



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Article V Implementation and has the honour to enclose herewith the updated detailed work plan of the mine clearance of Turkey for the remaining period covered by the extension.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Article V Implementation the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 17 March 2015



Encl: as stated

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WORK PLAN FOR MINE CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

1. Nature and Extent of Past Activities:

a. Mine Clearance Activities between December 2013 and January 2015

Mined Area	Province	Number of Cleared Areas	Number of Cleared Mines		Size of Cleared Areas (m ²)
			A/P	A/T	
Areas other than borders	Siirt	-	2	-	-
	Hakkari	-	31	-	-
	Şırnak	-	146	-	-
	Batman	-	4	-	-
Iranian Border	Iğdır	-	78	-	-
	Ağrı	-	83	-	-
	Hakkari	-	109	-	-
Syrian Border	Gaziantep	-	752	9	-
	Kilis	-	276	-	-
	Şanlıurfa	-	8	-	-
	Mardin	-	13	8	-
	Şırnak	-	4	2	-
TOTAL			1506	19	

b. Areas Suspected to Contain Mines:

Region	Province	Number of Mined Areas	Number of Mines	Size of Mined Areas (m ²)	Date of Emplacement
Areas other than borders	Hakkari	97	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Şırnak	82	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Van	6	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Siirt	8	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Mardin	1	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Tunceli	5	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Bingöl	2	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Bitlis	6	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Iranian Border*	Van	30	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Hakkari	8	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Iraqi Border*	Hakkari	310	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Şırnak	63	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Syrian Border	Hatay	18	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Şanlıurfa	50	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Şırnak	16	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
TOTAL		701			

(*) Number of mined areas along the Iraqi border as well as a part of the Iranian border is only an estimate, as precise calculation is hampered by terror activities and the presence of suspected mined areas.

c. Nature and Extent of Remaining Mined Areas (including areas suspected to contain mines):

Areas to be cleared	Province	Number of Ares to be Cleared	Number of Mines to be Cleared		Size of Areas to be Cleared (m ²)
			A/P	A/T	
Areas other than borders	Siirt	36	1.246	-	722.000
	Ardahan	4	418	-	169.800
	Hakkari	181	3.353	-	187.168
	Şırnak	292	18.595	-	930.022
	Van	11	110	-	24.500
	Diyarbakır	21	851	-	133.824
	Batman	15	99	-	516.350
	Mardin	20	352	-	38.483
	Tunceli	158	8.651	-	351.277
	Bingöl	60	275	-	19.175
	Bitlis	75	460	-	15.250
Armenian Border	Ardahan	15	9.685	-	425.707
	Kars	22	10.575	-	641.200
	Iğdır	5	16	-	30.170
Iranian Border*	Iğdır	15	44.366	-	3.540.540
	Ağrı	116	105.556	-	5.556.400
	Van	139	41.704	-	12.180.500
	Hakkari	235	15.657	-	52.371
Iraqi Border*	Hakkari	614	18.607	-	425.313
	Şırnak	355	60.410	-	2.437.522
Syrian Border	Hatay	188	21.043	21.112	13.466.902
	Gaziantep	397	75.498	22.009	15.549.945
	Kilis	366	102.546	33.417	30.846.427
	Şanlıurfa	173	114.245	74.204	17.250.597
	Mardin	230	94.062	42.227	58.072.000
	Şırnak	38	8.041	1.709	9.104.560
TOTAL		3.781	756.420	194.678	172.688.003

(*) Number of mined areas along the Iraqi border as well as a part of the Iranian border is only an estimate, as precise calculation is hampered by terror activities and the presence of suspected mined areas.

2. Remarks on Reasons of Modifications to the Information Pertaining to Mined Areas/Areas Suspected to Contain Mines:

a. Following detailed analysis and comparison of mine clearance reports and reports prepared following incidents caused by animals, wildfires or landslides, it has been concluded that some of these explosions were not properly registered.

b. Re-registration of mine fields, which were initially cleared and deregistered from the records, but not duly certified.

c. Correction of minefield registers where some of the minefields have been found to be registered more than once.

d. Improper completion of registration forms, inability to locate some of the reference points indicated in the registries, incorrect entries of minefield coordinates.

e. Following transfer of responsibility of border areas from the Gendarmerie General Command to the Turkish Land Forces, minefield records for the eastern border, the southeastern border (Iraqi border) and other areas in proximity to these borders were rearranged (re-registration of some minefields along the borders as “minefields in areas other than borders” or vice versa).

3. Methods to Identify Areas which Contain Anti-personnel (A/P) Mines and Reasons to Suspect the Existence of A/P Mines in other Areas:

a. Methods to Identify Mined Areas:

- (1) Existing mine maps, minefield registration forms and/or other documents prepared in lieu of registration forms.
- (2) Statements of local populace.
- (3) Field surveys carried out by mine clearing personnel during mine clearance activities.

b. Existence of Areas Suspected to Contain Mines and Reasons for Suspicion:

- (1) Improper completion of registration forms.
- (2) Inability to locate reference points indicated in the reports.
- (3) Incorrect registration of coordinates.
- (4) Relocation of mines over time due to natural reasons.
- (5) Contamination of mined areas with metal waste (empty shells, ammunition etc.)
- (6) Inability to thoroughly check some areas for mines due to continuing terrorist activities.

4. National Mine Clearance Institutions:

a) Mine clearance activities in areas other than borders are being carried out by mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces within a schedule.

b) Mine clearance activities along the eastern borders are to be carried out as a part of EU Integrated Border Management Project in two phases under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior. Tender preparations for the first phase of the clearance activities are continuing.

c) Mine clearance activities along the Syrian border will commence following the settlement of the armed conflict in Syria and the creation of the Strategic Mine Action Plan after the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) becomes operational. The law on the establishment of a NMAC was adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 22 January 2015 and entered into force following its publication in the Official Gazette on 3 February 2015 by Presidential Approval.

5. Methods and Standards of Clearance of Areas Containing A/P Mines or Suspected to Contain A/P Mines:

a) Mined areas in areas other than borders are cleared with hand tools (mine search stick etc.), canine detection and mechanical mine clearance systems (Bozena-5, mine plough, mine roller etc.)

b) Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards (SBMCS) was developed to support the Syrian Border Mine Clearance Project (SBMCP)

6. Quality Control and Quality Assurance Methods and Standards:

a) At the end of the mine clearance activities, cleared areas are re-checked with mechanical mine clearance systems (Bozena-5, mine plough, mine roller). Additionally, 2-3 days later, final controls are executed with mine detectors and canine teams.

b) Quality control and quality assurance of mine clearance activities along the Syrian border will be executed in accordance with the Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards – 03 Quality Management document.

7. Precautions for Protection of Civilians from Mined Areas:

a) Mined areas in areas other than borders are marked with barbed wire and warning signs in order to prevent entrance of civilians. New warning signs are currently being placed around mined areas to replace deteriorating/old warning signs. If needed, security forces, in coordination with local authorities, inform people by hanging informative posters to communal places like coffee houses, health centres, schools, terminals and places of worship. In villages, officials directly inform local population in appropriate venues. Religious officials also provide similar information in places of worship. It is also possible to make use of local TV and radio channels for this purpose.

b) Mined areas along the Turkish-Syrian border are marked and fenced. In order to keep third persons away from the mined areas, “Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards – 17” document on work field security was prepared.

8. Detailed Mine Clearance Schedule for the Term 2015-2022:

a. Mined Areas in areas other than borders:

(1) Methodology:

a) Until the National Mine Action Centre becomes operational, mine clearance activities will be carried out solely by the mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces within a schedule, using hand detectors, canine teams and mechanical mine clearance systems. Following the establishment of the National Mine Action Centre, the Centre will take over all ongoing mine clearance activities, including tender processes.

b) Prioritization of mine clearance activities is outlined below:

- (1) Areas used for military operations,
- (2) Areas with low or no risk of terrorist threat,
- (3) Areas where the local population may benefit from agriculture and livestock.

(2) Current Status:

Until the National Mine Action Centre becomes operational, mine clearance activities will be carried out solely by the mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces within a schedule, using hand detectors, canine teams and mechanical mine clearance systems.

Following the establishment of the National Mine Action Centre, cleared areas will be certified and opened for humanitarian use.

(3) Mine Clearance Program:

(a) The following table shows the areas to be cleared by the mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces.

Year	Province	To be cleared.			
		Number of Mined Areas	Number of Mines		Size of Mined Area (m ²)
			A/P	A/T	
2015	Diyarbakır	6	267	-	30.600
	Mardin	1	37	-	Unknown
	Siirt	10	363	-	271.650
	Tunceli	5	515	-	Unknown
	Hakkari	6	617	-	56.401
	Şırnak	8	824	-	54.543
	Total	36	2.623		413.194
2016	Batman	3	40	-	63.600
	Diyarbakır	4	187	-	100.000
	Mardin	2	22	-	Unknown
	Tunceli	6	586	-	Unknown
	Hakkari	8	368	-	28.650
	Şırnak	16	2.214	-	15.466
	Total	39	3.417		207.716
2017	Batman	3	14	-	100.000
	Diyarbakır	6	311	-	1.634
	Tunceli	6	334	-	Unknown
	Sırmak	26	1.707	-	39.010
	Total	41	2.366		140.644
2018	Batman	4	34	-	101.450
	Diyarbakır	5	86	-	1.590
	Mardin	1	Unknown	-	Unknown
	Tunceli	6	295	-	Unknown
	Şırnak	24	2.186	-	63.854
	Total	39	2.601		166.894
2019	Batman	4	11	-	190.000
	Bingöl	3	33	-	Unknown
	Mardin	6	161	-	38.000
	Tunceli	4	330	-	Unknown
	Hakkari	14	208	-	7.750

	Şırnak	13	1.950	-	6.424
	Total	44	2.693		242.174
2020	Bingöl	3	28	-	Unknown
	Mardin	6	96	-	483
	Siirt	5	22	-	500
	Tunceli	2	104	-	Unknown
	Hakkari	22	487	-	7.720
	Total	38	737		8.703
2021	Batman	1	Unknown	-	61.300
	Bingöl	1	38	-	950
	Siirt	6	423	-	226.200
	Mardin	4	36	-	Unknown
	Tunceli	5	239	-	Unknown
	Hakkari	11	396	-	13.178
	Şırnak	15	2.989	-	33.960
	Total	43	4.121		335.588
TOTAL	280	18.558		1.514.913	

(b) The following table shows the areas which are not planned to be cleared by the mine clearance units of the Turkish Armed Forces but to be cleared in accordance with the Mine Action Plan which will be prepared following the establishment of the National Mine Action Centre. The budget for clearing these areas will be prepared by the National Mine Action Centre.

Year	Province	To be cleared.			
		Number of Mined Areas	Number of Mines		Size of Mined Area (m ²)
			A/P	A/T	
2015-2022	Bingöl	53	176	-	18.225
	Bitlis	75	460	-	15.250
	Siirt	15	438	-	223.650
	Tunceli	125	6.248	-	351.277
	Ardahan	4	418	-	169.800
	Van	11	110	-	24.500
	Hakkari	120	1.277	-	73.469
	Şırnak	190	6.725	-	716.765
TOTAL	593	15.852		1.592.936	

(4) Budget:

Year	Estimated Resource (TL)	Remarks
2015	8.900.000	Includes the projected cost of salaries of mine clearance personnel as well as mine clearance equipment and mine field marking items.
2016	9.800.000	
2017	10.750.000	
2018	11.800.000	The budget of mine clearance activities to be carried out by the National Mine Action Centre will be prepared by the Centre following its establishment.
2019	13.000.000	
2020	14.300.000	
2021	15.750.000	
TOTAL	84.300.000	

(5) Risks and Assumptions about the Implementation of the Plan:

- (a) Delays during the establishment process of the National Mine Action Centre.
- (b) Terrorist threats to mine clearance activities and personnel.
- (c) Adverse weather conditions which may shorten mine clearance activities to 5-6 months in a year.

b. Eastern Borders:

(1) Methodology:

Mine clearance activities along the eastern borders are to be carried out as part of an EU Integrated Border Management Project in two phases under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior. Tender preparations for the first phase of clearance activities are ongoing.

(2) Current Situation:

Tender preparations for the first phase of the clearance activities are ongoing.

(3) Mine Clearance Program:

Year	Phase	To be cleared.			
		Number of Mined Areas	Number of Mines		Size of Mined Area (m ²)
A/P	A/T				
2015-2017	Phase-1	223	189.863	-	11.669.907
2017-2019	Phase-2	Field surveys are continuing	Field surveys are continuing	Field surveys are continuing	Field surveys are continuing

(4) Budget:

Year	Estimated Resource (Euros)	Remarks
2015-2017	26.400.000	Resources allocated for the 1st Phase of the Integrated Border Management Project
2017-2019	13.426.664	Resources allocated for the 2st Phase of the Integrated Border Management Project
TOTAL	39.826.664	

(5) Risks and Assumptions about the Implementation of the Plan:

Contractors may not be able to finish their activities in planned time frame and problems may occur during the bidding process.

c) Southeastern Border (Iraqi Border):

(1) Methodology:

Following the establishment of the National Mine Action Centre and completion of the mine clearance activities along the eastern border in two phases under the coordination of the Ministry of Interior and within the scope of EU Integrated Border Management Project, remaining mined areas along the Iraqi border and eastern border are planned to be cleared in accordance with the Strategic Mine Action Plan to be prepared by the National Mine Action Centre.

(2) Current Situation:

Establishment of the National Mine Action Centre and bidding process of the first phase of the Integrated Border Management Project are ongoing.

(3) Mine Clearance Program:

Year	Province	Number of Mined Areas	To be cleared.		Size of Mined Area (m ²)
			A/P	A/T	
2019-2021	Şırnak	355	60.410	-	2.437.522
	Hakkari	614	18.607	-	425.313
TOTAL		969	79.017	-	2.862.835

(4) Budget:

Year	Estimated Resource (TL)	Remarks
2019-2021	-	The resource required will be determined by the National Mine Action Centre following its establishment.

(5) Risks and Assumptions about the Implementation of the Plan:

Delays during the establishment process of the National Mine Action Centre.

d. Syrian Border:

(1) Methodology:

After the initiation of the bidding process of the Mine Clearance Project along the Syrian border on 2 February 2012, the bidding was cancelled on 20 June 2013 due to armed conflicts in Syria. Mine clearance activities along the Syrian border will commence following the settlement of armed conflicts in Syria and the preparation of a Strategic Mine Action Plan by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) after it becomes operational.

(2) Current Situation:

Political instability continues in Syria.

(3) Mine Clearance Program:

As mine clearance activities along the Syrian border will commence following the settlement of armed conflicts in Syria and the preparation of a Strategic Mine Action Plan by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC). The clearance work will be coordinated by the National Mine Action Centre.

(4) Budget:

Budgetary planning will be made by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) in accordance with the Strategic Mine Action Plan.

(5) Risks and Assumptions about the Implementation of the Plan:

- (a) Continuation of political instability in Syria.
- (b) Delays in clearance work by the contractors and problems in the bidding process.

LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CENTER

1. Law No: 6586 on “Establishment of a National Mine Action Centre and Amendment of Some Other Laws” with the aim of defining modalities and basis regarding functions, jurisdictions and responsibilities of the National Mine Action Centre, which will carry out mine and/or unexploded ammunition clearance activities with humanitarian purposes within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, was adopted on 22 January 2015 by the Turkish Grand National Assembly and entered into force on 3 February 2015 following its publication in the Official Gazette.
2. The abovementioned law entitles the National Mine Action Centre, established under the Ministry of National Defence, to define policies towards mine and/or unexploded ammunition clearance activities with humanitarian purposes within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, to plan and steer these activities, to monitor the execution of such activities in accordance with the established rules, to carry out the necessary coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions.
3. The establishment process of the National Mine Action Centre has already started and following the official inauguration of the Centre, the Mine Action Strategy for the term 2016-2022 will be prepared within the year 2015 and submitted to the Council of Ministers.