

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025

Not on track to meet deadline
Five-year extension to 31 December 2030 requested

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 220km²

Massive
(National authority estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance	0.68	0.92
Technical Survey	0.04	0.35
Non-Technical Survey	5.03	4.69
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	179	33,443

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

Turkish Armed Forces including:

- Land Forces Military Demining Units (ÖMAT)
- Military Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED)/ Mine teams
- Gendarmerie Forces Military Demining Units (JÖMAT)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The main focus of Türkiye's 2021 interim Article 5 deadline extension request was to allow completion of non-technical survey (NTS), with the resulting estimate of contamination to form the basis for another request to extend Türkiye's deadline and setting out plans to complete clearance. Türkiye completed the NTS project as planned in 2023 and, in March 2025, submitted its third extension request, with additional information also provided in July. In 2024, Türkiye continued to seek donor funding for implementation of Phase IV of its major Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP), but with none secured as at August 2025. In July 2025 Türkiye stated that the outlook for land release activities in Mardin province, along the border with Syria—severely impeded due to insecurity—has improved. This is the result of the decision by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) to lay down its arms and disband in May 2025, following a call from its leader to do so in February. The amount of land released through survey and clearance remained steady in 2024, compared to 2023. However, the number of anti-personnel (AP) mines destroyed decreased dramatically – from 33,443 in 2023 to 179 in 2024. Türkiye claims this decrease was due to it deploying only military (and not contracted civilian) capacity during 2024, as well as “material deterioration” of mines, originally laid in the 1950s, over time. These explanations alone do not appear to fully account for the difference in the number of AP mines discovered.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Alongside extensive NTS and expectations of substantial cancellation of hazardous areas, Türkiye should increase capacity and accelerate clearance, which remains low.
- Türkiye should provide further details of its plans to address contamination in non-border areas.

- Türkiye's obligations under the APMBC require it to implement and report on mine clearance in territory it controls in northern Cyprus. Türkiye likely also has an obligation under Article 5 of the APMBC to clear AP mines in Syria, since mined areas are thought to remain under its control in the north of the country. This is because Article 5 of the Convention obligates every State Party to survey and clear all areas under its jurisdiction "or control". The DMA should accelerate action to upgrade and update its Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database and the resources supporting information management.
- Türkiye should elaborate a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan for the programme.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	8	Türkiye now has a detailed understanding of the extent of its mine contamination, following completion of an extensive NTS project in 2023. But survey of some mined areas remains to be conducted.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	6	Türkiye's institutional framework for mine action is under the control of the military. Since 2018, there been a significant and steady expansion of operational capacity. The Government of Türkiye consistently funds survey and clearance by its armed forces. In 2024, Türkiye continued to seek donor funding towards Phase IV of its major Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP).
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	Türkiye provided some information on gender and diversity in its 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request. Türkiye claims to consider gender in all aspects of mine action. Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) staff receive gender awareness training. Türkiye's first civilian demining dog handlers, trained during the EBMCP, were female.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	4	4	Türkiye has a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management, which it updated in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in August 2025, and which establishes its measures to minimise environmental harm during survey and clearance. As this development took place in 2025, not 2024, the relevant change in scoring will be reflected in next year's report.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	7	TURMAC operates an older version of an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. Türkiye submits detailed and timely Article 7 reports and met its requirement to submit an updated, detailed work plan by 30 April 2023. Türkiye submitted a detailed Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2025, and provided additional information in July.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye provided a detailed work plan for survey and clearance for its proposed extension period of 2026–30.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	8	7	Following updates in 2022, Türkiye published four new NMAS chapters in 2024, three of which covered animal detection systems. Türkiye has pledged to continue to update the NMAS regularly. Expansion of operational capacity in recent years has included adoption of and growth in mine detection dog capacity, and an increase in the number of Turkish-developed Mechanical Mine Clearing Equipment (MEMATT) units.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	5	Türkiye's slow pace of land release saw a slight decrease in 2023 and again in 2024. Most of the release in Türkiye in 2024 was through cancellation, as it had been for the three previous years. The meagre clearance in 2024 was slightly down on 2023. Türkiye has requested a further five-year extension to 31 December 2030, during which it plans to complete clearance. However, this possibility remains a long way off unless clearance can be accelerated dramatically.
Average Score	6.1	6.1	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Ministry of National Defence (MoND)
- Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Turkish Armed Forces including: Land Forces Military Demining Units (ÖMAT), Gendarmerie Forces Military Demining Units (JÖMAT) and Military Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED)/Mine teams.

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None in 2024–25*

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

*TDI Altay (a joint venture between The Development Initiative and national operator, Altay Software Defence and Industrial Inc.) concluded operations in 2023.

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Türkiye reported 3,656 mined areas on its territory at the end of 2024: 2,000 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 1,656 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). Together, they covered almost 220km² (see Table 1).¹ This is a 5km² decrease on the total a year earlier when contamination was in 1,980 CHAs and 1,679 SHAs.²

As requested by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation in June 2022,³ Türkiye provided detailed information on the remaining challenges, disaggregated by SHA and CHA and their relative sizes, as well as by type of contamination in its Article 7 Report covering 2023.⁴ This followed completion of Türkiye's major NTS project in November 2023 (as planned), which Türkiye declares has resulted in identification of the "precise perimeter of all mined areas in Türkiye."⁵

More than 40% of Türkiye's mined area is along its 911km-long border with Syria where land release accounted for a little over 87% of land released in 2024, as well as 80% of the small area added following NTS in 2024. Türkiye also has contamination along its borders with Iraq (accounting for 22% of contaminated area), and Iran (16% of contaminated areas), as well as in unspecified non-border areas (19% of contaminated area).⁶

Türkiye added almost 276,998m² of contaminated area to its database in 2024 (see Table 9),⁷ all of which was recorded in SHAs,⁸ though the number of SHAs was not specified. New area added in 2024 is substantially lower than the almost 98km² of contaminated area to the database in 2023,⁹ concentrated along the border with Iraq, and again, in an unspecified number of hazardous areas and not disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs.¹⁰ The much higher cancellation in 2023, compared to 2024, reflects completion of Türkiye's major NTS project in 2023, noted previously.¹¹

Table 1: Mined area by region (at end 2024)¹²

Region	CHAs	Area (m ²)	A/P mines*	SHAs	Area (m ²)	A/P mines*	Total area (m ²)
Syrian border	1,102	58,003,013	354,217	332	38,280,663	49,133	96,283,676
Iraqi border	422	20,227,566	63,682	401	27,170,163	12,448	47,397,729
Iranian border	222	7,516,537	32,048	340	27,080,552	12,073	34,597,089
Non-border areas	254	7,442,501	25,640	583	34,182,465	20,202	41,624,966
Totals	2,000	93,189,617	475,587	1,656	126,713,843	93,856	219,903,460

*In its Article 7 report for 2023, Türkiye also reports the presence of 129,287 anti-vehicle (AV) mines in CHAs along the Syrian border and 32,187 AV mines in SHAs along the Syrian border and 20 AV mines in CHAs along the Iraqi border.

1 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.

2 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the United Nations (UN) Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

3 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on the implementation of Article 5 by Türkiye", Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Intersessional Meetings, 19–21 June 2023.

4 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

5 Statement of Türkiye on Clearance, Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC (21MSP), 20–24 November 2023, Geneva, p. 2.

6 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.

7 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

8 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

9 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

10 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

11 Türkiye's Article 7 report covering 2023 notes that some of the progress in identifying mined areas through NTS in 2022 was only reported in Türkiye's Article 7 report for 2023. This is because the QM process for all mined areas had not been completed and not all data had been uploaded to the IMSMA database at the time of reporting. Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

12 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.

In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye explains in detail how it came to identify a large amount of suspected contamination as a result of its NTS project. This includes the following – reclassification of several CHAs and SHAs; identification of new SHAs in areas previously inaccessible due to security concerns; and identification of new SHAs through access to additional indirect evidence and “non-standard” records.¹³ Türkiye’s work plan for its proposed extension period includes plans for NTS in 2026–29 of 211 mined areas still to be surveyed in the provinces of Mardin (bordering Syria) and Bingöl (a non-border province).¹⁴

Türkiye reports that mines were first laid along the Syrian border in the 1950s to prevent smuggling and later in the south-east for security.¹⁵ According to Türkiye’s 2021 Extension Request, AP mines were laid along the borders “and certain areas outside borders from 1955 until 1998”, in order to reinforce security of the borders during the Cold War. After the 1990s, AP mines were employed to “reinforce military bases in the fight against separatist terror organization”.¹⁶ This refers to the 1984–99 armed conflict with the PKK in the south-east of the country.¹⁷ This occurred mostly in the provinces of Ardahan, Batman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Hakkari, Mardin, Şırnak, Siirt, and Tunceli.¹⁸ According to Türkiye, these mines, which were marked and fenced, have been progressively cleared since 1998.¹⁹ The mines on Türkiye’s other borders were mostly laid in 1955–59

and on some sections of the border with Armenia, Iran, and Iraq in 1992–95.²⁰ Türkiye says its western borders with Bulgaria and Greece as well as the border with Georgia are all mine-free.²¹ Clearance along the border with Armenia was completed in 2022.²²

In its Article 5 deadline extension request of 2021, Türkiye reported that, prior to the establishment of the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) in 2015, demining conducted solely by military units only cleared areas with a 90–95% reliability rate and without quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC).²³ For this reason, the minefields in question are included in the TURMAC database as hazardous areas. In addition, NTS of these minefields was conducted within the NTS Project as a part of EBMCP.²⁴

In its Article 7 report for 2023, Türkiye cited the presence of improvised AP mines, stating that ten of the 11 mine victims during the year were injured by improvised AP mines.²⁵ Türkiye explains that no IEDs were used by military units during or after the creation of minefields, but that they are used by non-State armed groups to target military personnel. Such IEDs are not found in any particular area, but are generally found in military operational zones in border areas. When detected, IEDs are neutralised by military C-IED teams.²⁶ As such, Türkiye states there are “no known areas” containing improvised AP mines.²⁷

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Türkiye’s original Article 5 clearance deadline was 1 March 2014. In 2013, States Parties granted Türkiye an eight-year extension until 1 March 2022, for clearance of mines in Türkiye, and in 2021, States Parties granted a further extension of Türkiye’s Article 5 deadline until 31 December 2025. Türkiye has not requested additional time for clearance of the areas it controls in northern Cyprus²⁸ and none of its extension requests, including the one submitted in 2025, made reference to northern Cyprus²⁹ (see the report on Cyprus for further information). This puts into question Türkiye’s compliance with Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

In May 2024, Türkiye stated that it does not have any plans in place to meet its Article 5 obligations in areas under its control in northern Cyprus, stating that “the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a sovereign country recognized by the Republic of Türkiye and not under Türkiye’s control, and that responsibility for mined areas does not sit with Türkiye.”³⁰ This is not an accurate interpretation and application of Türkiye’s obligations under Articles 1 and 5 of the APMBC, which has no territorial limitations. Article 5 obligates a State Party to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction “or control”. Consonant with international law, Article 5 applies to any mined areas containing AP mines in territory over which a State Party exercises effective control outside its sovereign jurisdiction for a period of several months or more.

13 Türkiye explains that standard records have been created in line with Turkish Air Force Manuals, which comply with relevant North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Standardization Agreements (STANAGs). Non-standard records accessed during NTS included records obtained on-site from the archives of regional state institutions, such as governorates, courts, law enforcement agencies, and military units. Newly obtained records and indirect evidence included: newly obtained historical military mine survey and military clearance records, historical military obstacle plans; information obtained from interviews with civilians; and records of natural disasters (e.g. floods or landslides) that “disrupt the integrity of minefields and cause new possible contamination”. 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10 and 12.

14 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 37.

15 Ministry of National Defence (MoND) Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 1.

16 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

17 The PKK is designated as a terrorist organization by Türkiye, the European Union, and by a number of other States.

18 Email from the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), 24 June 2020.

19 Email from TURMAC, 11 July 2019.

20 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form D; 2013 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. A-1 and A-5.

21 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

22 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

23 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

24 Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

25 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form H.

26 Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

27 Responses to “Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation”, undated but published on the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) website on 30 July 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3V9tdKQ>, p. 1.

28 See the reference to Türkiye’s jurisdiction in northern Cyprus under the European Convention on Human Rights in European Court of Human Rights, *Güzelyurtlu and others v. Cyprus and Turkey*, Judgment (Grand Chamber), 29 January 2019, para. 193.

29 2013 and 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Requests.

30 Emails from TURMAC, 17 August 2023; and Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024 and 9 October 2025.

Türkiye reiterated at the Intersessional Meetings in June 2025 that the “Turkish Cypriot side has put forward comprehensive proposals in 2014, 2015 and 2018 ... with the sole purpose of clearance of all remaining minefields on the island of Cyprus”. Türkiye also reminded States Parties that, on 8 July 2022, President Ersin Tatar “put forward a new proposal for a mine-free island, in line with the understanding outlined in the previous proposals for the clearance of all remaining minefields on the island and pursuant to the calls by the Secretary-General in his reports for cooperation between the two sides”. Türkiye declared that “the Greek

Cypriot side has ignored all these proposals, despite readiness of the Turkish Cypriot side to discuss the start of demining activities in the whole island provided that these activities will be conducted simultaneously, proportionally and on the principle of reciprocity”.³¹ Türkiye disputes “the Greek Cypriot side’s long-standing claim that it cannot fulfil its obligations stemming from Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention”³², denying that “the only impediment to clear all the minefields throughout the island is its lack of access to the Turkish Cypriot side”.³³

NORTHERN SYRIA

Since the change of regime in Syria in December 2024, Türkiye has maintained a strong presence in northern Syria and has “started providing military training and consultancy services, while taking steps to increase Syria’s defence capacity”, under an MoU between the two countries.³⁴ On October 7, 2025, the Syrian Defence Minister and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) commander agreed to a comprehensive ceasefire on all fronts in northern and northeastern Syria. The deal reportedly paves the way for Kurdish-led forces that hold a quarter of Syria to merge with Damascus, along with regional Kurdish governing bodies.³⁵ Following the ceasefire, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged Syrian Kurds to integrate with the Syrian government.³⁶

While the situation continues to be fluid, Türkiye likely still has an obligation under Article 5 of the APMBC to clear AP mines in Syria, since mined areas are thought to remain under its control in the north of the country. Consonant with international law, Article 5 applies to any mined areas containing AP mines in territory over which a State Party

exercises effective control outside its sovereign jurisdiction for a period of several months or more. However, Türkiye has stated that Syria is a sovereign country, not under the control of Türkiye, and claimed that as “Türkiye has no obligation to clear AP mines on another country’s territory, responsibility for releasing mined areas does not sit with Türkiye.”³⁷

The precise extent to which Türkiye is implementing its obligations under Article 5 in northern Syria is not clear. In its Article 7 report covering 2022, Türkiye stated that it found/neutralised 121 mines, 1,837 IEDs, and 26,770 other munitions in Syria, Iraq, and Libya,³⁸ but without specific reference to locations in northern Syria. TURMAC also states that Türkiye conducts counterterrorism operations to ensure the security of its borders and that the Turkish Armed Forces have neutralised “thousands of mines and hand-made explosives” as part of cross-border military operations.³⁹ However, Türkiye refers only to the location of the “Syrian border” when providing land release data in its Article 7 reports⁴⁰, so it is not clear whether it is clearing AP mines on the Syrian side of the border in territory it controls.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

In addition to landmines, Türkiye has limited contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO) on its territory.

31 Statement by Türkiye, Check Against delivery”, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 17 – 20 June, 2025, p. 1.

32 Ibid.

33 Ibid., p. 2.

34 “Exclusive: Turkey backing Syria’s military and has no immediate withdrawal plans, defence minister says”, *Reuters*, 4 June 2025 at: <http://bit.ly/433qfvM>; “Turkey-Syria defence deal covers training and weapons supply”, *Middle East Eye*, 14 August 2025, at: <http://bit.ly/4qkELJR>; and “Turkey begins training Syrian forces under new security deal”, *Middle East Eye*, 9 September 2025, at: <http://bit.ly/4gZlY12>.

35 “Syrian defence minister and SDF commander agree to ceasefire in north and northeastern Syria”, *Reuters*, 7 October 2025, at: <http://bit.ly/3J2yukS>.

36 “Erdogan demands SDF complete integration with Syrian government”, 8 October 2025, Foundation for Defence of Democracies (FDD), at: <http://bit.ly/4oadZ4L>.

37 Emails from TURMAC, 17 August 2023; and Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024 and 9 October 2025.

38 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

39 Email from TURMAC, 17 August 2023.

40 See, e.g., Article 7 Reports (covering 2024), Form D; and (covering 2023), Form D.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Türkiye adopted Law No. 6586 establishing a national mine action centre under the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) in February 2015.⁴¹ The law gave the centre, now known as the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), responsibility for clearing to humanitarian standards mines and UXO.⁴² TURMAC's Director reports to the Minister and Deputy Minister of the MoND.⁴³ TURMAC's activities are regulated by two presidential decrees.⁴⁴ TURMAC is responsible for elaborating policies for clearance; planning and steering related activities and monitoring their implementation; and coordinating and cooperating with domestic and foreign institutions.⁴⁵ Türkiye noted in its 2025 extension request that TURMAC "is still in the process of strengthening its internal capacity to ensure full functioning."⁴⁶

Türkiye regards clearance of mined areas as an "indispensable part of the modern integrated border management (IBM) of Türkiye" as well as a humanitarian matter. As such, mine action has been included in the strategic planning of other governmental and non-governmental institutions and partners nationally.⁴⁷ Türkiye states that meetings are held twice a year with relevant ministries to plan mine action activities. In line with

the decisions taken in these meetings and the mine clearance requests of relevant ministries, institutions and other organisations, annual mine clearance plans and the National Mine Action Plan are prepared and updated. In addition, mine clearance in Türkiye is directly aligned with 12th National Development Plan, which attributes importance to improving the technical and physical infrastructure of border security.⁴⁸

In 2024, Türkiye continued to build the capacity of TURMAC and its military demining units. TURMAC personnel received training in humanitarian demining and NTS; personnel from military demining units received training in mine detection dog (MDD) accreditation; and 545 personnel from General Command of Gendarmerie received training in NTS, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), IED disposal, MDD handling, humanitarian demining; and risk education.⁴⁹ Further training in these areas and others, including the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), was planned for 2025.⁵⁰ Türkiye requested funding from the European Union (EU) to support expansion and capacity building of its military demining units, including training additional MDDs in order to accelerate clearance,⁵¹ but was notified in 2024 that its €1.5m project proposal had not been approved.⁵²

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Mine action in Türkiye is mostly financed by the State and both TURMAC and the Turkish Armed Forces demining units are financed entirely by the government.⁵³ Türkiye committed TRY80 million (approx. €1.7 million as at August 2025⁵⁴) to mine action between 2023 and 2025, including TRY5 million for capacity building of military demining units and TRY75 million for demining.⁵⁵ In 2024, Türkiye allocated TRY397 million (approx. €8.3 million) from the national budget for capacity development of military demining units and mine action.⁵⁶

Türkiye's 2025 extension request states that, for 2025, the higher sum of TRY490.5 million (approx. €10.3 million) has been allocated to "mine clearance activities" (see Table 2).⁵⁷ Türkiye's 2025 extension request contains a detailed budget for implementation during the proposed extension period of 2026–30, including details of resources committed by the State.⁵⁸ Türkiye has pledged TRY4.6 billion (€97.1 million) for "mine clearance activities", including the cost of funding TURMAC and 50 military demining units between 2025 and 2030.⁵⁹

41 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Workplan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015. Law No. 6586 was then nullified with the legislative decree No. 703 on 9 July 2018, after the introduction of a new Presidential System of Government. Article No. 342 of Presidential Decree No. 1, almost identical to (the nullified) Law No. 6586 entered into force on 10 July 2018. 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

42 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Workplan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015.

43 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

44 Presidential Decree dated 18 April 2019; and Presidential Decree No. 32, amending the Presidential Decree on General Staff and Procedure. MoND, "Turkish Mine Action Center", accessed 7 March 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/44hgNDN>.

45 Article 7 Report (covering 2014), "Workplan for mine clearance activities", Annex 1; and Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form A, 2015.

46 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 3.

47 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

48 Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024; 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30; and Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 5.

49 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

50 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

51 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 35.

52 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

53 Email from TURMAC, 21 June 2017.

54 This compares, for example, to a year earlier in August 2024, when TRY80 million was equivalent to the notably higher amount of approximately €2.2 million.

55 Article 5 implementation Work Plan, 30 April 2023, p. 9.

56 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

57 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 28.

58 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 3.

59 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 40.

Table 2: National resources allocated to mine clearance activities in Türkiye 2024-2025⁶⁰

Source of Funds	Allocated for 2024 (TRY)**	Allocated for 2024 (€ million)	Allocated for 2025 (TRY)**	Allocated for 2025 (€ million)
TURMAC and MoND budget	104,874,158	2.2	130,465,800	2.7
Cost of 50 military demining teams	292,072,742	6.1	360,075,800	7.6
Totals	396,946,900	8.3	490,541,600	10.3

*Excludes information provided on additional funds allocated for risk education. **Turkish Lira conversion to euros based on average exchange rate as at August 2025.

Türkiye continued to mobilise resources and engage donors in 2024, in particular to fund the coming Phase IV of the EBMCP, which aims to clear an area of approximately 4km² in Van province, which borders Iran. Türkiye stated in November 2023 that the government had allocated €1.7 million to Phase IV of the EBMCP project, as well as requesting an estimated €15 million to be funded by external sources.⁶¹ As at July 2025, Phase IV was yet to be supported by any donor. In its 2025 extension request Türkiye pledges that, "if sufficient funds are still not found, the areas specified in the project will be cleared by national military units and resources".⁶²

Türkiye initiated an Individualised Approach event in the margins of the Twenty-First Meeting of States Parties (21MSP) in November 2023.⁶³ TURMAC also initiated contact with the Delegation of the EU, the Japanese Embassy, and the Kuwaiti Embassy in 2023.⁶⁴ Furthermore, Türkiye has submitted a €20 million request to the EU's Post-FRIT⁶⁵ fund for clearance of mined areas in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Kilis, along its southern borders.⁶⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Türkiye did not address gender and diversity in its 2021–25 strategy or in the Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in February 2021, but has provided further information subsequently. In 2023, the Committee on Article 5 Implementation noted that Türkiye had reported on having established their baseline through "inclusive consultations" and had employed a gender focal point and female deminers.⁶⁷ Türkiye also disaggregates mine incident data by age and sex.⁶⁸

Türkiye claims that gender and diversity are taken into consideration in all mine action. It also says that gender-sensitive recruitment procedures help provide equal

employment opportunities to women and men from diverse groups.⁶⁹ TURMAC says that employment contracts signed under Phase III of the EPBMC ensure that women and men are paid equally for equal work and that TURMAC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have encouraged employment of women in "various positions, such as trainer and administrative jobs". During Phase III, 14 women were employed by implementing partners, including the UNDP and clearance and NTS contractors.⁷⁰ Türkiye's first two female demining dog handlers were also trained and certified during that phase.⁷¹ Within the scope of the EBMCP, Gender Awareness Training was provided to 25 TURMAC

60 Ibid., p. 28.

61 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", pp. 3–4.

62 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 3.

63 CCW Amended Protocol II Report (covering 2023), Form B.

64 Information received from TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

65 The Post-FRIT fund is the financial mechanism established by the EU in 2021 after the end of the FRIT (Facility for Refugees in Turkey).

66 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 5.

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

68 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Forms E and H.

69 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form I; and email from TURMAC, 18 April 2023.

70 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form I; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

71 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form I; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024; and UNDP, "UNDP and EU conclude three-year demining project to improve security along Türkiye's eastern frontier" 12 December 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/4emIGQ8>.

personnel in 2023.⁷² In April 2025, TURMAC's Gender Focal Point participated in a gender workshop at Türkiye's Center of Excellence [for] Defence Against Terrorism and updated participants on TURMAC's work to integrate considerations into planned projects.⁷³

Türkiye reported that, as at September 2025, 22% of TURMAC's employees were women, including six female explosive ordnance risk education trainers, working in field units. There was also one female map specialist, a non-commissioned officer, working in the Gendarmerie Special Mine Search and Clearance team.⁷⁴ This compares to figures as at the end of 2023, when 22% of TURMAC's personnel were female, including a head of department and two branch chiefs,⁷⁵ increasing to 25% by the end of 2024.⁷⁶ Female personnel carry out a range of roles including "technical, expert and trainer, in all activities carried out by TURMAC".⁷⁷ Mine Action Review specifically requested information from TURMAC in 2023, 2024, and in April 2025 on the total number of male and female staff and the proportions of supervisory or managerial and operational positions occupied by women in TURMAC but this information was not provided. There was also no response to the enquiry as to whether Türkiye's military demining units still did not include

any women. Türkiye did report that "in terms of staff and task diversity, efforts are ongoing to increase the number of female personnel in the coming periods."⁷⁸ Türkiye also states that, should its Southern Borders Mine Clearance Project proposal, submitted to the European Commission in July 2025, be financed by the EU, vocational training will be provided for women resident locally, and for Syrians under temporary protection.⁷⁹

Türkiye's 2025 extension request provides relatively detailed information on how gender and diversity is integrated into risk education,⁸⁰ but Türkiye has yet to provide a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan covering all areas of mine action, including mine survey and clearance. In the extension request, when outlining progress in female employment under Phase III of the EBMCP, Türkiye notes that, although they are encouraged to apply, "women in Türkiye generally do not prefer the profession of mine clearance".⁸¹ If such efforts are not already underway, it would be beneficial to investigate why this is the case and identify barriers to employment. These findings, alongside other relevant wider data, should inform a comprehensive and strategic approach to gender and diversity in all aspects of mine action as Türkiye embarks on its proposed extension period.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Türkiye has a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management (MMFS 07.13), which it updated in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in August 2025. Türkiye asserts that the updated standard provides comprehensive provisions to mitigate the negative environmental impact of mine action, for example, the protection of vegetation where feasible, and the rehabilitation of cleared land for productive civilian use.⁸² Türkiye's 2025 extension request contains information on the positive impact of mine clearance on the environment—for example, through the removal of polluting explosive compounds contained in mines from soil⁸³—but provides only limited information on how Türkiye intends to mitigate environmental harm during survey and clearance in practice. In additional information provided in July 2025, Türkiye did state that Phase-IV of the EBMCP and other clearance

activities will "take measures to rehabilitate cleared lands" and that some of the released land will be used for renewable energy.⁸⁴ Türkiye highlights that the subsequent publication of MMFS 07.13 will now ensure that Türkiye's mine action activities are implemented in line with internationally recognised principles of environmental management, and that clearance activities under Phase-IV of the EBMCP and other operations will be carried out in full compliance with this standard. Türkiye further highlights that TURMAC will regularly monitor the implementation of MMFS 07.13 and provide updates on environmental protection measures to national and international stakeholders. This includes information on the rehabilitation of cleared lands and the promotion of safe use of released areas for agriculture, livestock, or renewable energy production.⁸⁵

72 Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

73 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

74 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

75 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form I; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

76 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form I. However, Türkiye stated in July 2025 that a slightly lower proportion (22%) of TURMAC staff were women. Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, pp. 5–6.

77 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, pp. 5–6.

78 Ibid.

79 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

80 See, for example, "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Activities and Efforts Undertaken to Ensure the Effective Exclusion of Civilians from Mined Areas", 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 18–23.

81 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

82 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025. As at 6 October 2025, the updated NMAS had not yet been made available on TURMAC's website.

83 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10 and 30.

84 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 4.

85 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

TURMAC installed IMSMA with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in 2017.⁸⁶ Use of digital GPS allows the daily progress of each deminer to be catalogued.⁸⁷ Field reports are collected on a daily basis and transferred to the IMSMA system.⁸⁸ In April 2025, as it had a year earlier, TURMAC reported that discussions were underway with the GICHD regarding the possible use of IMSMA Core.⁸⁹ Türkiye provides a detailed account of its information management system and practices in its 2025 extension request.⁹⁰ It also notes that, following eventual completion of mine clearance, both printed and digital data "will continue to be stored in accordance with national legislation".⁹¹ Currently, survey and clearance data reported by Türkiye are accurate and disaggregated by type

of contamination—i.e. AP mines from anti-vehicle (AV) mines and UXO—as well as by method of land release.

Türkiye has submitted Article 7 transparency reports annually on time, which provide a detailed review of plans and activities. As required under the granting of its latest extension request in 2021, Türkiye submitted an updated work plan by 30 April 2023.⁹² In March 2025, Türkiye submitted a timely and thorough extension request, including a detailed work plan, to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025. It also submitted additional information on the request, as the Committee on Article 5 Implementation had asked, in July 2025.⁹³

PLANNING AND TASKING

In 2020, TURMAC issued a strategic mine action plan through to the end of 2025 setting out a vision of Türkiye completing mine clearance by 2025. The plan identified five goals: to clear all emplaced AP mines in the country; to strengthen national capacity and ensure its sustainability; to reduce the number of mines held in depots for training; to provide risk education⁹⁴ and support mine victims; and to co-operate with national and international organisations on mine action.⁹⁵

In February 2021, however, Türkiye requested an interim extension of its Article 5 deadline for three years and nine months until the end of 2025 and made it clear that it no longer expected to complete clearance by this time. The request foresaw three main projects in 2021–23: demining; NTS covering 3,834 mined areas with a view to producing baseline data from which to prepare plans for completion; and a clearance project to address 27 mined areas measuring approximately 1km² in Mardin province.⁹⁶ The NTS project to produce a comprehensive baseline of contamination was completed.⁹⁷ The Mardin Project could not proceed (see the subsection below, "The Mardin project", for further information).

By 30 April 2023, Türkiye was expected to produce an updated detailed work plan for the remaining period covered by its extension,⁹⁸ which it duly submitted, including annual targets for land release by area, size, and province.⁹⁹ From 2023 to the end of 2025, Türkiye was aiming to deploy its military demining units to release approximately 17.5km² of hazardous area.¹⁰⁰ In 2025, Türkiye plans for its 50 military demining teams to release address 1.2km² in the provinces of Hakkari, Hatay, Iğdır, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak, Tunceli, and Van.¹⁰¹ It also envisages that NTS will be conducted by TURMAC Survey Branch personnel over approximately 5km².¹⁰²

In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye sets out four key areas of work during the proposed extension period of 2026–30, namely: Phase IV of the EPBMP, clearance of 4km² by military demining units across various provinces including border and non-border areas,¹⁰³ technical survey (TS) and NTS across 3km² in various provinces and "non-technical research activities" across 25km² in Bingöl and Mardin provinces.¹⁰⁴ Türkiye also sets out detailed plans for survey and clearance during 2026–30, including its "Military Demining Unit's Mine

86 Statements of Türkiye, Standing Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Geneva, 22 May 2019; and on Clearance, 17MSP, Geneva, 29 November 2018; email from TURMAC, 11 July 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form A.

87 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", Report, p. 3.

88 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

89 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

90 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 24–26.

91 *Ibid.*, p. 26.

92 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, "Preliminary Observations on the Implementation of Article 5 by Türkiye", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

93 Both the 2025 extension request submitted in March 2025, and additional information provided in July 2025 are available on the ISU website, at: <https://bit.ly/4mTiM9Z>.

94 As part of its strategic mine action plan for 2020–25, Türkiye has been implementing an extensive "National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan" (NEOREP). Information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

95 MoND Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, pp. 7–8 and 10.

96 Committee on Article 5 Implementation, Analysis of Türkiye's Article 5 deadline extension request, 19MSP, The Hague, 15–19 November 2021, p. 4.

97 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 11–12.

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

99 Article 5 Implementation Work Plan, 30 April 2023, pp. 12–14.

100 The statement of Türkiye on clearance at the 21MSP, 20–24 November 2023, Geneva, p. 2, states a timeframe of 2024–25 for this, However, TURMAC provided information to Mine Action Review on 4 September 2024, correcting this to 2023–2025.

101 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

102 *Ibid.*

103 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

104 *Ibid.*

Clearance Tasks Plan"¹⁰⁵ for clearance of 49 areas covering 3.84km² in total (see Table 3). In requesting an extension for five years to the end of December 2030, Türkiye stated that: "During this period, Türkiye plans to continue mine clearance activities unabated and to complete its work in this area."¹⁰⁶ However, it is not clear in the extension request how this will be achieved, with specific plans for clearance shown only for the 3.84km² previously mentioned.

In response to a request from Mine Action Review for clarification on how Türkiye plans to complete clearance within the proposed extension period, Türkiye responded in early October 2025 and explained that: TURMAC is continuing its efforts to increase capacity, including expansion of military demining capacity during 2026–27. In addition,

"studies for the use of civilian capacity" were ongoing, the results of which Türkiye will include in clearance plans. With increased capacity, Türkiye expects clearance to accelerate, "and the goal of a mine-free Türkiye is anticipated to be reached in a shorter period".¹⁰⁷

The plan, set out in Türkiye's extension request, includes the priority criterion assigned to each task; the district; province; and location in relation to Türkiye's international borders (or non-border areas); the size of the areas to be cleared; (m²); the objective of the operation (for example, systematic clearance, or clearance to support agriculture, or tourism); and the estimated date of completion.¹⁰⁸ Each task represents a designated CHA.¹⁰⁹ See Table 3 for a summary of clearance targets for the proposed extension period.

Table 3: Annual mine clearance plan by location for 2026–30¹¹⁰

Year	Syria border (m ²)	Iraq border (m ²)	Iran border (m ²)	Non-border areas (m ²)	Totals (m ²)
2026	305,000	150,000	0	250,960	705,960
2027	293,000	194,000	0	192,000	679,000
2028	275,000	200,000	0	308,430	783,430
2029	285,000	315,000	0	238,000	838,000
2030	265,000	295,000	0	277,000	837,000
Totals	1,423,000	1,154,000	0	1,266,390	3,843,390

Türkiye also provides a "Technical Survey and Non-Technical Survey Plan" in the 2025 extension request, specifying the same details as the clearance plan outlines previously.¹¹¹ See Table 4 for a summary of technical survey targets and Table 5 for a summary of the NTS targets for the proposed extension period.

Table 4: Annual technical survey plan by location (2026–30)¹¹²

Year	Syria border (m ²)	Iraq border (m ²)	Iran Border (m ²)	Non-border areas (m ²)	Totals (m ²)
2026	160,000	240,000	225,000	33,000	658,000
2027	190,000	275,000	220,000	30,000	715,000
2028	170,000	360,000	55,000	25,000	610,000
2029	150,000	303,000	60,000	30,000	543,000
2030	291,000	162,000	65,000	35,000	553,000
Totals	961,000	1,340,000	625,000	153,000	3,079,000

Also within the 2026–30 work plan is NTS of 211 mined areas in Mardin province bordering Syria, and Bingöl, a non-border province, which was not completed under the NTS project that ended in 2023. The annual NTS plan for these "suspicious areas and areas to be requested [for survey]" is shown in Table 5.¹¹³ Türkiye explains that, when any suspected mine or UXO contamination is reported to TURMAC by any authority, NTS activity not included in the annual plan is carried out in response.¹¹⁴

105 Ibid, pp. 32–33.

106 Ibid, p. 4.

107 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

108 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 32–33.

109 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

110 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 34.

111 Ibid., pp. 36–37.

112 Ibid., p. 37.

113 Ibid.

114 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

Table 5: Non-technical survey plan for Mardin and Bingöl provinces (2026–30)¹¹⁵

Province	No. of areas	Area to be surveyed (m ²)	Target completion date
Mardin	49	8,572,147	December 2026
Mardin	44	7,697,438	December 2027
Mardin	*50	8,747,090	December 2028
Bingöl	*68	174,300	December 2029
"NTS for suspicious areas and areas to be requested"	N/R	N/R	December 2030
Totals	211	25,190,975	

*Non-border areas. N/R = Not reported

Based on Türkiye's 2025 extension request, including its planned timeline for NTS and TS to the end of 2030 makes it is still difficult to see how Türkiye intends to meet its obligations by the requested deadline of 31 December 2030. Indeed, Türkiye explained that it is continuing to seek donor support to help facilitate the establishment of four new "search and clearance military companies" (eight teams) by 2027. Türkiye says that "if a donor is found in this period, and following the completion of the establishment of new elements, new areas identified with TS and NTS are planned to be cleared.¹¹⁶ As noted earlier, TURMAC is continuing efforts to increase military demining capacity and exploring further use of civilian capacity, and expects clearance operations to accelerate such that "the goal of a mine-free Türkiye is anticipated to be reached in a shorter period".¹¹⁷ This notwithstanding, it seems likely that Türkiye will need to submit a further request to extend its deadline beyond 2030. Indeed, in information provided to Mine Action Review in October 2025, Türkiye states that it "is taking steps to increase mine clearance efforts annually. The aim is to finalize the demining activity within the specified time frame. However, if the target is not met, a further extension will be requested".¹¹⁸ Without a significant change in circumstances, this further request seems likely. Apart from the reference to the need for donor support, planned land release falls a long way short of Türkiye's estimate of 220km² of mined areas at the end of 2024.¹¹⁹ In the work plan Türkiye specifies that, between 2026 and 2030, only 3.84km² will be cleared.¹²⁰ The planned survey may even find new hazardous areas.¹²¹ Furthermore, the work plan includes only limited TS and no clearance in Van province,¹²² situated along Türkiye's eastern border.

Even Türkiye's limited ambition for the extension period includes assumptions that may not turn out to be reliable. These include timely allocation of national resources and international funds, and a "stable security situation" along

Türkiye's borders. Potential risk factors are continued political instability and insecurity on the Syrian and Iraqi borders, terrorist threats to demining activities and personnel, delays in mine clearance by contractors, adverse weather at high altitude, the possibility of natural disasters, and challenges such as dense vegetation and volcanic rocks.¹²³

In 2025, Türkiye provided updated details of its prioritisation of mine clearance activities, adding a fifth level to the first four previously provided.¹²⁴ The (now five) levels are as follows:

1. Lands with minefields along the southern and eastern borders, which prevent the establishment of new border surveillance technology and infrastructure (e.g. watchtowers, patrol roads).
2. Interior lands with minefields, posing a danger to inhabitants.
3. Lands within the mined areas to be cleared that are included in projects by other ministries for public benefit (e.g. construction of irrigation channels and other infrastructure).
4. Disputed lands along the borders and interior that are owned privately.
5. Lands within mined areas to be cleared for the purpose of generating socio-economic benefit (e.g., agriculture, livestock, and mining).¹²⁵

Türkiye ensures co-ordination and co-operation with other ministries and institutions, in particular the Ministry of Internal Affairs, during the prioritisation, planning, and implementation of demining. It claims to have "the capacity to address all prioritization levels simultaneously in order to meet the requirements of the government and ensure the safety of its citizens". Finally, Türkiye notes that, in the event that a minefield cannot be completed in a given year,

¹¹⁵ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 37.

¹¹⁶ Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 2.

¹¹⁷ Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

¹²⁰ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 34.

¹²¹ Ibid., p. 37.

¹²² TS is planned in only two unspecified locations in Van province, each covering 160,000m². 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 35.

¹²³ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 40–41.

¹²⁴ Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D; email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024; and 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30.

¹²⁵ 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30.

due to factors such as climate or changes in an assigned unit's capacity, the minefield will be assigned the same level of priority in the work plan for the subsequent year(s).¹²⁶ In response to Türkiye's extension request, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) has raised a concern that casualties from mines continue to occur in provinces where no land release activities are planned. Though Türkiye provides a detailed risk education work plan, as the ICBL

highlights, more information on how casualty data informs prioritisation of land release plans would be useful.¹²⁷ Türkiye responded to a request from Mine Action Review for clarification on this matter, explaining that, in an area where a mine accident has occurred, first NTS and then TS is conducted. If a need for clearance is identified, based on these findings, the area is prioritised in annual plans.¹²⁸

THE EASTERN BORDERS MINE CLEARANCE PROJECT (EBMCP)

Having completed the first three phases of the EBMCP, Türkiye is now seeing to implement Phase IV, which is intended to take place in Van province and aims to clear 85 mined areas, covering approximately 4km².¹²⁹ TURMAC foresees land release in Phase IV will be comparable to that of previous phases as the 85 mined areas to be addressed have records and the mines are laid in a pattern.¹³⁰ While many mined areas identified by NTS are likely to be reduced by TS, Phase IV will include full clearance of CHAs.¹³¹ Phase IV of the project also includes the provision of risk education in 20 locations, TS over 30 SHAs, and (unspecified) capacity-building for TURMAC and military demining units.¹³² The estimated cost of the proposed project over €20 million.¹³³ Türkiye says that TURMAC is continuing efforts to secure funding from potential donors for the proposed project. If funding is obtained, the project is expected to be conducted in 2026–28.¹³⁴ Türkiye also states in its 2025 extension request that "if an international donor is found to finance the project, a national budget contribution will be requested in return for the budget provided for TURMAC within the framework of National Budget possibilities".¹³⁵ Türkiye is disappointed at the lack of international assistance to its programme, despite it ranking among "the top 10 countries in the world" in terms of extent of AP mined area.¹³⁶

During Phase I of the EBMCP (2016–17), 10 mined areas were cleared and 23,724 AP mines destroyed. During Phase II (2018–19), 39 mined areas were cleared and 23,277 AP mines destroyed.¹³⁷ Phase III, which was completed on time in November 2023,¹³⁸ saw release of 94 mined areas.¹³⁹ TURMAC reported that, as result of Phase III, a total area of 3.62km² had been "addressed" in Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars provinces (a little less than the 4.24km² predicted), and 49,336 mines destroyed (significantly less than the 80,000 thought to be present). Mine clearance was completed in Ardahan and Kars provinces, as was demining along the Armenian border in Iğdır.¹⁴⁰ The NTS Project under Phase III resulted in 3,451 minefields being surveyed by commercial contractors.¹⁴¹

Having begun in 2016, the EBMCP is now in its ninth year. In 2018, the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) stated: "most partners understand that this project will potentially run for 10–12 years, although this must be determined by non-technical survey options which will verify the correct planning period."¹⁴² Whether this 12-year time frame can be realised will largely depend on Türkiye securing the external funding needed for Phase IV.

THE MARDIN PROJECT

The Mardin project in Mardin province encompasses 45 minefields containing 27,614 mines across 1.7km² along the border with Syria.¹⁴³ Türkiye had planned that it would be managed by TURMAC and implemented by a private

contractor,¹⁴⁴ and in 2020, the MoND pledged an additional TRY25 million for 2022 to 2023 for mine clearance in the province,¹⁴⁵ seeking to clear 27 areas covering nearly 1.06km² between 2021 and 2023.¹⁴⁶ As explained in Türkiye's Article 7

126 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

127 "ICBL Comments on Türkiye's Article 5 Extension Request", APMBIC Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025.

128 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

129 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 1.

130 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 3.

131 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 5.

132 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31.

133 Ibid., p. 1.

134 Ibid., p. 28.

135 Ibid., p. 31.

136 Ibid.

137 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 2; and information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

138 Presentation by TURMAC, 21MSP, Geneva, 20–24 November 2023.

139 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 2.

140 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

141 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

142 "Final Evaluation for Clearance of Landmines in the Eastern Border Regions of Turkey (Demining Project - Phase I)", UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, accessed 9 July 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/3XMiz3M>, p. 24.

143 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

144 Presentation by TURMAC, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 22 June 2022.

145 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form A.

146 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

report covering 2022, however, the Mardin project could not be realized "due to the activities of the terrorist organizations and the instability on the border area. It is considered that sniper and mortar shots that could be carried out by terrorist organizations from across the Syrian border may pose a risk to personnel who will carry out mine clearance in the area in question".¹⁴⁷ The 2025 extension request again indicated that the Mardin Project could not be conducted due to the risk of "direct and indirect fire that could be carried out by terrorist

organizations (PKK/PYD/YPG) from across the Syrian border".¹⁴⁸ In the additional information it provided in July 2025, Türkiye said that: "Following the latest developments in Syria,¹⁴⁹ security risk in the region has begun to decrease" and that the NTS specified in the request was now planned. Furthermore, in addition to clearance in Mardin province in 2029 and 2030, Türkiye expects any mined areas identified as a result of NTS to be included in the clearance plans.¹⁵⁰

CLEARANCE OF NON-BORDER AREAS

Türkiye had planned to clear all 873 identified mined areas inside the country by 2021, involving release of 3.1km² and destruction of 34,410 mines. Little progress has been made in recent years, with clearance of only 0.3km² at a former military range in 2018,¹⁵¹ a further 9,584m² cleared in 2021,¹⁵² 2,727m² cleared in 2022,¹⁵³ 58,040m² cleared in 2023,¹⁵⁴ and 77,621m² cleared in 2024.¹⁵⁵ Türkiye estimated at the end of 2022 that only 2.5km² remained.¹⁵⁶ However, completion of NTS in 2023 meant this estimate for non-border areas increased significantly, and, as at the end of 2024, stood at 41.6km², with SHAs covering 34.2km² and CHAs covering 7.4km² (see Table 1 above).¹⁵⁷ The mined areas are scattered

and TURMAC has previously considered it practical for clearance to be conducted by the military even though their capacity to do so has been limited.¹⁵⁸

In its work plan for 2026–30, Türkiye specifies that 8.7km² in non-border areas in Bingöl and Mardin provinces will be subject to NTS in 2026–29,¹⁵⁹ 153,000m² in non-border areas will be subject to TS in 2028–29,¹⁶⁰ and 1.27km² in non-border areas will be cleared between 2026 and 2030.¹⁶¹ As such, it remains unclear in the extension request by when Türkiye plans to address all the remaining 41.6km² of contamination in non-border areas.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In its 2025 extension request, Türkiye explains that methods for release of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas in Türkiye are defined through its NMAS and standard operating procedures (SOPs), which comply with the IMAS.¹⁶² Türkiye issued 44 NMAS (including on land release) in 2019,¹⁶³ Türkiye also has specific clearance standards for its Eastern border and Southern border.¹⁶⁴ Standards specific to the EBMCP were reviewed in 2019,¹⁶⁵ Türkiye states that the following NMAS, aligned to the latest IMAS, were published in 2024:¹⁶⁶ Glossary of Mine Action Terms; Accreditation and Operational

Testing of Animal Detection Systems and Handlers; Animal Detection Systems – Principles, Requirements and Guidelines; and Operational Procedures for Animal Detection Systems. Türkiye adds that its NMAS are updated on a regular basis,¹⁶⁷ and will continue to be during its proposed extension period of 2026–30.¹⁶⁸ Türkiye asserts that, through these changes, it has "effectively addressed previously identified shortcomings and strengthened its national mine action framework". Türkiye also "reaffirms its commitment to keep NMAS regularly updated in line with international

147 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from TURMAC, 18 April 2023.

148 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 16.

149 In May 2025, it was reported that the Kurdish non-state armed group, the PKK (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê, Kurdistan Workers' Party) had announced its intention to lay down arms and disband in May 2025. This followed a call in February by the group's jailed leader, Abdullah Ocalan, for it to disband. See, e.g., "Kurdish group PKK says it is laying down arms and disbanding", *BBC News*, 12 May 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4n02E6V>.

150 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 2.

151 Email from TURMAC, 21 June 2017; and Article 7 Report (for 2017, 2018, and 2019), Form A.

152 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

153 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

154 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

155 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

156 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

157 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 26.

158 Email from TURMAC, 24 June 2020.

159 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 37.

160 Ibid.

161 Ibid., p. 34.

162 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

163 Email from Hans Risser, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, 3 October 2016; and Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form F; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A.

164 CCW Amended Protocol II Report (covering 2023), Form B.

165 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form A; email from TURMAC, 24 June 2020.

166 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

167 Ibid.

168 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 15.

requirements and operational needs". As at October 2025, Türkiye had also initiated the translation into Turkish of 25 technical notes and seven test and evaluation documents published by the GICHD in preparation for dissemination.¹⁶⁹

Accreditation and quality management (QM) of the Turkish Land Forces (TLF) and the Gendarmerie units is carried out by TURMAC.¹⁷⁰ Türkiye says all data is quality checked by a contractor and then verified by UNDP before being transmitted to TURMAC.¹⁷¹ According to Türkiye's Article 7 report (covering 2023), all areas cleared by Türkiye in 2023 proved to contain AP mines.¹⁷² As at early October 2025, Mine Action Review was still clarifying with TURMAC whether

there were any areas cleared in 2024 that did not contain AP mines.¹⁷³

Türkiye provides detailed information on its eight-stage process for NTS in its 2025 extension request.¹⁷⁴ It also extensively outlines its methods and standards relating to QC and QA, including internal and external QA/QC activities.¹⁷⁵ It also describes its search protocol for lost mines, and explains that, if a mine is found in a previously cleared and completed area, TS is undertaken again and "the general condition of the land is determined and searched again with the verification methods".¹⁷⁶

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In its Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II report (covering 2024), which it submitted in March 2025, Türkiye notes that three companies are accredited for humanitarian demining and another for quality management of demining. Türkiye also states that "the evaluation for accreditation of four companies is ongoing".¹⁷⁷ No other details about these companies are provided.

In 2024, Türkiye continued to deploy its military demining units for clearance (see Table 6). Türkiye has previously stated that NTS operations are conducted by TURMAC Survey Branch and "EBMCP Phase-III NTS and demining teams".¹⁷⁸ Türkiye's main demining capacity is provided by the military and this has been steadily increasing in recent years. By 2020, after two years of rapid expansion, total military capacity amounted to 32 teams: 26 Land Forces demining teams with 420 personnel and 6 Gendarmerie teams with 120 personnel.¹⁷⁹ In 2022, a further ten Gendarmerie demining teams were added.¹⁸⁰ As it had planned, Türkiye increased the number of nationally operated demining teams by eight to a total of fifty in 2023 where it remained in 2024 (see Table 6). Türkiye also plans to further augment the clearance capacity of its military demining units though has given no time frame for this to occur.¹⁸¹

To accelerate land release efforts, Türkiye's defence industries developed the Mechanical Mine Clearing Equipment (*MEMATT*), a light-medium, unmanned demining machine with a tiller attachment, particularly suitable for demining on the flat terrain along the Syrian border.¹⁸² In 2022, Türkiye's military demining units were augmented with six MEMATT-II demining machines (see Table 6).¹⁸³ As at October 2025, Türkiye had 14 such machines.¹⁸⁴

Türkiye's 2021 extension request stipulates that manual clearance is followed by two levels of verification, including an extended search for missing mines and sampling checks conducted using MDDs.¹⁸⁵ Türkiye added 11 MDDs between 2022 and 2024. As at March 2024, it had the capacity to train 10 MDDs per year.¹⁸⁶

Türkiye states that in 2024 it had: 32 operational teams affiliated with the Land Forces Command and 18 teams affiliated with the General Command of Gendarmerie along with 10 demining machines; and up to 17 MDDs (see Table 6).¹⁸⁷ This capacity for 2024 is largely unchanged from that in 2023, differing only in that eight demining machines were deployed across military demining units.¹⁸⁸ As previously noted, this increased to 14 machines by October 2025.¹⁸⁹

169 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

170 CCW Amended Protocol II Report (covering 2023), Form B.

171 "Türkiye Mine Action Programme: Project for Completion, Wednesday, 22 November 2023", p. 3.

172 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

173 In response to a request from Mine Action Review for clarification on this point, Türkiye provided information pertaining to areas cleared in 2023, but not 2024, and it was unclear if this was intended or a miscommunication. Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

174 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

175 *Ibid.*, pp. 26–27.

176 *Ibid.*, p. 24.

177 CCW Amended Protocol II Report (covering 2024), Form G.

178 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

179 Email from TURMAC, 5 September 2022.

180 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from TURMAC, 18 April 2022.

181 Article 7 Report (covering 2023); and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

182 MoND Mine Action Centre, Strategic Plan 2020–2025, undated but 2020, p. 7; Article 7 Reports (covering 2019 and 2020), Form A.

183 Email from TURMAC, 18 April 2022; and Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.

184 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

185 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20; email from Mark Frankish, UNDP, 24 May 2021.

186 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 3–4. While the figures given for the number of MDDs added at the various intervals between 2020 and 2024 amount to 16, the 2025 extension request and Türkiye's Article 7 report (covering 2024), Form D, both state that 17 MDDs are operational. Türkiye's CCW Amended Protocol II report (covering 2024), submitted on 29 March 2025, Form G, gives a lower figure of 15 operational MDDs.

187 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

188 *Ibid.*; CCW Amended Protocol II Report (covering 2023), Form G; email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024; and information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

189 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

Table 6: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2024¹⁹⁰

Operator	Manual clearance teams	Total deminers	MDD teams	Mechanical assets	Comments
Gendarmerie	18	N/K	17 dogs across all military units.	10 machines across all military units, including six MEMATT-II demining machines.	No. of deminers unknown. Deployed 18 manual clearance teams of 120 deminers in 2021.*
Land Forces	32	N/K	No. of teams unknown.		No. of deminers unknown. Deployed 26 manual clearance teams of 420 deminers in 2021.*
Totals	50	N/K	17 MDDs	10	

*In April and September 2025, Mine Action Review requested information from TURMAC on the number of deminers deployed but, as at October 2025, had not received a response. For comparison, Mine Action Review has provided the most recent known figures from 2021.¹⁹¹

Türkiye plans to annually train and accredit an unspecified number of additional MDDs during the proposed extension period of 2026–30; continue accreditation for 50 military demining teams in 2027 and 2029; and accredit 10 machines in 2027 and 2029.¹⁹² Türkiye states that “programming efforts are ongoing to increase military demining teams.”¹⁹³

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Türkiye released 5.75km² of land in 2024, of which 5.03km² was released through NTS, 0.04km² was released through TS, and 0.68km² was cleared. A total of 179 AP mines were destroyed during clearance along with 5 AV mines and 1 item of UXO. Türkiye reported that almost 276,998m² of “increased areas due to NTS” were added in 2024.¹⁹⁴

Türkiye did not report on any land release in 2024 in areas under its control in northern Cyprus or in northern Syria.

Table 7: Summary of land release outputs in 2024 (National authority data)¹⁹⁵

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km ²)
Clearance	0.68
Technical Survey	0.04
Non-Technical Survey	5.03
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024
AP mines destroyed	179

SURVEY IN 2024

Türkiye released a total of 5.07km² through survey in 2024, of which almost 5.03km² was cancelled through NTS and a little over 0.35km² reduced through TS. Most of this release, just over 5km², was through NTS along the Syrian border (see Tables 8 and 10).¹⁹⁶ Land release through survey in 2024 represents a slight increase on the previous year when 5.04km² was released through survey, of which 4.69km² was cancelled through NTS and 0.35km² reduced through TS. Again, most of this release, just over 4km², was through NTS along the Syrian border.¹⁹⁷

It is not known which operators were responsible for land release by NTS or TS in each location in 2024. In 2023, Türkiye stated that NTS operations were conducted by

TURMAC Survey Branch and “EBMCP Phase-III NTS and demining teams”.¹⁹⁸

Türkiye reported that 276,998m² of “increased areas due to NTS” were added to the baseline in 2024 (see Table 9),¹⁹⁹ as all of which was in SHAs.²⁰⁰ This is a considerable decrease on new contaminated areas identified during 2023, the last part of the major NTS project intended to establish a baseline of contamination. Türkiye reported that almost 107km² of previously unrecorded AP mined area was added to the IMSMA database in 2023²⁰¹ This was subsequently revised down to 98km² based on information reported provided to Mine Action Review.²⁰²

190 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

191 Email from TURMAC, 5 September 2022.

192 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 35.

193 Ibid., pp. 3–4.

194 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

195 Ibid.

196 Ibid.

197 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

198 Ibid.

199 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

200 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

201 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 20 May 2024.

202 Ibid.; and information provided by TURMAC, 4 September 2024.

Table 8: Release of mined area through NTS in 2024²⁰³

Operator*	Region	Area cancelled (m ²)
N/K	Syrian border	5,004,240
N/K	Non-border areas	23,193
Total		5,027,433

*In its latest Article 7 report for 2024, Türkiye does not specify which operators conducted NTS at specific locations.

Table 9: SHAs identified as a result of NTS in Türkiye in 2024²⁰⁴

Operator*	Region	Area recorded. (m ²)
N/K	Syrian border	221,364
N/K	Iraqi border	48,102
N/K	Non-border areas	7,532
Total		276,998

*In its latest Article 7 report for 2024, Türkiye does not specify which operators conducted NTS at specific locations.

Table 10: Release of mined area through TS in 2024²⁰⁵

Operator*	Region	Area reduced through TS (m ²)
N/K	Syrian border	1,167
N/K	Iraqi border	251
N/K	Iranian border	17,223
N/K	Non-border areas	16,905
Total		35,546

*In its latest Article 7 report for 2024, Türkiye does not specify which operators conducted TS at specific locations.

CLEARANCE IN 2024

In 2024, Türkiye reported clearance of 0.68km² and destroyed 179 AP mines, along with 5 AV mines and 1 item of UXO (see Table 11).²⁰⁶ This represents a decrease on the 0.92km² cleared in 2023, which resulted in the much higher total of 33,443 AP mines destroyed (as well as 12 AV mines and 10 items of UXO).²⁰⁷ This, in turn, was a slight decrease on the 1.29km² cleared and 58,078 AP mines destroyed in 2022.²⁰⁸ Türkiye states the decrease in the number of AP mines destroyed in 2024, compared to 2023, was due to it deploying

only military (and not contracted civilian) capacity during 2024, as well as material deterioration of mines, originally laid in the 1950s, over time. However, notwithstanding the fact that phase III of the EPMBBC, which included contracted civilian capacity, concluded in November 2023, and therefore did not extend into 2024, it would be helpful for Türkiye to explain more fully why clearance in 2024 destroyed so few AP mines.

Table 11: Mine clearance in 2024²⁰⁹

Region	Operator	CHAs and SHAs at start of year*	CHAs and SHAs at end of year*	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Syrian border	N/K	1,432	1,434	372,033	3	5
Iraqi border	N/K	823	823	61,636	0	0

203 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

204 Ibid; and email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

205 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

206 Ibid.

207 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form D.

208 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from TURMAC, 18 April 2023.

209 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

Table 11 Continued

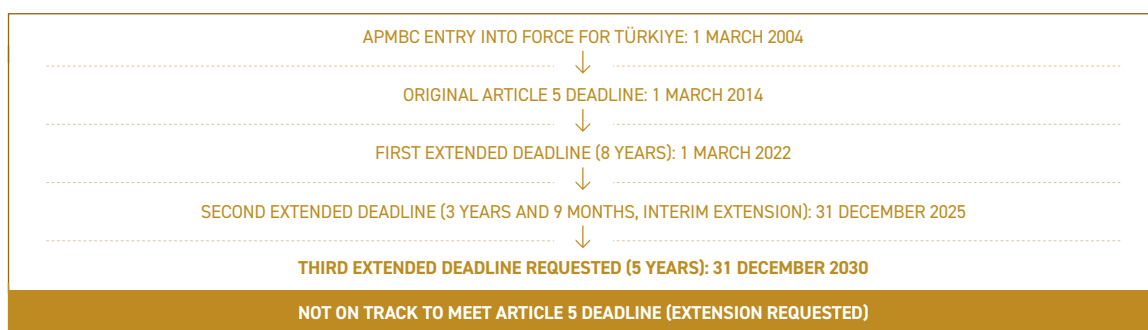
Region	Operator	CHAs and SHAs at start of year*	CHAs and SHAs at end of year*	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Iranian border	N/K	563	562	169,574	0	0
Non-border areas	N/K	841	837	77,621	176	0
Totals		3,659	3,656	680,864	179	5

*Information on areas disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs, not provided. The number of hazardous areas cleared is not provided. The number remaining at the end of 2024 reflects both areas released and areas added during 2024.

In its latest Article 7 report (covering 2024), Türkiye did not specify which operators were responsible for clearance at specific locations. However, it did state that 50 military demining teams “addressed” 716,410m² of land, resulting in “184 mines found/destroyed” across eleven “areas” in the provinces of Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, and Van.²¹⁰ Separately, Türkiye confirmed to Mine Action Review that in 2024, only military units operated in minefields, specifically, the Land Forces Special Mine Search and Clearance Team, and the Gendarmerie Special Mine Search and Clearance Battalion Command.²¹¹

TURMAC did not clarify how many, if any, of the total number of AP mines destroyed in 2024 were of an improvised nature. In November 2023, Türkiye noted that Turkish Armed Forces Counter-IED (C-IED) teams had “contributed to the safety of civilians by finding/neutralizing more than 150 mines, 2000 IEDs and 30,000 munitions laid by terrorist organizations in 2023”, though no details were provided on the location.²¹²

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the 3 years and 9 months interim extension granted by States Parties in 2021), Türkiye was required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than its extended deadline of 31 December 2022. In 2022, Türkiye requested and was granted an interim extension to 31 December 2025 to complete NTS and submit another extension request to complete clearance.²¹³ Türkiye duly submitted an extension request based on “actual contamination” following NTS and clearance in 2024 and early 2025.²¹⁴ This third extension request was submitted in March 2025, with additional information provided, as the Committee on Article 5 Implementation had asked for, in July 2025.

In the 2025 extension request, Türkiye provides detailed information on the circumstances that impeded implementation by the deadline. These include: topographical and access challenges, harsh weather, instability in some border locations and persistent insecurity in other areas (Mardin), delays in the importation of MDDs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the two earthquakes that affected southern Türkiye in February 2023 as a result of which military units were assigned to search and rescue activities. Also highlighted was the fact that a significant amount of EU funds were transferred to projects to mitigate the impact of the earthquakes, and that international funding for demining in Türkiye ended.²¹⁵

210 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

211 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

212 Statement of Türkiye on Clearance, 21MSP.

213 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 19.

214 Article 5 implementation Work Plan, 30 April 2023, p. 19.

215 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 34.

The 2021 request also provided no details of plans for clearance of the 90 identified mined areas which, at the time, remained in non-border areas. Similarly, the work plan in the 2025 extension request, as previously outlined, includes only limited plans for survey and clearance of these areas during the proposed 2026–30 extension period. TURMAC said it gives higher priority to clearing border minefields and installing border management facilities such as watch towers and patrol roads²¹⁶ with the aim of providing "a more secure and technologically advanced humanitarian border management system."²¹⁷ Türkiye made only limited progress on land release in non-border areas in 2022, 2023, and 2024.²¹⁸ While Türkiye's updated work plan does specify that an area of 3.3km² will be cleared in a non-border province in 2024–25,²¹⁹ Türkiye has not yet provided further clarity on plans to accelerate clearance in non-border areas.

The implementation of Phase IV of the EBMCP, a key milestone on Türkiye's path to completion, also remains uncertain, with a request for national budget towards Phase IV and the development of a work plan for it contingent on securing some international donor funding.²²⁰ Given this continued uncertainty over the EBMCP, it is a welcome development that Türkiye asserts that the security outlook for implementation of the Mardin Project in Mardin province bordering Syria has improved such that it finally expects to be able to undertake planned activities during the extension period.²²¹

Finally, it is also unclear, based on the work plan included in the 2025 extension request and the additional information provided, whether Türkiye envisages submitting a further request to extend its Article 5 deadline beyond 2030.²²² Though, as previously noted, in information provided to Mine Action Review in October 2025, Türkiye expressed that, while it aims to complete clearance within the specified time frame and is taking steps towards this, if the target is not met, a further extension will be requested.²²³ The steady expansion in operational capacity is to be welcomed. In its latest Article 7 report covering 2024, Türkiye notes that, since its first extension request, approximately 50km² of mined area has been addressed and almost 226,627 AP mines destroyed.²²⁴ But whether Türkiye can complete clearance by the end of 2030 depends on the extent to which it can accelerate clearance significantly and undertake massive cancellation and reduction.

Table 12: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2024	0.68
2023	0.92
2022	1.29
2021	0.41
2020	0.14
Total	3.44

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Türkiye aims to establish eight new clearance teams by 2027 and states that, if previously unrecorded areas of contamination are discovered after the completion of large-scale clearance, "these areas will be addressed through existing national capacity, or through projects to be carried out if funds and resources are available".²²⁵

216 Email from TURMAC, 12 August 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

217 Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form D.

218 Article 7 Reports (covering 2022, 2023 and 2024), Form D.

219 Article 5 Implementation Work Plan, 30 April 2023, p. 13.

220 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31; and Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, pp. 2–3.

221 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 2.

222 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

223 Email from Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the UN Office at Geneva, 3 October 2025.

224 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Form D.

225 Responses to "Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye, Committee on Article 5 Implementation", undated but published on the ISU website on 30 July 2025, p. 3.