

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY YEMEN

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. Yemen reported that in 2024, it addressed 9 mined areas in 4 administrative divisions, (Abyan, Aden, Laheg, and Taiz), including 748,124 square metres reduced by technical survey, and 425,315 square metres cleared, resulting in the destruction of 2 anti-personnel mines, and 9 other items of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
2. Yemen also reported that Yemen baseline survey (YBLS) continued in Abyan, Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhale, Al-hodeida, and Taiz divisions.
3. Yemen further reported that emergency survey and clearance activities resulted in 10,918,373 square metres cleared, destroying 545 anti-personnel mines, 7,276 anti-tank mines, 52,818 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 327 improvised explosive devices (IEDs).
4. Yemen reported that through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has implemented an extensive mine action project under the banner of the MASAM Project to clear mines in Yemen, addressing through emergency clearance 86 areas measuring 10,493,427 square metres, destroying 246 anti-personnel mines, 3,257 anti-tank mines, 45,285 items of unexploded ordnance, and 236 IEDs.
5. The Committee observed that Yemen 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.
6. The Committee observed that the information provided by Yemen on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2024 updated workplan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Yemen's 2024 updated workplan. The Committee encourages Yemen to continue to report information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination. The Committee welcomed Yemen employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.

II. Remaining challenge (Action 17, 20, 22)

7. The Committee observed that Yemen provided a high degree of clarity¹ concerning its currently known remaining challenge. Yemen reported a remaining challenge of 147 mined areas measuring

¹ 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"), Information on the geographic location of each area.

7,975,002 square metres located in 5 administrative sub-divisions, (Abyan, Aden, Al-Hodeida, Laheg, and Taiz), including 109 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 5,901,683 square metres, and 38 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 2,073,319 square metres.

8. The Committee welcomed Yemen providing updated information and clarity concerning the remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs in line with Action 22.
9. The Committee also welcomed Yemen providing updated information on its remaining challenge disaggregating anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature from other types of improvised explosive devices.
10. Action 17 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) requests States Parties that have not yet done so, to identify suspected and confirmed hazardous areas to the extent possible and establish as soon as possible, accurate baselines of contamination using data and evidence-based information collected in an inclusive manner including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS. The Committee observed that Yemen was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Yemen on these efforts.
11. Yemen reported on its efforts to identify accurate baselines of contamination in an inclusive manner including activities addressing the diverse needs of communities and the gender and age concerns into account, that cultural considerations are taken into account due to the difference in customs and traditions in the various governorates of Yemen and that the programme is diligent in performing purely humanitarian duty, regardless of the affected people's location, political views, and ideological affiliation.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (Action 1-3, 18-21)

12. Yemen reported preparatory work is ongoing to develop an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy. The Committee would welcome updated information on the timeline and approval process for the strategy.
 13. The Committee recalled that Yemen in its 2024 updated work plan reported having an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plan in place for 2025, including the following activities; continue of survey and clearance efforts, emergency response, the continuity of YBLS objectives, producing an annual revised work plan to meet its Article 5 obligations, enhancing and improving Information Management, supporting the coordination office – YMACC, and developing a National Mine Action Strategy.
 14. Yemen reported on its efforts to ensure that survey and clearance are prioritised based on clear nationally-driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria with consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including a focus on the prioritised clearance of mined areas based on a prioritization system that includes the local authorities, the humanitarian sector, and local community leaders through the operational decision-making process, with the prioritization matrix able to be updated and developed according to the needs and variables of the general situation in Yemen on a district basis.
 15. Yemen reported on its efforts to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, partnership and coordination, by integrating Convention implementation activities into national development
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plans, strategies and budgets, as appropriate, including an improvement of clearance and risk education operations directly linked to humanitarian needs assessments. Yemen consulted with humanitarian organizations and various United Nations (UN) agencies on clearance requests through technical working groups. Yemen also reported an improvement regarding consultation with the protection cluster and humanitarian actors, in emergency clearance planning for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) return areas.

16. Yemen reported on its efforts to establish sustainable national capacities able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme, including, establishment of working groups to analyse training needs, development of a comprehensive training framework based on operational needs and technical gaps, and that training workshops took place on mine action activities.

IV. Efficient implementation, innovative approaches, methods, and technological means (Action 4, 9, 25)

17. Yemen reported on its efforts to keep National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) up to date in accordance with IMAS to ensure efficient, effective, and safe operations, including, conducting national workshops and technical working groups to review and update 31 NMAS. Yemen reported that after the national mine action programme finalised the review of NMAS and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for survey and clearance activities, the NMAS were shared with all implementing partners for practical application in operations. Yemen also reported that additional adaptation of NMAS is expected after consultation with Government authorities before approval during 2025 – 2026. The Committee would welcome further clarity on the timeline and process for approving the NMAS and SOPs.

18. Yemen reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national, centrally managed information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data on the status of implementation, including through support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) the system has become an asset for both humanitarian organisations and the leadership of the national mine action programme, in managing mine action, providing reliable operational data, survey reports, and beneficiary tracking. Yemen also reported that improvements were made in data reporting formats improving data flow between field operations (YEMAC) and the coordination centre (YMACC), with new training materials and tools for information management introduced during the reporting period.

19. Yemen reported on efforts to improve the effectiveness of survey and clearance, including the review of NMAS, development of SOPs, and the formation of technical working groups. Yemen also reported that effectiveness is enhanced by updated prioritisation matrices based on new YBLS evidence and that prioritisation is applied at the district level in order to achieve this goal.

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

20. In considering Yemen's 2022 extension request, the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) requested Yemen to submit updated information on an annual basis on several matters. The Committee welcomed the information provided in follow-up to the decision of the 20MSP several matters.

21. The Committee would welcome updated information from Yemen on the following decisions of the 20MSP:

- Methodologies employed for survey and clearance efforts; and

- Adjusted milestones, including information on the number of mined areas and amount of area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
22. The Committee recalled that the decision by the 20MSP on Yemen's request for extension noted that, "As the implementation of Yemen's Article 5 obligations will be affected by new information, the level of resources obtained, changes in the security environment, and the amount of capacity involved in survey and clearance operations, the Convention would benefit from Yemen submitting to the Committee an updated detailed work plan by 30 April 2024 and 30 April 2026 for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee noted that these work plans should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation and a plan for MRE matched to a revised detailed budget." The Committee observed that Yemen had acted on the decisions of the 20MSP by submitting an updated work plan to the Fifth Review Conference.

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

23. Yemen reported on its efforts to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategy for mine risk education in an inclusive manner, including identification of risk education as a core component as part of Yemen's discussions on drafting a national strategy. The Committee would welcome updated information from Yemen on its efforts to integrate risk education in its national strategy.
24. Yemen reported on its efforts to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education in an inclusive manner, including risk education as a core pillar of Yemen's work plan, and that national standard for risk education planned for approval in the period 2025-2026. Yemen also reported that planning for EORE activities is now part of formal discussions during strategy meetings and coordination workshops. The Committee would welcome updated information on the development of Yemen's national work plan for risk education.
25. Yemen reported on its efforts to implement mine risk education programmes, including information on how priorities were established, including, the area's priority, the level of contamination, as well as previous and future land use. Yemen also reported on the methodologies used, including; risk education campaigns, emergency risk education and, training of trainers, with activities taking place before, during, and after clearance. Yemen further reported on its efforts to implement mine risk education programmes, including challenges faced, including, an absence of digital tools/equipment for field documentation, and a lack of risk education materials with motivational educational messages. The Committee welcomed Yemen providing updated information on the disaggregation of gender, age, disability.
26. Yemen reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, including that a new risk education curriculum was introduced and tested in schools, with inputs from risk education campaigns supported in mapping and survey planning, and that risk education is integrated with victim assistance through collecting victim data during awareness campaigns and referring victims to service providers for prosthetic limbs and other needs. Yemen also reported to link risk education with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that risk education activities expanded with greater engagement across all the governorates under the control of the internationally recognised government.

27. Yemen 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 by ensuring that these programmes are developed on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, climate and environmental risk, an understanding of the affected population's behaviour, risk pattern and coping mechanisms, and, wherever possible, anticipated population movements, including that the Yemeni Mine Action Programme and its implementing partners consider the diverse needs of communities and that gender and age concerns are taken into account. Yemen further reported that cultural considerations are also taken into account due differences in customs and traditions in the various governorates of Yemen and that the programme is diligent in performing a purely humanitarian duty, regardless of the affected people's location, political views, and ideological affiliations. Yemen also reported the following target groups for risk education; Children, Women, Population movements, grazing livestock in dangerous areas, fetching water from wells, and burning wood, men on the go, ploughing agricultural lands and burning weeds, return of the displaced people.

28. Yemen reported on its efforts to establish national capacities to deliver mine risk education, including 5 teams of the YEMAC, and that training the trainers is a core tool to build a local sustainable capacity.

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

29. Yemen 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, that local communities are involved in the decision-making process of mine action activities, taking into account the sensitivity of wars and in a manner consistent with the existing context in those communities. Yemen also reported that during survey and clearance operations, the numbers of the affected population and the potential beneficiaries for subsequent activities are calculated to better plan mine action operations.

30. Yemen reported on its efforts 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, encouraging cooperation and promoting gender participation and social diversity, provide training and education, promoting equality in employment opportunities, collaboration with local communities, providing health care and psychological rehabilitation, and providing financial support.

31. Action 6 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to ensure that climate and environmental considerations inform all relevant areas of Convention implementation to appropriately address climate and environmental risks. The Committee would welcome updated information from Yemen on its efforts in this regard.

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

32. Yemen reported on its efforts to do their utmost to commit the resources needed to meet their Convention obligations as soon as possible and explore all possible funding sources including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding such as front-loading models, including to keep its engagement with the Convention's meetings, advocating the programme with any donors' potential discussions. share mine action priorities to relevant stakeholders i.e., UN agencies, contact foreign affairs via Yemen embassies and permanent missions' discussions with donors, Yemen might consider preparing international events to bring more funding.

33. Yemen reported on its efforts to disseminate information on challenges and requirements for assistance including through annual Article 7 reports.

34. Yemen reported on its efforts to strengthen national level coordination including 2024, there are discussions with the United Nations Resident Coordinators office for exploring humanitarian fundings and pathways. Yemen also reported the formation of technical working groups to review and update national mine action standards (NMAS), YBLS, and coordination and decision-making. Yemen further reported that periodic meetings prepared in advance for all implementing partners, such as the Programme Manager's and Operations Manager's meetings hosted by YMACC, serve a similar coordination function.

35. Yemen reported on its efforts to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation including, continued dialogue with mine action stakeholders and GICHD to assist in developing technical and strategic frameworks, and collaboration continues with King Salman Center for humanitarian aid and relief via project MASAM to support mine clearance activities.

IX. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

36. Yemen reported on its efforts to report on challenges and requirements for assistance, including amongst others; conflict extending into a large number of Yemeni governorates and resulting in a major contamination in cities, villages, roads, public facilities, water sources, and adjacent grazing areas. Yemen reported that Information Management is limited by funding and resources, which impacts the sustainability and full optimization of the IMSMA system. Yemen reported challenges due to the decrease in the Mine Action funding to YEMAC and YMACC. Yemen further reported that due to the security situation the ongoing conflict and its movement restricts and limits access, with the location of new large suspected hazardous areas requiring Yemen to alter priorities.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker							
Article 5 Implementation							
Yemen							
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
Actions	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.						The Committee would welcome further information on Yemen's efforts to integrate 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	2030	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 Yemen'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).						

	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							
Action s	Indicators	2025	2026	2036	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 further information on Yemen's efforts to include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for risk education activities.
#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.						
#36	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.						

