

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom)

Intersessional Meetings 18 – 20 June 2024

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY YEMEN

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #22)

1. Yemen reported that in 2023 it addressed 21 mined areas measuring 475,223 square metres, including 290,812 square metres reduced and 184,411 square metres cleared, resulting in the destruction of 40 anti-personnel mines and 253 items of other explosive items.
2. Yemen also reported clearing 10,908,308 square metres as part of emergency response, resulting in the destruction of 521 anti-personnel mines, 7,202 anti-tank mines, 50,732 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO), and 291 improvised explosive devices.
3. Yemen further reported that the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the banner of the Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance MASAM Project cleared 116 areas measuring 10,311,433 square metres, resulting in the destruction of 518 anti-personnel mines, 7,181 anti-tank mines, 41,040 items of unexploded ordnance and 291 improvised explosive devices.
4. Yemen reported the continuity of the Yemen baseline survey operations in accessible areas.
5. The Committee observed that Yemen reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature and welcomes Yemen's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination. (Action #21)
6. The Committee observed the information provided by Yemen on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2022 extension request. The Committee welcomed Yemen providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination. (Action #8)

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

7. The Committee observed that Yemen provided clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18) Yemen reported a remaining challenge of 93 mined areas measuring 5,413,155 square metres, including 38 confirmed mined areas (CHA) measuring 2,444,553 square metres and 55 suspected mined areas (SHA) measuring 2,968,602 square metres. Yemen also reported a list of results from

¹ Clarity has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines according to; Regions, Provinces, Districts, Including; The number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines, The number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and the estimated size of the areas.

non-technical survey, categorising contamination status by, district, Governorate and priority status. (Action #18)

8. The Committee welcomed Yemen reporting on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHAs and CHAs and their relative size. (Action #22).
9. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources, no later than by the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021. The Committee observed that Yemen had reported progress in identifying mined areas is carried out according to surveys of the Yemen baseline survey (YBLS), that is still in process, and that the scope of the contamination is not yet completed. Yemen also reported challenges with accessibility and security situations in some areas, which make the planning and projection of mined areas in detailed work plans difficult. The Committee observed that while the YBLS forms part of Yemen's efforts to establish an evidence-based, accurate baseline of contamination, Yemen was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Yemen on these efforts. (Action #18).
10. Yemen reported on its efforts to establish Yemen's baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men, highlighting that Yemen also reported that the identification of hazardous areas in Yemen comes through non-technical surveys taking into account the employment of women cadres, as well as diversity according to specific activities and targeted areas. (Action #18)

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

11. The Committee observed that Yemen in its updated work plan submitted in 2024 included a qualitative and quantitative work plan and budget for mine action activities for the period 2024-2028. (Action #2, Action #19)
12. Yemen reported on its efforts to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including that the level of contamination and the subsequent impact of anti-personnel mines in Yemen is not yet known, and to submit a plan offering detailed milestones of progress and the amount of time needed to fulfil Yemen's commitments would be unrealistic at this time. In this regard Yemen reported that it will continue its survey and clearance efforts besides the work as follows: a) Emergency response, b) Continuing Mine Action operations, 3) Continuing Yemen Baseline Survey objectives, 4) Producing an annual revised work plan to meet its Article 5 obligations, 5) enhancing and improving Information Management, 6) Supporting the coordination office – Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre, 7) Developing a National Mine Action Strategy. (Action #20)
13. Yemen reported that the annual national financial contribution of the Government of Yemen to the mine action sector has decreased significantly due to the country's economic downturn, and that economic difficulties have had a negative impact due to the cessation of a large part of the international support provided for mine action and that the current level of resource mobilisation does not meet the need, with unpredictable international donor funding challenging the planning capacity for future activities. (Action #1)
14. Yemen reported on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, including the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan for 2022 and 2023, and that work is carried out according to a system of priorities designed at the district level in order to

increase the effectiveness and efficiency of operations. Yemen also reported that the requests of humanitarian and international organisations are met through consultation and work according to a response agreed upon through technical working groups with various partners and stakeholders. Yemen further reported that YEMAC and YMACC are currently working according to a prioritization system based on sub-agreements for projects implemented by the implementing partners, and that the work of some organisations is based on projects within signed sub-agreements and with coordination of related ministries, such as the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. (Action #1, Action #6).

15. Yemen reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered including that those in charge of the National Mine Action Program diligently perform a purely humanitarian duty, regardless of the affected people's location and political and ideological affiliation, and that Yemen and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) are aware of the different needs of girls, women, boys, and men, and these considerations are taken into account in planning. Yemen also reported that the identification of hazardous areas in Yemen comes through non-technical surveys taking into account the employment of women cadres, as well as diversity according to specific activities and targeted areas. Currently, coordinating and planning the process of developing and building capacity in issues related to gender, equality, and social diversity in the national mine action programme and in coordination and cooperation with various international partners. (Action #3).

16. Yemen reported on its efforts to develop sustainable national capacities, including the achievement of basic survey operations for Yemen and the identification of newly mined areas, as well as a re-survey of areas previously worked on as part of emergency response. Yemen also reported that the training of teams will be completed on various activities related to mine action, as well as setting goals during the drafting of a new strategy for mine action. (Action #26)

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

17. Yemen reported on its efforts to ensure that its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) reflect the latest methodologies in line with IMAS, including the completion of the National Mine Action Standards - NMAS drafts review process, and that the draft included 31 NMAS and the review of the established Standard Operating Procedures of the Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC). (Action #5)

18. Yemen reported on its efforts to maintain an accurate and up-to-date information management system, including continuing to work and increase the effectiveness of its information management system an essential asset for both humanitarian organisations and the Government in managing Mine Action, providing reliable information and data, including improvements in the calculation and reporting of beneficiaries. (Action #9)

19. Yemen reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by improving the effectiveness of information management, prioritisation processes, including that a new process was shared with implementing partners to start cancellation reports within re-survey activities. (Action #27)

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

20. In considering Yemen's 2022 extension request, the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) requested Yemen to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Yemen on;

- Progress made relative to the commitments contained in Yemen's work plan and the results of survey and clearance efforts in a manner consistent with IMAS in accordance with the land released methodology employed, (i.e. cancelled through NTS, reduced through technical survey, and cleared through clearance) with the results disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance identified and destroyed;
- The impact of survey and clearance outcomes and update on how additional clarity obtained may change Yemen's assessment of the remaining implementation challenge and timeframe for implementation;
- The remaining challenge in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas and their respective sizes as well as by type of contamination;
- Information on progress in building the capacity of Yemen to address the remaining challenge, including efforts to approve its NMAS, strengthen information management, and the acquisition of necessary equipment;
- Updates regarding efforts to ensure the exclusion of civilians from mined areas including through the implementation of mine risk education and reduction efforts in affected communities, including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- Changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively impact annual milestones for emergency clearance and baseline survey of known and suspected mined areas;
- Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boy and men and the needs and experiences of people in affected communities, and;
- Resource mobilization efforts, external financing received and resource made available by the Government of Yemen to support implementation efforts.

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 (OAP Actions #28-32)

23. Yemen reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including, methodologies used, challenges faced and results achieved disaggregated by gender and age. Yemen also report that national mine action standard for mine reduction was revised and is expected to be approved in the period 2024-2025. The Committee welcomes the updated information from Yemen and would welcome further information on the proposed timeline and process of approval of the NMA. (Action #32).

24. Yemen reported that on its efforts to integrate mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance activities, including implementation of risk education simultaneously with clearance activities, emergency response, and as part of longer MRE campaigns that target specific locations based on different prioritisation needs and the sub-agreement of each implementing partner. Yemen also reported that partners such as Yemen Red Crescent Society with the support of the ICRC and international organisations conduct risk education activities. Yemen also reported that the Yemen Mine Action programme worked to prepare a curriculum for awareness in schools to implement the first experiment in extra-curricular activities in order to sustain awareness in schools that house the largest number of children. (Action #28)

25. Yemen reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk, including that aspects of gender and diversity are considered by ensuring engagement with females and different cultural aspects and applying humanitarian neutrality, which ensures the conduct of proper risk education sessions, and that risk education activities are carried out for different age groups and communities without any discrimination. Yemen also reported on its efforts to target children due to risky behaviour and driving motorcycles on side roads close to conflict areas, Women involved in population movements, and the grazing of livestock in dangerous areas, fetching water from wells, and burning wood, and for men working agricultural lands and burning weeds, as well as returnees. (Action #29)

26. Yemen reported on its efforts to Prioritise people most at risk by linking mine risk education and reduction programmes and messages directly to an analysis of available casualty and contamination data, including that operational orders and tasks are given and generated to the operators according to the outputs of the Yemen Baseline Survey, the extent of the contamination being identified, and the nature of the targeted areas, and that risk education projects are implemented according to the planning mechanism approved by the Mine Action Coordination Office and the relevant national policies. (Action #30)

27. Yemen reported on its efforts to build national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes with the ability to adapt to changing needs and contexts, including on-going coordination between the National Mine Action Program, implementing partners, and various stakeholders regarding the implementation of risk education activities. (Action #31)

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

28. The Committee observed that Yemen provided quality information on challenges in implementation, including the following: challenges with accessibility and security situations in some areas which make planning and giving projections of mined areas in detailed work plans difficult, and that the main challenge facing Mine Action Information Management in Yemen is the

limitations of funding/resources, that resulted in the cessation of the work of 66 teams for various mine action activities and a partial cessation of some of our departments working in the national program, especially in the Mine Action Coordination Office (YMACC) and the Executive Mine Action Center – YEMAC. Yemen also reported further challenges, including, i) increasing level of contamination, including access, due to the security situation. 2) The location of new large suspected hazardous areas with specific characteristics continues to alter priorities during decision-making, 3) Proper planning will be difficult until the Yemen Baseline Survey progresses and more information on contamination is gathered. Currently, planning is also affected by the lack of funding, in addition to the unknown, unexpected support from donors, 4) Weather conditions cause floods in some areas, which move mines to other areas, 5) New technologies are emerging, such as the emergence of a type of innovative explosive devices and different priorities for responding to liberated areas, 6) Much of the international support provided for mine action through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) stopped. This caused the stoppage of the work of 66 teams for various mine action activities and a partial cessation of some of the departments working in the national program, especially in the Mine Action Coordination Office (YMACC) and the Executive Mine Action Center. (Action #8)

The Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Yemen
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						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.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						

#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						
MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						

#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered					
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results					

