

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION:

NOT KNOWN

0.14KM² ACCORDING TO A
PARTIAL ESTIMATE IN 2021

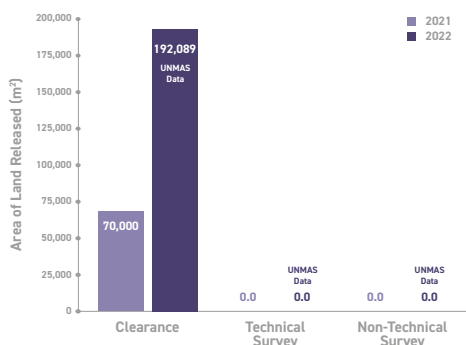
SUBMUNITION CLEARANCE IN 2022

0.19KM²
(UNMAS DATA)

SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED IN 2022

444
(INCLUDING 440 DESTROYED
DURING SPOT TASKS)
(UNMAS DATA)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

On 15 April 2023, fighting broke out in Khartoum between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), an autonomous paramilitary force. Both sides have used explosive weapons delivered by tanks, artillery, and rockets, and the SAF has deployed air-delivered munitions.¹ As at June 2023, however, there were no indications that this included any use of cluster munitions. The functioning of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) were, though, interrupted by the hostilities. While UNMAS provided hazardous area release data, very little other information relating to the clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) was available for 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Sudan should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Sudan should submit an annual voluntary Article 7 report to the CCM and should ensure that reporting disaggregates submunitions from other unexploded ordnance (UXO) and that mine action data is recorded and reported according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) land release terminology.
- Sudan should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear cluster munition remnants (CMR) on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- Sudan should make every effort to address CMR and other UXO as soon as reasonably possible and should elaborate a work plan on how this will be achieved.

¹ Human Rights Watch, "Sudan: Explosive Weapons Harming Civilians", 4 May 2023.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY*

MANAGEMENT

- Sudanese National Mine Action Authority (NMAA)
- Sudan National Mine Action Centre (NMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD)
- JASMAR for Human Security
- Global Aid Hand (GAH)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – accredited in 2021
- SafeLane Global (SLG)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

* Information provided for the end of 2021; no updated information was available for 2022.

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

The most recent comprehensive data on cluster munition contamination dates from the end of 2021. Sudan had five hazardous areas covering an estimated 0.14km². Two were very small confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and three were suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) covering most of the total area (see Table 1).² Two of the hazardous areas in Blue Nile state (totalling 5,820m²) only became accessible in 2021, and were added to the national information management database.³

Available data at the end of 2021 only provided a partial picture of contamination across the country, as two other SHAs believed to contain unexploded submunitions—in South Kordofan and West Kordofan states—were in areas not under government control and were therefore inaccessible.⁴ Between December 2020 and late January 2021, SafeLane Global (SLG) surveyed an area at Ulu airstrip in Blue Nile state and cleared approximately 70,000m², partially clearing a cluster munition strike.⁵ Full clearance did not take place as SLG's contract ended. Discovery of CHAs and SHAs and clearance of contaminated land in Blue Nile state continued in 2022⁶ when 192,089m² of hazardous area was reported cleared in Blue Nile state.⁷

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by state (at end 2021*)⁸

State	CHAs	Area (m ²)	SHAs	Area (m ²)	Total SHA/CHA	Total area (m ²)
Blue Nile**	2	5,820	1	136,580	3	142,400
South Kordofan	0	0	1	N/K	1	N/K
West Kordofan	0	0	1	N/K	1	N/K
Totals	2	5,820	3	136,580	5	142,400

N/K = Not known * No updated contamination data was available for 2022. ** UNMAS reported that 192,089m² of cluster munition-contaminated area was cleared in Blue Nile state in 2022, which is not taken into account in Table 1.

In 2017 NMAC, which took over the mine action responsibilities of the United Nations Mine Action Organisation (UNMAO) in June 2011, reported that of the nine open areas reported by UNMAO in 2011, seven were cleared in 2011–13.⁹ In March 2018, NMAC informed Mine Action Review that the size of the seven areas cleared during this period totalled 15,318m² and that 13 PM-1 submunitions were found and destroyed during clearance.¹⁰ In June 2018, NMAC informed Mine Action Review that it had deployed a team to address the remaining hazardous area in West Kordofan, located in Aghabish village, Lagawa locality, which it later reported was cancelled as no evidence of the presence of CMR was found.¹¹

2 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, Technical Advisor, Sudan National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), 12 May 2022.

3 Ibid.

4 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 1 May 2019; and interview in Geneva, 24 May 2019.

5 Email from Aimal Safi, Senior Operations and QM Advisor, UNMAS, 19 June 2021.

6 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 23 June 2022.

7 Email from Robert Thompson, Head of Project Unit (HPU)/Chief of Operations (COO), UNMAS, UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), 10 July 2023.

8 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 23 June 2022.

9 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 14 June 2017; and Ali Abd Allatif Ibrahim, NMAC, 18 May 2017. In June 2016, however, NMAC had reported that no CMR-contaminated areas were "recorded as remaining hazards to be cleared" and that no separate survey or clearance operations for CMR occurred in 2015 and claimed that no cluster munitions had been found in all mine action activities "to date". Email from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, Chief of Operations, NMAC, 8 June 2016.

10 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 3 March 2018.

11 Ibid., 1 May 2019 and 14 June 2018.

In the 1990s, Sudanese government forces are believed to have sporadically air dropped cluster munitions in its armed conflict with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). Government forces were reported as having used several types of cluster munitions, including Spanish-manufactured HESPIN 21; US-manufactured M42 and Mk118 (Rockeye), and a Brazilian copy; Chinese Type-81 dual-purpose improved conventional munitions (DPICM); Chilean-made PM-1s; and Soviet-manufactured PTAB-1.5 and AO1-Sch submunitions. In 2012 and 2015, use of cluster munitions was recorded in five separate attacks on villages in South Kordofan state. Each attack involved air-dropped RBK-500 cluster munitions containing AO-2.5RT submunitions.¹²

In April 2017, the African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) reported finding two AO-1Sch submunitions in North Darfur (at Al Mengara village in Al Liet locality). Villagers stated that the bombs were dropped in 2008, had been identified by UNAMID at that time, and that the military had stated that they would dispose of the items.¹³ The Sudanese Armed Forces Engineers destroyed the items in February 2018 and no further CMR were reported or identified.¹⁴

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Sudan also has a significant problem with anti-personnel mines (AP mines), anti-vehicle mines (AV mines), and unexploded ordnance (UXO), primarily as a result of the more than 20 years of civil war that led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and South Sudan's independence in July 2011 (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Sudan for further information). The 2023 conflict was expected to add considerable explosive remnants of war (ERW) to the existing problem, mainly in Khartoum and other urban areas.¹⁵

Since South Sudan's independence, new conflicts in the disputed area of Abyei, which straddles the border between Sudan and South Sudan (under its mandate, the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) has a mandate to provide security and protect civilians as well as to monitor the border between Sudan and South Sudan¹⁶), and in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states have resulted in increased UXO contamination in Sudan.¹⁷ The extent of mine and ERW contamination within the disputed area of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) between Sudan and South Sudan is unknown due to security and political issues.¹⁸

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Sudanese National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and NMAC manage Sudan's mine action programme. The NMAC assumed the lead role for mine action in Sudan from UNMAS in 2013.¹⁹ It has responsibility for coordinating and supervising the implementation of all mine action activities, including quality assurance (QA), accreditation, and certification of clearance operators.

Having first started an emergency programme in 2002, UNMAS re-established itself in an advisory and support capacity in Sudan in 2015, following an invitation from the Sudanese Government.²⁰ Since January 2021, UNMAS has supported the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) established in June 2020, providing mine action services as part of the mission's mandate. It works with the NMAC to mobilise funds, manage land release, conduct explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and victim assistance (VA) activities; and to ensure mine action activities are coordinated to support

humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding needs. With the closure of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in 2020, UNMAS took over responsibility for the ERW response in Darfur from UNAMID's Ordnance Disposal Office (ODO).²¹

As part of its mandate, UNMAS provides organisational and individual capacity development to NMAC.²² In 2021, UNMAS delivered a range of training including in demining techniques to 28 female deminers, and to ex-combatants from one of the armed opposition groups. In 2022, UNMAS planned to deliver training on land release, online data collection, and quality management, among other issues,²³ but this was not achieved.²⁴ It is not known whether this was achieved. In May 2023, Mine Action Review was informed that the conflict had scattered NMAC staff and its Khartoum offices had been looted. UNMAS international staff had been withdrawn from Sudan and had no access to the mine action database.²⁵ In response to the conflict in 2023, UNMAS has

12 See Cluster Munition Monitor, "Country Profile: Sudan: Cluster Munition Ban Policy", updated 23 August 2014.

13 Email from Dandan Xu, Associate Programme Management Officer, UNMAS, 12 July 2017.

14 Email from Colin Williams, Deputy Programme Manager, Ordnance Disposal Office (ODO), UNAMID, 1 June 2018.

15 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 24 July 2023.

16 UNISFA website, accessed on 26 June 2023, at <https://bit.ly/3NrgUWb>.

17 Human Rights Watch, "Under Siege: Indiscriminate Bombing and Abuses in Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States", 6 December 2012; "Unexploded Ordnance Kill 13 People in South Kordofan", *Al Africa*, 10 August 2013; and UN, "UNMAS Annual Report 2012", New York, August 2013, p. 10.

18 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan".

19 UNMAS webpage on Sudan, accessed 9 June 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/43Shldk>.

20 UNMAS, "Sudan (excluding Darfur)", Updated March 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/2Y31DUg>.

21 UNMAS webpage on Sudan, accessed 9 June 2023.

22 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.

23 *Ibid.*, 27 March 2022.

24 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 24 June 2023.

25 Emails from Robert Thompson, Head of Project Unit (HPU)/Chief of Operations (COO), UNMAS, UNITAMS, 5 and 18 May 2023.

provided EORE messages on social media and in hard copy, and plans to do the same on television and radio. It has also delivered explosive ordnance safety briefings to UN agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and civil society organisations (see below the section Planning and Tasking for further details of UNMAS's planned response to the recent conflict).²⁶

In 2021, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) provided remote support on the implementation of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core. In the first five months of 2022, Sudan participated in two Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) training workshops run by the GICHD in support of IMSMA Core implementation and EORE with an additional IMSMA Core training held in June 2022.²⁷

In recent years, the government of Sudan has maintained a consistent level of national funding for mine action in local currency, but due to the devaluation of the local currency against the US dollar, this had fallen from \$2 million worth of funding in 2019 and 2020 to only \$500,000 in 2021 and 2022. Sudan had expected national funding to be maintained and potentially to increase as the political and economic situation across the country improved,²⁸ but the 2023 conflict throws this into serious doubt.

Sudan had calculated that it required \$32.6 million for land release activities (for all explosive ordnance, not just CMR)

from 2022 to 2027, which works out as \$6,975,000 per year for 2022 to 2025, \$3,555,000 for 2026, and \$1,150,000 for 2027. As at 2022, international donors had been funding the mine action programme through UNMAS and the amount that had been confirmed for 2022 and 2023, \$2,902,000 and \$1,852,000 respectively, falls far short of what Sudan has projected that it needs, although some additional funds were pledged for 2022. Sudan and UNMAS had been working on resource mobilisation and had managed to expand the donor pool.²⁹ Given the conflict that broke out in April 2023, all plans and costings will have to be revisited when it is possible to do so.

In Sudan, not including Jebel Marra and the disputed territory of Abyei (where UNMAS UNISFA supports humanitarian mine action), NMAC reported that up until 2022, UNMAS and NMAC led the mine action sub-cluster which coordinated progress, tackled challenges, and supported the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 implementation in Sudan. All relevant implementing partners, NGOs, UN agencies, and government authorities participated. During sub-cluster meetings mine action projects for the annual Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) were developed and prioritised through a consultative process.³⁰ In addition, NMAC ordinarily held Country Coordination Forums with all stakeholders twice a year, though only one took place in 2021 due to the political and security situation,³¹ and following the military takeover in October 2021, none was held in 2022 either.³²

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Sudan reported in 2022 that it had a policy on environmental management which included information on how mine action operators should minimise potential harm from demining activities.³³ A dedicated national mine action standard (NMAC) on environmental management and an environmental impact assessment had been introduced which were due to be implemented in 2022,³⁴ although at the time of writing it was not known whether they had taken effect.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

NMAC reported that in 2021 a new gender and diversity policy was developed and endorsed and that gender was mainstreamed in the national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 and in the NMAC for EORE, survey, clearance, and victim assistance.³⁵ It stated that under those standards, all survey and community liaison teams were to be gender balanced, and that women and children were to be consulted during survey and community liaison activities. Gender was also considered in the prioritisation, planning, and tasking of survey and clearance, in line with the NMAC and the new standard IMSMA forms.³⁶

NMAC has previously reported that mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.³⁷ UNMAS reported working with NMAC and implementing partners to improve this aspect of mine action reporting and information management because sex and age disaggregated data of land release beneficiaries were not being captured in IMSMA.³⁸ As a result, new reporting tools were added to the system and new reporting formats were developed for NGOs to include this information.³⁹

26 UNMAS Sudan webpages, accessed on 10 July 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/43Shldk>.

27 Emails from Henrik Rydberg, Country Focal Point, GICHD, 13 April, 3 June, and 10 August 2022.

28 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

29 *Ibid.*, pp. 8 and 30.

30 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, Sudan" at: <http://bit.ly/3d0FtVH>; and email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.

31 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

32 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 24 July 2023.

33 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

34 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

35 *Ibid.*

36 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

37 *Ibid.*, 9 April 2020.

38 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 31 May 2020.

39 *Ibid.*, 22 July 2020.

NMAC has reported that ethnic minority groups in affected communities are consulted during survey and considered during the planning of mine action activities. Survey teams are also structured to address all affected groups within a community, including ethnic minorities.⁴⁰ As part of the implementation of Juba Peace Agreement and peacebuilding efforts, as indicated above, 21 ex-combatants from one of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) factions, Malik Agar located in Bau/Ulu and the Ingasana mountains, completed training in IMAS Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Level 1 during 2021. The ex-combatants were integrated into mine action operations to conduct land release in the Ulu and the Ingasana mountain areas that were found to be heavily contaminated with landmines and ERW including CMR.⁴¹

NMAC has stated that it always encourages women to apply for employment in the national programme, whether at the office level or in the field. In 2021, 30% of NMAC staff employed at the managerial or supervisory levels were women, as were 20% of staff in operational positions.⁴² The first female deminer was employed in late 2019.⁴³ In 2021, as mentioned, a group of 28 women from different states

and ethnic groups completed basic demining training. They were due to begin working within the different mine action operators during 2022 and 2023,⁴⁴ but it is not known whether this went ahead as planned.

UNMAS reported that, as at March 2022, around 50% of non-technical survey (NTS) teams were female. UNMAS Sudan had 16 staff members at this time, of whom four programme officers and one of the support service staff were women. In addition, within the national operators contracted by UNMAS there were women working in managerial positions and the medics and community liaison officers in most of the field teams were female.

In 2020–21, NMAC took part in the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) Gender Equality and Inclusion programme run by the GICHD. Two participants from NMAC received training and guidance from experts in the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) on how to mainstream gender and diversity in all mine action activities. The NMAC then created a dedicated Gender Focal Point (GFP) who connected with other GFPs from the region to share experiences and good practice.⁴⁵

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

In 2018, NMAC began upgrading the IMSMA software to a more recent New Generation version, with assistance from the GICHD. Significant efforts to correct errors in the database were also undertaken.⁴⁶ In 2022, Sudan began the migration to IMSMA Core, which was ongoing as of June 2022.⁴⁷ In 2021, an IMSMA Officer deployed from the Swiss government was embedded within the NMAC to support the information management department and an agreement was signed to grant Sudan a licence for the geographic information system (Arc GIS) software.⁴⁸

PLANNING AND TASKING

In March 2022, NMAC reported that the new national mine action strategic plan for 2019–23 had been finalised but was still awaiting approval.⁴⁹ In its latest APBMC Article 5 deadline extension request, Sudan predicted that a revised mine action strategy would be approved and issued in February 2023.⁵⁰ The strategy was shared with stakeholders and the Director of the NMAA has indicated that this is the final version.⁵¹

In 2021, a systematic prioritisation system was introduced as part of the new NMAS and linked with IMSMA with each SHA and CHA classified as high, medium, or low impact and prioritised accordingly.⁵²

UNMAS has indicated that in response to the conflict that broke out in April 2023, it plans to: assess new contamination; continue to provide emergency EORE; set up a hotline to receive reports of explosive ordnance items and accidents; and to develop a database using reported information to share with the humanitarian community. In addition, when security permits, UNMAS will deploy EOD and survey teams for clearing high-priority contaminated areas to protect civilians and enable humanitarian action. UNMAS also plans, in collaboration with NMAC, to coordinate the mine action response in Sudan, working with the Protection Cluster.⁵³

40 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

41 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 22.

42 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

43 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.

44 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 65–66.

45 Email from GICHD, 29 June 2021.

46 Emails from Ahmed Elser Ahmed Ali, NMAC, 9 May and 8 June 2016; and Third APBMC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, March 2018, pp. 37–38.

47 Email from Henrik Rydberg, GICHD, 3 June 2022.

48 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

49 Ibid.

50 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 19.

51 Email from UNMAS Headquarters, 24 July 2023.

52 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

53 UNMAS Sudan webpages, accessed on 10 July 2023 at: <https://bit.ly/43Shldk>.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In May 2021, NMAC reported that a review of Sudan's NMAS had been completed and the revised standards had been endorsed.⁵⁴ The NMAS were reviewed by a technical committee comprised of representatives from NMAC, UNMAS, and national operators with the support of an international expertise from UNAMID. UNMAS was working with the NMAC and national operators to develop their standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure they were compliant with the new NMAS.⁵⁵

In 2021, the Sudanese Regional Training Center was established to deliver mine action training to the Sudan programme, with two NMAC staff participating in a technical survey training course organised by the GICHD, and to provide support to neighbouring mine action programmes.⁵⁶ No information about subsequent developments is available.

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

National operators that conducted demining operations in Sudan in 2021 were JASMAR for Human Security (JASMAR), National Units for Mine Action and Development (NUMAD), and Global Aid Hand (GAH).⁵⁷ There are also two international operators, SLG, which became operational in December 2020, and DRC, which was granted organisational accreditation in 2021.⁵⁸ In 2022, DRC trained an NTS team consisting of a team leader (male) and two operators (one female and one male) along with a driver. The training was completed on 10 of January 2023 and was followed by two-day operational assessment conducted by NMAC when DRC achieved operational accreditation.⁵⁹ At the end of February 2023, the team was deployed in the Kadugli locality in a government-controlled area of South Kordofan State.⁶⁰ At the beginning of June 2023, DRC's humanitarian mine action teams (two EORE teams including one from its partner GAH, and one NTS team) continued to work in Kadugli with the approval of the local Humanitarian Aid Commission (the governmental body that manages and organises humanitarian work in Sudan) and NMAC offices, but by mid June, the NMAC office in Kadugli had instructed DRC to suspend these operations due to insecurity.⁶¹

Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2021^{62*}

Operator	Manual clearance teams (MCTs)/ Multi-task teams (MTTs)	Total deminers	Dogs and handlers	Machines
NUMAD	0	0	2 dogs & 2 handlers	RVCT mainly for mine clearance on roads
JASMAR	1 MCT 9 MTTs	8 32	0	0
SLG	2 MTTs	10	0	0
GAH	1 MTT	4	0	0
Totals	13 teams	54	2 dogs & 2 handlers	0

* No updated data were available for 2022.

54 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

55 Email from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 12 April 2021.

56 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Henrik Rydberg, GICHD, 3 June 2022.

57 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.

58 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 45.

59 Emails from Johannes de Jager, Operations Manager, Humanitarian Mine Action, DRC, 28 February and 12 June 2023.

60 Email from Johannes de Jager, DRC, 28 February 2023.

61 Ibid., 12 June and 26 June 2023.

62 Emails from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022; and Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 27 March 2022.

Table 3: Operational survey capacities deployed in 2021^{63*}

Operator	NTS teams	Total NTS personnel	TS teams	Total TS personnel
JASMAR	3	12	10	44
NUMAD	0	0	1	8
GAH	5	20	3	12
Totals	8	32	14	64

TS = Technical survey * No updated data available for 2022.

The multi-task teams (MTTs) and manual clearance team (MCT) were deployed for the clearance of all priority hazardous areas, but the focus was on mined areas containing anti-personnel mines. There was a slight decrease in operational capacity from 2020 to 2021 as NUMAD had some internal issues and could not take part in tendering process. Due to a drop in funding, operational capacity was expected to decrease further for the operational year 2022–23.⁶⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

In May 2023, Mine Action Review was informed that the conflict had scattered NMAC staff and its Khartoum offices had been looted, and UNMAS international staff had been withdrawn from Sudan and had no access to the mine action database.⁶⁵ As a result, little data on survey and clearance of CMR were available for 2022. UNMAS did report that 192,089m² of hazardous area were released in 2022, all through clearance, and 444 submunitions were destroyed, including 440 as spot tasks. All clearance and destruction of submunitions took place in Blue Nile state. In addition, UNMAS reported 943 other UXO were destroyed (793 in Blue Nile state and 150 in South Kordofan) during CMR clearance (see Table 4 for further details).⁶⁶ It is not known whether any new CMR contamination was added to the database in 2022.

SURVEY IN 2022

In 2022, as in 2021, no hazardous area was reported as released through NTS or TS.⁶⁷

CLEARANCE IN 2022

In 2022, UNMAS reported that 192,089m² of hazardous area was cleared by JASMAR in Blue Nile state. A total of 444 submunitions were destroyed, including 440 as spot tasks.⁶⁸ This compares with 2021, when SLG cleared 70,000m² of hazardous area in Blue Nile state, a partial clearance of a cluster munition strike at Ulu airstrip, and 34 PM-1 submunitions were destroyed.⁶⁹ In addition, four submunitions were destroyed by JASMAR in 2021 during EOD spot tasks.⁷⁰

63 Ibid.

64 Ibid.

65 Emails from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, UNITAMS, 5 and 18 May 2023.

66 Ibid., 10 July 2023.

67 Ibid.

68 Ibid.

69 Emails from Aimal Safi, UNMAS, 19 and 26 June 2022.

70 Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

Table 4: CMR clearance in 2022⁷¹

State	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Submunitions destroyed during spot tasks	Other UXO destroyed
Blue Nile	JASMAR	192,089	4	440	793
South Kordofan	JASMAR	0	0	0	150
Totals		192,089	4	440	943

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Sudan is not a State Party to the CCM and therefore does not have a specific clearance deadline under Article 4. Nonetheless, it has obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR as soon as possible.

In May 2017, NMAC informed Mine Action Review that Sudan was “with the spirit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” and that the national authorities were aware of the convention and Sudan's current status as not yet having joined.⁷² In March 2022, the NMAC stated that there had been no developments in 2021 with regard to Sudan's accession to the CCM.⁷³

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Sudan had a plan in place to deal with residual risk and liability post-completion.⁷⁴ As at March 2022, NMAC was dealing with any residual contamination in the eastern states with government funding.⁷⁵ However, it was planned that, in the long term, Sudan would establish a sustainable national capacity within the military or police.⁷⁶

⁷¹ Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, UNITAMS, 10 July 2023.

⁷² Email from Ali Abd Allatif Ibrahim, NMAC, 18 May 2017.

⁷³ Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

⁷⁴ Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 9 April 2020.

⁷⁵ Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 31 March 2022.

⁷⁶ Email from Hatim Khamis Rahama, NMAC, 19 May 2021.