

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: UNKNOWN

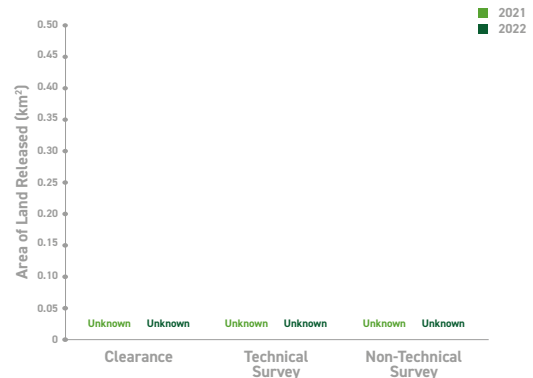
AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2022

UNKNOWN

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2022

UNKNOWN

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Pakistan should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- Pakistan should clear anti-personnel (AP) mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.
- Pakistan should report publicly on the extent and location of AP mined areas and prepare a plan for their clearance.

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- No national mine action authority or centre

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Pakistani military engineering units
- Frontier Constabulary
- Police bomb disposal squad

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The extent of AP mine contamination in Pakistan is not known. Pakistan remains affected by mines and other explosive ordnance resulting from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1979–89) and three wars with India: in 1947, 1965, and 1971. Pakistan has also laid AP mines in front of its defended location in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.¹ More recent contamination results from the continuing conflicts in areas bordering Afghanistan, including, in particular, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

¹ Recent Landmine Use by India and Pakistan, Human Rights Watch Backgrounder, May 2002, at: <http://bit.ly/3srXtQz>, p. 4.

In 2019, Pakistan reiterated past statements that the country “at present faces no problem of uncleared mines since no mines have been laid by [the] Pakistan Army after escalation of 2001–2002 on Pakistan’s Eastern Border”.² Pakistan did not submit a Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report in 2021 or 2022. Previously it had stated that mines laid during the tensions in 2001–02 were all cleared and that no mines have since been laid.³

In 2018, Pakistan stated that non-state armed groups (NSAGs) have employed improvised explosive devices (IEDs) including mines during attacks.⁴ Pakistan reported that in 2019 a total of 349 IED attacks were “attempted by terrorists all over the country” and that 187 of these IEDs attacks had resulted in casualties.⁵ While in its CCW Protocol V on explosive remnants of war (ERW) Article 10 Report,

submitted in 2023 but covering 2020, the number of IED attacks had increased to 399 but Pakistan did not specify how many of these attacks resulted in casualties or how many involved the use of improvised mines.⁶

Use is attributed to a variety of militant groups, frequently referred to as “miscreants” in local media reports, but generally accepted to be constituent groups of the Tehrik-i-Taliban in Pakistan (TTP) and Balochi insurgent groups.⁷ In fact, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and Fenix Insight databases, across Pakistan in 2018–22 casualties were reported from mines of an improvised nature laid by NSAGs, 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).⁸

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Pakistan has no formal civilian mine action programme. Pakistani military engineering units have been responsible for mine clearance in conflict zones, while the Frontier Constabulary has conducted clearance in contaminated areas of Baluchistan, FATA, and other conflict zones in the North-West Frontier Province. According to a media report some clearance is also done by the police’s bomb disposal squad.⁹

LAND RELEASE IN 2022

There are no reports of formal survey or clearance of mined area in 2022 as in previous years in Pakistan. No target date has been set for the completion of mine clearance.

According to a media report, on 15 December 2018 an unnamed senior security official said that 22 demining teams were being formed by the Pakistani Army to defuse and remove IEDs and mines in the North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the FATA. These deminers would be in addition to the reported 43 teams already working in the seven former tribal districts.¹⁰ In September 2019, the Pakistan Army said in a press release that it had 100 teams in the field removing landmines which it claimed were planted by the TTP, and that “much” of the area had been cleared of mines.¹¹

In a statement delivered at Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC in November 2019, Pakistan said that: “The

use of landmines is exclusively by the military for defence purposes”. Pakistan also acknowledged that although it was occurring at [a] “much lower scale now, Pakistan has itself been a victim of the use of landmines, including as IEDs by terrorists and non-state actors. Notwithstanding their use by terrorists. Pakistan security forces do not use mines for the maintenance of internal order and law enforcement in counter-terrorism operations.”¹² Pakistan also stated that: “Marking, fencing and monitoring of mined areas are common ways through which effective exclusion is accomplished by the Pakistan army.”¹³ In its Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report covering 2019 Pakistan said it had established a National Counter IED Forum with representatives from the Armed Forces, civil defence organisations, law enforcement agencies, and the police to develop a coordinated response to the IED threat and that capacity of these organisations was being built.¹⁴

2 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2019), Form B.

3 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2018), Form B; and Statement of Pakistan, Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC, 18–21 December 2017.

4 Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2018), Form E.

5 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2019), Form B.

6 Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2020), Form E.

7 *Landmine Monitor Report 2020*, at: <http://bit.ly/2Qw7LLy>, p. 14; and “Balochistan: One Pakistani soldier killed in landmine blast another wounded”, *Balochwarna*, 6 April 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/3gltcjv>.

8 ACLED, “Filters: 01/01/2018–12/08/2023, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, Pakistan,” accessed: 12 August 2023 at: www.acleddata.com; and Fenix Insight database, at: <https://fenix-insight.online/>.

9 “Landmines recovered from Bajaur college”, *DAWN*, 22 January 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/2Qy2Lfy>.

10 “Pakistan: IEDs and Continuous Haemorrhage – Analysis”, *Eurasia Review*, 24 July 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/31xt1qW>.

11 “People Effected by Landmines were Provided free treatment and training by Pak Army 2019”, *Pakistan Defence*, 19 September 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/3x6FjXW>.

12 Statement of Pakistan, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 29 November 2019.

13 Statement of Pakistan, Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 26 November 2018.

14 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2019), Form B.

In January 2020, the media reported clearance of 26 AP mines planted by unknown groups in a rural college in Khar Tehsil of Bajaur District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, near the border with Afghanistan.¹⁵ In June 2021, it was reported by the media that security forces had completely cleared the Malakand and Bajaur districts of explosives, including landmines, while clearance operations in other districts of the FATA were in progress with more than 80 teams operating. Security forces had reportedly cleared 13km² in Mohmand; 8km² in Khyber; 5km² in Orakzai; 4km² in Kurram; 4km² in North Waziristan; and 15km² in South Waziristan tribal district.¹⁶

15 "Landmines recovered from Bajaur college", *DAWN*, 22 January 2020.

16 "Large area in ex-Fata yet to be de-mined", *DAWN*, 12 June 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/30dJ4TP>.