

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

15.79km²

Medium
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	0.20	0.29
Technical Survey	0.23	0.18
Non-Technical Survey	0.08	0.32
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	435 (incl. 370 in spot tasks)	10,669 (incl. 46 in spot tasks)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) Engineering Regiment
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Clearance and non-technical survey (NTS) outputs decreased in 2024 in Lebanon, and the number of anti-personnel (AP) mines destroyed dropped sharply, with most destroyed in spot tasks rather than during clearance. This was due to suspension of all mine clearance operations along the Blue Line, and a redeployment of some teams to Mount Lebanon where technical survey (TS) predominated. With priorities shifting towards NTS and clearance of areas newly contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW) to support the return of displaced people, and a reduction in funding for mine action, release of AP mined area is unlikely to increase in 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Lebanon should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- Lebanon should clear AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.
- Wherever possible, evidence-based NTS and TS should be used to define mined areas more accurately prior to initiating clearance. This is particularly important in non-pattern mined area, such as those in Mount Lebanon.

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Lebanon Mine Action Authority (LMAA)
- Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC)
- Regional Mine Action Centres (RMAC-N and RMAC-RB)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) Engineering Regiment

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (now under UNIFIL and called UNMAS UNIFIL or UNIFIL Mine Action Unit)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2024, Lebanon had nearly 15.8km² of mined area, including along the Blue Line, across 715 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 120 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) (see Table 1).¹ This is a reduction from the nearly 16.2km² of mined area at the end of 2023.²

Table 1: Mined area by province (at end 2024)³

Province	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total number	Total area (m ²)
Al Beqaa	13	4,404,810	8	56,905	21	4,461,715
Al Janoub and Al Nabatiyeh (south Lebanon)	678	6,092,044	1	451,269	679	6,543,313
Jabal Loubnan (Mount Lebanon)	24	2,161,824	111	2,618,384	135	4,780,208
Totals	715	12,658,678	120	3,126,558	835	15,785,236

Lebanon's mine problem is largely a legacy of 15 years of earlier civil conflict and the Israeli invasions of south Lebanon in 1978 and in 1982 and the subsequent occupation that ended in May 2000. Most of the mined areas are in the south of the country, in conventional minefields laid according to a pattern and with the location of the mines identified on minefield maps. The minefields in Mount Lebanon in the middle of the country are typically "militia" laid with scattered mines and for which minefield records and maps do not exist. Multiple actors emplaced these mines during the civil war.⁴

There had also been a small amount of new mine contamination in "Jroud Aarsal" on the north-east border with Syria, resulting from spill-over of the Syrian conflict onto Lebanese territory in 2014–17.⁵ The Lebanese territory in question was fully regained by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in August 2017 and assigned to the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) for survey and clearance. Following completion of land release, LMAC reported the area as free from explosive ordnance as at June 2023.⁶

The LAF continue to play a major role in the north of the country as the number of rapid-response missions remains high. In recent years, LMAC has had to address the problem of mines migrating from the north Syrian border through floods and riverbeds to areas in Wadi Khaled and Wadi Nahle in the north.⁷ Mine migration can happen anywhere along the border river and LMAC only knows about the migrated mines through reporting of detonations. LMAC surveyed the location of incidents and submitted a report to LAF headquarters recommending that, where possible, berms are built in these locations to prevent future migration. The LAF Engineering Regiment searches and clears large fade-out areas and erects fences and marking signs where possible, with risk education delivered to local populations.⁸

1 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, Information Officer and Risk Education and Media Section Head, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

2 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 16 May 2024.

3 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

4 Interview with Brig.-Gen. Elie Nassif and Brig.-Gen. Fakih, LMAC, Beirut, 11 April 2016.

5 Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 7 March 2019; David Willey, Country Director, MAG, 7 March 2019; and Emile Ollivier, Grants Coordinator, NPA, 19 March 2019.

6 Email from Lt.-Col. Charbel Njeim, LMAC, 7 September 2023.

7 LMAC, "Annual Report 2019", pp. 7 and 25.

8 Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 15 March 2021.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Lebanon is also contaminated with cluster munition remnants (CMR) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). For details on CMR contamination, see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2025* report on Lebanon.

Lebanon is contaminated with new CMR as a result of Israeli airstrikes on weapons and munitions storage depots belonging to non-State armed groups during the conflict that began on 8 October 2023. These storage depots contained

unused cluster munitions, along with other explosive ordnance, and led to submunitions being ejected into the surrounding area. To date, there is no evidence of use of cluster munitions by Israel, Hezbollah, or other armed groups during this conflict.⁹ In October 2023, Amnesty International reported that the Israeli army had used white phosphorus artillery shells during an attack on the southern border town of Dhayra, a populated civilian area.¹⁰

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Lebanon's mine action programme is under the control of the military. The Lebanon Mine Action Authority (LMAA), which has overall responsibility for Lebanon's mine action programme, is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence and is chaired by the Minister of Defence. In 2007, a national mine action policy outlined the structure, roles, and responsibilities within the programme, and LMAC was tasked to execute and coordinate the programme on behalf of the LMAA.¹¹

LMAC, part of the LAF, is based in Beirut. Since 2009, the Regional Mine Action Centre-Nabatiyeh (RMAC-N), which is a part of LMAC, has overseen operations in south Lebanon, under LMAC supervision.¹² At the end of 2018, the RMAC-Ras Baalbek (RMAC-RB) regional centre was established in north-east Lebanon to oversee mine action operations, but it closed in 2023 after the area was declared free of mines.¹³

LMAC has a capacity that, in general, functions well, but as the staff are army officers, typically many senior managers, including in RMAC, are rotated every two years or so, which hampers continuity in the management of the three mine action centres.¹⁴ The current director of LMAC started in April 2025.¹⁵ A new standard operating procedure (SOP) for LMAC was approved in 2020 which specifies the roles and responsibilities of each section and their duty to cooperate with one another. This should help preserve institutional memory, assist new LMAC staff, and reduce the impact of staff rotations.¹⁶

There is good coordination and collaboration between LMAC/RMAC and clearance operators, with consultation before key decisions are taken.¹⁷ International operators reported that an enabling environment exists for mine action in Lebanon, with LMAC facilitating the processing of visas for international staff and assisting with the importation of equipment, including exemption of customs fees for equipment.¹⁸ DanChurchAid (DCA) reported that during and after the conflict, visa procedures were more closely scrutinised, with on-arrival visas no longer granted and working visas typically taking several weeks to be approved. In addition, residency cards were cancelled and multiple-entry visas issued in their place for international personnel.¹⁹

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) personnel provide institutional support to LMAC, particularly in strategic planning, project management, resource mobilisation with a focus on sustainability, coordination, and reporting. In 2024, three UNDP personnel were supporting LMAC with administration and information management.²⁰ The International Trust Fund (ITF) Enhancing Human Security provided institutional support to LMAC in 2024, helping to strengthen the LMAC's administrative, logistic, and technical capacity. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) supports Lebanon through technical training, compliance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), operational planning, gender and diversity, and enhancement of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).²¹

9 "Mapping Israel-Lebanon cross-border attacks", *Al Jazeera*, 15 April 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3V1YtWy>.

10 Amnesty International, "Lebanon: Evidence of Israel's unlawful use of white phosphorus in southern Lebanon as cross-border hostilities escalate", Report, 31 October 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3VBUXt4>.

11 LMAC, "Mid-term Review to Strategy 2011–2020, Milestone 2013", August 2014, pp. 4–5.

12 LMAC, "Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2011–2020", September 2011, p. 4.

13 Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 21 August 2019; and Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 10 July 2025.

14 LMAC, Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2020–25, signed June 2020, p. 4.

15 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 10 July 2025.

16 Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 19 March 2020 and 15 March 2021; and LMAC, "Annual Report 2020", p. 28.

17 Emails from Sylvain Lefort, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), 24 March 2021; Hala Amhaz, NPA, 15 March 2021; Mahmoud Rahhal, POD, 8 March 2019; and David Ligneau, Mine Action Programme Manager, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), 21 April 2020.

18 Emails from Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025; Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025; and Southern Craib, Programme Manager, NPA, 8 April 2025.

19 Email from Mohamed Chour, Head of Mine Action Lebanon, DCA, 24 April 2025.

20 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025.

21 Ibid.

In 2024, particularly during preparations for the post-ceasefire emergency response, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) provided extensive support to LMAC. This included developing SOPs and training on the handling of white phosphorus, and producing technical notes and training materials on rubble removal and debris management. MAG also co-led the Debris Task Force, contributed to the updated rubble removal prioritisation matrix, and developed resources for handling air-dropped bombs. MAG supported the Regional School of Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon (RSHDL) in delivering two courses in battle area clearance (BAC).²²

DCA's NTS teams are supporting LMAC by delivering NTS training and assisting with IMSMA Core implementation.²³ NPA identified several issues with LMAC's transition to IMSMA Core in 2023 and has continued working closely with LMAC's Information Management department to resolve them.²⁴

A "Humanitarian Mine Action Forum" was established in Lebanon in close partnership between LMAC and Norway. The forum aims to meet twice a year, with UNDP designated as the secretariat for the Forum.²⁵ In 2021, the Netherlands took over from Norway as Forum co-chair.²⁶ In 2024, the Forum met once.²⁷ A technical working group (TWG) where LMAC and the RMACs meet with clearance operators was established in 2018, meeting every two to three weeks in 2024 in response to the security situation.²⁸ Since the start of the conflict in 2023, representatives from the LAF Engineering Regiment, UNDP, and the Social Stability Working Group have also attended the meetings.²⁹ In 2024, discussions focused on adjusting LMAC's operational plan due to the conflict, including increased emphasis on risk education, NTS, rubble clearance, use of mechanical assets, and new SOPs.³⁰ Operators said the TWG offered a useful platform for discussion of operational challenges.³¹

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The Lebanese government contributed approximately US\$7.5 million in 2024 towards the mine action programme (for both mine- and CMR-related work). This was used to the running of LMAC (facilities and staff); two LAF Engineering Regiment BAC teams, and three Engineering Regiment teams to cover rapid response across Lebanon; risk education; victim assistance; training; and advocacy.³² This is the same amount as 2023.³³ Before the economic crisis, the Lebanese government had planned to allocate around \$30 million for clearance. However, due to ongoing political and financial instability, no government funding for this purpose was allocated in either 2023 or 2024.³⁴

In 2024, AP mine survey and clearance in Lebanon were funded by the United States Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), the French Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS, until August), the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP, from September), the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DMFA). In 2025, funding came from PM/WRA, the GGP (until July), the GFFO (until March), and the NMFA.³⁵

In 2024, DCA's AP mine survey and clearance in Lebanon were funded by the PM/WRA. For 2025, funding from PM/WRA continued; was briefly suspended; and then support resumed in February, alongside new funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).³⁶ HI received funding for its AP mine survey and clearance in 2024 from the Embassy of Japan through the GGP and the CDCS. GGP support continued until August 2025, with CDCS funding continuing.³⁷ MAG was supported in 2024 for its AP mine survey and clearance by PM/WRA, the GFFO, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CDCS, and Fibertek, a US-based technology company. In 2025, MAG was funded by PM/WRA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, a new donor for clearance), Fibertek, Canada, and the Netherlands.³⁸

22 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025.

23 Email from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 24 April 2025.

24 Email from Southern Craib, NPA, 8 April 2025.

25 LMAC, "Annual Report 2018", p. 23.

26 Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 29 March 2022.

27 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025.

28 Ibid.

29 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 10 July 2025.

30 Email from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 24 April 2025.

31 Ibid.; and emails from Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025; Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025; and Southern Craib, NPA, 8 April 2025.

32 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025.

33 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 2 May 2024.

34 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form I.

35 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

36 Email from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 6 May 2025.

37 Email from Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025.

38 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 30 April and 25 September 2025.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The gender and diversity-related policy applied at LMAC is that of the LAF military rules. LMAC reports that all staff are familiar with the rules, including provisions on gender equality, inclusion, and safeguarding.³⁹ Committed to mainstreaming gender and diversity across mine action in Lebanon, LMAC has implemented inclusive policies, with data disaggregation in risk education and victim assistance, appointed a gender focal point, implemented a gender work plan, and organised and participated in courses at the RSHDL.⁴⁰

In 2024, MAG in partnership with LMAC launched the Gender and Inclusive Forum, an initiative that brings together international and local NGOs, UNDP, and LMAC to advance gender equity across the sector. MAG and LMAC also co-hosted the Gender in Mine Action Forum at the RSHDL, which led to the reestablishment of the Gender, Diversity and Inclusion (GDI) Steering Committee and encouraged partner organisations to designate gender focal points.⁴¹

Lebanon's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 includes considerations on gender and diversity.⁴² Of the five objectives in the strategy, the fifth states that: “The specific needs and perspective of women, girls, men and boys from all groups of society are considered, in order to deliver an inclusive HMA [mine action] response”. LMAC also acknowledges in the strategy that mine action “is a male-dominated environment and we have therefore a particular responsibility to empower women and ensure that we have a gender sensitive approach to our work”.⁴³

The GICHD's 2021 assessment of gender and diversity in Lebanon's mine action programme found that LMAC had implemented many of its recommendations.⁴⁴ In 2023, LMAC and the GICHD co-hosted a three-day course to strengthen gender and diversity integration among mine action stakeholders.⁴⁵ LMAC also reviewed its national mine action standards (NMAS) in 2023 to align with IMAS and integrate gender and diversity considerations.⁴⁶

Table 2: Gender composition of operators in 2024⁴⁷

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
DCA*	68	13 (19%)	18	5 (28%)	50	8 (16%)
LMAC	149	15 (10%)	20	2 (10%)	46	2 (4%)
MAG**	202	31 (15%)	49	6 (12%)	170	25 (15%)
NPA	77	15 (19%)	12	3 (25%)	56	11 (20%)
HI	32	7 (22%)	9	2 (22%)	23	5 (22%)
Totals	528	81 (15%)	108	18 (17%)	345	51 (15%)

*DCA – Mine action staff only (excluding programme staff). **MAG – 198 national staff and 4 international staff.

The number of staff at LMAC is determined by the LAF headquarters, so LMAC has limited control over the number of women, but it consistently requests that the percentage of women be increased.⁴⁸ The proportion of women at LMAC is more than double the 5% average of the Lebanese armed forces but LMAC is seeking to improve this ratio further.⁴⁹ The number of women in operational positions has decreased from seven in 2023 to two in 2024.

MAG, NPA, DCA, and HI all report having policies on gender.⁵⁰

MAG Lebanon advanced gender equality and inclusion in 2024 through international and national initiatives. It contributed to the “Getting Ready for Siem Reap” meeting, highlighted progress on gender policies, and integrated

gender-responsive practices in recruitment and training. Women participated in technical roles, including explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and team leader training, and MAG advocated successfully for the inclusion of women in Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) courses for LAF staff. A new training facility with separate accommodation for women is also under construction. Internally, MAG re-established its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee and delivered training on gender mainstreaming and action planning.⁵¹

39 Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 19 March 2020.
40 LMAC, “Annual Report 2018”, p. 5; and email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 7 March 2019.
41 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025.
42 Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 19 March and 22 July 2020.
43 LMAC, Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2020–25, p. 8.
44 Email from the GICHD, 6 April 2023.
45 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 2 May 2024.
46 Ibid.
47 Emails from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025; Mohamed Chour, DCA, 24 April 2025; Zeina Al Sathani, Ops Manager, HI, 10 October 2025; Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025; and Southern Craib, NPA, 8 April 2025.
48 Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 19 March 2020 and 15 March 2021; and LMAC, “Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of the LMAP Strategy (2020–25)”, p. 19.
49 LMAC, “Annual Report 2020”, p. 37.
50 Emails from Emile Ollivier, NPA, 19 March 2019; David Willey, MAG, 7 March 2019; Zeina Al Sathani, HI, 10 October 2025; and Mohamed Chour, DCA, 30 April 2024.
51 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025.

In 2024, DCA launched a new Gender Action Guide; established a Gender Hub on the Fabo platform, a digital platform where member NGOs share knowledge and resources; and updated its online gender training.⁵² HI added women to its mine clearance teams and providing specialised training on gender and diversity to all its staff.⁵³

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

LMAC does not currently have an environmental management policy, although it would like to develop one in the future and it recognises its responsibility to ensure that demining is conducted responsibly and efficiently while minimising the impact on the environment. Lebanon's NMAS on Safety and Occupational Health – Protection of the Environment (10.70) is said to align with IMAS 07.13, although it has not yet been updated to reflect the revised international standard.

LMAC and its implementing partners are required to coordinate with local authorities and landowners before

operations start. All NTS reports and clearance plans include information on the climatic and weather characteristics of the region; their impact on the clearance operation; and the measures to be taken. After clearance has been completed at a worksite, operators must remove and appropriately dispose of all rubbish and large fragments of munitions, filling in any holes in the ground to stabilise the surface so that natural regeneration can take place.⁵⁴ Additionally, when planning and prioritising survey and clearance tasks, Lebanon considers climate-related and extreme weather risks.⁵⁵

Table 3: Environmental policies and action⁵⁶

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
DCA	Yes	Yes	No
HI	No	Yes	No
MAG	No	Yes	No (not yet assigned yet)
NPA	Yes	No	Yes

In 2024 and 2025, mine action operators introduced several new measures to reduce environmental harm and greenhouse gas emissions. Solar panels were installed at selected demining offices and camps to reduce reliance on diesel generators, with MAG's Beirut office becoming fully solar powered. Solar power was also used for the first time during HI's Body Worn Camera project to charge equipment

in the field.⁵⁷ MAG Lebanon began a baseline carbon footprint assessment to inform the development of a work plan and country-level environmental policy.⁵⁸ DCA enhanced vehicle maintenance routines and improved travel planning to cut fuel use and emissions, while increased use of digital tools, such as mobile apps and cloud-based systems, has reduced paper consumption.⁵⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Since 2021, LMAC has been using IMSMA Core.⁶⁰ Key improvements in the new system include more accurate drawing of surveyed polygons using tools based on GPS and imagery base maps; reducing instances of double counting of polygons; and recording the depth at which ordnance was discovered, its condition, and whether it is safe to move.⁶¹

In 2024, new emergency response forms were introduced to better reflect operational needs and capture the full range of survey activities. These updates aim to maintain accurate and comprehensive data collection.⁶²

⁵² Email from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 24 April 2025.

⁵³ Email from Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025.

⁵⁴ Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 29 March 2022 and 5 May 2023.

⁵⁵ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 2 May 2024.

⁵⁶ Emails from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 24 April 2025; Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025; Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025; and Southern Craib, NPA, 8 April 2025.

⁵⁷ Email from Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025.

⁵⁸ Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 27 April 2025.

⁵⁹ Email from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 24 April 2025.

⁶⁰ LMAC, "Annual Report 2022", p. 31.

⁶¹ Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 15 May 2023.

⁶² Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025.

Some database information, particularly regarding scattered/militia minefields from the civil war, may be inaccurate due to outdated NTS. According to HI, it is, however, challenging to confirm what contamination was cleared by the LAF in the north and whether clearance documents were transferred to LMAC.⁶³ LMAC emphasises the importance of NTS for these scattered minefields.⁶⁴

In the Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 and the accompanying implementation plan, LMAC pledges to voluntarily submit Article 7 reports under the APMBC.⁶⁵ As at September 2025, however, none had yet been submitted.

PLANNING AND TASKING

LMAC has a National Mine Action Strategy for 2020–25 with a strategic implementation plan,⁶⁶ developed with support from the UNDP project funded by the European Union (EU).⁶⁷

In 2023, LMAC conducted a mid-term review of the strategy and implementation plan with a final external review conducted at the beginning of 2024.⁶⁸ A new strategy covering 2026–30 will be developed. The plan will define clear objectives, required resources, and implementation methods to ensure “an effective and responsive” mine action programme.⁶⁹

LMAC's prioritisation system is based on three strategic categories: safety, economy, and treaty compliance. Each contains subcategories which consider operational considerations and impact.⁷⁰ The prioritisation of actions and allocation of resources is automated in IMSMA Core.⁷¹ LMAC reported in May 2025 that the national prioritisation criteria were being reviewed to focus on survey and clearance of residential areas to facilitate the safe return of displaced persons.⁷²

Prior to 2016, demining along the border with Israel had been said to depend on “political developments”,⁷³ but the Lebanese government subsequently took the decision to initiate larger-scale, planned clearance on the Blue Line.⁷⁴ Clearance by humanitarian demining operators, which began in November 2016,⁷⁵ was suspended on 8 October 2023 with UNIFIL announcing that it would resume operations on the Blue Line in September 2025.⁷⁶

Lebanon had a work plan in place for AP mine survey and clearance in 2024. Implementation was, however, severely impacted by the ongoing economic crisis and security situation in the south, which led to a temporary suspension of operations in the last quarter of 2023 and continuing into 2024. For 2025, no comprehensive work plan had been elaborated, as NTS is still pending in several areas and security conditions remain uncertain. Instead, Lebanon is relying on short-term operational planning, guided by team availability, access, and donor support.⁷⁷ Operators report that clearance and survey task dossiers are issued in a timely and effective manner.⁷⁸

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Lebanon developed its first NMAS in 2010 and since then there have been regular revisions to ensure IMAS compliance, integrate lessons learned and case studies, and strengthen gender and diversity considerations.⁷⁹ The NMAS were updated in 2023 to permit mechanical flailing as a primary clearance asset, provided it is followed by a secondary search and clearance process. This approach has

been implemented in SHAs in Mount Lebanon. The NMAS update also allows for the deployment of mine detection dogs (MDDs) as an initial clearance asset in TS operations and low-density minefields. In Mount Lebanon, however, the terrain is more suited for using MDDs for quality control (QC) rather than TS.⁸⁰

63 Emails from David Ligneau, HI, 21 April 2020; and Aurélien Thienpont, HI, 9 August 2023.

64 LMAC, “Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of the LMAP Strategy (2020–2025)”, p. 16.

65 LMAC, Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2020–25, June 2020, p. 4; and LMAC, “Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of the LMAP Strategy (2020–2025)”, p. 5.

66 Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 22 July 2020 and 15 March 2021; and LMAC, “Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of the LMAP Strategy (2020–25)”, p. 3.

67 LMAC, Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2020–25; and LMAC, “Annual Report 2019”, p. 7.

68 Email from Lt. Col. Charbel Njeim, LMAC, 2 July 2024.

69 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025; and 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information, 10 June 2025, p.5.

70 Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 15 March 2021; and LMAC, “Annual Report 2020”, p. 35.

71 Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 15 May 2023; and LMAC, “Annual Report 2022”, p. 32.

72 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 27 May 2025.

73 Presentation by Maj. Bou Maroun, RMAC, Nabatiyeh, 4 May 2012; and response to Landmine Monitor questionnaire by Leon Louw, Programme Manager, UN Mine Action Support Team (UNMAST), 7 May 2014.

74 Interview with Brig.-Gen. Elie Nassif and Brig.-Gen. Fakhri, LMAC, Beirut, 11 April 2016.

75 Email from Brig.-Gen. Ziad Nasr, LMAC, 24 April 2017.

76 Emails from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 16 May 2024; Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 30 April and 25 September 2025; and Mohamed Chour, DCA, 6 May 2025.

77 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

78 Emails from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 6 May 2025; Adnan Araj, HI, 28 April 2025; and Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 30 April 2025.

79 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 2 May 2024.

80 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 7 October 2024.

Drones were first used in 2018 by MAG for NTS on Lebanon's north-east border, contaminated during the Syrian conflict spillover from 2014 to 2017. In 2021, HI brought in an unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) expert to assess feasibility, confirming Lebanon's suitability for deployment. From 2022 to the middle of 2023, HI and LMAC trialled drones in Mount Lebanon, surveying more than 50 polygons to test their value in improving situational awareness, identifying ground signs, and exploring advanced sensors for detecting buried explosives, while also training drone pilots and NTS team leaders.⁸¹ In 2024, HI delivered eight UAVs (aerial drones) with accessories and provided related training.⁸²

In 2023–24, HI piloted and implemented Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) in demining operations across Lebanon. The introduction of BWCs enhanced monitoring and oversight by enabling real-time or retrospective review of field activities and improving quality assurance (QA) and compliance with SOPs. They also supported training and knowledge transfer by providing footage for post-operational debriefings and training materials. Transparency and accountability were strengthened through verifiable records of daily operations. Finally, BWCs contributed to greater operational efficiency and safety by helping identify procedural deviations and allowing for immediate corrective action.⁸³

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2024, manual mine clearance was conducted by international operators DCA, HI, and MAG along with the Engineering Regiment of the LAF. There was a decrease in mine clearance capacity in Lebanon in 2024 compared to the previous year.⁸⁴ UNIFIL and international operators who conduct clearance on the Blue Line suspended operations on 8 October 2023. UNIFIL resumed operations in July 2025.⁸⁵

The LAF Engineering Regiment has two BAC teams. A further three Engineering Regiment companies conduct rapid response call-outs. In addition, each deployed combat brigade has its own combat engineering company which can also conduct rapid-response call-outs. The LAF has seven MDD teams for TS as a secondary asset supporting clearance. Through the Engineering Regiment, it provides mechanical assistance to clearance operators that lack this capacity.⁸⁶

In Lebanon, machines are primarily used as secondary assets to support clearance teams (e.g. for ground preparation, rubble removal, or fade-out); in areas where manual clearance is difficult; and for TS and low-threat hazardous areas (LTHAs); and as an initial tool in SHAs in Mount Lebanon followed by manual clearance based on a task-by-task risk assessment.⁸⁷ Often, however, the terrain is not suitable for machines. Unfortunately, the economic crisis in Lebanon has resulted in huge budget cuts in all government institutions and therefore the LAF teams are not able to conduct the same level of activities as before, including with respect to some mechanical assets. Clearance operators who are supported by mechanical assets from the LAF are providing fuel, maintenance, and spare parts for the machines.⁸⁸ In addition, new mechanical assets have been introduced by MAG.⁸⁹

Table 4: Operational NTS capacities deployed in 2024⁹⁰

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	TS teams	Total TS personnel
LMAC	3	6	N/K	N/K
MAG	2	4	0	0
DCA	2	4	4	0
HI	1	2	2	26
Totals	8	16	6	26

N/K = Not Known

⁸¹ Emails from Aurélien Thienpont, HI, 13 April and 9 August 2023.

⁸² Email from Aurélien Thienpont, HI, 30 May 2024.

⁸³ Email from Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025.

⁸⁴ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

⁸⁵ Email from Aaron Buckly, UNMAS headquarters, 13 October 2025.

⁸⁶ Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 29 March 2022 and 5 May 2023.

⁸⁷ Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 29 March 2022; and Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 7 October 2024.

⁸⁸ Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 29 March 2022.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

Table 5: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2024⁹¹

Operator	Manual teams	Total clearance personnel	Dogs and handlers	Machines	Comments
ER	2	12	4	4	
MAG	4	40	0	0	Deminers also conduct TS.
DCA	1	8	0	1	
HI	2	17	0	0	
Totals	9	77	4	5	

In 2024, the suspension of operations along the Blue Line and limited access to other areas of South Lebanon and western Beqaa lead to a decrease in the number of AP mine survey or clearance personnel deployed by DCA, while NPA and UNIFIL did not deploy any teams for mine clearance.⁹² MAG redeployed its clearance teams to safer regions within the Chouf district of Mount Lebanon which increased the number of personnel deployed on AP mine survey and clearance, while HI maintained its previous capacity without change.⁹³

In 2025, LMAC expects operational needs to drive an increase in NTS teams, although funding constraints are likely to reduce the number of TS and clearance teams.⁹⁴ DCA expects a rise in NTS activities to re-survey disturbed minefields along the Blue Line and re-assess destroyed warehouses in the South.⁹⁵ MAG, however, foresees a decrease in mine clearance capacity due to reduced funding and the prioritisation of emergency response in southern Lebanon.⁹⁶ NPA did not expect to deploy any mine clearance teams, while HI does not expect major changes but has trained two staff in NTS.⁹⁷

In March 2025, UNIFIL and the LAF renewed their memorandum of understanding (MoU) on demining in south Lebanon, extending cooperation until 31 December 2026. The MoU formalises UNIFIL's support to LMAC in mine clearance and EOD, aimed at protecting civilians and UNIFIL personnel and ensuring operational mobility. Under the agreement, LMAC will identify priority hazardous areas, with joint reconnaissance conducted by UNIFIL, LMAC, and the Mine Action Unit at UNIFIL (previously called the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)), which also oversees quality assurance. In 2025, UNIFIL had six demining teams and six EOD teams and six explosive ordnance risk education teams. Of these, four manual clearance teams totalling 60 personnel are deployed in direct support of the LMAC's operations, with the remaining teams engaged in other operational tasks.⁹⁸ This marks the third renewal since the first MoU was signed in 2020.⁹⁹

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 6: Summary of land release outputs in 2024

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m²)	Comments
Clearance	196,172	National authority data
Technical survey	225,372	National authority data
Non-technical survey	80,443	National authority data
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	
AP mines destroyed	435	Including 370 during spot tasks

91 Emails from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025; and Zeina Al Salhani, HI, 10 October 2025.
92 Emails from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025; Mohamed Chour, DCA, 6 May 2025; and Southern Craib, NPA, 8 April 2025.
93 Emails from Adnan Araji, HI, 28 April 2025; and Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 30 April 2025.
94 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.
95 Email from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 6 May 2025.
96 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 30 April 2025.
97 Email from Southern Craib, NPA, 8 April 2025.
98 Email from Aaron Buckley, UNMAS headquarters, 13 October 2025.
99 UNIFIL, New understanding cements continued UNIFIL support in demining in south Lebanon, 25 March 2025, at: <http://bit.ly/45T97Lh>.

SURVEY IN 2024

In 2024, LMAC reported that a total of 305,815m² was released through survey, of which 80,443m² of mined area was cancelled through NTS and 225,372m² reduced through TS (see Tables 7 and 8).¹⁰⁰ Data reported by LMAC for 2024 differed from the amount reported by operators directly. This is a decrease from the 507,331m² released through survey in 2023, of which 324,223m² of mined area was cancelled through NTS and 183,108m² reduced through TS.¹⁰¹

In 2024, 114,055m² of AP mined area was added to the database, of which 68,021m² was previously unrecorded and the other 46,034m² was perimeter adjustments for existing AP mined areas.¹⁰² In addition, as at the end of 2023, LMAC reported a total of 2,734,741m² of "Dangerous Areas",¹⁰³ some of which may contain booby-traps and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These areas relate predominantly to rapid response or EOD spot tasks and are often the result of incidents having been reported to LMAC by the local community. Further investigation and/or survey is required in order to confirm the existence, type, and extent of any contamination.¹⁰⁴

Table 7: Release of mined area through NTS in 2024 (national authority data)¹⁰⁵

Province	Operator	Areas cancelled	Area cancelled (m ²)
Mount Lebanon	HI	4	3,933
	DCA	0	600
	MAG	2	5,374
	NPA	0	1,307
South of Lebanon	NPA	5	13,900
	MAG	0	9
Bekaa	DCA	5	55,320
Totals		*16	80,443

*A total of 16 SHAs were fully cancelled, while the remaining areas were partially released.

Table 8: Release of mined area through TS in 2024 (national authority data)¹⁰⁶

Province	Operator	Areas reduced	Area reduced (m ²)
Mount Lebanon	LAF ER	1	6,360
	DCA	1	11,460
	MAG	17	181,966
	HI	1	25,586
Total		20	225,372

CLEARANCE IN 2024

A total of 196,172m² of mined area was cleared in Lebanon in 2024, with 65 AP mines and 1 AV mine found and destroyed (see Table 9).¹⁰⁷ Data reported by LMAC for 2024 differed from the amount reported by operators directly. This is a decrease from the 293,963m² of mined area cleared in 2023 (270,513m² by NGOs and UNIFIL, and 23,450m² by the LAF), with a huge drop in the 10,623 AP mines destroyed (10,262 by demining NGOs and UNIFIL and 361 by the LAF), along with 783 AV mines.¹⁰⁸ In addition, 370 AP mines and 282 AV mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks in 2024.¹⁰⁹

From December 2024 to June 2025, UNIFIL cleared 1,651m² around United Nations positions; provided technical assistance, assessments, and clearance for 192 explosive remnants of war incidents and 326 roadblocks; and carried out battle area clearance along the outer perimeter of 43 positions. Teams also conducted reconnaissance and verification on four access lanes to the Blue Line and continued planning and prioritisation, which enabled clearance of the lanes and refurbishment of Blue Line markers to begin in the first quarter of 2026.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁰ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

¹⁰¹ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 16 May 2024.

¹⁰² Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Interview with Brig.-Gen. Elie Nassif, Director, and Brig.-Gen. Fakhri, Head of Operations, LMAC, Beirut, 18 April 2016.

¹⁰⁵ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025. In 2024, operators reported 22 areas totalling 74,476m² cancelled through NTS. In Mount Lebanon, HI cancelled four areas totalling 3,388m², MAG cancelled eight areas covering 5,374m², and NPA reported 653m² as cancelled though not linked to specific areas. This figure refers to changes in the total area of seven minefield tasks in El-Metn, where none was cancelled but some were reduced and others increased. In the south, NPA cancelled four areas covering a total of 9,732m² and MAG cancelled one area of 9m². In Bekaa, DCA cancelled five areas totalling 55,320m².

¹⁰⁶ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025. In 2024, operators reported a total of 29 areas reduced through TS, totalling 245,037m². In Mount Lebanon, DCA reduced three areas totalling 29,916m², MAG reduced 19 areas covering 190,509m², and HI reduced seven areas measuring 24,612m².

¹⁰⁷ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

¹⁰⁸ Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 16 May 2024.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Email from Aaron Buckley, UNMAS headquarters, 13 October 2025.

LMAC has its own category for IED tasks and they are not registered as mine clearance, but victim-activated IEDs discovered are included in the total of AP mines destroyed. None of the AP mines destroyed in 2024 was of an improvised nature.¹¹¹

Table 9: Mine clearance in 2024 (national authority data)¹¹²

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Mount Lebanon	LAF ER	59,204	47	0
	MAG	117,011	10	1
	DCA	3,718	8	0
	HI	16,239	0	0
Totals		196,172	65	1

Table 10: Area cleared in 2024 in which no AP mines were found (operator data)¹¹³

Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Comments
DCA	143	DCA suspended one high-altitude task due to winter conditions and, in coordination with LMAC, relocated the team to a lower-altitude site.
HI	15,239	HI found and destroyed 7 items of UXO.
MAG	75,851	MAG found and destroyed 6,631 items of UXO.
Total	91,233	

Almost half of all mined area cleared in 2024 did not contain AP (or AV) mines. According to LMAC, no AP mines were found in 327,880m² of the 421,544m² released through TS and clearance in 2024.¹¹⁴

From 2023 to 2024, there was an overall decrease in land release output as teams were redeployed from the South to Mount Lebanon and shifted focus from clearance to TS. There was also a reduction in the amount of NTS.¹¹⁵ DCA's operations were significantly affected by the security situation which caused prolonged suspensions, in addition

to weather-related disruptions.¹¹⁶ MAG also faced interruptions due to team stand-downs for security reasons and a relocation of activities away from the Blue Line, where clearance had been more productive thanks to favourable terrain and heavy mechanical support. In 2024, operations were limited to Mount Lebanon, where productivity is lower, though additional teams helped narrow the gap compared to 2023.¹¹⁷ NPA ceased minefield clearance entirely after October 2023, with work along the Blue Line suspended indefinitely; its operational focus has remained on cluster munition clearance.¹¹⁸

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

At the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC in 2019, Lebanon made a statement as an observer affirming its aspiration to become a State Party to the APMBC. The Minister of Defence, as head of the LMAA, confirmed he had no objections to accession, and LMAC pledged to act in the spirit of the Convention.¹¹⁹ Lebanon continues to promote accession and participates in APMBC meetings as an observer.¹²⁰

Clearance of mined areas was originally expected to be completed by the end of 2020, in accordance with the 2011–20 national strategy, but actual mine clearance capacity was far lower and progress against the strategy fell well behind schedule. Lebanon's National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 sets out annual targets through to 2026. In 2020, LMAC expected Lebanon to be free from known mined areas in ten years, with the application of efficient land release methodology and subject to securing the necessary funding.¹²¹ However, this looks to be very ambitious,

111 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.
112 Ibid. In 2024, operators reported a total of 37 areas cleared in Mount Lebanon, totalling 194,797m² with 18 AP mines and 1 AV mine found and destroyed. MAG cleared 25 areas totalling 117,011m² and destroyed 10 AP mines and 1 AV mine. DCA cleared five areas measuring 10,162m² and destroyed 8 AP mines. HI cleared 15,239m² but did not report any mines destroyed.
113 Emails from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 6 May 2025; Adnan Araj, HI, 28 April 2025; and Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 30 April 2025.
114 Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.
115 Ibid.
116 Email from Mohamed Chour, DCA, 6 May 2025.
117 Email from Sylvain Lefort, MAG, 30 April 2025.
118 Email from Southern Craib, NPA, 8 April 2025.
119 LMAC, Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2020–25, signed June 2020, p. 4; and LMAC, "Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of the LMAP Strategy (2020–2025)", p. 5.
120 LMAC, "Lebanon Mine Action Strategy 2020–2025", pp. 1 and 4.
121 Emails from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 19 March and 22 July 2020 and 15 March 2021; LMAC, "Annual Report 2020", p. 31; and LMAC, "Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of the LMAP Strategy (2020–2025)", p. 9.

considering the extent of the remaining mined area (15.8km²) and annual mine clearance rates of considerably less than 0.5km² per year, with a total of less than 1.5km² of mined area cleared in the last five years (see Table 11).

Furthermore, Lebanon has ambitious clearance targets set under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), to which Lebanon is a State Party. It is therefore likely that the focus of clearance efforts will be on CMR, especially given funding constraints.

Lebanon is unable to confirm a completion date for AP mine clearance, following the suspension of operations in the south from October 2023 to November 2024. Lebanon will provide a revised estimate once ongoing NTS has been completed and operational capacity and resources have been reassessed. The recent conflict has impacted AP mine survey and clearance, and with most mine contamination located along the Blue Line it is highly likely that markings have been damaged or removed and that NTS is required before clearance plans can be updated. These activities are also

dependent on a stable security environment, which remains uncertain. At the same time, steadily declining funding for mine action is reducing operational capacity, while national priorities have shifted towards enabling the return of displaced people, redirecting resources to areas newly contaminated with ERW rather than previously prioritised known minefields.¹²²

Table 11: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	0.20
2023	0.29
2022	0.22
2021	0.25
2020	0.35
Total	1.31

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

According to LMAC, the strategic implementation plan, which will support the National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25, will address an exit strategy and long-term risk management.¹²³ LMAC presented a draft exit strategy with respect to addressing residual risk after CCM Article 4 fulfilment to all stakeholders including donors at a Mine Action Forum meeting in 2022.¹²⁴ But details have yet to be provided on an exit strategy and long-term risk management strategy for residual AP mine clearance.

¹²² Email from Lt.-Col. Ali Makki, LMAC, 8 May 2025.

¹²³ Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 19 March 2020.

¹²⁴ Email from Lt.-Col. Fadi Wazen, LMAC, 29 March 2022.