

## **ETHIOPIA UPDATE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION**

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention – 5 Review Conference, Siem Rea,  
Cambodia**

**24– 29 November, 2024**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman,

I am honored to address this esteemed gathering as a representative of Ethiopia in the beautiful city of Siem Reap. I am here to present an overview of Ethiopia's efforts and challenges regarding the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

**Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

I commend the current chair Cambodia and the organizing committee as well as esteemed donors for the remarkable work done in organizing the event in Siem Ream. Congratulations, Excellency.

Ethiopia continues to face significant humanitarian and development challenges posed by landmine contamination. While progress has been made in addressing known hazards, vast areas remain contaminated, and recent conflicts have likely introduced new contamination, particularly in the northern regions. A comprehensive survey and assessment of these areas are urgently needed to establish the full extent of the problem. Additionally, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) faces capacity gaps, particularly in technical expertise and



resources, further complicating the ability to address these challenges effectively. These realities underscore the importance of Ethiopia's request for an Article 5 extension, which seeks to ensure adequate time and support to address remaining and newly identified contamination, build national capacity, and fulfill its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

**The Government of Ethiopia's unwavering** commitment to the realization of the convention is attested by the recent event of an organizational accreditation that has been granted to six international mine action organizations and three national NGOs, including The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), BBC Media Action, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Danish Church Aid (DCA), and Humanity and Inclusion (HI). Following the accreditation process, the Government of Ethiopia has engaged extensively with these organizations and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to develop and formalize a comprehensive and pragmatic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaborative effort resulted in the signing of the MoU between the INGOs and the Ministry of Defense of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on 14 November 2024.

To ensure safe, secure, and reliable operational deployment, EMAO, with the support of UNMAS and in close consultation with all accredited organizations, has **developed 12 National Mine Action Standards (NMAAS)** and two Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These standards are designed to enhance the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of mine action operations nationwide. The draft NMAAS and SOPs are currently undergoing final review and are expected to be endorsed in the near future.

In preparation to Ethiopia's **forthcoming third Article 5 extension request in December 2025**, the Ethiopian Defense Mine Action Office (EMAOS), in partnership with UNMAS, has initiated a series of regional consultations with mine-affected areas under the theme dialogue for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine



Ban Convention and the development of a comprehensive National Mine Action Strategy. To date, a joint team comprising representatives from EMAO and UNMAS has engaged in extensive discussions with a broad range of regional stakeholders, including affected community members, government officials, administrative bodies, and both local and international NGOs.

These **consultations**, particularly in the Afar and Somali regions, have been highly productive. Stakeholders have collaboratively identified priority areas for mine action interventions and established a preliminary work plan to guide the implementation of these activities. Further consultation will be undertaken in the Benshangul gum, Gambella, and Tigray regions to ensure that affected communities particularly men, women, boys, and girls obtained the assistance that they deserve. This collaborative approach underscores Ethiopia's commitment to addressing its mine contamination challenges in a structured and inclusive manner.

This year, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) has notably commenced **land release operations**, with a specific emphasis on addressing large minefields in the Somali region. Through a collaborative analysis supported by UNMAS, several minefields were identified as having exceptionally inflated and unrealistic recorded sizes. In response, EMAO deployed teams to Aware Woreda in the Somali region to conduct Non-Technical Survey (NTS) and Technical Survey (TS) activities. This strategic deployment is anticipated to result in the cancellation of hundreds of square kilometers, contingent on rigorous desk-based and field assessments.

In the coming months, we aim to deploy EOD and Clearance tasks in priority regions, with support from partners and accredited INGOs. Detailed plans are developed, but their success is contingent upon resource availability and technical assistance.



Ethiopia reaffirms its commitment to mine action but the success is dependent on partnership, collaboration, and support from other States Parties and donors. We appreciate your continuous backing and remain optimistic about achieving our shared goal of a mine-free Ethiopia.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support. Together, we can make Ethiopia free from explosive ordnance contamination once again.



## Ethiopia's Progress on Article 5 Implementation of the APMBC

**BRIG GEN Tadesse Amelo, Director Ethiopian Mine Action Office**  
**27 Nov 2024, Siem Reap, Cambodia**





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Accreditation and MoU Signing



Regional consultation for AMPBC Extension Request

Development of Ethiopian National Mine Action Standards





# CONSULTATION AND TRAINING WITH LIMITED CLEARANCE

- Regional consultations with stakeholders in mine-affected areas.
- Identification of priority areas for intervention and preliminary work plans.



- Land release operations initiated, focusing on the Somali region.





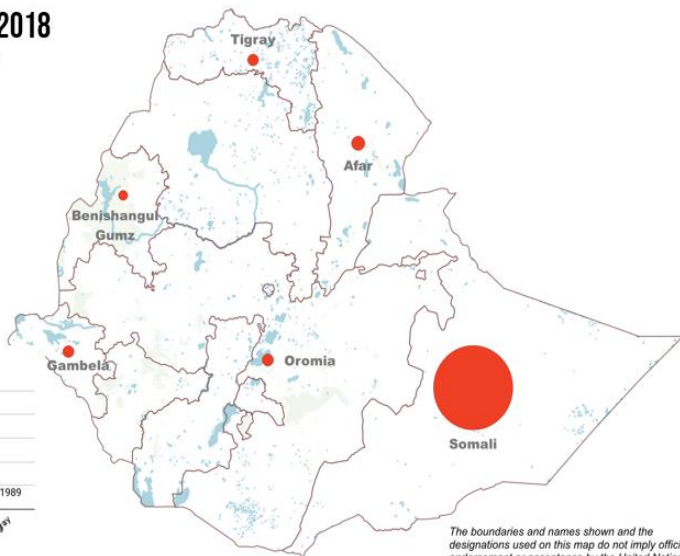
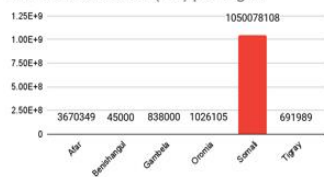
# 2022-2023, AREA CANCELATION IN SOMALI REGION AND ASSESSMENT IN TIGRAY REGION

## CONTAMINATION END OF 2018

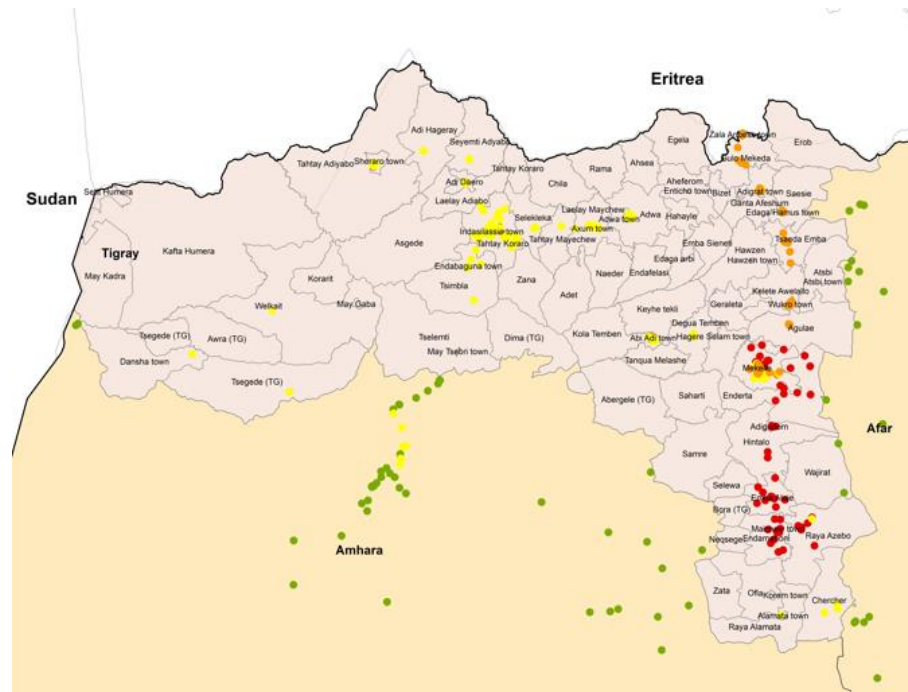
CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED HAZARDOUS AREAS

In 2018 **99.4 %** of the identified contaminated areas were in **Somali**

Area contaminated (m2) per region



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.





## ASSESSMENT, AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION CONTINUED

EMAO staff along with partners (UNMAS) continued marking and removal of Explosive Ordnance in Afar and Tigray



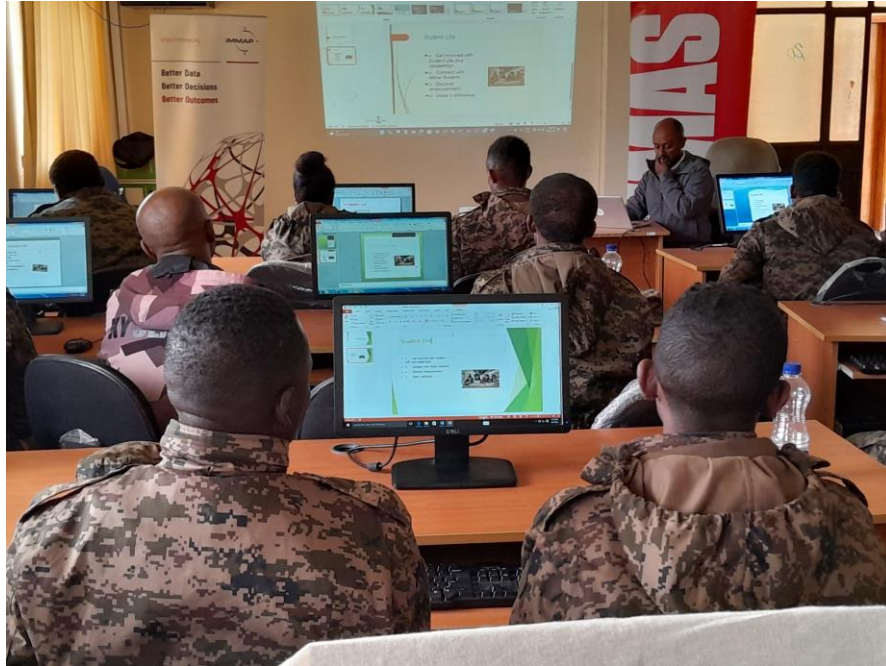
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education delivered in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray Regions benefiting over 200,000 beneficiaries





# ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023 AND 2024

GIS and NTS training sessions were conducted to support EMAO's deployment in assessment, cancellation, and reduction efforts.



EMAO staff supported by UNMAS undertaking a joint assessment mission to Afar region.

In support of Mine Action operations in Northern Ethiopia and legacy minefield clearance 6 INGOs were accredited





# SUMMARY OF EFFORTS MADE PURSUANT TO PAST DECISION IN 2019

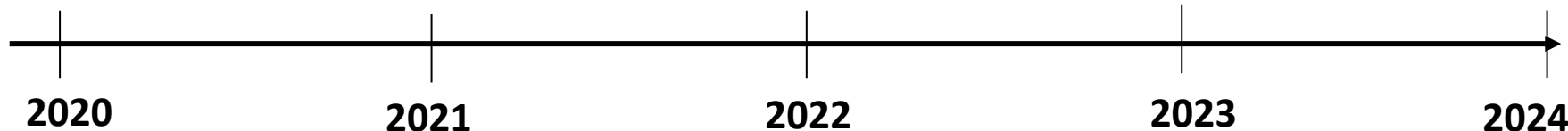
In 2020, the focus shifted to re-aligning internal capacity to implement the work plan and prioritizing **training** and consultation amid **COVID-19**

**74 km** stretch of road was cleared and area cancelation/reduction was conducted in the Somali region

Emphasis was given to Risk Education due to the conflict in Northern Ethiopia – **3 local NGOs** accredited

Partners continued delivering EORE, engagement of **JICA/ CMAC/ UNMAS** initiative, Organizational accreditation standard drafted

**6 INGOs** accredited, MoU signed  
**12 National** standards drafted





Thank You

