KYRGYZSTAN

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

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 2025 (m^2)	Release in 2024 (m^2)
Clearance	Unknown	Unknown
Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Non-Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	Unknown	Unknown

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- 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 CAPACITY

- Kyrgyzstan has no functioning mine action programme.

NATIONAL OPERATORS

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

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Not known

* 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 Otukchu, 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] Eleven years after this announcement, however, 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, had begun 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 reportedly 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-ordination 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. Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have signed a series of agreements over the last decade – in 2017, with an agreement to demarcate some 85% of the countries' nearly 1,300km-long border,[9] then in 2021, when a land swap agreement led to disputes,[10] and in 2022, with a further agreement covering disputed sections of the border, particularly around the Andijan[11] reservoir.[12] In 2024, it was reported that the border dispute between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan had been fully resolved through another land swap agreement.[13] A treaty between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on their common border was signed in March 2025.[14] In March 2025, the presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan signed a trilateral agreement, dubbed the Khujand Declaration, demarcating the tri-State border and making a formal declaration of friendship.[15] It is not yet clear if this move towards cooperation will increase the opportunity to release any mined border areas remaining.

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).[16] The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), of which Kyrgyzstan is a member, reported in 2022 that a joint humanitarian demining unit would be created in the

1 "Central Asian Presidents Meet, Seeking to Defuse Decades of Tensions in the Ferghana Valley", Foreign Policy Research Institute, 16 April 2025, 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, https://bit.ly/3sezaey.

5 S. Zhimagulov and O. Borisova, "Kyrgyzstan Tries to Defend Itself from Uzbek Mines", *Navigator* (Kazakhstan), 14 March 2003; and "Borders are becoming clear", Blog post no longer available.

6 Statement of Kyrgyzstan, Intersessional 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", *Azerbaycan 24*, 20 September 2022, https://bit.ly/3DrPbA3; and "Invasion of Kyrgyzstan: Mines, unexploded shells to be neutralized in Chon-Alai", *24.KG*, 20 September 2022, https://bit.ly/3WG3R7S.

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

10 "Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan sign deal to end border disputes", *Euroasianet*, 26 March 2021, 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, https://bit.ly/3zrFrEK; and "Kyrgyzstan reports deaths after Uzbek border troops open fire", *Aljazeera*, 6 May 2022, https://bit.ly/3zuh4pT.

11 Andijan is also referred to as Andijon in Uzbek. "Andijan", *Central Asia Guide*, accessed 6 August 2024, https://bit.ly/4dy2VJn.

12 The Andijan reservoir is also known the Kempir-Abad reservoir. "Resolution of Uzbek border disputes heralds increasingly united Central Asia", *Central Asia News*, 12 January 2023.

13 This land swap 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. "Farewell Barak: Uzbekistan Absorbs Kyrgyz Exclave As Part Of Historic Border Deal", *Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty*, 23 April 2024, https://bit.ly/3LTIVFm; and "Kyrgyzstan Opens New Village for People Resettled from Barak Exclave", *The Times of Central Asia*, 14 November 2024, https://bit.ly/45zhs6n.

14 "Press Statement on Tajik-Kyrgyz Talks", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, 13 March 2025, https://tinyurl.com/5n9av9k7.

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

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

CIS.[17] In 2024, engineering units from CIS Member States conducted joint training in Belarus, although Kyrgyzstan is not mentioned specifically.[18]

In 2025, international NGO Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD) initiated a capacity-building project with the Kyrgyz authorities, in partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Programme Offices in Bishkek and Dushanbe, to strengthen the capacity of the Kyrgyz authorities to neutralise remaining mines and ERW, and manage arms and ammunition stockpiles. FSD began training border guards to detect and neutralise explosive ordnance and provided courses covering the fundamentals of mine action, including the concepts of non-technical survey (NTS) and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). The first training course, providing foundational explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) skills, was delivered to ten border guards in November 2025.

In 2026, FSD planned to continue supporting the Kyrgyz Border Service with follow-up training based on a needs assessment. The project also promotes cross-border cooperation with Tajikistan, "establishing common technical standards, operational coordination, and trust among services along shared borders".[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.

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

As mentioned, since 2025, FSD has been engaged in building the capacity of Kyrgyz Border Guards to detect and neutralise mines and ERW.[20] Personnel from Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries also continue to attend training in EOD at the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre of the MoD of Tajikistan, most recently in February 2026.[21] Mine Action Review has been unable to source any other recent information on Kyrgyzstan's national operational capacity for AP mine survey and clearance.

17 "Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that a joint unit of humanitarian demining will be created in the CIS", Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 27 June 2022, https://bit.ly/3b1ulgn.

18 "CIS military sappers to work out joint humanitarian demining in Belarus", Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 17 June 2024, https://tinyurl.com/4b3ub6rs.

19 "FSD Activity report 2025", https://tinyurl.com/jp468wvn, pp. 20–21; and email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, Programme Manager for Central Asia, FSD, 21 August 2026.

20 "FSD Activity report 2025", https://tinyurl.com/jp468wvn, pp. 20–21.

21 "Tajikistan leads regional security efforts as Central Asian specialists complete advanced Explosive Ordnance Disposal training", OSCE, 6 February 2026, https://bit.ly/4bZGteS.

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 OSCE, ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF), 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 Balykchy in the north-east 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 2025. 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, reportedly began on 20 September 2022. Mine Action Review has not been able to source any further information since this was reported.

22 The QRF is a team of civilian 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 16 August 2026, https://bit.ly/45D8Pou; and ITF, Annual Report 2025, https://tinyurl.com/yvrebekk, pp. 90–92.

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