

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025**  
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

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

NATIONAL AUTHORITY ESTIMATE

**11.45 km<sup>2</sup>**

AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2022

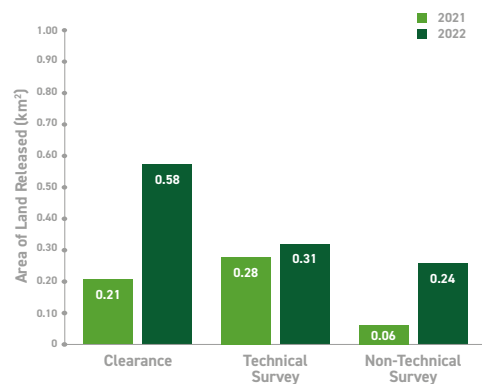
**0.58 km<sup>2</sup>**

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2022

**1,221**

(INCLUDING 24 DESTROYED  
IN SPOT TASKS)

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



**CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET** (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **NONE**

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Tajikistan released just over 1.13km<sup>2</sup> through survey and clearance in 2022,<sup>1</sup> a notable increase on the 0.55km<sup>2</sup> released in 2021.<sup>2</sup> This increase was predominantly due to refocusing efforts on clearing anti-personnel (AP) mined areas.<sup>3</sup> Having been moved away from heavily mined areas in Khatlon region due to insecurity along the border with Afghanistan and redeployed elsewhere to focus on battle area clearance (BAC) from August to November 2021,<sup>4</sup> demining teams were able to return to Khatlon in the spring of 2022 to conduct mine clearance.<sup>5</sup> In June 2023, Tajikistan stated that, given the lack of additional resources secured and the continuing discovery of previously unrecorded minefields each year, it expects to submit a further extension request beyond its 2025 deadline.<sup>6</sup>

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Tajikistan should explore all possible ways to increase national capacity to the levels needed to fulfil its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 commitments, including training and deploying further Border Guard forces on the Afghan border as deminers.
- The Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) should expedite planning and prioritisation of accelerated survey to reach a clear national baseline estimate of contamination, as outlined in the information supporting Tajikistan's last Article 5 deadline extension request.

1 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Director, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC), 11 April 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

2 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

3 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

4 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; Melissa Anderson, Country Director, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 1 July 2022; and Saodat Asadova, National Programme Officer, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 3 June 2022.

5 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 June 2022; and Melissa Anderson, NPA, 1 July 2022.

6 Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

- Tajikistan should work with key stakeholders to address a projected shortfall in funding in order to try to meet its 2025 Article 5 deadline.
- TNMAC should continue to develop plans for establishing sustainable demining capacity to tackle residual contamination identified after completion.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion  | Score (2022) | Score (2021) | Performance Commentary   |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| <b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b><br>(20% of overall score)                | 5            | 5            | Tajikistan lacks a clear baseline estimate of contamination, with 78 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) yet to be surveyed, in addition to some re-survey planned to define the extent of other mined areas more accurately. Lack of access has also prevented an accurate determination of contamination on the disputed Tajik-Uzbek border. Tajikistan planned to complete all survey and resurvey required by the end of 2023.  |
| <b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b><br>(10% of overall score)   | 7            | 7            | Tajikistan has strong national ownership of mine action, which is led by TNMAC and implemented primarily by Ministry of Defence (MoD) clearance teams. It has political will and provides an enabling environment for Article 5 implementation but is heavily reliant on increased funding from international donors. Tajikistan has said it faces significant shortfalls in the funding required to meet its extension request targets.   |
| <b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b><br>(10% of overall score)                          | 7            | 7            | Tajikistan's mine action programme has a gender strategy drawn up with support from the Geneva Mine Action Programme (GMAP, now a programme of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)), but few women are employed in mine action. TNMAC says the government is committed to increasing involvement of women in mine action but there is little evidence that the number of female staff is rising. Mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age, and women and children are said to be consulted during community liaison.  |
| <b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b><br>(10% of overall score)          | 6            | 6            | TNMAC upgraded its information management by installing the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core database in 2019 and has continued efforts to streamline and improve the accuracy of data by modifying reporting forms. In 2020, TNMAC recruited an information management specialist to maintain and develop the database, filling a gap left by the closure of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support programme in 2019. Tajikistan receives ongoing support with information management from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Tajikistan submits Article 7 reports of good quality (though not always on time), providing its report covering 2022 only in August 2023. |
| <b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b><br>(10% of overall score)                          | 6            | 6            | Tajikistan's Article 5 deadline extension request sets out a framework for mine action, including annual targets, but these far exceed past results and require a doubling of capacity. This is dependent on availability of increased donor funding, which, so far, has not been forthcoming. TNMAC is advancing plans for clearance of residual contamination found after completion, and recruited an adviser for residual risk management, who took up post in March 2022.   |
| <b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b><br>(20% of overall score)                           | 6            | 6            | Tajikistan has national mine action standards that were revised in 2017 and are compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and regularly updated. The National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) are available in Russian and English. TNMAC reports it has also issued guidelines on land release, including a manual on testing and evaluating mechanical assets. In 2022 Tajikistan did not make any updates to the NMAS but did update several procedural documents intended to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness.  |
| <b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b><br>(20% of overall score) | 7            | 7            | Land released in 2022 increased notably compared to 2021, mainly due to improved security along the Tajik-Afghan border. Tajikistan increased overall demining capacity slightly in 2022, as it had done in 2021. However, to meet its 2025 deadline, Tajikistan estimates it will need to increase capacity by a further two survey teams and an additional six manual demining teams and has expressed concern at not yet having secured the additional funding needed to do so. Tajikistan stated in June 2023 that it expects to submit a further extension request.   |
| <b>Average Score</b>   | <b>6.2</b>   | <b>6.2</b>   | <b>Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE</b>  |

## DEMINEING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

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

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

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

- Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES)
- National Guard

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- FSD

### OTHER ACTORS

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

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Tajikistan had an estimated 11.45km<sup>2</sup> of AP mined area at the end of 2022 according to national authority figures. This consisted of 130 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) measuring 6.95km<sup>2</sup> and 78 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) measuring 4.51km<sup>2</sup> (see Table 1).<sup>7</sup> Tajikistan reported releasing 1.13km<sup>2</sup> of mined area in 2022 but also added almost 0.62km<sup>2</sup> of contamination to the database.<sup>8</sup> As a result, the total is only slightly lower than that of a year earlier, when Tajikistan recorded contamination of almost 11.82km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>9</sup> Contamination data is disaggregated by weapon type in the national database.<sup>10</sup>

Contamination affects all of Tajikistan's four administrative regions, also referred to as provinces. Most contaminated areas are located in the highly mountainous regions of Khatlon and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous region (also known as VKMB or GBAO).<sup>11</sup> A significant amount of SHA remains in Sughd province, which borders Uzbekistan.

Tajikistan still lacks a clear baseline estimate of its mined areas. In addition, almost 70% of Tajikistan's SHAs (78 SHAs totalling 5.51km<sup>2</sup>) are on the border with Uzbekistan, parts of which have still to be demarcated and have still to be surveyed for contamination.<sup>12</sup> Tajikistan believes these areas to be contaminated with PMN blast mines, POMZ-2M fragmentation mines, and OZM-72 and bounding mines.<sup>13</sup> In March 2023, Tajikistan restated that, in accordance with its extension request, all required survey and re-survey of hazardous areas, should be completed by the end of 2023.<sup>14</sup>

**Table 1: AP mined area by district (at end 2022)<sup>15</sup>**

| Province                           | District                     | CHA       |                        | SHA      |                        | Total area (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                    |                              | No.       | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | No.      | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) |                              |
| Region of Republican Subordination | Rasht                        | 1         | 161,963                | 0        | 0                      | 161,963                      |
|                                    | Sangvor                      | 2         | 150,000                | 0        | 0                      | 150,000                      |
| <b>Subtotals</b>                   | <b>2</b>                     | <b>3</b>  | <b>311,963</b>         | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>               | <b>311,963</b>               |
| VMKB (GBAO)                        | Darvoz (central)             | 8         | 633,919                | 2        | 700,000                | 1,333,919                    |
|                                    | Darvoz (Tajik-Afghan border) | 4         | 418,800                | 0        | 0                      | 418,800                      |
|                                    | Vanj                         | 6         | 908,119                | 0        | 0                      | 908,119                      |
|                                    | Shughnon                     | 3         | 56,000                 | 0        | 0                      | 56,000                       |
|                                    | Ishkoshim                    | 1         | 250,000                | 0        | 0                      | 250,000                      |
| <b>Subtotals</b>                   | <b>5</b>                     | <b>22</b> | <b>2,266,838</b>       | <b>2</b> | <b>700,000</b>         | <b>2,966,838</b>             |

<sup>7</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.; and email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D. There is a slight discrepancy in national authority data, in that the sum total of contamination stated by Tajikistan as at the end of 2021 (approx. 11.82km<sup>2</sup>), minus the land release reported in 2022 (approx. 1.13km<sup>2</sup>), plus the areas of new contamination recorded in 2022 (approx. 0.62km<sup>2</sup>) is 11.31km<sup>2</sup>; slightly lower than the 11.45km<sup>2</sup> stated by Tajikistan as total contamination as at the end of 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 16 June 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

<sup>12</sup> Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 22 April and 12 August 2021; Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

<sup>13</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

<sup>14</sup> Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

Table 1 Continued

| Province         | District         | CHA        |                        | SHA       |                        | Total area (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|------------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|
|                  |                  | No.        | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | No.       | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) |                              |
| Khatlon          | Farkhor          | 6          | 96,800                 | 1         | 8,000                  | 104,800                      |
|                  | Hamadoni         | 3          | 80,772                 | 6         | 177,000                | 257,772                      |
|                  | Panj             | 20         | 1,220,850              | 3         | 23,000                 | 1,243,850                    |
|                  | Jayhun           | 8          | 135,636                | 11        | 307,000                | 442,636                      |
|                  | Sh. Shohin       | 66         | 2,798,615              | 1         | 40,000                 | 2,838,615                    |
|                  | Qabodiyon        | 1          | 5184                   | 0         | 0                      | 5184                         |
|                  | Shahritus        | 1          | 30,000                 | 0         | 0                      | 30,000                       |
| <b>Subtotals</b> | <b>7</b>         | <b>105</b> | <b>4,367,857</b>       | <b>22</b> | <b>555,000</b>         | <b>4,922,857</b>             |
| Sughd            | Asht             | 0          | 0                      | 11        | 610,000                | 610,000                      |
|                  | Ayni             | 0          | 0                      | 5         | 535,000                | 535,000                      |
|                  | Isfara           | 0          | 0                      | 20        | 1,105,000              | 1,105,000                    |
|                  | Kanibadam        | 0          | 0                      | 3         | 165,000                | 165,000                      |
|                  | Panjakent        | 0          | 0                      | 13        | 715,000                | 715,000                      |
|                  | Shakhristan      | 0          | 0                      | 2         | 120,000                | 120,000                      |
|                  | <b>Subtotals</b> | <b>6</b>   | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>  | <b>54</b>              | <b>3,250,000</b>             |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>20</b>        | <b>130</b> | <b>6,946,658</b>       | <b>78</b> | <b>4,505,000</b>       | <b>11,451,658</b>            |

In 2022, a total of 617,971m<sup>2</sup> of previously unrecorded AP mined area was added to Tajikistan's information management database.<sup>16</sup> This is a similar amount to the 693,542m<sup>2</sup> of previously unrecorded contamination added in 2021.<sup>17</sup>

Mine contamination in Tajikistan dates from conflicts in the 1990s. Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan was mined by Russian forces in 1992–98; the border with Uzbekistan was mined by Uzbek forces in 1999–2001; and the Central Region was contaminated during the 1992–97 civil war.<sup>18</sup>

Tajikistan has faced significant challenges in establishing a clear baseline of AP mine contamination. A national survey in 2003–05 by FSD estimated that mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination extended over 50km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>19</sup> Tajikistan later concluded the results were unreliable as a result of lack of experience among the initial survey teams as well as the absence of minefield records and poor equipment. As a result, the size of SHAs were miscalculated and their descriptions not clearly recorded.<sup>20</sup> Tajikistan said its minefield maps/records were mostly of good quality but did not accurately capture the location of some mined areas, for example in

locations where mines were scattered from helicopters, and as a result needed to be verified and validated through new survey and data analysis.<sup>21</sup>

As Tajikistan's national non-governmental organisation (NGO) demining operator, the Union of Sappers Tajikistan (UST), recalls, some AP mines were used without being recorded, particularly during the civil war. As such, non-technical survey (NTS) teams are trying to find former military personnel and other informants who were involved in the civil war and can help survey teams build a picture of likely contamination.<sup>22</sup> Tajikistan's terrain can also present a challenge to determining an accurate baseline of contamination in a given area. Mudslides, landslides, avalanches, and rockfalls can cause mines to move or become more deeply buried.<sup>23</sup>

In Khatlon region, which borders Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, mines were laid in and around military positions on hilltops overlooking the Panj river valley, mostly delivered remotely by helicopter or laid by troops who were moved in and out by helicopter. There are no established roads or tracks to access the minefields for survey or clearance.<sup>24</sup>

16 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

17 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

18 Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TMAC), "Scope of the Problem", accessed 29 July 2019 at: <http://bit.ly/2ZnIFpN>.

19 R. Roberts, "Evaluation of United Nations Development Programme Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme", January 2012, at: <http://bit.ly/20qRe0B>, p. 11.

20 2009 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 1.

21 Ibid, p. 34.

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

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

24 Interview with Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda and Murtazo Gurevov, TNMAC, Dushanbe, 25 May 2018; and Statement of Tajikistan, APMBC Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties (16MSP), Vienna, 20 December 2017.

Information about mined areas on the Tajik-Uzbek border is limited and based on the later NTS conducted in 2011–15 by FSD and a needs assessment survey by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2013–15. However, the FSD survey only covered one part of the border, Sughd province, and although survey teams recorded 82 accidents they did not have access to the border and relied mainly on incident forms. As a result, records lack detail on the exact location where mine incidents occurred.<sup>25</sup>

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan settled most of their 1,283km-long border dispute following the collapse of the Soviet Union but certain areas have not yet been delineated and the exact location of mined areas is still not known. Most mined areas are thought to be in disputed sections of the Tajik-Uzbek border which have not been accessible and assessed.<sup>26</sup> Although most of the mines are believed to be on Uzbek territory,<sup>27</sup> there is a possibility that some mines may have been displaced downhill into Tajikistan due to landslides or flooding.<sup>28</sup> The 3.25km<sup>2</sup> of SHA on the border with Uzbekistan is a rough estimate and the actual extent of any AP mined area on Tajik territory along this border will only be more accurately established once both countries permit survey and have delimited the border. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan agreed in 2018 to set up a joint commission to investigate mined areas along the border.<sup>29</sup> As at July 2023, Tajikistan had yet to report on any follow-up action regarding this proposed joint commission.

There are also mined areas on two islands in the Panj river on the Tajik-Afghan border, one of which is 538,500m<sup>2</sup> in size and the other 30,000m<sup>2</sup>, which remained “non-executable” during 2022.<sup>30</sup> The islands were created by a change in the flow of the river, and it is possible that the river may again change its path and re-connect the islands with the Tajik riverbank in the future.<sup>31</sup>

Tajikistan acknowledges the urgency and importance of establishing a clear baseline of AP mined area as soon as possible. In 2019, TNMAC announced that a survey working group would be established with expert representatives from all key stakeholders and implementing partners to help plan and prioritise survey tasks.<sup>32</sup> In June 2022, however, TNMAC reported that matters had progressed and there was no longer a need for the group. According to TNMAC, survey teams have competent specialists carrying out internal control and quality assurance (QA) and specialists from TNMAC’s Operations Department are supporting them with QA of all results and reports from operations. Any discrepancies are discussed at technical meetings and measures are taken to reduce any inconsistency.<sup>33</sup> Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) concurs that “informal coordination between all stakeholders is working well, since the group and number of actors is limited”. NPA welcomes the monthly coordination meetings, hosted by TNMAC and attended by all stakeholders and implementing partners.<sup>34</sup> These meetings continued throughout 2022.<sup>35</sup>

TNMAC has reported that Tajikistan has a Land Release Operations Plan and expects that, in accordance with Tajikistan’s extension request, all required survey and re-survey of hazardous areas will be completed by the end of 2023.<sup>36</sup> The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (TMAP) planned to conduct survey on the remaining 24 SHAs with a total estimated area of 1.26km<sup>2</sup> and conduct a resurvey of 26 CHAs with an area of 1.59km<sup>2</sup>. These surveys will include the SHAs without minefield records that have been identified in Darvoz (VMKB/GBAO province), and Shamsiddin Shohin (Khatlon province). By the end of 2023, Tajikistan plans to complete registration of all possible SHA and CHAs.<sup>37</sup>

## OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Tajikistan is also believed to have cluster munition remnants (CMR) remaining on its territory (see Mine Action Review’s *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2023* report on Tajikistan for further information).

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Commission for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL), chaired by the first deputy of the Prime Minister, and containing key representatives from relevant line ministries and TNMAC, oversees the humanitarian sector and acts as Tajikistan’s national mine action authority, responsible for mainstreaming mine action in the government’s socio-economic development policies.<sup>38</sup>

25 Interview with Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda and Murtazo Gurezov, TNMAC, Dushanbe, 25 May 2018; Statement of Tajikistan, 16MSP, Vienna, 20 December 2017; and 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 33.

26 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 27 April 2018.

27 Statement of Tajikistan, 16MSP, Vienna, 20 December 2017.

28 “National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on Humanitarian Mine Action for 2017–2020”, 25 February 2017.

29 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

30 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

31 Interview with Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda and Murtazo Gurezov, TNMAC, Dushanbe, 25 May 2018.

32 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information received 3 August 2019.

33 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

34 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 1 July 2022.

35 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

36 Ibid.

37 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022 and 11 April 2023.

38 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20; and 2009 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 1.

TNMAC is the executive arm of CIIHL and the body coordinating mine action, responsible for issuing task orders, information management and QA/quality control (QC).<sup>39</sup> It was set up by government decree in January 2014, replacing the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre and taking over the process of managing transition to a fully nationally-owned programme.<sup>40</sup> In 2016, Tajikistan's Parliament adopted a Law on Humanitarian Mine Action.<sup>41</sup>

TNMAC has elaborated a mine action strategy for 2021 to 2030 and an action plan for its implementation, both of which have been approved by the government.<sup>42</sup> Tajikistan has an updated work plan for 2021–25<sup>43</sup> and, in 2022, made some updates to its General Land Release Operational Plan for 2023–2025. An annual work plan was in place for 2022 and prepared for 2023.<sup>44</sup>

The Government of Tajikistan and TNMAC are reported as enabling of mine action activities in the country. This includes the granting of visas, concluding memoranda of understanding with operators, facilitating imports, and involving operators in decisions as and when needed.<sup>45</sup> However, visa extensions and permits to travel to mine-affected locations in the border areas can sometimes be delayed.<sup>46</sup>

In 2022, the Tajik government provided modest funding for mine action, including US\$480,000 in "technical and non-technical assistance" (the same level of funding it provided in 2021) to facilitate the implementation of the Tajikistan's obligations under the APMBC. A further US\$56,400 (a slight increase compared to 2021), was allocated to support operational mine action.<sup>47</sup> The Ministry of Defence (MoD) plays a major role in Tajikistan's mine action sector, in particular by providing personnel for Tajikistan's main demining capacity,<sup>48</sup> the Humanitarian Demining Company (HDC), whose operations are funded by the United States.<sup>49</sup> TNMAC did not clarify if Tajikistan has a resource mobilisation strategy in place for Article 5 implementation.

Tajikistan conducts regular in-country dialogue among all mine action stakeholders. To date, however, it has not

established an in-country national platform for dialogue (as per Action Point 44 of the Oslo Action Plan), in order to discuss challenges and support for Article 5 implementation collectively. TNMAC confirms that Tajikistan will consider establishing such a platform in future, but no time frame for this has been given.<sup>50</sup>

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a multi-stakeholder mine action forum for Tajikistan met on a regular basis. These meetings ceased with the onset of the pandemic although NPA has suggested that they be revived.<sup>51</sup> Monthly technical co-ordination meetings were held in 2022 involving participants from TNMAC, the demining operators, senior staff from the central offices of the MoD engineering units, Border Troops, the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, and the National Guard.<sup>52</sup> Operators report that they continue to be involved in decision-making by the national authorities.<sup>53</sup>

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Programme Office in Dushanbe (OSCE POiD), has previously supported the MoD to update its multi-year plan, entitled "Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Tajikistan Co-operation Plan for Humanitarian Demining 2018–2023".<sup>54</sup> In 2022, the OSCE continued to support mine action, providing €278,000 to TNMAC (a similar level of funding to 2021), as well as two vehicles (a pick-up truck and an ambulance), for use by MoD demining teams.<sup>55</sup> The OSCE has also supported the recruitment and appointment of an adviser for residual risk management, who took up post in March 2022, and is tasked with identifying improvements to the risk management of explosive hazards and to develop residual risk management guidelines to complement the NMAS.<sup>56</sup>

Tajikistan received capacity development support from various organisation in 2022. TNMAC receives support for information management from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) through regular online consultations.<sup>57</sup> NPA does not have a formal capacity development agreement with TNMAC but assists informally with capacity development activities as and when

39 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 20–21.

40 2009 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 1; and TMAC, "About TMAC", 2012, accessed 10 March 2014 at: <http://bit.ly/2LvPub1>.

41 Email from Aubrey Sutherland-Pillai, NPA, 18 October 2016; and 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 20–21.

42 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 22 April 2021 and 7 July 2022 and Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

43 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

44 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023 and Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form A.

45 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May 2022 and 29 April 2023; Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 30 March 2023; Nickwah Din Mohammed, Country Director, FSD, 24 March 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

46 Email from Nickwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 21 April 2023.

47 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022 and 31 March 2023.

48 MoD, "Strategic Plan on Humanitarian Demining 2013–2016", Dushanbe, 17 July 2013; and response to Landmine Monitor questionnaire by Luka Buhin, Mine Action Office, OSCE Office in Tajikistan, 8 April 2014.

49 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 23.

50 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

51 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May 2022 and 29 April 2023.

52 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023; and Nickwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

53 Emails from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023; Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April 2023; and Nickwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

54 Emails from Luka Buhin, OSCE Tajikistan, 9 October 2017; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 7 July 2022.

55 Email from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 30 March 2023.

56 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 June 2022; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

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

requested.<sup>58</sup> To date, in 2023, NPA has provided quality management as well as International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)-compliant medical training for staff from NPA and other demining organisations in Tajikistan.<sup>59</sup>

Tajikistan provided international support to mine action in 2022, which included assistance to the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan regarding an explosion at an ammunition storage area.<sup>60</sup> The Commonwealth of Independent States

(CIS) has reported that, on 24 June 2022, following a meeting of the Council of Defence Ministers of the CIS countries, Russia's Minister of Defence, Sergei Shoigu, said that a joint unit of humanitarian demining will be created in the CIS. No timeline for this was given.<sup>61</sup> Tajikistan have not shared any information on this with Mine Action Review and it is not known if Tajikistan have been involved in these discussions.

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

TNMAC states that environmental issues are taken into consideration during survey and clearance to ensure that operations are conducted without negative environmental impact and that hazardous areas released and handed over to communities in a state suitable for intended use.<sup>62</sup>

Clearance activities are undertaken according to Tajikistan's national mine action standards (NMAS), which contain a chapter on the environment, health, and safety. This chapter covers issues such as safeguarding of the environment during the establishment and removal of worksites and accommodation, waste disposal, air quality, water supply, as well as the recording and reporting of environmental "incidents".<sup>63</sup> As part of compliance with this chapter, demining organisations have developed a pro forma book for recording environmental incidents in minefields and battle areas. There were no updates to the environmental chapter of the NMAS in 2022.<sup>64</sup>

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.<sup>65</sup>

FSD has an environmental policy and SOP at headquarter level and was due to begin the ISO 14001 accreditation process in 2023. Refresher training on the standard operating procedure (SOP) and FSD's organisational level commitments to sound environmental practices takes place each year with all management and operational staff, following the winter stand-down period.<sup>66</sup>

NPA has its own environmental management system in place, which includes a policy adapted to the local context from NPA's Head Office guidelines. NPA also has an environmental SOP and an annual action plan linked to the environmental policy. NPA seeks to limit the environmental impacts of all survey and clearance activities. This includes waste management as well as the proper storage and disposal of fuel and lubricants.<sup>67</sup>

UST has an SOP on environmental protection based on Tajikistan's NMAS, which has been approved by TNMAC.<sup>68</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

TNMAC adopted a gender programme in 2018 that was prepared by the Geneva Mine Action Programme (GMAP, now a programme of the GICHD), and is committed to improving the situation of women in the mine action sector.<sup>69</sup> With the

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

59 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023.

60 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form J.

61 "Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that a joint unit of humanitarian demining will be created in the CIS", *Commonwealth of Independent States*, 27 June 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3b1ulgn>.

62 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

63 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 and 9 June 2022; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), Chapter 20: "Environment, Health and Safety".

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

65 Ibid.

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

67 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May 2022 and 29 April 2023.

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

69 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 14 June 2019.



assistance of the GICHD, gender and diversity issues were integrated into Tajikistan's national mine action strategy, updated to cover the period 2021 to 2030, with annual plans also addressing the issues.<sup>70</sup>

Tajikistan reports that gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of its mine action programme based upon international and national guidelines and resolutions, covering management, risk education, victim assistance, and land release.<sup>71</sup>

TNMAC asserts that both men and women with relevant work experience and qualifications in demining have equal access to employment in the sector in Tajikistan.<sup>72</sup> However, TNMAC also acknowledges that it is challenging to achieve gender balance in view of the predominance of men in the military, where service is compulsory for men and voluntary for women. TNMAC states that where it can identify key positions that can be filled by female candidates, such as paramedics and/or QA/QC officers, this will be prioritised. In addition, TNMAC seeks to increase female civilian capacity in mine action in coordination with other implementing partners.<sup>73</sup>

In 2022, 28% of TNMAC's staff were women and 38% of managerial/supervisory positions were occupied by women (an increase on the 30% with respect to the latter in 2021). However, no women were employed in operational positions in TNMAC.<sup>74</sup> No women were employed by MoD's HDC in either operational or managerial/supervisory positions in 2021 or 2022.<sup>75</sup>

**Table 2: Gender composition of mine action operators in 2022<sup>76</sup>**

| Organisation | Total staff | Total women employed | Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions | Total women in managerial or supervisory positions | Total staff in operational positions | Total women in operational positions |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| TNMAC        | 25          | 7                    | 8  | 3  | 4                                    | 0                                    |
| NPA          | 81          | 16                   | 14   | 4  | 60                                   | 12                                   |
| FSD          | 12          | 3                    | 3  | 1  | 9                                    | 2                                    |
| MoD HDC      | 117         | 0                    | 15   | 0  | 84                                   | 0                                    |

TNMAC confirms that survey teams collect information on hazardous areas on an annual basis as well as conducting risk education sessions, with both of these activities including inclusive consultation with women, girls, boys, and men.<sup>77</sup> Tajikistan also reports that monthly briefings take place with local communities on demining operations, with records of the briefing kept as part of documentation.<sup>78</sup> The Ministry of Defence's HDC multi-task teams reportedly consult with all groups, including women and children, during survey and community liaison.<sup>79</sup> In 2022, TNMAC developed a new briefing form for use by operators, to help ensure inclusive consultation in community meetings and survey activities. Relevant mine action data continue to be disaggregated by sex and age.<sup>80</sup>

FSD employs a diverse workforce in Tajikistan in line with the organisation's Gender, Diversity and Inclusion policy. In 2022, 25% of FSD's staff in Tajikistan were female with one third

of managerial/supervisory positions and 22% of operational positions occupied by women. FSD disaggregates all relevant mine action data by sex and age.<sup>81</sup>

NPA has integrated a gender and diversity policy into its Tajikistan operations and employs staff from every region.<sup>82</sup> In 2022, 20% of NPA's staff in Tajikistan were women and 29% of managerial/supervisory positions were occupied by women (the same proportions as in 2021). 20% of operational positions were occupied by women in 2022 (compared to 14% in 2021).<sup>83</sup> Despite continuing cultural constraints that inhibit women's employment in mine action, particularly in field positions, NPA has found that greater knowledge about the activities of its female deminers has made it easier to recruit female staff.<sup>84</sup> There is a special focus on staff capacity development around gender and diversity and a specific budget set aside. No significant changes were made to NPA's Gender and Diversity Policy or implementation plan in 2022.<sup>85</sup>

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

71 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

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

73 2019 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information received 3 August 2019.

74 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022 and 31 March 2023.

75 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 June 2022 and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 16 June 2023.

76 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March and 16 June 2023; Nickwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March and 23 April 2023; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March and 4 and 23 May 2023.

77 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

78 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

79 Email from Johan Dahl, Acting Head, Political-Military Department, OSCE Programme Office, with information from Khurram Maksudzoda, Head of the MoD HDC, 27 August 2019.

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

81 Emails from Nickwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March and 23 April 2023.

82 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 April 2020.

83 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 23 June 2022, and 29 March and 4 and 23 May 2023.

84 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 April and 4 July 2021.

85 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023.



NPA ensures women and children in communities affected by mines are consulted during community liaison activities, including impact assessment, which is conducted by both male and female staff. NPA highlights that consulting with women and children is more challenging in the border regions, where the military/border guard forces are mainly, if not exclusively, male. NPA also highlights that most incidents in Tajikistan involve young men or boys working as shepherds. However, the needs of all affected residents are taken into account, in particular through the prioritisation of locations closest to populated areas. NPA highlights that, while ethnic divisions are not as strong in Tajikistan as they are in some other contexts, to the extent that this is relevant, community liaison teams take this into consideration when conducting their work.<sup>86</sup>

The OSCE seeks to promote gender awareness by collecting comprehensive relevant information during its work.<sup>87</sup> The OSCE also insists that a module on gender and human rights be included in all pre-season basic training of demining teams, in accordance with IMAS.

The OSCE confirmed that these measures continued throughout 2022 and that it will continue to emphasise the importance of gender mainstreaming and balance throughout project implementation.<sup>88</sup>

UST supports equal access to employment for qualified women and men in UST survey and clearance teams in Tajikistan, including for managerial/supervisory positions, but does not yet employ any women among its 54 staff. Although survey teams are not yet mixed gender, UST does consult all groups during survey and community liaison activities, including women and children and representatives from ethnic or minority groups. UST does not yet have a Gender and Diversity policy or implementation plan. Survey data are said to be disaggregated by sex and age.

NPA and TNMAC revived meetings of a gender working group in early 2020. Its meetings were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic but the group then met twice annually in 2021 and 2022.<sup>89</sup> NPA hopes that this group can become more active in the future.<sup>90</sup>

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

TNMAC uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core to maintain its national database.<sup>91</sup> There were no significant measures taken to improve the database in 2022, mainly because the reporting system has matured and stakeholders are satisfied with the data. Additionally, TNMAC had a reduction in information management capacity in 2022 and hence needed to focus on maintaining the database rather than any improvement initiatives. However, TNMAC regularly receives support on information management through online consultations with the GICHD.<sup>92</sup>

NPA maintains an accurate and up-to-date picture of activities through daily reporting into the IMSMA Core Portal, using the data collection forms introduced and the updated by TNMAC in 2020–21. The portal also contains completion reports and details of outstanding contaminated areas that are scheduled for further survey and clearance work.<sup>93</sup>

Operators have confirmed that data collection forms enable the collection of necessary data.<sup>94</sup>

Previously, Tajikistan has submitted comprehensive Article 7 reports of good quality. It submitted an Article 7 report covering 2022 in August 2023. Tajikistan has submitted an updated work plan for 2021–25 as required under the conditions of its second extension request<sup>95</sup> and has indicated its intention to submit a further updated work plan to the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBM in November 2023.<sup>96</sup>

86 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May 2022 and 29 April 2023.

87 Email from Johan Dahl, OSCE Programme Office, Dushanbe, 13 May 2020.

88 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 9 June 2022 and 30 March 2023; and interview with Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 24 June 2022.

89 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 April and 4 July 2021, 21 May 2022, and 29 March 2023; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022 and 31 March 2023.

90 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023.

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

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

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

94 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April 2023; and Saynuriddin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

95 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

96 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

TNMAC has submitted an evidence-based, costed, and time-bound mine action strategy for 2021 to 2030 and an action plan for its implementation, both of which have been approved by the government.<sup>97</sup> Tajikistan has an updated work plan for 2021–25<sup>98</sup> and, in 2022, made some updates to its General Land Release Operational Plan for 2023–25. An annual work plan was in place for 2022 and prepared for 2023.<sup>99</sup>

Tajikistan's Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in 2019, which sought a new deadline for mine clearance of the end of 2025, forms the basis of its operational planning. The extension request said land release efforts would focus mainly on the Central region and the border with Afghanistan, especially the Shamsiddin Shohin district as the area most contaminated with AP mines. It aimed to complete work on the Central region and complete survey of the Tajik-Afghan border by 2023.<sup>100</sup> However, ongoing security challenges along this border have impeded access to some of Tajikistan's most heavily mined districts in recent years and made this impossible.<sup>101</sup>

A General Land Release Operational Plan for 2021–25 details areas targeted for clearance each year and the required funding.<sup>102</sup> Tajikistan has revised its annual land release targets a number of times in recent years, including in the "General Land Release Operation Plan 2021–2025" issued in January 2021, which provided for release a total of 8.55km<sup>2</sup>,<sup>103</sup> and in June 2022, when Tajikistan shared revised annual land release targets for 2022–2025 totalling 8.57km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>104</sup> Further adjustments to these targets were stated in June 2023, almost doubling the amount to be released during 2023–25 from 6.56km<sup>2</sup> to 12.82km<sup>2</sup> (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Annual land release targets<sup>106</sup>**

| Year          | No. of areas | Total (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 2023          | 62           | 4,237,337               |
| 2024          | 69           | 4,339,381               |
| 2025          | 43           | 4,242,636               |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>174</b>   | <b>12,819,354</b>       |

Land release on the Tajik-Uzbek border, including completion of survey by Tajikistan's stated aim of the end of 2023, will partly depend on effective cooperation between each States' authorities. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan agreed in 2018 to set up a joint commission to arrange survey and clearance of border areas. In 2019 Tajikistan said it would keep States Parties to the APMBBC informed of developments.<sup>107</sup> In June 2022, TNMAC reiterated that Tajikistan "will continue to provide updates on the development of cooperation with regard to land release along the Tajik-Uzbek border in Article 7 reports and to the Meetings of the States Parties".<sup>108</sup> As at July 2023, Tajikistan had yet to report on follow-up action.

TNMAC tasks operators according to a set of priorities agreed with government that include humanitarian impact, the proximity of hazards to settlements, national development priorities and the seasonal constraints on access to mined areas in mountainous terrain. Input from local communities and local government is also taken into account.<sup>109</sup> While these priorities stand, tasking decisions are also influenced by the ongoing security situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, where access is regulated by the Border Guard Forces of Tajikistan.<sup>110</sup>

Operators report that dossiers are issued in a timely matter by TNMAC.<sup>111</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Tajikistan's revised National Mine Action Standards were approved in April 2017. The revised standards have been

translated into Russian and English.<sup>112</sup> While no updates were made to Tajikistan's NMAS or SOPs in 2022,<sup>113</sup> TNMAC states

97 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 22 April 2021 and 7 July 2022.

98 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

99 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

100 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 34 and 42.

101 Presentation by Tajikistan on Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Geneva, 23 May 2019; and email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

102 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 22 April 2021.

103 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 12 August 2021.

104 Presentation by Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.

105 Ibid.

106 Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

107 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 44.

108 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

109 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 27 April 2018 and 22 April 2021; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 5 April 2018, 1 July 2022, and 29 April 2023.

110 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 1 July 2022 and 29 April 2023.

111 Emails from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April 2023.

112 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 22 May 2017; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 March 2019, p. 21.

113 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023.

that when any updates to the NMAS or SOPs are made, this is undertaken in consultation with clearance operators.<sup>114</sup> In general, demining operators update their SOPs once every three years during the accreditation process.<sup>115</sup>

Operators report that Tajikistan's NMAS are appropriately adapted to the local threat and enable effective, efficient, and safe survey and clearance work.<sup>116</sup> FSD suggest a minor improvement would be to increase provision for Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC), and Medical Evacuation (MEDIVAC), when teams are working at high altitude in remote areas.<sup>117</sup>

In 2021, TNMAC launched a progress monitoring tool, intended to improve the efficiency of land release.<sup>118</sup> TNMAC reports that this tool made a significant contribution to effective planning and implementation of operations in 2022, allowing for external, remote monitoring of operational

progress, for example, detecting if a technical survey or manual demining team extends work beyond the perimeter of the main polygon.<sup>119</sup>

During 2022, TNMAC developed new procedural documents to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of community briefings and meetings, daily detector testing, recording of environmental incidents and risk assessment during survey, demining and storage of explosive materials and ammunition.<sup>120</sup>

One clearance task measuring 71,820m<sup>2</sup> was found to contain no AP mines in 2022.<sup>121</sup> Quality Management (QM) is coordinated and monitored by TNMAC, with processes and requirements agreed with TMAP. TMAP has external and internal QM team members who participate in the QM process.<sup>122</sup>

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2022, HDC MoD, NPA, and UST deployed combined technical survey (TS) and clearance teams. Only UST has non-technical survey (NTS) teams, which also undertake TS and clearance. There are no dedicated TS teams in Tajikistan.

**Table 4: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed in Tajikistan in 2022<sup>123</sup>**

| Operator      | NTS/TS teams | Total NTS/TS personnel* | Comments  |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| UST           | 4            | 36                      | Slight increase on 4 teams totalling 32 personnel in 2021. These NTS teams also conduct TS and clearance (see Table 5). |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>4</b>     | <b>36</b>               |   |

\* Excluding team leaders, medics, drivers etc.

**Table 5: Operational clearance capacities deployed in Tajikistan in 2022<sup>124</sup>**

| Operator      | Manual clearance teams | Total deminers* | Mechanical assets/machines**                                    | Comments  |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| FSD           | 0                      | 6               | 0   | Same capacity as deployed in 2021. Deployed for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks, stockpile destruction, and to destroy AP mines found during clearance by UST. |
| UST           | 4                      | 36              | 0   | These teams also conduct NTS (see Table 4) and TS.  |
| NPA           | 5                      | 43              | MoD has 1 Mini-MineWolf machine, also available for use by NPA. | Slight decrease on 5 teams totalling 50 personnel in 2021. These teams also conduct TS.   |
| HDC MoD       | 6                      | 84              | MoD has 1 Mini-MineWolf machine, also available for use by NPA. | Slight increase on 6 teams of 72 personnel in 2021. These teams also conduct TS.  |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>15</b>              | <b>169</b>      | <b>1</b>  |   |

\* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers. \*\* Excluding vegetation cutters and sifters.

114 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and Committee on the Implementation of Article 5, Preliminary Observations on Tajikistan, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022.

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

116 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023; and Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

117 Email from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 21 April 2023.

118 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

119 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

120 Ibid; and Article 7 report (covering 2022) Form A.

121 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

122 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 49–50.

123 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

124 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June and 25 August 2022, and 31 March 2023; Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023; Melissa Andersson, NPA, 1 July 2022, and 29 March and 23 May 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023; and Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5, Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties (19MSP), 17 November 2021; and FSD, "Tajikistan", accessed 7 September 2022 at: <https://bit.ly/30zn7hh>.

Tajikistan's 2019 Article 5 deadline extension request set an ambitious target of doubling the number of deminers from 90 to 180<sup>125</sup> and in 2020 it took initial steps in that direction. Overall, Tajikistan maintained approximately the same number of deminers in 2021 as in 2020.<sup>126</sup> However, Tajikistan slightly increased mine action capacity in 2022 to 169 personnel across the combined survey and clearance teams of all operators (see Tables 4 and 5), compared to 150 personnel in 2021.<sup>127</sup> This overall increase was made possible by US Department of State funding.<sup>128</sup> The MoD's HDC increased personnel from 72 deminers in 2021,<sup>129</sup> to 84 in 2022.<sup>130</sup>

NPA remains the only international operator undertaking mine clearance in Tajikistan, with multi-task teams capable of conducting both mine and battle area clearance (BAC).<sup>131</sup> NPA decreased the number of manual clearance teams from six in 2021 to five in 2022, due to a drop in funding.<sup>132</sup> NPA continues to cooperate with Tajikistan's Border Guard Forces, annually seconding a number of personnel into NPA's multi-task teams. Twelve officers were seconded in 2022, forming part of NPA's five multi-task teams of 43 deminers. NPA expects to maintain the same clearance capacity in 2023 as it did in 2022.<sup>133</sup>

UST, a national not-for-profit organisation received accreditation for manual demining and BAC in 2020<sup>134</sup> and started to conduct survey in the same year, working initially on a joint task with one of NPA's teams for three months to build UST's capacity.<sup>135</sup> UST conducted mine clearance in 2022. However, UST is in the process of obtaining a license for the use of explosive materials and devices from the relevant authorities.<sup>136</sup> As such, currently all mines discovered by UST are destroyed by FSD. UST reports no change in the number of personnel between 2021 and 2022.<sup>137</sup> UST teams report directly to TNMAC, which funds UST's survey and clearance operations.<sup>138</sup> Tajikistan has acknowledged advantages in using civilian deminers, since they require less time overall in training and building up

experience compared with military conscripts who rotate annually, necessitating training for each new intake.<sup>139</sup> UST had no change to capacity between 2021 and 2022 and expected to maintain the same capacity in 2023.<sup>140</sup>

FSD's Weapons and Ammunition Disposal (WAD) team in Tajikistan have previously responded to explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks, maintaining the same capacity in 2022 as the previous year. However, at the time of writing, FSD was expected to transition from WAD to demining in Tajikistan, commencing in August 2023. These teams were expected to conduct NTS, TS, clearance and, most likely, EOD spot tasks located close to their demining tasks.<sup>141</sup> At the time of writing it was uncertain how many personnel this team would have but it is planned that it will work in various areas of Tajikistan including along the borders with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, as well as in other areas away from the borders.<sup>142</sup>

One mechanical asset, a Mini-MineWolf owned by HDC MoD, was available for use by both HDC MoD and NPA in Tajikistan in 2022.<sup>143</sup> However, there were some technical issues and NPA deployed the machine only for clearance for a limited amount of time only.<sup>144</sup>

Despite some disruption to operations during earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, TNMAC and operators reported that it caused no disruption to the effective deployment of teams or operational capacity in 2022.<sup>145</sup>

In April 2023, TNMAC re-stated that, in order to clear the remaining contamination in line with its extension request, Tajikistan will need to increase capacity to 18 manual demining teams of up to 180 deminers.<sup>146</sup> While Tajikistan was able to increase clearance to 169 deminers in 2022, it did not expect any major changes to the number of mine survey or clearance personnel in 2023.<sup>147</sup>

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125 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

126 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 and 24 June and 25 August 2022; and Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5, 19MSP, 17 November 2021.

127 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 and 24 June 2022.

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

129 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and Andrej Hegedis, Countering Security Threats Officer, OSCE, 28 July 2022.

130 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

131 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 21 May and 23 June 2022; and interview with Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 24 June 2022.

132 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023.

133 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 23 May 2023.

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

135 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April and 27 August 2020.

136 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

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

138 Email from Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 16 May 2023.

139 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 36.

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

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

142 Email from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 28 August 2023.

143 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 23 May 2023.

144 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 23 May and 22 June 2023.

145 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023, Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 March 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

146 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

147 Ibid.

## DEMINER SAFETY

There were no accidents during survey or clearance of AP mines in Tajikistan in 2022.<sup>148</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

TNMAC reported land release through survey and clearance totalling 1,126,731m<sup>2</sup> in 2022, of which 236,279m<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through NTS, 310,480m<sup>2</sup> was reduced through TS, and 579,972m<sup>2</sup> was cleared. A total of 1,197 AP mines and 826 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) were destroyed during clearance and technical survey.<sup>149</sup> A further 24 AP mines and 12 anti-vehicle (AV) mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks in 2022.<sup>150</sup>

Tajikistan added 617,971m<sup>2</sup> of previously unrecorded CHAs to the national database in 2022.<sup>151</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2022

A total of 546,759m<sup>2</sup> was released through survey in 2022, of which 236,279m<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through NTS and 310,480m<sup>2</sup> was reduced through TS (see Tables 6 and 7).<sup>152</sup> This represents a notable increase on the 59,427m<sup>2</sup> cancelled through NTS in 2021 and a slight increase on the 283,780m<sup>2</sup> reduced through TS in 2021.<sup>153</sup>

TNMAC has attributed this increase in cancellation through NTS to a concentration of land release efforts in AP mined areas, as opposed to BAC,<sup>154</sup> unlike in 2021, when demining operations were suspended for some months of the year along the heavily mined Tajik-Afghan border, due to security concerns.<sup>155</sup> Similarly, NPA reported increase in the amount of contaminated areas cancelled, reduced, and cleared in 2022 compared to 2021, due to the fact that tasks suspended in 2021 could be completed in 2022.<sup>156</sup>

Tajikistan added 617,971m<sup>2</sup> of previously unrecorded CHAs to the national database in 2022.<sup>157</sup>

**Table 6: Release of mined area through NTS in 2022<sup>158</sup>**

| Region            | District          | Operator                              | Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Khatlon           | Panj              | NPA                                   | 151,214                          |
|                   | Shamsiddin Shohin | NPA (removed from the TNMAC database) | 10,065                           |
| Badakhshan (VMKB) | Ishkoshim         | UST                                   | 25,000                           |
|                   | Darvoz            | UST                                   | 50,000                           |
| <b>Total</b>      |                   |                                       | <b>236,279</b>                   |

148 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023; Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April 2023; Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023.

149 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

150 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023; and Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

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

152 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

153 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and Melissa Anderson, NPA, 1 July 2022.

154 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

155 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

156 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April 2023.

157 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023 and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

158 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April 2023; and Saynurridin Kalandarov, UST, 14 April 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

**Table 7: Release of mined area through TS in 2022<sup>159</sup>**

| Region                 | District            | Operator      | Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| DRS                    | Rasht*              | N/K           | 17,500                         |
| Badakhshan (VMKB/GBAO) | Darvoz              | NPA           | 50,960                         |
| Khatlon                | Panj                | NPA           | 59,563                         |
|                        | Shamsiddin Shohin** | HDC MoD & NPA | 182,457                        |
| <b>Total</b>           |                     |               | <b>310,480</b>                 |

\* Information on reduction through TS in Rasht comes from the Article 7 report for 2022, but no operator details were provided.

\*\* The figures provided separately to Mine Action Review for reduction through TS in Shamsiddin Shohin total slightly lower at 174,587m<sup>2</sup> (77,600m<sup>2</sup> reduced by HDC MoD and 96,987m<sup>2</sup> by NPA). However, the more recent figure provided in Tajikistan's Article 7 report has been used here.

## CLEARANCE IN 2022

Tajikistan cleared 579,922m<sup>2</sup> in 2022,<sup>160</sup> an increase on the 206,068m<sup>2</sup> cleared in 2021.<sup>161</sup> TNMAC reported clearance operations resulted in destruction of 1,197 AP mines and 826 items of UXO.<sup>162</sup> A further 24 AP mines were destroyed in EOD spot tasks: 19 by FSD and 5 by NPA. FSD also destroyed 12 AV mines during EOD spot tasks.<sup>163</sup>

As previously noted, the increase in clearance output in 2022 compared to 2021 was predominantly due to an increased focus on land release efforts in AP mined areas.<sup>164</sup> Having been moved away from the Shamsiddin Shohin district of the Khatlon region due to insecurity along the border with Afghanistan, and redeployed to the Central region from August to November 2021 to focus on BAC,<sup>165</sup> demining teams were able to return to working in the Khatlon region from April 2022.<sup>166</sup> NPA resumed clearance operations at the border with Afghanistan in May 2022.<sup>167</sup>

**Table 8: AP mine clearance in 2022<sup>168</sup>**

| Region        | District   | CHAs cleared | Operator      | Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> ) | AP mines destroyed | UXO destroyed |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| DRS           | Rasht      | 1            | HDC MoD       | 171,050                        | 84                 | 0             |
| GBAO          | Darvoz     | 2            | NPA           | 67,723                         | 113                | 776           |
| Khatlon       | Sh.Shokhin | 7            | HDC MoD & NPA | 246,087                        | 883                | 46            |
| Khatlon       | Panj       | 2            | HDC MoD & NPA | 95,112                         | 117                | 4             |
| <b>Totals</b> |            | <b>12</b>    |               | <b>579,972</b>                 | <b>1,197</b>       | <b>826</b>    |

159 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; and Melissa Andersson, NPA, 29 April 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

160 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F.

161 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022.

162 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

163 Ibid.; and email from Nickhwah Din Mohammed, FSD, 24 March 2023.

164 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

165 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; Melissa Anderson, NPA, 1 July 2022; and Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 June 2022.

166 Email from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 June 2022.

167 Email from Melissa Anderson, NPA, 1 July 2022.

168 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form F; and emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 31 March 2023; Melissa Andersson, then Country Director, Tajikistan, NPA, 29 April 2023; and Faiz Mohammad Paktian, (newly appointed) Country Director, Tajikistan, NPA, 10 August 2023. Figures in Table 8 are sources from Tajikistan's Article 7 report (covering 2022), submitted in August 2023. Information supplied earlier in March-April 2023 by TNMAC and NPA, showing clearance by operator and location, amounted to lower clearance overall at 348,841m<sup>2</sup>, with 1,183 AP mines and 377 items of UXO destroyed.

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the latest extension granted by States Parties in 2019), Tajikistan is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. It will not meet this deadline.

In June 2023, Tajikistan restated its commitment to meet its obligations and ensure the safety of its people. However, taking into account the current lack of additional funding, and the continuation of Tajikistan discovering new, previously unrecorded minefields each year, Tajikistan expects to submit a further extension request. It anticipated having a clearer understanding of the additional time required following land release progress by the end of 2023.<sup>169</sup>

An immediate challenge to achieving Tajikistan's current extension request targets is the need to further increase capacity, though it has made steady progress on this since its extension request called for the mine action programme to double the number of deminers from 90 in 2019 to 180. TNMAC has expanded the role of the Border Guard Forces, which used to support demining teams by providing security to operators working on the Tajik-Afghan border, and since 2019 it has involved them in survey and clearance. It also mobilised one demining team from the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES).<sup>170</sup> In 2021, UST's scope extended from survey to include clearance, following accreditation; a further step towards expanding national capacity. In April 2023, TNMAC said that, based on existing capacity, it would expect to reach completion by the end of 2030.<sup>171</sup>

In 2019, Tajikistan said it needed \$3 million a year to maintain the capacity it had at the start of the extension period but estimated it needed US\$33 million for costs of manual clearance alone to meet its extended Article 5 deadline.<sup>172</sup> TNMAC has received support from Norway and the OSCE<sup>173</sup> but overall funding has been heavily dependent on the US Department of State and TNMAC has acknowledged it needs to attract other donors.<sup>174</sup> As at June 2023, Tajikistan estimated that up to an additional US\$14 million of funding was required between 2023 and 2025, over and above resources currently available, to be able to meet the completion date,<sup>175</sup> a figure which remains almost unchanged from the US\$13.9 million Tajikistan stated it required a year earlier.<sup>176</sup> Tajikistan has stated that increased funds are "highly required" to increase capacity.<sup>177</sup> TNMAC did not clarify if Tajikistan has a resource mobilisation strategy in place for Article 5 implementation.

Tajikistan also does not yet know the full extent of the contamination it needs to address, though it has stated that, in accordance with its extension request, it aims to complete all required survey and re-survey of hazardous areas by the end of 2023.<sup>178</sup> While insecurity along the Tajik-Afghan border severely impeded survey in the second half of 2021, teams were able to return to previously suspended tasks in 2022 and output by survey did increase notably in 2022 compared to 2021. TNMAC has highlighted, however, that ongoing security challenges along the Tajik-Afghan border are a significant challenge to mine action, which have impeded access to some of Tajikistan's most heavily mined districts and add a further element of uncertainty to the outlook for implementation.<sup>179</sup>

169 Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

170 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 22; and emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 22 April and 12 August 2021.

171 Email from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 11 April 2023.

172 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 52; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D.

173 In addition to funding provided to TNMAC to support three MoD HDC teams, the OSCE expected to provide €300,000 a year in bilateral funds for training until 2023. Email from Johan Dahl, OSCE Programme Office, Dushanbe, 9 April 2021.

174 Additional information provided for Tajikistan's Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 3 August 2019, p. 7; and Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

175 Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

176 Presentation by Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022. TNMAC specified that an additional US\$13.9 million was required. However, a figure of US\$10.06 million was contained in Tajikistan's Statement on Article 5 Implementation to the 19MSP on 17 November 2021.

177 Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

178 Emails from Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022 and 11 April 2023.

179 Presentation by Tajikistan on Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Geneva, 23 May 2019; and Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.



Access to areas bordering Uzbekistan also continue to prove a challenge to implementation. The existing estimate of SHAs along the Tajik-Uzbek border, covering 3.25km<sup>2</sup>, is based on only partial access. Further survey and clearance are subject to agreement with Uzbekistan.<sup>180</sup> Online sources from 2021 indicated that a "joint Tajik-Uzbek commission for delimitation and demarcation of the mutual border" was active and that working groups met in August 2021 in Dushanbe and in the Uzbek city of Namangan in November 2021,<sup>181</sup> following discussions in May of the same year.<sup>182</sup> However, Mine Action Review has not been able to source further information about any progress made since by the joint commission.

Some of the minefields due to be surveyed by 2023 are located in remote, mountainous areas where conditions only permit 40 operational days a year.<sup>183</sup> Tajikistan's Article 5 deadline extension request noted that the progress of survey was slowing because survey teams had already tackled areas that are most accessible to the local population and were increasingly left with hazardous areas in remote and rugged terrain.<sup>184</sup> In June 2023 Tajikistan reiterated that difficult terrain, harsh weather conditions, natural disasters such as rockfalls, avalanches and landslides, as well as dense vegetation proved ongoing challenges to mine action across the country. Tajikistan identifies a need for increased equipment, including cross-country vehicles metal detectors, deminer and EOD toolkits, personal protective equipment (PPE), spare parts for mechanical demining machines, and medical supplies.<sup>185</sup>

## PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Tajikistan is taking measures to prepare for the management of residual risk upon completion. In March 2022, with the support of the OSCE, an adviser for residual risk management took up post, tasked with identifying improvements to the risk management of explosive hazards and to develop residual risk management guidelines to complement the NMAS.<sup>187</sup> Since the introduction of this post a technical manual on residual risk management has been produced, which TNMAC highlights as a legal prerequisite before any further work can progress. With this step completed, TNMAC asserts that the issue of residual risk management will receive higher prioritisation in 2023.<sup>188</sup>

TNMAC also highlights that issues related to residual risk management are discussed during monthly technical meetings with implementing partners, and that residual risk reduction recommendations are reflected in the annual General Land Release Operations Plans.<sup>189</sup>

Despite having a well-co-ordinated programme with strong national ownership, the challenges outlined above, the lack of additional funding and the continuing discovery of previously unrecorded minefields have severely impeded its capacity to fulfil Tajikistan's commitments under its APMBC Article 5 deadline extension by 2025. The clearer understanding of remaining contamination that Tajikistan hopes to achieve by the end of 2023, following extensive survey and re-survey, will form the basis of future planning and the country's estimation of any additional time required.<sup>186</sup>

**Table 9: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance**

| Year         | Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 2022         | 0.58                            |
| 2021         | 0.21                            |
| 2020         | 0.67                            |
| 2019         | 0.54                            |
| 2018         | 0.59                            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2.59</b>                     |

180 Presentation by Tajikistan on Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Geneva, 23 May 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021).

181 "Tajik-Uzbek border delimitation and demarcation commission meets in Uzbekistan", *Asia Plus*, 30 November 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3zDDNzJ>.

182 "Uzbekistan and Tajikistan discuss demarcation of state border", *KUN.UZ News*, 22 May 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3iSbky7>.

183 Presentation by Tajikistan on Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Geneva, 23 May 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021).

184 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 47.

185 Presentation by Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022; and Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

186 Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

187 Emails from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 3 June 2022; and Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, TNMAC, 19 June 2022; and Statement of Tajikistan on Article 5 Article 5 Implementation, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

188 Email from Saodat Asadova, OSCE, 30 March 2023.

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