

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION:

UNKNOWN (BUT NOT
BELIEVED TO BE HEAVY)

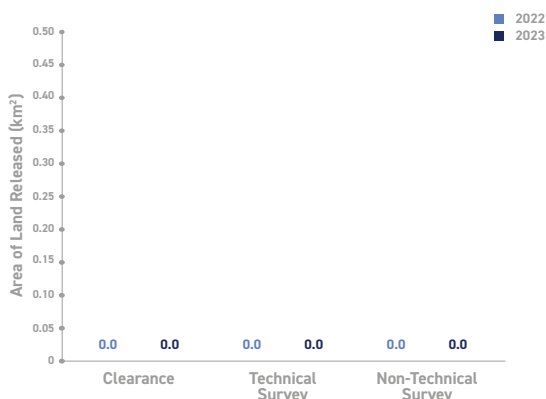
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2023

0 km²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2023

6

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2023, Vietnam adopted the National Mine Action Plan for 2023–25. NGOs completed technical survey (TS) of all accessible areas of explosive ordnance contamination in Quang Tri province. The Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC) started discussions with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on upgrading the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.

FIVE-YEAR OVERVIEW

Vietnam has progressively strengthened management of the mine action sector. A new mine action decree issued in 2019 and followed by a more detailed Guiding Circular gave VNMAC a clear mandate and responsibilities and provided a legal basis for the revision and updating of national mine action regulations and standards (QCVNs and TCVNs, respectively). Revised QCVNs were issued in 2022 but TCVNs remain under review. VNMAC approved new regulations for a national information management system providing a framework for setting up data management structures in all 63 provinces and 7 military regions of Vietnam. The main focus of Vietnam's mine action programme, however, remains survey and clearance of explosive remnants of war (ERW) rather than the release of mined areas, which are prevalent along Vietnam's borders.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Vietnam should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as soon as possible.
- Vietnam should publish a detailed assessment of areas known or suspected to be contaminated by anti-personnel (AP) mines.
- Vietnam should report annually on survey, clearance, or explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) interventions targeting landmines, including comprehensive national data detailing explosive ordnance found and destroyed, disaggregated by device type.

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC)
- Provincial mine action centres and authorities (e.g. the Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC), the Quang Binh Database and Coordination Unit (DBCUC), and Thua Thien Hue database unit (DBU))

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Ministry of Defence

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN)

OTHER ACTORS

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (Golden West)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The full extent of mined area in Vietnam is unknown. A Landmine Impact Survey published in 2018 reported the presence of AP mines in 26 of 63 cities and provinces but gave no further details.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 Mines, however, make up only a small proportion of the explosive ordnance contamination, with cluster munition remnants (CMR) and other ERW forming the vast majority of explosive hazards.

Most of the mines are a legacy of conflicts in the 1970s with neighbouring Cambodia and China, and affect areas close to its borders with those countries.³ Clearance had been reported by Vietnam along its northern border with China in the 1990s and since 2004, but mined areas further inland are believed to persist.⁴ It was reported in 2013 by Vietnam's Military Engineering Command that clearance had been completed in areas bordering Cambodia.⁵ Many ports and river deltas were extensively mined during the armed conflict with the United States and were not completely cleared when it ended. A number of sea mines have been found on the coast. Some mines have also been found around former US military installations.⁶

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.⁷ A Decree on the Management and Implementation of Mine Action Activities (Decree No. 18), which entered into effect in 2019 confirmed the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the lead authority for the national mine action programme, in coordination with other relevant ministries and sectors.⁸ VNMAC is mandated, under the direction of the Prime Minister and management of the MoD, to "monitor, coordinate, and implement mine action tasks".⁹ The MoD's Circular 195, which came into effect in 2020,¹⁰ provides detailed guidance on the implementation of the Decree.

Decree 18 is currently the highest-level legal document governing mine action activities in Vietnam and applicable to all domestic and foreign organisations operating in mine action in the country.¹¹ It established the legal basis for revising and updating national regulations the QCVNs and TCVNs (see the section below, Land Release System) and for regulating information management. In February 2022, the Prime Minister ordered the preparation of an Ordinance for mine action in Vietnam, to be issued by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. The ordinance, which is reportedly in preparation, will supersede Decree 18 in importance.¹²

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 Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC) 19 April 2018, p. 38.

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

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

4 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, Country Director, NPA, 6 April 2020; and Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

5 Email from Sarah Goring, Country Director, MAG, 5 April 2023.

6 Ibid.

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

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

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

10 Emails from Jan Erik Støa, Country Director, NPA, 6 April 2020; and Tim Horner on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

11 Email from Sarah Goring, Country Director, MAG, 5 April 2023.

12 Ibid.

VNMAC is nationally funded but the National Mine Action Programme (Program 504) is funded by both the State and international donors.¹³ 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 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.¹⁴

VNMAC participated in all meetings of the Mine Action Working Group (MAWG), which provides a platform for all mine action stakeholders to discuss issues that impact the sector. MAG and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-chaired the meetings in 2023 while PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN) and UNDP were elected as co-chairs for 2024 and 2025.¹⁵ In April 2022, MAWG members established sub-taskforces on capacity development, gender, the environment, victim assistance, and risk education.¹⁶ VNMAC participates in all meetings of the MAWG and its sub-taskforces.¹⁷ The MAWG met three times in 2023—in March, September, and December—allowing members to assess progress in the sector, the work of MAWG sub-taskforces, development of the ordinance for mine action, and the TCVNs.¹⁸

VNMAC is collaborating with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNDP in a project for ERW survey and clearance in central Vietnam. The first phase in 2018–22, which cost \$29 million, involved ERW survey and clearance in Binh Dinh and Quang Binh provinces. In the \$25 million second phase, starting in 2024 and running until 2026, the military engineers unit, BOMICEN, will deploy 14 teams for survey and clearance in Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Thua Thien Hue provinces.¹⁹

Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), PTVN, the GICHD, Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (Golden West), and UNDP all provide support for capacity

development in Vietnam.²⁰ In October 2021, MAG concluded a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with VNMAC to provide technical support and capacity building on EOD, clearance, and QM, and on expanding digital risk education to new provinces. There are plans for a new MoU when the existing agreement expires.²¹

NPA continued a project to build VNMAC's capacity as the sector coordinator funded by the United States Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) under which it provides a senior technical adviser (STA) and information management (IM) adviser. The STA is active in supporting donor engagement, international cooperation, and the updating of the legal framework for mine action in Vietnam. The IM adviser has worked with VNMAC on upgrading the IMSMA database, drafting technical regulations, and training personnel in its national IM unit and regional database units.²²

NPA also supported VNMAC to establish a fully-equipped mobile bomb-cutting team. With support from the US Department of Defense (DoD), an NPA technical advisor conducted training in Hanoi followed by practical experience in Quang Tri province. Eight VNMAC personnel, one of whom was a woman, were certified in the use of the bomb-cutting tools and methodology, and all equipment—including a trailer, the saw, and an X-ray machine—were handed over to VNMAC afterwards.²³

Vietnam's regional mine action centres coordinate operations at provincial level with support from operators. Quang Binh province's database and coordination unit (DBCUC) tasks operators applying a prioritisation system introduced in April 2022 and holds regular coordination meetings with operators.²⁴ Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC), supported by MAG and NPA, is implementing a five-year action plan (2021–25) according to which it sets task priorities and conducts quality assurance (QA) for operators in the province.²⁵

In 2013, Vietnam amended Article 26 of the Constitution so that "male and female citizens are equal in all aspects", prohibiting gender discrimination. State policy is to guarantee equal gender rights and opportunities. In mine action, women participate more in victim assistance and risk education, while national survey/clearance and information management are still male-dominated and managed by the Vietnam Army.²⁶ In 2024, VNMAC for the first time put forward a female candidate to undertake EOD training.

13 Email from Tim Horner, Senior Technical Advisor, VNMAC, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 6 April 2021.

14 Ibid.

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

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

17 Email from Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

18 Emails from Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023, Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024; and Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

19 Interview with Kwon Goosoon, Chief Technical Adviser for Mine Action, UNDP, in Geneva, 1 May 2024.

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

21 Emails from Valentina Stivanetto, MAG, 29 April 2022; and Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

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

23 Email from Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023.

24 Emails from Helene Kuperman, MAG, 10 April and 23 June 2020 and 31 March 2021; Jan Erik Støa, NPA, 24 June 2020; and Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 11 May 2021.

25 Email from Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

26 Email from GICHD, 5 May 2023.

A MAWG sub-task force on gender was established in 2022 and in December of that year MAG co-hosted a workshop in Hanoi on gender mainstreaming with UNDP.²⁷

In December 2023, members renamed it the Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion (GDI) task force to emphasise its focus on inclusivity.²⁸

Table 1: Gender composition of NGO operators in 2023²⁹

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total operational staff	Women in operational positions
MAG	743	217 (29%)	33	11 (33%)	687	194 (28%)
NPA	375	124 (33%)	12	8 (75%)	212	88 (42%)
PTVN	216	51 (24%)	13	6 (46%)	185	38 (21%)
Totals	1,334	392 (29%)	58	25 (43%)	1,084	320 (30%)

MAG Vietnam's gender balance remained largely unchanged in 2023, with women making up 29% of overall and operations staff, but to continue its promotion of diversity it had a country strategy workshop in October 2023 to discuss the strategy for the next five years. In early 2024, it conducted consultations with diverse groups of staff to support the development of its GDI action plan. Following this, a survey was also circulated to all staff to get deeper insights into the current situation of GDI in MAG Vietnam.³⁰

NPA, which established Vietnam's first all-female battle area clearance (BAC) team, continued to promote gender mainstreaming through a five-person Gender Working Group set up in 2023 and the integration of gender and diversity

policy into programme development and training. All NPA's national staff received training on the issue in 2023. NPA also promoted gender and inclusion in the sector speaking at public events, including International Day for Mine Awareness and an event commemorating the 79th anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army emphasising the role of women in mine action.³¹

PTVN has gender and diversity policies in place and ensures equal opportunities for all staff within its recruitment, pay, training, and procedures for promotion. PTVN regularly measures and tracks personnel data, which helps it better mainstream gender and diversity.³²

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Vietnam lacks a national mine action standard on environmental management but VNMAC has engaged actively in the discussions in the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board on a revised IMAS chapter on the environment, gaining experience expected to feed into drafting a TCVN on the environment planned once the IMAS process is complete.³³ The MAWG's Environment Task Force met in November 2023, focusing on promoting environmental awareness and best practices among operators to reduce the environmental impact of mine action operations in Vietnam.³⁴

Mine action in Vietnam contends with a number of environmental challenges in the diverse habitats ranging from tropical forest to coastal wetlands, all of which are aggravated by climate change. Heavy rainfall and flooding,

particularly during monsoon seasons, displace 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.³⁵

MAG Vietnam's operations follow an environmental SOP in place from MAG's Global Technical Standards, which are based on IMAS 07.13. Additionally, in 2023, MAG engaged an environmental consultancy group, Keep Vietnam Clean

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

²⁸ Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

²⁹ Ibid.; and emails from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024; and Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 27 May 2024.

³⁰ Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

³¹ Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.

³² Emails from Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023 and 27 May 2024.

³³ Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.

³⁴ Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 17 May 2024.

³⁵ Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.

(KVC), to conduct an environmental impact assessment of its operations focused on waste management and energy saving. KVC visited MAG teams in Quang Tri and Quang Binh in January 2024 to assess the impact of field operations and current management practices with a view to presenting findings and recommendations for MAG's future plans later in 2024.³⁶

NPA completed trials of a "Green Field Tool" in 2023 and started rolling out the initiative which is designed to systematically measure and monitor the environmental impact of its field operations and guide the implementation of mitigation measures at both the programme and global levels. The tool addresses factors including vehicle emissions; the impact of operations on vegetation, soil, and water resources; and measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change. NPA Vietnam's Environment Protection Coordinator is monitoring the programme's application of the tool and will be working with NPA's head office and other

programmes in developing improvements. Among measures adopted by the programme in 2023 NPA collaborated with local partners in Thua Thien Hue province using *co bang*, a local grass, to make sandbags for demolitions as a way to reduce plastic waste.³⁷

PTVN organised training courses on environment and climate change for staff with instruction from consultants in Hue University's Centre for Climate Change Study in Central Vietnam. PTVN reported that its management and staff began integrating lessons learned from the courses in activities. Among other actions in 2023, PTVN planted bamboo trees in Quang Tri's Huong Ha district to support efforts of local authorities in preventing soil erosion and providing raw materials for local communities. PTVN planned to update environmental management policies in 2024 and to revise materials used to follow environmentally friendly standards.³⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

VNMAC has declared the development of information management a top priority.³⁹ It issued regulations establishing a national information management system in July 2022 requiring all provinces to submit standardised reporting of mine action data into the national IMSMA database.⁴⁰ VNMAC provided training and a laptop containing IMSMA with all provincial data for authorities in each province.⁴¹ VNMAC quality checks the data it receives for consistency and completeness. VNMAC is also responsible for the QA of the data received by the commercial operators.⁴² As at April 2024, 18 provinces had submitted reports.⁴³

VNMAC, supported by NPA's capacity development project, completed consolidation of data from five different IMSMA

databases into one national IMSMA database in December 2022.⁴⁴ VNMAC is now preparing to upgrade the database from IMSMA New Generation to the latest edition, IMSMA Core. VNMAC and its NPA IM advisers started discussion on the upgrade with the GICHD in 2023, and in March 2024 the GICHD conducted an assessment of VNMAC's database to prepare for transition to Core in 2025.⁴⁵

Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien Hue provinces have operated mine action databases that collect and analyse data and task operators. The operators report activities to these databases which in turn report to VNMAC's central Information Management Unit. Binh Dinh is reportedly the next key province that VNMAC wants to focus on.⁴⁶

PLANNING AND TASKING

Programme 504, approved by the Prime Minister in April 2010, set out a National Mine Action Plan for 2010–25. The plan, which covers mines, CMR, and other ERW, aimed to "mobilise domestic and international resources in

making efforts to minimise and finally create impact-free environment for social economic development." The programme called for clearance of 8,000km² of ERW between 2016 and 2025⁴⁷ and planned to complete an impact survey to

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

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

38 Email from Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 27 May 2024.

39 Interview with Mr Hop, VNMAC, Geneva, 22 June 2023.

40 Email from Tim Horner, NPA, 7 September 2022.

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

42 Email from Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023.

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

44 Email from Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023.

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

46 Email from Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 21 April 2022.

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

map contamination nationwide, develop national standards, and establish a database management centre.⁴⁸ Vietnam does not yet have a strategy specifically targeting mines and plans to address all explosive ordnance comprehensively. VNMAC would benefit from elaborating a national mine action strategy and annual work plans for mines, with clear targets for survey and clearance.

In February 2022, VNMAC shared a five-year plan for the 2021–25 final phase of the National Mine Action plan, which was prepared by the government without input from NGOs or other members of the MAWG.⁴⁹ The plan was updated and eventually adopted in June of 2023 for the last two years to 2025. It focuses on improving organisational structures, enhancing legislation and national standards, fostering international cooperation for funding and resources, conducting research and development, establishing a national mine action data system, promoting risk awareness, and providing assistance to the victims.⁵⁰ The government is developing a 20-year plan for 2025–45. Targets and objectives have been set for survey, clearance, and risk education, and responsibilities have been identified within the different government agencies.⁵¹

VNMAC has said that its objectives for 2021–25 include completing the organisational structure, legal framework, and policies for mine action; ensuring effective mine action management; fostering international cooperation to mobilise the required resources; completing the

information management system for mine action nationwide; and implementing survey and clearance of explosive ordnance over 5,000km², with priority given to heavily contaminated areas.⁵²

Vietnam does not have a national prioritisation system for clearance.⁵³ In Quang Binh province, the system for reporting and tasking by the provincial DBCU became effective in 2021 and is said to have been conducted efficiently by the DBCU, with the DBCU reporting to the VNMAC.⁵⁴ A province-wide prioritisation system is now being applied in Quang Binh province.⁵⁵ The DBCU 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. The programme has the longer term ambition of becoming impact-free by 2045.⁵⁶

In Quang Tri province, a prioritisation process is in place along with an effective system for task allocation, both of which are managed by QTMAC.⁵⁷ The criteria for prioritisation are established based on consultation and agreement between QTMAC and operators. The QTMAC tasks all mine action operators in the province and annual work plans are approved by provincial authorities, in cooperation and dialogue with operators.⁵⁸

In Thua Thien Hue province, tasking for NGO operators is decided by provincial authorities in accordance with the provincial socio-economic development plan.⁵⁹

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

Vietnam has two types of national standards: National Technical Regulations (QCVNs), which are mandatory for all operators, and National Mine Action Standards (TCVNs), which are only guidelines for organisations that do not receive Vietnamese funding.⁶⁰

The TCVNs, 15 in total, are under review but include: (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) QM, (13) risk management, (14) risk education, and (15)

victim assistance. The review process is time-consuming as it involves several government ministries. In early 2024, the TCVNs were being reviewed by the Ministry of Science and Technology. VNMAC hoped that the TCVNs would be approved before the end of 2024.⁶¹ A further TCVN on environmental protection in mine action is also expected to be developed.⁶²

QCVNs were promulgated by the MoD in a Circular (No. 59) August 2022 after extensive review in recent years by four working groups, co-chaired by VNMAC, and after extensive consultation with operators and international organisations, including the GICHD.⁶³ They include general provisions, technical regulations, regulations on safety

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

49 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.

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

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

52 Email from Doan Thi Hong Hai, Capacity Development Project Officer, NPA, on behalf of Mr Phuc, VNMAC, 3 June 2022.

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

54 Email from Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 21 April 2022.

55 Email from Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.

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

57 Emails from Simon Rea, MAG, 16 June 2019; Resad Junuzagic, NPA, 6 May 2019; Helene Kuperman, MAG, 31 March 2021; Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 11 May 2021; and Kimberley McCosker, NPA, 13 May 2021.

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

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

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

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

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

63 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.

and on management, the responsibilities of organisations and individuals, and organisation and implementation.⁶⁴ In Quang Tri, QTMAC coordinated with operators to provide a consolidated report to VNMAC on any discrepancies between the QCVNs and operator SOPs.⁶⁵

Additional circulars were issued relating to the revised non-technical survey (NTS), TS, and clearance procedures (Circular 121) along with guidelines to determine the rate per shift of demining machines and equipment (Circular 121) and guidelines for determining costs in EO clearance estimates (Circular 122).⁶⁶

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 BAC teams nationally,⁶⁷ but the current strength and deployment of military-related demining is unknown.

International operators active in 2023 included: MAG, working in Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces; NPA, working in Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien Hue provinces, and most recently also in Kon Tum province since late 2022; and

PTVN, who have been working in Quang Tri province since 1995 and are now also operating in Quang Binh province.⁶⁸

NGO operators are not currently operating in the areas close to Vietnam's borders where many of the mined areas are located. Survey and clearance by the international operators currently address contamination from CMR and other ERW, not AP mines. For further details on survey and clearance capacity of humanitarian operators, see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2024* report on Vietnam.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2023

No survey or clearance of mined areas was conducted by international NGOs in 2023. NPA destroyed one AP mine in a spot EOD task in 2023⁶⁹ and PTVN, responding to a village call-out in Quang Tri's Cam Lo district, destroyed one German-made PM-60 anti-vehicle (AV) mine. Its survey of the surrounding area found no other mines or items of explosive ordnance.⁷⁰ Provincial military teams destroyed five US-made AP mines in EOD operations in 2023: three M-14s, one M-16, and one M-2. Follow-up NTS conducted under a "mines found investigation procedure" established that they were isolated munitions and not part of a minefield.⁷¹

64 STA Capacity Development Project (NPA), "Vietnamese legal framework in mine action", January 2023.
65 Email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023.
66 "Vietnamese legal framework in mine action", January 2023; and email from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023.
67 Interview with Sr. Col. Nguyen Thanh Ban, Engineering Command, Hanoi, 18 June 2013.
68 Emails from Sarah Goring, MAG, 5 April 2023; Do Quy Linh, NPA, 16 June 2023; and Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 3 May 2023.
69 Email from Melissa Andersson, NPA, 30 April 2024.
70 Email from Phạm Hoàng Hà, PTVN, 27 May 2024.
71 Email from Dinh Ngoc Vu, Vice Director, Quang Tri Provincial Mine Action Centre, 30 July 2024.