the case in the previous year.

ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

Iran is not a state party to the CCM and therefore does not have a specific clearance deadline under Article 4. Nonetheless, Iran has obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR as soon as possible.

1 Interview with Air Force Colonel (ret.) Ali Alizadeh, Tehran, 8 February 2014.

2 IRMAC PowerPoint Presentation, Tehran, 9 February 2014; and IRMAC, "Presentation of IRMAC", at: <http://www.irmac.ir/sites/default/files/>.