

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2027

Not on track to meet deadline

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

9km²

Light
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

| Release of AP mined area | Release in 2024 (km ²) | Release in 2023 (km ²) |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Clearance | 2.17 | 1.81 |
| Technical Survey | 0.17 | 0.87 |
| Non-Technical Survey | 0.37 | 0.29 |

| Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| AP Mines destroyed | 151 (incl. 14 during spot tasks) | 96 (incl. 17 during spot tasks) |

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) sub-contractors: Ukroboronservice (UOS) and Demineco Human services (DHS)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Mine survey and clearance were again severely impeded by armed conflict and insecurity in 2024, preventing safe access to many areas. The number of anti-personnel (AP) mines found and destroyed in Somalia increased compared to 2023, but remained extremely low. Somalia revised the national mine action standards (NMAS) for non-technical survey (NTS) and risk education with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), a process that had been stalled since 2018. Full transition to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core was further delayed, but work continued in 2024 and was expected to be finalised by the end of 2025. On 1 June 2024, following halting progress since 2016, the Office of the Prime Minister finally submitted Somalia's Mine Action Bill to the Federal Parliament for its approval. However, the Bill remained pending at the time of writing, and the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) was not optimistic that it would pass before the end of 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Somalia should ensure that land release standards, policies, and methodologies conform with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and should only clear mined areas where contamination was confirmed by evidence.
- The status of SEMA should be recognised in law and national resources budgeted annually to meet its operating costs.
- Somalia should finalise a new national mine action strategy.
- Somalia should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and associated work plan for the programme.
- Somalia should elaborate an environmental policy and associated work plan for the programme.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion | Score (2024) | Score (2023) | Performance Commentary |
|--|--------------|--------------|---|
| UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score) | 6 | 6 | There is no accurate baseline of AP mined area in Somalia. The authorities provided an updated estimate of mine contamination for the end of 2024, though this includes areas with only anti-vehicle (AV) mines and other explosive ordnance. According to the updated work plan for 2022–27, nationwide NTS is a priority. But while some survey continued, insecurity continued to prevent safe access to many areas. |
| NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score) | 4 | 4 | The Federal Government of Somalia has still not formally recognised SEMA as a government institution nor has mine action legislation been adopted. As a consequence, SEMA cannot access State funding. |
| GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | The National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 included provisions on gender and diversity and work has begun on an updated multi-year strategy. SEMA advocates action on gender and diversity within survey and community liaison teams and has a dedicated gender, diversity and inclusion officer. |
| ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score) | 5 | 4 | The NMAS have a section on environmental management, though HALO reports it has not seen it. Somalia does not have an environmental policy or plan for mine action but was continuing to develop these documents as at April 2025. HALO has measures in place to protect the environment during survey and clearance and has been rehabilitating cleared land to improve water catchment and prevent soil erosion. |
| INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score) | 5 | 4 | SEMA's upgrade to IMSMA Core, launched in 2022, was almost complete as at April 2025 and work began on an NMAS for information management in 2024. Somalia submitted a detailed Article 7 report covering 2024 in June 2025. As at the time of writing, Somalia had still to submit Article 7 reports covering 2021 and 2022. |
| PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | SEMA expected to launch an updated strategy in late 2025 to replace Somalia's 2018–20 strategic plan. Somalia submitted a costed, detailed work plan for 2022–27 in June 2023, which is based on Somalia's national strategy, as "approved by the Minister of Internal Security". SEMA has repeatedly stressed how chronic underfunding makes planning of operations difficult. |
| LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score) | 6 | 5 | Current NMAS are generally not fit for purpose although the standards for NTS and risk education were revised in 2024. The number of AP and AV mines found in Somalia continues to be low relative to the size of areas cleared. Somalia has a limited national explosive ordnance disposal capacity. |
| LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score) | 4 | 4 | Somalia will not meet its 2027 Article 5 clearance deadline. Overall land release decreased slightly in 2024 compared to the previous year, and release through cancellation remains low. The successful conduct of nationwide NTS is needed but this will not be possible until access and security improve. |
| Average Score | 5.0 | 4.7 | Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE |

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA)
- Mine Action Department within the Somaliland Ministry of Defence

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Ukroboronservice (UOS)
(contracted by UNMAS until June 2024)
- Demineco Human Services (DHS)
(contracted by UNMAS from July 2024 to January 2025)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- iMMAP

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Somalia lacks an accurate baseline of contamination, although it has provided an updated estimate for contamination as at the end of 2024 “to the extent possible” (see Table 1).¹ Somalia currently reports AP mined areas in four of its five Federal Member States—all except Jubaland (although that may change, as noted below)—as well as in the regional administration of SSC Katumo state in northern Somalia.² There are also mines in Somaliland, a de facto authority in the north-west, which continues to be excluded from the national authority’s baseline estimate of contamination.

As at the end of 2024, Somalia estimated that outside Somaliland it had a total of almost 123km² of mined area – 230 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering 110.7km² and 232 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering 12.2km² (see Table 1).³ This is up from the estimate a year earlier of

109km², again excluding Somaliland.⁴ The increase is largely explained by new CHAs identified in SSC Katumo state.⁵ Somalia reports cancelling 60.3km² and clearing 115,028m² in Jubaland in 2024 (see Tables 9 and 12),⁶ though this does not account for all of the 0.46km² in CHAs reported for December 2023.⁷ Somalia has also clarified that the previously contaminated areas in Jubaland contained anti-vehicle (AV) mines and other explosive ordnance (EO), not AP mines.⁸

Mined areas are concentrated along Somalia’s border with Ethiopia.⁹ Somalia restated in 2023 that most of the contamination along the border is from AV mines, which continue to significantly affect the civilian population.¹⁰ Contamination data in Somalia’s national database are said to be disaggregated by weapon type, including improvised mines and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).¹¹

Table 1: Estimated mined area, excluding Somaliland (at December 2024) (national authority data)¹²

| State | CHAs | Area (m ²) | SHAs | Area (m ²) |
|---------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Puntland | 12 | 2,316,566 | 176 | 4,833,052 |
| Galmudug | 73 | 22,767,076 | 13 | 2,360,690 |
| Hirshabelle | 56 | 14,032,775 | 0 | 0 |
| South West | 26 | 4,905,190 | 39 | 3,013,169 |
| SSC Katumo | 63 | 66,696,565 | 4 | 1,976,179 |
| Totals | 230 | 110,718,172 | 232 | 12,183,090 |

It remains unclear how many of the hazardous areas reported as at the end of 2024 are contaminated with AP mines as opposed to other ordnance, particularly AV mines. In this regard, data from past surveys indicate that most recorded minefields were contaminated with AV mines or they did not identify the type of contamination.¹³ HALO expects that the number of mixed AP and AV mined areas and of areas containing only AP mines to remain small.¹⁴ Moreover, Somalia expects to cancel a sizable portion of existing mined area (though previously unrecorded contamination is also likely to be found).¹⁵ Given available information, Mine Action Review believes that AP mine contamination in Somalia is light (totalling less than 10km²).¹⁶

An ongoing NTS project aims to produce an accurate estimate of total contamination across the country (excluding Somaliland) and to disaggregate Somalia’s contamination by weapon type. This project is the primary focus of Somalia’s work plan for 2022–27.¹⁷ But lack of safe access continues to be a major obstacle to the completion of survey. That said, SEMA declared in April 2025 that “most” mined areas were accessible for land release.¹⁸ In any event, Somalia has promised to continue to update the States Parties on changes to the security situation and accessibility.¹⁹ It has also pledged that, if funding is secured, NTS will be conducted in South West, Hirshabelle, and Jubaland states “to identify the

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 2.

2 “SSC” refers to the three regions of Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn.

3 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 2.

4 Ibid., p. 6.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid., p. 8.

7 Ibid., p. 6.

8 Ibid., p. 8.

9 “The Federal Republic of Somalia Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan”, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

10 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 16.

11 Interview with Dahir Abdurahman Abdulle, Director, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

12 Ibid., p. 7.

13 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, Senior Information Management Officer, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), 17 March 2020; and Claus Nielsen, Country Director, NPA, 23 July 2020.

14 Emails from Rob Syfret, Head of Region, Horn of Africa, HALO, 7 July 2023; and Chris Teasdale, Country Director, HALO, 17 July 2024.

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

16 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, Country Director, HALO, 14 June 2020.

17 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, pp. 27–28.

18 Interview with Dahir Abdurahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

19 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 16.

exact contaminated areas".²⁰ As such, it may be that Jubaland will be again included in Somalia's reports of mined area, having been removed from the list in 2024, as noted above.²¹

In Somaliland, conflict in the eastern regions proved a barrier to survey in 2024 and into 2025, preventing deployment of HALO Somaliland's teams into a number of villages and further disrupting its major village-by-village "Mine-Impact Free" survey project. Phase I of this project (Rapid Assessment) was completed, as far as security allowed, in November 2023, covering a total of 1,870 villages since 2014, though 338 remained inaccessible. But the conflict in Laas Canood in Sool, which broke out in February 2023,²² coupled with the overall security situation in the east of Somaliland, has further hampered progress and reduced HALO Somaliland's operational area in the eastern regions of Sool and Sanaag. Phase II of the survey project (Mine-Impacted Follow Up) has been underway since late 2023. As at October 2025, 32 villages requiring follow-up remained out of reach, and 90 remained to be visited. HALO operates in the Sool region under the HALO Somalia programme and hopes to hand over the baseline data to HALO Somalia teams to complete survey by the end of 2026, subject to both secure access and the availability of funding for NTS teams.²³ HALO Somaliland cleared 1.31km² of mined area in 2024 and estimates remaining contamination in Somaliland to comprise 5km² of minefields plus 7km² of road tasks.²⁴

Somalia's mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination is a result of wars with Ethiopia in 1964 and 1977–78 (also known as the Ogaden war), and decades of internal armed conflict. According to reports received by

the United Nations (UN), conventional mines were laid most recently in 2012 in south-central Somalia in the disputed Sool and Sanaag regions.²⁵ But according to SEMA, Somalia has seen an increase in the use of mines of an improvised nature in recent years. Somalia does recognise that victim-operated improvised explosive devices (VOIEDs) that are detonated by a person are AP mines within the scope of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)²⁶ and has committed to addressing this threat, in accordance with its international legal obligations.²⁷ Though improvised AP mines are not yet included in Somalia's baseline of mine contamination, the Government has a Counter-IED Strategy, covering 2025–2030, approved by the Council of Ministers and ready for implementation.²⁸

SEMA believes, though, that improvised mines are not widespread in the country.²⁹ NPA has reported that non-State actors have used mines of an improvised nature in areas of northern Puntland, and this has been confirmed by the Puntland Ministry of Security.³⁰ Islamic State has established a strong presence in that area, which may explain the new contamination. HALO is also aware that IEDs of various sizes have been used by Al Shabaab against the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and Somalia's armed forces, but no improvised AP mines have been reported in any of its areas of operations, including Somaliland, in recent years.³¹ However, UNMAS stated that in 2024 there were "19 IED incidents where UNMAS-trained international and Somali security forces destroyed 27 VOIED devices".³² Also in 2024, HALO identified two victim-operated fuzes for TM-46 AV mines in Hirshabelle.³³

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Somalia is contaminated with ERW, which are estimated to cover almost 170km².³⁴ Somalia also has limited contamination from cluster munition remnants (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2025* report on Somalia for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Mine action management in Somalia is the responsibility of SEMA, which is under the Ministry of Internal Security (MoIS).³⁵ There is a separate mine action department within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in Somaliland. SEMA maintains

a presence across Somalia through its other five federal states, with state offices in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland, and South West. Each of these state offices has a director and one staff member.³⁶

20 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 6.

21 Statement of Somalia on Clearance, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025.

22 Clashes broke out between Somaliland security forces and clan members in Laas Canood, in the Sool region in early February 2023. See Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Somalia: UN expert deplors high death toll in Laas Canood clashes", Press release, 23 February 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3SoKdfl>.

23 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024; and 19 May and 10 October 2025.

24 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

25 UNMAS, "Annual Report 2012", New York, 2013, p. 21. Sovereignty over these territories is claimed both by the self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland and by Puntland.

26 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 45.

27 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 7.

28 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.

29 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

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

31 Emails from Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024; Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024 and 19 May 2025; and Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025.

32 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

33 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

34 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 11.

35 Updated 2025 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 10.

36 Ibid., p. 5; and interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

SEMA serves as the de facto mine action authority for Somalia. However, hopes for full implementation of mine action legislation in Somalia and formal recognition of SEMA as the national mine action authority remain unfulfilled. On 1 June 2024, the Mine Action Bill was finally submitted by the Office of the Prime Minister to the Federal Parliament for approval.³⁷ SEMA was not optimistic that it would be passed before the end of 2025. SEMA remained hopeful that once the law has been adopted, the federal budget will fund SEMA's core costs.³⁸ No such funding has been provided since SEMA's government grant expired in 2015.³⁹ SEMA has, though, submitted a proposed budget to MoIS.⁴⁰

A chronic lack of funding has resulted in significant operational challenges for SEMA and contributed to weak capacity to plan and execute mine action activities.⁴¹ Capacity-building efforts have, however, continued. UNMAS trains and equips explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams in Somalia's armed forces, and provides technical and policy advice to the Somali government, including support to meet its international treaty obligations.⁴² UNMAS also supports capacity development of SEMA through HALO, with training, mentoring, and NMAS review, which were resourced until end-March 2025.⁴³ As at June, UNMAS planned to prioritise its capacity development support in key areas such as risk education; information management; NMAS development; and strategic planning and coordination.⁴⁴ As part of a transition plan, UNMAS operations shifted to the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) by 1 July 2025, with UNSOS continuing

operational and technical support.⁴⁵ As at September 2025, no mine action activities had been conducted through UNMAS beyond 30 January 2025, due to funding challenges.⁴⁶

Operators participate in key decision-making by the national authorities. They also describe an enabling environment for mine action in Somalia.⁴⁷ In June 2025, Somalia reported that a formal coordination structure had been established between SEMA and international partners, HALO, GICHD, iMMAP,⁴⁸ and UNMAS, with a view to prevent duplication of efforts and resources in mine action capacity development.⁴⁹ SEMA reports convening quarterly coordination meetings.⁵⁰ The UN led a Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) in Somalia in 2023.⁵¹ As at October 2025, HALO reported that UNMAS offers regular engagement, and that a SEMA coordination meeting took place in September 2025.⁵²

SEMA's strategic planning is guided by the 2024–29 strategic plan of MoIS, which in turn is guided by national policies and Somalia's National Transformation Plan (NTP) for 2025–29.⁵³ Somalia's NTP aims to address persistent threats to national security from non-State armed groups as well as other key challenges (such as resource mobilisation, capacity gaps, and the need to strengthen institutional frameworks).⁵⁴ Somalia pledged to formulate an updated national mine action strategy in 2025, to replace its long-expired 2018–20 strategic plan. The new strategy will include the "time and resources required for Somalia to be landmine free".⁵⁵

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

In its 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, Somalia estimated the cost of implementing the operational work plan through to 2027 at US\$6.4 million per year.⁵⁶ But there was no information on where this funding would come from and how much the Federal Government would contribute. In its updated work plan for 2022–27, Somalia restated that there was no State budget for mine action. The government has, though, provided land for SEMA's offices and covers the utility bills of SEMA's national office in Mogadishu and

some of its regional offices.⁵⁷ Indeed, of the US\$23 million needed for the work plan, only US\$6.2 million had been secured by June 2023.⁵⁸ The work plan itself recognises "a strong need" to develop a resource mobilisation strategy for Article 5 implementation.⁵⁹ Somalia initiated an Individualised Approach to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties in November 2023,⁶⁰ but this had not resulted in further donor support as at June 2025.⁶¹

37 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; Statement of Somalia on Clearance, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2025; and email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.

38 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 20 June 2025.

39 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016; and Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

40 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

41 Ibid., pp. 4–5.

42 "Somalia's IED crisis escalates as nearly 600 attacks kill 1,400 and UNMAS increases support", *Hiiraan Online*, 2 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/42sGtib>.

43 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 6.

44 Ibid., p. 4.

45 Ibid., p. 12.

46 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

47 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023 and 5 June 2024.

48 iMMAP is an international non-profit organisation that provides information management services to humanitarian and development organisations.

49 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request (June 2025), p. 9.

50 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 1.

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

52 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

53 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

54 Ibid., p. 1.

55 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 2.

56 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 47.

57 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, pp. 39–40.

58 Somalia Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023; and Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023, p. 7.

59 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 40.

60 "Somalia's Mine Action Programme: Overview of Remaining Challenges and Needs", Individualised Approach Meeting, Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties, Geneva, 23 November 2023.

61 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 13.

In the absence of national funding since 2015, SEMA has relied on mine action partners and donor nations to support its work.⁶² In 2024, the People's Republic of China (PRC) donated RMB 1 million (approximately US\$141,000) to SEMA,⁶³ with funding secured from the PRC until the end of 2027 for risk education, capacity building, and NTS.⁶⁴ The Federal Government intends to approach China for continued funding after 2027.⁶⁵ UNMAS funded some capacity development of SEMA through HALO, and provided additional funding to the end of March 2025. HALO continued providing financial support for SEMA personnel and coordination in 2024.⁶⁶ Beyond the end of March 2025, UNMAS did not have resources available to continue capacity development. At the time of writing, UNMAS was seeking to mobilise resources to sustain support for SEMA.⁶⁷

Somalia has not shared a resource mobilisation strategy though it has stated the need for international support.⁶⁸ In June 2025, Somalia stated again that "resource mobilisation will remain our top priority."⁶⁹ SEMA cautions that funding for all mine action in Somalia beyond 2025 is uncertain⁷⁰ and that the persistent lack of funds presents an urgent challenge to effective mine action.⁷¹ It expected a reduction in capacity for international operators and limited clearance teams to be deployed from July 2025 due to insufficient funding.⁷² Table 2 summarises the funding provided to HALO for survey and clearance during 2024, and its forecast for 2025. Unless otherwise indicated, this represents funding for operations across all areas of Somalia, including Somaliland.

Table 2: Funding for survey and clearance by international operators in Somalia (2024–25)⁷³

| Donor | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|--------|-------|
| Finland (Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)) | HALO | None |
| German Federal Foreign office (GFFO) | HALO | HALO |
| Ireland (Irish Aid) | HALO | HALO |
| The Netherlands (MFA) | HALO | HALO* |
| Norway (MFA) | HALO** | HALO |
| UK, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP) | HALO | HALO |

*As at May 2025, the Dutch MFA had confirmed three months of gap funding, with a further proposal from HALO awaiting a response as at October 2025.

**Norwegian funding transferred to HALO Somaliland from HALO Ethiopia.

SOMALILAND

Mine Action in Somaliland is the responsibility of the Somaliland Mine Action Department (MAD). HALO describes the environment in Somaliland as "one of the best in the world for enabling the conduct of humanitarian mine action", with its ministries of defence and planning facilitating the duty-free importation of demining equipment and the government issuing visas for international staff as needed. In addition, HALO works closely with the Somaliland MoD and other decision-makers to inform and guide policy and prioritisation.⁷⁴

62 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 1.

63 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 7.

64 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025; and Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

65 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7–8.

66 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 13.

67 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

68 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023, p. 25.

69 Statement of Somalia on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025.

70 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 6.

71 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 4–5; and Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

72 Statement of Somalia on Clearance, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2025.

73 Emails from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May and 10 October 2025.

74 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023, 22 July 2024, and 19 May 2025.

No funding was provided by the Somaliland authorities for survey or clearance of AP mined area in 2023⁷⁵ and none was reported to have been provided in 2024.⁷⁶ The Somaliland government had been working on an Explosive Hazard Management National Action Plan for 2023–27.⁷⁷ However, HALO Somaliland says this has not progressed and the change in government and associated change of Ministers at the end of 2024 may affect any continued work on this plan.⁷⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 recognised gender and diversity as cross-cutting issues for the national 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".⁷⁹ Somalia pledged to develop a new national mine action strategy in 2025, which would include information on how Somalia works with "different gender and diverse groups".⁸⁰ But Somalia has not yet developed a gender policy for mine action despite having pledged to do so by October 2022.⁸¹

Somalia's updated work plan for 2022–27 does commit to ensuring that gender and diversity are integrated into plans for a nationwide NTS.⁸² In addition, SEMA has a dedicated gender, diversity, and inclusion officer.⁸³ But the authority also stresses that challenges to mainstreaming gender remain significant due to the patriarchal nature of Somali society. Clan affiliation has also to be considered.⁸⁴ Operators have noted that this is an important consideration when recruiting and deploying operational staff.⁸⁵ HALO Somaliland notes that local women who work as deminers can more easily move across clan lines without fear of reprisals, as women are not seen as participants in inter-clan conflicts.⁸⁶

While the overall representation of women in HALO Somalia's workforce is well below its 50/50 target (see Table 3), efforts are intensifying to increase the current percentage while remaining sensitive to local cultural contexts. Measures to recruit and retain female staff include childcare stipends, maternity leave, and the provision of "baby boxes" for women with young children.⁸⁷ HALO Somalia ensures that survey and community liaison teams are mixed gender; an important prerequisite in a largely traditional Muslim society where it is not permissible for men to approach women alone in rural areas. HALO recruits teams from the areas in which they will be working to ensure participation from the affected groups. Particular care is taken to ensure that, if an area has more

marginalised clans, they are recruited into teams. HALO understands that, in many communities, the voices of women and girls can be marginalised and uses household surveys to provide them with an opportunity to share their insights.⁸⁸

HALO Somaliland has a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan⁸⁹ and remains committed to being an equal opportunities employer.⁹⁰ In 2024, HALO saw a slight increase of 3% in the proportion of both management or supervisory and operational roles occupied by women.⁹¹ HALO Somaliland's Community Outreach and Risk Education (CORE) teams remained gender-balanced in 2024, and female staff were introduced into survey teams for the first time.⁹² To encourage recruitment of women, HALO Somaliland has collaborated with local communities to increase acceptance of women spending time away from their communities and families to work as deminers.⁹³ In 2024, it conducted a project with female staff to develop vocational skills in areas such as driving, needlework, and professional make-up.⁹⁴

HALO Somaliland highlights that its operations often take place near marginalised, rural communities. It maintains complete operational independence to prioritise tasks based on humanitarian need, regardless of any pressure that majority communities may try to exert in order to have clearance conducted for other reasons.⁹⁵

UNMAS Somalia, which contracted operational capacity until March 2025,⁹⁶ had earlier introduced gender and diversity provisions into project proposals, including on the recruitment of women, youth and, where relevant, clan-affiliated personnel, into field and community liaison teams.⁹⁷ Demineco Human services (DHS) personnel, sub-contracted by UNMAS from July 2024 until the end of January 2025, were required to complete the GICHD online gender and diversity course, as is usual for UNMAS sub-contractors. Gender and diversity are emphasised in both the proposal and the contract agreement, with specific reference to recruitment, quality management, field operations, reporting, and case studies.⁹⁸

75 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024.

76 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

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

78 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

79 Email from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshow, SEMA, 9 May 2019.

80 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 2.

81 Revised 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 50.

82 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023, p. 31.

83 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

84 Ibid., p. 10.

85 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 April 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, HALO, 14 June 2020.

86 "The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Somalia", GICHD and UNDP, June 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/4djBvXy>.

87 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 5 June 2024.

88 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

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

90 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024.

91 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 17 and 22 July 2024 and 19 May 2025.

92 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

93 Emails from Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 21 May 2022; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024 and 19 May 2025.

94 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

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

96 Interview with Dahir Abdurahman Abdule, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

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

98 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

Table 3: Gender composition of SEMA and operators in 2024⁹⁹

| Entity | Total staff | Women staff | Total managerial or supervisory staff | Women managerial or supervisory staff | Total operational staff | Women operational staff |
|---|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| SEMA Head Office | 22 | 4* (18%) | 3 | 2 | 15 | 2 |
| SEMA Regional offices (2 per office) | 10 | 1 (10%) | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| HALO Somalia | 339 | 66 (19%) | 27 | 5 (19%) | 288 | 28 (10%) |
| HALO Somaliland** | 462 | 81 (18%) | 71 | 8 (11%) | 380 | 64 (17%) |
| Totals | 833 | 152 (18%) | 106 | 15 (14%) | 688 | 95 (14%) |

*These four female staff, as reported by SEMA, exclude operational staff (see separate column) and include one woman in a legal position, a second with a gender role, a third assisting information management, and a fourth working as a cleaner.¹⁰⁰ **Staff numbers include those made redundant during 2024, with their notice period ending on 31 December 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

SEMA had made little progress on environmental matters in mine action in earlier years, but did take notable steps on this issue in 2024 and into 2025. As at April 2025, SEMA was working with HALO to develop an environmental policy and plan.¹⁰¹ Somalia's NMAS include a chapter on environmental health and safety that requires implementing partners to

consider procedures to mitigate the impact of mine action activities on the environment,¹⁰² though HALO reports it has not seen this.¹⁰³ In its most recent Article 7 report (covering 2024), Somalia stated that SEMA was exploring the possibility of developing an NMAS on environmental management, "to ensure a cohesive and sustainable national approach".¹⁰⁴

Table 4: Environmental policies and action¹⁰⁵

| Operator | Environmental policy in place | Environmental assessments conducted to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance | Environmental focal point at country-programme level |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| HALO Somalia | No | No | No |
| HALO Somaliland | No | No | Yes |

While HALO does not have a country-specific environmental policy in place, its global standard operating procedure (SOP) for Environmental Management in Operations requires country programmes to have an environmental management plan – under development for HALO Somalia and Somaliland as at October 2025. HALO also has a regional environment strategy for the Horn of Africa.¹⁰⁶ HALO continues to consult closely with mine-impacted communities in the pre-clearance phase to outline the extent of vegetation removal necessary to conduct clearance and to understand any concerns, with the community ultimately deciding whether clearance should go ahead. HALO Somalia has also continued to expand its installation of solar panels at permanent operational facilities across the country, cutting programme emissions. It has SOPs for vegetation cutting and has integrated

environmental concerns into manual clearance SOPs as well as NTS and risk education.¹⁰⁷

HALO continues to work at a regional (Horn of Africa) level to develop a community-centred, participatory approach to pre-clearance environmental assessment of minefields. This will include identifying climate-related risks and specific mitigation measures to be incorporated into clearance planning, and implemented throughout all phases of operations. HALO expects this approach to complement other environmental screening tools available to the sector¹⁰⁸ and planned to finalise its tool in Q4 2025, ready for trial. HALO also planned to trial the Green Field Tool, developed by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and The Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS).¹⁰⁹

99 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025; and emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May and 10 October 2025; Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024; and Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.

100 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 20 June 2025; and email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.

101 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

102 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.

103 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

104 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 6.

105 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 5 June and 22 July 2024, and 19 May and 10 October 2025.

106 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

107 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 5 June 2024.

108 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

109 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

In its separate operations in Somaliland, environmental measures are incorporated into its SOPs¹¹⁰ and a full-time environment officer was recruited in 2023.¹¹¹ In 2024, HALO Somaliland provided all operational staff with enhanced guidance on vegetation cutting to preserve mature trees and other plants, but without compromising operational safety. Waste management guidelines have also been developed to support improved treatment of solid waste streams in remote demining camps and reduce stress on local communities. A context-specific environmental awareness training package was designed for the Somaliland programme, with a first cohort of staff receiving training in 2024 and all operational and support staff receiving it in early 2025. HALO plans to incorporate this training into on-boarding for all new staff.¹¹²

HALO Somaliland also took measures not only to protect but also to enhance the environment in 2024. Rehabilitation activities for rangeland (open country used for grazing animals) were performed in collaboration with national NGO partners across four pastoralist communities, in areas where HALO had previously undertaken mine clearance. Activities included the construction of soil bunds for water catchment, the re-seeding of native grass species, the placement of stone gabions¹¹³ to prevent soil erosion, and the erection of fencing to provide protection from grazing livestock. Approximately 63 hectares of rangeland underwent some form of rehabilitation. HALO intends to use lessons learned from these activities to improve pre- and post-clearance mitigation measures to reduce environmental impact and help restore cleared land to its original state.¹¹⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

SEMA, with the support of the GICHD, has been transitioning from IMSMA New Generation to IMSMA Core. As at April 2025, the process was almost complete, though migration of historical data on NTS, clearance, and completion reports was still needed.¹¹⁵ SEMA expected to complete this work by the end of 2025.¹¹⁶ UNMAS said in 2024 that the SEMA information management team's capacity to manage the system has improved.¹¹⁷ In addition, SEMA began work on an NMAS for information management during the year.¹¹⁸

Mine action operators collect data using standardised protocols and forms, which are submitted to the IMSMA database.¹¹⁹ Operators report that data collection forms are consistent and enable collection of the necessary data.¹²⁰ SEMA states that information in the database is disaggregated by weapon type.¹²¹

In 2023, before exiting Puntland, NPA handed over the IMSMA NG dataset for Puntland to the SEMA regional office there, though SEMA said this dataset was not functioning as at October 2025 and that efforts to migrate historical data from implementing partners into the national IMSMA Core database were ongoing.¹²² UNMAS had migrated all datasets, except for NTS, and was awaiting finalisation of the data migration structure from SEMA and the GICHD.¹²³

In May 2025, HALO Somaliland reported that the separate IMSMA database used by the Somaliland MAD was no longer in use, with access to it lost following a change of leadership at the department. However, HALO has been working with the MAD information management team to develop an Excel dashboard populated with operational data from HALO Somaliland's 25-year operational history in the region.

HALO delivered an initial training on its use in 2024, as well as providing some information technology and global positioning system (GPS) equipment.¹²⁴ HALO Somaliland creates its own data collection forms, which are reviewed regularly.

Somalia submitted a detailed Article 7 report covering 2024 in June 2025. As at October 2025, however, it had still to submit Article 7 reports covering 2021 and 2022. In April 2021, SEMA submitted Somalia's Article 5 deadline extension request, seeking a new deadline of October 2027, but it was poorly formulated and required significant revisions as it lacked sufficient detail and precision. Somalia acted upon the decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties by submitting a detailed and costed, updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the APMBBC on 2 June 2023.¹²⁵

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

111 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024.

112 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May and 10 October 2025.

113 A stone gabion is a wire container (basket or cage) filled with stones or rocks.

114 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

115 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 12.

116 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.

117 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, Operations and QA Officer, UNSOM, 20 May 2024.

118 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.

119 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 12.

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

121 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

122 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.

123 Email from Ahmed Hussein Ibrahim, Project Manager, Humanitarian Explosive Management (HEM), UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

124 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

125 APMBBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU), "Somalia", accessed 22 July 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/3rHSaB0>.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Somalia has yet to launch an updated strategy to replace the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020. It was reported in both 2022¹²⁶ and 2024¹²⁷ that the strategy had been developed but that it was pending approval from the MoIS. As at October 2025, an updated strategy was being developed, though SEMA was still “expecting support from GICHD” and did not have a known timeline for when it may be finalised.¹²⁸

According to the conditions of the granting of Somalia’s extension request until October 2027, an updated work plan was to be provided.¹²⁹ The work plan submitted in June 2023 was detailed in certain areas but lacking in others. The main focus is comprehensive NTS across the country, which has not yet been conducted.¹³⁰ Somalia says that annual land release targets for the period covered by the work plan will depend upon the results of the NTS. However, it estimates that, given the available combined capacity of all operators, working at an average manual mine clearance rate of—an ambitious—35.5m² per deminer per day, it can clear just over 1.51km² per year, or almost 7.57km² over the five-year period. This assumes a total capacity of 22 manual clearance teams with 148 deminers in total.¹³¹

The work plan includes a detailed breakdown by operator and year of operational capacity and equipment for survey, clearance, and spot tasks. It also clearly outlines the annual funding secured and yet to be secured for each area of activity and by operator.¹³² To date, Somalia has exceeded its expected average rate of annual clearance, with 2.05km² of AP mined area cleared in 2022,¹³³ 1.81km² cleared in 2023,¹³⁴ and 2.17km² cleared in 2024.¹³⁵

Tasking by SEMA was introduced in 2023 following challenges around coordination of tasking between SEMA and operators reported in previous years. HALO says tasking has been

working well and has demonstrated SEMA’s capability to manage and issue tasks effectively.¹³⁶ HALO reported in June 2024 that, once SEMA has fully migrated to IMSMA Core, SEMA will produce task dossiers from the database.¹³⁷

HALO Somaliland, working in accordance with IMAS, conducts prioritisation and associated planning and tasking internally, as prioritisation mechanisms have not yet been put in place by the Somaliland government.¹³⁸ NTS teams assign priority levels to a task (low, medium, high) based on information collected in the field, including reported accidents (animal or human), land use, and infrastructure or resource blockages.¹³⁹ HALO Somaliland conducts regular meetings with the MAD, keeping it duly informed on where HALO is working.¹⁴⁰

Prior to ceasing survey and EOD operations in March 2025, UNMAS and its implementing partners proposed survey and clearance tasks based on considerations of security; site accessibility; level of accident risk to the community; and other community impact, such as whether a hazard blocks access to facilities. Proposed tasks were shared with SEMA for their endorsement and record-keeping.¹⁴¹

In its most recent Article 7 report (covering 2024), Somalia provided details of key areas of work planned for 2025 (though not for Somaliland). HALO Somalia was set to clear 428,005m² as well as conduct NTS with the aim of cancelling 35,689m² across Galmudug and Puntland. In Hirshabelle, it was planned that HALO would undertake NTS with the aim of cancelling 370,246m². The report also states that the Jubaland Mine Action Network (or JUMAN, the regional mine action centre in Jubaland), would work to strengthen its incident reporting system, and establish “community-trusted EO [explosive ordnance] reporting channels”, with monthly analytical reports to inform clearance and advocacy.¹⁴²

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Somalia has NMAS that were published in 2018, and which were, at the time, aligned with the IMAS. The NMAS are split into four parts covering land release, information management (IMSMA), risk education, and quality assurance

(QA).¹⁴³ Since 2018, however, a lack of funding to undertake stakeholder consultation, political instability, and a paucity of international technical experts to assist in the review process have all delayed “finalisation” of the NMAS.¹⁴⁴ Progress

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

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

128 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.

129 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 7.

130 *Ibid.*, p. 35.

131 *Ibid.*, p. 33 and Annex III, p. 49.

132 *Ibid.*, pp. 34–39.

133 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May, 7 July, and 15 September 2023.

134 Email from Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024.

135 Emails from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

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

137 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 5 June 2024.

138 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

139 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024.

140 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

141 Emails from Ghirmay Kiros, UNSOM, 20 May and 7 August 2024; and Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

142 Article 7 report (covering 2024), p. 3.

143 Revised 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 38.

144 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 10.

was made in 2024, however, with standards for NTS and risk education revised with GICHD support¹⁴⁵ and “officially approved.”¹⁴⁶ Revision of the information management standard was underway as at April 2025.¹⁴⁷ SEMA says it has a functioning quality management system and that it regularly inspects activities and assesses mine action outputs.¹⁴⁸

UNMAS notes that the 2018 NMAS are sufficient to serve as a guide for the SOPs of implementing partners to deal with legacy contamination, subject to amendments that may be made during government review.¹⁴⁹ HALO, though, says that the NMAS need to be adapted to support implementation in the context of local threats.¹⁵⁰ UNMAS suggested that, considering the significance of the IED-related threats affecting the civilian population, the NMAS should address procedures to deal with improvised mines and VOIEDs.¹⁵¹ In its updated work plan for 2022–27, Somalia pledges to consider developing specific standards for risk education on IEDs.¹⁵² This is now integrated into a revised Chapter 21 of the NMAS.¹⁵³

The number of AP and AV mines found and destroyed in Somalia continues to be low relative to the size of areas cleared (see Table 11). As such, it is possible that, in some cases, more areas could be released through NTS or TS rather than full clearance. This in turn indicates a need for stricter application of robust land release methodology. In 2024, HALO Somalia cleared ten AP mined areas, covering a total area of 0.65km², which proved to contain no AP mines (see Table 14).¹⁵⁴ This is an increase on the 0.14km² cleared without finding AP mines in 2023.¹⁵⁵ Somalia suggests that “the effectiveness and efficiency of clearance operations must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, rather than through generalized national assumptions”.¹⁵⁶ This does not obviate the need for better survey before full clearance is undertaken.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2024, HALO, continued to conduct operations in Somalia, with separate operations in Somaliland. Survey and EOD undertaken through UNMAS in Somalia formally ceased in January 2025, due to a lack of funding.¹⁵⁷ UNMAS contracted Ukroboronservice (UOS) teams until June 2024¹⁵⁸ for mine survey and clearance and EOD,¹⁵⁹ then contracted DHS from July 2024 to the end of January 2025 to undertake EORE, NTS, and EOD spot tasks, including in AP mined areas. DHS placed two multi-skilled teams in each of the federal member states of Galmudug, Southwest, Hirshabelle, and Jubaland.¹⁶⁰

Table 5: Operational NTS capacities deployed in 2024¹⁶¹

| Operator | NTS teams | Total NTS personnel | Comments |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--|
| HALO Somalia | 1 | 4 | Started 2024 with 4 teams totalling 16 personnel. Reduced to one team totalling 4 personnel from February 2024. NTS teams also conduct community liaison. Clearance teams conduct TS. |
| HALO Somaliland | 4 | 18 | Started 2024 with 2 teams totalling 10 personnel. Increased in May 2024 to 4 teams totalling 18 personnel when HALO Somaliland absorbed HALO Ethiopia staff. Clearance teams conduct TS. |
| UOS/DHS (contracted by UNMAS) | 4 | 8 | UOS until June 2024 only with 4 teams of 8 total personnel. Clearance teams also conduct TS. DHS July 2024 to January 2025 with a higher capacity of 8 multi-skilled teams (see Table 6) |
| Totals | 9 | 30 | |

145 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.

146 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.

147 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.

148 Ibid., p. 10.

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

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

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

152 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 45.

153 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

154 Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025.

155 Email from Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024.

156 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.

157 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 4; and email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

158 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, UNSOM, 20 May 2024.

159 Email from Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024.

160 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

161 Emails from Rob Syfret, 17 and 22 July 2024 and 19 May and 10 October 2025; Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024; and Ghirmay Kiros, UNSOM, 20 May 2024; Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025; and interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

Table 6: Operational clearance capacities deployed in Somalia in 2024¹⁶²

| Operator | Manual teams | Total deminers | Mechanical teams | Mechanical deminers | Mechanical assets | Comments |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| HALO Somalia | 14 | 140 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Started 2024 with 20 manual demining teams totalling 200 staff, dropping to 14 teams 140 manual deminers by June 2024, then to 11 teams in December. Deployed for clearance and TS. |
| HALO Somaliland | 30 | 185 | 1 | 6 | 1 (JCB excavator) | 22 manual demining teams totalling 182 staff, rising to 30 teams after absorption of 185 HALO Ethiopia staff in May 2024. Reduced again to 18 teams (totalling 101 manual deminers) following redundancies in November 2024. Deployed for clearance and TS. |
| UOS/DHS (contracted by UNMAS) | 4 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | UOS until June 2024 only with 4 teams of 40 total personnel. Deployed for clearance and TS Also had 2 EOD teams of 10 personnel. DHS from July 2024 to January 2025 with 8 multi-skilled teams totalling 40 deminers. |
| Totals | 48 | 365 | 1 | 6 | 1 | |

HALO Somaliland experienced several changes to survey and clearance capacity in 2024 (see Tables 5 and 6). In May 2024, it absorbed teams from across the border in Ethiopia's Somali region from HALO Ethiopia. In November, however, it was forced to make redundancies due to lack of funding.¹⁶³ HALO Somaliland did not expect an increase in the number of teams deployed in 2025, unless additional funding becomes available. It has planned for capacity in line with available funding, aiming to prevent fluctuation of team numbers over the course of the year.¹⁶⁴ HALO Somalia experienced a notable drop in capacity in 2024 due to funding restraints, decreasing from four NTS teams to one (see Table 5) and starting the year with 20 manual demining teams totalling 200 staff, dropping steadily to 11 teams by the end of the year (see Table 6).¹⁶⁵

No nationally funded survey or clearance teams operate directly under SEMA,¹⁶⁶ although Somalia has taken steps to develop national capacity to deal with the range of explosive threats it faces. Since 2021, UNMAS has trained and equipped 51 Somali National Army EOD teams. The Somali Police Force has also benefited from similar training programmes funded by the Government of Japan, and 21 police EOD teams have been established, which can respond to explosive threats in urban areas. UNMAS cautions, though, that despite significant progress, much more is needed to ensure a sustainable, Somali-led EOD capacity.¹⁶⁷ Somalia also has several local NGO consortiums, including the Central Somalia Mine Action Centre (CESMAC) and South West State/Hirshabelle Mine Action Centre (SHAHMAC), both of which have EOD capabilities, having been trained by international NGOs.¹⁶⁸ It is not yet clear how these national operators will conduct survey and clearance of AP mines in the future.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 7: Summary of land release outputs in 2024 (operator data)

| Release of AP mined area | Release in 2024 (km ²) | Comments |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Clearance | 2.17 | |
| Technical Survey | 0.17 | |
| Non-Technical Survey | 0.37 | |
| Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks | 2024 | |
| AP mines destroyed | 151 | Includes 14 destroyed in spot tasks |

¹⁶² Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 17 and 22 July 2024; and 19 May and 10 October 2025; Rebecca Wicks, Programme Manager, HALO Somaliland, 8 August 2024; Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024; Ghirmay Kiros, UNSOM, 20 May 2024; and Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

¹⁶³ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

¹⁶⁶ Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 1.

¹⁶⁷ "Somalia's IED crisis escalates as nearly 600 attacks kill 1,400 and UNMAS increases support", *Hiiraan Online*, 2 March 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/42sGtib>.

¹⁶⁸ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 4.

According to HALO data, a total of 2.71km² of AP mined area was released in 2024 across Somalia, including Somaliland, most through clearance. Thus, of the total, 2.17km² (80%) was cleared, with a further 0.37km² cancelled through NTS and 0.17km² reduced through technical survey (TS). A total of 151 AP mines were found and destroyed of which 14 were destroyed in spot tasks.¹⁶⁹ A total of 20 AV mines were also destroyed during clearance, along with one destroyed during a spot task.¹⁷⁰

In its most recent Article 7 report, covering 2024, Somalia reported that, in 2024, it cancelled 62.93km² and cleared 4.25km² (see Tables 9 and 12), but no land was released through TS.¹⁷¹ However, as outlined in detail below, the vast majority of this land release was of areas containing AV mines or other explosive ordnance.

In 2024, HALO Somalia cleared ten AP mined areas covering an area of 0.65km², but which proved to contain no AP mines.¹⁷²

SURVEY IN 2024

As noted above, according to HALO data, a total of just over 0.54km² of AP mined area was released through survey in 2024: 0.37km² cancelled through NTS and 0.17km² reduced through TS, all by HALO Somalia¹⁷³ (see Tables 8 and 10). This is a notable decrease compared to 2023, when a total of just over 1.16km² of AP mined area was released through survey, likewise all by HALO Somalia.¹⁷⁴

In its most recent Article 7 report (covering 2024), Somalia reports cancelling a far larger total of 62.9km². Of this total, however, only 855,955m², all in Galmudug, was suspected to contain any AP mines. The vast majority of the cancelled area (60.34km²) was in Jubaland state, with the contamination type stated as AV mines and other EO (see Table 9).¹⁷⁵ According to UNMAS, this cancellation was carried out by its sub-contractor, DHS.¹⁷⁶ Somalia reports no release of land

through TS in its Article 7 report (covering 2024),¹⁷⁷ though, as previously stated, some was undertaken by HALO (see Table 10).

In 2024, HALO Somaliland surveyed 2.1km² of minefields across 23 tasks, and re-surveyed 76,804m² in one task.¹⁷⁸ As a result, 1.37km² of mined area, typically containing a mixed threat of AP and AV mines, was added to the database.¹⁷⁹ By comparison, in 2023, previously unrecorded AP mine contamination was recorded in Somalia by HALO Somaliland only, covering an area of 0.28km².¹⁸⁰

HALO Somalia experienced a significant drop in land reduced in 2024 compared to the 897,957m² reduced in 2023, as its TS capacity was down by almost half, due to funding constraints.¹⁸¹

Table 8: Release of mined area through NTS in 2024 (operator data)¹⁸²

| State/Region/District | Operator | CHAs cancelled | SHAs cancelled | Area cancelled (m ²) |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Galmudug, Galgaduud, Abudwaq | HALO Somalia | 0 | 1 | 370,846 |
| Totals | | 0 | 1 | 370,846 |

Table 9: Release of areas with mines and other explosive ordnance through NTS in 2024, excluding Somaliland (national authority data)¹⁸³

| State | Operator | CHAs cancelled | SHAs cancelled | Contamination type in areas cleared | Area cancelled (m ²) |
|---------------|----------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Galmudug | DHS | N/K | N/K | AP mines, AV mines, ERW | 855,955 |
| Hirshabelle | DHS | N/K | N/K | AV mines, ERW | 1,089,612 |
| Jubaland | DHS | N/K | N/K | AV mines, ERW | 60,340,000 |
| South West | DHS | N/K | N/K | None | 642,135 |
| Totals | | N/K | N/K | | 62,927,702 |

170 Emails from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May and 10 October 2025.

171 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8.

172 Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO Somalia, 12 May 2025.

173 Email from Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024.

174 Ibid.

175 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8.

176 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

177 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8.

178 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May and 10 October 2025.

179 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025; and Rebecca Wocks, HALO, 15 October 2025.

180 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024.

181 Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO Somalia, 12 May 2025.

182 Emails from Katherine Ayres, HALO Somalia, 12 May 2025; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

183 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8; and email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.

Table 10: Release of mined area through TS in 2024 (operator data)¹⁸⁴

| State/Region/District | Operator | CHA/SHAs reduced | Area reduced (m ²) |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Galmudug, Mudug, Galkayo | HALO Somalia | 3 | 4,035 |
| Puntland, Mudug, Galdogob | HALO Somalia | 2 | 31,454 |
| Hirshabelle, Hiran, Belet Weyne | HALO Somalia | 1 | 137,066 |
| Totals | | 6 | 172,555 |

CLEARANCE IN 2024

In 2024, a total of just over 2.17km² of AP mined area was cleared by HALO. Of this, 866,867m² was cleared by HALO Somalia, with five AP mines destroyed (along with 14 AV mines and 658 items of unexploded ordnance, UXO), and just under 1.31km² was cleared by HALO Somaliland, with 132 AP mines destroyed (along with six AV mines and two items of UXO) (see Table 11). A further 14 AP mines in total were destroyed in spot tasks (13 by HALO Somaliland and 1 by HALO Somalia) bringing the total of AP mines destroyed in 2024 to 151. One AV mine was also destroyed in a spot task, bringing the total of AV mines destroyed by HALO to 14 (see Table 13). HALO Somaliland undertook 190 spot tasks in 2024, destroying 667 items of UXO along with these AP and AV mines.¹⁸⁵ HALO Somalia also identified two victim-operated fuzes for TM-46 AV mines in Hirshabelle.¹⁸⁶

Clearance of AP mined area in 2024 by HALO is slightly lower than the 2.39km² cleared in 2023.¹⁸⁷ HALO Somalia experienced a drop in clearance output compared to 806,531m² cleared in 2023, due to reduced funding and capacity.¹⁸⁸ HALO Somaliland, however, increased clearance

from 822,899m² in 2023 to almost 1.31km² in 2024. This was because 2023 operations were suspended for a short time following two security incidents at HALO camps.¹⁸⁹

In 2024, as noted above, HALO Somalia cleared ten AP mined areas without finding AP mines.¹⁹⁰

In its latest Article 7 report (covering 2024), Somalia states that 4.25km² of areas containing mines and other EO was cleared in Somalia, excluding Somaliland (see Table 12).¹⁹¹ Somalia also stated at the Intersessional Meetings in June 2025 that, since its last update on Article 5 Implementation, it had "cleared more than 600,000m² of minefields" and close to 4km² of battle areas.¹⁹² This indicates that most of the clearance of 4.25km² shown in Table 12 represents battle area clearance (BAC), with only 679,897m² of mine clearance. Indeed, SEMA confirms that the 2.89km² cleared in SSC Khatumo, for example (almost 70% of all clearance of areas with mines and other EO, reported by Somalia), represents BAC.¹⁹³ AP mines were destroyed only in Galmudug and Puntland (see Table 12).¹⁹⁴

Table 11: Mine clearance in 2024 (operator data)¹⁹⁵

| State, District, village | Operator | Areas cleared | Area cleared (m ²) | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed | UXO destroyed |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Galmudug, Mudug, Galkayo | HALO Somalia | 7 | 320,723 | 4 | 9 | 0 |
| Puntland, Mudug, Galdogob | HALO Somalia | 4 | 107,282 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| SSC, Sool, Las Anod | HALO Somalia | 7 | 282,046 | 0 | 0 | 656 |
| Hirshabelle, Hiran, Belet Weyne | HALO Somalia | 3 | 131,843 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Southwest, Bakol, El Barde | HALO Somalia | 1 | 24,973 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

184 Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO Somalia, 12 May 2025.

185 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025; and Katherine Ayres, HALO Somalia, 12 May 2025.

186 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

187 Emails from Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024; Ghirmay Kiros, UNSOM, 22 May 2024; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024.

188 Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO Somalia, 12 May 2025.

189 These incidents were: an armed attack on HALO's camp in August 2023, and one at a HALO task near the community of Hindaysa in September 2023, due to unfounded suspicions that HALO was mining gold in the local community. Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

190 Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO Somalia, 12 May 2025.

191 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8.

192 Statement of Somalia on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025.

193 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 15 October 2025.

194 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8.

195 Emails from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May and 10 October 2025.

Table 11 Continued

| State, District, village | Operator | Areas cleared | Area cleared (m ²) | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed | UXO destroyed |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Maroodi Jeex, Balli gubadle, Balli-cabane | HALO Somaliland | *0 | 82,612 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Maroodi Jeex, Gabiley, Cabudla | HALO Somaliland | 1 | 99,682 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Maroodi Jeex, Gabiley, Caro-yanbo | HALO Somaliland | 1 | 206,695 | 32 | 2 | 0 |
| Maroodi Jeex, Sallaxley, Ina guuxaa | HALO Somaliland | *0 | 196,473 | 39 | 0 | 0 |
| Togdheer, Oodweyne, Daba-goroyaale | HALO Somaliland | *0 | 455,220 | 16 | 4 | 2 |
| Togdheer, Oodweyne, Raydab khaatumo | HALO Somaliland | *0 | 265,134 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | | 24 | 2,172,683 | 137 | 20 | 660 |

*Of the tasks undertaken by HALO Somaliland in 2024, two were completed, one was suspended, and five were ongoing at the time of writing.

Table 12: Clearance of areas with mines and other explosive ordnance in 2024, excluding Somaliland (national authority data)¹⁹⁶

| State/Region* | Operator (as stated by SEMA) | Areas cleared | Area cleared (m ²) | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed | UXO destroyed |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Banadir* | UNMAS | N/K | 40,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Galmudug | UNMAS/HALO | N/K | 572,597 | 3 | 14 | 96 |
| Hirshabelle | UNMAS/HALO | N/K | 374,110 | 0 | 4 | 53 |
| Jubaland | UNMAS | N/K | 115,028 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Puntland | HALO | N/K | 107,282 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| SSC Khatumo | HALO** | N/K | 2,894,884 | 0 | 0 | 656 |
| South West | UNMAS/HALO | N/K | 151,423 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | | N/K | 4,253,324 | 4 | 21 | 809 |

*Banadir is an official Regional Administration, which encompasses Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. **SEMA confirms that this clearance, conducted by HALO, was BAC.¹⁹⁷ Hence it is of a much larger area than the clearance of mined area in SSC reported by HALO, as stated in Table 11.

Table 13: AP and AV mines destroyed during EOD spot tasks in 2024 (operator data)¹⁹⁸

| State, District, village | Operator | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Puntland, Mudug, Galdogob | HALO Somalia | 1 | 1 |
| Southwest, Bakol, El Barde | HALO Somalia | 0 | 0 |
| Sahil, Berbera, Biyo guure | HALO Somaliland | 1 | 0 |
| Maroodi Jeex, Gabiley, Cabuda | HALO Somaliland | 6 | 0 |
| Maroodi Jeex, Balli gubadle, Habaasweyn | HALO Somaliland | 1 | 0 |
| Awdal, Baki | HALO Somaliland | 1 | 0 |
| Awdal, Saylac, Xariirad | HALO Somaliland | 1 | 0 |
| Togdheer, Oodweyne, Mulaaxo | HALO Somaliland | 2 | 0 |
| Maroodi Jeex, Hargeysa | HALO Somaliland | 1 | 0 |
| Totals | | 14 | 1 |

¹⁹⁶ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8; and email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.

¹⁹⁷ Emails from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 and 15 October 2025.

¹⁹⁸ Emails from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

Table 14: AP mine clearance tasks in 2024, which proved to contain no AP mines (operator data)¹⁹⁹

| Operator | Area cleared (m ²) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| HALO Somalia | 651,661 |
| Total | 651,661 |

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Somalia is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 October 2027. It will not meet this deadline.

In its latest Article 7 report covering 2024, Somalia details the challenges it is facing, namely; the possibility of either an increase or decrease in hazardous areas following NTS; continued difficulty in safely accessing some areas due to attacks by Al Shabaab; the risk to personnel of threats from armed groups when conducting field visits and surveys; and a pressing humanitarian need for Somalia to address the risk from ordnance other than AP mines, which pose a significant threat to the population. Somalia adds that the occasional practice by some civilians of lifting AV mines for their explosive material has “further complicated the accuracy of the previously recorded hazards”. Finally, a severe lack of international funding is restated as a major difficulty.²⁰⁰

Despite these significant challenges, SEMA has consistently collaborated with partners in recent years to continue capacity building, NMAS revision, and information management, and it should be commended for this. Efforts underway to finalise an updated national mine action strategy by the end of 2025 and to revise further key chapters of the NMAS will represent important progress, if achieved. However, approval of Somalia’s mine action legislation by

the nation’s parliament, a prerequisite for SEMA to secure national funding, remains outstanding. It is critical that this matter be resolved and that Somalia secures further funding, both national and international, in order to maintain an effective mine action programme capable of meeting its Article 5 obligations in any foreseeable timeframe.

Somalia made the decision to not include Somaliland in its plans within the extension request or within its updated 2022–27 work plan, submitted in June 2023, despite the fact that Somaliland remains part of Somalia *de jure* and is therefore under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government for the purpose of the APMBC.

Table 15: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance (operator data)

| Year | Area cleared (km ²) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 2024 | 2.17 |
| 2023 | 1.81 |
| 2022 | 2.05 |
| 2021 | 2.52 |
| 2020 | 2.32 |
| Total | 10.87 |

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Somalia has established EOD/IED-trained police teams in every federal member state, which will be available to respond to community call-outs once Article 5 obligations have been fulfilled.²⁰¹

¹⁹⁹ Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025.

²⁰⁰ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 13.

²⁰¹ Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.