LIBYA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS 2023

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION:

UNKNOWN BUT BELIEVED TO BE LIGHT

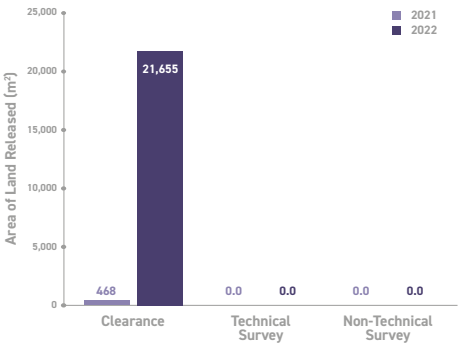
SUBMUNITION CLEARANCE IN 2022

21,655M²

SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED IN 2022

28

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Libya should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.**
- **Libya should conduct a baseline survey to identify the extent of cluster munition remnants (CMR) contamination and begin systematic clearance based primarily on humanitarian priorities.**
- **Libya should establish an interministerial national mine action authority and adopt a national mine action strategy.**
- **Libya should facilitate the granting of visas to international clearance operators.**

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- The Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Free Fields Foundation (3F)
- The Safe Trust Non-governmental organisation (NGO), (Al-Thiqa al-Amena, accredited and supported by DCA)
- The Communication NGO (Al-Tawasol)
- Libyan Peace Organisation (accredited, and supported by DRC)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding sector (formally known as Danish Demining Group (DDG). Hereafter referred to as DRC
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Humanity and Inclusion (HI)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

CMR contamination in Libya is largely the consequence of use in the armed conflicts in 2011 and renewed conflict since 2014. Additional contamination by CMR occurred as a result of kick-outs from ammunition storage areas bombed by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces in 2011.[1] The full extent of contamination is unknown, but is thought to be light. In 2011, armed forces used at least three types of cluster munition: MAT-120 mortar projectiles, RBK-250 PTAB-2.5M cluster bombs, and Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions (DPICMs), which were delivered remotely by rockets.[2] In early 2015, fighting between Libya's rival armed groups saw reported new use of cluster munitions, including RBK-250 PTAB-2.5M bombs, in attacks on Bin Jawad near the port of Es-Sidr in February, and in the vicinity of Sirte in March. The Libyan Air Force, controlled by the internationally recognised government of the time, had bombed both locations, though it denied using cluster munitions.[3]

In July 2019, the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) reported finding evidence of the use of RBK-250-275 cluster bombs in three areas: Al-Hira Bridge (Al-Sawani); the Bir al-Ghanam area south-west of Tripoli (Nafusa Mountains); and Aziziya (south of Tripoli).[4] The same year, Humanity and Inclusion (HI) reported three areas containing CMR on the basis of its own operations. One cluster munition-contaminated area was confirmed in 2017 through non-technical survey (NTS) in the Nafusa mountains region, near the town of Kikla, in north-west Libya. Then in 2018–19, HI found further cluster munition strikes in Tawargha and Al Karareem.[5]

In May 2019, the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), led by commander Khalifa Haftar was accused of using cluster bombs in attacks in and around Tripoli.[6] On 15 and 16 August 2019, aircraft of forces affiliated with the LNA dropped cluster munitions on Zuwarah International Airport, according to the United Nations (UN) Panel of Experts report of December 2019.[7] Human Rights Watch (HRW) has stated that forces aligned to Haftar also used cluster munitions in an airstrike in a residential area in Tripoli on or around 2 December 2019. The organisation visited the site on 17 December 2019 and found remnants of two RBK-250 PTAB-2.5M cluster bombs. The area was not known to be contaminated by cluster munitions before the attack.[8]

According to LibMAC, more than 15.35km^2 of land have been identified as hazardous area, of which 62% is in the east of the country, 33% in Tripoli and Al Jefarah (north-west), and the remaining 5% in Misrata and Sirte (north-centre). Additional areas could still be identified as hazardous in 2023 as NTS continues.[9] It is not known which of these hazardous areas, if any, contains CMR. According to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), 19 persons have died due to ERW explosions in Libya in 2022.[10] LibMAC reported a high presence of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Sirte and of factory-made IEDs in the South of Tripoli.[11]

The HALO Trust (HALO) reports well-documented evidence of kicked-out cluster munitions from ammunition storage areas in Misrata and Mizdah (north). In Sirte (north centre), there is minimal evidence of presence of CMR, although 22 DPICMs were found by HALO in 2021.[12] None of the operators reported discovering previously unknown areas of CMR contamination in Libya in 2022.

As at June 2023, LibMAC, in collaboration with the local operator Free Fields Foundation (3F) intended to conduct a comprehensive assessment for the CMR contamination in Libya.[13]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Libya is also contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) other than unexploded submunitions as well as by anti-personnel mines, including those of an improvised nature (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Libya for further information), and by other IEDs.[14] According to the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), ongoing conflict has resulted in significant explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination in cities across Libya.[15] In particular, large amounts of UXO resulting from the siege of Tripoli in 2019, as well as from previous conflicts, continue to pose a threat.[16]

1 Cluster Munition Monitor, "Libya: Cluster Munition Ban Policy", Last updated 27 July 2019, at: http://bit.ly/2YAbygi.
2 Ibid.
3 Human Rights Watch, "Libya: Evidence of new cluster bomb use", 15 March 2015.
4 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, Chief of Operations, on behalf of Brig. Turjoman, LibMAC, 4 July 2019.
5 Email from Catherine Smith, Head of Mission, HI, 12 March 2019.
6 Cluster Munition Monitor, "Libya: Cluster Munition Ban Policy", Last updated 27 July 2019; and "Tripoli forces claim successes and accuse Haftar of using cluster bombs and internationally banned phosphorus bombs", *Libya Herald*, 20 June 2019.
7 Human Rights Watch, "Libya: Banned Cluster Munitions Used in Tripoli", 13 February 2020, at: http://bit.ly/3gAfq9G.
8 Human Rights Watch, "Libya: Banned Cluster Munitions Used in Tripoli", 13 February 2020.
9 Email from Sharmeela Aminath, Chief Mine Action Programme, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), 16 March 2023.
10 UNSMIL, Statement on the International Day for Awareness of the Risks of Mine and Remnants of Wars (Arabic), 4 April 2023, accessed on 30 April 2023, at: https://bit.ly/3neVHWb.
11 Interview with Ahmad Al-Shibani, Director, LibMAC, 26th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisors (26th NDM), Geneva, 21–22 June 2023.
12 Email from Zita Andrassy, Programme Officer Libya, HALO, 27 February 2022.
13 Interview with Ahmad Al-Shibani, LibMAC, Geneva, 21–22 June 2023.
14 "Lives and Limbs Shattered by Libya Mines", *Asharq Al-Awsat*, 5 April 2018.
15 UNMAS, "Programmes: Libya", accessed 16 May 2019, at: http://bit.ly/2WMTzTk.
16 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Libya Humanitarian Overview 2023, December, at: https://bit.ly/3o4xPEM, p. 10.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Mine action exists in a fragmented and occasionally violent political context. Following years of armed conflict, a new UN-backed "unity" government, the Government of National Accord (GNA), was formally installed in a naval base in Tripoli in early 2016. It has faced armed opposition from the rival LNA authority and a host of militia forces. The warring parties reached a ceasefire agreement to halt hostilities in October 2020, which culminated in the election of an interim government following the five-day UN-sponsored Geneva talks in February 2021, with a roadmap leading to national elections in December 2021.

Since then, Libya's progress towards elections have stalled amid disputes over the eligibility of major candidates. In March 2023, Libya's UN envoy said that national elections could be held by the end of 2023 provided that a clear roadmap and electoral laws are put in place by June.[17] Despite the deadlock in the political process, Libya has been slowly moving towards stability since the UN-brokered ceasefire agreement of October 2020.[18]

LibMAC was mandated by the Minister of Defence to coordinate mine action in December 2011.[19] Operating under the UN-backed GNA, LibMAC's headquarters are in Tripoli, in the west of the country, and it also has offices in Benghazi[20] and Misrata.[21] Enhancing Human Security (ITF) has been supporting the overhead costs of LibMAC since it started its programme in Libya in 2014. In 2022, ITF paid the salaries of 27 employees and covered the day-today costs of LibMAC.[22]

In March 2022, HALO carried out an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) 1 and 2 course in Tripoli for 12 people, including LibMAC staff members and personnel from the local non-governmental organisation (NGO) Libyan Peace Organisation. HALO has also been providing ad-hoc support to LibMAC's transition to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core in 2022, and intended to conduct an EOD Level 3 training for LibMAC in 2023. There was concern, though, that the training might not be possible due to difficulties in obtaining visas.[23]

UNMAS, which is an integral part of UNSMIL, has largely been operating from Tunis since November 2014.[24] UNMAS returned with international personnel to Libya in 2018, and since then has maintained permanent presence of critical operational and technical staff.[25] UNMAS helped LibMAC to develop the Libyan mine action standards on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), the migration of the database, and the accreditation assessments of four mine action organisations in 2022.[26]

UNMAS also acts as the mine action lead, providing non-technical coordination through information sharing, and represents the mine action sector in various fora, including the UN protection cluster, the inter-sectoral coordination group, and the UN country team.[27] UNMAS and LibMAC chair monthly mine action sub-cluster working groups. The meetings are attended by nearly 20 participants, including implementing partners, members from the diplomatic community, UN Agencies, the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and ITF. The meetings aimed to improve coordination among partners, share information, harmonise technical standards, mobilise resources, and provide an advocacy platform for LibMAC to solve technical and operational issues.[28]

UNMAS sought a budget of US$7.5 million for the mine action sector in Libya in 2022 and was able to secure 99% of the requested amount.[29]

In 2022, UNMAS provided six EOD kits to the National Security Agency, and delivered EOD and Emergency Trauma Bag training to 18 of its personnel. UNMAS also delivered Individual first-aid kits, tactical first-responder and tactical first-responder training of trainer courses to 22 diplomatic police officers, and provided them with specialised equipment.[30]

The DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and HALO have all experienced an eight-month long visa blockade for international staff, which has substantially impacted their operations. Operators have also unanimously reported that LibMAC has been doing what it can to support their visa requests, but to no avail.[31] DCA said that annual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between LibMAC and the international mine action organisations has seen delays whilst accreditation and registration was being worked on.[32] Both DRC and HALO faced difficulties moving equipment within the country, and in the case of HALO, also into the country.[33] For DCA, there was no problem bringing equipment into the country aside from the UN arms embargo which prohibits detonators and personal equipment.[34]

17 "Libya elections: Presidential poll postponed", *BBC News*, 23 December 2021, at: https://bbc.in/39ohwez; and "Libyan elections are possible this year, U.N. envoy says", *Reuters*, 11 March 2023, at: https://bit.ly/40FCHy1.

18 OCHA, Libya Humanitarian Overview 2023, December, p. 8.

19 LibMAC website, accessed 20 March 2020, at: http://bit.ly/2JqVr0S.

20 Email from Jakob Donatz, Associate Programme Officer, UNMAS, 21 June 2018.

21 Email from Roman Turšič, Head of Implementation Office Libya/Afghanistan, ITF, 26 February 2017; and interview with Brig. Turjoman, LibMAC, in Geneva, 10 January 2017.

22 ITF, "Annual Report 2022", p. 143, at: https://bit.ly/3o5ulMO.

23 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

24 UNMAS, "Programmes: Libya", accessed 14 May 2022, at: http://bit.ly/31tU1tB.

25 Email from Samir Becirovic, UNMAS, 2 March 2022.

26 Emails from Sharmeela Aminath, UNMAS, 16 March 2023, and Samir Becirovic, UNMAS, 2 March 2022.

27 Ibid.

28 Emails from Sharmeela Aminath, UNMAS, 16 March 2023; and Samir Becirovic, UNMAS, 10 June 2022.

29 Email from Sharmeela Aminath, UNMAS, 16 March 2023.

30 Ibid.

31 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023; Anna Salvari, DRC, 2 April 2023; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

32 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023.

33 Emails from Anna Salvari, DRC, 2 April 2023; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

34 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

LibMAC does not have a gender and diversity policy for mine action in place. LibMAC disaggregates mine action data by sex and age.[35]

DCA's Libya programme has an active policy of employing women into programme roles to increase their financial independence and teach them transferable skills that they may use beyond their current employment with DCA.[36] Gender mainstreaming and mainstreaming of marginalised groups form part of the programme's core policies. DCA also employs all-women teams, including two all-female EORE teams and one all-female multi-task team, to be able to engage with female-headed households. DCA engages early with municipal councils, civil society organisations, community leaders and representatives of groups working for the rights of minorities. These engagements drive project design and ensure community ownership. Women constituted 27% of all DCA employees in 2022. Of operational and managerial positions, 27% and 54% were occupied by women, respectively.[37]

DRC takes into consideration gender and age factors when collecting information on how contamination impacts different groups. DRC adopts a transparent and inclusive recruitment process to ensure that staff as much as possible originate from the area of operations and are representative of the local social context. DRC employed mixed gender teams in the field in 2022, and continues where possible.[38] DRC contracted the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to carry out a gender and diversity assessment in the first quarter of 2023.[39] Women made up 15% of DRC total employees in 2022.[40]

HALO's community liaison officers in Libya are all women who can engage with both men and women. As of writing, HALO staff were not specifically trained to work directly with children, but rather to ask parents for specific considerations for vulnerable persons under their responsibility, including children, elderly, and persons with disabilities. Data collected are disaggregated by gender and age so that representation can be targeted in a proportionate manner. HALO community liaison activities are performed at the same time as surveys, including focus group discussions when applicable, ensuring that women's voices are also heard. HALO staff are required to complete the online "Gender and Diversity in Mine Action" training module developed by the GICHD after their recruitment. HALO, however, reported difficulty in hiring women for operational roles.[41] Of a total of 39 national staff in 2022, 4 (10%) were women. In terms of supervisory positions, 3 out of 7 (43%) were filled by women. Women did not occupy any operational positions in 2022.[42]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

LibMAC receives technical support for the IMSMA from the GICHD and UNMAS. With support of both organisations, LibMAC's transition from IMSMA New Generation (NG) to IMSMA Core, which started in 2020,[43] was nearly 80% complete at the time of writing.[44] All EORE, EOD, and victim assistance data were expected to be fully migrated by the end of May 2023. From June, data on all these activities will be submitted via IMSMA CORE. The remaining activities will follow the same process by the end of the 2023.[45] It is hoped that this transition leads to an improvement in the quality of mine action data.

IMSMA is accessible to clearance organisations and data collection forms are reported to be consistent and enable collection of necessary data.[46] According to HALO, software user-friendliness could be improved, especially with the shift towards IMSMA Core. This transition should allow all actors to view the entirety of data in the form of online maps, which should allow more quality checks of the information. While IMSMA NG did not support the collection of mechanical clearance data, the change to IMSMA Core is expected to enable adding this type of activity to the clearance form. LibMAC promised to organise a workshop to finalise adding mechanical clearance data to the IMSMA database, which requires an operational solution and not on a technical one.[47]

Both HALO and DCA agree that the IMSMA database is largely reliable, accurate, and up to date. DCA reported that LibMAC lacks resources to ensure or improve the quality of data as only one person works on IMSMA. Some concerns related to the quality of data from the source (i.e. the calculation of direct beneficiaries, the reporting on ERW-related scrap during spot tasks). In addition, some data, such as on specific land use, are not always available because the previous IMSMA NG system did not consider it as a minimum reporting.[48] Data is made available in the system three or four days after its reporting.[49]

35 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.
36 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 April 2021.
37 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022 and 17 March 2023.
38 Emails from Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022; and Anna Salvari, DRC, 26 June 2023.
39 Email from Anna Salvari, DRC, 2 April 2023.
40 Email from Anna Salvari, DRC, 26 June 2023.
41 Email from Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022.
42 Emails from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
43 Email from Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 14 April 2020.
44 Interview with Ahmad Al-Shibani, LibMAC, Geneva, 21–22 June 2023.
45 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
46 Emails from Catherine Smith, HI, 12 March 2019; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
47 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
48 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023.
49 Ibid.

According to HALO, organisations submit their information in a timely fashion. There are entities, however, who are not working under the MoD who are thought not to submit their reports regularly, if at all.[50]

Mine action data are checked by both the implementing organisation and LibMAC. Ongoing NTS remains critical to ensure that data are up to date. Otherwise, there is a risk that data maintenance is perceived as a static and not a dynamic activity.[51]

LibMAC organised a workshop on data flow in August 2022. The workshop and additional correspondence that followed resulted in the finalisation of the intact data flow process. HALO, together with other actors, has been sending "dummy" reports to test and provide feedback. This has helped LibMAC improve the forms and migrate issues more smoothly and effectively.[52]

PLANNING AND TASKING

There is no national mine action strategy for Libya.[53] In April 2021, LibMAC reported that it had a national short-term operational plan.[54] LibMAC prioritises survey and clearance operations based on humanitarian, security, and development indicators,[55] and is responsible for issuing task orders. DCA considers that LibMAC is doing its best to issue task orders in a timely and effective manner within its limited capacity and resource, and reported that task orders were mostly received in a timely manner in 2022.[56] According to HALO, the issuance of clearance and/or survey task orders varied in timeliness depending on the geographic location and security situation at the time of request, which allowed LibMAC to ensure the safety of the implementing partners.[57]

DCA continues to clear ERW in support of electricity and water supply facilities, and to survey and clear schools, medical facilities, and housing so that internally displaced people (IDPs) can return safely. This approach is in line with the "triple nexus" approach, which seeks to link humanitarian action to development projects as well as to contribute to stability and peace.[58] Mine action operators liaise with the municipal councils, community leaders, and security providers to build a picture of priority areas for survey and follow-on clearance. Operators then apply for task orders through LibMAC. Due to the small number of clearance teams and personnel in Libya, the priority is responding to call-outs, particularly from returning IDPs. Therefore, much of the clearance is reactive EOD spot tasks in order to minimise an immediate threat to life.[59]

HALO responds to the tasks as issued by LibMAC.[60] HALO's prioritisation criteria for NTS are: number of conflict events, population density, critical infrastructure, duration of active fighting in a given area, recorded mines removed, and explosive ordnance accidents. For technical survey (TS) and clearance, HALO's criteria are: access, land use, number of beneficiaries, and direct evidence of contamination.[61]

While the above considerations are integrated in the assessment of contamination impact, survey, and community liaison activities, final decisions on task prioritisation fall to LibMAC, which ultimately issues task orders based on its set of criteria, plans, and engagement with local authorities.[62]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Libya does not have a national mine action standard (NMAS) or a policy on environmental management.[63]

DCA has an environmental management system and standard operational procedures (SOPs) in place. It takes into account the impacts of the destruction of ERW prior to any battle area clearance (BAC) or EOD spot task, and puts in place mitigation measures. DCA has a policy of non-use of explosives in favour of thermite to stop more nitrates from contaminating topsoil when operating in farmland. No open burning takes place and sandbags are made from hemp instead of plastic.[64]

50 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
51 Ibid.
52 Ibid.
53 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.
54 Ibid.
55 Ibid.
56 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022 and 17 March 2023.
57 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
58 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022.
59 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 April 2021 and 17 March 2023.
60 Emails from Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022: and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
61 Emails from Lucy Reeve, HALO, 23 April 2021; and Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022.
62 Emails from Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022; Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
63 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022; Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022; and Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022.
64 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023 and 1 April 2022.

DRC does not have an environmental management system. DRC takes into account "do-not-harm" elements in consideration of environmental impact and policy when planning its operations.[65]

HALO does not have an environmental management system. A global environment advisor was recruited in January 2022 to support progress in this regard, but the advisor has not visited the Libya programme nor developed an environmental management system at the global or programme level.[66] HALO's work in Libya is focused on urban clearance and therefore has little impact on biodiversity and vegetation.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

There is no national mine action legislation in Libya, but national mine action standards (LibMAS), in Arabic and English, have been elaborated with the support of the GICHD and UNMAS, and were approved by the GNA in August 2017. The LibMAS are available on the LibMAC website.[67] According to international clearance operators, the NMAS are sufficient and aligned to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).[68] Further, while the Arabic version of the LibMAS is largely accurate, the English version misstates the issue of liability after land release, which remained uncorrected in 2022.[69] The LibMAS have not been updated since being first approved in 2017. UNMAS helped LibMAC to develop the Libyan mine action standard on EORE in 2022.[70]

LibMAC and HALO are collaborating on how best to establish land release principles for urban clearance. In the interim, LibMAC accepts completion reports detailing the outputs of mechanical BAC as mechanical clearance.[71] The NMAS for mechanical clearance were likely to be updated in the last quarter of 2023.[72]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Table 1: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2022[73]

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	TS teams	Total TS personnel	Comment
3F[74]	2	6	0	0	
DCA	6	39	6	39	The 39 personnel (multi-task teams), are the same as the NTS and clearance team.
DRC	2	6	0	0	One team leader and two surveyors per team.
HALO	2	7	1	4	Four TS personnel are also clearance personnel .
Libya Peace Organisation[75]	2	6	0	0	
Totals	**14**	**64**	**7**	**43**	

NTS = Non-technical survey TS = Technical survey

65 Email from Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022.

66 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

67 LibMAC website, accessed 20 May 2022 at: https://bit.ly/3ldhvx2. Report of the Secretary-General on UNSMIL, UN doc. S/2018/140, 12 February 2018, p. 12; and UNMAS, "Programmes: Libya", accessed 14 May 2022 at: http://bit.ly/31tU1tB.

68 Emails from Catherine Smith, HI, 12 March 2019; and Nicholas Torbet, HALO, 14 April 2020, and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

69 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022 and 17 March 2023.

70 Email from Sharmeela Aminath, UNMAS, 16 March 2023.

71 Emails from Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February and 19 June 2022.

72 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

73 Emails from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021; Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023; Anna Salvari, DRC, 2 April 2023; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

74 This information was last updated in April 2021, and might not be up to date as at May 2023.

75 This information was last updated in April 2021, and might not be up to date as at May 2023.

Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2022[76]

Operator	Manual clearance teams	Total deminers*	Dog teams(dogs and handlers)	Mechanical assets/machines
DCA	5	39	0	3
HALO Trust	1	4	0	4[77]
Totals	**6**	**43**	**0**	**7**

* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers.

Mine action operations have been conducted by the army engineers, a police unit, and the Ministry of Interior's national safety authority (NSA), also known as Civil Defence.[78] Military engineers reportedly lack mine detectors and are working with basic tools.[79] The NSA is mandated to conduct EOD in civilian areas.[80] These institutions liaise with LibMAC but are not tasked or accredited by them, nor do they provide clearance reports to the Centre.[81]

LibMAC contacted all operators in May 2023 with instructions to shift EOD-focused activities to systematic release of land, which is the direction LibMAC would like to change to.[82]

The national operator, 3F, was operational in 2022, working with DRC,[83] and is accredited to conduct clearance and EOD tasks.[84] In 2020, LibMAC reported having accredited two additional local operators: The Safety Trust NGO (*Al-Thiqa al-Amena*) and the Communication NGO (*Al-Tawasol).*[85] Another national operator, the Libyan Peace Organisation, was present in Libya in 2022, and collaborated with DRC on EOD, EORE, and NTS.[86]

DCA is operational in Libya conducting risk education, clearing residential, commercial, education, medical, and agricultural sites of mines and ERW, and providing training in clearance, search, and EOD, to help strengthen the capacity of national authorities.[87] Now in its thirteenth year of working in Libya, DCA has offices in Benghazi, Misrata, Sirte, and Tripoli, and is accredited to conduct clearance and EOD tasks.[88] In 2022, DCA had part of its funding discontinued, which led to it losing one multi-task team, its all-female survey team, and one clearance team. Human capacity from 2022 was expected to continue unchanged in 2023.[89]

DRC has been set up in Libya since 2011 and has two offices in Benghazi and Tripoli. Its offices in Misrata and Zwara were closed at the end of 2020, and its Sabha office closed in December 2021, resulting in the reduction of the number of EOD, NTS, and EORE teams.[90] DRC established a new EOD team in Tripoli in September 2022. In 2022, DRC performed NTS activities and continued to partner with the Libyan Peace Organization. In 2023, DRC was losing one NTS team as donors prioritised EORE and EOD.[91]

HALO has been present in Libya since November 2018, and has offices in Misrata, Sirte, and Tripoli. HALO's main operation focused on mechanical clearance in Sirte in the Jeeza Navy area and at a Misrata ammunition storage area where it found CMR in 2022. HALO accredited two TS teams and one EOD team in 2021. The EOD team was deployed to support the clearance activities in Misrata in 2022. HALO also conducted NTS in Misrata in February 2022, and in Sirte between January and March 2022.[92]

HALO's programme in Libya saw a decrease in the number of survey and clearance teams in 2022 compared to 2021. Going forward, HALO expects further reductions in the numbers of clearance personnel due to donor cuts. HALO has used the T Jet (a pyrotechnic torch used for low-order deflagration of UXO) in Libya in 2022.[93]

In 2022, LibMAC personnel opened 130 tasks mostly for NTS activities performed by international and local NGOs in southern areas of Tripoli, Tawargha, Sirte, and Benghazi. In addition, LibMAC personnel conducted 134 quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) missions. LibMAC also conducted 38 accreditation procedures for international local NGOs for NTS, risk education, and EOD tasks. LibMAC recorded 90 finished tasks during 2022.[94]

76 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
77 In mid 2022, one machine was transferred to 3F.
78 Interview with Brig. Turjoman, LibMAC, in Geneva, 10 January 2017.
79 "Mines still claim legs and lives in Libya's Benghazi, months after war ceased", *Reuters*, 21 January 2018.
80 Email from Diek Engelbrecht, UNMAS Libya, 20 July 2013.
81 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.
82 Interview with Ahmad Al-Shibani, LibMAC, Geneva, 21–22 June 2023.
83 Emails from Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022; and Samir Becirovic, UNMAS, 2 March 2022.
84 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022.
85 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.
86 Email from Anna Salvari, DRC, 2 April 2023.
87 DCA website, accessed 3 May 2021, at: http://bit.ly/2vYatmb.
88 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022 and 17 March 2023.
89 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023.
90 Email from Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022.
91 Email from Anna Salvari, DRC, 2 April 2023.
92 Emails from Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
93 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.
94 ITF, "Annual Report 2022", p. 143.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

HALO mechanically cleared a total area of 21,665m^2 in Misrata and destroyed 28 submunitions in the process. The submunitions were a result of kick-outs from ammunition storage areas. In addition, HALO disposed of a total of 1,607 items of UXO in Libya in 2022.[95]

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNMAS reported that humanitarian mine action partners disposed of 27,478 items of ERW in 2022.[96] It is not known how many, if any, were submunitions.

SURVEY IN 2022

None of the international operators reported CMR survey in Libya in 2022.

CLEARANCE IN 2022

HALO mechanically cleared a total area of 21,665m^2 in Misrata, destroying 28 submunitions in the process. The submunitions were a result of kick-outs from ammunition storage areas. In addition, HALO disposed of a total of 1,607 items of UXO in Libya in 2022.[97]

Table 3: CMR clearance by HALO in 2022[98]

District	Area cleared (m^2)	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
Misrata	21,665	28	1,576
Tripoli	0	0	14
Sirte	0	0	17
Totals	**21,665**	**28**	**1,607**

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LibMAC describes the following challenges to implementation of mine action operations: the high level of contamination; ongoing conflict and the continued presence of Islamic State; the difficulty in convincing IDPs to delay their return until the ERW threat is addressed; security and access to priority areas; the limited ERW and EOD capacity in Libya; the vast geographical area; and limited governmental and international support.[99] The strengthening of LibMAC as a mine action coordination entity in Libya continues to be needed, support by efforts to build its capacity and enhance its resources.

95 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

96 Email from Sharmeela Aminath, UNMAS, 16 March 2023; and OCHA, Libya Humanitarian Overview 2023, December, p. 10.

97 Email from Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

98 Ibid.

99 PowerPoint presentation by Brig. Turjoman, LibMAC, UN National Programme Directors' Meeting, Geneva, 8 February 2017.