ETHIOPIA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2030

Not on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 20KM^2

Medium
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km^2)	Release in 2024 (km^2)
Clearance	0	0.16 (National authority and operator data combined)
Technical Survey	0	0.37 (National authority data)
Non-Technical Survey	0	599.67 (National authority data)

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	0	23 (National authority and operator data combined. Including 6 removed for disposal or reported to authorities by UNMAS.)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- Multiple present but none engaged in AP mine survey or clearance.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, Ethiopia was granted a five-year extension to its Article 5 deadline under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), with a new deadline set for 31 December 2030. No survey or clearance of anti-personnel (AP) mines was undertaken by international operators in 2025 and none was reported by Ethiopia's national authorities. Moreover, as at August 2026, Ethiopia had not clarified whether the limited clearance planned for the Somali region for 2026–27 had begun. These factors put into question Ethiopia's compliance with Article 5. Efforts continued to build capacity and systems, in partnership between the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and operators. However, operational accreditation and deployment of operators for nationally coordinated survey and clearance remained delayed across the sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **If it has not already done so by the time this report goes to print, Ethiopia should urgently restart mine clearance in order to comply with Article 5 of the APMBC.**
- **Ethiopia should urgently elaborate a resource mobilisation plan to ensure its national mine action centre has sufficient resources to sustain an effective programme.**
- **Ethiopia should establish a framework to enable humanitarian mine action operators to conduct demolitions using explosives.**
- **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 national mine action standards (NMAS) to enable land release consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).**
- **Ethiopia should establish, as a matter of urgency, a functional Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, following efforts ongoing since early 2024.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	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 97% of the total SHAs in the Somali region. Ethiopia plans to conduct nationwide survey in 2026–27.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	In 2025, 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 whether this is the cost of implementation for just the first two years of the extension period (2026–27) or through to 2030 is unclear.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	As at August 2025, EMAO was collaborating with implementing partners to develop a gender and disability mainstreaming policy. Operators continue efforts to increase the number of women employed in mine action in Ethiopia, including in operational and leadership positions.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	4	4	Ethiopia's forthcoming national mine action strategy, due to be finalised by the end of 2026, is expected to include environmental considerations. As at June 2026, an NMAS on the environment had been developed, but was pending formal approval. Operators are implementing environmental protection measures.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	5	At the time of writing, Ethiopia had still to submit an Article 7 report covering 2024 or 2025. In 2025, Ethiopia submitted and was granted, a third Article 5 deadline extension request, for additional five years to 31 December 2030. The request included a two-year work plan for 2026–27. In 2025, Ethiopia continued work on creating a fully functioning national mine action database. As at mid-October 2026, Ethiopia had not yet submitted an Article 7 report covering calendar years 2024 or 2025.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	5	5	Ethiopia's 2025 extension request provides a costed, two-year work plan, including partial information on land release targets for 2026–30. It is said that both the work plan and the targets for 2027–30 will be detailed after the nationwide survey is complete. EMAO issues task orders, but reportedly with delays at times.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	7	7	In a long overdue update, EMAO issued 12 NMAS and 2 SOPs in 2024, with the standards formally distributed in February 2025. DCA, DRC, HI, and MAG were all newly desk-accredited in 2024 (along with HALO, already established in the country). However, the transition to full operational accreditation of operators and nationally coordinated survey and clearance had still not been realised as at August 2026.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	6	No survey or clearance of AP mined areas took place in 2025. 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. Whether Ethiopia will be able to meet its new 2030 deadline can only be fully assessed after nationwide survey has been conducted as planned in 2026–27, but this was already seemingly behind schedule as at August 2026.
Average Score	**4.6**	**5.0**	**Overall Programme Performance: POOR**

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)

* Newly desk-accredited in Ethiopia in 2024.

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)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

In its revised 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, Ethiopia stated that, as at March 2024, a total of 147 hazardous areas remained covering 125km^2. This comprises 27 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) with a total area of just over 3.4km^2 and 114 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering 121.7km^2.[1] Ethiopia had not provided a more recent estimate of contamination as the time of writing in August 2026. 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.[2]

Table 1: AP and AV mined area by region (at March 2024)[3]

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.

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 726km^2 across 152 hazardous areas.[4] 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 719km^2 decreased massively to under 118km^2.[5] This follows huge cancellation by EMAO and UNMAS in a single minefield in 2024.[6] 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 latest five-year extension period to 2030 is to survey and clear the 147 hazardous areas shown in Table 1, focusing primarily on survey across affected regions in 2026 and 2027, and then on clearing the confirmed contamination in 2028–30.[7] Ethiopia's need for nationwide survey and, where applicable, re-survey, to establish an evidence-based and complete baseline of AP mine contamination is pressing, as historical survey data are unreliable. Ethiopia's 2001–04 Landmine Impact survey (LIS) greatly over-estimated the number and size of SHAs (and thus also the number of impacted communities).[8] In 2019, Ethiopia requested international assistance to conduct a new baseline survey.[9] In 2019–24, however, survey was impeded

1 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
2 Ibid., pp. 7–8.
3 Ibid., p. 8.
4 Article 7 Reports (covering 2023 and January 2021–March 2022), Form C.
5 Ibid.; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
6 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 25.
7 Ibid., pp. 9 and 45–53.
8 In 2012, Ethiopia reported that subsequent technical survey (TS) and NTS of the SHAs identified during the LIS had confirmed the presence of mines 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 1,200km^2 from LIS data needed re-survey.
9 Statement of Ethiopia on its Article 5 deadline extension request, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.

by the need to focus on emergency clearance of explosive ordnance (EO) to facilitate the humanitarian response to non-international armed conflict in the north of the country.[10] No non-technical survey (NTS) of AP mined areas took place in 2025 and, as at the time of writing in August 2026, no further progress towards establishing a more accurate baseline of contamination had been reported.

Ethiopia did not include any information about any areas of previously unrecorded contamination in its 2025 extension request or in its most recent Article 7 report (covering 2023). International operators did not record any new mined areas in 2025. Ethiopia says that no evidence has been found that AP mines were used during the recent conflict in the north.[11] EMAO does not expect to find any new contamination, though it might find previously unrecorded legacy contamination there.[12]

Ethiopia and Eritrea have not fully demarcated their common border, presenting a further challenge to the establishment of an accurate contamination baseline. In its 2025 extension request, Ethiopia said it was "actively seeking diplomatic engagement to obtain access into the minefields in northern part of the country, bordering Eritrea".[13] The likelihood of timely progress on this key issue was unclear in Ethiopia's 2019 extension request,[14] and remains so. The Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties (22MSP) noted the importance of Ethiopia reporting progress made in diplomatic engagement to reach a political agreement with Eritrea, and also with Somalia, regarding plans to clear AP mines from border areas.[15]

Conflict and insecurity across the northern regions of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray have continued to impede demining. It has also left behind significant contamination from explosive remnants of war (ERW),[16] increasing the strain on an already under-resourced mine action capacity in Ethiopia. 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.[17] Despite the ceasefire agreement, however, there were some hostilities in 2024[18] and again in 2025.[19] More recently, renewed clashes between Tigrayan non-State armed groups and Ethiopia's armed forces broke out in the early months of 2026.[20] In March 2026, UNMAS reported that large areas of Amhara and parts of Tigray could not be safely accessed.[21] While HALO says that insecurity did not affect its activities in Afar during 2025,[22] other operators reported that insecurity had constrained access in certain areas, especially the north.[23]

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 improved explosive devices.[24] UNMAS, however, does not believe there to be improvised mines[25] and operators have not reported any in recent years.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Ethiopia is also believed to have areas containing cluster munition remnants (CMR), although EMAO highlights that further survey is needed to ascertain their extent and location.[26] See Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2026* report on Ethiopia for further information. Ethiopia has extensive contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO), resulting from the recent conflict in Tigray, which has since spread into the neighbouring regions of Afar and Amhara.[27]

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

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

12 Interview with General Tadesse Amelo, Director, EMAO, in Geneva, 10 April 2025.

13 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

14 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8, 14, and 35. On page 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 page 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 page 14, the request noted that insecurity remained along the border but hoped the peace agreement would "provide some scope for mine action on the border".

15 "Decisions on the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Draft", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

16 Email from Abel Tesfai, Chief of Mine Action Programme, Ethiopia, UNMAS, 17 August 2023.

17 "After Agreement in Ethiopia's Tigray Region, What Stands in the Way of Lasting Peace?", International Peace Institute Global Observatory, 27 February 2023.

18 "Mine Action in Ethiopia", presentation by UNMAS to the Mine Action support group (MASG), Geneva, 29 April 2024; "Defense Ministry, UN coordinate to clear landmines affecting 7 million Ethiopians", *The Reporter*, 6 April 2024, https://bit.ly/3xElQ63.

19 In early 2025, Ethiopian troops mobilised to the border with Eritrea, and there were political clashes and armed skirmishes in Mekelle and elsewhere. "Debretsion Faction Unleash Attacks Tigray; Many Casualties Reported in Mekelle", *Borkena*, 11 March 2025, https://bit.ly/4m8hAQg; "Rising Tensions in Tigray Risk Regional Conflict", Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 24 March 2025, https://bit.ly/3UMDOex; and "Power struggle leads to coup in Tigray as war looms between Ethiopia and Eritrea", *The Guardian*, 21 March 2025, https://bit.ly/4fprpXl. There was also at least one report of Eritrean troop movements and military regrouping near the border in July: "Tensions Flare in Ethiopia's Tigray as Fears of Renewed Conflict Grow", *All East Africa*, 17 July 2025, https://bit.ly/4lfPvVY.

20 See, for example: "Flights to northern Ethiopia cancelled as fears mount of renewed conflict", *BBC News*, 29 January 2026, https://bit.ly/4arU3ol; "Clashes between government troops and Tigrayan forces erupt in Ethiopia", *Al Jazeera*, 29 January 2026, https://bit.ly/4n5bqle; "Ethiopia: Türk fears new crisis in Tigray amid renewed fighting", *UN News*, 10 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4apfmr7.

21 Online interview with Rob Syfret, Chief of Mine Action, UNMAS, Ethiopia, 25 March 2026.

22 Email from Claire Brenner, Programme Officer, Ethiopia & Sudan, HALO, 15 June 2026.

23 Emails from several mine action operators, April to May 2026.

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

25 Email from Rob Syfret, UNMAS Ethiopia, 19 June 2026.

26 Interview with General Tadesse Amelo, EMAO, in Geneva, 10 April 2025.

27 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.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Since 2023, EMAO has been focused on strengthening its structure and capacity to undertake nationwide survey. EMAO says this reorganisation includes further updating the NMAS, following significant progress in 2024, and ensuring that operational procedures, prioritisation strategies, and quality management (QM) systems are functioning correctly.[28]

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.[29] In 2019, after several institutional transitions, Ethiopia reported that responsibility for the national mine action programme had been transferred back to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).[30] Ethiopia previously reported that existing legislation is sufficient for the national programme.[31] But some in the sector suggest that the lack of a consistent and enabling regulatory framework has undermined the sector's ability to scale up effectively.

In recent years, in collaboration with UNMAS and operators, Ethiopia has made concerted efforts to develop the systems and processes of its mine action programme and increase survey and clearance capacity, with the desk accreditation of five international operators in 2024.[32] In 2025 and into 2026, the focus has been on moving operators from desk accreditation to operational accreditation for survey and clearance, in particular for single item destruction in situ. Due to restrictions on use of explosives, operators have been using methods such as T-Jets (pyrotechnic torches) for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), which is only an interim measure.[33] HALO received operational accreditation in May 2026 and, as at August, was the only operator in Ethiopia able to undertake EOD using T-Jets.[34] In April 2026, UNMAS reported to the Mine Action Support Group that (other) operators in Ethiopia had trained and equipped their teams for clearance and disposal, but had not been able to gain operational accreditation in order to have the legal permission to perform these tasks.[35] The inability of operators to destroy ordnance not only prolongs risk for communities, but can also undermine their long-term confidence in mine action operators.

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,[36] collaborating with EMAO in QM, information management (IM), and mine action sector management.[37] These efforts are ongoing. Mines Advisory group (MAG) provided institutional, technical, and operational capacity development support to EMAO in 2025 and into 2026, including training in leadership and strategic planning, NTS, cancellation, and QM. MAG also facilitated an experience-sharing visit to Zimbabwe for EMAO personnel.[38] DanChurchAid (DCA) extended the secondment of a staff member to EMAO up to September 2026, to support the coordination of Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA-AoR) meetings; facilitate engagement with donors and other stakeholders; and assist in planning and reporting.[39]

HALO provided NTS training to EMAO staff and seconded a Planning and Reporting Officer to EMAO.[40] Humanity & Inclusion (HI) continued its support in IM to EMAO, which it planned to provide throughout 2026, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training and direct technical support. HI also conducted an EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) Level 3 training in April 2026, and invited participation by EMAO staff. HI donated EOD equipment in early 2026 and is providing support to renovate EMAO's offices.[41] Danish Refugee Council (DRC) sponsored IMAS EOD Level 2 training in 2025, helping increase the technical capacity and operational readiness of national mine action partners United Demining Solutions (UDS) and Empowering People for Sustainable Solutions (EPSS).[42] In the course of 2026, EMAO staff were expected to visit Cambodia to learn from its coordination work, in an initiative funded by Japan.[43]

Regular meeting and coordination mechanisms are in place. UNMAS facilitates monthly meetings of the MA-AoR, with sub-cluster meetings also held in Shire (Tigray), Mekelle (Tigray), and Semera (Afar).[44] These meetings continued in 2025 and into 2026.[45] In light of the multiple stakeholders and operators now accredited and operating in country, Ethiopia could establish a National Mine Action Platform, in line with Action 42 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan. UNMAS has also suggested that EMAO explore the possibility of establishing regional EMAO sub-offices.[46] These could enhance effective local coordination and tasking.[47]

28 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 5.
29 Council of Ministers Regulation No. 70/2001, 5 February 2001.
30 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
31 Article 7 Report (situation as of 30 April 2017), Form A.
32 2025 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
33 Online interview with Rob Syfret, UNMAS, 25 March 2026.
34 Email from Aisha O'Reilly, Programme Manager/Country Director, Ethiopia, HALO, 28 August 2026.
35 "MASG UN Forgotten Countries", Mine Action Support Group, 23 April 2026, p. 1, https://tinyurl.com/ms4kbrsk.
36 "Ethiopia", UNMAS, accessed 11 August 2025.
37 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
38 Email from Cristy McLennen, Regional Programmes Support Manager, MAG, 13 April 2026.
39 Emails from Kibru Alemu Adinew, EORE Technical Lead, DCA, 21 August 2025; and 16 April and 1 September 2026.
40 Email from Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026.
41 Emails from Raphael Wittwer, Country Director, HI, 29 April and 24 August 2026.
42 Email from Clement Muzondi Suwali, Operations Manager, DRC, 2 September 2026.
43 Email from Rob Syfret, UNMAS Ethiopia, 19 June 2026.
44 "Ethiopia", UNMAS, accessed 11 August 2025.
45 Email from Rob Syfret, Country Director, UNMAS Ethiopia, 19 June 2026.
46 Presentation by Francesca Chiaudani, Chief, Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, National Directors Meeting (NDM), Geneva, 29 April–1 May 2024.
47 Emails from and interviews with international mine action operators, March to May 2025.

Operators report positive collaboration with EMAO and government stakeholders in areas such as joint planning and coordination and support to the importation of demining equipment and the securing of visas and work permits for international staff. Some, though, report continuing challenges including lengthy procedures for the importation of equipment and issuance of visas for international staff.[48] EMAO is not the final decision maker on these issues and ultimate authority rests with the MoD and other Federal Authorities.[49] The primary operational constraint, however, remains the delay in operators being able to secure the national approval to conduct clearance and EOD.

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

It is unclear how much national funding has been made available by the Government of Ethiopia for survey or clearance in recent years. Mine Action Review has requested but not been provided with information on this matter. In 2023, Ethiopia said that the government had provided US$100,000 that year for rapid response to EO threats.[50]

In its 2025 extension request, Ethiopia stated 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 has pledged to provide 10%, through "direct financial support, in-kind assistance, and institutional cost coverage". The remaining 90% it expects to come from donors.[51] Ethiopia assesses that fulfilment of only its Article 5 obligations in 2026–30 will require US$17.64m. That estimated cost is based on two significant assumptions: that only 4% of the total area of SHAs contain AP mines, and that Ethiopia can implement land release at a cost of US$2.12 per square metre.[52]

Ethiopia has not detailed how much of this donor funding, if any, has been secured. It has noted that survey planned for the first two years is "contingent on funding being secured".[53] In the extension request, Ethiopia pledged that an updated work plan, to be submitted either by the end of 2027 or in April 2028, will include a resource mobilisation strategy.[54] Either way, given the lack of secured funds, a resource mobilisation plan should be developed as a matter of urgency. However, many in the sector note that securing funding for clearance of legacy minefields is extremely challenging in the current global funding environment.

A summary of funding provided to survey and clearance operators present in Ethiopia in 2025 is provided in Table 2. 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"[55] (that is, areas newly affected by EO of all kinds). For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Ethiopia on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[56]

Table 2: Funding for survey and clearance of EO by international operators in Ethiopia (2025–26)[57]

Donor	2025	2026
Denmark (Danida)	DRC, DCA	DRC, DCA
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)	DRC, HI	DRC, HI
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs – Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)	HI	HI
German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)	DRC, HALO, HI	DRC, HALO, HI
Irish Aid	None	HALO
Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	None	HALO, MAG
UNMAS/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	None	MAG

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Ethiopia provides brief information on its efforts on gender and diversity considerations in its 2025 extension request. EMAO is said to be collaborating with implementing partners to develop a "Gender and Disability mainstreaming policy". It is suggested that a multi-stakeholder technical working group (TWG) on gender and diversity may be established,[58]

48 Emails from several international mine action operators, April to May 2026.

49 Emails from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 17 March 2025; and Nicholas Bray, Chief of Operations, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

50 Statement of Ethiopia on Article 5 Implementation, Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP), Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

51 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 15 and 57. On page 15, the grand total of US$30.9m is spread over 2026 to 2030.

52 2025 revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 14–15.

53 Ibid., p. 40.

54 Ibid., p. 42. The revised request stated the updated work plan will be submitted in April 2028. But on page 9, it stated that an updated work plan would be submitted by 31 December 2027.

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

56 https://the-monitor.org.

57 Emails from Christian Green, Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Operations Manager, DRC, 31 March 2026; Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026; Rebecca Letven, Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, MAG, 29 August 2026; Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 1 September 2026; and Raphael Wittwer, HI, 24 August 2026.

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

though no time frame has been given. Ethiopia also plans further consultation to ensure that groups in mine-affected communities receive "the assistance that they deserve".[59] Ethiopia has not, as yet, addressed the issue of ethnic diversity in the programme.

UNMAS has provided technical assistance to increase EMAO's capability to collect and analyse data through an age, gender, and diversity lens.[60] It organised a gender and diversity perception survey in 2024. The survey results indicated that, overall, gender and certain aspects of 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 few were in supervisory or managerial roles). 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.[61] It also identified certain barriers to access to mine action employment for persons with disabilities.[62]

Operators are making efforts to increase the number of women employed in mine action in Ethiopia. HALO has achieved its goal of employing 30% female staff in both operational and support roles.[63] DRC is working towards making its Ethiopia team gender-balanced at the all-staff and leadership levels. It stipulates inclusion of a minimum percentage of female applicants during recruitment and is focused on promoting inclusion of women in roles that are traditionally male-dominated in Ethiopia. For example, in 2025–26, DRC roles occupied by women included a Technical Field Manager, EOD Specialist, NTS Team Leader, and a Team Medic for operations.[64]

Operators have faced some challenges with increasing female recruitment in Ethiopia. HALO notes that cultural sensitivities, societal norms, and traditional gender roles bring challenges to implementation and to achieving gender balance in the country, and that these norms vary significantly between Ethiopia's different regions.[65] 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.[66] HALO continues a number of established initiatives to support female employees, such as childcare stipends for new mothers. As at June 2026, HALO was developing a country-specific gender analysis and action plan for Ethiopia.[67] DCA and DRC have a country-specific gender and diversity policy in place.[68]

Operators also continue to make efforts to recruit and deploy gender-mixed and locally recruited teams, to facilitate access and participation by all groups, including women and children. DRC notes that mixed-gender teams are important, particularly in conservative or rural contexts, where access to engaging with women and vulnerable groups may otherwise be limited. In a new initiative, HALO is supplying female staff with reusable menstrual health products, and training staff in women's health and empowerment education, with plans to integrate this into community visits.[69]

In its 2019 extension request, Ethiopia noted that no female deminers were employed in its national demining companies.[70] Mine Action Review has requested, but not received a recent update on this matter.

Table 3: Gender composition of operators and UNMAS in Ethiopia 2025[71]

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
DCA	9	3 (33%)	4	1 (25%)	3	1 (33%)
DRC	16	6 (38%)	7	4 (57%)	12	4 (33%)
HALO	*30	6 (20%)	5	1 (20%)	13	4 (31%)
HI	41	4 (10%)	7	0 (0%)	27	2 (7%)
UNMAS	12	6 (50%)	2	1 (50%)	7	2 (29%)
Totals	**108**	**25 (23%)**	**25**	**7 (28%)**	**62**	**13 (21%)**

* Includes six security guards. N/K = Not known.

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

60 UNMAS, "Ethiopia", accessed 11 August 2025.

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

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

63 Email from Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026.

64 Email from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 16 April 2026.

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

66 Email from Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026.

67 Email from Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026.

68 Emails from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 16 April 2026; and Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026.

69 Emails from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 16 April 2026; Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026; Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026; and Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026.

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

71 Emails from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 16 April 2026; Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026; Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026; Raphael Wittwer, HI, 24 August 2026; and Rob Syfret, UNMAS Ethiopia, 19 June 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Ethiopia's 2025 extension request does not provide information on how it plans to take into consideration—and where possible to mitigate—the environmental impact of its mine action programme, including during mine clearance. Ethiopia's national mine action strategy, expected by the end of 2026,[72] is expected to address environmental concerns.[73] As at June 2026, an NMAS on the environment, aligned with IMAS 07.13 (2nd edition, July 2024), was awaiting national approval.[74]

No survey or clearance of AP mines took place in Ethiopia in 2025. However, operators in-country have outlined their intended approach and measures in place to protect the environment during operations. HALO, the only operator to have previously undertaken AP mine survey and clearance in Ethiopia, has a global environmental management policy and a global standard operating procedure (SOP) for the environmental management of operations[75] and as at June 2026, was working towards a country-specific policy and environmental management plan (EMP). HALO is also trialling a pre-clearance environmental assessment tool in its Somaliland[76] programme, which it may apply in future clearance activities in Ethiopia.[77] HI does not have a country-specific policy, but environmental considerations are integrated into its operations through its environmental management SOP and operational plans tailored to the Ethiopian context.[78]

Operators have already taken specific measures in the field and at their offices, in advance of beginning full clearance operations. For example, when planning demolitions, DRC takes into account migratory bird movements so as to minimise unnecessary wildlife disturbance.[79] HALO plans to implement an environmental project with the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), which involves rehabilitation of a tree nursery on land surveyed and deemed safe by HALO teams, to transform it into a community cooperative Rural Resource Centre (a community-owned tree nursery and training hub).[80]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Strengthening and improving Ethiopia's mine action information management systems by "operationalising" IMSMA Core is one of EMAO's key objectives.[81] Although there was no timeline for completion, good progress had been achieved by August 2026. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) had delivered training with EMAO staff, capacity development activities were ongoing, and the finalisation of an implementing partner agreement was expected soon.[82]

While a fully functional national database remains a work in progress, operators have been taking measures to collect and maintain necessary data and share it regularly with EMAO.[83] IM training has taken place in collaboration with UNMAS and other partners, addressing areas such as reporting and data validation.[84] HALO highlights the coordinated effort among all stakeholders to align on data collection.[85]

As at mid-October 2026, Ethiopia had not yet submitted an Article 7 report covering 2024 or 2025. In 2024, Ethiopia submitted its Article 7 report covering 2023 on time.[86] 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 2026-2027 is provided in Ethiopia's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in good time in March 2025, with a revised request containing additional information,[87] which it provided in August 2025.[88]

At 22MSP, Ethiopia was granted a five-year extension to its Article 5 deadline, with a new deadline set for 31 December 2030. In granting this extension, the Meeting noted that the Convention would benefit from Ethiopia submitting, by 30 April 2028, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request, which should contain: an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain AP mines; progress in implementation of new methodologies; annual projections of which areas would be dealt with by which organisations during the remaining period covered by the request; and a detailed updated budget.[89]

72 Email from Rob Syfret, UNMAS Ethiopia, 19 June 2026.

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

74 Email from Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026.

75 Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024; and Rob Syfret, Head of Region, HALO, 10 April 2023.

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

77 Email from Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026.

78 Email from Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026.

79 Email from Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026.

80 Emails from Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026; and Aisha O'Reilly, HALO, 28 August 2026.

81 2025 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 40.

82 Email from Rob Syfret, UNMAS, 17 August 2026.

83 Emails from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 16 April 2026; Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026; Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026; and Rob Syfret, UNMAS Ethiopia, 19 June 2026.

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

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

86 Ethiopia did not submit an Article 7 report covering the period from April 2022 to the end of that year.

87 "Analysis of the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention Submitted by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation", 14 October 2025, pp. 1–2.

88 APMBC, "Ethiopia's Extension Request Process", accessed 9 August 2025, https://tinyurl.com/mu8a5nwn.

89 "Decisions on the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Draft", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Ethiopia's 2025 extension request sets out a five-year plan, including an initial detailed and costed two-year plan, focused on NTS across the country, as well as limited clearance of 0.96km² CHA in the Somali region.[90] This initial two-year plan for 2026–27 is set to be followed by three years of legacy mine clearance and continued survey efforts in 2028–30. Ethiopia states that (other) "limited rapid-response clearance" may occur before 2028, based on "community requests and urgent humanitarian needs".[91] As noted, much of the new contamination in the north is expected to come from single items of UXO rather than legacy minefields.[92]

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 mined areas (see Table 1).[93] Based on the outcome of surveys in 2026–27, Ethiopia plans to submit a further work plan for the remainder of the extension period.[94] As mentioned, Ethiopia is required, under the terms of its third extension, to do so by 30 April 2028.[95]

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".[96] 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".[97] Ethiopia also says it will update its clearance plan on an ongoing basis, based on survey findings, and detail this in its Article 7 reports.[98]

Ethiopia set 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.[99] In fact, Ethiopia released 318km² by cancellation in 2019–20, along with 10.3km² through reduction and 1.76km² through clearance.[100] 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 in Tigray in 2020.[101] HALO did, however, undertake and report to Mine Action Review limited clearance totalling 0.63km² in 2022 (0.39km²)[102] and 2023 (0.24km²).[103]

In 2024, Ethiopia stated that it had released 599.71km² through survey, (all in a single minefield in the Somali region, and almost all through cancellation),[104] thus significantly exceeding the 175.8km² annual land release target previously mentioned. Limited clearance took place in 2024, with 70,900m² reported by the national authorities[105] and 93,535m² reported to Mine Action Review separately, by HALO.[106] In 2025, the final year of Ethiopia's second extension period, (when, as previously mentioned, release of just 3.9km² was planned) no clearance of AP mined areas by international operators took place, and none was reported by Ethiopia's national authorities.

During the first two years of Ethiopia's new extension period of 2026–30, survey is planned on a regional, village-by-village basis, including resurvey of certain previously recorded hazardous areas.[107] A detailed, timebound survey plan for each relevant region is provided in the request, including land release targets and the projected capacity and budget required for each region,[108] as well as the size of each of the 147 hazardous areas at the woreda (district) level (though the type of survey to be undertaken in any given location—NTS or TS, or a combination of both—is unclear).[109] During 2026, survey is planned in multiple woredas of the Somali region, and in one woreda in the Gambela region, with the total area to be surveyed amounting to 112.1km².[110]

90 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 11–12.

91 Ibid., p. 9.

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

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

94 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.

95 "Decisions on the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Draft", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

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

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

98 Ibid., p. 6.

99 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information, p. 48; and Article 7 Report (covering January 2021–March 2022), Form C.

100 Article 7 Report (covering 31 April 2019–31 April 2020), Form D. The 2025 Extension Request states that this land release took place in 2020. Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 22–23.

101 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

108 Ibid., pp. 45–53.

109 Ibid., pp. 46–51.

110 Ibid., p. 46.

Although a full five-year work plan is not yet provided, Ethiopia's 2025 extension request does include five-year cancellation targets for the 79 SHAs in the Somali region, measuring 117.85km^2 (see Table 5), which accounts for 94% of Ethiopia's total contamination. As noted, the extension request also states that clearance of CHA amounting to 956,600m^2 in the Somali region (see Table 1) would take place in 2026–27,[111] although it had not been established whether clearance had begun as at August 2026.

Table 4: Projected cancellation of SHAs in Somali region, 2026-2030[112]

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 operations[113] (although elsewhere in the revised request it states that it expects one month of stand-down time during the peak rainy season).[114] During the initial two years, 11 multi-task teams (MTTs) are planned to be deployed in the north of the country, with "the potential for incremental growth as operations expand".[115]

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 though NTS; consistent funding; ongoing support broadly for mine action in Ethiopia; and diversified funding streams (i.e. national and international). Ethiopia says it is "seeking diplomatic engagement" to obtain access to minefields in northern areas that border Eritrea. It says that most other border areas are accessible.[116]

Ethiopia provided a Land Release Prioritization and Impact Classification Matrix in its 2025 extension request.[117] In mine clearance prior to 2025, HALO used 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.[118] EMAO issues task orders, though reportedly with delays at times.[119] It would be beneficial for Ethiopia to ensure its tasking system runs as efficiently as possible during its 2026–30 extension period.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

EMAO issued twelve Ethiopian National Mine Action Standards (ENMAS) and SOPs in 2024, which serve as the basis for Ethiopia's quality management system. The 2024 NMAS cover the following areas: information management; TS; NTS; manual mine clearance; land release; battle area clearance (BAC); the marking of EO; explosive ordnance risk education (EORE); EOD; QM; medical support to demining operations; storage, transportation, and handling of explosives; investigation and reporting of accidents and incidents; and post-clearance inspections. Additionally there are two SOPs on tasking and prioritization.[120] The ENMAS were developed jointly with mine action sector stakeholders[121] and circulated by EMAO in February 2025.[122]

In its 2025 extension request, Ethiopia notes that development and revision of the NMAS and SOPs is ongoing, with half of the NMAS completed as at March 2025.[123] As mentioned, an NMAS on the environment was pending approval as at March 2026. This was drafted through a consultative process, led by DRC.[124] UNMAS says that revision of Ethiopia's NMAS is included in the 2026 work plan.[125]

111 Ibid., pp. 11–12.
112 Ibid., p. 11.
113 Ibid., p. 53.
114 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Ethiopia Committee on Article 5 Implementation", p. 2.
115 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 61.
116 Ibid., pp. 16 and 61.
117 Ibid., Annex 2, pp. 63–65.
118 Email from Toby Robinson, HALO, 14 June 2024.
119 Emails from international mine action operators, March to August 2026.
120 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.
121 2025 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7; and emails from, and interviews with, international mine action operators in March to May 2025.
122 Emails from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 and 14 October 2025.
123 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 32.
124 Email from Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026.
125 Email from Nicholas Bray, UNMAS, 8 October 2025.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

International operators DCA, DRC, HALO,[126] HI, and MAG received desk accreditation from EMAO in 2024[127] and are operating in-country in various aspects of mine action (including capacity development and training, EORE, and tackling EO), though none undertook survey or clearance of AP mines during 2025.[128] HALO has been operational in the country since August 2022, when it was clearing mined areas on the border with Somaliland.[129] Table 5 outlines the survey and clearance capacity available in Ethiopia during 2025.

Though no international operators undertook survey or clearance of AP mines in 2025, they are prepared to undertake this if tasked by EMAO to do so. As at June 2026, DCA had initiated NTS (though not of mined areas), but had not yet secured funding to engage in clearance;[130] DRC was not yet authorised to undertake clearance;[131] HALO had relocated its operations from the Somali region to Afar, received operational accreditation, and begun demolition of surface-based EO – the predominant threat in the region;[132] HI was undertaking NTS and UXO spot tasks;[133] and MAG continued to provide capacity support to EMAO and to deliver EORE, but had not yet begun survey or clearance.[134]

Ethiopia has assigned all operators, including a small number of national NGOs,[135] specific responsibilities and areas of operation (AoOs) in the 2026–27 plan for survey and clearance set out in its 2025 extension request. All desk-accredited international operators are assigned responsibility for NTS, TS, clearance, and EOD.[136] Some experienced changes in capacity in 2025–26. HALO reduced to no clearance capacity in 2025, but increased ten MTTs, trained in NTS, EOD, and EORE, as of September 2026.[137] DRC was able to add one NTS team and one MTT team in 2025.[138] HI anticipated a decrease from three MTTs to either two or one of these during 2026.[139] DCA's one NTS team had been accredited and was operational in Afar as at September 2026.[140]

UNMAS has seen a steady reduction in capacity in Ethiopia over the last few years. In 2024, it 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.[141] UNMAS deployed technical advisers to accompany EMAO NTS missions during 2025. Since April 2026, the UNMAS Ethiopia team has reduced to one person.[142]

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, and EMAO had not responded to Mine Action Review's recent request for information as at August 2026. EMAO has clarified, in its 2025 extension request, that it 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".[143] EMAO has explained that work is underway to reorganise the sector and better define national capacity and resource requirements, and that it deploys national capacity in border areas where there is insecurity, but aims to pass these areas to international NGO operators eventually.[144]

Table 5: Operational survey and clearance capacities available in 2025[145]

Operator	Survey teams	Clearance teams	MTTs	Total personnel	Comments
DCA	1	0	0	2	NTS team. Not deployed for AP mined areas in 2025.
DRC	2	0	0	8	NTS teams. Not deployed for AP mined areas in 2025. MTT team trained in 2025.

126 In March 2024, HALO was instructed to cease operations and to renew its MoD accreditation. In coordination with EMAO, HALO did so in October 2024. Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 28 May 2025.

127 2025 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

128 Emails from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 16 April 2026; Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026; Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026; Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026; and Cristy McLennen, MAG, 13 April 2026.

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

130 Email from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 19 March 2026.

131 Email from Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026.

132 HALO received operational accreditation in April 2026. Such surface-based EO in Afar region consists mainly of artillery shells, mortar bombs, cannon rounds, hand grenades, shoulder-propelled grenades, and tank ammunition. There is also legacy landmine contamination in Afar, concentrated along the border with Eritrea, but this is reserved for military clearance. Email from Mahad Ibrahim, Operations Manager, HALO, 22 April 2026.

133 Email from Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026.

134 Emails from Cristy McLennen, MAG, 13 April 2026; and Rebecca Letven, MAG, 29 August 2026.

135 National NGOs Empowering People for Sustainable Solutions (EPSS) and Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO) have also been assigned responsibilities for NTS (and EORE). EPSS website, accessed 15 August 2025; RaDO website, accessed 15 August 2025, https://bit.ly/41H1yEE.

136 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 43 and 30–31. See also "Table 6, Assigned regions and functions of accredited NGOs in Ethiopia for 2026–2027", *Clearing the Mines 2025*, https://tinyurl.com/24shrxuc, p. 211.

137 Email from Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026.

138 Emails from Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026; and Clement Muzondi Suwali, DRC, 2 September 2026.

139 Email from Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026.

140 Email from Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 1 September 2026.

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

142 Email from Rob Syfret, UNMAS Ethiopia, 19 June 2026.

143 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 28–29.

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

145 Emails from Col. Tadege Yohala, EMAO, 5 August 2019; Kibru Alemu Adinew, DCA, 16 April 2026; Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026; Clement Muzondi Suwali, DRC, 2 September 2026; Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026; and Raphael Wittwer, HI, 29 April 2026.

Table 5 continued

Operator	Survey teams	Clearance teams	MTTs	Total personnel	Comments
HALO	2	0	0	8	NTS teams. Not deployed for AP mined areas in 2025.
HI	0	0	3	5	Each MTT has one Team Leader, four operatives, and one medic. Not deployed for AP mined areas in 2025. HI also has a Community Liaison team (five personnel).
Ethiopia Armed Forces	2	2	0	N/K	Data provided in 2019 for personnel deployed in 2018. Survey teams deployed for TS in 2018. No recent data available.
Totals	**7**	**2**	**3**	**23**	

Operators do not 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 TS dogs as the preferred and context-appropriate enhancement to land release operations.[146] 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.[147] 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.[148]

Since launching in Ethiopia in 2024, DRC has invested in training innovations, sharing these with partners across the sector. These include use of a 3D printer to produce inert replicas of UXO for training purposes; use of extended reality (XR) technology in EORE; and augmented reality systems to enhance EOD training – especially useful when access to live training materials is limited.[149]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 6: Summary of land release outputs in 2025 (Operator data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)
Clearance	0
Technical survey	0
Non-technical survey	0
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**
AP mines destroyed	0

International operators did not undertake any survey or clearance of AP mines in Ethiopia in 2025, and none was reported by the national authorities. HALO identified two AP mines, which were not the target of NTS, but discovered during community engagement.[150] No new areas of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination were reported to have been identified in 2025. Mine Action Review requested information on survey and clearance of AP mines in 2025 from the national authorities but had not received a response at the time of writing in August 2026. Ethiopia had still to submit an Article 7 Report, covering 2025, at this time.

SURVEY IN 2025

International operators did not undertake any survey of AP mined areas in Ethiopia in 2025, and none was reported by the national authorities. As previously noted, HALO identified two AP mines, which were not the target of NTS, but discovered during community engagement. HALO believes these mines predate the 2020–22 conflict, most likely resulting from the 1991 war.[151] Of these two AP mines (both POMZ-2s), one (without a fuze) was marked, but not destroyed. The other was destroyed (burned) by villagers or police. HALO planned to send teams to conduct demolitions of all EO items marked (including the AP mine identified in 2025), once accredited by EMAO for EOD.[152]

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

147 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 50.

148 Ibid., p. 51.

149 Emails from Christian Green, DRC, 31 March 2026; and Clement Muzondi Suwali, DRC, 2 September 2026.

150 Email from Pierrick Rouat, HALO, 19 March 2026.

151 Ibid.

152 Email from Claire Brenner, HALO, 15 June 2026.

By comparison, in 2024, UNMAS discovered six AP mines during assessment of 17 areas in the Tigray and Afar regions.[153] 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.[154] Also, in 2024, Ethiopia released 599.71km^2 through survey, of which 599.67km^2 was cancelled, and 368,958m^2 was reduced. All of this release through survey took place in a single minefield in Somali region.[155] 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.[156] This explains the subsequent substantial land release in this location.

International operators did not record any new areas of previously unrecorded contamination in 2025 and the national authorities did not report any. By comparison, in 2024, HI identified 17,700m^2 of previously unrecorded legacy AP mined area, across an as-yet-unquantified number of SHAs in Tigray.[157] Ethiopia's Article 7 report covering 2024 detailed no previously unrecorded contamination being identified.[158]

CLEARANCE IN 2025

International operators did not clear any AP mined areas in 2025 and no clearance was reported by the national authorities. By comparison, Ethiopia reported that, in 2024, 70,900m^2 was cleared in the Somali region, resulting in the destruction of 17 AP mines, 1 AV mine, and 80 items of UXO.[159] HALO reported separately to Mine Action Review that it cleared 93,535m^2 in 2024. 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.[160]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR ETHIOPIA: 1 JUNE 2005

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JUNE 2015

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (5 YEARS): 1 JUNE 2020

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (5 YEARS, 7 MONTHS): 31 DECEMBER 2025

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION): 31 DECEMBER 2030

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the five-year extension granted in 2025), 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 2030.[161] It is not on track to meet this deadline and, given the absence of survey and clearance of AP mined areas in 2025 and seeming continued lack of this as at August 2026, its compliance with Article 5 is now very much in question.

At the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties (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".[162] Ethiopia also states that progress during its second extension period to 2025, was severely impeded by armed conflict and restricted access in the northern regions as well as by the COVID-19 pandemic.[163] 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. This extension request was subsequently granted by States Parties at 22MSP in November 2025.

153 A total of 913 EO items were discovered, of which 358 were removed for disposal and 249 were marked and reported to authorities. UNMAS, "Ethiopia", accessed 11 August 2025.

154 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. Email from Francesca Chiaudani, UNMAS, 7 June 2024. It is not clear if these AP mines were additional to or included within the six AP mines discovered by UNMAS in January and September 2024.

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

156 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 particular woreda accounted for a little over 600.1km^2. One particular minefield in Aware District, in Bukodowa Kebele, was identified for data cleaning followed by on site assessment. This explains the subsequent substantial land release in this location. Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

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

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

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

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

161 "Decisions on the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Draft", 4 December 2025, p. 1.

162 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.

163 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 19-20.

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.[164] This average clearance rate per deminer appeared unrealistically high at the time.

Ethiopia's two-year work plan for 2026–27, which comprises survey/resurvey of all hazardous areas and limited clearance,[165] appears more realistic given Ethiopia's now significantly expanded capacity.[166] However, as at August 2026, as previously discussed, the process of moving operators from desk accreditation to full implementation of nationally-coordinated survey and clearance operations was proving slow. This delay has potentially already put Ethiopia behind schedule in implementation of its 2026–2027 work plan, diminishing the possibility of completing clearance of the 0.96km^2 of CHA planned in Somali region for 2026–27, and further delaying the establishment of the baseline contamination estimate required to implement scheduled clearance during the remainder of the extension period from 2028 to 2030.

As noted in the Decisions on Ethiopia's 2025 Article 5 Extension Request: "Ethiopia has made commendable progress, including in the strengthening of its national capacity, including through its partnerships with international partners."[167] But ongoing delays in accreditation for clearance and EOD activities, and delays in tasking remain critical practical barriers to implementation.

Furthermore, 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, remains uncertain. Ethiopia also lacks a national mine action strategy –long awaited and still pending development as at August 2026 – and a resource mobilisation strategy is still urgently required. While achievements in the last two years merit recognition, Ethiopia will need to sustain and even accelerate intense reform and strengthening of its national mine action programme, as well as meet challenging fundraising targets, if it is to meet its ambitious 2030 deadline.

Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km^2)
2025	*0
2024	**0.16
2023	***0.24
2022	***0.04
2021****	0
Total	**0.44**

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

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.

164 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 42.

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

166 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

167 "Decisions on the request submitted by Ethiopia for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Draft", 4 December 2025, p. 1.