

2024 FACTSHEET SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



CONTEXT

After more than a decade of civil conflict in Syrian, the widespread explosive ordnance contamination continues to threaten lives, hamper access to basic services, and obstruct the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the efforts of the international community toward building resilience and early recovery. Records indicate that since 2013, **an average of 4 people per day have been killed or injured by explosive ordnance**, and, according to the 2022-2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 1 in 2 Syrians are estimated to be living in areas containing some form of explosive ordnance contamination.

The need for sustained and comprehensive explosive ordnance mitigation measures and the integration of humanitarian mine action across the humanitarian response and early recovery programming is paramount. In addition, as indicated within the Syrian Humanitarian Fund 2023 allocation strategy, there is an urgent need to carry out technical and non-technical surveys to ascertain the presence or absence of explosive ordnance contamination and support the safe delivery of humanitarian aid, safe access to services and livelihoods opportunities and foster resilience of community members.

PROGRAMME

Since July 2021, with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) initiated the establishment of a Mine Action and Disarmament (MAD) programme in government-controlled Syria. NPA successfully completed this initial phase in December 2021 with the signature of the MoU with the Syrian Arab Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

In January 2022, NPA commenced the operational phase which included assessment, planning, training, and preparations for its implementation of the humanitarian mine action intervention.

NPA operates under a sound and comprehensive conflict sensitivity framework and a robust risk management system which not only considers safety and security aspects but also financial, legal and compliance issues related to sanctions and anti-terrorism measures.

NPA is fully operational with four multi-skilled operational teams and four non-technical Survey teams, conducting land release through non-technical survey, technical survey, clearance, IEDD and EOD tasks. We have the capacity, within 24 hours of notification, to actively respond to any explosive ordnance spot tasks identified during our Non-Technical Survey operations.



2023 results – Initial year of operations

- Equipped, trained and deployed 4 Multi-Task Teams (MTTs) and commenced farmland and building clearance in Riv Damascus, based on the results of the NTS teams
- More than 2.8 Million m2 suspected hazards areas identified, consisting of 30 locations in rural settings, and 523 buildings.
- More than 200 explosive items safely removed, with the most common types consisting of projectiles, grenades and cluster munitions.
- More than 400,000 m2 of clearance completed, with more than 1,000 direct and 10,000 indirect beneficiaries.

DONORS and FUNDING

We thank our donors for their generous support of our work to protect civilians from explosive weapons. The programme is currently supported with funds from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs – Syria (OCHA-Syria) Syria Humanitarian Fund.

MORE INFORMATION

Programme webpage:

<https://www.npaid.org/mine-action-and-disarmament/where-we-work/syria>

MAR Clearing the Mines 2023:

<https://www.mineactionreview.org/country/syria/anti-personnel-mines>

MAR Clearing the CMR 2023:

<https://www.mineactionreview.org/country/syria>

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