

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2026
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION: LIGHT

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

LESS THAN

5km²

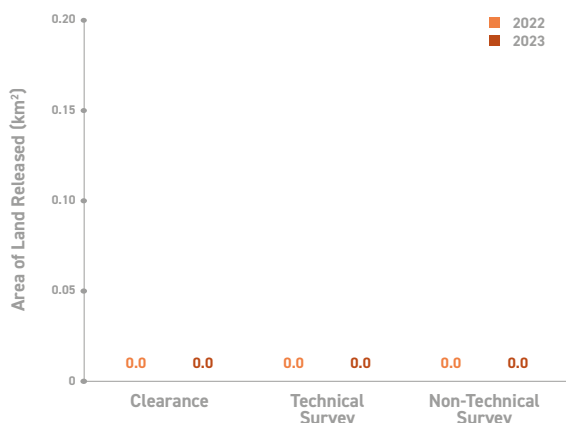
SUBMUNITION
CLEARANCE IN 2023

0km²

SUBMUNITIONS
DESTROYED IN 2023

0

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2022, Somalia had pledged to develop a plan for national survey for cluster munition remnants (CMR) during 2023, but this did not materialise. Somalia continued to make progress with implementation of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core in 2023, with full implementation expected by the end of 2024. Somalia has still to effectively implement its obligations under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Somalia should ensure timely survey and clearance of CMR in accordance with its CCM obligations.
- Somalia should elaborate a comprehensive baseline of CMR contamination as soon as possible.
- Somalia should finalise a new national mine action strategy to replace the strategic plan for 2018-20.
- Somalia should elaborate a Gender and Diversity policy and implementation plan for mine action.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion | Score (2023) | Score (2022) | Performance Commentary |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score) | 3 | 3 | No baseline of CMR contamination has been established. Somalia stated in 2022 that it intended to develop a national survey plan for CMR during 2023, though no further progress has been reported. |
| NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score) | 4 | 4 | The Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) continued to receive capacity development support during 2023. The lack of national ownership continues to be an issue as the Federal Government of Somalia has still not formally recognised the Authority as a government institution or formally approved mine action legislation. SEMA continues to be unable to access State funding. |
| GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 included provisions on gender and diversity. However, an updated strategy was pending Federal Government approval as at May 2024. SEMA has advocated action on gender and diversity within survey and community liaison teams. However, there are challenges to achieving gender mainstreaming within Somalia as a patriarchal society. Clan affiliation is also an important consideration in Somalia. |
| ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION* (10% of overall score) | 4 | Not Scored | It has been reported that a section on environmental management is contained within Somalia's national mine action standards (NMAS), which were still pending approval as at May 2024. Somalia does not have an environmental policy or an expected timeline for when one may be developed. International operators have environmental policies and are taking measures to protect the environment during operations. |
| INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | SEMA has assumed full ownership and responsibility for the national mine action database, although the database is said to be neither up to date nor accurate. SEMA began upgrading to the IMSMA Core system in 2022 and originally expected to complete implementation by the end of 2023, though this is now expected by the end of 2024. Somalia submitted a CCM Article 7 report covering 2022 in September 2023, but as at June 2024, had yet to submit a report covering 2023. |
| PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 was extended for one year in 2020 to allow SEMA sufficient time to develop a new strategy. In August 2022 SEMA reported that a new strategy has been developed but, as at May 2024, this was still pending approval by the Ministry of Internal Security. The 2018–2020 strategic plan does not contain any specific provisions for survey or clearance of CMR. While there have been some improvements in the tasking process, no agreed prioritisation criteria exist. |
| LAND RELEASE SYSTEM** (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | A review of Somalia's NMAS took place in 2021. However, the revised NMAS were still in draft and pending government approval at May 2024. Somalia has no national capacity for survey and clearance of CMR. |
| LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score) | 2 | 2 | No CMR survey or clearance took place in 2023 and there were no reports of submunitions being discovered or destroyed in Somalia. Indeed, no nationally coordinated survey or clearance has been reported by Somalia in recent years. Furthermore, UNMAS emphasised security as the most significant challenge as currently, most sites with evidence of CMR cannot be safely accessed. Somalia is not on track to meet its 2026 Article 4 deadline. |
| Average Score | 3.8 | 3.9 | Overall Programme Performance: VERY POOR |

* New criterion introduced in 2024 to assess performance.

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

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA)
- Mine Action Department, within the Somaliland Ministry of Defence (formerly the Mine Clearance Information and Coordination Authority (MCICA), and before that the Somaliland Mine Action Centre, SMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Federal Member States (FMS) Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) consortium
- **INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS**
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)*
- Ukroboronservice

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

* NPA ceased operations in Somalia in April 2023.¹

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

The extent of CMR contamination in Somalia remains unknown.² While there has been no baseline survey, contamination appears to be light given the low numbers of submunitions found on the ground so far and with historical survey, clearance, and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) activities yielding little evidence of a more significant problem.³ Submunitions have been discovered in three of Somalia's six⁴ official federal member states: Jubaland (in southern Somalia, bordering Kenya); Puntland (a semi-autonomous administration in the north-east); and South West state (also known as Koonfur Galbeed).

Unlike Somalia's previous CCM Article 7 report, where no details of location or size contaminated areas were provided,⁵ Somalia's most recent Article 7 report (covering 2022) includes a table with details of suspected CMR contamination, including locations, size of areas, submunition type and quantities⁶ (see Table 1). While all "estimated or known" dates of contamination are between 2015 and 2017, Mine Action Review has not been able to ascertain if any or all of these dates refer to the date of contamination or, in fact, to the date of their discovery. As there has been no baseline survey, Somalia has not been able to specify which areas are suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and which are confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs).

Table 1: CMR Contamination (at September 2022)⁷

| State and location* | Area (m ²) | Submunition type | Estimated quantity | Estimated or known date of contamination |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Jubaland, Gedo, Garbohaarey, Shabeel Garbohaarey | 100 | RBK 250 container | 1 | 02/08/2017 |
| South West, Bakool, Rab Dhuure/ Rab Dhuure | 100 | RBK 250-270 container | 1 | 01/09/2015 |
| Galmudug, Galgaduud, Dhuusamarreeb Mareer Guur, Dhuusamarreeb | 100 | AO-15CH container-submunitions | 1 | 18/07/2017 |
| South West, Bakool, Rab Dhuure/ Rab Dhuure | 100 | RBK 250-275 container | 2 | 01/09/2015 |
| South West, Bakool, Rab Dhuure/ Rab Dhuure | 100 | RBK 250-275 container | 3 | 30/08/2015 |
| South West, Bakool, Rab Dhuure/ Rab Dhuure | 100 | RBK 250-275 container | 2 | 03/09/2015 |
| Totals | 600 | | 10 | |

* Locations are as given in the CCM Article 7 report for 2022 (Form F), which include the Federal Member State, Region, District, and a specific location.

1 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, Operations Manager, Puntland, NPA, 24 March 2023.
2 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form A; and email from Claus Nielsen, Country Director, NPA, 26 May 2021.
3 Email from Rob Syfret, Head of Region, Horn of Africa, The HALO Trust (HALO), 1 June 2023.
4 These six official Federal member states include the uncontrolled state of Somaliland.
5 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020 and 2021).
6 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.
7 Ibid.

Somalia has, to date, provided only limited data disaggregating CMR from other explosive ordnance contamination. In a table in Somalia's Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request of 2021, which summarises Somalia's known contamination, there was only one specific reference to CMR contamination: 784,352m² of CHA in Galmudug state, contaminated with a mixture of anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, CMR, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO).⁸

Somalia states that no further survey of CMR-contaminated areas has been possible in recent years, due to a lack of funding and lack of a national survey plan.⁹ Somalia stated in 2021 that it would develop a national survey plan in 2023,¹⁰ and, specifically a survey plan for CMR "throughout 2023".¹¹ In its most recent CCM Article 7 report (covering 2022) Somalia states that "a country-wide survey plan" was developed in 2022, but also states that a lack of international funding is a challenge to implementation of this plan.¹² But neither this Article 7 report nor Somalia's updated 2022–2027 Work Plan, which was submitted to the APMBC in April 2023, include any specific provisions for survey or clearance of CMR.¹³ SEMA has stated however, that if CMR are found in the course of nationwide survey, this will be recorded and disaggregated from other weapon types.¹⁴ Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) completed non-technical survey (NTS) of mined areas in Puntland state in February 2023 and has since left the country.¹⁵

The Ethiopian National Defence Forces and the Somali National Armed Forces are thought to have used cluster munitions in clashes along the Somali-Ethiopian border during the 1977–78 Ogaden War, with the Soviet Union reportedly supplying both Somalia and Ethiopia with submunitions during the conflict, and PTAB-2.5 and AO-1-Sch submunitions produced by the Soviet Union on a large scale.¹⁶ In January 2016, Somali media reports alleged that the Kenyan Defence Forces (KDF) had used cluster munitions during an intensive bombing campaign in Gedo region, in response to an attack on KDF forces at an African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) base in El Adde in which 150 Kenyan soldiers were reportedly killed.¹⁷ Photos appeared to show that the KDF used United Kingdom (UK)-manufactured BL755 submunitions in the area of Bu'ale, and subsequently it was reported that al-Shabaab had discovered unexploded submunitions of the same BL755 type, which it used in improvised explosive devices (IEDs).¹⁸

A United Nations (UN) Monitoring Group investigated whether Kenyan forces had used cluster munitions but was unable to conclude that the KDF had dropped the BL755 submunitions during airstrikes on Gedo in January 2016. It noted, however, the absence of reports of unexploded BL755 submunitions among legacy UXO contamination in Somalia. Kenya denied using cluster munitions in the January 2016 air campaign, calling the Monitoring Group's report "at best, a fabricated, wild and sensationalist allegation".¹⁹

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Somalia states that contamination from explosive remnants of war (ERW) is prevalent across all states and regions of the country²⁰ and that, following improvements in data consolidation and recent NTS, it had identified a total of 1,114 hazardous areas for all explosive ordnance, measuring a total of just over 169.7km².²¹ Landmines contaminate Somalia's border with Ethiopia in south-central Somalia, mainly as a result of legacy minefields.²² See Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Somalia, including Somaliland, for further information.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Mine action management in Somalia is the responsibility of SEMA. There is a separate regional office in Somaliland, the Mine Action Department within the Somaliland Ministry of Defence (formerly, the Mine Clearance Information

and Coordination Authority (MCICA), and before that the Somaliland Mine Action Centre (SMAC), in Somaliland.²³ SEMA maintains a presence across Somalia through its five Federal Member States: the Galmudug State Office, Hirshabelle State

8 Revised Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request, September 2021, p. 46.

9 Ibid.; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

10 Revised APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, September 2021, p. 46.

11 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020 and 2021), Form F.

12 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

13 Federal Republic of Somalia, Work Plan for the period from October 2022 to October 2027, Submitted to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, 30 April 2023.

14 Interview with Information Management Manager, Somalia Explosive Management Authority, (SEMA), Individualised Approach Meeting, Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP), Geneva, 23 November 2023.

15 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, Country Director, NPA, 1 and 10 June 2022; and Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

16 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, Somalia National Mine Action Authority (SNMAA), 17 April 2013; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

17 "Letter dated 7 October 2016 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea addressed to the President of the Security Council", UN doc. S/2016/919, 31 October 2016, pp. 171–73.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.

20 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023, p. 16.

21 Ibid., p. 11.

22 UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), "UN-suggested Explosive Hazard Management Strategic Framework 2015–2019", undated, pp. 6 and 12.

23 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016; and telephone interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, Director, SEMA, 19 August 2020.

Office, Jubaland State Office, Puntland State Office, and South West State Office.²⁴

SEMA serves as the de facto mine action authority for Somalia. However, full implementation of mine action legislation in Somalia and formal recognition of SEMA as the national mine action authority remains unfulfilled, although in November 2023, progress towards the adoption of a national law was said to be made.²⁵

Due to the ongoing lack of parliamentary approval, SEMA has not received funding from the Federal Government of Somalia since the expiry of its grant in 2015.²⁶ In its most recent CCM Article 7 report, Somalia stated that only in-kind support was provided by the Government in 2022 “to continue coordination, oversight and regulation of the national mine action programme.” Somalia also confirmed that it received no international funding in 2022 to address

CMR specifically.²⁷ As at writing, no information was available on national or international funding in 2023.

Somalia has not shared a resource mobilisation strategy for Article 4 implementation and has stated its need for international support on this topic.²⁸ Somalia has stated it will develop a resource mobilisation plan during 2024, related to its commitments under Article 5 of the APMBC²⁹, but it is not yet clear if this plan will make any provision for survey and clearance of CMR.

In its most recent CCM Article 7 report, covering 2022, Somalia noted its need for international support to further build national capacity in the areas of information management, gender and resource mobilisation, as well as a need for increased technical support.³⁰ An Article 7 report covering 2023 had not been submitted at the time of writing.

PUNTLAND

The SEMA Puntland State Office, formerly known as the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC), was established in Garowe with UN Development Programme (UNDP) support in 1999. Since then, on behalf of the regional government and SEMA, the Puntland State Office has coordinated mine action with local and international partners, NPA and the Puntland Risk Solution Consortium.³¹ In 2021, SEMA reported that the Puntland State Office coordinated mine action under SEMA, working with its international partner, NPA.³² NPA completed NTS of mined areas in Puntland in February 2023 and closed its operations in Somalia in April 2023.³³

While Mine Action Review has been able to gain some information about the Puntland State Office, due to NPA's former presence in Puntland, we have no information about SEMA's other State Offices, in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, and South West.

SOMALILAND

As part of a larger process of government reform in early 2018, SMAC, which had been responsible for coordinating and managing demining in Somaliland since 1997, was restructured and renamed the MCICA. The Agency underwent a change of line ministry from the Office of the Vice President to the Ministry of Defence.³⁴ It was then renamed the Mine Action Department in January 2019.³⁵

The Somaliland government has been working on an Explosive Hazard Management National Action Plan for 2023–27. As at May 2023, the plan had not yet been finalised.³⁶ No further update was available at the time of writing.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 recognises gender and diversity as cross-cutting issues for the national mine action programme, in line with Somalia's National Development Plan objectives to “implement gender equality in education and mainstream gender in all of its programmes with a focus on adolescent girls”. Despite this recognition of the importance of gender and diversity in the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020, SEMA informed Mine Action Review

24 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016.

25 Statement of Somalia, APMBC 21MSP, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

26 Emails from Terje Eldøen, Programme Manager, NPA, 22 October 2016; and Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016.

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

28 Ibid., Form H.

29 ‘Presentation of an updated work plan to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties’ presented by Dahir Abdurahman Abdulle, SEMA, APMBC 21MSP, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

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

31 UNMAS, “UN-suggested Explosive Hazard Management Strategic Framework 2015–2019”, p. 9; and email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 23 July 2020 and 26 May 2021. SEMA claimed that this NGO, the Puntland Risk Solution Consortium, was no longer functioning but this information has not been confirmed by operators in the field.

32 Email from Dahir Abdurahman Abdulle, SEMA, 22 June 2022.

33 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

34 Email from Chris Pym, HALO, 9 May 2019.

35 Email from Chris Pym, HALO, 2 June 2019.

36 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

in May 2019 that it did not have an internal gender or diversity policy or implementation plan. In its most recent CCM Article 7 report, covering 2022, Somalia noted its need for international support to build national capacity in the area of gender.³⁷ In 2021, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reported that 17% of the workforce of SEMA were women.³⁸ At the time of writing, a more recent update on the situation was not available.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Somalia has made halting progress towards finalising the national mine action standard (NMA) and a policy on environmental management. It has been reported that a section on environmental management is contained within Somalia's revised NMA.³⁹ In May 2024, however, UNMAS stated that there had been no further update on the pending approval of the revised NMA, hence the relevant chapter (19) on "Environment, Health, and Safety", also remained pending approval. There had also been no update from SEMA on Somalia's development of an Environmental Policy or an expected timeline for when one may be developed.⁴⁰

UNMAS, NPA, and The HALO Trust (HALO) all report having an environmental policy in place.⁴¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

In 2019 NPA confirmed that, under the database reporting formats, CMR were being recorded separately from other types of ERW⁴² although a more recent update on whether this is still the case was not available at the time of writing. Operators report that data collection forms are consistent and enable collection of the necessary data.⁴³

SEMA decided to upgrade its database to IMSMA Core starting in 2022. However, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) cautioned that the data set was of poor quality, which had led to issues with reporting.⁴⁴ Despite these challenges, Somalia does continue to make progress and mine action stakeholders collaborated productively on information management improvements in 2023.⁴⁵ The regional mine action centres in Puntland and Somaliland maintain IMSMA databases separate to the national database.⁴⁶ UNMAS has said that efforts to migrate data from these regional databases into the planned national IMSMA Core database are "ongoing".⁴⁷

Somalia has submitted four CCM Article 7 reports to date, the first being in October 2019, which included the limited information available on the extent of CMR contamination⁴⁸ and the next in September 2020, covering 2019.⁴⁹ In August 2022, Somalia submitted an Article 7 report covering both 2020 and 2021, again providing the limited information available on the extent of CMR contamination; that is the type and locations of submunitions found but no data on the size of contaminated areas, stating clearly that this remained "unknown".⁵⁰ Somalia submitted its most recent Article 7 report, covering 2022, in September 2023. This report contained information on the estimated size of CMR-contaminated areas, as well as on the type and locations of submunitions found.⁵¹ As at June 2024, Somalia had not yet submitted its CCM Article 7 report covering 2023.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 noted Somalia's status as a State Party to the CCM and its reporting obligations and commitment to complying with the Convention, but did not contain specific provisions on

survey and clearance of CMR. In 2022, Somalia stated that the revision of the national strategy had been completed, with input from operators and SEMA's state offices, and was awaiting approval from the Ministry of Internal Security.⁵²

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

38 Email from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 4 July 2021.

39 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

40 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, HEMS (Humanitarian Explosive Management for Stabilisation) Project Manager, UNMAS, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), 20 May 2024.

41 Emails from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

42 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 13 April 2019.

43 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023; and Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

44 Email from Noor Zangana, GICHD, 6 May 2022.

45 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.

46 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

47 Email from Ahmed Hussein Ibrahim, Project Manager, Humanitarian Explosive Management, UNMAS, 28 May 2024.

48 Article 7 Report (Initial Report, submitted October 2019), Form F.

49 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.

50 Article 7 Report (covering 2020 and 2021), Form A.

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

52 Article 7 Report (covering 2020 and 2021), Form A.

As at May 2024, however, the strategy had still not been approved.⁵³ It was also not clear to what extent this revised National Mine Action Strategic Plan will include any provision for Somalia to meet its Article 4 obligations.

Somalia has not shared an annual work plan for the survey and clearance of CMR for 2023–24 or in recent years. It had stated that a country-wide survey plan for CMR would be developed “throughout 2023”.⁵⁴ However, survey undertaken in 2023 did not include CMR and no further update on provision for CMR survey specifically has been provided.

Somalia’s most recent CCM Article 7 report, covering 2022, declared that Somalia’s multi-year work plan “covers the response on landmines, ERW and cluster munitions” and acknowledges the need for “countrywide non-technical survey covering in the regions/districts with suspected cluster munition sites.”⁵⁵ The multi-year work plan referred to

is the 2022–2027 work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the APMBC, submitted in June 2023,⁵⁶ whose primary focus is nationwide NTS to more accurately determine a baseline of contamination from anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordnance, disaggregated by threat type.⁵⁷ As at May 2024, this multi-year work plan submitted to the APMBC was the only work plan in use for mine action Somalia, with nothing specific developed for CMR.⁵⁸

Despite challenges around coordination of tasking between SEMA and operators in previous years, tasking by SEMA has now been introduced as at June 2023. While tasks have not yet been issued for survey or clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas, tasking for release of mined areas has been working well and has demonstrated SEMA’s capability to manage and issue tasks effectively.⁵⁹

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

UNMAS initially developed National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) for Somalia in 2012–13.⁶⁰ The first edition of Somalia’s NMAS was subsequently published on August 1, 2018. The NMAS are split into four parts covering Land Release, Information Management (IMSMA), Mine Risk Education (MRE), and Quality Assurance. UNMAS notes that the revised draft of the NMAS are sufficient to serve as a guide for the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in implementing partners to deal with legacy contamination, subject to any amends that may be made during government

review and approval.⁶¹ A review of Somalia’s NMAS took place in 2021. However, the revised NMAS were still in draft and pending government approval at May 2024.⁶²

As indicated by the lack of any land release of cluster munition-contaminated areas in recent years, Somalia has extremely limited capacity for survey and clearance of CMR, with no national capacity in place and limited capacity from international humanitarian operators.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2023, HALO conducted operations in Somalia⁶³ with separate operations in Somaliland. HALO deployed capacity for release of mined areas only. UNMAS-contracted commercial clearance company, Ukroboronservice, and deployed teams for survey and clearance of mines and other explosive threats. UNMAS also deployed two EOD teams, totalling ten personnel.⁶⁴ NPA completed NTS of mine contamination in Puntland state in February 2023 and left Somalia thereafter.⁶⁵

Table 2: Clearance capacities deployed in Somalia in 2023⁶⁶

| Operator | Manual teams | Total deminers* | Comments |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---|
| UOS (UNMAS) | 4 | 40 | Not deployed for CMR. Also 2 teams of 10 personnel for EOD. |
| Totals | 4 | 40 | |

53 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.

54 Article 7 Report (covering 2020 and 2021), Form F.

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

56 APMBC Implementation Support Unit, “Somalia”, accessed 22 July 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/3rHSaB0>.

57 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023, p. 14.

58 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.

59 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023.

60 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 5 June 2016; and response to questionnaire by Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 19 June 2015.

61 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

62 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.

63 Ibid.

64 Ibid.

65 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 1 and 10 June 2022; and Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

66 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.

UOS maintained approximately the same manual clearance capacity in 2023 as it had in 2022. UNMAS had reported that four new NTS teams would be deployed for survey of cluster munition-contaminated areas in 2023.⁶⁷ In fact, although four UNMAS teams were deployed in accessible areas along the Somali-Ethiopian border, they did not conduct survey of CMR. UNMAS anticipated that UOS would remain operational conducting their mandated activities until June 2024, and then expected to procure a contractor by July 2024⁶⁸ and

transition to a different structure. Under this new structure UNMAS plans to deploy eight multi-skilled teams, able to conduct EORE, NTS, and EOD, across the four states of South West, Galmudug, Jubaland and Hirshabelle. Two teams were to be deployed in each state, with a primary focus on NTS.⁶⁹

Somalia did not report the introduction or exploration of any specific tools or methodologies for CMR survey or clearance in 2023.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

Somalia did not release any CMR-contaminated areas through survey or clearance in 2023. No new discoveries of submunitions were recorded and no new areas of CMR contamination were added to the national database in 2023.⁷⁰ In 2021, HALO found two submunitions during battle area clearance.⁷¹

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

CCM ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR SOMALIA: 1 MARCH 2016



ORIGINAL ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2026

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE

Under Article 4 of the CCM, Somalia is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2026.

Somalia is not on track to meet its Article 4 deadline and its continued inaction places it at risk of non-compliance. Somalia faces significant challenges to improving the overall effectiveness of its national mine action programme. While Somalia states that its national mine action strategy has been updated since the previous strategy expired in 2020, it is still pending approval from the Ministry of Internal Security. Added to this, the Somalia Federal Parliament has yet to formally approve Somalia's mine action legislation⁷² or consistently contribute to SEMA's operating costs, providing only "in-kind support" to SEMA for mine action in recent years.⁷³ Without these legislative and national strategic matters resolved it is difficult to see how sufficient national resources will be allocated, in conjunction with international support, to meet Somalia's 2026 deadline.

In 2019, SEMA informed Mine Action Review that the key challenges which could prevent Somalia from meeting its 2026 deadline, based on capacity at the time, were a lack of funding and the fact that Somalia had not conducted a general survey to build a comprehensive picture of remaining CMR contamination.⁷⁴ These challenges remained in 2022, when SEMA described the lack of funding as a "serious concern"⁷⁵ and persisted in 2023, with no indication that increased funding is forthcoming and no national survey plan for CMR yet in place. In its most recent CCM Article 7 report covering 2022, Somalia restated the main challenges as a lack of international funding support to be able to carry out planned nationwide survey, and record and analyse data; and security challenges impeding access to operators in some areas.⁷⁶ UNMAS emphasises security as the most significant challenge as most sites with evidence of CMR cannot currently be safely accessed.⁷⁷

67 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March and 20 June 2022.

68 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.

69 Email from Ahmed Hussein Ibrahim, UNMAS, 28 May 2024.

70 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.

71 Email from Daniel Redelinguys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

72 Article 7 Report (covering 2020 and 2021), Form A.

73 Ibid., Form I.

74 Email from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshaw, SEMA, 9 May 2019.

75 Presentation by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, APMBIC Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.

76 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

77 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 18 June 2024.

Table 3: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

| Year | Area cleared (m ²) |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 2023 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2019 | 0 |
| Total | 0 |

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

NPA reports that, in Puntland in 2022, it employed police personnel in NTS and EOD in an effort to build capacity for dealing with residual contamination upon completion of clearance.⁷⁸ UNMAS has trained police EOD teams in every state, which will be available to address residual risks posed by CMR discovered post-completion (i.e. residual capacity).⁷⁹

78 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

79 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNMAS, 18 June 2024.