

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JUNE 2028  
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

## KEY DATA

**ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)  
MINE CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM**

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

**PROBABLY LESS THAN**

**5 KM<sup>2</sup>**

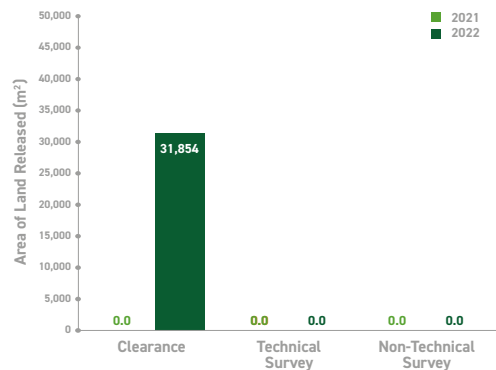
AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2022

**31,854 M<sup>2</sup>**

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2022

**37**

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **NONE**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

All mined areas in Palestine are located in territory under Israeli control. To date, Israel has not authorised the Palestinian Mine Action Centre (PMAC) to conduct demining. The HALO Trust (HALO) restarted clearance in the West Bank in June 2022, after operations were suspended at the end of 2020, primarily due to a lack of funding. HALO had planned to clear three high-priority minefields in the West Bank by the end of 2023, and cleared all of them by early June 2023. HALO also obtained approval in 2022 to clear two minefields in the Jordan Valley, and clearance started in July 2023.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- Israel should allow survey and clearance of all mined areas on Palestinian territory to proceed as a matter of urgency.

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Higher Committee for Mine Action
- Palestine Mine Action Centre (PMAC)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- The HALO Trust (HALO)

### OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

In its initial Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 transparency report, submitted in November 2018, Palestine reported 69 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (AP mines) on the border with Jordan, covering a total area of 18.51km<sup>2</sup>. All of the mined areas were said to be under Israeli control.<sup>1</sup> Palestine said it was not in a position to know whether further mined areas are located in East Jerusalem or in other areas of Palestine under Israeli control, including in the region of Israeli settlements or closed military zones.<sup>2</sup>

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) informed HALO in 2012 about the presence of 90 minefields in the West Bank, 13 of which were laid by the Jordanian military in 1948–67, while the remaining 77 were laid by the Israeli military along the Jordan River after the 1967 war. The minefields are located east of the security fence, inside a military buffer zone, and do not carry immediate threat to civilians. All the minefields, including those laid by the Jordanian military, are under Israeli military control.<sup>3</sup> There are no known mined areas in the Gaza strip.<sup>4</sup>

HALO conducts clearance operations in Palestine and works under the auspices of both the Israeli National Mine Action Authority (INMAA) and PMAC. Clearance must be coordinated with the Israeli authorities and PMAC, and, under Israeli law, must be quality assured by an Israeli company.<sup>5</sup>

In 2019, HALO was made aware of four other mined areas in the Jordan Valley, namely at Shadomot Mehola (65,000m<sup>2</sup>), a minefield containing a mix of AP mines and anti-vehicle (AV) mines; at Sokot (one AP minefield of approximately 228,000m<sup>2</sup> and one AV minefield whose area is still to be estimated), and an AV minefield at Taysir (5,500m<sup>2</sup>). The two Sokot minefields were laid by Israel while the other two minefields were laid by Jordanian forces.<sup>6</sup> In 2020, HALO discussed the possibility of surveying these minefields with both Palestinian and Israeli authorities but given the political sensitivity over the

Jordan Valley at the time, the minefields had to be put on hold and it was expected that INMAA or the IDF would clear the areas themselves at some future point.<sup>7</sup>

On 23 August 2022, however, PMAC gave approval for HALO to clear three of the minefields: the Taysir AV minefield, and the Sokot AP and AV minefields; INMAA approval was also given. Operations at the Taysir AV minefield (estimated area 7,373m<sup>2</sup>) started on 2 July 2023.<sup>8</sup> The Sokot AP minefield consists of 31 polygons, with a total estimated area of 227,300m<sup>2</sup>. The area to be cleared at the Sokot AV minefield will be estimated following survey,<sup>9</sup> and the proposed polygons have yet to be agreed by INMAA.<sup>10</sup> The IDF had previously cleared about 300,000m<sup>2</sup> of the AV minefield at Sokot, but had not released the area.<sup>11</sup>

In 2022, HALO's operations and mandatory quality assurance (QA) were funded by The Netherlands and the US Department of State, and HALO resumed clearance at the three remaining high priority minefields in the West Bank.<sup>12</sup> HALO completed clearance at the Nur a-Shams site in Tulkarem in 2022, and cleared the remaining two sites in Qabatiya and Yabad in Jenin by early June 2023.<sup>13</sup> This marks the completion of Phase 1 of HALO's operations in the West Bank, comprising nine high priority Jordanian-laid minefields.<sup>14</sup> These operations were not funded by either the Palestinian or the Israeli governments and HALO faced significant challenges raising funds for their clearance from donor countries.<sup>15</sup> The US Department of State has expressed no objection to its recent funding being used for clearance in the Jordan Valley while the funding from the Netherlands was part of HALO's global funding and covered a specific time period.<sup>16</sup>

As at end of 2022, there was 0.24km<sup>2</sup> of confirmed mined area (excluding the Jordan Valley) across two minefields in Palestine and two minefields in no-man's-land between the West Bank and Israel (see Table 1).<sup>17</sup> All four minefields had been laid by the Jordanian army.

1 Palestine Initial Article 7 Report, dated 26 November 2018, Form D and Annex 2.

2 Ibid., Form D.

3 Emails from Tom Meredith, Desk Officer, HALO, 24 June and 23 October 2015; and Sonia Pezier, Junior Programme Officer, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), 14 April 2015; and Ronen Shimoni, Programme Manager, HALO, 13 June 2021.

4 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 13 June 2021.

5 Email from Soula Kreitem, Programme Support Officer, UNMAS, 30 June 2021.

6 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 21 September 2019, 20 April 2020, 17 May 2022, and 27 July and 2 August 2023.

7 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 23 April 2021.

8 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 27 July 2023.

9 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 2 August 2023.

10 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 27 July 2023.

11 Interview with Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 2 August 2023.

12 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

13 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March and 27 July 2023.

14 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 2 August 2023.

15 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 23 April 2021.

16 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

17 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 23 April 2021, 17 May 2022, and 26 March 2023.

**Table 1: Mined area (excluding the Jordan Valley) (at end 2022)<sup>18</sup>**

Governorate	Minefield Task	Contamination	CHAs	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Jenin	Qabatiya*	AV and AP mines	1	3,012
	Yabad**	AV and AP mines	1	48,050
Ramallah	No Man's Land Yalo	AV and AP mines	1	104,226
	No Man's Land - Canada Park	AV and AP mines	1	85,708
<b>Totals</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>240,996</b>

CHAs = Confirmed hazardous areas. \* Clearance of the Qabatiya task was completed on 7 June 2023.<sup>19</sup>

\*\* Clearance of the Yabad task was completed on 28 February 2023.<sup>20</sup> Parts of the Yabad polygon were already inhabited and cultivated. HALO focused on areas not in use and cleared 12,397m<sup>2</sup> over four phases from 22 January 2018, enabling the release of 48,050m<sup>2</sup> on 28 February 2023.<sup>21</sup> NB: Contamination at Yabad was previously reported as 40,032m<sup>2</sup>,<sup>22</sup> but the area finally released was reported to be 48,050m<sup>2</sup>.

Mine action is subject to the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, commonly known as the Oslo II accord, under which the West Bank is divided into three areas: Area A is under full Palestinian civil and security control; Area B is under full Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control; and Area C refers to areas where Israel has full civil and security control.<sup>23</sup> Most mined areas are located in Area C of the West Bank, along the border with Jordan. Area C covers approximately 60% of the West Bank.<sup>24</sup>

## EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

Palestine is also contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW). According to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), PMAC has identified 46 ERW-contaminated areas in the West Bank. These areas are predominantly Israeli military training sites. In 2020, UNMAS also conducted an ERW impact survey in some locations close to these areas to better understand the impact of the contamination on the residents.<sup>25</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

PMAC was established in accordance with Palestinian Minister of Interior decision in 2012,<sup>26</sup> which appointed a director and created a Higher Committee for Mine Action as an interministerial body. The Higher Committee for Mine Action, which serves as the national mine action authority, is tasked with developing mine action legislation and allocating resources for the sector.<sup>27</sup>

PMAC, which is located in the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah, is mandated to coordinate all aspects of mine action in the West Bank. It receives technical advice from UNMAS.<sup>28</sup> PMAC has established a number of subcommittees to deal with technical issues, risk education, legal affairs, foreign affairs, and health and safety.<sup>29</sup>

18 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March and 4 September 2023.

19 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 27 July 2023.

20 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

21 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 4 September 2023.

22 Emails from Maj. Wala Jarrar, External and Internal Relations Officer, PMAC, 13 May 2020 and 15 June 2022; and Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 23 April 2021 and 17 May 2022.

23 Email from Celine Francois, Programme Officer, UNMAS Jerusalem, 5 July 2012.

24 Email from Celine Francois, UNMAS Jerusalem, 5 July 2012; and "UNMAS 2013 Annual Report".

25 Email from Soula Kreitem, UNMAS, 30 June 2021.

26 Minister of Interior Decision No. 69, 25 March 2012.

27 Emails from Celine Francois, UNMAS Jerusalem, 19 July 2012; and Imad Mohareb, Planning Department, PMAC, 31 March 2013.

28 Emails from Celine Francois, UNMAS Jerusalem, 5 and 19 July 2012; and UN, "2012 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects", New York, 2013.

29 Email from the Planning Department, PMAC, 9 May 2016.

In 2016, Palestine announced it was seeking to enact a mine action law. Palestine was hopeful of completing the legal procedures within a year and then presenting the draft law to the legislative council for endorsement, followed by signature by the President.<sup>30</sup> Palestine confirmed on 20 April 2022 that it was working to issue a mine action law in accordance with the APMB, and that preparations were underway<sup>31</sup> and in March 2023, PMAC reported that the legislation was in its final stages prior to adoption.<sup>32</sup> In November 2017, Palestine's constitutional court had ruled that, in an event of any contradiction, obligations in international conventions, including the APMB, override national legislation.<sup>33</sup>

PMAC, which has 14 employees,<sup>34</sup> is staffed with personnel from the Palestinian National Security Forces, Civil Police, and Civil Defence. In 2013, 36 PMAC personnel were trained by UNMAS for demining but were not subsequently authorised by Israel to conduct clearance.<sup>35</sup> The Civil Police have an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit with 42 personnel in Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarem, who conduct rapid response to locate and remove items of unexploded ordnance (UXO). The EOD unit is only permitted to work in Area A of the West Bank.<sup>36</sup> All West Bank Police EOD Units are poorly

equipped and lack EOD training. Due to poor IT systems none of the EOD teams shares information with PMAC, although this is changing.<sup>37</sup> In 2022, UNMAS and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) conducted preparatory work to support PMAC to upgrade to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core.<sup>38</sup>

PMAC does not have its own budget, and the Palestinian authority only provides funding for the salaries of PMAC employees and the costs of the PMAC office.<sup>39</sup> As at March 2023, Israel had not granted the Palestinian authorities authorisation to conduct area mine clearance in the West Bank.

As indicated above, HALO's land release operations of the priority minefields in the West Bank are funded by international donors. Both the INMAA and PMAC support HALO's activities and provide the necessary coordination and involvement.<sup>40</sup>

UNMAS began delivering explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in the West Bank in 2022, as requested by the UN and humanitarian partners.<sup>41</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

In the West Bank, HALO follows its global policy and standard operating procedure (SOP) on the environmental impact of clearance operations and mitigation<sup>42</sup> and all clearance operations are planned and conducted to minimise any environmental impact. Where impact cannot be avoided, plans are made to mitigate this and to make good any damage caused, for example replacing soil, replanting vegetation, and conducting full remediation following mechanical clearance. Landowners and communities are included in the development of clearance plans, and mitigation and remedial measures.<sup>43</sup>

HALO's operations are accredited to ISO 14001 on environmental management and comply with the environmental standards set by the authorities in the West Bank. These are monitored by an external QA company and the Israeli Standards Institute.<sup>44</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

PMAC has said it has a gender policy and implementation plan in place, that it disaggregates data by sex and age,<sup>45</sup> and that qualified women and men have equal access to employment.<sup>46</sup> As a result of a one-year grant from UNMAS for the mainstreaming of gender in its risk education activities, in 2021 the number of women working and volunteering at PMAC increased. But the proportion of women employed by PMAC fell in 2022 when only four of fourteen staff were women (29%, down from 40% in 2021), of which two of four supervisory positions were held by women (50%, down from 100% in 2021), and three of seven operational positions were held by women (43%, down from 50% of operational positions in 2021).<sup>47</sup>

30 Statement of Palestine, APMB Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties, Santiago, 29 November 2016.

31 Preliminary Observations Committee on Cooperative Compliance, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20–22 June 2022, p. 6.

32 Email from Maj. Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 23 March 2023.

33 Initial APMB Article 7 Report, 26 November 2018, Form A.

34 Email from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 23 March 2023.

35 Initial Article 7 Report, 26 November 2018, Form D.

36 Email from staff member in the Planning Department, PMAC, 26 June 2018.

37 Emails from Patrick McCabe, Chief of Operations, UNMAS Palestine, 22 August 2022; and from Tess Bresnan, Head of Project Unit/Senior Programme Officer, UNMAS Palestine, 25 April 2023.

38 Email from Tess Bresnan, UNMAS Palestine, 25 April 2023.

39 Interview with Brig. Osama Abu Hananeh, PMAC, Geneva, 7 February 2019; and email from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 23 March 2023.

40 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 24 July 2022.

41 Email from Tess Bresnan, UNMAS Palestine, 25 April 2023.

42 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 17 May 2022 and 26 March 2023.

43 Ibid.

44 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

45 Email from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 24 May 2020.

46 Email from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 12 May 2021.

47 Emails from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 15 June 2022 and 23 March 2023.

HALO has a global policy on gender and diversity. When conducting operations, HALO's Palestine programme deploys all-male deminers from Georgia due to "cultural considerations". HALO's Palestinian employees include mechanical operators, and medical and support teams. The representation of female employees varies according to the operation. For managerial positions within HALO's West Bank office team there is said to be equal access to employment for qualified women and men.<sup>48</sup> In March 2023, HALO reported that just one of its twenty-eight staff in the West Bank was a woman, and that she was employed in one of four managerial/supervisory positions within the organisation.<sup>49</sup>

UNMAS has a female liaison officer in Ramallah who works with PMAC on a daily basis.<sup>50</sup>

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

PMAC uses an old version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).<sup>51</sup> The Police EOD systems are also old and EOD teams have not been inputting information into IMSMA.<sup>52</sup> In 2022, as planned, UNMAS and the GICHD supported PMAC in preparations to install IMSMA Core. In 2023, this was to be taken forward with in-person facilitation and training in the West Bank.<sup>53</sup>

HALO is in the process of rolling out its global database, the Global Operations Information Management System (GO-IMS), which will be introduced in the West Bank in 2023.<sup>54</sup> HALO follows the INMAA's national standards and, when undertaking operations in the West Bank, provides daily and weekly reports as well as completion reports for every task. The information is shared with PMAC weekly, along with completion reports and geographic information system (GIS) data for every completed task.<sup>55</sup> As a result, all three entities are in possession of HALO survey and clearance data relating to demining in the West Bank.

Palestine submitted an initial Article 7 report in November 2018, as required by the APMBC.<sup>56</sup> No Article 7 reports were submitted for 2020 or 2021. Palestine did, however, submit an Article 7 report covering 2022 in June 2023, although much of the information it contained pre-dated 2022.<sup>57</sup>

## PLANNING AND TASKING

PMAC had a Strategic Plan for 2017–20,<sup>58</sup> in which the primary objectives were the clearance of the Nur a-Shams, Qabatiya, and Yabad minefields.<sup>59</sup> Clearance of the Nur a-Shams minefield was completed in 2022 and clearance of the Qabatiya and Yabad minefields was completed in 2023. As of March 2023, a new strategic plan was again reported to be still in the pipeline but had not been finalised.<sup>60</sup> According to PMAC, there were no annual work plans in place between 2020 and 2023.<sup>61</sup>

HALO's survey and clearance schedule in the West Bank is set in agreement with PMAC, INMAA, and its international donors,<sup>62</sup> and clearance is conducted in an order agreed by both PMAC and INMAA.<sup>63</sup>

In 2022, HALO planned to complete clearance operations in Nur a-Shams (in Tulkarem) between June and July, and to clear 20% of the minefield in Qabatiya (in Jenin) between August and December 2022, clearing the remainder of the contaminated land in Qabatiya and Yabad (in Jenin) by the end of 2023.<sup>64</sup> HALO met its 2022 clearance targets, exceeding its target at the Qabatiya minefield where it cleared 67% (5,524m<sup>2</sup>) of the site between mid-July and mid-September 2022, clearing the remainder of the site by 7 June 2023.<sup>65</sup> HALO also cleared the Yabad site between 20 November 2022 and 28 February 2023,<sup>66</sup>

48 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 23 April and 13 June 2021 and 17 May 2022.

49 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

50 Emails from Patrick McCabe, UNMAS Palestine, 17 August 2022; and Tess Bresnan, UNMAS Palestine, 25 April 2023.

51 Emails from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 15 June 2022, and 23 March 2023.

52 Email from Patrick McCabe, UNMAS Palestine, 17 August 2022.

53 Email from Tess Bresnan, UNMAS Palestine, 25 April 2023.

54 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

55 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 3 Sept 2018, 18 June 2020, and 26 March 2023.

56 Initial Article 7 Report, 26 November 2018, Form D.

57 Article 7 Report (covering 2022).

58 Palestine's Article 7 report covering 2017 indicated that the strategic plan covers 2017–22. It is not clear whether Palestine's strategic plan expired in 2020 or is valid until 2022.

59 PMAC, "Strategic Plan 2017–2020", undated.

60 Emails from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 15 June 2022 and 23 March 2023.

61 Emails from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 24 May 2020, 12 May 2021, and 15 June 2022.

62 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 18 June 2020 and 26 March 2023.

63 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

64 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 17 May 2022; and online interview on 28 July 2022.

65 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 27 July 2023.

66 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

thereby completing clearance of the Jenin sites well before the year end. Due to the security situation, INMAA did not have access to the tasks and did not conduct any quality management (QM) in 2022.<sup>67</sup>

In the Jordan Valley, HALO also plans to clear the Taysir minefield (7,373m<sup>2</sup>, AV mines only) and the two Sokot minefields (227,300m<sup>2</sup> of AP mine contamination, with the area to be cleared at the AV minefield to be agreed following survey), beginning with a survey of the tasks in 2023 ahead of clearance.<sup>68</sup> As indicated above, clearance of the Taysir AV mined area began on 2 July 2023.<sup>69</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

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HALO's SOPs, which are based on its international standards and comply with national standards, are approved by the INMAA. HALO usually submits its SOPs annually, including any necessary amendments, to INMAA for approval.<sup>70</sup> They were last submitted and approved in June 2020. They have not been amended since,<sup>71</sup> and the INMAA did not request HALO's SOPs be submitted for approval in 2022.<sup>72</sup> HALO reported that no updates were made to any of the national mine action standards (NMAAS) relating to the survey and clearance of AP mines in the West Bank in 2022.<sup>73</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

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As indicated, Israel does not authorise PMAC to conduct demining operations in the West Bank. In September 2013, however, the INMAA gave HALO formal authorisation to clear the two minefields in the West Bank deemed high priority by PMAC (in Tulkarem and Jenin governorates). Following INMAA authorisation, HALO began clearance in April 2014, and has continued demining in the West Bank since then, though operations paused in 2021 due to lack of funding.<sup>74</sup>

HALO works under the auspices of both INMAA and PMAC. Since June 2022, HALO has employed 28 staff in the West Bank,<sup>75</sup> in contrast to 2021 when it maintained only essential staff at its office in the West Bank given the lack of funding for survey or clearance.<sup>76</sup> In 2022, it deployed one non-technical survey (NTS) team to complete the task at Nur a-Shams, plus another team of nine deminers with seven mechanical assets. No major changes to the number of survey or clearance personnel were expected for 2023.<sup>77</sup> There were no demining accidents or attacks on personnel in 2022.<sup>78</sup>

HALOs work in the West Bank complies with the Israeli Institute for Standards, and in particular with ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 18001.

HALO carries out its own internal quality control (QC), which is conducted by senior programme staff, and which complies with the ISO standards and HALO's own SOPs. In addition, the INMAA requires external INMAA-certified companies to undertake QA/QC of HALO's clearance operations in line with Israeli law National Mine Action Standards.

HALO performs survey as part of its clearance operations of the Jordanian-laid minefields in Area C of the West Bank. It is part of pre-clearance task preparation and is of CHAs already recorded in PMAC's database and on maps.<sup>79</sup> HALO conducts both manual and mechanical clearance. It also uses a drone for survey and mapping, and the maps generated are shared with all parties involved for planning and follow-up.<sup>80</sup>

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67 Ibid.

68 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March, 27 July, and 2 August 2023.

69 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 27 July 2023.

70 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 14 May 2018.

71 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 17 May 2022.

72 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

73 Ibid.

74 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 17 May 2022.

75 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

76 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 17 May 2022.

77 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

78 Ibid.

79 Emails from staff member in the Planning Department, PMAC, 9 May 2016; and Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 14 June 2020.

80 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 10 April 2019.

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

In 2022, 31,854m<sup>2</sup> of CHA was released in the West Bank, all through clearance.<sup>81</sup> A total of 37 AP mines and 4 AV mines were destroyed during clearance operations.<sup>82</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2022

For the second consecutive year, no land was released through NTS or technical survey (TS) in the West Bank in 2022.<sup>83</sup>

### CLEARANCE IN 2022

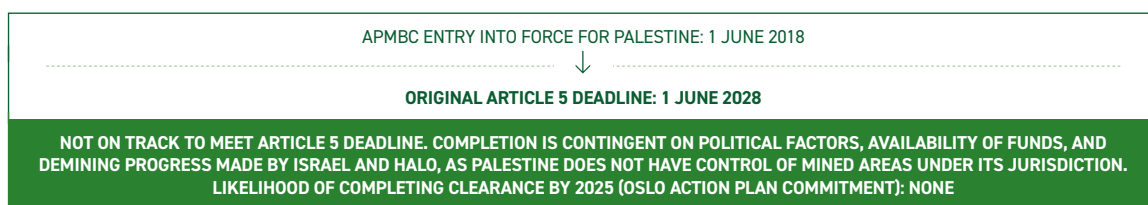
In 2022, HALO cleared 31,854m<sup>2</sup> of CHA in the West Bank,<sup>84</sup> an increase from 2021 when no clearance took place due to a lack of funding.<sup>85</sup>

**Table 2: AP mine clearance by HALO in 2022<sup>86</sup>**

Operator	Governorate	Task Name	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
HALO	Tulkarem	Nur a-Shams	24,100	13	0
HALO	Jenin	Qabatiya*	5,524	22	4
HALO	Jenin	Yabad**	2,230	2	0
<b>Totals</b>			<b>31,854</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>

\* Clearance of the Qabatiya task was completed on 7 June 2023.<sup>87</sup> \*\* Clearance of the Yabad task was completed on 28 February 2023.<sup>88</sup> Parts of the Yabad polygon were already inhabited and cultivated. HALO focused on the areas not in use and cleared 12,397m<sup>2</sup> in four phases since 22 January 2018, enabling the release of 48,050m<sup>2</sup> on 28 February 2023.<sup>89</sup>

### ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



81 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

82 Ibid.

83 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 17 May 2022, and 26 March 2023.

84 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

85 Ibid.

86 Ibid.

87 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 27 July 2023.

88 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

89 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 2 September 2023.

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Palestine is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 June 2028. It is unlikely to meet this deadline.

Clearance in the West Bank is constrained by available funding,<sup>90</sup> and is impacted by political factors, including the lack of authorisation granted by Israel for Palestine to conduct mine clearance.<sup>91</sup> PMAC has reported that concluding clearance and meeting the 2025 deadline is highly dependent on the facilitation of the Israeli authorities and the availability of funds.<sup>92</sup> In its most recent Article 7 report, Palestine lists other challenges it faces in meeting its Article 5 obligations, including a lack of human resources to conduct survey and clearance, and its lack of control over mined area.<sup>93</sup>

HALO, which began mine clearance operations in April 2014, had cleared seven minefields in Area C of the West Bank by the end of 2022.<sup>94</sup> With funding secured in 2021, HALO completed clearance of the AP mined area at Nur a-Shams site in Tulkarem governorate in 2022, and had completed clearance of two other priority sites at Qabatiya and Yabad in Jenin governorate in the first six months of 2023. Having received approvals to clear minefields at Sokot and Taysir in the Jordan Valley, where one third of mines are Israeli-laid,<sup>95</sup> HALO planned to survey the Jordan Valley sites in 2023 prior to clearance,<sup>96</sup> and started clearance of the Taysir AV mined area in July 2023.<sup>97</sup>

In 2019, INMAA had hoped that clearance of mined areas in the West Bank would be finished in two years. According to INMAA, the Yalo and Canada Park minefields would both be cleared, but according to humanitarian prioritisation, noting that the minefields are fenced and marked, and claiming that they have little humanitarian impact.<sup>98</sup> As at July 2023, the INMAA website did not indicate any progress with clearing the two sites.<sup>99</sup>

INMAA began survey of the Jordan Valley minefields in the West Bank in 2017, using Israeli national budget and operating with Israeli companies. INMAA sees significant potential for cancellation and reduction of land in the Jordan Valley, and is using various technologies and scientific tools to assess the likelihood of mine drift.<sup>100</sup>

**Table 3: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance**

Year	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )
2022	31,854
2021	0
2020	18,269
2019	13,976
2018	5,221
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,320</b>

## PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

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

90 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 17 May 2022.

91 Initial Article 7 Report, 26 November 2018, Form D; and interview with Brig. Osama Abu Hananeh, PMAC, in Geneva, 7 February 2019.

92 Email from Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 12 May 2021.

93 Article 7 report (covering 2022), p. 51.

94 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 20 April 2020, and 23 March 2023; and Wala Jarrar, PMAC, 12 May 2021.

95 Emails from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 22 April 2017, 14 May 2018, and 18 June 2020; and telephone interview, 3 August 2017.

96 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 26 March 2023.

97 Email from Ronen Shimoni, HALO, 27 July 2023.

98 Interview with Marcel Aviv, INMAA, in Geneva, 7 February 2019.

99 Israel INMAA website (Hebrew text), accessed on 24 July 2023 at <https://bit.ly/3Y65IID>.

100 Interview with Michael Heiman, INMAA, in Geneva, 15 February 2018; and emails, 23 July and 10 August 2017; and, after leaving INMAA, 26 May 2018.