



**Intersessional Meeting of the States Parties to the
Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 19-21 June 2023**

**The Federal Republic of Somalia
Summary of updated Article 5 Work Plan**

Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle (Director General of SEMA)

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen.

On behalf of Somalia, I am honored to be here with you today. It is indeed a privilege to provide an update on the content of the recently submitted Work Plan for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). Allow me to present the key notes of it:

- Somalia initially ratified the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) on 1 Oct 2012.
- The first 10-year period term was not enough to fulfill the obligations due to various factors, predominantly security access and shortage of funding.
- The second term extension was granted by the Member States for five more years, from Oct 2022 to Oct 2027.
- Subsequently, Somalia submitted a comprehensive updated and costed five-year work plan to the Member States in April 2023.
- The work plan was consulted with ISU and mine action partners in the country.
- The work plan mainly reflects costed work plan for the implementation of Non-technical Survey.
- The work plan also includes costed work plan for the implementation of risk education and land release activities.
- It also details the area size of the remaining hazard areas and annual milestones of priority on how to address them.
- The hazardous area stretches across all Federal Member States as well as along the Somalia-Ethiopia border areas.

- The national mine action Program has now the ownership of a consolidated national mine action database and transitioning to a functioning IMSMA Core system by the end of 2023.
- The data recorded include 16 km² land released while close to 170 km² hazardous area that need further intervention.
- As a primary solution to exclude civilians from hazardous areas, risk education was provided to more than 1.9 million beneficiaries over the past 10-year term.
- Risk education messages were sensitive to age, gender, disability and took the diverse needs of the at-risk communities including IDPs, returnees, and children.
- Within the same period, more than 1,500 civilians were affected by mines or ERW, and close to 8,000 civilians affected by IEDs.
- Due to the recurring conflict and security issues, several districts are not accessible for intervention and nation-wide survey has not yet been materialized.
- The impact of inter-clan conflict limits the deployment of mine clearance teams across differing regions.
- Districts that are yet to be liberated will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Distinguished delegates,

- Explosive ordnance contamination in Somalia is known to cause a threat to the safety of the communities living in proximity to hazardous, their livestock and properties.
- The Somalia Explosive Management Authority is the custodian of this work plan to coordinate the planned implementation of the milestones.
- For this purpose, SEMA offices have been supported by the partners to function as explosive management bodies.
- To sustain and strengthen the current national mine action capacity, further capacity development support is necessary from partners and donors.
- International mine action entities have been operating in Somalia; however, some of them have recently left the country due to decline in funding.
- National mine action partners are also available but have limited funding resources to operate independently and thus, rely on partnerships with the intentionals.
- The work plan will focus mainly on NTS to release land through an evidence-based decision-making process, to determine with confidence, which land needs further action.

- There is a mixed nature of contamination in Somalia, and the survey of suspected anti-personnel mine contamination will be prioritised simultaneously with other contamination types.
- Implementation of the work plan will consider the differing needs of the potential beneficiaries and their voice is heard to gather more inclusive data and benefit from the awareness sessions.

Distinguished delegates,

- This plan will prioritise NTS to redefine the actual extent of contamination across the FMS.
- Parallel to the NTS, operators will conduct clearance to release the sites of the confirmed hazardous areas.
- Considering the nature of the contamination present, clearance priorities will be given to areas with a history of AP landmine contamination.
- The implementation of the planned activities requires a total cost of US\$23 million, of which only 27% was secured.
- For a successful implementation of the action plan, financial support is necessary from partners, donors, and the Federal Government of Somalia.

Current status of implementation of workplan

Following the submission of the work plan, the mine action operators in Somalia have already aligned most of their activities to the milestones of the plan, focusing mainly on a comprehensive **Non-technical Survey** (NTS) exercise, to better map out the accurate extent and nature of landmine-contamination across the country. As indicated in the last progress update, The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) carried out an intensive NTS exercise in Puntland State of Somalia. Similarly, The HALO Trust has just commenced NTS activity in Galmudug State of Somalia. Our plan is to expand similar NTS activity to the remaining states of Southwest and Jubaland.

In parallel, the partners also continued providing **Explosive Ordnance risk education** in the affected communities. Since the last MSP meeting update, the risk education teams reached out 35,237 beneficiaries, of which 76% are children (15,249 boy, 11,547 girls), 24% are adults (3,604 men, 4,837 women), and 15% of total beneficiaries are IDPs.

To date, the consolidated national database has recorded **174** confirmed hazards areas measuring **46,525,774** square meters, and another **499** suspected hazardous areas measuring **80,098,593** square meters remained majority along the Somalia-Ethiopia border areas that need further NTS and

clearance action. With tremendous support of GICHD, UNMAS and all mine action operators, the national mine action database has a consolidated data set that is available for planning and prioritizing the remaining tasks. For further efficiency in our data management, the database is transitioning from IMSMA NG to IMSMA Core by the end in 2023.

Under such a tense situation, Somalia continues to face **explosive hazard threat** - of landmines, explosives remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) affecting innocent civilian population indiscriminately. Since the last MSP meeting about **19** civilians were killed and injured by mines and ERW in **6** locations in the country. Sadly, **58%** of the victims were children. Over the same period, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) continue to harm civilians at disproportionate rates compared to other explosive ordnance causing the deaths and injuries of **300** people mainly in urban areas and main supply routes.

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Somalia, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the people and governments of the donor countries and organizations, for their generous contributions to the mine action program in Somalia.

Your continued support is making a difference in the lives of Somali population giving them hope for peaceful and safer Somalia. Your generous support is always much needed by the Government of Somalia in stepping up our capability to meet the planned obligations of the convention.

I Thank You!