



PAKISTAN

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Pakistan should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and clear mined areas as a matter of priority.

CONTAMINATION

Pakistan remains heavily affected by mines and other ordnance from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1979–89) and three wars with India, as well as from more recent and continuing conflicts in areas bordering Afghanistan, including, in particular, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

In 2017, Pakistan reiterated past statements that it “faces no problem of uncleared mines”. It again acknowledged that the army laid mines on its eastern border with India during an escalation of tensions in 2001–02, but stated those mines were all cleared and that no mines have since been laid.¹ However, it has reported that attacks by non-state armed groups again employed anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines of an improvised nature during 2017.²

Indeed, in 2017–18, civilian mine casualties were reported by the media across Pakistan: from mines of an improvised nature laid by non-state armed groups, from mines laid by troops along the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan, and from mines and other explosive hazards in South Waziristan (in an area that had been cleared and declared safe by the military).³ In 2017, according to a report from Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Pakistan had the highest number of recorded casualties from anti-vehicle mines, amounting to 28% of the global total.⁴

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Pakistan has no formal civilian mine action programme. Pakistani military engineering units are believed to be responsible for mine clearance in conflict zones, while the Frontier Constabulary has said it conducts mine clearance in contaminated areas of Baluchistan, FATA, and other conflict zones in the North-West Frontier Province.⁵

LAND RELEASE

There are no reports of formal survey or clearance of mined area in 2017. Pakistan reported a total of 262 attacks causing casualties due to improvised explosive devices (which include anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, although the figures are not disaggregated) “all over the country” and said that in 2017 the Army destroyed 955 “unserviceable” anti-personnel mines.⁶

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Pakistan is not a state party to the APMB, but nonetheless has obligations under international human rights law to protect life, which requires the clearance of mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.

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- 1 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2017), Form B; and Statement of Pakistan, 16th Meeting of the States Parties to the APMB, 18–21 December 2017.
 - 2 CCW Article 13 Report (for 2017), Form B.
 - 3 See, e.g., “Two people killed in landmine blasts”, *DAWN*, 23 August 2017, at: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1353281/two-people-killed-in-landmine-blasts>; “Man Dies In Dera Bugti Landmine Blast”, *Urdu Point*, 28 December 2017, at: <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/man-dies-in-dera-bugti-landmine-blast-236377.html>; “Two tribal elders killed in Orakzai Agency landmine blast”, *The Express Tribune*, 15 February 2018, at: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1635462/1-one-tribal-elder-killed-two-injured-orakzai-agency/>; “Summer brings with it landmines in Azad Kashmir”, *Pakistan Today*, 6 July 2018, at: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/07/06/summer-brings-with-it-landmines-in-pakistani-kashmir/>; and “Landmines killing people in Pakistan’s South Waziristan”, *Al Jazeera*, 5 February 2018, at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/02/landmines-killing-people-pakistan-south-waziristan-180205091656542.html>.
 - 4 “Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mine Incidents in 2017”, GICHD and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Geneva, 2018.
 - 5 Interviews with Khalil Ur Rehman, Director, Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, 9 April 2011; with Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, then-Director, Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, 23 April 2009, and 10 April 2007; with Brig. Azmat Ali, Spokesman, Inter Services Public Relations, Peshawar, 22 March 2010; and with Sifat Ghayur, Inspector General, Frontier Constabulary, Peshawar, 19 March 2010.
 - 6 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2017), Form B and F.