



A GUIDE TO
**THE LAUSANNE ACTION
PLAN AND RESULTS OF
2024 MONITORING:
SURVEY AND CLEARANCE**

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

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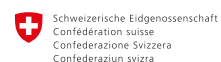
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Introduction and States Parties Assessed

This Guide, which includes the results of provisional monitoring in 2024 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,¹ 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 2024 provisional results of Mine Action Review's Lausanne Action Plan monitoring is in Annex 1.** The 2024 provisional results will be finalised after the conclusion of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM (11MSP) taking place in Geneva on 10, 11, and 13 September 2024.

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 with any feedback and/or additional information for our consideration.

¹ See: www.mineactionreview.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 , Chad, Chile, Germany, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, Somalia*, and South Sudan.

States Parties marked with an * are those which had still to submit an Article 7 report in 2024 (covering 2023) as at 20 August 2024. N.B. Afghanistan’s Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) submitted a CCM Article 7 report covering 2023 in May 2024. At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public.

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.

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,² 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

² 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 authority³ and a national mine action centre.⁴ 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 2023 or 2024. 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.**

³ 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.

⁴ 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 IMAS⁵ 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.⁶ 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.

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

⁶ 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]⁷ (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]⁷ 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]⁷ (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

⁷ The LAP actually referred to the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in 2022, but this took 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].⁸*

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

⁸ 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 12MSP presidency in 2023.

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 2024 submitted their request at least nine months before 12MSP in accordance with Article 4(6) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Compliance has so far been disappointing.

Annex 1: 2024 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 2024 provisional baseline results will be finalised after the conclusion of the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM 12MSP), which is taking place on 10, 11, and 13 September 2024. 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.

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: Afghanistan⁹, Chad, Chile, Germany, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mauritania, Somalia*, and South Sudan.

States Parties marked with an * are those which had still to submit an Article 7 report in 2024 (covering 2023) as at 20 August 2024. N.B. Afghanistan’s Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) submitted a CCM Article 7 report covering 2023 in May 2024. At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public.

Table 1: Provisional Results of the 2024 Assessment of Implementation by Affected States Parties of LAP Action Items on CMR Survey and Clearance

Thematic Issue	Action Item	Indicator	Result (2024)	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
Guiding Principles and Actions							
National Ownership	Action #1: <i>Demonstrate high levels of national ownership,¹⁰ in implementing the Convention’s obligations,</i>	Indicator 2: <i>The number of States Parties that report having enhanced national capacity or made national</i>	8 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan Chad Chile Germany	Somalia*	South Sudan	For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action

⁹ With respect to Afghanistan, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) submitted a CCM Article 7 report covering 2023 in May 2024. At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public.

¹⁰ 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><i>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.</i></p>	<p><i>financial and/or other material commitments to the implementation of their outstanding obligations under the Convention.</i></p>		<p>Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania</p>		<p>Review has assessed whether or not States Parties have made a financial contribution to their own Article 4 implementation in 2023 or 2024.</p> <p>In Mauritania, 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>In Somalia, 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>Under the National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028, South Sudan is to continue efforts to</p>
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							integrate mine action into relevant national plans and strategies, including its next Development Strategy and increase national budgetary support to mine action. The Government of South Sudan has provided insufficient funding to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), and it does not fund mine survey or clearance. In 2023 it did not release the full budget allocated to the NMAA.
National Strategies and Work Plans	Action #2: <i>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.</i>	Indicator 1: <i>The number of affected States Parties that report having adopted a comprehensive national strategy to fulfil implementation of obligations under the Convention;</i>	5 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon South Sudan	Chad Somalia*	Chile Germany Mauritania	<p>Chad does not have a strategic plan to survey and clear CMR, but did provide a basic work plan for the required NTS of Tibesti province, in its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request.</p> <p>Chile does not have a national strategic plan, but included a detailed plan for clearance of remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas in its 2022 Article 4 deadline extension request.</p> <p>While Germany does not have a national mine action strategy, it does have a concrete</p>

							<p>completion plan in place to address the remaining CMR contamination, as detailed in its 2024 Article 4 extension request. It also elaborates annual work plans, which it adjusts according to capacity and output.</p> <p>Iraq's 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 cooperated in drawing up a national plan.</p> <p>Lao PDR adopted its new national strategy for the UXO Sector, "Safe Path Forward III" (2021–30) in January 2023.</p> <p>Mauritania does not have a national strategy to address CMR, but did include information on how it plans to address CMR, in its 2023 Article 4 deadline extension request.</p> <p>Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 was extended until end of 2021. Somalia</p>
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							<p>reported in May 2024 that revision of the national strategy had been completed, but was still pending approval. However, at the time of writing, no further update was available.</p> <p>South Sudan launched the National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028 in April 2024.</p>
		<p>Indicator 2: <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 Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania South Sudan</p>	<p>Somalia*</p>	<p>Chad</p>	<p>Afghanistan included plans to address CMR tasks, in its Article 7 report submitted in 2024.¹¹</p> <p>Chad does not have a strategic plan to survey and clear CMR, but did provide a basic work plan for the required NTS of Tibesti province, in its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request. If cluster munition-contaminated areas are identified during NTS, Chad will draw up a detailed work plan accordingly.</p> <p>Iraq included annual work plans as part of its 2023</p>

¹¹ DMAC submitted a CCM Article 7 report covering 2023 in May 2024. At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public.

							<p>Article 4 deadline extension request.</p> <p>Lao PDR included a multi-year annual work plan as part of its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request. The NRA also elaborates sector-wide work plans, but these are not shared with international NGOs.</p> <p>Mauritania included an annual work plan as part of its 2023 Article 4 deadline extension request. As at time of writing, it had yet to secure international funding for CMR survey and/or clearance.</p> <p>South Sudan reported having a drafted an annual work plan for 2024.</p>
Gender and Diversity	Action #4: <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</i>	Indicator 1: <i>The number of States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender, as well as the diversity of populations;</i>	6 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Chile Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania South Sudan	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>In Afghanistan, commitments to</p>

	<p><i>activities at the national level and in the Convention's machinery, including its meetings.</i></p>						<p>mainstream gender in mine action made under the previous administration in Afghanistan have not been honoured by the Taliban government. However, Afghanistan's APMB Article 5 deadline extension request sent in April 2024—but which had yet to be accepted and circulated by the APMB Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation at the time of writing—says DMAC, in consultation with IPs, has developed a gender and diversity mainstreaming policy for the MAPA “and it is subject to review and further development.”</p> <p>Chad's national plans make no reference to gender and diversity. Chad also failed to adequately address gender and diversity in its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request, except with brief reference to mine risk education and disaggregated victim data.</p> <p>In Lao PDR, the NRA has integrated gender into all</p>
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							<p>core UXO documents including work plans and the national strategy. Lao PDR's 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request also makes reference to a new Gender and Inclusion Code of Conduct, which aims to establish a minimum standard and targets for all operators, to ensure workforces are representative of the population and that redress mechanisms are set up for any complaints.</p> <p>Mauritania's strategic mine action plan for 2023–26 recognises that it has yet to develop a specific gender and diversity policy. In its 2023 Article 4 deadline extension request, Mauritania has said that its objective is to strive for gender balance and diverse survey and BAC teams, while acknowledging that “attaining complete gender balance within the seconded staff from the Corps of Engineers might present certain limitations”.</p>
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							<p>Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020, which was extended until the end of 2021, did integrate gender and diversity considerations. However, as at May 2024, a revised strategy had yet been approved.</p> <p>South Sudan's National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028 outlines how it will ensure that gender and diversity are considered throughout mine action projects. Furthermore, a National Mine Action Gender Equality Policy is to be approved by mid-2024.</p>
<p>National Standards Reflecting IMAS</p>	<p>Action #6: <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></p>	<p>Indicator 1: <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></p>	<p>4 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon South Sudan</p>	<p>Somalia*</p>	<p>Afghanistan Chad Chile Germany Mauritania</p>	<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>Afghanistan has comprehensive national mine action standards that</p>

							<p>are IMAS-compatible and before August 2021 were subject to regular review. However, some of the standards are outdated and in need of revision. Updating the AMAS was included in a list of priorities presented in a MAPA stakeholders' meeting in January 2024.</p> <p>Chad has 22 national mine action standards that are said to comply with the IMAS but has no CMR-specific standards. In 2022, Chad indicated that it was still missing a national standard for NTS. Chad did not review its national standards in 2023, but in its 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request stated that it now had a national standard on NTS.</p> <p>Chile is guided by the IMAS and associated standards and protocols. In addition, Chile has a Manual on Procedures and Equipment for CMR Clearance, which was published in October 2023. This new manual was developed by DICOR based on consultation with</p>
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							<p>the armed forces and CEDDEX/</p> <p>In Germany, CMR clearance is conducted in accordance with German federal legislation and legislation of the state of Brandenburg. The "Guidelines for the Clearance of Unexploded Ordnance on Federal Properties" are the legal basis for the clearance of UXO on federal government properties and thus apply to action on the Wittstock site. These guidelines are updated on an ongoing basis, for instance to include new technical and safety aspects.</p> <p>Iraq 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>
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							<p>Lao PDR is due to revise its UXO Survey Standards, which specify the minimum standards and requirements for the survey of all cluster munition-contaminated areas.</p> <p>Following a request from the PNDHD and a field visit in Mauritania, the GICHD drafted NMAS for clearance, marking, quality management, and accreditation. The draft NMAS were shared with the PNDHD during the first quarter of 2023. It is not known whether they have been formally adopted.</p> <p>A review of Somalia's NMAS took place in 2021, however the draft, revised NMAS did not receive government approval in 2022 and this was still pending as at May 2024.</p>
Information Management	Action #7: <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</i>	Indicator 1: <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	Chile Germany Lao PDR Lebanon Somalia* South Sudan	Mauritania	Afghanistan Chad Iraq	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><i>data that is disaggregated and which can be accessed, managed, and analysed post-completion.</i></p>					<p>Several States Parties, such as Lao PDR 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>Afghanistan's IMSMA database is in need of an upgrade to IMSMA Core - something which appeared first in a 10-point list of priorities presented to a MAPA stakeholder meeting in January 2024.</p> <p>Chad's IMSMA database underwent a major clean-up with the support of FSD as part of the EU-funded PRODECO project but that ended in 2022 and the shortage of IM-trained staff casts doubt on the sustainability of the database.</p> <p>Iraq's information management system is under-resourced, inefficient, and subject to lengthy delays uploading operating results which make data incomplete and out of date. The DMA had been preparing to upgrade</p>
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							<p>to IMSMA Core, with support from GICHD and iMMAP, but in 2024 decided to halt the upgrade and continue working with IMSMA NG.</p> <p>Mauritania used an old version of IMSMA from 2017 to 2020. In 2021–22, the PNDHD created its own database, but is only working offline and not accessible to operators. PNDHD said that it had solicited the support of the GICHD to deploy IMSMA Core.</p> <p>In Somalia, SEMA began upgrading to the IMSMA Core system in 2022. Work has been ongoing and Somalia expects to complete implementation by the end of 2024.</p>
Survey and Clearance							
An Accurate Baseline of Contamination	Action #18: <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</i>	Indicator 1: <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]¹¹ (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties);</i>	4 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan Chile Germany Lebanon	Chad Iraq Lao PDR Somalia* South Sudan	Mauritania	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 12MSP.

	<p><i>Parties in [2023]¹² (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]¹¹ to ensure the safety of civilians (or within two years of entry into force for new States Parties).</i></p>					<p>While many States Parties have established a baseline of CMR contamination, in several 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. This was currently the case for Somalia.</p> <p>Afghanistan has a reasonable idea of its baseline of CMR contamination, the extent of which is light. 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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¹² The LAP actually referred to the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in 2022, but this took 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>Chad has yet to carry out the requisite NTS in Tibesti, the last province suspected to be contaminated by CMR, owing to a lack of required international funding and the volatile security situation. Chad requested another 2-year clearance deadline extension that will be considered at 12 MSP in September 2024.</p> <p>Iraq and its donors have concentrated resources on improvised mines but Iraq is steadily building a baseline estimate of CMR contamination.</p> <p>Mauritania's current baseline of CMR contamination comes from survey done by PNDHD and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in February 2021. Since 2021, the PNDHD continued to discover previously unknown contamination in the same northern region, close to Western Sahara borders. Further technical survey is required to determine accurately the size and extent of the eleven remaining hazardous areas.</p>
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							In South Sudan , insecurity, and annual rains and flooding are two key factors that have hindered access to CMR-contaminated areas. South Sudan continues to work to improve estimates of its remaining CMR contamination and will conduct baseline studies in prioritised 'payams' 2024–2028, and plans a national baseline survey in the future.
A Plan for Completion	Action #19: <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].¹³</i>	Indicator 1: <i>The number of affected states that have developed evidence-based national strategies and work plans;</i>	8 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania South Sudan	Somalia*	Chad	For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment also considers new work plans submitted in 2024, including in Article 4 extension requests. Afghanistan never had a strategic plan for cluster munition clearance but a CCM Article 4 deadline extension request submitted in August 2021 before the Taliban took over set timelines for clearance of all remaining

¹³ 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.

							<p>CMR hazardous areas by 2026.</p> <p>Chad has never had a strategic plan for CMR survey and clearance. It requested a 2-year Article 4 deadline extension up to October 2026 in order to conduct NTS in Tibesti province. If cluster munition-contaminated areas are found, Chad said it would elaborate a comprehensive work plan to address them.</p> <p>Iraq's 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>Mauritania included information on how it plans to address CMR in its 2023 CCM Article 4 deadline extension request.</p>
		<p><i>Indicator 2: The number of affected States Parties that detail progress in implementing those strategies and plans in annual transparency reports.</i></p>	<p>9 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>Afghanistan Chad Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania</p>	<p>Somalia*</p>		<p>* As at 20 August 2024, Somalia had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2023.</p> <p>Afghanistan submitted a CCM Article 7 report in</p>

				South Sudan			<p>2023 (covering 2022). It also submitted a report in May 2024 (covering 2023). At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public. The Article 7 report, before it was removed, included updates on Afghanistan's progress to address CMR.</p> <p>Germany reports on the amount of clearance in its Article 7 reporting, but only provides a cumulative multi-year total, rather than an annual total, for the number of submunitions destroyed. In addition, Germany does not report on how progress in clearance compares against its work plan targets.</p> <p>Mauritania has submitted a CCM Article 7 Report, but information between its Article 7 reporting and the 2023 Article 4 extension request is sometime inconsistent.</p>
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							South Sudan submitted four voluntary CCM Article 7 reports between 2020 and 2023. South Sudan's first CCM Article 7 as a State Party was submitted in May 2024.
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.	Indicator 1: <i>The number of extension requests that include detailed, costed multi-year work plans for the extension period.</i>	3 of 3 extension requests submitted in 2024.	Chad Germany Lao PDR			For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on Article 4 extensions to be considered by States Parties in 2024. Chad's 2024 Article 4 deadline extension request includes only basic plans to mobilise much-needed resources and conduct NTS in Tibesti. If cluster munition-contaminated areas are found during the planned NTS, Chad has said it would elaborate a comprehensive work plan to address them.
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	Indicator 1: <i>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 Chad Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon		For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on available information. States Parties

	<p>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.</p>				<p>Mauritania Somalia* South Sudan</p>	<p>may have promoted the research, application, and sharing of innovative methodologies without reporting publicly on them.</p> <p>While Action #21 refers to States Parties taking into account environmental impacts and concerns, the corresponding indicator does not capture this.</p>
	<p><i>Indicator 2: The number of affected states that report progress in the effectiveness and efficiency of surveys and clearance through annual transparency reports.</i></p>	<p>8 of the 10 States Parties assessed</p>	<p>Afghanistan Chad Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania</p>	<p>Somalia*</p>	<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>* As at 20 August 2024, Somalia had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2023.</p> <p>Afghanistan submitted a CCM Article 7 report in 2023 (covering 2022). It also submitted a report in May 2024 (covering 2023). At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public. The Article 7 report, before it was removed, included updates on Afghanistan's progress to address CMR.</p> <p>In South Sudan's Article 7 report submitted in 2024,</p>

							land release data was provided for the period from January 2011–December 2023, but it did not provide disaggregated annual data, including for the required reporting period (2023).
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.	Indicator 1: <i>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>	3 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Lebanon Mauritania South Sudan	Afghanistan Chad Chile Germany Lao PDR Somalia*	Iraq	<p>While some States Parties, such as Chad and Chile, 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 2024 Article 4 extension request, Lao PDR said that the government is committed</p>

							<p>to working with national capacities to develop long-term solutions to residual contamination issues, most notably deployment of the clearance capacity of Unit 58 of the Lao People's Army.</p> <p>In Lebanon, LMAC understands the need to start building a sustainable national mine action capacity to deal with residual contamination. LMAC has drafted an exit strategy but has postponed its finalisation until after Lebanon submits a second Article 4 deadline extension request, due in 2025.</p> <p>In its 2023 Article 4 deadline extension request, Mauritania said that the Corps of Engineers will address future residual risks, and the PNDHD will continue to enhance the capacity of this national entity to address any residual contamination. Mauritania has said it will fulfil its obligations under Article 7 of the Convention by reporting any newly identified contaminated</p>
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							<p>areas. It has also pledged to develop a sustainable plan that can be implemented after the completion of clearance operations.</p> <p>Iraq 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> <p>South Sudan's National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028 has a series of targets relating to strengthening national survey and clearance capacities and a specific target regarding the development of a strategy to manage residual contamination by 2028.</p>
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	Indicator 2: <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>	6 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon South Sudan	Afghanistan Chad Somalia*	Mauritania	In Afghanistan , the Taliban's crackdown on women's employment and education left severely limited space for women's continuing engagement in key humanitarian services such as health and this has included mine action. Despite this, in 2023 some IPs reported employing

	<p>populations in all appropriate activities related to survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants within affected communities.</p>						<p>more women than before the change of government, including in field operations as well as in office roles. However, this was not uniform across the mine action programme and in practice, scope for deploying female staff vary according to the disposition of provincial and district authorities.</p> <p>Lebanon's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 includes considerations on gender and diversity. In 2023, MAG supported LMAC in the review and drafting of their Gender, Diversity and Inclusion (GDI) approach and strategy, and co-lead a training workshop on Gender in Mine Action with the LMAC for all HMA operators in March 2023 on international women's day. MAG has also assisted LMAC in establishment of a GDI Steering Committee.</p> <p>Mauritania recognises in its strategic mine action plan for 2023–26 that it has yet to develop a specific gender and</p>
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							<p>diversity policy, but in its 2023 CCM Article 4 deadline extension request, it stated that ensuring inclusivity, gender sensitivity, and diversity are integral considerations. Mauritania said it strives for diverse and gender-balanced teams, but that attaining complete gender balance within the seconded staff from the Corps of Engineers might present certain limitations.</p> <p>In South Sudan, the needs of diverse groups are fed into operational priorities, though task prioritisation is predominantly dependent on security.</p>
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	Indicator 1: <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 Chile Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania South Sudan	Somalia*	Chad	<p>* As at 20 August 2024, Somalia had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2023.</p> <p>Afghanistan submitted a CCM Article 7 report in 2023 (covering 2022). It also submitted a report in May 2024 (covering 2023). At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database,</p>

	through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance).						<p>having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public. The 2024 Article 7 report, before it was removed, included information on the extent of remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas.</p> <p>Chad submitted an annual Article 7 transparency report in 2024, but it does not include disaggregated data, as Chad has yet to secure the necessary international funding needed to conduct NTS to determine the extent of cluster munition-affected area.</p> <p>In its Article 7 report for 2023, Germany included annual clearance figures as well as its cumulative output from 2017 for the first time. Once again, however, Germany included only cumulative figures for the number of submunitions destroyed.</p>
Declarations of Completion	Action #25: Upon completion of their Article 4 clearance obligations, submit a voluntary declaration of compliance, confirming that every effort	Indicator 1: <i>The number of affected States Parties that have completed their Article 4 obligations and that submit</i>	0 of 0 affected States Parties assessed that have completed their Article 4				For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is

	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.	<i>voluntary declarations of compliance.</i>	obligations during the 11MSP presidency.				based on the number of States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 4 since the start of the 12MSP presidency in 2023. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) ended its formal CMR clearance operations on 31 August 2023, just meeting its 1 September 2023 CCM Article 4 deadline. BiH made an official declaration of completion of its obligations under Article 4 at the CCM Eleventh Meeting of States Parties in September 2023.
International Cooperation and Assistance							
Seeking Assistance	Action #41: <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,</i>	Indicator 2: <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>	6 of 8 affected States Parties assessed seeking international cooperation and assistance.	Afghanistan Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania South Sudan	Somalia*	Chad	* As at 20 August 2024, Somalia had still to submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2023. Afghanistan submitted a CCM Article 7 report in 2023 (covering 2022). It also submitted a report in May 2024 (covering 2023). At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the

	<p><i>age and disability analysis. These plans should adequately reflect the areas in which assistance is required.</i></p>						<p>year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public. The 2024 Article 7 report, before it was removed, included information on Afghanistan's progress, challenges, and requirements for international cooperation and assistance.</p> <p>Chile and Germany are not seeking international cooperation and assistance with their respective implementation of Article 4.</p> <p>Lebanon, despite being one of the best performing national mine action programmes, continues to see a drop in clearance capacity, a reduction in international funding, and the absence of national funding to CMR.</p> <p>At time of writing, neither Chad nor Mauritania were receiving any international support for CMR survey or clearance operations, which they require in order to fulfil their respective Article 4 obligations.</p>
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Country Coalitions	Action #42: <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, leverage such platforms, share experiences made, as well as explore synergies with similar forums, as appropriate.</i>	Indicator 1: <i>The number of States Parties that report taking (and having taken) advantage of the country coalition concept.</i>	2 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Lao PDR Lebanon	Afghanistan Chad Iraq Mauritania Somalia* South Sudan	Chile Germany	<p>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> <p>In Chile, only national government entities are engaged in Article 4 implementation.</p> <p>In its 2023 Article 4 extension request, Iraq expressed an interest in establishing a Country Coalition, but Mine Action Review is not aware of any subsequent developments.</p> <p>Lao PDR has a Country Coalition under the name "UXO Sector Working Group" (SWG). It meets</p>

							<p>biannually and chaired by the Minister/Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and co-chaired by UNDP and by donor countries (with co-chairs rotated alphabetically). Its main objective is to promote the efficiency and transparency of mine action in Lao PDR and increase funding opportunities. In 2023, the government announced plans to strengthen the SWG, both in terms of its technical function and its coordination/strategic function.</p> <p>In Lebanon, a Mine Action Forum (which is equivalent to a Country Coalition), co-led between Lebanon and the Netherlands, meets twice a year.</p> <p>Mauritania had also said that it would like to form a Country Coalition with a willing donor government and an international mine action NGO to support its completion initiative.</p>
Transparency Measures							
Compliance in Reporting	Action #44: When implementing obligations	Indicator 1: The number of States Parties that are implementing obligations	10 of the 10 States Parties assessed	Afghanistan Chad Chile			For the purposes of establishing the LAP baseline value for this

	<p><i>under Article 4,¹⁴ 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></p>	<p><i>under Article 4¹⁵ 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></p>		<p>Germany Iraq Lao PDR Lebanon Mauritania Somalia* South Sudan</p>		<p>indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on whether States Parties have submitted an Article 7 report in the last two years.</p> <p>Afghanistan 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. It also submitted a report in May 2024 (covering 2023). At the time of writing however, this had been removed from the UN Article 7 database, having been published on the database earlier in the year. The reason for the deletion has not been made public. The Article 7 report, before it was removed, included updates on Afghanistan's progress to address CMR.</p> <p>* Somalia submitted an Article 7 report in 2023 (albeit late), but as at 20 August 2024, had still to</p>
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¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

							submit an Article 7 report covering calendar year 2023.
Measures to ensure compliance							
	<p>#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.</p>	<p>Indicator 1: <i>The number of States Parties that have submitted extension requests in a timely manner.</i></p>	<p>2 of 2 extension requests submitted in 2024.</p>	<p>Germany Lao PDR</p>	<p>Chad</p>		<p>For the purposes of monitoring this indicator, Mine Action Review's assessment is based on whether or not States Parties seeking Article 4 extensions in 2024 submitted their requests at least nine months before 12MSP.</p> <p>While Chad did engage with the CCM ISU and Article 4 Analysis Group earlier, it only formally submitted its Article 4 deadline extension request in June 2024, only three months ahead of 12MSP.</p>

States Parties marked with an * are those which had still to submit an Article 7 report in 2024 (covering 2023) as at 20 August 2024.