

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 2023**  
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

## KEY DATA

### ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

**10** KM<sup>2</sup>

AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2020

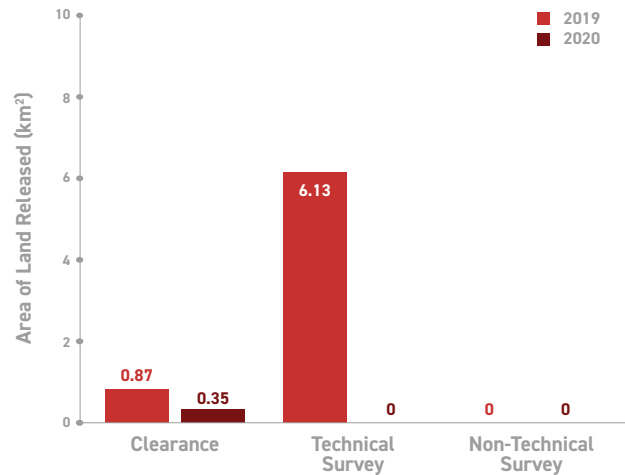
**0.35** KM<sup>2</sup>

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2020

**42**

(INCLUDING 8 DESTROYED IN  
SPOT TASKS)

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



**CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET** (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **MEDIUM**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Sudan's land release output decreased in 2020, with no survey taking place during the year. The security situation continued to be an impediment to operations, although there are signs this may be improving, with access granted to humanitarian agencies to Blue Nile and South Kordofan states during the year. While Sudan initiated a baseline survey in 2019, progress has stalled and it is unlikely that it will be completed by the end of 2021.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Sudan should ensure it only clears land where there is firm evidence of the presence of mines.
- Sudan should clarify land release targets and ensure that reported land release and contamination figures are accurate and are disaggregated by contamination type.
- Sudan should provide updated work plans as the baseline survey progresses and a better understanding of remaining contamination is secured.
- Sudan should endorse the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	7	7	Sudan initiated non-technical survey towards the end of 2019 to establish a national baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination. The survey continued in early 2020 and was ongoing in 2021. Although completion was planned by the end of 2021, insecurity and lack of access have proved major impediments with most of the impacted communities in areas that remain inaccessible.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	8	7	Sudan's national mine action programme is entirely nationally owned. It benefits from experienced national mine action centre (NMAC) staff and national mine action operators. The NMAC coordinates and receives input on Article 5 implementation with operators and other stakeholders through mine action sub-cluster meetings and a Country Coordination Forum. The government has provided consistent funding for mine action reported at US\$2 million per year. Sudan projects that \$33 million is required for land release from 2020 to 2023.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	6	6	Gender is said to be mainstreamed in the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 and in the national mine action standards, with an emphasis on gender-balanced survey teams and the employment of women. At the same time, Sudan acknowledges difficulties in employing women in operational roles due to local customs and traditions. In 2020, 30% of managerial staff in the NMAC were women, but the corresponding figure for operational roles was only 20%.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	7	7	The process of upgrading Sudan's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is ongoing, with data migration to IMSMA Core planned to occur by mid 2021. Sudan submits timely Article 7 reports and provides regular updates on progress in Article 5 implementation at the annual meetings of States Parties, although there are often discrepancies in the data.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	6	7	A new national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 has been finalised and, as at May 2021, is still awaiting approval. Sudan has provided updated annual land release targets in its latest Article 7 report, although this has not been disaggregated by type of ordnance. As with previous targets, most land release is projected to come from cancellation through non-technical survey.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	7	6	Sudan reported that its National Mine Action Standards have now been reviewed and endorsed. Operational capacity increased during 2020 with the introduction of a new international operator although personnel were not deployed until December due to delays caused by COVID-19. A mechanical capacity for road clearance was developed in 2020 with planned deployment in 2021.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	5	6	There was a large reduction in land release output from 2019 to 2020, although the number of anti-personnel mines destroyed remained stable. No non-technical survey took place in 2018–20 with Sudan citing security and lack of access as major impediments to mine action operations. Following the signing of a preliminary peace deal, the Sudan National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) has been able to deploy teams to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Blue Nile state and there were signs access may be improving there.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: Average</b>

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Sudanese National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)
- Sudan National Mine Action Centre (NMAC)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD)
- JASMAR for Human Security
- Friends for Peace and Development Organization (FDPO)
- Global Aid Hand

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

### OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2020, Sudan reported a total of 97 areas suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines, covering a total area of just over 13km<sup>2</sup>. According to the Sudanese National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), of this total, 56 areas covering 2.2km<sup>2</sup> are confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), while a further 41 areas covering almost 10.8km<sup>2</sup> are suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).<sup>1</sup> This is a decrease from the almost 13.3km<sup>2</sup> of total anti-personnel mined area reported for the end of 2019.<sup>2</sup> The total at the end of 2020 is hard to reconcile given that during the year a total of 155,892m<sup>2</sup> of previously unrecorded legacy anti-personnel mine contamination across eleven mined areas was added to the database.<sup>3</sup>

South Kordofan is believed to be the most heavily contaminated of the three affected states, as set out in Table 1.<sup>4</sup> No mines have been reported in Darfur, where the main threat is from explosive remnants of war (ERW).<sup>5</sup> The extent of mine and ERW contamination within the disputed area of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) between Sudan and South Sudan is unknown due to security and political issues.<sup>6</sup> An additional 42 areas covering nearly 12km<sup>2</sup> are suspected to contain only anti-vehicle mines, as set out in Table 2.<sup>7</sup>

Sudan's mine and ERW contamination results from decades-long conflict since the country's independence in 1956. Twenty years of civil war, during which mines and other explosive ordnance were used heavily by all parties to the conflicts, resulted in widespread contamination that has claimed thousands of victims.<sup>8</sup> In January 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ostensibly ended the civil war. A Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) was conducted in 2007–09 covering Blue Nile, Gadaref, Kassala, Red Sea, and South Kordofan states, before armed conflict erupted again in 2011 which continued until 2016. It is expected that more areas will be found to be contaminated with explosive ordnance including anti-personnel mines. There have been "ad hoc" reports of additional mined and ERW-contaminated areas which have been registered as "dangerous areas" in

the national database. This has caused the LIS baseline of 221 hazards to expand significantly, including by encompassing areas not originally surveyed.<sup>9</sup>

NMAC reported that significant survey is required to more accurately determine the actual extent of anti-personnel mine contamination in Sudan.<sup>10</sup> NMAC initiated non-technical survey in November 2019, across Blue Nile, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, and the five federal Darfur states to establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination for all explosive ordnance.<sup>11</sup> NMAC predicts that up to 90% of existing SHAs will be cancelled, based on historical Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) data.<sup>12</sup> Once surveys have been completed, a revised clearance plan will be shared with States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).<sup>13</sup>

NMAC had planned to complete all necessary survey by the end of 2021, but insecurity and lack of access have impeded completion as most of the known impacted communities in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Jebel Merra in Darfur are still inaccessible.<sup>14</sup> The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reported that all affected communities are being consulted during non-technical survey, with special attention paid to at-risk communities.

Sudan also has a significant problem with ERW, including limited contamination from cluster munition remnants, primarily as a result of the long civil war that led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and South Sudan's independence in July 2011 (see Mine Action Review's Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants report on Sudan for further information). While no mines have been found in Darfur, ERW there include unexploded air-dropped bombs, rockets, artillery and mortar shells, and grenades.<sup>15</sup> According to the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), 81 localities in Darfur are highly affected by ERW, along with 431 localities in the medium-impact category and 84 localities that have low impacts from contamination.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by state (at end 2020)<sup>17</sup>**

State	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Blue Nile	3	35,766	7	840,889	10	876,655
South Kordofan	53	2,219,623	31	9,972,666	84	12,192,289
Western Kordofan	0	0	3	21,991	3	21,991
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2,255,389</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10,835,546</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>13,090,935</b>

**Table 2: Mined area (at end 2020)<sup>18</sup>**

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Anti-personnel mines	56	2,255,389	41	10,835,546	97	13,090,935
Anti-vehicle mines	11	219,777	31	11,698,805	42	11,918,582
<b>Totals</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>2,475,166</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>22,534,351</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>25,009,517</b>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Sudanese National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and NMAC manage Sudan's mine action programme. Following South Sudan's independence, NMAC assumed full ownership of national mine action in Sudan with responsibility for coordinating and supervising the implementation of all mine action activities, including quality assurance (QA), accreditation, and certification of clearance operators. Sudan passed a Mine Action Bill under Presidential Decree No. 51 of March 2010. The 2010 Mine Action Act comprises 29 articles across four chapters. Chapter four covers Sudan's APMBBC obligations, such as clearance of contaminated areas and reporting, with penalties for those who work in mine action without first obtaining a licence from NMAC.<sup>19</sup>

After starting an emergency programme in 2002, UNMAS re-established activities in Sudan in 2015, following an invitation from the Sudanese Government, in an advisory and support capacity, to further enhance the national mine action capacity and support the nation to meet its APMBBC obligations.<sup>20</sup> As part of its mandate, UNMAS provides organisational and individual capacity development to NMAC.<sup>21</sup> In 2020, UNMAS supported the IMSMA migration process; delivered training courses in quality management, project management, tasking procedures, and gender and diversity; supported the review and finalisation of national mine action standards (NMAA) and the development of standing operating procedures (SOPs) based on the new NMAA; and supported the establishment of the mine action training centre.<sup>22</sup> In 2020, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) also supported the IMSMA database migration process.<sup>23</sup>

As the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) does not have a mandate to conduct mine clearance, UNMAS continued its UN Security Council-mandated role in Abyei, which includes identification and clearance of mines and route assessment in the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone (SDBZ) between Sudan and South Sudan and Abyei through its implementing partners, in support of peacekeeping operations, the delivery of humanitarian aid, the safe return of internally displaced populations (IDPs), and the nomadic migration of animals. UNMAS received funding of \$10.75 million for its activities in Abyei from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.<sup>24</sup>

In Darfur, under the umbrella of UNAMID, UNMAS works under the name of the Ordnance Disposal Office (ODO) in direct support of UNAMID priorities.<sup>25</sup> The UN Security Council was expected to bring UNAMID to an end by the end of 2021.<sup>26</sup> In 2020, UNMAS deployed four multitask teams to undertake survey and clearance operations in Darfur, to cover the areas outside the scope of the ODO teams while

UNAMID started to drawdown. As at April 2021, UNAMID was in the process of drawing down its operations with closure expected to be completed in June. UNMAS Sudan, which had already started non-technical survey operations, will begin explosive ordnance clearance.<sup>27</sup>

In June 2020, the United Nations Integrated Transition Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) was established with the mandate to support Sudan's democratic transition and help effect a comprehensive peace. Mine action was stipulated in support of a strategic objective on peacebuilding. UNMAS Sudan is closely coordinating with UNITAMS to provide mine action operations in support of the Mission's activities.<sup>28</sup>

In 2020, the Government of Sudan contributed a total of US\$2 million to the running costs of NMAC and for demining activities. It has consistently funded the national mine action programme at this level for the past five years.<sup>29</sup> In addition, international donors contributed US\$5.2 million through UNMAS to undertake mine action activities. UNMAS reported that, in 2020, a total of \$15.8 million would be required to meet mine action needs in the country, including demining in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and ERW response in Darfur.<sup>30</sup>

Sudan's resource mobilisation strategy aims to increase donations from existing donors, broaden the list of donors, and increase the amount of the government's contribution. This includes identifying new donors, including Gulf States; emerging economies receptive to becoming "donor" governments; and "non-conventional" partners such as philanthropists, private individuals and foundations; and commercial companies and corresponding funding modalities and mechanisms. Sudan has estimated in its 2020–23 work plan that \$33.7 million will be required to complete land release. In 2020, Sudan reported that sufficient funding was in place for the year but that if currently inaccessible areas open up the programme would need additional funds for an emergency post-conflict mine action response.<sup>31</sup>

In Sudan, not including Jebel Merra and Abyei, UNMAS and NMAC lead mine action sub-cluster meetings to coordinate progress, tackle challenges, and support Article 5 implementation in Sudan. All relevant implementing partners, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), UN agencies, and government authorities participate. During these meetings mine action projects for the annual Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) are developed and prioritised through a consultative process.<sup>32</sup> In addition, NMAC hold a Country Coordination Forum with all stakeholders twice a year though only one took place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>33</sup>

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## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

NMAC reported having a gender and diversity policy in place and says that gender is mainstreamed in the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 and in the NMAA for explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), survey, clearance, and victim assistance. Under those standards, all survey and community liaison teams are to be gender balanced, and women and children must be duly consulted during survey and community liaison activities. Gender is also said to be considered in the prioritisation, planning, and tasking of

survey and clearance, as per the NMAA and the new standard IMSMA forms.<sup>34</sup>

Mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.<sup>35</sup> UNMAS reported working with NMAC and implementing partners to improve this aspect of mine action reporting and information management because sex- and age-disaggregated data of land release beneficiaries were not being captured in IMSMA.<sup>36</sup> New reporting tools were added to the system

and new reporting formats were developed for the NGOs to include this information.<sup>37</sup>

NMAC reported that ethnic minority groups in affected communities are consulted during survey and considered during the planning of mine action activities. Survey teams are also structured to include all affected groups within a community including ethnic minorities.<sup>38</sup>

NMAC says it always encourages women to apply for employment in the national programme, whether at the office level or in the field. In 2020, 30% of NMAC staff employed at the managerial or supervisory levels were women as were 20% of staff in operational positions.<sup>39</sup>

UNMAS reported that, as at April 2021, around half of the members of non-technical survey teams were women. UNMAS Sudan has twelve staff members, of whom two programme officers are women. In addition, in field roles there is a female operations officer, quality assurance manager, finance manager, EORE manager, and victim assistance manager. The first woman deminer was employed in late 2019, and it is hoped that the number of female deminers will increase in the future.<sup>40</sup> NMAC acknowledged that there are obstacles to hiring women due to "local customs and traditions".<sup>41</sup>

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

In 2018, NMAC began upgrading the IMSMA software to the newer New Generation version, with assistance from the GICHD. Significant efforts to correct errors in the database were also undertaken.<sup>42</sup> In 2019, IMSMA training was delivered to the suboffices and operators on the new reporting system and reporting forms.<sup>43</sup> In 2020, GICHD and UNMAS continued to support the information management department within NMAC and it was planned that the data would be migrated to IMSMA Core by the middle of 2021.<sup>44</sup>

The database contains out-of-date information about the situation in the disputed Abyei area.<sup>45</sup> UNMAS had stated in June 2019 that UNISFA was working with NMAC on database sharing. It had co-located an IMSMA officer within the NMAC office in Khartoum to help share historical data and was also providing a monthly report to NMAC on activities in Abyei.<sup>46</sup>

Sudan submits timely Article 7 transparency reports and gives regular statements on progress at the meetings of States Parties to the APMBC. In 2020, Sudan submitted an updated work plan for 2020 to 2023, as per the 2018 extension request decision, which contains annual targets for completion although there are some inconsistencies in the total amounts of survey and clearance output projections.<sup>47</sup>

## PLANNING AND TASKING

In May 2021, NMAC reported that the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 had been finalised but was still awaiting approval.<sup>48</sup> The plan aims to fulfil Sudan's APMBC obligations, and was developed in coordination with the GICHD to replace its previous national strategy for 2016–19.<sup>49</sup> NMAC stated that detailed annual work plans had been developed for each year under the new strategic plan.<sup>50</sup>

Sudan's 2018 extension request contained a detailed work plan with annual survey and clearance projections on a state-by-state basis with a total planned release for all types of ordnance of 224 hazardous areas with a size of 26.5km<sup>2</sup> by 1 April 2023 (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Annual land release targets (2017–23)<sup>51</sup>**

Year	SHAs	CHAs	Cancelled through NTS (m <sup>2</sup> )	Released through TS/clearance (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total SHAs/CHAs	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
2017–18	80	3	3,783,116	420,346	83	4,203,462
2018–19	54	3	11,944,390	1,327,154	57	13,271,544
2019–20	16	2	4,943,930	549,326	18	5,493,256
2020–21	4	16	1,045,828	116,203	20	1,162,031
2021–22	13	7	1,054,315	117,146	20	1,171,461
2022–23	4	22	1,044,614	116,068	26	1,160,682
<b>Totals</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>23,816,193</b>	<b>2,646,243</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>26,462,436</b>

NTS = Non-technical survey TS = Technical survey

Sudan has not been meeting these targets but it submitted an updated work plan in 2020 for the period 1 March 2020–31 March 2023, in accordance with the terms of its latest Article 5 extension, with revised estimates of contamination, annual targets for land release, and budgetary requirements. Sudan included updated annual projections of land release through to 2023, although again this was not disaggregated by type of ordnance (see Table 4).

**Table 4: Annual land release targets (2019–23)<sup>52</sup>**

Year	SHAs	CHAs	Cancelled through NTS (m <sup>2</sup> )	Released through TS/clearance (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total SHAs/CHAs	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
2019–20	50	8	5,486,687	147,267	58	5,633,954
2020–21	69	16	10,332,944	147,153	85	10,480,097
2021–22	66	19	7,785,727	1,457,643	85	9,243,370
2022–23	22	8	1,450,916	462,678	30	1,913,594
<b>Totals</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>25,056,274</b>	<b>2,214,741</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>27,271,015</b>

NTS = Non-technical survey TS = Technical survey

In its latest Article 7 report, Sudan submitted yet another revised work plan with annual land release projections for all 219 hazardous areas with a total size of 26.4km<sup>2</sup> but again did not disaggregate by type of ordnance.<sup>53</sup> During 2020, Sudan cleared just under 0.22km<sup>2</sup>, which surpassed the clearance targets in the extension request and updated work plan, but no cancellation through non-technical survey was achieved, which is projected to account for the vast majority of land release output.

UNMAS reported that all task dossiers relating to survey and clearance are issued in accordance with agreed criteria and prioritisation while working with NMAC on improving planning and tasking processes.<sup>54</sup> A systematic prioritisation system will be introduced as part of the new NMAS and linked with IMSMA with each SHA and CHA classified as high, medium, or low impact and prioritised accordingly.<sup>55</sup> This was due to be implemented in the course of 2021.<sup>56</sup> During prioritisation, in addition to taking the affected communities needs into account, all other stakeholders are consulted. NMAC expects the prioritisation process to be more effective once the baseline survey has been completed.<sup>57</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In May 2021, NMAC reported that a review of Sudan's NMAS had been completed and the revised standards have now been endorsed.<sup>58</sup> The NMAS were reviewed by a technical committee comprised of representatives from NMAC, UNMAS, and national operators with the support of an international expertise from UNAMID-ODO. The NMAS will be uploaded on the NMAC website and all mine action operators will need to ensure their SOPs comply with the new NMAS.<sup>59</sup>

In 2020, NMAC completed 32 accreditations, 3 re-assessments, and 11 quality assurance visits. NMAC also took part in a training on quality management that was delivered by UNMAS.<sup>60</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

National operators that conducted demining operations in Sudan in 2020 were JASMAR for Human Security (JASMAR), National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD), and Global Aid Hand.<sup>61</sup> In 2020, Sudan contracted two teams from SafeLane Global (SLG) whose planned arrival in March was delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak. Both teams arrived in November and were deployed in December 2020.<sup>62</sup>

**Table 5: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2020<sup>63</sup>**

Operator	Manual clearance teams (MCTs)/ Multi-task teams (MTTs)	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines
NUMAD	4 MCTs 9 MTTs	36 36	9 dogs and 9 handlers	0
JASMAR	2 MTTs	8	0	0
SLG	2 MTTs	10	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>9 dogs and 9 handlers</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers.

**Table 6: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2020<sup>64</sup>**

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel*	TS teams	Total TS personnel*
JASMAR	3	12	2	8
NUMAD	0	0	8	32
Global Aid Hand	7	28	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>

NTS = Non-technical survey TS = Technical survey

A significant increase in operational capacity occurred in 2020 following the addition of non-technical survey capacity in November 2019 by JASMAR and Global Aid Hand.<sup>65</sup> A further increase in capacity was planned for 2021 as new areas with suspected contamination from anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, and ERW have become accessible in Blue Nile and South Kordofan following peace talks with the SPLM-N. There is also a need to clear roads for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to these areas.<sup>66</sup>

Demining in Sudan is carried out primarily using manual clearance, though mine detection dog (MDD) teams are also used. No machines are employed in demining. In 2019, a mine action training centre was established, MDD training and accreditation sites were re-established with increased number of training and accreditation boxes, and two non-technical survey training courses were delivered.<sup>67</sup> In 2021, NMAC was continuing to work with UNMAS to fully establish the training centre both to fulfil the training needs of the mine action programme and to provide support to neighbouring countries where needed.<sup>68</sup> In 2020, NMAC worked with UNMAS to develop a mechanical capacity for Sudan for road/route clearance. It was planned that this capacity would become operational by the middle of 2021 but due to logistical issues deployment of the asset was delayed until late October or early November, depending on the end of the rainy season.<sup>69</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

A total of 0.35km<sup>2</sup> of anti-personnel mined area was released through clearance in 2020 with a total of 42 anti-personnel mines found and destroyed. No areas were released through survey in 2020.

### SURVEY IN 2020

No areas were reported cancelled through non-technical survey in 2019 or 2020. The NMAC reported that technical survey is integrated with clearance during the land release process, but no technical survey of anti-personnel mined area was conducted in 2020. A total of 68,000m<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey of anti-vehicle mined area using mine detection dogs (MDDs).<sup>70</sup> This is a massive reduction from the 6,127,357m<sup>2</sup> of mined area reduced through technical survey by NUMAD in South Kordofan in 2019.<sup>71</sup>

### CLEARANCE IN 2020

In 2020, a total of 353,799m<sup>2</sup> was cleared by NUMAD and JASMAR in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Kassala.<sup>72</sup> This is a 60% decrease in clearance output from the 874,068m<sup>2</sup> cleared in 2019. However, the number of anti-personnel mines found and destroyed increased from just one in 2019, indicating better targeting of clearance.<sup>73</sup>

**Table 7: Mine clearance in 2020<sup>74</sup>**

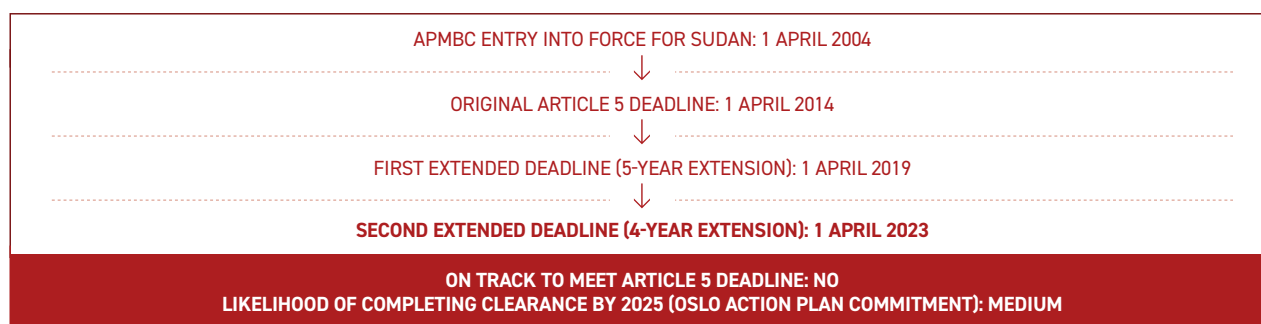
State	Operator	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Blue Nile	NUMAD	67,328	3	0	581
	SafeLane	0	0	0	5
	JASMAR	0	8	0	702
Southern Kordofan	NUMAD	281,203	19	15	1,596
	JASMAR	768	12	1	37
Kassala	NUMAD	4,500	0	0	167
<b>Totals</b>		<b>353,799</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,088</b>

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle UXO = Unexploded ordnance

The eight anti-personnel mines destroyed by JASMAR during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks in 2020 are included in Table 7.<sup>75</sup>

UNMAS reported that four areas surveyed as containing anti-personnel mine contamination totalling 225,759m<sup>2</sup> were also cleared which proved to contain no anti-personnel mines just items of unexploded ordnance (UXO).<sup>76</sup> Overall there was a significant decrease in the amount of land released in 2020 due to the security situation when approaching the “grey areas” (cross-line areas in which control and influence belongs to neither the Government nor the SPLM-N) and that most of the land released in 2020 was from battle area clearance (BAC) with double the output from the previous year.<sup>77</sup> All teams from national operators were deployed in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines and were able to continue operations during 2020. Two teams from an international operator were contracted to start in March 2020 but this was delayed due to the pandemic and both teams were final deployed in December.<sup>78</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



**Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2020	0.35
2019	0.87
2018	0.98
2017	0.71
2016	1.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.95</b>

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the four-year extension granted by States Parties in 2018), Sudan is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 April 2023. It is not on track to meet this deadline.

Sudan’s land release output dropped in 2020 with no areas released through survey following a massive reduction through technical survey in 2019. Sudan was not able to meet its updated work plan target for 2020 and going forward it is planned that the majority of land will be released through cancellation despite no non-technical survey taking place in 2018-20. Despite a reduction in overall area cleared in 2020

there was an increase in the number of anti-personnel mines found and destroyed during clearance from one in 2019 to 42 in 2020.

One of the main impediments to mine action operations is the security situation and the lack of access to most of the known impacted communities in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states.<sup>79</sup> During 2020, following the signature of a preliminary peace deal between Sudan’s transitional government and the head of one of the two factions of the SPLM-N rebel group, NMAC in cooperation with UNMAS began to deploy teams to clear roads and other routes to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Blue Nile state.<sup>80</sup> Sudan also reported in 2020 that it was in talks with Chad to implement a joint initiative to clear the border areas between the two countries.<sup>81</sup> In June 2021, the UN reported that humanitarian agencies had been able to access conflict-affected communities in the five non-governmental areas controlled by the SPLM-N El Hilu in South Kordofan and Blue Niles states for the first time in ten years.<sup>82</sup>

In addition, Sudan reported that obstacles to completion include inadequate funding for mine action, rising inflation in Sudan, lack of sufficient demining equipment, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of climate change on extended rainy seasons.<sup>83</sup>

## PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

Sudan has a plan to deal with residual risk and liability post-completion.<sup>84</sup> As at May 2021, NMAC have trained a few teams to deal with any residual contamination in the eastern states. However, it is planned that in the long term Sudan will establish a sustainable national capacity within the military or police.<sup>85</sup>

- 1 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, Technical Advisor, NMAC, 19 May 2021; and Article 7 Report (for 2020), Form C.
- 2 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 3 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021; and Aimal Safi, Senior Operations and QM Advisor, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.
- 4 According to NMAC, however, as these two states have been inaccessible due to insecurity for many years, the information recorded in the database for these states may no longer be accurate, and survey will be carried out as soon as the security situation permits. NMAC, "Updated Work Plan to Meet Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Article Five Extended Deadline by April 2019", 30 April 2017.
- 5 Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Forms C and F.
- 6 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan".
- 7 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 8 Email from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, Chief of Operations, NMAC, 9 May 2016.
- 9 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, 25 November 2013, pp. 2-3.
- 10 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 11 Ibid.; and Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 17.
- 12 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 22.
- 13 Ibid., p. 23.
- 14 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 15 UNMAS, "2018 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan", at: <http://bit.ly/2GjD3nm>.
- 16 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan", at: <http://bit.ly/3d0FtVH>.
- 17 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021; and Article 7 Report (for 2020), Form C.
- 18 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 19 GICHD, "Transitioning Mine Action Programmes to National Ownership: Sudan", March 2012; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.
- 20 UNMAS, "Sudan (excluding Darfur)", Updated March 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/2Y3IDUg>.
- 21 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 22 Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021; and Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 23 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 24 UMAS, "Where we work: Abyei", at: <https://bit.ly/3waA8Fr>
- 25 UNMAS, "2017 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan".
- 26 UNMAS, "Sudan (excluding Darfur)", Updated October 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/3c7Lb9y>
- 27 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.
- 28 UNMAS, "Sudan (excluding Darfur)", Updated October 2020.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 15.
- 32 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan" at: <http://bit.ly/3d0FtVH>; and email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 33 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 36 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 37 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 22 July 2020.
- 38 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 39 Ibid.
- 40 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.
- 41 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019 and 10 September 2020.
- 42 Emails from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, NMAC, 9 May and 8 June 2016; and Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, March 2018, pp. 37-38.
- 43 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 10 September 2020.
- 44 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 45 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 46 Email from Dandan Xu, Associate Programme Management Officer, UNMAS, 28 June 2019.
- 47 In Sudan's Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, Table 4 (p. 11) and Table 6 (p. 12) purport to show the same information but have differing land release figures. Likewise, Table 5 does not match with land release figures in Tables 4 or 6 or with figures provided by NMAC to Mine Action Review on land release of anti-personnel mines in 2018 to 2019. Remaining anti-personnel mine contamination on p. 15 does not match the figures in Table 9, and neither figure matches reported land release. In Table 13 on p. 21, area cancelled through NTS and area released through TS/clearance do not add up to total area released and do not match figures in operations plan by state (pp. 22-26). Projected land release figures to 2023 in the Article 7 Report (covering 2019) do not match the projections in the work plan.
- 48 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 49 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019 and 13 May 2018.
- 50 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019.
- 51 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request Detailed Narrative, 17 August 2018, Table 14, p. 18.
- 52 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 21.
- 53 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 54 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 55 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 14.
- 56 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.
- 57 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 30.
- 58 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 59 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 60 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021; and APMBC Article 7 Report (for 2020), Form 2.2.
- 61 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 62 Ibid.
- 63 Ibid.
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 66 Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021; and Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 67 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.
- 68 Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021; and Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 69 Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021; and Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May and 5 August 2021.
- 70 Ibid.
- 71 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 72 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 5 August 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 73 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 74 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 5 August 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 75 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.
- 76 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.
- 77 Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021; and Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 78 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 79 Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 14.
- 80 Statement of Sudan on Article 5, APMBC Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties, 16-20 November 2020.
- 81 Statement of Sudan on Cooperation and Assistance, APMBC Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties, 16-20 November 2020.
- 82 Joint UN Press Release, "UN agencies in Sudan reach conflict-affected communities in non-government-controlled areas for first time in a decade", 13 June 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3j7wMiP>.
- 83 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.
- 84 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.
- 85 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.