

SIGNATORY STATE



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

MINE
ACTION
REVIEW

CLEARING CLUSTER
MUNITION REMNANTS
2026

KEY DATA

NO ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

Signatory, not State Party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

121,458M²

Light
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (m ²)	Release in 2024 (m ²)
Clearance	0	35,971
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
Submunitions destroyed	0	17 (incl. 3 in spot tasks)

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025

- A small number of clearance operators are present but none addressed cluster munition remnants in 2025.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

As conflict escalated in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) in early 2025, worsening insecurity and the occupation of territory by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) forces resulted in new contamination by explosive remnants of war (ERW) and disrupted mine action operations. This, coupled with a reduction in funding, precluded survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) during the year. The domestic process to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) saw no progress, although the ratification law was reportedly approved by both chambers of Parliament in 2024. DR Congo indicated its intention to ratify before the Third Review Conference in September 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- DR Congo should ratify the CCM as soon as possible. DR Congo signed the Convention in 2009.
- In line with the updated National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32, DR Congo should prioritise the conduct of a new national survey of explosive ordnance, including CMR, in order to update baseline contamination data.
- DR Congo should prioritise survey and clearance in Bolomba territory in Equateur province, which accounts for the vast majority of the remaining CMR contamination.
- DR Congo should mobilise predictable and flexible funding to enable operators to sustain survey and clearance and address effectively new contamination.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Commission Nationale de Lutte Antimines (CNLAM)
- Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Congolese Armed Forces (Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo, FARDC)
- Congolese National Police (Police Nationale Congolaise, PNC)
- Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (AFRILAM)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

DR Congo has a small extent of cluster munition-contaminated area. The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–32 states that “a certain degree of contamination by CMR is still reported, but the areas concerned are considered negligible”.¹

In June 2026, DR Congo shared with Mine Action Review a draft voluntary CCM Article 7 report covering January 2023 to December 2025, which was unavailable online at the time of writing. The report, the first since 2022 (which covered 2013–21), revised the baseline estimate of CMR from 161,523m² at the end of 2021 to 121,458m² at the end of 2025, reflecting survey and clearance in 2023 and 2024.²

The draft voluntary Article 7 report recorded the cancellation of three contaminated areas in Aru territory, Ituri province,

following survey by The Development Initiative (TDI) in 2024, and revised the estimate of remaining contamination in Kyomba, Kalemie territory, Tanganyika province, following clearance by national operator Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (AFRILAM) and DanChurchAid (DCA) in 2023–24. DR Congo later shared with Mine Action Review a summary note on the status of the Kyomba area, indicating that clearance had been completed and the area considered closed.³

As at the end of 2025, two cluster munition-contaminated areas remained, with the area in Bolomba Territory, Equateur province, accounting for the vast majority of the remaining contamination, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by province (at end 2025) (National authority estimate)⁴

Province	Territory	Name	CHA	Area (m ²)	Type of submunitions
South Kivu	Shabunda	Lukamba	1	719	PM-1
Equateur	Bolomba	Boso Mombemba	1	120,398	MK-118
Totals			2	121,458	

The first estimate of CMR contamination came from a 2013–14 national survey, which identified five CMR-contaminated areas that have since been cleared. However, the survey underestimated the extent of CMR contamination, and additional areas were subsequently identified during clearance and following incidents.⁵ By 2024, DR Congo reported having cleared almost 86,399m² and destroyed 285 submunitions across three areas, two of which remained open, as the extent of contamination had been underestimated.⁶ While DR Congo listed Maniema among the

CMR contaminated province in a statement at the Twelfth Meeting of State Party,⁷ it informed Mine Action Review that the area (known as “Panama”) had finally been cancelled.⁸

The 2013–14 national survey did not cover two territories—Aru in Ituri province and Dungu in Haut-Uele province—where insecurity had prevented access to survey teams. Aru was surveyed in 2024 by the national operator Synergie pour la Lutte Antimines (SYLAM), through a teaming agreement with international private operator TDI. While anti-personnel (AP) mined areas were identified, no CMR were found.⁹

1 "Plan Stratégique National de Lutte contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les REG en RDC 2023–2032", CCLAM, January 2022 (hereafter, "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32") p. 21.
2 Draft Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025), Form F; and email from Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, National Coordinator, CCLAM, 15 June 2026.
3 Trankil Gabriel, "Status of the Kyomba DA area as at the end of 2025", Summary Note, CCLAM, 6 July 2026.
4 Draft Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025), Form F.
5 "Plan de Travail Pluriannuel 2023–2032", CCLAM, Updated in March 2026 (hereafter, "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32"), p. 23.
6 Draft Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025), Form F; and Trankil Gabriel, "Status of the Kyomba DA area as at the end of 2025", CCLAM, 6 July 2026.
7 Statement of DR Congo, CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 10–13 September 2024.
8 Email from Laure Ngoie, Head of Information Management Department, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.
9 Emails from Kevin Umali, Regional Operation Manager, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, Coordinator, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

However, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reported one area in Aru territory, identified by inhabitants in 2019, that is suspected to contain submunitions and which requires further investigation.¹⁰ The survey in Dungu was initially scheduled for 2024 but was postponed to 2026 under the revised Work Plan 2023–2032 (March 2026).¹¹ Until this survey is conducted, it remains unclear whether Dungu territory contains CMR.

Cluster munition contamination dates back to the Second Congo War (1998–2003).¹² DR Congo has stated that the presence of CMR on the territory is due to their use by “both allied and enemy forces” during the conflict.¹³ According to DR Congo’s summary note on the Kyomba area, contamination resulted from the use of cluster munitions by the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) during the 1998–2001 conflict against the Rally for Congolese Democracy-Goma (RCD-Goma forces), in an effort to halt its advance towards the strategic city of Lubumbashi.¹⁴

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

DR Congo is also contaminated by ERW other than cluster munitions in all areas that have experienced armed conflicts since the country’s independence, making it widespread. To date, no systematic national survey has been conducted. The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–32 indicated that while AP mined area is relatively limited (see Mine Action Review’s *Clearing the Mines* report on DR Congo for further information on the mine problem), the nation faces a significant level of ERW contamination due to the presence of unexploded ordnance, abandoned munitions, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).¹⁵ With the conflict escalating in North Kivu and South Kivu since early 2025, explosive ordnance contamination has increased, driving a need to sustain and scale up an effective humanitarian response

(including survey and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD)). This is subject to the availability of funds and access conditions.¹⁶

DR Congo has also been experiencing an increase in the use of IEDs, particularly in the Grand North Kivu (Beni and Lubero territories) and Ituri provinces, mainly attributed to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) armed group.¹⁷ While UNMAS previously monitored and reported IED incidents, its IED disposal team was discontinued in May 2025, by which time 29 incidents had already been recorded (compared to 22 in 2023 and 60 in 2024).¹⁸ Operators stress that the threat posed by IEDs has become a daily concern, with a lack of trained personnel to address these hazards.¹⁹

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national structures for DR Congo’s national mine action programme were established by a 2011 law implementing the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), namely the *Commission Nationale de Lutte Antimines* (CNLAM) and the *Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines* (CCLAM). CNLAM is the national authority overseeing CCLAM. It is a multi-sectoral body composed of deputies from both parliamentary chambers, officials from four ministries, and representatives of five civil society organisations involved in mine action.²⁰ A decree formally setting out the role and responsibilities of CNLAM has yet to be adopted by the Ministry of Interior.²¹

Established in 2012, CCLAM is the technical coordinating body for all mine action activities in the country. As the operational arm of the national authority, it oversees the implementation and management of the national mine action programme.

CCLAM is responsible for coordinating operations and operators, regulating the sector through accreditation and tasking, planning activities, including setting priorities, and quality control and assurance for land release.²²

Since 2024, under the National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–2032, CCLAM has been engaged in a decentralisation process aimed at expanding its provincial presence and increasing its workforce. In 2025, the number of personnel doubled compared with 2024, rising from 250 to 501 staff members. By the end of 2025, CCLAM had established 14 provincial offices, up from 11 in 2024, to coordinate mine action activities at the local level. The decentralisation process is expected to continue until all provincial offices are operational, and CCLAM reported that training and capacity-building activities for staff were being prepared.²³

10 Emails from Julian Bustamante, Programme Management Officer Specialist, UNMAS DRC, 4 June 2025, and Ephyse Cotting, Information Management Officer, UNMAS DRC, 26 May 2026.

11 “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 24.

12 Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2021), Form F; and email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 19 June 2025.

13 Statement of DR Congo on Article 4, CCM Tenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 30 August–2 September 2022.

14 Trankil Gabriel, “Status of the Kyomba DA area as at the end of 2025”, CCLAM, 6 July 2026.

15 “National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32”, CCLAM, January 2022, p. 21.

16 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, Technical Field Lead and Acting Operations Manager, DCA, 3 April 2026.

17 “National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32”, CCLAM, January 2022, p. 21; and “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 23.

18 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, Programme Management Senior Officer, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

19 Email from Yannick Malamba, Chief of Operations, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.

20 “National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32”, CCLAM, January 2022, p. 54.

21 “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 44.

22 “National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32”, CCLAM, January 2022, p. 54.

23 Interview with Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, Geneva, 23 April 2026; and emails from Laure Ngoie, 6 May 2025 and 22 April 2026.

The operating costs of the CCLAM and the coordination of the national programme are funded by the Congolese government. The APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request, granted in 2025, referred to an allocation of US\$600,000.²⁴ It remains unclear, however, whether this amount is intended to cover the extension period (2026–28) or whether it represents an annual contribution, as suggested in earlier information provided to Mine Action Review.

UNMAS continued to support the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in 2025 through EOD operations in North Kivu and Ituri, including camp clearance, disposal of obsolete ammunition belonging to MONUSCO and the Congolese armed forces (FARDC), and training of national security forces in Kinshasa. UNMAS delivered specialised trainings in counter-IED, EOD, and basic investigation and forensic exploitation related to IEDs, though in practice only the Congolese National Police (PNC) benefited, as FARDC personnel were deployed in combat operations.²⁵ In December 2025, MONUSCO's mandate was renewed for another year, with UNMAS expected to continue strengthening the capacities of the Congolese security

forces, including in weapons and ammunitions management, counter-IED, and EOD, as part of the Security Sector Reform component.²⁶

DR Congo has not established a formal national mine action platform. However, CCLAM, together with the Mine Action Area of Responsibility under the Protection Cluster, regularly convenes national and provincial coordination meetings with operators to review progress and operational challenges. In 2025, coordination efforts were hindered by the absence of a dedicated focal point within CCLAM and uneven participation at provincial level. In eastern DR Congo, sustained collaboration among stakeholders was further constrained by the M23's control of areas surrounding the provincial capitals of North and South Kivu—Goma and Bukavu—as well as by funding constraints, which led to an overall reduction in operations.²⁷

In August 2025, CCLAM and UNMAS presented mine action achievements during the closing ceremony of the three-year Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)-funded humanitarian mine action project, which brought together national authorities, MONUSCO leadership, United Nations agencies, diplomats, and mine action operators.²⁸

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

No international funding was allocated to CMR survey and clearance in 2025. DR Congo remains dependent on international support to address explosive ordnance contamination, as national funding is limited to supporting CCLAM and programme coordination and not operational activities.²⁹

Mine action capacity declined significantly in 2025 following major funding cuts, including the United States' decision to cancel support for DCA operations and the closure of the KOICA-funded project implemented by UNMAS and its partners. At the same time, the UN liquidity crisis and resulting budget reductions across peacekeeping missions continued to affect MONUSCO and, by extension, UNMAS operations.³⁰ DCA managed to secure alternative funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

to conduct EOD spot tasks for ERW following the conflict in North and South Kivu in 2025, as well as multi-sectoral funding from the Humanitarian Fund, including for non-technical survey (NTS).³¹

In 2023 and 2024, battle area clearance (BAC) in Tanganyika was supported through international funding. AFRILAM operated under contracts with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), while DCA received support from the US Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA).³²

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on DR Congo on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.³³

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CCLAM has had a gender focal point since 2016, with the aim of increasing women's participation in mine action and promoting gender-sensitive policies.³⁴ CCLAM reported a significant increase in the proportion of women within its workforce, rising from 27% in 2024 to nearly 42% in 2025. Of the 501 staff members employed at the end of 2025, 210 were women, including 24 in supervisory or managerial positions and nine in operational roles.³⁵

24 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20; and Additional Information, p. 23.

25 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and interview with Jean-Denis Nsoki Larsen, Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS DRC, Geneva, 23 April 2026.

26 Resolution of the UN Security Council 2808 (2025), 19 December 2025, <https://bit.ly/4d1RnAW>, p. 11.

27 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026; Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

28 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and "Over 400 explosive remnants and 9,000 munitions destroyed. UNMAS, KOICA and CCLAM conclude major demining project", *UN Peacekeeping*, 28 August 2025, <https://bit.ly/4aDMXi7>.

29 Emails from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025 and 22 April 2026.

30 Security Council Report, December 2025 Monthly Forecast, DRC, Key issues and Options, <https://bit.ly/4nkJPMR>.

31 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026.

32 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala, Project Manager, AFRILAM, 14 May 2024; Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 13 June 2025; and Jacob Payton, Head of Mine Action Operations EOD 3, DCA, 13 June 2025.

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

34 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.

35 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

In its 2025 APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request, DR Congo highlighted progress achieved, with women deminers trained in all implementing partners and increased women participation in risk education, NTS, and victim assistance activities, including within national organisations.³⁶

The overall pool of qualified female mine action personnel at national level, though, remains limited.³⁷ UNMAS reported that women represented only 26% of its staff at the end of 2025, with only one woman in a managerial role and another operational.³⁸ AFRILAM reported that women represented 13.5% of its workforce in 2025, with five women among a total staff of 37. Four were engaged in operational roles, actively contributing to clearance. In line with its capacity-building approach, AFRILAM aims to secure additional funding to strengthen their expertise through specialised training, including EOD Level 3 and 3+, IED disposal (IEDD), and physical security and stockpile management (PSSM).³⁹

DCA's Humanitarian Mine Action team comprised 50 staff members at the end of 2025, of whom 20% were women, including one manager and five operations staff, with the remainder in support functions.⁴⁰

The 2023–32 national mine action strategy briefly acknowledges the importance of gender and diversity considerations and includes commitments to integrate gender-sensitive approaches across mine action activities. It recognises the different impacts of mines and ERW on girls and boys, and calls for women to be included in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The strategy references international frameworks on women's rights, children's rights, and the protection of refugees and displaced persons. However, limited information is available on how they are translated into practice, monitored, or measured through concrete indicators and operational outcomes.⁴¹

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The Congolese Mine Action Standards, last endorsed in March 2026, include a chapter entitled "Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Management" (NNCLAM 13.02), which outlines measures aimed at minimising the environmental impact of demining operations.⁴² The standard requires operators to restore released land to its intended use where possible while avoiding unnecessary disturbance to surrounding areas. It also establishes environmental requirements for clearance sites, temporary camps, and EOD, including measures to prevent soil and water pollution, control erosion, manage waste and hazardous substances, protect cultural and historical sites. Operators are also required to prevent contamination from hazardous materials and rehabilitate demolition sites following operations, including by removing explosive debris and backfilling craters created during ordnance destruction.⁴³

Despite this framework, official reports do not explicitly describe how environmental considerations are incorporated in the planning or tasking of survey or clearance. CCLAM does not have a designated focal point for environmental issues in mine action.⁴⁴

UNMAS complies with and applies the environmental management policies and frameworks of both MONUSCO and UNOPS. All UNMAS implementing partners are required to establish environmental procedures.⁴⁵ AFRILAM has a standard operating procedure (SOP-14) on environmental management, which includes the conduct of environmental assessments to support planning and operations.⁴⁶

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

CCLAM took over responsibility for information management from UNMAS in 2016 but despite capacity building by UNMAS over many years still lacks the capacity and resources to manage the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–32 identified the need to build staff capacity, improve data collection, update the database on a more regular basis, and improve data disaggregation.⁴⁷

DR Congo's national information management system continued to rely on IMSMA New Generation (IMSMA NG) in 2025. Hosted locally on a single laptop and dependent on manual data entry by one user, the database was not backed up on a server, making the system unreliable and representing a long-standing risk for the programme. For operators, all information requests had to be submitted to CCLAM by email, resulting in delays and limiting timely information sharing.⁴⁸

36 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

37 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026.

38 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

39 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April and 28 May 2026.

40 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 26 May 2026.

41 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, pp. 28 and 29.

42 Normes Nationales Congolaises de Lutte Antimines (NNCLAM 13.02), March 2026, p. 227.

43 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

44 Emails from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025 and 22 April 2026.

45 Email from Nana Kadidia Cisse, UNMAS DRC, 22 April 2026.

46 Email from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026.

47 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 50.

48 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025; and interview with Jean-Denis Nsoki Larsen, UNMAS DRC, Geneva, 23 April 2026.

To address these weaknesses, CCLAM, with support from UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), launched a two-year transition from IMSMA NG to IMSMA Core in late 2024.⁴⁹ In 2025, UNMAS provided IMSMA Core training to four CCLAM staff members through Q&A guidance and advisory sessions, with the aim of strengthening CCLAM's capacity to operate independently.⁵⁰ Additionally, two staff completed a specialised IMSMA Core training with support from the GICHD.⁵¹ Key data collection forms were also standardised and digitalised using Survey123 Connect, including forms related to risk education, NTS, hazardous areas, accidents and victims, and final reporting.⁵²

Progress nonetheless remained constrained by limited internal capacity within CCLAM, including a lack of dedicated information management staff, limited leadership oversight, and a rotation-based staffing system affecting continuity.

During a 2026 mission to South Kivu, CCLAM personnel began using the digital system. The GICHD was expected to provide the IMSMA Core database software in 2026 to complete the migration process, while UNMAS is expected to continue supporting digitalisation efforts and long-term information management capacity.⁵³ According to the Head of Information Management at CCLAM, IMSMA Core should improve decision-making through real-time data visualisation via maps and dashboards.⁵⁴

In June 2026, DR Congo prepared a voluntary Article 7 report covering 2023 to 2025. The report updated the national CMR contamination baseline using the results of BAC conducted by AFRILAM and DCA in Tanganyika province in 2023–24, providing the first official revision of the baseline in three years. The report was not available online at the time of writing.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In 2022, DR Congo developed a 10-year National Mine Action Strategy, operationalised through a National Work Plan for 2023–32, which was signed by the Vice Prime Minister in March 2024.

The National Strategy ("Plan Stratégique National de Lutte Contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les Restes Explosifs de Guerre en République Démocratique du Congo 2023–2032") set out general objectives for the decade, including completing AP mine clearance by 2025 and CMR clearance by 2032. It also aimed to ensure that survey of areas contaminated by cluster munitions and other ERW was "completed rapidly", and that a decentralised EOD capacity was established to tackle residual contamination.⁵⁵ The 76-page strategy included a budget, with a total projected costs estimated at US\$91 million, of which US\$50 million was for clearance,⁵⁶ well beyond realistic funding prospects.

CCLAM updated the National Work Plan 2023–32 ("Plan de Travail Pluriannuel 2023-2032") following a workshop held in Kinshasa from 24–26 February 2026 under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior, Security, Decentralisation and Customary Affairs. The workshop brought together representatives of relevant ministries, ambassadors, mine action organisations, the armed forces and police, civil society organisations, and victims' associations.⁵⁷

The deadline for clearing AP mine contamination was extended to the end of 2028, in line with the Article 5 deadline extension request granted at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties.⁵⁸ For ERW and CMR, the plan maintained the objective of completing the national survey in 2026, with an estimated budget of US\$5.66 million.⁵⁹ This objective appears ambitious given limited funding, the reduced presence of international NGOs, and persistent insecurity in the east. Clearance of ERW, CMR, and IEDs remained scheduled for completion by 2032.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

DR Congo has 24 National Congolese Mine Action Standards (Normes Congolaises de Lutte Antimines, NCLAM) developed with support from the GICHD. They are said to be regularly updated to reflect changes in operational requirements and international mine action standards. The latest revision process concluded in early 2026 following the above-mentioned national workshop, which reviewed both the 2023–32 National Work Plan and the NMAS.⁶⁰

49 Email from Jérémy Repond, Programme Officer, GICHD, 9 May 2025.

50 Emails from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and Ephyse Cotting, UNMAS DRC, 26 May 2026.

51 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

52 Ibid.

53 Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

54 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

55 "National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32", CCLAM, January 2022, p. 11.

56 Ibid., p. 12.

57 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 6.

58 Ibid., pp. 6 and 12.

59 Ibid., p. 24.

60 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

The NCLAM are consolidated into a single document of approximately 470 pages covering the main components of mine action, including quality management, accreditation, survey and clearance operations, BAC, EOD, risk education, medical support, information management, environmental management, and IEDD. The review process, initiated in late 2024, continued throughout 2025 through a series of technical meetings. Revisions included updating risk education messaging on the threat posed by IEDs; strengthening casualty management, registration, and rehabilitation protocols to align with ethical and humanitarian standards; streamlining NTS and TS procedures to

accelerate the safe release of land; and revising operational prioritisation criteria to better protect civilian populations and facilitate the return of internally displaced persons.⁶¹

In terms of efficiency, a persistent challenge in previous years was the mis-designation of hazardous areas, with clearance teams deployed to locations that were clearly battle areas requiring BAC, but which were designated as minefield tasks by CCLAM. Demining operators also reported that the list of hazardous areas in the database was not up to date. It did not include the latest information from operators and still listed areas that had already been cleared.⁶²

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

UNMAS, active in DR Congo since 2002, continued to provide EOD and IEDD support to MONUSCO and technical assistance to the national mine action programme in 2025. Its capacity, however, continued to decline, falling from 42 personnel in 2023 to 23 by the end of 2025. As of March 2026, 19 employed and three in-kind staff remained, with further reductions possible due to funding constraints.⁶³

As in previous years, no operators were specifically tasked with addressing cluster munition-contaminated areas in 2025. International support for DR Congo mine action programme declined significantly during the year following series of setbacks (see the funding section above). The teaming agreement between TDI and SYLAM, contracted by UNMAS, ended in early 2025, and the IEDD capacity deployed in Beni through G4S was not renewed after May. In parallel, the US administration cancelled funding for DCA's planned demining operations in Tanganyika, Kasai, and South Kivu provinces. These developments left only AFRILAM and DCA active in the country throughout the year.

AFRILAM operated with 37 national staff, including four multi-task teams: three contracted by UNMAS to support MONUSCO operations, and one team funded by the Swiss Foundation *Monde Sans Mines*. Operations covered North Kivu and Ituri provinces and included BAC, bulk demolitions, EOD spot tasks, contamination surveys, and risk education activities.⁶⁴

DCA continued operations with funding from DANIDA, focusing on EOD spot tasks addressing ERW contamination resulting from the January 2025 conflict in North Kivu and South Kivu; as well as multi-sectoral funding from the Humanitarian Fund supporting different activities including NTS. DCA expected to expand its operational capacity in 2026 in response to increased explosive ordnance contamination, while seeking additional funding to restart operations in all areas suspended following the cancellation of PM/WRA support.⁶⁵

CCLAM deployed four personnel in 2025 to conduct quality assurance of AFRILAM's operations in Beni and Bunia, as well as quality control of land released by TDI-SYLAM in Aru.⁶⁶

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

DR Congo did not report any survey or clearance of CMR in 2025.

According to operators and the CCLAM, DR Congo has cleared 96,782m² and destroyed 298 submunitions across three contaminated areas between 2019 and 2025 (see Table 2). In Kyomba, AFRILAM cleared 22,469m² during BAC and destroyed 21 PM-1 submunitions in 2023.⁶⁷ In 2024, AFRILAM and DCA cleared a further 35,971m² (10,383m² by AFRILAM and 25,588m² by DCA) and destroyed 17 submunitions in 2024.⁶⁸

61 Emails from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 May 2026.

62 Emails from Jacob Payton, DCA, 8 August 2024 and 2 April 2025.

63 Emails from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026; and Ephyse Cotting, UNMAS DRC, 26 May 2026.

64 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

65 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and "Reducing explosive ordnance risks in Goma and Bukavu", DCA, <https://bit.ly/3Sv0rX0>.

66 Email from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026.

67 Email from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 14 May 2024.

68 Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 13 June 2025; and Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 21 August 2025.

Table 2: Summary of CMR clearance in 2019–24 (national authority estimates)⁶⁹

Province	Territory	Area	Area (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Clearance period
Equateur	Bolomba	Boso Mombemba	32,820	246	June 2019
South Kivu	Shabunda	Lukumba	5,522	14	May 2019–August 2022
Tanganyika	Kalemie	Kyomba	58,440	38	2023–24
Totals			96,782	298	

In its previous voluntary Article 7 report, covering 2013–22, DR Congo recorded two additional CMR-contaminated areas cleared between 2017 and 2019: Bangelema in Ubundu territory (Tshopo province) closed in June 2019; and Panama in Lubutu territory (Maniema province) closed in December 2020. However, the size of these two areas remains uncertain.⁷⁰ The 2026 draft voluntary Article 7 report indicated that in total DR Congo has destroyed 3,041 submunitions (248 MK-118 and 2,793 PM-1) in six provinces.⁷¹

DEMINER SAFETY

No accidents were reported during demining or EOD in 2025. However, persistent insecurity in eastern DR Congo severely constrained mine action activities. Following the takeover of Goma in January 2025, and subsequently Bukavu, operations in areas outside government control were suspended for several months. While explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and explosive ordnance marking resumed in May, EOD, IED spot tasks, and clearance remained heavily restricted by M23.⁷² UNMAS capacity-building activities

planned for the FARDC were redirected to the Congolese National Police due to frontline deployments, while planned weapons and ammunitions management infrastructure activities in Goma were cancelled.⁷³

DCA reported the temporary abduction of four staff members by armed groups.⁷⁴ In March 2026, an international UNICEF staff member was killed in a drone strike on a building housing humanitarian workers in Goma.⁷⁵

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

A signatory to the CCM since 2009, DR Congo has still not ratified the Convention. At the Tenth Meeting of States Parties in 2022, it explained that the delay was due to “a technical procedural issue, not a lack of political will”. At the time, DR Congo announced its decision to reintroduce the ratification law through the relevant ministry, with the aim of resubmitting it to both chambers of Parliament.⁷⁶ In 2024, CCLAM stated at the Twelfth Meeting that these efforts had resulted in the adoption of the ratification law by both chambers of Parliament.⁷⁷ In its 2026 draft voluntary Article 7 report, DR Congo reported that the draft law had been submitted to the Ministry of the Interior for transmission to the Council of Ministers prior to consideration and adoption by the National Assembly.⁷⁸ Seventeen years after signing the Convention, the CCLAM Coordinator described ratification as a priority, expressing hope that progress would be achieved before the Third Review Conference taking place in Lao PDR in September 2026.⁷⁹

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

The National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32 aims to strengthen national ownership by setting up a Government Humanitarian Demining Service (Service Gouvernemental de Déminage Humanitaire, SGDH) to address residual contamination. The establishment of this service is intended to enhance the government's capacity to conduct clearance operations and will be composed primarily of qualified Congolese EOD/IEDD experts from both civilian and military backgrounds.⁸⁰

⁶⁹ Ibid; and Trankil Gabriel, “Status of the Kyomba DA area as at the end of 2025”, CCLAM, 6 July 2026.

⁷⁰ Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2021), Form F.

⁷¹ Draft Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025), Form F.

⁷² Emails from Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 April 2026; Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 22 April 2026; Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April 2026; and Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

⁷³ Email from Nana Kadidia Cissé, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2026.

⁷⁴ Emails from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, DCA, 3 April and 26 May 2026.

⁷⁵ “Statement by UNICEF on the killing of a staff member in the DR Congo”, UNICEF, 11 March 2026, <https://bit.ly/4u6Q5dS>.

⁷⁶ Statement of DR Congo, CCM Tenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 30 August–2 September 2022.

⁷⁷ Statement of DR Congo, CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 10–13 September 2024.

⁷⁸ Draft voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025), Form A.

⁷⁹ Interview with Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, Geneva, 23 April 2026.

⁸⁰ “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, Updated March 2026, p. 8.

NON-SIGNATORIES

