

KEY DATA

NO CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

Not reported

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	Not reported	Not reported
Technical Survey	Not reported	Not reported
Non-Technical Survey	Not reported	Not reported
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
Submunitions destroyed	Not reported	Not reported

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2024:

■ Not reported

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Available data on contamination and land release of cluster munition-affected areas in Iran continue to be extremely limited. There is no publicly available evidence to suggest that survey or clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas took place in 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Iran should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- In the meantime, Iran should commit never to use cluster munitions and should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear cluster munition remnants (CMR) on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- Iran should report publicly on the extent and location of CMR and prepare a plan for their clearance and destruction.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Iran Mine Action Centre (IRMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS*

- IRMAC
- Iranian Army
- Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps
- Commercial operators

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

* This is based on information from earlier years. It is not known if the information remains accurate.

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

The areas of Iran most significantly affected by weapons contamination, including mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), are believed to be in the five western provinces of West Azerbaijan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, and Kurdistan.¹ However, the extent of contamination from CMR is not known. Safelane Global, for example, states that "while the Iranian government and its partners have made good progress, cluster munition contamination is still considered a possibility in some areas".²

Some contamination is believed to remain from the Iran-Iraq war in 1980–88.³ Cluster munitions were widely used in Khuzestan and to a lesser extent in Kermanshah, when Iraqi forces used mostly French- and Russian-made submunitions in attacks on oil facilities at Abadan and Mah-Shahr, and Spanish munitions in attacks on troop positions at Dasht-e-Azadegan.⁴ Iraqi forces are believed to have air-dropped

cluster bombs in 1984 against Iranian troops; and a US Navy aircraft reportedly used 18 Mk-20 Rockeye bombs in attacks on Iranian Revolutionary Guard speedboats and an Iranian Navy ship on 18 April 1988.⁵ Air Force explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams cleared many unexploded submunitions after attacks but, as at 2014, contamination remained around Mah-Shahr and the port of Bandar Imam Khomeini, according to a retired Iranian Air Force colonel.⁶ In 2020, 18 submunitions were discovered during commercial clearance of some 7km² in Khuzestan province in the south-west.⁷

The extent to which Iran is undertaking or planning survey to establish a baseline of CMR contamination is not known. Nor it is known the extent to which Iran disaggregates CMR contamination and clearance output from that of other explosive ordnance.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Iran also has areas containing anti-personnel mines (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Iran for further information). It has new explosive remnants of war following the armed conflict with Israel in June 2025 although the extent is not known.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Iran Mine Action Centre (IRMAC) was established as the national mine action centre in 2005, taking the place of a mine action committee within the Ministry of Defence. In 2014, IRMAC reported that it was responsible for planning, data, managing survey, procurement, and the accreditation of demining operators. It was also tasked with setting standards, providing training for clearance operators, concluding contracts with demining operators, and ensuring quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) of their operations. IRMAC also coordinated mine action with the General Staff of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Interior, the Management and Planning Organisation of Iran, and other

relevant ministries and organisations, while also managing international relations.⁸ At the time of writing, Mine Action Review had not been able to establish if this description of IRMAC's specific responsibilities remained up to date.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supports IRMAC in the provision of victim assistance and risk education. The ICRC has facilitated access of IRMAC to medical kits; first aid training for demining teams; and personal protective equipment (PPE) to support humanitarian demining. It also supports IRMAC with peer-to-peer exchange with other mine action centres and actors internationally, including in international meetings and events.⁹

1 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), "Weapon Contamination", accessed 29 May 2024 at: <https://bit.ly/30TC55t>.

2 "Iran", Safelane Global, accessed 12 May 2025; at: <https://bit.ly/3SBglf6>.

3 Statement by Gholamhossein Dehghani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Second Meeting of States Parties, Beirut, 13 September 2011; and "Iran", Safelane Global, accessed 12 May 2025; at: <https://bit.ly/3SBglf6>.

4 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Iran Mine Action", 1 September 2014, at: <https://bit.ly/3F3JYTk>.

5 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Iran Cluster Munition Ban Policy", accessed 12 May 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4mdJQ50>.

6 Interview with Air Force Colonel (ret.) Ali Alizadeh, Tehran, 8 February 2014.

7 Information provided by Reza Amaninasab, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, August 2020.

8 IRMAC PowerPoint Presentation, Tehran, 9 February 2014; and IRMAC, "Presentation of IRMAC".

9 ICRC, "Weapon Contamination", accessed 12 May 2025; at: <https://bit.ly/30TC55t>; and Presentation by Farhad Arabpour Weapon Contamination Coordinator, ICRC delegation in Tehran, 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers (NDM23), 11–14 February 2020, Geneva, available at: <https://bit.ly/43EjVZD>.

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The amount of national resources Iran contributes to support IRMAC or the survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated areas is not known. However, Iran is believed to have dedicated significant resources and effort to clearing areas on its territory contaminated by ERW and mines.¹⁰

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The extent to which gender and diversity are mainstreamed into mine action in Iran is not known.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known whether Iran has a national mine action standard on environmental management and/or a policy on environmental management. It has been reported, however, that Iran's Ministry for the Environment does regulate environmental practices in mine action to some extent.¹¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

IRMAC's database is said to be accurate and operators provide regular activity reports to IRMAC on both humanitarian and commercial mine action projects.¹² However, Mine Action Review has not been able to obtain further information from IRMAC on this issue.

In 2020, IRMAC reported having a geographic information system (GIS), web-based, integrated information management system, which integrates information on quality, safety, and the environment.¹³ In 2022, IRMAC launched an application for smartphones, which is reported to contain

all data from historical and current clearance operations and which is intended to provide mine action organisations with a comprehensive view of contaminated and cleared areas as identified by IRMAC. The App, which is also said to contain information about explosive incidents, is updated on a regular basis. It is available to operators and interested parties upon request.¹⁴ At the time of writing, it had not been possible to ascertain whether it includes data on cluster munition-contaminated areas.

PLANNING AND TASKING

It is not known whether Iran has a national mine action strategy or an annual work plan for the survey and clearance of CMR or agreed and specified criteria for the prioritisation of tasks.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Iran reportedly has national mine action standards in place.¹⁵ No information was available on quality management (QM) procedures for clearance in Iran, although it was reported in 2023 that a subsidiary of IRMAC performs QA and QC of commercial demining.¹⁶

10 ICRC, "Experts from over 15 nations attend round-table on humanitarian mine action", Press release, 15 March 2019, at: <https://bit.ly/3N7Ca4e>; and ICRC, "Weapon Contamination".

11 Email from Narges Jahanparast, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 26 April 2023.

12 Email from Reza Amaninasab, Director, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 23 March 2023.

13 IRMAC PowerPoint presentation, available at: <http://bit.ly/38ALojt>; and presentation by Mr Pourbagher, Deputy Director of IRMAC, NDM23, Geneva, 11–14 February 2020.

14 Emails from Reza Amaninasab, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 23 March 2023; and Narges Jahanparast, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 26 April and 6 May 2023.

15 Email from Narges Jahanparast, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 6 June 2023.

16 Email from Narges Jahanparast, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 26 April 2023.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

No up-to-date information was available at the time of writing on Iran's national survey and clearance capacity. It was not clear what capacity, if any, was being deployed to survey or clear cluster munition-contaminated areas.

In 2023, it was reported that the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), the development arm of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), contracts and monitors commercial operators conducting clearance of Iran's oil and gas producing areas. These are concentrated in the west and south-west of the country, close to the border with Iraq.¹⁷

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

It is not known if any cluster munition-contaminated areas were released through survey or clearance in 2024 or whether any newly discovered areas of CMR contamination were added to the national database.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

As the extent of CMR contamination in Iran remains unknown and little information is available on the overall effectiveness of Iran's national mine action programme, it is not possible to comment on the extent to which Iran is making reasonable progress towards release of CMR-affected areas.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

It is not known to what extent Iran is making provision for a sustainable capacity to address previously unknown CMR-contaminated areas following completion of clearance.

17 Email from Narges Jahanparast, Ambassadors for Development Without Borders, 6 June 2023.