LIBYA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

No credible estimate, but believed to be light

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m²)	Release in 2024 (m²)
Clearance	0	0
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	0	0

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Libya made no progress in survey or clearance of anti-personnel (AP) mined areas in 2025 or 2024, as efforts continued to focus on battle area clearance (BAC). The extent of AP mined area remains unknown. National ownership was strengthened with the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) developing a national mine action strategy and reviewing the national mine action standards (NMAS). Funding and operational challenges, however, persisted. The suspension of operations of 10 humanitarian organisations ordered by the Internal Security Agency (ISA) since May 2025 has significantly hindered progress, while a fragile political and financial environment continues to restrict programme performance.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Libya should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.**
- **Libya should conduct a baseline survey to identify the extent of AP mined area and plan for its release.**
- **Libya should strengthen LibMAC's authority to coordinate mine action nationwide, and ensure all actors are tasked and report through one national mechanism.**
- **National authorities and relevant security actors should facilitate the work of accredited operators across the country. This includes addressing visa delays and import restrictions, and lifting arbitrary suspensions of operations.**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National Safety Authority (NSA), conducting emergency spot tasks in civilian areas
- Libyan Military Engineering Units
- Free Fields Foundation (3F)
- The Safe Trust (Al-Thiqa al-Amena [TAD]), accredited and supported by DCA
- Libya Peace Organisation (accredited and supported by DRC)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

There is no accurate figure for the extent of mined area in Libya, and reported contamination figures are confused and sometimes contradictory. Earlier estimates of significant contamination have not been repeated in recent years. A survey conducted by The HALO Trust (HALO) in 2025 identified one suspected hazardous area (SHA) of 39,277m^2 containing AP mines around Sirte airport.[1]

On 10 September 2023, storm Daniel hit the north-east of Libya, destroying two ageing dams and causing severe flooding that affected Benghazi, Derna, and other populated areas. DanChurchAid (DCA) said the floods have greatly increased the risk of exposure to mines and other explosive ordnance as floodwaters shifted ordnance to previously cleared areas. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told the media that explosive ordnance and other unused ammunition still stored in the area, particularly in the old town of Derna, have been displaced.[2]

The Libyan National Army (LNA) launched an offensive on Tripoli in 2019–20, and reportedly left an unknown number of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) before withdrawing in June of the same year. Many of these devices fall within the scope of the APMBC.[3] Human Rights Watch reported that between April 2019 and June 2020, the LNA and affiliated forces, including the Wagner Group, a Russian government-linked private military security contractor, placed "enormous" quantities of munitions, including AP mines, in Tripoli's southern districts. Some devices were hidden inside homes and other structures, in some cases inside furniture, and were often activated by tripwire.[4]

Multiple types of AP mines were used or left behind as part of abandoned stockpiles across the country at the start of the conflict in 2011.[5] DCA confirmed the presence of AP fragmentation and bounding mines and mines fitted with anti-lift devices in Tripoli, along with legacy IEDs in Benghazi and Sirte. According to DCA, the extent of mined area has remained the same since the fighting around Tripoli in 2020. There have been reports of mines causing fatalities in the west of Sirte outside the city limits, but non-technical survey (NTS) of mined area has not been conducted in that area.[6]

In 2025, HALO identified a suspected minefield covering 39,277m^2 during NTS around the perimeter of Sirte airport and Gaddafi-era stockpiles. Sirte airport, which reopened for civilian use in late 2025, was previously largely used as a military base. The suspected minefield is likely to extend to the entire perimeter of the airport. The survey confirmed the presence of minimum-metal Brazilian T-AB-1 AP mines.[7]

AP mines continue to be found and cause incidents every year. A bounding OZM Soviet-made AP mine was removed from a public road in Suq al-Jumaa neighbourhood of Tripoli city in December 2024; in July 2025, a plastic AP mine was dismantled at a resort in Tajoura (east of Tripoli); another AP mine was destroyed in a spot task in Salah al-Din neighbourhood in Tripoli in October 2025.[8] In addition, two mine explosions during a desert rally in the al-Jufra region in central Libya in November 2024 killed one person and injured four others. The media attributed the mine-laying to the Wagner Group but did not specify the mine types,[9] which are likely anti-vehicle (AV) mines. For more information on casualties and use, please see the country profile on Libya on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[10]

1 Email from Julia Eckelmann, Programme Manager, HALO, 30 April 2026.

2 DanChurchAid (DCA), Devastation in Libya after storm Daniel, 14 September 2023, DCA website accessed 9 May 2024, https://bit.ly/44yd3hW; and "After Libya flood, unexploded weapons pose new risk", *Al Jazeera*, 21 September 2023, https://bit.ly/3QD58dM.

3 ITF Enhancing Human Security, "Annual Report 2020", p. 78; and UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Agreement for a complete and permanent ceasefire in Libya, Geneva, 23 October 2022, https://bit.ly/3Bunnej.

4 Human Rights Watch, "Libya: Russia's Wagner Group Set Landmines Near Tripoli", 31 May 2022, https://bit.ly/3xRfzQy.

5 Landmine Monitor, "Libya", accessed 27 June 2022.

6 Emails from Zita Andrassy, Programme Officer Libya, HALO, 27 February 2022; Graeme Ogilvie, Country Director, DCA, 1 April 2022; and Dan Richards, Programme Manager, HALO, 3 September 2026.

7 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

8 "Removal of a mine from ERW in Souq al-Jumaa neighbourhood", (in Arabic), *al-Wasat*, 27 December 2024, https://tinyurl.com/bdvfpcfr; "Dismantling an AP mine in a resort in Tajoura, east of Tripoli", (in Arabic), *LANA*, 1 August 2025, https://shorturl.at/JEo8k; and "Video footage…destroying an AP mine in Salah al-Din neighbourhood", (in Arabic), *al-Wasat*, 3 October 2025, https://tinyurl.com/4a39sbtv.

9 "Another landmine blasts in Tete Desert Rally and fingers point to Wagner", *The Libya Observer*, 9 November 2024, https://shorturl.at/DFwBG.

10 https://the-monitor.org.

In August 2025, an explosion at an ammunition depot in Misrata, Skeirat, led to explosive ordnance contamination affecting a three-to-four-kilometre radius and injuring at least 21 people. LibMAC and operators subsequently conducted emergency clearance and risk education.[11] HALO did not encounter any AP mines that had been kicked out of the storage area during its clearance at the site.[12]

Demining in Libya has increasingly focused on BAC to address explosive remnants of war (ERW) threats near populated areas and critical infrastructure. A January 2026 review identified the south of Tripoli, Mizdah, Sirte, and the Gulf of Bomba in eastern Libya as operational priorities due to the high levels of ERW contamination.[13] In 2025, LibMAC recorded 63 victims of explosive ordnance contamination, including 21 children.[14] Data were not disaggregated by the type of contamination causing the incidents.

Mined areas, mainly in the east and predominantly of AV mines, are legacy contamination from the Second World War, subsequent armed conflict with Egypt in 1977 (mapped, fenced, and marked pattern minefields), and the armed conflict with Chad in 1978–87. This also resulted in mines being laid on Libya's borders with these two neighbours. Mine contamination is also the result of the Libyan uprising of 2011 and subsequent armed conflicts. The border with Tunisia is also believed to be affected by mines.[15]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

After the overthrow of Libyan dictator General Muammar Al Gaddafi in 2011, the country's massive weapons arsenal was left unguarded and munitions were seized by various armed groups.[16] The same year, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces bombarded ammunition storage sites, destroying 13 of the 37 located across the country, and resulting in large-scale contamination of mixed types of explosive ordnance. Many of the kicked-out munitions remain buried.[17] Dozens of abandoned ammunition storage depots in western and southern Libya have never been cleared. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) estimates that 100,000 tonnes of ammunition remain under the rubble in these areas.[18]

Libya is also contaminated by large quantities of abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO) and unexploded ordnance (UXO), including cluster munition remnants (CMR) (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2026* report on Libya for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Mine action in Libya exists in a fragmented and occasionally violent political context. Since 2014, the country has been effectively split between east and west, with rival administrations governing in each area; the UN-backed Government of National Unity (GNU) in Tripoli (west), and the Government of National Stability (GNS), based in the eastern city of Benghazi, which is supported by the House of Representatives and backed by the LNA.[19]

LibMAC was mandated by the Minister of Defence to coordinate mine action in 2011.[20] Operating under the GNU, LibMAC has its headquarters in Tripoli, with sub-offices in Misrata and Benghazi.[21] A new director general, Brigadier General Khalil al-Shibli, was appointed to run LibMAC in January 2025.[22] ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF), which started its capacity-building project in Libya in 2014, pays the salaries of 25 LibMAC employees and covers essential operational expenses.[23] Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is supporting the capacity development of LibMAC, focusing on victim assistance and risk education.[24]

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) also supports the capacity development of LibMAC on information management, national mine action standards, strategic planning, gender and diversity, and risk education.[25]

Libya's operating environment has been progressively restrictive. In 2023, the LNA ordered the suspension of three national and international mine action organisations operating in Benghazi and Sirte—DCA, DRC, and Free Fields Foundation (3F)—and seized vehicles and demining equipment, leading DRC and other organisations to halt all

11 UNSMIL, "UN and Italy review progress on clearing Misratah blast site", 30 November 2025; and "16 people injured in ammunition depot explosion in Misrata", *The Libya Observer*, 1 September 2025.

12 Email from Daniel Richards, HALO, 3 September 2026.

13 "The UN mission reviews with its implementing partners the work completed in mine clearance", *Libyan News Agency (LANA)*, 29 January 2026, https://shorturl.at/47AQ8.

14 UNSMIL, "On International Mine Awareness Day, UN calls for urgent investment in mine action to protect civilians and bolster stability in Libya", 4 April 2026, https://shorturl.at/YtrRu.

15 Interview with Col. Turjoman, Director, LibMAC, in Geneva, 7 February 2019; and "Libya: The Toxic and Explosive Legacy of Modern Conflict", Presentation by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UN National Directors Meeting, Geneva, 12 February 2020.

16 "After Libya flood, unexploded weapons pose new risk", *Al Jazeera*, 21 September 2023, https://bit.ly/3QD58dM.

17 Presentation of LibMAC, NDM27, Geneva, 9–11 April 2024.

18 "UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Libya Situation Report, 5 Apr 2022 [EN/AR]", 5 April 2022, https://tinyurl.com/3maw5w38, p. 3.

19 "Libya's UN Missions panel finalizes set of options aimed at resolving elections' issues", *Reuters*, 2 May 2025; "UN expert criticizes Libya political division, national election delays", *Jurist News*, 23 April 2026; and "Power without a throne: how Khalifa Haftar controls Libya", *The Guardian*, 5 March 2026.

20 LibMAC website, accessed 9 May 2024, http://bit.ly/2JqVr0S.

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

22 LibMAC, "Brigadier General Khalil Al-Shabli was appointed as Director General of the Libyan Mine Action Center", 27 January 2025, https://shorturl.at/Ol1rG.

23 ITF, "Annual Report 2025", p. 115.

24 Email from Almedina Musić, Humanitarian Mine Action and Peacebuilding Coordinator, DRC, 6 April 2026.

25 Email from Christelle Mestre, Advisor, Strategic Planning, GICHD, 17 July 2025.

operations and close their offices.[26] The suspension lasted for seven months, with the equipment only being returned to the operators in May 2024.[27]

One year on, in May 2025, the ISA issued a directive requiring the suspension of 10 international aid organisations and the closure of their offices, including DRC. This led DRC to stand down its operational teams and close down its offices between May and September 2025. DRC resumed limited mine action activities from its office in Tripoli in late 2025.[28] An ISA spokesperson used racially charged language to frame the crackdown as a response to allegations of "resettling migrants" in the country.[29] These allegations were rejected by a group of NGOs, who in a joint press release, called on the Libyan authorities to reverse their decision and ensure an enabling humanitarian environment.[30]

UNMAS deployed to Libya in 2011 and was then integrated into the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). In 2025, UNMAS supported the 5+5 Training Centre for Humanitarian Demining[31] for the third time, delivering training on the role of NTS and the land release process.[32]

UNMAS and LibMAC chair regular implementing partner meetings, which are attended by donors and key mine action stakeholders, including DCA, DRC, and HALO.[33] DCA sees the coordination meetings as an effective platform for keeping operators informed and for presenting challenges and progress to donors. They also commend LibMAC's strong coordination of tasking.[34] HALO suggested that coordination could be strengthened by organising more operationally oriented coordination meetings attended by all operators.[35] Indeed, LibMAC, with the support of UNMAS, called for the first operational meeting in June 2026, focused exclusively on operational and technical matters. LibMAC informed operators that regular operational meetings will be organised two weeks prior to each implementing partners' meeting, with participation of national and international mine action actors. At the time of writing, the next operational meeting was due to be held in November 2026, ahead of the already-scheduled implementing partners meeting.[36]

As in previous years, there was limited engagement from the eastern national authorities in the coordination forums in 2025. For example, the LibMAC East Coordinator attended only one coordination meeting in Tripoli in 2025 and convened a meeting with operators in Benghazi that was attended by only two organisations, and without participation of international staff due to short notice and security clearance requirements. LibMAC participation, however, improved in 2026 with representatives from LibMAC Misrata and Benghazi attending both implementing partners and operational meetings in June 2026. LibMAC Misrata co-chaired with DRC a technical working group on victim assistance and risk education, while participation from LibMAC Benghazi was not possible due to unavailability of flights.[37] HALO also noted improved participation in coordination meetings, with the Libyan Red Crescent and the ICRC, among others, increasing visibility of their activities in the East.[38]

UNSMIL and Italy convened the first Mine Action Support Group in July 2025. A second annual meeting in May 2026 brought together ten states and the European Union, and called for donor coordination through the Berlin Process International Security Working Group.[39]

Accounts from operators vary in their assessments of the operational environment in Libya. DCA said it operated in an enabling environment where LibMAC and the relevant ministries facilitated the granting of visas and importation of equipment.[40] DRC reported that visas for international staff were often delayed by security and bureaucratic hurdles. Requests, memos, and official registration approvals continued to progress slowly due to procedural complexity.[41] HALO's international staff were, however, able to obtain six-month multiple-entry visas without challenge.[42]

DRC reported that, before its office closure in May 2025, importation of equipment was complicated by customs and tax regulations. Specific restrictions apply to certain types of equipment, such as thermite and other controlled materials, which require special approvals or are prohibited altogether, while the import of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) materials was only possible via Turkish NATO forces. HALO similarly noted that the importation of sensitive equipment requires support from national authorities and an extensive customs clearance process, significantly extending timelines. Moreover, the logistical constraints of moving assets between eastern and western Libya persisted.[43]

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

27 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 May 2025.

28 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026.

29 "Libyan authorities suspend 10 international aid groups providing crucial assistance to migrants", *Associated Press News*, 8 April 2025.

30 ReliefWeb, "Libya: Stop the crackdown on NGOs supporting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers", 17 April 2025.

31 The 5+5 Training Centre for Humanitarian Demining (THCD) operates under Libya's Ministry of Defence and promotes cooperation among the 5+5 initiative Member States: France, Italy, Portugal, Malta, Spain; and Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia.

32 UNMAS website, Libya, last updated February 2026.

33 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 30 March 2026; Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026; and Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

34 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 May 2025.

35 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

36 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 31 August 2026.

37 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 31 August 2026.

38 Emails from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 23 May 2025 and 30 April 2026.

39 UNSMIL, "Charting a mine-free future: UNSMIL and Italy convene Libya's first Mine Action Support Group", 31 July 2025, https://shorturl.at/cCAVi; and UN Libya, "International partners pledge continued support for mine action in Libya", 25 May 2026, https://tinyurl.com/2a8n6bv2.

40 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 30 March 2026.

41 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026.

42 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

43 Emails from Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026; and Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

The limited access to cash and the weak financial system have remained long-standing obstacles to operations. Delays in money transfers have complicated cooperation with DRC's national partner, the Libyan Peace Organization (LPO). According to HALO, while international transfers to Libyan bank accounts were possible, withdrawal limits and approval processes for internal transfers and withdrawals remained "challenging".[44]

In its Article 7 report under the APMBC, Türkiye said it provided the Libyan Armed Forces personnel with mine, IED, and EOD training.[45]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

DCA has been supported by the United States (US) Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) which granted new funding in 2025, continuing a nine-year relationship in Libya. This support faced a short hiatus in 2025 which was quickly lifted. In addition, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) granted DCA five-year funding. Both donors will continue funding DCA in 2026.[46] DRC was funded by the Netherlands MoFA, and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The Dutch multi-country grant that started in September 2020 officially concluded in March 2025. DANIDA funding will run until mid-September 2026, and additional funding from the Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS) through a consortium with INTERSOS and WeWorld has started in August 2026. All the funding secured by DRC for 2026 has been allocated for risk education, through its local partner LPO, and for capacity building of LibMAC on victim assistance and risk education. No funding was allocated for survey and clearance.[47]

HALO was funded for survey and clearance in 2025 by PM/WRA. In 2025, US funding was paused for four weeks in January–February due to the Foreign Assistance Review, but then resumed. Italy and Spain provided funding to HALO through an UNMAS grant which financed local partner organisation teams conducting survey, clearance, and risk education in Misrata and Tripoli. Both the PM/WRA funding to HALO and UNMAS's sub-contract to the local partner organisation was continuing through 2026.[48] UNMAS was funded in 2025 from the UNSMIL regular budget and by bilateral donors, including Italy and Spain.[49] For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Libya on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[50]

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.[51] In February 2026, LibMAC organised a risk education training programme targeting 19 female social and psychosocial specialists from the Ministry of Education.[52]

Table 1: Gender composition of operators in 2025[53]

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
DCA	23	8 (35%)	7	3 (43%)	14	0 (0%)
DRC*	2	1 (50%)	2	1 (50%)	0	0 (0%)
HALO	33	4 (12%)	10	3 (30%)	21	0 (0%)
Totals	**58**	**13 (22%)**	**19**	**7 (37%)**	**35**	**0 (0%)**

* DRC figures include only its mine action personnel (which have been reduced due to the suspension of activities) and not its entire programme capacity in Libya.

In 2024, DCA continued to build the capacity of its all-female EOD and risk education teams until the project concluded in August. In 2026, thanks to approved funding from the Netherlands, DCA was re-establishing the all-women risk education and all-women NTS teams.[54] DRC's Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding Strategy 2024–2025 and action plan included a chapter on age, gender, and diversity (AGDM). A new Strategy for 2026–28 is under development and will continue to incorporate AGDM priorities.

44 Ibid.
45 Türkiye APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form I.
46 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 30 March 2026.
47 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026.
48 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.
49 UNMAS website, Libya, last updated February 2026.
50 https://the-monitor.org.
51 Email from Col. Adel Elatwi, LibMAC, 22 April 2021.
52 LibMAC, "Delivering a mine and explosive ordnance training course" (translation from Arabic), 5 February 2026.
53 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 30 March 2026; Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026; and Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.
54 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 May 2025 and 30 March 2026.

DRC systematically integrates age and gender disaggregation in all humanitarian mine action proposals and reporting, in line with the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) 05.10 minimum requirements, and following the AGDM assessment of the humanitarian mine sector in Libya conducted by the GICHD in 2023.[55]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Libya does not have a dedicated NMAS or policy on environmental management.[56]

Table 2: Environmental policies and action[57]

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
DCA	No (but SOPs exist)	Yes	Yes
DRC	No (but SOPs exist)	Yes	No (No current survey or clearance operations in Libya)
HALO	Yes	No (Environmental factors are included in risk assessment tools applied to every HALO activity)	No (HALO's global environmental manager advises on country-level initiatives)

Between 2024 and 2026, DCA introduced several environmentally conscious practices, including replacing plastic and synthetic fibre sandbags with sustainable hemp alternatives and continuing the use of thermite lances to limit explosive use and prevent soil contamination. It also transitioned its field offices to solar energy. Additionally, DCA teams have been clearing land in support of the government's agro-ecology project, contributing directly to Libya's one million tree-planting carbon sequestration initiative and supporting broader climate change mitigation.[58]

DRC continued to implement environmental measures in Libya in 2025, applying a "do no harm" approach to minimise its environmental footprint.[59]

In 2025, HALO hosted a consultant debris management expert to propose applications for rubble recycling in HALO's area of operations in Misrata in 2026.[60]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

LibMAC receives technical support in information management (IM) from the GICHD and UNMAS. In 2023, LibMAC successfully upgraded its IMSMA database from the New Generation (NG) version to IMSMA Core.[61] While the database contains extensive information, it is largely focused on cities.

According to HALO, data collected and entered into IMSMA Core from 2023 onwards were accessible and provided sufficient information on ongoing activities. Information gaps exist, however, in data collected before 2023, indicating the need to resurvey. A resurvey was conducted in Sirte in 2025 in an effort to address the prevalence of outdated survey data from 2021. But the challenge remains in Tripoli. Contamination mapping in the east and south is also very limited, particularly in the south, where recorded contamination does not reflect the scale of previous conflicts.[62]

Operators report adequate access to the database.[63] HALO noted that quality management reports are accessible through IMSMA Core, though retrieving them directly requires IM expertise.[64]

55 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026.
56 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 1 April 2022; Alessandro Di Giusto, DRC, 7 March 2022; and Zita Andrassy, HALO, 27 February 2022.
57 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 30 March 2026; Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026; and Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.
58 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 May 2025 and 30 March 2026.
59 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026.
60 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.
61 Email from Tess Bresnan, UNMAS, 3 May 2024.
62 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.
63 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 20 May 2025; Yeison Zuluaga Gomez, DRC, 4 June 2025; and Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 23 May 2025.
64 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

PLANNING AND TASKING

With the support of GICHD and UNMAS, LibMAC drafted a National Mine Action Strategy for 2027–31, and presented it at a July 2026 coordination meeting. The strategy covers clearance, risk education, victim assistance, capacity building and information management. As at July 2026, the strategy was pending submission to the competent authorities for formal adoption.[65]

In April 2026, LibMAC, with the support of the GICHD and UNMAS, developed a preliminary prioritisation tool for land release and risk education activities.[66] In January 2026, LibMAC identified southern Tripoli, Mizdah, Sirte, and the Gulf of Bomba as priority areas of operation due to the high levels of ERW contamination.[67] LibMAC reviews implementation plans and is said to issue task orders in a timely and effective manner.[68]

In 2024, following the intervention of the Libyan Reconstruction Fund/National Development Agency in redevelopment of hazardous areas in Sirte, LibMAC advised HALO to focus on ammunition storage areas as priority for clearance, given its unique mechanical clearance capacity and the demand for this capacity across Libya.[69] HALO has since continued to prioritise ammunition storage sites affected by explosions, including the Skeirat site which it surveyed in September 2025 and planned to clear mechanically in 2026.[70]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

National mine action standards (LibMAS), in Arabic and English were developed with the support of the GICHD and UNMAS, and were approved by the government in 2017. The LibMAS are available on the LibMAC website.[71] According to international clearance operators, the LibMAS are sufficient and aligned to IMAS.[72] But the national standards have not been updated since being approved in 2017. The GICHD and LibMAC conducted a workshop in June 2025 on NMAS review with operators' participation.[73] In June 2026, LibMAC and UNMAS told operators during the operational/technical meeting that eight NMAS were under revision, and another five had already been reviewed. A separate working group was to be established and meet regularly to move the process forward.

Operators suggested following the Ukrainian example by involving the GICHD and sharing written inputs from each organisation prior to the working group meetings, and LibMAC was supposed to meet the GICHD in June, but no further updates were shared since.[74] HALO held a joint workshop with the GICHD and LibMAC specific to the mechanical land release standards, and DRC was expected to engage in the development of victim assistance related NMAS. LibMAC formed a technical committee to follow up on the review process, and selected 3F to represent operators in following up on the review process.[75]

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.[76] The NSA liaises with LibMAC but is not tasked or accredited by them, nor does it report to the Centre.[77] International operators did not deploy mine survey or clearance capacity in 2025.

DCA has offices in Misrata and Tripoli, and is accredited to conduct clearance and EOD tasks.[78] Following the closure of its offices in May 2025, DRC resumed limited humanitarian mine action activities from its main office in Tripoli in late 2025, mainly focusing on capacity building of national partners, including LPO and LibMAC.[79] HALO has offices in Misrata and Sirte, as well as liaison presence in Benghazi.[80] In 2025, HALO conducted mechanical clearance in ammunition storage, and in 2026, bunker clearance. HALO's multi-task team responded to EOD call-outs in Sirte throughout 2025 and conducted resurvey and emergency EOD support.[81]

65 LibMAC, "Libyan Mine Action Center Highlights Achievements and Launches National Strategy 2027–2031", 28 July 2026.

66 LibMAC, "Conclusion of Workshop on Prioritizing Risk Education and Land Release in Libya", 15 April 2026, https://shorturl.at/ExCQb.

67 "The UN mission reviews with its implementing partners the work completed in mine clearance", *LANA*, 29 January 2026, https://shorturl.at/47AQ8.

68 Emails from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 30 March 2026; Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026; and Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

69 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 23 May 2025.

70 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.

71 LibMAC website, accessed 20 May 2022. 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.

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

73 Emails from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, Libya, 23 May 2025; and Christelle Mestre, GICHD, 17 July 2025.

74 Email from Almedina Musić, DRC, 31 August 2026.

75 Emails from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026; Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026; and LibMAC, "Workshop on the development of NMAS for mine action and ERW", 30 July 2025.

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

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

78 Email from Graeme Ogilvie, DCA, 22 July 2025.

79 Emails from Wajdi Alkhatib, DRC, 19 April and 10 June 2024; and Almedina Musić, DRC, 6 April 2026.

80 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, Libya, 23 May 2025.

81 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, Libya, 30 April 2026.

The national operator, 3F, completed TS and clearance of landmines and ERW at the Tripoli Zoo site in October 2025, where military points had been positioned during the May 2025 clashes in Tripoli.[82] The Safe Trust (TAD) organisation completed a task for clearing landmines and ERW in a land plot located at the wildlife park in Tripoli in 2025, and LibMAC issued a clearance certificate of the site in January 2026.[83] LPO disposed of two tonnes of UXO in April 2025 in a demolition site east of Misrata.[84] The numbers of AP mines found and destroyed by national operators, if any, were not reported to Mine Action Review. All three national operators, in addition to HALO, were part of the EOD emergency response to the Skeirat ammunition site explosion in Misrata.[85]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

None of the international operators found AP mines in Libya in 2025. Survey or clearance carried out by national operators were not reported to Mine Action Review.

SURVEY IN 2025

None of the international operators reported releasing AP mined area through survey in Libya in 2025 or 2024. HALO identified one SHA of 39,277m^2 containing AP mines around Sirte airport.[86]

CLEARANCE IN 2025

None of the international operators conducted clearance of AP mined area in 2025 or 2024 and no AP mines were reported by international operators as destroyed in Libya in either 2024 or 2025.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Libya is not yet a State Party to the APMBC. Nonetheless, it has obligations under international human rights law to clear landmines as soon as possible.

Progress towards determining the extent and location of AP mined area has been very limited, and no systematic survey or clearance has taken place. A comprehensive nationwide baseline survey is urgently required.

Over the past five years, Libya has not reported clearance of any AP mined area. Only 25,507m^2 were cancelled through NTS in 2022. International mine action operators remain focused on EOD and BAC, and since 2025, on conducting emergency clearance in ammunition storage sites. AP mines, however, continue to be found and addressed on an emergency basis from time to time. National mine action operators do appear to have conducted some mine clearance in 2025, but no data on the outputs had been made available. In the absence of consolidated reporting from the national authorities and from national operators, the precise extent and distribution of AP mine contamination remains unknown.

Libya made progress in drafting a national mine action strategy and in reviewing and updating the national standards. The political and security context continues to constitute a key challenge for the sector to advance at the required scale. Strengthening the capacity of LibMAC remains a priority, particularly its ability to coordinate mine action by all stakeholders and in all geographic areas.

82 LibMAC, "LibMAC continues clearing contaminated sites in Tripoli following the recent clashes" (translation from Arabic), 14 August 2025; and LibMAC, "Libyan Center Issues Land Clearance Certificate for Tripoli Zoo Site", October 2025.

83 LibMAC, "Libyan Mine Action Center Hands Over Clearance Certificate for Land Plot at the Wildlife Park in Tripoli", January 2026.

84 LibMAC, "The disposal of two tons of unexploded ordnance" (translation from Arabic), 24 April 2025, https://tinyurl.com/53tdr82p.

85 LibMAC, "EOD teams deal with over 3700 explosive ordnance during the EOD emergency response", 1 September 2025.

86 Email from Julia Eckelmann, HALO, 30 April 2026.