

UNMAS

Territory of Western Sahara

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
(MINURSO)

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Place: Geneva, Switzerland

Introduction and Background

MINURSO Mandate

“...reaffirms the need for full respect of the military agreements reached with MINURSO with regard to the ceasefire and calls on the parties to adhere fully to those agreements;” SC/RES/2440(2018)

Both parties to the conflict agreed to reduce danger from landmines/UXO, along with information sharing, marking and destruction of landmines/UXO in Military Agreements #2 and #3.

Activities & Partners

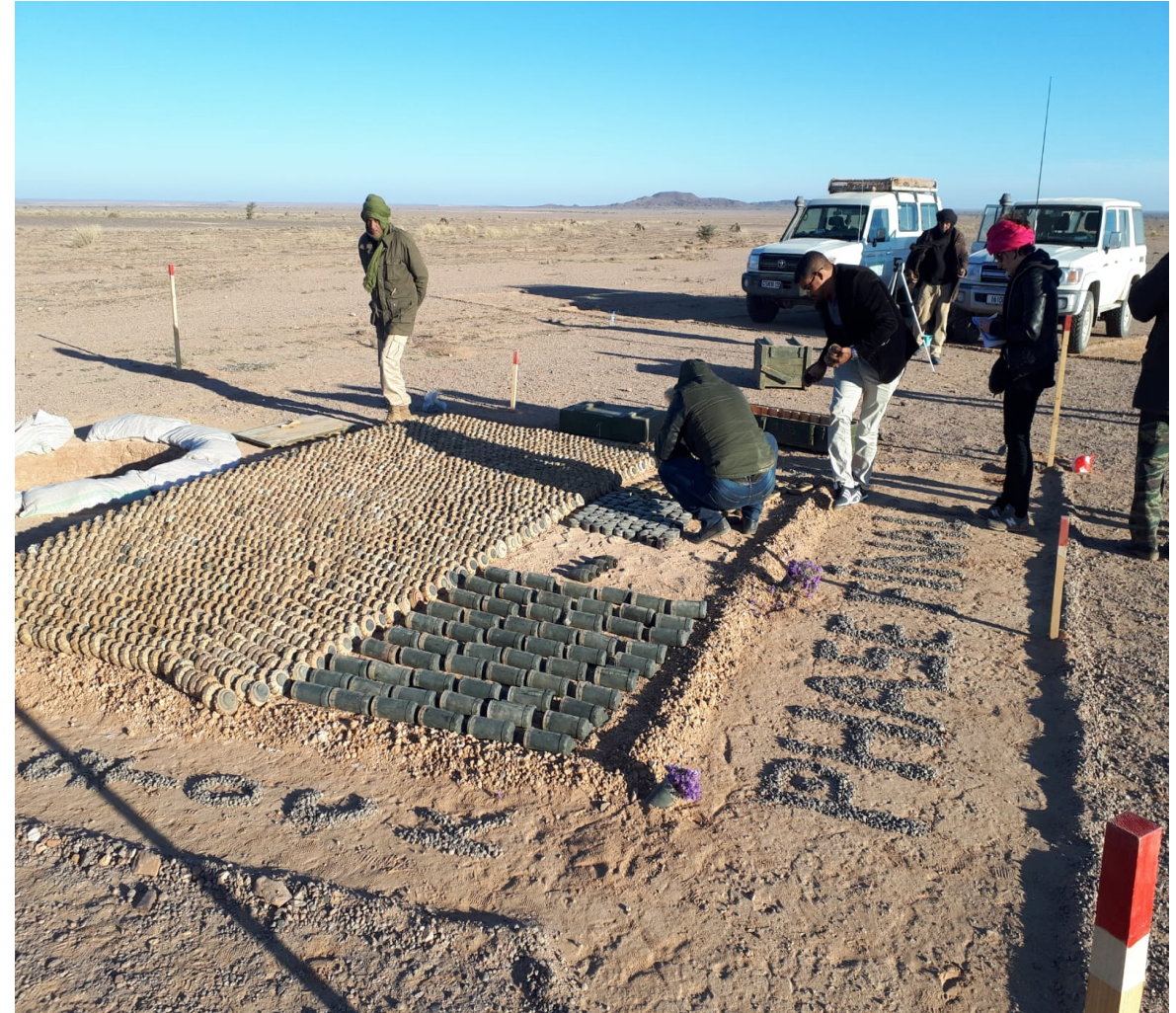
In line with the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023, the following **activities** are implemented with local and international **partners**:

VTF funded:

- Landmine/ERW Survey and Clearance (SLG, NPA)
- Victim Assistance (ASAVIM)
- Capacity Enhancement (SMACO, ASAVIM)
- Risk Education (NPA, DDG, SCBL)
- Physical Security and Stockpile Management – PSSM (SMACO, Geneva Call)
- Advocacy

Assessed budget funded:

- Clearance and route verification to enable MINURSO military observers safe passage to monitor the ceasefire



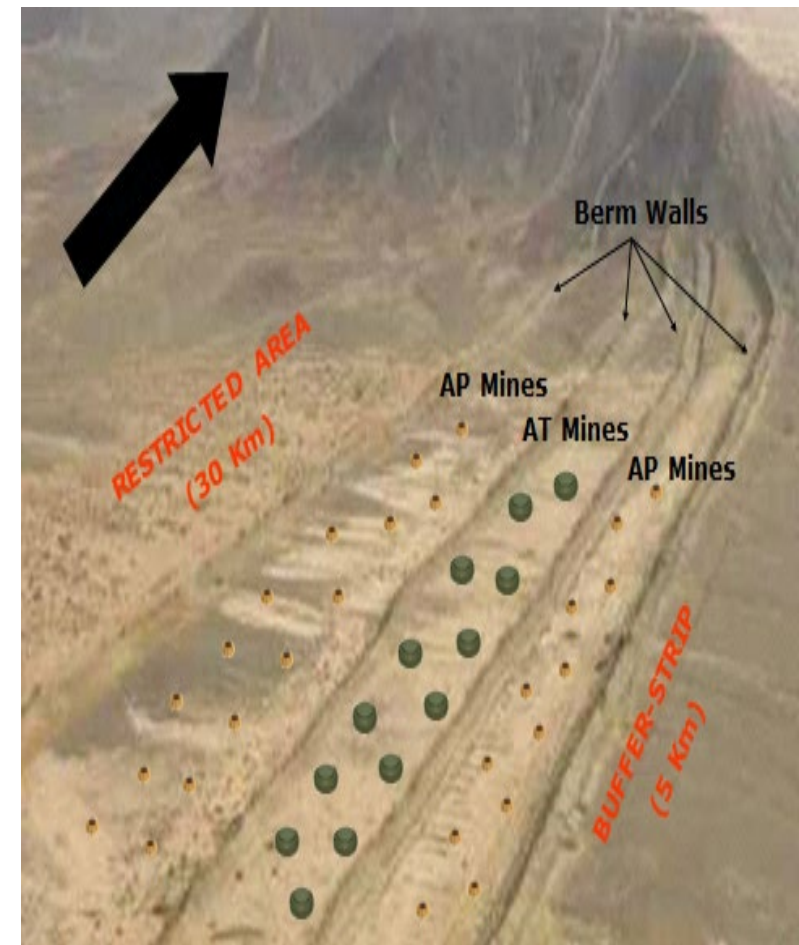
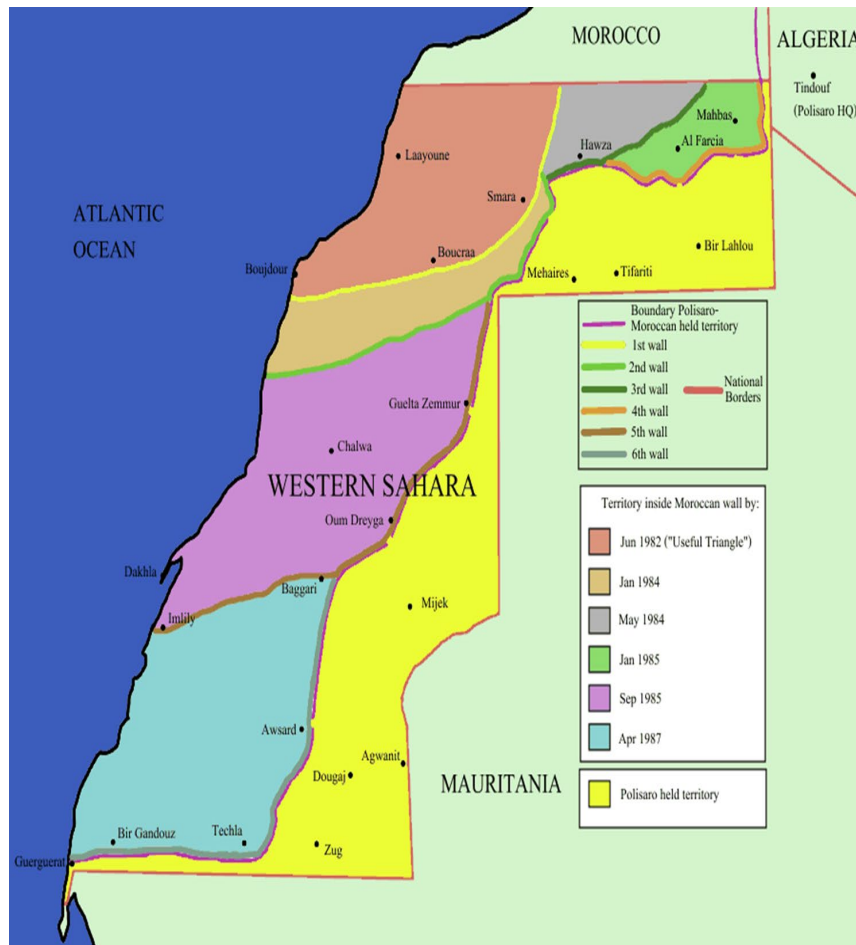
Vision

The UNMAS programme in the Territory of Western Sahara; in line with the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023, *envisions*:

A Territory of Western Sahara free from the threat of landmines/ERW including cluster munitions (east of the berm, outside the buffer zone) by 2023; where individuals and local populations live in a safe environment conducive to sustainable peace and development; where survivors of mine/ERW accidents are integrated fully in to their society; and, where local mine action related organizations manage mine action related matter independently.

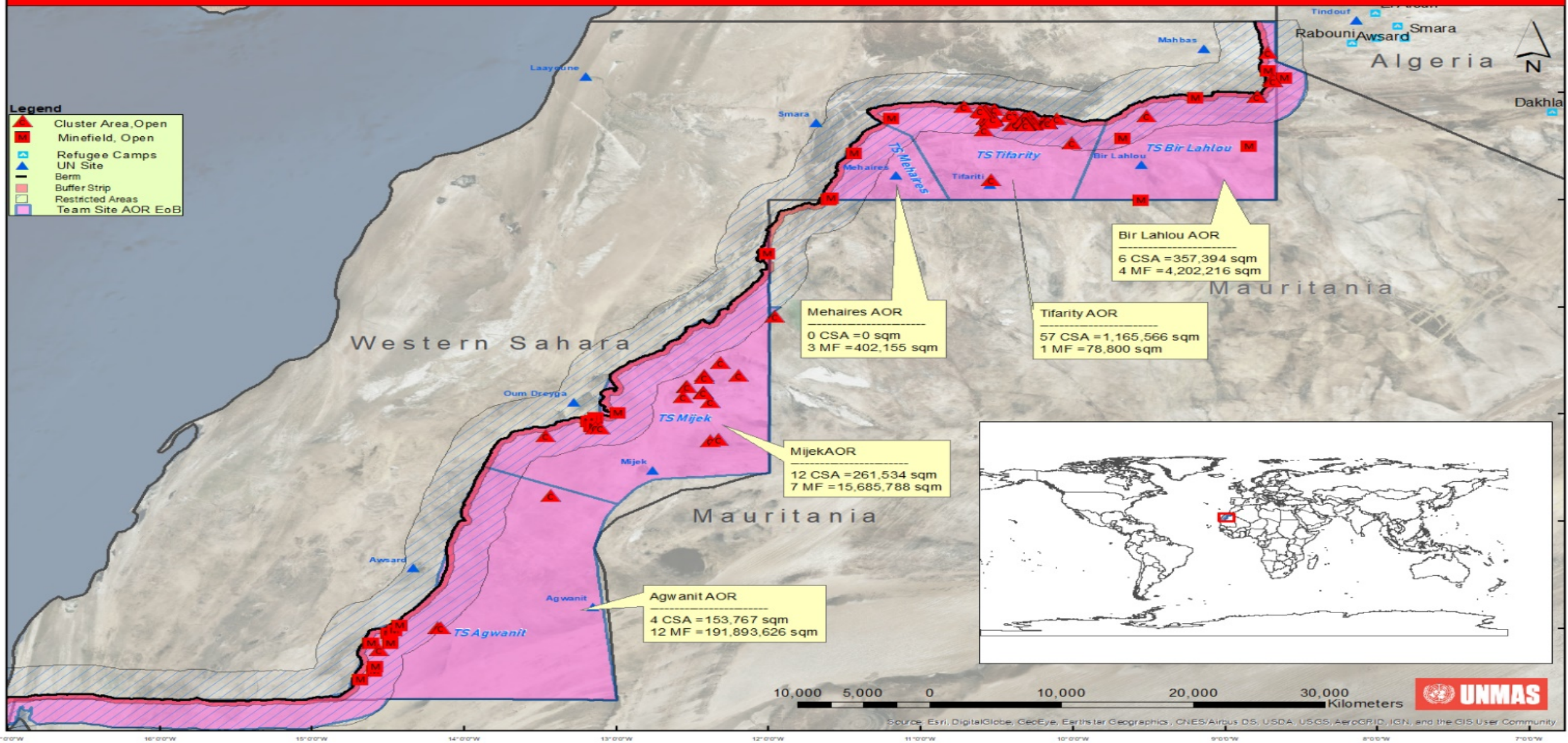


Landmine and ERW contamination



Landmine and ERW contamination

WESTERN SAHARA - CONTAMINATION EoB JAN. 2019



Outcome and outputs

Thanks to UNMAS work in the Territory of Western Sahara, local communities, UN military and civilian personnel, and other humanitarian aid workers are safer from the threat posed by landmines/ERW.

	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
• Minefields	32	27
• Cluster Strike Areas:	412	83
• Land cleared:	146,787,240sqm.	
• Route verified /cleared:	8,583 km	

Items found and destroyed up to 01 JAN 19: 45,516

Risk educated: 72,773 beneficiaries

Survivors assisted: 28 and 252 dependents

Sustainable Development Goals



UNMAS Western Sahara is increasing female participation in clearance operations east of the berm



UNMAS Western Sahara is increasing awareness among the nomadic Sahrawi population about the threat posed by mines/ERW to their subsistence and livelihood of which livestock herding is core to their existence

The UNMAS Programme in the Territory of Western Sahara contributes to **11** of the **17** SDGs:

Committing to completion

To achieve **end-state vision by 2023**, assuming a continuation of the conducive political, security and assessed funding environment, the following minimum is needed:

VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND (VTF)

USD 3.5 million multi-year multi-pillar (36 months)

USD 100,000 for victim assistance (12 months)

Challenges

Situational Challenges:

- Cluster Munitions dropped from high altitude
- No records kept of use/or access to records of mine and CMs used.
- Difficulty in retrieving information as area east of the berm is sparsely inhabited
- Logistically challenging.
- Extreme heat: up to 55 degrees Celsius in the summer and heavy rains in the winter
- Resource Mobilization due to unique situation of the Territory of Western Sahara.
- Political and Security Challenges.



Thank you

