

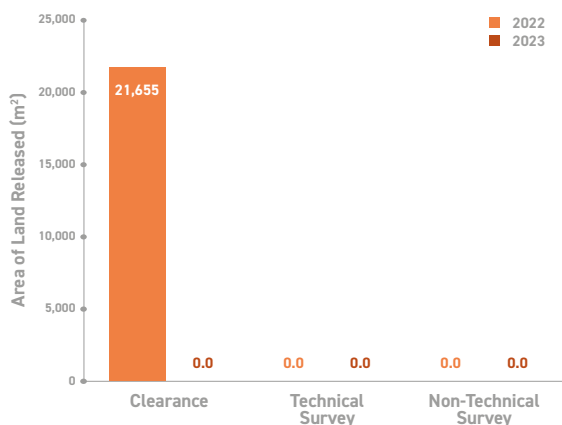
## KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION  
CONTAMINATION:

LIBMAC DATA

**18,092<sub>M</sub><sup>2</sup>**SUBMUNITION  
CLEARANCE IN 2023**0<sub>M</sub><sup>2</sup>**SUBMUNITIONS  
DESTROYED IN 2023**0**

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Libya should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- The “Libyan National Army” (LNA) should allow mine action operators to operate in the east and return all equipment and vehicles that has been seized from them.
- 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 draft and adopt a national mine action strategy.

## 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-Amna, 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. As of April 2024, the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) had identified 18,092m<sup>2</sup> of area contaminated by CMR.<sup>1</sup>

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 by rocket.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

In July 2019, LibMAC reported 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).<sup>4</sup> 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. In 2018–19, HI found further cluster munition strikes in Tawargha and Al Karareem.<sup>5</sup>

In May 2019, the LNA, led by commander Khalifa Haftar was accused of using cluster bombs in attacks in and around Tripoli.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Watch 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.<sup>8</sup>

The HALO Trust (HALO) reports that cluster munitions were kicked out 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 and 28 submunitions in 2022.<sup>9</sup> None of the international operators present in Libya reported discovering CMR in 2023.

### OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Libya is also contaminated by 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 improvised explosive devices (IEDs).<sup>10</sup>

## 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 Tripoli in early 2016. It has faced armed opposition from the LNA 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 with a roadmap leading to national elections in December 2021. Since then, Libya's progress towards elections have stalled and national elections were never held. A national reconciliation conference due to take place in April 2024 was not held.<sup>11</sup>

LibMAC was mandated by the Minister of Defence to coordinate mine action in December 2011.<sup>12</sup> Operating under the UN-backed GNA, LibMAC has its headquarters in Tripoli, with sub-offices in Misrata and Benghazi.<sup>13</sup> ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF), which started its capacity-building project in Libya in January 2014, pays the salary of 27 LibMAC employees and covers other overhead costs.<sup>14</sup>

In August 2023, the LNA ordered the suspension of three national and international mine action organisations operating in Benghazi and Sirt (DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and Free Fields Foundation (3F)), and seized vehicles and demining equipment, leading DRC and

- 1 Presentation by the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC), 27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors, Geneva, 9–11 April 2024.
- 2 Cluster Munition Monitor, "Libya: Cluster Munition Ban Policy", Last updated 27 July 2019.
- 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 Emails from Zita Andrassy, Programme Officer Libya, HALO, 27 February 2022; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2024.
- 10 "Lives and Limbs Shattered by Libya Mines", *Asharq Al-Awsat*, 5 April 2018, at: <https://bit.ly/3URCR5q>.
- 11 "As another UN envoy resigns, what next for Libya's frozen conflict?", *The New Arab*, 25 April 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3URCR5q>; and World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), "Will 2024 finally see elections in Libya?", Blog, 13 March 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4bFFFD>.
- 12 LibMAC website, accessed 9 May 2024, at: <http://bit.ly/2JqVr0S>.
- 13 Presentation of LibMAC, 27th NDM, Geneva, 9–11 April 2024.
- 14 ITF, *Annual Report 2023*, p. 103.

other organisations to halt all operations and close their office.<sup>15</sup> LibMAC said they were engaging in a dialogue with the concerned authorities to enable operations to resume.<sup>16</sup> The meeting of implementing partners, which was jointly chaired by UNMAS and LibMAC, discussed removing the suspension.<sup>17</sup>

UNMAS, which is part of the UN Support Mission In Libya (UNSMIL), has maintained a permanent presence since October 2020. UNMAS helped LibMAC develop the information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core, and, in collaboration with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) supported the migration of the database. UNMAS also supported the accreditation of two teams of a mine action organisation in 2023. UNMAS provided a three-week training to 16 LibMAC officers on "Operations and Quality Assurance".<sup>18</sup>

UNMAS and LibMAC chair monthly virtual and quarterly in-person implementing partners meetings, which are attended by key mine action stakeholders.<sup>19</sup>

Following an eight month-long visa blockade that had taken a heavy toll on operations in 2022, the issuance of visa and accreditation have significantly improved by the end of 2023. DCA and HALO confirmed that their staff managed to obtain visas on regular basis.<sup>20</sup> DRC staff acquired single-entry visa at the end of 2023, followed by multiple-entry visa at the beginning of 2024. At the beginning of 2024, DRC struggled to import explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) equipment into Libya.<sup>21</sup> HALO has not attempted to import equipment since November 2023, but has faced challenges moving assets from west to east Libya since the second half of 2023.<sup>22</sup>

In its Article 7 report for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), Türkiye said it provided training on mine clearance, counter improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and EOD in 2023.<sup>23</sup>

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## 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.<sup>24</sup>

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.<sup>25</sup> Women constituted 17% of all DCA employees in 2023. Of managerial and operational positions, 57% and 29% were occupied by women, respectively.<sup>26</sup>

DRC takes into consideration gender and age factors when collecting information on how contamination impacts

different groups. DRC employed mixed gender teams in the field in 2023, and continues where possible.<sup>27</sup> In 2023, 22% of DRC's staff were female. Women occupied 43% of managerial and 63% of operational positions.<sup>28</sup>

HALO's community liaison officers in Libya are all women. Data collected are disaggregated by gender and age. HALO, however, reported difficulty in hiring women for operational demining roles.<sup>29</sup> Of a total of 25 HALO staff in 2023, 20% were women. In terms of managerial/supervisory positions, 40% were filled by women. Women did not occupy any operational positions in 2023.<sup>30</sup>

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## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Libya does not have a national mine action standard (NMAS) or a policy on environmental management.<sup>31</sup>

DCA has an environmental management system and standard operational procedures (SOPs) in place. It takes into account the impacts of the destruction of explosive remnants of war (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. DCA conducts environmental assessments to support the planning and delivery of tasks and mitigate any environmental damage.

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15 Emails from Wajdi AlKhatib, DRC, 19 April 2024; and Tess Bresnan, UNMAS, 7 June 2024.

16 Ibid.

17 Emails from Tess Bresnan, UNMAS, 3 May and 7 June 2024.

18 Ibid.; and emails from Sharmeela Aminath, UNMAS, 16 March 2023; and Samir Becirovic, UNMAS, 2 March 2022.

19 Emails from Sharmeela Aminath, UNMAS, 16 March 2023; Samir Becirovic, UNMAS, 10 June 2022, and Tess Bresnan, UNMAS, 3 May 2024.

20 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, Country Director, DCA, 16 April 2024; and Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

21 Email from Wajdi AlKhatib, DRC, 19 April 2024.

22 Email from Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

23 2023 Article 7 report of Türkiye to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

24 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.

25 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 April 2021.

26 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 17 March 2023 and 16 April 2024.

27 Emails from Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022; and Anna Salvani, DRC, 26 June 2023.

28 Email from Wajdi AlKhatib, DRC, 19 April 2024.

29 Email from Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022.

30 Email from Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

31 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022; Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022; and Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022.

Factors taken into consideration include soil integrity, land used for local food production, water supply, animal, and plant life. DCA also takes into account climate related or extreme weather risks, particularly with the increasing violent weather patterns and increasing floods in the areas of operation.<sup>32</sup>

DRC does not have an environmental management system. It takes into account “do-not-harm” elements in consideration of environmental impact and policy when planning its operations. A new global climate and environment team has been established to support the development and roll-out of

the key priority areas set forward in DRC’s 2025 strategy and climate and environment framework.<sup>33</sup>

HALO has an environment policy in place. In 2023, HALO Libya developed its rubble recycling capabilities and secured funding for a rubble recycling pilot project as rubble can be crushed and repurposed for various concrete and road building applications. A key objective of rubble recycling is to reduce emissions from concrete production. Rubble recycling also reduces natural resource extraction in addition to thousands of tonnes of rubble occupying space at a landfill site.<sup>34</sup>

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

LibMAC receives technical support in information management from the GICHD and UNMAS. LibMAC successfully completed the upgrade of IMSMA database from New Generation (NG) version to IMSMA Core in 2023.<sup>35</sup> The information in the database is extensive but is focused on major cities. Further NTS is required in the north and there are anecdotal reports of more explosive contamination in the south of the country. In some instances, polygons are very large, over 10km<sup>2</sup>, and the length of time since the original survey indicates a need to resurvey.<sup>36</sup>

The use of Survey123 for data collection in the field has enabled LibMAC to encourage organisations to accelerate the submission process and enhance the visibility of reporting issues.<sup>37</sup>

## PLANNING AND TASKING

There is no national mine action strategy for Libya.<sup>38</sup> In April 2024, LibMAC said it planned to draft a mine action strategy with the support of GICHD and UNMAS. The GICHD was carrying out a general assessment to the Libya mine action programme in the second half of 2024. LibMAC does not appear to prioritise survey or clearance of CMR, but has been prioritising clearance of other explosive ordnance around of essential infrastructure and public facilities, such as Tripoli airport, main roads, power lines, and residential areas.<sup>39</sup> In April 2024, LibMAC issued a clear direction for mine action operators to prioritise BAC.<sup>40</sup>

LibMAC is responsible for issuing task orders. But owing to the small number of clearance teams in Libya, the priority is responding to call-outs, particularly from returning internally displaced persons (IDPs). Therefore, much of the clearance is reactive EOD spot tasks in order to minimise an immediate threat to life.<sup>41</sup>

## 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 2017. The LibMAS are available on the LibMAC website.<sup>42</sup> According to international clearance operators, the LibMAS are sufficient and aligned to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).<sup>43</sup> But the national standards have not been updated since being approved in 2017.<sup>44</sup>

32 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie 1 April 2022 and 16 April 2024.

33 Emails from Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022, and Wajdi AlKhatib, DRC, 19 April 2024.

34 Email from Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

35 Email from Tess Bresnan, UNMAS, 3 May 2024.

36 Email from Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

37 Ibid.

38 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.

39 Presentation of LibMAC, 27th NDM meeting, Geneva, 9–11 April 2024.

40 Emails from Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024; and Tess Bresnan, UNMAS, 6 June 2024.

41 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 April 2021 and 17 March 2023.

42 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>.

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

44 Email from Wajdi AlKhatib, DRC, 19 April 2024.

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Mine action operations have been conducted by government entities, in particular LibMAC as a leader in mine action response, but also the National Safety Authority (NSA), which is mandated to conduct EOD in civilian areas.<sup>45</sup> These institutions liaise with LibMAC but are not tasked or accredited by them, nor do they provide clearance reports to the Centre.<sup>46</sup>

**Table 1: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2023<sup>47</sup>**

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	TS teams	Total TS personnel	Comment
3F <sup>48</sup>	2	6	0	0	
DCA	2	16	0	0	
DRC	1	4	0	0	
HALO	1	4	0	0	NTS team was made redundant in mid 2023
Libya Peace Organisation <sup>49</sup>	2	6	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

TS = Technical survey

**Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2023<sup>50</sup>**

Operator	Manual clearance teams	Total deminers	Dog teams (dogs and handlers)	Mechanical assets/machines
DCA	6	54	0	0
HALO	0	0	0	4 (3 excavators + 1 bobcat skidsteer). Two tipper trucks are also involved in clearance.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

Four national operators are currently active in Libya: 3F, The Safe Trust (Al-Thiqa Al-Amena), Communication (Al-Tawasol), and Libya Peace Organisation.<sup>51</sup> Libya Peace Organisation, which partners with DRC, is accredited by LibMAC to conduct NTS, EOD, and risk education.<sup>52</sup>

Now in its fourteenth year of working in Libya, DCA has offices in Benghazi, Misrata, Sirte, and Tripoli, and is accredited to conduct clearance and EOD tasks.<sup>53</sup> DCA's capacity did not see significant changes in 2023, but was expected to decrease in 2024 due to budget reductions.<sup>54</sup>

DRC has been set up in Libya since 2011 and DRC had three offices in Libya: in 2013–21 in Sabha (southern region); in 2018–23 in Benghazi (eastern region); and since 2011 in Tripoli. DRC Tripoli office has a capacity of one EOD team, one

NTS team, two risk education teams, and a capacity-building project with the partner Libya Peace Organisation. DRC intended to establish a new NTS team to operate in Tripoli in 2024.<sup>55</sup>

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 one EOD team in 2021, which was deployed to support the clearance activities in Misrata in 2022.<sup>56</sup> HALO made redundant one NTS team, one mechanical clearance team, and one manual clearance team in 2023 due to funding cuts. In March 2024, HALO recruited an additional mechanical clearance team, and cross-trained an EOD team in NTS.<sup>57</sup>

45 Interview with Brig. Turjoman, LibMAC, in Geneva, 10 January 2017; and email from Tess Bresnan, UNMAS, 3 May 2024.

46 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.

47 Emails from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021; Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 16 April 2024; Wajdi AlKhatib, DRC, 19 April 2024; and Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

48 This information was last updated in April 2021.

49 Ibid.

50 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 16 April 2024; and Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

51 Presentation of LibMAC to the 27th NDM meeting, Geneva, 9–11 April 2024.

52 Free Fields Foundations (3F) website, accessed on 20 May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4bnui8h>; and email from Wajdi Alkhatib, DRC, 10 June 2024.

53 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022 and 17 March 2023.

54 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 16 April 2024.

55 Emails from Wajdi AlKhatib, DRC, 19 April and 10 June 2024.

56 Emails from Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022; and Charles Fowle, HALO, 5 May 2023.

57 Email from Josh Ridley, HALO, 16 May 2024.

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

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None of the international operators found CMR in Libya in 2023. Survey or clearance by national operators was not reported to Mine Action Review.

### SURVEY IN 2023

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None of the international operators reported CMR survey in Libya in 2023.

### CLEARANCE IN 2023

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None of the international operators found CMR in Libya in 2023.

### PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

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A baseline survey is badly needed, but is not practicable in the current political and security context. The strengthening of LibMAC as a mine action coordination entity in Libya continues to be a priority.