

Somalia briefing for
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional Meetings
22 - 24 June 2021



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Current Explosive Hazard Threats in Somalia

2019 - 2021

- . 57 of ERW/landmine accidents
- . 1,219 of IED accidents
- . 136 of ERW/landmine victims
- . 1,879 of IED civilian casualties



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Clearance Progress made since “1 October 2012”

(e.g. Entry into force or last extension period)

Province	Cancelled area (m ²)	Reduced area (m ²)	Cleared area (m ²)	Total area released (m ²)	Number of AP Mines destroyed	Number of other explosive remnants of war
Jubaland	12,500	-	298,726	311,266	36	2,794
Southwest	192,606	-	89,959,758	90,152,364	12	26,239
Hirshabelle	155,000	-	2,496,583	2,651,583	1	1,885
Galmudug	7,500	-	7,969,609	7,977,109	92	9,777
Puntland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somaliland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	367,606	-	100,724,676	101,092,282	141	40,695

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EORE Progress made since “1 October 2012”

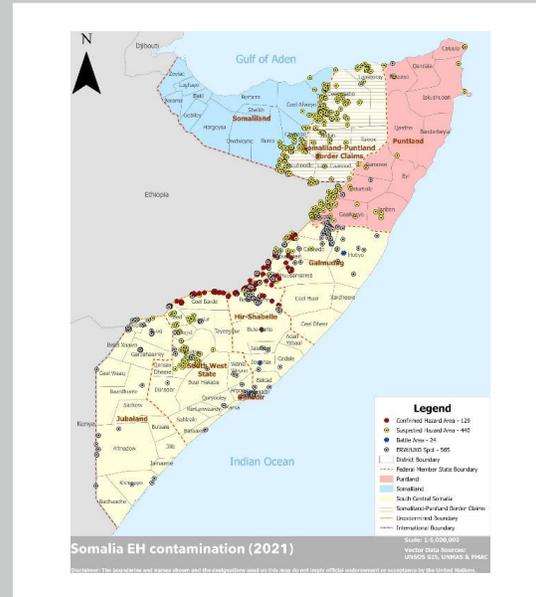
(e.g. Entry into force or last extension period)

Year	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Total
2012	88,593	80,400	21,775	38,598	229,366
2013	211,233	185,540	53,456	75,598	525,827
2014	71,752	56,270	34,733	32,487	195,242
2015	37,961	30,298	22,081	22,309	112,649
2016	7,301	5,926	3,910	4,644	21,781
2017	4,245	2,532	2,400	2,110	11,287
2018	12,359	8,597	5,527	4,181	30,664
2019	17,601	12,006	7,274	6,108	42,989
2020	21,493	15,768	11,635	13,422	62,318
2021 (Jan-June)	8,429	6,239	4,382	5,153	24,203
Total	480,967	403,576	167,173	204,610	1,256,326

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Remaining Challenge

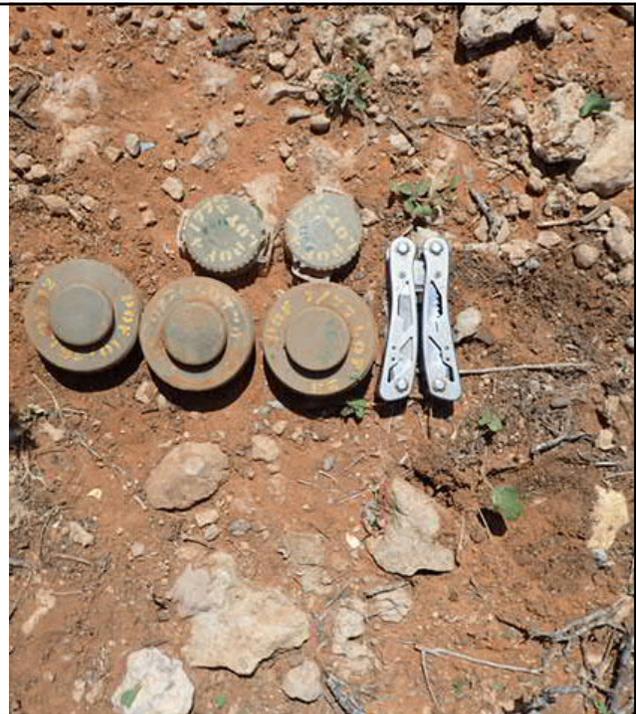
- 72 Suspected Hazardous Areas measuring 68,448,598 square meters (Green)
- 123 Confirmed Hazardous Areas measuring 58,233,679 square meters (Red)



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Circumstances impeding completion article-5

- Insufficient information about the extent of the contamination
- Insufficient information about the impact of the contamination
- Limited access to contaminated areas by our teams because of security concerns
- Limited access to contaminated areas to supervise our teams because of security concerns
- Other types of contamination (such as IED) have had to take priority
- Lack of training
- Lack of resources
- Lack of effective coordination and prioritization



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Extension Period and Rationale

- **Amount of time requested: five years until 1 October 2027**

Somalia is requesting a five-year extension of its deadline under Article of the Convention, 1 October 2022 – 1 October 2027.

- **Rationale:**

- The rationale for the period requested in this document is based on the current human, financial and technical resources available to implement Somalia's obligations under Article 5, as well as the current level of insecurity present in the country.
- Somalia remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, particularly in respect to Article-5, aligned towards the goals of the [Oslo Action Plan, \(2020-2024\)](#), to the fullest extent possible by 2025.
- However, due to the circumstances cited above, Somalia will need to request a period extending beyond the aspirational date of 2025 and will continue to keep the States Parties updated on its progress, in achieving its obligations and goals.

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Activities to be carried out

- Building the national capacity of SEMA, and,
- Continued implementation of land release activities in secure areas.

A two-phase approach will be adopted to implement activities under the respective components.

- Phase 1. Present - 1 October 2022)
- Phase 2. (1 October 2022 – 1 October 2027)



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Expected Milestones

- **Somali's** expected timeline and milestones for completion.

		Jubaland	Southwest	Hirshabelle	Galmudug	Puntland	Total
2020	# of Areas	-	-	-	-	-	10
	Area (m ²)	-	-	-	-	-	9,449,911
2021	# of Areas	-	-	-	-	-	12
	Area (m ²)	-	-	-	-	-	5,744,772
Remaining	# of Areas	1	68	61	64	xx	195
	Area (m ²)	60,340,000	7,931,424	28,156,283	30,254,570	xx	126,682,277

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Challenges and requirements for cooperation and assistance

Key Challenges for Implementation

- Insufficient funding - will affect coordination & productivity
- Access and security – AS, clan conflict, political situation

Requirements for cooperation and assistance:

- Funding - for SEMA and the operators
- Capacity building – to strengthen the national capacity
- Expertise - data management, resource mobilization

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**Intersessional 19th Meeting of the States Parties to the
Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 22-24 June 2021, Virtual.**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia
on Clearance.**

Presented by Dahir Abdurrahman Abdulle-Director General of SEMA

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon, Morning, Evening to everyone depending on the time zones. Today, on behalf of the government of Somalia, I am very pleased and honoured to be here to provide a brief update on Somali request for extension in the article-5 implementation deadline to be considered in the 19th Meeting of State Parties. Let me remind you that under the Ottawa Treaty, Somalia had until October 2022, to remove all known AP mines in its jurisdiction. Only 15 months from today.

During my presentation, I will touch on progress made, remaining challenges, circumstances impeding completion, extension period, milestones and the cooperation and assistance required by the state of Somalia to fulfil its obligation under article-5 of the Anti-personal Mine Ban Convention.

Somalia continues to face greatly the threat from landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and increase the use of improvised explosive devices including mines of improvised nature. Minefields along the border with Ethiopia and unexploded ordnance that is abandoned across rural and urban areas, improvised explosive devices that are used in main supply routes and urban settings continue to endanger the safety of the Somali civilian population including preventing to access productive lands and maintain livelihoods. Since January 2020, more than

136 civilians mostly children were killed and injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance in Somalia. IEDs continue to kill and maim indiscriminately to the civilian population about ten folds more than landmines and explosive ordnance combined. Explosive Ordnance poses a significant threat to the peace, stability and recovery of the country.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

The Federal Government of Somalia submitted its article-5 deadline extension request on 20 April 2021, as required and outlined guidelines from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of APMBC, to the committee of article-5 implementation chaired by Zambia. The five years extension period starts from 1 October 2022 to 1 October 2027.

Somalia acceded to the Convention on 16 April 2012, and the Convention entered into force for Somalia on 1 October 2012. Despite complex contamination with a challenging environment, Somali remained committed to fulfilling obligations outlined under the article-5 of Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention in October 2022, significant progress has been made towards achieving goals, however, due to challenges, Somalia has been unable to achieve its obligations in article-5 under the said deadline.

I need to highlight the achievements in the original 10 years deadline of the convention.

Progress Made

During the last 10 years, the situation in Somalia was very dynamic, despite numerous challenges the Somalia government has established a national mine action program in August 2013, earlier to quantify the contamination was carried out in North and East parts of Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) resulting to identify 1,300 hazard areas, due to armed conflict the land impact survey (LIS) was not conducted in South and Central Somalia, only localized surveys were carried out. Clearance and explosive ordnance disposal, battle area clearance continued removing over 40,000 objects including a small number of landmines. As of 2021,

close to 1.5 million people were reached with Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in Somalia.

Remaining challenges

The dangers of landmines and explosive remnants of war remain to continue to pose a significant threat to the civilian population, despite efforts to contain, the contamination remains at a medium level. Somalia recognizes that ‘mines of an improvised nature’ pose a significant risk to the population. As of 2020, there are 123 confirmed minefields with 16km² area and about 72 suspected minefields are recorded. A further survey is required to provide further evidence on the exact nature and extent of contamination in Somalia and understand the extent of mines of improvised nature in the country.

Circumstances impeding completion

Based on stakeholder engagement during the preparation of the extension request, Somalia identified the following as major causes embedded completion of article-5 implementation in the original 10 years.

1. Insufficient information about the extent of the contamination
2. Insufficient information about the impact of the contamination
3. Limited access to contaminated areas by our teams because of security concerns
4. Limited access to contaminated areas to supervise our teams because of security concerns
5. Other types of contamination (such as IED) have had to take priority
6. Lack of training, lack of resources and lack of effective coordination and prioritisation

Extension Period and Rationale.

The Somali government is requesting a five-year extension of its deadline under Article of the Convention, from 1 October 2022 – 1 October 2027. The rationale for the period request is based

on the current human, financial and technical resources available to implement Somalia's obligations under Article 5, as well as the current level of insecurity present in the country.

The Somali government reiterates its commitment to the convention, implementation of article-5, work towards the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan, however, due to challenges on ground concluding capacity limitation, resources and the requirement to further understand the problem Somali will need to request an extension beyond the aspirational date of 2025. Somalia will keep updating the state parties in its progress of implementation of the article-5 in the convention.

Planned Activities

SEMA will continue to work with stakeholders on lifesaving mine action activities in accessible areas. With consultation of the mine action stakeholders Somalia will submit a detailed, costed and timebound action plan to presented with the extension request. There will be two areas of focus:

- i) Building the national capacity of SEMA, and,
- ii) Continued implementation of land release activities in secure areas.

SEMA will adopt a two-phase approach. Continue land release and capacity building until the deadline of October 2022, a second phase that will cover the extension period from 1 October 2022 to 1 October 2027.

Your excellencies,

In line with our newly submitted extension request to accomplishing our obligation in the article-5 of the Ottawa Treaty, our focus will remain to scale up the mine action program in Somalia to clear mines to make it possible for affected communities to improve their livelihoods, allow unused roads and pasture land to be accessed without fear of landmines.

On behalf of the Government of Somalia, I would like to thank the people and government of donor countries including the Government of Japan, United Kingdom, Norway, EU countries, Germany, United States and the United Nations for their contributions to the mine action

program in Somalia. It is now critical more than ever, as Somalia is requesting an extension of the deadline in the article-5 obligation.

Allow me to conclude my remarks to highly appreciate the unsung heroes, male and female in the field carrying out demining activities and risking their lives to save lives during the pandemic, also special thanks to their mine action entities including the HALO Trust, Norwegian People's Aid, Danish Demining Group, Mines Advisory Group, United Nations Development Program, The Implementation Support Unit of APMBC and the United Nations Mine Action Service and its contractors for their continued support which without their help the current achievement would not have been made. We would like to encourage their support and we look forward to their partnership on our way forward to a mine-free Somalia.

Thank you!