

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Iran should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Iran 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 REMNANT CONTAMINATION

The extent of CMR contamination in Iran is not known. Some contamination is believed to remain from the Iran-Iraq war in 1980–88,¹ when cluster munitions were widely used in Khuzestan and to a lesser extent in Kermanshah. 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. Air Force explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams cleared many unexploded submunitions after attacks but

contamination remains around Mah-Shahr and the port of Bandar Imam Khomeini, according to a retired Iranian Air Force colonel.²

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).

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. IRMAC is responsible for planning, data, managing survey, procurement, and the accreditation of demining operators. It also sets standards, provides training for clearance operators, concludes contracts with demining operators (private companies, army engineers, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps), and ensures monitoring of their operations. It coordinates 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, and handles international relations.³ Several IRMAC staff are believed to be serving or former military personnel, including the Director of IRMAC, and the rest are civilians employed by the Ministry of Defence.

International operators are not believed to have been active in Iran since 2008.

In March 2019, Iran hosted a three-day international roundtable on "humanitarian mine action: challenges and best practices", attended by representatives from other states, national and international demining organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). The aim of the roundtable was to share knowledge and experience on mine action, challenges, and best practices.⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

IRMAC actively maintains a national mine action database but it is not known if it is comprehensive.

LAND RELEASE

No data was available on any CMR survey or clearance in 2018, as was the case in the previous year.

1 Statement by Gholamhossein Dehghani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, CCM Second Meeting of States Parties, Beirut, 13 September 2011.

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

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

4 "Tehran hosts international roundtable on humanitarian mine action", *Mehr news agency*, 12 March 2019, at: <https://bit.ly/2Z4LsIE>; and ICRC, "International roundtable on "humanitarian mine action: challenges and best practices"", 15 March 2019, at: <https://bit.ly/2QH3cR6>.