

KEY DATA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025

Not on track to meet deadline
Three-year extension to 31 December 2028 requested

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Extent unknown, light
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Release in 2023 (m ²)
Clearance	0	0
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	0	0

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2024:

- Nigerian Army and Nigerian Police Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Nigeria's mine action programme remains in its early stages, although significant progress was made in 2024 and in the first half of 2025. A national coordinator was appointed in 2024 to lead the newly established National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), which is mandated to manage and coordinate all mine action activities in the country. In June 2025, Nigeria submitted its third Article 5 deadline extension request under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), which included a work plan developed with the help of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Funding has been secured to train two survey and clearance teams composed of seconded officers from the Nigerian Police Force and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), although additional resources are still needed to fully equip them for operations. Nigeria is also developing national mine action legislation with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A draft law, prepared in 2024, was under review by the Ministry of Defence at the time of writing.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Nigeria should accelerate development of its national mine action strategy and not wait until 2027.
- Nigeria should maximise in-country capacity by enabling qualified international and national mine action organisations to support survey, particularly non-technical survey (NTS), even if restrictions on handling explosives remain in place.
- Nigeria should develop a dedicated resource mobilisation strategy to guide funding with clear targets and plans for partner engagement, including a framework for coordination with donors.
- Nigeria should adopt and implement a gender and diversity policy for its mine action programme, supported by an action plan for mainstreaming into survey, clearance, and risk education.
- Nigeria should consider the environmental impacts of clearance and outline mitigation measures.

- Nigeria should improve the consistency and timeliness of its reporting under Article 7 of the APMBC, including by submitting outstanding reports covering 2023 and 2024.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (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.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	In 2024, a National Coordinator was appointed to NMAC whose mandate is the management of the national mine action programme in Nigeria. While NMAC works to build its capacity, it has asked UNMAS to continue to undertake key functions.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	Nigeria does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan, but it is planned that NMAC will appoint a gender focal point and its personnel will undergo training on gender and mine action.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	2	2	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 mitigation measures.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	4	UNMAS operates an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core database, collating and inputting data on explosive incidents reported by operators and communities. Nigeria submitted an Article 5 deadline extension request in June 2025, but at the time of writing, it had still to submit Article 7 reports covering 2023 and 2024.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	5	4	Nigeria submitted a work plan as part of its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, which includes development of a national mine action strategy as one of its targets for 2027 and 2028. Nigeria's mine action sector lacks any coordinated tasking process or criteria for prioritising survey.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	4	4	Nigeria reported that it follows the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and will develop its own national mine action standards (NMAS) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in 2025 and 2026. NMAC is in the process of establishing survey and clearance teams composed of officers seconded from the police and security forces.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	3	2	Nigeria has not reported on any survey and clearance conducted in 2024. Nigeria's Article 5 deadline extension request is more substantive than the previous request. If funding, capacity and access obstacles can be overcome, Nigeria should be able to make progress in building a mine action programme and conducting survey and clearance of mined areas.
Average Score	3.8	3.5	Overall Programme Performance: VERY POOR

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Centre (NMAC)

- Centre for Social Cohesion, Peace and Empowerment (CENSCOPE)
- Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative (CPWEI)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Army
- Nigerian Police Force EOD units
- The Big Smile Foundation (TBSF)

- Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF)
- Youth Awaken Foundation (YAF)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The extent of AP mined area in Nigeria remains unknown due to ongoing conflict and insecurity in the northeast, which continue to prevent comprehensive survey activities. Based on available data from mine action organisations, humanitarian and development actors, and IMSMA, the states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) are believed to be significantly affected by explosive ordnance. However, no hazardous areas have yet been formally identified or defined, and information on contamination is limited to the number of explosive incidents recorded (see Table 1). Casualties from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), particularly victim-activated mines of an improvised nature, remain high.¹ These devices have been widely used by Boko Haram and other jihadist groups in the BAY states.² In addition, Nigeria has reported a growing threat of contamination in the north-western states of Sokoto, Zamfara, and Kebbi, linked to the emergence of a new non-State armed group.³

The main explosive threat is from improvised mines placed on roads, with UNMAS recording 174 such incidents in 2024 involving 210 devices (see Table 1). However, it is important to note that this assessment is based solely on incident descriptions, with accurate information and thorough post-blast investigations lacking. The figures should therefore be considered indicative rather than definitive. Of these 210 devices, UNMAS and partners identified 88 victim-operated devices, 118 with unknown or unreported trigger mechanisms, and 4 that were command-activated.⁴ The few pressure-plate devices that have been inspected were capable of being detonated by the weight of a person, meaning that they are also covered—and prohibited—under the APMBC.⁵

Table 1: Explosive ordnance incidents in north-east Nigeria (2017-24)⁶

Year	Road-emplaced IEDs	Body-borne IEDs	Vehicle-borne IEDs	Other IEDs	ERW	Total Incidents
2017	165	211	4	1	0	381
2018	149	99	10	0	9	267
2019	117	32	4	4	32	189
2020	187	23	6	2	31	249
2021	228	5	10	23	15	281
2022	160	0	9	5	11	185
2023	161	0	3	4	23	191
2024	174	4	5	8	0	191

ERW = explosive remnants of war

NMAC plans to deploy mine action teams that will be trained by UNMAS and staffed with officers seconded from the Nigerian Police Force and the NSCDC to conduct surveys in priority areas identified by the government.⁷ Initial survey

operations are expected to begin in late 2025 or early 2026 and to continue through 2027. The data collected enable a better understanding of the extent and type of contamination, informing and guiding survey and clearance in 2027-29.⁸

1 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

2 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 4; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

3 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

4 Email from Edwin Faigmane, Chief Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, 17 September 2025.

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

6 Emails from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August and 24 September 2024; Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023 and 17 September 2025; Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022; 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

7 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

8 Ibid., p. 17 and Annex 4 Work plan.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In 2019, Nigeria established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the APMBC under the Ministry of Defence to lead the set-up of a national mine action authority.⁹ In 2022, then President Muhammadu Buhari directed the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to create a civilian-led coordination body that would address the problem of explosive ordnance. This led to the inauguration of the National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NMAC) in October 2022.¹⁰ Both bodies claimed a mandate to establish the national mine action centre, creating both overlap and confusion.¹¹

In 2022, the APMBC Inter-Ministerial Committee submitted an interim report to the Federal Government via the Minister of Defence that recommended that an NMAC be created. In April 2024, a building in Maiduguri was donated by the Borno state government for the centre.¹² In June, Khalifa M. Lawan was appointed as its first coordinator.¹³ NMAC convened its first stakeholder meeting in July. UNMAS has confirmed that NMAC is now the sole authority for mine action coordination in Nigeria, with members of the previous committees to be integrated under its structure.¹⁴

NMAC is thus mandated to plan, coordinate, implement, and oversee all mine action activities in Nigeria. This includes quality assurance (QA) and accreditation of mine action operators—whether government, international, non-governmental, or commercial—as well as the development and implementation of national strategies, annual plans, and mine action policies and standards.¹⁵ With support from UNMAS, NMAC now chairs and coordinates the Mine Action Sub-Working Group (MASWG), which brings together mine action organisations and government agencies to strengthen coordination and implementation of activities.¹⁶ Separate monthly Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR)

meetings led by operators are held for implementing partners within each local government area (LGA).¹⁷

In September 2024, NMAC formally requested UNMAS to continue delivering key functions in partnership with NMAC while it develops its capacity to assume and fulfil these responsibilities. These functions include accreditation of mine action organisations operating in Nigeria; tasking and QA of mine action activities; development of context-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) and work plans; planning and implementation of risk education, survey, and clearance within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; support to national security institutions on IED clearance; management of mine action data through the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA); and support to Nigeria in meeting its obligations under the APMBC.¹⁸

In 2024, an UNMAS Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (TMAT) and Mobile Training Team conducted an operational capacity assessment of the Nigerian Police's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit. Depending on funding, this assessment could pave the way for further specialised training for the EOD unit.¹⁹ In 2025, NMAC was intending to focus on recruiting qualified staff and conducting a training needs assessment. This will guide the development of a capacity enhancement plan to ensure NMAC can implement its mandated functions independently of international assistance.²⁰

Nigeria is also in the process of developing national mine action legislation with support from the ICRC. A draft law prepared in 2024 to align with NMAC's mandate is under review by the Ministry of Defence. As of June 2025, the draft was awaiting its submission to Parliament.²¹

FUNDING FOR AP MINE ACTION

Until mine action legislation is passed, NMAC is expected to receive its funding through the Ministry of Defence. Once the legislation is enacted, NMAC will be in a position to receive funding directly from the Federal Government.²² In parallel, NMAC will work to identify key partners and donors and seek financial support to complement counterpart funding from the Nigerian government.²³

In 2024, UNMAS received more than US\$3 million for mine action from Japan, the European Union ECHO, the United

Kingdom FCDO, UNICEF, the UN Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), and USAID.²⁴ There was no change in donors in 2025.²⁵

In 2024, MAG's mine action operations in Nigeria were funded by the World Without Mines Foundation (WWMF), a new donor, following the loss of Netherlands and OCHA funding at the end of 2023. In 2025, WWMF support ended in June, but additional funding was received from Global Affairs Canada (Peace and Stabilization Operations Programs – PSOPs).²⁶

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

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

11 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 29 September 2023.

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

13 Ibid.

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

15 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.

16 Ibid., p. 14.

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

18 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

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

20 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.

21 Ibid., p. 11.

22 Ibid., p. 18.

23 Ibid., p. 17.

24 Ibid., p. 13, Table 3.

25 Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 17 September 2025.

26 Email from Emilie Mbaye, Regional Programmes Manager – Gulf of Guinea, MAG, 17 September 2025.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Nigeria does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan in place.²⁷ However, as part of a broader strategy to develop national capacity, NMAC will appoint a gender focal person and plans for its personnel undergo training on gender and mine action.²⁸ UNMAS has reported that the Nigeria Police Force has a gender policy in place while the NSCDC was in the process of finalising its own policy.²⁹ Mines Advisory Group (MAG) notes that the NSCDC has staff dedicated to gender issues.³⁰

In 2021, UNMAS commissioned a gender baseline assessment for the Nigerian Police Force 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 identified a lack of gender mainstreaming in the security services and recommended increasing the number of female officers, updating recruitment practices, and repealing discriminatory regulations. It further recommended that UNMAS engage with both organisations on gender parity.³¹ 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.³²

Table 2: Gender composition of operators in 2024³³

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
UNMAS	9	6 (67%)	3	1 (33%)	3	3 (100%)
MAG	*9	2 (22%)	2	1 (50%)	3	1 (33%)
DRC**	16	5 (31%)	4	1 (25%)	10	3 (30%)
Totals	34	13 (38%)	9	3 (33%)	16	7 (44%)

*Including two sub-regional staff supporting Nigeria. **Data are from 2023.

In 2024, UNMAS Nigeria advocated for women's inclusion in the first-ever Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) training for the NSCDC and Nigerian Police Force (NPF), raising women's participation from 13% in the first round to 36% in the second. UNMAS deployed an all-female training team for EORE and increased gender representation in field operations with women making up 90% of field staff. UNMAS prioritised women's recruitment within implementing partners, particularly for community liaison roles, increasing women's participation in EORE with 52% of EORE beneficiaries being women and girls. A gender focal point was appointed,

and partnerships with women-led NGOs were expanded with 50% of implementing partners being women-led organisations and 50% of funding allocated to local NGOs also went to women-led organisations. Gender analysis was also integrated into assessments of explosive ordnance impacts, with data on victims disaggregated by gender and age where possible.³⁴ MAG deployed male-female Community Liaison teams, selected gender-balanced Community Focal Points, and delivered EORE sessions that included women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalised groups.³⁵

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.

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has an environmental standard operating procedure (SOP) in place for its mine action arm, which is implemented by its management team in Nigeria.³⁶ 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.³⁷

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

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

29 Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.

30 Email from François Fall, MAG, 6 September 2024.

31 UNMAS, "Summary of Gender Baseline Assessment", May 2021.

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

33 Emails from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 17 September 2025; Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 September 2025; and Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

34 Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 17 September 2025.

35 Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 September 2025.

36 Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.

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

In 2024 and 2025, MAG Nigeria reduced fuel use and emissions by improving field movement scheduling and cutting generator reliance through solar alternatives. It also

promoted paperless reporting and digital data collection, alongside better waste management through disposal, re-use, and recycling.³⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

UNMAS manages an IMSMA Core database that collects data from mine action stakeholders and humanitarian organisations on explosive incidents, the results of survey, and risk education beneficiary data.³⁹

In 2022, UNMAS provided IMSMA training to government personnel, including staff from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. These individuals could serve as a resource to NMAC should they be assigned to work there.⁴⁰ UNMAS also provided training to its partners on essential data collection mechanisms, and developed and shared IMSMA data collection forms.⁴¹ MAG and DRC both reported that the

monthly AoR meetings have improved data sharing between stakeholders.⁴²

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. As at August 2025, Nigeria had not submitted an Article 7 report covering 2023 or 2024. In June 2025, Nigeria submitted an Article 5 deadline extension request, though, which reflects improvement in the clarity and detail of its reporting under the APMBC.

PLANNING AND TASKING

The development of a national mine action strategy is included in Nigeria's work plan under its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request. The strategy is dependent on increased capacity and progress in information collection. Once sufficient data have been gathered and analysed, work on the strategy is expected to begin in 2027 and continue into 2028.⁴³

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.⁴⁴ In 2022, MAG reported that its teams undertook focus group discussions with communities whose members travelled through areas suspected to be contaminated with explosive ordnance.⁴⁵ DRC said it conducted NTS through internal desk assessments, information from UNMAS, and reports of possible explosive ordnance locations by other agencies.⁴⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

As NMAC builds its capacity, it plans to develop national mine action standards, SOPs, and other relevant guidelines. Currently, Nigeria follows the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).⁴⁷ According to the work plan, development of national standards and SOPs is scheduled for 2025 and 2026.⁴⁸ In 2022, NMAS drafted a national standard for NTS, which was published in January 2023.⁴⁹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The Nigerian military conducts clearance to support military operations and movement along key supply routes through IED disposal. The Nigerian Police Force EOD units also carry out limited survey and clearance and IED disposal. However, records of these operations are not currently shared. NMAC will advocate for improved information-sharing, particularly

regarding explosive ordnance incidents. At present, national and international mine action organisations are restricted to delivering risk education. In the BAY states, this is delivered face-to-face in priority areas and through radio broadcasts targeting communities in hard-to-reach areas.⁵⁰

³⁸ Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 September 2025.

³⁹ Emails from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and John Sorbo, DRC, 3 July 2021.

⁴⁰ Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.

⁴¹ Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.

⁴² Emails from François Fall, MAG, 28 May 2024; and Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

⁴³ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16 and Annex 4.

⁴⁴ Interview with Edwin Faigmane, UN NDM, Geneva, 29 April-1 May 2024.

⁴⁵ Email from Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.

⁴⁶ Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 23 September 2022.

⁴⁷ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.

⁴⁸ Ibid., Annex 4.

⁴⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

⁵⁰ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

As noted above, NMAC is establishing mine action teams with officers seconded from the Nigerian Police Force and the NSCDC. Once trained, these will be the first civilian mine action teams in Nigeria, capable of conducting technical survey (TS) and clearance.⁵¹ While UNMAS has secured funding to train two teams, additional resources are still required to fully equip them for operations.⁵² The Nigerian Police Force EOD unit has some capacity for EOD and risk education, though this remains limited. The NSCDC has a relevant mandate and human resources but is significantly constrained by other operational commitments. The Nigerian military, while better resourced, primarily conducts EOD and IED disposal in support of military objectives rather than as part of mine action.⁵³

International mine action organisations active in Nigeria include MAG, DRC, and The HALO Trust, as well as the ICRC. National organisations include The Big Smile Foundation (TBSF), the Centre for Social Cohesion, Peace and Empowerment (CENSCOPE), the Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative (CPWEI), the Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF), and the Youth Awaken Foundation (YAF), among others.⁵⁴

MAG has been engaged in mine action in Nigeria since 2017. In 2024, its capacity was nine staff and MAG deployed one community liaison team of two personnel. MAG was prioritising risk education in 2024, specifically Training-of-Trainer courses for school teachers, and risk

education for humanitarian workers and service drivers.⁵⁵ This is a decrease from the previous year when MAG's capacity was 21 staff deployed in seven community liaison teams with two team leaders with the teams conducting remote contamination baseline assessments and risk education.⁵⁶

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 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.⁵⁷

HALO's current work in Nigeria is limited to Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM). While discussions are ongoing with the NMAC on potential future support, current projects focus on WAM-related capacity building. In 2025, HALO assessed the capacity of Nigerian law enforcement agencies in explosive ordnance management and delivered trainings on ammunition stockpile management and IED recognition and response.⁵⁸

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

SURVEY IN 2024

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.⁵⁹ 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.⁶⁰

MAG did not conduct any survey or remote contamination baseline assessments in 2024.⁶¹ In 2023, MAG conducted 130 remote contamination baseline assessments.⁶² 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.⁶³

CLEARANCE IN 2024

Clearance is conducted exclusively by the 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 the items cleared in the course of EOD and IEED operations.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 11.

⁵² Ibid., p. 16.

⁵³ Ibid., p. 11.

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 12.

⁵⁵ Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 September 2025.

⁵⁶ Emails from François Fall, MAG, 28 May and 6 September 2024.

⁵⁷ Email from Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

⁵⁸ Email from Iina Kuutila, Country Director Nigeria, HALO, 12 September 2025.

⁵⁹ Email from Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.

⁶⁰ Email from Samson Uchenna Ugwu, DRC, 28 May 2024.

⁶¹ Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 September 2025.

⁶² Email from François Fall, MAG, 28 May 2024.

⁶³ Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

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. Nigeria will not meet this deadline and has requested a further three-year extension to 31 December 2028.

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 2012.⁶⁴ In November 2020, however, in response to the rise in jihadist violence and the widespread use of improvised AP mines in the northern states, Nigeria submitted a one-year extension request to reassess contamination and develop a response plan. UNMAS, in consultation with MAG, DRC, and the Youths Awaken Foundation, helped prepare an initial draft, which was reviewed by the APMBC Implementation Support Unit and then forwarded to the Ministry of Defence for input.⁶⁵ In May 2021, Nigeria submitted a further request for a four-year extension to 31 December 2025, which was granted at the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties.

The 2021 extension request outlined key milestones including the establishment of an NMAC, the strengthening of risk education, improved coordination of activities, evidence-based survey to determine contamination, the development of national standards, and the drafting of a national mine action strategy and work plan. While an NMAC was eventually established in 2024 and a 2025 work plan

was drafted, operational progress during the last extension period remained limited. Conflict and insecurity in the north-east hindered access and prevented comprehensive surveys. No hazardous areas were formally identified, and clearance by the military and police in support of their own operations were not reported. Humanitarian organisations were limited to delivering risk education.

In addition, progress was hampered by institutional confusion with two separate entities—the Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Ministry of Defence and the NHMAC under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs—with both entities claiming the mandate to act as the sole national mine action authority. This situation has now been resolved and, with support from UNMAS, NMAC has begun to build its structure, develop a national work plan, and draft mine action legislation, although the centre remains underfunded and under-resourced. Plans to deploy mine action teams were initiated, but training and operational readiness are still pending.

In June 2025, Nigeria submitted a third Article 5 deadline extension request, outlining plans for survey and clearance in secure areas, pending funding from the government and sustained international support. The request also assumes that NMAC will build sufficient capacity to lead and coordinate national mine action efforts. However, significant obstacles remain, including the need to train and equip national survey and clearance teams; the potential for continued limited access to contaminated areas due to security constraints; and for further contamination due to intensifying conflict.

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 Statement of Nigeria, Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011.

⁶⁵ Email from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021.