

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

MINE  
ACTION  
REVIEW

CLEARING CLUSTER  
MUNITION REMNANTS  
2025

## KEY DATA

### NO CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

Signatory, not State party to the CCM

### CMR CONTAMINATION:

Believed to be light but no national  
baseline estimate

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Release in 2023 (m <sup>2</sup> )
Clearance	35,971	22,469
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
Submunitions destroyed	17 (including 3 in spot tasks)	21

### MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (AFRILAM)
- DanChurchAid (DCA)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Cluster munition remnants (CMR) contamination is believed to be light, and operators report the discovery and destruction of small number of unexploded submunitions each year during battle area clearance (BAC). In 2024, national operator AFRILAM and international operator DanChurchAid (DCA) destroyed 13 and 4 submunitions, respectively, in Tanganyika province.

The ongoing armed conflicts in DR Congo, which escalated throughout 2024, hindered progress in mine action and expanded contamination from explosive remnants of war (ERW). The situation worsened in early 2025 when the M23 armed group seized control first of Goma, the capital of North Kivu, and then Bukavu. These developments forced the temporary suspension of activities by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and other mine action operators, and subsequently limited their operations to non-technical survey (NTS), marking of unexploded ordnance (UXO), and risk education. At the same time, a sharp decline in funding—most notably the end of South Korean support to UNMAS and the suspension of United States (US) funding following the change in administration—threatened to bring mine action activities in DR Congo to a standstill in 2025.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- DR Congo should make every effort to ensure that the domestic process to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is completed in 2025 and that it submits its instrument of ratification to the CCM depositary – the UN Secretary-General.
- In the meantime, and in order to demonstrate its political commitment to the CCM, DR Congo should submit voluntary Article 7 reports each year. The reports should include an updated estimate of cluster munition-contaminated area based on clearance conducted, including operations in Tanganyika province in 2023 and 2024.

- In line with the National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32, DR Congo should conduct survey to determine the location and extent of cluster munition-contaminated areas and other ERW by the end of 2026 and update an action plan for land release.
- DR Congo should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR on territory under its jurisdiction as soon as possible.

## CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

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

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC)
- Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC)
- Afrique pour la Lutte Antimines (AFRILAM)
- Synergie pour la Lutte Antimines (SYLAM)

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- The Development Initiative (TDI)

### OTHER ACTORS

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

## UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

DR Congo has a small amount of cluster munition-contaminated area, but the precise extent is not known. The National Mine Action Strategy 2023–32 indicated that “a certain degree of contamination by CMR is still reported, but the areas concerned are considered negligible”.<sup>1</sup> Often, areas designated as mined areas by the national mine action centre are in fact battle areas, sometimes containing unexploded submunitions.

The first estimate of CMR contamination came from a national survey in 2013–14 that focused on all types of explosive ordnance. It identified five confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering 17,590m<sup>2</sup> that contained CMR, all of which have since been cleared. The survey had, however, underestimated cluster munition-contaminated area because of limited technical capacity. Indeed, previously unrecorded contamination was discovered during subsequent clearance or following incidents, including in areas already covered by the national survey.<sup>2</sup>

A voluntary CCM Article 7 report submitted at the end of May 2022, the first in eight years, acknowledged that cluster munition-contaminated area had never been systematically identified by survey. The report noted six CHAs containing an estimated 247 submunitions and containers across four provinces and affecting a total of 161,523m<sup>2</sup> (see Table 1), almost double the area recorded in the Article 7 report

submitted in 2014. It also emphasised the need to re-survey these areas, with the extent of contamination believed to be under-reported.<sup>3</sup>

The main change since DR Congo's Article 7 report in 2014 was the increase in the estimated size of a single CHA in Equator province up to 120,398m<sup>2</sup>, representing nearly three-quarters of all identified contamination.<sup>4</sup> DR Congo also reported releasing 57,857m<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area between 2017 and 2020 in five provinces (Equateur, Maniema, South Kivu, Tanganyika, and Tshopo) destroying 572 submunitions in the process. The clearance included three areas that were only partially cleared (Lukamba, Kyomba and Boso Mombemba), and which were therefore still listed as open tasks.<sup>5</sup>

At the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM in September 2024, DR Congo listed five provinces with territories containing open CMR tasks, but did not provide updated estimates of contaminated area.<sup>6</sup> The list was consistent with the information provided in the 2022 voluntary Article 7 report, except that it included Maniema, which had been reported as completed. CCLAM subsequently confirmed to Mine Action Review that Maniema still contains an open task – part of Panama, an area in Maniema province.<sup>7</sup>

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 “Plan de Travail Pluriannuel 2023–2032”, CCLAM, March 2024 (hereafter, “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”), p. 17.

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

4 Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013), Form F.

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

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

7 Email from Laure Ngoie, Head of Information Management Department, and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, Coordinator, CCLAM, 19 June 2025.

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by province (at end 2021)<sup>8</sup>

Province	Territory	Name	CHA	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Ituri	Aru	Aru-1	1	315
Ituri	Aru	Aru-2	1	435
Ituri	Aru	Awupe	1	2,656
South Kivu	Shabunda	Lukamba	1	719
Tanganyika	Kalemie*	Kyomba	1	37,000
Equator	Bolomba	Boso Mombemba	1	120,398
Totals			6	161,523

\* The extent of contamination in Kalemie (Kyomba zone) was likely down as at the end of 2024 compared to the information in the 2022 Article 7 report, following BAC and destruction of CMR by AFRILAM and DCA in 2023 and 2024.

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. After years of delay caused by a lack of funding, the national operator Synergie pour la Lutte Antimines (SYLAM), thanks to a teaming agreement with international private operator The Development Initiative (TDI), conducted the NTS in Aru in 2024. The survey identified 15 newly contaminated areas by anti-personnel (AP) mines, nine of which were cleared during the year.<sup>9</sup> No CMR were found, although TDI had destroyed unexploded submunitions in the Rumu area in 2019,<sup>10</sup> and UNMAS reported one area in Aru territory still suspected to

contain submunitions, which requires further investigation.<sup>11</sup> The planned survey in Dungu—scheduled for 2024 under the National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–2032<sup>12</sup>—had not taken place as at June 2025.<sup>13</sup> Until the survey is carried out, it is not known if Dungu territory contains CMR.

Cluster munition contamination dates back to the early stages of the Second Congo War (1998–2003).<sup>14</sup> DR Congo has stated it has never used cluster munitions and that the presence of CMR on Congolese territory is due to their use by “both allied and enemy forces” during the conflict.<sup>15</sup>

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 indicates 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 country faces a significant level of ERW contamination due to the presence of UXO, abandoned munitions, CMR, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).<sup>16</sup> Indeed, in recent years, DR Congo has been facing a new and rapid expansion of the use of IEDs. In 2024, UNMAS recorded 60 incidents involving IEDs, 50 in North Kivu and 10 in Ituri, a sharp rise from 22 incidents recorded in 2023.<sup>17</sup>

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).<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> A decree formally setting out the role and responsibilities of CNLAM has yet to be adopted.<sup>20</sup>

8 Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2021), Form F.  
9 Emails from Kevin Umali, Regional Operation Manager, TDI, 13 June 2025; and Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.  
10 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 4 June 2025.  
11 Email from Julian Bustamante, Programme Management Officer Specialist, UNMAS DRC, 4 June 2025.  
12 “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, p. 18.  
13 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 19 June 2025.  
14 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.  
15 Statement of DR Congo on Article 4, CCM Tenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 30 August–2 September 2022.  
16 “National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–32”, p. 21; and “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, p. 17.  
17 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025.  
18 “National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32”, CCLAM, March 2024, p. 5.  
19 Ibid., p. 6.  
20 Ibid., p. 28.

Established in 2012, CCLAM is the technical coordinating body for all mine action activities in the country, with support from UNMAS.<sup>21</sup> CCLAM is responsible for strategy development, accreditation and tasking of operators, information management, quality control (QC), budgeting, and resource mobilisation. By the end of 2024, the size of CCLAM's workforce had grown significantly to 250 employees, up from 168 the previous year. This sharp increase is likely due to the decentralisation process initiated in 2024, under the National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32, which led to the opening of 11 provincial offices to coordinate mine action efforts and manage QC activities at local level.<sup>22</sup>

The Mine Action Working Group, co-chaired by CCLAM and UNMAS under the Protection Cluster, aims to facilitate regular coordination among stakeholders. In April 2024, CCLAM nominated a new focal point to resume its coordination role.<sup>23</sup> While the frequency and consistency of meetings varied, operators reported improved coordination with national authorities in 2024, particularly through regular engagement with CCLAM. However, coordination at provincial level remains uneven in effectiveness and participation.<sup>24</sup>

## FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The government provides an annual contribution of US\$600,000 to CCLAM to cover salaries, running costs, and QC activities. However, no national funding is allocated to survey or clearance operations, leaving DR Congo dependent on international support to address explosive ordnance contamination.<sup>25</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

CCLAM recognised the significance of gender in the 2023–32 national mine action strategy and successive APMBC Article 5 deadline extension requests. All activities, especially risk education and victim assistance, are required to take account of different age groups and genders.<sup>26</sup> DR Congo's 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request had pledged to encourage operators to employ up to 30% women in operations teams and at least half of the risk education

teams. CCLAM has had a gender focal point since 2016, which aims to increase the participation of women in mine action and implement gender-sensitive policies. CCLAM has reported an increased proportion of women in its ranks – from 27% in 2024 to nearly 50% in 2025 (see Table 2).<sup>27</sup> AFRILAM had six women on its teams: one explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Level 3 deminer, three EOD Level 2 deminers, a doctor, and a finance and logistics assistant.<sup>28</sup>

Table 2: Gender composition of operators (at end 2024)<sup>29</sup>

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
CCLAM	250	124 (49%)	57	20 (35%)	40	9 (23%)
AFRILAM	38	6 (16%)	2	0 (0%)	32	4 (13%)
DCA	51	6 (12%)	9	0 (0%)	24	0 (0%)
UNMAS	31	10 (32%)	6	2 (33%)	25	8 (32%)
Totals	370	146 (39%)	74	22 (30%)	121	21 (17%)

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

DR Congo lacks national standards or policies specifically addressing environmental considerations during mine action operations. Among the Congolese Mine Action Standards issued by CCLAM in 2022 is one chapter titled: "Occupational Health and Safety and Environment Management", which reportedly outlines some measures to minimise the environmental harm of

21 Ibid., p. 6.

22 Interview with Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, in Geneva, 8 April 2025; and emails, 8 May 2024 and 6 May 2025.

23 Email from UNMAS DRC, 30 April 2024.

24 Emails from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025; and Jacob Payton, Operations Manager and Head of Mine Action Operations EOD 3, DCA, 24 April 2025.

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

26 "National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2023–32", pp. 28 and 29.

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

28 Email from Germain Apanane Bawala, Project Manager, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025.

29 Ibid.; and emails from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 4 June 2025.

demining operations.<sup>30</sup> CCLAM initiated a process to begin revising them in 2024 and indicated that the review would ensure alignment with the newly revised International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13 on environmental management in mine action.<sup>31</sup> However, official reports do not explicitly reference environmental considerations in the planning or tasking survey or clearance. CCLAM also does not have a designated focal point for environmental issues in mine action.<sup>32</sup> AFRILAM reported having developed a standard operating procedure (SOP-14) on environmental management, which includes the conduct of environmental assessments to support planning and operations.<sup>33</sup>

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## 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, including equipment and funding, to manage the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database effectively. The National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32 identifies the need to build staff capacity, improve data collection, update the database on a regular basis, and provide data disaggregated by age and gender.<sup>34</sup>

In 2024, demining operators 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. The designation of hazardous areas also needed improvement, as teams were operating in locations that clearly concerned battle areas, yet were incorrectly designated as minefields.<sup>35</sup>

As at early 2025, DR Congo's national information management system still relied on IMSMA New Generation, which is stored locally on a single laptop and limited to manual data entry by one user. This makes it outdated, inaccurate, and unsustainable. In March 2025, CCLAM received IMSMA Core from the Geneva International Centre of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), with implementation support from UNMAS expected throughout 2025 and additional assistance from the GICHD in 2026. Full roll-out is projected to take about two years. Preparatory efforts began in late 2024, with UNMAS leading weekly training sessions and a November workshop focused on IMSMA Core and digitalisation of CCLAM's data collection forms.<sup>36</sup>

The last voluntary Article 7 report under the CCM was submitted by DR Congo in May 2022, covering the period from January 2013 to December 2021. None has been submitted since.

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

In March 2024, the Vice Prime Minister officially signed the National Work Plan 2023–32 ("Plan de Travail Pluriannuel 2023–2032"), which operationalised the strategic orientation in the National Mine Action Strategy completed two years earlier ("Plan Stratégique National de Lutte Contre les Mines Antipersonnel et les Restes Explosifs de Guerre en République Démocratique du Congo 2023–2032").<sup>37</sup> The strategy sets out general objectives for the coming decade, including completing mine clearance by 2025 and CMR clearance by 2032. It aims to ensure all mined areas are cleared, that survey of areas affected by cluster munitions and other ERW is completed rapidly, and that a decentralised EOD capacity is established to tackle residual contamination.<sup>38</sup> The 76-page document sets out a detailed budget for the 10 years of the plan whose total cost was estimated at US\$91 million, of which US\$50 million was for clearance.<sup>39</sup>

The National Work Plan 2023–32 indicated that survey activities would be conducted in 145 territories of DR Congo and specifically stated that a national survey, combining NTS and technical survey (TS) for ERW and CMR, would be completed by 2026.<sup>40</sup>

DR Congo submitted its fifth APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request on 10 June 2025, albeit with a delay, with the current extended deadline (its fourth) set to expire on 31 December 2025. The requested three-year extension aims to release 35 CHAs covering 340,202m<sup>2</sup> and to carry out the long-delayed survey in Dungu.<sup>41</sup> It remains unclear whether this extension—pushing completion to 2028—will impact the CMR survey and clearance deadlines set out in the 2023–32 National Mine Action Work Plan, which were scheduled for 2026 and 2032, respectively.

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30 Emails from UNMAS DRC, 30 April 2024; and Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025.

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

32 Ibid.

33 Email from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025.

34 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", pp. 21, 22, and 29.

35 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

36 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025.

37 "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", p. 7.

38 Ibid., p. 11.

39 Ibid., p. 12.

40 Ibid., p. 18.

41 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, submitted 10 June 2025, p. 5.

# LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

## STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

DR Congo has 24 national standards (Normes Nationales Congolaises de la Lutte Antimines) developed with support from the GICHD and regularly updated, most recently in 2022.<sup>42</sup> In early 2024, further revisions were made to the NMAS and associated SOPs on survey and clearance of CMR and AP mines. Key updates included integrating risk education requirements into NTS procedures and refining task prioritisation criteria based on contamination impact and community feedback. These updates were made in consultation with both national and international clearance

operators, through a series of technical working group meetings facilitated by CCLAM.<sup>43</sup> CCLAM planned to submit the revised standards to the GICHD for review.<sup>44</sup>

A persistent challenge in 2024 was the mis-designation of hazardous areas, with clearance teams often deployed to locations that are clearly battle areas requiring BAC, but which were designated as minefield tasks by CCLAM. This has impacted the efficiency of operations.<sup>45</sup>

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2024, no operators were specifically tasked with addressing cluster munition-contaminated areas. However, some CMR were encountered and addressed during other clearance operations conducted by AFRILAM and DCA.

AFRILAM employed 38 staff in 2024, up from 37 in 2023, with four multitask teams (MTTs) comprising 32 personnel. Three of these MTTs, contracted by UNMAS and based in Beni, Bukavu, and Goma, were engaged in a series of tasks in support of MONUSCO operations. This included BAC, bulk demolitions, and spot tasks. The fourth MTT, based in Kalemie and funded by the Swiss foundation "Monde Sans Mines", operated in two territories. In Kalemie, the team focused on BAC in Kyomba area, while in Moba, it conducted NTS, TS, and spot task EOD as well as risk education.<sup>46</sup>

DCA's mine action programme, funded by the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) and managed from Goma, employed 51 personnel in 2024. These included three international staff (operations manager, technical field manager, and medical coordinator) along with three clearance teams each comprising 16 members: a national supervisor, a team leader, eight deminers, and six support staff (a medic, a logistics officer, a finance officer, and three drivers). DCA cleared one battle area where a small number of submunitions were found, and

several areas initially designated by CCLAM as minefields, which were later identified as battle areas. In 2025, DCA reduced its workforce after losing the PM/WRA funding.<sup>47</sup>

UNMAS, which began working in DR Congo in 2002, was headquartered in Goma in North Kivu. In 2024, it employed a total of 31 staff (11 international, 16 national, and 4 in-kind contributions). This compares with 42 in 2023, across offices in Kinshasa, Beni (North Kivu), Bukavu (South Kivu), and Bunia (Ituri). UNMAS is mandated to provide EOD and IED disposal in support of MONUSCO, for which it contracted national operator AFRILAM (for EOD spot tasks), G4S (for IED disposal), and TDI (for training and mentoring national operator SYLAM to conduct NTS, TS, manual mine clearance, and spot tasks and demolitions). TDI-SYLAM MTTs did not tackle CMR in 2024, though TDI still has a pending CMR task in South Kivu, which cannot be addressed due to access constraints.<sup>48</sup> UNMAS also contracted other national organisations to conduct NTS and risk education.

In 2024, UNMAS was funded by MONUSCO through the UN assessed budget as well as with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), which started in 2022 and ended in March 2025.<sup>49</sup> The funding from KOICA was not renewed in 2025.<sup>50</sup>

# LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

In 2024, DR Congo reported release of 35,971m<sup>2</sup> of battle area where CMR were found (see Table 3 below). While operators cleared several areas that were designated as minefield tasks by CCLAM, in nearly every case these were in fact battle areas containing UXO, including, in some instances, submunitions.<sup>51</sup>

DCA was assigned one BAC task in 2024 in the Kyomba area of Kalemie territory, Tanganyika province, where it cleared 25,588m<sup>2</sup> and destroyed four PM1 submunitions. In addition, DCA was assigned five mine clearance tasks that turned out to be of battle areas, despite a concerted effort with CCLAM to prioritise minefield clearance. These areas

42 Statement of DR Congo, APMBIC Intersessional Meetings, 2 July 2020; and "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", p. 18.

43 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

44 Emails from Laure Ngoie, CCLAM, 25 June 2024 and 6 May and 10 June 2025.

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

46 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala, AFRILAM, 28 May 2025; and Yannick Malamba, Chief of Operations, AFRILAM, 13 June 2025.

47 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 13 June 2025.

48 Email from Kevin Umali, TDI, 13 June 2025.

49 Email from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025.

50 Interview with Jean-Denis Nsoki Larsen, Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, in Geneva, 11 April 2025.

51 Email from Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025.

did not contain submunitions. In Kasai-Central, Dibelenge territory, DCA cleared 7,920m<sup>2</sup> in the Didamba area with no explosive ordnance found. In Mpoyi, it reduced 1,547m<sup>2</sup> and cleared 4,603m<sup>2</sup>, destroying one AP mine and one mortar. In Tanganyika, Moba territory, DCA reduced 4,444m<sup>2</sup> and cleared 5,306m<sup>2</sup> in Lukunde, where one rocket and two grenades were destroyed. The Kasenga area remained inaccessible throughout the year. Finally, in South Kivu, Fizi territory, DCA cleared 1,051m<sup>2</sup> in Lulimba, with no explosive ordnance found.<sup>52</sup>

AFRILAM, having cleared 22,469m<sup>2</sup> and destroyed 21 submunitions in 2023 in the same Kyomba area of Kalemie territory, continued its clearance operations in 2024. It cleared 10,383m<sup>2</sup> during the year, destroying 10 submunitions in the process, along with three more submunitions destroyed in spot tasks, and 19 items of UXO. AFRILAM was assigned 957 spot tasks and 14 bulk demolition tasks in 2024 in the course

of which it destroyed 189,000 items of explosive ordnance and incinerated more than 4.2 million rounds of small-calibre ammunition.<sup>53</sup>

Table 3: Land release outputs in 2024<sup>54</sup>

Release in 2024 (km <sup>2</sup> )	
Clearance	35,971
Technical survey	0
Non-technical survey	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	
2024	
Submunitions destroyed	17 (including 3 in spot tasks)

Table 4: CMR clearance in 2024<sup>55</sup>

Operator	Province	Territory	Name	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Submunitions destroyed
AFRILAM	Tanganyika	Kalemie	Kyomba	10,383	10
AFRILAM	Tanganyika	Kalemie	Kyomba	Spot tasks	3
DCA	Tanganyika	Kalemie	Kyomba	25,588	4
Totals				35,971	17

DEMINER SAFETY

No accidents were reported during demining or EOD operations in 2024. However, persistent insecurity, particularly in the eastern provinces, posed significant operational challenges. In early 2025, following M23’s capture of Goma and Bukavu, mine action activities were temporarily suspended. Operators were later prevented from destroying ERW, removing hazardous items, TS, and area clearance, being limited to NTS, marking of ERW, and risk education. Efforts were underway to secure authorisation to resume full operations, but approvals had not been granted at the time of writing.<sup>56</sup>

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

A signatory to the CCM since 2009, DR Congo has still to ratify 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.<sup>57</sup> At the Twelfth Meeting in 2024, CCLAM stated that these efforts had led to the law being adopted by both chambers.<sup>58</sup> However, contradictory information exists, as CCLAM also informed Mine Action Review that the law was still under discussion in the Senate.<sup>59</sup> Once adopted by the Senate, the ratification law will be submitted for promulgation to the President of the Republic. It has now been over ten years since the ratification law was first expected to be adopted.<sup>60</sup>

DRC has not submitted a voluntary transparency report for the past three years. The last report, submitted in May 2022, covered 2013 to 2021 inclusive, and detailed clearance of areas contaminated by CMR between 2017 and 2020. During this period, a total 57,857m<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area was released across five provinces: 1,500m<sup>2</sup> in Equateur; 32,820m<sup>2</sup> in Maniema; 5,522m<sup>2</sup> in South Kivu; 15,000m<sup>2</sup> in Tanganyika; and 3,015m<sup>2</sup> in Tshopo province. These operations led to the destruction of 572 submunitions, including Chilean PM-1 and US-made MK118 cluster munitions. Three areas were only partially cleared and therefore remain listed as open tasks.

52 Email from Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, Technical Field Manager, DCA, 21 August 2025.  
53 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala and Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 14 May 2024 and 28 May and 13 June 2025.  
54 Emails from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 4 July 2025; Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Germain Apanane Bawala and Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 28 May and 13 June 2025.  
55 Emails from Germain Apanane Bawala and Yannick Malamba, AFRILAM, 13 June 2025; and Charles-Félix Manzan Kouakou, Technical Field Manager, DCA, 21 August 2025.  
56 Emails from Julian Bustamante, UNMAS DRC, 2 April 2025; Jacob Payton, DCA, 24 April 2025; and Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 6 May 2025.  
57 Statement of DR Congo, CCM Tenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 30 August–2 September 2022.  
58 Statement of DR Congo, CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 10–13 September 2024.  
59 Email from Laure Ngoie and Emmanuel Lokinu Omanga, CCLAM, 19 June 2025.  
60 Statement of DR Congo, CCM Intersessional Meetings of States Parties, Geneva, 7–9 April 2014.

In addition, DR Congo reported a total of 3,041 submunitions cleared and destroyed in 2013–21 during land release. The items destroyed were 2,793 PM-1 and 248 MK118 submunitions.<sup>61</sup> Since 2022, the extent of contamination has not been officially updated by CCLAM, but it has likely decreased due to destruction of CMR by AFRILAM and DCA in 2023 and 2024 in Kyomba.

The National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32 planned for surveys to determine the extent and location of CMR and other ERW contamination by the end of 2026. These surveys would then be used to draw up an action plan for land release.<sup>62</sup>

## 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 SGDH teams will mainly consist of experts from the DR Congo armed forces, the National Police, and civilians qualified in EOD.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2021), Form F (written by mistake as Form B on stockpile destruction).

<sup>62</sup> "National Mine Action Work Plan 2023–32", CCLAM, March 2024, p. 18.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., p. 7.