SOMALIA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2027

Not on track to meet deadline
Five-year extension to 1 October 2032 requested

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 9KM^2

Medium
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km^2)	Release in 2024 (km^2)
Clearance	1.63 (amended operator data)	2.17
Technical Survey	0.14	0.17
Non-Technical Survey	0	0.37

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	170 (incl. 7 during spot tasks)	151 (incl. 14 during spot tasks)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATOR IN 2025:

- The HALO Trust

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Mine survey and clearance were again impeded by armed conflict and insecurity in 2025, preventing safe access to many areas. Reported clearance increased significantly but the number of anti-personnel (AP) mines found and destroyed in Somalia remained very low and more than 3km^2 of reported clearance is not counted in the total for 2025. Full transition to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core was further delayed, but work continued in 2025 and was expected to be finalised by the end of 2026. Somalia's Mine Action Bill, finally submitted to the Federal Parliament in 2024, following halting progress since 2016, remained pending at the time of writing. The HALO Trust (HALO) remains the only international operator, following demobilisation of United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) field teams in December 2024. In June 2026, Somalia submitted its second Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request, seeking a five-year extension to 1 October 2032. Chronic underfunding continues to be the main challenge to effective implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **The status of the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) should be recognised in law and national resources budgeted annually to meet its operating costs.**
- **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.**
- **Somalia should finalise and formally approve the new national mine action strategy, currently under development, to replace its long outdated plan for 2018–20.**
- **Somalia should accelerate efforts to elaborate a gender and diversity policy and associated implementation plan for the programme, underway in early 2026.**
- **Somalia should complete work on an environmental policy and work plan for the programme.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	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 2025, but caution that the true extent of AP mined areas is likely to be much lower, since much of the recorded areas contain mixed hazards and require further survey. Nationwide non-technical survey (NTS) is set as a priority, but insecurity continued to prevent safe access to many areas.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	4	4	The Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) is the government institution responsible for mine action, but the passage of Somalia's Mine Action Bill has been delayed for several years and, as at June 2026, was still pending approval by the Federal Parliament. As a consequence, SEMA still cannot access State funding.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	Somalia does not yet have a gender policy or implementation plan for mine action, although a policy was under development in early 2026. 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	5	Somalia does not yet have an environmental policy or plan for mine action but began developing these in 2025. A section on environmental management is contained within national standards. 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	5	SEMA launched its upgrade to the IMSMA Core system in 2022, which it expected to complete before the end of 2026, along with a national standard on information management. In June 2026, Somalia submitted a detailed Article 7 report for 2025 and a detailed Article 5 deadline extension request.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	5	5	SEMA expected to launch an updated strategy by the end of 2026 to replace its 2018–20 strategic plan. Somalia submitted a costed, detailed work plan for 2022–27 in June 2023 and outlined a work plan for 2027–32 in its 2026 extension request. SEMA has repeatedly stressed how chronic underfunding makes planning of operations difficult.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	6	The national standard 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 21 police explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and improvised explosive device (IED) disposal teams, but national EOD capacity is limited. HALO is the only international operator in Somalia.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	4	Somalia will not meet its 2027 Article 5 clearance deadline and is seeking a second five-year extension to 1 October 2032 (and expects a further request to follow). A large proportion of the clearance conducted in 2025 was of areas not containing mines and has therefore been considered as BAC, not mine clearance. No mined area was cancelled through NTS. Nationwide NTS is needed but will not be possible until access and security improve.
Average Score	**5.0**	**5.0**	**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 (MoD)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Somali armed forces explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams
- Police EOD units of the Federal Member States

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Demineco Human Services (DHS) contracted under UNMAS (ceased operations January 2025)*

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- iMMAP
- UNMAS as part of the UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS)
- United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS)
- African Union Stabilisation Support Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM)

* UNMAS sub-contracted UOS teams until June 2024, then DHS from 1 July 2024 to 15 January 2025.[1]

1 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 1 August 2025.

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 2025 (see Table 1).[2] Somalia currently reports AP mined areas in all six of its states, including the new North Eastern state, which was officially recognised by the federal government in July 2025, replacing the interim administration of SSC-Khaatumo.[3] 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 2025, Somalia estimated that outside Somaliland it had a total of 116km^2 of mined area – 235 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering 104km^2 and 272 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering 12km^2.[4] This is down from the estimate a year earlier of 123km^2, again excluding Somaliland.[5] SEMA cautions that the true extent of AP mined area is likely to be significantly smaller, as much of the recorded contamination consists of mixed explosive ordnance (EO) hazards, including AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mines, and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), and much requires further survey and classification.[6] As far as is possible, contamination data in Somalia's national database are said to be disaggregated by weapon type, including improvised mines and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).[7]

The decrease in estimated contaminated area between 2024 and 2025 is largely explained by a 46% decrease in the size of CHAs in the heavily contaminated state of Hirshabelle.[8] North Eastern state still accounts for more than half of all contaminated areas in the country (excluding Somaliland).

Several aspects of the changing picture of contamination between 2024 and 2025 require clarification, especially the almost 6.5km^2 decrease in contamination in Hirshabelle,[9] where Somalia reports clearance of only 26,610m^2 (see Table 15), and no other land release during 2025. In North Eastern state, Somalia reports clearance of 3.63km^2,[10] leaving 0.61km^2 of the 4.24km^2 decrease in contamination[11] unaccounted for. Regarding Puntland, Galmudug, and South West states, reported contamination increased slightly. For Jubaland, Somalia had clarified in 2024 that contaminated areas contained AV mines and other EO, not AP mines.[12] However, Jubaland has been reintroduced into the list of states contaminated with AP mines as at the end of 2025,[13] without explanation.

Table 1: Estimated AP mined area, excluding Somaliland (at end 2025) (national authority data)[14]

State	CHAs	Area of CHAs (m^2)	SHAs	Area of SHAs (m^2)	Total CHAs and SHAs	Total area (m^2)
Puntland	21	2,530,114	176	4,833,052	197	7,363,166
Jubaland	4	383,018	0	0	4	383,018
Galmudug	71	24,253,511	63	2,407,494	134	26,661,005
Hirshabelle	54	7,545,025	0	0	54	7,545,025
South West	28	6,659,258	30	3,275,169	58	9,934,427
North Eastern*	57	62,898,515	3	1,540,239	60	64,438,754
Totals	**235**	**104,269,441**	**272**	**12,055,954**	**507**	**116,325,395**

* Somalia refers to "North West State" in its Article 7 reporting (covering 2025). HALO confirms this is a typographical error and it should read North Eastern.[15]

Mined areas are concentrated along Somalia's border with Ethiopia.[16] Somalia restated in 2023 that most of the contamination along the border is from AV mines, which continue to significantly affect the civilian population.[17] Indeed, HALO expects the number of mixed AP and AV mined areas and of areas containing only AP mines to remain

2 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 9–10.

3 Somalia has six official federal member states, plus the Banadir Regional Administration, which includes the capital, Mogadishu. "SSC" referred to the three regions of Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn. "From Las Anood to the North Eastern State (NES): Implications for Somalia–Somaliland Mediation and Regional Stability", Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, 10 September 2025, https://bit.ly/4u0KHMG. Elsewhere in this report, Sool and Sanaag are referenced in relation to Somaliland, which claims and administers these areas. This is for the purposes only of describing the survey and clearance work undertaken in Sool and Sanaag by HALO in its separate operations in Somaliland, and HALO's determination of the contamination baseline in Somaliland (shown in Table 2).

4 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 9–10.

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

6 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

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

8 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 7; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 9–10.

9 Ibid.

10 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 11.

11 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 7; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 9–10.

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

13 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 9–10.

14 Ibid.

15 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 7; and email from Alexia Bousingen, Programme Manager, HALO Somalia/Somaliland, 27 July 2026.

16 "The Federal Republic of Somalia Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan", APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

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

small.[18] Moreover, Somalia expects to cancel a sizable portion of existing mined area (though previously unrecorded contamination is also likely to be found).[19] Given available information, Mine Action Review believes that AP mine contamination in Somalia is medium and likely totals less than 10km^2.

An ongoing non-technical survey (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.[20] But lack of safe access continues to be a major obstacle to the completion of survey. That said, SEMA explains that the government's offensive operations against Al-Shabaab have continued to improve security in the country, with "most" mined areas accessible for land release in 2025.[21] HALO notes, however, that vast parts of the country's south-central areas remained under Al-Shabaab control as at spring 2026.[22] Somalia has promised to continue to update the States Parties on changes to the security situation and accessibility.[23] It has also pledged that, if funding is secured, NTS will be conducted in South West, Hirshabelle, and Jubaland states "to identify the exact contaminated areas".[24]

In Somaliland, work by HALO to establish a complete baseline of AP mine contamination is ongoing. The Rapid Assessment phase of its major village-by-village survey project was completed in 2023 but conflict in the eastern regions,[25] coupled with the overall security situation, has since proved an ongoing barrier to survey, especially in the eastern regions of Sool and Sanaag.[26] In 2025, Somaliland's western region of Awdal also became unstable. As at April 2026, HALO was unable to deploy any teams in Sool, Sanaag or Awdal, though in Awdal at least, HALO was hopeful that operations would restart. HALO has 75 follow-ups remaining, in villages where evidence of mine contamination was reported during earlier assessment, and aims to complete these by the end of 2026, subject to secure access.[27]

HALO recorded 644,832m^2 of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination in 2025, all in Somaliland.[28] HALO estimated total mined area in Somaliland to be 11.05km^2 as at the end of 2025, almost all of which is in 146 CHAs, amounting to just over 11.04km^2, with a further 7,197m^2 in three SHAs. Of the 11.05km^2, 6.39km^2 comprises 111 road tasks, and the remaining 4.66km^2 contains a mixed threat of EO contamination, including AV and AP mines (see Table 2). Road tasks are deemed to present a mixed threat in Somaliland, due to the trend of "keeper" AP mines being laid with AV mines.[29] This estimate of 11.05km^2 of contaminated areas as at the end of 2025 is a decrease compared to the end of 2024, when HALO estimated remaining contamination to be approximately 12km^2, comprising 5km^2 of minefields and 7km^2 of road tasks.[30]

Table 2: Estimated mined area, Somaliland (at end 2025) (operator data)[31]

Region	SHAs	Area of SHAs (m^2)	CHAs	Area of CHAs (m^2)	Nature of contamination	Total area (m^2)
Awdal	2	626	12	887,104	Road tasks (3 tasks, 53,965m^2) Mixed threat (11 tasks, 833,765m^2)	887,730
Maroodi Jeex	1	6,571	29	1,438,158	Road tasks (20 tasks, 952,794m^2) Mixed threat (10 tasks, 491,935m^2)	1,444,729
Sahil	0	0	24	1,288,017	Road tasks (21 tasks, 981,629m^2) Standard mixed threat (3 tasks, 306,388m^2)	1,288,017
Sanaag*	0	0	9	787,528	Road tasks (9 tasks, 787,528m^2)	787,528
Sool*	0	0	4	18,737	Road tasks (4 tasks, 18,737m^2)	18,737
Togdheer	0	0	68	6,625,478	Road tasks (54 tasks, 3,625,110m^2) Mixed threat (14 tasks, 3,000,368m^2)	6,625,478
Totals	**3**	**7,197**	**146**	**11,045,022**	**Road tasks: 111 (6,419,763m^2) Mixed minefield tasks: 38 (4,632,456m^2)**	**11,052,219**

* As previously noted, Sool and Sanaag are claimed and administered by Somaliland, but were determined to be part of North Eastern State, the newest Federal Member State of Somalia, established in July 2025.

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

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

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

21 Zoom interview with Abdukadir Ibrahim, Head of Information Management, SEMA, 23 February 2026.

22 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.

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

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

25 This rapid assessment phase covered 1,870 villages, though 338 remained inaccessible on completion of this phase. Conflict broke out in February 2023, with clashes between Somaliland security forces and clan members in Laas Canood, in the Sool region. See Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Somalia: UN expert deplores high death toll in Laas Canood clashes", Press release, 23 February 2023, https://bit.ly/3SoKdfl.

26 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024, and 19 May and 10 October 2025. As previously mentioned, Sool and Sanaag are claimed and administered by Somaliland, but were determined to part of the newest Federal Member State of North Eastern State, formerly established in July 2025.

27 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.

28 Ibid.

29 Keeper mines are AP mines left behind deliberately, even after other mines are removed from an area. Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026; and Emily McQuade, Operations Manager, HALO Somaliland, 28 July 2026.

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

31 Email from Emily McQuade, HALO, 28 July 2026.

Somalia's mine and 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.[32] But according to SEMA, Somalia has seen an increase in the use of mines of an improvised nature in recent years, in particular, of victim-operated IEDs (VOIEDs), which Somalia says "represents the most acute and dynamic explosive hazard in the current operating environment".

Somalia reports that at least 73 VOIEDs were identified in 2025.[33] However, UNMAS cautions that this is likely a significant undercount, given the lack of accurate post-incident investigation and reporting, resulting from highly constrained capacity.[34] Somalia does recognise that VOIEDs that are detonated by a person are AP mines within the scope of the APMBC[35] and has committed to addressing this threat, in accordance with its international legal obligations.[36] Although improvised AP mines are not yet included in Somalia's baseline of mine contamination, the Government has an approved Counter-IED Strategy, covering 2025–2030.[37]

SEMA believes, though, that improvised mines are not widespread in the country.[38] Norwegian People's Aid (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.[39] 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.[40] In 2024, however, HALO identified two victim-operated fuzes for TM-46 AV mines in Hirshabelle.[41]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Somalia is contaminated with ERW, which were previously estimated to cover almost 170km^2,[42] and the extent of which has increased in some areas following the conflict in Laas Canood that broke out in 2023. Somalia also has limited contamination from cluster munition remnants (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2026* 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).[43] There is a separate mine action department within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in Somaliland. SEMA maintains a presence across Somalia through five of its six 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.[44] However, the offices were forced to pause activities in 2025, due to a lack of funds. As at May 2026, SEMA was uncertain when they would re-open.[45]

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.[46] The competing priorities of multiple bills have seen repeated delays in the passing of the mine action law,[47] still pending at the time of writing. No State funding has been provided since SEMA's government grant expired in 2015.[48] SEMA has, though, submitted a proposed budget to MoIS.[49]

32 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.

33 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 16; and email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda), Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Project Manager, UNMAS, 19 April 2026.

34 UNMAS explains that in Somalia, in 2025, 549 IEDs were reported. Of these: 26 were confirmed as victim-operated (VO); 18 were assessed as VO based on circumstances and limited evidence; 57 were confirmed as command-initiated; 222 devices were logged as unknown; and 226 were assessed as command-initiated, but on limited evidence. Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda), UNMAS, 19 April 2026.

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

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

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

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

39 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, Operations Manager - Puntland, NPA, 24 March 2023.

40 Emails from Chris Teasdale, HALO, 17 July 2024; Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024 and 19 May 2025; Katherine Ayres, Country Director, Somalia, HALO, 12 May 2025; and Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026.

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

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

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

44 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; and interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025. SEMA does not have an office in North Eastern State, Somalia's newest official Federal Member State, formally established in July 2025. Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda), UNMAS, 2 June 2026.

45 Online interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 1 May 2026.

46 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.

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

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

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

A chronic lack of funding has resulted in significant ongoing operational challenges for SEMA and a lack of effective capacity to plan and execute mine action activities.[50] Furthermore, Somalia's limited resources for mine action have been stretched by the growing challenge of IEDs, which present "one of the most persistent threats to Somalia's security and stability," according to the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia.[51]

Despite these challenges, capacity-building efforts have continued. In 2025, HALO organised workshops for SEMA on finance and information management (IM), as well as other training, and support to draft national mine action standards (NMAS).[52] Between 2023 and 2025, UNMAS trained and equipped 61 Somali National Army EOD teams and 21 police EOD teams.[53] It is also establishing a police training school in Mogadishu. In 2025, UNMAS continued to provide technical assistance and support capacity development of SEMA through HALO. This included national and regional training of trainers in IM, operations and quality assurance (QA), and management and leadership.[54] As at February 2026, UNMAS was continuing operational and technical support to SEMA, and seeking funding to resume capacity development support.[55]

The international non-profit organisation iMMAP[56] has a four-year technical and operational capacity building programme for IM in Somalia, which was launched in June 2025. iMMAP's 2026 work plan with SEMA has focused on development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to facilitate implementation of Somalia's NMAS for IM in a process led by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). They also provide on-the-job training in geographical information systems (GIS) and map production; development of interactive dashboards to enhance coordination across mine action and other humanitarian partners; development of a gender policy; and revision of SEMA's information sharing policy, to enhance communication with internal and external stakeholders.[57] As at June 2026, a capacity development framework had been drafted and was awaiting formal approval.[58]

Operators participate in key decision-making by the national authorities. They also describe an enabling environment for mine action in Somalia.[59] A formal multi-stakeholder coordination structure, including SEMA, the GICHD, HALO, iMMAP, and UNMAS, was established and met once in 2025.[60] However, at the time of writing, it had not been able to meet since, due to funding constraints. SEMA and implementing partners continue to meet as needed, however, and to cooperate through an IM working group.[61] HALO and SEMA regularly coordinate activities at national and state level.[62]

SEMA's strategic planning is guided by the 2024–29 strategic plan of the MoIS, which in turn is guided by national policies and Somalia's National Transformation Plan (NTP) for 2025–29.[63] SEMA is designated responsibility under the NTP to plan, coordinate, implement, and provide oversight of "all mine action programmes and treaty compliance".[64] SEMA set its 2026 priority areas of work as: completion of migration from IMSMA New Generation to IMSMA Core; implementation of NTS; delivery of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE); and capacity development, with the support of iMMAP.[65]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The chronic lack of funding for mine action in Somalia continued through 2025 and into 2026, and has been described by UNMAS as the most challenging in a decade.[66] As at May 2026, SEMA was receiving only limited funding through iMMAP's four-year capacity building programme, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).[67] UNMAS provided some limited funding to the end of March 2025.[68] SEMA also received some limited financial support from HALO until March 2026.[69] China donated RMB 1 million (approximately US$137,000) to Somalia in 2024 and again in 2025, for risk education, capacity building, and NTS. SEMA expected a third grant from China in 2026[70] and intends

50 Ibid., pp. 4–5.

51 UNMAS, "UN welcomes launch of Somalia's new strategy to counter IEDs", 15 September 2025; Zoom interview with Adil Hussain, Country Representative, and Abdelsemed Kedir, Technical Advisor, iMMAP, 3 March 2026; and Zoom interview with Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda) and Mahdi Mohamed Elmi, Programme Management Senior Analyst, UNMAS, 1 April 2026.

52 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May and 16 August 2026.

53 UNMAS, "UN welcomes launch of Somalia's new strategy to counter IEDs", 15 September 2025.

54 Zoom interview with Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda) and Mahdi Mohamed Elmi, UNMAS, 1 April 2026.

55 Zoom interview with Abdukadir Ibrahim, SEMA, 23 February 2026. As planned, UNMAS operations transitioned from the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) to the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), with effect from 1 July 2025, with UNSOS continuing to provide operational and technical support to SEMA. Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 20.

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

57 Zoom interview with Adil Hussain and Abdelsemed Kedir, iMMAP, 3 March 2026; and emails from Adil Hussain, iMMAP, 19 May and 18 August 2026.

58 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 40.

59 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, UNMAS, 30 May 2023; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023 and 5 June 2024.

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

61 Zoom interview with Abdukadir Ibrahim, SEMA, 23 February 2026.

62 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.

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

64 Ibid., pp. 10–11.

65 Zoom interview with Abdukadir Ibrahim, SEMA, 23 February 2026.

66 Zoom interview with Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda) and Mahdi Mohamed Elmi, UNMAS, 1 April 2026; and email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.

67 Online interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 1 May 2026; Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form H; and email from Adil Hussain, iMMAP, 18 August 2026.

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

69 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May and 16 August 2026.

70 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 7; interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025; Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 7; and email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 2 July 2026.

to approach China for continued funding after the current arrangement expires in 2027.[71] As mentioned, there is no State budget for mine action in Somalia. 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.[72]

Somalia initiated an Individualised Approach to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties in November 2023,[73] but this has yielded no further significant support to date. Somalia recognises "a strong need" to develop a resource mobilisation strategy for Article 5 implementation[74] and has long planned to finalise one by 30 April 2027.[75] Somalia reports that, along with partners, it has made continued efforts to secure donor support, including submission of concept notes developed jointly by SEMA and UNMAS; and targeted outreach and bilateral briefings by UNMAS, to advocate for Somalia's funding needs. SEMA, in coordination with the MoIS, hosted a high-level mine action coordination meeting in Mogadishu in June 2026, to "re-engage donors and partners" on Somalia's urgent funding needs.[76]

Somalia estimates the cost of planned activities during its proposed second extension period of 2028-2032, including the release of 21.5km^2, under the best case scenario of full funding and improved access to mined areas, to be US$30 million.[77] Somalia indicates that, as at May 2026, US$5.8 million had been secured for 2026–30, including US$3.6 million secured by HALO, and US$2.2 million secured by iMMAP.[78] However, elsewhere in the extension request Somalia indicates that none of the US$30 million required has been secured.[79] This inconsistency requires clarification. Table 8 in the section on Planning and Tasking provides a breakdown of this US$30 million into anticipated annual costs.

Table 3 summarises the funding provided to HALO for survey and clearance during 2025, and its forecast for 2026. This represents funding for operations across all areas of Somalia, including Somaliland. For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Somalia on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[80]

Table 3: Funding for survey and clearance by HALO in Somalia (including Somaliland) (2025–26)[81]

Donor	2025	2026
German Federal Foreign office (GFFO)	HALO	HALO (ending during 2026)
Ireland (Irish Aid)	HALO	HALO
The Netherlands (MFA)	HALO	HALO
Norway (MFA)	HALO	None
UK, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP)	HALO	HALO*

* UK FCDO funding continued for Somaliland only.

SEMA cautions that the persistent lack of funds presents an urgent challenge to effective mine action,[82] with the potential loss of all remaining survey, clearance, and EORE capacity in the country by the end of 2026, if the situation does not improve.[83]

SOMALILAND

In its 2026 extension request, Somalia states that "Somaliland remains part of Somalia de jure and under the jurisdiction of the FGS [Federal Government of Somalia] for the purpose of the Convention, but is not included in operational plans within this request". Somalia further states that the FGS "remains open to dialogue and will report any developments in its annual Article 7 transparency reports".[84] Somalia also notes that contamination data, contained in the request, excludes Somaliland "due to operational sensitivities, consistent with previous Article 5 reporting practice".[85]

Mine Action in Somaliland is the responsibility of the Somaliland Mine Action Department (MAD), funded by the MoD of Somaliland. As at early 2026, the MAD was operating with restricted capacity, due to limited funding, and its work reportedly included EORE. It did not have a clear strategy and required support to establish a national action plan for mine

71 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7–8.
72 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, pp. 39–40; and 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.
73 "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; and 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.
74 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 40.
75 2026 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.
76 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form H.
77 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 37–38.
78 Ibid., pp. 5–6.
79 Ibid., p. 27.
80 https://the-monitor.org.
81 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April, 6 May, and 16 August 2026.
82 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 4–5; and online interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 1 May 2026.
83 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form H.
84 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.
85 Ibid., p. 23.

action. These challenges notwithstanding, HALO describes an enabling environment for mine action in Somaliland. HALO has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the MoD and liaises very regularly with the MoD and with the MAD regarding its operational plans, mine action data, and land release. HALO conducted some capacity-development workshops with the MAD in early 2026 on different aspects of mine action. HALO planned to continue field-based trainings in 2026.[86]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

In Somalia's latest Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Somalia states that it continues to strengthen inclusive approaches, "promoting the meaningful participation of women, persons with disabilities, and diverse community groups in the planning and implementation of mine action activities".[87] Somalia does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan for mine action. In the first half of 2026, however, iMMAP initiated a process to develop a gender policy for SEMA, with the support of the Gender Advisor to Somalia's UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.[88] Somalia pledges this policy will be developed during the early part of its proposed 2028–32 extension period, though no specific date is provided.[89] The National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 recognised gender and diversity as cross-cutting issues for the national programme.[90] As mentioned, a new national mine action strategy is being developed.[91]

Somalia's updated work plan for 2022–27 does commit to ensuring that gender and diversity are integrated into plans for a nationwide NTS.[92] In addition, SEMA has a dedicated gender, diversity, and inclusion officer.[93] 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.[94] Operators have noted that this is an important consideration when recruiting and deploying operational staff.[95] 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.[96]

Table 4: Gender composition of SEMA and operators in 2025[97]

Entity	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
SEMA Head Office	17	4* (24%)	N/R	N/R	0	0
SEMA Regional offices**	10 (2 per office)	1 (10%)	N/R	N/R	1 (in Puntland state)	0
HALO Somalia	215	42 (20%)	48	8 (17%)	156	19 (12%)
HALO Somaliland	298	58 (19%)	17	3 (18%)	232	45 (19%)
Totals	**540**	**105 (19%)**	**65**	**11 (17%)**	**389**	**64 (16%)**

* Including a GDI officer, two information management assistants and one cleaner. ** SEMA's regional offices were forced to stop operating in 2025 due to a lack of funds, and remained closed at the time of writing.[98]

As at May 2026, HALO Somalia was developing a country-specific gender and diversity policy, which it expected to finalise during 2026.[99] While the overall representation of women in HALO Somalia's workforce is well below its 50/50 target (see Table 4), significant efforts to recruit and retain female staff continue, including childcare stipends, maternity leave, and the provision of "baby boxes" for women with young children. 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. In 2025 and into early 2026, HALO focused on better inclusion of the voices of persons with disabilities in programme planning, for example, through a

86 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 16 August 2026.
87 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 13.
88 Email from Adil Hussain, iMMAP, 19 May 2026; and 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 50.
89 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 35.
90 Email from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshow, SEMA, 9 May 2019.
91 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 7.
92 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023, p. 31.
93 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
94 Ibid., p. 10.
95 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 April 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, HALO, 14 June 2020.
96 "The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Somalia", GICHD and UNDP, June 2023.
97 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026; and online interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 1 May 2026.
98 Online interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 1 May 2026.
99 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.

dedicated workshop with a local victim assistance NGO. HALO continues to use the Washington Group Short Set (WGSS)[100] of questions during collection of beneficiary data.[101]

In its separate operations in Somaliland, HALO continues to encourage the recruitment of women and to collaborate with local communities to increase acceptance of women spending time away from their families to work as deminers, team leaders, and supervisors. HALO Somaliland provides childcare support for mothers with children under five, enabling greater participation of women in operational roles. HALO also provides wider vocational training for its mine action staff in Somaliland, is areas such as driving, tailoring, and make-up skills. HALO Somaliland's Community Outreach and Risk education (CORE) teams remained gender-balanced in 2025.[102]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

In its 2026 extension request Somalia states that it is "increasingly integrating environmental considerations into mine action operations, standards development, survey, and risk education activities" and that it "recognises the growing intersection between climate change and mine action, particularly in relation to environmental degradation, displacement, and operational access challenges.[103] SEMA had made little progress on environmental matters in mine action in earlier years, but has been increasing efforts more recently. As at April 2025, SEMA was working with HALO to develop an environmental policy and plan.[104] As at June 2026, SEMA was exploring the development of a dedicated NMAS on environmental management.[105] Somalia's current 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,[106] though HALO reports it has not seen this.[107]

Table 5: Environmental policies and action[108]

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	Yes**	Yes

* Selection of an environmental focal point in progress as at May 2026. ** Trialled in 2025 and commenced in April 2026.

HALO Somalia was developing a country-specific environmental management plan as at May 2026.[109] 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 also uses solar panels at permanent operational facilities and plans to continue to prioritise its transition to renewable energy when funding permits. It has SOPs for vegetation cutting and has integrated environmental concerns into manual clearance SOPs as well as NTS and risk education.[110] In 2026, HALO is continuing a project to survey rare, income-generating, wild, frankincense tree populations in conflict-impacted areas of Puntland.[111]

In HALO's separate operations in Somaliland, environmental measures are incorporated into its SOPs[112] and a full-time environment officer position has remained active since 2023.[113] All operational and support staff received context-specific environmental awareness training in 2025 (launched in 2024), which is now part of on-boarding for all new staff. HALO Somaliland conducted a trial of the Green Field Tool (GFT) across multiple sites in 2025, as well as developing HALO's own community-centred Pre-Clearance Environmental Assessment Tool (PEAT) for the Somaliland context, with the intention of complimenting useful elements of the GFT and increasing scope for beneficiary participation. In April 2026, the first PEAT assessments commenced at two sites in the Togdheer region of central Somaliland.[114]

100 The WGSS is a standardised set of six questions developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to identify people who are at greater risk of participation restrictions because of functional difficulties.
101 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May and 10 April 2026.
102 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
103 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 41.
104 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.
105 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 41.
106 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
107 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.
108 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026.
109 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.
110 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 5 June 2024; and Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.
111 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026; and HALO, "Restoring nature in conflict zones: ground-breaking partnership", 7 August 2025.
112 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.
113 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024; and Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
114 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.

HALO Somaliland expanded initiatives to not only protect but also enhance the environment in 2025 and into 2026. In 2025, for example, it expanded a successful 2022 land rehabilitation intervention with local partners in the Togdheer region, increasing a fenced rangeland area (open country used for grazing animals) to support conservation and natural regeneration of demined land. The project included soil bund[115] construction and rehabilitation; planting indigenous grasses and drought-tolerant species; establishing a tree nursery with a water catchment system; rehabilitating a community water storage facility (berkad);[116] and assessments in three neighbouring communities, to explore opportunities for replication.[117]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

SEMA, with the support of the GICHD, has been transitioning to IMSMA Core since 2022. In its Article 7 report (covering 2025), Somalia states that full migration, including historical clearance, progress, and completion data, was expected to be finalised before the end of 2026.[118] However, SEMA had no IMSMA-trained personnel as at August 2026, having lost a trained staff member, presenting a challenge to completing data migration and maintaining the database.[119] HALO highlights the need for SEMA IM staff to be sufficiently trained in use of IMSMA Core as part of the transition.[120] As mentioned, iMMAP's project is designed to enhance SEMA's general information management and reporting capacities, for example, through development of relevant SOPs and strengthening knowledge management practices.[121] SEMA expected to finalise revision of the NMAS for IM, with the support of implementing partners, by the end of 2026.[122]

Mine action operators collect data using standardised protocols and forms, which are submitted to the IMSMA database[123] and HALO continues to share all clearance data with SEMA regularly.[124] HALO and UNMAS report that data collection forms are consistent and enable collection of the necessary data.[125] Information in the database is disaggregated by weapon type.[126] 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.[127] In Somaliland, the separate IMSMA database was no longer in use as at May 2025, with access to it lost following a change of leadership at the department.[128] HALO continues to share monthly land release data with the MAD, and provide IM training. It is seeking international support to help the MAD transition to IMSMA Core.[129]

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 APMBC on 2 June 2023,[130] and submitted a detailed Article 7 report covering 2025 in June 2026.[131] Also in June 2026, Somalia submitted its second Article 5 deadline extension request, seeking a five-year extension to 1 October 2032. The request is reasonably comprehensive, and discussed in further detail in the section on Planning and Tasking below. The request was drafted in consultation with UNMAS.[132]

PLANNING AND TASKING

Somalia has yet to launch an updated strategy to replace the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020. In June 2026, Somalia stated again, as it did in 2022[133] and 2024[134], that the replacement strategy had been developed but was pending ministerial approval.[135] SEMA remained hopeful that the updated strategy would be finalised by the end of the year.[136] Alongside these delays in finalising a new national strategy, according to SEMA a persistent lack of secure funding for mine action has impeded the production of annual work plans and planning for specific workstreams.[137]

115 A soil bund is an embankment, put in place to slow the flow of rainwater, reduce soil erosion, and increase water infiltration into the ground.
116 A berkad is a human-made water reservoir, used to collect and store rainwater in arid and semi-arid regions of the Horn of Africa.
117 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
118 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 11.
119 Email from Jennifer Fish, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), 18 August 2026.
120 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.
121 Email from Adil Hussain, iMMAP, 18 August 2026.
122 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 11–12.
123 Updated 2025 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 12.
124 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.
125 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023; and Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.
126 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.
127 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 14 October 2025.
128 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.
129 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
130 APMBC Implementation Support Unit (ISU), "Somalia", accessed 22 July 2023, https://bit.ly/3rHSaBO.
131 As at July 2026, however, Somalia had still to submit Article 7 reports covering 2021 and 2022.
132 Zoom interview with Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda) and Mahdi Mohamed Elmi, UNMAS, 1 April 2026.
133 Article 7 Report (covering 2020 and 2021), Form A.
134 Email from Ghirmay Kiros, Humanitarian Explosive Management for Stabilisation (HEMS) Project manager, UNMAS, 20 May 2024.
135 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.
136 Zoom interview with Abdukadir Ibrahim, SEMA, 23 February 2026.
137 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025.

In June 2026, Somalia submitted its second Article 5 deadline Extension Request, seeking a five-year extension to 1 October 2032. Somalia does not expect to fulfil Article 5 within the proposed extension period, and says it will use the time "to work toward progressive reduction of AP mine contamination, establishing greater clarity on the remaining Article 5 challenge, while also strengthening the institutional and operational foundations".[138] Somalia explains that clearance by 2032 would be "impossible due to security constraints (Al-Shabaab, Daesh,[139] clan conflicts), funding shortages, and lack of bilateral agreements for predictable funding". It pledges to remain in compliance, "while making realistic, incremental progress towards a mine-free Somalia".[140] Somalia sets out three potential planning scenarios for the proposed extension period with associated milestones, as shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Potential planning scenarios for Somalia's proposed second extension period, 2027–32[141]

Planning scenario	Funding and operational capacity	Security and access to mined areas	Expected outputs
A: Best case	Full funding and capacity: US$30 million.	Improved – additional districts liberated.	Complete nationwide NTS; clear all accessible CHAs; establish national residual response capacity.
B: Current trajectory	Approx. current capacity. Approx. US$20 million.	Stable, but constrained access.	Continue targeted survey and clearance; maintain EORE and spot response capacity.
C: Reduced funding	Below current levels.	Deteriorating or highly constrained.	Prioritise emergency spot tasks, EORE, and limited high priority clearance.

In the extension request, Somalia sets out a detailed work plan, which it states is primarily based on scenario 'B', reflecting approximately current operational capacity, funding, and access conditions.[142]

Within the work plan in the 2026 extension request, Somalia provides annual land release targets totalling 12km^2 and key annual activity milestones (again, under scenario 'B') as outlined in Table 7.[143] This target of releasing 12km^2 over five years seems manageable, based on the 13.81km^2 of clearance achieved over the five years from 2021 to 2025 (see Table 17).[144] Somalia also provides more ambitious indicative annual land release targets, totalling 21.5km^2, under the best case scenario 'A', of full funding (US$30 million) and improved access to mined areas.[145]

Table 7: Indicative annual land release targets and activity milestones under scenario B (Current Funding Trajectory) 2027–32[146]

Year	Land release target (m^2)	Land release priorities	Other key milestones
2027–28	2,000,000	Prioritised NTS in high-impact areas.	Maintain core operational capacities.
2028–29	2,500,000	Continued survey in accessible districts.	Sustain EORE and spot tasks.
2029–30	3,000,000	Targeted clearance of priority CHAs.	Maintain existing clearance capacity.
2030–31	2,500,000	Limited expansion, subject to funding.	Continued QA strengthening.
2031–32	2,000,000	Continued prioritised operations.	Additional extension likely required.
Total	**12,000,000**		

Somalia pledges to review its work plan annually, and to provide updated milestones in Article 7 transparency reports, with the first work plan review to be completed by 30 April 2028.[147]

HALO says tasking by SEMA, introduced in 2023, has been working well and has demonstrated SEMA's capability to manage and issue tasks effectively.[148] Once SEMA has fully migrated to IMSMA Core, SEMA will produce task dossiers from the database.[149] In Somaliland, HALO conducts prioritisation and associated planning and tasking internally, as prioritisation mechanisms have not yet been put in place by the Somaliland government. 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.[150] As at April 2026, HALO was reviewing its processes and implementing data supported prioritisation.[151] HALO Somaliland conducts regular meetings with the MAD, keeping it duly informed on where HALO is working.[152]

138 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5–6.
139 "Daesh" refers to the Somali branch of the Islamic State.
140 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30.
141 Ibid., p. 37.
142 Ibid.
143 Ibid., p. 38.
144 Figures in Table 17 include clearance in Somaliland, which is excluded from Somalia's 2026 extension request.
145 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 37–38.
146 Ibid, p. 38.
147 Ibid., p. 40.
148 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023.
149 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 5 June 2024.
150 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 22 July 2024.
151 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025; and Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
152 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May 2025.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Somalia's NMAS were first published in 2018. Since then, however, a lack of funding to undertake stakeholder consultation, political instability, and a lack of international technical experts to assist in the review process have all delayed "finalisation" of the NMAS.[153] Recent progress has been made, however, with the 2024 revision of the NMAS for NTS and risk education.[154] As noted, revision of the IM standard was set to be finalised during 2026,[155] and a review of the battle area clearance (BAC) standard was due to follow.[156] HALO has been participating in a working group on NMAS revision with SEMA and the other international partners.[157]

HALO considers Somalia's NMAS to be in line with IMAS and enabling of efficient evidence-based survey and clearance.[158] UNMAS has 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.[159] Specific standards for risk education on IEDs, part of Somalia's work plan for 2022–27,[160] are now integrated into a revised Chapter 21 of the NMAS.[161]

Somalia reports that SEMA continued to develop its QA and quality control (QC) functions during 2025. A QA mission was conducted in Laas Canood (North Eastern state), to monitor HALO's clearance operations. SEMA aims to expand the frequency and coverage of QA/QC missions in 2026, subject to resources available.[162] In Somaliland, the MAD is involved in signing off land release procedures, and has visited tasks as part of final QC. However, it does not yet have its own NMAS in place.[163]

The number of AP and AV mines found and destroyed in Somalia (including in Somaliland) continues to be low relative to the size of areas cleared (see Tables 10 and 11). As such, it is possible that, in some cases, more areas could be released through NTS or technical survey (TS) rather than full clearance. This in turn indicates a need for stricter application of robust land release methodology. HALO has strengthened its pre-clearance assessments and clearance strategies, resulting in significant improvements in clearance efficiency, particularly in terms of mines found per square metre cleared. For example, clearance of one mine line within a minefield in 2025 resulted in identification of 53 mines, including 47 AP mines – significantly higher than previous trends.[164] All clearance tasks designated as containing AP mines, cleared by HALO in Somalia, including Somaliland, in 2025, proved to contain mines. However, clearance of an area of 0.56km^2 classified as contaminated with AV mines provided to contain no mines (see Table 10).[165] By comparison, in 2024, HALO Somalia cleared ten AP mined areas, covering a total area of 0.65km^2, which proved to contain no AP mines.[166] Somalia highlights that "the effectiveness and efficiency of clearance operations must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, rather than through generalized national assumptions".[167] This does not obviate the need for better survey before full clearance is undertaken.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2025, HALO continued to conduct operations in Somalia, as the only international operator present in the country and with separate operations in Somaliland. Limited survey and EOD undertaken through UNMAS in Somalia formally ceased in January 2025.[168] Somalia reports that the demobilisation of UNMAS has "substantially reduced operational coverage, field-level reporting capacity, and data verification capabilities".[169]

Table 8: Operational NTS capacities deployed in 2025[170]

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	Comments
HALO Somalia	1	4	NTS teams also conduct community liaison. Clearance teams conduct TS.
HALO Somaliland	1	3	Clearance teams conduct TS.
Totals	2	7	

153 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 10.
154 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 1 August 2025.
155 Zoom interview with Abdukadir Ibrahim, SEMA, 23 February 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 11.
156 Updated 2025 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
157 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.
158 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.
159 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.
160 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 45.
161 Email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.
162 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 13.
163 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
164 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 16 August 2026.
165 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026; and Khadiijo Ahmed GIS And IM Officer, HALO Somalia, 7 May 2026.
166 Email from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025.
167 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.
168 Ibid., p. 4; and email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed, UNMAS, 22 September 2025.
169 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 13.
170 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026.

Table 9: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2025[171]

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Mechanical teams	Mechanical deminers	Mechanical assets	Comments
HALO Somalia	6	48	0	0	0	Deployed for clearance and TS.
HALO Somaliland	18	160	2	6	1 (JCB excavator)	Deployed for clearance and TS. Reduced to 14 manual teams at end of 2025.
Totals	**24**	**208**	**2**	**6**	**1**	

Due to funding constraints, HALO experienced a decrease in manual demining capacity of more than a third overall, across its Somalia and Somaliland programmes, in 2025 (see Tables 8 and 9).[172] HALO Somalia dropped from eleven manual clearance teams, as at the end of 2024, to six teams totalling 48 deminers in 2025 (see Table 9). As at August 2026, HALO had lost all manual mine clearance capacity. It had two BAC teams and one multi-task team (MTT) remaining. The MTT team was conducting NTS and EORE, and about to re-commence EOD call-outs.[173] These changes followed previous capacity reductions for HALO in 2024, also due to a lack of funds.[174]

HALO Somaliland reduced from 28 manual teams as at the end of 2024 to 14 manual teams by the end of the year. As at April 2026, HALO Somaliland had reduced capacity further still to just eight manual teams, plus two mechanical teams (as previously), and four multi-task (MTT) teams (having transitioned its CORE teams to MTT teams). HALO Somaliland planned to undertake a number of innovation projects in 2026, including the use of drones and improved information management systems, to increase operational efficiency. It expected to finish training staff in drone use by the end of August 2026 and for this to enable better survey and pre-clearance assessments, thus improving the efficiency and effectiveness of clearance.[175]

No nationally funded survey or clearance teams operate directly under SEMA,[176] 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 62 Somali National Army EOD teams. The Somali Police Force has also benefited from similar training programmes 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.[177] Somalia also has several local NGO consortiums, including the Central Somalia Mine Action Centre (CESMAC) and South West State/Hirshabelle Mine Action Centre (SHAHMAC).[178] However, as at the time of writing, these national NGOs undertake EORE only, as national teams previously trained in EOD are no longer operational.[179]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 10: Summary of land release outputs in 2025 (operator data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)	Comments
Clearance	1.63	Includes operator data for Somalia and Somaliland, but excludes huge clearance without finding any mines.
Technical survey	0.14	
Non-technical survey	0	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**	
AP mines destroyed	170	Includes 7 destroyed in spot tasks. Includes operator data for Somaliland.

According to HALO data, a total of 5.4km² of AP mined area was released in 2025 across Somalia, including Somaliland, almost all of which was through clearance. Thus, of the total, 5.26km² was cleared, with a further 0.14km² reduced through TS. However, the majority of clearance in 2025—more than 3.63km²—took place in conflict-affected North Eastern state, with no AP or AV mines destroyed, but only items of UXO and small arms and ammunition (SAA). Mine Action Review

171 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026.

172 Across HALO's Somalia and Somaliland programme, capacity decreased from 325 manual deminers in 2024, to 208 in 2025. Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 19 May and 10 October 2025.

173 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May and 16 August 2026; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.

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

175 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 16 August 2026.

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

177 "Somalia's IED crisis escalates as nearly 600 attacks kill 1,400 and UNMAS increases support", *Hiiraan Online*, 2 March 2025, https://bit.ly/42sGtib; and email from Jennifer Fish, UNOPS, 18 August 2026.

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

179 Zoom interview with Abdukadir Ibrahim, SEMA, 23 February 2026; and email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 16 August 2026.

therefore considers this to be BAC and has excluded it from the AP mine clearance total. A total of 172 AP mines were found and destroyed of which nine were destroyed in spot tasks. A total of 19 AV mines were also destroyed during clearance, along with four destroyed during spot tasks.[180] As previously noted, UNMAS estimates there were also 73 VOIEDs in Somalia in 2025, and believes this to be likely underreported.[181]

In its most recent Article 7 report, covering 2025, Somalia reported that it cleared 3.91km^2 in 2025 – lower than the 5.26km^2 above reported by HALO, and excluding clearance in Somaliland. Somalia states that this clearance of 3.91km^2 resulted in the destruction of 29 AP mines, six AV mines, and 1,129 items of UXO. Somalia reported no cancellation through NTS or reduction through TS in 2025.[182]

HALO recorded 644,832m^2 of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination in Somaliland in 2025.[183] No new areas of contamination were recorded elsewhere in Somalia.

SURVEY IN 2025

As noted above, according to HALO data, a total of 0.14km^2 was released through survey in Somalia in 2025, all of which was reduced through TS (see Table 11).[184] This is a decrease compared to 2024, when HALO released a total of just over 0.54km^2 of AP mined area through survey, of which 0.37km^2 was cancelled through NTS and 0.17km^2 was reduced through TS.[185]

In its most recent Article 7 report, covering 2025, Somalia reported no cancellation through NTS or reduction through TS in 2025.[186] By comparison in 2024, Somalia reported no reduction of mined areas, but did report cancelling 62.9km^2. Of this total, however, only 855,955m^2 was suspected to contain any AP mines.[187]

HALO recorded 644,832m^2 of previously unrecorded AP mine contamination in 2025, all in CHAs in Somaliland (see Table 12).[188] This is a decrease on the 1.37km^2 of mined area, typically containing a mixed threat of AP and AV mines, identified by HALO in Somaliland in 2024.[189] No new areas of AP mine contamination were recorded elsewhere in Somalia in 2025, or 2024.[190]

Table 11: Release of mined area through TS in 2025 (operator data)[191]

State/Region	Operator	CHA/SHAs reduced	Area reduced (m²)
Galmudug	HALO	1	1,731
Puntland	HALO	1	6,025
North Eastern	HALO	1	41,356
Somaliland (Maroodi Jeex)	HALO	1	91,884
Totals		**4**	**140,996**

Table 12: AP mine contamination newly recorded by HALO in 2025[192]

State/region	CHAs recorded	Area of CHAs (m²)
Awdal, Somaliland	2	18,303
Maroodi Jeex, Somaliland	4	271,408
Sahil, Somaliland	2	71,763
Togdheer, Somaliland	1	283,358
Totals	**9**	**644,832**

180 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026.
181 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 16; and email from Hussein Ibrahim Ahmed (Jeda), UNMAS, 19 April 2026.
182 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 10-11.
183 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
184 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026.
185 Emails from Katherine Ayres, HALO, 12 May 2025; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025.
186 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 10–11.
187 The vast majority of the cancelled area (60.34km^2) was in Jubaland state, with the contamination type stated as AV mines and other EO. Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8.
188 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April 2026.
189 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 October 2025; and Rebecca Wocks, HALO, 15 October 2025.
190 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026.
191 Ibid.
192 Ibid.

CLEARANCE IN 2025

According to HALO data, a total of 5.26km^2 was reported as cleared in Somalia in 2025, during which 163 AP mines and 19 AV mines were destroyed, along with 1,128 items of UXO and 8,791 items of small arms ammunition (SAA) (see Table 13). A further seven AP mines and four AV mines were destroyed in spot tasks by HALO (see Table 14).[193] The 5.62km^2 reportedly cleared by HALO in 2025 is more than double the 2.17km^2 of AP mined area cleared by HALO in 2024.[194] However, the majority of this clearance in 2025—more than 3.63km^2—took place in conflict-affected North Eastern state, with no AP or AV mines destroyed, but only items of UXO and small arms and ammunition (SAA), and Mine Action Review therefore considers this to be BAC and has excluded it from the AP mine clearance total for 2025.

As noted, Somalia reported that it cleared 3.91km^2 in 2025 – lower than the 5.26km^2 above reported by HALO, and excluding clearance in Somaliland (see Table 14). Somalia states that this clearance of 3.91km^2 resulted in the destruction of 29 AP mines, six AV mines, 1,129 other items of UXO, and 8,791 items of SAA.[195] By comparison, Somalia reported that, in 2024, 4.25km^2 of area containing mines and other EO was cleared (excluding Somaliland).[196] Almost all of this, however, represented BAC, with only 0.68km^2 of mine clearance.[197]

Table 13: Mine clearance in 2025 (operator data)[198]

State/region	Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Galmudug	HALO	29	298,517	29	5	1
Puntland*	HALO	0	55,632	0	0	0
Hirshabelle	HALO	0	26,610	0	1	0
North Eastern**	HALO	0	***3,630,889	0	0	1,128
Maroodi Jeex, Somaliland	HALO	0	686,765	85	4	2
Togdheer, Somaliland	HALO	0	564,439	49	9	3
Totals		**29**	**5,262,852**	**163**	**19**	**1,134**

* AV mine task. Clearance completed and no AV (or AP) mines identified. ** Most hazardous areas in North Eastern State are BAC tasks. *** This reported clearance is not included in the national figure.

Table 14: Mine clearance in 2025 (national authority data, excludes Somaliland)[199]

State/region	Operator	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed	SAA destroyed
Galmudug	N/R	199,926	29	5	1	0
Puntland	N/R	55,632	0	0	0	0
Hirshabelle	N/R	26,610	0	1	0	0
North Eastern*	N/R	3,630,889	0	0	1,128	8,791
Totals		**3,913,057**	**29**	**6**	**1,129**	**8,791**

* Somalia refers to "North West State" in the relevant table of the Article 7 reporting (covering 2025). HALO confirms this is a typographical error and it should read North Eastern.[200]

193 Ibid.

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

195 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), pp. 10–11.

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

197 Somalia stated at the Intersessional Meetings in June 2025 that, since its last update on Article 5 Implementation, it had "cleared more than 600,000m^2 of minefields" and close to 4km^2 of battle areas, indicating that most of the clearance reported on p. 8 of Somalia's Article 7 report (covering 2024) was BAC, with only 679,897m^2 of mine clearance. Statement of Somalia on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025. Indeed, SEMA later confirmed that the 2.89km^2 cleared in SSC Khatumo, for example (almost 70% of all clearance of areas with mines and other EO, reported by Somalia), represents BAC. Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 15 October 2025. AP mines were destroyed only in Galmudug and Puntland. Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 8.

198 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April, 6 May, 27 July, and 16 August 2026; and Khadiijo Ahmed, HALO, 7 May 2026.

199 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), p. 11.

200 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 7; and email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 27 July 2026.

Table 15: AP and AV mines destroyed during EOD spot tasks in 2025 (operator data)[201]

State/region	Operator	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Maroodi Jeex Somaliland	HALO	5	1
Togdheer, Somaliland	HALO	1	2
Awdal, Somaliland	HALO	0	1
Sahil, Somaliland	HALO	1	0
Totals		**7**	**4**

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR SOMALIA: 1 OCTOBER 2012

↓

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2022

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (5 YEARS): 1 OCTOBER 2027

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE REQUESTED (FIVE YEARS): 1 OCTOBER 2032

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE (EXTENSION REQUESTED)

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 and has requested a second extension, this time of five years, to 1 October 2032. Somalia made the decision to not include Somaliland in its plans within its 2021 or 2026 extension requests, 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.

In its June 2026 extension request, Somalia outlines the circumstances that impeded progress during its first extension period and which, Somalia notes, remained largely present as at the time of submitting the second request, namely: SEMA's lack of formal recognition and federal budget; insecurity and inter-clan conflict preventing and restricting access in many areas, including approximately 16 minefields in Galmudug alone; chronic shortage of funds; outstanding ministerial approval of a national mine action strategy to replace the expired 2018-2020 strategy; a need to prioritise protection of civilians from IEDs (including VOIEDs), which cause "thousands of civilian casualties annually", and divert funding and security resources away from other areas of humanitarian mine action.[202] HALO adds that one of the main challenges also affecting implementation in Somalia is data gaps, including underreporting. This limits the ability to accurately define contamination and plan effectively, slowing overall progress.[203]

Despite these significant challenges, Somalia has made slow but steady progress in clearance of AP mined areas during the last five years (see Table 17). It has also completed NTS in the state of Puntland (in 2023)[204] and commenced NTS in Galmudug state. Although, as Somalia notes in its 2026 extension request, while survey capacities have improved, the extent of Somalia's EO contamination has also increased substantially in recent years,[205] including significant previously unrecorded battle areas in the newly established North Eastern state; additional contamination identified in newly accessible areas elsewhere; and previously unregistered hazardous areas from historical records now incorporated into the national database during the ongoing transition to IMSMA Core.[206]

Table 16: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance, including Somaliland (operator data)

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2025	5.26
2024	2.17
2023	1.81
2022	2.05
2021	2.52
Total	**13.81**

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.[207]

201 Emails from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 10 April and 6 May 2026; and Khadiijo Ahmed, HALO, 7 May 2026.
202 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.
203 Email from Alexia Bousingen, HALO, 6 May 2026.
204 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.
205 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
206 Ibid., pp. 22–24.
207 Interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, in Geneva, 8 April 2025; and 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 42 and 48.