



MND Turkish Mine Action Center
22th Meeting of the State Parties
Geneva, (01-05 December 2025)



APMBC and Türkiye's Status



* **Türkiye** acceded to the Convention on 25 September 2003, and the Convention **entered into force** for Türkiye on **1 March 2004**

* In 2011 at the 11th Meeting of the States Parties, it was announced that **Türkiye** had **completed its stockpile (anti-personnel mines) destruction** fulfilling its **Article 4** obligation.

- * Türkiye submitted 2 requests to extend its mine clearance deadline under **Article 5** obligation;
 - In 2014 (for 8 years)
 - In 2022 (for 3 years 9 months)
 - **In 2025 New Extension Request (for 5 years)**



Türkiye Land Mine Contamination Map

Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs): 93.189.617 m²
Suspected Hazardous Areas (STAs): 126.713.843 m²
Total of 219,903,460 m² of land mine contamination exists

3.656 contaminated areas
730.937 landmines



Since 2017, approximately **50 million m²** (Cleared, Reduced and Cancelled) areas has been subject to Humanitarian Mine Action activities. In total of **226,627 mines** have been destroyed.

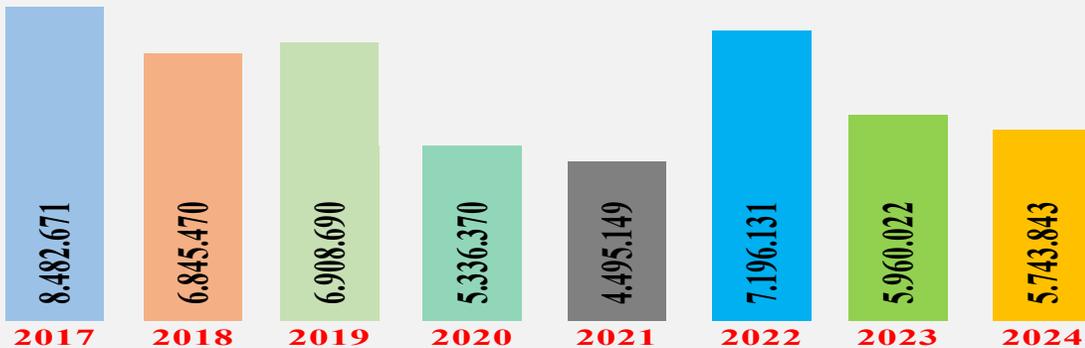
2025 Current Mine Clearance
 (As of November 9, 2025)

Manually Cleaned Areas 473.790 m²

Destroyed Land Mine
526

Types of Mines Destroyed

- 269 DM11**
- 14 M2**
- 146 M14**
- 62 M16**
- 35 AT**



Progress During The Previous Extension Period

Türkiye was granted a **three (3) years and nine (9) month extension** of its 1 March 2022 deadline to fulfil its obligations under Article 5 until 31 December 2025.

Within the scope;

- ✓ The Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3 was completed,
- ✓ The Non-Technical Survey Project was carried out,
- ✓ The capacity of military demining units increased and clearance efforts continue.
- ✓ EORE Activities were conducted.



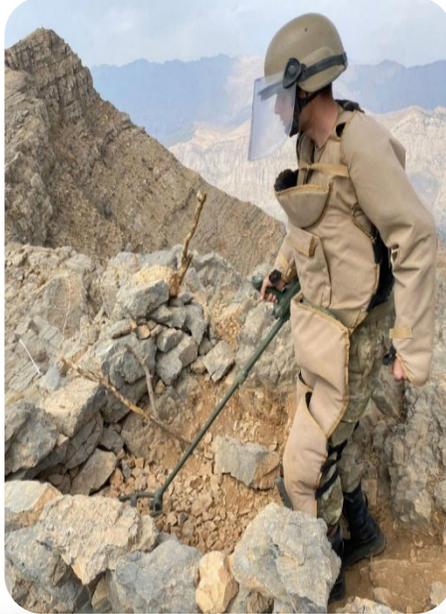


The Circumstances Hindering Türkiye's Ability to Destroy All Anti-Personnel Mines Within the Existing Timeframe

Key challenge areas



Non-Technical Survey (NTS)



Difficult Terrains



Capacity Gap



Security Constraints

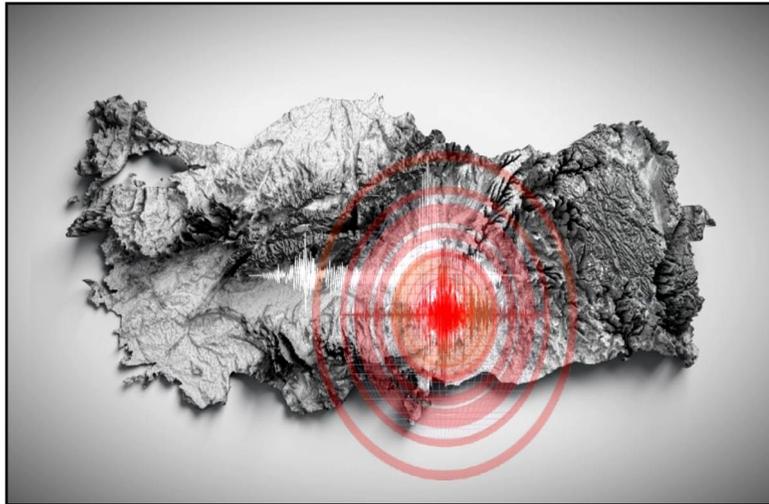


Natural Disasters

Limited Level of External Financial Assistance

Challenges In Mine Clearance

On 6 February 2023, two earthquakes struck Türkiye 7.8 and 7.7 Moment Magnitude (M_w).



- * Described as **the disaster of the century**,
- * 11 cities and 14 million people were affected,
- * More than 53.537 death, 107.2013 injured,
- * **The transfer of national and international resources/funds** planned for clearing activities to the earthquake zones.



Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project



Phase - I,II and III
2016-2023
(Completed)



Along the Borders
with Armenia, and
Iran

(Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır,
Ağrı Provinces)



Phase-IV
2026-2028
(Planned)

Along the Border with
Iran
(Van Province)



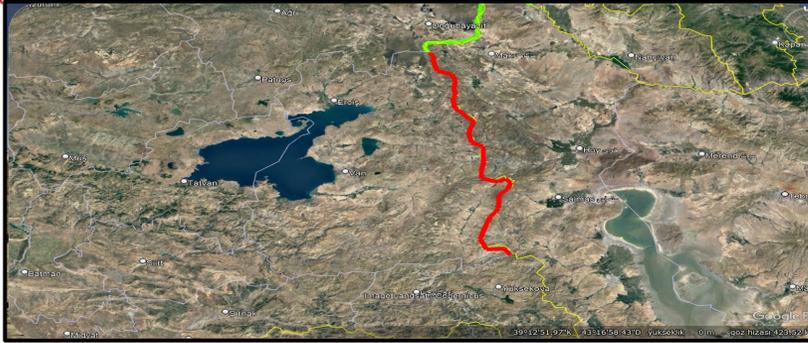


Border Physical Security Systems Project





Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-IV (2026-2028)



• Components

- **Clearance** of 74 Mined Areas (4,000.000 sqm)
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education**
(For Local Residents and Refugees in 10 Locations)
- **Technical Survey** of 41 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA)
- **Capacity Building** Activities for TURMAC Staff (16 Modules)
- **Vocational Training** for local residents and Refugees including women

• Outcomes

- Land available for **Agriculture, Livestock, Tourism and Renewable Energy** (15-20 million m²)
- Awareness and **safer behavioural changes** among the local residents and refugees.
- Contribution to **establishment, effectiveness, efficiency, upkeep and maintenance of Integrated Border Management (IBM)** strategy by clearing the mines along the border with Iran
- Impeding irregular live-risking **migration**
- **Strengthening** the Institutional Capacity of TURMAC
- Empowering women by providing **vocational training** and **ensuring their employment** in the contract terms, sustainable job opportunities provided for displaced population.



Southern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-I



• Components

- **Clearance** of 85 Mined Areas (4.600.000 m²)
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education** (EORE sessions in **25 locations** for Syrian Refugees and Local Residents)
- **Technical Survey** of 2 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) (17.500 m²)
- **Capacity Building Activities** for TURMAC Staff (16 Modules)
- **Vocational Training** for **Local Residents** and **Syrian Refugees** including women

• Outcomes

- Land available for **Agriculture, Organic Farming, Tourism, Livestock and Renewable Energy** (15-20 million m²)
- Awareness and **safer behavioural changes** among **the Local Residents and Syrian Refugees**
- Contribution to **effectiveness, efficiency, upkeep and maintenance of Integrated Border Management (IBM)** strategy by clearing the mines along the border with Syria (250 km (within the project) of total 400 km)
- Impeding irregular live-risking **migration**
- Ensuring **safe return of Refugees** under Temporary Protection
- **Strengthening** the Institutional Capacity of TURMAC
- Empowering women by providing **vocational training** and **ensuring their employment** in the contract terms, sustainable job opportunities provided for displaced populations

National Capacity



* **Türkiye** has **enhanced** its clearance capacity **since 2004** gradually by establishing;

- **50** Military Humanitarian Demining Teams, *(+3 Teams in 2026)*
- **8 MEMATT**, **2 BOZENA** Mechanical Mine Clearance Equipment, *(+4 MEMATT in 2026)*
- **17** Mine Detection Dogs, *(+13 MMDs in 2026)*

which are currently under the command of **TURMAC**.



Mine Clearance Activities



MINE CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026-2030

Location	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Syria Border (m ²)	305.000	293.000	275.000	285.000	265.000
Iraq Border (m ²)	150.000	194.000	200.000	315.000	295.000
Iran Border (m ²)	0	0	0	0	0
Other Areas (m ²)	250.960	192.000	308.430	238.000	277.000
Total	705.960	679.000	783.430	838.000	837.000
TOTAL	3.843.390				



NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY (NTS) ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026-2030

Location	Mined Area	Area (m ²)	Time
MARDİN	49	8.572.147	2026
	44	7.697.438	2027
	50	8.747.090	2028
BİNGÖL	68	174.300	2029
TOTAL	211	25.190.975	5 Years



TECHNICAL SURVEY (TS) ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026-2030

Location	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Syria Border (m ²)	160.000	190.000	170.000	15.000	291.000
Iraq Border (m ²)	240.000	275.000	360.000	303.000	162.000
Iran Border (m ²)	225.000	220.000	55.000	60.000	65.000
Other Areas (m ²)	33.000	30.000	25.000	30.000	35.000
Total	658.000	715.000	610.000	543.000	553.000
TOTAL	3.079.000 m²				





Mine Action Can **NOT** Wait...

SLIDE 1:

Mr./Madam President and distinguished participants,

On behalf of TURMAC, I would like to extend our appreciation for facilitating this significant meeting. I will provide an overview of our reasons for requesting an extension.

SLIDE 2:

Türkiye is fully committed to the Convention and striving to fulfil its obligations.

In 2011, Türkiye declared completion of the destruction of nearly 3 million stockpiled mines, fulfilling the commitment under Article 4 of the Convention.

Türkiye put great effort to fulfil the commitment under Article 5 of the Convention. However, even though reasonable progress was made, adequate progress could not be achieved due to different reasons.

Therefore, Türkiye submitted 2 requests to extend its mine clearance deadline under Article 5 obligation.

Now, as a result of past efforts, Türkiye is requesting a five year New Extension period.

SLIDE 3:

This slide illustrates the Land Mine Contamination map and data of Türkiye.

Türkiye and UNDP completed the first 3 phases of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project series with great success. These projects were funded by EU and Turkish Government.

At this point, we thank our partners, the EU, UNDP and GICHD for their invaluable support and cooperation.

Until now, approximately 50 million m² area has been subject to Humanitarian Mine Action activities.

Slightly less than 220 million m² of land mine contamination exists.

SLIDE 4:

Türkiye was granted a three (3) years and nine (9) month extension until the end of 2025. Within the scope;

- * The Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3 was completed,
- * The Non-Technical Survey Project was carried out,
- * The Capacity of Military Demining Units and demining efforts increased.
- * EORE Activities were carried out.

In my presentation, I will not elaborate on each detail individually due to time limitation. However, you can find more detailed information on our reports.

SLIDE 5:

Türkiye's inability to meet its current deadline is primarily due to newly discovered contaminated areas, difficult terrain, capacity limitations, security constraints, natural disasters and lack of international funding.

- *The Non-Technical Survey (NTS) conducted between 2021–2023 under the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3 revealed new Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) for the first time,*
- *Difficult terrain: Mountainous and weather-affected regions, particularly along the Iraq and Iranian borders, have significantly limited demining seasons and operations.*

- *Capacity gaps: Despite recent progress, Türkiye still faces constraints in military demining manpower, dog teams, and mechanical assets, which affect the operational tempo.*
- *Security constraints: Ongoing instability and security threats along Türkiye's borders continue to limit safe access to mined areas, especially in provinces like Mardin, Hakkari and Şırnak.*
- *Natural disasters: The 2023 earthquakes in southeastern Türkiye resulted in the reallocation of EU humanitarian aid and military capacity, halting international funding for demining.*
- *The limited level of external financial assistance, the desired progress could not be achieved within the previous extension request period.*

SLIDE 6:

During the previous extension period, two earthquakes struck Türkiye with the magnitudes 7.8 and 7.7 on 6 February 2023.

Described as the disaster of the century, these earthquakes affected 11 cities and more than 14 million people.

The national and international resources planned for mine clearing activities have been spared for earthquake response and recovery.

SLIDE 7:

Now I would like to present you an overview map of our planned projects and completed Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project's (EBMCP) Phases.

As you may see on the map, Phases I,II, and III of the EBMCP, which were supported by the EU funds were conducted between 2016-2023 along the borders of Türkiye with Armenia and Iran,

Phase 4 is planned to be implemented in Van Province, as a complementary phase to the previous ones.

Despite the challenging Covid 19 Pandemic Conditions, these project series were successfully completed under the coordination of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which was the contractor authority.

SLIDE 8:

When you look at the geographical location of Türkiye, it is like a bridge between continents. Therefore, Türkiye faces many illegal border crossing events.

By integrating the modern surveillance technology with effective physical establishments such as concrete walls, guard towers and patrolling roads, Türkiye has set off a new Integrated Border Management System to protect the borders, which is funded by EU and National Budget.

It is not possible to establish a IBM System without clearing the mine fields on the border region.

SLIDE 9:

Türkiye plans to continue of Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project series in Van Province by EU Funds and/or any international donor support.

This Project is directly aligned with National Development Plans, 'Democratic, Good Governance based on Justice' which emphasizes the role of human rights.

Within the scope of the planned project, **74** minefields measuring approximately 4.000.000 m² are planned to be cleared of mines.

TURMAC has been seeking for international funding support for the project for the past five years.

We are optimistic about the support of EU Delegation for the realization of the Project.

SLIDE 10:

TURMAC has submitted a new project proposal titled ‘Strengthening Rural Development and Resilience through Demining in Türkiye’ (Southern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-I) in order to conduct humanitarian demining activities in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Kilis Provinces bordering on Syrian Border.

Many Syrian Refugees under Temporary Protection are living in this region. With the realization of this Project, there will be more secure environment for the refugees and the Project might provide sustainable job opportunities.

SLIDE 11:

* Türkiye has enhanced its clearance capacity gradually by establishing;

- 50 Military Humanitarian Demining Teams, (+3 Teams in 2026)
- 8 MEMATT, 2 BOZENA Mechanical Mine Clearance Equipment, (+4 MEMATT in 2026)
- 17 Mine Detection Dogs, (+13 MMDs in 2026) which are currently under the command of TURMAC.

Establishing well-equipped new military demining units and training new mine detection dogs will have a significant impact on accelerating Türkiye’s mine clearing process.

SLIDE 12:

We prepared a detailed plan for mine clearance for the new extension period without taking into account the international support for our Eastern and Southern Borders Mine Clearance Projects.

You can see the mine clearance activities planned for 2026-2030.

SLIDE 13:

You can also see the NTS and TS plans.

Considering the priority criteria and current capacity, the mine survey and clearance activities specified in the table will be carried out by military elements in the next 5 years if we cannot receive any international support.

SLIDE 24:

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

As I conclude here, Türkiye continues to abide by her responsibilities under the Ottawa Convention and demonstrates her utmost will.

I would like to express my respect to the Madam President, all member states’ representatives and other participants. Thank you very much.