



# 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 2015, 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 the army has not laid any more since then.<sup>1</sup> It has, though, reported continued improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, including improvised anti-personnel mines and anti-vehicle mines.<sup>2</sup> Pakistani non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have reported that, in earlier years, mines and other explosive devices caused hundreds of casualties every year, mostly among civilians.<sup>3</sup>

1 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2015), Forms B and F; and Statement of Pakistan, CCW Amended Protocol II Group of Experts Meeting, Geneva, 7 April 2016.

2 CCW Article 13 Report (for 2015), Form B.

3 “Addressing the Impact of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War in Pakistan”, Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO), November 2012, p. 10.

## 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.<sup>4</sup>

## LAND RELEASE

There are no reports of formal land release in 2015. Pakistan reported attacks using IEDs and anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines “all over the country” and said that in 2015 the Army destroyed 1,429 anti-personnel mines.<sup>5</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Pakistan is not a state party or signatory to the APMB, but nonetheless has obligations under international human rights law to protect life, which requires clearance of mines as soon as possible.<sup>6</sup>

4 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.

5 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2015), Form F.

6 Pakistan is a state party to the 1996 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 6 of which requires that states parties respect and protect the right to life.