

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Unknown

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km²)	Release in 2023 (km²)
Clearance	Unknown	Unknown
Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Non-Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	Unknown	Unknown

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

■

None

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Little information is available on anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination, survey, and clearance in Pakistan, where there is no civilian mine action programme. Pakistan has stated that landmines are essential for defence purposes given its vast land borders, though it claims to have cleared AP mines laid on the border with India in 2001–02, and there is little evidence that it has used them in recent years. Pakistan claims that it does not use mines to maintain internal order or for counter-terrorism purposes. However, reports of AP mine explosions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan persist, and though non-State armed groups (NSAGs) are likely to bear responsibility, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at least, it is possible that some are legacy AP mines involving the Pakistan security forces.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Pakistan should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- In the meantime, Pakistan should clear AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law to protect life.
- Pakistan should report publicly on the extent and location of AP mined areas and prepare a plan for their clearance.

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- No national mine action authority or centre

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Pakistani military engineering units
- Frontier Constabulary
- Police bomb disposal squad

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The extent of AP mine contamination in Pakistan is not known. Pakistan remains affected by mines and other explosive ordnance (EO) resulting from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1979–89) and three wars with India: in 1947, 1965, and 1971. Pakistan has also laid AP mines in front of its positions in Pakistan-administered Kashmir,¹ where it maintains permanent minefields along certain sections of the Line of Control (LoC) that divides Indian- and Pakistani-administered Kashmir.² There are reports of Indian-produced anti-vehicle (AV) mines at least having moved from the LoC into Pakistan during flooding.³ More recent contamination results from the continuing conflicts in areas bordering Afghanistan, including the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), which merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018.⁴

Pakistan asserts that AP mines are integral to its defence,⁵ particularly given its extensive land borders,⁶ and is one of a small number of nations that still manufactures AP mines.⁷ In 2016, Pakistan stated that it would not adhere to the APMBC due to the security situation on its border with India where it had previously emplaced mines, and said it would do so again if necessary.⁸ The last confirmed large-scale use of AP mines by Pakistan was between December 2001 and the middle of 2002, during escalating tensions with India.⁹ In 2017 and 2018, Pakistan claimed that mines laid during those tensions were all cleared and that no mines had been laid since.¹⁰ In its Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report covering 2022, Pakistan reiterated past statements that the country “at present faces no problem of uncleared mines since no mines have been laid by [the] Pakistan Army after escalation of 2001–2002 on Pakistan's Eastern Border”.¹¹

Media reports in 2012–13, following an increase in Pakistan army operations along the Afghan border, indicated new casualties from use of mines by Pakistani forces for “security purposes”, although it was unclear whether this was from recent or historic use. Landmine Monitor has received no reports of the Pakistan Army emplacing any landmines in recent years.¹² In January 2025, however, one Indian publication claimed that Pakistan had been laying AP mines along some sections of the LoC that divides Pakistan- and Indian-administered Kashmir as part of a move to enhance its defence capabilities.¹³ In April 2025, an explosion along the LoC is said to have killed a soldier, although the cause of the explosion was not known.¹⁴

Reports of casualties from landmine explosions, including AP mines, among security personnel and civilians also continue in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, though media articles regularly fail to attribute responsibility.¹⁵ Politicians and defence analysts have denied claims that the authorities are responsible for emplacing any mines in the tribal areas (in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), and Pakistan has stated that its “security forces do not use mines for the maintenance of internal order and law enforcement or in counter terrorism operations”.¹⁶

In April 2019, however, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society stated that mines emplaced by security personnel and militants over the years posed a threat to communities across different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Dawra, Gandaw, and Landi Kallay in Sipah, and in Sheen Kamar near Mastak).¹⁷ Local activists contend that tribal areas have not been cleared of mines (whether emplaced by the security forces or NSAGs), and a media source in 2023 indicated that

1 Human Rights Watch, “Recent Landmine Use by India and Pakistan”, Backgrounder, May 2002, at: <https://bit.ly/3srXtQz>, p. 4.

2 Landmine Monitor, “Pakistan”, Last updated 22 September 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/26ptt9d8>.

3 Ibid.

4 “Extending Constitutional Rights to Pakistan's Tribal Areas”, United States Institute for Peace, 6 April 2021, at: <https://tinyurl.com/263w6685>.

5 Statement of Pakistan on Universalisation, APMBC Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP), Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

6 Landmine Monitor, “Pakistan”, Last updated 22 September 2024.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Landmine Monitor, “Pakistan”, Last updated 22 September 2024.

10 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2018), Form B; and Statement of Pakistan, Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC, 18–21 December 2017.

11 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2022), Form B.

12 Landmine Monitor, “Pakistan”, Last updated 22 September 2024.

13 “Anti-personnel mines, mock firings, reigniting local militancy: Pakistan's new LoC strategy against India exposed”, *The Week*, 11 January 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/32yusuru>.

14 “Soldier martyred in accidental explosion in AJK”, *Dawn*, 3 April 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/5n9x8zpa>.

15 Landmine Monitor, “Pakistan”, Last updated 22 September 2024.

16 Statement of Pakistan on Universalisation, APMBC Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP), Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

17 Landmine Monitor, “Pakistan”, Last updated 22 September 2024.

the authorities had acknowledged that, at least in North and South Waziristan (in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) where a heavier concentration of AP mines is reported, more time was needed to complete clearance.¹⁸ Some residents in tribal areas have indicated that if they complain about the danger of mines, they risk being detained.¹⁹

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and neighbouring Balochistan province, reports of landmine use among NSAGs date from as early as the 2000s.²⁰ Incidents affecting security personnel and civilians in the two provinces, including from AP mines, continued to be reported in 2024 and into 2025.²¹ Although it is not always clear how recently landmines have been used, the fact that accidents have occurred as recently as 2024 in areas frequented by locals, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at least, suggests that some use was recent.²² In 2020, it was reported

that the Baloch Liberation Army had imported factory-made AP mines, probably from Iran,²³ and the authorities have regularly reported seizing AP mines from NSAGs, with reports of seizures in Balochistan in 2023.²⁴ NSAGs in Pakistan are also reported to have used AV mines.²⁵

According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), between January 2024 and August 2025, Te'reek-i-Taliban was involved in the vast majority of the remote explosive, improvised explosive device (IED), and mine detonations it reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochi separatist movements were involved in most such explosions reported in Balochistan. More than 200 reports were listed in each province, although only a few will have involved munitions that meet the definition of an AP mine.²⁶ Responsibility for the incidents listed is not attributed.²⁷

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Pakistan has no formal civilian mine action programme. Pakistani military engineering units have been responsible for mine clearance in conflict zones, while the Frontier Constabulary has conducted clearance in contaminated areas of Balochistan, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other conflict zones. According to a media report some clearance is also undertaken by the police's bomb disposal squad.²⁸

Pakistan's CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 report covering 2021, was submitted under cover of a letter dated 17 December 2024,²⁹ and no report was submitted in 2024 covering 2023. As at August 2025, Pakistan had not submitted an Amended Protocol II report. Pakistan did, as mentioned above, submit an Amended Protocol II Report in 2023 (covering 2022).

In its Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report covering 2019 (repeated in the corresponding report covering 2022; no report was submitted in 2021), Pakistan said it had established a National Counter IED Forum with representatives from the Armed Forces, civil defence organisations, law enforcement agencies, and the police to develop a coordinated response to the IED threat and that the capacity of these organisations was being built.³⁰ Pakistan says it has acquired considerable expertise in demining.³¹ Furthermore, mine education forms part of the syllabus at different military schools and training centres, and periodic programmes for the education of civilians, especially children, are held in areas close to the border with India.³²

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

It is not known whether Pakistan takes into consideration gender and diversity during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of mines.

18 "Landmines Continue To Terrorize Civilians In The Merged Areas And Beyond", *The Friday Times*, 20 July 2023, at: <https://tinyurl.com/2yn74cnh>.
19 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024.
20 "The New Humanitarian, "Landmine toll increasing in Restive Balochistan", 14 September 2006, at: <https://tinyurl.com/5yue8989>; "Pakistan: Menacing Landmines In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Analysis", *Euroasiareview*, 5 July 2021, at: <https://tinyurl.com/2w4pcyds>.
21 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024; ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2024-21/08/2025, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, Pakistan," accessed: 21 August 2025 at: www.acleddata.com; see also "4 Pakistani security personnel killed in landmine blast in Balochistan", *AA*, 26 April 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/4tec8frp>; "Foreign Diplomats Safe After Convoy Hits Land Mine In Pakistan; 1 Officer Killed", *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, 22 September 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/2vae47ns>; "Father And Daughter Injured In Landmine Blast In Lower Kurram, Armed Attack On Mangak Village", *MENAFN*, 15 February 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/2xc2se82>; and "Land mine blast kills 4 people in northwestern Pakistan", *AP*, 25 June 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6nhanpb>.
22 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024.
23 Ibid.
24 Ibid.
25 Ibid.
26 ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2024-21/08/2025, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, Pakistan", accessed: 21 August 2025 at: www.acleddata.com.
27 See: <https://acleddata.com/faq/can-it-be-assumed-actor-1-aggressor>.
28 "Landmines recovered from Bajaur college", *DAWN*, 22 January 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/2Qy2LfY>.
29 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2021).
30 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Reports (covering 2019 and 2022), Form B.
31 Statement of Pakistan on Universalisation, 21MSP, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.
32 Ibid.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of mines in Pakistan in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

In its statement at the Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC in November 2023, Pakistan reiterated its claim that, "The use of landmines is exclusively by the military for defence purposes".³³ Pakistan has said, as mentioned, that it does not use mines to maintain order, for law enforcement, or in counterterrorism operations.³⁴ Pakistan has also advocated for the total elimination of AP mines through the development of non-lethal and cost-effective alternative technologies.³⁵

Pakistan reported on mine clearance in its most recent Amended Protocol II report (covering 2022), indicating that the army had destroyed 582 mines (526 AP P2, 47 AP P4, 7 AP P4 Prac, and 2 AP Sharpenal).³⁶ In 2023, a Pakistani army spokesperson reported that 65% of the AP mines in the districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa affected by terrorism had been cleared of AP mines.³⁷ A media source

the same year indicated that the military had undertaken extensive demining operations, clearing the vast majority of explosive ordnance in five of the seven tribal districts (Bajaur, Mohmand, Orakzai, Khyber, and Kurram). The report acknowledged though, as indicated above, that more time was needed to clear the remaining two districts of North and South Waziristan, where there was a greater concentration of AP mines.³⁸

There have, however, been repeated calls from local communities to step up demining to avoid further mine blasts.³⁹ Pakistan has stated that: "Marking, fencing and monitoring of mined areas are common ways through which effective exclusion is accomplished by the Pakistan army."⁴⁰

Given Pakistan's stance that AP mines are integral to its security, no target date has been set for the completion of mine clearance.

33 Ibid.; and Statement of Pakistan, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 29 November 2019.

34 Statement of Pakistan on Universalisation, 21MSP, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023; and Statement of Pakistan, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 29 November 2019.

35 Statement of Pakistan on Universalisation, 21MSP, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

36 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

37 "Pakistan Army Clears 65% of Landmines in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: ISPR", *Tribal News Network*, 25 April 2023, at: <https://tinyurl.com/356wzvbt>.

38 "Landmines Continue To Terrorize Civilians In The Merged Areas And Beyond", *The Friday Times*, 20 July 2023.

39 "Uncleared landmines, ordnance threaten lives, limbs along Pakistan-Afghan border", 19 April 2024, *Voice of America*, at: <https://tinyurl.com/mmfwfvt6>.

40 Statement of Pakistan, APMBC Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 26 November 2018.