NIGERIA

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2028

Not on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Extent unknown, light
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (m^2)	Release in 2024 (m^2)
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	Unknown	Unknown

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Nigeria's mine action programme remains in its early stages, although significant progress has been made. The National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) was established in 2024, and by mid-2026, draft mine action legislation has been developed and was under review. Nigeria has also drafted a national mine action strategy and continued developing its national mine action standards (NMAS). In December 2025, Nigeria was granted a three-year extension to its Article 5 deadline, to 31 December 2028, but no anti-personnel (AP) mined area was identified or released in 2025. Ongoing conflict and insecurity in the north-east continue to restrict survey and clearance. Data on improvised explosive device (IED) disposal by the military and police forces are not reported centrally, and NMAC remains underfunded and under-resourced.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Nigeria should empower NMAC to exercise its mandate as the central authority for coordinating and tasking mine action activities. Sustainable national funding and international support are critically required.**
- **All national operators, including the military and police forces, should be tasked by and report centrally to NMAC.**
- **Nigeria should adopt the mine action legislation as soon as possible.**
- **Nigeria should continue developing and adopt its mine action strategy as soon as possible.**
- **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 improve the consistency and timeliness of its reporting to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	3	3	Significant areas of contamination are suspected in Nigeria with Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states considered the worst affected, and an emerging threat reported in the north-west. 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. Nigeria's Article 7 report covering 2025 recorded no known or suspected mined areas, reflecting the absence of a baseline rather than an absence of contamination.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	NMAC was established in 2024 with a mandate to manage the national mine action programme. A new National Coordinator was appointed in October 2025. While NMAC works to build its capacity, it operates with limited capacity and has asked the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) 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 an NMAS 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 a detailed Article 5 deadline extension request in June 2025, followed up by additional clarifications that further strengthened the request. Nigeria's Article 7 report for 2025, however, provided little information on the extent of AP mine contamination or progress in addressing it, reflecting the absence of a contamination baseline and the lack of central reporting. Clearance by the military and police forces is not reported to NMAC, but NMAC said it was developing data-sharing agreements with both institutions.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	5	5	Nigeria convened a workshop to inform the development of a mine action strategy, and by September 2026, the document was said to be subject to final approvals. The 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request featured a work plan until 2029. Nigeria's mine action sector lacks any coordinated tasking process or criteria for prioritising survey.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	4	4	Draft NMAS and standard operating procedures (SOPs) were being developed on risk education, NTS, and clearance. Meanwhile, operators work to their own SOPs that are compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and adapted to the Nigerian context. 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	3	No AP mined area was released through survey or clearance in 2025. IED disposal carried out by the military and police forces was not reported. Under the current pace of progress and the conditions of insecurity, Nigeria is unlikely to meet its extended Article 5 deadline of 31 December 2028.
Average Score	**3.8**	**3.8**	**Overall Programme Performance: VERY POOR**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Centre (NMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Nigerian Army
- Nigeria Police Force
- Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)
- The Big Smile Foundation (TBSF)
- Centre for Social Cohesion, Peace and Empowerment (CENSCOPE)
- Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative (CPWEI)
- Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF)
- Youth Awaken Foundation (YAF)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- The HALO Trust (HALO) (conducting only weapons and ammunition management)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

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, and information on contamination is limited to the number of explosive incidents recorded.

Casualties from IEDs, particularly victim-activated mines of an improvised nature, remain high, with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) recording 253 incidents in 2025 (see Table 1).[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] According to a Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) report, the number of IEDs identified in Nigeria increased by over 60% between 2020 and 2024, affecting the border Lake Chad area, including the Nigeria-Chad border.[4]

The main explosive threat is from improvised mines placed on roads, with UNMAS recording 118 such incidents in 2025 (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. Of the 198 IEDs recorded by UNMAS and its partners in 2025, 105 were suspected to be victim-activated, and therefore to meet the definition of an AP mine; five were command-activated; and 88 had unknown or unreported triggering mechanisms.[5] For more information on use, please see the country profile on Nigeria on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[6]

Table 1: Explosive ordnance incidents in north-east Nigeria (2017–25)[7]

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**
2025[8]	118	4	4	72	24	**222**

ERW = Explosive remnants of war.

1 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9; and email from Maddalena Malgarini, Operations Specialist Risk Education, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.

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 GICHD, "Improvised explosive devices in the Sahel: Humanitarian responses and current capacities", https://shorturl.at/KG7Wy, p. 11.

5 Emails from Lionel Pechera, Programme Coordinator, UNMAS, Nigeria, 11 March and 20 July 2020; and Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 23 September 2026.

6 https://the-monitor.org.

7 Emails from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April and 23 September 2026; 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.

8 The 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request reported 98 incidents involving explosive ordnance in 2025 (see Table 1, p. 9).

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 (NHMAC) 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 October 2025, Dr. Mohammed Dagozo Umate was appointed as the National Coordinator. The NMAC operates under the supervision of the Joint Special Services Department and the Ministry of Defence.[13] 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, and implementation of national strategies, annual plans, and mine action policies and standards.[15]

NMAC aimed to be fully staffed by the second quarter of 2026, and said it would explore a national mine action platform with biannual stakeholder and donor meetings.[16] With support from UNMAS, NMAC now chairs and coordinates the Mine Action Sub-Working Group (MASWG), which brings together some 24 operators and government agencies on a quarterly basis.[17] In addition, 18 Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR) meetings are held at Local Government Area (LGA) levels, with participation of operators, community leaders, security and defence forces, and representatives of local governmental agencies.[18]

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 included accreditation of mine action organisations; tasking and QA; development of context-specific SOPs and work plans; planning and implementation of risk education, survey, and clearance; support to national security institutions on IED clearance; management of mine action data through the IMSMA; and support to Nigeria in meeting its obligations under the APMBC.[19]

In 2025, UNMAS provided training to the Nigeria Police Forces and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) personnel, including explosive hazard awareness training to 54 officers; conventional munition disposal (CMD) Level I (for 24 officers), and CMD Levels I and III (for 20 officers); improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) (for 15 officers); and individual first aid kit (for 20 officers). UNMAS also organised strategic and technical workshops to complement the training and strengthen the sustainability of national capacities. In coordination with the National Counter terrorism Centre (NCTC) and in partnership with the British High Commission, UNMAS supported a counter-IED capability self-assessment workshop and also organised a workshop supporting the development of SOPs and a training curriculum for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) operations. A further 69 police forces and NSCDC officers were trained in risk education and then deployed to conduct awareness campaigns in the north-east.[20]

Under its weapons and ammunition management (WAM) programme, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) supported the physical security of the Nigeria Police Forces and NSCDC's weapons stockpiles by installing containerised armouries and providing training. MAG also supported NMAC in reporting to the APMBC.[21]

With support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Nigeria drafted national mine action legislation in 2024.[22] If adopted, the law will guarantee direct funding to NMAC from the federal budget to cover operational, staffing, and programme costs. Nigeria expected the law to be adopted by end of 2026.[23] As at April 2026, however, the draft law was still under review.[24]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Until the mine action legislation is enacted, NMAC is expected to receive its funding through the Ministry of Defence.[25] In parallel, NMAC will work to identify key partners and donors and seek financial support to complement counterpart funding from the Nigerian government.[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 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form A.
14 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 24 September 2024.
15 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
16 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 9.
17 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14; and email from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
18 Email from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
19 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
20 Email from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
21 Email from Emilie Mbaye, Regional Programmes Manager, MAG, 17 April 2026.
22 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.
23 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 7.
24 Email from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
25 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.
26 Ibid, p. 17.

MAG was funded by Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOP), the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), and the United States (US) Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) in 2025. Both Canada and Germany's funding continued into 2026.[27]

UNMAS was funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and the governments of Japan, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States. UNMAS received further funding through partnerships agreements with the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In-kind contributions were contributed from the Benue State Government and Switzerland, with the in-kind contributions from Benue stopping in 2025. In 2026, UNMAS was being funded by Japan, the United States, IDSF, and UNICEF, in addition to in-kind contributions from Switzerland.[28]

Nigeria said it would prepare a resource mobilisation plan by the third quarter of 2026, and establish a donor coordination mechanism under the MASWG.[29]

For more information on funding, please see the country profile of Nigeria on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[30]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Nigeria does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan in place.[31] Nigeria intended, by the end of 2026, to adopt a formal Gender and Diversity Policy; appoint a gender and diversity officer; seek gender-balanced operational teams; and tailor risk education to women, men, girls, boys, and to different ethnic and cultural groups.[32]

Both the Nigeria Police Forces and NSCDC have gender policies in place.[33] The NSCDC launched a revised gender policy in early 2026. The policy is said to strengthen gender inclusion within the Corps and promote equality, strengthen responses to gender-based violence, and integrate gender-responsive approaches into planning and operations. Going forward, the focus is on effective implementation and operationalisation across the institution.[34]

Table 2: Gender composition of operators in Nigeria in 2025[35]

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
DRC	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
MAG	10	2 (20%)	4	1 (25%)	4	1 (25%)
UNMAS	14	6 (43%)	4	2 (50%)	7	2 (29%)
Totals	**24**	**8 (33%)**	**8**	**3 (38%)**	**11**	**3 (27%)**

N/R = Not reported.

MAG and its partner organisation, Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF), deployed gender-balanced risk education teams and ensured gender and diversity inclusion during project mobilisation and implementation.[36]

In 2025, UNMAS and the GICHD integrated gender- and age-disaggregated casualty data during the development of victim assistance SOPs and training of operators. UNMAS made women's inclusion mandatory in the trainee selection for risk education training for the NSCDC and Nigeria Police Forces, resulting in 17 women participating, and deployed all-women risk education teams. Women and girls accounted for 48% of risk education beneficiaries. Two of UNMAS's four implementing partners were women-led organisations. UNMAS also worked with BBC Media Action to produce risk education radio content tailored to women and young people and incorporated gender and diversity into the Mine Action AoR planning and reporting.[37]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Nigeria does not have an NMAS or a policy on environmental management.

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has an environmental SOP in place for its mine action arm, which is implemented by its management team in Nigeria.[38] UNMAS reports having an environmental management policy in place, and in 2025, it supported the NMAC in equipping its Maiduguri office with solar panels.

27 Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026.
28 Emails from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April and 23 September 2026.
29 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 8.
30 https://the-monitor.org.
31 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form E.
32 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 9.
33 Emails from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023; and Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
34 Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026.
35 Emails from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026; and Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
36 Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026.
37 Email from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
38 Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.

In 2024 and 2025, MAG Nigeria reduced fuel use and emissions by improving field movement scheduling and cutting generator reliance through solar alternatives.[39]

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 survey, and risk education beneficiary data.[40] UNMAS provided IMSMA training to government personnel in 2022.[41] Data on clearance conducted by the Nigerian military and police forces are not reported to NMAC but held internally in their respective databases. NMAC said it was finalising memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with both institutions for the transfer of non-sensitive data on clearance conducted by their EOD units.[42]

In 2025, the use of IMSMA forms was strengthened with UNMAS providing training to operators. UNMAS also conducted QA checks before and after data entry, reviewed the completeness and integrity of reports each month, and provided structured feedback to operators on inconsistencies. An interactive dashboard was developed to support reporting, coordination, and referrals.[43]

Monthly Mine Action AoR meetings were held at LGA levels, chaired by an LGA coordinator nominated from among the operators. The meetings supported information sharing, coordination of activities, and joint responses.[44]

In 2023, Nigeria submitted an Article 7 report covering 2022, its first in more than a decade. It did not submit Article 7 reports covering 2023 or 2024, but subsequently submitted the one covering 2025. Nigeria's latest Article 7 report provided little information on AP mine contamination and on efforts to address it, reflecting the absence of such knowledge at a national level. Nigeria's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request and subsequent clarifications to the Article 5 Implementation Committee were more substantive, reflecting an improvement in Nigeria's reporting and information sharing.

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. Work on the strategy was expected to begin in 2027 and continue into 2028.[45] In March 2026, however, the Ministry of Defence, with support from UNMAS and the British government, convened a stakeholder workshop to inform the development of a national mine action strategy. A draft strategy document was drafted and circulated to operators in July of the same year, and as at September 2026, the strategy was thought to be subject to final approvals.[46]

Nigeria's mine action sector lacks any coordinated tasking process. UNMAS has drafted prioritisation criteria geared towards risk education and survey.[47] In response to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Nigeria said it will apply a three-tier prioritisation model: IMSMA-recorded explosive ordnance incidents; humanitarian needs, prioritising areas of returnees and relocated displaced persons; and economic recovery, focusing on restoration of agricultural land in secure zones. Survey and clearance planning will follow a "search–confirm–release" methodology, with quarterly reassessments by the MASWG to adapt to new security and contamination data.[48]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

As NMAC builds its capacity, it plans to develop NMAS, SOPs, and other relevant guidelines.[49] An NMAS on risk education was adopted by the mine action working group in 2021.[50] According to Nigeria's work plan, development of national standards and SOPs is scheduled for 2025 and 2026.[51] As at April 2026, NMAS and SOPs have been drafted in key areas, including in risk

39 Emails from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 September 2025; and 17 April 2025.
40 Emails from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and John Sorbo, DRC, 3 July 2021.
41 Email from Emeka Nwadike, UNMAS, 21 August 2024.
42 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, pp. 1–2.
43 Emails from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026; and Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.
44 Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026.
45 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16 and Annex 4.
46 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form A; and email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 21 September 2026.
47 Interview with Edwin Faigmane, UN NDM, Geneva, 29 April–1 May 2024.
48 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 4.
49 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.
50 Email from Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 23 September 2026.
51 Ibid., Annex 4.

education, NTS, and clearance. As the NMAS are being developed, most operators continue working to their IMAS-compliant organisational SOPs, which are reviewed and adapted to the Nigerian context.[52]

IED and explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance conducted by the Nigerian military and police does not comply with IMAS.[53]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The Nigerian military conducts clearance to support military operations and movement along key supply routes through IED disposal. The Nigeria Police Force EOD units also carry out limited survey and clearance and IED disposal. However, records of these operations are not currently shared. 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.[54]

Nigeria expected to deploy two 12-strong NMAC teams, with officers seconded from the Nigeria Police Force and the NSCDC, in the fourth quarter of 2025. The teams were expected to conduct six to eight technical survey (TS) tasks per month, and release 50,000m^2 to 70,000m^2 of land per year in safe-to-access areas.[55] This did not happen. Two further teams were planned for 2027, subject to funding.[56]

While UNMAS has secured funding to train two mine action teams, additional resources were still required to fully equip them for operations.[57] The Nigeria 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.[58]

International mine action organisations active in Nigeria include DRC, HALO, MAG, and 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.[59]

MAG has been engaging in mine action in Nigeria since 2017. Its 2025 capacity was eight staff and one community liaison team of two personnel. MAG focused on risk education, assessments, capacity building, and information dissemination. MAG also strengthened capacity by providing training to staff, teachers, humanitarian workers, and drivers.[60]

HALO's current work in Nigeria is limited to its WAM programme. 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.[61]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

There was no release of mined area in 2025, the same as in previous years.

SURVEY IN 2025

No AP mined area was released through survey in Nigeria in 2025.[62]

Survey in Nigeria is severely restricted by the continuing conflict. 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.[63]

CLEARANCE IN 2025

No AP mined area was cleared in Nigeria in 2025.[64]

Explosive ordnance items identified in the course of surveys and community assessments are reported to national authorities for removal, but data on clearance conducted by the EOD units of the military and police forces were not reported.

52 Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026.
53 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, pp. 1–2.
54 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
55 Ibid., p. 11; and Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 3.
56 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 3.
57 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.
58 Ibid., p. 11.
59 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 12.
60 Email from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026.
61 Email from Iina Kuuttila, Country Director Nigeria, HALO, 12 September 2025.
62 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.
63 Email from Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.
64 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form D.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR NIGERIA: 1 MARCH 2002

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2012

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FIRST EXTENSION REQUEST DEADLINE (1 YEAR): 31 DECEMBER 2021

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SECOND EXTENSION REQUEST DEADLINE (4 YEARS): 31 DECEMBER 2025

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THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (3 YEARS): 31 DECEMBER 2028

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Nigeria is required to destroy all AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2028. At this early stage of its mine action programme, it is unlikely that Nigeria will meet this deadline.

In 2011, at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Nigeria 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.[65] 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.[66] In May 2021, Nigeria submitted a further request seeking 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 2021 extension request period remained limited.

Progress was also 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 is now resolved with the creation of NMAC in 2024.

In June 2025, Nigeria submitted a third Article 5 deadline extension request, which was granted at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, extending Nigeria's deadline to 31 December 2028. The 2025 request outlined plans for survey and clearance in secure areas, pending funding from the government and sustained international support. The request also assumed that NMAC will build sufficient capacity to lead and coordinate national mine action efforts. NMAC, however, remained underfunded and under-resourced. The two mine action teams trained by UNMAS to conduct EOD and IEDD operations were not deployed. Other obstacles persisted: the continued conflict and insecurity restricted access in the affected northeastern states, preventing comprehensive surveys and clearance; the evolving nature of improvised mines and IEDs complicating detection and response; and insufficient contamination data hindering planning and prioritisation efforts.[67]

In 2025, Nigeria made progress in expanding its NTS and community engagement. Although this did not result in the identification of hazardous areas, it did improve understanding of contamination and reduce civilian exposure to risk. Nigeria also reportedly started drafting a national mine action strategy, continued developing NMAS, and put forward the mine action legislation for adoption.[68] Still, Nigeria's ability to meet its Article 5 obligations is contingent on its ability to establish a fully capable NMAC and sustain national and international support. Systematic survey and clearance will also depend on the security conditions in affected areas allowing for safe and unhindered humanitarian access.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Nigeria says it will maintain a rapid-response capacity within military engineering and police EOD units, coordinated by NMAC, to address residual contamination. The capacity is to be integrated into the national disaster management and security planning framework.[69]

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

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

67 Emails from Emilie Mbaye, MAG, 17 April 2026; and Maddalena Malgarini, UNMAS, 14 April 2026.

68 Ibid.

69 Clarification and additional information on Nigeria's Article 5 request to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, p. 10.