

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025

Not on track to meet deadline
Five-year extension requested to 31 December 2030

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 20KM²

Medium
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	0.16 (National authority and operator data combined)	0.24 (Operator data)
Technical Survey	0.37 (National authority data)	0
Non-Technical Survey	599.67 (National authority data)	0
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	23 (National authority and operator data combined. Including 6 removed for disposal or reported to authorities by UNMAS)	7 (Operator data, including 1 destroyed in a spot task)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Ethiopia Mine Action Office (EMAO) demining units
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Ethiopia reports that in 2024 a total of more than 600km² of anti-personnel (AP) mined area was released, all in a single mined area in the Somali region. The release was achieved almost entirely through cancellation. The HALO Trust (HALO) continued clearance in the Somali region of the country, but was requested to suspend operations there in March 2024. It has been tasked to work in Afar, where it has recruited and trained new staff, and has permanently redeployed most of the staff from its programme in the Somali region across the border to HALO Somaliland.¹ In 2024, Ethiopia issued 12 national mine action standards (NMAS) and "processed the desk accreditation for six international NGOs for field deployment", namely: DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and BBC Media Action² (all newly accredited), as well as for HALO.³ Ethiopia submitted its third request for an extension to its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline on 31 March 2025, with a revised request submitted on 7 August. Ethiopia has requested a five-year extension to 31 December 2030.

1 Somaliland is a self-proclaimed, though generally unrecognised, State in the north-west of Somalia.

2 BBC Media Action to be deployed for explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and victim assistance only. Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 43.

3 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Ethiopia should accelerate efforts to produce a national mine action strategy.
- Ethiopia should urgently elaborate a resource mobilisation plan to ensure its national mine action centre has sufficient resources to sustain an effective programme.
- Upon completion of the surveys planned for 2026–27, Ethiopia should produce a further updated work plan for AP mined areas, with revised estimates of contamination, annual survey and clearance targets, and a detailed budget.
- Following the chapters launched in 2024, Ethiopia should finalise and issue a complete set of NMAS to enable land release consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- Ethiopia should prioritise the urgent establishment of a functional Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, following efforts ongoing since early 2024.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	4	4	Though significantly lowered, following substantial cancellation in 2024, Ethiopia's baseline of mined area still remains inflated with 94% of the total in suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) in the Somali region. Ethiopia plans to conduct nationwide survey in 2026–27.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	4	In 2024, the Ethiopia Mine Action Office (EMAO) continued working to strengthen its capacity to undertake a nationwide survey. The government has pledged almost US\$3.1m to mine action, which is 10% of the estimated total cost of programme implementation, though it is unclear whether this is the cost of implementation for just the first two years of the extension period (2026–27) or all of the proposed period.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	EMAO received gender training from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in 2024 and, as at August 2025, was collaborating with implementing partners to develop a Gender and Disability mainstreaming policy.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	4	4	Ethiopia's forthcoming national mine action strategy, whose drafting began in April 2024, is expected to include environmental considerations. As at September 2025, a national mine action standard (NMAS) on the environment had been drafted, but not finalised. Operators are implementing a range of environmental protection measures during demining.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	5	Ethiopia submitted a detailed Article 7 report covering 2023 on time but, as at August 2025, had not yet submitted one covering 2024. On 31 March 2025, Ethiopia submitted a third request, seeking an extension of its Article 5 deadline to 31 December 2030, to be considered by the 22MSP. The request included a two-year work plan for 2026–27, the first such plan provided since the decision taken by States Parties on Ethiopia's 2019 Article 5 deadline extension request. In 2024, Ethiopia continued efforts to develop a functioning national mine action database.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	5	3	Ethiopia's 2025 extension request provides a costed, two-year work plan, including partial information on land release targets for 2026–30. It is stated that both the work plan and the targets for 2027–30 will be detailed after the nationwide survey is complete. In 2024, Ethiopia drafted a national Land Release Prioritization Matrix, to be tested with operators, and worked towards developing a functioning task management system.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	7	6	In a long overdue update, EMAO issued 12 NMAS and 2 standard operating procedures in 2024, with these NMAS formally distributed in February 2025. EMAO processed the desk accreditation for international survey and clearance operators DCA, DRC, HI, and MAG, all newly present in Ethiopia, along with HALO, already present in the country, providing a significant expansion of demining capacity.

Assessment of National Programme Performance Continued

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	5	Although significant cancellation took place in 2024, limited land release has occurred in recent years, due to challenges around capacity, funding, and insecurity, especially following the outbreak of non-international armed conflict in Tigray in 2020. Conflict spread across northern regions, restricting access and demanding a focus on emergency clearance of explosive ordnance to support the humanitarian response. While desk accreditation of new operators in 2024 has improved long-term prospects for Article 5 implementation, whether Ethiopia will be able to meet its proposed 2030 deadline can only be fully assessed after nationwide survey has been conducted as planned in 2026-27.
Average Score	5.0	4.4	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Ethiopia Mine Action Office (EMAO)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National Demining Companies (Ethiopian Armed Forces)
- Ethio Professionals Security Solution (EPSS)*
- Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO)*

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)*
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)*
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)*
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)*

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

*These operators were newly present in Ethiopia in 2024. Only HALO and HI conducted AP mine survey and clearance in 2024.

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

In its revised 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, Ethiopia states that, as at March 2024, a total of 147 hazardous areas remained covering 125km². This comprises 27 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) with a total area of just over 3.4km² and 114 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering 121.7km².⁴ Ethiopia records mine contamination in six of its twelve regional states (also referred to as regions), with 95% of contamination in the Somali region (see Table 1). Ethiopia adds that this latest estimate represents "the best available data" and "may not be definitive", adding that further operations could reveal additional contamination, especially as communities resettle post-conflict, and land use changes.⁵

Table 1: AP mined area by region (at March 2024)⁶

Region	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total SHAs/CHAs	Total area (m ²)
Afar	6	1,755,049	8	1,915,300	14	3,670,349
Benishangul-Gumuz*	2	45,000	0	0	2	45,000
Gambela	0	0	20	838,000	20	838,000
Oromia	0	0	13	1,121,105	13	1,121,105
Somali	16	956,600	79	117,854,604	95	118,811,204
Tigray	3	691,989	0	0	3	691,989
Totals	27	3,448,638	120	121,729,009	147	125,177,647

*Also called Benishangule Gumuze.

⁴ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

⁵ Ibid., pp. 7-8.

⁶ Ibid., p. 8.

This estimate of AP mined area as at March 2024 is substantially lower than the previous estimate in Ethiopia's Article 7 report for 2023. This set contamination a year earlier at 726km² across 152 hazardous areas.⁷ The new estimate as shown in Table 1 is unchanged for the regions of Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, and Tigray. The most significant change by far is in the Somali region where the total of almost 719km² decreased massively to under 118km².⁸ This follows huge cancellation by the Ethiopia Mine Action Office (EMAO) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in a single minefield in 2024.⁹ Ethiopia has not yet provided an estimate of contamination disaggregated between areas known or suspected to contain AP or anti-vehicle (AV) mines.

One of the key objectives of Ethiopia's proposed five-year extension period is to survey and clear the 147 hazardous areas shown in Table 1, focusing primarily on survey in 2026 and 2027, and then on clearing the confirmed contamination in 2028–30. That said, the survey plan is focused on assessing the extent of all explosive ordnance (EO) contamination in Tigray and Afar,¹⁰ rather than on establishing an accurate baseline of mined area. The need for an evidence-based and complete baseline of AP mine contamination has been raised in the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA Aor) coordination meetings, but, as at May 2025, no timeline or strategy for this had been shared by EMAO.¹¹

Ethiopia's need for nationwide survey and, where applicable, re-survey, is pressing as historical survey data are unreliable. Ethiopia's 2001–04 Landmine Impact survey (LIS) greatly over-estimated the number of both SHAs and impacted communities.¹² In 2019, Ethiopia requested international assistance to conduct a new baseline survey.¹³ In 2019–24, however, survey was impeded by the need to focus on emergency EO clearance to facilitate the humanitarian response to non-international armed conflict in the north of the country.¹⁴

HALO reports that EMAO personnel were deployed to resurvey areas and reassess data from the original LIS in the Somali region in 2024, and that these resurvey efforts over six mined areas demonstrated that up to 96% of the polygons

thought to be contaminated by the LIS may be cancelled following re-survey.¹⁵ Mine Action Review has not, however, been able to verify this information with EMAO. HALO has cautioned that while high levels of cancellation are likely, unrecorded mined areas might be found in the Somali region that were not captured in the LIS.¹⁶

Ethiopia did not include any information about any areas of previously unrecorded contamination in its 2025 extension request, nor in its most recent Article 7 report (covering 2023). HI states that it identified 17,700m² of previously unrecorded legacy AP mined area in 2024, across an as-yet-unquantified number of SHAs in Tigray (see Table 11 below). However, as at May 2025, it had not yet reported these newly identified areas to EMAO as the national database was still under development.¹⁷ Ethiopia says that no evidence has been found that AP mines were used during the recent conflict in the north.¹⁸ EMAO does not expect to find any, though it believes it may record previously unrecorded legacy contamination in these areas.¹⁹ HI has also seen no evidence to suggest recent use of AP mines while working in Tigray.²⁰

Ethiopia and Eritrea have not fully demarcated their common border, presenting a further challenge to establishing an accurate baseline of contamination. In its 2025 extension request, Ethiopia says it is "actively seeking diplomatic engagement to obtain access into the minefields in northern part of the country, bordering Eritrea".²¹ The likelihood of timely progress on this key issue was unclear in Ethiopia's 2019 extension request,²² and remains so. In June 2024, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation repeated its call for updated information on progress between the two States regarding plans to address contamination in border areas.²³

Following non-international armed conflict, which broke out in Tigray in November 2020, a permanent cessation of hostilities was agreed between the Federal Government and non-State armed groups (NSAGs) in the Tigray in November 2022.²⁴ Despite the ceasefire agreement, however, conflict and insecurity across the northern regions of Tigray, Amhara and Afar have continued to impede survey and clearance. It has also left behind significant contamination from explosive remnants of war (ERW),²⁵ increasing the strain on an already

7 Article 7 Reports (covering 2023 and January 2021–March 2022), Form C.

8 Ibid.; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

9 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 25.

10 Ibid., p. 9.

11 Emails from international NGO mine action operators, May 2025.

12 In 2012, Ethiopia reported that subsequent technical survey (TS) and NTS of the SHAs identified during the LIS had confirmed mine contamination in only 136 areas. However, 60 previously unrecorded hazardous areas were also identified, which were confirmed as mined through TS, resulting in a total of 196 confirmed mined areas. Ethiopia also reported that 358 SHAs across an area of 1,200km² from the LIS data needed to be re-surveyed.

13 Statement of Ethiopia on its Article 5 deadline extension request, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.

14 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24.

15 Email from Pierrick Rouat, Country Director, HALO, 28 May 2025.

16 Emails from Ralph Legg, Ethiopia Programme Manager, HALO, 13 July and 25 August 2022.

17 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, Chief of Operations, Armed Violence Reduction Division, Ethiopia Mission, HI, 14 May 2025.

18 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24.

19 Interview with General Tadesse, Director, EMAO, Geneva, 10 April 2025.

20 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

21 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

22 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8, 14 and 35. On p. 8, Ethiopia stated that "discussions will be ongoing" to establish a "joint border commission to allow for survey and clearance operations to take place". On p. 35, it states: "The Tigray border mine field is suspended due to the insecurity", but also that "it is possible to clear the mine fields by military humanitarian demining operations, because the peace agreement between the countries is on the way." On p. 14, the request highlights that insecurity remained along the border but that the "peace agreement in process will hopefully provide some scope for mine action on the border".

23 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations", Intersessional Meetings 18–20 June 2024, p. 3.

24 "After Agreement in Ethiopia's Tigray Region, What Stands in the Way of Lasting Peace?", International Peace Institute Global Observatory, 27 February 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3W30ab>.

25 Email from Abel Tesfai, UNMAS, 17 August 2023.

under-resourced mine action capacity in Ethiopia. UNMAS was able to resume operations in the north to some extent in April 2023,²⁶ but reported renewed and intensified insecurity a year later in April 2024, with the 2022 peace agreement still not fully implemented.²⁷ EMAO reported in April 2024 that it had been waiting for stability in Tigray to resume clearance.²⁸ This situation has made establishing a baseline of contamination impossible. DRC highlights that the main explosive threat in Tigray is not from conventional minefields, but hundreds of items of UXO on people's properties, which prevents them from farming.²⁹

In April 2025, EMAO noted that some insecurity remained in Amhara, and some assessment was needed of the situation at the border with Eritrea, in Tigray, but there was good accessibility elsewhere.³⁰ However, there are now fears of renewed international conflict. Ethiopian troops were mobilised to the border with Eritrea in early 2025, and there

were political clashes and armed skirmishes in Mekelle and elsewhere in March.³¹ There was also at least one report of Eritrean troop movements and military regrouping near the border in July.³²

Ethiopia's legacy mine problem is a result of internal and international armed conflicts dating back to 1935, including the Italian occupation and subsequent East Africa campaigns (1935–41), a border war with Sudan (1980), the Ogaden war with Somalia (1977–78), internal conflict (1974–2000), and the Ethiopian-Eritrean war (1998–2000). It is unclear whether Ethiopia also has contamination from AP mines of an improvised nature. Ethiopia stated in November 2022 that it had previously deployed its Combat Engineering Units to clear landmines in Somali region, "due to the cause of international extremist Al Shabaab activity by using IEDs" [improved explosive devices].³³ Claims of improvised AP mines in the Afar and Amhara regions are unconfirmed.³⁴

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Ethiopia is also believed to have areas containing cluster munition remnants, though EMAO highlights that further survey is needed to ascertain the extent and location of any CMR.³⁵ See Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on Ethiopia for further information. There is also significant contamination from other EO, which has increased substantially since the outbreak of conflict in the Tigray region in 2020, and which has since spread into the neighbouring regions of Afar and Amhara.³⁶

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

EMAO is still in the process of reorganising itself and strengthening its structure and capacity to undertake nationwide survey, continuing work it conducted in 2023.³⁷ This reorganisation, in progress with the support of UNMAS,³⁸ includes updating the NMAS, which Ethiopia made significant progress on in 2024, and ensuring that operational procedures, prioritisation strategies, and quality management (QM) systems are functioning correctly.³⁹

EMAO was established in 2001 by Ethiopia's Council of Ministers, following the end of the conflict with Eritrea, as an autonomous civilian body responsible for mine clearance and risk education. It reported to the Office of the Prime

Minister.⁴⁰ In 2019, after several institutional transitions, Ethiopia reported that the responsibility for the national mine action programme had been transferred back to the headquarters of the MoD.⁴¹ Ethiopia has previously reported that existing legislation is sufficient for the national mine action programme.⁴² But it has also been suggested that the lack of a consistent and enabling regulatory framework has undermined the sector's ability to scale up effectively.⁴³

In absence of a fully established mine action sector in Ethiopia, UNMAS is mandated to support the Ethiopian government with capacity development to address EO contamination. It facilitates monthly meetings of the Mine

26 Ibid.; and Letter to Dr Catherine Sozi, UN Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator, from Col. Nizam Madeser, General Acting Director, Foreign Relations and Military Cooperation Directorate, MoD, 27 April 2023.

27 "Mine Action in Ethiopia", presentation by UNMAS to the MASG, Geneva, 29 April 2024.

28 "Defense Ministry, UN coordinate to clear landmines affecting 7 million Ethiopians", The Reporter, 6 April 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3xEIQ63>.

29 Email from Christian Green, Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Operations Manager, DRC, 19 August 2025.

30 Interview with General Tadesse, EMAO, Geneva, 10 April 2025.

31 "Debretiab Faction Unleash Attacks Tigray; Many Casualties Reported in Mekelle", Borkena, 11 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4m8hAQg>; "Rising Tensions in Tigray Risk Regional Conflict", Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 24 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3UMDOex>; and "Power struggle leads to coup in Tigray as war looms between Ethiopia and Eritrea", The Guardian, 21 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4fprpXL>.

32 "Tensions Flare in Ethiopia's Tigray as Fears of Renewed Conflict Grow", All East Africa, 17 July 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4lfPvVY>.

33 Statement of Ethiopia on Article 5, APMBC Twentieth Meeting of States Parties (20MSP), Geneva, 21–25 November 2022.

34 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

35 Interview with Brigadier-General Tadesse Amelo, Director, EMAO, in Geneva, 10 April 2025.

36 UNMAS notes that, between January 2023 and September 2024, 1,500 victims of EO accidents were reported in northern Ethiopia. Though not all cases had been verified, UNMAS believes many more have gone unreported. "Ethiopia", UNMAS, accessed 11 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4liK601>.

37 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 5.

38 Email from Nicholas Bray, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, Ethiopia, 8 October 2025.

39 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 5.

40 Council of Ministers Regulation No. 70/2001, 5 February 2001.

41 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

42 Article 7 Report (situation as of 30 April 2017), Form A.

43 Email from INGO mine action operator, May 2025.

Action Area of Responsibility (MA-AoR), with sub-cluster meetings also held in Shire (Tigray), Mekelle (Tigray), and Semera (Afar); supports of the safe and secure delivery of humanitarian aid; and conducts EO threat assessments in the Afar and Tigray regions.⁴⁴ In 2024, UNMAS and EMAO collaborated on four key areas: QM systems, information management, mine action sector management, and overall capacity building in collaboration with other mine action operators.⁴⁵ The establishment of regional EMAO sub-offices was cited by UNMAS as a milestone activity for 2025.⁴⁶ Regional MACs could serve to enhance localised coordination and tasking and ensure more equitable access to mine action services and decision-making, which some suggest is lacking under the current structure that is overly centralised.⁴⁷

Ethiopia is continuing efforts to build national capacity. HI provided training in non-technical survey (NTS) to EMAO staff in 2024, including on use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), in line with IMAS and GICHD guidelines.⁴⁸ HI's "train and equip" initiative aims to support the development of national explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) capacity, through the donation of EOD equipment and the delivery of EOD Level 3 training,⁴⁹ though, as at October 2025, HI was yet to receive operational accreditation to conduct EOD.⁵⁰ EMAO also received some bilateral support from France for EOD training.⁵¹ DCA seconded a staff member to EMAO to support the coordination of MA AoR meetings; facilitate engagement with donors and other stakeholders; and assist in planning and reporting.⁵² MAG provided support to EMAO in early 2025 in several areas including organising a stakeholder workshop to prepare Ethiopia's Article 5 extension request; training for EMAO staff on NTS and QM; a project cycle management and strategic planning workshop; and provision of IT equipment. MAG also organised a learning and exchange visit for senior EMAO staff members and an MoD representative to the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre in March 2025.⁵³ As at May 2025, HALO planned to support EMAO with medical, NTS and EOD training, as well as with some IT hardware and travel support.⁵⁴ UNMAS has drafted a road map for capacity building in Ethiopia which covers the following areas: strategic frameworks and obligations; information management system; QM systems; human resource development; and cooperation and coordination.⁵⁵ UNMAS explains that the timing of these various areas will

be dependent on the national strategy for mine action, under development as at the time of writing.⁵⁶

Stakeholders met regularly in 2024. As well as the monthly UNMAS-coordinated MA AoR meetings, Ethiopia had three key working groups in place – on information management, risk education, and victim assistance.⁵⁷ Stakeholder meetings focused on preparing to deploy teams for NTS and EOD, and on improving information management (IM).⁵⁸ In light of the multiple stakeholders and operators now accredited and which will be operating in country, Ethiopia could strengthen national level coordination by establishing an appropriate National Mine Action Platform, in line with Action 42 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

Under Ethiopia's national standard on accreditation launched in 2023, accreditation has been standardised, such that organisations do not seek accreditation for a specific activity, but broadly for all activities within the scope of mine action.⁵⁹ Each operator, following accreditation, is expected to sign a federal memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the MoD.⁶⁰ This federal level MoU is an important step as, according to HALO, it is necessary to have one in place in order to be able to import demining equipment.⁶¹ HALO continued to work with other operators to campaign for this federal level MoU, which was finally signed in November 2024.⁶² The need for a specific project agreement with the national authorities for each grant or operational package has also delayed certain activities.⁶³

The expansion of operational capacity is intended to underpin the implementation of Ethiopia's plans as outlined in its third Article 5 deadline extension request. In this request, submitted on 31 March 2025, with a revised request providing some further information submitted on 7 August 2025,⁶⁴ Ethiopia seeks a five-year extension to the end of 2030. This third request follows limited progress between 2020 and 2024 during Ethiopia's current extension period, which was expiring at the end of 2025. Ethiopia states that progress in the last five years has been severely impeded by armed conflict and restricted access in the northern regions as well as by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁵ Despite these challenges, notable areas of progress during 2024 included the collaborative development of the NMAS and consolidated accreditation of six international NGOs and two national NGOs.⁶⁶

44 "Ethiopia", UNMAS, accessed 11 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4liK601>.

45 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

46 Presentation by Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, National Directors Meeting (NDM), Geneva, 29 April–1 May 2024.

47 Emails from and interviews with INGO mine action operators, March to May 2025.

48 Emails from Francesca Chiaudani, Chief of Mine Action Programme Ethiopia, UNMAS, 7 June 2024; and Goran Knezevic, Armed Violence Reduction (AVR) Specialist and NTS Trainer, HI, 21 May 2024.

49 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

50 Email from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

51 Interview with General Tadesse, EMAO, Geneva, 10 April 2025.

52 Email from Kibru Alemu Adinew, EORE Technical Lead, DCA, 21 August 2025.

53 Email from Cristy McLennan, Regional Programme Support Manager, MAG, 26 August 2025.

54 Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

55 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 45 and Annex 1, p. 62.

56 Email from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

57 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 37–38.

58 Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

59 Emails from Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 7 and 26 June and 24 July 2024.

60 Emails from Toby Robinson, Programme Manager, HALO, 14 June 2024; and Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 24 July 2024.

61 Email from Rob Syfret, Head of Region, HALO, 23 July 2024.

62 Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

63 Emails from and interviews with international mine action operators, March to May 2025.

64 Both the March 2025 and August 2025 Extension Request documents are available at: <https://bit.ly/3Ja38IO>.

65 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 19–20.

66 Emails from and interviews with international NGO mine action operators, March to May 2025; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 37 and 43.

Some demining organisations have, however, experienced bureaucratic challenges and delays in the importation of essential equipment, such as EOD equipment, radios, satellite phones, GPS, and explosives,⁶⁷ though UNMAS highlights that it is essential for all operators to follow protocol and apply for an import license.⁶⁸ DCA explains that the main cause of delay in importing its equipment was the satellite phones and high frequency radios, necessary to remain compliant with its standard operating procedures (SOPs) in areas with poor mobile phone coverage. This communications equipment had to undergo a lengthy clearance process involving several government departments. As at August 2025, DRC believed it was the only international operator that had a full set of equipment (apart from explosives) in place. It points out that having a legal and government advisor in Addis Ababa has been essential in facilitating approvals. DRC's delay in importing explosives to conduct EOD remained ongoing as at September 2025. Continued political instability in Tigray

was giving rise to concern over safe storage of explosives. UNMAS was working closely with the national authorities to try and resolve this challenge.⁶⁹ As at August 2025, HI had also received most of its clearance equipment, including detectors. Delays in importing restricted equipment can be challenging to resolve, as EMAO is not the final decision maker and ultimate authority rests with the MoD and other Federal Authorities, including the Information, Networking and Security Agency (INSA) of Ethiopia.⁷⁰ UNMAS notes that, as at early October 2025, no NGO had yet applied for an explosives licence or as yet undertaken EOD training of staff⁷¹ – essential steps necessary for operational readiness.

Ethiopia was the first country in the world to introduce a ban on the importation of non-electric vehicles in January 2024. While a positive environmental step, the transition may prove challenging while charging infrastructure across the country is very limited and still developing.⁷²

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

It is unclear how much national funding was made available for survey or clearance in 2024 or earlier years. According to Ethiopia's 2019 extension request, more than US\$40 million was required to fulfil its Article 5 obligations by 2025.⁷³ The government pledged to cover 20% of the total,⁷⁴ but in its Article 7 report for January 2021 to March 2022, Ethiopia did not provide details of any government funding.⁷⁵ In June 2023, Ethiopia stated that the government had provided US\$100,000 that year for rapid response to EO threats.⁷⁶

In its 2025 extension request Ethiopia states that the estimated budget required to tackle both AP mine contamination and contamination from all other EO, combined, is US\$30.9m. It is unclear, however, whether this cover only the first two years (2026–27) or the entire five-year extension period sought. Of this US\$30.9m, the Government of Ethiopia will provide 10%, through "direct financial support, in-kind assistance, and institutional cost coverage". The remaining 90% is expected to come from donor funding.⁷⁷ Ethiopia expects fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations specifically, over the period 2026–2030, will require a budget of US\$17.64m. It sets out annual budget requirements for multi-task teams (MTTs), co-ordination, equipment and capacity building. However, that estimated cost is based on

two important and potentially heroic assumptions, namely; that only 4% of the total area of SHAs will prove to contain AP mines; and that Ethiopia can implement land release at a cost of US\$2.12 per square metre.⁷⁸

It is not stated in the extension request or revised request, how much of this donor funding, if any, has been secured and how much remains to be secured. Ethiopia does note the need for the successful agreement of international funding,⁷⁹ and also that the survey activities planned for the first two years are "contingent on funding being secured".⁸⁰ In its responses to questions and clarifications requested by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Ethiopia states that "the sector is undertaking rigorous resource mobilisation efforts" and "the pledged amount will be clarified at the beginning of the extension year".⁸¹ In the extension request Ethiopia also states that an updated work plan, to be submitted either by the end of 2027, or in April 2028, will include a resource mobilisation strategy,⁸² which it will also attach to its forthcoming national mine action strategy,⁸³ though no timeframe for the latter is given. Either way, given the lack of secured funds, a resource mobilisation plan should be developed as soon as possible, prior to Ethiopia's planned extension period.

⁶⁷ Emails from and interviews with international NGO mine action operators, March to May 2025.

⁶⁸ Email from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

⁶⁹ Email from Christian Green, DRC, 19 August 2025.

⁷⁰ Emails from Kibru Alemu Adnew, DCA, 17 March 2025; and Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

⁷¹ Email from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

⁷² See, for example: "Ethiopia, the first country in the world to ban the import of gasoline and diesel vehicles", *Le Monde*, 13 September 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/45jZF1J>; and "EVs are starting to overtake gas-powered cars in a surprising place", CNN, 19 August 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4opoqlZ>.

⁷³ 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 51.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁷⁵ Article 7 Report (covering January 2021–March 2022), Form J.

⁷⁶ Statement of Ethiopia on Article 5 Implementation, Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

⁷⁷ 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 15 and 57. On p. 15 the grand total of US\$30.9m is spread over five years, in 2026–30 (with US\$20.8m allocated over 2026–2030). However, on p. 57, Ethiopia states that "the budget for mine action activities over 2026 and 2027 totals \$30,908,157.50".

⁷⁸ 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 14–15.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

⁸¹ Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Ethiopia Committee on Article 5 Implementation", p. 3, submitted with 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

⁸² 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 42. Here the revised request states this updated work plan will be submitted in April 2028. However, on p. 9, it is stated that an updated work plan will be submitted by 31 December 2027.

⁸³ Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Ethiopia Committee on Article 5 Implementation", p. 4, submitted with 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

A summary of funding for those international operators that undertook survey and clearance during 2024 is provided in Table 2. Operators highlight that continued underfunding of the mine action sector in Ethiopia poses challenges. DCA for example has been unable to expand its interventions in the heavily contaminated regions of Tigray, Afar, and Amhara and

has had limited ability to deploy expatriate EOD staff.⁸⁴ HALO highlights that "continued support from the international community will be essential to match the scale of need, especially as Ethiopia balances legacy contamination with newly affected areas".⁸⁵

Table 2: Funding for survey and clearance by international operators in Ethiopia (2024–25)⁸⁶

Donor	2024	2025
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)	HI	HI (until 2026)
UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP)	HALO*	
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs – Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)	HI	HI (until 2026)
German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)	HALO*, HI	HALO, HI (until 2026)
Irish Aid	HALO*	
Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA))	HALO*	

*Following the temporary suspension of operations in Ethiopia in March 2024, these grants were transferred to the HALO Somaliland Programme.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Ethiopia provides brief information on its efforts in and intended approach to gender and diversity considerations in its 2025 extension request. EMAO received gender training from UNMAS in 2024, and is collaborating with the gender focal points of implementing partners to develop a "Gender and Disability mainstreaming policy". Ethiopia also states that a multi-stakeholder technical working group (TWG) on gender and diversity may be established,⁸⁷ though no time frame has been given for this to occur. UNMAS is providing technical assistance to increase EMAO's capability to collect and analyse data through an age, gender, and diversity lens.⁸⁸

Ethiopia has said it plans further consultation to ensure that groups in mine-affected communities receive "the assistance that they deserve".⁸⁹ This commitment, along with that to develop a Gender and Disability policy and explore the possibility of a TWG, are welcome developments.

However, Ethiopia should extend its policy to all aspects of diversity, including ethnicity. It should also make every effort to accelerate progress in these policy and working group initiatives, and facilitate meaningful inclusion of women and minority groups as early as possible, as it upscales its mine action programme.

UNMAS organised a gender and diversity perception survey in April 2024, distributed through members of the MA-AoR at the national (Addis Ababa) and regional (Tigray and Afar) levels. UNMAS concluded from survey results that, overall, gender and diversity are well mainstreamed across MA-AoR members, with most respondent organisations reporting to have relevant policies, mixed-gender field teams, and with women constituting a significant portion of their workforce, though mainly in operational and/or support or administration functions and not also supervisory or managerial roles.

⁸⁴ Email from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 17 March 2025.

⁸⁵ "Statement on Ethiopia Article 5 Extension Request", HALO, Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025.

⁸⁶ Emails from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025; and Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

⁸⁷ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 37.

⁸⁸ UNMAS, "Ethiopia", accessed 11 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4liK601>.

⁸⁹ Statement of Ethiopia on Article 5, APMBC Fifth Review Conference, Siem Reap, 25–29 November 2024, p. 3.

However, the survey did indicate strongly that women and persons with disabilities do not have equal access to risk education or other community-led discussions to mitigate the threat of EO.⁹⁰ It also identified certain barriers to access to mine action employment for persons with disabilities.⁹¹

Both HI and HALO apply their global policies relevant to gender, diversity and inclusion in their country programmes in Ethiopia.⁹² Both are also taking steps to increase female recruitment, but have faced challenges with this. HALO is committed to gender parity, aiming to employ a 50/50 ratio of men and women, and to create an inclusive and diverse working environment. However, HALO notes that cultural sensitivities, societal norms, and traditional gender roles bring challenges to implementation and to achieving gender balance in Ethiopia, and that these norms vary significantly between Ethiopia's different regions.⁹³ The proportion of women among total staff at HALO remained largely unchanged in 2024 (see Table 3)⁹⁴ compared to 2023.⁹⁵ HI, which began survey operations in 2024, also reports that, despite targeted outreach to attract female candidates into all types of roles in 2024, not as many women as they hoped for applied for vacancies.⁹⁶ It has also been reported that EMAO's practice of validating some applicant lists has led to pressure to recruit male candidates with institutional ties, and could serve to undermine, merit-based, inclusive recruitment.⁹⁷

Increasing employment of women in operational demining roles has been especially challenging in Ethiopia. Collaborating with local community leaders to help overcome barriers, HALO did successfully recruit a significant number of female deminers for its first operational deployment

in 2022.⁹⁸ HI notes that the potential for gender parity in clearance-related roles is limited by the scarcity of certified female EOD operators nationally. To address this, HI is investing in long-term capacity-building for women, including mentorship and access to EOD Level 3 training.⁹⁹ In its 2019 extension request, Ethiopia noted that no female deminers were employed in its national demining companies.¹⁰⁰ Mine Action Review has requested, but not received a recent update on this matter.

HI provided age, gender, and diversity and inclusion training to more than 40 staff in 2024, as well as strengthening data disaggregation to better inform adaptive, and inclusive programming.¹⁰¹ HALO continued a number of established initiatives to support female employees, such as child stipends for new mothers.¹⁰² Operators continue to make efforts to recruit and deploy inclusive, gender-balanced, and locally recruited teams, to facilitate access and participation by all groups, including women and children. HI notes, however, that in its area of operations in Tigray, representation of ethnic diversity is not a strong consideration.¹⁰³

In its operations in the Somali region, HALO has developed clear messaging practices to support recruitment from marginalised communities and worked with community elders during the recruitment process.¹⁰⁴ As at May 2025, HALO was in the process of opening its new office in the Afar region and familiarising with the local language, laws and customs, to help inform its integration of gender and diversity considerations into its programme, and support the recruitment of gender-balanced and inclusive survey teams.¹⁰⁵

Table 3: Gender composition of operators in 2024¹⁰⁶

Organisation*	Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
EMAO	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K
National Demining Companies	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K
HALO*	103	30 (29%)	22	4 (18%)	86	26 (30%)
HI	122	22 (18%)	16	2 (13%)	94	20 (21%)

90 "Gender in Mine Action Perceptions from Mine Action actors in Ethiopia. Result of the survey conducted in April 2024", UNMAS, p. 1.

91 UNMAS, "Gender in Mine Action Perceptions from Mine Action actors in Ethiopia. Result of the survey conducted in April 2024", Report, p. 5.

92 Emails from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024; and Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

93 Emails from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024; and Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 21 August 2025.

94 Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

95 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 April 2023; and Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

96 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

97 Email from INGO mine action operator, 2025.

98 Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

99 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

100 Email from Col. Tadege Yohala, EMAO, 5 August 2019.

101 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

102 Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

103 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

104 Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

105 Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

106 Emails from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 6 and 9 June 2025; Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025; Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024; and Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 14 October 2025.

Table 3 Continued

Organisation*	Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Operational staff	Women operational staff
UNMAS	10	5 (50%)	4	2 (50%)	4	1 (25%)
Totals	235	57 (24%)	42	8 (19%)	184	47 (26%)

*HALO Ethiopia reduced to three permanent staff following suspension of operations in March 2024, and redeployed most staff to the HALO Somaliland programme.

**Some HALO supervisory positions are also operational.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Ethiopia's 2025 extension request does not provide information on how it plans to take into consideration—and where possible strive to mitigate—the environmental impact of its mine action programme, including during clearance operations. Ethiopia's forthcoming national mine action strategy, the drafting of which began in April 2024, is expected to include environmental considerations.¹⁰⁷ As at September 2025, an NMAS on the environment had been drafted through a process led by DRC, but was not finalised.¹⁰⁸

Table 4: Environmental policies and action¹⁰⁹

Operator*	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance	Is there an environmental focal point at country-programme level
HALO	Yes	Yes	No
HI	No	No	No

*Only those operators that undertook survey or clearance during 2024 have been included.

HALO has a global environmental management policy¹¹⁰ and a global SOP for the environmental management of operations, which serves as a basis for programme-specific environmental management.¹¹¹ HI does not have a country-specific environmental management policy, though this was under discussion as at May 2025. HI states that environmental considerations are well integrated into its operations through its environmental management SOP and specific operational plans tailored to the Ethiopian context.¹¹² HALO continues to refine its pre-clearance environmental assessments to ensure they are tailored to local needs.¹¹³ While HI does not currently conduct formal environmental impact assessments, it does integrate environmental risk considerations into operational planning.¹¹⁴

Both HI and HALO undertook specific measures and initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of their survey and clearance activities in Ethiopia in 2024 and into 2025. HALO, for example, has long-established clearance procedures that help mitigate the impact of operations on the environment. These includes limiting cutting of trees during clearance operations¹¹⁵ and planting trees in field camps.¹¹⁶ HALO's field camps on the Ethiopia-Somaliland border are solar powered.¹¹⁷ HI has a phased plan to replace fossil fuel vehicles with hybrid and fully electric vehicles (EVs), with a battery-swap system to support EVs and electric field equipment in remote areas. HI also practices low-impact operational cycles, where teams operate on one- to two-week field rotations, staying in implementation areas overnight to significantly reduce fuel consumption.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁷ Email from Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 7 June 2024.

¹⁰⁸ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 21 August 2025.

¹⁰⁹ Emails from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 and 15 May 2025; and Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

¹¹⁰ Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

¹¹¹ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 April 2023.

¹¹² Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

¹¹³ Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

¹¹⁴ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 15 May 2025.

¹¹⁵ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 April 2023.

¹¹⁶ Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

¹¹⁷ Prior to the suspension of HALO's operations in the Somali region and the absorbing of HALO Ethiopia staff into the HALO Somaliland programme, teams from HALO Ethiopia and HALO Somaliland shared field camps. Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 April 2023; and Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

¹¹⁸ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

HALO has a Mine Action Conservation Project Manager for HALO's Horn of Africa programme, (Somalia, including Somaliland, and Ethiopia). As HALO extends its operations in Afar, it is working to establish new partnerships with Semera university and the Ethiopian Ministry of Forestry, as well as to review the new HALO Afar Office's environmental compliance in areas such as waste management and power consumption.¹¹⁹ As at August 2025, HI was recruiting a Livelihood Specialist who would support the mainstreaming of environmental considerations across all programme components.¹²⁰

When planning and prioritising survey and clearance tasks, operators consider environment and climate-related risks. HI uses its ArcGIS [geographic information system]-based information management system, which includes topographic indices and seasonal rainfall layers to inform tasking and deployment. During survey, HI pays special attention to ravines, flood-prone areas, and natural water collection points, where EO movement may occur due to erosion or flooding. These measures ensure that environmental factors are embedded in decision-making, and HI intends to further formalize these practices as operations expand.¹²¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

EMAO has been working with UNMAS, operators and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) towards the establishment of a functioning national mine action database and the implementation of Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core in Ethiopia.¹²² EMAO stated in April 2025 that clean-up of data and on-site verification were ongoing.¹²³ It is not clear to what extent Ethiopia plans to disaggregate contamination by weapon type in the developing national database.

IM training has taken place in collaboration with UNMAS and other partners, addressing areas such as reporting and data validation.¹²⁴ HI states it is providing technical support, equipment, and capacity-building in information management,¹²⁵ and that it has seconded a HI Information Management Specialist to support EMAO.¹²⁶ Stakeholder coordination on IM took place in 2024 through the IM working group and bilateral exchanges, with the goal of building a centralised, transparent, and IMAS-aligned system to support national ownership.¹²⁷

While a functional national database remains under development, operators have been taking measures to collect and maintain necessary data. HI, for example, maintains a detailed and IMSMA Core-compliant record of all operations and findings and is prepared to share this data with the national database as soon as it becomes functional.¹²⁸

HALO uses data collection forms that are in line with IMAS, to collect data in a form compatible with IMSMA,¹²⁹ and states

that it continues to share all its contamination and clearance data with EMAO.¹³⁰ It has also aligned its planned software and hardware to match EMAO's, in advance of the NTS scheduled to begin in the north of the country in September 2025. HALO highlights that there has been a coordinated effort among all stakeholders to align on data collection and estimated that a functional IMSMA Core database, with all operators aligned, could be in place by the fourth quarter of 2025.¹³¹ EMAO's adoption of a national IM system, based on ArcGIS Pro and IMSMA Core, is a welcome step towards a modern, centralised IM platform, which was initiated following advocacy and support from mine action stakeholders.¹³²

As at August 2025, Ethiopia had not yet submitted an Article 7 report covering 2024. In 2024, Ethiopia submitted its Article 7 report covering 2023 on time. Though somewhat more detailed than previously, the report repeated the information on contamination it provided in its previous Article 7 report.¹³³ Ethiopia did not submit an Article 7 report covering the period from April 2022 to the end of that year.

In the decision on Ethiopia's 2019 Article 5 deadline extension request, the States Parties requested that Ethiopia submit by 30 April 2021 an updated work plan for the period covered by the extension request. Ethiopia did not provide one. However, a two-year work plan for 2027-2027 is provided in Ethiopia's third Article 5 deadline extension request, which was due to be considered by the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties in December 2025. A revised request, providing some further information, as requested,¹³⁴ was submitted on

¹¹⁹ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

¹²⁰ Emails from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May and 29 August 2025.

¹²¹ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 15 May 2025.

¹²² Emails from Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 7 and 26 June 2024; and Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 33-34.

¹²³ Interview with Brigadier-General Tadesse Amelo, EMAO, in Geneva, 10 April 2025.

¹²⁴ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 33.

¹²⁵ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 19 May 2025.

¹²⁶ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Emails from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 4 April and 19 May 2025.

¹²⁹ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 April 2023.

¹³⁰ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

¹³¹ Emails from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May and 21 August 2025.

¹³² Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

¹³³ Article 7 Reports (covering 2023 and 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2022), Form C.

¹³⁴ "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Ethiopia", Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

7 August 2025. Ethiopia is seeking a five-year extension to the end of 2030.

Although the extension request would benefit from further information on Ethiopia's planned activities to strengthen areas such as mainstreaming of gender and diversity, and environmental protection, the extension request is reasonably comprehensive, including the detailed and costed initial two-year work plan. Ethiopia states that, based on the

outcome of surveys, it will submit an updated work plan for the remaining period of its extension request, though two dates are provided for this to occur—31 December 2027 and April 2028—and it is unclear which is correct.¹³⁵ Ethiopia also says it will continuously update its clearance plan, based on survey findings, and provide information on this as part its annual Article 7 transparency reports.¹³⁶

PLANNING AND TASKING

Ethiopia has yet to develop a national mine action strategy. In April 2024, the Research and Development Department of Ethiopia's MoD reportedly committed to drafting one, but no time frame was set.¹³⁷ In April 2025, EMAO said it hoped to have a national strategy ready by the end of 2025, drafted through multi-stakeholder collaboration. The strategy will cover the requested extension period of 2026–30.¹³⁸

Ethiopia's 2025 extension request sets out a five-year plan, featuring an initial two years focused on NTS and EOD of new contamination in the northern regions, followed by three years of legacy mine clearance and continued survey efforts.¹³⁹ As noted, much new contamination in the northern regions is expected to come from single items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) as opposed to legacy minefields.¹⁴⁰ Ethiopia's two-year work plan also prioritises "institutional building, enhancing personnel and financial capacities" as a base for effective mine action. Key objectives include surveying all 147 hazardous areas (see Table 1) and performing "emergency clearance tasks based on community requests and humanitarian needs".¹⁴¹ As previously noted, based on the outcome of surveys in 2026–27, Ethiopia plans to submit a further work plan for the remainder of the extension period, though there is a lack of clarity over whether it intends to submit this by 31 December 2027, or in April 2028.¹⁴²

Ethiopia states that in 2028–30, efforts will focus on clearance of remaining areas, informed by the survey results, but that "limited rapid-response clearance may occur before then, based on urgent needs".¹⁴³ In early 2025, operators adapted their plans and submitted change requests to donors, in order to deploy NTS and EOD teams and align with

the initial two-year phase of Ethiopia's five-year plan.¹⁴⁴ In the 2025 extension request, Ethiopia acknowledges that its work plan "does not seek to address mined areas located on the Ethiopia-Eritrea or Ethiopia-Somali border until a political agreement is in place to ensure the safety of demining teams". It pledges that EMAO will "continue to monitor and work with relevant bodies to ensure that as soon as areas become accessible, a survey capacity will be deployed".¹⁴⁵

Ethiopia set overly ambitious land release targets for 2019–25 in its previous Article 5 deadline extension request, which it did not achieve. Expecting contamination to total over 1,050km², release of 173.4km² was envisaged in 2019, followed by 175.8km² annually until 2024, with only 3.9km² projected to be released in 2025. As much as 97% of the release was expected to occur through cancellation.¹⁴⁶ In fact, Ethiopia released 318km² by cancellation in 2019–20, along with 10.3km² through reduction and 1.76km² through clearance.¹⁴⁷ No further land release took place in 2021 to 2023, with EMAO focusing on emergency EOD to allow safe delivery of humanitarian aid, the resumption of essential public services, and release of essential roads, following the armed conflict that broke out in the Tigray region in 2020.¹⁴⁸ HALO did, however, undertake and report to Mine Action Review limited clearance totalling 0.63km² in 2022 (0.39km²)¹⁴⁹ and 2023 (0.24km²).¹⁵⁰

During the first two years of the proposed new extension period, survey is planned on a regional, village-by-village basis, including resurvey of certain previously recorded hazardous areas.¹⁵¹ A detailed, timebound survey plan for each relevant region is provided in the request, including

¹³⁵ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request: On p. 9, it is stated that this work plan will be provided by 31 December 2027. Later, on pp. 41 and 42 of the revised request, Ethiopia says it aims to submit an updated work plan for the remaining period of the extension request by April 2028.

¹³⁶ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

¹³⁷ Email from Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 7 June 2024.

¹³⁸ Interview with General Tadesse, EMAO, Geneva, 10 April 2025.

¹³⁹ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

¹⁴⁰ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

¹⁴¹ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

¹⁴² On page 42 of the 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Ethiopia says this updated work plan will be submitted in April 2028. But on page 9, it is stated that an updated work plan will be submitted by 31 December 2027.

¹⁴³ Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁴⁴ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

¹⁴⁵ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 43.

¹⁴⁶ 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information, p. 48; and Article 7 Report (covering January 2021–March 2022), Form C.

¹⁴⁷ Ethiopia's Article 7 Report, in which this land release data was originally provided, spanned 2019 and 2020: Article 7 Report (covering 31 April 2019–31 April 2020), Form D. However, the 2025 Extension Request states that this land release took place in 2020. Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 22–23.

¹⁴⁸ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24. In fact, Ethiopia did report, in its Article 7 report covering January 2021–March 2022, that 13,400m² was released through survey, though it is unclear whether this area was cancelled or reduced; and that 46,600m² was cleared, with the destruction of 46 TM-57 AV mines. Article 7 Report (covering January 2021–March 2022), Form C.

¹⁴⁹ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 April 2023.

¹⁵⁰ Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

¹⁵¹ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 44–45.

land release targets and the projected capacity and budget required for each region,¹⁵² as well as the size of each of the 147 hazardous areas at the woreda (district) level.¹⁵³ HALO thinks this approach, with a focus on NTS and EOD spot tasks for the initial two years and a phased approach to clearance, is "grounded in operational reality", reflecting "a clear understanding of the country's evolving contamination profile and access challenges, particularly in the north".¹⁵⁴

Table 5: Projected cancellation of SHAs in Somali region, 2026-2030¹⁵⁵

Year	Size of SHAs to be cancelled (km ²)	Percentage of total SHA area size to be cancelled
2026	17.68	15%
2027	15.03	13%
2028	25.54	22%
2029	23.84	20%
2030	35.76	30%
Totals	117.85	100%

Ethiopia expects to undertake demining all-year-round, taking advantage of the varying rainy season in the regions, and rotating teams through different areas of operations¹⁵⁷ (although elsewhere in the revised request it states that it expects one month of stand-down time during the peak rainy season).¹⁵⁸ During the initial two years, approximately 11 MTTs are planned for deployment in the northern regions of the country, with "the potential for incremental growth as operations expand".¹⁵⁹

Ethiopia outlines the risks and assumptions that may impact implementation of the work plan contained in its 2025 extension request. The plan assumes that there will be sustained security and access to affected areas; the potential for identification of new mined areas through NTS; consistent funding; ongoing support broadly for mine action in Ethiopia; and diversified funding streams (i.e. national and international). With regard to the specific challenge of access to border areas, Ethiopia says it is "seeking diplomatic engagement" to obtain access minefields in northern areas, bordering Eritrea. It says that most other border areas are accessible, presenting no hindrance to mine action.¹⁶⁰

Though a full five-year work plan is not yet provided, Ethiopia's 2025 extension request does include a five-year cancellation targets for the 79 SHAs in the Somali region, measuring 117.85km²¹⁵⁵ (see Table 5), which accounts for 94% of Ethiopia's total contamination.

Ethiopia has provided a Land Release Prioritization and Impact Classification Matrix in its 2025 extension request,¹⁶¹ though this yet to be assessed by the sector.¹⁶² While a national system of prioritisation and tasking is still under development, HALO has continued to use its own survey information to assess the impact of contamination and prioritise clearance tasks, prioritising areas with high numbers of beneficiaries and higher accident rates.¹⁶³ HALO also produces its own survey and task dossiers for all operations¹⁶⁴ – action that is normally the responsibility of the national authorities or the national mine action centre. Likewise, HI has developed and implemented its own prioritisation system which involves close collaboration with regional and local authorities, communities, and other stakeholders.¹⁶⁵ In Tigray, security of access most often dictates operations and all planning is subject to change, based on the ever-evolving security context. HALO does not face this same challenge to the same extent in Afar, although there can be challenges with security in parts of the Afar region bordering the Amhara and Tigray regions.¹⁶⁶

¹⁵² Ibid., pp. 45–53.

¹⁵³ Ibid., pp. 46–51.

¹⁵⁴ "Statement on Ethiopia Article 5 Extension Request", HALO, Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025.

¹⁵⁵ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 53.

¹⁵⁸ Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Ethiopia Committee on Article 5 Implementation", p. 2, submitted with the Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.

¹⁵⁹ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 61.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid., pp. 16 and 61.

¹⁶¹ Ibid., Annex 2, pp. 63–65.

¹⁶² Ibid., p. 33.

¹⁶³ Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.

¹⁶⁴ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 April 2023.

¹⁶⁵ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

¹⁶⁶ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

HI states that it has been supporting EMAO to develop the foundations for a functioning task management system, including standardised procedures; the format for task

orders; task identification codes; and the responsibilities of implementing partners.¹⁶⁷

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

EMAO issued twelve Ethiopian National Mine Action Standards (ENMAS) and two standard operating procedures (SOPs) in 2024, which serve as the basis for Ethiopia's quality management system.¹⁶⁸ Ethiopia states that the development process was consultative, including a multi-stakeholder workshop in mid-2024, and assignment of roles and responsibilities for different chapters to interested operators. Additionally, EMAO and implementing partner personnel participated in a regional training on NMAS in Nairobi organised by the GICHD. Ethiopia states that development and revision of the NMAS and SOPs is ongoing, with half of the NMAS completed as at March 2025.¹⁶⁹ UNMAS reports that the twelve NMAS were circulated by EMAO in February 2025, namely: Information Management, EORE, Investigation and Reporting of Accidents, Medical Support to Demining Operations, EOD, Manual Mine Clearance, Battle Area Clearance (BAC), Marking of Explosive Ordnance Hazards, NTS, Quality Management, Land Release, Storage and Transportation of Explosives, Post-Clearance Documentation, and Technical Survey.¹⁷⁰

While international NGO mine action operators were significantly involved in drafting the documents, they disagree on the extent to which they feel that the process was sufficiently consultative and collaborative, and the degree to which a sufficient timeframe was allowed to produce technically sound drafts.¹⁷¹ EMAO notes that periodic revision will be undertaken to align NMAS with IMAS and "fulfil commitments under the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029" and that EMAO will serve as the oversight body, responsible for approval and QA of the NMAS.¹⁷² UNMAS adds that revision of NMAS is included in the 2026 work plan.¹⁷³

In its 2025 extension request, Ethiopia states that, for the land release that took place in 2024, QA teams inspected TS teams and clearance units during and prior to completion of their tasks, to ensure compliance with national standards and EMAO SOPs. After task completion, a QC team managed the handover process with the local community and authorities.¹⁷⁴

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

A growing number of international survey and clearance operators have entered the mine action sector in Ethiopia in recent years, with several establishing a presence in-country for the first time in 2024. EMAO stated that in November 2024 it "processed the desk accreditation for six international NGOs for field deployment", namely for: BBC Media Action,¹⁷⁵ DCA, DRC, HALO, HI, and MAG.¹⁷⁶ HALO was already operational, having worked in the country since August 2022, clearing mined areas on the border with Somaliland.¹⁷⁷ As at September 2025, the Fondation

suisse de déminage (FSD) was still seeking registration and accreditation in Ethiopia.¹⁷⁸ It was developing plans to deploy survey staff, potentially for NTS in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray.¹⁷⁹ Ethiopia has assigned all operators¹⁸⁰ specific responsibilities and areas of operation (AoOs) in the 2026–27 plan for survey and clearance set out in its 2025 extension request (see Table 6). Several operators are prepared to expand operations to other parts of Ethiopia, beyond their assigned regions, if required, and if funding allows.¹⁸¹

¹⁶⁷ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

¹⁶⁸ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7. The request states: "The NMAS cover the following areas: information management; technical surveys; non-technical surveys; manual mine clearance; land release; battle area clearance; marking explosive ordnance hazards; explosive ordnance risk education; EOD; quality management; medical support to demining operations; storage, transportation and handling of explosives; investigation and reporting of accidents and incidents; post-clearance inspections. Additionally there are two SOPs on Tasking and Prioritization".

¹⁶⁹ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 32.

¹⁷⁰ Emails from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 and 14 October 2025.

¹⁷¹ Emails from and interviews with INGO mine action operators in March to May 2025.

¹⁷² Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 32.

¹⁷³ Email from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

¹⁷⁴ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

¹⁷⁵ BBC Media Action to be deployed for explosive ordnance risk education and victim assistance only. Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 43.

¹⁷⁶ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

¹⁷⁷ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 2 July 2024.

¹⁷⁸ Email from Michael Barry, Global Portfolio Co-ordinator, FSD, 19 August 2025.

¹⁷⁹ Email from Matt Wilson, Head of Operations, FSD, 16 May 2024.

¹⁸⁰ In August 2025 it was reported a new NGO, Unity Demining Solutions (UDS), staffed mostly by former EMAO and MoD retired officers, had also been accredited, though it was without grants or sub-grants at that time. Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 21 August 2025.

¹⁸¹ Emails from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025; and Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

Table 6: Assigned regions and functions of accredited NGOs in Ethiopia for 2026-2027¹⁸²

Organisation	Operational launch date in Ethiopia	Assigned region(s)	Assigned activities	Planned capacity
EMAO	N/A	All regions.	Oversight and "mine action activities in all legacy minefields".	EMAO, HI, DRC and MAG to recruit and train 7 x MTTs between them, capable of EOD, survey, and clearance. ¹⁸³ DRC: 3 x NTS teams ready to deploy from November 2024. ¹⁸⁴
DRC	NTS from Q2 2025. ¹⁸⁵ EOD planned from October 2025.	Tigray (North Western Zone focus)	EORE, NTS, TS, BAC, EOD, clearance.	
HI	NTS and limited EOD from November 2024. MTTs from March 2025. ¹⁸⁶	Tigray (focus in South Eastern and Central Zones). ¹⁸⁷	EORE, NTS, TS, BAC, EOD, clearance.	
MAG	Capacity support to EMAO from March 2025. Risk education from June 2025.	Tigray	EORE, NTS, TS, BAC, EOD, clearance	
HALO	2022 (Somalia region). August 2025 (Afar region). ¹⁸⁸	Afar	EORE, NTS, TS, BAC, EOD, clearance.	2 x MTTs initially in Q2 and Q3 2025. 3 x MTTs in Q4 2025. Capable of EOD, NTS, and EORE. ¹⁸⁹
DCA	Victim assistance and risk education from January 2025.	Afar. Potential expansion to Amhara.	NTS, EOD. Expansion to TS and clearance, funding permitting. ¹⁹⁰	Not known
EPSS (national NGO)	2021 ¹⁹¹	Afar and Tigray.	EORE, NTS.	Not known
RaDO (national NGO)	1997 ¹⁹²	Afar and Tigray.	EORE, NTS.	Not known
UNMAS	2020	Afar, Amhara, Tigray.	Capacity building of EMAO, information management, assessment, MA AoR coordination.	Capacity development team including: IMSMA support and QC Officer.

In 2024, UNMAS deployed one team in each region of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, totalling six personnel, to conduct woreda (district) assessments and emergency EORE and UXO assessments (see Table 7). UNMAS did not deploy any personnel for clearance.¹⁹³ This is approximately the same operational capacity as UNMAS deployed for explosive ordnance assessment in 2023.¹⁹⁴

Apart from UNMAS, HALO and HI were the only two international operators that undertook survey and clearance of AP mined area in Ethiopia during 2024. HI conducted NTS and limited relocation of safe-to-move items of EO from November.¹⁹⁵ HALO continued survey and clearance in the

Somali region in the first three months of the year, but was instructed in March to cease operations to renew its MoD accreditation. HALO followed MoD guidance to obtain a signed federal level MoU, which it received in November 2024 (along with MAG, HI, DRC, and DCA) setting the boundaries for its work in Ethiopia. Following this HALO received a tasking order from EMAO to work in the Afar region, in coordination with an MoD-vetted local NGO.¹⁹⁶ When operations were suspended in March 2024, HALO Ethiopia reduced to three permanent staff, permanently redeploying 80% of its personnel across the border to HALO Somaliland. HALO Ethiopia received authorisation to launch operations in Afar in

¹⁸² Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 43 and 30-31; and emails from Christian Green, DRC, 19 August 2025; Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 21 August 2025; Cristy McLennan, MAG, 8 September 2025; and Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 14 October 2025; and DCA, "From danger to dignity: Humanitarian mine action response in Ethiopia", accessed 11 September at: <https://bit.ly/4ntUS5n>.

¹⁸³ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10.

¹⁸⁴ Email from Christian Green, DRC, 20 March 2025; and online interview, 26 March 2025.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ Emails from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 18 February and 19 May 2025.

¹⁸⁷ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 19 May 2025.

¹⁸⁸ Emails from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May and 21 August 2025.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Email from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 17 March 2025.

¹⁹¹ EPSS website, accessed 15 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4lEkQC4>.

¹⁹² RaDO website, accessed 15 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4H1yEE>.

¹⁹³ Email from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 14 October 2025.

¹⁹⁴ Email from Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 7 June 2024.

¹⁹⁵ Emails from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 18 February and 19 May 2025.

¹⁹⁶ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

April 2025, recruiting new field teams from local communities in May and June, and deploying them in September.¹⁹⁷

Prior to suspension of operations in the Somali region in March 2024, HALO saw a reduction in NTS capacity from six persons in 2023 to two in 2024, but maintained approximately the same technical survey (TS) and manual clearance capacity.¹⁹⁸ HALO intends to build up to three MTTs in the Afar region by the last quarter 2025. Overall, this represents a notable decrease from the eight manual clearance teams and two NTS teams deployed during 2024.¹⁹⁹ During 2024, HI converted a risk education team into a community liaison team (CLT), which also provides risk education and NTS. In 2025 it maintained this and increased capacity from one MTT to four MTTs.²⁰⁰ As at August 2025, it had received most of its clearance equipment and planned to commence clearance operations in the near future, although NTS and EOD remained its priorities.²⁰¹

Prior to HALO commencing operations in 2022, all survey and clearance in Ethiopia was conducted by the national demining companies of the Ethiopian Armed Forces. Ethiopia's precise current national capacity to survey and clear AP mines is not yet clear. EMAO has an EOD team, a clearance team, and a survey desk. EMAO is also supported by "other standby forces of the MoD Main Engineering department, that could provide surge support".²⁰²

At the time of writing, no update on current or planned national operational survey and clearance capacity had been provided by EMAO. However, as already outlined, work is underway to reorganise the sector and better define national capacity and resource requirements. EMAO explains that it deploys national capacity in border areas where there is insecurity, but aims to pass these areas to international NGO operators eventually.²⁰³

Table 7: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2024²⁰⁴

Operator	Survey teams	Total personnel	Comments
HALO	2	2	Deployed for NTS. See Table 8 for TS capacity.
HI	1	0	Risk education team transitioned to community liaison team during 2024 but also undertook NTS and provided risk education. Deploys multi-task teams (MTTs) for survey and clearance. See Table 8.
Ethiopia Armed Forces*	2	N/K	Deployed for TS in 2018. No recent data available.
UNMAS	3	6	Conducting woreda (district) assessments and Emergency EORE and UXO assessments.
Totals	8	8	

*The most recent data available to Mine Action Review is from 2019 and states that two teams of an unknown number of personnel were deployed in 2018.

Table 8: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2024²⁰⁵

Operator	Manual clearance teams	Multi-task teams (MTTs)	Total deminers	Comments
HALO	8	0	62	Deployed for clearance and TS.
HI	0	1	32	Capable of NTS, TS, clearance, and EOD. NTS and limited EO only in 2024.
Ethiopia Armed Forces	2	N/K	N/K	Data provided in 2019 for personnel deployed in 2018. No recent data available. Also deployed one EOD team.
Totals	10	1	94	

197 Emails from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 9 June and 21 August 2025.

198 Emails from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024; and Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

199 Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

200 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 29 August 2025.

201 Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 19 August 2025.

202 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 28–29.

203 Remarks from Gen. Tadesse, EMAO, "HDP Nexus for Effective Mine Action", Side event, NDM, Geneva, 10 April 2025.

204 Emails from Col. Tadege Yohala, EMAO, 5 August 2019; Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025; and Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 29 August 2025.

205 Emails from Col. Tadege Yohala, EMAO, 5 August 2019; Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025; Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May and 29 August 2025; and Nicolas Bray, UNMAS, 14 October 2025.

Operators do not currently use mechanical demining assets in Ethiopia. HI, for example, explains that the topography and terrain in Tigray are not suitable for mechanical assets, such as flails or tillers. HI has however, identified technical survey dogs as the preferred and context-appropriate enhancement to land release operations.²⁰⁶ Ethiopia reported in 2019 that it has six ground-preparation machines, but that

these were not in use as all remaining hazardous areas are located in remote areas, which it claims are only suitable for manual clearance.²⁰⁷ Ethiopia's second Article 5 deadline extension request states that manual demining is the most efficient and least costly method of clearance, and states that machines cannot be used due to the terrain of the remaining contaminated areas.²⁰⁸

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 9: Summary of land release outputs in 2024 (National authority and operator data combined)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)
Clearance	0.16
Technical Survey	0.37
Non-Technical Survey	599.67
 Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024
AP mines destroyed	23 (including 6 removed for disposal or reported to authorities by UNMAS)

In its 2025 extension request Ethiopia states that in 2024, it released "over 600 million square meters of land in Aware woreda of the Somali region, in one single minefield".²⁰⁹ Of the total release of 600.1km², just over 599.67km² was cancelled; 368,958m² was reduced, and 70,900m² was cleared, resulting in the destruction of 17 AP mines, 1 AV mine, and 80 items of UXO (see Tables 10 and 12). The number of SHAs or CHAs cancelled, reduced, or cleared is not provided.²¹⁰ Separately, HALO cleared 93,535m² in 2024. No AP mines were destroyed during this clearance, though items of UXO were found, and clearance of these CHAs was suspended (see Table 13).²¹¹

Ethiopia did not report discovering any new areas of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination during 2024. However, HI states that it identified 17,700m² of previously unrecorded legacy AP mined area across an as-yet-unquantified number of SHAs in Tigray (see Table 11). This had not been reported to EMAO as at May 2025, as Ethiopia was still in the process of developing a functioning national database.²¹² UNMAS also reported separately that it discovered six AP mines in 2024, during assessment of 17 areas in the Tigray and Afar regions between January and September 2024. It is not clear from the information UNMAS provided if these AP mines were removed for disposal or only reported to authorities.²¹³

SURVEY IN 2024

Ethiopia states that released 599.71km² through survey in 2024, of which 599.67km² was cancelled, and 368,958m² was reduced. All of this release through survey took place in a single minefield in the Aware district of Bukodowa Kebele in Somali region (see Table 10).²¹⁴ The number of SHAs or CHAs cancelled was not reported.

Ethiopia explains that this substantial land release was the result of "extensive data cleaning" and "desk and site assessments of the non-technical survey processes" in

collaboration between EMAO and UNMAS. As a part of this process, a joint EMAO-UNMAS team was deployed to Jigjiga, in the Somali region, to "engage with regional, zonal and woreda authorities, local communities, and other stakeholders". It is reported that "operational groundwork, including access to suspected areas" was also undertaken, though no further details of what this involved are provided. Ethiopia explains that of the 209 locations in the Somali region previously recorded as hazardous areas, one

²⁰⁶ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

²⁰⁷ 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 50.

²⁰⁸ Ibid., p. 51.

²⁰⁹ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

²¹⁰ Ibid., p. 25.

²¹¹ Emails from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May and 21 August 2025.

²¹² Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

²¹³ UNMAS says that, among a list of items of EO discovered during assessments, including these six AP mines, "358 items have been removed for disposal, while 249 items were marked and reported to authorities". However, it is not stated which in the case of any specific items. UNMAS, "Ethiopia", accessed 11 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4liK601>.

²¹⁴ Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

particular woreda accounted for a little over 600.1km². One particular minefield in Aware District, in Bukodowa Kebele, was identified for data cleaning followed by on site assessment.²¹⁵ This explains the subsequent substantial land release in this location.

Prior to this, the last release of land through survey reported by Ethiopia was in its Article 7 Report covering January 2021–March 2022, which said 13,400m² had been released, though it is unclear whether this area was cancelled or reduced.²¹⁶

UNMAS discovered six AP mines in 2024 during assessment of 17 areas in the Tigray and Afar regions between January and September 2024. A total of 913 EO items were discovered, of which 358 were removed for disposal and 249 were marked and reported to authorities.²¹⁷ It is not known where the AP

mines were found or if they had been laid. UNMAS says that items found were either removed for disposal or marked and reported to the authorities, but it is not stated which items this concerned.²¹⁸

Ethiopia did not report any areas of previously unrecorded contamination in 2024.²¹⁹ HI, though, states that it identified 17,700m² of previously unrecorded legacy AP mined area in 2024, across an as-yet-unquantified number of SHAs in Tigray (see Table 11). These were not reported to EMAO as at May 2025, as the IM system and national database were still under development.²²⁰ In 2023, by comparison, HALO identified a substantially higher total of 979,004m² of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination across nine hazardous areas through NTS: 221,652m² in SHAs and 757,352m² in CHAs.²²¹

Table 10: Cancellation and Reduction by EMAO and UNMAS in 2024²²²

Region/zone/district (woreda)	Area cancelled (km ²)	Area reduced (km ²)
Somali/Jarar/Aware	599.67	0.37

Table 11: Previously unrecorded AP mine contamination identified in 2024 (operator data)*²²³

Operator	Region/district	SHAs identified**	Area identified (m ²)
HI	Tigray / Saharti (Tsehafti)	Unknown	5,000
HI	Tigray / Tsaeda Emba	Unknown	8,500
HI	Tigray / Tsaeda Emba	Unknown	4,200
Total			17,700

*Not reported to EMAO as national database still under development. **HI reported the number of SHAs identified to Mine Action Review as "unknown" in each instance.

CLEARANCE IN 2024

Ethiopia reports that in 2024 70,900m² was cleared in Aware woreda, in the Jarar Zone of Somali region, resulting in the destruction of 17 AP mines, 1 AV mine, and 80 items of UXO (see Table 12).²²⁴ The last release of land through clearance reported by Ethiopia prior to this was in its Article 7 Report covering January 2021–March 2022, which states 46,600m² was cleared, with the destruction of 46 TM-57 AV mines.²²⁵ As outlined above, UNMAS discovered six AP mines during assessment in the Tigray and Afar regions between January and September 2024, which were either removed or marked for disposal by the authorities.²²⁶ If included, this brings the total number of AP mines destroyed in 2024 to 23.

HALO separately reported to Mine Action Review that it cleared 93,535m². No AP mines were destroyed during this clearance, though release of these CHAs was not complete as at the end of 2024, due to the suspension of HALO's operations in Somali region. Three items of UXO were destroyed (see Table 13).²²⁷ Clearance by HALO represents a decrease on that undertaken in 2023, when it cleared 242,052m², destroying six AP mines, along with four AV mines and two other items of UXO.²²⁸ This clearance by HALO was not reported in Ethiopia's Article 7 report covering 2024. As at the time of writing Mine Action Review had not been able to verify if EMAO had been made aware of this clearance by HALO.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ Article 7 Report (covering January 2021–March 2022), Form C.

²¹⁷ UNMAS, "Ethiopia", accessed 11 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4liK601>.

²¹⁸ In June 2024, UNMAS also informed Mine Action Review that it had discovered two AP mines during EO assessments in March 2024. These mines were not laid. UNMAS marked and reported the mines for disposal by local authorities. It is not clear if these AP mines were additional to or included within the six AP mines mentioned previously as discovered by UNMAS during January and September 2024. Email from Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 7 June 2024.

²¹⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form F.

²²⁰ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

²²¹ Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 2 July 2024.

²²² Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

²²³ Email from Alberto Casero Gómez-Pastrana, HI, 14 May 2025.

²²⁴ Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 25–26.

²²⁵ Article 7 Report (covering January 2021–March 2022), Form C.

²²⁶ UNMAS, "Ethiopia", accessed 11 August 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4liK601>.

²²⁷ Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

²²⁸ Emails from Toby Robinson, HALO, 17 May and 14 June 2024.

Table 12: AP mine clearance by EMAO and UNMAS in 2024²²⁹

Region/zone/district (woreda)	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Somali/Jarar/Aware	70,900	17	1	80

Table 13: AP mine clearance by international operators in 2024²³⁰

Operator	Region/Zone/District (woreda)	CHAs cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
HALO	Somali/Jarar/Gashamo/Khatumo	*0	43,029	0	0
HALO	Somali/Jarar/Gashamo/Abigayle	*0	50,506	0	3
Totals		0	93,535	0	3

*These tasks were suspended.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Ethiopia is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025.²³¹ At the 20MSP in November 2022 and again in June 2023, Ethiopia said it would not be in a position to complete clearance by 2025 given constrained "access, capacity and human and financial resources".²³² On 31 March 2025, Ethiopia submitted a third request to extend its Article 5 deadline for five years, with a revised request containing additional information on 7 August.

Ethiopia's projections and estimations for completion of survey and clearance in recent years have proved unrealistic and the primary assumptions set out in its second extension request of 2019 did not come to pass, namely: that donor funding would increase steadily; that old demining equipment would be replaced by "licensed" demining equipment; that one deminer would clear on average as much as 50 square metres per day, 22 days a month, and ten months a year; and

that one additional demining company would be added, for a total of five deployed.²³³ This average clearance rate per deminer appeared unrealistically high at the time.

Ethiopia's two-year work plan for 2026-2027, which includes survey/resurvey of all hazardous areas,²³⁴ appears more realistic given Ethiopia's now significantly expanded capacity.²³⁵ Whether Ethiopia can complete clearance of remaining hazardous areas between 2028 and the end of its proposed extension period in December 2030, depends on the survey results of the initial two-year period, which may yet reveal previously unrecorded legacy contamination from AP mines, as well as the extent to which Ethiopia can meet its ambitious fundraising targets.

Yet, conflict and insecurity persists in some parts of the north of the country, and the outlook for safe and secure access to all mined areas, including those along the parts of the border with Eritrea that are still to be demarcated,

229 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

230 Emails from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May and 21 August 2025.

231 Ethiopia's original Article 5 deadline expired on 1 June 2015. In March 2015, Ethiopia submitted a request for an extension of five years until 1 June 2020 to complete survey and clearance of all remaining mined areas.

232 Statement of Ethiopia on Article 5, 20MSP, Geneva, 21-25 November 2022; and Statement of Ethiopia on Article 5, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19-21 June 2023.

233 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 42.

234 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

235 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

remains uncertain. Ethiopia also lacks a national mine action strategy –long awaited and still pending development as at August 2025 – and a resource mobilisation strategy is still urgently required. While achievements in 2024 merit recognition, Ethiopia will need to sustain and even accelerate intense reform and strengthening of its national mine action programme, through close and meaningful collaboration with stakeholders, if it is to meet its ambitious 2030 deadline.

Table 14: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	*0.16
2023	**0.24
2022	**0.04
2021***	0
2020****	0
Total	0.44

*Sum of national authority data and data from HALO. **Clearance reported by HALO. ***Reporting year was January 2021 to March 2022. ****Reporting year was April–December 2020.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Ethiopia's 2025 extension request does not outline whether Ethiopia has a strategy for managing residual contamination after completion of large-scale clearance.