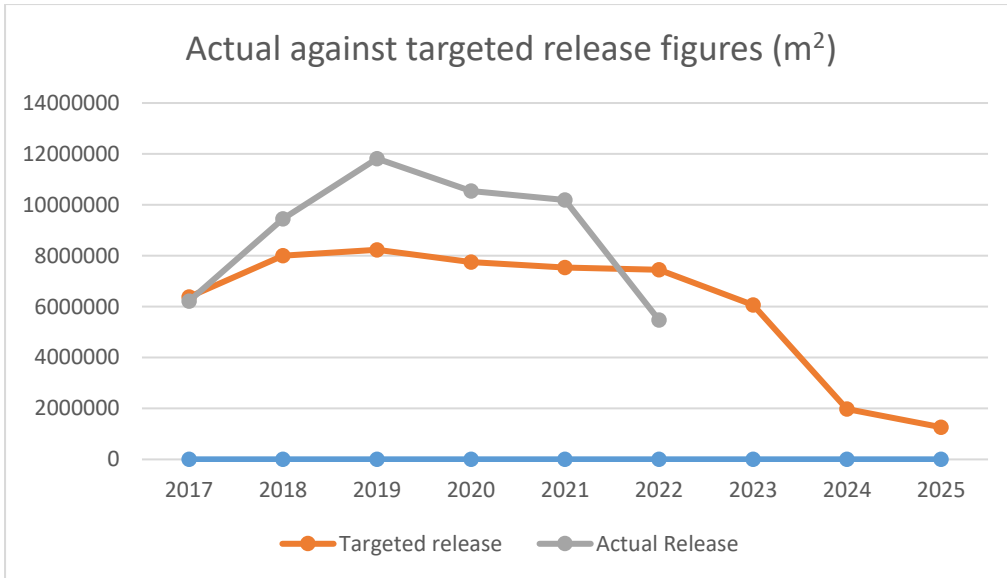


ZIMBABWE'S UPDATE TO THE 20 MSP NOVEMBER 2022

1. As you are aware, Zimbabwe was given an eight-year extension period during the 16MSP with a deadline of 31 December 2025. Accordingly Zimbabwe formulated the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018 to 2025 to ensure completion was achieved during this extension period. The Zimbabwe mine action programme has managed to keep on track with the strategic plan targets for the past five years of the eight- year extension period. Zimbabwe had its mid-term National Strategic Plan and Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategy Review in November 2021 and October 2022 respectively. The notable realisation from the reviews was that while the 2025 deadline remains within reach, there has been a worrisome reduction in annual land release figures in 2022 which greatly threatens the goal. This is a result of economic environment, donor funding and global pandemics that will be described below. In this case, Zimbabwe is battling to restore the prior years' capacity and output levels to safeguard the 2025 dream.

PROGRESS TODATE

2. Zimbabwe's 8-yr extension period started on 01 Jan 2018 with a contamination of 61,793,990 m², covering 7 mined areas in four provinces. In some cases these areas stretch across several districts while some districts would be crossed by more than one area. During the five years, Zimbabwe completed two stretches covering four districts, namely Centenary, Mt Darwin, Mutare and Mutasa. These areas have been declared mine free and handed over to beneficiaries. The remaining contamination covers five districts. The graphs below show the annual release figures against the planned for the past five years. (The 2022 release figure is as at 31 October 2022.)



The total area released during the five years since the start of this extension period amounts to **48,170,453 m²**

This is disaggregated as follows:

Clearance **11,500,487 m²**

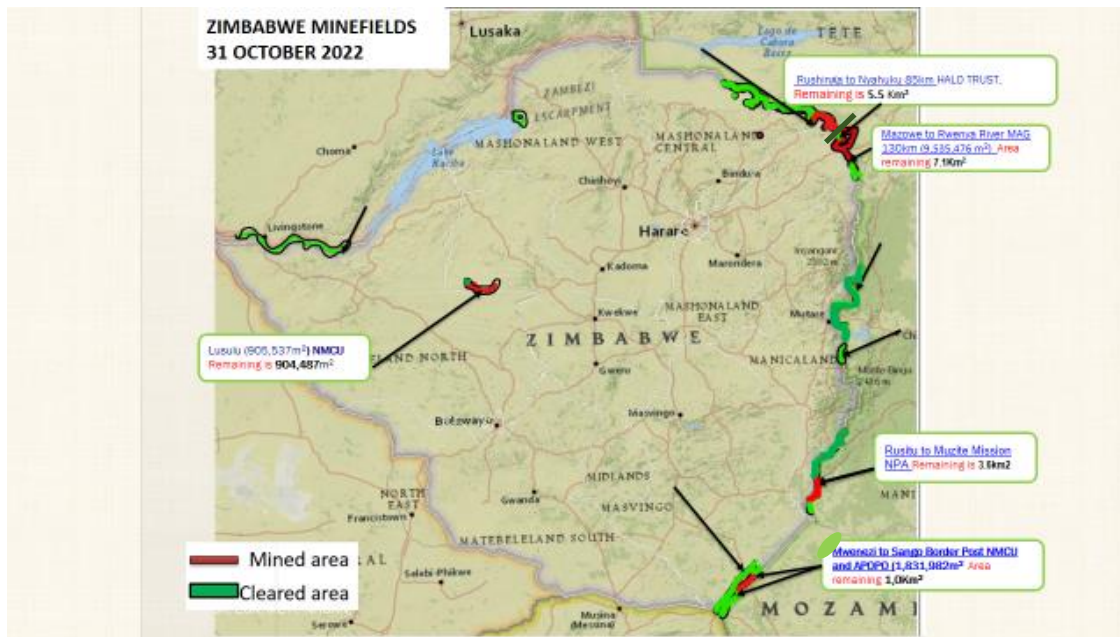
Reduction **28,289,145 m²**

Cancellation **8,380,821 m²**

A total of 144,756 AP mines were destroyed while 04 AT mines were recovered and destroyed.

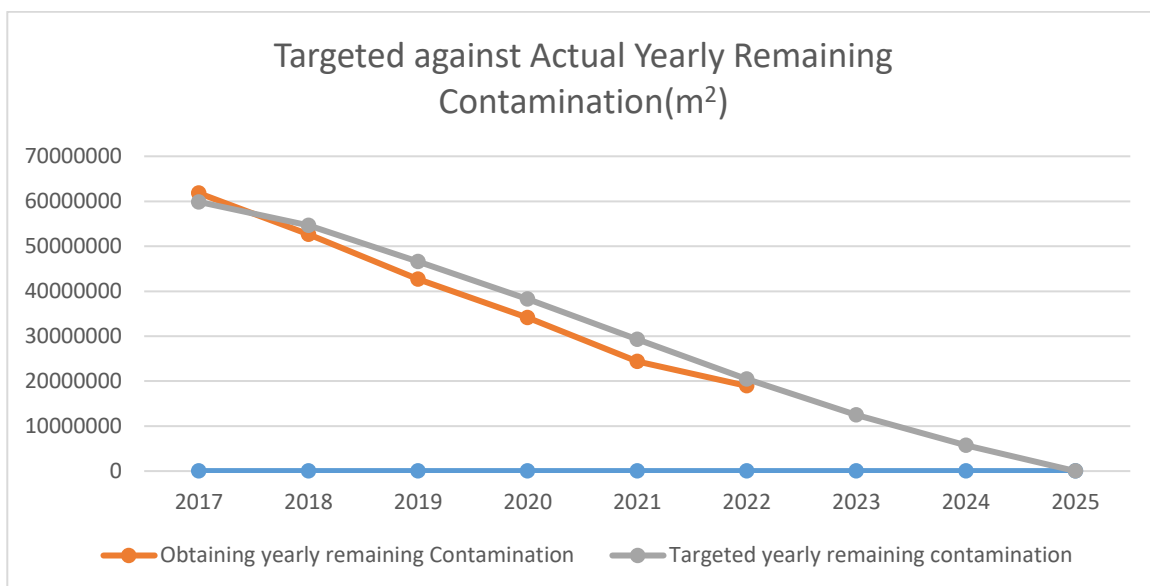
REMAINING CHALLENGE

As of 31 October 2022, Zimbabwe has a remaining Article 5 challenge of 5 areas with a contamination of 18,943,413 m². This is distributed on the minefield stretches as shown on the Map.



PLAN/ TIMELINE FOR ADDRESSING THE REMAINING CHALLENGE

From the graph, the actual yearly remaining contamination line has been kept below the targeted even though there are some additional square metres emanating from resurveys. However, in 2022, the graph shows that the obtaining remaining contamination line is rising and may rise above the planned yearly remaining contamination. Thus, the current capacity may not sustain the 2025 goal.



The annual objective is to keep the orange line below the grey one and in that process, zero remaining by 2025 can be achieved. However, this is only achievable if the current capacity is **increased and maintained** up to 2025. This requires continued international support.

Zimbabwe plans to release the remaining contaminated areas as per the table:

Year	2022 (December)	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL	REMARKS
Annual release figure	143,000	6,300,413	6,500,000	6,000,000	18,943,413	

This is achievable as such generally Zimbabwe remains **on track** to meet its mine clearance obligations under the article 5 by its deadline (12/2025). This all depends with the resources made available both from the donor community and the Government of Zimbabwe.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION.

With the reduction of COVID 19, implementing partners have resumed explosive ordnance risk education sessions. The teams are reaching out to those living close to mined areas as well as in former battle areas where other UXOs have caused injuries to communities. Zimbabwe has a national capacity for MRE in place, and the Army Engineers continue to be the back bone of national capacity. Their strategic locations enables easy reaching out to all ‘at risk communities’. These are prioritised alongside survey and mine clearance activities in the targeted communities.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Zimbabwean programme continues to improve on gender and diversity considerations in all its activities. ZIMAC and the operating partners are improving the representation of women in the mine action programme. While ZIMAC is yet to come up with a gender and diversity policy, presently, the ratio of women in the programme has risen to over 30 % of the total staff, including management staff positions.

CHALLENGES

6. The Zimbabwe Mine Action Programme's progress has been affected greatly in 2022 by challenges which include:

a. The Economic Environment. The prevailing global economic problems are not sparing the programme. The fall of exchange rates have contributed to the fall of capacity. Funds in some currencies can no longer achieve what they could achieve a year or two ago. The rise of prices have also resulted in the fall in capacity. Also, the Government cannot maximise the capacity of its National Mine Clearance Unit capacity due to the economic environment.

b. Donor Funding. Zimbabwe has experienced reduction in donor funding. To see this programme get to the finishing line on the set time frame, Zimbabwe needs sustained support. It would be very important if new donors would come on board. As outlined in the 2022 Article 7 Report submitted this year, Zimbabwe needs up to US\$ 48 million to complete the job by 2025.

c. Global Pandemics. The global devastating pandemics do not spare Zimbabwe and the programme to be specific. In recent years, lockdowns and some restrictions resulted in restricted working environment which then resulted in low output. It is hoped that the environment keep on improving.

CONCLUSION

7. Zimbabwe is committed to maintain an effective programme which can be exemplary to other States Parties who seek to achieve their Article 5 obligations. Zimbabwe acknowledges the contribution of the donors, operators as well as assistance by GICHD and ISU to all the achievements registered to date. The programme has high hopes that the National Dialogue (funded by the EU) to be hosted in January 2023 will create the required impetus to take us to 2025 and beyond.



Zimbabwe update on progress in Implementation of Article 5 Obligations



Zimbabwe update on progress in Implementation of Article 5 Obligations

- Current deadline: [31 December 2025]
- Zimbabwe is sitting on an 8 yr extension period (2018 to 2025)

Progress Todate



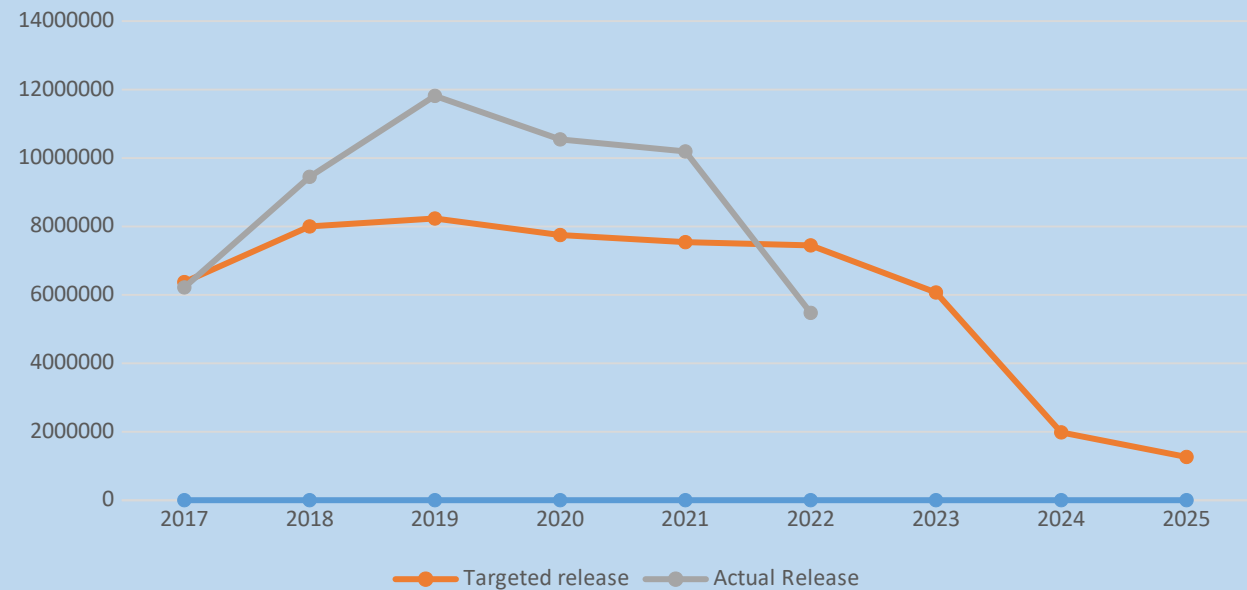
Contamination in total on last extension request 1 Jan 2018.)

7 Areas

61,793,990 m²

Progress made

Actual against targeted release figures (m2)



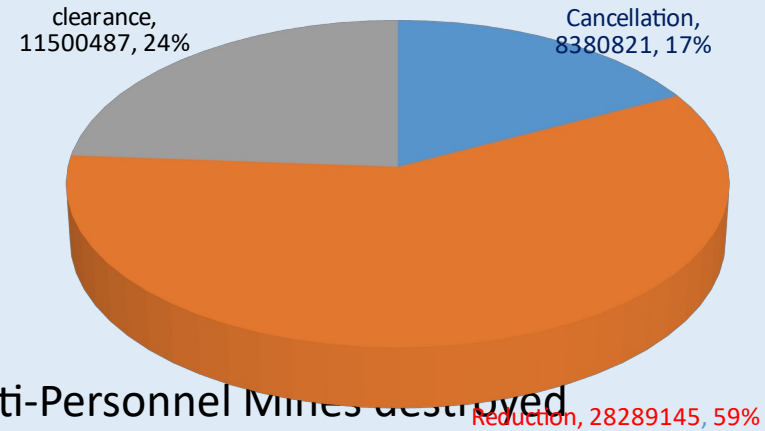
Progress Made Todate



Since last extension request (1 Jan 2018.)

Area released 48,170,453 m²

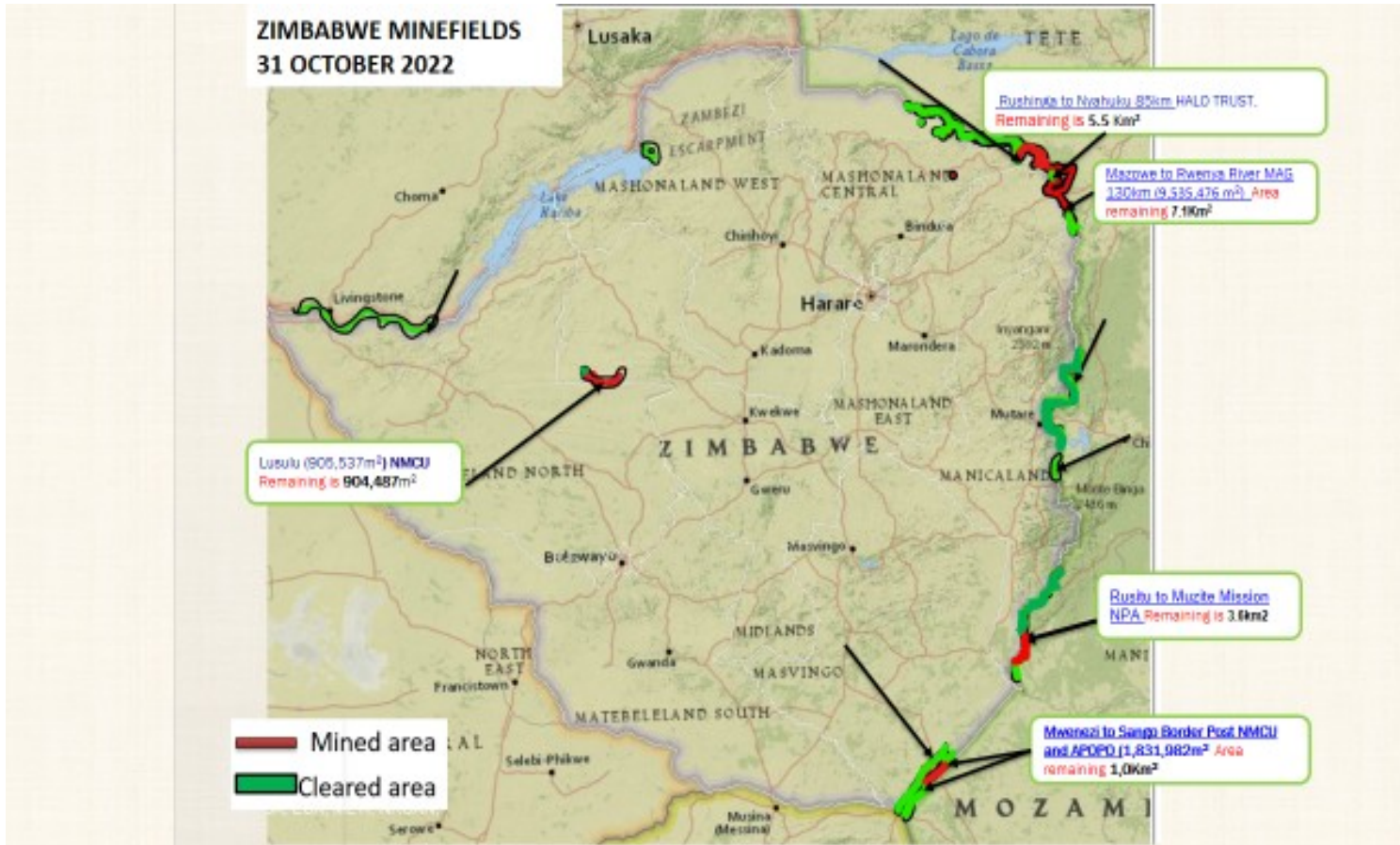
Aggregation of Land released since the start of the extension period 2018 -2022 (October)



144,756 Anti-Personnel Mines destroyed
04 AT mines



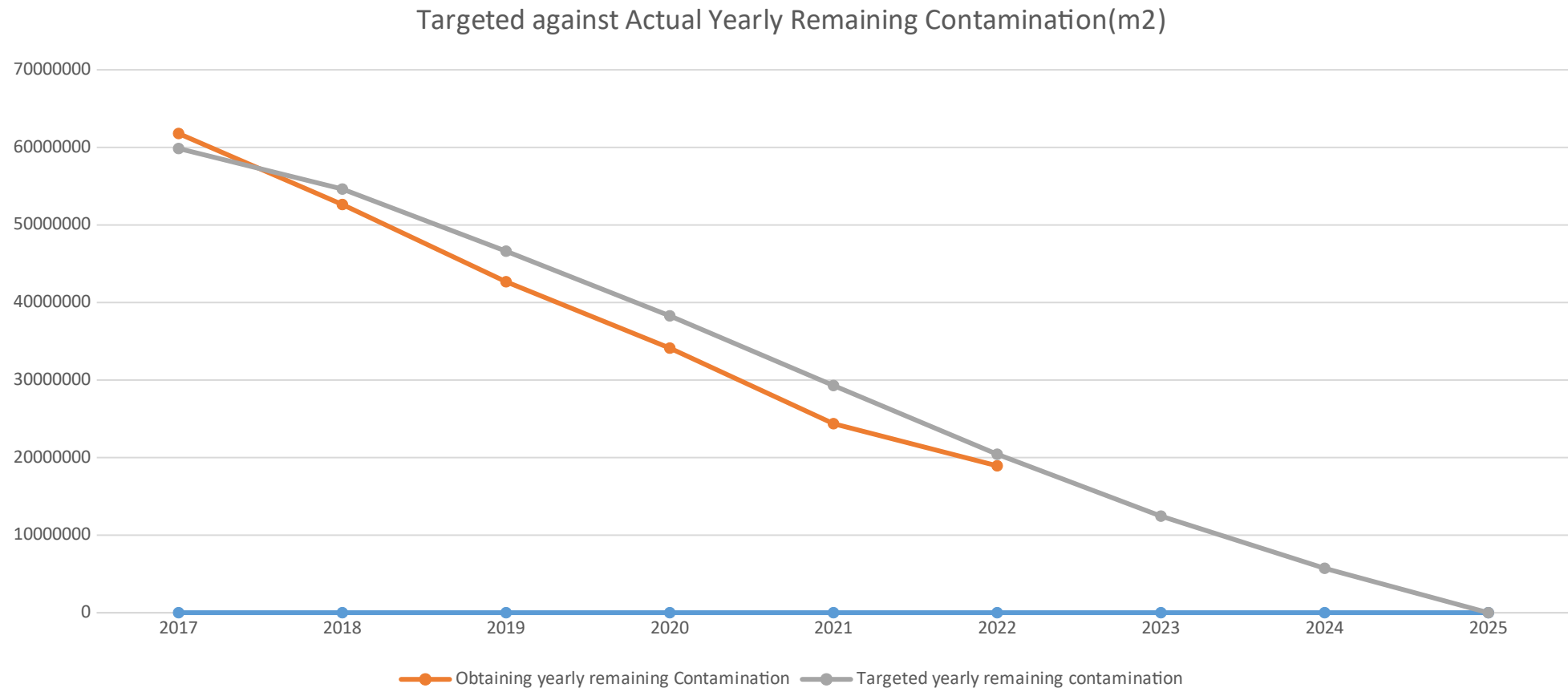
Remaining challenge



- 5 Confirmed Hazardous Areas
- Total remaining CHA (31 Oct 2022) is 18,943,413 m²



Plan / Timeline for Addressing the Remaining challenge





Plan / Timeline for Addressing the Remaining challenge

- Subject to continued donor funding, Zimbabwe plans to release the following per given year

Year	Amount of Area	Remarks
2022	143,000m ²	Nov to Dec 2022
2023	6,300,413m ²	
2024	6,500,000m ²	
2025	6,000,000m ²	
Total	18,943,413m²	

- As such **Zimbabwe remains on track** to meet its mine clearance obligations under Article 5 by its deadline (12/2025) if given the necessary international and national support



Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

- EORE Teams are reaching out to those living close to mined areas as well as in former battle areas where other UXOs have caused injuries to communities.
- Army Engineers continue to be the back bone of national capacity in terms of risk education. Their strategic locations enables easy reaching out to all 'at risk communities'



Dender and Diversity

- While ZIMAC is yet to come up with a gender and diversity policy, presently, the ratio of women in the programme has risen to over 30 % of the total staff.



Challenges

- Global economic environment.
- Donor Funding decline.
- Global Pandemics.



CONCLUSION