

Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Türkiye

Committee on Article 5 Implementation (Algeria, Norway, Thailand (Chair) and the United Kingdom)

The Committee welcomes Türkiye's commitment to ensure continued implementation of the Convention and its obligations. In this regard, the Committee welcomes Türkiye's submission of its Request for Extension of its Article 5 deadline. In order for the Committee to fulfil its mandate of preparing an analysis of the Request, the Committee would welcome additional information and clarification of the information provided by Türkiye in its Request for Extension.

1. The Request contains a wealth of information on progress made by Türkiye in implementation over the course of its current Extension period. The Request would benefit from including a single, consolidated table summarizing all land released over the course of the current Extension period, disaggregated by method of release (i.e., cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and cleared).

Answer: The data requested in this question is stated on page 18 of the extension request report. The table titles have been rearranged as follows for a better understanding of the data.

Year	Amount of cleared area manually (m ²)	Amount of area reduced with Technical Survey (TS) (m ²)	Amount of area cancelled with non-technical survey (NTS) area (m ²)	Total area addressed (m ²)
2022	1.290.705	816.042	5.089.384	7.196.131
2023	915.683	353.082	4.691.257	5.960.022
2024	680.864	35.546	5.027.433	5.743.843
TOTAL	2.887.252	1.204.670	14.808.074	18.899.996

2. Türkiye has previously indicated contamination by improvised anti-personnel mines (victim activated IEDs). In this regard, the Request would benefit from information concerning contamination by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and clarifying, if relevant, areas that are contaminated by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature.

Answer: There are no improvised anti-personnel mines planted by Türkiye. These types of mines are laid specifically by terrorists in the areas of security operations conducted by Türkiye. When such mines are detected, they are neutralized on-site by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams participating in the operations, preventing lasting contamination. So, there are no known areas contaminated by improvised anti-personnel mines.

3. The Request indicates that military teams will address 0.96 square kilometres per year on average. Nonetheless, the current Request indicates that over the next Extension period military teams will address 0.77 square kilometres per year. The Request would benefit from additional information on the reason for the reduced projected clearance rate.

Answer: The difficult conditions of our mined areas are the most important factors affecting the duration and amount of cleaning. Especially in our eastern and south-eastern regions, the abundance of mined areas, the terrain structure of these areas (*For example, most minefields are located in areas with an average altitude of 1500-3000 meters*), the high amount of annual rainfall, the long period of snow melting, the volcanic structure of the lands, excessive metal pollution and therefore the constant response of mine detectors and the need for compensation (*means adjusting the detectors according to the metal and mineral structure of the land*) cause the speed and duration of search and therefore the amount of areas to be cleared to decrease. However, compared to previous data, the amount of addressed in the new extension request does not decrease. In fact, with Technical Survey (TS) specified in the new extension request, an average 1.3 square kilometres of land will be addressed annually.

4. The Request indicates that the project in Mardin Province on Türkiye's southern border, could not be conducted due to the security risk posed by direct and indirect fire by terrorist organizations (PKK, YPG, DEASH) from the Syrian side of the border. The Request would benefit from additional information from on whether the security situation in this area has now changed and if Türkiye expects to be able to proceed with clearance of Mardin province.

Answer: Following the latest developments in Syria, security risk in the region has begun to decrease and the NTS activities specified in the new extension request has been planned. In addition to the cleaning planned for Mardin province in 2029 and 2030, the mined areas identified as a result of the NTS will also be included in the cleaning plans.

5. The Request indicates that Technical Survey (TS) and Non-Technical Survey (NTS) are scheduled through to the end of 2030. The Request would benefit from additional information on how Türkiye plans to ensure that any newly identified mined areas can be addressed in time to meet the 31 December 2030 deadline.

Answer: The donors support is very important for Türkiye, which faces significant pollution problem. So, national and international initiatives to provide donors are ongoing. Additionally, significant progress has been made in capacity expansion efforts. In this context, the establishment of 4 new search and clearance military companies (8 teams) will be completed by 2027. If a donor is found in this period and following the completion of the establishment of new elements, new areas identified with TS and NTS are planned to be cleared.

6. The Request would benefit from Türkiye providing information on whether and how casualty data is analysed to prioritize land release activities as well as mine risk education and risk reduction efforts, particularly given that casualty data show casualties in provinces in which no land release activities are planned (e.g. province of Agri and Siirt).

Answer: Priority is given to incidents that occur in the prioritization of both land reduction and cleaning activities. These activities are carried out by conducting the necessary analyses during the planning stages. In this context, an explanation on the subject was made on pages 18 and 19 of the extension request report.

7. While the Request indicates that the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-4 will be addressed during the Extension period, the Request would benefit from including a detailed work plan for implementation of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP).

Answer: For this project the activities and area to be cleared are outlined in the extension request report. If the project is funded by an international donor, a project document will be created and a detailed work

plan will be prepared. Therefore, since the project has not yet been founded, resources cannot be allocated for the work plan. After finding funds, detailed planning will be made and reported to the committee.

8. The Mine Risk Education (MRE) plan for 2026 indicates that, from January – April 2026, MRE will be provided to all citizens by Gendarmerie General Command trained personnel. Likewise the plan for January – December 2026 to provide MRE to all citizens is the same. The Request would benefit from clarity on the work plan, including any overlap between the work of the Gendarmerie General Command and the Land Forces Command.

Answer: In order to enhance the effectiveness of EO risk awareness efforts, the General Command of the Gendarmerie and the Land Forces Command are planning to carry out simultaneous training activities. Within this framework, the General Command of the Gendarmerie will organize and conduct awareness sessions to civilian populations and to military personnel residing in provinces, districts, villages within their respective areas of responsibility. In case it is the Land Forces Command will deliver training sessions to civilian populations and to military personnel residing in the military barracks in provinces close the border line. This coordinated approach aims to ensure wider coverage, consistent messaging, and increased community preparedness against explosive threats.

9. The Request would benefit from information on plans and provisions to ensure a sustainable, sufficiently resourced, national capacity to address any previously unknown mined areas discovered following completion.

Answer: Türkiye's efforts to seek funding and increase capacity continue. In this context, national and international mutual meetings are held between institutions. Most recently, representatives of Qatar and Japan have been met, but the desired progress has not yet been achieved. In addition, 8 new cleaning teams will be established by 2027 to increase capacity. If previously unknown minefields are discovered after the completion of the activities, these areas will be addressed with our existing national capacity or through projects to be carried out if funds and resources are available.

10. The Request contains a detailed budget for implementation during the Extension period. The Request would benefit from including information on whether the national resources allocated in the table on page 41 have been secured and committed for the duration of the Extension Request. The Request would also benefit from including a budget for implementation, itemising key costs, aligned with the activities of the work plan.

Answer: Since the data specified in the table on page 40 are the personnel rights of the teams performing mine clearance and TURMAC personnel, the resources specified in the table have been committed by the State of the Republic of Türkiye.

11. The Request indicates that €20 m is required to implement EBMCP Phase 4 and that this amount is not provided for within the national resources allocated as per the table on p. 40. In this regard, the Request would benefit from Türkiye clarifying how it plans to address these mined areas if EU funding cannot be secured.

Answer: Since the project has not yet been internationally funded, it has not been determined how much contribution will be provided from the national budget. However, the necessary initiatives for the implementation of this project are ongoing and significant progress has been made. If sufficient funds are still not found, the areas specified in the project will be cleared by national military units and resources.

12. The Request indicates that the estimated costs for the 50 military clearance teams will increase every year. The Request would benefit from providing clarity concerning the reasons for this annual increase.

Answer: The estimated increase in costs is due to the additional inflation differences paid to staff salaries each year. These costs are calculated based on a 10% annual increase compared to the previous year.

13. The Request provides information on the budget for activities related to mine risk education and reduction. The Request would benefit from information on the reason why the budget for mine risk education and reduction activities increases each year. The Request would further benefit by clarifying if national funding is secured to ensure the implementation of mine risk education and reduction over the course of the Extension period.

Answer: The reason the budget for mine risk education and reduction activities increases each year is related to the estimated annual inflationary increases in salaries paid to staff performing this task and per diems associated with the task. The growing budgetary requirements also stems from several factors, including the rising need for qualified personnel to deliver training, an increase in population residing in high-risk areas, and the necessity of periodically repeating educational sessions. Therefore, this increase is critical to ensure the sustainability of EORE activities. The budget has also been committed by the State of the Republic of Türkiye.

14. The Request contains information on the positive impact of mine clearance on the environment. The Request would benefit from including information on how Türkiye intends to mitigate against potential environmental harm during the survey and clearance activities planned for the proposed Extension period, including if Türkiye currently has a National Mine Action Standard on environmental management in place.

Answer: Türkiye already has a National Mine Action Standard on environmental management. However, we are about to complete our own updates in line with IMAS's latest updates. After the update is completed, it is planned to be published in August 2025.

15. The Request provides information on the humanitarian, social, economic implication of contamination in Türkiye. While the work plan focuses on addressing the area along the southern and eastern borders, where the contamination prevents the establishment of a new border surveillance system, the Request would benefit from increased information on the impact of the remaining contamination on socio-economic development and how the work plan responds to these priorities.

Answer: Humanitarian demining in Van Province under Phase-IV and in other provinces will be the continuation of the previous successful projects and demining activities. Taking into account the fact that Van Province's nature encompasses a range of economic values, including touristic areas, pastoral and agricultural lands which measure an area nearly twice that of Ağrı Province, many sectors of economy in Van Province will be positively influenced by humanitarian mine clearance. The clearance of landmines and technical survey operations in these contaminated provinces will pave the way for the construction of more structures supporting tourism around these areas. Besides these objectives, Phase-IV project and other cleaning activities will also support rural socio-economic life, reduce non-agricultural use of agricultural lands, and in terms of annihilating trinitrotoluene for environmental protection, take measures to rehabilitate cleared lands. After the handover certification which is the final outcome of the land release process of demining activities, lands are to be used for agriculture, stock-farming, animal grazing and renewable energy. Moreover, Phase IV project and other cleaning activities will also serve for elimination

of the dangerous effects of mines, provide a safe future for women, men, boys and girls, and support rural socio-economic life.

16. The Request indicated that funding will be sources both nationally and internationally for the implementation of the work plan contained in the Request. The Request would benefit from additional information on Türkiye's resource mobilization strategy as well as any efforts in exploring innovative financing.

Answer: As Türkiye, our efforts to seek both national and international funds continue uninterrupted. Within the scope of our international fund search, we have submitted a 20 million Euro fund request for the clearance of mined areas in the provinces of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Kilis on our southern border, in order to benefit from Post-FRiT funds under the coordination of the Ministry of Interior, and the action fiche has been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Interior for approval by the European Union. In addition, a total of 106 million Turkish liras has been allocated from the national budget for 2026 for cleaning and the project.

17. Given the importance of national level coordination to ensure regular dialogue with stakeholders, the Request would benefit from the inclusion of information on forums and mechanisms that are or will be used to ensure national level coordination, including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance.

Answer: TURMAC holds regular and periodic meetings with all stakeholder organizations at the national level and participates as a stakeholder in all projects involving mined areas. TURMAC, with the participation of all national institutions, conducts mine action strategy meetings before each strategic planning phase, optimizing the expectations and needs of all stakeholders. Mine action evaluation and planning meetings are held twice a year with relevant stakeholders, and planning and execution are adjusted based on the decisions made at the meeting. As part of the mine victim assistance program, periodic meetings are held with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Family and Social Services to monitor the social and economic assistance provided to mine victims. Furthermore, TURMAC contributes as a stakeholder to the efficient and rapid implementation of projects within the areas of activity of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Transport, and Ministry of Trade, and participates in project meetings.

18. The Request would benefit from any additional information on any regional, bilateral cooperation activities that are planned for the Extension period. The Request would further benefit from any efforts put forward by Türkiye to explore innovative sources of funding.

Answer: Türkiye cooperates with the Ministry of Interior and UNDP in terms of border security, effective fight against irregular migration and the safety of refugees and asylum seekers during illegal crossings, especially in the clearance of minefields. Our request of 20 million Euros, submitted to the European Union for approval, is also a result of these efforts. Joint project development efforts with ARMAC continue under the coordination of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Discussions are ongoing to contribute to UNMAS's work on mapping Syria's explosives contamination. Detailed information will be provided in subsequent reports as these projects are planned. In addition, Türkiye's support for Nigeria's capacity development will continue.

19. The Request includes information on Türkiye's efforts to integrate gender and diversity concerning into EORE as well as employment, training and pay during Phase 3 of the EBMCP. The Request would benefit from additional information on how Türkiye /TURMAC will mainstream gender and diversity

considerations into all areas of mine action during the proposed Extension period including efforts to carry out gender awareness trainings, inclusion of gender and diversity into Türkiye's mine action strategy, including NTS teams, equal opportunity employment of women and men in survey and clearance teams, including managerial level/supervisory positions, etc.

Answer: The number of female trainers for mine risk education, which was previously 2, has been increased to 8 in 2025. Additionally, approximately 22 percent of the TURMAC organization consists of women. These female personnel carry out important duties, such as technical, expert and trainer in all activities carried out by TURMAC, depending on their functional area. In terms of staff and task diversity, efforts are ongoing to increase the number of female personnel in the coming periods.