

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Submitted by Ethiopia

Introduction

1. Ethiopia acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on 17 December 2004, and the Convention entered into force for Ethiopia on 1 June 2005. The accession committed Ethiopia to clearing all known anti-personnel mine contamination by 1 June 2015, a deadline that proved unattainable due to various challenges, requiring two extension requests, submitted in 2015 to the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties for a period until 1 June 2020, and a second submitted in 2019 to the Fourth Review Conference until 31 December 2025.
2. However, the outbreak of COVID-19, funding constraints and conflicts in the country introduced new layers of contamination and posed significant risks to the safety of teams accessing contaminated areas, preventing progress. Despite these challenges, some progress was made in land release, quality management, and national capacity building. Ethiopia is now requesting a third extension to meet its obligations under Article 5, with a new requested deadline of 31 December 2030.

Remaining challenge at the beginning of the previous request

3. At the time of Ethiopia's previous request in 2019, it reported 261 contaminated areas measuring 1,055,569,623 square metres, with 99 percent of the contamination concentrated in the Somali region.

Nature and extent of progress made since previous request

4. By 2020, Ethiopia had released 109 mine and suspected areas measuring 330 million square metres, primarily in the Somali region, destroying 128 anti-personnel (AP) mines and 5,812 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO), reducing Ethiopia's remaining challenge to 152 confirmed and suspected areas measuring 725 million square metres. Furthermore, in 2024, Ethiopia achieved a significant milestone by releasing over 600 million square metres of land in Aware woreda of the Somali region, in one single minefield in Bukodowa Kebele.
5. This effort was doubled by progress in terms of building the capacity of the mine action sector in Ethiopia. With support from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), also in 2024, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), which is the focal point within the Government of Ethiopia for mine action, issued 12 National Mine Action Standards and 2 standard operating procedures, which serve as basis for the Quality Management System.
6. In November 2024, EMAO approved accreditation for six international non-governmental organisations (NGOs): BBC Media Action, Danish Church Aid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Halo Trust, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), and Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

Circumstances impeding compliance within the period of extension request

7. Several challenges hindered Ethiopia's ability to meet its Article 5 obligations during the 2020–2025 period, including; a) conflict and restricted access, b) funding limitations, c) incomplete contamination records, d) limited capacity, and e) COVID-19.

Humanitarian, economic, social, and environmental implications

8. While landmine and explosive ordnance threats exist throughout the country, civilian deaths and injuries have been occurring mostly in conflict-affected areas of Tigray and Afar. In addition, minefields located along the borders with Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan and South Sudan impact the life and the well-being of civilian populations. While the exact data on the number of victims is yet to be confirmed, it is believed that most accidents happen when victims were tampering with explosive ordnance (EO), stepping on or touching them, or when conducting herding activities.

The Remaining challenge

9. As of March 2024, a total of 147 hazardous areas measuring 125,177,647 square metres, remain to be addressed (see Annex 1 of the request), of which:
- a) 27 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 3,448,638 square metres
 - b) 120 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 121,729,000 square metres
10. The Somali region has the largest contaminated area, followed by Oromia, Afar, and Tigray. The dynamic nature of mine action means that further surveys and clearance operations could reveal additional contamination, especially as communities resettle and land use changes.

Summary as of 2024						
Region	Suspected Hazardous Area	Area (Square metres)	Confirmed Hazardous Areas	Area (Square metres)	Total number of areas to be addressed	Total amount of Area (Square metres)
Afar	8	1,915,300	6	1,755,049	14	3,670,349
Benshangul Gumz	0	0	2	45,000	2	45,000
Gambela	20	838,000	0	0	20	838,000
Oromia	13	1,121,105	0	0	13	1,121,105
Somali	79	117854604	16	956600	95	118,811,204
Tigray	0	0	3	691,989	3	691,989
Total	120	121,729,009	27	3,448,638	147	125,177,647

Requested time for extension

11. Ethiopia is requesting a five-year extension to fulfil its Article 5 obligations, 31 December 2025 - 31 December 2030.
12. This timeframe is based on the need to:
- a) Release 147 known and suspected hazardous areas, and
 - b) Conduct survey in Tigray, and Afar to accurately assess the extent of explosive ordnance contamination.
13. This will be done through non-technical survey (NTS) conducted by EMAO and its partners and will be complemented by explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). Survey is estimated to take 18-24 months, contingent on funding being secured, the recruitment and training of survey teams, discovery of new hazards, and security conditions.

14. Emergency spot explosive ordnance disposal tasks will be undertaken to mitigate immediate risks to communities and enable humanitarian interventions. Efforts will also be made to address minefields in the Somali region and, where access permits along the Eritrea-Ethiopia border.
15. During the five-year extension, Ethiopia will also focus on strengthening the mine action sector, as follows:
- a) Refine National Standards
 - b) Develop a Survey Strategy
 - c) Annual Planning
 - d) Develop a National Strategy
 - e) Operationalise the EMAO mine action information management system

Summary work plan

16. Ethiopia's work plan for the period of the extension prioritises institutional building, enhancing personnel and financial capacities, laying the groundwork for effective mine action. Key objectives include;
- a) Survey 147 mined areas measuring 125,177,647 square metres in 6 regions,
 - b) Conduct targeted survey in Tigray and Afar and perform emergency clearance tasks based on community requests and humanitarian needs.
17. Ethiopia is submitting a two-year work plan, 2026 – 2027 for survey, clearance, and EORE.
18. Based on the outcome of survey, an updated work plan will be developed and submitted by 30 April 2028. The 2028–2030 period will focus on the clearance of remaining hazardous areas. A resource mobilisation strategy will also complement this phased approach.
19. While survey will conclude in two years, rapid response teams will be maintained across six regions to address emergency tasks, remove immediate threats, conduct confirmation assessments, and provide EORE and victim assistance. This strategy ensures both comprehensive coverage and responsiveness to emerging needs.

Work Plan per region:

Survey Location A - AFAR:

20. The remaining challenge in Afar includes 14 mined areas measuring 3,670,349 square metres, including six CHAs measuring 1,755,049 square metres and eight SHAs measuring 1,915,300 square metres. To achieve this, four survey/EOD teams from the Halo Trust and Danish Church Aid will survey these tasks.
21. The Afar survey plan targets specific hazardous areas, Lamsan 1,000,000 square metres and Gersat 600,000 square metres. In 2026, the status and extent of hazardous areas will remain unknown for multiple woredas including Abaala, Megale, and Erebt. By 2027, survey tasks will be undertaken in woredas Telelek, Dawe, and Elidar, with a focus on clearing areas Lamsan, Dalol, and Berhale.

Survey Location B - Tigray:

22. EMAO aims to release three CHAs measuring 691,989 square metres; with international NGOs to conduct surveys across 93 woredas. To achieve this, HI, DRC, and MAG will recruit and train seven Multi-Task Teams (MTTs) from mid-2025. This phased approach ensures operational readiness by

2026, allowing enough time to import critical equipment and building the capacity to address emergency EOD tasks.

23. Early EO assessments indicate threats in Southeastern Tigray and the Eastern Zone. The survey plan aims to conduct village-by-village surveys in seven zones, 93 woredas, and 603 kebeles of Tigray, 46 woredas in 2026 and 47 in 2027. This activity will be conducted by seven x MTT teams from HI, DRC and Empowering People for Sustainable Solutions (EPSS).

Land release Location C- Somali Region, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, and Oromia

24. Land release activity in these regions will be undertaken in a phased approach by EMAO.

25. In 2026, EMAO aims to release hazardous areas across Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, and Oromia regions.

26. The Somali Region dominates the plan, both in the number of woredas and the scale of the areas to be surveyed, emphasising its high priority within the national mine action strategy. In 2026, the Somali Region includes 13 woredas, measuring 111 million square metres. Aware woreda accounts for 90.85 million square metres. Gambella's Akobo woreda accounts for 838,000 square metres. The 2027 plan expands Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia regions, while maintaining capacities in Somali Region.

27. EMAO plans to release 95 areas measuring 118,811,204 square metres in 30 woredas of the Somali Region, including 16 CHAs measuring 956,600 square metres and to address the remaining minefields in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, and Tigray regions.

28. EMAO also plans to release the total remaining 79 SHAs measuring 117,854,604 square metres over five years:

- a) Gambella - 20 SHAs measuring 838,000 square metres in one woreda, Akobo to be released in 2026.
- b) Benishangul-Gumuz, two CHAs measuring 45,000 square metres in 2 woredas, to be cancelled in 2027.
- c) Oromia, 13 mined locations measuring 1,121,105 square metres in 7 woredas, to be cancelled in 2026.

29. EORE Work Plan: The two-year EORE work plan projects a total reach of 479,500 beneficiaries across six regions. With Tigray and Amhara accounting for more than half of the total reach, boys will consistently be targeted as the largest beneficiary group across all regions.

Region	Number of locations	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Total
Afar	14	28,000	21,000	14,000	7,700	70,700
Tigray	28	56,000	42,000	33,600	25,200	156,800
Gambella	6	4,000	3,000	2,400	1,800	11,200
Somali	22	22,000	16,500	13,200	9,900	61,600
Oromia	6	12,000	9,000	7,200	5,400	33,600
Amhara	28	52,000	39,000	31,200	23,400	145,600
Total	104	174,000	130,500	101,600	73,400	479,500

30. Tigray and Somali regions alone account for more than half of the total population served, highlighting significant engagement in these areas due to the contamination levels present. The variation in total reach across regions may reflect differing population densities, levels of need, or operational focus. This data provides valuable insights for resource allocation and targeted interventions.

Capacity Building Plan

31. A comprehensive capacity building plan to strengthen EMAO's capacity to effectively oversee the mine action sector is designed. The details of the plan (road map) with specific milestones and activities can be seen in annex 1 of the request.

Financial Resources (national and international)

32. For the period of the extension request a total budget of US \$30,908,157.50 is required, including:
(a) US \$13,258,503.80 for the first two years, (survey of new contamination, and emergency tasks),
and (b) US \$17,640,161.28 to address remaining contamination.

New Contamination (NC)	2026	2027	Total
Multitask Teams	2,693,280.00	2,693,280.00	5,386,560.00
Survey/Spot Task Teams	1,500,000.00	1,700,000.00	3,200,000.00
Clearance	0	1,250,000.00	1,250,000.00
EORE	350,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
Victim Assistance	400,000.00	200,000.00	600,000.00
Coordination	236,000.00	186,000.00	422,000.00
Equipment	1,199,953.00	259,990.00	1,459,943.00
Capacity building	420,000.00	220,000.00	640,000.00
Sub Total NC	6,749,233.00	6,509,270.00	13,258,503.00

Item - Legacy	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Multitask Teams	2,827,872.48	2,855,938.96	2,841,905.72	2,849,923.48	2,826,694.70	14,202,335.34
Coordination	145,157.89	145,157.89	145,157.89	145,157.89	145,157.89	725,789.45
Equipment	837,458.17	255,103.25	111,927.75	41,864.31	269,173.22	1,515,527
Capacity building	239,301.76	239,301.76	239,301.76	239,301.76	239,301.76	1,196,509
Sub Total Legacy Mine Contamination (LMC)	4,050,000.29	3,495,501.86	3,338,303.12	3,276,247.44	3,480,327.57	17,640,161
Sub Total NC	6,749,233	6,509,270				13,258,503
Grand Total	10,799,233.29	10,004,771.86	3,338,303.12	3,276,247.44	3,480,327.57	30,898,664

Source of Funds	Amount of Fund
State budget 10%	3,089,866.43
Donations	27,808,797.85
Total	30,898,664.28

33. The State budget of Ethiopia will allocate \$3,089,866.43 over the extension period, representing 10 percent of the total project cost. Remaining mine action activities are expected to be primarily supported by donations.

Assumptions / Risks of the Plan

34. Ethiopia's extension plan (2025-2030) considers several key risks and assumptions. Key risks include: a) political and economic instability, b) regional security challenges, c) limited financial resources, d) adverse climatic conditions, and e) difficult terrain.
35. The plan also assumes: a) sustained security and access to affected areas, b) potential for new minefield discoveries, c) consistent funding, d) ongoing support, and visibility, and e) diversified funding streams.
36. These factors are critical for the successful implementation of the plan. Ensuring both the safety of personnel and the effective clearance of hazardous areas. Most of the border areas in neighbouring countries are accessible, so there is no hindrance to mine action activities. Ethiopia is actively seeking diplomatic engagement to obtain access into the mine fields in Northern part of the country bordering Eritrea.