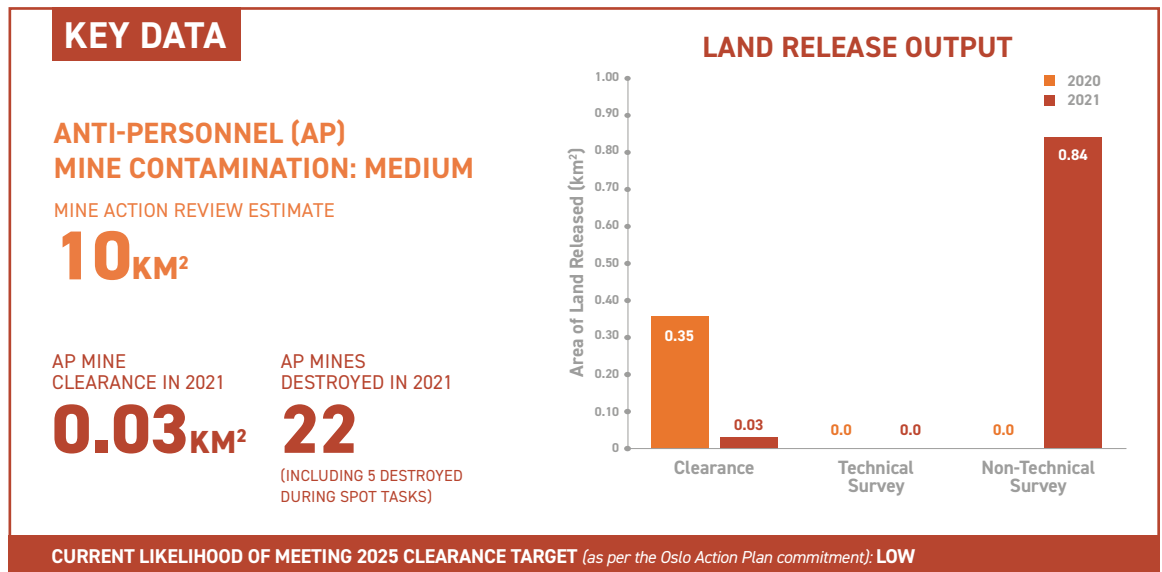


ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 2023
FOUR-YEAR EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 APRIL 2027



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Sudan's land release output increased in 2021 compared to the previous year due to cancellation through non-technical survey. Although clearance output dropped, what did take place was better targeted than in 2020. Despite some improvements in access during 2021, including efforts to establish a national baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination, poor security continued to impede operations. In April 2022, Sudan submitted a four-year extension request to its Article 5 deadline, which it revised in August 2022, detailing plans for survey and clearance for all types of explosive ordnance contamination. In the remaining period of the current extension request, Sudan was aiming to complete its Article 5 obligations in West Kordofan state, in one locality in Blue Nile State, and in one locality in South Kordofan State.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Sudan should ensure it only clears land where there is firm evidence of the presence of mines and should continue to improve its land release practices ensuring more targeted and efficient land release.
- Sudan should approve and issue its national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23.
- Sudan should develop a resource mobilisation strategy increasing its international advocacy to attract new and former donors.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2021)	Score (2020)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (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 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.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	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 sub-cluster meetings and a Country Coordination Forum. The government had been providing funding for mine action at US\$2 million annually for several years although this dropped to US\$500,000 in 2021 following the devaluation of the local currency. Sudan projects that \$32.6 million is required for land release from 2022 to 2027.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	7	6	A new gender and diversity policy was developed and endorsed in 2021 and gender is said to be mainstreamed in the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 (which was awaiting approval and, as of April 2022, was under review) and in the national mine action standards. An emphasis is placed on gender-balanced survey teams and the employment of women in the mine action programme. Sudan does acknowledge difficulties in employing women in operational roles due to local customs and traditions. In 2021, 30% of managerial staff in the NMAC were women, but the corresponding figure for operational roles was only 20%. A group of 28 women completed basic demining training in 2021 and were expected to become operational in 2022 and 2023.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (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 having begun in 2022. Sudan submits timely Article 7 reports and provides regular updates on progress in Article 5 implementation at the annual meetings of States Parties. In April 2022, Sudan submitted an Article 5 deadline extension request through to 1 April 2027, which is detailed and of a good quality.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	6	A new national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 has been finalised and, as at May 2022, was awaiting approval. Sudan provided a two-phase work plan in its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request, with disaggregated annual targets for release of mined area. In the remaining period of the current extension request, Sudan aims to complete its Article 5 commitments in West Kordofan state, in one locality in Blue Nile State, and in one locality in South Kordofan State.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	7	7	Sudan reports that its revised national mine action standards have now been approved. In 2021, the Sudanese Regional Training Center was established to deliver mine action training to the Sudan programme. Operational capacity decreased during 2021 and was expected to decrease further in 2022 due to loss of funding. Mechanical road clearance was planned to begin in 2021 but it was not possible to bring machines into the country due to a change in the political situation.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	6	5	There was an increase in overall land release output from 2020 to 2021 and an increase in the number of mines found per square metre, suggesting improvements in the targeting of clearance. Sudan submitted its third Article 5 deadline extension request for a period of four years, but completion of clearance by the new deadline will rely on securing access to all known and suspected mined areas. This continues to be a challenge as a result of the security situation despite some improvements during 2021.
Average Score	6.9	6.5	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

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
- Global Aid Hand

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- SafeLane Global (SLG)
- Danish Refugee Council Humanitarian and Disarmament and Peacebuilding Sector (DRC) (formerly Danish Demining Group, DDG) (accredited in 2021 but not yet operational, as of writing)

OTHER ACTORS

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

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2021, Sudan reported a total of 102 areas suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines, covering a total area of 13.28km². According to the Sudanese National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), of this total, 61 mined areas covering 3.3km² are confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), while a further 41 mined areas covering almost 10km² are suspected hazardous areas (SHAs).¹ This is an increase from the almost 13.1km² of total anti-personnel mined area reported for the end of 2020.²

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by state (at end 2021)³

State	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m ²)
Blue Nile	5	950,274	8	117,962	13	1,068,236
South Kordofan	56	2,362,947	30	9,822,666	86	12,185,613
Western Kordofan	0	0	3	21,991	3	21,991
Totals	61	3,313,221	41	9,962,619	102	13,275,840

In addition to anti-personnel mined area, Sudan is also contaminated with anti-vehicle mines totalling 13.53km² across 29 SHAs and 22 CHAs (see Table 2).⁴ The extent of mine and explosive remnants of war (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.⁵

Table 2: Mined areas (at end 2021)⁶

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m ²)
Anti-personnel mines	61	3,313,221	41	9,962,619	102	13,275,840
Anti-vehicle mines	22	1,933,503	29	11,606,334	51	13,539,837
Totals	83	5,246,724	70	21,568,953	153	26,815,677

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.⁷ 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, and which continued until 2016. More contaminated areas are expected to be found, including mined areas containing anti-personnel mines. There have been "ad hoc" reports of additional mined and ERW-contaminated areas being 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.⁸

1 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, Technical Advisor, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Article 7 Report (for 2021), Form C.

2 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021; and Article 7 Report (for 2020), Form C.

3 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Article 7 Report (for 2021), Form C.

4 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

5 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan".

6 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

7 Email from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, Chief of Operations, NMAC, 9 May 2016.

8 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, 25 November 2013, pp. 2–3.

NMAC reported that significant survey is required to more accurately determine the actual extent of anti-personnel mine contamination in Sudan.⁹ NMAC initiated non-technical survey in November 2019, across Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan states, and the five federal Darfur states to establish evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination for all explosive ordnance.¹⁰ A total of 27 hazardous areas containing anti-personnel mines (AP mine) contamination, measuring 3,117,930m², was added to Sudan's database through survey from April 2019 to December 2021 following improvements in the security situation in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states.¹¹

NMAC had planned to complete all necessary survey by the end of 2021, but insecurity and lack of access have impeded this, with most known impacted communities in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Jebel Merra in Darfur still inaccessible.¹² When these areas become accessible, it is expected that survey will result in additional contaminated areas being identified, but also that some areas previously identified as contaminated by the LIS will be cancelled.¹³ 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.

CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

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). Contamination from ERW is estimated to total nearly 6.11km² across 99 CHAs and 98 SHAs. This gives a total contaminated area from explosive ordnance of 32.91km² across 182 CHAs and 169 SHAs.¹⁴

While no mines have been found in Darfur, ERW there include unexploded air-dropped bombs, rockets, artillery and mortar shells, and grenades.¹⁵ Of the 63 localities (administrative units) in the five states of Darfur, 44 had been assessed and released by the United Nations – African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) Ordnance Disposal Office by July 2022, leaving 19 to be assessed.¹⁶ However, recent intercommunal conflict is reported to have led to new ERW contamination in some localities.¹⁷ In 2021, UNMAS implementing partners were contracted to undertake survey, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), battle area clearance (BAC), and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) activities, as well as a victim assistance project, in Darfur but following a deterioration of the security situation after the withdrawal of UNAMID, survey and clearance operations were suspended at the end of February 2022.¹⁸

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Sudanese National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and NMAC manage Sudan's mine action programme. Following the independence of South Sudan, 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. The 2010 Mine Action Act, which comprises 29 articles across four chapters, is Sudan's national mine action legislation. Chapter four covers Sudan's Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) obligations, such as clearance of mined areas and reporting, with penalties for those who work in mine action without first obtaining a licence from NMAC.¹⁹

After starting an emergency programme in 2002, UNMAS re-established advisory and support activities in Sudan in 2015, following an invitation from the Government, with a view to further enhancing national mine action capacity and supporting the fulfilment of Sudan's APMBC obligations.²⁰ As part of its mandate, UNMAS provides organisational and individual capacity development to NMAC.²¹ In 2021, UNMAS delivered training in quality management, operations management, and survey to the national authority. In addition, basic demining training was delivered to 28 female deminers; EOD Level 1 training to 21 ex-combatants from one of the armed opposition groups; EOD Level 2 training to 20 personnel from the mine action operators; and team leadership training to 20 leaders of demining teams.

9 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.

10 Ibid.; and Sudan Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023, p. 17.

11 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

12 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

13 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 7.

14 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 7.

15 UNMAS, "2018 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan", at: <http://bit.ly/2GjD3nm>.

16 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 7 July 2022.

17 Ibid.

18 Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March and 7 July 2022.

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, Senior Operations and QM Advisor, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.

In 2022, UNMAS planned to deliver training on land release, online data collection, and quality management, among other issues.²² In 2021, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) provided remote support for the implementation of Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core. As at August 2022, Sudan had participated in two Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) training workshops run by the GICHD in support of IMSMA Core implementation and EORE, and another IMSMA Core training event in June.²³

The UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) does not have a mandate to conduct mine clearance, but 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. It operates through implementing partners, acting 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 \$10.54 million for its activities in Abyei from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.²⁴

In January 2021, UNMAS Sudan was integrated into the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) to provide mine action in support of the mission's mandate. UNITAMS was established in June 2020 to support Sudan's democratic transition and comprehensive peace process. Mine action was stipulated in support of strategic objective (iii): "Assist peacebuilding, civilian protection and rule of law, in particular in Darfur and the Two Areas". Upon the operational closure of UNAMID in 2021, UNMAS took over responsibility for ERW response in Darfur from UNAMID's Ordnance Disposal Office.²⁵

The Government of Sudan has maintained a consistent level of national financial contribution to mine action in local currency, but due to the devaluation of the local currency against the US dollar, this has fallen from the equivalent of US\$2 million of funding in local currency in 2019 and 2020 to only US\$500,000 in 2021 and 2022. Sudan expects national funding to be maintained and potentially to increase as the political and economic situation improves in the country.²⁶

Sudan has calculated that it requires \$32.6 million for all land release activities (for all explosive ordnance, not just anti-personnel mines) from 2022 to 2027: \$6,975,000 per year for 2022 to 2025; \$3,555,000 for 2026; and \$1,150,000 for 2027. To date, international donors have been funding the mine action programme through UNMAS and the amount that has been confirmed for 2022 and 2023, \$2,902,000 and \$1,852,000 respectively, falls far short of what Sudan has projected that it needs although some additional funds have been pledged for 2022. Sudan and UNMAS have been working on resource mobilisation and have expanded the donor pool.²⁷

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.²⁸ In addition, NMAC ordinarily holds a Country Coordination Forum with all stakeholders twice a year, though only one took place in 2021 due to the political and security situation.²⁹

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Sudan reports having a policy on environmental management in place, which includes information on how mine action operators should minimise potential harm from demining.³⁰ There is a dedicated national mine action standard (NMA) on environmental management and an environmental impact assessment is now part of the standard, which was due to be implemented in the course of 2022.³¹

22 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

23 Emails from Henrik Rydberg, Country Focal Point, GICHD, 13 April, 3 June, and 10 August 2022.

24 UNMAS, "Where we work: Abyei", at: <https://bit.ly/3waA8Fr>.

25 UNMAS, "Where we work: Sudan", at: <https://bit.ly/3tT8XjF>.

26 APMBC Revised 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 4.

27 Ibid., pp. 8 and 30.

28 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan" at: <http://bit.ly/3d0FtVH>; and email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.

29 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

30 Ibid.

31 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

NMAC reported that in 2021 a new gender and diversity policy was developed and endorsed and that gender is mainstreamed in the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 (which was awaiting approval³² and as of August 2022, was under review)³³ and in the NMAS for EORE, survey, clearance, and victim assistance.³⁴ Under those standards, all survey and community liaison teams are to be gender balanced, and women and children must be 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 NMAS and the new standard IMSMA forms.³⁵

Mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.³⁶ 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.³⁷ New reporting tools were added to the system and new reporting formats were developed for NGOs to include this information.³⁸

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 address all affected groups within a community, including ethnic minorities.³⁹ As part of the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement and peacebuilding efforts, 21 ex-combatants from one of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) factions, Malik Agar, located in the Bau/Ulu locality and Ingasana mountains, completed training in IMAS EOD Level 1 during 2021. They have been integrated into mine action

operations to conduct land release in the Ulu and Ingasana areas, which are heavily mined (and also contaminated with ERW, including cluster munition remnants).⁴⁰

NMAC says it always encourages women to apply for employment in the national programme, whether at the office level or in the field. In 2021, 30% of NMAC staff employed at the managerial or supervisory levels were women, as were 20% of staff in operational positions.⁴¹ The first female deminer was employed in late 2019.⁴² In 2021, a group of 28 women from different states and ethnic groups completed basic demining training. They were due to begin working within the different mine action operators by April 2023, the existing Article 5 deadline.⁴³

UNMAS reported that, as at March 2022, around half of the non-technical survey team members were women. UNMAS Sudan has 16 staff members, of whom four programme officers are women along with one of the support service staff. In addition, within the national operators contracted by UNMAS there are women working in managerial positions and the medics and community liaison officers in most of the field teams are female.

In 2020–21, NMAC took part in the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) Gender Equality and Inclusion programme run by the GICHD. Two participants from NMAC received training and guidance from experts in the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) on how to mainstream gender and diversity in all mine action activities. The NMAC then created a dedicated Gender Focal Point (GFP) who connected with other GFPs from the region to share experiences and good practice.⁴⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

In 2018, NMAC began upgrading the IMSMA software to a more recent New Generation version, with assistance from the GICHD. Significant efforts to correct errors in the database were also undertaken.⁴⁵ In 2022, Sudan began the migration to IMSMA Core, which was ongoing as of writing.⁴⁶ In 2021, an IMSMA Officer deployed from the Swiss government was embedded within the NMAC to support the information management department and an agreement was signed to grant Sudan a licence for the geographic information system (Arc GIS) software.⁴⁷

32 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

33 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 20.

34 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

35 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

36 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.

37 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.

38 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 22 July 2020.

39 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

40 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 23.

41 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

42 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.

43 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 22.

44 Email from GICHD, 29 June 2021.

45 Emails from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, NMAC, 9 May and 8 June 2016; and Third APMB Article 5 deadline Extension Request, March 2018, pp. 37–38.

46 Email from Henrik Rydberg, GICHD, 3 June 2022.

47 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

NMAC still does not receive reports from the disputed region of Abyei. However, UNMAS United Nations Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) provides monthly achievement reports to NMAC and UNMAS Sudan.⁴⁸ This information is not entered on the IMSMA database,⁴⁹ so the database continues to contain out-of-date information on Abyei.⁵⁰ 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 already providing monthly reports to NMAC on activities in Abyei.⁵¹

Sudan submits timely Article 7 transparency reports and gives regular statements on progress at the meetings of States Parties to the APMBC. In April 2022, Sudan submitted an Article 5 deadline extension request to 1 April 2027 which is comprehensive and of a good quality despite the ongoing challenges faced by the mine action programme. In August 2022, Sudan submitted a revised deadline extension request, containing additional information.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In March 2022, NMAC reported that the new national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 had been finalised but was still awaiting approval.⁵² In its 2022 APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request, Sudan reported that the national mine action strategy was being reviewed to align it with the extension period and amend the current deadlines and strategic objectives related to land release, risk education and accident prevention, victim assistance, resource mobilisation, gender and diversity, national capacity-building, and the management residual risk of ERW. These amendments and updates, which will be based on consultation with mine action stakeholders, were planned to be made before the end of 2022 with the updated mine action strategy to be issued in February 2023.⁵³

Sudan has provided various targets for land release in 2021 but none is disaggregated by type of ordnance. They are also inconsistent, ranging from 1,171,461m² in the 2018 Article 5 deadline extension request, to 9,243,370m² in the Multiyear Operational Plan 2020 to 2023.⁵⁴ According to Sudan's latest Article 7 report, a total of 1,955,407m² of area with explosive ordnance contamination was released and handed over to local communities in 2021.⁵⁵

In its 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request, Sudan submitted a two-phase work plan. Phase 1 from 2023 to 2025 includes the release of all accessible hazardous areas, including new areas identified through survey. In Phase 2, from 2025 to 2027, the remaining contamination in the database that is currently inaccessible is to be released.⁵⁶ Sudan provided a table of annual land release targets to 2027 and in the revised extension request it provided disaggregated targets for release of mined area.⁵⁷ In addition, Sudan states that it has drawn up a detailed action plan for survey in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan as the security situation in these states improves.⁵⁸

Sudan specifies that during the remaining period of the current extension request (i.e. before 1 April 2023) it aims to fully complete its Article 5 commitments in one state–West Kordofan (covering the localities of Abyei and Lagawa)–as well as in one of three contaminated localities in Blue Nile State (Giessan) and in one of five contaminated localities in South Kordofan State (Abu Jubeeha).⁵⁹

During Phase 1, Sudan will then aim to complete its Article 5 commitments in the remaining two localities in Blue Nile (Bau and Kurmuk) and one of four remaining localities in South Kordofan (Rashad). During phase 2, Sudan aims to complete survey and clearance of the three remaining localities in South Kordofan.⁶⁰

In the revised 2022 Article 5 deadline extension request, NMAC underlines its commitment to address the impact of all types of explosive ordnance (EO) contamination on affected populations although the main focus is landmines. It highlights how the return of refugees and IDPs to residential areas, agricultural land, and pasture since the start of the Juba Peace Talks and Peace Agreement have been obstructed by EO, including on roads and routes, which has blocked livelihoods and the provision of humanitarian assistance. In addition, NMAC highlights how Sudan's rainy season, which lasts between three and five months, isolates EO-affected communities which then lack access to basic essentials while roads that could be used during the rainy season are not usable due to anti-vehicle mine contamination. For these reasons, NMAC states it has developed a work plan which outlines the release of anti-personnel landmine-, anti-vehicle mine- and ERW-contaminated areas during the period of the Article 5 extension.⁶¹

To achieve its Article 5 deadline by 2027, Sudan has indicated that it aims to improve its land release process and

48 Email from Dr Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 19 June 2022.

49 Ibid.

50 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.

51 Email from Dandan Xu, Associate Programme Management Officer, UNMAS, 28 June 2019.

52 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

53 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 20.

54 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Detailed Narrative, 17 August 2018, Table 14, p. 18; and Multiyear Operational Plan 2020–23, p. 21.

55 Article 7 Report (for 2021), Form F.

56 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), pp. 46–50.

57 Ibid., pp. 50–58.

58 An unofficial deadline extension request number 3, presented at the Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, June 2022.

59 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 49.

60 Ibid., p. 50.

61 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), pp. 7 and 44.

methodology. This will involve releasing more area through survey; enhancing the capacity of mine action operators in survey, clearance, and information management; increasing mechanically assisted demining; using new multitask teams (MTTs with eight or more deminers) and quick-response teams (QRTs); and introducing advanced detection equipment and tools.⁶² In addition, to meet the 2027 deadline, Sudan hopes that the international community will provide the required financial resources and that access to informants will enhance land release decision-making. NMAC will work with UNMAS and other stakeholders to enhance its resource mobilisation strategy.⁶³

Sudan has promised to provide annual updates to the other States Parties in its Article 7 reports regarding a) changes in security and changes in access to mined areas; b) progress

in survey implementation, including survey outputs and the impact of survey on Sudan's remaining challenge; and c) updated annual milestones for land release. It will provide annual work plans and an updated work plan for Phase 2 (2025–27). As the situation changes Sudan may be required to request additional time and resources, as necessary.⁶⁴

UNMAS reported that all task dossiers relating to survey and clearance are issued in accordance with agreed criteria and prioritisation. NMAC and UNMAS are working together on planning and tasking to meet the need for further development.⁶⁵ In 2021, a systematic prioritisation system was 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.⁶⁶

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 had been endorsed.⁶⁷ 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. UNMAS is working with the NMAC and national operators to develop their standing operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure they are compliant with the new NMAS.⁶⁸

In 2021, the Sudanese Regional Training Centre was established to deliver mine action training to the Sudan programme. The Centre will also provide support to mine action programmes in neighbouring countries.⁶⁹ In addition, two NMAC staff participated in a technical survey training course organised by the GICHD as part of the ACRP.⁷⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

National operators that conducted demining operations in Sudan in 2021 were JASMAR for Human Security (JASMAR), National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD), and Global Aid Hand.⁷¹ There are also two international operators, SafeLane Global, which became operational in December 2020, and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) (previously Danish Demining Group, DDG), which was accredited during 2021.⁷²

Table 3: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2021⁷³

Operator	Manual clearance teams (MCTs) or Multitask teams (MTTs)	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines
NUMAD	0	0	2 dogs & 2 handlers	RVCT mainly for road clearance
JASMAR	1 MCT 9 MTTs	8 32	0	0
SLG	2 MTTs	10	0	0
Global Aid Hand	1 MTT	4	0	0
Totals	13	54	2 dogs & 2 handlers	0

* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers.

62 Ibid., pp. 44–45.

63 Ibid., p. 45.

64 Ibid., p. 66.

65 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.

66 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

67 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

68 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.

69 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

70 Emails from Henrik Rydberg, GICHD, 3 June and 11 August 2022.

71 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

72 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), p. 47.

73 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

Table 4: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2021⁷⁴

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	TS teams	Total TS personnel
JASMAR	3	12	10	44
NUMAD	0	0	1	8
Global Aid Hand	5	20	3	12
Totals	8	32	14	64

NTS = Non-technical survey TS = Technical survey

The MTTs and MCT were deployed for the clearance of all priority hazardous areas, with a focus on anti-personnel mined areas. There was a slight decrease in operational capacity from 2020 to 2021 as NUMAD had "internal issues" and could not take part in tendering process. Due to a decrease in funding, operational capacity might decrease further for the operational year 2022–23.⁷⁵

During the period of the extension request Sudan plans to deploy two mechanical teams (for road/route clearance); six multitask teams of eight deminers, each which will be supported by the mechanical teams and mine detection dogs (MDDs) as required; and twelve quick-response teams of four deminers, each of which could become additional multitask teams.⁷⁶

Demining in Sudan is carried out primarily using manual clearance, though MDD teams are also used for technical survey, route/road clearance, and quality assurance. No machines are employed in demining. 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 changes in the political situation it has not been possible to bring the machines into the country. Instead, UNMAS plans to procure Dual Sensor Detectors (VMR3G "Minehound") to be used for the detection of minimum metallic mines, especially those laid on the roads and routes. UNMAS also plans to run technical workshops during 2022 aimed at improving the efficiency of land release.⁷⁷

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

A total of 0.87km² of anti-personnel mined area was released in 2021, of which 0.03km² was cleared and 0.84km² was cancelled through non-technical survey, with a total of 17 anti-personnel mines found and destroyed. (A further five anti-personnel mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks.) No area was reduced through technical survey in 2021.

SURVEY IN 2021

In 2021, a total of 838,298m² was cancelled through non-technical survey by JASMAR and NUMAD in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. No areas were reported as reduced through technical survey.⁷⁸ This is an increase from 2020 when no areas were released through survey.⁷⁹

Table 5: Non-technical survey of anti-personnel mined area in 2021⁸⁰

State	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Blue Nile	JASMAR	815,398
	SafeLane Global	0
South Kordofan	NUMAD	22,900
	Global Aid Hand	0
	JASMAR	0
Total		838,298

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request (August 2022), pp. 8–9.

⁷⁷ Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021 and 27 March 2022; and Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May and 5 August 2021.

⁷⁸ Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022; and Article 7 Report (for 2021), Form F.

⁷⁹ Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021; and Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May and 5 August 2021.

⁸⁰ Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022; and Article 7 Report (for 2021), Form F.

CLEARANCE IN 2021

In 2021, a total of 30,155m² was cleared by NUMAD, JASMAR, SLG, and Global Aid Hand in Blue Nile and South Kordofan with 17 anti-personnel mines found and destroyed.⁸¹ This is a 91% decrease in clearance output from the 353,799m² cleared in 2020 although the number of anti-personnel mines found and destroyed is just less than half, indicating better targeting of clearance in 2021.⁸²

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2021⁸³

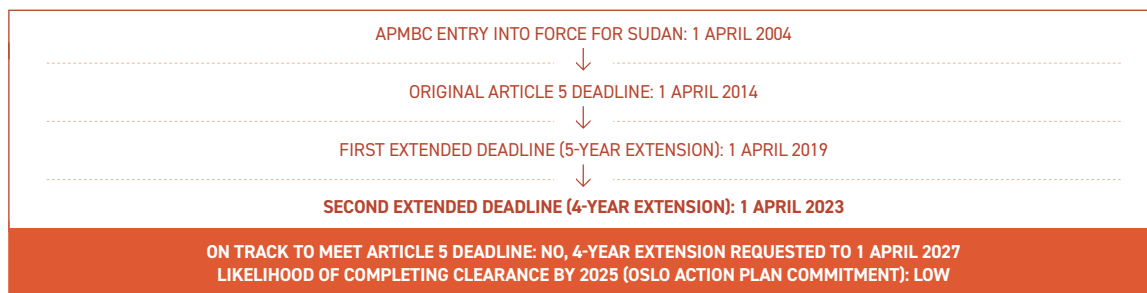
State	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Blue Nile	JASMAR	4,431	0	50	709
	SLG	0	5	4	177
South Kordofan	NUMAD	6,000	0	0	0
	Global Aid Hand	0	0	0	732
	JASMAR	19,724	12	3	272
Spot tasks			5	4	
Totals		30,155	22	61	1,890

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

A total of five anti-personnel mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks in 2021 by JASMAR and four anti-vehicle mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks by SLG.⁸⁴

There were two hazardous areas, both along roads, surveyed during the LIS in 2007 that were released in 2021 with a total size of 935,398m². Both were found to contain no anti-personnel mines.⁸⁵ There was a significant increase in the amount of mined area cancelled in 2021 from 2020, but a significant decrease in the amount of area cleared compared to 2020. The reason for this was improved application of land release methodology, so more targeted clearance and increased cancellation of areas without contamination, and also the opening up of high-priority ERW-contaminated areas in newly accessible territory within Blue Nile state.⁸⁶

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



81 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

82 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 5 August 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.

83 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022; and Article 7 Report (for 2021), Form F.

84 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

85 Ibid.

86 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

Table 7: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2021	0.03
2020	0.35
2019	0.87
2018	0.98
2017	0.71
Total	2.94

Under Article 5 of the APMBBC (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 will not meet this deadline and submitted a request in April 2022 for a further extension of its Article 5 deadline, which it revised in August 2022, for a period of four years until 1 April 2027.

This will be Sudan's third Article 5 deadline extension since becoming a State Party to the APMBBC in 2004. It continues to be hampered by poor security, with full access to most of the known impacted communities in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states not yet secured. While there have been some improvements in the past couple of years, which has allowed for access to conflict-affected communities in these areas, completion of clearance by the new deadline is reliant on achieving access to all known and suspected contaminated areas.

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.⁸⁷ 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, though as at March 2022, this was on hold due to the political and security situation.⁸⁸ 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.⁸⁹

Sudan reported that other obstacles to completion include inadequate funding and lack of sufficient demining equipment, rising inflation in Sudan, newly discovered contamination being added to the database, and climatic factors and geographical conditions, including the impact of climate change on extended rainy seasons.⁹⁰ It is likely that these challenges will continue into the next extension request period and could prevent Sudan from reaching completion by the new deadline.

Sudan's land release output increased in 2021 as although the amount of area cleared decreased from 2020, the majority of Sudan's land release output in 2021 was from cancellation through non-technical survey (no survey took place in 2020). The number of mines cleared per square metre increased from one mine per 8,424m² in 2020 to one mine per 1,774m² in 2021, indicating an improvement in land release practices even though the overall amount of area cleared decreased. UNMAS has reported that it intends to focus on improving the land release process in Sudan, which may lead to further improvement in the targeting of clearance. Historically, the number of mines found during clearance in Sudan has been extremely low.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Sudan has a plan to deal with residual risk and liability post-completion.⁹¹ As at March 2022, NMAC has continued to deal with any residual contamination in the Eastern states through deploying teams with government funding. However, it is planned that in the long term Sudan will establish a sustainable national capacity within the military or police.⁹²

87 Statement of Sudan on Article 5, APMBBC Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties, 16–20 November 2020.

88 Statement of Sudan on Cooperation and Assistance, APMBBC Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties, 16–20 November 2020; and email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

89 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>.

90 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021; and 2022 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 4–5.

91 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.

92 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021 and 31 March 2022.