

# CHAD



**ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
 (UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TARGET TO MEET DEADLINE)

<b>PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE</b>	2015	2014
Problem understood	3	4
Target date for completion of cluster munition clearance	3	4
Targeted clearance	3	4
Efficient clearance	4	4
National funding of programme	3	4
Timely clearance	2	4
Land-release system in place	6	6
National mine action standards	6	6
Reporting on progress	3	2
Improving performance	3	4
<b>PERFORMANCE SCORE: VERY POOR</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>

## PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Chad's mine action programme performance continued to decline in 2015 as another year passed without action to implement its obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

## RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Chad should conduct a cluster munition remnants (CMR) survey as soon as possible, particularly in the Borkou and Tibesti regions, to confirm the location and extent of CMR contamination and set out plans to address the threat accordingly.

## CONTAMINATION

The extent of CMR contamination remaining in Chad is unknown. Following the end of armed conflict with Libya in 1987, unexploded submunitions and cluster munition containers were found in the three northern provinces; in the Biltine department in Wadi Fira region (north-eastern Chad); and east of the capital, N'Djamena.<sup>1</sup> Mines Advisory Group (MAG) found unexploded Soviet anti-tank PTAB-1.5 submunitions during survey in an area close to Faya Largeau.<sup>2</sup>

Three CMR were reportedly discovered and destroyed in 2015, including two empty RBK-250-275 cluster bomb containers in the Tibesti region and an AO-1SCh submunition in the Borkou region.<sup>3</sup> In its CCM Article 7 transparency report for 2015, Chad stated that four children (three girls and one boy) aged six and seven were injured in January 2015 after handling a submunition in Faya Largeau.<sup>4</sup>

At the CCM signing conference on 3 December 2008, Chad spoke of "vast swathes of territory" contaminated with "mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) (munitions and submunitions)".<sup>5</sup> It has still to justify that claim. In September 2012, however, Chad stated that while the

extent of CMR contamination was not precisely known, it was clear the weapons had been used in the Fada region and there was a strong likelihood of their use in other parts of the north. Chad said that the Tibesti region in the north-west was being surveyed to determine the extent of the contamination.<sup>6</sup>

In 2014, Chad reported that, after Libyan troops withdrew in 1987, members of the French Sixth Engineers Regiment discovered and subsequently destroyed CMR around Libyan positions, prior to the building of the national mine action centre. It reiterated its suspicion of additional contamination in the Tibesti region.<sup>7</sup>

### Other ERW and Landmines

Chad has a significant mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) problem as a result of the 1973 Libyan invasion and more than 30 years of internal conflict. Mines and ERW are obstacles to safe access to housing, roads, pastures, water points, and mining, especially in northern Chad. Contamination is an ongoing threat to local populations, impeding socio-economic development.<sup>8</sup>

1 Handicap International (HI), *Fatal Footprint: The Global Human Impact of Cluster Munitions*, Brussels, 2006, p. 17; HI, *Circle of Impact: The Fatal Footprint of Cluster Munitions on People and Communities*, Brussels, 2007, p. 48; Survey Action Centre, "Landmine Impact Survey, Republic of Chad", Washington DC, 2002, p. 59; and Human Rights Watch and Landmine Action, *Banning Cluster Munitions: Government Policy and Practice*, Mines Action Canada, Ottawa, 2009, p. 56.

2 Emails from Liebeschitz Rodolphe, UNDP, 21 February 2011; and Bruno Bouchardy, MAG Chad, 11 March 2011.

3 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F; and email from Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, MAG, 31 May 2016.

4 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form H.

5 Statement of Chad, CCM Signing Conference, Oslo, 3 December 2008.

6 Statement of Chad, CCM Third Meeting of States Parties, Oslo, 13 September 2012.

7 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2013), Form F.

8 HCND, *Mine Action Plan 2014–2019*, May 2014.

## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The national mine action programme is managed by a national mine action authority, the National High Commission for Demining (Haut Commissariat National de Déminage, HCND) and the national mine action centre (Centre National de Déminage, CND).

MAG continued its demining activities in 2015 as part of a two-year European Union-funded project (Projet d'appui au secteur du déminage au Tchad, PADEMIN) to conduct clearance, especially in the northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti.<sup>9</sup> As part of the PADEMIN project, Handicap International (HI) continued to support capacity building of the CND, in particular for information and quality management, and carried out non-technical survey (NTS) in three southern regions of the country, in areas thought to be contaminated by mines and ERW.<sup>10</sup>

Since 2008, Chad's mine action programme has suffered from a lack of international funding, weak government oversight, and mismanagement issues within the CND, resulting in little or no demining until October 2012 when the EU provided funding to MAG.<sup>11</sup> In 2012, management problems at the CND resulted in the dismissal of its director and hundreds of employees, resulting in a reduction in personnel from 720 to 320.<sup>12</sup> A new director was appointed in 2013.<sup>13</sup> CND demining operations have also been plagued by poor equipment and lack of funding. In 2014, Chad acknowledged difficulties faced by its national mine action centre and called for the resumption of technical and operational assistance.<sup>14</sup>

## Strategic Planning

In May 2013, the Government of Chad approved a new strategic mine action plan for 2013–17. This was aimed, among other things, at developing and maintaining an effective data collection and management system, strengthening national mine action capacities, and clearing contaminated areas.<sup>15</sup>

Following the request of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the CND elaborated a national mine action plan for 2014–19, with technical support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The plan notes that Chad adhered to the CCM but does not detail plans to clear CMR.<sup>16</sup>

## Standards and Quality and Information Management

HI reviewed Chad's national mine action standards on land release and quality management in the beginning of 2016, with a new version expected to be produced in June 2016.<sup>17</sup> Both MAG and HI reported that internal quality assurance and quality control activities (QA/QC) were done on a regular basis in 2015, and that the CND carried out a number of external QA/QC visits, evaluations, and accreditations during the year.<sup>18</sup>

---

## LAND RELEASE

In 2015, MAG was conducting mine survey and clearance in the Tibesti region. It reported that on 17 September 2015, one of its multi-task teams (MTTs) found and destroyed two empty RBK-250-275 cluster munition containers in Zouar.<sup>19</sup> Chad stated in its 2015 Article 7 transparency report that an AO-1SCh submunition was found and destroyed by the CND in Faya Largeau in the Borkou region during the year.<sup>20</sup>

HI did not conduct mine or CMR clearance in 2015 and reported that it did not encounter any CMR in NTS activities in Chari Baguirmi, Mandoul, and Moyen Chari provinces.<sup>21</sup>

---

9 In late 2014, MAG, which had been Chad's sole international demining operator in 2013, had to withdraw from the country due to lack of funding. It resumed its activities with new funds from the European Union in late 2014. MAG, "New Help for More Than 400,000 People in Chad", 15 December 2014, at: <http://www.maginternational.org/our-impact/news/new-project-will-help-more-than-400000-people-in-chad/>.

10 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, Deputy Desk Officer, Mine Action Department, HI, 2 May 2016; and HI, "Landmine Clearance Efforts Begin in Chad", undated, at: [http://www.handicap-international.us/landmine\\_clearance\\_efforts\\_begin\\_in\\_chad](http://www.handicap-international.us/landmine_clearance_efforts_begin_in_chad).

11 Presentation of Chad at African Union/ICRC Weapons Contamination Workshop, Addis Ababa, 3–5 March 2013; Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013, p. 12.

12 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013; and interview with Emmanuel Sauvage, UNDP, in Geneva, 16 April 2013.

13 Interview with Emmanuel Sauvage, UNDP, in Geneva, 16 April 2013.

14 Statement of Chad, Third APMBC Review Conference, Maputo, June 2014.

15 Mine Action Strategic Plan 2013–2017, annexed to Third APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 2 May 2013.

16 HCND, Mine Action Plan 2014–2019, May 2014, p. 4.

17 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

18 Ibid.

19 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 31 May 2016.

20 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F.

21 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 and 18 May 2016.

## ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 4 of the CCM, Chad is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 September 2023. It is unclear whether Chad is on track to meet this deadline.

In its 2015 Article 7 report, Chad requested international cooperation and assistance in the form of two MTTs to carry out NTS, risk education, and explosive ordnance disposal in relation to CMR.<sup>22</sup> HI and MAG have highlighted the critical need for continued international funding for mine action and capacity building in Chad to address the remaining threat from mines and ERW.<sup>23</sup> MAG reported that the EU-funded PADEMIN project was set to expire in October 2016, and that, as at May, there were no indications of an international donor willing to provide future funding.<sup>24</sup> HI cautioned that without continued support, capacity-building efforts would be lost and progress in clearance halted.<sup>25</sup>

---

22 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2015), Form F.

23 Emails from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016; and Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

24 Email from Llewelyn Jones, MAG, 7 May 2016.

25 Email from Julien Kempeneers, HI, 2 May 2016.