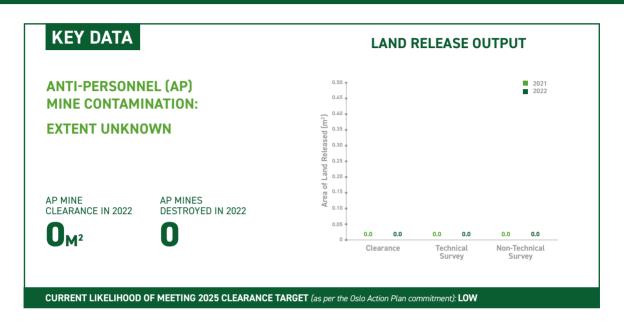
# **NIGERIA**



ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE



## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

In 2022, the National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NHMAC) was established alongside the previously established Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Committee (APMBC) Inter-Ministerial Committee. With both seemingly established as the mine action authority, it raises concerns about how the programme will be managed. In a positive step, Nigeria submitted its first Article 7 report since 2012. However, the extent of anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination in the country is not known and Nigeria will need to build capacity across all areas of its mine action programme. Currently only the Nigerian security forces conduct clearance but their outputs have not been reported.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Nigeria should establish a federal national mine action centre to coordinate land release activities.
- Nigeria should develop a national mine action strategy that includes realistic goals for land release, agreed and specified criteria for the prioritisation of tasks, and uses land release terminology in a manner consistent with international standards.
- Nigeria should establish a central mine action database providing humanitarian agencies timely access to data on the location, type, and extent of mined areas.
- Nigeria should, as a matter of urgent priority, build mine clearance capacities.
- Nigeria's should expedite the preparation and official adoption of national mine action legislation.

# ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2022)	Score (2021)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	3	3	Significant areas of contamination are suspected in Nigeria with Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states considered the worst affected but insecurity has severely restricted access and the ability to conduct survey. The scale of the mine threat is currently measured in number of explosive incidents rather than size of suspected or confirmed hazardous areas (CHAS/SHAs).
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	4	In 2022, Nigeria created the National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NHMAC) as a civilian organisation that will sit alongside the already established APMBC Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Ministry of Defence. Nigeria stated in its Article 7 report for 2022 that it is in the process of drafting mine action legislation.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	3	Nigeria does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan in place but the NHMAC has recruited a gender officer and several of its staff have undergone training on gender and mine action.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	3	The NHMAC reported that it now has a rudimentary information management system but does not yet have the capacity and infrastructure in place to establish a comprehensive mine action database. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) operates an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core database collating and inputting data on explosive incidents provided mainly by Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and community reports of contamination. Nigeria submitted an annual Article 7 report (covering 2022) for the first time since 2012.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	4	4	Nigeria submitted an early draft of its National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–28 alongside its Article 7 report and has committed to submitting a final draft at the 21st Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC in November 2023. Nigeria's mine action sector lacks any coordinated tasking process or criteria for prioritising survey.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	3	2	Nigeria declared in its Article 7 report that it is reviewing national mine action standards (NMAS) for risk education and victim assistance that were drafted by UNMAS. In January 2023, Nigeria published its first NMAS on non-technical survey (NTS).
DUTPUTS AND  ARTICLE 5  COMPLIANCE  (20% of overall score)  DUTPUTS AND  2022. Operators reported that they baseline assessments". All clearan paramilitary groups. Nigeria is unlighted still faces significant security chall states in the north-east. Nigeria's results in the north-east.		1	Nigeria has not reported on any survey and clearance activities conducted in 2022. Operators reported that they conducted NTS and "remote contamination baseline assessments". All clearance is conducted by Nigerian security forces and paramilitary groups. Nigeria is unlikely to meet its end-2025 Article 5 deadline and still faces significant security challenges which restrict access to the most affected states in the north-east. Nigeria's mine action strategy would suggest that it is working towards a completion deadline for only high-impact mined areas of 2028 at the earliest.
Average Score	3.3	2.6	Overall Programme Performance: VERY POOR

# **DEMINING CAPACITY**

#### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NHMAC)
- APMBC Inter-Ministerial Committee

#### **NATIONAL OPERATORS**

- Army
- Police
- Royal Heritage Foundation

## INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council Humanitarian and Disarmament and Peacebuilding Sector (DRC)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

## OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Heavy casualties have been sustained from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), particularly mines of an improvised nature. These have been widely used by Boko Haram and other jihadist groups in the north-eastern states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. The extent of contamination is not known.<sup>1</sup>

Deteriorating security continues to prevent systematic survey of contamination and the nature of the armed conflicts

has not yet allowed clearly delineated mined areas to be identified. Instead, the scale of the threat is measured in the number of explosive incidents rather than the size of suspected or confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs/SHAs) (see Table 1). However, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has reported that "it is suspected that significant contamination exists".<sup>2</sup>

Table 1: Explosive ordnance incidents in north-east Nigeria (2017-22)3

Year	Road-emplaced IEDs	Body-borne IEDs	Vehicle-borne IEDs	Other IED	ERW	Total incidents
2017	165	211	4	1	0	381
2018	149	99	10	0	9	267
2019	117	32	4	4	32	189
2020	186	23	5	2	31	247
2021	255	6	10	23	17	311
2022	159	0	9	6	51	225

ERW = explosive remnants of war

Nigeria reported in 2021 that improvised mines and other explosive devices affected a total of 34 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in three states: 18 of 27 LGAs in Borno (the worst affected state); 5 of 21 LGAs in Adamawa, and 11 of 17 LGAs in Yobe.4 In its Article 7 report for 2022, Nigeria reported that the newly established National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NHMAC) has started collecting data on mine victims from these three states in the north-east. as well as states in the south-east of the country although it does not specify which ones.5 In the "zero draft" of its National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy for 2023-28, it states that the national development plan has identified 38 LGAs across the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states as being directly affected by the use of explosive ordnance with the most affected LGAs, which have been classified as high impact areas, Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Gwoza, Jere,

Konduga, Maiduguri, Monguno, and Ngala in Borno; Geidam and Gujba in Yobe; and Madagali, Mubi North, and Mubi South in Adamawa.<sup>6</sup> The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database indicated that during 2022 there were also incidents involving improvised anti-vehicle mines in Kaduna, Katsina, and Niger states in the north and centre of the country.<sup>7</sup>

The main explosive threat is from improvised mines placed on roads with UNMAS recording 159 such incidents in 2022. UNMAS determined that 60 of the total number of items reported in 2022 were categorised as victim-activated, including by pressure plates.8 The few pressure-plate devices that have been inspected were capable of being detonated by the weight of a person, meaning that they are covered by the APMBC.9

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Nigeria set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the APMBC in 2019 under the Ministry of Defence to lead the process of setting up a national mine action authority. In August 2022, in order to have a civilian-led agency coordinating mine action, President Muhammadu Buhari directed the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to create a committee that would address explosive ordnance threats in Nigeria. In October 2022, the National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee (NHMAC) was inaugurated with responsibility for coordinating mine action and advising the Federal

- 1 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 4; and Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form D.
- 2 Email from Harshi Gunawardana, Programme and Communications Officer, UNMAS, 7 May 2021.
- 3 Emails from Edwin Faigmane, Chief Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, 8 August 2023; Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022; and 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 11.
- 4 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 24.
- 5 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form H.
- 6 "National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023–28)", p. 36.
- 7 ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2022-31/12/2022, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, Nigeria", accessed 9 August 2023, at: www.acleddata.com.
- 8 Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.
- 9 Emails from Lionel Pechera, Programme Coordinator, UNMAS, Nigeria, 11 March and 20 July 2020.
- 10 Statement of Nigeria, Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, 15 November 2021.

Government on the humanitarian and military aspects of mine action and aligning activities with the development of the north-east.<sup>11</sup> However, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the APMBC and the NHMAC are each acting as the national mine action authority and both claim to have a mandate to establish the National Mine Action Centre.<sup>12</sup> As of writing, there was a noticeable absence of coordination between the two committees and a lack of clarity regarding their respective areas of responsibility.

The National Mine Action Centre, which at the time of writing had not yet been established but which has been approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), will gradually take over responsibility for the coordination of mine action.<sup>13</sup>

Nigeria reported in its Article 7 report covering 2022 that the NHMAC is working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to draft national legislation that will encompass Nigeria's commitments both to the APMBC and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and that work has begun to identify sites for the national mine action centre and field offices.<sup>14</sup>

In 2022, UNMAS organised Mine Action Sub-Working Group meetings in Maiduguri every two months or so. <sup>15</sup> Separate monthly meetings are held for all implementing partners within each LGA to address requirements and provide updates on progress. In February 2023, the NHMAC held its first national stakeholders meeting with national organisations and some international operators in attendance. <sup>16</sup>

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION**

Nigeria does not have a national mine action standard or a policy on environmental management. It is therefore not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of AP mines in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) has a global environmental policy in place which provides guidelines for programmes to implement tailored to their specific context. A key pillar of MAG's global strategy is reducing its environmental footprint.<sup>17</sup> Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has an environmental standard operating procedure (SOP) in place for its mine action arm, which has been implemented by the management team in Nigeria.<sup>18</sup> The HALO Trust (HALO) has a global environmental and quality policy which will guide its operations in Nigeria.<sup>19</sup>

## **GENDER AND DIVERSITY**

Nigeria does not yet have a gender policy and implementation plan in place, but NHMAC reported they have a dedicated Gender Officer and that it is also actively working with women's organisations, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, and the National Commission for Persons With Disabilities. The NHMAC has claimed that half of its workforce are women.<sup>20</sup> UNMAS has reported that the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has a gender policy in place while the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) was in the process of finalising its gender policy.<sup>21</sup>

In 2021, UNMAS had commissioned a gender baseline assessment for the NPF and the NSCDC in north-east Nigeria to identify ways of strengthening the role of women and explosive ordnance disposal [EOD] capabilities in these bodies. <sup>22</sup> The assessment, which was conducted between August 2020 and February 2021, found the security services had not embraced gender mainstreaming. It called for the inclusion of more women officers, changes to obsolete recruitment practices and repeal of discriminatory regulations, and said that UNMAS should engage with both organisations on the need for gender parity. <sup>23</sup> The importance of integrating a gender perspective during training for the EOD unit of the NPF was also highlighted in the assessment.

- 11 Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form A.
- 12 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 29 September 2023.
- 13 "National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023–2028)", p. 22.
- 14 Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form B.
- 15 Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.
- 16 Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.
- 19 Email from Kim Feldewerth, HALO, 27 September 2023.
- 20 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form E.
- 21 Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.
- 22 Email from Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022.
- 23 UNMAS, "Summary of Gender Baseline Assessment", May 2021.

Table 2: Gender composition of mine action operators in 2022<sup>24</sup>

Operator	Total staff	Women employed	Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions	Women in managerial or supervisory positions	Total staff in operational positions	Women in operational positions
UNMAS	6	3	1	0	5	2
MAG	34	14	12	7	17	9
DRC	17	5	5	1	12	4

In 2022, MAG developed a Gender Action Plan (GAP) and was working to mainstream gender and diversity inclusion in its work. The GAP has four key strategic objectives: 1) promoting gender-responsive operations in both mine action and Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) programmes; 2) empowering women in mine action and WAM roles; 3) ensuring consistent gender and diversity inclusion mainstreaming; and 4) monitoring and reporting progress on gender and diversity inclusion. At operational level, MAG teams collect data disaggregated by age and gender.<sup>25</sup>

# INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The NHMAC currently has a rudimentary information management system in place with two of its staff having undergone basic training in information management. The NHMAC said it is in talks with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and operators on building its information management capacity.<sup>26</sup> UNMAS manages an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core database that collects data from mine action stakeholders and humanitarian organisations on explosive incidents, the results of surveys, and risk education beneficiary data.<sup>27</sup>

In 2022, as part of its efforts to improve the data quality in the mine action database, UNMAS trained six Information Management Officers from the Borno State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (MRRR), the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the NPF, the NSCDC, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.<sup>28</sup> MAG has underscored the need for improved collaboration on data collection and sharing.<sup>29</sup> Since July 2022, the Area of Responsibility (AoR) LGA coordination body that is led by DRC promotes data sharing among all operators within an LGA to provide updates on activities and prevent duplication within a specific region.<sup>30</sup>

In May 2023, Nigeria submitted an Article 7 report covering 2022, its first for more than 10 years. It did not contain data on the extent of contamination or on survey and clearance activities.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

The NHMAC submitted a zero draft of a National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028 with its latest Article 7 report covering 2022.<sup>31</sup> The NHMAC reported that the draft will be shared with all mine action stakeholders for input and will include evidence-based, detailed, costed multiyear work plans once the final draft is submitted to the APMBC 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of States Parties in November 2023.<sup>32</sup> MAG and UNMAS reported providing technical input to NHMAC in support of the strategy's development.<sup>33</sup>

Nigeria's mine action sector lacks any coordinated tasking process or criteria for prioritising survey. MAG reported that its teams carry out focus group discussions with communities whose members have travelled through areas suspected to be contaminated with explosive ordnance.<sup>34</sup> DRC said it conducted non-technical survey (NTS) through internal desk assessments, information from UNMAS, and reports of possible explosive ordnance locations by other agencies.<sup>35</sup>

- 24 Emails from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023; Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023; and Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.
- 25 Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.
- 26 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D.
- 27 Emails from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and John Sorbo, DRC, 3 July 2021.
- 28 Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.
- 29 Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.
- 30 Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.
- 31 Draft National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023–2028), in Article 7 report (covering 2022), pp. 19-53.
- 32 Updated Work Plan, presented by Nigeria at the Intersessional Meetings of the APMBC, 19 June 2023.
- 33 Emails from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023; and UNMAS Headquarters, 29 September 2023.
- 34 Email from Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.
- 35 Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 23 September 2022.

#### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Nigeria identified development of national mine action standards (NMAS) as one of its programme objectives in its 2021 Article 5 deadline extension request.<sup>36</sup> In 2022, UNMAS drafted national standards for NTS,<sup>37</sup> which were reportedly published in January 2023.<sup>38</sup>

Nigeria's extension request said it would release land through non-technical and technical survey, by clearance and by cancellation, referring to a process that apparently would be applied before survey. The process draws attention to a concern that communities may exaggerate the extent of contamination and their reports will be subjected to "an integrity test". If they fail the test, the area would be

cancelled for purposes of survey. More controversially, the request says such areas would also be declared safe.<sup>39</sup> The comment underscores the challenge Nigeria faces building up credible baseline contamination data at a time when access by trained survey teams is severely curtailed by insecurity.

There is no mention of integrity tests in the zero draft strategy but there is a lack of clarity in the explanation of the land release process with the use of terms such as Suspected Mine Area (SMA), technical survey II (T2) and technical survey III which is not consistent with IMAS. There are also references to conducting a Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) which is no longer considered best practice.<sup>40</sup>

#### **OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS**

All clearance of explosive ordnance is conducted by the Nigerian army and police primarily for military purposes and with support from paramilitary groups. <sup>41</sup> The EOD and improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) capacity of the Nigerian security forces is not known. After conducting a needs assessment with police commanders in Borno and Adamawa states in 2020, UNMAS organised IEDD training for the NPF's EOD units and for security forces in Maiduguri. <sup>42</sup> In 2022, UNMAS conducted IEDD training to NPF EOD personnel of whom seven qualified as IEDD instructors. <sup>43</sup> In 2022, UNMAS Nigeria Programme had a total of 10 personnel. <sup>44</sup>

MAG started working in Nigeria in 2016, focusing initially on arms management and destruction, but has been engaged in mine action in the country since 2017. In 2022, its capacity was 17 staff deployed in six community liaison teams with three team leaders. The teams worked in Borno state across seven LGAs. MAG worked with one implementing partner, the Royal Heritage Health Foundation, to deliver risk education. In 2023, MAG was helping the NHMAC to advocate for mine action funding with donors. MAG will also prioritise risk education to both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in the north-east, and the mapping of contamination using remote contamination baseline assessments methodology.<sup>45</sup>

In 2022, DRC's mine action programme employed 17 staff and a project manager. There were five NTS/community liaison teams consisting of one team leader and two officers per team working in Borno and Adamawa states. DRC conducted training of community focal points in 2022 building community awareness of explosive threats and seeking to increase community reporting on explosive incidents and contamination. In 2023, DRC was prioritising risk education and NTS, seeking to build links between mine action and development focusing on children, women, and farmers, training of community focal points, and capacity building of national non-governmental organisations (NGOs).<sup>46</sup>

In 2022, HALO was registered in Nigeria and has two permanent members of staff based in their office in Abuja. The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management through the NHMAC have asked HALO to support the NHMAC with capacity building of its staff and data verification. To date, HALO has provided IT equipment and technical guidance to the NHMAC to support the drafting of the mine action bill.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>36 2021</sup> Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 33.

<sup>37</sup> Emails from Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022; and Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.

<sup>38</sup> Article 7 Report (covering 2022), Form D; and email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

<sup>39 2021</sup> Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.

<sup>40</sup> Draft National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy (2023–2028), pp. 43 and 47.

<sup>41</sup> Emails from Lionel Pechera, UNMAS, 11 March 2020; and Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022.

<sup>42</sup> Emails from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021; and Gilles Delecourt, UNMAS, 22 May 2022.

<sup>43</sup> Email from Edwin Faigmane, UNMAS, 8 August 2023.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

<sup>46</sup> Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.

<sup>47</sup> Email from Kim Feldewerth, HALO, 4 October 2023.

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

#### **SURVEY IN 2022**

Survey in Nigeria is severely restricted by the continuing conflict, which limits NTS to community assessments of the location of explosive ordnance. Operators work on an ad hoc basis responding to community reports of the presence of explosive items when security makes it possible to visit the area. <sup>48</sup> DRC conducted 27 non-technical community surveys in 2022 in Borno state (across nine LGAs) and Adamawa state (across two LGAs) and identified 38 items of explosive ordnance which it communicated to Nigerian security forces for action. <sup>49</sup>

In 2022, due to ongoing insecurity in the north-east, MAG was unable to carry out NTS and instead conducted 176 remote contamination baseline assessments, revealing significant contamination in Borno state across the LGAs of Bama, Damboa, Gwoza, Jere, Monguno, and Ngala. For these assessments, MAG organised focus group discussions with key informants, gathering data on the location of contamination, the history of conflict, types of contamination, injuries, and fatalities. Participants also drew maps to indicate areas affected.<sup>50</sup>

#### **CLEARANCE IN 2022**

Clearance is conducted exclusively by Nigerian security forces. All explosive ordnance items identified in the course of surveys and community assessments are reported to national authorities for removal but there is no record of items cleared in the course of EOD and IEDD operations.

#### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the four-year extension granted by States Parties in 2021), Nigeria is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. It is very unlikely to meet this deadline.

In November 2011, at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Nigeria had declared it had cleared all known AP mined areas from its territory three months in advance of its original Article 5 deadline of 1 March 2012.<sup>51</sup>

In November 2020, prompted by the growth of jihadist insurgencies making extensive use of improvised mines in northern states, Nigeria requested and received a one-year extension until 31 December 2021 in which to prepare a detailed assessment of contamination and propose steps to mitigate it. UNMAS, in consultation with MAG, DRC, and Youths Awaken Foundation, a national NGO, prepared an initial draft which was first reviewed by the APMBC Implementation Support Unit and then forwarded to the Ministry of Defence to provide government input.<sup>52</sup> In May 2021, it submitted a request for a four-year extension until 31 December 2025, which was granted at the Nineteenth Meeting of States Parties.

<sup>48</sup> Email from Pierluigi Candier, MAG, 2 June 2022.

<sup>49</sup> Email from Goran Knezevic, DRC, 17 July 2023.

<sup>50</sup> Email from Francesca Batault, MAG, 27 July 2023.

<sup>51</sup> Statement of Nigeria, Eleventh Meeting of States Parties, Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011.

<sup>52</sup> Email from Harshi Gunawardana, UNMAS, 7 May 2021.

Nigeria has expressed optimism that the security challenges being faced in the north-east would abate enabling the start of humanitarian demining. However, it said it would apply for another extension if the insecurity persisted. Indeed, the extension request acknowledged that insecurity had prevented comprehensive survey or a determination of the extent of contamination. An important first step would be to collate all known information on contamination and clearance from humanitarian organisations and Nigeria's police and security forces and input it into a national mine action database.

Nigeria's ownership of its national mine action programme is still in its foundational stage. The establishment of the NHMAC as the national mine action authority is significant, but there is a need to enhance national capacity across all aspects of the mine action programme and to formulate a strategy that leverages the expertise of international and national mine action stakeholders alike. Nigeria's early draft National Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy 2023–2028 indicates it is working towards a deadline to release "all high-impact contaminated areas, SHAs, and CHAs" by the end of 2028.

#### PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Nigeria does not have plans in place to address residual contamination once its Article 5 obligations have been fulfilled.