



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED following ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION, AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

SUBMITTED ~~February~~ **October** 2024 COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. National implementation measures

Legislation and Administration:

The SEMA bill has been approved by the council of ministers on January 14, 2024; the prime minister of the Federal Government of Somalia has submitted the bill to the parliament and is waiting to be approved by the parliament.



Somalia does not hold any stockpiles of Anti-Personnel mines. As such, is compliant with the Article 4 of the APMBC as well as Action #16 of the OAP and its stakeholders have no stockpiles of anti-personal mines.

2. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes.

To the knowledge of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and SEMA, there is no retaining or transfer of mines for permitted purposes in Somalia during 2023.



**3. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.**

On 21-25 November 2022, during the 21st Meeting of State Parties Meeting in Geneva Switzerland, Somalia received five years extension starting from October 2022 to October 2027, to fulfil its obligations under the Article-5, Anti-personnel mine ban convention. The Somalian government is seized with the fighting against anti-government forces and since May 2022, vast areas of the country have been recovered from Anti-government elements, thus, expanding the operational area for the Mine Action agencies and increasing the need for financial resources to carry out NTS, EOORE, and clearance.

The Federal Government of Somalia submitted a comprehensive Article-5 extension with a clear 5-year work plan to the state parties after consultations and validation by the mine action stakeholders in the country and the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC. The work plan runs from October 2022 to October 2027. In line with this, the mine action implementing partners in Somalia are prioritizing NTS and EOORE, to understand the extent of the contamination and at the same time clearing and addressing the high priority areas to reduce the impact of the landmines and other ERWs to Somalian people in order to meet the OAP Action #18, please refer to Table 1. below for the current identification of precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible.

This is expected to give a full understanding of the contamination which supports Somalia's current work plan to completion in line with Action#19. This current workplan shall be supported by a national strategic plan planned to be formulated in 2024 (provide updates on timeline and approval process) which will clearly articulate the resources required for this workplan as well as time and resources required for Somalia to be landmine free. As such, this is partial fulfilment of Action #2 of the OAP. This could also include information on how Somalia works with different gender and diverse groups in the country when conducting mine action activities (Action #3).

As required by Action #5 of the OAP, Somalia has a set of national standards compiled in liaison with the implementing partners. However, these standards require updating and subsequent endorsement by the line ministry. This was initially planned for 2023 but failed to take off. However, this shall be worked on in 2024 (provide updates on timeline and approval process) to achieve the Action #5 of the OAP. SEMA has finalized NMAS for NTS consultation with relevant mine action stakeholders and endorsed it. We started discussions on the EOORE chapter in April 2024 and shall finish before the end of this year, 2024.



#### **4.1 IMSMA Core Implementation Process (Action #9)**

SEMA in collaboration with mine action partners carried out the consolidation of data in order to unify, remove duplicates and produce a single set of data representing the contamination picture of the whole country under the custody of SEMA in the national mine action data base. Significant progress has been made in the IMSMA core implementation process. That is preparing a business needs document and clarifying the roles of operators, SEMA, and data consumers. SEMA has developed standardized reporting survey 123 forms with the consultation of implementing HALO Trust and UNMAS. SEMA consolidated all historical data from the operators and made parallel data clean-up efforts to address discrepancies in existing datasets. SEMA has successfully migrated EORE and Accident/VA data into IMSMA Core and finalized setting up the validation levels for reviewing the reports, IMSMA core sites, and creating statistical dashboards for EORE & Accident/VA.

In addition, the IM staff of SEMA continued to have received in-person trainings from GICHD to acquire the necessary skills to effectively manage the national database. We established a monthly Information Management Working Group (IM WG) to discuss IM-related issues, mainly the migration process of IMSMA Core.

Finally, we expect to migrate the reporting forms of the remaining activities of NTS, Clearance, EOD, Cancellation, and Completion before the end of this year, 2024 to meet the action #9 of the OAP requirements.



**Table 1. Summary of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 31 December 2023 (Somaliland data not included)**

State	CHA		SHA	
	No. Hazard Area	Area (M2)	No. Hazard Area	Area (M2)
Banadir Regional Administration	0	-	0	0
Puntland State	27	2,783,363	176	4,833,052
Jubaland State	5	460,518	2	60,340,000
Galmudug State	77	10,601,648	23	2,907,984
Hirshabele State	63	15,001,650	3	420,246
South West State	34	5,306,428	39	3,013,169
SSC Katumo interim Administration	6	2,906,285	0	-
Total	212	37,059,892	243	71,514,451

SEMA is declaring that contaminated areas mentioned in the 2023 in above table for "Article 07" report are surveyed hazardous areas that have been recorded in the National mine action database (IMSMA).

In line with the submitted action plan to implement the article-5 obligation, Somalia will give priority to surveying mined and suspected areas, providing EORE to impacted communities, and capacity development for the national mine action institutions.

Somalia has several local NGO consortiums that include CESMAC, SHAHMAC; these have received capacity training from the various INGOs. Their capacity added to the personnel working for the various INGOs can provide enough manpower resource post completion. However, Somalia is yet to plan for completion as a completion date is not yet in sight. When the time comes there will be need to think of capacitation in resources and equipment to standing government structures. Hence OAP #26 is still work in progress.

Nevertheless, A lot of national authority capacitation programmes have been availed to the SEMA staff by the HALO Trust, UNNMAS as well as the GICHD. These include establishment of an IMSMA database, operations field and management training



courses, as well as establishment of structures to develop and coordinate EORE activities in Somalia. All these are meant to ensure the national authority is equipped to plan, manage and coordinate the mine action up to completion.

SEMA, Mine Action implementing partners and UNMAS continue to advocate to seek for funding support to overcome the persistent challenges of landmine contamination along the Somali-Ethiopia border and newly liberated areas in the country.

SEMA's vision and strategic goals on behalf of Somalia's Government include to effectively address challenges associated with landmines, Victim's operated IEDs (VOIED), and other explosive hazards, in compliance with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

*Table 2. Summary of area and released and devices destroyed, 1 January – 31 December 2023 (Somaliland data excluded)*

State	Clearance	Cancelled Area	Total Area Released (clearance + cancellation)	AT/AVM	AP	UXO/AXO	SAA
Galmadug State	811,264	247070	1,058,334	21	11	1846	2957
Hirshabelle State	350,167	44605	394,772	2	-	14	2
Jubaland State	646,272	15,000	661,272	2	-	13	0
Puntland	177,998		177,998	3		341	
South West State	234,617	7,500	242,117	8	-	144	152
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,220,318</b>	<b>314,175</b>	<b>2,534,493</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>3,111</b>



## **2024 Plans**

The Somalia Programme will continue to pursue its 2023 to 2027 work plan as outlined on the submitted Article 5.

The Plan for 2024 is to continue survey work of accessible regions and clearance of high priority areas away from the conflict frontline. The year 2024 will see a reduction in capacity by implementing partners due to funding reduction, this negatively affects the progress towards the set 5-year plan. Somalia will continue to have HALO Trust and UNMAS as the key partners in all these efforts.

### **The HALO Trust**

The HALO Trust is expecting to have a reduction of teams from 20 to 12 in 2024 due to ending funding contracts. The organisation expects to release 700 000m<sup>2</sup> as well as reach out to 50 liberated villages and communities to survey new polygons. Some capacity shall be moved from the border with Ethiopia to Lascaanood in the North, an area which had recent fighting and has been recording so many UXO accidents. The intervention is planned to be some BAC, EOORE and EOD activities. The organisation's funding for 2024 shall be from PMWRA, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, UK (FCDO), Germany and Norway.

### **UNMAS**

The UNMAS Somalia Program is currently facing uncertainties due to the transition of the UN mission and ATMIS, with the replacement mission and funding modalities still unclear. Utilizing peacekeeping funds, UNMAS has contracted DHS to deploy eight multi-skilled teams across four states (Jubaland, Southwest, Galmudug, and Hirshabelle) two teams covering each state to primarily conduct Non-Technical Surveys (NTS), respond to community callouts for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), and provide Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to affected communities until the end of June 2025.

Additionally, UNMAS supports the capacity development of SEMA through HALO Trust, which provides training, mentoring, and national standards review until the end of March 2025. Under a separate project cooperation agreement, UNMAS also supports SEMA with incentives, external quality assurance, and coordination, until the end of March 2025. However, the funding situation beyond 2025 remains uncertain, with the current support for humanitarian mine action being drawn from the Government of Japan and the Assessed Budget peacekeeping funds.



## **Support from the Government of the People's Republic of China to the Somali Explosives Management Authority (SEMA)**

On September 5, 2024, H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, delivered a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). During the speech, President Xi Jinping put forward carrying out an "Action for A Mine-free Africa". In order to implement this significant initiative and the related consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud during their latest meeting, so as to support Somalia in effectively overcoming the threat of landmines and protecting its people's lives and property, China donated 1 million RMB to the Somali Explosives Management Authority (SEMA), supervised by the Ministry of Internal Security of Somalia, to strengthen the country's capabilities in landmine survey and risk education.

### **4.2 Explosive Ordinance Risk Education and Reduction Efforts**

The Mine Action partners in Somalia have reached a significant number of beneficiaries including IDPs, refugees, school children, agricultural communities, host communities throughout Somalia, the EORE messaging has been provided through face-to-face, radio broadcasts, and risk education talking devices. In Somalia, the following organisations provided EORE in 2023:

- a. Ukorobrone Service Sc
- b. HALO Trust
- c. JUMAN

### **EORE Baseline Capacity Assessment of SEMA**

SEMA is committed to fulfilling its obligations under Somalia's Article 5 extension period from October 2022 to October 2027. EORE is one of the three components of the Article 5 implementation workplan. SEMA carried out the EORE Capacity Baseline Assessment with the support of GICHD. This was after SEMA submitted a formal request to GICHD to support the strengthening of Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE), including conducting a needs assessment of the EORE capacity in Somalia. This is in pursuance of **OAP #31**.



key SEMA officials and representatives of organizations in the country to collect data. GICHD has now finalized the report with key findings and recommendations, which have been disseminated to mine action stakeholders.

- Recommendation 1: Conduct a countrywide needs assessment for EORE.
- Recommendation 2: Review Somalia's national standard on EORE.
- Recommendation 3: Further strengthen Gender and Diversity considerations in EORE.
- Recommendation 4: Improve data collection for EORE planning and priority setting.
- Recommendation 5: Raise the profile of EORE in the country.
- Recommendation 6: Establish an EORE Working Group (WG).
- Recommendation - 7: Develop an EORE strategic plan or include EORE into a broader Mine Action Strategic Plan.
- Recommendation 8: Establish a centralized EORE material package.
- Recommendation 9: Improve quality management and the MEAL system.

In addition to that, A hybrid workshop was held in Mogadishu on February 5th, 2024, to share and discuss the recommendations of the EORE baseline capacity assessment report.

Furthermore, in April 2024, SEMA organized a consultative workshop on EORE in Somalia, held in Nairobi with technical and financial support from GICHD. This workshop aimed to address the key priorities identified by stakeholders during the hybrid workshop on February 5<sup>th</sup>:

- Establishing an EORE working group
- Reviewing Somalia's national standard on EORE
- Identifying the risk-taking behaviors

As a next step in this report, the GICHD will support SEMA in developing a plan of action to implement the recommendations of this report. Furthermore, SEMA and EORE partners can use the report, its findings, and recommendations for their advocacy efforts.



While the national needs assessment which is yet to take off will assist in identifying the most at risk societies, the risk taking behaviors and direct the context specific approaches, the implementing partners have already been making use of the data available to ensure the most at risk societies were targeted with EORE, this included targeting areas recently liberated as well as areas with high accident rates thus partially fulfilling **OAP #30**. The partners conduct their organization level needs assessments prior to their interventions into specific localities and communities. (**OAP #29**)

### Behaviours change

Beneficiaries of EORE sessions demonstrated improvement in their behaviour toward explosive ordnance, including understanding the existing risks, avoiding risk areas, and reporting ERW/mines to mine action operators in their areas.

Table 3. The table below shows the EORE activities summary 2023 (Somaliland data not included).

Federal Member States	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total Beneficiaries
Galmudug State	3001	2835	10486	6256	22,578
Hirshabele State	1557	745	7155	3870	13,327
Jubaland State	1708	4586	7797	6188	20,279
Puntland State	61	85	2402	1735	4,283
Benadir Regional	545	536	890	476	2,447
SSC Khatumo State	6	4	226	263	499
Southwest State	2678	5258	4461	3496	15,893
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>	<b>9,556</b>	<b>14,049</b>	<b>33,417</b>	<b>22284</b>	<b>79,306</b>

As can be observed from the above activities, Somalia has done much effort towards achieving the OAP 28 to 31. However, a lot is still work in progress

### IED EORE



The ongoing conflict has great use of indiscriminating IEDs. These have claimed huge numbers of casualties either caught in crossfire, targeted or ignorantly tempering with them. There is a thin line to avoid being part of the conflict and ushering the much-needed humanitarian assistance. All mine action stakeholders in Somalia agree to the humanitarian need to educate people about these IEDs to reduce casualty numbers. However, the convenient approach is yet to be established to avoid the NGOs being targets.

In 2023 UNIMAS worked on this area and came up with approach, material and information to be disseminated to communities at risk using various platforms to mitigate the numbers of casualties. This has been submitted to SEMA for review and approval in the year 2024

#### **4. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**

Technical characteristics of AP mines found in 2023 include:

In 2023, the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) continued increasing in Somalia, resulting in significant civilian casualties in urban centers and main supply routes. This includes mine ~~sof~~ improvised nature as stipulated in the Oslo Action Plan. The extent of VOLEDs is not clear, however, civilians are impacted both in urban and rural areas of the country.

#### **5. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities**

This matter is not applicable as Somalia never produced /owned or produced anti-personnel mines.

#### **6. Victim assistance**

SEMA completed and launched the national action plan for victim and disability assistance on 4 April Mine Action Day in 2022, in Mogadishu, with the presence of civil society, DPOs, and mine action agencies. The plan is yet to receive financial resources to support the implementation of the action plan.

SEMA has consolidated the national data including data related to victims and accidents to have the full picture of the reported victims recorded in the national database. However, the number of victims is presumably under reported.



SEMA is closely working with victims and disability assistance organizations to coordinate the provision of available services and the following organizations are identified to support victims:

1. Ministry of Health
2. Hospitals
- Institute of Education for Disabled People (IEDP)
3. National Disabled Council (NDC)
4. Somalia Coalition to Ban Landmines (SOCBAL)
5. National Disability Agency

**Table 4. Disaggregated Data for Mine/ERW Casualties**

State	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	unknown	Total
Galmudug	1	6	2	3		12
Hirshabelle	2	5		5		12
Jubaland		17			1	17
Southwest	11	26				37
Puntland		4				4
<b>Total Casualties</b>						<b>82</b>

The Government has prioritized to establish a comprehensive information on the number and situation of persons with disability in Somalia. The National Disability Agency (NDA), which was established in 2021 with a mandate to implement the CRPD in Somalia, spearheaded a study to understand the perceptions and priorities of persons with disabilities across a range of sectors, launched the findings in December 2023.



Besides the mines and ERW casualties, Somalia has a challenge of IED casualties emerging from the ongoing conflict. While HMA seeks to avoid being involved in the conflict, there is an immediate humanitarian need to take care of the huge numbers of casualties from IEDs. The following table shows recorded IED casualties during the year 2023:

**Table 5. Recorded IED casualties in 2023 by region**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Civilian Injured</b>	<b>Civilian Killed</b>
Banadir	130	55
Bari	1	0
Bay	17	7
Galgaduud	2	0
Gedo	13	3
Hiraan	174	81
Lower Juba	10	5
Lower Shabelle	57	45
Middle Shabelle	3	5
Mudug	1	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>201</b>

**8. Cooperation and assistance**



SEMA along with mine action partners continued to build relationships with international donors in and outside Somalia to increase the visibility of the mine action program and highlight the needs of the affected communities in Somalia.

SEMA hosted workshop along with UNDP and GICHD on “beyond square meters” conducting a study on the linkage between Sustainable Development Goals and Mine Clearance in Somalia. The study has not been completed; however, it will provide clear links between development and landmine clearance in Somalia and increase the coordination between SEMA and relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Planning and Development.

In 2022, GICHD and SEMA signed MoU to support information management capacity building for SEMA information management personnel and support licence and migration of the national database from IMSMA NG to IM core. The process is expected to complete end of 2023.

The Japan funded project implemented by HALO Trust has also a component of capacity development for SEMA and national mine action NGO based in Galmudug.

With the support of the ISU, Somalia held a second Individualised Approach event on 23 November 2023, on the margins of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland. This is yet to yield tangible results as donors have been pressed by other demanding priorities elsewhere. However, there are some prospects in the 2024 to 2025 period. Somalia remains optimistic of continued and increased support from the world in order to totally free the country of the landmine menace.

Japan, PMWRA, FCDO, Finland, Ireland, Norway, European Union, Dutch and Germany, have supported the Somalian programme through funding both clearance and EO/RE by operators. Through this support HALO Trust and UNMAS have supported the SEMA operations by capacitating the authority to be able to conduct its role. HALO Trust continued providing incentives and support to SEMA HQ personnel to enable the coordination of the mine action activities in the country and improve information sharing.

Funding from these donors is expected to pull through into 2023. Further assistance to sustain the current capacity or increase is being sought to ensure the programme achieves the goal of a peaceful Somali free from these explosive hazards.