

MINE  
ACTION  
REVIEW

A GUIDE TO  
**THE LAUSANNE ACTION  
PLAN AND RESULTS OF  
2023 MONITORING:  
SURVEY AND CLEARANCE**

A REPORT BY MINE ACTION REVIEW FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

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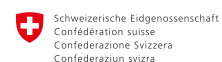
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# Contents

INTRODUCTION AND STATES PARTIES ASSESSED .....	1
LAUSANNE ACTION PLAN SECTION II: GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS .....	2
National Ownership .....	2
National Strategies and Work Plans .....	3
Gender and Diversity .....	4
National Standards Reflecting IMAS.....	5
Information Management .....	6
LAUSANNE ACTION PLAN SECTION V: SURVEY AND CLEARANCE .....	6
An Accurate Baseline of Contamination .....	7
A Plan for Completion .....	7
Comprehensive and Timely Extension Requests .....	8
Innovation and Efficiency .....	9
Residual Demining Capacity.....	10
Prioritization.....	10
Accurate Information Management and Reporting.....	11
Declarations of Completion .....	11
LAUSANNE ACTION PLAN SECTION VIII: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE ..	12
Seeking Assistance .....	12
Country Coalitions.....	13
LAUSANNE ACTION PLAN SECTION IX: TRANSPARENCY MEASURES .....	13
Compliance in Reporting .....	13
LAUSANNE ACTION PLAN SECTION XI: MEASURES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE .....	14
Timely Extension Requests .....	14
ANNEX 1: 2022 PROVISIONAL ASSESSMENT BY MINE ACTION REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF LAUSANNE ACTION PLAN (LAP) ACTION ITEMS RELATED TO SURVEY AND CLEARANCE....	15

## Introduction and States Parties Assessed

This Guide, which includes the results of provisional monitoring in 2023 by Mine Action Review, aims to assess and support the implementation of Article 4 of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). It does so by focusing on the Lausanne Action Plan, adopted at part 2 of the Second Review Conference in September 2021, describing how the Action Plan addresses survey and clearance, and explaining how progress in implementing those commitments in the Action Plan is assessed. This Guide follows the Lausanne Action Plan's approach in detailing commitments that apply specifically to survey and clearance operations in all affected States Parties, as well as best practices in mine action that are cross-cutting in nature.

Mine Action Review's formal assessment of progress under the Lausanne Action Plan is published annually before each Meeting of States Parties, through to the Convention's Third Review Conference in 2026. Our annual assessment, which draws on research conducted for Mine Action Review's annual *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* reports,<sup>1</sup> monitors the 20 indicators from the Lausanne Action Plan that are relevant to survey and clearance. These include indicators from Section II (Guiding principles and actions); Section V (Survey and clearance); Section VIII (International cooperation and assistance); Section IX (Transparency measures); and Section XI (Measures to ensure compliance). **A summary table of the 2023 provisional results of Mine Action Review's Lausanne Action Plan monitoring is in Annex 1.** The 2023 provisional results will be finalised after the conclusion of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the CCM (11MSP) taking place in Geneva on 11–14 September 2023.

Sources for the monitoring of progress according to the 20 indicators include official Convention reporting (Article 7 reports and statements in both intersessional meetings and meetings of States Parties); statements in the annual United Nations (UN) National Mine Action Directors meetings and other relevant fora; and information provided directly to Mine Action Review by national authorities, clearance operators, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and other key stakeholders.

This report is offered in the spirit of openness and constructive dialogue, accountability, and measurability. Viewed alongside Mine Action Review's annual *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report, we hope it will enable the mine action community to determine what measures are needed to improve the rate of progress in Article 4 implementation in affected States Parties between now and the Third Review Conference. Successful national ownership of mine action programmes requires political engagement by both the affected nation and supporting states. It also often requires support from implementing partners, be it financial, technical, or strategic, as well as honest reflection on challenges to progress. Different actors can add value in different ways in supporting affected States Parties to achieve their Article 4 obligations efficiently and effectively. It is intended that Mine Action Review's constructive monitoring and analysis serve as a strategic tool in these endeavours.

Mine Action Review welcomes feedback from States Parties and other stakeholders on the results of the assessment. Please email [MineActionReview@npaid.org](mailto:MineActionReview@npaid.org) with any feedback and/or additional information for our consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> See: [www.mineactionreview.org](http://www.mineactionreview.org).

**States Parties Assessed:** For the purposes of Mine Action Review’s assessment to establish the baseline for Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) indicators related to survey and clearance, Mine Action Review has assessed the 10 affected States Parties, namely: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Chad, Chile, Germany, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, and Somalia.\* On 1 February 2024, South Sudan will become the latest State Party with an Article 4 clearance obligation. Mine Action Review will begin assessment of South Sudan’s implementation of the LAP in our 2024 monitoring report.

States Parties marked with an \* are those which had still to submit an Article 7 report in 2023 (covering 2022) as at 18 August 2023.

Mine Action Review is an independent project supported by Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) and funded by Global Affairs Canada, the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and NPA form Mine Action Review’s Advisory Board. Any queries or feedback relating to our work should be emailed to [MineActionReview@npaid.org](mailto:MineActionReview@npaid.org).

## Lausanne Action Plan Section II: Guiding Principles and Actions

Since the entry into force of the Convention in 2010, the States Parties have identified best practices that are key to the successful implementation of the Convention’s obligations. The following cross-cutting issues apply to survey and clearance under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as they do to other thematic issues (e.g. stockpile destruction, victim assistance). At the heart of the Convention is national ownership, which has been defined to include political will, the provision of funding, and implementing the Convention inclusively, efficiently, and expediently, as well as overcoming any challenges that need to be addressed. Information management is critical to any mine action programme, informing work plans and multi-year strategies, while the adoption and revision of national standards promote efficient methodologies, safety, and security. A progressive approach to gender and diversity ensures the benefits of mine action are shared by all.

### National Ownership

**Action #1** *Demonstrate high levels of national ownership,<sup>2</sup> in implementing the Convention’s obligations, including by integrating implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, by enhancing national capacity to carry out obligations and/or making financial and other material commitments to the national implementation of the Convention.*

#### *Action Plan Indicator*

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<sup>2</sup> National ownership, according to the Lausanne Action Plan, entails the following: “maintaining interest at a high level in fulfilling Convention obligations; empowering and providing relevant State entities with the human, financial and material capacity to carry out their obligations under the Convention; articulating the measures its State entities will undertake to implement relevant aspects of Convention in the most inclusive, efficient and expedient manner possible and plans to overcome any challenges that need to be addressed; and making a regular significant national financial commitment to the State’s programmes to implement the Convention”.

- **Indicator #2: The number of States Parties that report having enhanced national capacity or made national financial and/or other material commitments to the implementation of their outstanding obligations under the Convention.**

### *Commentary*

National ownership encompasses a wide-ranging set of activities that enable and support the implementation of the Convention's obligations. Support from central government and relevant regional authorities should be of both a financial and a political nature.

With respect to survey and clearance, there are two overarching institutions at national level that the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) identify as being of critical importance: a national mine action authority<sup>3</sup> and a national mine action centre.<sup>4</sup> The national mine action authority is an interministerial body that should ensure a whole-of-government approach to mine action. It sets overall strategy and policy for the mine action programme and helps to ensure that national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, and humanitarian response plans duly reflect the impact of cluster munition remnants (CMR) and action to ensure their speedy removal and destruction.

The national mine action centre is an operational coordinating body that ensures that all mine action stakeholders follow national standards and procedures, are tasked according to appropriate priorities, and are monitored during their work. The national mine action centre will normally house and maintain the national mine action database, whether that be the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) or another system. While not a specified indicator in the Lausanne Action Plan, the number of affected States Parties with a functioning and effective mine action authority and mine action centre is also a good reflection of their commitment to national ownership, along with their national financial commitments.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has assessed whether or not States Parties have made a financial contribution to their own Article 4 implementation in 2022 or 2023. Governments support their mine action programmes to varying degrees, with some States Parties funding all CMR clearance, while others support both the national mine action centre and in part survey and clearance efforts, which are then also funded by external sources, including international donors.

## National Strategies and Work Plans

***Action #2*** *Develop evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and efficiently complete the implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible, in any event no later than the deadline set by the Convention, and update them as necessary.*

### *Action Plan Indicators*

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties that report having adopted a comprehensive national strategy to fulfil implementation of obligations under the Convention.**

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<sup>3</sup> A national mine action authority should be supported by regional action, especially in federal or devolved systems or where jurisdiction over a territory is contested.

<sup>4</sup> The national mine action centre may be supported and complemented by regional mine action centres.

- **Indicator #2: The number of affected States Parties that report having developed annual work plans to implement their national strategy.**

### *Commentary*

Every affected State Party should have an evidence-based, multi-year mine action strategic plan and a realistic annual work plan in place. A national mine action strategy is a multi-year plan that identifies goals for the mine action programme and strategic priorities for achieving them. Five years is a common time period for a strategic plan, though this period can legitimately differ (such as a consequence of a State Party's Article 4 deadline). As the Lausanne Action Plan indicates, the national mine action strategic plan should be evidence-based, costed, and time-bound.

Within the context and parameters of the national mine action strategy, a work plan is typically an annual plan that sets detailed objectives for survey, clearance, information management, training, standardisation, and quality management (quality assurance and quality control). As is the case with the multi-year strategy, the annual work plan should be evidence-based and costed. Where, as often occurs, other forms of contamination than CMR exist, such as other explosive remnants of war (ERW) or landmines, work plans should ensure that synergies exist between CMR clearance and mine clearance capacities, priorities, and tasking.

## Gender and Diversity

**Action #4** *Ensure that the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages are considered and inform the implementation of the Convention in order to deliver an inclusive approach, as well as strive to remove all barriers to full, equal and meaningful gender-balanced participation in implementation activities at the national level and in the Convention's machinery, including its meetings.*

### *Action Plan Indicator*

- **Indicator #1: The number of States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender, as well as the diversity of populations.**

### *Commentary*

It is increasingly understood that duly reflecting broader gender and diversity considerations in survey and clearance operations, as well as in the personnel staffing of the mine action programme, can have a significant and positive impact on its overall effectiveness. National authorities and their implementing partners should ensure that mine action is conducted in a way that involves, benefits, and protects everyone and that the barriers are removed to enable full and equal participation. Integrating and mainstreaming gender and diversity considerations into a programme is not something that just happens, it takes proactive, practical steps and proper consideration at each and every stage of programme planning – project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Every affected State Party should therefore ensure that gender and diversity needs, in particular of minorities, are effectively taken into account in the implementation of their mine action programme, including determination of clearance priorities and tasks.

While there has been considerable progress in promoting gender equality in mine action over the last few years, the same cannot yet be said for diversity. Minorities are often marginalised both in terms of clearance priorities and with respect to employment and participation in the mine action sector.

Mine action can and should counteract systemic discrimination based on diversity factors such as race, ethnicity, language, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social class, and age. Mine action programmes should ensure that diversity is mainstreamed alongside gender, and taking an intersectional approach can help identify where different diversity aspects are overlapping and creating interdependent systems of discrimination. Steps are being taken in some mine action programmes to factor in diversity considerations, at the least, raising awareness of the issues, but significant challenges remain.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has assessed whether or not States Parties have either a work plan or a strategy that integrates gender and diversity of populations. States Parties have included gender and diversity to varying degrees in their national strategies and plans.

## National Standards Reflecting IMAS

**Action #6** *Keep national standards related to the implementation of the Convention up to date, taking into account international standards, including the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.*

### Action Plan Indicator

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties that report having adapted or updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into account the International Mine Action Standards.**

### Commentary

The IMAS<sup>5</sup> have been developed to improve safety, efficiency and effectiveness in mine action and to promote a common and consistent approach to the conduct of mine action operations.<sup>6</sup> They constitute industry best practice for safe and effective mine action operations. Published and overseen by UNMAS with the support of other UN and mine action agencies (commercial and non-governmental organisations), national authorities and the GICHD, they set out in detail how survey and clearance operations should be designed, managed, and implemented. Particularly important are IMAS 02.10 on the establishment of a mine action programme; the glossary of mine action terms in IMAS 04.10; IMAS 07.11 on Land Release; the IMAS on technical and non-technical survey (08.20 and 08.10, respectively); and battle area clearance (BAC, 09.11).

The IMAS are intended to be adapted to the national context in the form of national mine action standards (NMAS), so that programmes can take due account of local circumstances on issues such as clearance depth and training requirements. They are also updated regularly to take account of lessons learned in other programmes, as reflected in international best practice. The framework of standards is developed and maintained by an international Review Board that is chaired by UNMAS, supported by a dedicated secretariat based at the GICHD, and comprises experts from across the mine action sector. Executive oversight is provided by a director-level Steering Group composed of members from four UN agencies and the GICHD.

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<sup>5</sup> At: <https://www.mineactionstandards.org/>.

<sup>6</sup> IMAS 01.10: "Guide for the application of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)", March 2018, at: <http://bit.ly/3ktNlne>, para. 5.

Accordingly, Action 6 of the Lausanne Action Plan emphasises the need for national programmes to be alert to changes that may be relevant for their own national standards. In each affected State Party, the IMAS on survey and clearance should be formally reviewed, and if necessary updated, at least once every three years.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has focused our assessment on whether or not States Parties have updated national standards to allow for evidence-based land release through both survey and clearance.

## Information Management

**Action #7** *Establish and maintain a national information management system to record the clearance of cluster munition remnants containing accurate and up-to-date data, ensuring that its design and implementation are nationally owned, sustainable and with data that is disaggregated and which can be accessed, managed, and analysed post-completion.*

### Action Plan Indicator

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place.**

### Commentary

Information management is at the core of mine action. No mine action programme can be either efficient or effective (or indeed sustainable) if it is not supported by a national information management system that identifies accurately the location of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas and records (and disaggregates) details of cancellation through non-technical survey, reduction through technical survey, and release through clearance. Every affected State Party should ensure the national mine action information management system is both accurate and up-to-date.

The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) has become the *de facto* standard database for mine action programmes. Most affected States Parties with Article 4 obligations use IMSMA. A State Party is, however, free to choose any system that is effective and which is maintained to ensure accuracy. A sustainable information management system is one that is nationally owned. It needs to be maintained not just throughout the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention but also afterwards as the risk of encountering residual contamination (or other forms of contamination) will often be significant.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has assessed whether or not States Parties have a functioning, and not just sustainable, mine action database. A well-managed information management system is one in which information is entered in a timely manner by trained personnel, is subject to quality assurance, and is accessible and transparent.

## Lausanne Action Plan Section V: Survey and Clearance

In their introduction to Section V of the Lausanne Action Plan, on Survey and Clearance, States Parties acknowledged the “significant progress” made by affected States in addressing cluster munition-contaminated areas, but also noted that a number of Article 4 deadline extension requests have now been submitted. States Parties underlined that several of these could have been avoided if earlier



action had been taken. All States Parties should apply evidence-based land release methodology, taking into account the IMAS, and explore innovative approaches and new ways of working to improve programme performance. The introduction also notes that in all cases, survey and clearance should be appropriately planned and prioritised to take into account the environmental impact and the diverse needs and priorities of affected populations.

## An Accurate Baseline of Contamination

**Action #18** *Identify the precise location, scope and extent of cluster munition remnants in areas under their jurisdiction or control, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination to the extent possible, and adopt practical measures to better protect civilians, no later than the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in [2023]<sup>7</sup> (or within two years of entry into force for new States Parties). States Parties will mark and, where possible, fence off all hazardous areas, no later than the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in [2023]<sup>7</sup> to ensure the safety of civilians (or within two years of entry into force for new States Parties).*

### Action Plan Indicator

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties that have completed an evidence-based and inclusive baseline survey no later than the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties in [2023]<sup>7</sup> (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties).**

### Commentary

The national mine action information system cannot be accurate and up-to-date if it is not informed by a representative baseline of contamination nationwide. Mistakes in survey can exaggerate hugely the extent of the problem and lead to clearance resources being wasted on uncontaminated areas. High-quality survey can be achieved without excessive expenditure. An accurate baseline is, or should be, the starting point for all successful national mine action programmes, established through a combination of evidence-based non-technical and technical survey. In general, a high proportion of confirmed hazardous areas to suspected hazardous areas indicates a more reliable baseline.

The Lausanne Action Plan calls for all affected States Parties that have not yet done so to complete an evidence-based and inclusive baseline survey by the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties. The methodology of the survey must be inclusive, which calls for age- and gender-appropriate consultations at local level, as well as inclusion of marginalised groups. For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has made an assessment on whether or not States Parties have established an evidence-based and inclusive contamination baseline. A full assessment of this indicator will only be possible following 11MSP. While many States Parties have established a baseline of CMR contamination, in many instances the baseline is assessed not to be evidence-based and inclusive and therefore does not meet the LAP indicator.

## A Plan for Completion

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<sup>7</sup> The LAP actually referred to the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in 2022, but this will now take place in 2023 as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the Second Review Conference taking place in two parts across both 2020 and 2021 and therefore, the Tenth Meeting of States Parties was taking place in 2022.

**Action #19** *Develop evidence-based and costed multi-year national strategies and annual work plans that include projections of the amount of cluster munition-contaminated areas to be addressed annually to achieve completion as soon as possible and to the greatest extent possible no later than their original Article 4 deadline, to be presented at the Tenth Meeting of States Parties in [2022].<sup>8</sup>*

### *Action Plan Indicators*

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected states that have developed evidence-based national strategies and work plans.**
- **Indicator #2: The number of affected States Parties that detail progress in implementing those strategies and plans in annual transparency reports.**

### *Commentary*

A multi-year strategic plan sets long-term goals for mine action, in particular with a view to fulfilling Article 4 obligations as soon as possible. This multi-year plan is then broken down into a series of annual work plans that detail which areas will be cleared within a calendar year. Both plans should be evidence-based and costed. Article 7 transparency reports provide an excellent opportunity to set out adjusted milestones for planned survey and clearance outputs.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment also considers new work plans submitted in 2023, including in Article 4 extension requests.

## Comprehensive and Timely Extension Requests

**Action #20** *When, despite best efforts to complete obligations under Article 4 within the original deadline, have to submit an extension request, ensure that such request is submitted on time, that requests are substantiated, ambitious and clear, contain detailed, costed annual work plans for the extension period, that include appropriate provisions for Risk Education, and take into account the "Guidelines for the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 Extension Requests" submitted at 8MSP and the "Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions" submitted at 9MSP.*

### *Action Plan Indicator*

- **Indicator #1: The number of extension requests that include detailed, costed multi-year work plans for the extension period.**

### *Commentary*

Every affected State Party that submits an extension request should ensure that it is accurate and contains data that are internally consistent. According to the procedure agreed by States Parties for the submission of Article 4 deadline extension requests, any request should be submitted at least nine months prior to the Meeting of States Parties or the Review Conference at which it is to be considered. The request should be detailed and include among others, the nature and extent of remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas; a detailed work plan covering the amount of time requested, with

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<sup>8</sup> The Tenth Meeting of States Parties was actually occurring in 2022 as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the Second Review Conference taking place in two parts across both 2020 and 2021.

measurable benchmarks; existing national demining structures and capacities; and the expected resources available and/or required in order to address the remaining challenge. Submission of deadline extension requests in a timely manner gives the CCM Article 4 analysis group and States Parties the opportunity to review the request carefully and seek clarification from the requesting State Party on any points that are unclear.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on Article 4 extension requests submitted in 2023.

## Innovation and Efficiency

**Action #21** *Take appropriate steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of surveys and clearance, taking into account international standards, including the IMAS-compliant land release processes, and to promote the research and development of innovative survey and clearance methodologies which take into account environmental impacts and concerns.*

### Action Plan Indicators

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative methodologies.**
- **Indicator #2: The number of affected States that report progress in the effectiveness and efficiency of surveys and clearance through annual transparency reports.**

### Commentary

The mine action sector has proved itself adept at innovating to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The use of remote sensing technology such as unmanned aerial systems and animal detection systems are examples of where innovation and technology have benefitted the mine action sector as a whole. This readiness to embrace new techniques and approaches is one that must be sustained for as long as there is contamination to address. Every affected State Party that achieves significant efficiency gains through innovation should share its experiences with the other States Parties and other stakeholders.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on available information. States Parties may have promoted the research, application, and sharing of innovative methodologies without reporting publicly on them.

While Action #21 refers to States Parties taking into account environmental impacts and concerns, the corresponding indicator does not capture this. However, according to Mine Action Review's research, States Parties are addressing environmental considerations to varying extents. Afghanistan and Lao PDR have a national mine action standard on the environment (albeit in need of revision). Lebanon has an NMAS on Safety and Occupational Health – Protection of the Environment (10.70), which aims to ensure that demining operations are conducted responsibly and efficiently while also minimising the impact on the environment. While BiH does not have an NMAS on the environment, the use of certain machines has been banned from clearing agricultural areas, because they disturb soil deeper than 20cm and compact it, leaving the soil impermeable to water and preventing sowing for up to three years. Machines are also not used on mountain pastures in order to protect against removal of layers of grasses that have taken many years to grow (and which do not renew fully after machines have been used). In Germany, the protection of the environment is considered in the federal Guidelines for the Clearance of Explosive Ordnance. At the former Soviet military training area of

Wittstock, the burning of the heath is a necessary step before any clearance can take place, and strict environmental regulations are enforced.

## Residual Demining Capacity

**Action #22** *Ensure that national strategies and work plans provide for a sustainable national capacity to address residual risks posed by cluster munition remnants that are discovered following fulfilment of Article 4.*

### *Action Plan Indicator*

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties whose national strategies and work plans make provision for the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address residual contamination.**

### *Commentary*

Even if a State Party has duly fulfilled its Article 4 obligations, individual submunitions and small cluster munition-contaminated areas may not have been discovered and reported during survey. If previously unknown contamination is later encountered, it must be accurately reported through Convention mechanisms and affected areas duly released. (There may also be new contamination resulting from armed conflict, such as occurred in Ukraine.) This means that a State must prepare for a sustainable capacity to address such areas even when it believes that its release of cluster munition-contaminated areas is complete. This is the residual national capacity. Such capacity may exist within the armed forces, the police, or civil defence organisations (or other competent departments or services). It could potentially be part of a cooperation agreement with a neighbouring country. It is also important to maintain the national mine action information database for this purpose.

While some States Parties have varying degrees of national clearance capacity (for example in the Armed Forces or Civil Defence), they have not stated publicly in their national strategies or completion plans how previously unknown CMR contamination will be addressed. There should be an agreed plan in place specifying which national entity is responsible for addressing residual contamination, under which circumstances, and which ensures provision is made for long-term access to the national information management database.

## Prioritization

**Action #23** *Ensure that activities related to survey and clearance are given due priority based on clear nationally driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria, which take account of environmental concerns, and that national programmes consider gender, as well as and the diversity of populations in all appropriate activities related to survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants within affected communities.*

### *Action Plan Indicators*

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties that report on the inclusion of gender, as well as the diversity of populations in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.**

### *Commentary*

Action #23 complements Action #4 on gender and diversity. But while Action #4 is general and cross-cutting in nature, Action #23 is specific to the need for different populations and population groups to be included in the planning and prioritisation of CMR survey and clearance. Action #23 also refers to the need to reflect humanitarian and sustainable development criteria, which take account of environmental concerns, in such planning and prioritisation processes, although this is not incorporated in a distinct indicator.

## Accurate Information Management and Reporting

**Action #24** *Maintain functioning information management systems that record comparable data and provide information annually on the size and location of remaining cluster munition contaminated areas, disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas', and on survey and clearance efforts in accordance with the land release method employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance).*

### Action Plan Indicator

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties providing disaggregated information on the extent and nature of all remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas and on progress in survey and clearance efforts in annual Article 7 transparency reports.**

### Commentary

Article 7 transparency reports are an important source of information on the amount of cluster munition-contaminated area released through survey and clearance in the previous year, the amount of contamination remaining, and planned land release outputs to release it. Often, however, Article 7 reports are not accurate. Annual survey and clearance data provided to Mine Action Review are often more accurate than are the annual data included in the Article 7 reports. This is, in part, due to the fact that where possible our researchers double check all of the information with that provided by the different clearance operators engaged in-country in survey and clearance.

Common problems in reporting on progress in implementing Article 4 include an inability to distinguish a suspected hazardous area (SHA) from a confirmed hazardous area (CHA). In the context of Article 4, a SHA is an area where there is reasonable suspicion of contamination on the basis of indirect evidence of the presence of unexploded submunitions; and a CHA refers to an area where the presence of contamination has been confirmed on the basis of direct evidence of the presence of unexploded submunitions. A CHA should be established by high-quality evidence-based non-technical survey, supplemented as necessary by technical survey.

Land release output data should be clearly disaggregated by the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or released through clearance). The destruction of unexploded submunitions should be distinguished from battle area clearance involving other UXO.

## Declarations of Completion

**Action #25** *Upon completion of their Article 4 clearance obligations, submit a voluntary declaration of compliance, confirming that every effort has been made to identify and clear all cluster munition contaminated areas under their jurisdiction or control, using the Declaration of compliance with Article 4.1 (a) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, where possible.*

## Action Plan Indicator

- **Indicator #1: The number of affected States Parties that have completed their Article 4 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of compliance.**

### Commentary

Every affected State Party that completes survey and clearance of all cluster munition-contaminated areas must make a declaration of completion that reflects fulfilment of all clearance obligations. This is required by Article 4(1)(c) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. But an affected State Party should only declare fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations when it is convinced that it has done so. To have duly fulfilled their Article 4 obligations, a State Party must have made every effort to identify all areas suspected or confirmed to contain CMR and then to have released all of those areas by an appropriate combination of non-technical survey, technical survey, and clearance.

For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on the number of States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 4 since the start of the 11MSP presidency in 2022.

## Lausanne Action Plan Section VIII: International cooperation and assistance

While the introduction to Section VIII of the Lausanne Action Plan on International Cooperation and Assistance reaffirms that each State Party is responsible for implementing its obligations under the Convention, States Parties recognise that enhanced international cooperation and assistance can play an important role in the timely and full implementation of all aspects of the Convention. This applies to survey and clearance, as it does to other thematic areas.

### Seeking Assistance

**Action #41** *When seeking assistance, develop coherent and comprehensive national plans aimed at developing national ownership, based on appropriate surveys, needs assessments and analysis and providing national capacity. These plans will take into account broader frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and respond to the needs and experiences of affected communities and will be built on sound gender, age and disability analysis. These plans should adequately reflect the areas in which assistance is required.*

### Action Plan Indicators

- **Indicator #1: The number of States Parties seeking assistance that provide information on progress, challenges and requirements for international cooperation and assistance through Article 7 reports and Convention meetings.**

### Commentary

Few States have the necessary resources to address their CMR contamination on their own. The collaborative approach to implementing Article 4 obligations is one that has stood the Convention in good stead. Donors have been remarkably generous in supporting CMR survey and clearance while mine action agencies can also give invaluable technical advice to address particular challenges. The

onus, however, is on the affected State Party to identify its needs for international assistance and to facilitate the receipt of that assistance.

## Country Coalitions

**Action #42** *Further detail the modalities of platforms such as the country coalition mechanism to enhance targeted regular dialogue between affected States Parties, donors and operators, leverage such platforms, share experiences made, as well as explore synergies with similar forums, as appropriate.*

### *Action Plan Indicator*

- **Indicator #1: The number of States Parties that report taking (and having taken) advantage of the country coalition concept.**

### *Commentary*

In addition to the overall coordination function performed by the national mine action centre, a CMR-contaminated State Party should seek to establish a country coalition that enables open and regular dialogue among all relevant stakeholders. Allowing all actors to share their ideas and concerns in an informal and collaborative setting can help improve coordination of Article 4 implementation and demonstrate strong national ownership and political commitment to completion.

There is considerable scope for country coalitions to enable a focus on the concerns and challenges of a particular State Party, thereby benefitting all concerned. In several States Parties national authorities convene regular meetings with clearance operators, but these do not include other stakeholders, such as donors.

## Lausanne Action Plan Section IX: Transparency measures

Transparency and the open exchange of information are essential to achieving the Convention's aims, as the Lausanne Action Plan observes. States Parties recall in the LAP that the submission of initial and annual Article 7 reports is an obligation under the Convention and note with concern that since the first Review Conference less than two thirds of States Parties have regularly complied with this obligation.

### Compliance in Reporting

**Action #44** When implementing obligations under Article 4, or retaining or transferring cluster munitions in line with Article 3.6 and 3.7 but having omitted to submit an Article 7 report each year detailing progress in implementing these obligations, provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations is provided for two consecutive years, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant thematic coordinators.

### *Action Plan Indicator*

- **Indicator #1: The number of States Parties that are implementing obligations under Article 4 or that retain cluster munitions under Article 3.6 that have submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations in the last two years.**

### *Commentary*

Annual reports on contamination and progress in land release are obligatory for every affected State Party to the Convention under its Article 7. For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on whether States Parties have submitted an Article 7 report in the last two years.

## Lausanne Action Plan Section XI: Measures to ensure compliance

Stressing the importance of complying with all the provisions of the Convention, States Parties are guided by the knowledge that the Convention on Cluster Munitions provides a variety of collective and cooperative means to facilitate and clarify any questions relating to compliance.

### Timely Extension Requests

**Action #50** Where, despite all possible efforts, unable to complete stockpile destruction and/or clearance obligations within the original deadlines, ensure that they submit any extension request, within the deadlines established by the Convention and in line with the guidelines and methodology on extension requests adopted at the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of States Parties.

### *Action Plan Indicator*

- **Indicator #1: The number of States Parties that have submitted extension requests in a timely manner.**

### *Commentary*

For the purposes of monitoring this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on whether or not States Parties seeking Article 4 extension in 2023 submitted their request at least nine months before 11MSP in accordance with Article 4(6) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Compliance has so far been disappointing.



## Annex 1: 2023 Provisional Assessment by Mine Action Review of Implementation of Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) Action Items Related to Survey and Clearance

Table 1 below details the provisional baseline results of Mine Action Review’s assessment of Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) Action Items related to survey and clearance. The 2023 provisional baseline results will be finalised after the conclusion of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM 11MSP), which is taking place on 11–14 September 2023. Mine Action Review welcomes feedback from States Parties and other stakeholders on the results of the assessment. Please send an email with any feedback or additional information for Mine Action Review’s consideration to [MineActionReview@npaid.org](mailto:MineActionReview@npaid.org).

**States Parties Assessed:** For the purposes of Mine Action Review’s assessment to establish the baseline for LAP indicators related to survey and clearance, Mine Action Review has assessed the 10 affected States Parties, namely: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Chad, Chile, Germany, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, and Somalia.\* On 1 February 2024, South Sudan will become the latest State Party with an Article 4 clearance obligation. Mine Action Review will begin assessment of South Sudan’s implementation of the LAP in our 2024 monitoring report.

States Parties marked with an \* are those which had still to submit an Article 7 report in 2023 (covering 2022) as at 18 August 2023.

**Table 1: Provisional Results of the 2023 Assessment of Implementation by Affected States Parties of LAP Action Items on CMR Survey and Clearance**

Thematic Issue	Action Item	Indicator	Result (2023)	States Parties that have met the indicator	States Parties that have not met the indicator	States Parties whose implementation is unclear or unknown	Additional Comments and Information
<b>Guiding Principles and Actions</b>							
<b>National Ownership</b>	<b>Action #1:</b> <i>Demonstrate high levels of national ownership,<sup>9</sup> in implementing the Convention’s obligations, including by integrating implementation activities into national development plans,</i>	<b>Indicator 2:</b> <i>The number of States Parties that report having enhanced national capacity or made national financial and/or other material commitments to the implementation of their</i>	9 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan BiH Chad Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR	Somalia*		For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has assessed whether or not States Parties have made a

<sup>9</sup> The States Parties to the CCM have defined national ownership as entailing the following: “maintaining interest at a high level in fulfilling Convention obligations; empowering and providing relevant State entities with the human, financial and material capacity to carry out their obligations under the Convention; articulating the measures its State entities will undertake to implement relevant aspects of Convention in the most inclusive, efficient and expedient manner possible and plans to overcome any challenges that need to be addressed; and making a regular significant national financial commitment to the State’s programmes to implement the Convention”.

	<p>poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, as appropriate, by enhancing national capacity to carry out obligations and/or making financial and other material commitments to the national implementation of the Convention.</p>	<p>outstanding obligations under the Convention.</p>		<p>Lebanon Mauritania</p>			<p>financial contribution to their own Article 4 implementation in 2022 or 2023.</p> <p>In <b>Somalia</b>, the lack of national ownership continues to be an issue as the Federal Government of Somalia has still not formally recognised the Authority as a government institution or formally approved mine action legislation. SEMA is unable to access state funding. Somalia has no national capacity for survey and clearance of CMR.</p> <p>In <b>Mauritania</b>, the National Humanitarian Demining Programme for Development (PNDHD) is funded nationally. Despite its limited resources the PNDHD also contributes to small-scale survey and clearance of CMR.</p>
<p><b>National Strategies and Work Plans</b></p>	<p><b>Action #2:</b> Develop evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans to fulfil and efficiently complete the implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible, in any event no later than the deadline set</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1:</b> The number of affected States Parties that report having adopted a comprehensive national strategy to fulfil implementation of obligations under the Convention;</p>	<p>5 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>Afghanistan BiH Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon</p>	<p>Chad Somalia*</p>	<p>Chile Germany Mauritania</p>	<p><b>Iraq's</b> National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028, which was approved in June 2023, sets broad goals for both the DMA and IKMAA, the first time the two authorities have</p>

	<p><i>by the Convention, and update them as necessary.</i></p>					<p>cooperated in drawing up a national plan.</p> <p><b>Lao PDR</b> adopted its new national strategy for the UXO Sector, "Safe Path Forward III" (2021–30) in January 2023.</p> <p><b>Somalia's</b> National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 was extended until end of 2021. Somalia reported in 2022 that revision of the national strategy had been completed, but was pending approval. However, at the time of writing, no further update was available.</p> <p><b>Chile</b> included a detailed plan for clearance of remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas in its 2022 Article 4 deadline extension request, but does not reference a national strategy.</p> <p>While <b>Germany</b> does not have a national mine action strategy, it does have a completion plan in place to address the remaining CMR contamination and it</p>
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							<p>elaborates annual work plans, which it adjusts according to capacity and output.</p> <p><b>Mauritania</b> does not have a national strategy to address CMR, but did include information on how it plans to address CMR, together with a work plan. in its 2023 Article 4 deadline extension request.</p>
		<p><b>Indicator 2:</b> <i>The number of affected States Parties that report having developed annual work plans to implement their national strategy.</i></p>	<p>8 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>Afghanistan BiH Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania</p>	<p>Somalia*</p>	<p>Chad</p>	<p><b>Afghanistan</b> included plans to address three CMR tasks, in its Article 7 report submitted in 2023.</p> <p><b>Iraq</b> and <b>Mauritania</b> both included annual work plans as part of their respective Article 4 deadline extension requests submitted in 2023.</p> <p><b>Chad</b> does not have a national strategy for cluster munitions, but included a work plan in its 2022 Article 4 deadline extension request. If cluster munition-contaminated areas are found during non-technical survey in Tibesti province, Chad will</p>

							elaborate a further work plan to address them.
<b>Gender and Diversity</b>	<b>Action #4:</b> <i>Ensure that the different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages are considered and inform the implementation of the Convention in order to deliver an inclusive approach, as well as strive to remove all barriers to full, equal and meaningful gender-balanced participation in implementation activities at the national level and in the Convention's machinery, including its meetings.</i>	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender, as well as the diversity of populations;</i>	5 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Chile Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania	BiH Chad Somalia*	Afghanistan Germany	<p>For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has assessed whether or not States Parties have <i>either</i> a work plan <i>or</i> a strategy that integrates gender and diversity of populations.</p> <p><b>Lao PDR's</b> national strategy and <b>Mauritania's</b> 2023 Article 4 extension requests both make reference to gender and diversity.</p> <p><b>Somalia's</b> National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020, which was extended until the end of 2021, did integrate gender and diversity considerations. However, at time of writing, it was not known if a revised strategy had yet been approved.</p> <p>Significant regression continued to occur in <b>Afghanistan</b> in 2022 and commitments to mainstream gender in mine action made under the previous administration in</p>

							Afghanistan have not been honoured by the Taliban government.
<b>National Standards Reflecting IMAS</b>	<b>Action #6:</b> <i>Keep national standards related to the implementation of the Convention up to date, taking into account international standards, including the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adapt them to new challenges and employ best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.</i>	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of affected States Parties that report having adapted or updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into account the International Mine Action Standards.</i>	5 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan BiH Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon	Chad Somalia*	Chile Germany Mauritania	<p>For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has focused our assessment on whether or not States Parties have updated national standards to allow for evidence-based land release through both survey and clearance.</p> <p><b>Afghanistan</b> has comprehensive NMAS in place that were subject to regular review and updating.</p> <p><b>Iraq</b> has been reviewing national standards that were drafted nearly 20 years ago and has updated standards for non-technical and technical survey and mine clearance, battle area clearance, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), marking, personal protective equipment, and operational accreditation.</p> <p><b>Lao PDR</b> is due to revise its UXO Survey Standards, which specify</p>

							<p>the minimum standards and requirements for the survey of all cluster munition-contaminated areas.</p> <p><b>Chad</b> has 22 national mine action standards that are said to comply with the IMAS but has no CMR-specific standards. Chad said it did not yet have a national standard for NTS but planned to develop one.</p> <p>A review of <b>Somalia's</b> NMAS took place in 2021, however the draft, revised NMAS did not receive government approval in 2022 and this was still pending at the time of writing.</p>
<b>Information Management</b>	<b>Action #7:</b> <i>Establish and maintain a national information management system to record the clearance of cluster munitions remnants containing accurate and up-to-date data, ensuring that its design and implementation are nationally owned, sustainable and with data that is disaggregated and which can be accessed, managed, and analysed post-completion.</i>	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of affected States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place.</i>	6 of the 10 States Parties assessed	BiH Chile Germany Lao PDR Lebanon Somalia*		Afghanistan Chad Iraq Mauritania	<p>For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has assessed whether or not States Parties have a functioning, and not just sustainable, mine action database.</p> <p><b>BiH</b> is still in the progress of migrating from its own information management system to IMSMA Core.</p>

							<p>Several States Parties, such as <b>Lao PDR</b> have a functional information management system in place, but are still in the process of resolving historical data issues and/or strengthening or upgrading the system.</p> <p>In <b>Somalia</b>, SEMA began upgrading to the IMSMA Core system in 2022 and expected to complete implementation by the end of 2023.</p> <p><b>Chad's</b> IMSMA database underwent a major clean-up with the support of FSD as part of the EU-funded PRODECO project but that ended in 2021 and the shortage of IM-trained staff casts doubt on the sustainability of the database.</p> <p><b>Iraq's</b> information management is dependent on iMMAP, which is funded by the US and is not autonomous or self-sustaining.</p> <p><b>Mauritania</b> migrated to IMSMA Version 6 in 2017. In 2021–22, the PNDHD created an interactive</p>
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							platform that provides updated data on contamination, survey, and clearance.
Survey and Clearance							
<b>An Accurate Baseline of Contamination</b>	<b>Action #18:</b> <i>Identify the precise location, scope and extent of cluster munition remnants in areas under their jurisdiction or control, and establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination to the extent possible, and adopt practical measures to better protect civilians, no later than the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in [2023]<sup>10</sup> (or within two years of entry into force for new States Parties). States Parties will mark and, where possible, fence off all hazardous areas, no later than the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in [2023]<sup>11</sup> to ensure the safety of civilians (or within two years of entry into force for new States Parties).</i>	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of affected States Parties that have completed an evidence-based and inclusive baseline survey no later than the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties in [2023]<sup>11</sup> (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties);</i>	5 of the 10 States Parties assessed	BiH Chile Germany Lebanon Mauritania	Chad Iraq Lao PDR Somalia*	Afghanistan	<p>For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review has made an assessment on whether or not States Parties have established an evidence-based and inclusive contamination baseline as at 11MSP.</p> <p>While many States Parties have established a baseline of CMR contamination, in many instances the baseline is assessed not to be evidence-based and inclusive and therefore does not meet the LAP indicator.</p> <p>To a varying extent, insecurity can sometimes prevent or hinder conflict-affected affected States Parties from accessing some cluster munition-contaminated areas under their jurisdiction or control.</p>

<sup>10</sup> The LAP actually referred to the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in 2022, but this will now take place in 2023 as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the Second Review Conference taking place in two parts across both 2020 and 2021 and therefore, the Tenth Meeting of States Parties was taking place in 2022.

							<p>This was currently the case for <b>Somalia</b>.</p> <p><b>Chad</b> was granted a request to extend its Article 4 deadline in 2022, in order to conduct NTS in Tibesti province, the only province which may still contain cluster munition-contaminated areas. However, it had yet to secure international funding for the required NTS.</p> <p><b>Iraq</b> and its donors have concentrated resources on improvised mines but Iraq is steadily building a baseline estimate of CMR contamination.</p> <p><b>Afghanistan</b> has a reasonable idea of its baseline of CMR contamination, but continues to identify significant, previously unrecorded cluster munition-contaminated areas. The change of government in 2021 has opened up areas previously inaccessible due to insecurity raising the possibility operators will find more contamination.</p>
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<p><b>A Plan for Completion</b></p>	<p><b>Action #19:</b> <i>Develop evidence-based and costed multi-year national strategies and annual work plans that include projections of the amount of cluster munition contaminated areas to be addressed annually to achieve completion as soon as possible and to the greatest extent possible no later than their original Article 4 deadline, to be presented at the Tenth Meeting of States Parties in [2022].<sup>11</sup></i></p>	<p><b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of affected states that have developed evidence-based national strategies and work plans;</i></p>	<p>8 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>Afghanistan BiH Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania</p>	<p>Somalia*</p>	<p>Chad</p>	<p>For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment also considers new work plans submitted in 2023, including in Article 4 extension requests.</p> <p><b>Iraq's</b> National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028 was approved in June 2023 and Iraq's work plan is contained in its 2023 Article 4 extension request.</p> <p><b>Chad</b> was granted a request in 2022 to extend its Article 4 deadline in order to conduct non-technical survey in Tibesti province. If cluster munition-contaminated areas are found there, it will elaborate a work plan to address them.</p> <p>Part of the international funding requested by <b>Mauritania</b> is to develop a national mine action strategy and work plan. However, as at writing, Mauritania had yet to</p>
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<sup>11</sup> The Tenth Meeting of States Parties was actually occurring in 2022 as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the Second Review Conference taking place in two parts across both 2020 and 2021.

							secure the requested funding.
		<i>Indicator 2: The number of affected States Parties that detail progress in implementing those strategies and plans in annual transparency reports.</i>	6 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan Chad Chile Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon	BiH Germany Mauritania Somalia*		<p>* As at 18 August 2023, <b>Somalia</b> had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2022.</p> <p><b>Afghanistan</b> submitted an Article 7 report in 2023, having failed to submit a report in 2022 following disruption resulting from the change of government the previous year.</p> <p>While <b>Germany</b> reports on the amount of clearance in its Article 7 reporting, it does not report on how progress in clearance compares against its work plan targets.</p>
<b>Comprehensive and Timely Extension Requests</b>	<b>Action #20:</b> When, despite best efforts to complete obligations under Article 4 within the original deadline, have to submit an extension request, ensure that such request is submitted on time, that requests are substantiated, ambitious and clear, contain detailed, costed annual work plans for the extension period, that include appropriate provisions for Risk Education, and take into account the “Guidelines for the	<i>Indicator 1: The number of extension requests that include detailed, costed multi-year work plans for the extension period.</i>	2 of 2 extension requests submitted in 2023.	Iraq Mauritania			For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review’s assessment is based on Article 4 extensions submitted in 2023.

	Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 Extension Requests” submitted at 8MSP and the “Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” submitted at 9MSP.						
<b>Innovation and Efficiency</b>	<b>Action #21:</b> Take appropriate steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of surveys and clearance, taking into account international standards, including the IMAS-compliant land release processes, and to promote the research and development of innovative survey and clearance methodologies which take into account environmental impacts and concerns.	<i><b>Indicator 1:</b> The number of affected States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative methodologies;</i>	0 of the 10 States Parties assessed		Afghanistan BiH Chad Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania Somalia*		For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review’s assessment is based on available information. States Parties may have promoted the research, application, and sharing of innovative methodologies without reporting publicly on them.  While Action #21 refers to States Parties taking into account environmental impacts and concerns, the corresponding indicator does not capture this.
		<i><b>Indicator 2:</b> The number of affected states that report progress in the effectiveness and efficiency of surveys and clearance through annual transparency reports.</i>	9 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan Chad BiH Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania	Somalia*	* As at 18 August 2023, <b>Somalia</b> had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2022.	

<p><b>Residual Demining Capacity</b></p>	<p><b>Action #22:</b> Ensure that national strategies and work plans provide for a sustainable national capacity to address residual risks posed by cluster munition remnants that are discovered following fulfilment of Article 4.</p>	<p><i>Indicator 1: The number of affected States Parties whose national strategies and work plans make provision for the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address residual contamination.</i></p>	<p>1 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>Lebanon</p>	<p>Afghanistan Chad Chile Germany Lao PDR Mauritania Somalia*</p>	<p>BiH Iraq</p>	<p>While some States Parties, such as <b>BiH</b>, <b>Chile</b>, and <b>Mauritania</b> have varying degrees of national clearance capacity (for example in the Armed Forces or Civil Defence), they have not stated publicly in their national strategies or completion plans how previously unknown CMR contamination will be addressed.</p> <p>There should be an agreed plan in place specifying which national entity is responsible for addressing residual contamination, under which circumstances, and which ensures provision is made for long-term access to the national information management database.</p> <p>In its 2023 Article 4 deadline extension request, <b>Mauritania</b> has pledged to develop a sustainable plan that can be implemented after the completion of clearance operations.</p> <p><b>BiH's</b> National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 requires the</p>
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							<p>development of a strategy for the management of residual contamination by 2022. As at 18 August 2023, the strategy had still to be developed.</p> <p><b>Iraq</b> does not have a strategy in place for sustainable capacity to manage residual contamination but its new National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–28 commits to developing one.</p>
<b>Prioritization</b>	<p><b>Action #23:</b> Ensure that activities related to survey and clearance are given due priority based on clear nationally driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria, which take account of environmental concerns, and that national programmes consider gender, as well as and the diversity of populations in all appropriate activities related to survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants within affected communities.</p>	<p><b>Indicator 2:</b> <i>The number of affected States Parties that report on the inclusion of gender, as well as the diversity of populations in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.</i></p>	<p>6 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>BiH Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon</p>	<p>Afghanistan Chad Somalia*</p>	<p>Mauritania</p>	<p>In <b>Lebanon</b>, LMAC finalised a code of conduct for the national mine action programme in 2022, which aims to promote gender and diversity inclusion in all aspects of the work undertaken by LMAC and its implementing partners.</p> <p>In <b>Afghanistan</b>, clearance operators continued to employ some female staff working from home and in some locations where local authorities agreed women continued to visit communities for risk education on an ad hoc basis, however this was not uniform across the mine action programme.</p>

							<b>Mauritania</b> does not have policies in relation to the inclusion of minority groups, but in its 2023 CCM Article 4 deadline extension request, it stated that ensuring inclusivity, gender sensitivity, and diversity are integral considerations.
<b>Accurate Information Management and Reporting</b>	<b>Action #24:</b> Maintain functioning information management systems that record comparable data and provide information annually on the size and location of remaining cluster munition contaminated areas, disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas', and on survey and clearance efforts in accordance with the land release method employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance).	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of affected States Parties providing disaggregated information on the extent and nature of all remaining cluster munition contaminated areas and on progress in survey and clearance efforts in annual Article 7 transparency reports.</i>	8 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan BiH Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania	Somalia*	Chad	* As at 18 August 2023, <b>Somalia</b> had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2023.
<b>Declarations of Completion</b>	<b>Action #25:</b> Upon completion of their Article 4 clearance obligations, submit a voluntary declaration of compliance, confirming that every effort has been made to identify and clear all cluster munition contaminated areas under	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of affected States Parties that have completed their Article 4 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of compliance.</i>	0 of 0 affected States Parties assessed that have completed their Article 4 obligations during the				For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on the number of States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations



	their jurisdiction or control, using the Declaration of compliance with Article 4.1 (a) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, where possible.		11MSP presidency.				under Article 4 since the start of the 11MSP presidency in 2022.  <b>BiH</b> expected to complete its obligations by its Article 4 deadline of 1 September, but at time of writing had yet to do so.
<b>International Cooperation and Assistance</b>							
<b>Seeking Assistance</b>	<b>Action #41:</b> <i>When seeking assistance, develop coherent and comprehensive national plans aimed at developing national ownership, based on appropriate surveys, needs assessments and analysis and providing national capacity. These plans will take into account broader frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and respond to the needs and experiences of affected communities and will be built on sound gender, age and disability analysis. These plans should adequately reflect the areas in which assistance is required.</i>	<b>Indicator 2:</b> <i>The number of States Parties seeking assistance that provide information on progress, challenges and requirements for international cooperation and assistance through Article 7 reports and Convention meetings.</i>	7 of 8 affected States Parties assessed seeking international cooperation and assistance.	Afghanistan BiH Chad Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania	Somalia*		* As at 18 August 2023, <b>Somalia</b> had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2022.  <b>Germany</b> and <b>Chile</b> are not seeking international cooperation and assistance with their respective implementation of Article 4.  At time of writing, neither <b>Chad</b> nor <b>Mauritania</b> were receiving any international support that for CMR survey or clearance operations, which they require in order to fulfil their respective Article 4 obligations.
<b>Country Coalitions</b>	<b>Action #42:</b> <i>Further detail the modalities of platforms such as the country coalition mechanism to enhance targeted regular dialogue between affected States Parties, donors and operators,</i>	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of States Parties that report taking (and having taken) advantage of the country coalition concept.</i>	3 of the 10 States Parties assessed	BiH Lao PDR Lebanon	Afghanistan Chad Iraq Mauritania Somalia*	Chile Germany	While Mine Action sub-clusters exist in some affected States Parties, these are UN led and are not considered in and of themselves to have met this Action Point.

	<p><i>leverage such platforms, share experiences made, as well as explore synergies with similar forums, as appropriate.</i></p>						<p>In <b>BiH</b>, a Country Coalition was established between BiH and Germany in 2020, but regrettably has not met subsequently.</p> <p><b>Lao PDR</b> reported that a Country Coalition had been set up under the name “UXO Sector Working Group”, which the national authorities had developed from their existing coordination mechanism. It meets biannually and is led by the chair of the NRA board, and co-chaired by UNDP and the US Ambassador in Vientiane, meets biannually.</p> <p>In <b>Lebanon</b>, a Mine Action Forum (which is equivalent to a Country Coalition), co-led between Lebanon and the Netherlands, meets twice a year.</p> <p>In its 2023 Article 4 extension request, <b>Iraq</b> expressed an interest in establishing a Country Coalition.</p> <p><b>Mauritania</b> has also said that it would like to form a</p>
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							Country Coalition with a willing donor government and an international mine action NGO to support its completion initiative.  In <b>Chile</b> , only national government entities are engaged in Article 4 implementation.
<b>Transparency Measures</b>							
<b>Compliance in Reporting</b>	<b>Action #44:</b> <i>When implementing obligations under Article 4,<sup>12</sup> or retaining or transferring cluster munitions in line with Article 3.6 and 3.7 but having omitted to submit an Article 7 report each year detailing progress in implementing these obligations, provide information to all States Parties in the most expeditious, comprehensive and transparent manner possible. If no information on implementing the relevant obligations is provided for two consecutive years, the President will assist and engage with the States Parties concerned in close cooperation with the relevant thematic coordinators.</i>	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of States Parties that are implementing obligations under Article 4<sup>13</sup> or that retain cluster munitions under Article 3.6 that have submitted an Article 7 report detailing progress in implementing these obligations in the last two years.</i>	10 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan BiH Chad Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania Somalia*			For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on whether States Parties have submitted an Article 7 report in the last two years.  * As at 18 August 2023, <b>Somalia</b> had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2022, but it did submit a report in 2022.  <b>Afghanistan</b> submitted an Article 7 report in 2023, having failed to submit a report in 2022 following disruption resulting from

<sup>12</sup> Action #44 of the Lausanne Action Plan also references Article 3 and retaining or transferring cluster munitions under Article 3.6 and 3.7, but for purposes of monitoring Mine Action Review has focused solely on Article 4.

<sup>13</sup> The indicator in the Lausanne Action Plan also references Article 3 and retaining cluster munitions under Article 3.6, but for purposes of monitoring Mine Action Review has only considered Article 4.

							the change of government the previous year.
<b>Measures to ensure compliance</b>							
	<b>#Action 50:</b> Where, despite all possible efforts, unable to complete stockpile destruction and/or clearance obligations within the original deadlines, ensure that they submit any extension request, within the deadlines established by the Convention and in line with the guidelines and methodology on extension requests adopted at the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of States Parties.	<b>Indicator 1:</b> <i>The number of States Parties that have submitted extension requests in a timely manner.</i>	1 of 2 extension requests submitted in 2023.	Iraq	Mauritania		For the purposes of monitoring this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on whether or not States Parties seeking Article 4 extension in 2023 submitted their requests no fewer than nine months before 11MSP.

States Parties marked with an \* are those which had still to submit an Article 7 report in 2023 (covering 2022) as at 18 August 2023.