IRAN

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Not reported

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Release in 2024 (m^2)
Clearance	Not reported	Not reported
Technical Survey	Not reported	Not reported
Non-Technical Survey	Not reported	Not reported

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	Not reported	Not reported

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- Not reported

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Available data on contamination and release of anti-personnel (AP) mined areas in Iran continue to be extremely limited. Although Iran is contaminated by AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mines, mainly as a result of the 1980–88 war with Iraq, there are several reports and allegations of use of AP mines by Iran as part of border security systems in the last few years, including reports in 2025. There is also evidence of new contamination in southern Iran, resulting from an alleged United States (US) attack in March 2026, using Gator scatterable mines. Evidence suggests that limited clearance of AP mined area last took place in 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Iran should immediately halt all use of AP mines and accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.**
- **Iran should clear AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.**
- **Iran should report publicly on the extent and location of mined areas and prepare a plan for their clearance and destruction.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Iran Mine Action Center (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 AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Iran is contaminated by AP and AV mines, mainly as a result of the 1980–88 war with Iraq, but there is evidence of new AP and AV mine contamination in Iran, resulting from an alleged US attack in March 2026. There are also reports and allegations of use of AP mines by Iran as part of border security systems in recent years. The extent of the remaining mined areas is unknown.

Historically, mined areas have been reported as concentrated in five western provinces bordering Iraq. According to the Iran Mine Action Center (IRMAC), the initial estimate of (undefined) "contamination" in Iran was 42,000km^2 (Ilam province, 17,000km^2; Kermanshah province, 7,000km^2; Khuzestan province, 15,000km^2; Kurdistan province, 1,500km^2; and West Azerbaijan, 1,500km^2); which by February 2020 had reportedly been reduced by "90%".[1] Türkiye has also recorded AP mined area on the Iranian side of the border during investigations relating to the Turkish province of Ağrı, again, along Iran's western border.[2] No estimate of AP mined area outside Iran's western border provinces is available.

One of Iran's major challenges in building an accurate understanding of contamination has been cited as a lack of maps showing where mines were laid—in a reportedly irregular manner—during the Iran-Iraq war. Furthermore, some mines are thought to have shifted due to flooding.[3] Some of the remaining contamination is also said to be in hard-to-reach areas, including "impassable mountainous areas" or in marshes.[4]

A further complication in understanding the extent of mined area in Iran pertains to reports of continuing casualties in areas that were supposed to have been cleared, calling into question whether mine clearance has been conducted to international standards. For example, in 2012, Kermanshah province was declared "free from landmines" but several people were killed or injured by landmines only days after the announcement, which led the government to consider re-clearing the area.[5] Ongoing casualties have been recorded in Kermanshah since 2012, as well as in Khuzestan province, which is reported to have been cleared in 2014.[6]

A June 2024 online article noted that "evidence and testimonies from citizens in the western provinces and border regions" do not "align" with frequent claims by government media that more than 90 per cent of mined areas have been cleared, with Iranian citizens often encountering landmines not only in former military zones but in "pastures, forests, and villages", and with "kolbars" (cross-border porters)[7] frequently injured or killed by landmines. It suggested that of the 230km border between Iraq and Kurdistan province in Iran, 136km remained mined.[8] For more information on casualties, please see the country profile on Iran on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[9]

As well as legacy contamination, there is evidence of new use of AP mines, both from the current US-Iran conflict, and from the alleged use of AP mines by Iran as part of border security systems in recent years. On 26 March 2026, the independent research and journalism collective, Bellingcat,[10] along with international news outlets,[11] reported that the United States appeared to have deployed the Gator scatterable mine

1 IRMAC PowerPoint presentation, http://bit.ly/38ALojt; and presentation by Mr. Pourbagher, Deputy Director of IRMAC, National Directors Meeting (NDM23), Geneva, 12 February 2020.

2 In its APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in 2025, Türkiye noted that, regarding 94 minefields it had planned to address in Ağrı, after the construction of a border wall, "the mined areas located in Ağrı were not included in [the] total number" as they "remained on the Iranian side, and the operation of this field was not completed." 2025 Türkiye Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

3 F. Aman, "Landmines Still a Major Menace in Iran", Blog post, Atlantic Council, 25 August 2016, https://bit.ly/3dVTKp2.

4 "The ominous legacy of war still takes victims", *Iranian Labour News Authority*, 22 May 2020, https://bit.ly/3S1UfBk.

5 "Landmines Still a Major Menace in Iran", Blog post, Atlantic Council, 25 August 2016.

6 "Landmine Casualties", United for Iran, Accessed 5 June 2026, https://bit.ly/4vtpmZd.

7 Kolbars are workers who, legally or illegally, carry goods on their back across the borders of Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Türkiye.

8 "Government Claims Contradicted as Landmine Danger Persists in Western Iran", *Iranwire,* 24 June 2024, https://bit.ly/3yGKljx. As recently as March 2024, it was also reported that a mine in Kermanshah had detonated while a farmer was grazing cattle, resulting in one fatality. "Decades-Old Landmine Kills One in Iran", *Iranwire*, 28 March 2024, https://bit.ly/3M2LpkQ.

9 https://the-monitor.org.

10 Bellingcat, "Who we are", accessed 22 May 2026, https://bit.ly/4uqO9gB.

11 "Images appear to show landmines scattered by US forces, a first in years", *The Washington Post,* 27 March 2026, https://bit.ly/4nGAf7k; "US 'uses landmines for first time since Gulf War'", *The Daily Telegraph*, 27 March 2026, https://bit.ly/49QwQgv; and "US land mines seen in photos from Iran pose 'extreme danger' to civilians", *AA*, 27 March 2026, https://bit.ly/420khP6.

system over Kafari, a village near Shiraz, in southern Iran, overnight on 25–26 March.[12] Bellingcat geolocated some of the mines to the village of Kafari. Video footage showed at least three mines approximately two kilometres away from the entrance to, what was reported to be, the Shiraz South missile base. Three experts told Bellingcat the munitions used in the attack appeared to be air-delivered, US-made, Gator AV and AP mines.

The size of the area affected was not yet known. The Gator system is an air-delivered dispenser that contains "a mixture of either 94 or 60 BLU-92/B anti-personnel and BLU-91/B anti-vehicle mines depending on which dispenser is used. These dispensers release the mines over an area of approximately 200 by 650 metres". In the images reviewed by Bellingcat, it was not clear which dispenser was used, nor how many dispensers were deployed. According to Bellingcat, the United States is the only party to the armed conflict known to possess Gator scatterable mines. Bellingcat asked the US Department of Defense whether it had dropped the mines, but had not received a response at the time of publishing the article.[13]

Recent use of AP mines by Iran, particularly as part of border security systems, has been documented by organisations such as Hengaw Organisation for Human Rights (Hengaw) and Human Rights Watch. Victims in these reports were often engaged in ordinary activities, such as agriculture and portering, and travelling previously-used routes, indicating recent placement of landmines.[14] A June 2024 article claimed that Iran's security strategies for the borders and western provinces have been re-laying landmines, stating that "local witnesses have reported seeing IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] forces planting landmines at borders such as those near Baneh and Piranshahr".[15] No dates are given for when this new use may have occurred. In May 2025, however, it was reported that a soldier serving in Iran's border guard was seriously injured in a "landmine explosion" in the Piranshahr border area.[16]

As well as incidents along Iran's western border areas, outlined above, there have been recent reports of incidents along Iran's eastern borders, as a result of people entering new minefields, particularly in Sistan-Balochistan[17] province.[18] It is not known when these minefields were laid, but reports of casualties continued to emerge in 2025. The Landmine Monitor (the Monitor) states that local human rights organisation Haalvsh "has alleged that mines are emplaced and moved sporadically in the Sistan-Balochistan Province by the IRGC. This occurs primarily along the borders of the province with neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan, but also in internal areas of the province. Mined areas are unmarked". The Monitor adds that "communities on both sides of the border have reported regular activity by the IRGC, after which mine incidents occurred".[19]

The Iranian government reportedly asserts that it uses landmines as "defence tools" to guard its borders and deter movement of drug traffickers.[20] New mines are said to have been laid "in limited quantities and in specific areas of the borders".[21] Iran has not confirmed recent laying of landmines to secure its own borders but continues to publicly defend such use in principle. At the First Committee of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in November 2025, as it has done for over two decades, Iran again expressed its position that "anti-personnel mines regrettably remain for some countries the only viable means of ensuring the minimum security for their borders," and said that mines are necessary "due to the difficulties of monitoring vast and sensitive areas through permanent guard posts or effective warning systems."[22]

It is not possible to state with certainty which organisations or units of Iran's defence and security forces have laid AP mines in recent years, as responsibility for border control in Iran passes periodically from one force or unit to another in any given location (for example, from the IRGC to the army or police). It is said that, when responsibility from one party is handed over to another, if the minefields have already been laid by the current unit, it will hand over its maps to the next unit.[23] The extent to which an accurate and comprehensive database of new minefields in Iran is maintained is also not known. Customary international humanitarian law (IHL), however, requires that minefields should be recorded wherever possible.[24] For more information on use, please see the country profile on Iran on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[25]

12 Bellingcat, "Evidence Points to US Scattering Mines over Iranian Village", 26 March 2026, https://bit.ly/4nFXmyK.

13 Bellingcat, "Evidence Points to US Scattering Mines over Iranian Village", 26 March 2026.

14 "Baloch man killed in landmine explosion in Mirjaveh", Hengaw, 26 January 2025, https://tinyurl.com/yeccxwy4; "Golshan – IRGC landmine kills 18-year-old Baloch Sukhtbar, injures another", Hengaw, 12 August 2025, https://bit.ly/4dS1E33; "Hengaw releases statistical report on 57 mine victims in Iran in 2024", Hengaw, 26 January 2025, https://bit.ly/4uU9Q8Z; and Human Rights Watch, "Iran: Security Forces Killing Kurdish Border Couriers", 8 July 2024, https://bit.ly/4x7Twmr.

15 "Government Claims Contradicted as Landmine Danger Persists in Western Iran", *Iranwire,* 24 June 2024. Baneh is in Kurdistan province, and Piranshahr is in West Azerbaijan province. In 2024, Human Rights Watch also reported a landmine accident in Piranshahr, in Western Azerbaijan province, which indicated recent laying of mines. HRW, "Iran: Security Forces Killing Kurdish Border Couriers", 8 July 2024.

16 "Piranshahr: Iranian soldier severely injured by landmine explosion", Report, Hengaw, 2 May 2025, https://bit.ly/44gHppM. The article states that Iran's state-run Mehr News Agency had confirmed the incident.

17 Also sometimes referred to as Sistan and Baluchestan province.

18 "Baloch man killed in landmine explosion in Mirjaveh", Hengaw, 26 January 2025; "Golshan – IRGC landmine kills 18-year-old Baloch Sukhtbar, injures another", Hengaw, 12 August 2025; and "Hengaw releases statistical report on 57 mine victims in Iran in 2024", Hengaw, 26 January 2025. The Landmine Monitor also listed multiple reports by media outlets and others in late 2023 and early 2024, which alleged new mine victims and/or new use of AP mines by the IRGC in this region, but these sources are no longer listed following updating of this page as at June 2026. Landmine Monitor, "Iran", accessed 19 June 2025, https://bit.ly/44jBnWp.

19 Landmine Monitor, "Iran", accessed 4 June 2026, https://bit.ly/44jBnWp. The Monitor cites "correspondence with Shirahmad Shirani, Editor-in-Chief of the Haalvsh Human Rights Organization, 18 August 2025".

20 "On the Borders That Divide Kurdistan, Landmines Devastate Communities", Gordyaen Benyamin Jermayi Kurdish Peace Institute, 4 June 2024, https://bit.ly/4lbn0Jl.

21 Ali Asghar Faridi, "Landmines: Silent Killers Lurking in the Earth's Core", *Our Law Magazine*, undated but accessed 19 June 2025, at; https://bit.ly/3T0qoe7.

22 "Explanation of Vote by Iran on Resolution L.30, UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, 80th Session, New York, 4 November 2025. Video record available https://bit.ly/4vyRCK9. For many years, Iran has delivered a virtually unchanged statement during previous First Committee votes. See, for example, "Explanation of Vote by Iran on Resolution L.43, UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security", 58th Session, New York, 15 October 2003, https://bit.ly/3S0RIvp.

23 Ali Asghar Faridi, "Landmines: Silent Killers Lurking in the Earth's Core", *Our Law Magazine*, undated but accessed 19 June 2025.

24 ICRC, Customary IHL Rule 82: "Recording of the Placement of Landmines", https://bit.ly/4eaDCPh.

25 https://the-monitor.org.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Iran has new explosive remnants of war (ERW) following the armed conflict with Israel in June 2025, although the extent is not known. In 2026, Iran laid seabed and anchored naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz.[26] Iran is also believed to have cluster munition remnants (CMR) on its territory (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2026* report on Iran for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

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 operations 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.[27] 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) has supported IRMAC, as recently as 2020, in various aspects of humanitarian mine action including victim assistance; risk education; personal protective and medical equipment for deminers; and international meetings and events.[28] As at May 2026, it was unclear whether the ICRC remains involved in mine action in Iran.[29]

Iran's Minister of Defence stated in April 2023 that "Iran has acquired the knowledge to produce demining equipment and is ready to use its resources to sweep land mines." He added that Iran "is also ready to help other countries and relevant international organisations."[30] In May 2025, Mine Action Review made renewed inquiries to IRMAC about its mine action programme and AP mined area, and mine survey and clearance in Iran. IRMAC declined to provide information on these issues.

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The amount of national resources Iran contributes to support IRMAC or the survey and clearance of AP mined areas is not known. However, Iran is reported to have dedicated significant resources and effort to clearing areas on its territory contaminated by ERW and mines.[31]

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.[32]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

IRMAC's database was said in the past to be accurate and it was claimed that operators provide regular activity reports to IRMAC on both humanitarian and commercial mine action projects.[33] However, Mine Action Review has not been able to obtain further information from IRMAC on this issue.

26 "What mines has Iran laid in the strait of Hormuz and how can the US remove them?", *The Guardian*, 16 April 2026, https://bit.ly/43ggkTq; and "Five Things to Know About Iranian Minelaying", The Stimson Center, 23 March 2026, https://bit.ly/43Bfh0F.

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

28 Presentation by Farhad Arabpour Weapon Contamination Coordinator, ICRC delegation in Tehran, NDM23, 11–14 February 2020, Geneva, available https://bit.ly/43EjVZD; and ICRC, "Weapon Contamination", accessed 12 May 2025.

29 As at 22 May 2026, ICRC, "Weapon Contamination", accessed 12 May 2025, https://bit.ly/3OTC55t, appeared to have been updated, and no longer stated if ICRC continued to be involved in mine action in Iran. It is also not stated on ICRC's separate page on Iran, accessed 22 May 2026, https://bit.ly/3RqEXdl.

30 "Defense Minister: Iran ready to help other countries for demining", *Iran Press News Agency*, 4 April 2023.

31 ICRC, "Experts from over 15 nations attend round-table on humanitarian mine action", Press release, 15 March 2019, https://bit.ly/3N7Ca4e; and ICRC, "Weapon Contamination", accessed 12 May 2025.

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

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

In 2020, IRMAC reported having a geographic information system, web-based, integrated information management system, which integrates information on quality, safety, and the environment.[34] 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.[35] At the time of writing, it had not been possible to ascertain whether it includes data on AP mined 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 AP mines 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.[36] No information was available on quality management procedures for clearance in Iran, although it was reported in 2023 that a subsidiary of IRMAC performs QA and QC of commercial demining.[37] IRMAC undertakes two main types of clearance activity: shallow and deep.[38] After Kermanshah province was declared "free from landmines" in 2012 (but several people were killed and injured by landmines only a few days later), an Iranian Member of Parliament commented that the clearance had not respected the minimum depth set in national standards.[39]

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 AP mine-contaminated areas. In March 2024, the Deputy of Iran's Armed Forces spoke of the army Engineering Units' ongoing efforts to "clear millions of mines and bullets from contaminated border areas", with a "significant number of personnel" dedicated to this.[40] In 2019, it was reported that IRMAC, combining the roles of regulator and operator, had demining teams and support staff deployed in five affected provinces, with demining capacity in Kurdistan province, for example, believed to stand at only around 12 personnel. Available demining assets, such as mechanical assets, were said to vary from province to province.[41]

Commercial mine and ERW clearance in Iran is conducted to ensure that land is free from explosive ordnance before it is used for economic purposes or developed. It is separate to demining of areas known or suspected to contain explosive ordnance in order to make the land safe for civilian use, which comes under the remit of IRMAC. In a number of countries, commercial demining is applied to areas whether or not there is firm evidence of a threat from explosive ordnance.

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, which are concentrated in the west and south-west of the country, close to the border with Iraq.[42] International operators are not believed to have been active in Iran since 2008.[43]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

It is not known if any AP mined areas were released through survey or clearance in 2025 or whether any newly discovered areas of AP mine contamination were added to the national database.

34 IRMAC PowerPoint presentation and presentation by Mr. Pourbagher, IRMAC, NDM23, Geneva, 11–14 February 2020.

35 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.

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

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

38 IRMAC PowerPoint presentation, 2020, p. 5.

39 "Landmines Still a Major Menace in Iran", Blog post, Atlantic Council, 25 August 2016.

40 "Over five million landmines cleared from contaminated border areas: commander", *Tehran Times*, 3 March 2024, https://bit.ly/4aHFag2.

41 Information provided by Reza Amaninasab, Ambassadors for Development without Borders, September 2019.

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

43 "Iran. Mine Action", Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, last updated 12 November 2018 (archived).

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

It is not possible to know when or even if Iran will become free of AP mines. In 2020, IRMAC listed the challenges it faces in clearance in Iran as follows – a high density of contamination; flooding in contaminated areas, which hinders access; displacement of munitions by flooding; displacement of mines to lower soil (up to six metres below the surface); the transformation [degradation] of mines, and vegetation.[44]

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 AP mine-contaminated areas if it completes clearance.

44 IRMAC PowerPoint presentation, 2020; and presentation by Mr Pourbagher, IRMAC, NDM23, Geneva, 12 February 2020.