

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: HEAVY

NATIONAL AUTHORITY ESTIMATE

216 KM²

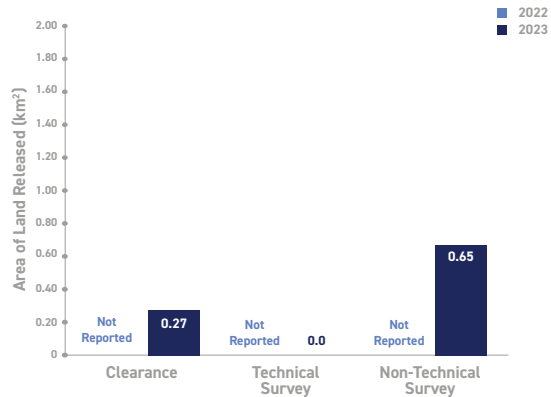
AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2023

0.27 KM²

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2023

17,480
(APPROX.)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Israel reported almost 216km² of anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination at the end of 2023, and the release of 924,000m² of AP mined area. There were media reports that Israel used mines to seal the border with Gaza following the 7 October 2023 attack – reports which the Israeli National Mine Authority (INMAA) has denied. The minefield clearance bill (Amendment No. 2) was adopted by the Knesset in 2023, expanding the authority and responsibility of INMAA to clear areas containing anti-vehicle (AV) mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Israel should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- Israel should clear AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.
- Israel should refrain from laying AP mines.

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Israeli Mine Action Authority (INMAA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS*

- Israel Defense Forces (IDF)
- IMAG
- 4M
- Minefree
- AMAN
- QUADRO Projects & Technologies LTD
- IEOD

- GA-MAN (Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC))
- 4CI SECURITY LTD (QA/QC)
- OpMS-Open Minded Solutions Ltd (QA/QC)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust (HALO)

OTHER ACTORS

- None

* INMAA indicates that only two of five active companies (IMAG and 4M) have won contracts to undertake mine clearance in the past two years, but has not specified which are the other three active companies.¹

¹ Email from Shahar Back, Director, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

INMAA reported comprehensive data on AP mined area and land release in 2023, declaring a total of almost 272km² of AP and AV mined area across Israel (see Table 1).² Of this, 2,909 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering a total of 107.34km² was area containing only AP mines, 1,729 CHAs covering 55.71km² contained only AV mines, and the remaining 109.79km² was of mixed AP and AV mines.³ The mixed AP and AV contamination was predominantly in 383 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). This is the first time Israel has publicly reported contamination and release data since 2017.

Table 1: AP and AV mined area (at end 2023)⁴

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (km ²)	SHAs	Area (km ²)	Total SHA and CHAs	Total Area (km ²)
AP mines only	2,909	107.34	0	0	2,909	107.34
AV mines only	1,729	55.71	0	0	1,729	55.71
AP and AV mines	16	0.47	383	108.32	399	108.79
Totals	4,654	163.52	383	108.32	5,037	271.84

INMAA reports that three of Israel's six districts are contaminated with AP mines. Israel's Northern district was most heavily contaminated, with over 111km² of AP mined area (CHA and SHA), followed by the South district with over 89km² (CHA and SHA), and the Central district with 15km² (CHA and SHA). No previously unrecorded AP mined area was added to INMAA's contamination database in 2023.⁵ In its Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 report covering 2023, Israel reiterated that the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) had again made "significant progress" in re-surveying mined areas, and in examining the possibility of area cancellation, following the completion of a fully detailed non-technical survey (NTS).⁶

The head of the INMAA told media in 2020 that of the estimated total of 200km² of mined area in Israel, half was essential to Israel's national security while the remaining 100km² was to be cleared in order of priority. An Israeli Ministry of Defence map shows mines planted in a series of hotspots along the eastern border. The minefields start from the north-eastern borders with Syria in the Golan Heights, with high concentration around the sea of Galilee (also known as the Tiberias Lake). Mined areas stretch southwards along the Jordan valley (east) all the way to the southern region of Eilat bordering Egypt.⁷ It is not clear whether the map includes the minefields considered essential to Israel's security or only the ones that are to be cleared.

Israel's mine problem dates back to the Second World War. Subsequently, Israel laid significant numbers of mines along

its borders, near military camps and training areas, and near civilian infrastructure. In August 2011, Israel's military reported planting new mines to reinforce minefields and other defences along its de facto border with Syria in the Golan Heights.⁸ The extent of mines laid by Syrian forces remains largely unknown although certain areas have been fenced off by the IDF. According to an online media report, however, fencing is not always properly maintained with warning signs, and civilians occasionally cross into minefields looking for edible plants.⁹

Following the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, media reports indicated that the IDF had used mines to seal the border with Gaza, which was breached in the attack.¹⁰ The reports do not make clear whether AP and/or AV mines were allegedly used or if the mines extended into the Gaza Strip, and INMAA has categorically denied that Israel has used mines to seal the border or that it has emplaced landmines in Gaza since October 2023.¹¹ In a statement to the Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties to the APMBBC in November 2023, however, Israel acknowledged that some of its borders were "protected" by landmines and indicated that it continued to view AP mines as "an essential defensive tool".¹²

Media sources have reported that some security experts have since proposed that landmines could prevent any future invasion of Israel,¹³ and there were reports in January 2024 that Israel was preparing to create a buffer zone, encroaching on territory in Gaza, using landmines. Demolitions had reportedly already started on the Gazan side of the border in preparation.¹⁴

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form B.

7 "Below the surface: Israel's mine map is exposed", *N12*, 19 September 2020, at: <https://bit.ly/3xfQ9KV>.

8 "Israel army plants new mines along Syria border", *Associated Press*, 13 August 2011.

9 "New Golan mine-clearing project to begin this summer", *Jerusalem Post*, 16 March 2017, at: <http://bit.ly/2MyEKBC>.

10 "IDF says Gaza border finally sealed, bodies of 1,500 terrorists found inside Israel", *The Times of Israel*, 10 October 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3XYrT08>; "Israeli forces plant mines after securing Gaza border as fighting continues to intensify", *SBS*, 10 October 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/4cT7aPq>; and "Hamas and Israel at war: what we know on day 4", *The Guardian*, 10 October 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4cVKIL3>.

11 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 23 July 2024.

12 Statement of Israel on Universalisation, APMBBC, Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 23 November 2023.

13 "Landmines proposed as solution for Israel's border protection", *Globes*, 12 December 2023, at <https://bit.ly/4bKzpzT>.

14 "Hamas blasts Israel's plan to create buffer zone in Gaza as a 'crime'", *Aljazeera*, 25 January 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3W4Ga8Z>.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

A March 2011 law on minefield clearance established the INMAA to undertake a “comprehensive programme of mine clearing projects inside Israel”.¹⁵ The law’s aim was “to create a normative infrastructure for the clearance of minefields that are not essential to national security, and to declare them as free from landmines with the highest degree of safety to civilians, in accordance with the international obligations of the State of Israel, and within the shortest period of time possible.”¹⁶ A National Minefield Clearance Fund was established in 2011 pursuant to the provisions of the Act, to receive, manage, and allocate donations.¹⁷

In 2019, the Director of INMAA reported that a new local law had given INMAA responsibility for clearing former military bases and for addressing abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO), UXO, and AV mines. Prior to this, the INMAA had only had responsibility for addressing AP mines and mixed mined areas.¹⁸ Under the Minefield and Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Bill (Amendment 2), adopted by the Knesset in 2023, INMAA’s responsibilities were extended to AV mined areas and UXO-contaminated areas. In addition, INMAA can now collect fees from developers for minefield clearance; a similar provision allowing INMAA to charge for UXO clearance was made permanent.¹⁹

INMAA was established within the Ministry of Defence, with staff responsible for planning mine action.²⁰ INMAA was charged with clearance operations and the release of land intended for civilian use.²¹ It assumed responsibility to: establish a national policy for mine clearance; liaise with operators to carry out demining; oversee clearance and contact relevant military commanders for the opening of closed military zones; coordinate activities with the IDF and government authorities; execute public relations activities to increase awareness of existing minefields; and prepare annual and long-term demining plans.²²

In 2023, INMAA’s budget, provided by the government, was NIS27 million (approx. US\$7.5 million). INMAA received additional funding of NIS38 million (approx. US\$10.5) from various government ministries for selected projects. INMAA also reported receiving donor funding for The HALO Trust for demining in the West Bank.²³ Government funding for INMAA in 2024 has increased to NIS37 million (approx. US\$10.2 million).²⁴ INMAA has in the past received additional funding from various infrastructure development companies and State authorities.²⁵

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

INMAA operates in accordance with relevant instructions of the Civil Service Commissioner on the issue of gender and diversity,²⁶ though it has reported as recently as 2021 that there was no gender and diversity policy.²⁷ None of its five operational positions is occupied by a woman, but three of nine supervisor/managerial positions are held by women.

Under its contracts with operating companies, INMAA reports that in theory there is equal access to employment for women

and men through tenders that are published by the State Commission. However, because of the way Israeli military service functions, more qualified men than women are able to compete in the process. In 2024, INMAA will publish new qualification requirements for clearance operators, which will allow employees to be trained and approved by the operators or at professional schools in compliance with the INMAA national standards.²⁸ In INMAA’s current projects, three women are qualified to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Level 2.²⁹

Table 2: Gender composition of INMAA (at July 2024)³⁰

Total staff	Women staff	Managerial or supervisory staff	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total operational staff	Women in operational positions
16	5 (31%)	9	3 (33%)	5	0 (0%)

15 Minefield Clearance Law 5771-2011 of March 2011, unofficial translation at: <http://bit.ly/2GDOQgJ>; CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2010), Form A. Form A refers to details provided in Form D, but the information in Form D has been deleted.

16 Minefield Clearance Law 5771-2011.

17 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 23 July 2024.

18 Interview with Marcel Aviv, Director, INMAA, in Geneva, 7 February 2019.

19 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

20 Email from Michael Heiman, formerly INMAA, 26 May 2018.

21 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2020), Form B.

22 IDF website, “Israel National Mine Action Authority”, accessed 17 August 2022 at: <https://bit.ly/3AmMLAT>.

23 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

24 Ibid.

25 Email from Michael Heiman, formerly INMAA, 26 May 2018.

26 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

27 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 4 May 2024.

28 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid.

INMAA highlights that its national standards include a chapter on "national distinction", which indicates how minefields are prioritised for demining. The first criterion is the safety of the community, and the second relates to the needs of the community.³¹ INMAA confirms it has taken into account the

needs of minority groups in its planning of demining – for example, some mined areas were prioritised for release in the Golan Heights where Druze live.³² Israel has said risk education material is produced in both Hebrew and Arabic, and that warning signs around minefields are also in English.³³

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Israel has an environmental management policy, which is published and enforced by the Ministry of the Environment. INMAA standards include Chapter 06.50: "Environmental Protection and Protecting Nature Values and Landscape". INMAA reports that environmental assessments are conducted to support the planning and delivery of demining, highlighting how it has worked with a company specialising in civil infrastructure and environmental engineering to develop a hydrology model to predict mine drift.³⁴

All projects are reported to be coordinated with various authorities, including the Ministry of the Environment, which results in restrictions to prevent or minimise environmental harm. INMAA also reports that climate-related factors are taken into account in planning, noting that some clearance projects in areas in danger of flooding were accelerated in order to finish before winter.³⁵

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

INMAA uses an organisational database that is partially accessible to the public. (i.e. mined areas and suspected mined areas).³⁶ Its "minefield information bank" is open for public queries concerning demining plans and programmes, and indicates measures taken to enhance public awareness of safety and security to minimise mine-related risks.³⁷ INMAA seeks to improve the accuracy of data in the mine action database by holding periodic meetings with IDF officials.³⁸

According to Israel, in 2023, the IDF's Engineering Corps continued to promote improved minefield global positioning system (GPS) recording and geographic information

system (GIS) capacity to build an "accurate archive of manually-emplaced minefields".³⁹ The IDF is reported to provide information to local authorities and the general population on land rights and use, and responds to requests for updated information on minefields, "as appropriate".⁴⁰ The Engineering Corps maintains a set of detailed regulations and instructions for recording minefields and mined areas.⁴¹ The IDF also continued its programme to preserve the history of the minefields, including in digital records, while the Israeli Mapping Centre (IMC) produces "commercially available" maps, with minefields said to be clearly marked.⁴²

PLANNING AND TASKING

INMAA is "tasked with forming a national demining plan, which will be consistent with Israel's international obligations and based on IDF's demining procedures and instructions, as compatible as possible with International Mine Action Standards".⁴³ According to Israel, INMAA defines clearance policies, sets the national priorities, creates a work plan for mine clearance, and implements these in coordination with the relevant governmental ministries, the IDF, and local authorities.⁴⁴

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.

33 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form A.

34 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

35 Ibid.

36 Ibid.

37 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Forms A and B.

38 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

39 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form A.

40 Ibid., Forms A and B.

41 Ibid., Form A.

42 Ibid.

43 Ibid., Form D.

44 Ibid., Form B.

INMAA approves annual and multi-year mine clearance plans which are executed by "civilian local operators".⁴⁵ Little information was made available on the priorities of the mine clearance plans between 2020 and 2024. INMAA's website indicated part of its plan since 2020 was to conduct mechanical and manual clearance of nearly 0.17km² across three minefields in the Golan Heights, and of 0.19km² in Naama Bell in the Jordan valley.⁴⁶ INMAA has confirmed that clearance at Naama Bell is now complete.⁴⁷ Online media reports as at February 2022, indicated that clearance was nearing completion at least in one of the sites in the Golan Heights (Mitzpe Gadot),⁴⁸ although the INMAA website still showed the sites as in planning.⁴⁹ It is not clear whether the Mitzpe Gadot site has since been cleared of AP mines.

INMAA has confirmed that there is a national demining plan for 2023–25, and says it is developing a plan for 2026–30 for release of AP and AV mined areas. Clearance tasks are assigned according to a classification formula laid down by INMAA, largely based on the risk level and development potential of the affected areas.⁵⁰ Israel's "National Specification" includes an updated chapter, the "National

plan for clearing minefields and UXO fields" detailing the way INMAA determines its plans, and the principles for developing annual and multi-year plans.⁵¹

INMAA assesses AP mined areas and prioritises clearance based on risks as set out in an evaluation table. The primary risk considered is that to the civilian population, while others include environmental risks, landmine type, the quality of the demarcation of the minefield, risk of mine drift, and land designation.⁵² The IDF Engineering Corps follows its own annual programme of reducing the number of mined areas, while monitoring and maintaining protection of minefields and suspected areas.⁵³

In circumstances where an unknown mined area is discovered, the IDF declares the area a minefield and as a "closed military area", and fences it off. INMAA assesses the risks the mined area poses and decides whether to prioritize release of the newly discovered mined area. Furthermore, INMAA has allocated a dedicated budget to fund occasional tasks that arise.⁵⁴

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

National mine action standards (NMAS), which concern rules and regulations covering clearance methods, quality management (QM), legislation, and insurance, are available on the INMAA website and updated "on occasion".⁵⁵ There are also IDF regulations and orders concerning marking, fencing, and monitoring, as well as demining and disposing of mines, booby-traps, and other devices.⁵⁶ IDF's instructions and standard operating procedures (SOPs) are reported to be regularly reviewed.⁵⁷

In 2023, INMAA published updated chapters and sections of the national INMAA standards as a result of lessons learned

from mine action programmes and the Minefield clearance Bill (Amendment No. 2). The updated chapters were: clearing mines and UXO using mechanical assets, clearing mines and UXO manually, NTS, technical survey (TS), and preliminary conditions and procedures when clearing mines and UXO.⁵⁸ INMAA approves the SOPs of its contracted operators every three years, or when an operator uses a new device or method. All updates are conducted in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).⁵⁹ No updates were made to Israel's NMAS or SOPs relating to survey and clearance of AP mines in 2023 or as of mid-2024.⁶⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Commercial companies are contracted to conduct clearance as well as quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC). In 2022 and 2023, INMAA listed seven approved mine clearance companies and three QA/QC companies in its CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report.⁶¹ However, INMAA has reported that only two of five active companies (IMAG and 4M) have won demining contracts in the past two years. It has not revealed which other companies are active.⁶²

45 Ibid., Form B.

46 INMAA website, accessed on 6 July 2021.

47 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 23 July 2024.

48 "Documentation: Ammunition discovered in an old Syrian bunker in the Golan Heights was destroyed Israel today", *The Limited Times*, 1 February 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3PX13hC>.

49 INMAA website (Hebrew text), accessed on 31 July 2023.

50 Emails from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 23 July 2017; and Shahar Back, INMAA, 23 July 2024.

51 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

52 Ibid.; and National Plan for the removal of mines and minefields (Hebrew), Instruction 01.20, updated 05/23, at: <https://bit.ly/3SdfGRr>.

53 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form B.

54 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

55 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form B; and INMAA's website (Hebrew text), accessed on 24 July 2023.

56 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

57 Ibid., Form A.

58 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

59 Ibid.

60 Ibid.

61 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Reports covering 2022, Form G; and covering 2023, Form G.

62 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

INMAA reported an increase in the number of deminers in 2023 thanks to a larger budget, but did not anticipate any major changes in personnel in 2024.⁶³

Table 3: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2023⁶⁴

Operator	No. of teams	Total deminers (approx.)
IMAG	6	70
4M	4	40
Totals	10	110

Table 4: Mine clearance capacities deployed in 2023⁶⁵

Operator*	Manual clearance teams	Total deminers	No. of mechanical assets/machines
IMAG	2	30	2
4M	1	10	2
Totals	3	40	4

* In addition, The HALO Trust deployed one team with between 10 and 12 deminers in the West Bank in 2023.⁶⁶

The IDF conducts mine clearance according to its own mine action plans “that are executed by their military methods and techniques,” and follows an annual programme.⁶⁷ During the winter, the IDF gives special attention to minefields that are close to farms, residential areas, or hiker routes, as mines may be carried into these areas by floods.⁶⁸ In 2023, Israel again reported that the IDF conducted hundreds of inspections of the fencing and marking of minefields, and that it had installed additional signs in the north of the country.⁶⁹

HALO works under the auspices of both INMAA and the Palestine Mine Action Centre (PMAC) in the West Bank (see the *Clearing the Mines* report on Palestine for further information). Every mine clearance project in Israel has an INMAA supervisor, a QA/QC contractor, and a clearance operator.

Israel uses several types of machines in its mine clearance operations for ground preparation, survey, and clearance. They are said to include, as and where appropriate, screening and crushing systems, bucket loaders, excavators, sifters, and flails/tillers. Israel has reported that all mine clearance machines are tested and approved by INMAA during the initial preparation period of an operation, and that it has a system of quality management and results based management for its mechanical operations.⁷⁰ A pilot project in 2017 using mine detection dogs (MDDs)⁷¹ concluded that dogs would not be a valuable tool.⁷² However, after investigating and conducting further research into animal detection and behaviour, INMAA planned to conduct further trials,⁷³ but subsequently reported that the pilot was stopped.⁷⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

INMAA reported disaggregated data to Mine Action Review on the survey and clearance of AP mined area for 2023 - the first time such data has been provided by the INMAA in six years. The data indicated that Israel released a total of 924,000m² of land in 2023. Of this, 650,000m² was cancelled through NTS, and 274,000m² was cleared.⁷⁵ During clearance operations, approximately 17,400 AP mines were destroyed (the precise figure is not known due to the clearance method deployed).

63 Ibid.

64 Ibid.

65 Ibid.

66 Email from Ronen Shimoni, Programme Manager, HALO, 30 June 2023; and online interview, 5 August 2024.

67 Email from Eran Yuvan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 29 April 2014; and Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form B.

68 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2023), Form B.

69 Ibid., Forms A, B, and C.

70 Ibid., Form C.

71 Ibid.

72 Email from Michael Heiman, formerly INMAA, 26 May 2018.

73 Interview with Marcel Aviv, INMAA, in Geneva, 7 February 2019.

74 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 4 May 2024.

75 Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

SURVEY IN 2023

In 2023, INMAA oversaw cancellation of 650,000m² of SHA in Naama Bell in the Central district.⁷⁶ No land was reported reduced through TS. There is no comparable survey data available for 2022 however, data now disclosed for 2021 indicate that 2,700,000m² was released through NTS in 2021: 2,200,000m² in Naama Bell in the Central district and 500,000m² at Tzin Reservoir in South district.⁷⁷

Table 5: Release of mined area through NTS in 2023⁷⁸

District	Task Name	Operator	SHA	Area cancelled (m ²)
Central	Naama Bell	INMAA	1	650,000
Totals			1	650,000

CLEARANCE IN 2023

In 2023, Israel reported that 274,000m² of AP-contaminated area was cleared in Israel and approximately 17,480 AP mines destroyed.⁷⁹ No comparable figures for 2022 were disclosed, but in its Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report covering 2022, Israel reported that INMAA cleared approximately 15km² of land and destroyed 2,917 mines and ERW while the IDF cleared 35,000m² of land, destroying approximately 400 mines and ERW.⁸⁰

Data now provided by INMAA for 2021 indicate that 347,000m² of area was cleared during that year (196,000m² in Naama Bell in the South district and 151,000m² in Mitzpe Gadot in the North district), with approximately 4,250 AP mines destroyed;⁸¹ another 50 AP mines and 70 AV mines were reportedly destroyed in spot tasks.⁸²

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2023⁸³

District/Minefield	Task Name	Operator	SHAs/CHAs	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed (approx.)
North	Golan	INMAA	17	91,000	5,000
North	Not disclosed	IDF	1	5,000	480
Central	Hama El Maliah	INMAA	1	19,000	0
Central	Naama Bell	INMAA	13	159,000	12,000
Totals			32	274,000	17,480

DEMINE SAFETY

INMAA did not report any injuries or fatalities from demining accidents in 2023. A media report in August 2023, however, indicated that a civilian employed by the IDF was slightly injured when a landmine detonated during mine clearance on the border in northern Israel.⁸⁴

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

It is likely to take many decades to clear remaining AP mine contamination in Israel in areas deemed not essential to Israel's security alone. The Director of INMAA acknowledged the extent of the challenge in January 2023, informing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that, "There are 150,000 dunams [150km²] of minefields in Israel, and the army has already given up on [sic] 100,000 [100km²]. With our existing resources, it will take us at least 100 years to clear all these areas. With such budgets, companies from abroad won't come, and additional Israeli companies will not be opened".⁸⁵

At present only two of five active clearance companies are contracted by INMAA to undertake clearance. INMAA says this does not affect progress as the two companies have the capacity to work on multiple sites.⁸⁶ Nevertheless, and despite the increased government funding to INMAA in 2024 of approximately US\$2.7 million (an increase of more than 25% from 2023), completing clearance is a long-term project.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 4 May 2024.

⁷⁸ Email from Shahar Back, INMAA 15 July 2024.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2022), Form B.

⁸¹ This is an approximation because the area was cleared through soil grinding.

⁸² Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 July 2024.

⁸³ Emails from Shahar Back, INMAA, 15 and 23 July 2024.

⁸⁴ "Man lightly hurt in blast during landmine clearing operation on Jordan border", *Times of Israel*, 17 July 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3W5QVrz>.

⁸⁵ "Approved in final readings: Temporary provision regulating clearance of unexploded ordnance at the expense of developer interested in developing land—to become permanent provision", *Knesset News*, 14 February 2023.

⁸⁶ Email from Shahar Back, INMAA, 23 July 2024.