

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY IRAQ

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Thailand (Chair), United Kingdom, Algeria, Norway)

Intersessional Meetings 17 – 20 June 2025

I. Progress in implementation (Action 8, 20,22)

1. Iraq reported that in 2024, the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA)¹ addressed a total of 44 mined areas measuring 13,555,341 square metres, including 11,084,354 square metres reduced and 2,470,987 square metres cleared, destroying 5,093 anti-personnel mines, and 3,563 other items of explosive ordnance. Iraq also reported that the DMA addressed 133 areas contaminated with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) measuring 133,319,387 square metres, including 128,312,887 square metres cancelled, and 5,006,498 square metres cleared, destroying 6,107 IEDs, and 2,500 other items of explosive ordnance.
2. Iraq further reported that as a result of non-technical survey the DMA identified 36 mined areas measuring 138,077,956 square metres in 5 Provinces and 37 new areas contaminated with IEDs located in 5 Provinces measuring 100,807,391 square metres.
3. Iraq reported that in 2024, the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA)² addressed a total of 2,752,357 square metres in 3 Provinces, including 763,629 square meters reduced, and 1,883,170 square metres cleared, as well as an ‘area prepared’ measuring 105,558 square metres, destroying 2,411 anti-personnel mines, 1 anti-tank mine, 15 illumination mines (ILL), 1 IED and 739 other items of explosive ordnance. Iraq also reported that IKMAA addressed 13 areas contaminated with IEDs measuring 7,520 square metres, destroying 62 IEDs.
4. Iraq reported that IKMAA cleared 151 tasks destroying 3,167 items of unexploded ordnance.
5. Iraq further reported that IKMAA addressed a total of 40 dangerous areas measuring 159,808 square metres.
6. The Committee observed that Iraq reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and had reported, to the extent possible, on the disaggregation of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature from other types of improvised explosive devices.
7. The Committee observed that the information provided by Iraq on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2023 updated work plan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Iraq’s 2023 updated work plan. The Committee welcomed Iraq providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination. The Committee further welcomes Iraq employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report. In this regard, the Committee observed Iraq reporting progress in implementation including an “area prepared” and encourages

¹ The Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) represents the federal government and covers all governorates except the Kurdistan region provinces.

² The Kurdistan of Iraq Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) covers the governorates of Erbil, Duhok, Slemani and Halabja.

Iraq to continue to report on progress in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (Action 17, 20, 22)

8. The Committee observed that Iraq provided a high degree of clarity³ on its remaining challenge. Iraq reported that in areas under the responsibility of the DMA a total of 450 mined areas located in 25 districts of 10 Provinces measuring 1,103,882,755 square metres, including 409 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 1,024,619,079 square metres and 41 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 79,263,677 square metres remain to be addressed. Iraq reported that in areas under the responsibility of the DMA a total of 1,694 areas contaminated with IEDs in 26 districts of 6 Provinces measuring 312,019,933 square metres, including 1,225 CHAs measuring 167,204,267 square metres and 469 SHAs measuring 144,815,666 square metres remain to be addressed.
9. Iraq reported that in areas under the responsibility of IKMAA a total of 3,156 mined areas located in 28 districts of 3 Provinces measuring 208,391,051 square metres, including 3,064 CHAs measuring 191,672,995 square metres and 92 SHAs measuring 16,718,056 square metres remain to be addressed. Iraq reported that in areas under the responsibility of IKMAA 44 areas contaminated with IED in 3 Provinces measuring 5,886,922 square metres, including 24 CHAs measuring 5,161,778 square metres and 20 SHAs measuring 1,756,747 square metres remain to be addressed.
10. The Committee welcomed Iraq reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size and type of contamination. The Committee also welcomed Iraq providing updated information on its remaining challenge disaggregating anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature from other types of improvised explosive devices.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (Action 1-33, 18-21)

11. Iraq reported having a national strategy in place for the period (2023-2028).
12. Iraq reported having a national evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey in place for the period (2023-2028). Iraq also reported that these plans have been used to show changes in operational priorities or needs and to align efforts with evolving challenges, especially regarding newly contaminated areas due to conflict with DAESH terrorist groups.
13. The Committee recalled that Iraq's 2023 updated work plan contained bi-annual updates based on new evidence. Iraq projected to address a total of 72,452,315 square metres in 2025, 108,678,473 square metres in 2026, and 144,904,630 square metres in 2027 in mined areas under the responsibility of DMA. Iraq's updated workplan also projected to address a total of 72,452,315 square metres in 2025, 108,678,473 square metres in 2026, and 144,904,630 square metres in 2027 in areas under the responsibility of DMA contaminated by IEDs. The Committee also recalled that in Iraq's 2023 updated work plan, Iraq projected to address a total of 1,150,000 square metres and 1,450,000 square metres of dangerous area in the period 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2025 in mined areas under the responsibility of IKMAA.

³ "High degree of clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a list of all remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected," and information on the geographic location of each area.

14. The Committee observed that Iraq in its 2023 updated work plan contained information on its efforts to ensure that survey and clearance are prioritised based on clear nationally-driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria, the use of casualty and contamination data to inform the prioritization of clearance activities, with a focus on areas with high levels of explosive ordnance contamination, particularly those affecting agricultural lands, infrastructure, roads, and water resources, and that through the use of this data-driven approach ensures that resources are allocated to regions where the risk to civilians is greatest.
15. Iraq reported on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets, including Iraq's National Development Plan (2024–2028), that emphasises sustainable development, economic diversification, and social inclusion. The plan prioritises investment in human capital, including education, health, and support for vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities. It also addresses climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability, aligning with Iraq's Vision 2030.
16. Iraq reported on its efforts to develop a sustainable national capacity. Iraq reported that it has in place a sustainable national capacity to coordinate, regulate, and manage its mine action programme. The DMA has developed national mine action standards (NMAS), a legal framework, and coordination mechanisms covering survey, clearance, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance. Iraq also reported that it has the capacity to undertake post-clearance activities, including mechanisms to address newly discovered or re-contaminated areas, thus ensuring continued compliance and response capabilities. Iraq further reported that the DMA established a flexible annual training plan to enhance the capabilities of supervision and implementation teams from governmental and nongovernmental organizations and companies, both national and international, as well as within the DMA itself and that the plan includes a range of internal training courses designed to build technical and operational capacities.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (Action 4, 9, 25)

17. Iraq reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards up to date and that in 2024 Iraq updated 24 NMAS in accordance with the latest IMAS.
18. Iraq reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to transition to IMSMA Core, which is designed to further enhance data accuracy, accessibility, and operational efficiency.
19. Iraq reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance operations, including transition to a new information management platform, and provision of a training course on improving operational efficiency for government and non-government organisations.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them (Action 23)

20. In considering Iraq's request, the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) had requested Iraq to submit updated information on an annual basis on several matters. The Committee would welcome updated information from Iraq on the following decisions of the 16MSP:
- Efforts to resolve political issues which prevent the carrying out of mine action activities in border areas of Iraq.

21. The Committee recalled that in granting Iraq's 2017 extension request, the 16MSP requested Iraq to submit to the States Parties, by 30 April 2018 a plan for non-technical survey operations and that emergency non-technical survey operations. The Committee recalled that Iraq had acted on the decisions of the 16MSP by submitting a plan for non-technical survey.
22. The Committee also recalled that in granting Iraq's 2017 extension request, the 16MSP requested Iraq to submit to the Fourth Review Conference in 2019, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request and every two years following this. The Committee recalled that Iraq had acted on the decisions of the 16MSP by submitting an updated work plan to the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties, and two years subsequently to the 19MSP and the 21MSP.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (Action 18, 23, 26-29)

23. Action 18 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey, clearance, and mine risk education as soon as possible and in an inclusive manner. These should include projections of the number of mined areas, size, and amount to be addressed annually, ensuring consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and the environment to achieve completion as soon as possible. National work plans will be updated annually based on new evidence. The Committee would welcome further information on Iraq's efforts to develop a work plan for mine risk education.
24. Iraq reported on its efforts to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from mined areas, through marking and re-demarcation of mined areas where original markers had deteriorated, and securing mined areas, as well as through the delivery of mine risk education programmes (MRE/R). Iraq provided information on how priorities were established, methodologies used, including distribution of materials, deployment of Community Safety Wardens to deliver messages to communities, and the use of mainstream and social media, and results achieved, including information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.
25. Iraq reported on its efforts to integrate risk education with wider plans for humanitarian response and protection as within survey and clearance activities, incorporating risk education into national mine action strategies, aligning them with broader humanitarian and development goals, mainstream risk education activities into survey and clearance operations, ensuring that affected communities are informed about risks both before and after clearance, coordinate risk education with victim assistance programmes, especially in areas where survivors and at-risk populations require ongoing support and awareness efforts and to work through the DMA and IKMAA to ensure that risk education is systematically included in operational planning.
26. Iraq reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and prioritise people most at risk, including the establishment of an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for risk education tailored to the specific threats faced by its population. Iraq also reported that this tool emphasises the use of casualty and contamination data to inform the prioritisation of MRE/R and clearance activities, focusing on areas with high levels of explosive ordnance contamination, agricultural lands, infrastructure, roads, and water resources and that this data-driven approach ensures that resources are allocated to regions where the risk to civilians is greatest, as well as accounting for anticipated population movements, particularly the return of displaced persons to previously contaminated areas. Iraq reported that by aligning risk education and clearance efforts with reconstruction and resettlement plans, as well as aims to facilitate safe and sustainable returns

a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to mine risk education and reduction, prioritising those most at risk and tailoring interventions to the specific threats encountered by different segments of the population.

27. Iraq reported on its efforts to build national capacity through the integration of MRE/R programmes, including mechanisms to adapt to newly discovered or previously unknown mined areas and emergency settings. Iraq also reported that the DMA by cooperating with implementing partners trained people working in different fields such as those working in dangerous environments in order to increase awareness and change behaviour. These efforts contribute to increase Iraq's capacity to adapt to changing needs and contexts.

VII. Best Practices in implementation (Action 5, 6, 18)

28. Iraq reported on its efforts to ensure that gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of women, girls, boys and men in mine-affected communities including national work plans and strategies integrate gender, age, and disability considerations, and that these elements are core to Iraq's humanitarian demining and victim assistance efforts, with national policies explicitly aiming to address the diverse needs and experiences of women, girls, boys, and men in mine-affected communities, including mine survivors. Iraq also reported that the DMA works closely with relevant ministries and civil society organizations to ensure that gender and diversity-sensitive approaches are embedded in planning and implementation, through the development of national strategies and work plans has involved inclusive consultation processes, that include survivors, local community leaders, women's groups, and organizations representing persons with disabilities. Through workshops, focus group discussions, and community-level assessments. Iraq further reported that information gathered from diverse groups informs policy and operational planning, and that survivors have been invited and supported to participate in Convention-related meetings.

29. Iraq reported that these risk education activities incorporate considerations of gender, age, and disability to ensure that MRE/R programs are inclusive and effective.

30. Iraq reported on its efforts to ensure that climate and environmental considerations inform all relevant areas of the Convention implementation, including coordination of the Ministry of Environment in coordinating mine action efforts, an international standard for environmental management and the development of a training course on the standard. Iraq also reported that it also addresses climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability, aligning with Iraq's Vision 2030.

VIII. International Cooperation and Assistance (Action 40-42, 45)

31. Iraq reported on its efforts to do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet their Convention obligations as soon as possible, including prioritising strong partnerships with international organizations, donor countries. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Iraq and would welcome updated information on Iraq's efforts to explore all possible funding sources including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding such as front-loading models.

32. Iraq reported on its efforts to develop resource mobilisation plans and use all mechanisms to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance, including partnerships with international donors and organisations, bilateral cooperation initiatives, and appeals for funding in Article 5 extension requests and other reports. Iraq also reported on its efforts to provide information on the challenges it faces and its assistance needs in several forums, including, Article

7 Reports, Article 5 Extension Requests, challenges in meeting the original deadline, revised clearance plan with assistance requirements, updated Work Plans to show changes in operational priorities or needs and to align efforts with evolving challenges, especially regarding newly contaminated areas due to conflict with DAESH terrorist groups.

33.Iraq reported on its efforts to strengthen national level coordination, including the launch of a national forum with the goal of enhancing collaboration among all stakeholders by providing a central mechanism for information sharing and joint planning. Iraq also reported that the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) opened an additional Mine Action Center in the Governorate of Halabja.

34.Iraq reported on its efforts to explore bilateral, regional, and international cooperation, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in Mine Action was signed between both DMA and IKMAA to support the activities of the clearance, and risk education in Iraq. Iraq also reported on its efforts to offer assistance to neighbouring countries and regions facing similar challenges. Iraqi demining experts have participated in regional workshops and shared expertise in handling IEDs and legacy mines from past conflicts.

X.Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

35.Iraq reported the challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance, including unfavourable security conditions in certain areas, resource and financial gaps and infrastructure limitations.

36.Iraq reported on challenges faced to the implementation of risk education, including shortage of financial support for IKMAA risk education teams to warn communities were reduced and limited in scope. Unfortunately, teams were unable to adequately reach villages and communities contaminated by explosive ordnance, and accidents continued to occur with victims reported to be all male, primarily shepherds, and herb collectors.

The SRAAP country reporting tracker

Article 5 Implementation

Iraq

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actio ns	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#1	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors.						
#2	Percentage of affected States Parties reporting having sustainable national capacities in place able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance and undertake post completion activities, including management of residual risk.						
#3	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having reviewed and updated their national strategies and work plan based on new evidence.						
#4	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having up-to-date National Mine Action Standards in place in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.						
#5	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities,						
#6	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.						
#8	Percentage of States Parties that submit Article 7 reports by 30 April of each year.						
	Percentage of States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.						
#9							

	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national, centrally-managed information management system in place containing up-to-date information on implementation at the national level.					
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SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#17	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.						The Committee would welcome further information on Iraq's efforts to report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a baseline through inclusive consultations.						
#18	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in their Article 7 reports updates to their national work plans, including adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including budgets for implementation, and requirements for assistance						
#19	Number of affected States Parties that report on the inclusion of humanitarian and sustainable development criteria in survey, clearance, planning, and prioritisation.						
	Number of affected States Parties that report on the consideration of inclusion of gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and environment in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.						
#20	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature including in survey and clearance operations under Article 5.						
	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to reporting obligations under Article 7.						
#21	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national capacity in place to implement the Convention and address any previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas discovered following completion.						
	Number of States Parties that following completion, report the discovery of previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas.						
#22	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on their remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size.						

	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress made to address mined areas in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).						The Committee would welcome further information from Iraq on its efforts to report on progress made to address mined areas in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.						
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of extension requests submitted that ensure consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, as well as climate, and the environment.						
#24	Number of affected States Parties that declare completion of their Article 5 obligations.						
	Percentage of these States Parties that submit voluntary Declarations of Completion.						
#25	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on research, analysis, and the adoption of innovative approaches, methods, and technological means to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actio ns	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#18	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education;						The Committee would welcome updated information from Iraq on having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education.
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for risk education activities.						
#26	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, development, health, mental health, climate, the environment, education, and/or disaster risk reduction or other relevant plans; as well as within survey, clearance and victim assistance activities.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to reduce the affected population's risk-taking behaviour and to increase knowledge and awareness.						
#27	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes tailored to the threat encountered by the population and which prioritises people most at risk.						

#28	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having sustainable national capacities in place to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in case previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas are discovered and/or in emergency settings.					
#29	Percentage of affected States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction programmes including information on how priorities are established, methodologies used (e.g. interpersonal, mass, or digital media), challenges faced, and results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.					

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
40	Percentage of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of survey and clearance;						
	Percentage of States Parties that report on exploring all possible sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding or that report having innovative financial projects in place.						
41	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.						
42	Percentage of affected States Parties that report efforts to strengthen national coordination with national and international stakeholders and States Parties in a position to provide assistance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a National Mine Action Platform.						
45	Number of States Parties that report sharing national experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt through international, regional, and bilateral cooperation.						
	Number of States Parties that report sharing scientific, methodological, and technological expertise to strengthen the Convention's implementation.						