



**MoND Turkish Mine Action Center**  
**18th Meeting of the Convention on APMB**  
**(16-20 November 2020)**

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**Turkish Mine Action Center**



**Speaker** : Captain Mustafa TORUN (Senior Project Officer)

**Duration** : 8 min.

**Presentation Order :**

- History of Actions Taken by Turkey to Fulfill Commitments Undertaken within the Scope of the **APMB**
- Mine Action Projects in Turkey
- Military Demining Capacity Development
- Turkey's Activities in line with **Oslo Action Plan**
- Extension Request

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## Actions Taken by Turkey








- Turkey became a party to Ottawa Convention on **1 March 2004**,
- Turkey ratified the 2nd protocol of CCW,
- Destruction of stockpile APMs were completed **by 2011** (Article 4 of the Convention),
- Deadline to fulfill commitment under Article 5 of the Convention has been extended until **1 March 2022** for Turkey,




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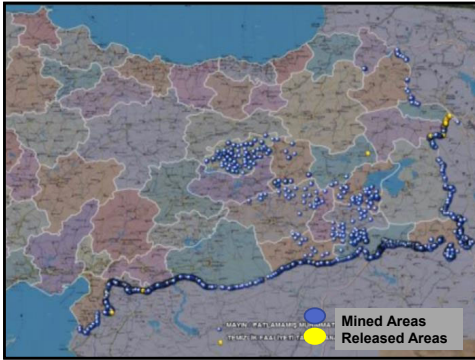
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## Actions Taken by Turkey




- Apx. 800,000 mines laid in minefields in the southeast region of Turkey (150 million m<sup>2</sup>),
- All minefields have been **marked, fenced and constantly observed**,
- Demining is vital for establishing an **integrated border management** in Turkey,






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## Actions Taken by Turkey





- 1.1 million m<sup>2</sup> mined areas were cleared **until 2013**,
- Syrian Border Mine Clearance Project could not be initiated in 2013,
- Turkey's request for an extension of 8 years was adopted in 2014. Since **then apx 62 million m<sup>2</sup>** of land released.
- TURMAC was established under MoND in **2015** and located in Ankara,

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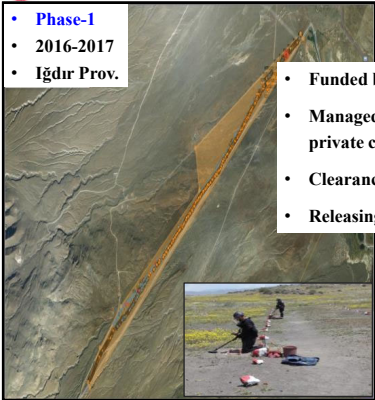





## Mine Action Projects (EBMCP Phase 1 & 2)



- Phase-1**
- 2016-2017
- Iğdır Prov.


- Funded by EU (%75) & Turkey (%25),
- Managed by UNDP, implemented by private contractors,
- Clearance of **4,7 M m<sup>2</sup>** minefields,
- Releasing of **26 M m<sup>2</sup>** unreachable land.






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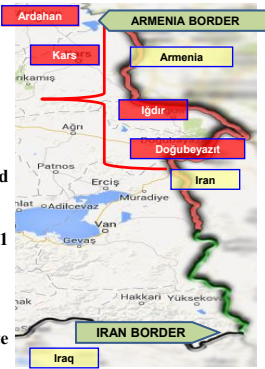


## Mine Action Projects (EBMCP Phase 3 / NTS)





**IPA II (2014-2020)**



- Demining is funded by EU under IPA II (18.5 million €),
- Demining is planned in 4 provinces covering 96 minefields IOT find and destroy 88.500 mines,
- Non technical Survey (NTS) is funded from National Budget (2,121 million €),
- NTS of all known (3.692) minefields will be conducted,
- Project will be managed by UNDP and conducted by private contractors.

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## Military Demining / Capacity Development






- Started humanitarian demining in 2017,
- 32 manual demining teams and 2 machines operating at the moment,
- 8 additional manual demining teams, 20 mine detection dogs and 6 machines projected in 2021.

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## Turkey's Activities in line with Oslo Action Plan





**YATAY  
MİLE SAVUNMA BAKANLIĞI  
MİLE SAĞLIK FAALİYET MERKEZİ  
DARDEM BASKANLIĞI**


**STRATEJİK MİNE FAALİYET PLANI  
(2020-2025)**

Mayıs 2020





- TURMAC has developed and published an evidence-based, costed and time bound **“National Strategic Plan for Mine Action”** in Turkey which covers **2020-2025** in accordance with **Action 2** of the Oslo Action Plan,
- %45** of TURMAC's staff members are **women**. This serves to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action in Turkey, in accordance with **Action 3** of the Oslo Action Plan.

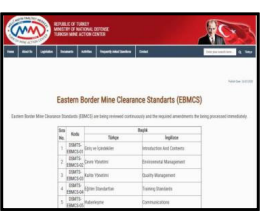
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## Turkey's Activities in line with Oslo Action Plan












- TURMAC issued **“ 44 National Mine Action Standards (NMAAS) and 5 Standart Operating Procedures (SOP) ”** in 2019, in accordance with **Action 5** of the Oslo Action Plan,
- In addition to NMAAS, TURMAC reviewed and adapted its Eastern Border Mine Clearance Standards (EBMCS) in accordance with the latest **IMAS**.

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### Turkey's Activities in line with Oslo Action Plan





## Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

- The **IMSMA** (V.6.00) system was established in **2018** and it has been fully operational by all demining operators in Turkey.
- The system contains all **up-to-date** minefield and mine victim data and is used for all reporting and documentation including **GIS** in accordance with **Action 9** of the Oslo Action Plan.

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### Turkey's Activities in line with Oslo Action Plan





- Dummy training mines/items are used mostly for demining and **military trainings** in Turkey.
- By the end of **2021**, TURMAC plans to reduce number of retained mines for training to a total of **3000** in accordance with **Action 13 and 16** of the Oslo Action Plan.

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### Turkey's Activities in line with Oslo Action Plan







- TURMAC NTS teams achieved a cancellation rate up to %40 amount on the previously known to be contaminated lands in 2019,
- Remaining minefields of Turkey will be surveyed within the scope of the “NTS Project” between 2021-2023 by contractors.
- In this regard Turkey's mined areas perimeters are targeted to be identified precisely on an evidence based approach by means of new technologies (e.g. Drones), in accordance with Action 18, Action 26 and Action 27 of the Oslo Action Plan.

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### Turkey's Activities in line with Oslo Action Plan



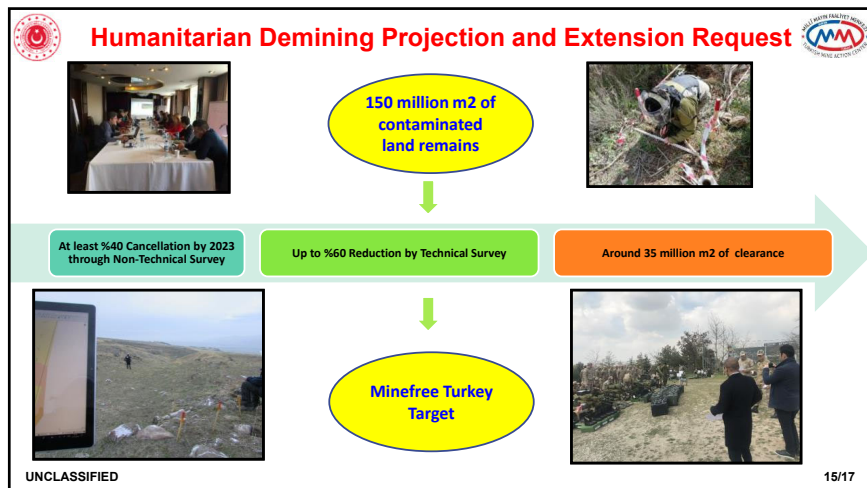
- TURMAC “National Mine Risk Education Plan” (NMREP), as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) has three courses of actions which are aimed to be conducted simultaneously during 2021-2023.



- i. NTS teams will conduct MRE,
- ii. Selected and accredited NGOs will be delivering MRE,
- iii. A MRE Protocol has been signed with Turkish Gendarmerie covering 15 provinces, 42 districts and 899 villages,

\*These 3 courses of actions will be conducted in accordance with the Action 28, Action 30, Action 31 and Action 32 of the Oslo Action Plan.

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**Humanitarian Demining Projection and Extension Request**

The ISU implements its core support activities with a three-person team equivalent to a 2.4 full-time staff:

- Ryan Carlos ELIASH, ISU Director
- Sophie DELPOUX, ISU Specialist
- Gregory CATHERAST, ISU Officer
- Extrabudgetary Support: EU Council Delegation

- Subsequent to 18th State Party Meetings of the Convention, **Turkey** is looking forward to working in close coordination with the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention for a possible **extension request** in terms of **Article 5** and, in accordance with the **Action 19,20,22,23 and 24** of the Oslo Action Plan .

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## **Slide1.**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Participants; I am Captain Mustafa TORUN and I am pleased to represent Turkish Mine Action Center and give you brief information about Turkey's mine action activities and represent Turkish Mine Action Center.

## **Slide2.**

No Speech

## **Slide3.**

a. Ottawa Convention entered into force for Turkey on 1 March 2004.

b. Since then, Turkey is fully committed to the Convention and striving to fulfill its obligations. In 2011, Turkey declared the completion of the destruction of nearly 3 million stockpiled mines, fulfilling the commitment under Article 4 of the Convention. However, clearance of mined areas causes difficulties due to developments in proximity of Turkey's borders as well as adverse weather conditions and topographical challenges. Deadline of 1st of March 2014 has been extended until 1st of March 2022. Despite the adverse influence of Covid-19 to mine action, TURMAC spares no effort to fulfill its commitment under Article 5.

## **Slide4.**

As a member of NATO, Turkey's mine contamination context is rather different than many other countries.

a. The great majority of antipersonnel mines in Turkey were laid along the southern and eastern borders during 1955–1959 and 1992-1995 by Turkish military forces in accordance with relevant NATO Stanags.

b. Turkey's minefields are mapped, recorded, marked, fenced and constantly observed by military personnel.

c. For Turkey demining is an indispensable part of the integrated border management. Furthermore, demining has an economic aspect of providing availability and utility of arable land and provide employment for the local population.

## **Slide5.**

a. Turkey cleared around 1.1 million m<sup>2</sup> minefields with the deployment of military demining units until 2013. Nationally funded Syrian Border Mine Clearance Project which aimed to clear more than 900 km border-line from mines could not be initiated due to the conflict in Syria. Turkey's request for an extension was adopted in 2014. Since then approximately 62 million m<sup>2</sup> of land released.

b. In order to increase the pace and centralize coordination of mine clearance activities, Turkish Mine Action Center was established under the Ministry of National Defense in January 2015.

## **Slide6.**

Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project has been a milestone in humanitarian demining in Turkey not only due to its contribution to TURMAC's capacity development, but also due to being the first large scale mine clearance project run by international contractors.

a. The project's first 2 phases covered minefields along the border in Ağrı and Iğdır provinces and was conducted by private contractors between 2016 and 2019.

b. Phase-1 and Phase 2 of the project were completed with clearance of 37 minefields and destruction of 45.608 mines. Although the released land through clearance and technical survey

is approximately 4.7 million m<sup>2</sup>, the amount of land which was unreachable due to mine threat were almost 26 million m<sup>2</sup>.

### **Slide7.**

TURMAC will continue Phase-3 in 2021 along the eastern borders (Ardahan, Kars, Iğdır and Ağrı provinces), with the fund that will be provided in the frame of IPA-II (2016),

- a. 96 minefields will be cleared and whole border line on the east except Van province will be free of mines.
- b. Besides, Turkey will contribute to the project with 2.121 million Euros and conduct non-technical survey of 3.692 mine fields in the all mine affected provinces of the country.
- c. UNDP has completed tendering process of both projects in October 2020 and demining activities are planned to start in 2021 and cover three demining seasons.

### **Slide8.**

Regarding capacity development of TURMAC;

- a. Military demining units were accredited in July 2017 and with completion of border wall, they started operating in accordance with International Mine Action Standards at the end of 2017.
- b. In order to increase the rate of clearance, additional military demining teams have been established and accredited in 2019. 32 manual demining teams are operational at the moment and the number will be extended to 40 until mid-2021. They will be supported with 6 more demining machines and more than 20 mine detection dogs.

## **Slide 9.**

- a. TURMAC has developed and published an evidence based, cost-based and time bound “National Strategic Plan for Mine Action” which covers 2020-2025.
- b. %45 of TURMAC’s staff members are women. This serves to full, equal and gender balanced participation in mine action in Turkey.

## **Slide 10.**

- a. TURMAC issued “44 National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and 5 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)” in 2019.
- b. In addition to NMAS, TURMAC reviewed and adapted its Eastern Border Mine Clearance Standards (EBMCS) in accordance with the latest IMAS.

## **Slide 11.**

The IMSMA (V.6.00) system was established in 2018 and it has been fully operational by all demining operators in Turkey. All the tools and system components have been purchased and delivered to field operators and TURMAC Headquarters. The system contains all up-to-date minefield and mine victim data and is used for all reporting and documentation including GIS.

## **Slide 12.**

Dummy training mines/items are used mostly for demining and military trainings in Turkey. However, a limited number of retained mines are also required to conduct efficient training. TURMAC plans to reduce number of retained mines for training to a total of 3000.

### **Slide 13.**

- a. NTS operations (102 in total) were conducted by TURMAC NTS teams in 2019 with a cancellation rate up to %40 amount on the previously known to be contaminated lands,
- b. Remaining minefields of Turkey will be surveyed within the scope of the “NTS Project” which is planned to be conducted in 2021-2023 by contractors. In this regard Turkey’s mined areas perimeters are targeted to be identified precisely on an evidence-based approach by means of new technologies like Drones etc.

### **Slide 14.**

TURMAC “National Mine Risk Education Plan” (NMREP), as a part of its Strategic Mine Action Plan (2020-2025) has three courses of actions which are aimed to be conducted simultaneously during 2021-2023.

- a. NTS teams will conduct MRE in the vicinity of these minefields during their survey activities.
- b. Selected and accredited NGOs will be delivering MRE on certain districts with the support of EBMCP Phase-3 funding.
- c. A MRE Protocol has signed with Turkish Gendarmerie covering 15 provinces, 42 districts and 899 villages. TURMAC will provide trainer training of Gendarmerie personnel in MRE and monitor their MRE activities.

### **Slide 15.**

In the last 6 years with the cancelled land by nontechnical survey combined, the average land release output has been around 65 million m<sup>2</sup>.

- a. TURMAC plans to increase this output in the following years with new assets, particularly with aforementioned “Clearance and NTS “projects.
- b. Clearing a total of 150 million m<sup>2</sup> mined area in five years is not an easy task. In that regard, Turkey is planning to request another extension period in 2021.
- c. Based on previous experiences TURMAC plans to use efficient land release procedures with both NTS and EBMCP projects. This might result in a cancellation up to 40% of known as contaminated land by NTS and 60% additional reduction by technical survey during clearance activities.

## **Slide 16.**

Before concluding my presentation, I would like to state that, following the 18th Meeting of States Parties, Turkey is looking forward to working in close coordination with the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation regarding a possible extension request.

## **Slide 17.**

Thank you.

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