SOUTH SUDAN



CLEARING CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- South Sudan should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in line with the decision taken by the Council of Ministers announced in September 2017.
- South 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.
- Mine action data should be recorded and reported according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) land release terminology, and the national database and reporting formats should clearly reflect CMR disaggregated from other explosive remnants of war (ERW) or generic "hazardous areas".
- South Sudan should develop a resource mobilisation strategy and initiate dialogue with development partners on long-term support for mine action, including a specific focus on CMR.
- With a much clearer picture of the remaining threat, South Sudan should set concrete, realistic, and ambitious targets for completing clearance of CMR. It should report transparently on progress in addressing CMR contamination and consider adjusting its mine action strategy and annual workplans accordingly.
- South Sudan should consider revising requirements for survey of areas of CMR contamination in its national mine action standards, with the aim of ensuring that more accurate estimates of CMR-contaminated areas are recorded in the future.
- South Sudan should increase its financial support for mine action operations. Greater assistance from the government and international partners should be provided to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) to strengthen its capacity to develop and implement effective policies to address explosive ordnance.
- The mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) should be changed to mandate support for the capacity development of government institutions and the national mine action programme.

CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANT CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2018, South Sudan had a total of 123 areas suspected and confirmed to contain CMR, with the total size of contamination estimated at just over 5.3km².¹ This is a decrease on the total of 143 areas suspected and confirmed to contain CMR at the end of 2017, but an increase of cluster munition-contaminated area from just over 4.5km² as a result of revisions to contamination data in the national mine action database.²

South Sudan's national mine action programme has made great strides in improving the accuracy of its estimates of contamination from landmines, CMR, and other ERW in 2018. A comprehensive overhaul of its mine action database was carried out during the year, along with a focus on re-survey of contaminated areas. Combined with better access for mine action operations as a result of an improvement in security conditions in certain areas, this resulted in a much clearer picture of remaining contamination, and one that is much more achievable to address. The total estimate of mine, CMR, and other ERW contamination remaining in the country decreased by more than half, from nearly 89km² reported at the start of 2018, to 39.4km² at the end of the year.³ A review of the existing records in the database and re-survey resulted in three primary and significant changes with regard to CMR contamination: a number of existing task records which had been wrongly recorded were re-classified as CMR-contaminated areas; several overly conservative estimates of existing confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) recorded in the database were enlarged to better reflect actual contamination; and previously unrecorded areas containing CMR were added to the database.⁴

The year 2018 was also a bumper one for CMR clearance, with a five-fold increase to more than 5km² along with the destruction of nearly 3,600 submunitions, leading the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to estimate that the remaining CMR contamination in South Sudan could be fully addressed in just two to three years at the current pace of clearance, as long as sufficient funding was ensured and the security situation continued to improve.⁵ A total of 17 tasks containing CMR contamination which were wrongly classified as areas of UXO contamination were re-classified in the database as CMR-contaminated area, which resulted in the addition of 1,745,322m² of CMR contamination to the total estimate. During the database review, 38 confirmed CMR-contaminated areas were expanded by a total of 4.87km², as a result of increasing evidence that previous survey reports had tended to underestimate the size of CMR clearance tasks. A further 25 previously unrecorded areas confirmed or suspected to contain CMR contamination were also added to the database in 2018 (see Tables 2(i), 2(ii), 2(iii)).⁶

The ongoing fighting which broke out in December 2013 has been the main challenge to CMR clearance.⁷ While no areas of new contamination from CMR as a result of recent conflict were identified in 2018, areas of CMR

contamination from decades of pre-independence conflict continued to be identified in 2018.⁸ The signature of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018 contributed to increased access for mine action operations. However, a number of areas of the country, particularly the Greater Upper Nile and Equatoria regions, have yet to be comprehensively surveyed due to ongoing insecurity and additional contamination will likely be recorded in these areas.⁹

Seven of South Sudan's former ten states have areas suspected to contain CMR (see Table 1), with Central and Eastern Equatoria remaining the most heavily contaminated.¹⁰ From 1995 to 2000, prior to South Sudan's independence, Sudanese government forces are believed to have air dropped cluster munitions sporadically in southern Sudan.

Table 1: CMR contamination by state in South Sudan (at end 2018)¹¹

State	CHAs	Area (m²)	SHAs	Area (m²)
Central Equatoria	35	1,318,411	4	532,126
Eastern Equatoria	50	2,577,461	9	590,109
Jonglei	5	160,851	2	*
Unity	1	10,000	0	0
Upper Nile	2	6,920	0	0
West Bahr El Ghazal	2	35,890	0	0
Western Equatoria	12	96,021	1	*
Totals	107	4,205,554	16	1,122,235

 $\mathsf{SHA}=\mathsf{Suspected}$ hazardous area * No area was associated with the reported SHA

Table 2(i): Existing areas reclassified from battle area to CMR-contaminated area¹²

State	СНА	Area (m²)	SHA	Area (m²)
Central Equatoria	5	343,140	0	0
Eastern Equatoria	5	1,129,788	3	187,442
Jonglei	1	60,958	1	*
Western Equatoria	2	23,994	0	0
Totals	13	1,557,880	4	187,442

* No area was associated with this report.

Table 2(ii): Area added through extensions to existing CHAs with CMR ¹³

State	Extended CHAs	Area (m²)
Central Equatoria	8	1,164,252
Eastern Equatoria	12	1,077,140
Jonglei	4	379,868
Lakes	1	41,100
Unity	0	591,355
Upper Nile	1	6,929
Western Bahr El Ghazal	2	277,290
Western Equatoria	10	1,329,672
Totals	38	4,867,606

Table 2(iii): Newly recorded hazardous areas contaminated by CMR¹⁴

State	CHAs	Area (m²)	SHAs	Area (m²)
Central Equatoria	9	567,257	2	111,688
Eastern Equatoria	5	344,542		
Jonglei	3	53,037		
Unity	1	10,000		
Upper Nile	1	22,600		
Western Bahr El Ghazal	3	54,000		
Western Equatoria	1	10,000		
Totals	*23	1,061,436	*2	111,688

* According to UNMAS, 10 of the 23 newly discovered hazards were within 500 metres of an existing hazard and could be considered as extensions of known contamination.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

South Sudan has a significant problem with mines and especially ERW, resulting from large-scale use of explosive weapons during armed conflicts in 1955–72 and 1983–2005 (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on South Sudan for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The South Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA) – since renamed the NMAA – was established by presidential decree in 2006 to act as the national agency for planning, coordination, and monitoring of mine action in South Sudan.¹⁵ There is no national mine action legislation in South Sudan.¹⁶

In 2011, UN Security Council Resolution 1996 tasked UNMAS with supporting South Sudan in demining and strengthening the capacity of the NMAA. UNMAS (with the NMAA) has been overseeing mine action across the country through its main office in Juba, and sub-offices in Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, and Wau. UNMAS is responsible for accrediting mine action organisations, drafting national mine action standards, establishing a quality management system, managing the national database, and tasking operators.¹⁷

While it is planned that eventually the NMAA will assume full responsibility for all mine action activities, according to UNMAS, the NMAA continued to face serious financial and technical limitations preventing it from managing mine action operations effectively in 2018. It requires substantial resources and capacity building assistance if it is to operate effectively.¹⁸ UN Security Council Resolution 1996 authorised UNMISS to support mine action through assessed peacekeeping funds.¹⁹ In May 2014, UN Security Council Resolution 2155, adopted in response to the conflict that broke out in December 2013, effectively ended the mission's mandate to support capacity development of government institutions. In 2018, UNMAS reported that reversing this change in the mission mandate to support the capacity building of government institutions would greatly enhance UNMAS' ability to support the NMAA.²⁰

In 2018, the Government of South Sudan funded the costs of NMAA staff salaries and its sub-offices across the country. It did not, however, provide any funding for the conduct of survey or clearance.²¹ UNMAS has reported that the Government of South Sudan is only able to provide minimal funding and support to all national institutions, including the NMAA. It has raised concerns over resource mobilisation in the face of overwhelming donor fatigue and frustration due to the ongoing conflict, which continues to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis. Mine action, which is a critical enabler for humanitarian assistance, has not been prioritised by donors, who have been increasingly unwilling to support Government institutions until a peace agreement is implemented.²²

Positively, UNMAS reported that as part of South Sudan's preparations to request an extension to its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline, a centrally led effort to mobilise additional resources for mine action was underway in 2019.²³

GENDER

South Sudan's second national mine action strategy for 2018–22 includes a section on gender, focusing on how different gender and age groups are affected by mines and ERW and have specific and varying needs and priorities. Guidelines on mainstreaming gender considerations in mine action planning and operations in South Sudan are also incorporated in the strategy, including on the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age.²⁴ UNMAS reported that the programme was also implementing the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action, monitored by a gender focal point.²⁵

South Sudan's National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSG) contain provisions requiring all community liaison teams to tailor activities on the basis of the gendered needs of beneficiaries, and to address the specific risks faced by women and girls.²⁶ All teams are reportedly gender balanced in composition and trained to be inclusive, for example by ensuring outreach through non-technical survey and risk education is done separately for different age and gender groups, and taking local cultural practices into consideration.²⁷

At the same time, UNMAS reported that task prioritisation in 2018 was predominantly dependent on security considerations and that resources were concentrated on tasks within limited geographical areas rather than on the basis of gender needs.²⁸ It claimed there was equal access in employment opportunities for qualified men and women in survey and clearance teams across the organisations operating in South Sudan, but reported that in 2018 16% of staff in operational roles such as deminers and community liaison officers were women, while women accounted for 11% of all staff in managerial or supervisory positions across the five operators conducting mine action operations in South Sudan in 2018.²⁹

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) reported that in 2018, a basic demining training course was offered to 20 interested women with no previous demining experience, in an effort to increase the number of potentially qualified women applicants for operational demining positions. It reported that since the training, 16 of the women had been hired for MAG operational teams. As at April 2019, MAG stated that all of its seven clearance teams included women deminers, including a number of women previously employed as cooks or community liaison officers who had participated in the demining training course and were subsequently offered operational positions.³⁰ MAG reported that in 2018, a total of 33% of deminers employed were female, along with 20% of all operational staff, and 54% of community liaison staff members.³¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

As noted above, a comprehensive review of all data in South Sudan's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database was carried out in 2018, along with re-survey of recorded suspected and confirmed hazardous areas thought to be exaggerated or erroneously recorded. These activities resulted in significant gains in the understanding of CMR contamination. UNMAS informed Mine Action Review that, wherever possible, a distinction is made in the database between mined areas, cluster munition contamination, and other ERW-contaminated areas, including spot tasks.³²

PLANNING AND TASKING

South Sudan's most recent National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2022, developed with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and funded by Japan, was officially launched in September 2018.³³ According to UNMAS, the strategy, which does not contain significant provisions relating to CMR contamination, has three strategic goals with related targets:³⁴

Strategic Goal 1: Advocacy and communication of South Sudan's mine/ERW problem continues through national and international awareness raising and adoption and implementation of international conventions to facilitate a mine-/ERW-free South Sudan. **Strategic Goal 2:** The size of the mine/ERW contamination area is clarified and confirmed and the problem is addressed through appropriate survey and clearance methods; ensuring safe land is handed back to affected communities for use.

Strategic Goal 3: Safe behaviour is promoted among women, girls, boys and men to reduce mine/ERW accidents and promote safe livelihood activities.

UNMAS reported that annual workplans for CMR survey and clearance are incorporated into UNMAS operational workplans, and the current plan for 2019–20 was under development as at May 2019.³⁵ Joint monthly meetings were convened by the NMAA with mine action operators throughout the year.³⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

According to UNMAS, the NTSGs for mine action in South Sudan are subject to constant review by UNMAS and the NMAA. These standards and guidelines contain provisions specific to CMR survey and clearance.³⁷ In 2018, the NTSGs were amended in regard to the storage and transport of explosives and the conduct of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) operations. There were no significant changes made with respect to CMR survey or clearance.³⁸

However, both UNMAS and MAG have reported that a significant number of initial survey reports of CMRcontaminated areas have underestimated the extent of the contamination. MAG reported that areas were often recorded based on the minimum amount of clearance that would be required to comply with the NTSGs, which require a 50 metre fade-out. In MAG's experience, however, the actual CMR-contaminated area has often proved to be significantly larger, making it difficult to accurately plan for the time and resources needed to address each task. MAG begins CMR clearance with the expectation that the task area will reach at least 60,000m² and at times has encountered CMR tasks that had to be expanded by more than 100,000m² compared to the original estimate. It further reported that the fade-out requirements of the NTSGs sometimes resulted in the handover of cleared land while simultaneously creating a new "hazardous area" comprising the fade-out distance.³⁹ UNMAS reported that often in a recorded strike area, multiple cluster munition canisters are found, with the consequence that the overall contaminated area extends well beyond an expected standard footprint.40

UNMAS also reported that in 2018 a total of 16 areas suspected to contain CMR contamination with a total size of 221,897m² were cleared, which were not found to contain any CMR.⁴¹

UNMAS also noted that the NTSGs require all mine action teams to conduct regular internal quality assurance (QA), along with quality control (QC) sampling of 10% of each area cleared. UNMAS conducted additional external QA through visits to each CMR clearance task in 2018, as well as upon the completion of a clearance task.⁴²

OPERATORS

In 2018, UNMAS reported that 16 teams from 4 organisations conducted CMR survey and clearance tasks: two international demining non-governmental organisations (MAG and DanChurchAid (DCA)), and two commercial companies (G4S Ordnance Management (G4S) and The Development Initiative (TDI)). It estimated the number of operational personal involved in CMR survey and clearance at 250 during the year.⁴³

MAG reported beginning operations in 2018 with seven clearance teams, which reduced to six at the end of the year. It employed 66 demining staff for cluster munition clearance with four multi-task teams conducting battle area clearance (BAC) on CMR-contaminated tasks at the end of 2018, while one EOD team also focused on CMR BAC during the year.⁴⁴ It deployed four machines to assist with ground preparation for BAC clearance. MAG reported using a mulcher attachment during 2018, which significantly reduced the time needed for vegetation cutting.⁴⁵

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT IN 2018

A total of almost 7km² of CMR-contaminated area was reported as released in 2018 through survey and clearance, or as part of cancellation in the database review carried out during the year.⁴⁶

SURVEY IN 2018

According to UNMAS, the total area of CMRcontamination released by non-technical and technical survey operations in the field in 2018 amounted to just under 157,700m². A total of two areas of 10,400m² of suspected CMR contamination were cancelled by non-technical survey in Jonglei state by G4S. A further 147,300m² of CMR contamination was reported to have been reduced by technical survey during the year.⁴⁷

In addition, a remarkable total of 1,690,850m² of suspected CMR-contaminated area across 26 areas in Central and Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei states was cancelled by UNMAS in a desk review of the remaining CMR-contaminated areas recorded in the IMSMA database.⁴⁸ This compares with 2017, when one CMR-contaminated SHA of just under 61,000m² was reported to have been cancelled by survey.⁴⁹

Table 3: Reduction by technical survey in 2018⁵⁰

State	Operator	Area reduced (m²)
Central Equatoria	G4S	17,286
Central Equatoria	MAG	400
Eastern Equatoria	TDI	1,912
Jonglei	TDI	3,183
Lakes	TDI	15,700
Unity	G4S	28,028
Western Bahr El Ghazal	G4S	55,425
Western Equatoria	G4S	25,355
Total		147,289

CLEARANCE IN 2018

In 2018, UNMAS reported a five-fold increase in the amount of CMR-contaminated area cleared, compared with the previous year. A total of over 5.1km² was cleared in 2018, with the destruction of more than 3,590 submunitions, compared to just over 1km² of CMR-contaminated area was cleared in 2017, with the destruction of 629 submunitions.⁵¹ UNMAS reported that the increase in clearance of CMR contamination in 2018 was due to significant improvements in the security situation across the majority of the country, which allowed many teams to deploy on CMR-contaminated tasks.⁵²

In addition, a total of 190 submunitions were reported as destroyed during clearance of mined areas, and 927 submunitions were destroyed through EOD spot tasks during the year.⁵³

Table 4: Clearance	of CMR-contaminated	areas in 2018 ⁵⁴
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State	Operator	Tasks completed	Tasks not completed	Area cleared (m²)	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
Central Equatoria	G4S	13	7	1,242,548	1,172	56
	MAG	3	4	991,747	811	16
Eastern Equatoria	G4S	1	1	46,994	130	1
	TDI	6	6	233,558	53	17
	DCA	0	3	94,644	72	1
Jonglei	G4S	0	1	80,368	3	1
	TDI	0	1	184,216	281	1
Lakes	TDI	0	1	25,400	7	0
Unity	G4S	2	0	662,327	446	8
Upper Nile	TDI	0	1	22,600	0	0
Western Bahr El Ghazal	G4S	2	2	194,712	123	6
Western Equatoria	G4S	6	11	1,364,292	495	3
Totals		33	38	5,143,406	3,593	110

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

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

South Sudan has announced its intention to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which is also a specific objective in South Sudan's National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018–2022.⁵⁵ In May 2019, UNMAS reported that documents relating to South Sudan's accession to the Convention were under review by the national parliament.⁵⁶

Previously, primarily due to the ongoing conflict, it was impossible to predict when South Sudan might complete clearance of CMR, nor even assess the true extent of contamination.⁵⁷ However, with improvements in the security situation, progress in land release of CMRcontaminated areas, and a comprehensive database review, in 2019, the situation in South Sudan began to look a lot more positive. According to an UNMAS assessment in April 2019, at current rates of clearance, completion of clearance of all remaining cluster munition strikes could be achieved in as little as two or three years.⁵⁸ The NMAA has reportedly stated that given the appropriate support and the necessary security conditions, the clearance of both landmine and cluster munition contamination could be completed by 2026.⁵⁹ However, this will be dependent on the establishment of peace and continued increase in humanitarian access throughout the country.⁶⁰

In 2019, a priority for clearance was the Juba to Nimule road, along which many displaced persons are expected to travel. UNMAS expected a total of close to 2km² of CMR contamination would be cleared over the course of the year.⁶¹

- 1 Email from Ayaka Amano, Associate Programme Officer, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 2 Emails from Tim Lardner, Chief, Mine Action, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 3 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid; and email from Richard Boulter, Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS, 20 May 2019.
- 7 Ibid; and email from Katie Shaw, Programme Officer, MAG, 26 April 2019.
- 8 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018; and Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 19 April 2017; and UNMAS, "2017 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects: South Sudan", January 2017, at: bit.ly/2VJjcHl.
- 9 UNMAS, "2019 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects: South Sudan".
- 10 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Email from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 30 May 2019.
- 15 "South Sudan De-Mining Authority", undated, at: http://bit.ly/2Y5Eb4o.
- 16 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 17 South Sudan, "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012-2016", Juba, 2012, p. iv.
- 18 Emails from Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 30 May 2019; and Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 19 UNMISS, "United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre [UNMACC]", undated, at: http://bit.ly/2YctHjl.
- 20 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 21 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 22 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 23 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 24 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 25 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Email from Katie Shaw, MAG, 26 April 2019.
- 31 Email from Katie Shaw, MAG, 29 May 2019.
- 32 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018; and Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 6 June 2018.
- 35 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 36 Emails from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 26 April 2019.

- 37 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016; and responses to questionnaires by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015; and Augustino Seja, NPA, 11 May 2015.
- 38 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 39 Email from Katie Shaw, MAG, 26 April 2019.
- 40 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018. According to UNMAS, the number of cluster munition strikes recorded is thought to be accurate, but the size of the strike area is likely greater than currently recorded estimates.
- 41 Emails from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019; and Richard Boulter, UNMAS, 30 May 2019.
- 42 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Email from Katie Shaw, MAG, 26 April 2019.
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 47 Ibid. It reported that another area suspected to contain CMR of unreported size was also cancelled by G4S in Western Equatoria state.
- 48 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019. This included 8 areas with a size of 110,283m² in Central Equatoria, 15 areas with a size of 1,485,022m² in Eastern Equatoria, and 3 areas with a size of 95,545m² in Jonglei states.
- 49 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 50 Emails from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 26 April and 29 May 2019. MAG reported, however, that the 400m² reported by UNMAS as area reduced by technical survey in Central Equatoria was area cancelled by non-technical survey.
- 51 Emails from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019; Mohammad Kabir Rahimi, UNMAS, 18 June 2018; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 18 June 2018.
- 52 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 53 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 54 Emails from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019; and Katie Shaw, MAG, 26 April and 29 May 2019. MAG additionally reported that it conducted clearance of CMR contamination in Eastern Equatoria state during 2018, but task completion did not take place until 2019 and will be reflected in the report on clearance in 2019.
- 55 Emails from Tim Lardner, UNMAS, 27 February and 1 March 2018.
- 56 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019. On 5 September 2017, at the Seventh Meeting of States Parties of the CCM, South Sudan announced its attention to accede to the Convention, stating that its Council of Ministers had taken a decision unanimously on 25 August 2017 to "fully accede" and comply with the terms of the Convention. Statement of South Sudan, CCM 7th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 5 September 2017.
- 57 Ibid.; and response to questionnaire by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015.
- 58 Email from Ayaka Amano, UNMAS, 2 May 2019.
- 59 Ibid.
- 60 Ibid.
- 61 Ibid.