

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:
1 FEBRUARY 2028

Not on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:
1.632km²

Massive
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS (National Authority Data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	9.36	14.35
Technical Survey	11.88	19.61
Non-Technical Survey	128.31	106.86

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	16,644 (incl. 1,089 in spot tasks)	16,590 (incl. 73 in spot tasks)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Ministry of Defence
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Organisation (SHO)
- Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA)
- HALO Trust (HALO)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Shahreteah Humanitarian

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Land release edged up in 2024 as a result of a big increase in cancellation through survey in Federal Iraq, but the amount of clearance dropped sharply. The Directorate for Mine Action (DMA)'s rapid turnover of management continued with the appointment of a new director in February 2025, also on a temporary basis. The DMA halted plans to upgrade its Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database to Core but then reversed the decision. The Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) launched a new, tailor-made data management system in June 2024 after two years' preparation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The Iraqi government should provide the DMA with the legal authority, funding, and equipment to discharge its responsibilities as the national mine action authority (NMAA) and stabilise management.
- The Iraqi government and NMAA should provide clarity on national funding available for mine action and how the funds are allocated.
- The DMA should seek urgently to strengthen information management in the national programme by enhancing human capacity, modernising data-entry processes, updating the IMSMA database, and ensuring operators have access to up-to-date information required for planning.
- The DMA should consistently apply procedures for formal handover of cleared land to ensure its release to communities.

- The DMA should strengthen coordination of mine action through regular and substantive dialogue with all stakeholders, including donors.
- The DMA should release comprehensive annual data on the progress of survey and clearance disaggregated by operator, including State organisations, commercial companies, and NGOs.
- The DMA should streamline issuance of task orders to eliminate cumbersome procedures and lengthy delays obstructing efficient use of survey and clearance resources.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	Iraq has a broad understanding of mine contamination but Federal Iraq continued to identify previously unrecorded areas of improvised and legacy mine contamination. The KRI estimate of contamination does not include border areas where insecurity has prevented survey.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	4	4	The Government of Iraq has not addressed constant changes of DMA senior management that result in policy flip-flops or provided any clarity on national funding for mine action at a time when donor support is shrinking. IKMAA provides a stable policy environment for mine action in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq but continues to face severe funding constraints.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	Despite increased political sensitivity around gender issues, Iraq's mine action strategy continues to support diversity and operators have adapted recruitment and employment conditions to meet resistance posed by conservative social attitudes to women's employment in the sector.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	4	4	Iraq does not have a national mine action standard on environmental management in mine action but mine action planning increasingly has to take account of climate extremes and operators continue to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) to manage the environmental impact of demining.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	4	DMA halted and then resumed plans to upgrade its database from IMSMA New Generation to Core. In a serious setback, iMMAP lost donor funding for its support to the DMA's information management unit, resulting in the loss of trained human resources. IKMAA launched a new, more versatile data management system and completed migration of 25 years of operating records.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	4	DMA management changes, delays in DMA issuance of task orders, and procedural obstacles continued to frustrate operators in Federal Iraq, although some reported improved access to visas for international staff.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	6	The DMA and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) have been systematically reviewing and updating national standards. A new national standard for Management of Human Remains in Mine Action were approved by the Ministry of Environment in September 2024.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	7	Total area released increased slightly in 2024 but 87% of release by Federal Iraq (and 86% of the national total) was by cancellation through NTS conducted by an unidentified organisation in one governorate. Clearance dropped sharply.
Average Score	5.3	5.5	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

Federal Iraq:

- Ministry of Environment
- Directorate for Mine Action (DMA)

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI):

- Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

State:

- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Interior: Civil Defence, EOD Directorate
- Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF)
- IKMAA

NGOs:

- Health and Social Care Organisation in Iraq (IHSCO)
- Shareteah Humanitarian Organisation (SHO)

Commercial:

- Ain Al Saker Demining Company
- Akad International Co. for Mines
- Baghdad for Clearance Organisation
- Al Basrah Demining Organisation
- Al Bayrac Demining Company
- Al Danube
- Al Fahad Co. for Demining
- Al Fayha
- Al Khebra Al Fania Demining Co.
- Al Safsafa
- Alsiraj Al mudhia for Mine Removal
- Arabian Gulf Mine Action Co.
- Al Waha
- Al Watania Company for Demining
- AZSC

- Eagle Eye
- Insanyon Organisation for Demining
- Iraq Tadhamon Company for Mine Clearance
- Kanary Mine Action Company
- Nabaa Al-Hurya Company
- Ta'az Demining
- Wtorplast Demining

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD)
- HAMAP-Humanitaire
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- iMMAP
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Iraq reported a total of 1,632km² of contamination by AP mines, including improvised mines, at the end of 2024, a marginal decline from the previous end-year estimate of 1,636km².

Table 1: AP mined area in Iraq (at end 2024)¹

	CHA (km ²)	SHA (km ²)	Total area (km ²)
Federal Iraq	1,191.8	224.1	1,415.9
Kurdistan Region of Iraq	184.0	31.8	215.8
Totals	1,375.8	255.9	1,631.7

FEDERAL IRAQ

Legacy minefields make up more than three-quarters of Federal Iraq's mined areas (see Table 2) and while the total extent of contamination edged lower in 2024, significant changes occurred in its composition. The area affected by improvised mines dropped by 28%, reflecting the priority given by international donors to tackling devices placed during Islamic State occupation of large parts of Iraq between 2014 and 2017. Federal Iraq, however, raised its estimate of contamination by legacy AP mines by 12% in 2024.²

Table 2: Mined area in Federal Iraq (at end 2024)³

Contamination type	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
AP mines	409	1,024,619,079	41	79,263,677	1,103,882,756
Improvised mines	1,225	167,204,267	469	144,815,666	312,019,933
Totals	1,634	1,191,823,346	510	224,079,343	1,415,902,689

1 Article 7 report (covering 2024), pp. 15–37.

2 Ibid., p. 15.

3 Ibid., pp. 15, 20.

Iraq's legacy mines, dating mainly from the Iran-Iraq war, are heavily concentrated in the south, where Basrah governorate alone accounts for nearly three-quarters of the total (see Table 3). But in 2024, surprisingly, the DMA raised its estimate of the legacy mined area in north-central Diyala governorate by more than five times – from 27km² at the end of 2023 to 153km², making it the second most heavily affected governorate.⁴

Table 3: Legacy AP mined area by governorate in Federal Iraq (at end 2024)⁵

Governorate	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Anbar	3	32,168	0	0	32,168
Basrah	86	807,387,426	1	962,731	808,350,157
Diyala	13	75,623,111	32	77,763,309	153,386,420
Kirkuk	2	10,113	0	0	10,113
Missan	240	56,285,528	3	400,183	56,685,711
Muthanna	4	38,978,577	0	0	38,978,577
Najaf	1	1,754,329	0	0	1,754,329
Ninewa	4	413,397	4	132,792	546,189
Salah al-Din	7	113,723	1	4,663	118,386
Wassit	49	44,020,709	0	0	44,020,709
Totals	409	1,024,619,081	41	79,263,678	1,103,882,759

Federal Iraq's estimate of improvised mine contamination of 312km² at the end of 2024 (see Table 4) was 28% lower than the previous year's and nearly half the figure four years earlier. How that result was achieved is less clear. Official data suggests that 84% of the mined area released in 2024 was accounted for by the results of non-technical survey (NTS) in Salah al-Din governorate, an outcome at variance with results reported by international demining organisations.

Table 4: IED/improvised mine contamination in Federal Iraq (at end 2024)⁶

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Anbar	785	108,549,986	240	54,436,378	162,986,364
Diyala	28	7,679	13	69,667,438	69,675,117
Kirkuk	35	26,043,598	20	1,966,479	28,010,077
Ninewa	251	19,051,318	180	17,620,718	36,672,036
Salah al-Din	126	13,551,688	16	1,124,653	14,676,341
Totals	1,225	167,204,269	469	144,815,666	312,019,935

KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ (KRI)

Mine contamination in the KRI is much smaller than in Federal Iraq but it still ranks among the world's most heavily mined regions. The KRI's overall estimate of mine contamination dropped by less than 1% in 2024, when an increase in the areas confirmed to be affected by legacy and improvised mines was offset by a 45% drop in SHAs.

Table 5: AP mined area by governorate in the KRI (at end 2024)

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Legacy mines					
Dohuk	396	19,399,933	0	0	19,399,933
Erbil	326	48,443,296	0	0	48,443,296

⁴ Ibid., p. 15.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 20.

Table 5 Continued

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Slemani	2,342	123,829,766	92	16,718,056	140,547,822
Subtotals	3,064	191,672,995	92	16,718,056	208,391,051
Improvised mines					
Duhok	16	3,396,926	20	725,144	4,122,070
Erbil	2	1,756,747	0	0	1,756,747
Slemani	6	8,105	0	0	8,105
Subtotals	24	5,161,778	20	725,144	5,886,922
Grand Totals	3,088	196,834,773	112	17,443,200	214,277,973

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Iraq also has extensive explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination. In Federal Iraq, this includes more than 200km² affected by cluster munition remnants (see *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2025*) and a wide array of other unexploded ordnance (UXO), including air-dropped bombs and artillery shells. The KRI reported nearly 42km of ERW-contaminated area at the end of 2023, heavily concentrated in Garmyan governorate.⁷

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The mine action programme in Iraq is managed along regional lines. The DMA has represented Iraq internationally and oversees mine action for humanitarian purposes in Federal Iraq, covering 15 of the country's 19 governorates. Mine action in the KRI's four governorates is overseen by IKMAA, which acts as both regulator and operator. The two bodies have functioned largely autonomously in the past, but a memorandum of understanding (MoU) drafted in 2022 to facilitate cooperation between them was signed in May 2024.⁸

The DMA and IKMAA collaborated in drawing up Iraq's draft National Mine Action Strategy 2023–28, the first produced jointly by the two authorities.⁹ The strategy sets increasing

national ownership as a key objective and says this will be achieved by strengthening both authorities and "ensuring these national entities are empowered, appropriately structured and sufficiently equipped and resourced to allow them to fulfil their responsibilities."¹⁰

In 2023, the government earmarked 20 billion Iraqi dinars (US\$17 million) over three years to support implementation of the CCM¹¹ but the funding was not disbursed on mine action and appears to have been used by the Ministry of Environment for other projects. The DMA provided no information on funding in 2024.

FEDERAL IRAQ

The inter-ministerial Higher Committee of Mine Action, which reports to the prime minister, oversees and approves mine action strategy, policies, and plans. The committee, which the prime minister chairs, includes representatives of the ministries of defence, interior, oil, and environment, as well as the National Security Council and IKMAA. The DMA "plans, coordinates, supervises, monitors and follows up all the activities of mine action". It draws up the national strategy and is responsible for setting national standards, accrediting, and approving the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of demining organisations, and certifying completion of clearance tasks.¹²

The DMA's authority over mine action is weakened by its status as a directorate of the Ministry of Environment ranking well below the powerful ministries of defence, interior, and oil, which are major actors in the sector. Its policy making and

implementation has also suffered from a rapid turnover of directors. The DMA has had at least 20 directors general since 2003, including three in 2024. All but one were appointed on an acting basis, which also limited their authority.

Shawkat Tayeh Masoud, a former director of operations who had left the DMA in 2022, returned as acting director in September 2023 and retired in January 2025. His replacement, Eaktiffaa Mezher al-Hasnawi, the Deputy Minister of Environment, was reported as proactive and facilitating task order issuance, but was expected to leave the post in the second half of 2025 in order to run in parliamentary elections scheduled for November.

Director General Masoud conducted sweeping DMA management changes and restructuring in 2024. The DMA previously oversaw three Regional Mine Action Centres

7 Email from Niyazi Khalid, Deputy Director, IKMAA, 13 May 2024.

8 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

9 Interview with Ahmed Aljasem, Director of Information Management, DMA, Baghdad, 11 May 2023.

10 Iraq National Mine Action Strategy for 2023–28, p. 36.

11 Interviews with Bakr Sahib Ahmed, Deputy Head, DMA, in Baghdad, 11 May 2023.

12 "Document of roles and responsibilities", undated but 2019, received by email from the DMA, 13 May 2019.

(RMACs) for the North, the Middle Euphrates (MEU) region and the South,¹³ but RMAC North and RMAC MEU were closed down in September 2023. RMAC South, located in Basra City, remained as the focal point for Federal Iraq's response to CMR contamination and overseeing mine action in four southern governorates: Basrah, Missan, Muthanna, and Thi-Qar. It collects and uploads results of survey and clearance to Federal Iraq's IMSMA database and is responsible for tasking operators in its area of operations.¹⁴

The DMA convened only one official coordination meeting in September 2024 with UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) support which was attended by international donors, the ministries of defence and interior, the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) (a paramilitary movement), some commercial companies and humanitarian mine action organisations. The meeting did not result in any concrete plans or follow-up action.

The government approved a national strategic plan for 2023–28 in June 2023,¹⁵ which acknowledges the institutional issues, citing a "widespread belief" that the DMA should be strengthened to give it the authority commensurate with its mandate. The plan called for an external assessment of the DMA's legal mandate and institutional position that would provide recommendations to the Higher Council for Mine Action.¹⁶ As of August 2025, the assessment had not been conducted.

The strategic plan calls for strengthened national ownership and more national funding, recognising the dependence on external donor support as a key risk to sustainability of Iraq's mine action programme.¹⁷ To boost the capacity available for mine action the DMA says Iraq's PMF "have accepted to be involved" in mine action. The DMA reported the PMF had their own explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) directorate and a significant workforce in many governorates.¹⁸

KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

IKMAA functions as both the regulator and an operator in the KRI. It reports directly to the Kurdistan Regional Government's Council of Ministers and is led by a director general who has ministerial rank. It coordinates four directorates in Dohuk, Erbil, Garmian, and Sulaymaniyah (Sleman). IKMAA had a total staff of more than 900 personnel in 2024, including 432 in operations, largely unchanged from the previous year, but a budgetary crisis in the KRI in recent years has imposed severe constraints on the mine action sector.¹⁹

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) opened an additional mine action centre in Halabja governorate with UNMAS support in 2024 in what IKMAA said was a response to heavy explosive ordnance contamination in the area, with a view to accelerating clearance.²⁰

OTHER ACTORS

UNMAS established a presence in Iraq in 2015 to assess the explosive ordnance hazard threat in areas liberated from Islamic State and set three priorities: explosive hazard management to support stabilisation and recovery; delivery of risk education; and technical support to build capacity of government entities to manage, regulate, and coordinate Iraq's response to explosive ordnance contamination. Since 2021, UNMAS has shifted its focus from explosive hazard management to providing technical support to the mine action authorities and their implementing partners. The UNMAS mission in Iraq employed 100 people with 43 international staff in 2019. By the start of 2025, UNMAS had a staff of 23, including three internationals.²¹

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

International donors provided most of the funding for mine action in Iraq following the defeat of Islamic State, but priorities have changed. The number of donors funding operations in Iraq through UNMAS has dropped from a peak of 21 in 2019 to 8 in 2024,²² and the volume of donor funding channelled through UNMAS dropped from its high point of US\$77 million in 2019 to around \$6 million in 2024.²³ Donors

focused aid on clearing areas occupied by Islamic State in western and northern governorates mainly contaminated by improvised mines.²⁴ Funding cuts by the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) significantly impacted operations by FSD, HALO, and MAG in early 2025, resulting in the loss of a number of clearance teams.²⁵

13 RMAC North covered the governorates of Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Nineveh, and Salah ad-Din; RMAC MEU included Babylon, Baghdad, Karbala, Najaf, Qadisiya, and Wassit; while RMAC South comprised Basrah, Missan, Muthanna, and Thi Qar.

14 Interview with Gus Guthrie, Country Director, NPA, in Geneva, 12 February 2020.

15 Email from Ahmed Aljasem, DMA, 8 August 2023.

16 Iraq National Mine Action Strategy 2023–28, pp. 37–38.

17 Ibid., pp. 17 and 22.

18 Interview with Bakr Sahib Ahmed, DMA, Baghdad, 11 May 2023.

19 Email from Khatab Omer Ahmad, Planning Manager, IKMAA, 3 May 2023.

20 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

21 Emails from Shinobu Mashima, Programme Team Lead, UNMAS, 4 May 2019, 6 April 2020, 11 May 2023, and 16 May 2025.

22 Interview with Pehr Lodhammar, Chief Mine Action Programme Iraq, UNMAS, in Geneva, 23 June 2023; and emails from Ban Yaseen, Programme Management Specialist, UNMAS, 23 June 2024; and Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 16 May 2025.

23 Emails from Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 11 May 2023 and 16 May 2025.

24 Donors funding mine action through UNMAS in 2024 included Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, New Zealand, South Korea, and Sweden. Donors funding operators bilaterally included Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States.

25 Emails from Peter Smethers, Country Director FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Husain, Programme Manager, HALO, 29 May 2025; and Lisa Jean, Country Director, MAG, 1 May 2025.

Iraq negotiated for years over a \$400 million UK export credit for demining which the government approved in 2023. The funding was included in a \$15 billion trade and investment agreement announced by both governments in January 2025.²⁶ As of September 2025, the DMA said no agreement had been signed on the draw-down and disbursement of the credit. The DMA reported government funding was provided through expenditure by the ministries of defence, electricity, oil, transport, water resources and construction, and housing and municipalities, but provided no details. It said no funding was available in 2024 for survey or clearance of Iraq's legacy minefields.²⁷

IKMAA did not receive any funding from Iraq's federal budget in 2024 and said it did not expect any in 2025. Since 2022, it has received support from Slovenia which provided €165,000 through ITF Enhancing Human Security in 2024, financing the hire of vehicles used to deploy deminers. This was the only funding from international donors. IKMAA has received ID 750 million (approximately US\$569,000) from the KRG for vehicle rentals in 2024 and 2025.²⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Iraq's 2023–28 strategic plan recognises that the impact of contamination varies according to gender, age, and ethnic or religious affiliations, and requires specific activities targeting those needs, for which disaggregated data is a prerequisite.²⁹ Gender issues became politically sensitive in 2023 amid heated public debate over LGBTQ issues, which led the DMA to drop reference to gender mainstreaming and saw the Communications and Media Commission issue a directive in August 2023 banning use of the term "gender" in public communications.³⁰

Amendments to a Personal Status Law in 2025 drew criticism as a setback for women's rights but the government has supported women's employment through a National Strategy for Iraqi Women 2023–30 focused on improving workplace conditions for women and a 2023 Social Security Law providing maternity benefits intended to encourage women's workforce participation but conservative societal norms, particularly in the south, keep female employment low.³¹ UNMAS conducted workshops in Baghdad and Erbil on the role of women in mine action in 2024, which drew participation by officials from the DMA, IKMAA and the Ministry of Interior as well as from national and international NGOs.³² IKMAA says it is committed to gender mainstreaming in mine action and employs a number of women in technical roles such as information management, risk education, and community liaison. It reports that plans for creating an all-female operational team remains a priority but face challenges from social norms and practical constraints on training and accommodation for women and career development opportunities.³³

Women's employment in mine action as a percentage of the total declined to 17% in 2024 from 19% a year earlier (see Table 6). Among demining NGOs the number of female staff fell in line with the decline in overall staffing but edged up in percentage terms, accounting for 21% of their staffing in 2024, up from 19% a year earlier, and with a percentage point increase in the number of women in operations. National operator Shahreteh Humanitarian Organisation (SHO) led the sector with women making up close to 40% of its total and operations staff, reporting it reannounced vacancies to attract qualified men and provided tailored training to help women advance to leadership roles.³⁴

International operators reported continuing efforts to engage and retain more women in the face of some resistance from conservative social norms. HALO provided childcare support for all female staff with children, helping to ensure they were able to stay in full-time employment.³⁵ MAG increased the number of women in leadership positions and for the first time had three national women staff in its senior management team. It introduced new recruitment SOPs in 2024 to facilitate entry of under-represented groups and addresses religious diversity by accommodating observances of Christian, Yazidi, and Muslim staff as well as providing separate rest areas for men and women.³⁶ NPA has increased outreach and advocacy to local communities and stakeholders to meet the enduring challenge to recruiting women in socially conservative communities and in had a gender focal point position to promote mainstreaming in a position funded until 2025. Of a total workforce of 493 in Iraq at the end of 2024, it employed 114 women.³⁷

26 J. Lee, "UK, Iraq announce \$15 billion trade and investment partnership", *Iraq Business News*, 15 January 2025.

27 Email from Ahmed Aljasim, DMA, 15 September 2025.

28 Emails from Niyazi Khalid, Deputy Head of IKMAA, 15 April and 13 May 2024, 31 July and 30 September 2025.

29 Iraq National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028, p. 15.

30 T. Alkuhadry, "As Iraq backslides on gender equality where are its women MPs?", *Al Jazeera*, 9 September 2023.

31 Emails from Safa Jamal, Senior Officer – Programme Management, UNMAS, 27 May 2024; and Chimwemwe Tembo, Programme Manager, NPA, and Chris Ramsden, Deputy Programme Manager, South Iraq, NPA, 27 April 2025.

32 Email from Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 16 May 2024.

33 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

34 Email from Ismat Selevany, Director, SHO, 12 May 2025.

35 Email from Asad Ali Husain, HALO, 29 May 2025.

36 Email from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025.

37 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025.

Table 6: Gender composition of operators in 2024³⁸

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operations staff	Women operations staff
FSD	86	9 (10%)	20	0 (0%)	77	7 (9%)
HALO	73	14 (19%)	8	5 (63%)	49	6 (12%)
HI	68	18 (26%)	11	1 (9%)	57	17 (30%)
IHSCO	56	18 (32%)	13	3 (23%)	46	5 (11%)
IKMAA	991	123 (12%)	15	10 (67%)	623	9 (1%)
MAG	519	67 (13%)	88	7 (8%)	449	48 (11%)
NPA	493	114 (23%)	103	13 (13%)	382	78 (20%)
SHO	137	54 (39%)	12	3 (25%)	88	33 (38%)
Totals	2,423	417 (17%)	270	42 (16%)	1,771	203 (11%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Iraq does not have a policy on environmental management in mine action. The DMA and IKMAA were reportedly in the process of preparing a national mine action standard (NMAS) in 2022 but had not released it by August 2025. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Ministry of Environment conducted a workshop in 2024 to develop approaches to environmental management in mine action, which also discussed adding environmental factors as criteria in its task prioritisation matrix.³⁹

IKMAA, in line with policies of the KRG cabinet’s Environment Board, said it seeks to minimise any environmental harm from demining operations, aligns its procedures with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS 07.13) and integrates principles promoted by UNMAS and the GICHD. Pre-clearance task assessments take account of environmental factors; operations prioritise manual or low-impact mechanical clearance; and teams are trained to dispose of explosive remnants and waste in environmentally safe ways. IKMAA reports it also coordinates with local authorities and landowners on post-clearance land use and rehabilitation.⁴⁰

Demining organisations mostly apply their own SOPs for managing the environment and minimising harm from operations. NPA appointed an environmental advisor for the Iraq programme in August 2024 to develop the organisation’s global environmental policy and the in-country approaches to environmental management, including an IMAS-aligned SOP for land release operations. NPA’s measures include on-site environmental impact assessments starting in 2025; minimising machinery use and restricting movement to defined areas to limit soil disturbance; and enhancing waste management at operational sites.⁴¹

Iraq ranks among the five most vulnerable nations to effects of climate change, including drought, water scarcity, flash floods, frequent sand and dust storms, and extreme heat, all of which pose a growing operational challenge.⁴² In the KRI, IKMAA said it had not formally adopted climate resilience measures but planning increasingly had to take account of extreme weather events, including flooding, forest fires, and damage to infrastructure, and it said it was exploring mitigation strategies, including early warning systems.⁴³ Operators increasingly factoring climate impacts into operational planning, including by adapting working hours to deal with extreme heat and drawing up sandstorm contingency plans that may pause operations in conditions of reduced visibility.⁴⁴

38 Emails from Peter Smethers, FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Husain, HALO, 29 May 2025; Roger Eid, Chief of Operations, HI, 20 May 2025; IHSCO, 11 June 2025; Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025; Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025; and Ismat Selevany, SHO, 12 May 2025.

39 Email from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; and Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 4 May 2025.

40 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

41 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025.

42 Emails from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; and Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 16 May 2025.

43 Emails from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 13 May 2024 and 31 July 2025.

44 Emails from Peter Smethers, FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Husain, Programme Manager, HALO, 29 May 2025; Roger Reid, HI, 20 May 2025; Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025; Roger Eid, HI, 20 May 2025; and Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The DMA and IKMAA have separate databases which operate different information management systems. The DMA database is located at its Baghdad headquarters. It operates IMSMA New Generation but in 2022 started preparing to upgrade to IMSMA Core with support from the GICHD and iMMAP, a commercial service provider working under contract to PM/WRA. It installed an IMSMA Core server in December 2022, started field testing reporting forms in 2023, and was due to launch the system by December 2023.⁴⁵ In March 2024, however, the DMA informed the GICHD it had decided to halt the upgrade and continue working with IMSMA NG before reversing that decision later in the year.

The policy flip-flop added to concerns about an information management system which implementing partners say suffers from significant data gaps and long delays uploading operating results. This means that the database is not up to date, does not accurately reflect the results of survey or clearance, and can also delay issuance of task orders. The DMA attributes delays to the need to correct reporting errors and apply quality control.⁴⁶ Implementing partners point to cumbersome procedures that require them to submit operational data in hard copy and on CD-ROMs to be uploaded manually into the database.⁴⁷ Data verification and correction can add further significant delays.⁴⁸

The limited number and high turnover of the DMA's data processing staff has further contributed to the DMA's information management challenges. In 2023, iMMAP reduced the number of its staff working in the DMA from five to two,⁴⁹ and in August 2024 the PM/WRA stopped funding iMMAP's support.⁵⁰

IKMAA previously operated an IMSMA New Generation Version 6 database but with funding from PM/WRA and technical support from iMMAP it has replaced it with a tailor-made Open-Source database for Mine Action (OSMA) database using open-source software, including PostgreSQL and PHP, which went into operation in 2024. The new system's GIS capabilities also allow it to display and analyse spatial data related to contaminated areas, clearance efforts, and field reports.⁵¹

Operators said IKMAA has provided them with accounts that would permit direct entry of their operating results and the system would include dashboards facilitating dissemination of data. IKMAA conducted a workshop in August 2024 providing operators with training in use of the system and reviewing and updating reporting formats and procedures. IKMAA said active involvement of implementing partners in data entry improved accuracy and accountability. IKMAA's quality assurance staff also have unrestricted access to all survey forms, task records, and supporting documentation.⁵²

PLANNING AND TASKING

Iraq's National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028, officially approved in July 2023, sets broad goals for both the DMA and IKMAA, the first time the two authorities have cooperated in drawing up a national plan.⁵³ These include as a strategic priority the development of "a prioritisation system based on clear and transparent criteria" to inform all planning and tasking decisions. The DMA and IKMAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2024 designed to strengthen coordination of clearance, EORE and victim assistance.⁵⁴

Issuance of task orders in Federal Iraq remained a source of significant frustration among operators, who cited DMA senior management changes leading to policy and procedural changes. The DMA ruled in 2023 that operators who conducted NTS could not apply for clearance of the same task

unless they were the only organisation operational in that area or conducted a joint visit to it with the DMA. Joint visits, however, proved difficult and slow to arrange due to the DMA's lack of budget for such activities. Additionally, as part of its planning for use of UK export finance, the DMA froze access to a significant proportion of the hazardous areas recorded in IMSMA in 2024 which left operators having to apply for lower priority tasks.⁵⁵

Administrative procedures generally proved time consuming and unpredictable. Although some operators reported improvements in issuance of visas to international staff and permits for importing equipment, others experienced delays that held up project planning and implementation.⁵⁶

45 Statement of Iraq, CCM Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19 June 2023.

46 Interview with Nibras Fakhir Matrood, RMAC South, DMA, in Basrah, 8 May 2023.

47 Interviews with mine action operators in Iraq, 7–20 May 2023.

48 NPA reported receiving a request in 2022 to verify data relating to a task completed in 2019.

49 Interviews with Clare Pritchard, Country Representative, iMMAP, in Erbil, 15 May 2023, and in Geneva, 1 May 2024.

50 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025.

Email from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025.

51 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 13 May 2024; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 40–42.

52 Emails from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025 and Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

53 Email from Ahmed Alijasim, DMA, 15 April 2022.

54 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 May 2025.

55 Emails from implementing partners, April–July, 2025.

56 Emails from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; and Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Federal Iraq started working with UNMAS in 2021 on updating the NMAS on mine and battle area clearance (BAC), NTS, and technical survey (TS). The standards were written in 2004–05 and existed in Arabic only. Since 2021, 23 of the 35 NMAS have been revised, approved by the Ministry of Environment, and officially released. Some of the revised standards are reportedly only available in Arabic.

A workshop on NMAS organised by UNMAS with the DMA and IKMAA in Erbil in 2024 reviewed and updated 11 standards. These included the NMAS on NTS, TS, manual clearance, BAC, building clearance, IEDs, mechanical clearance, marking and accreditation.⁵⁷ The DMA said a total of 26 standards have been updated.⁵⁸

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Federal Iraq has not provided details of mine action capacity deployed by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior (Civil Defence and the Directorate for Explosives Control), the PMF, and the commercial companies contracted by the Ministry of Oil. In 2023, the DMA reported 28 commercial companies were accredited for demining and IKMAA accredited seven companies for clearance, but it was unclear how many were active.⁵⁹ IKMAA continued to employ 35 manual demining teams in 2024 but expressed concern that it will lose experienced labour in the coming years as many of its deminers are approaching retirement age.⁶⁰

International and national demining NGOs deployed more manual demining teams in 2024 but the number of deminers dropped 10% and faced further reductions in 2025 as a result of PM/WRA and other donor funding cuts and the resulting loss of some operators. DRC ceased operating at the end of July 2024 and finally closed its Basrah programme in April 2025.⁶¹ FSD, after receiving a stop work order from the PM/WRA in January 2025, issued termination notices to its national staff at the end of February 2025 and suspended all operations at the end of April 2025.⁶² The HALO Trust retained three demining teams but the number of personnel employed in them dropped from 24 to 14. Its PM/WRA-funded teams ceased operations in March 2025, but it resumed work with reduced capacity later in the year with Dutch funding.⁶³ Humanity & Inclusion (HI), which like HALO is operating in Salah al-Din governorate, worked with two clearance teams funded until the end of March 2026. HI acquired 25 drones to support survey and mapping but

found their operational roll-out held up by lengthy import procedures and complex approval processes applied by national and regional authorities.⁶⁴ NPA worked with 19 demining teams and 130 deminers in 2024, down from 27 teams and 144 deminers in 2023.⁶⁵

Mines Advisory Group (MAG), the only NGO working in both Federal Iraq and the KRI, operated a total of 19 manual clearance teams with 191 deminers in 2024 (see Table 7), down from 30 manual teams with 214 deminers the previous year. For greater operational efficiency, MAG merged two bases serving Tel Afar district of Ninewa into a single base and in the KRI closed a base in Dohuk governorate. MAG's mechanical resources expanded with the acquisition of an excavator and eight other vehicles under a Right of Use agreement with UNMAS. As part of a programme of developing national capacity and programme sustainability, MAG nationalised a number of management positions, including those of the technical field manager and managers of finance, logistics and human resources.⁶⁶

MAG trialled Vallon VMR 3G Dual Sensor detectors which employ ground penetrating radar with positive results particularly in detecting the sub-surface plastic main charges of improvised mines. With support from the US Department of Defense's Humanitarian Mine Action Program, MAG also introduced a Hydro-Magnet which it planned to deploy after developing SOPs for use in areas of high metal contamination.⁶⁷

Table 7: Operational clearance capacities deployed in Iraq in 2024⁶⁸

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Dogs and handlers	Machines/personnel	Comments
IKMAA	35	350	0/0	6/34	Also 4 EOD teams with 16 technicians, and 5 NTS teams with 13 staff.

57 Email from Shinobu Mashima, Programme Team Lead, UNMAS, 16 May 2025.

58 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 38.

59 Email from Ahmed Aljasem, DMA, 6 June 2023 and Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

60 Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025.

61 Emails from Mohammed Qassim Abdulridha, Basrah Manager, DRC, 23 March and 14 May 2025.

62 Interview with Peter Smethers, FSD, in Geneva 11 April 2025 and emails, 20 April and 22 August 2025.

63 Email from Asad Ali Hussain, Programme Manager, HALO, 29 May 2025.

64 Emails from Roger Eid, HI, 20 May and 16 September 2025.

65 Email from Chimwemwe Tembo and Chris Ramsden, NPA, 27 April 2025.

66 Email from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025.

67 Ibid.

68 Emails from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 31 July 2025; Peter Smethers, FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Hussain, HALO, 29 May 2025; Roger Eid, HI, 20 May 2025; Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; Khalid Ahmed, Project Manager, IHSCO, 11 June 2025; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2025; Ismat Selevany, SHO, 12 May 2025.

Table 7 Continued

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Dogs and handlers	Machines/personnel	Comments
FSD	7	42	0/0	0	Also one 4-person NTS team and one community liaison team.
HALO	3	14	0/0	3/14	
HI	2	14	0/0	0/0	Multi-task teams conducting NTS, TS clearance and EOD
IHSCO	4	16	0/0	1/7	
MAG (Federal Iraq)	13	136	6/4	3/12	
MAG (KRI)	6	55	4/4	1/9	
NPA	19	130	5/10	9/9	
SHO	8	48	0/0	2/10	
Totals	97	805	15/18	25/95	

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 8: Summary of land release outputs in 2024 (official data)⁶⁹

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)		Comments
	Federal Iraq	KRI	
Clearance	7.48	1.88	
Technical survey	11.08	0.8	
Non-technical survey	128.31	0	
AP mines destroyed during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	Federal Iraq	KRI	
AP mines destroyed	11,200	3,444	including 1,089 AP and improvised mines destroyed in spot tasks.

Federal Iraq and the KRI reported release of a total of 150km² in 2024, up from the 146km² they reported in 2023, but the reliability of this result is open to question. Federal Iraq reported it released almost 146.9km², slightly more than in 2023, but it attributed 84% of the total to cancellation through NTS in one governorate, Diyala, and official data differed significantly from humanitarian operators' results. The KRI said it released a total of 2.1km², 43% more than in 2023.⁷⁰

Federal Iraq and the KRI combined destroyed 14,644 AP mines, 12% less than in the previous year. In Federal Iraq, the army is responsible for all mine destruction and humanitarian demining operators reported on 16 mines destroyed as a result of spot tasks. MAG destroyed 55 legacy mines in the KRI's Slemani governorate.⁷¹ The KRI reported destroying 1,015 AP mines and three improvised mines in EOD tasks.⁷²

⁶⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 21–37; email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 30 September 2025.

⁷⁰ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 24 and 37.

⁷¹ Email from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025.

⁷² Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 30 September 2025.

FEDERAL IRAQ

The focus of Federal Iraq's mine action in 2024 remained on areas contaminated by improvised mines concentrated in western and northern governorates, reflecting the priority of international donors. The DMA has sought to attract funding for survey and clearance in the south where legacy mine contamination is concentrated and the government is pursuing major infrastructure development projects but land release of areas affected by legacy mines dropped 40% in 2024.⁷³

Table 9: Federal Iraq land release results for 2024 (official data)⁷⁴

Device type	Area cancelled (m ²)	Area reduced (m ²)	Area cleared (m ²)	Total area released (m ²)
Legacy AP mines	0	11,084,354	2,470,987	13,555,341
Improvised mines	128,312,887	0	5,006,498	133,319,387
Totals	128,312,887	11,084,354	7,477,485	146,874,728

SURVEY IN 2024

Official data suggests a 10% rise in the total area released through survey amounting to 139km² in 2024 (see Table 9) but major inconsistencies between official and operator results create uncertainty about the outcomes. The DMA reported that NTS in Diyala by an unidentified operator resulted in cancellation of 122.8km². The area cancelled by all other operators amounted to 5.6km², according to official figures. Demining NGOs, however, reported cancelling 15.3km², mostly in Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din (see Table 10).⁷⁵

The DMA also reported that release through TS amounting to 11.08km² occurred only in legacy mined areas in the south, more than 80% of it by the military in Basrah governorate. NGO's recorded reducing 14.7km² of areas affected by improvised mines in the centre and north, roughly two-thirds of it conducted by NPA in Anbar governorate.⁷⁶

Table 10: Release of mined area through survey in 2024 (NGO data)⁷⁷

Operator	Governorate	Area cancelled (m ²)	Area reduced (m ²)
FSD	Ninewa, Kirkuk	0	2,451,447
HALO	Salah-al-Din	3,275,522	904,698
HI	Salah-al-Din	0	863,525
MAG	Ninewa	4,444,729	778,899
NPA	Anbar	7,529,642	10,084,835
SHO	Ninewa	18,899	482,686
Totals		15,268,792	14,661,392

CLEARANCE IN 2024

Similar discrepancies overshadow the reporting on clearance. The DMA recorded clearance of 5km² of improvised mined area in 2024, little more than one third of the 13.5km² cleared the previous year (see table 11). It also reported clearance of legacy mines covering 2.5km², mostly (83%) in Missan governorate, down from 3km² in 2023. The DMA does not identify which organisations conduct clearance but the absence of donor funding for legacy mine clearance by humanitarian demining organisations in Federal Iraq means it is conducted by the military, civil defence, or the PMF (or by commercial companies).

Table 11: Mine clearance in Federal Iraq in 2024 (official data)⁷⁸

Improvised mine clearance	Area (m ²)	Improvised mines destroyed
Anbar	1,730,255	2,182
Kirkuk	384,702	62

⁷³ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 24.

⁷⁴ Ibid., pp. 24 and 37.

⁷⁵ Emails from Peter Smethers, FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Hussain, HALO, 29 May 2025; Roger Eid, HI, 20 May 2025; Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; Khalid Ahmed, Project Manager, IHSCO, 11 June 2025; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2025; and Ismat Selevany, SHO, 12 May 2025.

⁷⁶ Email from Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2025.

⁷⁷ Emails from Peter Smethers, FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Hussain, HALO, 29 May 2025; Roger Eid, HI, 20 May 2025; Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; Khalid Ahmed, Project Manager, IHSCO, 11 June 2025; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2025; and Ismat Selevany, SHO, 12 May 2025.

⁷⁸ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 24 and 37.

Table 11 Continued

Improved mine clearance	Area (m ²)	Improved mines destroyed
Ninewa	1,894,334	1,728
Salah al-Din	997,207	2,135
Subtotals	5,006,498	6,107
Legacy mine clearance	Area (m ²)	AP mines destroyed
Basrah	391,347	4,119
Diyala	8,431	0
Missan	2,057,288	974
Salah al-Din	13,921	0
Subtotals	2,470,987	5,093
Totals	7,477,485	11,200

NGOs, working almost entirely on clearance of improvised mines in Federal Iraq, reported clearing 7.6km² (see Table 11), 15% less than the 8.9km² they reported clearing in the previous year, but this was still 50% more than the total reported by DMA. NGOs also reported their clearance resulted in destruction of 8,733 improvised mines, marginally more than the DMA recorded (8,698) and also a slight increase from the 8,551 they reported clearing in 2023.⁷⁹

Table 12: Mine clearance in Federal Iraq in 2024 (NGO data)⁸⁰

Operator	Governorate	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed (including improvised mines)	UXO destroyed
DRC	Basrah	47,013	4	0
FSD	Ninewa, Kirkuk	1,350,890	648	237
HALO	Salah-al-Din	900,221	3,077	1,995
HI	Salah-al-Din	1,204,330	1,162	17
IHSCO	Ninewa	118,729	807	0
MAG	Ninewa	1,915,962	407	194
NPA	Anbar	1,656,230	2,459	160
SHO	Ninewa	1,275,210	169	2,766
Totals		7,568,364	8,733	5,369

KRI

The KRI said it released 43% more mined area through reduction and clearance in 2024 compared with the previous year, notably increasing output in Slemani governorate, but the number of mines destroyed dropped by more than 20% to 2,411 (see Table 14).

IKMAA does not conduct NTS and reported area reduction through TS of 0.8km² in 2024 (see Table 13), more than double the area reduced in 2023. Operations focused on Slemani governorate, which accounted for 87% of the total.

Table 13: Area released through survey in KRI in 2024⁸¹

Governorate	Area reduced (m ²)
Duhok	53,937
Erbil	47,158
Slemani	662,534
Total	763,629

79 Emails from Mohammed Qassim Abdulridha, HMA Project manager, DRC, 14 May 2025; Peter Smethers, FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Hussain, HALO, 29 May 2025; Roger Eid, HI, 20 May 2025; Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; Khalid Ahmed, Project Manager, IHSCO, 11 June 2025; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2025; and Ismat Selevany, SHO, 12 May 2025.

80 Emails from Mohammed Qassim Abdulridha, HMA Project manager, DRC, 14 May 2025; Peter Smethers, FSD, 20 April 2025; Asad Ali Hussain, HALO, 29 May 2025; Roger Eid, HI, 20 May 2025; Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025; Khalid Ahmed, Project Manager, IHSCO, 11 June 2025; Chimwemwe Tembo, NPA, 16 April 2025; and Ismat Selevany, SHO, 12 May 2025.

81 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 25.

IKMAA does not appear to have cleared any areas contaminated by improvised mines in 2024 but maintained its clearance of legacy mined areas. However, land release data also showed discrepancies between official and NGO results. MAG, the only international NGO working in the KRI, reported clearing 347,748m² and destroying 66 AP mines in Dohuk in 2024, more than double the area IKMAA recorded in that governorate.⁸²

Table 14: Legacy AP mine clearance in KRI in 2024 (official data)⁸³

Region	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed
Dohuk	174,497	95
Erbil	377,643	681
Slemani	1,331,030	1,635
Totals	1,883,170	2,411

DEMINER SAFETY

An IHSCO deminer was killed in Tel-Kaif district of Ninewa governorate on 30 April 2024 as he was conducting render-safe procedures on a known type of improvised mine. The accident led DMA to suspend all IHSCO operations. After the accident, IHSCO conducted refresher training of its staff.⁸⁴

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APBC (and in accordance with the 10-year extension granted by States Parties in 2017), Iraq is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 February 2028. Iraq will not meet the deadline given the scale of remaining contamination and the resources available to mine action.

Donor support for Iraq, an oil exporting nation, was shrinking even before the overseas aid cuts announced by the Trump administration in 2025. One international operator, DRC, ceased work in 2024; a second, FSD, ceased work in 2025; and the future of some others looked uncertain. As a result, Iraq's prospects for progress in mine action increasingly depend on national funding and resources. Iraq has nascent humanitarian demining NGOs but no mechanism for government to fund them.

Iraq has significant national demining capacity available from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior's Civil Defence, the Popular Mobilisation Forces and commercial companies contacted by the Ministry of Oil but it provides minimal information on what they do and no transparency on either government budget support for mine action or DMA plans for spending it.

Table 15: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	9.4
2023	*14.4
2022	*17.0
2021	11.6
2020	7.7
Total	60.1

*Mine Action Review estimate.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Iraq's 2023–28 national strategy commits to "develop a strategy on the management of residual contamination, specifying appropriate processes, roles and responsibilities, in line with Oslo Action Plan's Action #26" but says it would be developed by 2025.⁸⁵ Iraqi Security Forces and the Ministry of Interior's Civil Defence are well placed to provide a long-term demining and EOD capacity but no further action on developing the strategy was reported in 2024.

⁸² Email from Lisa Jean, MAG, 1 May 2025.

⁸³ Email from Niyazi Khalid, IKMAA, 30 September 2025.

⁸⁴ Emails from Khalid Amed, IHSCO, 11 June 2025; and Shinobu Mashima, UNMAS, 16 May 2025.

⁸⁵ Iraq National Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028, pp. 23, 26.