

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Unknown

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

| Release of AP mined area | Release in 2024 (km ²) | Release in 2023 (km ²) |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Clearance | Unknown | Unknown |
| Technical Survey | Unknown | Unknown |
| Non-Technical Survey | Unknown | Unknown |
| Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks | 2024 | 2023 |
| AP Mines destroyed | Unknown | Unknown |

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Unknown

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Kyrgyzstan should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- Kyrgyzstan should clear anti-personnel (AP) mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.
- Kyrgyzstan should detail whether it has fully addressed mine contamination in areas under its jurisdiction or control and, if not, report on the extent and location of remaining mined areas and clearance operations.

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY*

MANAGEMENT

- Kyrgyzstan has no functioning mine action programme

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) undertakes clearance of explosive ordnance

OTHER ACTORS

- None

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

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Kyrgyzstan is suspected to be contaminated by mines, though the precise location and extent of any mined areas is not known. Added to this, the borders between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, drawn in Soviet times, have been problematic since their independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.¹ In turn this has, at times, impeded progress to survey and clear mined areas.

According to the Minister of Defence, contamination in the southern Batken province bordering Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the result of mine use by Uzbekistan's military between 1999 and 2000, was cleared by Uzbek forces in 2005.² It was reported, however, that rainfall and landslides had caused some mines to shift.³ In 2005, media reports cited Kyrgyz officials in Batken province as saying Kyrgyz border guards had checked previously mined areas of the border around the settlements of Ak-Turpak, Chonkara, and Otokchu, which had been cleared by Uzbek deminers, and confirmed that they were free of contamination.⁴ In 2003, Kyrgyz authorities claimed that Uzbek forces had also laid mines around the Uzbek enclaves of Sokh and Shakhimardan located within Kyrgyzstan. Press reports have suggested that Uzbek troops partially cleared territory around the Sokh enclave in 2004–05 and that they completely cleared mines around the Shakhimardan enclave in 2004.⁵

Kyrgyzstan has admitted using AP mines in 1999 and 2000 to prevent infiltration across its borders, but has claimed that all the mines were subsequently removed and destroyed.⁶ In June 2011, a government official confirmed: "We do not have any minefields on the territory of Kyrgyzstan."⁷ An online news source reported that demining of areas along the Kyrgyzstan side of the Kyrgyz–Tajik border, in the Batken region and the Chon-Alai district of the Osh region, began on 20 September 2022. This was according to the Border Service of the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic (also known as GKNB). Work was to be carried out to clear these areas of unexploded ordnance (UXO),

mines, ammunition, and other explosive devices and was to be undertaken in co-ordinated between the authorities of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.⁸ Mine Action Review has not been able to source any further information on demining in these areas since the reports in September 2022.

In recent years, Kyrgyzstan has been demarcating its borders with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. On 13 March 2025, the presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed an agreement on demarcating their shared border, a process that had been underway since 2022.⁹ Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have also signed a series of agreements to demarcate their border over the last decade, first in 2017, with an agreement to demarcate some 85% of the countries' nearly 1,300km-long border,¹⁰ then in 2021, when a land swap agreement led to disputes,¹¹ and subsequently in 2022, with an agreement covering disputed sections of the border, particularly around the Andijan¹² reservoir.¹³ In April 2024, it was reported that the border dispute between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan had been fully resolved through another land swap agreement. This saw Barak, a 208-hectare portion of Kyrgyz territory entirely surrounded by Uzbekistan, absorbed by Uzbekistan, with Kyrgyzstan receiving an equivalent parcel of Uzbekistan's Andijan province in exchange. In November 2024, a new village was opened in Kyrgyzstan's southern Osh region, for Kyrgyz citizens resettled from Barak.¹⁴

On 31 March 2025, the presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan gathered to discuss cooperation, an unprecedented event following decades of strained relations.¹⁵ A trilateral agreement, dubbed the Khujand Declaration, was signed, demarcating the tri-state border and establishing a formal declaration of friendship.¹⁶ It is not yet clear if this move towards cooperation will increase the opportunity to demine any of the mine-affected border areas remaining.

1 "Central Asian Presidents Meet, Seeking to Defuse Decades of Tensions in the Ferghana Valley", Foreign Policy Research Institute, 16 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4m0CK2R>.

2 Fax from Abibilla Kudaiberdiev, Minister of Defence, 4 April 2011.

3 See, e.g., Y. Yegorov, "Uzbekistan agrees to remove minefields along its border with Kyrgyzstan", *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, Vol. 1, No. 41 (29 June 2004).

4 "Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan: Landmine threat along Uzbek border removed", *IRIN*, 31 October 2005, available at: <https://bit.ly/3sezaey>.

5 S. Zhimugulov and O. Borisova, "Kyrgyzstan Tries to Defend Itself from Uzbek Mines", *Navigator* (Kazakhstan), 14 March 2003; and "Borders are becoming clear", Blog post, at: <http://bit.ly/2z0s7qU>.

6 Statement of Kyrgyzstan, Intersegmental Meetings (Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention), Geneva, 8 May 2006; and Letter 011-14/809 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 30 April 2010.

7 Letter from Amb. G. Isakova, Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, 29 June 2011.

8 "Demining work began on the Kyrgyz–Tajik border", *Azərbaycan 24*, 20 September 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3DrPbA3>; and "Invasion of Kyrgyzstan: Mines, unexploded shells to be neutralized in Chon-Alai", *24.KG*, 20 September 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3WG3R7S>.

9 "Tajikistan and Uzbekistan discussed border demarcation – a protocol signed", *Central Asian Light*, 6 May 2024; and "Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan sign deal to end long-running border dispute", *Reuters*, 13 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4IWftij>.

10 "Tug-Of-War: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Look To Finally Settle Decades-Old Border Dispute", *Radio Free Europe*, 14 December 2017, at: <http://bit.ly/2yXsrXt>.

11 "Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan sign deal to end border disputes", *Euroasianet*, 26 March 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3vD5QKA>; "No Issues Remain? Not So Fast. Kyrgyz-Uzbek Border Disputes Don't Appear To Be Decided", *Radio Free Europe*, 2 April 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3zrFrEK>; and "Kyrgyzstan reports deaths after Uzbek border troops open fire", *Aljazeera*, 6 May 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3zuhi4pT>.

12 Andijan is also referred to as Andijon in the Uzbek language. "Andijan", *Central Asia Guide*, accessed 6 August 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4dy2VJn>.

13 The Andijan or Andijon reservoir is also known as the Kempir-Abad reservoir. "Resolution of Uzbek border disputes heralds increasingly united Central Asia", *Central Asia News*, 12 January 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3r0lp4z>.

14 "Farewell Barak: Uzbekistan Absorbs Kyrgyz Exclave As Part Of Historic Border Deal", *Radio Free Europe*, *Radio Liberty*, 23 April 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3LTIVFm>; and "Kyrgyzstan Opens New Village for People Resettled from Barak Exclave", *The Times of Central Asia*, 14 November 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/45zhs6N>.

15 "Central Asian Presidents Meet, Seeking to Defuse Decades of Tensions in the Ferghana Valley", Foreign Policy Research Institute, 16 April 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4m0CK2R>.

16 "Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan sign deal on junction point of state borders", AA, 31 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4leX5jA>; and "Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan's Leaders Signed a Historical Agreement in Khujand", *SpecialEurasia*, 31 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4fw0v07>.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Kyrgyzstan has no functioning mine action programme. In 2021, it was reported that clearance of explosive remnants of war (ERW) is carried out by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).¹⁷ The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), of which Kyrgyzstan is a member, reported in June 2022 that a joint unit for humanitarian demining would be created in the CIS.¹⁸

No timeline for this was given. Mine Action Review has not been able to source any further updates on this.

In 2017, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan conducted joint exercises to train army engineer demining teams at the Otar Military Base in Kazakhstan.¹⁹

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

It is not known whether the Government of Kyrgyzstan contributes national resources to support demining in the country.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

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

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of mines in Kyrgyzstan in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Mine Action Review has been unable to source any information on any efforts in Kyrgyzstan to implement or maintain a national mine action database.

PLANNING AND TASKING

It is not known whether Kyrgyzstan has a national mine action strategy in place. Nor is it known if Kyrgyzstan has annual work plans for the survey and clearance of AP mines or criteria for the prioritisation of clearance tasks.

17 "Border guards of Kyrgyzstan begin clearance on the border with Tajikistan", *EurAsia Daily*, 4 May 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3dbirOT>.

18 "Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that a joint unit of humanitarian demining will be created in the CIS", Commonwealth of Independent States, 27 June 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3b1ulgN>.

19 "Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan conducting joint exercises of engineering-rescue teams at Otar military base", *KazTAG - Kazakh Telegraph Agency*, 22 August 2017, at: <https://bit.ly/4fubhEg>; and "In photos: Kazakhstani, Kyrgyz military sappers hone skills together", *Caravanserai*, 6 September 2017, at: <https://bit.ly/4IZUTxF>.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

It is not known whether Kyrgyzstan has national mine action standards in place.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

International NGO Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD) stated in its 2024 annual report that it plans to adopt a regional approach in Central Asia, expanding its existing demining operations in Tajikistan into Kyrgyzstan (and Uzbekistan), although no time frame for this to occur was given.²⁰

Mine Action Review has been unable to source any recent information on Kyrgyzstan's national operational capacity for AP mine survey and clearance. In 2024, however, personnel from Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries attended a training in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) at the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre managed by the Ministry of Defence of Tajikistan.²¹

In 2022, the United States (US) reported that its Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and its precursor, the Quick Reaction Demining Force, had deployed to Kyrgyzstan since 2001 to support efforts to tackle risk from unsecured, deteriorating weapons and ammunition stockpiles.²² It was not stated if the US QRF had been involved in any disposal or clearance of AP mines.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), ITF Enhancing Human Security, and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) have a presence in Kyrgyzstan to support the long-term management of ammunition, working with the MoD.²³ In July 2023, the ITF handed over renovated facilities for safe and secure munitions management in Balykchyn in the north-east of the country to the Kyrgyz authorities.²⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

It is not known if any survey or clearance of AP mines took place in 2024. As noted above, demining along the Kyrgyzstan side of the border with Tajikistan, in the Batken region and the Chon-Alai district of the Osh region, began on 20 September 2022. Mine Action Review has not been able to source any further information since this was reported.

20 "FSD Activity report 2024", accessed 31 July 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4mffNbR>, p. 21.

21 "The first-ever Tajik-led explosive ordnance disposal course kicks off at OSCE-supported Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre", Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 16 September 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/454bPgo>.

22 The QRF is a team of civilian explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technical experts that serve as the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the US Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' (PM/WRA's) first responders to conventional weapons disposal-related emergencies around the world, including ERW that pose significant threats to civilians. "To Walk the Earth in Safety, Documenting the United States' Commitment to Conventional Weapons Destruction, Fiscal Year 2022, October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022", pp. 25, 46, and 50.

23 GICHD, "Kyrgyzstan", accessed 8 August 2024 at <https://bit.ly/45D8Pou>; and ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF), Annual Report 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3K3frUG>, pp. 78-80.

24 "Enhancing Human Security and Infrastructure in the Kyrgyz Republic", ITF, 1 August 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/4fm2pjY>.