

2024 FACTSHEET Mine Action and Disarmament Programme Ukraine



CONTEXT

Ukraine has been heavily affected by armed conflict since 2014 following Russia's annexation of Crimea. On 24 February 2022, Russia initiated a large-scale military operation in Ukraine targeting all major cities in the eastern, southern and central part of the country.

Since its early stages, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine has been characterized by the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including landmines, cluster munitions and aerial bombings. OCHA indicates that 17.6 million people in Ukraine require humanitarian assistance, with 10.7 million specifically in need of mine action services.

To date there has been no systematic, wide-scale assessment of explosive ordnance contamination and what humanitarian impact they pose, but initial information indicates that the size of mine contamination is "massive", while the cluster munitions remnants contamination is estimated to be "large".

The extensive explosive ordnance contamination not only puts at great risk the lives and limbs of thousands of civilians, but also hinders the access to basic services and the delivery of live-saving humanitarian aid, thus exacerbating the already critical situation.

PROGRAMME

NPA deployed to Ukraine in May 2022 with the aim of establishing a mine action programme, seeking to alleviate civilians' suffering from the effects of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance.

From the initial deployment to the country NPA focused on supporting the main national mine action operator; the State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU), and in parallel established its own mine action operational capacities. NPA's collaboration with and support of SESU has taken different forms, including equipping 20 of their demining teams, and delivering and training six mine-detection dogs and their handlers for humanitarian demining operations. Further trainings and capacity development are ongoing, mostly focusing on strengthening the use of dogs in demining operations.

Following a successful process of legal registration and obtaining the necessary accreditations, NPA started directly implementing mine action activities from February 2023 onwards. The programme currently deploys 17 non-technical survey/risk education teams in Sumy, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, 16 multi-task teams in Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, and eight mine-detection dogs and their handlers to support the clearance teams.

Overall programme updates

- Country office in Kyiv registered and operational from August 2022
- NPA equipped 20 SESU EOD/demining teams with technical and safety equipment for their operations
- 14 mine detection dogs deployed to Ukraine, six of which were provided to SESU and eight for NPA's own operations
- 16 NTS/EORE teams trained in December 2022, and operational since mid-February 2023, with an additional team added in January 2024
- 16 multi-task clearance teams trained from March to September 2023 (in three rounds of trainings), and deployed from July onwards (with the full capacity deployed by October 2023)
- NPA's current field offices in Ukraine are in Sumy and Mykolaiv, with ongoing operations in Kherson, Mykolaiv and Sumy regions
- In November 2023, NPA became the first international organisation in Ukraine to obtain accreditation for the deployment of mine detection dogs
- The programme received formal accreditation for the use of mechanical assets in demining operations in April 2024, and deployed 7 machines across all operational areas immediately thereafter
- NPA's current field offices are in Shyroke (for operations in Kherson region), Mykolaiv (Mykolaiv region), and Sumy (Sumy region)
- The programme recently expanded operational activities in Kherson region, with teams starting technical survey and clearance operations in June 2024 (NPA was already conducting NTS and EORE activities in Kherson since June 2023)

2023 operational results

- More than 12.4 million square meters of hazardous area identified through non-technical survey
- 13,591 m² of hazardous area processed through clearance and technical survey
- 201 items of explosive ordnance found on clearance tasks and destroyed
- 561 items of explosive ordnance identified during non-technical survey and reported as spot tasks to SESU for their follow up
- 11,436 people reached with risk education/CPD training
- Six mine detection dogs trained and delivered to SESU, and operational in Kharkiv region

DONORS and FUNDING

We thank our donors for their ongoing support of mine action operations in Ukraine. NPA's current survey, clearance and risk education activities in Ukraine are funded through generous funding from the **Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)**, the **German Federal Foreign Office**, and **COOP Norway**.

MORE INFORMATION

[Programme webpage](#)
[NPA Ukraine on Facebook](#)
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[Mine Action Review - Ukraine](#)

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