PAKISTAN

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

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 2025 (km²)	Release in 2024 (km²)
Clearance	Unknown	Unknown
Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Non-Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown

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:

- 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 there is little evidence that it has used them in recent years. Reports of AP mine explosions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan persist, and there was a reported increase in landmine and improvised explosive device (IED) incidents in those regions in the year to the middle of 2025, due to a rise in insurgent activities. A few unconfirmed reports suggest that security force-backed militias have been responsible for emplacing landmines in Balochistan.

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 CAPACITY

- No national mine action authority or centre

NATIONAL OPERATORS

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

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Not known

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] In its Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report covering 2024, Pakistan claimed that "Pakistan at present has no problem of uncleared mines", but noted that, "Casualties have however occurred due to IEDs used by terrorists".[5]

LANDMINE CONTAMINATION ALONG OR NEAR PAKISTAN'S BORDERS

Pakistan asserts that AP mines are integral to its defence,[6] particularly given its extensive land borders,[7] and is one of a small number of nations that still manufactures AP mines.[8] 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.[9] 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.[10] In 2017 and 2018, Pakistan claimed that mines laid during those tensions were all cleared and that no mines had been laid since.[11] In its 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".[12]

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. 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] In March 2026, an Indian AV mine was reportedly neutralised by a Pakistani "bomb squad" in Narowal, on the outskirts of Deoli, close to the Indian border and Jammu and Kashmir.[15]

For more information on use, please see the country profile on Pakistan on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[16]

MINE CONTAMINATION IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND BALOCHISTAN PROVINCES

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and neighbouring Balochistan province, reports of mine use by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) date from as early as the 2000s.[17] This has included the use of AV mines.[18] A significant increase in landmine and IED-related incidents was reported by a national NGO in the year to mid-2025, compared with previous years, due to a rise in insurgent activities, though media articles regularly fail to attribute responsibility for landmine use.[19] 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".[20]

1 Human Rights Watch, "Recent Landmine Use by India and Pakistan", Backgrounder, May 2002, https:/bit.ly/3srXtQz, p. 4.
2 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024, https://tinyurl.com/26ptt9d8.
3 Ibid.
4 "Extending Constitutional Rights to Pakistan's Tribal Areas", United States Institute for Peace, 6 April 2021.
5 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2024), Form B.
6 Statement of Pakistan on Universalisation, APMBC Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP), Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.
7 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024.
8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.
10 Ibid.
11 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.
12 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2022), Form B.
13 "Anti-personnel mines, mock firings, reigniting local militancy: Pakistan's new LoC strategy against India exposed", *The Week*, 11 January 2025, https://tinyurl.com/32yusuru.
14 "Soldier martyred in accidental explosion in AJK", *Dawn,* 3 April 2025, https://tinyurl.com/5n9x8zpa.
15 "Narowal escapes disaster as bomb squad defuses Indian anti-tank mine", *24 News HD*, 8 March 2026, https://tinyurl.com/2ze935dd.
16 https://the-monitor.org.
17 "The New Humanitarian, "Landmine toll increasing in Restive Balochistan", 14 September 2006, https://tinyurl.com/5yue8989; "Pakistan: Menacing Landmines In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Analysis", *Euroasiareview,* 5 July 2021, https://tinyurl.com/2w4pcyds.
18 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024.
19 *Landmine Monitor Report 2025*, https://tinyurl.com/muz3zy54, p. 36.
20 Statement of Pakistan on Universalisation, APMBC Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP), Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

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).[21] In September 2025, a media source reported that a local politician in Balochistan had accused the Frontier Corps of supporting an armed group (with funding, weapons, and drones), known locally as the "Death Squad", that has laid landmines in Dera Bugti causing multiple fatalities.[22] A limited number of other sources have been identified that link the security forces to unidentified local militias in Balochistan, sometimes referred to as "death squads".[23] In 2026, the Human Rights Council of Pakistan reported the death of a 19-year-old in a mine explosion, with local sources attributing the emplacement of the mine to a State-operated group.[24]

Since 2025, media sources have highlighted civilian casualties from landmine explosions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan,[25] whereas, previously, casualties among the armed forces were also reported.[26]

The extent of mined area in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan is not known. Media sources at the end of 2025, however, cite data attributed to the security agencies, indicating that "114 square kilometres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were identified as contaminated with mines and explosive remnants", though it is unclear when this figure dates from. The security forces also warned that extremists continue to threaten peace and safety in the province.[27]

Although it is not always clear how recently landmines have been used, the fact that accidents have occurred as recently as 2024 and the first half of 2025 in areas frequented by locals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces suggests that some use has been recent.[28] A few reports have sought to attribute responsibility. In 2024 and early 2025, for example, several people were killed by landmines allegedly laid by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.[29] One media source, which reported child casualties from explosive material in North Waziristan in December 2025, said the police attributed leftover landmines and improvised explosive material to "Fitna al-Khawarij *[Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan]* during the height of the war on terror".[30] With most incidents, however, it remains unclear as to when and by whom the landmines were laid.[31]

Landmine incidents continued into 2026 in both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, including several incidents causing civilian casualties in the remote area of Kurram in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Following the reported incidents in Kurram district, local residents, leaders, and tribesmen urged the authorities to clear the area of landmines, which are reported to be the result of two years of unrest in the area.[32] Civilian casualties from landmine blasts in 2026 were also reported in South Waziristan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and in Dera Bugti in Balochistan.[33] Furthermore, one media source reported that "two alleged militants" died in a blast while they were planting a landmine at the side of the road in the Lanjoo-Saghari area of tehsil Sui in Dera Bugti.[34]

According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), between 1 January 2025 and 24 August 2025, Tehreek-i-Taliban was involved in the vast majority of remote explosive, IED, and mine detonations it reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where more than 200 reports were listed which mentioned Tehreek-i-Taliban. Balochi separatist movements were involved in most such explosions reported in Balochistan, where more than 300 reports were listed. Only a few, however, appear to have involved munitions that meet the definition of an AP mine.[35] Responsibility for the listed incidents is not attributed.[36]

For more information on use and casualties, please see the country profile on Pakistan on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[37]

21 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024.

22 "Land Grabs and Explosive Conflict Erupt in Dera Bugti", *Devdiscourse,* 18 September 2025, https://tinyurl.com/32n5t3n8.

23 European Union Agency for Asylum, Pakistan Country Focus, May 2026, p. 41.

24 Human Rights Council of Balochistan, Human Rights Violations in Balochistan: 105 Enforced Disappearances, 59 Killings Documented in July 2026, 24 August 2026, https://tinyurl.com/mw8ad8pc.

25 "Father And Daughter Injured In Landmine Blast In Lower Kurram, Armed Attack On Mangak Village", *MENAFN*, 15 February 2025, https://tinyurl.com/2xc2se82; "Land mine blast kills 4 people in northwestern Pakistan", *AP*, 25 June 2025, https://tinyurl.com/y6nhanpb; "Fatal Landmine Explosion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Claims Two Lives", *editoriji*, 27 November 2025, https://tinyurl.com/mrbefzpb; "Shepherd killed in South Waziristan landmine blast", *Dawn*, 25 November 2026, https://tinyurl.com/55kcnz92.

26 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024.

27 "Two children killed as leftover militant explosives detonate in North Waziristan", *aajtv*, 11 December 2025, https://tinyurl.com/mvyj2hpa.

28 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024; and *Landmine Monitor Report 2025*, p. 36.

29 Ibid.

30 "Two children killed as leftover militant explosives detonate in North Waziristan", *aajtv*, 11 December 2025, https://tinyurl.com/mvyj2hpa.

31 *Landmine Monitor Report 2025*, p. 36.

32 "Schoolboy maimed in Kurram landmine blast", *The News*, 12 April 2026, https://tinyurl.com/2yrttffe; "Biker killed in landmine blast near Quetta", *The News*, 3 August 2026, https://tinyurl.com/yk25bpcb; Two killed, one injured in Kurram landmine blasts", *The News*, 29 March 2026, https://tinyurl.com/yeyur7c5; and "Nine hurt in 3 separate landmine explosions in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", *Daily Excelsior*, 17 August 2026, https://tinyurl.com/n6vrpjs4.

33 "2 kids critically injured in landmine blast in northwest Pakistan", *The Week*, 28 January 2026, https://tinyurl.com/5ajd9y5f; and "One Killed, One Injured in Landmine Blast in Dera Bugti", *Daily Independent*, 7 February 2026, https://tinyurl.com/57cmz6db.

34 "Three suspects killed in Quetta 'encounter', *Dawn*, 26 October 2026, https://tinyurl.com/32wb33pt.

35 ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2025-24/08/2026, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, Pakistan", accessed 25 August 2026 www.acleddata.com.

36 See: https://bit.ly/4y0L0oV.

37 https://the-monitor.org.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND 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.[38]

Pakistan has not been consistent in the submission and content of its CCW Amended Protocol II reports in recent years. It did, however, submit a report in 2026 (covering 2025), and at Form E, it indicated that 32 officers/soldiers from 11 countries were trained at its "Counter IED, Explosives and Munitions School" on courses relating to explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). Furthermore, two of the courses at the school were accredited by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).[39]

In its prior CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report covering 2024, Pakistan stated that, to counter the IED threat, significant national efforts had been made to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies, civil defence agencies, and the police by providing them with the latest equipment and training at the Counter IED, Explosives and Munitions School. In addition, IED risk education was provided to the armed forces (and the general population) through dissemination of monthly assessment reports.[40] Pakistan also reported that 56 officers/soldiers from 14 countries received EOD training at the School in 2024.[41]

Pakistan says it has acquired considerable expertise in demining.[42] 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.[43]

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.

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

Pakistan did not submit a Form B (Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes), in its most recent Article 13 report (covering 2025) under Amended Protocol II of the CCW, although it indicated in the cover sheet that this remained unchanged since its last reporting year in 2024. At Form F (Other relevant matters), however, it stated that 463 AV mines and 10,855 AP mines were destroyed in 2025, as they were "unserviceable".[44] In 2024, Pakistan reported destroying 1,535 AV mines and 4,122 AP mines, presumably from stockpiles, for the same reason.[45]

Media sources at the end of 2025 reported that security personnel had cleared 82km^2 of 114km^2 of landmines and explosive ordnance in ongoing counterterrorism efforts across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and planned to clear another 32km^2 (the time periods covered are not clear).[46] Officials have reportedly said that the military's demining efforts aim to safeguard civilians and prevent further casualties.[47]

A media source in 2023 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, 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.[48] There have, however, been repeated calls from local communities to step up demining to avoid further mine blasts.[49]

38 "Landmines recovered from Bajaur college", *DAWN*, 22 January 2020, http://bit.ly/2Qy2LfY.

39 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2025), Form E.

40 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2024), Form B.

41 Ibid., Form E.

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

43 Ibid.

44 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2025), Form F.

45 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2024), Form F.

46 "Two children killed as leftover militant explosives detonate in North Waziristan", *aajtv*, 11 December 2025, https://tinyurl.com/mvyj2hpa; "Security forces remove over 82 square kilometers of landmines in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", *Abb Takk* TV, undated, https://tinyurl.com/axhandz5.

47 Two children killed as leftover militant explosives detonate in North Waziristan", *aajtv*, 11 December 2025.

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

49 "Uncleared landmines, ordnance threaten lives, limbs along Pakistan-Afghan border", 19 April 2024, *Voice of America*, https://tinyurl.com/mmfwfvk6; "Schoolboy maimed in Kurram landmine blast", *The News*, 12 April 2026; "Biker killed in landmine blast near Quetta", *The News*, 3 August 2026; "Two killed, one injured in Kurram landmine blasts", *The News*, 29 March 2026; and "Nine hurt in 3 separate landmine explosions in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", *Daily Excelsior*, 17 August 2026.

In its statement at the Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC in 2023, Pakistan reiterated its claim that, "The use of landmines is exclusively by the military for defence purposes".[50] It also said that it, "supports the humanitarian objectives of this Convention and is guided by humanitarianism and respect for International Humanitarian Law and protection of civilian life", and that it supported the total elimination of AP mines "by making available non-lethal and cost-effective alternative technologies".[51] Pakistan has said, as referenced above, that it does not use mines to maintain order, for law enforcement, or in counterterrorism operations.[52]

Given Pakistan's stance, which it has reiterated since 2002, that AP mines are integral to its security,[53] no target date has been set for the completion of landmine clearance.

DEMINER SAFETY

During the operation to clear 82km^2 of 114km^2 of landmines and explosive hazards in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (see above), five soldiers were reported to have died and another 115 were injured.[54] No details of any follow-up investigations were available.

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

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

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

53 Landmine Monitor, "Pakistan", Last updated 22 September 2024.

54 Two children killed as leftover militant explosives detonate in North Waziristan", *aajtv*, 11 December 2025; "Security forces remove over 82 square kilometers of landmines in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", *Abb Takk TV*, undated.