

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025**  
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

**ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)  
MINE CONTAMINATION:**  
EXTENT UNKNOWN

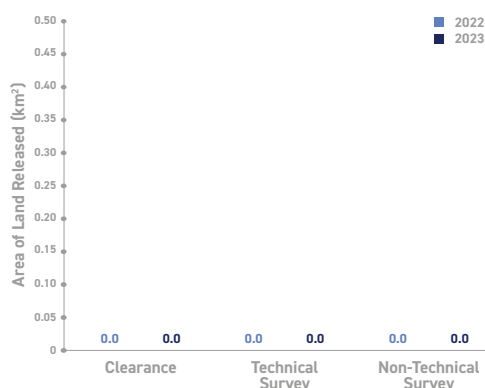
AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2023

**0** km<sup>2</sup>

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2023

**0**

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



**CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET** (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **NONE**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The establishment of both the National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NHMAC) and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Inter-Ministerial Committee as mine action authorities had raised concerns about potential overlaps in the management of Nigeria's national mine action programme. In 2024, a National Coordinator was appointed for the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), which is in the process of being established and has the mandate for the management of mine action in Nigeria. At the time of writing, however, Nigeria had not yet submitted its Article 7 report covering 2023, leaving both the extent of anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination and clearance by the Nigerian security forces unclear.

## FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW

At the Fourth APMBC Review Conference in 2019, Nigeria acknowledged, for the first time since declaring itself free of AP mines eight years earlier, that it was facing contamination from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that meet the APMBC's definition of AP mines. In response, Nigeria requested a new Article 5 deadline and submitted an Article 7 report while initiating the establishment of a national mine action programme. This remains in its early stages, though, and significant progress is needed before the programme becomes fully operational.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Nigeria should ensure the new NMAC is able to effectively coordinate land release activities.
- Nigeria should develop a national mine action strategy that includes realistic goals for land release and criteria for the prioritisation of tasks.
- Nigeria should establish a central mine action database providing humanitarian agencies timely access to data on the location, type, and extent of mined areas.

- Nigeria should, as a matter of urgent priority, build mine survey and clearance capacities and use land release terminology in a manner consistent with international standards.
- Nigeria should expedite the preparation and official adoption of national mine action legislation.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2023)	Score (2022)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	3	3	Significant areas of contamination are suspected in Nigeria with Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states considered the worst affected but insecurity has severely restricted access and the ability to conduct survey. The scale of the mine threat is currently measured in the number of explosive incidents rather than the size of suspected or confirmed hazardous areas.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	6	5	The NHMAC and the APMBC Inter-Ministerial Committee were each acting as the national mine action authority with a lack of clarity regarding their respective areas of responsibility. The establishment of an NMAC was approved by the Federal Government in 2022, and in 2024 a National Coordinator was appointed with a mandate for the management of the mine action programme in Nigeria.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	5	4	Nigeria does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan in place but it is planned that the NMAC will appoint a gender focal point and its personnel will undergo training on gender and mine action.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION*</b> (10% of overall score)	2	Not Scored	Nigeria does not have a national mine action standard or a policy on environmental management. The main operators follow their own environmental policies and procedures and have started implementing some mitigation measures.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) operates an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core database collating and inputting data on explosive incidents reported by operators and communities. At the time of writing, Nigeria had still to submit an annual Article 7 report covering 2023 but was reportedly planning to submit one.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	Nigeria submitted an early draft of its National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–28 alongside its Article 7 report covering 2022 although as of writing no updates have been forthcoming. A revised work plan was submitted in May 2023 but without specific annual targets for land release. Nigeria's mine action sector lacks any coordinated tasking process or criteria for prioritising survey.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM**</b> (10% of overall score)	4	3	In January 2023, Nigeria published its first national mine action standards (NMAS) on non-technical survey (NTS). As of writing, no further NMAS have been published.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	2	2	Nigeria has not reported on any survey and clearance conducted in 2023. Operators report carrying out NTS and "remote contamination baseline assessments". All clearance is conducted by the Nigerian security forces and aligned paramilitary groups. Nigeria will not meet its end-2025 Article 5 deadline and still faces significant security challenges which restrict access to the most affected states in the north-east. The national mine action strategy suggests Nigeria is working towards a completion deadline for high-impact mined areas only of 2028 at the earliest.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: VERY POOR</b>

\* New criterion introduced in 2024 to assess performance.

\*\* The weighting of this criterion was previously 20% of overall performance score, but is now given a 10% weighting.

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NHMAC)
- APMBC Inter-Ministerial Committee
- National Mine Action Centre (NMAC)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Army
- Police
- Royal Heritage Foundation

## INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

## OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Heavy casualties have been sustained from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), particularly mines of an improvised nature. These have been widely used by Boko Haram and other jihadist groups in the north-eastern states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. The extent of contamination is not known.<sup>1</sup>

Deteriorating security continues to prevent systematic survey of contamination and the nature of the armed conflicts has not yet allowed clearly delineated mined areas to be identified. Instead, the scale of the threat is measured in

the number of explosive incidents rather than the size of suspected or confirmed hazardous areas (SHAs/CHAs) (see Table 1). The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has, however, reported that "it is suspected that significant contamination exists".<sup>2</sup> NMAC intends to collaborate with operators and other key stakeholders to conduct an evidence-based survey to determine the extent of contamination and the size of the contaminated area, although no timeframe has been established for this.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1: Explosive ordnance incidents in north-east Nigeria (2017–22)<sup>4</sup>**

Year	Road-emplaced IEDs	Body-borne IEDs	Vehicle-borne IEDs	Other IEDs	ERW	Total Incidents
2017	165	211	4	1	0	<b>381</b>
2018	149	99	10	0	9	<b>267</b>
2019	117	32	4	4	32	<b>189</b>
2020	187	23	6	2	31	<b>249</b>
2021	228	5	10	23	15	<b>281</b>
2022	160	0	9	5	11	<b>185</b>
2023	161	0	3	4	23	<b>191</b>

ERW = Explosive remnants of war

Nigeria reported in 2021 that improvised mines and other explosive devices affected a total of 34 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in three states: 18 of 27 LGAs in Borno (the worst affected state); 5 of 21 LGAs in Adamawa; and 11 of 17 LGAs in Yobe.<sup>5</sup> In its Article 7 report for 2022, Nigeria reported that the newly established NHMAC has started collecting data on mine victims from these three states in the north-east as well as (unnamed) states in the south-east.<sup>6</sup> There are also reports of explosive ordnance contamination in the north-west states of Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina, but insecurity has severely restricted access and the ability to conduct surveys.<sup>7</sup>

In the "zero draft" of its National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy for 2023–28, Nigeria states that the national development plan has identified 38 LGAs across the Borno,

Adamawa, and Yobe states as being directly affected by the use of explosive ordnance with the most affected LGAs, which have been classified as high impact areas, Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Gwoza, Jere, Konduga, Maiduguri, Monguno, and Ngala in Borno; Geidam and Gujba in Yobe; and Madagali, Mubi North, and Mubi South in Adamawa.<sup>8</sup> UNMAS reported 23 LGAs in three states (Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe) as being affected by improvised mines and other explosive devices in 2023.<sup>9</sup> The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database indicated that during 2023 and 2024 (to August) incidents involving improvised anti-vehicle (AV) and AP mines occurred in Anambra, Kaduna, and Niger states in the north and centre of the country.<sup>10</sup>

1 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 4; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

2 Email from Harshi Gunawardana, Programme and Communications Officer, UNMAS, 7 May 2021.

3 Statement of Nigeria, APMBIC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

4 Emails from Emeka Nwadike, Programme Management Specialist, UNMAS, 21 August and 24 September 2024; Edwin Faigmane, Chief Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, 8 August 2023; Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022; and 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

5 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24.

6 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form H.

7 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.

8 "National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023–28)", p. 36.

9 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

10 ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2023-27/08/2024, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, Nigeria", accessed 27 August 2024, at: [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com).

The main explosive threat is from improvised mines placed on roads, with UNMAS recording 159 such incidents in 2023. UNMAS also determined that 159 of the total number of items reported in 2023 were victim-activated, including by pressure plates.<sup>11</sup> The few pressure-plate devices that have been inspected were capable of being detonated by the weight of a person, meaning they are covered by the APMBC.<sup>12</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Nigeria set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the APMBC in 2019 under the Ministry of Defence to lead the process of setting up a national mine action authority.<sup>13</sup> In August 2022, in order to have a civilian-led agency coordinating mine action, then President Muhammadu Buhari directed the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to create a committee that would address explosive ordnance threats in Nigeria. In October 2022, the NHMAC was inaugurated with responsibility for coordinating mine action and advising the Federal Government on the humanitarian and military aspects of mine action as well as aligning activities with the development of the north-east.<sup>14</sup> The Inter-Ministerial Committee on the APMBC and the NHMAC were each acting as the national mine action authority and both claimed to have a mandate to establish the NMAC.<sup>15</sup>

In 2022, the APMBC Inter-Ministerial Committee submitted an interim report to the Federal Government through the Minister of Defence, highlighting the need to establish the NMAC to coordinate all mine action activities in Nigeria. The Federal Government approved the establishment of an NMAC in Maiduguri, Borno state.<sup>16</sup> In April 2024, the Borno State Government donated a building in Maiduguri to the Ministry of Defence for use as office for the NMAC. Then in June 2024, Khalifa M. Lawan was appointed as NMAC's first National Coordinator, tasked with overseeing and coordinating mine action activities across the country.<sup>17</sup> In July 2024, the NMAC convened a one-day meeting of mine action stakeholders. UNMAS reported that the NMAC is now the sole entity with the mandate to coordinate and manage mine action issues in Nigeria and that the members of the Inter-Ministerial

Committee on the APMBC and the, now defunct, NHMAC will become part of a unified NMAC. The NMAC is in process of developing an annual work plan and national mine action strategy. In September 2024, the NMAC requested support from UNMAS for technical advice and other functions until a transition plan can be agreed upon.<sup>18</sup>

In 2023, UNMAS coordinated three Mine Action Sub-Working Group (MASWG) meetings, which were co-chaired by the Borno state Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement. Among the topics discussed were harmonisation of risk education messages and related materials to ensure they reflect the situation in the north-east, particularly in light of increasing numbers of IED incidents.<sup>19</sup> Separate monthly Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR) meetings led by operators are held for implementing partners within each LGA.<sup>20</sup>

In 2023, with support from the United Kingdom (UK) FCDO, UNMAS procured and supplied furniture and information technology equipment to outfit the newly established police explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training facility in Maiduguri. In May 2024, an UNMAS Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (TMAT) and Mobile Training Team conducted an operational capacity assessment of the Nigerian Police's EOD unit. Depending on funding, this assessment could pave the way for further specialised training for the EOD unit.<sup>21</sup>

Nigeria reported in its updated work plan of May 2023 that it intends to reach out to international partners for funding for its mine action programme, estimating it requires \$1 million annually.<sup>22</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Nigeria does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan in place.<sup>23</sup> However, as part of a broader strategy to develop national capacity, the NMAC will appoint a gender

focal person and plans for its personnel undergo training on gender and mine action.<sup>24</sup> UNMAS has reported that the Nigeria Police Force has a gender policy in place while the

11 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

12 Emails from Lionel Pechera, Programme Coordinator, UNMAS, Nigeria, 11 March and 20 July 2020.

13 Statement of Nigeria, Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, 15 November 2021.

14 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form A.

15 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 29 September 2023.

16 Statement of Nigeria, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

17 Ibid.

18 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.

19 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

20 Emails from François Fall, MAG, 28 May 2024; and Samson Uchenna Ugwu, Humanitarian Mine Action Manager, DRC, 28 May 2024.

21 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

22 Nigeria Mine Action Programme Updated Work Plan, 18 September 2023.

23 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form E.

24 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.

Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) was in the process of finalising its gender policy.<sup>25</sup> Additionally, MAG noted that the NSCDC has dedicated staff focused on gender issues.<sup>26</sup>

In 2021, UNMAS commissioned a gender baseline assessment for the NPF and NSCDC in north-east Nigeria to identify ways of strengthening women's roles and EOD capabilities. Conducted from August 2020 to February 2021, the assessment found a lack of gender mainstreaming in the

security services and recommended increasing the number of female officers, updating recruitment practices, and repealing discriminatory regulations, recommending that UNMAS engage with both organisations on gender parity.<sup>27</sup> In response, UNMAS prioritised gender inclusivity in the 2022 IED Disposal Training of Trainers and Advanced Medical First Aid courses, where five of the sixteen graduates were female police officers.<sup>28</sup>

**Table 2: Gender composition of operators in 2023<sup>29</sup>**

Operator	Total staff	Women employed	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total operational staff	Women in operational positions
UNMAS	7	4 (57%)	2	1 (50%)	2	0 (0%)
MAG	8	4 (50%)	3	2 (67%)	1	0 (0%)
DRC	16	5 (31%)	4	1 (25%)	10	3 (30%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13 (42%)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3 (33%)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3 (23%)</b>

In 2022, MAG developed a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to integrate gender and diversity inclusion into its operations. The GAP focuses on four key objectives: promoting gender-responsiveness in mine action and Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) operations; empowering women in these roles; ensuring consistent gender and diversity mainstreaming; and monitoring and reporting on progress. MAG teams collect data disaggregated by age and gender to inform planning and prioritisation.<sup>30</sup>

MAG's gender policy ensures activities are based on need. Understanding that contamination affects different groups differently, MAG emphasises gender-balanced recruitment,

especially in risk education teams, to reach all beneficiaries effectively. MAG's equal opportunities employment policy ensures appropriate working environments for women and men. MAG communicates its gender approach to stakeholders and offers refresher training on gender, diversity, and inclusion to its staff, led by the Gender & Diversity Advisor.<sup>31</sup>

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has achieved a 50-50 male-to-female ratio among its community focal points and ensures they reflect the diversity of the communities in which they operate.<sup>32</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Nigeria does not have a national mine action standard or a policy on environmental management. It is therefore not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of AP mines in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

A key pillar of MAG's global strategy is reducing its environmental footprint.<sup>33</sup> DRC has an environmental standard operating procedure (SOP) in place for its mine

action arm, which is implemented by its management team in Nigeria.<sup>34</sup> DRC is working towards the use of alternative power sources, with a focus on using solar energy. As part of its strategic priority to "go green", DRC is also digitising its data collection and recording processes, reducing reliance on traditional methods and promoting environmental sustainability across its operations.<sup>35</sup> The HALO Trust has a global environmental and quality policy which will guide its operations in Nigeria.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.

<sup>26</sup> Email from François Fall, MAG, 6 September 2024.

<sup>27</sup> UNMAS, "Summary of Gender Baseline Assessment", May 2021.

<sup>28</sup> Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

<sup>29</sup> Emails from François Fall, MAG, 28 May 2024; Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024; and Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August and 24 September 2024.

<sup>30</sup> Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

<sup>31</sup> Email from François Fall, MAG, 28 May 2024.

<sup>32</sup> Email from Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

<sup>33</sup> Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

<sup>34</sup> Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.

<sup>35</sup> Email from Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

<sup>36</sup> Email from Kim Feldewerth, HALO, 27 September 2023.

UNMAS reports having an environmental management policy in place and says that, where required, measures are implemented to prevent or minimise environmental harm. No details were, though, provided.<sup>37</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

UNMAS manages an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core database that collects data from mine action stakeholders and humanitarian organisations on explosive incidents, the results of surveys, and risk education beneficiary data.<sup>38</sup>

In 2022, UNMAS provided IMSMA training to government personnel, including staff from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. These trained individuals could serve as a resource to the NMAC should they be assigned there.<sup>39</sup> UNMAS also provided training to its partners on essential data collection

mechanisms and developed and shared IMSMA data collection forms.<sup>40</sup> MAG and DRC both reported that the monthly AoR meetings has improved data sharing between stakeholders.<sup>41</sup>

In 2023, Nigeria submitted an Article 7 report covering 2022, its first for more than 10 years. It did not contain data on the extent of contamination or on survey and clearance activities. As of end-September, Nigeria had not submitted an Article 7 report covering 2023. Although UNMAS reported in September 2024 that the NMAC was currently working on Article 7 report for 2023.<sup>42</sup>

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

The NHMAC submitted a zero draft of a National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028 with its Article 7 report covering 2022.<sup>43</sup> The NHMAC reported that the draft will be shared with all mine action stakeholders for input and will include evidence-based, detailed, costed multi-year work plans.<sup>44</sup> MAG and UNMAS have since reported providing technical input to NHMAC in support of the strategy's development.<sup>45</sup> At the time of writing, however, the final draft of the strategy had not yet been submitted.

In May 2023, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the APMBC submitted a work plan covering the period 2021 to 2025. Nigeria planned to conduct non-technical survey (NTS), in collaboration with UNMAS, MAG, and HALO, in hard-to-reach

areas which would inform a plan for subsequent technical survey (TS).<sup>46</sup> At the time of writing, however, the pilot project had still to take place.

Nigeria's mine action sector lacks any coordinated tasking process or criteria for prioritising survey, although UNMAS has drafted a prioritisation criterion geared towards risk education and survey.<sup>47</sup> MAG reports that its teams carry out focus group discussions with communities whose members have travelled through areas suspected to be contaminated with explosive ordnance.<sup>48</sup> DRC said it conducted NTS through internal desk assessments, information from UNMAS, and reports of possible explosive ordnance locations by other agencies.<sup>49</sup>

## STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Nigeria identified development of national mine action standards (NMAAS) as one of its programme objectives in its 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request.<sup>50</sup> In 2022, UNMAS drafted national standards for NTS,<sup>51</sup> which were published in January 2023.<sup>52</sup>

The 2021 extension request said Nigeria would release land through both NTS and TS, as well as by clearance. The process draws attention to a concern that communities might exaggerate the extent of contamination and the authorities said that reports would be subjected to "an integrity test". If they fail the test, a mined area would be cancelled. More controversially, the request says such areas would also be declared safe.<sup>53</sup> The comment underscores the challenge Nigeria faces building up a credible baseline contamination data at a time when access by trained survey teams is severely curtailed by insecurity.

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37 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

38 Emails from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and John Sorbo, DRC, 3 July 2021.

39 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.

40 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

41 Emails from François Fall, MAG, 28 May 2024; and Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

42 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.

43 Draft National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023–2028), in Article 7 Report (covering 2022), pp. 19–53.

44 Updated Work Plan, presented by Nigeria at the Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19 June 2023.

45 Emails from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023; and UNMAS Headquarters, 29 September 2023.

46 Updated Work Plan, 18 September 2023.

47 Interview with Edwin Faigmane, UN NDM, Geneva, 29 April – 1 May 2024.

48 Email from Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.

49 Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 23 September 2022.

50 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 33.

51 Emails from Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022; and Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.

52 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

53 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

There is no mention of integrity tests in the zero draft strategy but there is a lack of clarity in the explanation of the land release process with the use of terms such as Suspected Mine Area (SMA), technical survey II (T2), and technical survey III which are not consistent with IMAS. There are also references to conducting a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) which is no longer considered good practice.<sup>54</sup>

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

All clearance of explosive ordnance is conducted by the Nigerian army and police primarily for military purposes. Operations use paramilitary groups in support.<sup>55</sup> After conducting a needs assessment with police commanders in Borno and Adamawa states in 2020, UNMAS organised IED disposal training for the Police's EOD units and for security forces in Maiduguri.<sup>56</sup> In 2022, UNMAS conducted IEDD training to NPF EOD personnel of whom seven qualified as IEDD instructors.<sup>57</sup> In May 2024, UNMAS conducted an operational assessment of the EOD unit of the Nigeria Police Force. The assessment which aimed to determine the EOD operational capacity of the police recommended further EOD and IEDD training. In 2024, the UNMAS Nigeria programme had a total of seven personnel, providing programmatic and administrative activities in support of the projects conducted.<sup>58</sup>

MAG started working in Nigeria in 2016, focusing initially on arms management and destruction, but has been engaged in mine action in the country since 2017. In 2023, its capacity was 21 staff deployed in seven community liaison teams with two team leaders. The teams worked in Borno state across seven LGAs conducting remote contamination baseline assessments, relying on information from communities recently relocated to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps or fortress towns due to the inaccessibility of large areas and NTS. In 2023, MAG was prioritising risk education through digital campaigns and radio programmes. MAG's

risk education sessions are supported by community-led structures which enables direct input and feedback on activities. MAG has also trained humanitarian workers, NGO volunteers, and UN personnel in north-east Nigeria to support the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance in EO-contaminated areas of Borno State.<sup>59</sup>

In 2023, DRC's mine action programme employed 16 staff. There were five NTS/community liaison teams consisting of one team leader and two officers per team working in Borno and Adamawa states. DRC conducted one training course on risk education and two refresher courses for community focal points. In 2024, DRC was prioritising the integration of mine action interventions into broader protection activities, including child protection and women's empowerment initiatives. DRC also focused on strengthening local capacity in mine action by training national NGOs, community focal points, and at-risk groups, aiming to build communal resilience to the effects of explosive ordnance.<sup>60</sup>

In 2022, The HALO Trust was registered in Nigeria and has two permanent members of staff based in their office in Abuja. The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management through the NHMAC has asked HALO to support the NHMAC with capacity building of its staff and data verification. To date, HALO has provided IT equipment and technical guidance to the NHMAC to support the drafting of the mine action bill.<sup>61</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### SURVEY IN 2023

Survey in Nigeria is severely restricted by the continuing conflict, which limits NTS to community assessments of the location of explosive ordnance. Operators work on an ad hoc basis responding to community reports of the presence of explosive items when security makes it possible to visit the area.<sup>62</sup> DRC conducted 42 non-technical community surveys in 2023 across seven LGAs in Borno state and two LGAs in Adamawa state, identifying 30 items of explosive ordnance (projectiles, rockets, mortar shells, grenades, and IEDs) which it passed on to the Nigerian security forces for action.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Draft National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023–2028), pp. 43 and 47.

<sup>55</sup> Emails from Lionel Pechera, UNMAS, 11 March 2020; and Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022.

<sup>56</sup> Emails from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022.

<sup>57</sup> Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.

<sup>58</sup> Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.

<sup>59</sup> Emails from François Fall, MAG, 28 May and 6 September 2024.

<sup>60</sup> Email from Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

<sup>61</sup> Email from Kim Feldewerth, HALO, 4 October 2023.

<sup>62</sup> Email from Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.

<sup>63</sup> Email from Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.



In 2023, due to ongoing insecurity in the north-east, MAG was unable to carry out NTS and instead conducted 130 remote contamination baseline assessments.<sup>64</sup> For these assessments, MAG organised focus group discussions with key informants, gathering data on the location of contamination, the history of conflict, types of contamination, and casualties. Participants drew maps to indicate the areas affected.<sup>65</sup>

CLEARANCE IN 2023

Clearance is conducted exclusively by Nigerian security forces. All explosive ordnance items identified in the course of surveys and community assessments are reported to national authorities for removal but there is no record of items cleared in the course of EOD and IEDD operations.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the four-year extension granted by States Parties in 2021), Nigeria is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. It will not meet this deadline.

In 2011, at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Nigeria had declared it had cleared all known AP mined areas from its territory three months in advance of its original Article 5 deadline of 1 March 2012.<sup>66</sup> In November 2020, prompted by the growth of jihadist insurgencies making extensive use of improvised mines in northern states, Nigeria requested and received a one-year extension until 31 December 2021 in which to prepare a detailed assessment of contamination and propose steps to mitigate it. UNMAS, in consultation with MAG, DRC, and Youths Awaken Foundation, a national NGO, prepared an initial draft which was first reviewed by the APMBC Implementation Support Unit and then forwarded to the Ministry of Defence to provide government input.<sup>67</sup> In May 2021, it submitted a request for a four-year extension until 31 December 2025, which was granted at the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties.

Nigeria has expressed optimism that the security challenges being faced in the north-east would abate, enabling the start of humanitarian demining. However, it said it would apply for another extension if the insecurity persisted.<sup>68</sup> Indeed, the extension request acknowledged that insecurity had prevented comprehensive survey or a determination of the extent of contamination. An important first step would be to collate all known information on contamination and clearance from humanitarian organisations and Nigeria's police and security forces and input it into a national mine action database.

Nigeria's ownership of its national mine action programme is still in its foundational stage. There is a need to clarify roles and responsibilities within the management structure of the national mine action programme, enhance national capacity, and formulate a strategy that leverages the expertise of international and national mine action stakeholders alike. Nigeria's early draft National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028 indicates it is working towards a deadline to release "all high-impact contaminated areas, SHAs, and CHAs" by the end of 2028.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Nigeria does not have plans in place to address residual contamination once its Article 5 obligations have been fulfilled.

64 Email from François Fall, MAG, 28 May 2024.  
65 Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.  
66 Statement of Nigeria, Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011.  
67 Email from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021.  
68 Statement of Nigeria, Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, 15 November 2021.