

SOUTH SUDAN



CLEARING THE MINES 2020

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 9 JULY 2021
EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 9 JULY 2026

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:

MEDIUM, 5 km²
(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE)

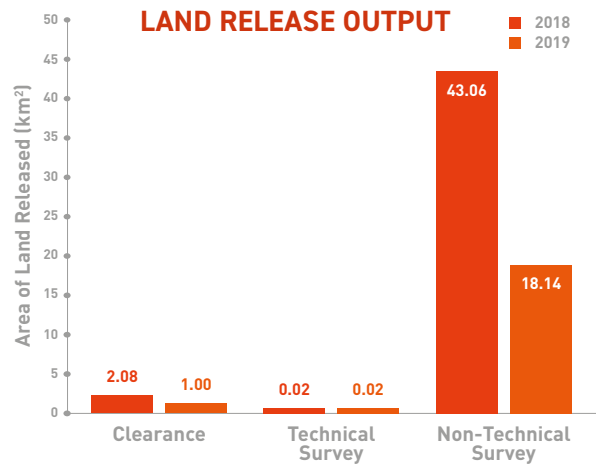
AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2019

1 km²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2019

437

(INCLUDING 32 DESTROYED
DURING SPOT TASKS)



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

South Sudan has determined it will not meet its July 2021 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 clearance deadline and has requested an additional extension for a period of five years. South Sudan has its most accurate estimate of remaining anti-personnel mine contamination to date following revision of the database and large-scale re-survey, which combined to reduce the estimate by 85% over two years. However, clearance of anti-personnel mined area halved in 2019 compared to 2018 and the challenges around the security situation, while improved, still remain. South Sudan intends to clear all types of contamination within the period of the extension requested, an undoubtedly optimistic target and one that is dependent on peace being sustained.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- South Sudan should increase its financial support for mine action operations as well as to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA).
- South Sudan should elaborate the steps that it is taking to mainstream gender across its mine action programme and what plans it is putting in place to ensure that diverse needs are taken into account during the period of the extension request.
- South Sudan should report periodically during the extension request period on its progress in establishing a sustainable and long-term national capacity (for both demining and information management) to deal with residual contamination.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	7	South Sudan continues to improve its understanding of remaining anti-personnel mine contamination through re-survey and database review. Estimated at the end of 2019 at just over 12km ² , this is down from nearly 80km ² in 2017. Further re-survey is planned to confirm the true size of the last remaining inflated suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) although access is dependent on the security situation.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	4	4	The National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) continued to face serious financial and technical limitations preventing it from managing mine action operations effectively in 2019, with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) assuming that function. Capacity development of the NMAA was ongoing in 2019 and 2020. In 2019, South Sudan received sufficient funding for mine action, but this may decrease if there are changes to the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) as the largest donor.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	6	6	South Sudan's second national mine action strategy for 2018–22 includes a section on gender, as does South Sudan's National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs). These include a focus on ensuring gender-balanced survey teams and gender- and age-sensitive data collection and community outreach.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	7	The comprehensive review of all data in South Sudan's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database which began in 2018, along with re-survey of recorded suspected and confirmed hazardous areas, has resulted in significant gains in the understanding of mine contamination. South Sudan submitted its revised extension request in August 2020, which includes comprehensive objectives for land release and data disaggregated by type of contamination and method of land release.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	6	South Sudan has a National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2022, which underwent a mid-term review in January 2020. South Sudan intends to address all types of contamination by 2026 and intends to adopt a pragmatic approach to prioritisation focusing on efficient deployment of resources.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	7	7	According to UNMAS, the NTSGs for mine action in South Sudan are subject to constant review by UNMAS and the NMAA. South Sudan has provided a detailed breakdown of required capacity to 2026. It intends to deploy the full toolbox of demining resources but in order to meet its land release projections will need to reconfigure its demining teams.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	7	7	South Sudan's land release output slowed in 2019 as its estimate of anti-personnel mine contamination becomes more accurate and less mined area was cancelled through non-technical survey. South Sudan will not meet its current Article 5 deadline of July 2021 and has submitted a five-year extension request. It plans to address all types of contamination within this timeframe making for an ambitious extension request, particularly when the ongoing challenges around access and insecurity are taken into account.
Average Score	6.8	6.5	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Church Aid (DCA)
- Danish Demining Group (DDG)
- G4S Ordnance Management (G4S)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- The Development Initiative (TDI)

OTHER ACTORS

- UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2019, South Sudan had a combined total of 126 areas confirmed and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines covering a total area of almost 12.2km² (see Table 1). South Sudan now has a far better understanding of remaining anti-personnel mine contamination following targeted re-survey and a comprehensive database review of all contamination data. It has released significant areas of land since re-survey began, including cancelling nearly 69km² in 2018–19.

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area by state (at end 2019)¹

State	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m ²)
Central Equatoria	37	1,312,066	35	471,250	72	1,783,316
Eastern Equatoria	14	539,909	10	104,432	24	644,341
Jonglei	6	597,036	8	3,596,842	14	4,193,878
North Bahr El Ghazal	1	26,100	1	21,719	2	47,819
Upper Nile	3	93,761	1	4,683,615	4	4,777,376
Warrap	0	0	1	40,000	1	40,000
West Bahr El Ghazal	1	201,738	0	0	1	201,738
Western Equatoria	1	95,450	7	410,810	8	506,260
Totals	63	2,866,060	63	9,328,668	126	12,194,728

CHAs = Confirmed hazardous areas SHAs = Suspected hazardous areas

According to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), South Sudan, at end 2019, also had 59 suspected and confirmed anti-vehicle mined areas, covering nearly 4.7km² (see Table 2).²

Table 2: Mined area (at end 2019)³

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Anti-personnel mines	63	2,866,060	63	9,328,668
Anti-vehicle mines	35	2,617,389	24	2,074,738
Totals	98	5,483,449	87	11,403,406

In 2017, UNMAS initiated a review of the national Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database which led to the conclusion that much of the anti-personnel mine contamination may have been over-reported in size. UNMAS consequently initiated a process of targeted re-survey aimed at better defining the estimated size of SHAs.

While significant progress has been made to date to define the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination remaining, its full extent is not known. Further survey is still needed to more accurately determine the actual extent of anti-personnel contamination in the SHAs, which still make up roughly three-quarters of the overall size of anti-personnel mine contamination in the database.⁴ However, insecurity greatly limits access to many areas of the country and displacement of the population means villagers are not there to consult during non-technical survey, severely impeding efforts to confirm or address contamination, particularly in the Greater Upper Nile region. A total of 37 tasks have been prioritised for re-survey, which total a suspected area covering 8.60km². The largest of these was a single SHA in the Upper Nile State, which was originally estimated at 4.68km² and which was almost equal to the entire contamination in the state of Central Equatoria. This SHA was cancelled through non-technical survey in

February 2020.⁵ South Sudan expects a reduction in the actual clearance requirement once re-survey is complete to 5km² for minefields and 10km² for cluster munition remnants (CMR)/battle area clearance (BAC).⁶

At the same time, new areas of anti-personnel mine contamination continued to be added to the database. A total of 0.46km² of previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination was added in 2019 across 12 hazardous areas.⁷

South Sudan is contaminated by anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, as well as explosive remnants of war (ERW), including CMR. The weapons were used during nearly 50 years of Sudanese civil war in 1955–72 and 1983–2005. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 led to the independence of South Sudan in July 2011. Following two years of independence and relative peace in South Sudan, heavy fighting erupted in the capital, Juba, in December 2013, initiating new armed conflict across the country. This expanded in July 2016, leading to widespread displacement, distress, and destitution. With the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018, the security situation across the country has improved, and there is now access to many areas that security issues previously rendered inaccessible.⁸

NEW CONTAMINATION

Dating back to 2015, there were allegations of use of anti-personnel mines by South Sudanese government forces in an area around Nassir, Upper Nile state.⁹ In June 2018, South Sudan informed States Parties to the APMBC that a four-person investigation team travelled to Nassir in November 2017 to investigate the March 2015 allegation. The investigation team found no evidence of landmines having been laid in the vicinity of Nassir, on or around the alleged date in 2015.¹⁰

While previously undiscovered areas of legacy anti-personnel mine contamination continued to be found in 2019, and despite allegations of new use in the course of the conflict that erupted in 2013, Mine Action Review is not aware of confirmed new use of anti-personnel mines. In July 2020, UNMAS stated that no new use of anti-personnel mines, including of an improvised nature, was recorded in 2019.¹¹

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The South Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA) – since renamed the NMAA – was established by presidential decree in 2006 to act as the national agency for planning, coordination, and monitoring of mine action in South Sudan.¹² There is no national mine action legislation in South Sudan.¹³

In 2011, UN Security Council Resolution 1996 tasked UNMAS with supporting South Sudan in demining and strengthening the capacity of the NMAA. UNMAS (with the NMAA) has been overseeing mine action across the country through its main office in Juba, and sub-offices in Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, and Wau. Together, UNMAS and NMAA accredit, task, monitor and evaluate mine action organisations; conduct route verification and clearance; provide escorts for convoys on high-threat routes to enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and, conduct data collection and the mapping of new hazardous areas.¹⁴

While it is planned that the NMAA will eventually assume full responsibility for all mine action activities, according to UNMAS the NMAA continued to face serious financial and technical limitations preventing it from managing mine action operations effectively in 2019. It requires substantial resources and capacity building assistance if it is to operate effectively.¹⁵

UNMAS, mine action operators, and South Sudanese government departments are providing capacity development to NMAA and other national mine action organisations in a project that runs from January 2019 to December 2020. The objectives are to develop the managerial and operational capacity in key functional and technical areas to enable national authorities to assume long-term coordination and policy-making roles in mine action; and to strengthen the capacity of the NMAA to plan and monitor all aspects of mine action, in support of South Sudan's obligations under the APMBC. It is planned that NMAA staff will attend training in administration and management, land release, quality management, and gender equality and mainstreaming. In addition, a resource mobilisation strategy will be developed and an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) response capacity for the management of residual contamination.¹⁶

UNMAS and Danish Demining Group (DDG) are the co-coordinators of the mine action sub-cluster. The sub-cluster coordinates with the national- and state-level Inter-Cluster Working Groups. This enables information to be shared on landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), for UN agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to inform mine action actors about their own priority locations for clearance and for information on landmines and UXO to be integrated into the annual Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan.¹⁷

In 2019, the Government of South Sudan funded the costs of NMAA staff salaries and its sub-offices across the country, Malakal, Wau, and Yei. As at March 2020, the Malakal and Yei offices were suspended due to the security situation.¹⁸ It did not, however, provide any funding for survey or clearance. The government's total support was reported as US\$75,000 for the year.¹⁹

In South Sudan's revised 2020 extension request, it is estimated to cost US\$148 million to complete clearance by July 2026, which now takes into account all the capacity that South Sudan has planned to deploy.²⁰ In 2019, South Sudan received over US\$41 million for mine action which exceeds the costs if current levels of support are maintained. It is worth noting, however, that much of the funding received by UNMAS, which on average has contributed around 75% of all sector funding, is used to support the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). This has played an important role in the overall mine action effort, as more than 30,000km of road have been verified as being free of mines to support the mandate of UNMISS, under Security Council Resolution 2459 (2019). However, it does impact prioritisation as mine action teams are deployed in the interest of UNMISS rather than to those areas that are most contaminated by mines and UXO. Going forward as the role of UNMISS changes it may further reduce the resources channelled to the implementation of the mine clearance effort.²¹

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

South Sudan's second national mine action strategy for 2018–22 includes a section on gender, focusing on how different gender and age groups are affected by mines and ERW and have specific and varying needs and priorities. Guidelines on mainstreaming gender considerations in mine action planning and operations in South Sudan are also incorporated in the strategy, including on the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age.²² UNMAS reported that the programme was also implementing the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action, monitored by a gender focal point.²³

South Sudan's National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) contain provisions requiring all community liaison teams to tailor activities on the basis of the gendered needs of beneficiaries, and to address the specific risks faced by women and girls.²⁴ All teams are reportedly gender balanced in composition and trained to be inclusive, for example by ensuring outreach through non-technical survey and risk education is done separately for different age and gender groups, and taking local cultural practices into consideration.²⁵ At the same time, UNMAS reported that task prioritisation was predominantly dependent on security and that resources were concentrated on tasks within limited geographical areas rather than on the basis of gender needs.²⁶ Ethnic identity is taken into account within survey and clearance teams to ensure safe access and acceptance by the respective local communities.²⁷

In 2019–20, UNMAS was planning to provide workshops for the NMAA and mine action partners on gender equality, gender-based violence (GBV), and gender mainstreaming programming in mine action with the aim of GBV prevention practices being mainstreamed in mine action and there being equal opportunity in decision making regardless of gender.²⁸ As at July 2020, these had not yet happened.²⁹

UNMAS has stated that there is equal access in employment opportunities for qualified men and women in survey and clearance teams across the organisations operating in South Sudan.³⁰ However, redressing the gender balance is a long-term challenge and is dependent on whether new vacancies arise. In 2019, however, only 7% of staff in operational roles were women and women accounted for 5% of managerial or supervisory positions among international staff positions, while no women were occupying managerial positions among the national staff.³¹

All of the community liaison teams within Mines Advisory Group (MAG) are mixed gender and MAG reports that it consults with all affected community members, including women and children. MAG also holds women-only focus groups to ensure that women's voices are heard. MAG also aims to recruit team members from the more than 60 ethnic groups within South Sudan and tries to ensure that at least one team member speaks the local language of the planned area of deployment. As at October 2019, approximately 25% of all operational roles within MAG were held by women. This follows a concerted effort by MAG to increase the number of women in operational roles. There is one international staff member who holds a senior managerial position within MAG who is female but none of the female national staff members holds a managerial position, although there are national staff at a supervisory level.³²

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

A comprehensive review of all data in South Sudan's IMSMA database began in 2018, along with re-survey of recorded SHAs and CHAs thought to be exaggerated or erroneously recorded. Through the database review it was found that past efforts to upgrade the IMSMA software package led to serious data loss which inhibited efforts to present an entirely accurate record of the history of mine action in South Sudan. The ongoing database review has resulted in significant gains in the understanding of mine and ERW contamination. UNMAS informed Mine Action Review that, wherever possible, the database disaggregates mined areas, CMR, and other ERW-contaminated areas, including spot tasks.³³

South Sudan submitted a timely and accurate Article 7 report covering 2019 which disaggregated by type of contamination. In addition, it submitted an initial extension request in March 2020, and a revised extension request in August 2020, which includes information on all types of explosive ordnance contamination in South Sudan, and a plan to completion of clearance of all contamination by 2026. The plan is disaggregated by type of contamination and method of land release.

PLANNING AND TASKING

South Sudan's most recent National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2022, developed with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and funded by Japan, was officially launched in September 2018.³⁴ A mid-term strategic review of the plan, goals and objectives was conducted in January 2020.³⁵ According to UNMAS, the strategy has three strategic goals with related targets:³⁶

STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

Advocacy and communication of South Sudan's mine/ERW problem continues through national and international awareness-raising and adoption and implementation of international conventions to facilitate a mine-/ERW-free South Sudan.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2:

The size of the mine/ERW contamination area is clarified and confirmed and the problem is addressed through appropriate survey and clearance methods, ensuring safe land is handed back to affected communities for use.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3:

Safe behaviour is promoted among women, girls, boys, and men to reduce mine/ERW accidents and promote safe livelihood activities.

UNMAS operations staff generate an annual operational clearance plan where priority tasks are identified.³⁷ According to UNMAS, the operational focus for 2019–20 was on further clarifying contamination remaining in the database, with re-survey of hazards thought to be exaggerated in size.³⁸

In its revised 2020 extension request South Sudan presents a work plan to 2026, split by region with data disaggregated by type of contamination and classified into SHAs and CHAs. South Sudan has classified each of the remaining tasks into the proposed clearance methodology (manual clearance, mechanical clearance, road clearance, or re-survey). In the milestones for completion section, targets for mine clearance are separated into manual and mechanical clearance but are not disaggregated by type of mine nor is there any mention of the extensive re-survey that is required.³⁹ In addition, there is a lack of clarity in the difference between tasks, minefields, and hazardous areas.⁴⁰

South Sudan's latest Article 7 report (covering 2019), contains annual targets for land release of anti-personnel mines to 2026 (see Table 3). However, the total amount of anti-personnel mined area exceeds the amount of contamination remaining as at the end of 2019. In the same Article 7 report, South Sudan also provides a written summary of annual clearance projections for anti-personnel mined area which totals 143 tasks over 15.65km².⁴¹

South Sudan intends to address all contamination including from anti-vehicle mines, CMR, and other ERW in addition to anti-personnel mines by its 2026 Article 5 deadline. To that end, aside from those tasks where specific humanitarian interventions are planned, the intention is to be pragmatic in the sequencing of tasks and to deploy clearance teams through a prioritisation process that aims to balance security, logistical requirements, and concentration of effort. South Sudan believes that this combination will lead to the most efficient clearance that allows for optimal monitoring of clearance efforts.⁴²

Table 3: Projected release of anti-personnel mined area⁴³

Year	Mined areas	Area (m ²)
2020	14	5,932,320
2021	33	1,832,963
2022	19	1,696,694
2023	23	1,707,268
2024	15	850,901
2025	14	268,074
2026	10	200,400
Totals	128	12,488,620

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

South Sudan's National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) outline the technical requirements expected of all demining operators working in South Sudan, they are adapted from International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and tailored to the local context. The NTSGs are annually reviewed and revised by UNMAS and the implementing partners and then approved by the NMAA.⁴⁴ In 2019, revisions were made to the NTSGs for Animal Detection Systems, Site Preparation, Marking, Quality Management and Medical Procedures to keep them in line with changes to IMAS. An NTSG on "Stop-Operations Policy" was also introduced. This policy mandates that any party can and should suspend an operation whenever it believes a demining situation or operation is becoming unsafe.⁴⁵ The NTSG amendments were made in consultation with the implementing partners.⁴⁶

UNMAS noted that the NTSGs require all mine action teams to conduct regular internal quality assurance (QA), along with quality control (QC) sampling of 10% of each area cleared. UNMAS conducted additional external QA through visits to each clearance task in 2018, as well as upon the completion of a clearance task.⁴⁷ As part of the capacity development project of the NMAA from 2019 to 2020, 30 QA officers will receive training in quality management through workshops and field placements with the aim of the NMAA taking ownership of the QA of mine action operations.⁴⁸

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Operators in South Sudan in 2019 included international demining NGO MAG and two commercial companies who are UNMAS's implementing partners (G4S Ordnance Management (G4S), and The Development Initiative (TDI)).⁴⁹ MECHEM were previously operational in South Sudan but lost their accreditation in 2018 following unsafe procedures which resulted in a staff fatality. Danish Demining Group (DDG) and Danish Church Aid (DCA) both have a small operational capacity that focuses on survey and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and clearance of cluster munition remnants, but neither is engaged in mine clearance.⁵⁰

Table 4: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2019⁵¹

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines**	Comments
G4S	6x QRT	48	0	2	Quick Response Team (QRT)
	2x MTT	16			Multi-task team (MTT)
	2x ICC	20			Integrated Clearance Capacity (ICC)
TDI	8x MTT	64	4	0	Route Assessment and Clearance Capacity (RACC)
	2x RACC	30			
MAG	2x MAT	16	0	2	Mine Action Team (MAT)
	5x MTT	35-50			
	1x EOD	5			
	1x ICC	12			
Totals	29	246-61	4	4	

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

In 2019, UNMAS reported that mine action operating capacity remained on a par with that deployed in 2018, with almost 1,000 persons working in the sector. Every team working in South Sudan is accredited to conduct non-technical survey and every team also has a community liaison element. In 2020, there was a reduction in capacity by four non-technical survey/EOD teams.⁵² MAG primarily operates multi-task teams that have the ability to conduct non-technical survey, mine clearance and BAC. During 2019, MAG's peak operational capacity was nine teams, an increase from the seven deployed in 2018. The mechanical clearance capacity includes a MineWolf 330 with 12 deminers which focused on minefield clearance. One of the multi-task teams conducted both mine and cluster munition clearance with a MineWolf 370 and eight deminers. The rest of MAG's operational capacity was focused on BAC during 2019.⁵³

South Sudan's revised extension request provides a detailed breakdown of the capacity that will be needed to achieve completion of clearance. South Sudan plans to deploy the full demining toolbox to address remaining contamination, including light and heavy machines, mine detection dogs (MDDs) and manual deminers equipped with appropriate detectors. It is expected that operators will reconfigure

their clearance teams to allow for more deminers and fewer support staff on each task to increase efficiency. This transformation has already begun, with UNMAS opting to field eight 15-lane demining teams from November 2020, but according to the extension request this move needs to be replicated across the sector in order to deliver the required clearance capacity. From 2021 there will need to be twelve 15-lane demining teams deployed to meet clearance targets.⁵⁴

South Sudan has disaggregated its mine clearance projections in its extension request into manual and mechanical clearance. The manual clearance teams of 15-lane demining teams are expected to clear 300m² per team per day, which equates to 52,800m² per team per year. It is expected that the manual clearance teams will clear 2.95km² in total plus 10% additional clearance to account for newly identified tasks and the impacts of other unforeseen circumstances.⁵⁵ Mechanical clearance teams cleared 3,500m² each per day for 200 days a year during a recent commercial contract deploying a Minewolf 370. It is expected that mechanical clearance teams will clear 2,000m² per day during the period of the extension request.⁵⁶ They are projected to clear 46 tasks totalling 2.41km² in total plus 10% area as a margin of safety.⁵⁷

DEMINER SAFETY

Throughout 2019, survey and clearance operations were targeted in four separate armed robberies and there was one break-in at a compound. During these incidents no personnel were injured but there was loss of personal belongings and some equipment.⁵⁸

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

A total of 19.16km² of mined area was released in 2019, of which 1km² was cleared, 0.02km² was reduced through technical survey, and 18.14km² was cancelled through non-technical survey.

SURVEY IN 2019

In 2019, a total of 18.16km² was released through survey, the majority of which was cancelled through non-technical survey (see Table 5). This is a 58% decrease in non-technical survey from the 43.06km² cancelled in 2018. Since the review of the national database and nationwide re-survey began in 2018, annual cancellation rates through non-technical survey have been very high. However, as South Sudan moves towards an estimate of mine contamination that is more representative of the actual contamination in the country cancellation rates are slowing.⁵⁹

Reduction through technical survey rose slightly from 16,348m² in 2018 to 19,946m² (see Table 6).⁶⁰

CLEARANCE IN 2019

A total of over 1km² was cleared in 2019 with the destruction of 405 anti-personnel mines (see Table 7).⁶¹ This is less than half the 2.08km² cleared in 2018 when 1,163 anti-personnel mines were found and destroyed.⁶² The reason for this reduction in clearance output was a delayed start to the demining season and the decision to deploy one of the mechanical demining teams to a remote area where manual demining was proving to be ineffective and that involved a lengthy transit period.⁶³

Table 5: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2019⁶⁴

State	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Central Equatoria	G4S	30
Central Equatoria	MAG	100,883
Eastern Equatoria	G4S	2,827
Eastern Equatoria	TDI	10,532
Eastern Equatoria	UNMAS	10,021
Jonglei	G4S	14,438,780
Jonglei	MAG	3,388,152
Jonglei	TDI	1,356
Lakes	TDI	2,500
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	TDI	32,829
Upper Nile	G4S	257
Upper Nile	TDI	8
Western Equatoria	G4S	150,000
Total		18,138,175

Table 6: Reduction through technical survey in 2019⁶⁵

State	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Eastern Equatoria	TDI	4,813
Jonglei	TDI	1,766
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	TDI	13,367
Total		19,946

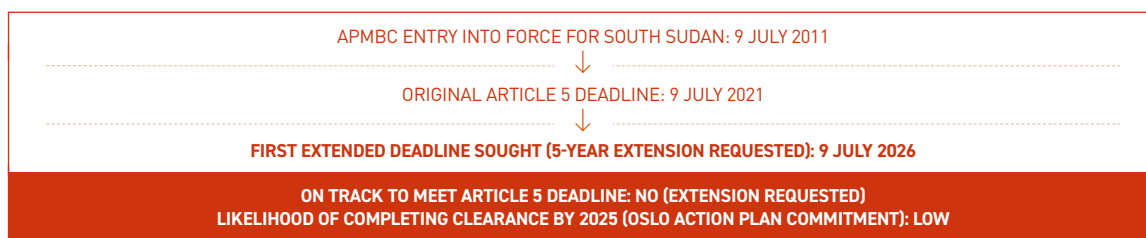
Table 7: Mine clearance in 2019⁶⁶

State	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Central Equatoria	G4S	418,870	83	0	10
Central Equatoria	MAG	317,632	97	5	22
Eastern Equatoria	G4S	74,932	34	0	2
Eastern Equatoria	TDI	26,241	43	0	8
Jonglei	G4S	74,871	141	0	0
Jonglei	TDI	3,185	6	0	0
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	TDI	50,350	0	0	21
Upper Nile	G4S	1,838	1	0	0
Upper Nile	TDI	35,728	0	0	3
Totals		1,003,647	405	5	66

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

In addition, 32 anti-personnel mines were destroyed during EOD spot tasks in 2019; of these, G4S destroyed 28; MAG 2; and TDI 2.⁶⁷

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC South Sudan is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 9 July 2021. It will not meet this deadline and submitted a request for a second extension of its Article 5 deadline in March 2020, for a period of five years, until 9 July 2026.

South Sudan reported in its extension request that insecurity has been the greatest impediment to fulfilling its clearance obligations. Since 2011 there have been several outbreaks of extreme violence, most notably in 2013 and 2016, and sporadic fighting continues to this day. This violence, as well as the banditry that is prevalent in areas that lack rule of law, has persistently inhibited the deployment of mine clearance teams and has been an obstacle to a countrywide survey. The Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) was established in February 2020, which it is hoped will enhance peace in the country and improve access for mine action.⁶⁸ In June 2020, a deal was reached on the selection of governors for the country's ten states and three administrative areas. Both the number of states and the selection of governors had been a contentious issue as it determines the division of power within the country.⁶⁹

Since the database review and re-survey began in 2018, South Sudan has cancelled nearly *69km²* and now has the most accurate assessment to date of the extent of its anti-personnel mine contamination and the clearance required to achieve completion. Total land release from 2018 to 2019 more than halved, which in large part was due to the massive decrease in cancellation through non-technical survey. Historically, South Sudan has cancelled *6km²* for every *1km²* cleared which will not be feasible going forward to 2026. It is important to note that South Sudan plans to address *all* contamination (i.e. including anti-vehicle mines, on roads, from cluster munitions, and other UXO) in this extension period. Anti-personnel mine contamination is currently estimated at *12.19km²* which makes up about half of the total contaminated area of *24.6km²*. The progress in clearance of anti-personnel mined areas is therefore contingent on the progress in survey and clearance of other contamination. In light of this, the requested five-year extension looks overly ambitious.

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

UNMAS reported that it was working with the NMAA to develop plans for a national capacity that will be responsible for the clearance of residual contamination. This will be the responsibility of the Government of South Sudan.⁷² As part of UNMAS's capacity building objectives for 2019 to 2020 it planned to develop the EOD response capacity within the NMAA, national police, and partner organisations to manage residual contamination through workshops and field placements.⁷³

Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	1.00
2018	2.08
2017	1.71
2016	2.65
2015	5.10
Total	12.54

In addition, the extension request clearly sets out the primary assumptions and risk factors in the implementation of land release targets: that there is access to contaminated areas and no resumption of fighting; that few additional minefields are recorded; that the largest recorded hazardous areas are cancelled, or drastically reduced, through re-survey; that one deminer will clear on average 20m² per day; that demining teams will be reconfigured to 15-lane teams and clear 300m² per day; that mechanical clearance teams will clear 2,000m² per day. Logistical challenges will also need to be overcome due to the poor state of South Sudan's infrastructure and the effects of the seasonal rains, which mean that clearance in much of the country is only possible for eight months of the year given widespread flooding. Furthermore, the methodology previously used to clear roads was flawed as several mines have recently been discovered on roads that had been declared safe resulting in the need for re-clearance. This has diverted resources from clearance of anti-personnel mines.⁷⁰

South Sudan has also been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak which has led the government to ban all public gatherings and introduce social distancing and lockdown measures. As at April 2020, operators had stood down teams, which will undoubtedly impact on survey and clearance output.⁷¹

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- 1 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.
- 2 Email from Richard Boulter, Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 30.
- 5 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 6 Presentation by Richard Boulter, UNMAS, "South Sudan – Achieving Article Five compliance, and Delivering a Long-Term Solution", 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers, 12 February 2020.
- 7 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 8 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 47.
- 9 See Intergovernmental Authority on Development Offices of the Special Envoys for South Sudan, "Summary of Latest Reports of Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) Investigated and verified by the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism in South Sudan from 1–16 March 2015", at: bit.ly/2Y5xsvT.
- 10 Statement by Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch, NMAA, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2018. The three-day investigation involved formal interviews with Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) officers and the police commissioner, along with a physical inspection of the ground around the SPLA barracks.
- 11 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 12 "South Sudan De-Mining Authority", undated, at: bit.ly/2Y5Eb4o.
- 13 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 14 UNMAS, "Mine Action Portfolio 2019".
- 15 Interview with Richard Boulter, NDM-UN23, 14 February 2020; emails from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 30 May 2019; and Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 16 UNMAS, "Mine Action Portfolio 2019".
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20.
- 19 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.
- 20 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 75.
- 21 Ibid., pp. 20–21.
- 22 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 23 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 28 UNMAS "Mine Action Portfolio 2019".
- 29 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 30 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 31 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 32 Emails from Katie Shaw, Programme Officer, MAG, 26 April 2019 and 29 June 2020.
- 33 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019; and 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 9.
- 34 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 35 "South Sudan – Achieving Article Five compliance, and Delivering a Long-Term Solution", NDM-UN23, 12 February 2020.
- 36 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018; and Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 6 June 2018.
- 37 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 38 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 22 July 2019.
- 39 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, pp. 72–74.
- 40 Ibid., pp. 55–65.
- 41 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.
- 42 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 64.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.
- 45 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 15 July 2020.
- 46 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 47 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 48 UNMAS, "Mine Action Portfolio 2019".
- 49 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 50 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 15 July 2020.
- 51 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 52 Ibid.
- 53 Emails from Katie Shaw, MAG, 19 July 2019 and 29 June 2020.
- 54 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 67.
- 55 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 20 July 2020.
- 56 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 26 August 2020.
- 57 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 63.
- 58 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 59 Presentation by Richard Boulter, UNMAS, "South Sudan – Achieving Article Five compliance, and Delivering a Long-Term Solution", NDM-UN23, 12 February 2020.
- 60 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4; and emails from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 22 July 2019; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 19 July 2019.
- 61 Ibid.
- 62 Emails from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 22 July 2019; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 19 July 2019.
- 63 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 64 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4; and emails from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 29 June 2020.
- 65 Ibid.
- 66 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4; and emails from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 29 June 2020.
- 67 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 8 July 2020.
- 68 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.
- 69 Al Jazeera, "South Sudan leaders reach key deal on control of states", 17 June 2020, at: bit.ly/2Bii5pw.
- 70 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 47–49.
- 71 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form 4.
- 72 Emails from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 22 July 2019 and 8 July 2020.
- 73 UNMAS, "Mine Action Portfolio 2019".