

KEY DATA

NO CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

4.92km²

Light
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (m ²)	Release in 2023 (m ²)
Clearance	393,867	572,426
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
Submunitions destroyed	178 (including 16 in spot tasks)	511 (including 5 in spot tasks)

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Border Guard Forces of Tajikistan
- Humanitarian Demining Company (HDC)
- Ministry of Defence
- Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Union of Sappers Tajikistan (UST)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Tajikistan continued with relatively limited clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) during battle area clearance (BAC) and mine clearance in 2024. Clearance output fell in 2024 compared to 2023 due to high levels of metal fragmentation, which slowed the pace of BAC, and also due to NPA's focus on mined areas. As was the case in the three years previously, no cluster munition-contaminated areas were released through survey in Tajikistan during the year, but previously unrecorded areas were identified. At the time of writing, Tajikistan was still planning to complete all necessary survey for a baseline of CMR contamination by the end of 2025 and set time-bound plans for land release.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Tajikistan should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Tajikistan should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- The Tajikistan National Mine Action Center (TNMAC) should continue to seek to confirm the extent of CMR and ensure timely release of the contaminated areas.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Commission for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL)
- Tajikistan National Mine Action Center (TNMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Union of Sappers of Tajikistan (UST)
- Humanitarian Demining Company (HDC), Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Border Guard Forces of Tajikistan

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Tajikistan has a CMR problem that TNMAC states exists across 19 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering an estimated total of 4.92km² (see Table 1), an increase on the 3.74km² estimated at the end of 2023.¹ The more recent estimate is not, though, considered comprehensive. Tajikistan reports no suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) that may contain CMR.

Tajikistan's CMR contamination is largely concentrated in central areas of the country,² spread across two of Tajikistan's four regions. The largest concentrations (almost 26% and 54%, respectively) are in Rasht in the Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS) region and in the mountainous district of Darvoz in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous (GBAO) region (also referred to as the VKMB). The remainder (almost 20%) is in Vahdat in the DRS region. Tajikistan planned to finish surveying all explosive ordnance (EO) contamination by the end of 2025 in the districts of Darvoz, Rasht, and Vahdat where cluster munition-contaminated areas have continued to be identified.³ A total of 1.53km² of previously unrecorded contamination was added to the database in 2024.⁴

Contamination data are disaggregated by weapon type in the national database, with CMR disaggregated from other explosive remnants of war (ERW).⁵

Tajikistan traces its CMR contamination back to the civil war of 1992-97 but has not clarified who was responsible for using cluster munitions.⁶ Most submunitions cleared are the Soviet-era type AO 2.5RT/RTM,⁷ but ShOAB-0.5 submunitions have also been found.⁸

Tajikistan faces several challenges in determining an accurate baseline of CMR contamination. Owing to a lack of nationwide

survey, Tajikistan has no recorded SHAs and continues to discover areas of contamination for which no previous information exists.⁹ Added to this, cluster munitions were used without documentation so non-technical survey (NTS) teams must invest effort into finding informants, including former military personnel, who were involved in the civil war. Information about previously unknown areas of contamination also comes from explosive accidents, most recently involving two civilians and the explosion of a ShOAB-0.5 submunition in the Romit Gorge in Vahdat district in 2021.¹⁰

Tajikistan's terrain also presents a challenge to determining an accurate baseline of contamination. Mudslides, landslides, avalanches, and rockfalls can cause submunitions to move or become more deeply buried.¹¹ NPA believes that significant cluster munition-contaminated area is likely still unrecorded and argues for a comprehensive, nationwide survey that would better map the exact locations of contamination.¹² FSD, the Fondation suisse de déminage, agrees that it is highly likely that further contamination will be discovered.¹³

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area (at end 2024) (National Authority estimate)¹⁴

Region	District	CHAs	Area (m ²)
GBAO	Darvoz	9	2,656,245
DRS	Rasht	5	1,291,650
DRS	Vahdat (Romit)	5	975,220
Totals		19	4,923,115

1 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Director, TNMAC, 15 April and 23 July 2024; and 2 July 2025.

2 "Tajikistan's Mine Action Programme: Overview of Remaining Challenges and Needs", Presentation at Individualised Approach Meeting, Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APBMC), Geneva, 21 November 2023.

3 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024 and 2 July 2025.

4 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

5 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 16 June 2023.

6 Statement of Tajikistan, APBMC Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 1 December 2015.

7 Email from Melissa Andersson, Country Director, NPA, 29 April 2020.

8 Email from Saynurridin Kalandarov, Director, Union of Sappers Tajikistan (UST), 14 April 2023.

9 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023.

10 Email from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

11 Presentation by Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, APBMC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022; and email from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

12 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, Senior Operations Officer/Acting Country Director, NPA, 20 March 2025.

13 Email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, Country Director for Tajikistan and Programme Manager for Central Asia, FSD, 13 May 2025.

14 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 April 2025.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Tajikistan is also contaminated with anti-personnel mines. See Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* reports on Tajikistan for further information.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Commission for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL), which is chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister and comprises senior representatives from relevant line ministries, acts as Tajikistan's national mine action authority. The CIIHL is also responsible for mainstreaming mine action in the government's socio-economic development policies.¹⁵ TNMAC is the executive arm of the CIIHL and serves as the coordinating body for mine action, responsible for accreditation, risk management, the issuing of task orders, information management, quality assurance (QA), and quality control (QC).¹⁶ Tajikistan's Parliament adopted a Law on Humanitarian Mine Action in 2016.¹⁷ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) plays a significant role in the mine actor sector through the Humanitarian Demining Company (HDC), the biggest national operator.¹⁸

The Government of Tajikistan and TNMAC are enabling and highly supportive of mine action. This includes the granting of visas, concluding memoranda of understanding

with operators, facilitating imports, granting access to border-detached areas that require special permissions, and involving operators in decisions as needed.¹⁹

TNMAC regularly receives support on topics such as information management from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).²⁰ The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) also continued to provide support to the national programme in 2024, including training of Ministry of Defence explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel through the OSCE-funded Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre (REHTC).²¹ Military medical specialists from Tajikistan also received medical training in support of EOD in Kazakhstan, co-organised by the OSCE.²²

Monthly technical coordination meetings between TNMAC and operators continued in 2024. Topics discussed included the need to further assess the size of CHAs containing CMR.²³

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

As Tajikistan has not yet adhered to the CCM, no separate funding is allocated specifically for survey and clearance of cluster munition-contaminated areas.²⁴ National funding for humanitarian demining has remained modest, but consistent. In 2024, the Government allocated US\$66,020 to support humanitarian mine action, as well as US\$500,000 designated for "technical and non-technical assistance" and to facilitate the implementation of Tajikistan's obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APBMC). CMR survey and clearance tasks are allocated during the course of mine tasking.²⁵ HDC is funded by the United States (US)²⁶ and the OSCE.²⁷ Following the US review of funding to mine action globally in early 2025, continued US funding of TNMAC and of OSCE's implementation of the REHTC was approved.²⁸

A summary of information provided by international humanitarian operators on their funding for survey and clearance in 2024 and forecast for 2025 is provided in Table 2. Both FSD and NPA were significantly impacted by the suspension of funding by the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) in January 2025. NPA's funding was withdrawn in February 2025, forcing it to reduce capacity and begin operations later in the year than planned.²⁹ As at May 2025, FSD's US funding remained suspended, hindering clearance at the Afghan border.³⁰

15 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20.

16 Ibid., pp. 20–21; and "Tajikistan Mine Action Programme General Land Release Operational Plan for October 2023 to December 2025", p. 9.

17 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 20–21.

18 Ibid., p. 23.

19 Emails from Faiz Mohammad Paktian, Country Director, NPA, 6 May 2024; Saodat Asadova, National Programme Officer, OSCE, 24 March 2025; and Nickwah Din Mohammed, Country Director, FSD, 24 March 2023.

20 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

21 Email from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 24 March 2025; and OSCE, "The first-ever Tajik-led explosive ordnance disposal course kicks off at OSCE-supported Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre", 16 September 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4hnV9Uj>.

22 OSCE, "OSCE-led regional medical training course for specialists from Central Asia concludes in Kazakhstan", 28 August 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/4g5BtDS>.

23 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; and Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025.

24 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024.

25 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023, 15 April 2024, and 2 July 2025.

26 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 23.

27 Email from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 10 June 2024.

28 Interview with Saodat Asadova, OSCE, Geneva, 9 April 2025.

29 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 26 June 2025.

30 Email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025.

Table 2: Funding for survey and clearance by international operators in Tajikistan (2024–25)³¹

Donor	2024	2025
Norway (Norad ³² /Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA))	NPA	NPA
PATRIIP Foundation	FSD	FSD
Private donors (unspecified)	FSD	FSD
UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO)	FSD	FSD
US PM/WRA	NPA, FSD	Funding withdrawn from NPA and FSD in January 2025.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Gender and diversity considerations were integrated into Tajikistan's national mine action strategy for 2021 to 2030, with annual plans also addressing these issues.³³ Tajikistan states that gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of their mine action programme,³⁴ which is underpinned by national legislation on gender equality, the national development strategy to 2030, and other programme and strategy documents.³⁵ TNMAC states that as information is being collected to establish an accurate baseline of contamination, which was due to be completed by the end of 2025, various segments of the at-risk population are being consulted in the course of survey and risk education.³⁶

Table 3: Gender composition of operators in 2024³⁷

Operator	Total staff	Total women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Total women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Total women operational staff
TNMAC	25	7 (28%)	8	3 (38%)	4	0 (0%)
NPA	64	14 (22%)	6	2 (33%)	50	10 (20%)
FSD	59	18 (31%)	16	8 (50%)	49	15 (31%)
UST	54	0 (0%)	5	0 (0%)	54	0 (0%)
MoD HDC	117	0 (0%)	15	0 (0%)	84	0 (0%)
Totals	319	39 (12%)	50	13 (26%)	241	25 (10%)

The Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (TMAP) Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG) reconvened with renewed focus in the second quarter of 2024,³⁸ having previously not met since 2022.³⁹ Participants included TNMAC, the MoD, operators, and the OSCE. Key items discussed in 2024 included gender and diversity analysis and assessments and monitoring and evaluation of efforts by the GDWG

members.⁴⁰ In support of the GDWG, the OSCE held a training workshop on mainstreaming of gender and diversity issues into mine action, as well as key topics such as how to develop gender-sensitive indicators in monitoring and evaluation.⁴¹ The basic demining course in Tajikistan includes content on gender and human rights.⁴²

31 Emails from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

32 Norad is the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, under Norway's MFA. See www.norad.no.

33 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May 2022; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

34 APMBC Committee on the Implementation of Article 5, Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan, Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

35 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

36 Ibid.

37 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 7 May 2024; Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

38 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

39 Email Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, 31 March 2023.

40 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

41 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 24 March and 18 June 2025; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

42 Email from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 18 June 2025.

TNMAC asserts that men and women with relevant work experience and qualifications in demining have equal access to employment in the sector in Tajikistan.⁴³ It acknowledges, however, that in view of the predominance of men in the military, where service is compulsory for men and voluntary for women, it is challenging to achieve gender balance.⁴⁴ As in previous years, no women were employed by MoD's HDC in 2024.⁴⁵

NPA, FSD, and national operator UST all report having a gender and diversity policy.⁴⁶ FSD and NPA deploy gender-mixed teams.⁴⁷ Although UST supports equal access to employment in theory, it had not yet employed any women as at July 2025.⁴⁸ NPA saw a notable drop in the proportion of managerial or supervisory positions occupied by women, from 50% in 2023 to 33% in 2024. This was due to a 50% drop

in all management and supervisory staff, leaving only six staff, including two women, in these positions.⁴⁹ It did, however, continue collaborating with local women's associations to actively recruit and train female deminers in 2024, with all candidates for the basic demining course successfully gaining employment with NPA.⁵⁰

In 2024, FSD launched a socio-economic baseline assessment (SEBA) to map gender disparities and identify the specific needs of women and men in surveyed areas along the Kyrgyz border. This is intended to inform future interventions, such as expanding employment and vocational training, and improving gender-sensitive mine action.⁵¹ FSD also employed a gender officer to oversee SEBA, risk education, and community engagement.⁵²

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Table 4: Environmental policies and action⁵³

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
FSD	Yes	Yes	Unclear
NPA	Yes	Yes (from June 2025)	Yes
UST*	Yes	Not known	Not known
HDC MoD	No	No	No

* Updated information requested in March 2025 but not provided at the time of writing.

Tajikistan has a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management in mine action, though, as at July 2025, this had not yet been updated to be in line with the revised 2024 edition of IMAS 07.13.⁵⁴ The NMAS covers issues such as safeguarding of the environment during the establishment and removal of worksites and accommodation, waste disposal, air quality, and water supply.⁵⁵ Based on the Standard, TNMAC monitors the demining activities of all operators to assess environmental implications and environmental protection requirements.⁵⁶ Tajikistan does

not have an environmental management policy for mine action but a 2011 law on environmental protection and other regulatory documents define the legal basis for all State policy on the environment.⁵⁷

A multi-stakeholder working group on climate change and the environment and mine action has been established and conducted its first meeting in June 2024, with participation from TNMAC, operators, the OSCE, and the REHTC. Further meetings were planned for 2025, though no specific dates for these were given as at July.⁵⁸

43 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

44 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information received 3 August 2019.

45 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 June 2022; Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 16 June 2023 and 23 July 2024; Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

46 Emails from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 15 April 2024; Saynuriddin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023 and 7 May 2024; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

47 Email from Faiz Mohammad Paktian, NPA, 6 May 2024; and "Activity Report 2024", FSD, pp. 18-19, at: <https://bit.ly/4384LOE>.

48 Emails from Saynuriddin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023 and 7 May 2024; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

49 Emails from Faiz Mohammad Paktian, NPA, 6 May 2024; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 26 June 2025.

50 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

51 Email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and "Activity Report 2024", FSD, at: <https://bit.ly/4384LOE>, pp. 18-19.

52 Email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025.

53 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 2 April 2025; online interview with Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 3 April 2025; email from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 15 April 2024; and "Activity Report 2024", FSD, p. 19.

54 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

55 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 and 9 June 2022; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and NMAS Chapter 20: "Environment, Health and Safety".

56 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024.

57 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024 and 2 July 2025.

58 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 24 March 2025; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

FSD, NPA and UST all have an environmental standard operating procedure (SOP).⁵⁹ FSD has an environmental policy at its headquarters and was undergoing the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 14001 accreditation process, with a draft of the FSD Environmental Management System complete as at May 2024.⁶⁰ FSD also conducts environmental assessments to support the planning and delivery of survey and clearance tasks.⁶¹ NPA Tajikistan has an annual environmental annual action plan linked to its environmental policy⁶² and, from June 2025, was implementing NPA's global Green Field Tool, in order to conduct environmental screening of the areas where it works and analyse its environmental impact.⁶³ FSD undertakes refresher training on the environmental SOP and FSD's commitments to sound environmental practices each year with all management and operational staff, following the winter stand-down period.⁶⁴

Operators undertook various specific measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm in 2024. NPA replaced two vehicles with electric cars and improved travel planning to

reduce emissions. It also introduced use of solar panels in the field, including in some remote locations.⁶⁵ UST reports that, after leaving field camps or completing operations, UST buries waste, excluding metal and plastic materials.⁶⁶ In 2024, operators and TNMAC also continued collective tree-planting efforts, planting over 1,000 trees in total.⁶⁷ Going forward, NPA plans to extend recycling from its offices to its field bases, though it highlights that government recycling facilities in the districts outside Dushanbe are variable and limit the extent to which recycling is possible.⁶⁸ Alongside its demining, FSD is continuing a project to remediate polluted soil in areas contaminated by toxic Soviet-era pesticides (persistent organic pollutants, or POPs),⁶⁹ focusing in 2024 on phytoremediation (the use of plants to remove pollutants), including large-scale tree planting.⁷⁰

Environmental concerns and climate resilience are becoming increasingly pertinent for mine action in Tajikistan, as changes to weather patterns, including both extreme heat and early snow, and heavy rainfall, continue to negatively impact the nine-month window for demining operations.⁷¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

TNMAC uses the latest version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA Core) for its national mine action database.⁷² Data are disaggregated by weapon type and method of land release in the national database.⁷³ Data collection forms are reported to enable efficient collection of the requisite data⁷⁴ and both the database and information management by TNMAC generally are said to be functioning well, with progress and other reports from the field received daily and cross-checking of the data by TNMAC.⁷⁵

Tajikistan's General Land Release Operations Plan sets out clear guidelines for operators on the required content and timelines for all types of operational reports to be

sent to TNMAC on a daily, weekly, monthly and as-needed basis.⁷⁶ TNMAC regularly receives support on information management through online consultations with the GICHD. Staff training on IMSMA was due to take place for all relevant staff in Tajikistan in 2025, following an in-person assessment by the GICHD in 2024 on the use of IMSMA in all mine action organisations in the country.⁷⁷

NPA took steps in 2024 to strengthen its data communication with TNMAC, including regular coordination meetings to align reporting formats and timelines; the introduction of improved internal data validation procedures prior to submission; and more consistent sharing of operational updates and clearance statistics.⁷⁸

59 Emails from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 7 May 2024; Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 29 May 2024; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

60 Email from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 29 May 2024.

61 Email from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

62 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May 2022.

63 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 2 April 2025; and online interview, 3 April 2025.

64 Email from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

65 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 2 April 2025; and online interview, 3 April 2025.

66 Email from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 7 May 2024.

67 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

68 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 2 April 2025; and online interview, 3 April 2025.

69 "Tajikistan", FSD website, accessed 25 March 2024 at: <https://bit.ly/3Ozn7hh>.

70 FSD, "Activity Report 2024", p. 19.

71 Interview with Faiz Mohammad Paktian, Tajikistan, NPA, Geneva, 21 November 2023.

72 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 28 May 2020; and APMB Committee on the Implementation of Article 5, Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan, Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

73 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 16 June 2023.

74 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May 2022 and 29 March 2023.

75 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 7 May 2024.

76 Tajikistan Mine Action Programme General Land Release Operational Plan for October 2023 to December 2025, pp. 4–5.

77 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

78 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 26 June 2025.

PLANNING AND TASKING

TNMAC's activities are guided by the National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on Humanitarian Mine Action for 2021–2030.⁷⁹ As Tajikistan has not yet adhered to the CCM, however, the problem of cluster munitions is not integrated into this strategy. TNMAC does not have an annual work plan specifically for survey and clearance of cluster munition-contaminated area, but does include instructions regarding CMR when tasking demining operators with survey and clearance.⁸⁰ Tajikistan's General Land Release Operations Plan for 2023 to 2025 outlined the list of remaining confirmed battle areas, including those containing CMR.⁸¹ TNMAC states that, once planned surveys are completed by the end of 2025, a plan will be put in place for the phased clearance of CMR with specific deadlines for land release set.⁸²

Land release, including of cluster munition-contaminated areas, is prioritised by TNMAC through application of Tajikistan's SOP 1.2 (Planning and Tasking of Mine Action Operations), taking into consideration the following criteria:

- Government and local authority requests
- Donor requirements

- The area's status in relation to the district-by-district approach
- Distance of the task site from populated areas
- The need to complete any previously suspended areas
- Altitude of the task site
- The local security situation (permission from the Border Forces).⁸³

Operators report that task dossiers are issued in a timely manner by TNMAC.⁸⁴ NPA highlights that seasonal access constraints present a major ongoing challenge to planning and tasking, particularly in remote areas, which are often impacted by harsh weather. NPA has, however, made significant progress to improve logistical coordination and deploy teams as effectively as possible when conditions are optimal.⁸⁵ FSD has highlighted that the "limitations" placed upon it when "denoting" areas for clearance can present a challenge to effective planning, though it was not clear what these involved.⁸⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Tajikistan's NMAS are reviewed annually, and SOPs are reviewed in accordance with the designated accreditation period, all in consultation with clearance operators.⁸⁷ No updates were made to Tajikistan's NMAS in 2024, though a number were made to the protocol documentation for marking and safety procedures. This was done through a technical working group and in consultation with operators.⁸⁸ Operators report that Tajikistan's NMAS are appropriately adapted to the local threat and enable effective, efficient, and safe survey and clearance work.⁸⁹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

All teams deployed for CMR in Tajikistan are multi-task teams (MTTs), capable of survey and clearance (including BAC) (see Table 5).⁹⁰ NPA undertakes CMR clearance in conjunction with mine clearance.⁹¹ It continues to cooperate with Tajikistan's Border Guard Forces, with ten officers seconded into NPA's teams in 2024. This collaboration serves to build capacity, with secondees typically trained in both demining and BAC.⁹²

NPA reduced its capacity from five to four MTTs in 2024 due to an overall drop in funding, and reduced it further to three teams at the start of 2025, due to the withdrawal of US funding, which was formally terminated in February.⁹³ NPA also experienced a two-month delay in the start of 2025 demining operations, starting in June instead of April, due to this reduced funding and capacity.⁹⁴

79 Statement of Tajikistan on Political Commitment, APBMC Fifth Review Conference, Siam Reap, 25–29 November 2024, p. 2.

80 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024 and 2 July 2025.

81 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; and "Tajikistan's General Land Release Operations Plan for October 2023 to December 2025", p. 5.

82 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024 and 2 July 2025.

83 Tajikistan Mine Action Programme General Land Release Operational Plan for October 2023 to December 2025, pp. 6–7; and email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023.

84 Emails from Faiz Mohammad Paktian, NPA, 6 May 2024; Nickwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 15 April 2024; and Saynuriddin Kalandarov, UST, 7 May 2024.

85 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

86 Email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025. Clarification on what the terms "limitations" and "denoting" refer to specifically was requested from FSD but had not been provided as at the time of writing.

87 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022 and 2 July 2025; and APBMC Committee on the Implementation of Article 5, Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan, Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

88 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

89 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023; and Dr Nickwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

90 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024; Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

91 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May and 23 June 2022.

92 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 23 May 2023; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

93 Emails from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March and 26 June 2025.

94 Zoom interview with Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 3 April 2025.

FSD expanded from one to four teams in 2024⁹⁵ but had to stand down one team in early 2025 due to a suspension of US funding, which remained suspended as at May 2025.⁹⁶ MoD HDC, however, was able to maintain its US funding and increase capacity, adding a further 26 deminers in 2024. TNMAC expected no further change to the number of HDC MoD demining personnel in 2025.⁹⁷ UST was still in the process of obtaining a licence for the use of explosive materials and devices from the relevant authorities as at

May 2025,⁹⁸ an issue that has been ongoing for several years.⁹⁹ As such, all submunitions discovered by UST are destroyed by other operators.¹⁰⁰ UST teams report directly to TNMAC, which funds UST's survey and clearance operations.¹⁰¹

HDC MoD has a Mini-MineWolf, which is also available for use also by NPA. However, this was not deployed for CMR clearance in 2024 or in recent years.¹⁰²

Table 5: Operational clearance capacities deployed in Tajikistan 2024¹⁰³

Operator	MTTs	Total deminers	Mechanical assets/machines	Comments
FSD	3	23	0	EOD quick response team in place within MTTs.
UST	2	18	0	
NPA	4	36	0	
HDC MoD	8	89	0	A Mini-MineWolf machine is available but is not used for CMR survey or clearance
Totals	17	166	0	

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

A total of 393,867m² of cluster munition-contaminated area was released in Tajikistan in 2024, all through full clearance. A total of 178 submunitions were destroyed in 2024, of which 16 were destroyed during EOD spot tasks.¹⁰⁴ A total of 1.53km² of previously unrecorded contamination was added to the database in 2024.¹⁰⁵

Table 6: Land release outputs in 2024 (national authority data)¹⁰⁶

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (m ²)
Clearance	393,867
Technical Survey	0
Non-Technical Survey	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024
Submunitions destroyed	178 (including 16 in spot tasks)

95 "Activity Report 2024", FSD, p. 18.

96 Email from Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025.

97 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

98 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

99 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023 and 7 May 2024.

100 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

101 Email from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 16 May 2023 and 7 May 2024.

102 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023 and 2 July 2025; Melissa Andersson, NPA, 23 May 2023; Faiz Mohammad Paktian, NPA, 29 May 2024; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

103 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

104 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025. TNMAC notes that, of the 178 submunitions destroyed, 67 identified during clearance by UST were "destroyed in EOD spot tasks by NPA". However, as they were identified during clearance they have not been included in those referred to as destroyed in spot tasks in Table 6.

105 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

106 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

SURVEY IN 2024

No CMR-contaminated areas were released through survey in 2024¹⁰⁷ as was similarly the case in Tajikistan in the three years previously.¹⁰⁸ As noted, 1.53km² of previously unrecorded contamination was added to the database in 2024¹⁰⁹ (see Table 7) – a decrease on the 2.21km² added in 2023.¹¹⁰

Table 7: Previously unrecorded CMR contamination added to the database in 2024¹¹¹

Operator	Region/District	CHAs recorded	Area recorded (m ²)
N/R	GBAO/Darvoz	4	1,300,000
N/R	DRS/Vahdat	1	230,000
Totals		5	1,530,000

CLEARANCE IN 2024

A total of 393,867m² of cluster munition-contaminated area was cleared in 2024, of which 195,490m² was cleared by HDC MoD, 116,001m² by UST, and 82,376m² by NPA¹¹² (see Table 7). Of this 393,867m² cleared in 2024, 10,007m² was surface clearance only, which was undertaken by NPA.¹¹³ A total of 162 submunitions were destroyed during clearance in 2024.¹¹⁴ A further 16 submunitions were destroyed by HDC MoD and NPA in spot tasks¹¹⁵ (see Table 9) bringing the total of all submunitions destroyed in Tajikistan in 2024 to 178.

Clearance in 2024 represents a 30% drop compared to the previous year, a reduction that TNMAC ascribes to high levels of metal fragmentation in the soil, which slowed BAC.¹¹⁶ NPA also saw a significant decrease compared to the 279,608m² it cleared in 2023,¹¹⁷ as it focused on addressing mine clearance in 2024.¹¹⁸

Table 8: CMR clearance by international operators in 2024¹¹⁹

Operator	Region/ District	Areas released	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Other items of UXO destroyed
HDC MoD	DRS/Rasht	1	195,490	55	0
Sub-totals		1	195,490	55	0
NPA	GBAO/Darvoz	0	*48,218	4	**1
NPA	DRS/Vahdat	0	*34,158	36	0
Sub-totals		0	*82,376	40	1
UST	DRS/Vahdat	1	116,001	***67	***20
Sub-totals		1	116,001	***67	***20
Totals		2	393,867	162	21

* BAC tasks, both suspended as at end of 2024. **This item was an improvised explosive device (IED).

*** Identified by UST during clearance but destroyed by NPA during EOD spot tasks.

Table 9: Submunitions destroyed in spot tasks in 2024¹²⁰

Operator	Region/District	Submunitions destroyed
HDC MoD	DRS/Rasht	4
NPA	GBAO/Darvoz	12
Total		16

107 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

108 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023 and 15 April 2024.

109 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

110 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024; and Faiz Mohammad Paktian, NPA, 6 May 2024.

111 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

112 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

113 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

114 Emails from; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

115 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

116 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

117 Email from Faiz Mohammad Paktian, NPA, 6 May 2024.

118 Email from Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

119 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025; Yoshiyuki Shiomi, FSD, 13 May 2025; and Azim Ibrohimov, NPA, 20 March 2025.

120 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

TNMAC states that, with contaminated areas still being found, Tajikistan does not have a target date for the completion of CMR clearance. To date, TNMAC has tasked operators with CMR clearance where possible as part of Tajikistan’s annual General Land Release Plan, which includes details of known battle areas contaminated with CMR. However, Tajikistan plans to complete all necessary survey by the end of 2025, and then set time bound plans for phased clearance of CMR-affected areas.¹²¹ Previously unknown areas of contamination have continued to be added to the national database in recent years: 2km² in 2020, 2.85km² in 2021,¹²² 2.67km² in 2022,¹²³ 0.22km² in 2023,¹²⁴ and 1.53km² in 2024.¹²⁵

Tajikistan has a well-functioning mine action programme with strong national ownership and effective collaboration between stakeholders.¹²⁶ But the authorities detail ongoing challenges for mine action that include difficult terrain, harsh weather, and natural disasters, such as rockfalls, avalanches, and landslides.¹²⁷ The rate of progress towards completion

will be heavily determined, not only by the outcomes of survey completed by the end of 2025, but how Tajikistan directs its finite resources towards both clearance of CMR and also resourcing its commitment to clear landmines as a State Party to the APMBC.

Table 10: Five-year summary of CMR clearance (national authority data)

Year	Area released (km ²)
2024	0.39
2023	0.57
2022	0.61
2021	1.87
2020	0.08
Total	3.52

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Tajikistan produced a technical manual on the management of residual contamination in 2023,¹²⁸ though, as at June 2025, these guidelines had not been formalised. TNMAC is developing the operational capacity of UST and plans that UST will deal with residual risk of unexploded submunitions upon completion of area clearance.¹²⁹

121 Ibid.
122 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.
123 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023.
124 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024.
125 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 2 July 2025.
126 "To Walk the Earth in Safety, 23rd Edition, Fiscal Year 2023, Documenting the U.S. Commitment to Conventional Weapons Destruction", US Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, at: <https://bit.ly/3wVINKT>, p. 52.
127 Presentation by Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.
128 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 15 April 2024.
129 Ibid.