PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

Z-2025/62441669/39752596 -

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction and has the honour to enclose herewith the report on the request for extension of the deadline for fulfillment of obligations under Article V of the said Convention.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 28 March 2025

Encl: As stated

H.E. Ms. Usana BERANANDA
Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
Rue Gustave-Moynier 5
1202 Genève

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Request under Article 5 (6):

For an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas

31 March 2025

CONTEXT

1. Executive Summary

The Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) was established in 2015 by the Law 6586. Law 6586 was then nullified with the legislative decree 703 on 9 July 2018 after the introduction of the new Presidential System of Government. Article 342 of Presidential Decree No 1, almost identical to Law 6586, entered into force on 10 July 2018. TURMAC has made significant efforts and has shown progress in improving its capacity since 2015. TURMAC is still in the process of strengthening its internal capacity to ensure full functioning. TURMAC has a central role in the implementation of mine action policy. TURMAC is mandated to execute actions aimed at clearing mines and/or unexploded ordnance for humanitarian purposes within the borders of the Republic of Türkiye.

Following the establishment of the TURMAC in 2015, mine clearance operations and other mine action activities have intensified, and clearance output has increased significantly. At the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) held in Geneva on 15-19 November 2021, 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.

Since the previous extension request, Türkiye completed The Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3, resulting in the clearance of 94 mined areas measuring 3.622.371 m^2 and destruction of 49.336 mines in Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars provinces between 2021-2023. As a result of the project, the provinces of Ardahan and Kars as well as Türkiye's border with Armenia have been cleared of mines.

Within the scope of the EBMCP Phase-3, the Non-Technical Survey Project was carried out between 2021 and 2023 to have a better understanding of the final levels of mine contamination in Türkiye and to provide the necessary information for submitting an extension request under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) that meets treaty obligations and is realistic in terms of time and required resources. Türkiye contributed 2.121 million Euros to this activity. NTS activities were conducted on 3.451 mined areas. The Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) were decreased and for the first time the Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) were determined at the end of the project. The new situation was declared in Türkiye’s 2024 Annual Article 7 Report. In order to make subsequent decisions regarding the newly identified SHAs and to confirm the mine hazard with certainty, annual technical survey plans for SHAs have been prepared.

Türkiye continued its mine clearance activities by using all available military assets. In order to increase the rate of clearance, a total of 18 additional military demining teams have been established and accredited during the previous extension request period. Currently, a total of 50 military demining teams (32 teams of Turkish Land Forces Command and 18 teams of General Command of Gendarmerie) are operational. Military demining units were augmented with 8 MEMATT2 AS1 mechanical demining machines which were manufactured for the first time with

domestic and national means and accredited and certificated by TURMAC according to CWA 15044 – Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines international standards. Currently, a total of 10 (8 MEMATT2 AS1, 2 BOZENA) mechanical demining machines are operational. The capacities of military demining units were increased with additional 11 Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) between 2022 and 2024. Currently, a total of 16 mine detection dogs are operational. In order to increase dog training, accreditation and testing capacity, 228 boxes of accreditation and testing areas were prepared in Iğdır province in 2023, 104 boxes of accreditation and testing areas were prepared in Military Veterinary School and Training Center Command in Bursa in 2024. The capacity to train 10 MDDs per year has been reached. Programming efforts are ongoing to increase military demining teams.

Türkiye's Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities aim to reduce the risk of injury from mines by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change among citizens who are settled in close proximity to contaminated areas. These activities include information exchange with at-risk communities, communication of safety messages to target groups, and support for community risk management and participation in mine action. EORE in Türkiye is carried out on a regular basis in a meticulous manner. Since the previous extension request, EORE sessions have been conducted with 9.074 citizens (5.728 men, 677 women and 2.669 children) in total.

a. The Duration of the Proposed Extension

In the interest of fulfilling its obligations under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, Türkiye respectfully requests a five-year extension, with the understanding that this period will commence on December 31, 2025, and conclude on December 31, 2030. This request is made with the utmost consideration for the inherent challenges of demining activities, the complexity of the process, and the timeframe required to achieve the set objectives.

b. Activities to be Undertaken Over the Course of Extension Period (2026-2030)

During this period, Türkiye plans to continue mine clearance activities unabated and to complete its work in this area. In particular, the focus will be on the following detailed activities:

- Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-4: This project, which is planned to take place in Van province, located on Türkiye's eastern border; aims to clear 85 mined areas (approximately 4.000.000 m^2). In addition to demining, the project will organize Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions at 20 different locations, conduct technical inspections at 30 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs), and carry out capacity building activities for TURMAC and Military Demining Units. The project is planned to be completed between 2026 and 2028. The search for European Union funds or other international donors to finance the project is ongoing. Estimated cost of the proposed project is more than 20 million Euros. Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-4 is yet to be financed by any donor. Currently, demining activities are conducted by Military Demining Teams.

- Military Demining Unit's Mine Clearance Activities: Mine clearance activities will be carried out in the regions determined by the military elements, taking into account the priority criteria and existing capacity. Under this plan, various demining activities will be carried out in Bingöl, Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis, Mardin, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak and Tunceli provinces (approximately 4.000.000 m^2). The demining activities in the regions included in the plan are targeted to be completed between 2026 and 2030. In addition to prioritizing the clearance of mines in border areas, the plan also includes the clearance of mines in the interior and on privately owned land.

- Technical Survey and Non-Technical Survey Activities: Technical Survey (TS) and Non-technical Survey (NTS) activities will be conducted to identify and define the border of mined areas. Technical Survey activities will be conducted in Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Iğdır, Kilis Mardin, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak and Van provinces (approximately 3.000.000 m^2). Non-technical research activities will be carried out in Mardin and Bingöl provinces (approximately 25.000.000 m^2). The activities outlined in the plan are scheduled to be completed between 2026-2030.

- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Activities: Mine awareness and risk education activities will be organized for citizens living in areas under mine risk. These trainings will be concentrated especially in Ağrı, Ardahan, Batman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kars, Kilis, Mardin, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak, Tunceli and Van provinces. Trainings will be provided by Gendarmerie General Command EORE training personnel and TURMAC. EORE activities will continue for many years after the completion of demining operations.

This detailed summary provides a clearer picture of Türkiye's commitment to demining, the scope of planned activities and its determination to achieve the targeted results.

2. Introduction

At the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) held in Geneva on 15-19 November 2021, 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.

The three years and nine months request was in line with the value identified by States Parties in requesting “only the period of time necessary to gather and assess date on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward looking plan based on this information” and then submitting a subsequent request containing plans based on a clear understanding of the extent of the challenge and which projects with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation.

a. Remaining Implementation Challenge at the Time of the Previous Request

The following table provides an overview of mine contamination in Türkiye, at the beginning of the previous request:

Location	Number of Areas Known to Contain A/P Mines	Area Known to Contain Anti-Personel Mines (m²)	Date of Emplacement	Number of Mines		Number of Areas Suspected to Contain A/P Mines	Areas Suspected to Contain A/P Mines (m²)	Total Area Remaning to be Adressed in the Context of Article 5 Obligations
				A/P	A/T			
Syria Border	1.526	123.489.492	1955-1996	411.990	194.615	-	-	123.489.492
Iraq Border	874	2.842.935	1955-1996	78.914	-	-	-	2.842.935
Iran Border	471	15.098.039	1955-1996	116.115	-	-	-	15.098.039
Armenian Border	43	1.097.077	1955-1996	20.275	-	-	-	1.097.077
Other than Borders	920	2.554.495	1955-1996	33.869	-	-	-	2.554.495
TOTAL	**3.834**	**145.082.038**	**-**	**661.166**	**194.615**	**-**	**-**	**145.082.038**

b. Commitments made in the Previous Request

During this three-year and nine-month period, Türkiye aimed to accomplish the following:

- Carry out the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3,
- Carry out Non-Technical Survey of area remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5,
- Carry out Mardin Mine Clearance Project,
- Increase the capacity of Military Demining Units and continue clearance efforts,
- Continue to Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities,

3. Efforts Undertaken Between the Submission of the Previous Request and Present Day

a. The Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3

The Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-3 planned to clear 96 mined areas (4.242.577 m^2) and demining of the entire eastern border (Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır and Ağrı) except for **Van and Hakkari** provinces. Due to the urgency of mine clearance for the construction of critical border walls and border surveillance systems during the preparation phase of the project documentation some of the mine areas were addressed by military demining units.

Despite the challenging conditions (e.g. mountainous terrain heavily affected by snow, rain, land slopes, dense vegetation, metal contamination, difficult access to mined areas and short demining seasons together with Covid-19 pandemic), EBMCP Phase-3 was successfully completed by the end of 2023 with the contribution of 18,5 million Euros of IPA-2 (2016) funds and 2,121 million Euros from the National Budget.

The project was managed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)[1] and carried out by the commercial demining contractors, resulting in the clearance of 94 mined areas measuring **3.622.371 m^2** and destruction of **49.336 mines** in Ağrı, Ardahan, Iğdır and Kars provinces between 2021-2023. As a result of the project, the provinces of Ardahan and Kars have been cleared of mines, and Türkiye's border with Armenia has also been cleared.

Progress made in accordance with the Project is in the table below:

Location	Province	Number of areas addressed	Amount of area cleared (m^2)	Amount of area reduced (m^2)	Amount of area cancelled (m^2)	Total area addressed (m^2)	A/P mine destroyed	A/T mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Iranian Border	Ağrı	47	713.357	450.809	939.274	2.103.440	25.128	0	0
Iranian Border	Iğdır	5	291.868	117.293	88.333	497.494	7.012	0	1[2]
Armenian Border	Iğdır	4	23.566	2.833	2.625	29.024	2	0	0
Armenian Border	Ardahan	15	102.308	177.770	166.922	447.000	8.868	0	0
Armenian Border	Kars	22	249.501	184.446	111.466	545.413	8.326	0	0
TOTAL[3]		**93[4]**	**1.380.600**	**933.151**	**1.308.620**	**3.622.371**	**49.336**	**0**	**1**

[1] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nYqcvZAdlE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPnZ6nICrrs
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE9X9uflVbM last access date: 06.09.2024

[2] 40 mm grenade was found and destroyed along the base lane slightly outside during the mine clearance operations conducted in Iğdır.

[3] These total figures are the final statistics of the EBMCP Phase-3, which was completed by the end of 2023.

[4] 94 minefields were planned at the beginning of the project. After the construction of the border wall, the mine areas located in Ağrı was not included in total number of addressed, because it remained on the Iranian side, and the operation of this field was not completed.

The new border surveillance systems, which are more humanitarian, are one of the most important outcomes of the **Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project**. It is obvious that human-oriented technological Integrated Border Management System (IBM System) has proven its validity for cross border in the areas where they are established. Since it is not possible to establish an IBM System (wall, IT aspects, asphalted patrol roads etc) before clearance of anti-personnel mines, clearing landmines during wall construction and installation of modern surveillance and communication equipment in eastern provinces makes a significant contribution to Türkiye's economic development and stability by ensuring reduction in terrorism and smuggling activities. **Thus, EBMCP project series aims to provide safety for investors and develop international trade.** Mine clearance, together with wall construction has allowed for the establishment of an advanced humanitarian border security and management system in line with European Standards. This border management system is not limited to preventing cross-border crimes, terrorism and ensuring safety but also has an important role in preventing irregular migration.

In conclusion, humanitarian demining under EBMCP series executed with international funding support decreases the cost of dealing with international criminal organizations and irregular migration not only for Türkiye but also for the countries in the region and the EU.

Photo-1: Modular concrete walls and patrol roads of IBM System

Photo-2: Modular concrete walls, patrol road and IT aspects of IBM System

Besides this major objective, this project also has served to eliminate the dangerous effects of mines, provided a safe future for women, men, boys and girls, supported rural socio-economic life, ensured safe return of migrants to their homes and **reduced non-agricultural use of agricultural** areas as well as ensuring regional security. As a consequence of having high mountains and land structure, stock farming is the main livelihood in eastern provinces of Türkiye. Stock farming is also the sector that benefits the most from mine clearance. At the end of the project, land which could be used for renewable energy, agriculture and stock farming totaled approximately 1.750.000 square meters. Furthermore, animal grazing activities initiated right after the completion of the handover process.

The agricultural use of mined areas following handover of cleared land has had positive socio-economic impacts on the region by decreasing unemployment, increasing household income and promoting development in the living standards of citizens amongst other benefits such as exploration of underground resource and infrastructure development and services.

In addition, mine-free areas have been created in different regions for the search of underground resources and the establishment of superstructure facilities.

During the implementation of the EBMCP Phase-3, employment was provided to approximately 400 people. While women in Türkiye generally do not prefer the profession of mine clearance, stakeholders of TURMAC, such as UNDP, clearance and NTS contractor companies employed 14 female personnel at different branches. TURMAC and UNDP have encouraged the employment of women in various positions, including in training positions and administrative jobs, and has ensured that women and men are paid equally for equal work under employment contracts signed within the scope of the EBMCP. Furthermore, Türkiye's first civilian demining dog handlers are women who were trained and certified during the implementation of the project. In addition, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions are delivered by women in Türkiye.

Clearance of land mines also makes significant contribution to reducing soil contamination and enhancing soil restoration by annihilating trinitrotoluene (TNT), which is used in explosives and mines.

Clearance of mine areas along Iran and Armenia borders has also enabled tourists and archaeologists to safely access and investigate cultural heritage sites, including Horomos Cultural/Religious Center (Monastery, Kars Province) which date back to 931-936.

Photo-3: Horomos Cultural/Religious Center (Monastery, Kars Province)

b. Non-Technical Survey Project as a Part of EBMCP Phase-3

The minefields in Turkey were laid by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) and General Command of Gendarmerie between 1956 and 1994, under the conditions of the Cold War period, in order to ensure border security on the borders of Armenia, Iran, Iraq and Syria, and to ensure the security of military bases in the Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia regions after the terrorist attacks that took place in the 1980s. In addition, there are minefields established by the PKK terrorist organization to harm military elements and citizens.

Türkiye began its first efforts to solve the mine problem by banning the use of anti-personnel mines in 1996; it became a party to the Ottawa Convention on March 1, 2004 and mined areas were identified by means of military mine area registries and contaminated areas began to be reported under the Ottawa Convention.

The records of these minefields can be evaluated **in two different categories**; **standard records and non-standard records.** Standard records have been created in line with TAF Manuals, which comply with relevant NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGs)[5] and contain a large number of details (coordinates, row information, mine type, and number of mines, etc.) to facilitate mine clearance.

Non-standard records were not prepared in accordance with the TAF Manuals, and contain limited information that is difficult to analyse.

[5] https://nso.nato.int/nso/nsdd/listpromulg.html (STANAG 2485 Countermine Operations In Land Warfare)

Following the establishment of TURMAC in 2015, all records were transferred to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and mine activities were planned in line with these records.

The Non-Technical Survey (NTS) project was needed to better define where contamination exists and provide evidence by thoroughly investigating the collected records and to prioritize the land release. In this context, within the scope of the EBMCP Phase-3, the NTS Project was carried out between 2021 and 2023 to to have a better understanding of the final levels of mine contamination in Türkiye and provide the information necessary to present an extension request under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) that meets treaty obligations and is realistic in terms of time and required resources. Türkiye contributed 2,121 million Euros to this activity. NTS activities were conducted on **3.451 mined areas** by commercial contractors. During the NTS process, the quality of NTS work plans, NTS reporting, and NTS data submission areas were reviewed by UNDP NTS Quality Control Team and TURMAC to ensure the outputs required by International and National Mine Action Standards are met. UNDP, TURMAC and NTS contractor worked together to improve the NTS report submission quality through workshops, coordination meetings and methodology improvements to accelerate the process.

As a result of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) Project and demining operations carried out in 2023, Türkiye has a total of 225.370.305 m^2 area to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations. The new situation was declared in Türkiye's 2024 The Annual Article 7 Report. The comparative summary contamination status before and after the NTS project is presented in the table below, based on Türkiye's 2023 and 2024 The Annual Article 7 Report.

Year	Number of areas known to contain A/P mines	Number of areas suspected to contain A/P mines	Total number of areas	Area known to contain A/P mines (m2)	Area suspected to contain A/P mines (m2)	Total area remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations
2023 Annual Article 7 Report[6] (Before NTS Project)	3.701	-	**3.701**	133.390.758	-	**133.390.758**
2024 Annual Article 7 Report[7] (After NTS Project)	1.980	1.679	**3.659**	92.809.889	132.560.416	**225.370.305**

[6] Türkiye's 2023 The Annual Article 7 Report.
[7] Türkiye's 2024 The Annual Article 7 Report.

As a result of the NTS project, the CHAs has decreased, and for the first time, the SHAs have been determined and declared in Türkiye's 2024 The Annual Article 7 Report. The reasons for determining large SHAs are summarized in the following items:

- As a result of the evidence-based analysis, some CHA were classified as SHA,
- Areas that could not be reached in previous years due to security reasons have been accessed and new SHAs have been identified as a result of newly obtained evidences,
- New SHAs were identified by accessing additional indirect evidences and **non-standard records** in regions that could not be categorized before the NTS project due to insufficient evidences.

The newly obtained records and indirect evidence that caused the SHAs within the scope of the NTS project can be categorized under the following headings.

- Non-standard records obtained on-site from the archives of state institutions in the region (governorates, courts, law enforcement agencies, military units etc.),
- Newly obtained historical military mine survey and military clearance records,
- Information obtained from interviews with civilians,
- Historical military obstacle plans,
- Records of natural disasters (floods, landslides, etc.) that disrupt the integrity of minefields and cause new possible contamination.

In order to be able to make subsequent decisions regarding the identified SHAs and to confirm the mine hazard with certainty, annual Technical Survey (TS) plans for SHAs have been prepared and the relevant plans are presented in the **"Implications of the Mine Contamination"** section of the document.

As a result of NTS project;

- Unregistered or duplicate records of mined areas were identified,
- More accurate information on the remaining contamination has been acquired,
- The TURMAC database has been updated with new information,
- The precise location of mined areas will support efforts to carry out TS and clearance,

Visuals of the Non-technical Survey activities carried out by TDI/ALTAY companies are presented below;

Photo-4: Non-technical Survey Activities

c. Policy Methodology of the Non-Techical Survey

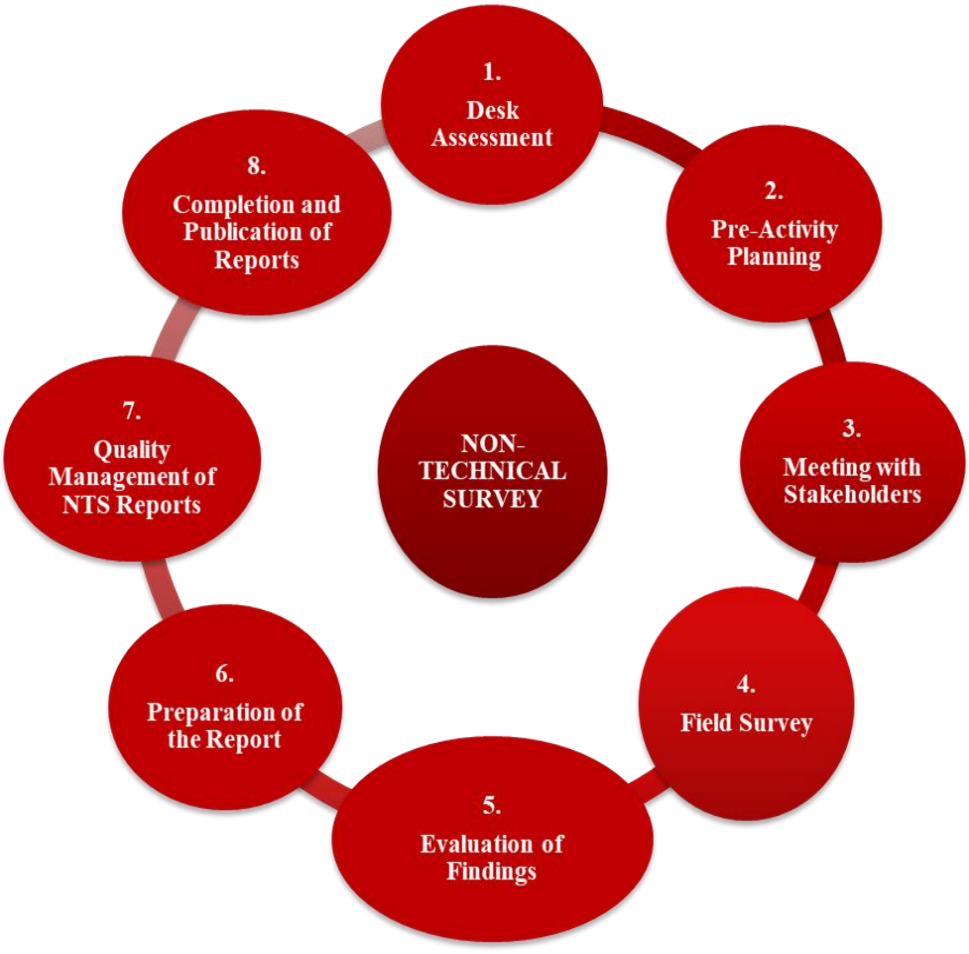
In the Republic of Türkiye, the authority and responsibilities of the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) are carried out by the TURMAC, and all criteria for reasonable effort, residual risk, SHA and CHA are determined by TURMAC.

TURMAC's general principles regarding those criteria can be summarized as follows:

- To perform all reasonable efforts to the maximum extent by using all the available resources,
- Keeping residual risk as low as possible,
- Taking reasonable suspicion into account in every decision,
- Taking into account the differences in contamination at the borders and other than borders,
- Increasing efficiency within the framework of graduated response.

Methods for releasing suspected and confirmed hazardous areas in Türkiye are defined through National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which have compliance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), including NMAS and SOPs on Land Release, Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey and mine clearance.

Non-Technical Survey is an 8-stage process in line with national and international mine action standards and in the framework of the diagram below.



Suspected hazardous areas are identified as a result of analysis of indirect evidence of the presence of mines *(especially the verbal statements of people that mines have been seen out of the mine areas etc.)*. Following the completion of survey operations, suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas are determined with the help of field research and interviews, within the framework of analysis of the contamination characteristics in the operation area, desk and data analysis, survey of records, interviews and meetings, area investigation and determination of the final polygon in the light of these data.

In the NTS process, the following headings are generally evaluated as direct and indirect evidence.

Direct Evidences:[8]

* Mined area registration form (**standard records)**,

* Mine/unexploded ordnance accidents,

* Dead animal remains and explosion pits in the field, visible mines or unexploded ordnance,

* Explosions caused by fire or animals stepping on them,

* Detection of mines/unexploded ordnance or by technical intervention (detector, mine detection dog etc.),

* Mines seen in a different location other than registered areas,

* Mine area warning and marking tools such as plates, barbed wires, stakes etc. **(by whom places known),**

* Information and information on mined areas whose reliability has been confirmed documents. (clearance reports, Geographic Analysis System (GAS) data, etc.)

Indirect Evidences:[9]

* Non-standard historical mine records,

* Data obtained from historical military mine surveys,

* Mine area warning and marking tools **(by whom places unknown),**

* Fertile land that is not in use,

* Verbal statements regarding mine/unexploded ordnance contamination,

* The specific locations where the terrorists attacked.

Moreover, since the minefields differ in terms of laying techniques on the border line and in the inner regions (other than borders), the planning and execution are carried out in line with the **"SOP-Methodology of Principles to be Applied in Minefields Located on the Border Line",** which was created especially for the minefields located within the borders of the military prohibited zones on the border line.

[8] The direct evidence criteria taken into consideration in the NTS process are also included in IMAS.
[9] The indirect evidence criteria taken into consideration in the NTS process are also included in IMAS.

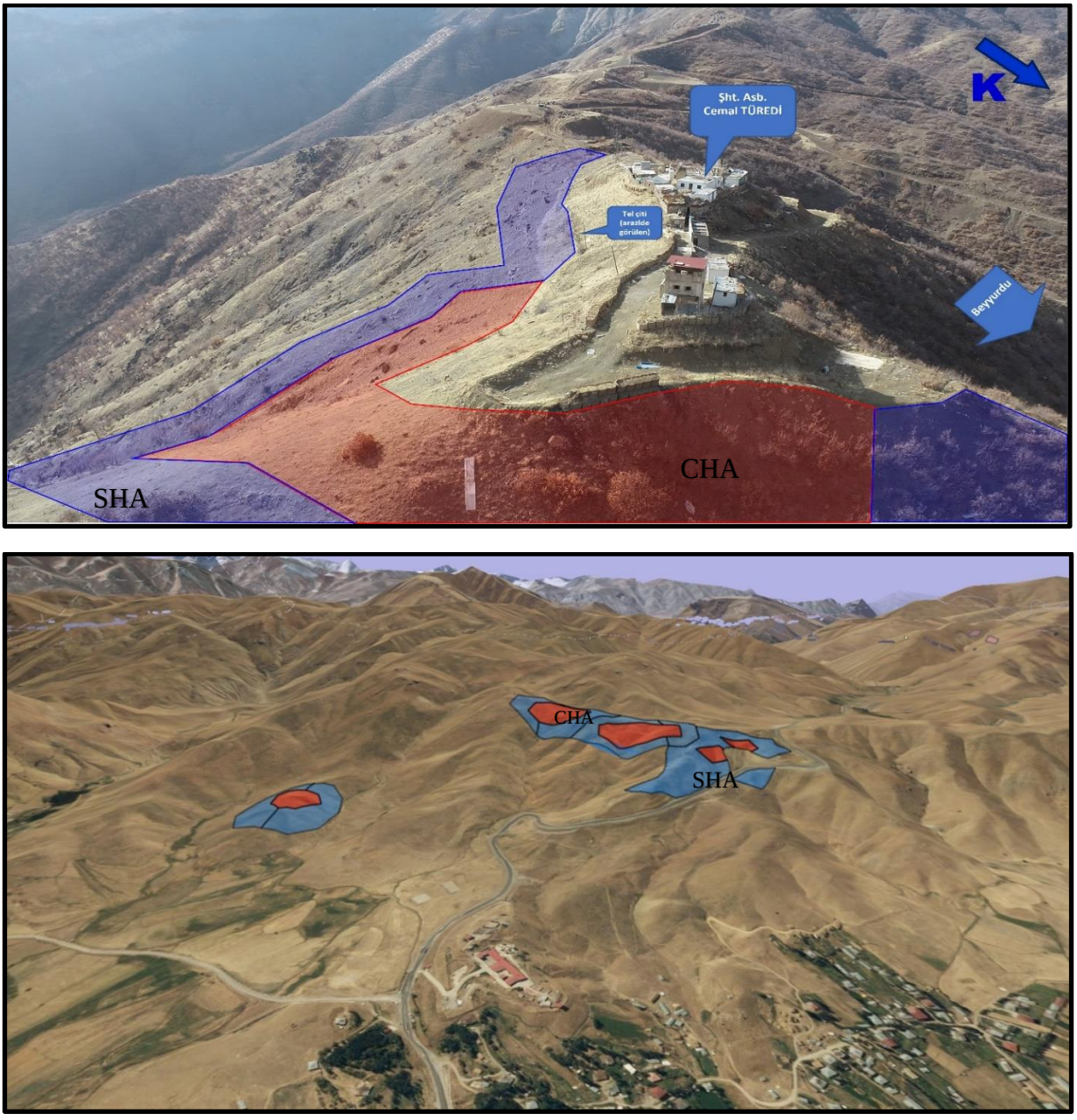


Photo-5: Non-technical Survey Activity (SHA/CHA)

d. Mine Clearance Project in Mardin

In addition to Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-3, TURMAC planned to conduct another mine clearance project with a contracting modality between **2021-2023** in **Mardin** province which is located on the Syrian border. The Ministry of National Defence allocated approximately 3 million Euros for this project, which intended to address 27 mined areas measuring 1.058.000 m^2.

However, the project in question could not be realized, due to the activities of terrorist organizations and the instability on the Syrian side of the border area. It was considered that direct and indirect fire that could be carried out by terrorist organizations (PKK/PYD/YPG) from across the Syrian border may pose a risk to personnel who will carry out mine clearance in the area in question.

e. Increase the Capacity of Military Demining Units and Continue Clearance Efforts

Türkiye continued its mine clearance activities by using all available military assets. In order to increase the rate of clearance, a total of 18 additional military demining teams have been established and accredited during the previous extension request period. Currently, a total of 50 military demining teams (32 teams of Turkish Land Forces Command and 18 teams of General Command of Gendarmerie) are operational.

Military demining units were augmented with 8 MEMATT2 AS1 mechanical demining machines which were manufactured for the first time with domestic and national means and accredited and certificated by TURMAC according to CWA 15044 – Test and Evaluation of Demining Machines international standards between 2021 and 2024. Currently, a total of 10 (8 MEMATT2 AS1, 2 BOZENA) mechanical demining machines are operational.

The capacities of military demining units were increased with additional 11 Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) between 2022 and 2024. Currently, a total of 16 mine detection dogs are operational. In order to increase dog training, accreditation and testing capacity, 228 boxes of accreditation and testing areas were prepared in Iğdır province in 2023, 104 boxes of accreditation and testing areas were prepared in Military Veterinary School and Training Center Command in Bursa in 2024, and construction of 32 boxes for the mine detection dog testing and accreditation area in Erzincan is ongoing. The capacity to train 10 MDDs per year has been reached.

Furthermore, Türkiye sent 8 military demining teams and 4 EOD teams to Azerbaijan in December 2020 to support the mine clearance activities carried out by Azerbaijan. Considering the areas to be cleaned in Türkiye, the number of military demining teams was later reduced to 4. In this context, since 2020, a part of national mine clearance capacity has been used in international assistance activities.

In the previous extension request, it was planned to address **60 mined areas** by military demining units. Data on mine clearance carried out by military demining units with increased capacity between 2021 and 2024 are presented in the table below:

Year*	Number of areas addressed	Amount of area cleared (m^2)	Amount of area reduced (m^2)	Amount of area cancelled (m^2)	Total area addressed (m^2)	A/P mine destroyed	A/T mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
2021	30	413.851	81.298	0	495.149	14.022	1.429	1
2022	30	358.970	86.109	0	445.079	9.038	30	2
2023	5	466.818	149.864	3.588	620.270	2.492	12	3
2024	6*	680.864	35.546	0	716.410	179	5	1
TOTAL	71	1.920.503	352.817	3.588	2.276.908	25.731	1.476	7

* The total number of areas addressed is 34. The number of fully completed areas is 6. While the amount of partially cleared (m^2) areas were included, the number of partially completed areas were not included in the table.

While 60 mined areas were planned to be cleared in previous extension request, the number of mine areas cleared was successfully increased to 71 with additional mine clearance operations in other provinces.

Total progress achieved during the extension period is shown below.

Year	Amount of area cleared (m²)	Amount of area reduced (m²)	Amount of area cancelled (m²)	Total area addressed (m²)
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**

f. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Activities and Efforts Undertaken to Ensure the Effective Exclusion of Civilians from Mined Areas

As a member of NATO, Türkiye's mine contamination context is rather different than many other countries. The great majority of anti-personnel mines in Türkiye were laid along the southern and eastern borders during 1955–1959 and 1992-1995 by Turkish military forces in accordance with relevant NATO STANAGS.

Türkiye's mined areas, including extended established buffer areas are mapped, recorded, marked, fenced, and constantly observed by military personnel. Although mined areas in Türkiye expose minor threat to civilians when compared to the extent of contamination, Türkiye is committed to conducting firm Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities to reach the **''no mine victim''** target.

Türkiye's EORE activities aim to reduce the risk of injury from mines/IEDs by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change among citizens who are settled in close proximity to contaminated areas. These activities include information exchange with at-risk communities, communication of safety messages to target groups, and support for community risk management and participation in mine action. EORE in Türkiye is carried out on a regular basis in a meticulous manner.

In developing the methodology for EORE activities, TURMAC collects mine victim's data from authorities such as the Ministry of Interior, General Command of Gendarmerie and the Ministry of Health. Importance is given to 'need assessment process', which is the systematic collection and analyses of data in question that helps to identify more precisely the populations of women, men, children at risk and their risk behaviours. According to the needs assessments, the more appropriate EORE approach and methodology is determined and EORE activities are

planned by prioritizing the regions where accidents occur more frequently. During EORE activities in question, the face-to-face training method, adapted to the target audience, is preferred by expert EORE personnel. Additionally, social media is used as a supportive method. In areas with high EO other than mines risk, munition-focused materials are used while in areas with a high mine risk, mine- mine focused materials are utilized.

The objective is to provide EORE to citizens to reduce the risk to a level where people can live safely, thus contributing to an environment where economic and social development can occur free from the constraints imposed by explosive ordnance contamination. The range of methods for EORE includes community meetings, interviews, and personal observation which refers to the process of noticing, perceiving, and interpreting behaviours of mine victims.

According to the "National Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan" (NEOREP), which was prepared as a part of Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) and targeted most affected areas;

TURMAC provided trainers' training to 100 General Command of Gendarmerie personnel who were assigned to provide EORE in *Bingöl, Hakkari, *Tunceli and Van in 2022. After the training in question, General Command of Gendarmerie EORE teams were subjected to a proficiency exam, certificates were given to successful ones and training materials (training presentation, three-legged easel, USB, carrying bag) and EORE message delivering items (notepad, pen, keychain, pencil box, mask, t-shirt and cloth bag) to be used within the scope of NEOREP were provided to the trainers. In 2022, General Command of Gendarmerie EORE teams provided EORE to 1.767 (1.154 men, 108 women and 505 children) citizens who live close to mine areas in *Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Mardin and *Siirt.

A protocol was signed with Humanitarian Mine Actions Association (IMFAD), which is a Turkish Non-Governmental Organisation working in the field of humanitarian mine action, to conduct EORE in order to increase awareness of our citizens about mine/EO risks and prevent possible mine/EO accidents in three mine-affected provinces in 2022 and 2023**.** According to the protocol EORE teams conducted EORE to **1.853** citizens (107 women, 992 children and 754 men) in *Muş, *Bitlis and *Tunceli.

TURMAC provided trainers' training to 64 personnel from military demining units of Turkish Land Forces Command assigned to *Erzincan and Hatay in **2023**. Furthermore, TURMAC has provided trainers' training to **287** personnel from Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Van and *Bitlis. General Command of Gendarmerie personnel **in 2024.**

In 2023, General Command of Gendarmerie EORE teams provided EORE sessions to **2.141** citizens (1.717 men, 123 women and 301 children) who live close to mine areas in *Batman, *Bingöl, Diyarbakır, Hakkari, *Tunceli and Van. Within the scope of NEOREP, [10]EORE message-delivering items (notepad, pen, keychain, pencil box, mask, t-shirt and cloth bag) were provided to the citizens.

[10] The provinces with an asterisk (*) are located in other than borders.

A total of **2.725** (**333** women, **1.592** men and **800** children) citizens have been trained by the General Command of Gendarmerie EORE teams in 6 provinces **in 2024.**

Within the scope of Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project Phase-III; NTS teams carried out EORE sessions with participation of 30 people (1 woman, 1 man and 28 children) in 2022 in Kilis and 85 citizens (43 women and 42 men) in Şırnak in 2023. (These trainings are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, and tailored to the needs of mine-affected citizens as appropriate.)

Since the previous extension request, EORE sessions were conducted with **9.074** citizens (**5.728** men, **677** women and **2.669** children) **in total**. The table below contains the information about the training in question;

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION (EORE)						
Years	**Gender**	**ORGANIZATION PROVIDING THE EDUCATION**				
		TURMAC	**NTS Teams**	**Humanitarian Mine Action Association (IMFAD)**	**General Command of Gendarmarie**	**Total**
2022	Women	3	1	107	108	219
	Men	119	1	754	1.154	2.028
	Children	0	28	992	505	1.525
	Total	122	30	1.853	1.767	3.772
2023	Women	0	0	-	123	123
	Men	64	42		1.717	1.823
	Children	0	43		301	344
	Total	64	85		2.141	2.290
2024	Women	2	-	-	333	335
	Men	285			1.592	1.877
	Children	0			800	800
	Total	287			2.725	3.012
TOTAL		**473**	**115**	**1.853**	**6.633**	**9.074**

According to our statistics on EORE, casualty and loss rates at contaminated areas are minimal. As a result of those EORE activities, a decrease is observed in mine and munition accidents in areas with high risk. Those activities raised awareness and promoted safe behaviour for citizens and supported for community risk management and participation in mine action.

Anti-personnel mines laid in Türkiye have caused injuries and deaths of civilian and military personnel. However, Unidentified Explosive Ordnance (EO) have multiplied the number of casualties. Unidentified EOs caused harm to law-enforcement units and civilians.

Since the beginning of the previous extension request, 30 (27 males, 3 females) civilians have been **injured** and 3 civilians (male) has **died** due to mine-related incidents. Of the 30 people injured 27 were between the ages of 0-18 and the remaining 19 were between the ages of 18-65, and 1 out of 3 people who **died** were between the ages of 0-18 and the remaining 2 people were between the ages of 18-65.

Apart from civilian victims, 17 military personnel have been injured and 3 military personnel have died due to mine-related incidents since 2022.

Information on mine-related incidents and data on victims are listed in the table below.

DATA ON MINE/IED VICTIMS												
Years	**Accidents**	**Military Personnel**		**Civilian**								**Total**
		Men		**Men**		**Women**		**Girls**		**Boys**		
		Injured	**Dead**	**Injured**	**Dead**	**Injured**	**Dead**	**Injured**	**Dead**	**Injured**	**Dead**	
2022	**25**	7	2	16	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	**32**
2023	**10**	6	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	**11**
2024	**7**	4	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	**10**
TOTAL	**42**	**17**	**3**	**21**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**6**	**1**	**53**

Information on location/province of victims are listed in the table below.

DATA ON MINE/IED VICTIMS PER LOCATION					
Years	**Province**	**Accidents**	**Victims**		**Total**
			Wounded	**Dead**	
2022	Ağrı	3	4	0	4
	Aydın	1	1	0	1
	Bitlis	1	1	0	1
	Hakkari	2	2	0	2

	Hatay	1	1	0	1
	Iğdır	1	1	0	1
	Kars	1	1	0	1
	Kastamonu	1	1	0	1
	Konya	1	1	0	1
	Siirt	2	2	1	3
	Şırnak	9	13	0	13
	Van	2	2	1	3
	Total	**25**	**30**	**2**	**32**
2023	Diyarbakır	1	1	0	1
	Hakkari	2	1	1	2
	Kilis	2	2	0	2
	Mardin	1	1	0	1
	Siirt	1	1	0	1
	Van	3	3	1	4
	Total	**10**	**9**	**2**	**11**
2024	Şırnak	2	2	1	3
	Hakkari	4	5	1	6
	Kilis	1	1	0	1
	Total	**7**	**8**	**2**	**10**
Grand Total		**42**	**47**	**6**	**53**

In addition to killing or maiming people, mined areas prevent infrastructure development, archaeological and historical activities, and public use of areas such as national/natural parks or agricultural and livestock area.

Furthermore, anti-personnel mine accidents occur due to an undetected mine, the carelessness of the mine victim and during mine clearance and survey, vegetation clearance and during mine destruction and etc.

EORE activities are carried out in areas where mines/Unidentified EO's risks are high ensuring that these activities are context-specific and gender sensitivity. EORE projects operate with the assumption that raising awareness of the explosive ordnance threat and working directly with communities helps change behaviours, reducing the risk of death or injury. The higher the number of affected-citizens, the greater the priority.

While these mine/Unidentified EOs may be indiscriminate, the specific threats and impacts vary according to gender, age and other aspects of diversity. It is essential to apply a gender lens as part of a comprehensive and inclusive approach to planning and implementing EORE programmes to ensure that "no one is left behind." For this reason, giving importance of gender sensitivity, our female citizens, their children, and family members received training together. During the training, examples about risks of mines/Unidentified EOs for children and adults were given separately to raise awareness of mine risks among our citizens. For instance, female citizens are warned that they may encounter mines/Unidentified EOs while collecting mushrooms in the field in the vicinity of mined areas. Furthermore, male citizens are warned not to graze their animals in areas with high mines/Unidentified EOs risk. Also, children are told to be careful of mines/Unidentified EOs and stay away from them while playing ball and spending time with their friends in the risky area. They were told how to protect themselves when they encounter the risks of mines/Unidentified EOs.

In addition to these, TURMAC periodically coordinate with relevant institutions (The Ministry of Interior, the General Command of Gendarmerie and Turkish Land Forces Command) to take safety and security measures in areas with high mine risk and to carry out EORE activities meticulously.

Even though mine clearance activities are over, EORE will continue for many years as there will always be a risk of encountering mines/Unidentified EOs.

In conclusion, EORE activities have a positive socioeconomic impact on citizens. It contributes to sectors such as health, education and economy. Thanks to the increase in citizens' awareness of mines/Unidentified EOs as a result of EORE activities, fewer accidents occur. Also, students are educated safely in regions with high mines/Unidentified EOs risk and economic activities such as agriculture and livestock are carried out in a safer environment.

g. Methods & Standards of Controlling and Assuring Quality and Information Management

TURMAC Quality Management Department aims to ensure that all mine actions are on the observance of the NMAS and SOPs, which have been developed within the frame of IMAS and ISO principals and provides the balance between components of quality.

Quality Management Process is a two-stage process, Quality Assurance and Quality Control. These two activities are carried out as Internal and External Quality Assurance/Quality Control activities.

Internal Quality Assurance and Internal Quality Control activities are carried out in the field by the institution/organization that will perform mine clearance activities. The institution/organization that perform the mine clearance in the field inspect the activity themselves and ensure that the detected deficiencies are immediately intervened and corrected. In cases where risks are detected, the work is stopped and the situation is evaluated and all these cases are regularly reported to the TURMAC, ensuring that the activities are carried out safely, effectively and efficiently.

External Quality Assurance and External Quality Control activities are activities carried out by the TURMAC or the institution/organization authorized by the TURMAC with or without notice. In EQA and EQC activities, "all reasonable efforts" are within the scope of the relevant SOPs. It is checked whether all the requirements have been fulfilled. If there is no discrepancy in the field, the handover activity is carried out.

In the quality management system, the institution/organization that carries out mine clearance in the field performs QA and QC internally and continuously reports this to the TURMAC, thus ensuring continuous inspection of the field. In this way, the implementation of EQA and EQC activities becomes more efficient and effective.

Before the land is handed over, manual clearance (using a detector and needle) is conducted, followed by a verification activity using mechanical mine clearance equipment and/or mine-detection dogs (at least one method is selected based on the terrain) as a confidence-building measure. After the cleaning activity is completed in the mined area, an extended search is carried out according to the surface conditions and the moving potential of the mines in order to locate any missing mine(s). For lost mines, search activities are carried out according to seasonal conditions, natural events such as floods and landslides, and additional information provided by the military or citizens. The presence of a stream bed in the field and the slope direction usually help determine the direction of the extended search. In the event that one or more mines are missing from one of the bundles of mines located in the belt in the field, a 1x1 meter wide box-shaped excavation with a depth of at least 20 cm is carried out.

If a mine is later found in a previously released area where the mine clearance process has been completed, the area is evaluated as a Confirmed Hazardous Area and subsequently a

technical survey is made again, the general condition of the land is determined and searched again with the verification methods.

After mine clearance activities are completed, all data is collected in the Information Management Branch and the data from the field is reviewed. All data is stored in the Information Management System of Mine Action (IMSMA) program, which is regularly backed up at specific intervals. In addition, all data obtained after mine clearance activities is instantly processed into the system and the information is kept up-to-date. Information, documents and records related to ongoing projects are also backed up on the servers of the Ministry of National Defense.

Activities conducted in the field are collected through daily, weekly and monthly reports and transferred to the IMSMA system. The data uploaded to the IMSMA system is transferred to Excel tables by using the staging system and presented to decision-makers for planning and prioritization.

Using Microsoft and GIS (Geographical Information Systems) tools in conjunction with IMSMA, making triple checks via data interoperability, TURMAC is able to provide statistical data at any level of decision process during mine action. Highly effective data collection and analysis system is utilized both by TURMAC, Military and Gendarmerie demining units during implementation of humanitarian mine clearance and TURMAC's stakeholders during implementation of EBMCP. Besides using IMSMA and Quantum Geographical Information System (QGIS) which are used by many countries implementing humanitarian mine action, TURMAC uses a system developed by Turkish Ministry of National Defense by the name of Geographical Analyzing System (GAS) which is a virtual sphere platform exhibiting two or three dimensional analyses and maps in all scales without interruption, in order to ensure data standardization.

To stay updated on technological advancements in the field of demining and monitoring the latest developments in remote sensing technologies, robotics, data analytics, and other relevant areas that enhance surveying, clearance and quality assurance processes in mine action, TURMAC has started to communicate with GICHD about using IMSMA Core to ensure adherence of information management activities of TURMAC to international standards. After obtaining the necessary data from IMSMA Core and evaluating whether it is in line with the Ministry of National Defence's procedures, the ultimate decision will be made.

Additionally, even if mine clearance is completed, data in both printed and digital formats will continue to be stored in accordance with national legislation.

4. Remaining Article 5 Challenges

As a result of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) Project, which was part of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project (EBMCP) Phase-III and demining operations, Türkiye has a total of **219.903.460 m^2** to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

Areas that contain or are suspected to contain mines and number of mines are listed in the table below.

Location	Number of areas known to contain A/P mines	Area known to contain A/P mines (m^2)	Number of mine in areas known to contain A/P mines		Number of areas suspected to contain A/P mines	Area suspected to contain A/P mines (m^2)	Number of mine in areas suspected to contain A/P mines		Total area remaining to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations
			A/P	A/T			A/P	A/T	
Syrian Border	1.102	58.003.013	354.217	129.287	332	38.280.663	49.133	32.187	96.283.676
Iraqi Border	422	20.227.566	63.682	20	401	27.170.163	12.448	-	47.397.729
Iranian Border	222	7.516.537	32.048	-	340	27.080.552	12.073	-	34.597.089
Other than Borders	254	7.442.501	25.640	-	583	34.182.465	20.202	-	41.624.966
TOTAL	**2.000**	**93.189.617**	**475.587**	**129.307**	**1.656**	**126.713.843**	**93.856**	**32.187**	**219.903.460**

After the NTS project and NTS carried out by military units since the last extension request to the end of 2024, some of the areas previously classified as SHAs were determined as CHAs. As a result of these NTS activities, there have been changes in data such as square meters of mined areas and the number of mined areas. In this context, the data presented above has been updated and recorded in the IMSMA system.

5. Circumstances that Impeding Implementation by the Deadline

The following circumstances presented challenges during the last extension period:

- TURMAC was established in 2015. However, due to need for specific capacity development processes in the organization, mine action centre could become fully operational both on HQ and field levels with effect from 2017.
- Most of the mined areas in Türkiye are located in mountainous regions where the slope of the land negatively affects mine clearance activities. Access to mined areas is difficult due to the lack of usable roads and paths in some regions.
- In addition to topographical challenges, particularly in the east and south-east region, harsh weather conditions also limits mine clearance operations to be conducted only for 3 or 4 months a year. Natural micro disasters such as floods, landslides and avalanches disrupt the integrity of the mined areas and further prevent access.
- Because of the minefields are 30-80 years old, excessive vegetation has grown in some mined areas. The vegetation negatively affects the searches carried out using Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) and mechanical equipment, and the mine clearance operations require the removal of this

vegetation from the mined area. Specialized equipment is also required for difficult-to-clear plants (such as reeds) particularly in mined areas around riverbeds.

- Demining operations carried out in mine areas with volcanic rocks around volcanic mountains progress very slowly. The minerals and metals in these rocks are resulted in detectors perceiving them as mines, thus making mine detection process difficult.
- Relatively more detailed demining processes are carried out in mine areas with a high density of contamination, thus the density of mines per square meter in a minefield prolongs the demining process.
- Mined territories contaminated with metal remnants (empty shells, ammunitions, shrapnel etc.) due to post operations against terrorism, has a negative impact on land release process regarding daily clearance rate of the de-miners.
- Instability along the borders with countries such as Syria, Iraq etc. impedes the land release progress and makes it difficult to put in place long-term projects or clearance schedules.
- In addition to mines laid in the past by security forces, separatist terror organization has also been employing mines including Unidentified EOs hence rendering the clearance process more complex.
- Persistence of terrorist threat gives rise to security problems for humanitarian demining in certain areas. A project was planned to carry out mine clearance by contractors with the national budget in Mardin province, located on the southern border of Türkiye. However, the project in question could not be realized, because, it was considered that direct and indirect fire by terrorist organizations (PKK, YPG, DEASH) from the Syrian side of the border could pose a risk to the personnel who would clear mines in the region.
- Although the EBMCP Phase-3 started in 2021, handover activities could not be executed before 2022 due to the inability to carry out the Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) which were used as clearance, verification and reduction asset besides manual demining teams during land release process of the project as a result of delay in the import of MDDs because of Covid-19 pandemic conditions.[11]
- Disasters such as earthquakes, fires and floods also negatively affect mine clearance activities. Two earthquakes of magnitude 7.8 and 7.6 occurred in Türkiye on February 6, 2023, affected more than 11 provinces in the south of Türkiye and caused disruption in humanitarian mine clearance activities. Described as 'the disaster of the century', burden of the earthquake on Turkish economy was 103,6 billion dollars. In addition to the casualties and economic damages resulting from the earthquake, military units serving close to the area were assigned to search and rescue activities. Additionally, after the earthquake, a significant amount of European Union funds was transferred to projects to mitigate the effect of the earthquake. Currently, international fund support for Türkiye's humanitarian demining activities has ceased.

[11] 8 MDD Teams including 16 MDD was accredited in 2022 and 4 MDD Teams including 8 MDD was accredited in 2023. 15 Manual Demining Teams and 2 Survey Teams was accredited in 2021, 18 Manual Demining Teams and 2 Survey Teams was accredited in 2022, 4 Manual Demining Teams and 1 Survey Team was accredited in 2023.

Notwithstanding impediments to the devastating results of earthquake, TURMAC steadfastly submitted and sent project proposal in order to request financial support from European Union to be able to conduct 'Humanitarian Demining and Increasing the Border Surveillance Capacity on Eastern Borders Phase-4 Project' focusing on demining activities in Van Province, which is the province with the longest border with Iran, measuring 295 kilometres. In addition to these endeavours, TURMAC held an event themed on an individualised approach to request support in terms of conducting '**Humanitarian Demining and Increasing the Border Surveillance Capacity on Eastern Borders Phase-4 Project**'. Under Article 6 of Ottawa Convention, which encompasses international cooperation and assistance obligations, TURMAC initiated contact with the Delegation of EU, Japanese Embassy and Kuwaiti Embassy in 2023. TURMAC is continuing diplomatic correspondences to secure funding from potential donors for the proposed project. If funding is obtained, the project is expected to be conducted **between 2026-2028**.

6. Amount of Time Requested and a Rationale for this Amount of Time

The resource allocated to mine clearance activities carried out in Türkiye between 2022-2025 is shown in the table below;

Source of Funds	Year				Total
	2022	2023	2024	2025	
TURMAC and Ministry of National Defence Budget (TL)	77.019.742,57	70.371.883	104.874.158	130.465.800	382.731.583,57
Cost of the 50 Military Demining Teams (TL)	108.460.619,00	175.498.533	292.072.742	360.075.800	936.107.694,00
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Budget (TL)	126.627	17.576	233.578	922.744	1.300.525
EU (IPA) Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Total	185.606.988,57	245.887.992	397.180.478	491.464.344	1.320.139.802,57

As seen in the table above, the national budget allocated to humanitarian mine action has increased since 2022. In addition, since the last extension was granted, the national capacity, including TURMAC and military demining units, has increased both in the number of personnel

and equipment. In this way, despite the difficulties and obstacles encountered in humanitarian mine action listed above, the activities carried out are progressing successfully and Türkiye's humanitarian mine clearance capacity is increasing.

The previous three (3) years and nine (9) months of extension request was in line with best practices captured in the "Reflections on the Article 5 Extension Process" report (APLC/MSP.12/2012/4) in requesting "only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information".

Having clearly understood the extent of the challenge as a result of its past efforts, Türkiye requests a **five (5) years** of implementation period, starting **from 31 December 2025 until 31 December 2030**, in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 5.

7. Implications of the Mine Contamination

The mine contamination in Türkiye has a significant humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental impact as follows;

- Mines, which were laid due to the threat of terrorism and border security concerns endanger the safety of life, agriculture, livestock, and property of the people of the region,
- Mine contaminated areas prevent the evaluation of lands containing historical treasures and their integration into our cultural heritage,
- Even though it has national park/natural park status, the contaminated areas threaten natural life,
- Mined areas, which are included in residential areas over time, prevent economic development by blocking urbanization of that region,
- Mine contamination in areas where drilling and seismic research will be carried out prevents the extraction of underground/natural resources (oil, natural gas etc.) and their contributionto the country's economy,
- Mine contamination in the regions that are suitable for the establishment of power plants prevents the use of national resources in energy investments,
- The non-completion of mine clearance prevents activities that will contribute to the country's economy by inhibiting the exploration, measurement and operation activities for mining sector to be carried out in the lands that are not needed for military purposes.
- The mined areas located in these border areas have a negatively major impact on the operational capability and rapidness of Turkish Land Forces border units as to timely intervention of any border incident.

- In addition, the mined areas prevent the “Integrated Border Management Systems” from being constructed, installed and operated at full capacity.

- Clearance of land mines makes significant contribution to reducing soil contamination and enhancing soil restoration by eliminating Trinitrotoluene (TNT) which is used in explosives and mines. Since TNT or TNT derivatives are major sources of contamination in soils, groundwater, surface water and toxicity of TNT has long-term harmful effects on blood, liver and brain, mine clearance has vital role in protecting environment.

8. Detailed Work Plan for the Period of the Requested Extension

TURMAC has prioritized its mine clearance activities with regard to the following characteristics of the contaminated land. Türkiye has the capacity to address all prioritization levels simultaneously in order to meet the requirements of the government and ensure the safety of its citizens;

- **Prioritization Level 1** : Lands with minefields along the southern and eastern borders of the Türkiye, which prevents the establishment/construction of the new technological border surveillance system (watchtower, patrol road etc.).
- **Prioritization Level 2** : Interior lands with mine areas that are posing a danger to citizens.
- **Prioritization Level 3** : Lands within the scope of mined areas to be cleared in line with projects carried out by other Ministries for public benefit purposes (construction of irrigation channels, construction of customs gates, opening the region to tourism, etc.)
- **Prioritization Level 4 :** Lands in dispute along the borders and interior parts of Türkiye belong to private owners.
- **Prioritization Level 5:** Lands within the scope of mined areas to be cleared for the purpose of providing socio-economic contribution (agriculture, livestock, mining, etc.)

a. The Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-4

Within this requested time, Türkiye plans to continue Phase-4 of the Eastern Borders Mine Clearance Project series with a contracting modality between 2026-2028 in Van province on eastern border of Türkiye via European Union Funds or any international donor support. The project is directly aligned with National Developments Plans; ‘Democratic Good Governance Based on Justice’ heading of the 12th National Development Plan (NDP) which emphasizes the role of human rights having regard to all aspects involved in the framework of the rule of law, pursuing the balance between fundamental rights and freedoms with social and individual security issues; increasing the effectiveness and quality of security services and providing the citizen participation through raising the consciousness on fight against crime.

Within the proposed project 85 mine areas measuring an area of 4.000.000 m2 are planned to be addressed. At the end of the project, Van Province will be free of mines. Alongside the land

release of mined areas, EORE sessions in 20 locations, technical survey conducted in 30 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) and capacity building activities for TURMAC and Military Demining Units will be conducted within Phase 4 of the EBMCP Project Series. The planned components of the project are listed below:

1- Land Release within 85 minefields (4.000.000 m^2)

2- EORE Sessions (20 Location)

3- Technical Survey on 30 SHA

4- Capacity Building Activities for TURMAC and Military Demining Units (16 Modules)

In the margins of the 21st Meetings of State Parties of the Ottawa Convention, held in Geneva between 20-24 November 2023, TURMAC organized an "Individualized Approach Event" (on 22 November 2023) to request support for its future mine clearance activities. Later TURMAC initiated contact with the Delegation of EU, Japanese Embassy and Kuwaiti Embassy in 2023 and 2024 to request support for its future mine clearance activities.

TURMAC's efforts in order to find international fund support for the planned project are not limited to correspondences conducted with Japanese and Kuwaiti Embassies, but also include engagements with governmental institutions in order to find EU funding support.

At the 5th Review Conference held in Siem Reap/Cambodia on 25-29 November 2024, the TURMAC authorities met with the Head of EU Delegation. In this meeting, TURMAC authorities requested support by mentioning that the first 3 phases of EBMC Project were successfully completed and there was still no funding for the 4th and final phase on Iranian border. The Head of EU Delegation stated that he would forward our request to the relevant authorities.

Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase-4 is yet to be financed by any donor. Estimated cost of the proposed project is above 20 million Euros.

If an **international donor** is found to finance the project, a national budget contribution will be requested in return for the budget provided for TURMAC within the framework of National Budget possibilities. In conclusion, Türkiye, ranked among the top 10 countries in the world with the most anti-personnel mine-effected areas, receiving no assistance in 2024 contradicts the spirit of cooperation outlined in Article 6.4 of the Ottawa Convention.

b. Military Demining Unit's Mine Clearance Tasks Plan

Considering the priority criteria and current capacity, the mine survey and clearance activities specified in the table below will be carried out by military elements in the next 5 years.

Nu	Priority Criterion	District	Province	Location	Area (m^2)	Objective of the operation	Estimated Date of Completion
1	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	150.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2026
2	2	Merkez	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	120.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2026
3	2	Aktuluk	Tunceli	Other Than Borders	30.960	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2026
4	2	Çiçekli	Tunceli	Other Than Borders	70.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2026
5	2	Kocatepe	Tunceli	Other Than Borders	30.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2026
6	2	Güçlükonak	Şırnak	Syria Border	12.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2026
7	4	Ceylanpınar	Şanlıurfa	Syria Border	60.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2026
8	4	Reyhanlı	Hatay	Syria Border	58.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2026
9	4	İdil	Şırnak	Syria Border	40.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2026
10	4	İdil	Şırnak	Syria Border	20.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2026
11	5	Kırıkhan	Hatay	Syria Border	65.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture	2026
12	5	Kumlu	Hatay	Syria Border	50.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2026
13	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	160.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2027
14	1	Elbeyli	Kilis	Syria Border	30.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2027
15	2	Merkez	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	120.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2027
16	2	Kocatepe	Tunceli	Other Than Borders	30.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2027
17	2	Şemdinli	Hakkari	Iraq Border	34.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2027
18	2	Kığı	Bingöl	Other Than Borders	42.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2027
19	4	Ceylanpınar	Şanlıurfa	Syria Border	75.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2027
20	4	Reyhanlı	Hatay	Syria Border	60.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2027
21	4	İdil	Şırnak	Syria Border	50.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2027
22	5	Kumlu	Hatay	Syria Border	78.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2027
23	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	180.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2028
24	2	Kocatepe	Tunceli	Other Than Borders	30.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2028
25	2	Merkez	Şırnak	Other Than	150.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In	2028

				Borders		Inland Areas	
26	2	Kığı	Bingöl	Other Than Borders	40.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2028
27	2	Şemdinli	Hakkari	Iraq Border	20.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2028
28	3	Tatvan	Bitlis	Other Than Borders	50.000	Support to Ministry Of Culture and Tourism (Development of Tourism)	2028
29	3	Fırat Havzası	Elazığ	Other Than Borders	1.250	Support to Ministry Of Culture and Tourism (Development of Tourism)	2028
30	3	Karakoçan	Elazığ/ Tunceli	Other Than Borders	37.180	Support to Ministry Of Culture and Tourism (Development of Tourism)	2028
31	4	Ceylanpınar	Şanlıurfa	Syria Border	75.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2028
32	4	İdil	Şırnak	Syria Border	150.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation	2028
33	5	Kumlu	Hatay	Syria Border	50.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2028
34	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	275.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2029
35	2	Merkez	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	150.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2029
36	2	Şemdinli	Hakkari	Iraq Border	40.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2029
37	2	Adaklı	Bingöl	Other Than Borders	25.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2029
38	2	Kocatepe	Tunceli	Other Than Borders	33.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2029
39	3	Tatvan	Bitlis	Other Than Borders	30.000	Support to Ministry Of Culture and Tourism (Development of Tourism)	2029
40	4	Kızıltepe	Mardin	Syria Border	75.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2029
41	4	İdil	Şırnak	Syria Border	210.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2029
42	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	255.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2030
43	2	Adaklı	Bingöl	Other Than Borders	30.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2030
44	2	Kocatepe	Tunceli	Other Than Borders	60.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2030
45	2	Merkez	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	140.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2030
46	2	Şemdinli	Hakkari	Iraq Border	40.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Inland Areas	2030
47	3	Tatvan	Bitlis	Other Than Borders	47.000	Support to Ministry Of Culture and Tourism (Development of Tourism)	2030
48	4	Kızıltepe	Mardin	Syria Border	100.000	Systematic Mine Clearence In Border Areas	2030
49	4	İdil	Şırnak	Syria Border	165.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation	2030
Total Areas					**3.843.390 m²**		

Mine Clearance Plan Summary by Years (Sqm)					
Years	**Syria Border**	**Iraq Border**	**Iran Border**	**Other Than Borders**	**Total Area**
2026 (Areas m²)	305.000	150.000	0	250.960	**705.960**
2027 (Areas m²)	293.000	194.000	0	192.000	**679.000**
2028 (Areas m²)	275.000	200.000	0	308.430	**783.430**
2029 (Areas m²)	285.000	315.000	0	238.000	**838.000**
2030 (Areas m²)	265.000	295.000	0	277.000	**837.000**
2026-2030 (Areas m²)	**1.423.000**	**1.154.000**	**0**	**1.266.390**	**3.843.390**

In addition, the Military Demining Teams and Mechanical Demining Machines accreditation activity is planned to be held every 2 years, and the Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) accreditation activity is planned to be carried out every year. The plans are as follows:

- Accreditation activities for 16 previously accredited MDDs and additional MDDs planned to be trained in 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030,
- Accreditation activities for 50 military delegation teams (32 teams of Turkish Land Forces Command and 18 teams of General Command of Gendarmerie) in 2027 and 2029,
- Accreditation of 10 mechanical demining machines is planned in 2027 and 2029.

Quality Assurance / Quality Control activities are planned in every area where a mine clearance task is planned between 2026-2030. With the update of IMAS, National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) update and SOP's creation activities within this scope will continue between 2026-2030.

Mined areas that connect be completed in the same year due to the reasons such as the size of the area to be cleared, its location, climatic working conditions and duration, and changes in the assigned units capacity *(In case of situations that develop during the year, the number of assigned units can be reduced and deployed where needed)* etc. are planned with the same priority in the cleaning plans in the following years.

In addition, Türkiye has requested fund allocation from EU in order to conduct another project on Capacity Development of Turkish Military Demining Units within the scope of IPA-III (2021-2027) program. The project is planned to accelerate humanitarian demining activities by increasing the capacity of military demining units. 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 and reducing mined areas.

Furthermore, mine clearance activities will continue by means of all available military assets as well.

c. Technical Survey and Non-Technical Survey Plan

Considering the priority criteria and current capacity, the technical survey activities specified in the table below will be carried out by military elements in the next 5 years.

Nu	Priority Criterion	District	Province	Location	Area (m^2)	Objective of the operation	Estimated Date of Completion
1	1	-	Van	Iran Border	160.000	Border Security Wall and Road Construction	2026
2	1	Aralık	Iğdır	Iran Border	65.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2026
3	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	160.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2026
4	3	Gabar	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	33.000	Support to National Petroleum Corporation (Drilling)	2026
5	3	Nusaybin	Mardin	Iraq Border	35.000	Support to National Petroleum Corporation (Drilling)	2026
6	3	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	45.000	Customs Gate Field Expansion-Activities	2026
7	3	_	Şırnak	Syria Border	45.000	Border Security Wall and Road Construction	2026
8	4	Öncüpınar	Kilis	Syria Border	50.000	Private Property (Subject to litigation)	2026
9	5	Kırıkhan	Hatay	Syria Border	40.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2026
10	5	Reyhanlı	Hatay	Syria Border	25.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture	2026
11	1	-	Van	Iran Border	160.000	Border Security Wall and Road Construction	2027
12	1	Aralık	Iğdır	Syria Border	60.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2027
13	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	75.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2027
14	2	Üzümlü	Hakkari	Iraq Border	200.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2027
15	3	Gabar	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	30.000	Support to National Petroleum Corporation (Drilling)	2027
16	3	Karkamış	Gaziantep	Syria Border	50.000	Customs Gate Field Expansion-Activities	2027
17	4	Öncüpınar	Kilis	Syria	60.000	Private Property (Subject to	2027

				Border		litigation)	
18	5	Kırıkhan	Hatay	Syria Border	55.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2027
19	5	Reyhanlı	Hatay	Syria Border	25.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture	2027
20	1	Aralık	Iğdır	Iran Border	55.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2028
21	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	160.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2028
22	2	Üzümlü	Hakkari	Iraq Border	200.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2028
23	3	Gabar	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	25.000	Support to National Petroleum Corporation (Drilling)	2028
24	3	Karkamış	Gaziantep	Syria Border	70.000	Customs Gate Field Expansion-Activities	2028
25	5	Kırıkhan	Hatay	Syria Border	50.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2028
26	5	Reyhanlı	Hatay	Syria Border	50.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture	2028
27	1	Aralık	Iğdır	Iran Border	60.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2029
28	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	58.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2029
29	2	Üzümlü	Hakkari	Iraq Border	200.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2029
30	3	Gabar	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	30.000	Support to National Petroleum Corporation (Drilling)	2029
31	3	Şemdinli	Hakkari	Iraq Border	45.000	Road Construction	2029
32	5	Kırıkhan	Hatay	Syria Border	100.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2029
33	5	Reyhanlı	Hatay	Syria Border	50.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture	2029
34	1	Aralık	Iğdır	Iran Border	65.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2030
35	1	Çukurca	Hakkari	Iraq Border	75.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2030
36	2	Akçakale	Şanlıurfa	Syria Border	41.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2030
37	2	Üzümlü	Hakkari	Iraq Border	87.000	Suspected Hazardous Area Verification	2030
38	3	Gabar	Şırnak	Other Than Borders	35.000	Support to National Petroleum Corporation (Drilling)	2030
39	5	Kırıkhan	Hatay	Syria Border	165.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture and Livestock Purposes	2030
40	5	Reyhanlı	Hatay	Syria Border	85.000	Minefields To Be Cleared for Agriculture	2030
Total Areas					**3.079.000 m²**		

Technical Survey Plan by Years (Sqm)					
Years	**Syria Border**	**Iraq Border**	**Iran Border**	**Other Than Borders**	**Total Areas**
2026 (Areas m²)	160.000	240.000	225.000	33.000	**658.000**
2027 (Areas m²)	190.000	275.000	220.000	30.000	**715.000**
2028 (Areas m²)	170.000	360.000	55.000	25.000	**610.000**
2029 (Areas m²)	150.000	303.000	60.000	30.000	**543.000**
2030 (Areas m²)	291.000	162.000	65.000	35.000	**553.000**
2026-2030 (Areas m²)	**961.000**	**1.340.000**	**625.000**	**153.000**	**3.079.000**

Non-Technical Survey of mine areas outside Mardin and Bingöl provinces of Türkiye has been completed. The planning for a total of 211 mine areas located in Mardin and Bingöl provinces and the Non-Technical Survey that will be carried out for suspicious areas and areas to be requested is stated in the table below.

Province	**Total Mined Area**	**Area to be Survey (Sqm)**	**Completion Date**
Mardin	49	8.572.147	2026 December
	44	7.697.438	2027 December
	*50[12]	8.747.090	2028 December
*Bingöl[13]	68	174.300	2029 December
NTS for suspicious areas and areas to be requested	-	-	2030 December
TOTAL	**211**	25.190.975	-

[12] The provinces with an asterisk (*) are located in other than borders.
[13] The provinces with an asterisk (*) are located in other than borders.

d. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Plan

TURMAC has conducted an analysis through its database and determined all at-risk villages in 18 provinces where both are in borders and other than borders in terms of mine contamination. TURMAC has prioritized these regions in line of victim data and reflected its results in preparation for "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Plan" (NEOREP), as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025).

It is planned that since the term of duty of the General Command of Gendarmerie EORE trainer personnel is 2 years, new trainer training will be given to the newly arrived trainer personnel in 18 provinces (Ağrı, Ardahan, *Batman,*Bingöl, *Bitlis, *Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kars, Kilis, Mardin, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak, *Tunceli and Van) between 2026-2030 as detailed in the table below.

YEARS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	EXPLANATION
January-April **(2026)**	EORE Trainer Trainings	During the winter months and/or during periods when mine clearance activities are limited, it is planned that Officer/NCO trainer personnel assigned to Land Forces Command Special Mine Search and Clearance Units will provide training to our citizens in the regions where they are assigned in order to raise awareness of mine risks.
June- December **(2026)**	EORE Trainer Trainings	It is planned to conduct EORE in the provinces of *Diyarbakır, *Batman, *Siirt, Mardin, Şırnak, *Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, *Bitlis, Iğdır, Kars, Ağrı, Ardahan and *Bingöl by Gendarmerie General Command training personnel in order to inform our citizens about mine risks.
January-April **(2026)**	EORE for Citizens	It is planned to conduct EORE in the provinces of *Diyarbakır, *Batman, *Siirt, Mardin, Şırnak, *Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, *Bitlis, Iğdır, Kars, Ağrı, Ardahan and *Bingöl by Gendarmerie General Command training personnel in order to inform our citizens about mine risks.
January-December **(2026)**	EORE for Citizens	It is planned to conduct EORE in the provinces of *Diyarbakır, *Batman, *Siirt, Mardin, Şırnak, *Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, *Bitlis, Iğdır, Kars, Ağrı, Ardahan and *Bingöl by Gendarmerie General Command training personnel in order to inform our citizens about mine risks.
January-April **(2027)**	EORE Trainer Trainings	It is planned to conduct EORE Trainer Training by TURMAC in Van, Şırnak, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa for Provincial Gendarmerie Commands.
January-April **(2027)**	EORE for Citizens	During the winter months and/or during periods when mine clearance activities are limited, it is planned that Officer/NCO trainer personnel assigned to Land Forces Command Special Mine Search and Clearance Units will provide training to our citizens in the regions where they are assigned in order to raise awareness of mine risks.
January-December **(2027)**	EORE for Citizens	In the provinces of *Diyarbakır, *Batman, *Siirt, Mardin, Şırnak, *Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, *Bitlis, Iğdır, Kars, Ağrı, Ardahan and *Bingöl by the Gendarmerie General Command training personnel. It is planned to conduct EORE Risk Training in order to inform our citizens about mine risks.

January-April **(2028)**	EORE Trainer Trainings	It is planned to conduct EORE Trainer Training by TURMAC in Hakkari, *Tunceli and Şırnak for Provincial Gendarmerie Commands.
January-April **(2028)**	EORE for Citizens	During the winter months and/or during periods when mine clearance activities are limited, it is planned that Officer/NCO trainer personnel assigned to Land Forces Command Special Mine Search and Clearance Units will provide training to our citizens in the regions where they are assigned in order to raise awareness of mine risks.
January-December **(2028)**	EORE for Citizens	It will be carried out by Gendarmerie General Command trainer personnel in the provinces of *Diyarbakır, *Batman, *Siirt, Mardin, Şırnak, *Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, *Bitlis, Iğdır, Kars, Ağrı, Ardahan and *Bingöl in order to raise awareness of our citizens about mine risks.
January-April **(2029)**	EORE Trainer Trainings	It is planned to conduct EORE Trainer Training by TURMAC in Mardin, Van, Iğdır and Kars for Provincial Gendarmerie Commands.
January-April **(2029)**	EORE for Citizens	It is planned to conduct EORE Trainer Training by TURMAC for Officers/NCOs assigned to the Land Forces Command Special Mine Search and Clearance Units.
January-December **(2029)**	EORE for Citizens	By Gendarmerie General Command trainer personnel in the provinces of *Diyarbakır, *Batman, *Siirt Mardin, Şırnak, *Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa. *Bitlis, Iğdır, Kars, Ağrı, Ardahan and *Bingöl in order to inform our citizens about mine risks.
January-April **(2030)**	EORE Trainer Trainings	It is planned to conduct EORE Trainer Training by TURMAC in Van, Şırnak, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa for Provincial Gendarmerie Commands.
January-April **(2030)**	EORE for Citizens	During the winter months and/or during periods when mine clearance activities are limited, it is planned that Officer/NCO trainer personnel assigned to Land Forces Command Special Mine Search and Clearance Units will provide training to our citizens in the regions where they are assigned in order to raise awareness of mine risks.
January-December **(2030)**	EORE for Citizens	By Gendarmerie General Command trainer personnel in the provinces of *Diyarbakır, *Batman, *Siirt. Mardin, Şırnak, *Tunceli, Hakkari, Van, Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa. *Bitlis, Iğdır, Kars, Ağrı, Ardahan and *Bingöl in order [14]to inform our citizens about mine risks.

In addition, EORE Trainer Training to the training personnel working in Gendarmerie Commands are planned between **2026-2030**, covering the provinces of Hakkari, Tunceli, Ağrı, Ardahan, Siirt, Bingöl, Van, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, where citizens are considered to be most vulnerable to mine risk.

During the winter months and/or during periods when mine clearance activities are limited, EORE Trainer Training to the Officers/NCOs assigned to the newly established Land Forces Command Special Mine Search and Clearance Units will be conducted by TURMAC in order to provide training to our citizens simultaneously with the clearance activities.

It is planned to organize new trainer trainings for officers, non-commissioned officers and expert gendarmes who have received Explosive Ordnance Risk Trainer Training in line with the

[14] The provinces with an asterisk (*) are located in other than borders.

needs and demands that will arise in cases such as long-term illness, leave, relocation and similar force majeure reasons and the inclusion of new provinces in the process.

Even when mined areas are cleared, training will continue to address the risk of explosive ammunition. General Command of Gendarmerie EORE teams are going to provide EORE sessions to citizens who live close to minefields.

e. Resource and Cost Analysis

The resource allocation for mine clearance activities to be carried out in Türkiye between 2025-2030 is shown in the table below;

Source of Funds	Year						Total
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
Ministry of National Defence (TURMAC) Budget (TL)	130.465.800	147.369.618	166.773.838	189.098.604	214.841.796	244.594.308	**1.093.143.964**
Cost of the 50 Military Demining Teams (TL)	360.075.800	428.274.918	510.550.571	609.858.831	729.776.545	874.631.700	**3.513.168.365**
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Budget (TL)	922.744	1.266.050	1.760.151	2.488.473	3.583.014	5.253.175	**15.273.607**
EU (IPA) Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total	**491.464.344**	**576.910.586**	**679.084.560**	**801.445.908**	**948.201.355**	**1.124.479.183**	**4.621.785.936**

f. Potential Risk Factors and Assumptions

In order to accomplish the aforementioned work plan for the period of 2026-2030 assumptions are;

- Accurate and efficient implementation of the entire "Land Release Process" by all stakeholders of the mine action in Türkiye,
- Timely allocated financial resources (Ministry of National Defence Budget and international funds),
- To maintain "stable security situation" along the borders of Türkiye,

- Work Plan will be continuously monitored and revised and the revised work plan will be implemented in coordination with the partners.

Potential risk factors which may hinder the implementation of the work plan are;

- Continuation of political and security instability on the Syrian and Iraqi border,
- Terrorist threats to mine clearance and NTS activities and personnel,
- Delays in mine clearance activities by the contractors,
- Adverse weather conditions in some high altitude regions may shorten demining operations to 3-4 months per year,
- The negative impact of disasters such as earthquakes, fires, landslides, avalanches and floods on mine clearance activities,
- Adverse effects caused by land structure such as metal pollution, dense vegetation and volcanic rocks.

In the following reporting periods, it will be reviewed whether the assumptions have held and whether risks have manifested.