



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
Directorate of Mine Action Coordination**

**Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA)
1396-2017**



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Abbreviations:

AP	Anti-Personnel
AT:	Anti-Tank
AV:	Anti-Vehicle
DMAC:	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
DOS:	Department of State
EOD:	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW:	Explosive Remnants of War
ITF:	International Trust Fund
KG	Kilogram
KM	Kilometer
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MAPA:	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
PDIA:	Post-Demining Impact Assessment
PM:	Political and Military Affairs
UNMAS:	United Nations Mine Action Service
US:	United States
USD:	United States Dollars
UXO:	Un Exploded Ordnance
VTF:	Voluntary Trust Fund
WRA:	Weapons Removal and Abatement

Introduction:

The Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) is an impact evaluation of land release and other mine action activities carried out between six months to one year after a minefield or battlefield is cleared of mines and ERWs.

The PDIA was financially supported by the USDOS (PM/WRA) through ITF- Enhancing Human Security, and it was supported by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). DMAC conducts regular PDIA of land that is released; random previously hazardous areas are selected in different regions and provinces to measure the socio-economic impact and outcome of demining operations in the areas cleared by the demining teams.

The 1396 (2017) PDIA findings shows that mine action operations and services have paved the way for many development and infrastructure projects in all the cleared areas and communities. Approximately 96 percent of the cleared lands have been used by the communities for agricultural activities, housing, animal grazing and other socio-economic activities. This strongly indicates that mine action is making positive impact on the livelihoods of people and communities at large. Moreover, it was also found that many people have received Mine/ERW risk education and are satisfied with the risk education provided by the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).

Objectives:

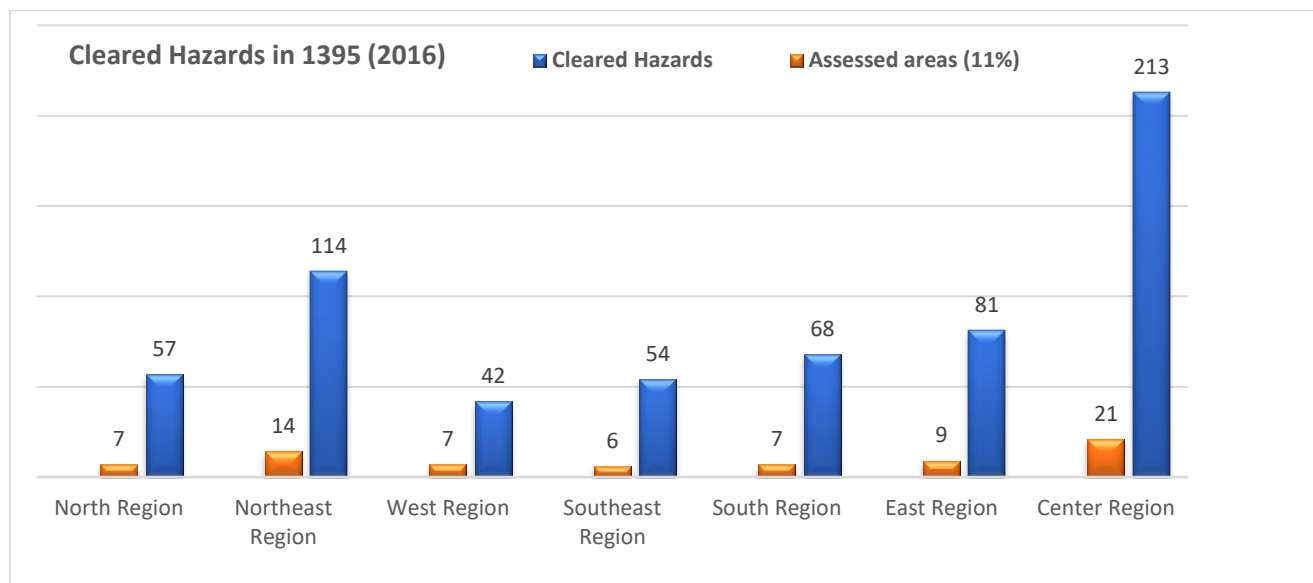
PDIA objective is to measure the immediate- to medium-term humanitarian, development and socio-economic impact of demining operations. PDIA assesses whether humanitarian demining operations have achieved their objective of minimizing or eliminating the impact of mines and ERWs on affected communities, and whether the cleared land is in used by the beneficiaries as intended. PDIA also assesses the accuracy of the information upon which demining operations were prioritized, and therefore helps improve future planning processes.

PDIA is conducted to:

- Ensure that, the cleared hazards have been in line with the national priorities and local needs are considered during the planning and implementation phases.
- Determine the level of beneficiaries' satisfaction from the cleared lands and from the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA) as a whole.
- Determine the ways in which cleared lands are utilized by landowners or local people and ensures that the lands are used effectively by the beneficiaries.
- Observe improvements in the livelihood of the communities following demining operations to make sure that demining brings about positive social and economic changes in the community.
- Note the demands and suggestions of the local people and the needs of the governmental bodies linked to planning and implementation of mine action operations.
- Ensure that donor funding is spent in an effective and efficient way and has brought about positive changes in the lives of programme beneficiaries.
- Ensure that, the GIS coordinates on the map matches the actual area on the surface of ground.

PDIA Location:

During June to September 2017, DMAC successfully carried out the PDIA of **71** cleared hazardous areas in 56 communities, across 36 districts of 16 provinces (Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Kandahar, Khost, Paktya, Herat, Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan, Balkh and Samangan) in seven regions of Afghanistan. During 1395 (2016) a total of 629 hazardous areas were cleared from mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) out of which 71 cleared hazards were assessed during the PDIA, which makes 11% of total tasks for 2016.



Methodology used in the PDIA:

1. The 11% tasks assessed cannot be fully representative of all cleared tasks. However, selection sought to contrast urban and rural settings, different types of contamination and different stages of clearance.
2. Conduct meetings with provincial and district councils, in order to brief them on PDIA and its objectives.
3. Conduct Interviews with community members, community councils, elders, local leaders and landlords in line with the standards determined for all selected provinces.
4. Conduct visits to the released lands and note down the findings in the standard PDIA forms.



PDIA team interviewing Govt officials

Summary & findings:

- Over the course of one year, people have harvested 26,780 kg wheat, 7,000 Kg bean/pea, 1,500 kg corn, 10,920 Kg various fruits, 10,500 Kg various vegetables and 8,892,000 Kg animal product/dairy from the cleared lands. The value of these crops equals to 3,292,338 USD which represents growth in the local economy.
- The cleared areas directly benefit 6,494 families where they use the cleared lands for pastures, agriculture, housing, roads and as a source of wood collection.
- Some 44,460 livestock (sheep, goats, cows) are fed in the cleared areas.
- Transfer of safe natural drinking water through pipe scheme to Tajikan village, Jabalseraj district, Parwan Province.
- Resettlement of displaced people on the lands cleared from mines/ERWs.
- The use of cleared land by Kuchies (nomads) for grazing animals.
- Some of the cleared areas are used by people to go tourism.
- No incidents were reported from cleared areas that were assessed.
- The total area assessed by PDIA covers 10,004,357 square meters.
- From the areas assessed during PDIA process, a total of 628 Anti-Personnel mines (AP), 48 Anti-Tank/Vehicle mines (AT) and 22,644 ERWs were discovered and were safely disposed/destroyed by demining teams.
- Residents of 56 visited communities and government authorities including district governors, police commanders and other local government officials who were interviewed by PDIA teams were fully satisfied with the work of the mine action programme but were requesting clearance of the remaining hazardous areas.



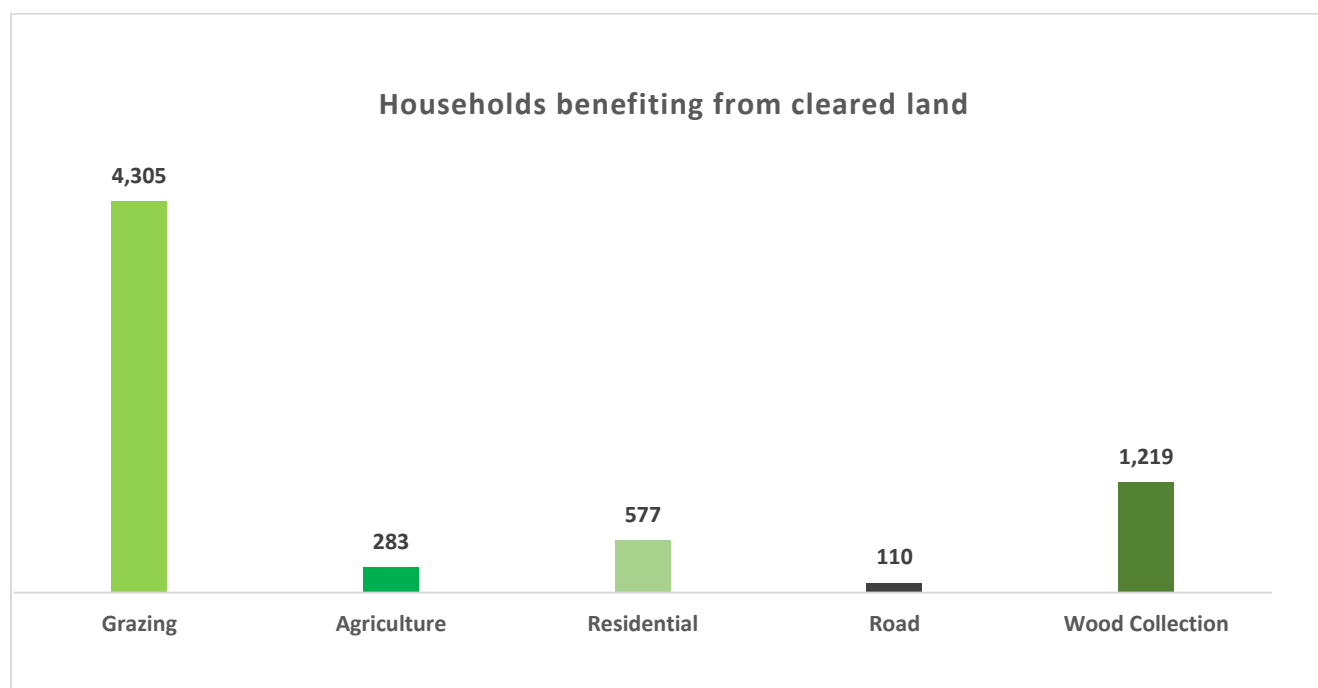
PDIA team interviewing community members

Table-1, Assessed Areas and Mine/ERW Destroyed:

No.	Region	Number of Areas Assessed	Area (Sq. m)	Mines and ERW discovered and destroyed		
				AP	AT	ERW (Excluding SAA)
1	Central	21	2,764,134	333	0	14,265
2	East	9	1,102,208	15	26	974
3	South	7	677,900	0	7	4,781
4	Southeast	6	278,650	2	11	0
5	West	7	3,690,896	0	4	0
6	Northeast	14	399,588	88	0	657
7	North	7	1,090,981	190	0	1,967
Total		71	10,004,357	628	48	22,644

Table-2, Beneficiaries of Cleared Lands by Household¹:

No.	Region	Number of Households Benefiting from the Cleared Lands					Number of Livestock feeding from Cleared Lands	Level of People Satisfaction
		Pastures	Agricultural Lands	Residential Houses	Roads	Wood Collection Sites		
1	Central	1,900	0	100	0	922	14,830	Very satisfied ²
2	East	33	0	95	110	0	2,500	Very satisfied
3	South	0	9	70	0	0	0	Very satisfied
4	Southeast	212	14	2	0	2	680	Very satisfied
5	West	50	0	0	0	0	3,000	Very satisfied
6	Northeast	1,440	60	10	0	295	15,250	Satisfied ³
7	North	670	200	300	0	0	8,200	Very satisfied
Total		4,305	283	577	110	1,219	44,460	



¹Note: Family with an average household size of 7 persons.

²Very satisfied: People have been totally satisfied with mine action operations including prioritization.

³Satisfied: People were satisfied with mine action operations; however, they stated that they were not consulted systematically on prioritization.

Table-3, Crops Harvested from Assessed Areas Over One Year Period:

No.	Crop/Product Type	Annual Harvest in Kg	AFN Value per Kg	Total AFN Value	Total Value in USD ⁴
1	Wheat	26,780	20	535,600	7,876
2	Bean/Pea	7,000	90	630,000	9,265
3	Corn	1,500	25	37,500	551
4	Various Fruits	10,920	20	218,400	3,212
5	Various Vegetables	10,500	15	157,500	2,316
6	Animal Product/Dairy	8,892,000	25	222,300,000	3,269,118
Total				223,879,000	3,292,338

Note: The above figures represent only 11 percent of the total revenue and crops harvested, while the revenue and harvests from the entire land cleared during 1395/2016 will be equal to **nine times more than the above calculated figure (e.g. USD \$ 29,631,042.*

PDIA Implementation

1. PDIA Implementation in Central Region:

A total of 21 hazards covering 2,764,134 sq. m area, located in Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa and Panjshir provinces were assessed in the central region. The assessed areas in the Central Region were cleared with financial support from the US. Department of State, Government of Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands and Denmark through bilateral contracts and the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (UN-VTF) for Mine Action managed by UNMAS.

1.1 Key outputs from the Cleared Hazards:

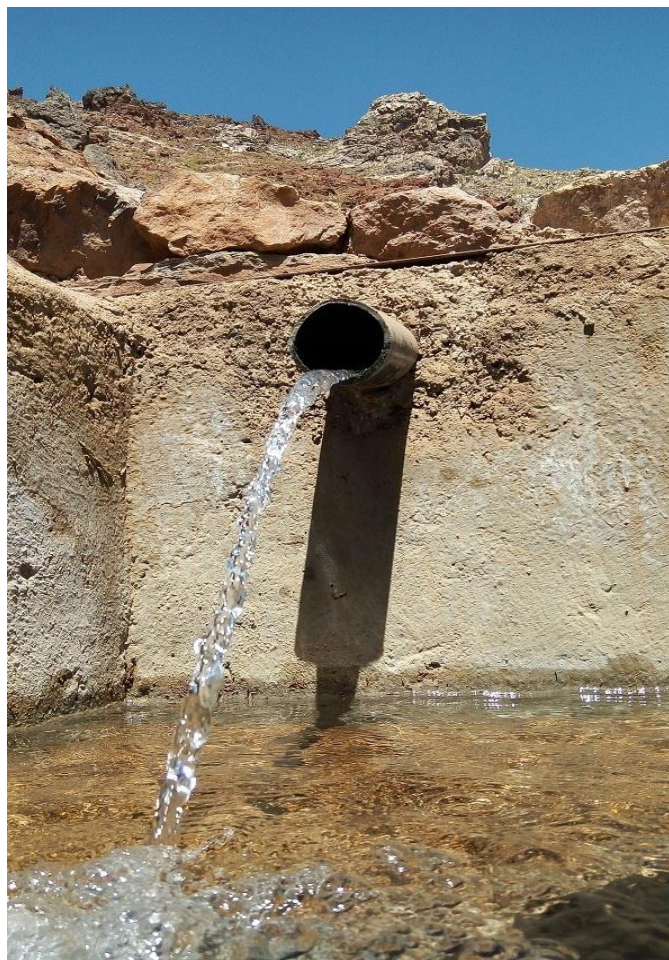
- 333 AP mines and 14,265 ERW were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 2,922 households are directly benefiting and are using the cleared lands for pasture, wood collection and housing.
- Around 14,830 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one-year the local people collected 2,966,000 kg of animal/dairy products with an estimated value of USD 1,090,441.
- Transfer of safe natural water canal in Parwan Province, through which drinking water is supplied to the inhabitants of Tajikan village of Jabalseraj district.

1.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels:

- Local residents and government authorities were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

⁴Note: In this table one US dollar is equivalent to AFN 68

Case study-1A: Tajikan Village, Jabalseraj District, Parwan Province- transfer of drinking water and construction of gravel road:



Natural drinking water in Tajikan Village

Tajikan village was heavily contaminated by mine/ERW. The contamination caused many blockages for the local people in accessing their lands, houses and other livelihoods.

Before clearing the village of landmines/ERW, the villagers stated that, they lost many of their animals because of mine/ERW explosions. But after their village was cleared, they haven't witnessed any mine/ERW accidents. Clearing mine/ERW from Tajikan village saved the lives of men, women, girls and boys.

Besides all other benefits brought by mine/ERW clearance in Tajikan village, it also paved the way for the local Government to build a water canal. With the implementation of this project, the inhabitants of Tajikan village are now able to have clean drinking water.

According to local elders of Tajikan village *"In the past we had no access to potable water. Inhabitants of Tajikan had to travel up to 5 KMs in order to get clean drinking water for their households. Because of the distance the local people had to carry the water using donkeys and other means. Thanks to mine action programme of*

Afghanistan, land was cleared of explosive materials and the natural water pipeline project was implemented. Now the inhabitants of Tajikan village are able to easily access clean drinking water".

Another good example of mine action supporting development is the construction of 15 kilometers of graveled road in Tajikan village of Jabalseraj district in Parwan province. Before the area was cleared of mines/ERW, people feared to walk in the area and access was constrained and limited. After that, the area was cleared from mines/ERW people started using the path to reach the district center. But as they needed to transport their goods and agricultural products to district center, hence they requested the Ministry of Rural



Graveled Road on cleared land

Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) for the construction of a road. MRRD accepted their request and implemented the project. As a result, now the farmers and villagers are able to use the constructed road to transport their products and goods to the district center easily and with lowered costs. The road also enables

the villagers to reach the advanced health centers, markets and other administrative offices of the district for their daily affairs.

Case Study 1B: Discovery of ERW moved by seasonal rainfall and snowfall

While interviewing villagers in Owlang village of Salang district in Parwan province; the villagers indicated that they have seen ERW in the places where the villagers used to walk. The PDIA team physically visited the area and found some ERWs on the surface of the ground, despite the fact that the area was cleared from mine/ERW long ago. The PDIA team concluded that, the ERWs found in the area were swept from the mountains as a result of seasonal rain and snowfall. The mentioned mountains are still contaminated by mines/ERWs because they were not accessible for demining teams and they were not prioritized for clearance as these top elevations points are not used by the local communities.



Spot ERW in Owlang village of Salang district

Following the investigation conducted by the PDIA team, requested assistance from a nearby MAPA partner. The team arrived in the area and disposed all the ERWs from Owlang village.

2. PDIA Implementation in Eastern Region:

A total of 9 sites covering 1,102,208 square meter area located in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces were assessed in the eastern region. These projects were all funded by the US DoS.

2.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards:

- 15 AP mines, 26 AT mines and 976 ERWs were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 238 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas as they utilize the land for pasture, access roads and housing.
- Some 2,500 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one-year, the local people collected 500,000 kg of animal/dairy products with an estimated value of USD 183,824.

2.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels:

- Local residents and Government authorities were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Case study 2: Nawabad Village, Assadabad District of Kunar Province:

Nawabad village is located about 8 km to the south of Assadabad city in the vicinity of the main road to Jalalabad. Similar to the other villages in the area, Nawabad was a frontline of fighting between Mujahidin and Russian troops. As a result of a long fighting in the area, the village was heavily contaminated by mine/ERWs and because of this the villagers had to leave their area.

Subsequent to clearance, the villagers rushed back to their village and homes. Since then, many new houses have been built in the area and the demand for land has dramatically increased in the village.



New houses built on cleared land

In addition, the inhabitants of Nawabad have also started to cultivate their lands which were previously inaccessible because of mine/ERW contamination. Indeed, the villagers of Nawabad are very happy with the work done by mine action.

3. PDIA Implementation in Southern Region:

A total of 7 hazards covering 677,900 square meter area was assessed in Kandahar province. The projects from the assessed sites were all funded by the US DoS.

3.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards:

- 7 AP mines and 4,781 ERWs were discovered from the assessed areas and were safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 79 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas utilizing the cleared land for farming and housing.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on an average local people harvest 1,500 kilograms of vegetables per year, worth around USD 850.
- The local people also stated that they harvest 10,500 kilograms of fruits from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 3,088.

3.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels:

- Local residents and government authorities were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

3.3 Recommendations:

People were satisfied with the mine action activities and recommended that more demining teams should be deployed in Passab village of Zharai district to address mine/ERW problems. In addition, MRE teams should also be deployed in the stated village to help prevent mine/ERW incidents on the civilians.

Case study 3: Safdar Village, Center District of Kandahar Province:

Safdar village is located in the vicinity of the Aino Mina township, in close proximity to a former military base. Due to the air strike of coalition forces in 2001 this village was heavily contaminated by UXOs/ERW, which caused blockages to agriculture and residential area.

Before mine action teams were deployed, mine/ERWs claimed many civilian lives and caused heavy losses to the village inhabitants as their animals stepped on mines.

Now that, Safdar village is cleared from mines/ERWs, the villagers have built many modern houses, the village is now a good place to live in for returnees coming from Pakistan and internally displace people from the neighboring villages.



A new township built on mine/ERW cleared land

4. PDIA Implementation in Southeastern Region:

A total of 6 sites covering 278,650 square meter area was assessed in Khost and Paktya Provinces. The projects in the mentioned provinces were funded by the Government of Japan and South Korea.

4.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards:

- Two AP mines and 11 AT mines were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 230 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas and are utilizing them for pastures, farming, wood collection and housing.
- Around 680 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvested 7,290 kilograms of wheat per year which is worth USD 2,144.
- The local people also stated that they harvested 1,500 kilograms of corn from those lands in a year which is worth USD 551.
- Over the course of one-year the local people collected 136,000 kilograms animal product/dairy, which is worth USD 50,000.

4.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels:

- Local residents and government authorities were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

4.3 Recommendations:

Local people requested that the remaining hazards also be cleared.

5. PDIA Implementation in Western Region:

A total of 7 sites covers 3,690,896 square meters area, were assessed in Herat province. The areas belong to projects which were funded by the British Government.

5.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards:

- Four AT mines were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 50 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas and are utilizing it for pastures.
- Around 3,000 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one-year the local people collected 600,000 kilograms of animal product/dairy, which is worth USD 220,588.

5.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels:

- Local residents and government authorities were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

6. PDIA Implementation in Northeastern Region:

A total of 14 sites covers 399,588 square meters area, were assessed in Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces. These sites belong to projects which were funded by the Governments of Netherlands, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom.

6.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards:

- 88 AP mines and 657 ERW were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 1,805 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas the land is being utilized for pastures, farming, as well as for housing and wood collection.
- Around 15,250 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 11,900 kilograms of wheat per year from those lands which worth USD 3,500.
- The local people also stated that they harvest 8,000 kilograms of various vegetables from those lands in a year which is worth USD 1,765.
- In addition, the assessed lands yield 420 various types of fruits in a year which is worth USD 124.
- Over the course of one-year the local people collected 3,050,000 kilograms of animal product/dairy, which is worth USD 1,121,324.

6.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels:

Residents of a community who were partially dissatisfied with the mine action operations for the following reasons:

1. Residents of Tutak village of Namak Ab district were partially dissatisfied with the demining operations and called for more attention to residents' priorities (precise communication channels to liaise with community members were not in place prior to and during implementation).
 - The senior management has already taken measures to address these issues through involvement of DMAC quality management inspectors in the pre-planning assessment of the hazardous areas prior selection for demining projects.
2. Residents of Tutak village of Namak Ab district also stated that some areas that are located in higher elevation are not cleared yet.
 - MAPA senior management acknowledges such cases, DMAC is trying its best possible to include the remaining areas as part of its clearance plan, although prioritization is done in the view of discretion.

Case study 4: Tutak Village, Namak Ab District of Takhar Province:

Tutak village is located in Namak Ab District of Takhar Province. This village is known for greenery and beauty. Around 600 families live in this village and each family accounts for about 7 family members. Tutak was also heavily contaminated by mines/ERWs same like the other villages surrounding to it. Mine/ERW contamination claimed the lives of many inhabitants from this village, in addition the contamination was causing many blockages and created many problems for the villagers in terms of civilian casualties, accessing their agricultural lands, grazing and other livelihood activities. According to IMSMA, in Tutak village there were 64 hazards recorded, out of which 62 are cleared from mines/ERWs while the remaining 2 are still required to be cleared.

According to villagers, the two remaining hazards are great threat for them. Hence, they requested the PDIA to support them in getting the remaining hazards cleared from mines/ERWs.

Local elders (Atta Khan & Ewaz Khan) of Tutak explained their difficulties: *"In the past we had no access to our orchards, agricultural and grazing lands and mine contamination blocked our access to livelihoods resources and we could not walk freely. In addition to that we had concern about safety for ourselves, mainly for our children and boys who daily go out for work. The clearance of mine/ERW enabled us to safely use our lands for livelihoods and also put us in a better position to request development projects for their village".*



Garden grown after the land was cleared from mine/ERW

The villagers recalling the tragic accident of AP mines accidents happened to two villagers (a man & a woman) and two children in a garden which resulted to death of four of them. Now the area where accidents happened was cleared from mines/ERWs and its being used for orchards by farmers.

7. PDIA Implementation in Northern Region

A total of 7 hazards covering 1,090,981 square meter area, was assessed in Samangan and Balkh provinces. These sites belong to projects which were funded by the British Government.

Key outputs from the cleared hazards:

- A total of 190 AP mines and 1,967 ERW were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 1,170 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas utilizing them as pastures, farmlands, as well as for residential development and wood collection.
- Around 8,200 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 7,590 of wheat from those lands per year which is worth USD 2,232.
- The local people also stated that they harvest 7,000 kg of bean/pea from those lands in a year which is worth USD 9,265.
- In addition, the assessed lands yield 1,000 Kg various vegetables a year which is worth USD 221.
- Over the course of one-year the local people collected 1,640,000 Kg animal product/dairy, which is worth USD 602,941.

Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels: Local residents and government authorities were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Conclusion:

PDIA was undertaken in 71 sites covering a total of 10,004,357 sq. m area and its findings indicate that, mine action operations paved the way for the communities' access to their livelihood resources and almost 96% of the land cleared was used by the communities. In addition, following the completion of mine action activities, some development and infrastructure projects have been implemented by stakeholders which have enabled citizens' access to drinking water, markets and health centers.

Furthermore, 6,494 households directly benefit from those areas and have been able to earn a total of USD 3,292,338 through farming. Additionally, a total of 44,460 livestock are fed in the cleared areas. This is a clear indication of an improved local economy.

Recommendations:

- Where possible, all hazardous areas should be cleared from a community to avoid confusion within community.
- The DMAC and UNMAS should enhance the efforts on communicating the hotline number to all village Shuras so they could inform DMAC/UNMAS about possible mine and ERW problem in their villages.
- The DMAC and UNMAS should focus more on operations quality of crossed-trained teams (Sur/EOD/MRE), as it was found that despite clearance operations in the villages still some spot ERWs remained un-destroyed.
- Establishing strong communications with communities aimed at determining priorities and securing their support. Implementing such measures prior to survey or demining operations will enhance the program's efficiency and effectiveness.
- The non-technical survey/pre-plan assessment teams should use utmost precision during surveys/ pre plan assessment, identify priorities properly and pay attention to people's viewpoints so that planning is done in accordance with people's demands.

End
