

KEY DATA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 9 JULY 2026

Not on track to meet deadline
Four-year extension to 9 July 2030 requested

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 4.9km²

Medium
(UNMAS estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	0.58	0.58
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0.19	0.02
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	159 (9 in spot tasks)	100 (14 in spot tasks)

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- The Development Initiative (TDI)
- G4S Ordnance Management (G4S)
- SafeLane Global (SLG)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2024, South Sudan reported clearing almost 0.58km² of anti-personnel (AP) mined area, almost the same output as the previous year. In contrast, 159 AP mines were destroyed in 2024, an increase of more than one half on 2023. South Sudan will not clear all AP mined areas by its first Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 extended deadline of 9 July 2026. In May 2025, it requested a four-year extension to 9 July 2030, and it revised its request in August 2025. The request was due to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025. Implementation of the South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–28 has been slow given competing priorities and a drop in funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- South Sudan should ensure consistent financial support for the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and start to fund mine action operations directly.
- South Sudan and its mine action partners should continue to support the NMAA to take on greater responsibilities and increase the number of national deminers.
- South Sudan should develop a resource mobilisation strategy.
- South Sudan should continue to work towards establishing an evidence-based baseline of AP contamination, and ensure that it consistently disaggregates AP mine contamination and release data from other mined areas and explosive remnants of war (ERW).
- South Sudan should continue to strengthen gender mainstreaming across its mine action programme, also an aim of the new National Mine Action Strategy, and support marginalised groups to participate in its mine action programme.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Access to some suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) has continued to be restricted by lack of security, seasonal rains, and flooding. There was no progress in preparing for planned baseline surveys of contamination in 2024.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	The NMAA continues to face serious financial and technical limitations, preventing it from managing mine action operations effectively, with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) still assuming that function.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	7	6	A Gender Equality and Diversity Policy for Mine Action was completed in 2024 and adopted in 2025, though mainstreaming gender in the programme remains a work in progress. Diversity of ethnic identity is considered to a limited extent in both survey and clearance teams.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	7	7	Environmental considerations are incorporated into mine action operations and technical guidelines. Environmental assessments are conducted for planning purposes, and UNMAS and international NGOs continue to work to improve their environmental policies and action.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	7	South Sudan reports on progress at APMBC intersessional meetings and Meetings of States Parties. In its revised 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, South Sudan generally disaggregated contamination and release data on AP mined areas from anti-vehicle (AV) mines and other types of contamination. As at August 2025, South Sudan had not submitted an Article 7 report covering 2024.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Progress with some aspects of the five-year national mine action strategy launched in April 2024 has been slow. South Sudan included a detailed work plan for July 2026–July 2030 as part of its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	8	8	South Sudan's reviews its technical guidelines annually. A request to allow qualified community liaison teams to undertake non-technical survey (NTS) has not yet been agreed.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	6	Clearance of AP mines fell slightly in 2024 to just under 0.58km ² , well below the average annual clearance target of 1.46km ² set out in South Sudan's work plan of March 2024, when it was aiming to complete clearance by June 2027. The number of AP mines destroyed in 2024 did, however, increase by more than 50%. South Sudan has requested a four-year extension of its Article 5 deadline to 9 July 2030.
Average Score	6.9	6.8	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- G4S Ordnance Management (G4S)*
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

- The Development Initiative (TDI)
- SafeLane Global (SLG)

OTHER ACTORS

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

*APOPO supported G4S with eight dogs until 30 April 2024.

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2024, South Sudan reported a total of 114 AP recorded mined areas, of which 71 were confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 43 were suspected hazardous areas (SHAs), covering a total of more than 4.9km² (see Table 1).¹ This is a decrease from the 5.3km² of recorded contamination in 2023, when there were also 114 AP mined areas (69 CHAs covering just under 3km² and 45 SHAs covering over 2.3km²).² Eight of South Sudan's ten states contain areas suspected to contain AP mines, as Table 1 records, with contamination

concentrated in Jonglei, followed by Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria in the south of the country.³

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) explains that, despite clearance of 0.58km² of AP mine contaminated area in 2024, recorded contamination remained as high as 4.9km² at the end of the year because new hazards continue to be discovered, and resurvey of SHAs and remaining areas from land release added to the total contamination figure.⁴

Table 1: AP mined area by state (at end 2024)⁵

State	CHAs	Area (m²)	SHAs	Area (m²)	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m²)
Central Equatoria	43	1,489,322	27	209,945	70	1,699,267
Eastern Equatoria	16	644,668	3	12,150	19	656,818
Jonglei	3	208,802	7	1,618,763	10	1,827,565
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	2	56,466	0	0	2	56,466
Upper Nile	5	105,543	0	0	5	105,543
Warrap	0	0	1	40,000	1	40,000
West Bahr El Ghazal	1	58,680	0	0	1	58,680
Western Equatoria	1	99,398	5	399,824	6	499,222
Totals	71	2,662,879	43	2,280,682	114	4,943,561

At the end of 2024, South Sudan had also recorded a total of 77 suspected and confirmed anti-vehicle (AV) mined areas covering more than 6.2km² (see Table 2).⁶ The record of AV mined area has significantly increased since 2023, when South Sudan had registered a total of 76 hazardous areas covering under 4.7km² (50 CHAs covering just under 2.5km² and another 26 SHAs also covering under 2.5 km²).⁷

Table 2: AV mined area only (at end 2024)⁸

CHAs	Area (m²)	SHAs	Area (m²)	Total CHA/SHA	Total area (m²)
52	3,688,396	25	2,561,027	77	6,249,423

1 Email from Jakob Donatz, Programme Officer Mine/Action AoR Coordinator, UNMAS, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), 8 April 2025.
2 Email from Deborah Asikeit, Senior Programme Officer, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024.
3 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.
4 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 5 August 2025.
5 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.
6 Ibid.
7 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024.
8 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

The only comprehensive, countrywide mine survey to be conducted in South Sudan was a Landmine Impact Survey between 2003 and 2006.⁹ In 2017, UNMAS initiated a review of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, which concluded that the extent of much of the AP mined area had been overestimated. UNMAS consequently initiated a process of targeted re-survey aimed at better defining the size of SHAs, and re-survey continues.¹⁰ In 2024, 84,892m² of previously unrecorded AP mined area (six hazardous areas) was identified and added to the database.¹¹

UNMAS and the NMAA believe that contamination data are “reasonably accurate and certainly evidence-based”.¹² However, the picture is incomplete as AP mines are suspected in a number of currently inaccessible areas. The National Mine Action Strategy 2024–28 states that “South Sudan will continue its efforts to better define the boundaries of the AP mine and cluster munition remnant (CMR) contamination to gain clarity on the remaining contamination. This will be achieved through continued analysis of historical land release data, ongoing database clean-up, continuous survey and clearance activities and the implementation of a baseline survey (BLS) in line with South Sudan’s Technical Note.”¹³

In 2024, UNMAS confirmed the plan to conduct a national baseline survey in the future.¹⁴ A list of prioritised “payams” (administrative divisions within counties), where baseline studies would be conducted, was to be drafted before the end of 2024. In fact, the list was not drawn up and no other progress was made towards establishing a baseline of contamination in South Sudan in 2024.¹⁵ The security situation across much of the country deteriorated at the end of 2024 and further worsened in the first half of 2025, meaning that some areas could not be accessed due to insecurity.¹⁶ Some mined areas remain inaccessible because of insecurity,¹⁷ and seasonal rains and flooding are further obstacles to access.¹⁸

Mines were used during five decades of Sudanese civil war in 1955–72 and 1983–2005. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 led to the secession and independence of South Sudan in July 2011. Following two years of independence and relative peace in South Sudan, heavy fighting erupted in the capital, Juba, in December 2013, initiating new armed conflict across the country. With the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018, the security situation across the country improved, and access was possible to many areas that security issues previously rendered inaccessible.¹⁹

ABYEI (REGION WHOSE SOVEREIGNTY IS CONTESTED WITH SUDAN)

Since South Sudan’s independence in 2011, the status of Abyei has been a contentious issue between South Sudan and Sudan.²⁰ In the disputed area (known as the “Abyei Box”) and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone between Sudan and South Sudan, the extent of mine and ERW contamination is unknown as a result of security and political disputes.²¹ At the end of 2024, however, UNMAS UNISFA had recorded eight SHAs containing a mix of AP and AV mines in the Abyei Administrative Area totalling 457,700m².²² In 2023, 436,474m² was added to the database – SHA defined from previous data on the presence of AP mines.²³ UNMAS UNISFA reports that AP mined areas have been resurveyed, resulting in changes to the recorded contamination.²⁴

In 2024, 26,192m² of SHA was cancelled in Abyei (a partial cancellation of an SHA in Luki), while three SHAs of 224,455m² were cleared (one in Luki and two in Muli), though no AP mines were found.²⁵ In 2023, 599,957m² of AP mined area was reportedly cleared in Abyei.²⁶

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

South Sudan is also contaminated by ERW, including CMR.²⁷ See Mine Action Review’s *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2024* for further information on CMR.

9 Email from Matt Williams, Senior Programme Officer, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

10 Email from Fran O’Grady, Chief of Mine Action, UNMISS, 9 March 2022.

11 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

12 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024.

13 “South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028”, NMAA, April 2024, p. 19.

14 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.

15 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, Acting Director General, NMAA, 23 April 2025; Statement of South Sudan, 12MSP, Geneva, 11–13 September 2024; 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 44; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 46.

19 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 52.

20 United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), “Abyei”, last updated May 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3VGdLai>.

21 UNMAS, “2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan”.

22 Email from Nico Bosman, Chief of Mine Action, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

23 Email from Jes Luckett, Chief of Mine Action, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 April 2024.

24 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 10 July 2025.

25 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

26 Email from Jes Luckett, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 April 2024.

27 On 4 August 2023, South Sudan acceded to the CCM becoming a State Party on 1 February 2024. South Sudan’s Article 4 deadline to clear and destroy CMR is 1 February 2034.

ABYEI

In 2023, inter-tribal fighting and the involvement of armed forces within the Abyei Box led to increased ERW contamination (mostly of unexploded rocket-propelled and hand grenades) around central and southern Abyei.²⁸ Abyei continues to be affected by episodic intercommunal violence.²⁹

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The NMAA, established by presidential decree in 2006 as the South Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA), is the national agency for planning, coordination, and monitoring of mine action in South Sudan.³⁰

In 2011, UN Security Council Resolution 1996 tasked UNMAS with supporting South Sudan in demining and strengthening the capacity of the NMAA, and UNMAS derives its current responsibilities from the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) mandate.³¹ Together, UNMAS and the NMAA oversee mine action across the country. The NMAA and UNMAS both have offices in Juba, UNMAS has sub-offices in Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, and Wau, while the NMAA also has offices in Wau and Yei (although the office in Yei was not operational as at April 2025, having closed in 2021 for security reasons).³²

The NMAA has expanded its responsibilities gradually but continues to face serious financial and technical limitations preventing it from managing mine action operations effectively and UNMAS and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) continue to support the authority.³³ According to reports from the mine action sector, NMAA staff have not received salaries for many months, and many have stopped going to work. The Authority is, though, said to play a significant role in facilitating mine action operations.³⁴ It chairs monthly coordination meetings with all operators, while UNMAS has monthly operations meetings with its commercial contractors.³⁵

There has, however, been little progress with the national mine action strategy outcome on strengthening national survey and clearance capacities, including the target of having one national NGO fully funded by the government to implement land release by the end of 2025, and an "Annual increase of formalised capacity enhancement projects between national and international partners".³⁶ The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is, however, funding a project to support NMAA capacity building.³⁷ From June

2025 to 2030, under a project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) will work with the NMAA to strengthen its management capacity.³⁸

There is no regular in-country platform for dialogue among all stakeholders (national authorities, clearance operators, and donors) to discuss progress, challenges and support for Article 5 implementation in South Sudan,³⁹ though the national mine action strategy set the target of holding one mine action donor coordination meeting per year in 2024–28.⁴⁰ Stakeholder meetings are held as needed, most recently for the Article 5 deadline extension request workshop convened by the NMAA and the APMBC Implementation Support Unit in February 2025.⁴¹

International NGOs reported close collaboration between different demining actors, UNMAS, and the NMAA, including in identifying and prioritising areas for AP mine and CMR clearance at monthly coordination meetings.⁴² In 2024, UNMAS and MAG were the co-coordinators of the Mine Action Sub-Cluster.⁴³

Since 2023, mine action infrastructure in South Sudan has strengthened by virtue of three key developments. In August 2023, South Sudan acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), becoming a State Party on 1 February 2024. On 27 July 2023, the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) Act became law, providing a clear legal framework for the mine action programme in domestic law for the first time. April 2024 saw the launch of the South Sudan Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028, which was developed by the NMAA with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).⁴⁴ For details of the Strategy see the section below, "Planning and Tasking".

Together, these positive developments should provide a platform for increasing national ownership of the mine action programme, but progress is slow, and UNMAS continues to take a leading role in mine action in South Sudan.

28 Email from Jes Luckett, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 April 2024.

29 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025", December 2024, p. 34.

30 "South Sudan De-Mining Authority", undated, at: <http://bit.ly/2Y5Eb4o>.

31 Remarks by Fran O'Grady, UNMAS, at a meeting with UNMAS, Juba, 30 May 2023.

32 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

33 Email from Matt Williams, UNMAS, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

34 Remarks by Fran O'Grady, UNMAS at a meeting with UNMAS, Juba, 30 May 2023.

35 "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 8.

36 Ibid., p. 21.

37 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 4 June 2025.

38 Representative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Individualised Approach Meeting for South Sudan, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19 June 2025.

39 Email from Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

40 "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 16.

41 Ibid.; and email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

42 Emails from Leah Grace, Programme Officer, MAG, 9 April 2024; John Sorbo, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), 30 April 2024; and Ida Marie Højgaard Jørgensen, Programme Manager – Humanitarian Response and Mine Action, DanChurchAid (DCA), 8 May 2024.

43 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.

44 Ibid.

The NMAA Act governs the powers, functions, and operations of the NMAA.⁴⁵ South Sudan does not have a separate mine action centre and, pursuant to the Act, the NMAA's structure was to include an interministerial board with oversight responsibilities.⁴⁶ This would require a budget allocation from government, and it is possible that these provisions will not be taken forward.⁴⁷

There has generally been an enabling environment for mine action operations in South Sudan in recent years,⁴⁸ but an increase in administrative requirements and costs since the start of 2024 have negatively affected mine action operations. These include the cost of essential work-related documentation, with fees for some permits increasing by up to 300% under new Ministry of Finance regulations. In addition, the validity period for visas issued to international mine action staff has become increasingly inconsistent. Visas were previously issued for 12 months, but by the start of 2025, were issued for three to six months, resulting in an increased administrative burden as organisations are compelled to process renewals and associated payments at more regular intervals.⁴⁹

Movement of assets and equipment is also challenging as the relevant permits, which come from the Joint Border Verification, Monitoring Mechanism and Peace Keeping Department under the Ministry of Defence, are only issued for three months at a time.⁵⁰ Furthermore, the processing time for tax exemptions has extended significantly, affecting importations of critical demining equipment. As at late

2024, the approval process was taking up to eight weeks, causing considerable disruption to operational timelines and increasing costs. The loss of documents during inter-ministerial transfers, has meant organisations have had to restart the application processes on multiple occasions, compounding delays and undermining the efficiency of mine action across the country.⁵¹

In terms of capacity building, UNMAS continued to provide a range of support to the NMAA, including training on IMSMA. UNMAS provided the NMAA with on-the-job training on national standards reviews, quality management (QM) systems, and operational planning and reporting. MAG, in collaboration with UNMAS, also provided on-the-job training for an NMAA information and management system officer.⁵² MAG continued to accept NMAA secondees and to ring-fence places for NMAA staff on MAG training, and it supported NMAA visa and travel costs for international conferences.⁵³ JICA, through its South-South Initiative, supported the NMAA with an exchange programme with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, Ethiopia Mine Action Centre, and Zambia Mine Action Centre in early 2025.⁵⁴

No progress with developing a resource mobilisation strategy for mine action has been made, although according to the national mine action strategy, this was due to be completed by the middle of 2025.⁵⁵ South Sudan did, however, hold an Individualised Approach Meeting on 19 June 2025, on the margins of the APMBC Intersessional Meetings in Geneva.

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

The mine action sector in South Sudan has seen a drop in funding in recent years, which was exacerbated by the United States (US) "stop-work" order in February 2025. The Government of South Sudan has given little financial support to the NMAA, and provides none for survey or clearance.⁵⁶ NMAA personnel and other civil servants had not yet received their salaries for 2024 at the time of writing. In 2023, they did not receive their salaries for many months.⁵⁷ JICA was reported to be in negotiations with the NMAA in April 2025 to support the refurbishment of office structures and operational equipment.⁵⁸

UNMISS is the largest funder of mine action in South Sudan, providing \$27.3 million of the \$33 million (83%) of the total costs in 2024,⁵⁹ with US\$19.9 million paid via UNMAS to 21 commercial demining teams.⁶⁰ This is a drop on the \$20.7 million UNMAS spent contracting 24 commercial demining teams in 2023 for explosive ordnance (EO) clearance, survey, and risk education.⁶¹ As at August 2025, the budget for financial year 2025/26 had yet to be confirmed and in any event, allocations for mine action will depend on the receipt of funding from UN Member States.⁶²

45 Ibid.

46 "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 7.

47 Email from Teddy Okello, Programme Director, NMAA, 27 August 2025; and interviews with Jurkuch Barach, Chairperson, South Sudan NMAA, in Geneva, 9 and 10 April 2025.

48 Email from Lisa Müller-Dormann, Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding Programme Manager, DRC, 27 March 2023.

49 Email from Eric Okoth, Country Director, MAG, 15 April 2025.

50 Email from Akena Christopher, Information Management Officer, DRC, 12 June 2025.

51 Ibid.

52 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, 23 April 2025.

53 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024; Leah Grace, MAG, 9 April 2024; and Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025.

54 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

55 "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 17; and emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025; and Teddy Akello, NMAA, 10 July 2025.

56 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

57 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), p. 23.

58 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

59 2025 Article 5 Extension deadline Request, pp. 9 and 55; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10 and 56.

60 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 4 June 2025.

61 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.

62 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 5 August 2025.

The international NGOs do not currently have UNMAS contracts. They have indicated that the requirements of UNMAS contracts make it difficult for them to tender,⁶³ and they largely rely on bilateral donor support. In 2024, the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Irish Aid, German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), funded MAG.⁶⁴ Until July 2024, the GFFO funded two DRC multi-task teams (MTTs), but since then have only funded one team, while DANIDA funded DRC's explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team.⁶⁵

In 2025, DANIDA and GFFO have continued to fund MAG and DRC, while FCDO and Irish Aid have continued to fund MAG.⁶⁶ PM/WRA halted funding following the US stop-work order in February 2025, resulting in MAG having to disband two MTTs and one community liaison team.⁶⁷ DRC had indicated its GFFO funding was ending in July 2025 and its DANIDA funding was ending in December 2025. This meant that the DRC demining programme was facing closure. From June 2025, however, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced funding for demining in South Sudan over five years amounting to more than €14 million (the exact amount was not known at the time of writing). Most of the funding is allocated to DanChurchAid (DCA) and DRC for clearance and risk education (DRC will also undertake some livelihoods activities), with €1.7

million for NPA to strengthen the NMAA.⁶⁸ The South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 calls for \$7 million to be used to clear high-impact contamination and provide risk education for high-risk groups.⁶⁹

As noted, South Sudan does not have a resource mobilisation strategy.⁷⁰ The NMAA plans, however, to take various steps to address the funding challenge. These include engaging with line ministries for budget integration; engaging with JICA via the South-to-South Cooperation Initiative, which aims to build technical and operational mine action capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa; engaging other humanitarian actors to embed mine clearance teams to support their broader humanitarian responses; and expanding its donor base by engaging non-traditional partners, including Gulf States.⁷¹

ABYEI

UNMAS, as part of UNISFA, has a Security Council-mandated role in Abyei, which includes identification and clearance of mines and route assessment in the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone between Sudan and South Sudan and in Abyei. It operates through an implementing partner, The Development Initiative (TDI), and acts in support of peacekeeping operations, delivery of humanitarian aid, safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the nomadic migration of animals.⁷²

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

UNMAS is funded through UNISFA. There has been a continuous drop in funding received by UNMAS in recent years. From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, UNMAS received funding of \$6.75 million to cover its activities in Abyei,⁷³ a drop of almost 30% on the \$9.59 million it received for its work for the previous 12 months.⁷⁴

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

A National Gender Equality and Diversity Policy for Mine Action, developed by the GICHD in partnership with UNMAS and NGOs, was completed in 2024, adopted by the Government in March 2025, and formally adopted in August 2025. An associated work plan was in development as at June 2025.⁷⁵ The policy is said to provide "a framework to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender, diversity, and inclusion within all mine action activities and aligns closely with the National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028".⁷⁶ It sets out policy commitments at the institutional and operational

level, with the former including the establishment of a unit or committee within the NMAA that has responsibility for supporting and monitoring gender and diversity mainstreaming in the mine action sector.⁷⁷

The National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028 outlines how South Sudan will ensure that gender and diversity are considered in all mine action projects.⁷⁸ The NMAA Act stipulates that, in line with national employment requirements, at least 35% of the NMAA positions (Board and

63 Interviews with Andrew Steele, Logistics Manager, MAG, 20 May 2023; Lisa Müller-Dormann, Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding Programme Manager, DRC, 21 May 2023; and Janardhan Rao, Country Director, DCA, 26 May 2023.

64 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

65 Email from Victor Selestino Lado, HMA Operations Manager, DRC, 25 March 2025.

66 Emails from Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025; and Victor Selestino Lado, DRC, 25 March 2025.

67 Email from Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025.

68 Representative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Individualised Approach Meeting for South Sudan, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19 June 2025; and emails from Catherine Subandrio, Grants Management Coordinator, DRC, 4 July 2025; and Eric Okoth, MAG, 11 July 2025.

69 OCHA, "South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025", December 2024, p. 30.

70 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

71 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 58.

72 UNMAS, "Where we work: Abyei", accessed 30 June 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3waA8Fr>.

73 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

74 Email from Jes Luckett, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 April 2024.

75 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024 and 4 June 2025; and Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 77.

76 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 77.

77 "The Republic of South Sudan National Mine Action Gender Equality and Diversity Policy 2025–2030", undated, NMAA, at: <http://bit.ly/4lmtJ2L>.

78 "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 10.

Management) must be filled by women, a requirement it has reportedly achieved in management positions (see Table 3 below).⁷⁹ UNMAS has indicated that, in theory, employment opportunities for qualified men and women in survey and clearance teams across the organisations operating in South Sudan are equal. Redressing the gender balance is, however, a long-term challenge.⁸⁰

To this end, a workshop was held in February 2024, facilitated by the Mine Action Area of Responsibility coordinators (UNMAS and MAG) and with GICHD participation, to promote the inclusion of women in mine action. This led to the creation of a female deminers WhatsApp platform for exchange of learning ideas and peer support, which will contribute to the establishment of the Women in Mine Action Network in South Sudan (aimed at women deminers and community liaison officers), which was officially launched on 1 August

2025.⁸¹ UNMAS reviewed and strengthened its Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) safeguarding mechanisms in 2024. While gender and diversity considerations are not integrated into the NMAA's annual operational plan, UNMAS does have a gender work plan in its annual work plan.⁸²

MAG continues to ring-fence spaces on all trainings for female staff.⁸³ Through strengthened data collection practices and post-clearance impact assessments, MAG found that 55% of the beneficiaries of land release in 2024 were women, while 40% of beneficiaries targeted in household surveys live in female-headed households.⁸⁴ DRC sent a female staff member to take an EOD Level 3 training course in Lebanon to prepare her for a management position.⁸⁵

Table 3: Gender composition of the NMAA, UNMAS, and operators (at end 2024)⁸⁶

	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Total women operational staff
NMAA	138	36 (26%)	8	3 (38%)	35	4 (11%)
UNMAS	43	14 (33%)	10	6 (60%)	14	3 (21%)
CTG	17	1 (6%)	6	1 (17%)	16	0 (0)
G4S	334	57 (17%)	35	1 (3%)	267	57 (21%)
SLG	172	45 (26%)	32	2 (6%)	135	43 (32%)
TDI	122	18 (15%)	15	1 (7%)	89	14 (16%)
MAG	180	59 (33%)	22	5 (23%)	154	50 (32%)
DRC*	41	17 (41%)	5	2 (40%)	37	14 (38%)
Totals	1,047	247 (24%)	133	21 (16%)	747	185 (25%)

*The number of DRC deminers reduced by 12 in July 2024 following a reduction in GFFO funding.⁸⁷

There were limited significant changes in female representation in demining personnel in 2024, though G4S increased the number of women in operational positions from 13% to 21%, and DRC increased the proportion of female personnel from 25% to 41% between 2023 and 2024. Moreover, 40% of DRC's management/supervisory staff were women (a significant increase from 14% in 2023), although the proportion of women operational staff fell to 16% from 26% a year earlier.⁸⁸

Ethnic identity is considered in the composition of survey and clearance teams to ensure safe access and acceptance by local communities.⁸⁹ However, UNMAS has indicated that the participation of different ethnic minority groups in survey and clearance continues to be limited in extent.⁹⁰ UNMAS has also acknowledged that task prioritisation is predominantly dependent on security and that resources are concentrated on tasks within limited geographical areas.⁹¹

⁷⁹ Emails from Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

⁸⁰ Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.

⁸¹ Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025; and Teddy Akello, NMAA, 27 August 2025.

⁸² Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

⁸³ Emails from Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025; and Leah Grace, MAG, 9 April 2024.

⁸⁴ Email from Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025.

⁸⁵ Email from Victor Selestino Lado, DRC, 25 March 2025.

⁸⁶ Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025; and Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025.

⁸⁷ Email from Victor Selestino Lado, DRC, 25 March 2025.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Email from Richard Boulter, Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.

⁹⁰ Email from Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

⁹¹ Emails from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019; and Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

ABYEI

UNMAS UNISFA remains committed to its Gender and Diversity Work Plan 2019–2023, which includes a focus on staffing by a diverse workforce. UNMAS is an active participant in UNISFA's Gender and Diversity Working Group.⁹² UNMAS headquarters used the UNMAS UNISFA programme to pilot a transition away from UNOPS implementation to a programme implemented by the UN Secretariat. This resulted in a reduction of UNOPS staff, affecting gender and diversity ratios.⁹³ In 2024, UNMAS UNISFA deployed only one female staff member, whereas in the previous year, six women (40% of total personnel) were deployed.⁹⁴

Table 4: Gender composition of UNMAS and its operator in Abyei (at end 2024)

UNMAS/ operator	Total staff	Total women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Total women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Total women operational staff
UNMAS	8	1 (13%)	4	1 (25%)	3	0 (0%)
TDI	131	3 (2%)	28	1 (4%)	102	2 (2%)
Totals	139	4 (3%)	32	2 (6%)	105	2 (2%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028 highlights that South Sudan ranks as the second most vulnerable country to natural hazards globally, though there is little explicit focus on the environment in the strategy itself.⁹⁵ UNMAS has incorporated environmental considerations into mine action operations in collaboration with the NMAA, integrating issues in work plans and providing guidance in the National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs).⁹⁶ The NTSG on Health and Safety, Social and Environment (HSSE) is updated annually, and was due to be reviewed and brought into line with the revised IMAS 07.13 on Environmental Management in Mine Action.⁹⁷ The NMAA does not have an environmental focal point and within UNMAS, the coordination and compliance officers and support services manager function as environmental focal points.⁹⁸

Environmental assessments are conducted for planning to determine the impact of different demining assets in line with the national environment policy.⁹⁹ South Sudan's Article 7 report covering 2023 describes the adverse effects of climate change on operations over the previous five years, including limiting access due to extreme flooding; displacement of ordnance; longer rainy seasons which shorten the window for mine action operations; and seasons becoming more irregular, posing challenges to planning. There were no plans to study topsoil in demolition sites to assess the impact of cluster munitions on the soil, even though the Article 7 report for 2024 notes the potential for some leakage of explosive material into the ground, topsoil damage, wild fires, and the killing and injury of animals. Post-clearance remediation is, however, undertaken, in line with the NTSGs.¹⁰⁰

Table 5: Environmental policies and action¹⁰¹

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level?
DRC	Yes	Yes	No
MAG	No	Yes	Yes
UNMAS	Yes	Yes	No

DRC has a health, safety, and environmental management protocol which aligns with the mine action NTSG.¹⁰² MAG has a global environmental policy (reviewed in 2024) to which

the South Sudan programme adheres, and aims to develop a policy tailored to South Sudan by the end of 2025. MAG is also piloting the Green Field Tool for Mine Action.¹⁰³

92 Emails from Jes Luckett, UNMAS UNISFA, 9 May 2024; and Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.
93 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.
94 Email from Jes Luckett, UNMAS UNISFA, 9 May 2024.
95 "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 4.
96 Emails from Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023; and Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.
97 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.
98 Emails from Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025; and Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.
99 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.
100 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form B.
101 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 4 June 2025; and J. Fernando Pineda Arboleda, Senior Programme Officer, MAG, 29 May 2025.
102 Email from Akena Christopher, DRC, 12 June 2025.
103 Email from J. Fernando Pineda Arboleda, MAG, 29 May 2025.

Implementing partners in South Sudan establish their own standard operating procedures (SOPs) and policies based on the relevant NTSG, embedding environmental considerations in their operations. When survey and clearance are completed, an area should be restored in accordance with the wishes of the local community. At a minimum, restoration should include the removal of large items of scrap metal, the filling-in of any pits or craters due to EOD, and the fencing-off of any areas where there may be residual non-explosive hazardous materials left in the ground.¹⁰⁴ UNMAS continues to sensitise mine action operators on environmental considerations in planning demolitions as well as in post-demolition procedures, during mechanical operations, and when conducting vegetation clearance.¹⁰⁵

ABYEI

UNMAS complies with UNISFA's environmental management policy, which is tailored to mine action in the UNISFA Mine

Action Technical Standards and Guidelines (TSGs), and with the old IMAS 07.13 on environmental management in mine action, which it is to review and bring in line with the new version.¹⁰⁶ UNMAS, in collaboration with the UNISFA Facilities and Environmental Management Unit, conducts environmental assessments to support the planning and delivery of survey and clearance. During the rainy season, raised water levels can restrict access and lead to the migration of mines.¹⁰⁷

The environmental management of operational work sites is governed by the implementing partner's SOPs, which are tailored to the UNISFA Mine Action TSGs and IMAS 07.13. In 2024, UNISFA worked with implementing partners to integrate mission-provided power and water supplies to reduce emissions and fuel consumption, including converting coal fired cooking units to electrical units.¹⁰⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

UNMAS continues to lead on information management for mine action in South Sudan. Since the 2017 comprehensive review of data on the IMSMA database, along with re-survey of recorded SHAs and CHAs, have resulted in significant improvement in the understanding of mine and ERW contamination.

South Sudan upgraded to IMSMA Core in 2021,¹⁰⁹ and in 2022 the major transition of IMSMA information to Survey123 was completed.¹¹⁰ UNMAS has indicated that, wherever possible, the database disaggregates mined areas, CMR-contaminated areas, and other ERW-contaminated areas, including spot tasks.¹¹¹ In its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request made in May 2025, however, South Sudan did not consistently disaggregate AP mines from other EO, in particular from AV mines, but largely rectified this in its revised extension request submitted in August 2025.

Some doubts have, however, been raised about data accuracy, with inconsistencies and verification challenges connected with the database. Certain records have not been verified due to limited access or resource constraints;

there are possible inaccuracies in global positioning system (GPS) coordinates; some data submissions are incomplete, and reliance on secondary sources such as community reports, are all reported to reduce accuracy. It has also been suggested that funding cuts could disrupt data collection and system maintenance.¹¹²

South Sudan has submitted an Article 7 report every year since 2012. As at July 2025, however, South Sudan had not yet submitted an Article 7 report covering 2024.

ABYEI

UNMAS UNISFA continues to use IMSMA Core, and using mission resources, it monitors, verifies, and evaluates the data entered on the database. UNMAS UNISFA provides monthly reports to NMAC Sudan, which includes information about hazardous areas identified. Following the transition of responsibility for the UNMAS UNISFA programme to the UN Secretariat, there has been engagement with stakeholders on how to streamline the process while ensuring data accuracy.¹¹³

PLANNING AND TASKING

In April 2024, the South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028 was formally endorsed by the Office of the President.¹¹⁴ Developed with the support of the GICHD,¹¹⁵ the new strategy lists clear outcomes under three headings:

national ownership; land release; and risk education and victim assistance. Each has corresponding indicators, baselines, and targets.¹¹⁶

104 APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form B.

105 Email from Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

106 Emails from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March and 10 July 2025.

107 Email from Jes Luckett, UNMAS UNISFA, 9 May 2024; and Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

108 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

109 Emails from Fran O'Grady, UNMAS, UNMISS, 9 March 2022; and Sasha Logie, GICHD, 21 April 2022.

110 Email from Matt Williams, UNMAS, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

111 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.

112 Email from Victor Selestino Lado, DRC, 25 March 2025.

113 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

114 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.

115 "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 13.

116 Ibid., pp. 16–24.

South Sudan submitted an Article 5 deadline extension request in May 2025, which it revised in August 2025, seeking another four years to complete AP mine clearance, with a completion deadline of 9 July 2030.¹¹⁷ It plans to address all EO during this time. South Sudan had already acknowledged that it would not meet its Article 5 deadline of 9 July 2026, and has now acknowledged that it will not meet the deadline of June 2027 that it proposed in a revised work plan in 2024.¹¹⁸

The extension request and work plan are detailed, setting out the assumptions on which the request is based and attendant risk factors. The assumptions are that there is access to contaminated areas and no resumption of fighting; funding is sustained or increased; few additional areas of contamination are discovered; most remaining hazardous areas are resurveyed and cancelled or reduced where possible; there is no global or regional shock affecting the mobility of personnel (such as COVID-19); and clearance rates can be maintained.¹¹⁹

There is also an emphasis on enhancing national capacity including that of the NMAA, and improving operational efficiencies and clearance capacity in meeting the proposed July 2030 deadline.¹²⁰ Given the assumptions and risks involved, South Sudan's plan to complete clearance of AP mined areas, alongside significant other types of contamination, within the four-year extension sought, may be overly-ambitious. Although South Sudan appears to assume that it will be able to cancel a large proportion of some of the largest AP mined areas in the Greater Upper Nile region—where six minefields make up 40% of all minefields in the region—as well as other mined areas in the Greater Equatoria region, the resources and timeline in the work plan appear to have been calculated on the assumption that all re-survey areas will be subject to full clearance.¹²¹

Tables 6 and Table 7 below set out manual and mechanical clearance projections for AP mines. South Sudan indicates it will need to reconfigure all manual demining teams to 15-lane teams in order to deliver the required clearance capacity.¹²²

Table 6: Projected Manual AP Mine Clearance 2025–2030^{*123}

Year	Area (m ²)	Teams	Area cleared (m ²)	Tasks cleared**	Contaminated area at year end (m ²)
2025	2,839,026	2	132,000	4	2,707,026
2026	2,707,026	10	660,000	19	2,047,026
2027	2,047,026	10	660,000	19	1,387,026
2028	1,387,026	10	660,000	19	727,026
2029	727,026	8	528,000	15	199,026
2030	199,026	5	330,000	10	0

*The projection incorporates surplus capacity to address any unknown tasks. **Rounded to the nearest whole number.

South Sudan also highlights that it will need to significantly increase its mechanical assets to clear all AP mines by the 2030 deadline.¹²⁴ It has claimed that remaining AP mine contamination is “best tackled using mechanical clearance assets”, indicating that on average a medium-sized mechanical asset clears about 2,000m² day, while on average a manual deminer clears 20m². The annual cost of a mechanical demining team is reported to be much better value-for-money, at \$2.2 million per year (again, for a medium-sized machine), while a 15-person demining team

costs \$1.14million per year.¹²⁵ The NMAA has also asserted that if the nine MineWolf assets currently in country were operational (six are currently out of use due to a lack of funding) it could potentially clear all minefields in two years.¹²⁶ In the work plan set out in the APMB Article 5 extension request, South Sudan puts the cost of all demining between 2024 and 2030 at \$183.55 million. Of this \$51.3 million is for manual AP mine clearance, and \$15.4 million is for mechanical AP mine clearance, with another \$8 million needed for all survey tasks.¹²⁷

117 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8 and 58–67; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 9 and 12.

118 Updated Work Plan for January 2024 to June 2026, 31 March 2024, p. 5.

119 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 8, 9–10, and 54–57; Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10–11, and 55–58.

120 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 9–11; and Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10–11 and 26.

121 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 44, 55, and 64; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 45–46, 56, and 68.

122 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 57 and 70; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 59 and 74.

123 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 78.

124 Ibid., p. 81.

125 Presentation by South Sudan, “Request for the Second Extension of the Article 5 for South Sudan”, APMB Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025.

126 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 73.

127 Ibid., p. 81.

Table 7: Projected mechanical AP mine clearance 2025–30^{*128}

Year	Area (m ²)	Teams	Area cleared (m ²)	Area remaining (m ²)
2025	2,104,535	4	1,232,000	872,535
2026	872,535	3	924,000	0
2027	0	0	0	0
2028	0	0	0	0
2029	0	0	0	0
2030	0	0	0	0

*The projection incorporates surplus capacity to address any unknown tasks. In a presentation at the APMBC Intersessional meetings in June 2025, South Sudan provided different data, and indicated that clearance using the proposed mechanical clearance would not be completed until 2028.¹²⁹ Data rounded to the nearest whole number.

South Sudan intends to be “pragmatic” in the sequencing of tasks for clearance, balancing security, logistical requirements, and concentration of effort in the deployment of teams. South Sudan believes that this combination will allow for the most efficient clearance plan that allows for optimal supervision and monitoring of clearance efforts.¹³⁰ Task dossiers continue to be issued in a timely and effective manner in South Sudan, according to international NGOs.¹³¹

South Sudan's plan to develop a regionally based coordination mechanism to address reports of hazardous items and undertake survey of newly identified hazardous

areas, as elaborated in its work plan of 31 March 2024, has not yet been taken forward due to a lack of funding.¹³²

ABYEI

Annual work plans are taken from the UNISFA dry-season deployment plan that identifies priority areas and roads. When the dry-season deployment plan is completed, resources are focused on SHAs. In 2024, UNMAS UNISFA continued to work on identified mined areas with an “integrated” approach.¹³³

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

South Sudan's NTSGs, which outline the technical requirements expected of all demining operators working in South Sudan, are adapted from the IMAS. The NTSGs are annually reviewed and revised by UNMAS and implementing partners and then approved by the NMAA,¹³⁴ taking into account any lessons learned during the year and addressing any changes in the IMAS.¹³⁵ In 2024, only minor changes were made to the NTSGs to clarify areas or standards that were unclear.¹³⁶ MAG continues to advocate for the revision of NTS requirements in South Sudan, which currently require deployment of technical staff and equipment, precluding its community liaison teams, which have received the requisite training, from conducting NTS.¹³⁷

UNMAS has noted that the NTSGs require all mine action teams to conduct regular internal quality assurance (QA), along with quality control sampling of 10% of each area cleared.¹³⁸ The minimum frequency for the organisational senior management internal QA visits to each team was set at one per month in 2021, and UNMAS/NMAA teams now also undertake monthly visits,¹³⁹ and a standardised scoring matrix was introduced for the EOD written examination.¹⁴⁰ The QA requirement for manual mine clearance was changed to 100% in 2021.¹⁴¹

ABYEI

Abyei's Mine Action TSGs/SOPs are reviewed as required. No changes were made in 2024.¹⁴²

128 Ibid., p. 79; and email from Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 29 August 2025.

129 Presentation by South Sudan, “Request for the Second Extension of the Article 5 for South Sudan”, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17–20 June 2025.

130 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 74; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 80.

131 Emails from Leah Grace, MAG, 9 April 2024; Ida Marie Højgaard Jørgensen, DCA, 8 May 2024; and John Sorbo, DRC, 30 April 2024.

132 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

133 Emails from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025 and 10 July 2025.

134 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4; and email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS UNMISS, 16 July 2024.

135 Email from Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

136 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

137 Emails from Leah Grace, MAG, 9 April 2024; and Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025.

138 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.

139 2025 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 23; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24.

140 Email from Fran O'Grady, UNMAS, UNMISS, 9 March 2022.

141 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS UNMISS, 16 July 2024.

142 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Clearance teams are normally accredited for and deployed to a variety of tasks in South Sudan, including AP and AV mine clearance, CMR, and EOD. None is exclusively allocated to AP mine activities.¹⁴³ All teams are accredited to conduct multiple activities, including clearance (see Table 8).

UNMAS reported that a total of 26 teams in three commercial companies (G4S, TDI, and SLG) and two international NGOs (DRC, and MAG) conducted survey and clearance in 2024, a decrease from 31 teams in 2023.¹⁴⁴ In fact, however, DRC did not conduct any clearance of AP mined area in 2024. The total number of operational personnel involved in technical survey (TS) and clearance during 2023 was 372 by the end of 2024, down from 390 personnel at the end of 2023.¹⁴⁵

DCA which closed its demining operations in South Sudan in July 2023 due to a lack of funding, had hoped to restart in 2024, but in early 2025, was still seeking new funding.¹⁴⁶ Funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced in June 2025, will allow DCA to restart its demining operations under its "From Hazard to Harvest" programme. DCA will deploy one mechanical clearance team (which includes 12 deminers), an EOD spot task team (including four clearance personnel), and will collaborate with its local partner, Support

for Peace and Education Development Programme (SPEDF), to undertake risk education.¹⁴⁷

The decision by PM/WRA to stop funding demining in South Sudan means the number of demining personnel will reduce, and MAG had already lost two demining teams in early 2025 due to the US funding cuts. As noted, DRC, which had faced the prospect of demobilising its demining team by 31 July 2025 when its GFFO funding ended, has now secured Dutch funding, enabling it to continue.¹⁴⁸

UNMAS has been working on reconfiguring demining teams among its contracted commercial operators. From 2023, the minimum number of deminers required in clearance teams was increased from 10 deminers to 15, providing greater flexibility and efficiency as teams can split and work independently for prolonged periods of time.¹⁴⁹ It also increased the number of Integrated Clearance Capacity (ICC) teams from two to four,¹⁵⁰ and considered its mechanical assets for required outputs and "deployability". A mechanical asset dedicated to AP mine clearance, GCS100, was introduced in 2024. The machine is small and lightweight, and easier to transport to hard-to-reach areas.¹⁵¹

Table 8: Operational TS and clearance capacities deployed in 2024 (UNMAS data)¹⁵²

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Dogs and dog handlers	Mechanical assets
G4S Emergency Response Team (ERT)	6	102	*7/2 (2 Mine Detection dog - MDD teams)	2 (Robocut vegetation cutting machines)
G4S Multi-task Team (MTT)	4	53	0	
G4S Road Clearance Capacity (RCC)	1	15	3/6	1 (Robocut vegetation cutting machine)
SLG	5	76	0	0
TDI	4	54	0	4 (1 MW 330, 2 MineWolf 240, 1 GCS100)
MAG	5	**55	0	2 (2 Bozenas, for ground preparation)
DRC	1/2	***17/29	0	0
Totals	26/27	372/384	10 dogs and 8 handlers	9 (including 2 Bozenas)

*Until 30 April 2024, APOPO supported G4S with 8 dogs.¹⁵³ **Data for clearance and EOD teams. ***The number of DRC deminers reduced by 12 in July 2024 following a reduction in GFFO funding.¹⁵⁴

143 Email from Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

144 Emails Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.

145 Emails from Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023; and Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.

146 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024; and Ida Marie Højgaard Jørgensen, DCA, 28 February 2025.

147 Emails from Rama Hansraj Country Director, DCA, South Sudan, 19 June 2025; and Ida Marie Højgaard Jørgensen, Consortium Manager, DCA, 19 June 2025.

148 Representative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Individualised Approach Meeting for South Sudan, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19 June 2025; and email from Catherine Subandrio, DRC, 4 July 2025.

149 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024; and Jakob Donatz, UNMAS UNMISS, 16 July 2024.

150 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024; and Jakob Donatz, UNMAS UNMISS, 16 July 2024 and 5 August 2025.

151 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024; and Jakob Donatz, UNMAS UNMISS, 16 July 2024.

152 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025.

153 Email from Mikael Bold, Programme Manager, APOPO Dogs, 11 April 2025.

154 Email from Victor Selestino Lado, DRC, 25 March 2025.

It has been suggested that South Sudan should make use of innovative clearance technologies, such as mechanical assets or drones, to improve efficiency in difficult terrain.¹⁵⁵

ABYEI

TDI, an international commercial company, is the only organisation conducting survey and clearance of mines in Abyei. UNMAS UNISFA operates with integrated teams that have survey, community liaison, and clearance capacities.¹⁵⁶

Table 9: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed in Abyei in 2024¹⁵⁷

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS teams	Total TS personnel	Comments
TDI	2	20	2	20	NTS teams are part of Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams
Totals	2	20	2	20	

Table 10: Mine clearance capacities deployed in Abyei in 2024¹⁵⁸

Operator	Manual clearance teams	Total deminers	Mechanical assets/machines	Comments
TDI	2	20	2	Integrated route assessment and clearance teams
Totals	2	20	2	

The number of survey and clearance personnel remained the same in 2024. No major changes in survey or clearance personnel were expected in 2025. That said, if the ongoing UN funding crisis for 2024–25, which is generally restricting UNISFA budgeted activities, continues into 2025–26, this is likely to result in a drop in UNMAS UNISFA capacity.¹⁵⁹ A MineWolf 370, which is intended for large-area mine clearance, replaced a MineWolf 240, as planned, with the aim of improving daily clearance output.¹⁶⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

According to UNMAS, a total of just under 0.8km² of AP mined area was released through survey and clearance in 2024. Of this, just under 0.2km² was cancelled through NTS and just under 5.8km² was cleared; no contaminated area was released through TS. A total of 159 AP mines were destroyed, including 9 as spot tasks.¹⁶¹ More than 0.08km² of previously unrecorded AP mined area was discovered and added to the database.¹⁶²

Table 11: Land release outputs in 2024¹⁶³

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m ²)
Clearance	578,219
Technical survey	0
Non-technical survey	189,441
AP mines destroyed in clearance and spot tasks	2024
AP mines destroyed	159 (9 during spot tasks)

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Email from Jes Lockett, UNMAS UNISFA, 9 May 2024.

¹⁵⁷ Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

ABYEI

In 2024, UNMAS UNISFA reported that less than 0.3km² of AP mined area was released in Abyei and no mines were discovered or destroyed. Almost 0.03km² was cancelled through NTS and more than 0.2km² was cleared. No hazardous area was released through TS. No previously unrecorded contamination was added to the database.¹⁶⁴

Table 12: Summary of land release outputs in Abyei in 2024¹⁶⁵

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m²)	Comments
Clearance	224,455	No AP or AV mines were found but 1 item of UXO was destroyed
Technical survey	0	
Non-technical survey	26,192	

SURVEY IN 2024

In 2024, 189,441m² of mined area was cancelled through NTS in three states in South Sudan (see Table 13),¹⁶⁶ a considerable increase on the 20,527m² of mined area cancelled though NTS in 2023 in Upper Nile.¹⁶⁷

In 2024, no hazardous AP mined area was released through TS.¹⁶⁸ No AP mined area has been released through TS since 2020, when South Sudan indicated that it had updated its

NTSGs to recognise that guidance around TS is not applicable in South Sudan as most minefields are characterised by nuisance minelaying rather than the more predictable minelaying that is required for “targeted” survey to be successful.¹⁶⁹ Six hazardous areas covering a total of 84,892m² of previously unrecorded AP mined area was added to the database in 2024.¹⁷⁰

Table 13: Release of mined area through NTS in 2024¹⁷¹

State	Operator	SHAs cancelled	Area cancelled (m²)
Central Equatoria	G4S	*0	123,838
Central Equatoria	SLG	*0	1,314
Jonglei	TDI	1	3,252
Western Bahr El Ghazal	TDI	*0	61,037
Totals		1	189,441

*Partial cancellations of SHAs.

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A total of 26,192m² of SHA was released in 2024 in Abyei through NTS and no AP mined area was released through TS.¹⁷² This compares with 2023, when no AP mined area was reported as released in Abyei through NTS or TS.¹⁷³

CLEARANCE IN 2024

A total of just under 0.58km² of mined area was cleared in South Sudan in 2024 (see Table 14), slightly less than in 2023, when just over 0.58km² of mined area was cleared.¹⁷⁴

164 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.
165 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.
166 Ibid.
167 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024.
168 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025; and Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024.
169 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 11 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), p. 5.
170 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.
171 Ibid.
172 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.
173 Email from Johan Maree, Chief of Operations, UNMAS UNISFA, 27 July 2023.
174 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 30 April 2024.

Table 14: Mine clearance in 2024¹⁷⁵

State	Operator	AP mined areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed during clearance	AP mines destroyed as spot tasks	AV mines destroyed during clearance	AV mines destroyed as spot tasks	UXO destroyed
Central Equatoria	G4S	0	30,256	8	4	15	5	12
Central Equatoria	TDI	1	41,331	11	0	0	0	4
Central Equatoria	SLG	1	30,968	42	0	1	2	4
Eastern Equatoria	G4S	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Eastern Equatoria	MAG*	2	14,120	1	0	0	0	0
Eastern Equatoria	TDI	0	2,174	0	0	0	0	0
Jonglei	DRC	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Jonglei	TDI	1	51,351	4	0	0	0	1
Lakes	G4S	0	19,772	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	TDI	0	32,841	0	0	0	0	3
Upper Nile	G4S	0	1,988	2	0	0	0	0
Upper Nile	SLG	1	22,743	1	0	0	0	3
Upper Nile	TDI	0	83,407	22	0	0	0	6
Western Bahr El Ghazal	SLG	1	2,698	0	4	0	0	0
Western Bahr El Ghazal	TDI	0	244,570	59	0	0	0	68
Western Equatoria	TDI	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals		7	578,219	150	9	16	10	101

*MAG reported that it cleared three HAs covering 24,355m² and destroyed 1 AP mine. For an explanation of the difference, see the paragraph below.

MAG reported clearing three AP mined areas covering 24,355m² and destroying 1 AP mine. One of the areas cleared was recorded as a cluster munition strike area in the UNMAS database. However, due to its proximity to a previously mechanically cleared AP minefield, and as a precautionary measure, initial clearance of 6,278m² was undertaken using manual mine clearance drills. After finding no evidence of AP mines, clearance switched to battle area clearance drills.

This explains why MAG reported clearing an additional AP minefield, and 6,278m² of the difference in the area reported as mine cleared.¹⁷⁶ The remaining difference in the area cleared (3,937m²) is likely, at least in part, to be explained by the fact that UNMAS only counts area within the polygon as cleared whereas MAG also counts clearance of access and control points.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁵ Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

¹⁷⁶ Emails from J. Fernando Pineda Arboleda, MAG, 18 July 2025; Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 5 August 2025; Ayuath Moses Noel, ICT/IM Officer, UNMAS, UNMISS, 14 August 2025; and Dennis Felah, Coordination and Compliance Officer, UNMAS, UNMISS, 14 August 2025.

¹⁷⁷ Email J. Fernando Pineda Arboleda, MAG, 29 May 2025.

UNMAS reported that 7 AP mine clearance tasks were completed in 2024, covering 11,919m², which contained no AP mines.¹⁷⁸ MAG said it cleared two areas in 2024 where no AP mines were found covering a total of 16,287m². The reason for the apparent discrepancy arises for the same reason as explained in the paragraph above, in particular because MAG recorded 6,278m² of clearance as AP mine clearance that UNMAS recorded as cluster munition clearance.¹⁷⁹

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In Abyei in 2024, three hazardous areas covering a total of 224,455m² were cleared with no AP mines destroyed, though one item of UXO was found and destroyed.¹⁸⁰ This compares with 2023, when one hazardous area covering 599,957m² was cleared with one AP mine and one AV mine destroyed.¹⁸¹

Table 15: Mine clearance in Abyei in 2024¹⁸²

Area	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Luki	TDI	163,355	0	0	1
Makir	TDI	52,141	0	0	0
Makir	TDI	8,959	0	0	0
Totals		224,455	0	0	1

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, and in accordance with the five-year extension granted by States Parties in 2020, South Sudan is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 9 July 2026. In 2024, South Sudan acknowledged that it would not meet this deadline and proposed a new a deadline of June 2027,¹⁸³ but has since made an Article 5 extension request seeking a new deadline of 9 July 2030. A range of logistical challenges remain that could further delay the projected AP mine clearance timeline. In 2025, South Sudan identified six risk factors to meeting its proposed extended AP mine clearance deadline of 9 July 2030, and the chances of these all remaining in South Sudan's favour are slim. Of these, the greatest risk is insecurity, with the possibility that fighting could resume in areas of operation. The continued deterioration in the economy, resulting in high inflation and fuel shortages, was seen as another potential disrupter, with environmental changes leading to unexpected

extreme weather, climatic changes contributing to extended periods of flooding, and further reductions in funding for demining, posing further risks to clearance.¹⁸⁴

Flooding already affects access and is exacerbated by poor infrastructure. In some parts of the country access to AP mined areas is impossible for more than six months each year due to rains and flooding—some contaminated areas still remain under water from severe flooding in 2020—while other areas cannot be accessed throughout the year due to intercommunal violence or conflict.¹⁸⁵ In addition, the sector has faced competing priorities from UNMISS, which divert demining capacities from planned survey and clearance. In 2024, these included the need to release land for people displaced from Sudan and by new flooding.¹⁸⁶ Furthermore, with no evidence-based national AP mine baseline, it is likely that new hazardous areas will continue be identified in the future, while the NMAA remains in need of significant capacity support.

178 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 5 August 2025.
179 Email from J. Fernando Pineda Arboleda, MAG, 29 May 2025.
180 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.
181 Email from Johan Maree, UNMAS UNISFA, 27 July 2023.
182 Email from Nico Bosman, UNMAS UNISFA, 25 March 2025.
183 Updated Work Plan for January 2024 to June 2026, 31 March 2024, p. 5.
184 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 56–57; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 57–58.
185 Emails from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024; and Mike Rashid Fulla, NMAA, 23 April 2025; Statement of South Sudan, 12MSP, Geneva, 11–13 September 2024; and Article 7 Reports (covering 2023 and 2024), Form F.
186 Email from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

Increased political unrest at the end of 2024 and start of 2025 had the potential for large conflict escalation, threatening all humanitarian access, though as at April 2025, fighting was mainly in the north and west of the country, while demining has to date generally focused on the south.¹⁸⁷

South Sudan has estimated that it will need to clear up to 7.3km² of AP mined area (3.6km through manual clearance and 3.7km² through mechanical clearance) between 2025 and 9 July 2030.¹⁸⁸ Even if South Sudan receives the required funding, reconfigures its demining teams, and increases use of mechanical assets, and its work plans are not scotched by insecurity, extreme weather, or existing flooding, clearing 7.3km² of AP mined area by 2030 is highly ambitious given that it has cleared just 2.4km² in the last five years.

Table 16: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2024	0.58
2023	0.58
2022	0.28
2021	0.25
2020	0.71
Total	2.40

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

While there is no independent national capacity for clearing residual contamination, an EOD mobile team within the national authority was trained and accredited during an eight-month project that concluded in 2022.¹⁸⁹ South Sudan indicated in 2024 that it would seek funding to enable an independent entity—potentially an international NGO—to train and equip the NMAA in taking the lead in coordinating the response to new reports of hazardous items, and said it would need international assistance to prepare for residual contamination.¹⁹⁰ It reiterated this position in its 2025 work plan.¹⁹¹

The National Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028 has a specific target regarding the development of a strategy to manage residual contamination by 2028,¹⁹² though as of April 2025 there had been no progress on this issue, reportedly due to lack of funding.¹⁹³ The success of the 2025 work plan is contingent on sufficient support for the NMAA to establish themselves as the long-term response and management capacity to address residual contamination that will inevitably remain beyond release of all currently known hazardous areas.¹⁹⁴

187 Emails from Eric Okoth, MAG, 15 April 2025; and Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

188 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 73; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 72 and 74..

189 Email from Matt Williams, UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.

190 Updated Work Plan for January 2024 to June 2026, 31 March 2024, p. 23; Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form G.

191 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 9, and 68; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10 and 72.

192 Email from Deborah Asikeit, UNMAS, UNMISS, 26 April 2024; and "South Sudan Mine Action Strategy 2024–2028", NMAA, April 2024, p. 21.

193 Emails from Jakob Donatz, UNMAS, UNMISS, 8 April 2025.

194 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 76; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 82.