

KEY DATA

NO CCM ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

Unknown, but massive

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Release in 2023 (km ²)
Clearance*	60.13	55.26
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0

Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
Submunitions destroyed	10,857 (including 1,250 in TS and 1,379 in spot tasks)	11,675 (including 1,822 in TS and 1,228 in spot tasks)

* Results of clearance by international humanitarian demining organisations only.

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2024, NGOs increased the amount of clearance of cluster munition-contaminated area for the third successive year, although the total number of submunitions destroyed was down on the figure for 2023. The Korea-Vietnam Peace Village Project (KVPVP) started the second phase of its mine action programme in May 2024 with Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC) teams working in three central provinces under the US\$25 million initiative. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) conducted an assessment to prepare for the upgrade of VNMAC's national database from Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation to IMSMA Core.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Vietnam should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Vietnam should issue as quickly as possible the mine action ordinance and national mine action standards (TCVNs).
- Vietnam should develop a TCVN for managing the environmental impact of mine action.
- VNMAC should develop a national strategy and annual work plans for cluster munition remnants (CMR), with clear priorities and targets for survey and clearance.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Ministry of Defence
- Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC)
- Provincial mine action centres and authorities (e.g. the Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC) and Quang Binh Database and Coordination Unit (DBCUC))

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- VNMAC

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN)

OTHER ACTORS

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

UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION

Vietnam is massively contaminated by CMR but still has no estimate of the extent, even to the nearest hundred square kilometres. An explosive remnants of war (ERW) impact survey, which was started in 2004 and completed in 2014, but only published in 2018, said that 61,308km² or 19% of Vietnam's land surface area was affected by ERW. It did not specify the area affected by CMR but found they affected 32 of Vietnam's 63 provinces and cities.¹ According to VNMAC, the total area still contaminated with bombs, mines, and explosive ordnance in Vietnam was 56,000km², which accounts for approximately 17% of Vietnam's land surface. Contamination is mainly concentrated in central provinces including Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, and Quang Ngai.²

A clearer picture of CMR contamination is emerging in central Vietnamese provinces underscoring the scale of the challenge. Survey by Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in Quang Binh province, had

identified confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) covering almost 181km² by April 2025 but had completed technical survey (TS) in only 22 of 145 communes and thus the total figure will certainly rise.³

In Quang Tri province, NPA completed survey in 690 of 800 villages, and of the 620km² of CMR identified, 177km² had been cleared, leaving around 443km². There remained 110 villages to survey which desk assessments suggest have roughly 59km² of contamination, pointing to a remaining challenge of more than 500km². The People's Committee, an important local governmental body in Vietnam, aimed to complete survey of the province in 2026 or 2027 and generate a comprehensive map of CHAs.⁴ As of January 2025, provincial authorities had lifted access restrictions on all but eight villages.⁵ Survey in Thua Thien Hue has identified 112 CHAs totalling 30.71km² but has so far covered only 31 communes, less than one-third of the total, meaning substantial additional contamination remains to be identified.⁶

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Vietnam has huge contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO) and an unquantified mine problem (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Vietnam for further information). The ERW impact survey identified the most heavily contaminated regions as the central coastal provinces, the Central Highlands, the Mekong River delta, and the Red River delta.⁷ The experience of international operators in central Vietnam points to wide variations in contamination types from district to district. International operators report encountering mainly projectiles, mortars, grenades, and some aircraft bombs.⁸

1 VNMAC, "Report on Explosive Remnants of War Contamination in Vietnam, Based on the Explosive Remnants of War Contamination Survey and Mapping – Phase 1", provided by VNMAC 19 April 2018, p. 38.

2 Email from VNMAC, 14 July 2023.

3 Emails from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025; and Sarah Goring, Country Director, MAG, 17 July 2025.

4 Ibid.

5 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025.

6 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

7 VNMAC, "Report on Explosive Remnants of War Contamination in Vietnam", Hanoi, 2018, pp. 33–36.

8 Interviews with Resad Junuzagic, Jan Eric Stoa, and Magnus Johansson, NPA, Hanoi, 17 April 2018; and with Simon Rea and Michael Raine, MAG, Quang Tri, 19 April 2018; and emails from Clinton Smith, DDG, 23 March 2017 and 19 April 2018.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

VNMAC was established in 2014 by Prime Ministerial decree to strengthen the direction of mine action and provide a focal point for mine action operations.⁹ A Decree on the Management and Implementation of Mine Action Activities (Decree No. 18), which entered into force in 2019, confirmed the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the lead authority for the national mine action programme, acting in coordination with other relevant ministries and sectors.¹⁰ Under the direction of the Prime Minister and management of the MoD, VNMAC will “monitor, coordinate and implement mine action tasks”.¹¹ The government’s Circular 195, which came into effect in 2020,¹² details how the decree is to be implemented.

Decree 18, currently the highest-level legal instrument governing mine action activities in Vietnam, applies to all domestic and foreign organisations operating in mine action.¹³ It established the legal basis for revising and updating National Technical Regulations (QCVNs) and standards (TCVNs) and for regulating information management. In 2022, the Prime Minister ordered an Ordinance for mine action to be drafted and then issued by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. This ordinance will supersede Decree 18 in importance.¹⁴ As of April 2025, a draft was still under review by government ministries.¹⁵

VNMAC is nationally funded, but the National Mine Action Programme (Program 504) is funded by both the State and international donors.¹⁶ A Prime Ministerial Decision (16/2024/QĐ-TTg) taking effect from the start of December 2024 nearly doubled deminers’ daily allowance from VND 180,000 (US\$7) to VND 350,000 (US\$14), substantially increasing operational costs.

According to VNMAC, government support for mine action has included the following:

- establishing coordinating agencies and associations to support all levels of mine action;
- completing a legal framework, mechanism, and policies for demining (the MoD cooperates with other ministries to develop Circulars guiding QCVNs, TCVNs, and standing operating procedures (SOPs) on quality management (QM), survey, and clearance, and related issues);
- facilitating the capacity development of demining organisations in management, administration, survey, and clearance;
- setting up a national QM system for survey and clearance in accordance with international standards; and
- developing an information management system.¹⁷

Vietnam’s regional mine action centres coordinate operations at the regional level with support from operators. Quang Binh province’s database and coordination unit (DBCUC), technically supported by NPA through a US-funded capacity development project, tasks operators applying a prioritisation system introduced in 2022 and holds regular coordination meetings with operators.¹⁸ Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC), technically supported by NPA through a US-funded capacity development project, and with additional support from MAG and PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN), is implementing a five-year action plan covering 2021–25 under which it sets task priorities and conducts quality assurance (QA) for operators in the province.¹⁹

VNMAC participates in a Mine Action Working Group (MAWG), previously co-chaired by MAG and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which provides a platform for discussion and joint planning. It met four times in 2024, discussing sector concerns, including the planned mine action ordinance. The chairmanship rotates every two years, and in December 2023, PTVN replaced MAG. MAWG sub-task forces also met in 2024, including those dealing with risk education, the environment, victim assistance, and gender, diversity, and inclusion (GDI).²⁰ In 2024, Vietnam’s MoD agreed with the United States to re-establish a Mine Action Partnership Group as a platform for engaging with stakeholders, including donors, operators, and the UN.²¹

VNMAC is collaborating with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNDP in the KVPVP, which combines mine action with a programme for sustainable rural development in central Vietnam. The \$29 million first phase in 2018–22 involved ERW survey and clearance in Binh Dinh and Quang Binh provinces. The \$25 million second phase, which started in May 2024 and was due to run until 2026, focuses on survey and clearance of explosive ordnance in Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Thua Thien Hue provinces, working on priorities set by provincial authorities with an emphasis on maximising post-clearance land use.²²

Vietnam also receives capacity development support from MAG, NPA, PTVN, the GICHD, and the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (Golden West), as well as UNDP.²³ As mentioned, NPA supports capacity development of the Quang Binh and Quang Tri provincial authorities, funded by PM/WRA, and in 2024, NPA also provided capacity development of Hue DBU with funding from the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA). MAG concluded a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with VNMAC

9 Prime Ministerial Decree (No. 738 of 2013) on the management and implementation of mine action activities, Hanoi.

10 Decree on Implementation and Management of Mine Action, No. 18/2019/ND-CP, 1 February 2019.

11 Decree on the management and implementation of mine action activities, Hanoi, April 2018.

12 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 6 April 2020; and Tim Horner, Senior Technical Adviser, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

13 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023.

14 Ibid.

15 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025.

16 Email from Tim Horner, VNMAC, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

17 Ibid.

18 Emails from Helene Kuperman, MAG, 10 April, 23 June 2020, and 31 March 2021; Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 24 June 2020; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, Country Director, PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN), 11 May 2021.

19 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

20 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

21 Emails from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

22 Email from Goosoon Kwon, Chief Technical Adviser for Mine Action, UNDP, 21 May 2025.

23 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024; Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 27 May 2024.

in October 2024, providing for cooperation, including technical training, in 10 key areas, including non-technical survey (NTS) and TS, explosive ordnance clearance, and data management.²⁴ NPA supported VNMAC with a Senior

Technical Adviser and information management adviser as well as explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training and legal and professional advice in preparation of the new mine action ordinance.²⁵

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Constitution of Vietnam prohibits gender discrimination, and it is State policy to guarantee equal gender rights and opportunities. In mine action, women participate more in victim assistance and risk education, however, while national survey/clearance and information management are still male-dominated and managed by the Vietnam Army.²⁶ A MAWG sub-task force on gender was established in 2022 and renamed the GDI task force in December 2023 to emphasise the focus on inclusivity.²⁷ In 2024, VNMAC put forward a female candidate to undertake EOD training for the first time.

The number of women employed by demining NGOs increased by about 10% in 2024 compared to the previous year in line with the increase in total staff (see Table 1). The percentage of women employed by NPA in managerial or field positions dipped from the previous year, but it began integrating gender and diversity training into staff training and undertook a number of projects, including implementing a German-funded gender and diversity project that included GDI and leadership training for women in Quang Binh, Hue, and Quang Tri.²⁸

Table 1: Gender composition of NGO operators in 2024²⁹

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
MAG	755	228 (30%)	80	15 (19%)	706	207 (29%)
NPA	395	127 (32%)	14	8 (57%)	318	91 (29%)
PTVN	314	79 (25%)	16	6 (38%)	270	60 (22%)
Totals	1,464	434 (30%)	110	29 (26%)	1,294	358 (28%)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

VNMAC engaged actively in the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board discussions on a revised IMAS on the environment and reportedly plans to issue a TCVN on the issue, though this had not occurred as at the end of 2024.³⁰ Demining operators applied their own standards. MAG hired a Vietnamese environmental consultant, Keep Vietnam Clean, to assess the impact of its operations and waste management practices.³¹ NPA applied the global organisation's Green Field and Green Office tools, and provided training to field staff and operational management.³²

PTVN applied a General Code of Conduct on environmental management for its staff, partners, and the communities it supported along with measures to minimise and manage waste by office and field staff, promoting use of environmentally-friendly materials and integrating environmental protection messaging in its risk education sessions. It also plants trees to strengthen communities' resilience to the environmental impacts of mine action and climate change, including the dangers of soil erosion and landslides.³³

Table 2: Environmental policies and action

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
MAG	Yes	Yes	Yes
NPA	Yes	Yes	Yes
PTVN	Yes	Yes	Yes

N/R = Not reported

24 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025.

25 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

26 Email from the GICHD, 5 May 2023.

27 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April and 19 May 2023, and 17 May 2024.

28 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

29 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

30 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.

31 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

32 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

33 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

Mine action in Vietnam contends with a number of environmental challenges in its diverse habitats ranging from tropical forest to coastal wetlands. PTVN reported losing more working days in 2024 to heavy rain and flooding which also displaces items of explosive ordnance, making their detection and removal more challenging. Additionally, erosion and sediment transport caused by intense rainfall can

bury or expose explosive ordnance, necessitating frequent re-surveying and clearance of affected areas. Severe flooding following intense rainfall in Thua Thien Hue province in October 2023 prevented NPA deploying survey teams for several weeks and landslides necessitated relocating its clearance team from A Luoi, the province's most heavily contaminated district.³⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

VNMAC has made improving information management a top priority.³⁵ VNMAC completed consolidation of five IMSMA databases into a central national database using IMSMA NG at the end of 2022 and was preparing in 2024 to upgrade the database from IMSMA NG to Core. The GICHD conducted an assessment in March 2024 to prepare for the transition with VNMAC planning to complete the process by the end of 2025,

with technical support and facilitation by NPA.³⁶ Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien Hue provinces continue to operate their own mine action databases, which collect and analyse data from operators and task operators. The operators report activities to these databases that in turn report to VNMAC's central Information Management Unit.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Vietnam does not have a strategy specifically targeting CMR. Programme 504, approved by the Prime Minister in April 2010, set out a National Mine Action Plan for 2010–25. It provides a broad policy framework for responding to explosive ordnance and covers mines, CMR, and other ERW. It aimed to “mobilize domestic and international resources in making efforts to minimize and finally create impact-free environment for social economic development.” The programme called for clearance of 8,000km² of ERW between 2016 and 2025³⁷ and planned to complete an impact survey to map contamination nationwide; develop national standards; and establish a database management centre.³⁸

Vietnam prepared a five-year plan for the 2021–25 final phase of the National Mine Action plan, without input from NGOs or other members of the MAWG. The plan was eventually adopted in June 2023 for the last two years through to 2025.³⁹ It calls for improved organisational structures, enhanced legislation and national standards, international cooperation for funding and resources, research and development, establishing a national mine data system, promoting awareness of ERW risk, and assistance to the victims.⁴⁰

VNMAC has been preparing a 10-year plan covering 2026–35 and a draft was reportedly under review by the MoD and other government agencies, but it has not consulted demining organisations or shared information on priorities. It is also understood to be developing a new national mine action programme for 2026–45, with a vision for mine action through to 2065.⁴¹

Vietnam does not have a national prioritisation system for CMR clearance.⁴² Quang Binh Database and Coordination Unit (DBCUC) has operated a reporting and tasking system in the province since 2021, and applies a province-wide prioritisation system.⁴³ The DBCUC also submitted a Quang Binh Provincial Mine Action Programme 2024–2035 to the Provincial People's Committee for official approval in the first quarter of 2024, setting specific objectives and timelines to minimise the impact of CMR and ERW and with the longer term ambition of becoming impact-free by 2045.⁴⁴ In Quang Tri, QTMAC tasks operators and sets annual work plans approved by provincial authorities in consultation with operators.⁴⁵ Thua Thien Hue provincial authorities similarly task NGO operators in accordance with the provincial socio-economic development plan.⁴⁶

34 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.

35 Interview with Mr Hop, VNMAC, in Geneva, 22 June 2023.

36 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

37 Prime Minister, “Decision on Approval of the National Mine Action Plan Period 2010–2025”, Hanoi, 21 April 2010.

38 STA Capacity Development Project (NPA), “Vietnamese legal framework in mine action”, January 2023.

39 Emails from Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021; Valentina Stivanello, MAG, 29 April and 20 June 2022; and Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 22 June 2022.

40 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

41 Emails from mine action stakeholders, April 2025.

42 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023; and Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023.

43 Emails from Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 21 April 2022; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

44 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

45 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 6 April 2020; Simon Rea, MAG, 24 April 2019; Helene Kuperman, MAG, 31 March 2021; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

46 Email from Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 6 April 2020.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Vietnam has two types of national standards: QCVNs, which are mandatory for all operators, and TCVNs, which are only guidelines for organisations that do not receive Vietnamese funding.⁴⁷

Vietnam has drafted 15 TCVNs, which have been the subject of a lengthy review, and which had not been released by the start of 2025. The review is now reportedly complete and the TCVNs are being translated with a view to their release before the end of 2025.⁴⁸ The TCVNs are: (1) General regulations, (2) Appraisal and certification of MA organisations' capacity, (3) Monitoring & Evaluation, (4) Contamination inspection, (5) Survey, (6) Safety assurance, (7) Survey and clearance, (8) Disposal of landmines/bombs, (9) Medical insurance, (10) Inspection over incidents, (11)

Collecting, processing, and providing mine action information, (12) Quality management, (13) Risk management, (14) Risk education, and (15) Victim assistance. A further TCVN on environmental protection in mine action is also expected to be developed.⁴⁹

QCVNs were promulgated by the MoD in a Circular (No. 59) in 2022 after extensive review over the course of several years by four working groups. The process was co-chaired by VNMAC, and included consultation with operators and international organisations, including the GICHD.⁵⁰ The QCVNs include general provisions, technical regulations, regulations on safety and on management, and the responsibilities of organisations and individuals.⁵¹

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Most clearance in Vietnam is conducted by the Army Engineering Corps and 43 military-owned commercial companies. Vietnamese officials have previously reported that it had 250 mine clearance and battle area clearance (BAC) teams nationally,⁵² but the current strength and deployment of military-related demining is unknown. International operators mainly work in the central provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien Hue provinces, and most recently also in the Central Highlands province of Kon Tum.

MAG started 2024 with 41 clearance teams totalling 410 personnel working in Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces, but from June it had 44 clearance teams working with a total of 484 deminers. It achieved the increase by integrating what were previously 14 support teams into clearance teams, expanding the number of deminers in each team from 10 to 11 and creating three new clearance teams. MAG planned to add two more clearance teams in 2025 and another team operating a Scorpion mine and UXO detection system supplied by the US Department of Defense Humanitarian Demining & Research Department. MAG also deployed one NTS team and eight two-strong teams conducting risk education.⁵³

NPA had 18 clearance teams and 194 deminers operating in 2024, working mainly in Quang Tri and on a smaller scale in Thua Thien Hue. It also operated with two NTS teams, one each in Quang Binh and Thua Thien Hue, and four technical survey teams with 24 personnel in Quang Binh. In 2025, it planned to expand its NTS and TS capacity in Quang Binh and to start field operations in the Central Highlands province of Kon Tum.⁵⁴

PTVN expanded significantly in 2024 from 11 clearance teams with 142 deminers, to 18 teams and 184 clearance personnel. It increased to 6 teams with 47 personnel in Quang Binh, and 12 teams with 137 personnel in Quang Tri. Four of the Quang Binh teams and two of the Quang Tri teams are multi-task teams mainly responsible for spot EOD tasks but which are also available to conduct area clearance if required. PTVN planned further expansion in 2025 by adding two more teams and 26 clearance personnel in Quang Binh.⁵⁵

KVPVP, funded by KOICA and managed by UNDP, had 836 VNMAC staff employed in battle area survey and clearance. These included 14 TS teams with 224 personnel and 34 clearance teams with 612 personnel deployed in Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Thua Thien Hue. Their BAC tasks include some CMR, but these make up only a small proportion of the items cleared.⁵⁶

47 Email from Resad Junuzagic, NPA, 6 May 2019.

48 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

49 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023; Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

50 Emails from Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 8 April 2021 and 21 April 2022; Valentina Stivanello, MAG, 29 April 2022; GICHD, 24 April 2022; and Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

51 STA Capacity Development Project (NPA), "Vietnamese legal framework in mine action", January 2023.

52 Interview with Sr. Col. Nguyen Thanh Ban, Engineering Command, Hanoi, 18 June 2013.

53 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025.

54 Emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024; and NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

55 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025; Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025; and Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 21 May 2025.

56 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 21 May 2025.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 3: Land release outputs in 2024

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2024 (km ²)	Comments
Clearance	60.13	
Technical Survey	0	
Non-Technical Survey	0	
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	
Submunitions destroyed	10,857	Includes 1,250 in TS and 1,379 in spot tasks

The three international NGOs working in central Vietnam reported clearing 60km² in 2024, an increase of nearly 9% on the previous year. This is only a partial result, but Vietnam's army and army-owned commercial companies do not publicly report results of any activities. The three NGOs destroyed 10,626 submunitions, 9% fewer than the 11,675 items they destroyed in 2023, although BAC by the KVPVP added another 231 submunitions, bringing the total number destroyed to 10,857.⁵⁷

SURVEY IN 2024

International NGO survey identified CHAs covering nearly 48km² in 2024 (see Table 4), 26% less than in 2023 and one-third of the area confirmed in 2022. A major share of the CHAs confirmed in the previous two years were in Quang Tri province, but after completion of all Quang Tri's accessible villages in 2023, no survey was recorded there in 2024 and all the CHAs identified were in Quang Binh.

Table 4: Confirmation of cluster munition-contaminated area through TS in 2024 (NGO data)⁵⁸

Operator	Province	Area surveyed (m ²)	Area confirmed (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
MAG	Quang Binh	865,738	1,076,143	337	81
NPA	Quang Binh	18,000,000	46,809,786	913	80
Totals		18,865,738	47,885,929	1,250	161

KVPVP's VNMAC teams, operating with a mandate for survey and clearance of all forms of explosive ordnance, confirmed another 34.3km² of contamination in three provinces in 2024,⁵⁹ which included some secondary contamination by CMR. KVPVP's technical survey of these areas also reduced 29km².⁶⁰

CLEARANCE IN 2024

Clearance by INGOs released 60km² in 2024 (see Table 5), 9% more than the previous year. The area cleared in Quang Binh and Thua Thien Hue was marginally down on the previous year but increased by 13% in Quang Tri. MAG, which cleared 28 CHAs covering 29km² in Quang Tri (compared with the previous year's 24 CHAs covering 26.5km²), attributed the

higher productivity to teams working in more open and flat terrain.⁶¹ PTVN linked the 15% increase in the area it cleared to increasing both the number and size of clearance teams.⁶² NPA cleared 22% more land in Quang Tri in 2024 than the previous year and destroyed more submunitions – 1,624 in 2024 compared with 1,374 in 2023.⁶³

57 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

58 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; and NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

59 KVPVP confirmed explosive ordnance contamination in Binh Dinh (9.7km²); Quang Nghi (14.2km²); and Thua Thien Hue (10.3km²).

60 Emails from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 21 May and 9 June 2025.

61 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025.

62 Email from Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.

63 Email from NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025.

Overall, the three NGOs destroyed 9,247 submunitions in survey and clearance in 2024, 11% less than during survey and clearance in 2023. As Table 5 illustrates, 7,997 submunitions were destroyed during full clearance while 1,250 were destroyed during TS (see Table 4 above). They destroyed a further 1,379 submunitions in spot EOD tasks (a small increase on 2023), while KVPVP's VNMAC teams destroyed another 231 submunitions,⁶⁴ bringing the cumulative total to 10,857. This is still below the total of 11,675 items destroyed in 2023.

Table 5: CMR clearance in 2024 (NGO data)⁶⁵

Province	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Submunitions destroyed in spot tasks	Other UXO destroyed
Quang Binh	MAG	8,506,241	1,293	155	1,415
Quang Binh	PTVN	2,527,137	559	1,049	70
Quang Tri	MAG	29,200,813	4,166	2	3,221
Quang Tri	NPA	11,641,994	1,624	18	2,436
Quang Tri	PTVN	7,654,676	176	61	1,930
Thua Thien Hue	NPA	596,967	179	94	291
Totals		60,127,828	7,997	1,379	9,363

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

The results achieved by VNMAC and NGOs in 2024 provided a platform for progress but prospects in 2025 are overshadowed by funding setbacks. The temporary suspension of funding from the US Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA), a key donor, resulted in productivity losses, job cuts, and project delays.⁶⁶ The KVPVP expressed concern that without a substantial and unforeseen increase in its budget, the near doubling of deminer allowances decreed in December 2024 could result in a reduced number of teams and deminers and set back its 2025 plan to technically survey 22.1km² and clear 6.2km².⁶⁷

Table 6: Five-year summary of NGO clearance

Year	Area (km ²)
2024	60.1
2023	55.3
2022	51.2
2021	48.0
2020	48.5
Total	263.1

64 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 21 May 2025.
65 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 25 April 2025; NPA Vietnam management, 5 May 2025; and Ph m Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 12 May 2025.
66 Emails from international operators April and May 2025.
67 Email from Goosoon Kwon, UNDP, 21 May 2025.