

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER 2027
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

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

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

7 KM²

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2022

2.05 KM²

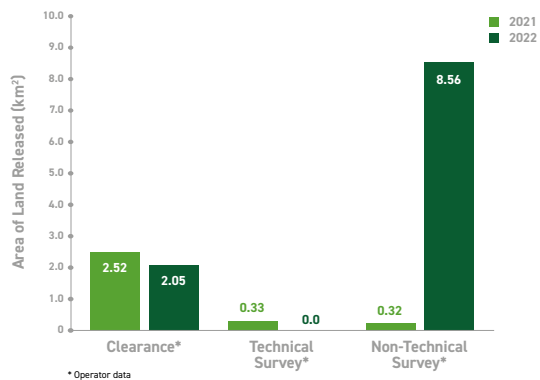
(OPERATOR DATA)

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2022

109

(INCLUDING 40 DESTROYED
DURING SPOT TASKS)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

On 2 June 2023, Somalia acted upon the decision of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) by submitting an updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5. The focus of this plan is nationwide non-technical survey (NTS) to establish an accurate baseline of contamination. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) completed survey of Puntland state by early 2023 but then withdrew from Somalia. Land release through clearance and NTS dropped compared to 2021, and the number of anti-personnel (AP) mines found and destroyed remained extremely low. Somalia completed a comprehensive data consolidation process in September 2022 and remained on track to transition to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core by the end of 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Somalia should ensure that robust land release standards, policies, and methodologies are in place that are in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), reserving full mine clearance for areas confirmed to be mined.
- Somalia should elaborate a new National Mine Action Strategic Plan.
- Somalia should submit comprehensive, annual Article 7 transparency reports and include details regarding AP mines of an improvised nature.
- Having been recognised as a government institution by presidential decree in 2013, the status of the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) should be recognised in law and national resources budgeted annually for its operating costs.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2022)	Score (2021)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	5	There is no accurate baseline of AP mine contamination in Somalia, though the authorities provided an updated estimate of AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mine contamination in June 2023; the first updated estimate since the end of 2019. According to Somalia's updated work plan for 2022–27, submitted in June 2023, nationwide NTS is now Somalia's priority, following the completion of NTS in Puntland state by NPA in April 2023. The HALO Trust (HALO) conducted NTS in parts of the Southwest state, Hirshabelle state, and Galmudug state in 2021 and continued in Galmudug in 2022.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	4	4	SEMA was recognised as a government institution by presidential decree in 2013, but legislation and budget approval remained pending and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) still does not fund its operations. SEMA continued to receive external capacity development and financial support for salaries from international operators in 2022, as it had done in 2021.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 includes provisions on gender and diversity. SEMA has been positive towards action on gender and diversity, particularly within survey and community liaison teams. However, cultural challenges exist to achieving gender mainstreaming in Somalia. Clan affiliation is also an important consideration when considering diversity. SEMA has not reported on any additional progress on this issue in 2022. The need to improve integration of gender and diversity concerns and further develop plans for this is recognised in Somalia's updated work plan for 2022–27.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	4	SEMA has assumed full ownership and responsibility for the national mine action database. Somalia received extensive information management capacity development support in 2022 and completed a data consolidation process. It aims to complete transition of the national database to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core by the end of 2023. As at September 2023, Somalia had still to submit Article 7 reports covering 2021 and 2022. Somalia did act upon the decision of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties by submitting an updated work plan for Article 5 implementation on 2 June 2023.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	5	5	Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 was approved in 2020 and extended for one year to allow SEMA sufficient time to develop a new strategy. As at July 2023, SEMA had not reported on whether a new strategy has been developed. Somalia submitted a costed, detailed work plan for 2022–27 in June 2023, which is "based on Somalia's national strategy, approved by the Minister of Internal Security (MoIS)".
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	5	5	A process to revise Somalia's National Technical Standards and Guidelines was due to be completed in 2019 but was still awaiting approval as June 2023. Current standards are not deemed fit for purpose. Somalia stated in June 2023 that revised National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) were ready and due to be endorsed by the MoIS before implementation of the updated work plan, but no anticipated date of approval was given.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	4	4	Somalia is not on track to meet its Article 5 deadline even though overall land release increased in 2022, compared to the previous year. The successful implementation of nationwide NTS and the understanding of contamination that it yields will determine whether Somalia can get back on track to meeting its 2027 deadline.
Average Score	4.7	4.6	Overall Programme Performance: POOR

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA)
- Mine Action Department within the Somaliland Ministry of Defence (MoD)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Ukroboronservice

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Somalia lacks an accurate baseline of contamination. In its updated plan for 2022–27 of June 2023, Somalia stated that, following improvements in data consolidation and recent NTS, it had identified a total of 1,114 hazardous areas for all explosive ordnance, covering a total of just over 169.7km².¹

Of this total, which excludes Somaliland, only four areas measuring just 559,537m² are known or suspected to contain only AP mines. This comprises three confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) measuring 558,102m², and one suspected hazardous area (SHA) covering 1,435m² (see Table 1).² This is a significant reduction from the estimate given at the end of 2019, when Somalia reported that 29 CHAs contained only AP mines, covering a total area of 6.1km², along with one SHA of an unknown size in Puntland.³

Table 1: AP mined areas (at June 2023), excluding Somaliland⁴

Type of hazardous area	Federal Member State	District	Mined areas	Size (m ²)
CHA	Galmudug	Abudwaq	1	305,435
	Hirshabelle	Beletweyne	1	240,835
	Puntland	Galkayo	1	11,832
Subtotals			3	558,102
SHA	Puntland	Galkayo	1	1,435
Subtotals			1	1,435
Totals			4	559,537

AP mine contamination in Somalia is thus believed to be light.⁵ Data gathered through historical surveys indicate that most recorded minefields were contaminated with AV mines or had very minimal information about the type of contamination.⁶ That said, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reports that all reported mined areas are believed to have mixture of AP and AV mines, and unexploded ordnance (UXO).⁷ The HALO Trust (HALO) expects that the number of mixed AP and AV mined areas and AP mined areas will remain small, relative to the number of AV-only mined areas, which significantly affect the border regions.⁸ NPA emphasises that, following their experience with comprehensive NTS in Puntland, there is a high probability that the remaining suspected contamination in other states can be significantly reduced through systematic, evidence-driven NTS.⁹

Somalia's hazardous areas cover all six regions of Somalia, including Somaliland, a self-proclaimed, though generally unrecognised, State in the north-west of the country, which continues to be excluded from the national authority's estimate of contamination. Mine contamination is

concentrated along Somalia's border with Ethiopia.¹⁰ Somalia restated in June 2023 that most mine contamination along the border is from AV mines, which continue to significantly affect the civilian population.¹¹

There is an ongoing NTS project which aims to produce an accurate estimate of total contamination and disaggregate Somalia's contamination by weapon type. This project is the primary focus of Somalia's work plan for 2022–27.¹² This follows Somalia's 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, which indicated that nationwide NTS would be carried out between October 2022 and October 2027.¹³ Somalia expects to cancel a sizable portion of existing mined areas, but also acknowledges that new areas of contamination will likely be recorded.¹⁴

However, lack of safe access has been and continues to be a major obstacle to the completion of survey. HALO Somalia explains that vast areas of the country are still inaccessible due to insecurity and/or control by the militant group, Al-Shabaab.¹⁵ In June 2023, SEMA reiterated that the impact of inter-clan conflict limits the deployment of teams across several regions and a number of districts remain inaccessible

1 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023, p. 11.

2 Ibid., p. 16.

3 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, Director General, Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA), 11 May 2020.

4 Somalia Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023', p. 17.

5 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), 17 March 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, Country Director, HALO, 14 June 2020.

6 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; and Claus Nielsen, Country Director, NPA, 23 July 2020.

7 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Programme Strategy and Planning Section, UNMAS, 21 August 2022.

8 Email from Rob Syfret, Head of Region, Horn of Africa, HALO, 7 July 2023.

9 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, Country Director, Angola (formerly Country Director, Somalia), NPA, 7 August 2023.

10 "The Federal Republic of Somalia Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan", APMBBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

11 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 16.

12 Ibid., pp. 27–28.

13 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 58.

14 'Somalia Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023', p. 16.

15 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

due to recurring conflict and security issues. Added to this, road transportation even between settlements that are without conflict is unusable in many cases.¹⁶

Despite these ongoing challenges, some survey to build an understanding of contamination has been possible. Survey activity in 2008 in Bakol, Bay, and Hiraan regions revealed that, of a total of 718 communities, around one in ten was contaminated by mines and/or explosive remnants of war (ERW).¹⁷ Other contaminated areas lie along the border with Ethiopia, in Galguduud and Gedo regions, as well as in Hiraan. NTS initiated in 2015 identified more than 6km² of mined area.¹⁸ In 2021, HALO conducted NTS across Southwest state, Hirshabelle state, and Galmudug state, recording 1,427,664m² of mined area across 31 CHAs. Of these area, four newly surveyed minefields have a confirmed or suspected AP mine threat, totalling 213,767m².¹⁹

In Somaliland, HALO reported that, as at June 2022, 5.46km² remained to be cleared. This includes 18 mixed minefields with a total size of 3.9km² as well as 65 roads with a mine threat over 1.4km².²⁰ This compares to the almost 5.8km² that remained at July 2020.²¹ HALO has been working in Somaliland for over 20 years and the general extent of contamination has been well-established by comprehensive

survey. However, HALO continues to deploy village-to-village survey teams, and a combination of low-density minelaying and lack of first-hand survey information means that new contaminated areas are still being found.²² HALO Somaliland expected completion of this village-by-village project by the end of 2023. However, as at May 2023, over 300 villages were inaccessible to HALO teams due to conflict and security concerns, impeding progress. HALO says that although survey of contamination is still required in Somaliland, the largest burden will be completing a Mine Impact Free Survey in the region.²³

Following NTS by NPA, an accurate baseline of AP mine contamination has now been established in Puntland state (see Table 2). SEMA is now encouraging all other mine action stakeholders and states in Somalia to follow this example.²⁴ UNMAS concurs that the village-to-village survey conducted by NPA in Puntland provides a more defined understanding of contamination that will support effective planning and prioritisation. UNMAS has started similar projects with NTS components in Galmudug state anticipates work on resource mobilise for NTS across the remaining states of Somalia.²⁵

Table 2: Mined area in Puntland state (at February 2023)²⁶

District	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Burtinle	2	990,423	73	2,525,540	3,515,963
Galdogob	6	1,219,005	56	1,742,630	2,961,635
Galkayo	3	103,238	44	548,934	652,172
Jariiban	1	3,900	3	15,948	19,848
Eyl	0	0	0	0	0
Qardho	0	0	0	0	0
Bossaso	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	12	2,316,566	176	4,833,052	7,149,618

Somalia's mine and ERW contamination is a result of the Ethiopian-Somali wars in 1964 and 1977–78 (also known as the Ogaden war), and more than 20 years of internal conflict. According to the UN, mines were laid as recently as 2012 in the disputed regions of Sool and Sanaag.²⁷

According to SEMA, Somalia has seen an increase in the use of mines of an improvised nature in recent years. However, the extent of the threat is not well known. SEMA was planning to begin recording this information in 2020²⁸ but, as yet, has not clarified if AP mines of an improvised nature are included in the baseline of mine contamination and Somalia has not been in a position, due to a lack of comprehensive survey, to comprehensively disaggregate its contamination by weapon type.

16 "The Federal Republic of Somalia Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan", Intersessional Meetings, 19–21 June 2023.

17 UNMAS, "Annual Report 2011", New York, August 2012, p. 68.

18 Email from Tom Griffiths, Regional Director North Africa, HALO, 25 May 2016.

19 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, Country Director, HALO, 29 May 2022.

20 Email from Tobias Hewitt, Programme Manager – Somaliland, HALO, 20 June 2022.

21 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO, 10 July 2020.

22 Emails from Lawrie Clapton, HALO, 14 June 2020; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

23 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

24 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, Operations Manager, Puntland, Somalia, NPA, 24 March 2023.

25 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

26 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

27 UNMAS, "Annual Report 2012", New York, 2013, p. 21. Sovereignty over these territories is claimed both by the self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland and by Puntland.

28 Emails from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 April 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, HALO, 14 June 2020.

Somalia recognises that victim-operated improvised explosive devices (VOIEDs) are considered mines of an improvised nature under the definition in the APMBC.²⁹ NPA has reported that non-State actors have used mines of an improvised nature in areas of northern Puntland, and this has been confirmed by the Puntland Ministry of Security. Operators did not find any such devices in Somalia in 2022.³⁰ HALO may consider working with IEDs as and when Somalia's security situation improves.³¹

NPA recorded 95 new areas of previously unrecorded AP contamination in Puntland with a total size area of 2,987,861m².³² HALO Somalia recorded two such AP mined areas in 2022, both in Galmudug state, covering a total of 252,822m².³³

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Somalia is contaminated with ERW, other than mines, primarily as a result of conflict between 1990 and 2012. In June 2023, Somalia stated that ERW are prevalent across all regions and states of the country³⁴ and that, following improvements in data consolidation and recent NTS, it had identified a total of 1,114 hazardous areas for all explosive ordnance, measuring a total of just over 169.7km².³⁵ Somalia also has limited contamination from cluster munition remnants (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2023* report on Somalia for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Mine action management in Somalia is the responsibility of SEMA. There is a separate regional office in Somaliland, the Mine Action Department within the Somaliland Ministry of Defence (formerly, the Mine Clearance Information and Coordination Authority (MCICA), and before that the Somaliland Mine Action Centre, SMAC) in Somaliland.³⁶ SEMA maintains a presence across Somalia through its five Federal Member States: the Galmudug State Office, Hirshabelle State Office, Jubaland State Office, Puntland State Office, and South West State Office.³⁷

SEMA serves as the de facto mine action authority for Somalia. However, full implementation of mine action legislation in Somalia and formal recognition of SEMA as the national mine action authority remains unfulfilled. SEMA reported in 2022 that it was awaiting final approval from the Somalia Federal Parliament.³⁸ However, in June 2023, this was still the case.³⁹ Due to the ongoing lack of parliamentary approval, SEMA has not received funding from the Federal Government of Somalia since the expiry of its grant in 2015.⁴⁰ Furthermore, the Government does not provide any national funding for survey or clearance.⁴¹

In the absence of national funding mine action stakeholders have provided support for SEMA's operational costs. Salaries at SEMA were covered by NPA from 2015 to March 2021 and NPA provided support for salaries again from August to December 2022.⁴² Having supported SEMA state offices with financial contributions throughout 2021⁴³ and in early 2022,⁴⁴ UNMAS confirmed a Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA), with SEMA for February 2023 to January 2024. This will support running costs for SEMA headquarters and its five regional offices and enable SEMA to organise coordination meetings and attend international mine action conferences.⁴⁵ HALO also provided some financial contributions to SEMA in 2022.⁴⁶

Operators report that they are involved in key decision-making processes by the national authorities. They also describe an enabling environment for mine action in Somalia, with no challenges related to matters such as visas, importing equipment, and establishing Memorandums of Understanding.⁴⁷

29 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 45.

30 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May and 7 July 2023; Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023; and Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

31 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

32 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

33 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

34 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 16.

35 Ibid., p. 11.

36 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016; and telephone interview with Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 19 August 2020.

37 Email from Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016.

38 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 7 report (covering 2020 and 2021), Form A.

39 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 42.

40 Emails from Terje Eldøen, Programme Manager, NPA, 22 October 2016; and Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 14 October 2016.

41 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, Country Director, HALO, 29 May 2022.

42 Emails from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 26 May 2021 and Liberty T Hombe, Puntland, NPA, 24 March 2023.

43 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 3 August 2020 and 4 July 2021.

44 Email from Helen Olafsdottir, Technical Specialist, UNDP, 7 June 2022.

45 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, (then) Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Programme Strategy and Planning Section, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

46 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023.

47 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023.

SEMA began conducting quarterly meetings with all mine action implementing partners in 2018, with a focus on monitoring of operations.⁴⁸ UNMAS states that SEMA now regularly organises humanitarian mine action coordination meetings to discuss the implementation of the Article 5, the Oslo Action Plan and the challenges and lessons learned from the field. Additionally, the UN has launched a Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) in Somalia, for which related developments are discussed during the quarterly coordination meetings.⁴⁹ Operators confirmed that regular meetings of mine action stakeholders continued in 2022.⁵⁰

SEMA has received capacity development and technical support in recent years from various mine action stakeholders. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a capacity development project in January 2022 with funding allocated to NPA to conduct NTS in Puntland state and provide information management (IM) capacity building to SEMA; to HALO to for capacity development support to SEMA on technical survey (TS) and land release; and for IT equipment.⁵¹ In 2021 and early 2022, HALO supported SEMA on information management, geographic information systems (GIS), and quality management (QM).⁵² NPA provided support to the Puntland State Office on IM until 2023,⁵³ including the establishment and running of a state-level IMSMA database and training of personnel. In 2022, NPA also supported the state office with quality control (QC) and efforts to establish residual management capacity for Puntland state, by integrating police personnel into NTS and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) activities of NPA's programme.⁵⁴

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) provided capacity development and training in information management to SEMA and HALO IM officers from the middle of 2022, which remained ongoing at the time of writing.⁵⁵ UNMAS has provided training in IM and quality assurance (QA) and in 2023, UNMAS signed a grant agreement with HALO to provide both operational and management related capacity building to SEMA, including regional offices, to further enhance SEMA's capacity to coordinate, regulate, and maintain oversight of mine action across the country.⁵⁶

A draft capacity development framework was also jointly developed by NPA, UNMAS, and HALO, and submitted to SEMA for approval in 2022.⁵⁷ Somalia reported in June 2023 that this framework is still awaiting formal approval. It has two main objectives: first, improved administrative capacity for SEMA and, second, an effective information management system with improved QA capacity for SEMA,⁵⁸ with work on the latter advancing while approval of the framework remains pending.⁵⁹

In March 2023, with support of the APBMC Implementation Support Unit (ISU), SEMA held a two-day workshop in Mogadishu, to develop a concrete Article 5 work plan. Mine action stakeholders provided input to the work plan, which was finalised at the meeting.⁶⁰ Key next steps include developing a capacity development framework, agreeing on a prioritisation plan, resource mobilisation and developing a gender work plan.⁶¹ Following the workshop, a comprehensive and costed work plan was submitted to the States Parties on 2 June 2023.⁶² The plan focuses on nationwide NTS, but also encompasses other land release activities and risk education. The plan also details the size of remaining hazardous areas and annual milestones for addressing them.⁶³ However, these milestones will be subject to review following extensive NTS.

The lack of parliamentary approval of SEMA is seen as a major obstacle to mine action in Somalia as this hampers SEMA's ability to become an integrated part of the annual State budget and hinders their capacity for long-term planning for staff. This results in high staff turnover within SEMA outside senior management.⁶⁴ Somalia is wholly reliant on international funding for its mine action programme. In its 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, Somalia estimated the annual cost of implementing the operational work plan through to 2027 at US\$6.4 million per year.⁶⁵ However, there was no information on where this funding would come from and how much will be contributed by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). In its updated work plan covering 2022–27, Somalia restated that there remained no FGS budget for mine action. The government has provided land for SEMA's offices and covers the utility bills of SEMA's national office in Mogadishu and some of its regional offices.⁶⁶

48 Emails from Chris Pym, HALO, 9 May 2019; and Claus Nielsen, NPA, 13 April 2019.

49 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

50 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June and 7 July 2023; and Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

51 Email from Helen Olafsdottir, UNDP, 7 June 2022.

52 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

53 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

54 Email from Liberty T Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

55 Email from Noor Zangana, Advisor, Information Management Capacity Development, GICHD, 8 August 2023.

56 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

57 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 20 August 2022.

58 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 10.

59 Email from Noor Zangana, GICHD, 8 August 2023.

60 ISU newsletter, "Mine Ban Convention: April 4 mine action updates", 4 April 2023.

61 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

62 APBMC, 'Somalia', accessed 22 July 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/3rHSaBO>.

63 Somalia Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023; and Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 7.

64 Email from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 6 April 2021.

65 2021 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 47.

66 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, pp. 39–40.

Somalia estimates the cost of implementing the activities under the updated work plan and meeting the key milestones set for the end of 2027 at US \$23 million, of which only US \$6.2 million has been secured. Somalia states that, beyond 2024, funding is uncertain.⁶⁷ There is still no resource mobilisation strategy in place for Article 5 implementation and, in its updated 2022–27 work plan, Somalia recognises that there is “a strong need” for Somalia to develop one.⁶⁸

PUNTLAND

The SEMA Puntland State Office, formerly known as PMAC, was established in Garowe with UNDP support in 1999. Since then, on behalf of the regional government and SEMA, the Puntland State Office has coordinated mine action with local and international partners, NPA and the Puntland Risk Solution Consortium.⁶⁹ In 2021, SEMA reported that the Puntland State Office coordinated mine action under SEMA, working with its international partner, NPA.⁷⁰ NPA completed NTS of mined areas in Puntland in February 2023 and closed its operations in Somalia in April 2023.⁷¹

SOMALILAND

As part of a larger process of government reform in early 2018, SMAC, which had been responsible for coordinating and managing demining in Somaliland since 1997, was

restructured and renamed the MCICA. The Agency underwent a change of line ministry from the Office of the Vice President to the Ministry of Defence.⁷² It was renamed the Mine Action Department in January 2019.⁷³

HALO describes the environment in Somaliland as “one of the best in the world for enabling the conduct of humanitarian mine action”, with the state-level ministries of Defence and Planning facilitating the duty-free importing of demining equipment and HALO working closely with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and other decision-makers to inform and guide policy whenever possible. HALO Somaliland provided capacity development support to the Somaliland Mine Action Authority in 2022, including comprehensive GIS training for the IM officer and NTS training for one Mine Action Department staff member. HALO Somaliland also hosted a Middle East and North Africa (MENA) international operations management course in 2022 as well as International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Level 3 EOD training.⁷⁴

In 2022, it was reported that the MoD in Somaliland provided a financial allocation to two manual clearance teams totalling 18 personnel.⁷⁵

The Somaliland government is working on an Explosive Hazard Management National Action Plan covering 2023–27. At the time of writing, this plan had not yet been finalised.⁷⁶

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Somalia has made halting progress towards finalising the national mine action standard (NMAS) and a policy on environmental management. It has been reported that a section on environmental management is contained within Somalia's NMAS, but remained pending approval in 2022.⁷⁷ Similarly, in March 2023, NPA reported that Somalia's policy on environmental management was “still under development and pending approval”.⁷⁸ HALO hoped to work on this issue with SEMA during 2023 as part of its support for capacity development.⁷⁹

UNMAS, NPA, and HALO all report having an environmental policy in place.⁸⁰

In 2021, UNMAS and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) adopted the Health, Safety, Social and Environment (HSSE) standards for mine action sites, which is a social and environmental management plan for mine action operational sites. This, along with UNMAS's health and safety plan for mine action sites, make up the two plans needed for operational compliance with their HSSE obligations. The HSSE standards cover waste management, site-specific social/environmental risk assessment, and social and environmental QA.⁸¹ All UNMAS tasks are preceded by a comprehensive situational analysis report on the environmental factors surrounding the specific task site. These are reviewed by the UNMAS project team for mitigation or an alternative task site selection where necessary.⁸²

67 Somalia Summary of updated Article5 Work Plan', Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19-21 June 2023; and 'Somalia Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023', p. 7.

68 Somalia Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 40.

69 UNMAS, “UN-suggested Explosive Hazard Management Strategic Framework 2015–2019”, p. 9; and emails from Claus Nielsen, NPA, 23 July 2020 and 26 May 2021. SEMA has claimed that this NGO is no longer functioning but this information has not been confirmed by operators in the field.

70 Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 22 June 2022.

71 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

72 Email from Chris Pym, HALO, 9 May 2019.

73 Email from Chris Pym, HALO, 2 June 2019.

74 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

75 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 21 May 2022.

76 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

77 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

78 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

79 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

80 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

81 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

82 Ibid.

NPA reports that their environmental management system is a work in progress with a global standard operating procedure (SOP) on environment being established. NPA's environmental efforts in Somalia, prior to closing operations in early 2023, focused on minimising the cutting down of trees, ensuring responsible waste disposal in the field and at camp sites, avoidance of wildfires during demolitions, and implementing fire safety drills and precautions in camps.⁸³

HALO Somalia explains that its close attention to environmental considerations has been welcomed by local communities in Somalia's fragile environmental situation. For example, the community has prohibited the cutting of vegetation, unless completely necessary. While this slows down operations, HALO has been able to operate on most minefields with minimal disturbance to vegetation.⁸⁴

HALO Somalia also explains how there are a number of minefields within its area of operations (AoO), which are situated along the 50km Ethiopian border in the El Barde region, where wild frankincense trees are found; many of which grow on sloped ground, where soil has been washing away, exposing roots. Although populations had moved away from the area due to the presence of mines, the return of local communities has placed the land at greater risk from human activity. HALO has been experimenting with creating bunds (soil or stone structures, which can be stabilised with vegetation, to help reduce water run-off and soil erosion), around some of the trees most at risk from desertification and drought. This has, so far, helped prevent soil erosion and allowed some trees to regenerate. HALO Somalia plans to

conduct a full survey of these trees in 2023, made possible by an environmental grant. This will allow environmental partner organisations to track the number and health of certain trees across Somalia.⁸⁵

Furthermore, HALO Somalia digs down to 20cm in every signal investigation. This has been found to help the ground absorb more water during the rainy season. On some minefield tasks, hundreds of excavations are made and anecdotal evidence suggests that these areas produce more grass and other vegetation for grazing animals.⁸⁶

In its separate operations in Somaliland, HALO does not currently have an environmental management system. However, environmental measures are incorporated into SOPs and operational procedures, for example, avoiding cutting down of trees and managing camps and training to minimise any negative environmental impact. HALO Somaliland is also working with partner organisations to consider how the environmental impact of clearance can be mitigated and has carried out six small-scale environmental projects across Somaliland in areas that have already been cleared of mines. The most recent projects involved the rehabilitation of berkhad (water storage areas) and the use of protective fencing of land to allow for regeneration without interference from livestock grazing or direct human impact. A tree nursery was established at Sayla Bari, as well as a number of apiaries, in order to develop small environmentally-friendly businesses in the community. However, these have achieved limited success due to the ongoing drought affecting the entire Horn of Africa region.⁸⁷

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Somalia's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020 recognises gender and diversity as cross-cutting issues for the national mine action programme, in line with Somalia's National Development Plan objectives to "implement gender equality in education and mainstream gender in all of its programmes with a focus on adolescent girls". Despite this recognition of the importance of gender and diversity in the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2020, SEMA informed Mine Action Review in May 2019 that it did not have an internal gender or diversity policy or implementation plan.⁸⁸ In Somalia's revised Article 5 deadline extension

request, a gender policy for mine action was due to be developed by October 2022.⁸⁹ This did not happen and one of the key next steps identified during the mine action workshop in March 2023 was the development of a gender work plan.⁹⁰

All operators in Somalia have reported to some extent on their efforts to integrate gender and diversity considerations into mine action. In 2022, UNMAS reported that, when contracting an implementing partner, UNMAS provides targets on the proportion of women and young people that should make up the operator's team, including aiming for a minimum of 50% women and 35% young people.

83 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

84 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

85 Ibid.

86 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

87 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

88 Email from Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed Hoshow, SEMA, 9 May 2019.

89 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, September 2021, p. 50.

90 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

In 2022, women made up 9% of the combined staff of the UNMAS Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) project team and that of implementing partners, with women occupying 25% of managerial/supervisory positions and 8% of operational positions. Across UNMAS Somalia as a whole, women made up 46% of all personnel, with 8% of managerial/supervisory positions and 38% of operational and support positions occupied by women.⁹¹ This represents a slight increase in female staff overall compared to 2021, when 42% of all UNMAS Somalia personnel were women. The proportion of managerial/supervisory positions held by women, however, has decreased significantly compared to 20% in 2021.

UNMAS reports that non-technical and impact assessment surveys take into consideration gender, age, and clan affiliations in affected communities and that UNMAS requests the participation of women at all stages of mine action projects, pre- and post-clearance. UNMAS has also introduced some gender and diversity provisions into project proposals, including on the recruitment of women, youth and, where relevant, clan-affiliated personnel, into field and community liaison teams.⁹²

NPA has a Gender and Diversity policy and continues to disaggregate relevant mine action data by gender and age. In 2022, 27% of NPA's staff were female with 33% of management/supervisory roles occupied by women and 13% of operational roles occupied by woman.⁹³ This is a notable increase on the proportion of managerial/supervisory positions held by women in 2021, when 39% of NPA's total workforce were women with 4% of managerial/supervisory roles held by women and 12% of operational roles.⁹⁴ NPA reports that establishment of its NTS teams was guided by NPA's gender Policy, which mandates a fair representation of men and women in its operations. NPA involves local authorities and local leaders in gathering information and decision making before, during and after all survey and clearance activities using impact assessment tools, to facilitate access and participation by all groups.⁹⁵

In 2022 in HALO Somalia (i.e. excluding HALO's separate operations in Somaliland), 23% of all employees were women and women filled 18% of operations positions; the same proportions as in 2021. However, the proportion of managerial/supervisory positions filled by women increased significantly from 14% in 2021 to 44% in 2022.⁹⁶ HALO Somalia reports that it complies with HALO's global gender and diversity policies and endeavours to provide its female staff with career development opportunities through selection into and training on a variety of programme roles that are

currently only held by men, including positions QA, training and minefield supervision.⁹⁷

HALO Somalia also ensures that survey and community liaison teams are mixed gender; an important prerequisite in a largely traditional Muslim society where it is not permissible for men to approach women alone in rural areas. HALO also recruits teams from the areas in which they will be working to ensure participation from the affected groups. Particular care is taken to ensure that, if an area has more marginalised clans, they are recruited into teams.⁹⁸ HALO understands that, in many communities, the voices of women and girls can be marginalised and uses household surveys to provide them with an opportunity to share their insights.⁹⁹

HALO Somaliland has a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan¹⁰⁰ and, since 2020, has been making an active effort to recruit women to its demining teams. In support of these efforts it has worked with local communities to increase acceptance of women spending time away from their communities and families to work as deminers. Additionally, to promote retention of female recruits, HALO Somaliland has implemented 20-week-long maternity leave, a childcare stipend for mothers of children up to two years old, yearly medical check-ups, and hygiene kits made available in camps. Overall, 10% of HALO Somaliland staff are female with four women in managerial/supervisory positions and forty women in operations positions.¹⁰¹

In May 2023, HALO Somaliland reported that the implementation of these measures has been successful. However, while is equal access to employment and promotion in the organisation, the number of promotional opportunities available has been very limited as the structure of the programme has remained fairly static.¹⁰² HALO Somaliland reports that, while its community liaison teams are gender balanced; its survey teams are exclusively male. The programme aims to work towards addressing this imbalance during 2023; something it explains will require sensitivity to local, gendered, social norms.¹⁰³ HALO Somaliland's operations often take place near marginalised, rural communities. HALO maintains complete operational independence to prioritise task based on humanitarian need, regardless of any pressure that majority communities may try to exert in order to have clearance conducted for other reasons.¹⁰⁴

All operators confirmed that clan affiliation is also an important consideration when recruiting and deploying operational staff. It is important that the hiring process

91 Ibid.

92 Ibid.

93 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

94 Email from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022.

95 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

96 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023.

97 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

98 Ibid.

99 Ibid.

100 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

101 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 21 May 2022.

102 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

103 Ibid.

104 Ibid.

includes people from across the different clan and ethnic groups to ensure diversity and that there is sensitivity to this when teams are deployed.¹⁰⁵ Employing more women typically enables operators to access all strata of Somali society to gain information and consider the views of all relevant groups.¹⁰⁶ In Somaliland, 35% of the population

are nomadic pastoralists, with many transiting between Somaliland and Ethiopia. HALO in Somaliland ensures that it employs survey staff from both a rural and urban background, and from various regions in Somaliland, to ensure there is a strong understanding of all sections of Somaliland society.¹⁰⁷

Table 3: Gender composition of mine action organisations in 2022¹⁰⁸

Organisation*	Total staff	Total women employed	Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions	Total women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total staff in operational positions	Total women in operational positions
SEMA	*24	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K
HALO Somalia	300	68	52	23	256	45
HALO Somaliland	506	58	48	6	372	42
NPA	30	8	6	2	15	2
**UNMAS	168	15	8	2	158	13

* This figure was stated in June 2023 in the Somalia Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022 – October 2027 and includes 14 personnel in the main office in Mogadishu and two personnel in each of the five regional offices.

** Figures for UNMAS include the UNMAS Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) team and implementing partners

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

SEMA decided to upgrade its database to IMSMA Core starting in 2022. However, the GICHD has cautioned that data are of poor quality, which leads to issues with reporting.¹⁰⁹ As such, the GICHD has been assisting SEMA with data clean-up prior to final migration to IMSMA Core, including through consolidation of data with operators' own databases.¹¹⁰ A fully functioning IMSMA Core system was expected by the end of 2023,¹¹¹ with plans to add a tasking tool in 2024. SEMA also planned to coordinate an IM working group, with participants to include the GICHD, HALO, and UNMAS, and the first meeting was scheduled for August 2023.¹¹²

In 2022, HALO Somalia began using a dashboard system called PowerBI, which enables the programme to better track task productivity and makes analysis of progress easier. HALO Somalia is also in the process of migrating many of its paper forms to Survey123 to improve the accessibility of data.¹¹³

The regional mine action centres in Puntland and Somaliland maintain IMSMA databases separate to the national database. NPA reports that information management in Puntland

"improved significantly" in 2022 as NPA identified and marked all areas contaminated landmines and other items of UXO within the state.¹¹⁴

In Somaliland, HALO creates its own data collection forms, which it says are reviewed regularly and ensure accurate collection of data by its survey teams.¹¹⁵ HALO Somaliland regularly updates the Somaliland Mine Action Department on its activities of HALO and believes that the database is up-to-date, accurate and sustainable.¹¹⁶

As at September 2023, Somalia had still to submit Article 7 reports covering 2021 and 2022. In April 2021, SEMA submitted Somalia's Article 5 deadline extension request seeking an extension through to 2027, but it was poorly formulated and requires significant revisions as it lacks sufficient detail and clarity. Somalia acted upon the decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties by submitting a detailed and costed, updated work plan for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on 2 June 2023.¹¹⁷

105 Emails from Mustafa Bawar, UNMAS, 17 March 2020; Claus Nielsen, NPA, 14 April 2020; and Lawrie Clapton, HALO, 14 June 2020.

106 Email from Lawrie Clapton, HALO, 14 June 2020.

107 Ibid.

108 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023; Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June and 16 May 2023; and Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023; and Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 25.

109 Email from Noor Zangana, GICHD, 6 May 2022.

110 Email from Noor Zangana, GICHD, 8 August 2023.

111 'The Federal Republic of Somalia Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan', Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19-21 June 2023.

112 Email from Noor Zangana, GICHD, 8 August 2023.

113 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

114 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

115 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

116 Ibid.

117 APMBC Implementation Support Unit, "Somalia", accessed 22 July 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/3rHSaB0>.

PLANNING AND TASKING

According to the conditions of the granting of Somalia's extension request until the end of 2027, Somalia's updated work plan was to include the following key components: a detailed, costed work plan for implementation of non-technical survey; a list of all accessible areas known or suspected to contain AP mines; annual milestones of which areas and how much area is to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established for the remaining period covered by the request; a revised detailed updated budget; and a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for risk education in affected communities; as well as provisions for a sustainable national capacity to deliver risk education in case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered.¹¹⁸

The updated work plan submitted in June 2023 addresses all of the above matters to some extent. The main focus of the plan is comprehensive NTS, to more accurately map the extent and nature of explosive threat contamination across the country. Somalia expects to complete this survey within one year,¹¹⁹ though the precise timing of the survey is not clear. Somalia does, however, state that the AP mined area survey will be conducted simultaneously with survey of other contamination. In fact, NPA has already carried out the NTS in Puntland while HALO has begun NTS in Galmudug state. Somalia's plan is to expand NTS to the remaining states of Southwest and Jubaland. In parallel, operators will continue to clear CHAs, prioritising areas where AP mine contamination has been confirmed.¹²⁰ SEMA's five regional offices will contribute through prioritisation, co-ordination,

and monitoring of the implementation of the plan in their respective states. SEMA acknowledges that sustained capacity development will be required for SEMA and its regional offices to undertake these roles and has appealed for increased international funding and support to this end.¹²¹

In the work plan, Somalia explains that annual land release targets for the period covered by the work plan will depend upon the results of the NTS. However, Somalia estimates that, given the available combined capacity of all operators, working at an average manual mine clearance rate of 35.5m² per deminer per day, it can potentially clear just over 1.51km² per year, or almost 7.57km² over the five-year period. This assumes a total capacity of 22 manual mine clearance teams, with a total of 148 deminers.¹²² The work plan includes a comprehensive breakdown by operator and by year of operational capacity and equipment available and required for survey, clearance and EOD spot tasks. It also clearly outlines the annual funding secured and yet to be secured for each area of activity and by operator.¹²³

HALO reported an improvement in tasking in Somalia since the most recent Director of SEMA was appointed, with the Authority becoming much more responsive to requests.¹²⁴ It was reported again in August 2023 that operators were receiving a prompt response from SEMA upon sending task requests. A clear tasking system and tool was expected for 2024 following full migration of Somalia's national database to IMSMA Core.¹²⁵

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

UNMAS initially developed National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) for Somalia in 2012–13.¹²⁶ The first edition of Somalia's NMAS was subsequently published in 2018. The NMAS are split into four parts covering Land Release, Information Management (IMSMA), Mine Risk Education (MRE), and QA.¹²⁷

In June 2023, Somalia reported that progress on the review of the NMAS had been delayed due to a lack of funding to conduct stakeholder meetings to discuss and agree the

standards; the level of political unrest in Somalia; and a lack of international technical experts to assist in reviewing the standards.¹²⁸ UNMAS notes that the draft of the revised NMAS are sufficient to serve as a guide for the SOPs of implementing partners to deal with legacy contamination, subject to any amends that may be made during government review and approval.¹²⁹ HALO, however, notes that the NMAS need to be adapted to support implementation in the context of local threat levels.¹³⁰ UNMAS also suggests that, considering the significance of the IED-related threats

118 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 7.

119 Ibid., p. 35.

120 Summary of Updated Article 5 Work Plan, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19–21 June 2023.

121 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 25.

122 Ibid., p. 33 and Annex III, p. 49.

123 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, pp. 34–39.

124 Email from Abdullah Alkhasawneh, HALO, 16 May 2021.

125 Email from Noor Zangana, GICHD, 8 August 2023.

126 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 5 June 2016; and response to questionnaire by Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, SEMA, 19 June 2015.

127 Revised APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, September 2021, p. 38.

128 'Somalia Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, 30 April 2023', p. 10.

129 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

130 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 1 June 2023.

affecting the civilian population, the NMAS should consider procedures to deal with remnants of mines of improvised in nature (VOIEDs).¹³¹ In its updated work plan for 2022–27, Somalia pledges to consider the development of national standards only on risk education for IEDs.¹³²

NPA developed a specific NTS SOP aligned with IMAS and the Somalia context. The SOP was developed to primarily focus on evidence-based survey approaches, which ensure accurate mapping of potential hazards and cancellation of previous inadequately marked hazards. In support of the NTS SOP and processes NPA also developed an information

management SOP to ensure the accuracy and quality of data collection, analysis and reporting.¹³³ HALO reports that it uses its own SOPs when conducting clearance, which meet or exceed the NMAS, and have been updated to reflect changing operational circumstances.¹³⁴

The number of AP and AV mines found and destroyed in Somalia continues to be relatively low relative to the size of areas cleared (see Table 7). As such, it is possible that, in some cases, more areas could be released through NTS or TS rather than full clearance, indicating the need for stricter application of robust land release methodology.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2022 HALO conducted clearance and NTS operations in Somalia, with separate clearance operations in Somaliland. NPA conducted NTS in 2022 and closed operations in Somalia in April 2023. UNMAS-contracted commercial clearance company, Ukroboronservice, deployed teams for clearance of landmines and other explosive threats¹³⁵ and was expected to remain operational under UNMAS contracts until 2024.¹³⁶ UNMAS also deployed two EOD teams.¹³⁷

Table 4: Operational mine clearance capacities deployed in 2022¹³⁸

Operator	Manual teams	Mechanical teams	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines**	Comments
Ukroboronservice (UNMAS)	4	0	48	0	0	Conduct clearance and TS. Decrease on 6 teams of 120 deminers in 2021. Also deployed 2 Quick Response EOD teams of 18 personnel in 2022.
HALO Somalia	18	0	144	0	0	Conduct clearance and TS. Decrease on 20 teams totalling 190 deminers deployed in 2021.
HALO Somaliland	32	3	283	0	3	Conduct clearance and TS. 283 deminers includes 24 mechanical teams personnel. Similar capacity to 35 teams of 289 personnel in 2021.
Totals	54	3	475	0	3	

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

131 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

132 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 45.

133 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

134 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

135 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 May 2023.

136 Revised APMBBC Article 5 Extension Request, September 2021, p. 13.

137 Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

138 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022, and 30 May and 8 June 2023; Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May and 1 June 2023; and telephone interview with Rob Syfret, 10 July 2023.

Table 5: Operational NTS and TS capacities deployed in 2022¹³⁹

Operator	NTS/TS teams	Total NTS/TS personnel*	Comments
Ukroboronservice (UNMAS)	4	16	Decrease on 6 teams of 18 personnel conducting NTS and TS in 2021. Clearance teams also conduct TS.
HALO Somalia	4	16	NTS teams also conduct community liaison. Same NTS capacity as deployed in 2021. Increased to 6 teams totalling 24 personnel from November 2022. Clearance teams conduct TS.
HALO Somaliland	2	4	Decrease on 2 NTS teams of 8 personnel in 2021. Clearance teams conduct TS.
NPA	5	10	Deployed for NTS only.
Totals	15	46	

* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers.

In 2022, HALO Somalia focused entirely on release of mined areas, reducing the already limited capacity previously deployed for battle area clearance (BAC) to zero. This shift began in 2021, when improved security conditions enabled access for manual mine clearance along the Ethiopian border. Having increased survey and clearance personnel in 2021 compared to 2020, HALO Somalia expected capacity to increase again in 2022, but in fact experienced a decrease of two combined technical survey and clearance teams during 2022.¹⁴⁰ HALO Somalia was not expecting any changes to its capacity in 2023.¹⁴¹ NPA were not able to increase their survey capacity in 2022, due to limited funding. NPA's programme in Somalia closed in April 2023.¹⁴²

HALO Somaliland did not have any significant change in capacity in 2022, compared to 2021 and did not expect any significant changes in 2023.¹⁴³ UNMAS also did not see any significant change in capacity in 2022 compared to 2021 and expected to introduce four new NTS teams in 2023. UNMAS said that the additional capacity will be deployed for survey of cluster munition-contaminated areas.¹⁴⁴

Somalia did not report the introduction of any specific tools for AP mine survey or clearance in 2022.

DEMINER SAFETY

There were no accidents during AP mine survey or clearance in Somalia in 2022.¹⁴⁵

HALO Somalia experienced two security incidents involving its staff in 2022. On 30 July 2022, a HALO demining camp was attacked in Dhabaad, Galmudug State. One security guard was killed and a deminer was injured, as well as a member of the community who came to assist. A full investigation was conducted, concluding that the attack was not specifically directed at HALO; the attack had been the result of a feud between clan militia, in which some HALO staff had been involved. Immediately after the attack, all demining teams in Somalia were stood down while security was reviewed. HALO decided to collapse the demining camps and move to staff quarters into the communities, and began a phased return to work.¹⁴⁶

Operations at a HALO Somalia task in Galdogob district in Puntland state were suspended for one day when shots were fired in the vicinity. Although no HALO staff were targeted, it transpired that young members of the village, who were unemployed and frustrated by other's access to work, fired the shots in protest. This was subsequently resolved in a meeting between local elders and the regional Operations Officer. It was explained that HALO could not continue operations if incidents such as this reoccurred, out of concern for staff welfare. It was agreed at the meeting that such incidents would not be tolerated in the community. At the time of writing, no further incidents had followed.¹⁴⁷

139 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022 and 30 May 2023; Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 21 May 2022; Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023; and Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023; and telephone interview with Rob Syfret, HALO, 10 July 2023.

140 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

141 Ibid.

142 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

143 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May 2023.

144 Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March and 20 June 2022.

145 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023; Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023; and Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

146 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

147 Ibid.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

A total of just under 16.8km² of mined area was released in 2022 across Somalia, including Somaliland, of which a combined total of just over 8.24km² of AP and AV mined area was cleared (of which only 2.05km² of clearance was of AP mined area) and 8.56km² was cancelled through non-technical survey. No areas were reduced through technical survey. A total of 109 AP mines were found and destroyed, of which 40 were destroyed during EOD spot tasks. A total of 33 AV mines were also destroyed, including 19 during clearance of AP mined area, six during EOD spot tasks, and eight during clearance of AV mined areas specifically by UNMAS (see Table 7). Overall, land released in 2022 represents over a fivefold increase on the 3.17km² released 2021.¹⁴⁸

In 2022, NPA recorded 95 new areas of previously unrecorded AP mined area in Puntland state, with a total size area of almost 2.99km².¹⁴⁹ HALO Somalia recorded two new AP mine tasks in 2022, both in Galmudug State, measuring a total of just over 0.25km².¹⁵⁰

SURVEY IN 2022

In 2022, a total of just over 8.56km² was released through NTS (see Table 6). No areas were released through technical survey (TS). This is a significant increase on land released through survey in 2021 when just 0.32km² was cancelled through NTS and 0.33km² was reduced through TS.¹⁵¹ This significant increase in release through NTS can mainly be attributed to NPA's completion of its extensive NTS project in Puntland state.

Operators did not report any reduction through TS in 2022. However, Somalia states that HALO deployed one team of eight personnel to conduct TS of 8,494m² of mined area in Puntland state between 1 February and 30 April 2022.¹⁵²

Table 6: Release of mined area through NTS in 2022¹⁵³

State/Region/District	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Puntland/Mudug/Galdogob	NPA	8,261,366
Puntland/Mudug/Galkayo	NPA	295,508
Galmudug/Galguduud/Abudwaq/Dhabad (MF-0140)	HALO Somalia	6,474
Total		8,563,348

CLEARANCE IN 2022

In 2022, a combined total of just over 8.24km² of AP and AV mined area was cleared (see Table 7) with the destruction of 69 AP mines, 27 AV mines, and 184 items of UXO. Of this, only 2.05km² of clearance was of AP mined area, a reduction on the 2.52km² of mined area cleared in 2021.¹⁵⁴ A further 40 AP mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks in 2022: 21 by NPA, 8 by HALO Somalia, and 11 by HALO Somaliland.¹⁵⁵ HALO notes that the majority of their tasks in Somalia concern areas containing only AV mines.¹⁵⁶ Clearance by UNMAS in Galmudug state accounts for over 70% of all mined area cleared in 2022 but only destroyed 8 AV mines (and no AP mines), raising serious questions about the quality of its survey (see Table 7).

A total of 19 AV mines were destroyed during clearance and TS of AP mined area by UNMAS and HALO, and eight during clearance of AV mined area by UNMAS.¹⁵⁷ A further six AV mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks by NPA: two by NPA¹⁵⁸ and four by HALO Somalia.¹⁵⁹

HALO Somalia reported that land cleared by its teams dropped between 2021 and 2022, due to a slight reduction in capacity and the need for a two-week, programme-wide stand-down following the security incident at one of HALO's demining camps described above.¹⁶⁰

148 Emails from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022; and Aislinn Redbond, Programme Officer, HALO, 27 August 2022.

149 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

150 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

151 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

152 Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 14.

153 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023; and Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

154 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022; Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 21 May 2022; Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022; and Jasmine Dann, Operations Officer, HALO, 18 July 2022.

155 Ibid.

156 Email from Jasmine Dann, HALO, 18 July 2022.

157 Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023; and Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2023.

158 Email from Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

159 Email from Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

160 Email from Rob Syfret, HALO, 7 July 2023.

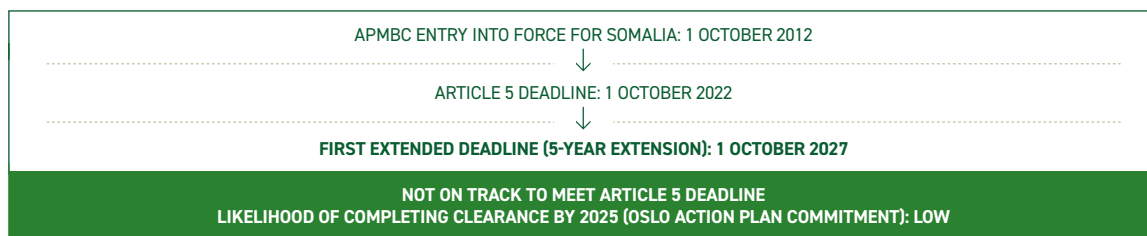
Table 7: AV and AP mine clearance in 2022¹⁶¹

Location	Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Galmudug state	UNMAS	4	5,859,684	0	2	131
Hirshabelle state	UNMAS	4	148,433	0	2	19
South-West state	UNMAS	1	189,297	0	4	12
Subtotal of AV mined area			6,197,414			
Jubaland state	UNMAS	2	423,370	3	2	5
Galmudug/Galguduud/ Abudwaq/Dhabad (MF-0140)	HALO Somalia	1	145,901	11	9	0
Galmudug/Galguduud/ Abudwaq/ Dhabad (MF-0171)	HALO Somalia	1	39,183	11	0	0
Awdal	HALO Somaliland	*0	39,416	0	0	0
Maroodi Jeex	HALO Somaliland	*0	308,111	20	0	9
Togdheer	HALO Somaliland	*0	1,092,221	24	8	8
Subtotal of AP mined area			2,048,202			
Totals			8,245,616	69	27	184

* Clearance of hazardous areas incomplete as at the end of 2022.

Operations were not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022.¹⁶²

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Somalia is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 October 2027. It is unlikely that it will meet this deadline.

Based on stakeholder engagement during preparation of the 2021 Article 5 Extension Request, Somalia identified the following six major challenges which impeded its ability to complete clearance by its Article 5 deadline:

- Insufficient information about the extent of contamination.
- Insufficient information about the impact of contamination.
- Limited access to contaminated areas, due to security concerns.
- Limited access to supervise teams in contaminated areas, due to security concerns.
- Other types of contamination (such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs)) having taken priority.
- Lack of training, lack of resources and lack of effective coordination and prioritisation.¹⁶³

¹⁶¹ Emails from Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May, 7 July and September 15 2023; and Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May and 8 August 2023. Information on the number of CHAs cleared in each location by HALO was requested by Mine Action Review but not made available.

¹⁶² Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 30 May 2022; Rob Syfret, HALO, 16 May and 7 July 2023; and Liberty T. Hombe, NPA, 24 March 2023.

¹⁶³ Statement of Somalia, 19MSP (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021.

A further impediment is that SEMA's legislative framework has yet to be approved by the FGS. This has hindered effective coordination by SEMA and negatively impacted staff turn-over and is likely to continue to do so until SEMA is incorporated into the state budget. This issue has been ongoing since 2016 and has meant that salaries and other costs at SEMA have been covered by external funding. It is unclear when SEMA will be granted parliamentary approval.

Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2022	2.05
2021	2.52
2020	2.32
2019	1.82
2018	1.60
Total	10.31

In both 2021 and 2022, insecurity in Somalia continued to impede both access to some contaminated areas, and the progress of ongoing clearance operations. In some areas, inter-clan clashes broke out, forcing clearance teams to temporarily retreat to safe locations.¹⁶⁴ In 2021, UNMAS, NPA, and HALO reported instances of demining equipment being confiscated by clan militia, a vehicle being hijacked and used as a battle wagon, and a member of staff being taken hostage along with demining equipment, respectively.¹⁶⁵ In other locations, teams could not access task sites due to disagreements among the affected community regarding the benefits that could be derived from the clearance operations. Some areas are under the control of armed opposition groups, which means that where teams do have access an escort is required.¹⁶⁶ Somalia cautions that the security situation across the country remains fluid and that moving personnel between areas of deployment continues to pose a challenge to implementation. Somalia will continue to update the States Parties on changes to the security situation and accessibility.¹⁶⁷

Somalia has made the decision to not include Somaliland in its plans within the extension request or within its updated 2022–2027 work plan, submitted in June 2023, despite the fact that Somaliland remains part of Somalia *de jure* and is therefore under the jurisdiction of the FGS. This is, however, legally incorrect as Article 5 extends over *either* jurisdiction or control of mined areas.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

SEMA has stated that Somalia is planning to introduce state-level consortia of local NGOs who will be tasked with dealing with residual contamination.¹⁶⁸ But there is no reference to this in Somalia's 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request or the updated 2022–2027 work plan.

¹⁶⁴ Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

¹⁶⁵ Emails from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022; Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 12 March 2022; and Daniel Redelinghuys, HALO, 29 May 2022.

¹⁶⁶ Email from Clemence Nyamandi, UNMAS, 17 March 2022.

¹⁶⁷ Action Plan for Article 5 Implementation, October 2022–October 2027, p. 16.

¹⁶⁸ Email from Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle, SEMA, 11 May 2020.