



# ANNUAL REPORT

1394

## MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN (MAPA)



*“Taking the opportunity, as the Director of the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), I would like to express my great appreciation to the donors for their financial contributions in support of the MAPA and to all mine action family who have worked hard to remove the mines and ERW which posed threat to the lives of Afghan civilians. Your contributions and efforts in support of the MAPA helped the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan get closer to make Afghanistan Mine Free by March 2023. DMAC will continue its efforts to ensure mine action projects can be delivered smoothly, effectively and in line with the national priorities.”*

*Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi*

*Director*

*Directorate of Mine Action Coordination - DMAC*



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35 %

In 2015, UNAMA recorded 1,051 civilian casualties by PPIED, indicating a 35 percent increase in compare to the same period in 2014.

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38 %

Of the total funding target for 1394, MAPA received 62% only, through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and bilateral donations.

# About The United Nations Mine Action Centre For Afghanistan (UNMACA)

The concept of humanitarian mine action was developed in Afghanistan in 1988. After the fall of the Taliban and the international community's intervention in 2002, the Government of Afghanistan entrusted interim responsibility for mine action to the United Nations establishing the United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) under the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

In 2008, to further national ownership of the coordination of mine action, UNMACA was entirely staffed by Afghans, remaining an UNMAS project. Oversight and coordination of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is gradually shifting towards national ownership. UNMACA is now working together with the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), previously known as the Department of Mine Clearance (DMC), under the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) to develop strategies and to implement and monitor mine action activities and targets. DMAC and UNMACA coordinate nationwide mine action activities through seven UNMACA regional offices in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Gardez, and Jalalabad.

As the governmental coordination body, DMAC with support from UNMACA is responsible for implementing Afghanistan's ten-year workplan approved under its Extension Request to the Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. To ensure proper coordination and efficiency within the programme, together DMAC and UNMACA focuses primarily on planning and priority setting, information management, quality management, resource mobilisation, advocacy and the coordination of all activities undertaken by MAPA towards achieving the goal of "Afghanistan Mine Free by 2023".

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# Foreword

In my role as the State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs and Chairman of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), I am pleased to present to you the annual report of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) for 1394. This report outlines the key achievements and challenges faced by the programme during the year.

The State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs through its Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) directs and oversees the implementation of MAPA with support from the donors and the UNMACA, a project of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

During 1394 the MAPA released 50.3 square kilometre area from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) countrywide which accounted for 63.8% of the 75.4 square kilometre that had been set a target for 1394 in line with Article 5 of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). As a result of the clearance operations, 287,274 mines and ERW were destroyed. Parallel to clearance operations MAPA provided mine/ERW risk education for almost one million civilians living in mine and ERW impacted communities. The reason the clearance target was not reached was due to a funding shortfall. The required budget was USD 76.7 million of which USD 47.6 million was received. The US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), has provided funding to DMAC for the external quality management component of the programme.

Although 77% of mines and ERW known contamination in Afghanistan have been addressed since 1989, Afghanistan still remains one of the countries heavily contaminated by mines and ERW. The remaining mine and ERW contamination includes over 4,279 sites covering an area of 592.1 square kilometer located in various parts of the country. An ongoing nationwide survey is still identifying hazards not reported in previous surveys, since 2013 more than 2,000 hazardous areas covering 211 square kilometers have been identified and added into the national mine action database.

Further to the legacy of more than two decades of war, ongoing armed conflicts in different parts of the country have added to the scale of contamination in the country. Every armed conflict can leave behind unexploded ordnance (UXO) and anti-government elements have continued to use improvised explosive devices (IED) during 1394. Approximately 20% of the IEDs used in 1394 were pressure plated or victim activated devices which by de facto are classified as antipersonnel mines, which will affect the mine action goal on making the country territory free from mines and ERW by March 2023. Sadly, an average of over 100 civilian casualties have been recorded every month during 1394, therefore Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily impacted by mine, ERW and IED countries in the world.

In 1394 significant progress was made in transition of the mine action programme to national leadership. From November 2015 onward, three main functions have been transferred from UNMACA to DMAC. These include: endorsement of the accreditation certificates issued to mine action organizations, final approval of the minefields and battlefields clearance completion reports and final validation of survey reports prior to their inclusion into the national mine action database. DMAC continues to work with UNMAS to achieve the full national ownership of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan with the full support of the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations.

I look forward to the continued support and cooperation from donors and all other stakeholder to enable Afghanistan to have a sustainable and resilient mine action programme which will lead to a country free of all known landmine and ERW contamination to ensure all Afghans can live in a safe environment.



Wais Ahmad Barmak  
State Minister for Disaster Management and  
Humanitarian Affairs  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wais', with a long, sweeping underline.

# Message From The Programme Manager Of The United Nations Mine Action Service

On the occasion of the “International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action”, on 4 April 2015, there was an official declaration of “Deminers Street” in Kabul to commemorate the service, and the sacrifice of deminers.

This official recognition of mine action in the national history of the past quarter-century is appropriate. It is a dangerous humanitarian activity that is essential to the socio-economic development of Afghanistan. It is also the final action in establishing peace in communities affected by conflict. Until the last mines and unexploded ordinance are removed, people cannot really know they live in a secure environment.

Given its daily risks to life and limb, demining is not a normal job. The demonstration of this reality was well presented in an international production of a film on the life and work of a deminer in Afghanistan. In August, a Canadian company filmed a reality television show that poignantly profiled Sayed Mohammad, a veteran deminer.

October saw the publication of *Stepping into a Minefield*, a memoir by Ian Mansfield, one of the first UN programme managers of the mine action programme. In the course of four years he did much to establish the programme in the form it has today.

In many ways, 2015 was ‘The Year of the Deminers’ in the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan. But 2015 did not only look back to the past. It also saw many developments looking ahead to the future.

The first quarter of 2015 was characterized by discussions on how to proceed with supporting national ownership and the future of the fully Afghan-managed UNMACA project. By the end of the year a number of developments had taken place which supported an historic transformation of the programme. Outreach to His Excellency the President resulted in renewed attention and support by the government. The DMAC Director led the programme, chaired all meetings and exercised final signing authority on accreditation, survey and completion reports. Following the appointment of His Excellency Wais Ahmad Barmak as State Minister in October 2015 the transfer of UNMACA functions to DMAC was directed and the planning began. Finally, the preparation of a five year strategic plan was initiated.

Another development in 2015 was the commissioning by the President of a Donor-Government-UN tripartite review of the role and purpose of the UN in Afghanistan. For UNMAS, the Tripartite Report recommendations perfectly aligned with our new role in support of the MAPA and in particular DMAC: normative standards, capacity building and resource mobilization.

After a quarter century, the changes of 2015 set the basis for a new era for the MAPA in 2016, as the government leads the programme to the vision of a mine-free Afghanistan in 2023 along with the continued support of our valued donors, and UNMAS.



Jeffrey McMurdo  
Programme Manager  
United Nations Mine Action Service, Afghanistan

# Message From The Director Of The United Nations Mine Action Centre For Afghanistan

1394 was another year of success for the humanitarian Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan. Explosive hazards clearance, risk education and victim assistance services were delivered in many villages that were at risk of post-conflict explosive hazards. In addition to making many communities immune from the threats of lethal explosive hazards, the sources of livelihoods for thousands of beneficiaries were made safe for productive use. The sector continued implementing the community based clearance approach, it was therefore able to deliver services in the most hard to reach areas of the country and remained one of the major employers for youths in the remote and poverty affected areas of Afghanistan.

This year marked the implementation of the third year of the mine action plan submitted along with the mine ban treaty extension request that was approved by the state parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty in late 2012. The sector unfortunately again stayed behind in achieving the targets set for the year. Funding reduction, insecurity, more contamination in populated areas as a result of the ongoing armed conflicts are among the main reasons for this hindrance.

The dedicated and hardworking manpower of the sector achieved a lot despite numerous difficulties and impediments. We highly appreciate the generous support of the donors of the programme. I am sure that the generosity of the states that are able to provide financial support combined with the dedication and commitment of the implementing partner organisations will realize the vision of an Afghanistan free from mines and other armed conflict related remnant explosive hazards.



Mohammad Sediq Rashid  
Director  
United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the printed name and title of the Director.



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# Executive Summary

The third year of Afghanistan Ottawa Extension Request work plan, 1394 was a vital year for the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). Despite the funding shortfalls and security challenges, the programme was able to succeed in doing more with less. Under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty Extension Work Plan, this year's annual target was to clear 75.4 sq km. The programme was able to successfully achieve 63.8% of the land release target and cleared a total of 50.3 Sq km area by the end of the year through clearance operations both funded bilaterally and through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF).

At the beginning of 1394 (April 2015), there were 4,266 hazardous areas covering 534 sq km of land, impacting 1,603 communities in 255 districts of the country. During 1394, an area of 48.1 sq km including 44.9 sq km of minefields and 3.2 sq km of battlefield have been cleared and another 2.2 sq km were cancelled during the clearance operations. A total of five districts and 107 communities were declared entirely free of all known mines and ERW contamination.

Despite these achievements, the shortfalls threatened the achievement of the 2023 deadline to declare Afghanistan free of mines and other explosive remnants of war. Whereas donor funding has decreased in the past few years, MAPA remains committed to the workplan and to ceaselessly enhancing and improving the overall productivity of the programme. One of MAPA's great strengths is that its implementing partners are managed entirely by Afghans, ensuring continuity since the programme began in 1989. The capacity to solve the problem is therefore on the ground; all that is required to achieve the 2023 deadline is the financial support.

In the course of recent years, mine action operations in Afghanistan have progressed apace. To date, MAPA has released 23,959 hazards covering 2,046.5 sq km. As a result 114 districts and 2,715 communities are no longer affected by known landmines and ERWs.

The remaining 4,279 hazards are, however, significant and continue to directly impact on the livelihood and security of 1,577 communities in 256 districts. These hazards block access to arable land, limit the access to social services and in many cases also impede the delivery of key development initiatives unless they are removed.

During the reporting period, progress was made in transitioning the programme leadership of mine action coordination functions to national ownership. It is considered to be an important step in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the programme, where MAPA will be given the ability to engage with government and provide a clear picture to international donors. This transfer will be taking place gradually during the year 1395.

In addition to the clearance operations, MAPA delivered mine/ERW risk education to communities in order to mitigate persisting risks of casualties, with a particular focus on children as the largest group among victims of mines and ERW.

This year, MAPA implementing partners provided mine/ERW risk education to over 1,150,028 people across the country; representing an almost 15 percent increase on the 97,804 people reached in 1393. Moreover, this year, 2,266 school teachers received risk education training through the MoE's child protection officers, while 4,749 Mullah-Imams from all provinces were trained in risk education at the Afghan Government Imam Training Centre in Kabul.

As part of the Ottawa extension request, during 1394, MAPA continued with the nationwide Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS). This process involves a non-technical survey of all communities as well as immediate destruction of spot ERW found during the survey increasing efficiency for future operations and making communities safer.

During 1394, the survey was completed in 17 districts. Thanks to this survey, this year, 321 new hazards covering 56.3 sq km were found, recorded in the national database and planned for clearance. MEIFCS resurvey operations resulted in a 4.6 sq km decrease in the area size of previously known hazardous areas and the cancellation of another 22 hazards covering 1sq km. MEIFCS teams also found and destroyed over 1,190 items of ERWs.

The funding target for 1394 was USD 76.7 million including the coordination cost of mine action, which includes planning and priority setting, quality management, information management, advocacy, resource mobilisation and the coordination of operations. Of this total, MAPA received just under USD 47,6 million from the donors through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and bilaterally to its implementing partners. This means that MAPA received almost 62% of its required funding in 1394. The funds received were spent on survey, clearance, M/ERW risk education, victim assistance and coordination. A total of USD 14.6 million was allocated from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund; just under USD 1 million was received from UNOCHA, and the remaining USD 33.8 million was provided through bilateral agreements.

## 1394 SNAPSHOT

### Civilian Casualties

	Killed	Injured	Total
 Mines	2	5	7
 ERW	47	108	155
 PPIED	459	592	1051
<b>Total:</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>1213</b>

With an average of over **100** civilian casualties recorded every month, Afghanistan remains one of the most contaminated countries in the world.



**Destroyed**  
287,274 landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW)



**Released**  
50.3 million square metres of recorded minefields and battlefields



**Released**  
151.6 million square metres of recorded firing ranges



**Victim Assistance**  
35,716 victims of mine/ERW, war & other persons with disabilities were supported



**Mine/ERW Risk Education**  
1,150,028 people from mine/ERW affected communities were trained

# Section 1:

## Scope of the Problem

1394 was the third year of Afghanistan's Extension Request to Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT), which was submitted in April 2012.

MAPA's partner organisations continued to improve the planning and prioritisation of mine action resources in order to clear high-impact hazardous areas, provide mine/ERW risk education to the most impacted communities and offer the required support to relevant ministries with regard to victim assistance.

The Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) continued for the third year in accordance with the workplan of APMBT Extension Request. MEIFCS teams visit communities thought to be free from contamination and record any new contamination, revisit recorded hazardous areas, conduct non-technical survey, destroy ERW found on the spot and provide mine/ERW risk education to communities.

MAPA encountered new ERW contamination during 1394, more specifically around areas where international military had recently vacated and where the conflict was active.

### 1.1. Contamination at the Beginning of 1394

At the beginning of 1394 (April 2015), there were 4,266 hazardous areas covering 534 sq km of land, impacting 1,603 communities in 255 districts of the country. This contamination was the result of the Soviet–Afghan war and the internal armed conflicts prior 2001. In addition, a new challenge emerged in the form of the firing ranges used by the international forces during their military operations in Afghanistan. The actual scope of these contaminated areas is not known, as the survey has yet to be completed. During 1394, 7 firing ranges were surveyed and recorded in the national database maintained by UNMACA.

The breakdown of mine, ERW and firing range contamination at the beginning of 1394 is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Contamination by hazard type as of beginning of 1394

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
Anti-personnel mine	2,822	238.6
Anti-tank mine	1,194	259.8
Battlefield/ERW contamination	250	35.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,266</b>	<b>534.0</b>

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
Firing range	68	951.6

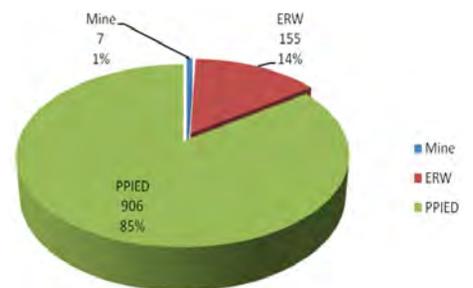
## 1.2. Civillian Casualties

During the reporting period, 1,068 civilian casualties due to landmine, ERW and mostly PPIED explosions were recorded. There is decrease of mine and ERW civilian casualties comparing to 1393, but an increase of civilian casualties from PPIEDs was registered. In 1394, the civilian casualties from PPIED make up 85 % of all recorded civilian casualties recorded by UNMACA this year (see Figure 1 bellow). PPIEDs are used by anti-government elements to target military personnel and convoys. However, since they are victim-activated (unlike remote-controlled IEDs), many PPIED incidents result in the loss of civilian life. Under the terms of the Ottawa Treaty, victim activated pressure-plate IEDs are considered anti-personnel mines

The locations of PPIEDs are not recorded precisely, so after every single PPIED incident, a vast area is suspected of containing more PPIEDs. This poses a long-term challenge for Afghanistan.

During 1394, around 89 civilians were killed or injured on average every month by mines, ERW or PPIEDs. Table 2 shows a summary of civilian casualties for 1394, demonstrating that PPIEDs and ERW have had a significantly higher toll, far greater than mines. The Southern region had the highest share of mine and ERW casualties, while the Southeast, East and west regions had the second, third and fourth highest number of recorded casualties in the country.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1: Civillian Casualites, 1394



<sup>1</sup> Mine/ERW casualty figures are for 1394 (April 2015 to March 2016) recorded by UNMACA in IMSMA, whereas PPIED causality figures are for 2015 and represents data from the UNAMA annual report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, available online on: <http://unama.unmissions.org>.



Table 2: 1394 Casualties by Region and Device Type

Region	Mine		ERW		PPIED		Total
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	
Central	0	0	11	4	27	17	59
East	0	0	39	2	39	37	117
North	2	0	6	8	47	41	104
Northeast	1	1	31	16	7	2	58
South	0	1	1	7	231	149	389
Southeast	2	0	12	7	93	114	228
West	0	0	8	3	66	36	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>1068</b>

### 1.3. Communities Require Mine & ERW Risk Education

The MRE programme will continue to deliver mine/ERW risk education to a variety of target groups through direct implementation, mass media campaigns, and integrated community based and social programmes. At the beginning of the year 1394 as per the five years strategic plan, 535 communities would be targeted for the provision of risk education as follows:

Annex I

Communities Impact Classification	1395 (2015)
High with MRE	23
High with no MRE	49
Medium with MRE	7
Medium with no MRE	153
Communities located within 1KM of active hazards	303
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>

### 1.4. Victim Assistance

UNMACA/DMAC supports Ministries in their responsibilities to persons with disabilities including protection, advocacy and awareness activities and the development and implementation of policy and legislation ensuring inclusive attitudes, services and human rights within all sectors of Afghan society. The UNMACA role supports the integration of disability services within existing health, education and social sectors and equal access to services for persons with disabilities including landmine survivors.

The UNMACA VA programme continues to advocate and provide awareness rising activities which will ensure social and economical integration opportunities, and build of landmine survivor and all persons with disabilities supporting both civil society and government. Annex II illustrate the tentative list of projects/programmes for the year 1395

<sup>2</sup> Afghanistan's Extension Request to the Ottawa treaty is available online on: <http://www.macca.org.af/macca/treaties-and-other-documentations/>

## Annex II

VA and Disability Projects for 1394 including ACAP III Projects				
S.No	Projects	Location	Number of Beneficiaries	VA Components
1	Establishment of Physical Rehabilitation Centers	Kunduz , Farah , Faryab (unit) and Urozgan	42,000 victims including other PwD	Physical rehabilitation
2	Establishment of 4 Mobbile orthopadic workshops	Urozgan, Khost, Kabul and Faryab	11,200 Victims & other PwDs	Physical rehabilitation
3	Financial Support of existed Physical Rehabilitation centers	Kabul and Kunar	19,500 victims & other PwDs	Physical rehabilitation
4	Economical Reintegration & skill development for 1,000 victims in 6 Provinces	Kunduz, Ghazni, Kunar, Nangarhar , Kandahar and Helmand	1000 victim and other PwDs	Economic Reintegration
5	Nationwide Victim assistance/Disability survey	34 provinicies	800,000 victim/ PwDs , GoA, UN and other stakeholders	Data collection
6	Advocacy/Awareness through Mass Media	34 provinicies		Advocacy /awareness
7	Disability Awareness and Advocacy through Mobile teams	2 Mobile teams for 16 provinces	21,600 Mine ERW victims and PwD.	Advocacy for the Rights of Mine/ERW Victims and Dependents
8	Advocacy/Awareness training for line ministries staff, community elders and victims to access short and long term assistance.	34 provinicies	228 MoE and MoPH trainer will be provided with TOT training on victim Assistance - 7, 228 community health workers, MoE teachers and CPO - 136 line ministries ( MoLSAMD, MoPH, MoE and MoWA)	Advocacy/awareness
9	Immediate assistance to war victim including M/ERW , PPIED , Kinitic activitie and Fire rengen under ACAP-III Programme.	34 provinicies	9	Immediate assistance to war victim including M/ERW , PPIED , Kinitic activitie and Fire rengen under ACAP-III Programme.
10	Inclusive Education training for Mine/ ERW victims, Children with Disabilities, parents and school teachers	Kabul, Nangarhar, Laghman, Mazar & Kunduz	2,200 teachers, head masters, children with disabilities and their parent received training .	Social Inclusion
11	Promote access of visually impaired to information and employmnet	Kabul, Nangarhar, Hirat, Balkh	60 people with visual impairment	Social Inclusion
12	Psycho-social rehabilitation and peer support	Kabul, Balkh, Hirat and Bamyam	1200 Victim of Mine, ERW and Person with disabilities	Psychological Counseling and Peer Support
13	Sign language and Braille script training for school teachers	Kabul, Jalalabad & Hirat	200 teachers	Social Inclusion
14	Establishment of physiotherapy centers in three provinces	Jawzjan, Zabol, Paktia	13,000 Mine / ERW victims and PwD.	Physical rehabilitation
15	Psycho-social rehabilitation training for Psycho-social counselors and rehabilitation workers	34 provinicies	100 Psychosocial Counselor and rehab worker	Psychological Counseling and Peer Support

# Section 2:

## Plan for 1394

The programme's 1394 target under the Ottawa Extension Request<sup>2</sup> workplan was to clear 75.4 sq km of contaminated land, including 27.6 sq km of anti-personnel minefields, 39.7 sq km of anti-tank minefields and 8.1 sq km of battlefields. These hazards had blocked access to agriculture, grazing, water, housing and roads. Despite receiving almost 57 % of the required fund (36.6 out of 64.7 million \$) for clearance, MAPA implementing partners succeeded in clearing 48.1 sq km (44.6 sq km of minefields and 3.2 sq km of battlefields) and reduced almost 0.3 sq km area, thus achieving 64% of the target. As result of clearing those hazards the whole recorded hazards in Bamyán province were cleared and the province is free from known recorded hazards, meanwhile 5 districts and 107 communities are released from known recorded hazards.

During 1394, UNMACA, DMAC and the APMBT review committee, which consists of representatives from seven humanitarian partners, revised Afghanistan's Ottawa Treaty workplan to ensure the most appropriate prioritisation for effective implementation of the plan. UNMACA's Planning and Programme Department supported implementing partners in preparing their plans for the coming year (1395) and improved UNMACA's impact scoring and priority setting systems. Meanwhile, based on a new criteria, re-arranged the MBT projects in order to bring further improvement in design of the project to better meet end user requirement and help the implementers smoothly clear the hazards.

To enable adequate classification and prioritization of projects, UNMACA uses a set of impact indicators with an assigned numeric weighting, which were defined together with DMAC and other relevant mine action stakeholders.

Each hazard receives a score following the application of these weightings. Hazards with sum of scores above ten are classified as very high impact, those with scores between seven and ten are classified as high impact, hazards with sum of scores between four to six are classified as medium impact and those that score three or lower are classified as low impact.

Non-technical/MEIFC Survey: 47 districts covering 306 impacted communities and 4,615 unknown communities in 15 provinces (Daykundi, Parwan, Kunar, Faryab, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktya, Ghor and Herat ) are to be surveyed during 1394. Its worth to be mentioned that over 70% of MEIFCS plan was not achieved due to the funding shortage.

Mine/ERW Risk Education: Based on MRE prioritization system, 535 impacted communities which include high and medium impacted communities and the communities within one km of the active hazards were targeted to be visited by MRE teams during 1394.

Victim Assistance: In light of the UN Strategy, UNMAS and UNMACA aim to provide VA/disability services for direct and indirect victims of mines and ERW, as well as people with disabilities more generally, across eight components: emergency and medical care; physical rehabilitation; psychological counselling and peer support; social inclusion; economic reintegration, advocacy for the rights of mine/ERW victim and dependents, data collection; and physical accessibility.

Strategic Planning: With the technical support of GICHD and active participation the Afghan Government, MAPA implementing partners and stakeholders, a National Mine Action Strategic Plan for the upcoming 5 years (1395-1399) was developed. In this strategic plan 5 goals are identified which are facilitating development, engagement with other sectors, preventative functions (survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, advocacy), responsive functions (victim assistance and advocacy) and the gender and diversity mainstreaming. A total of 33 objectives were set to achieve the identified main goals following a number of action plans, milestones, risks and mitigating risks factors. The strategic plan was finally endorsed by the State Minister on disaster management and humanitarian support and uploaded on the UNMACA website.

<sup>2</sup> Afghanistan's Extension Request to the Ottawa treaty is available online on: <http://www.macca.org.af/macca/treaties-and-other-documentations/>

## 2.1. Project Cycle Management

In 2008, UNMACA began to projectise the remaining hazards in Afghanistan to enable monitoring and evaluation of every single project using a set of pre-defined objectives, a strategy that proved to be very successful.

Project design is the first stage in the project management cycle and is therefore vital to the life of the project. The following points were taken into consideration when designing projects for 1394:

- Projects that were planned in 1393 in accordance with the workplan of the Ottawa Extension Request, but not funded;
- Geographical proximity of the hazards to ease access from the logistics perspective;
- Impact classification of the hazards, mostly very high and high impact while medium impact hazards were also selected for clearance in some cases as appropriate;
- Number of beneficiaries of the projects;
- The projects' specific results (e.g., Declaration of communities, districts or provinces as being free of all known contamination);
- Number of civilian accidents in hazard locations; and
- Blockages to agriculture, water, road, and other infrastructure.

Table 3 below shows a summary of the projects that were planned, funded and completed during 1394.

Table 3: Projects completed in 1394

Project Type	No. of Projects	Focus Areas for the Projects
Demining/clearance	86*	Release of 48.1 sq km of contaminated area.
MEIFCS survey	3	Survey of 62 impacted communities and 3,464 unknown communities.
Mine/ERW risk education	9	Provision of mine/ERW risk education to 1,153 communities.
Victim assistance	5	Support mine/ERW victims and person with disability in 5 different provinces and 49 communities.
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	

Some of the 86 demining projects are completed within the same year, few projects which started during the year are going on and will be completed during year 1395 based on their contract and period of operation.

## 2.2. Mine Action Capacity in 1394

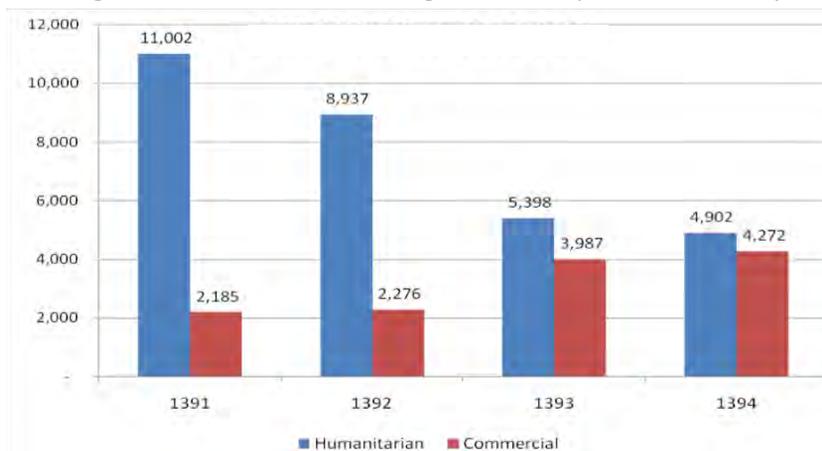
To facilitate the achievement of the 1394 plan, MAPA's toolbox included demining teams, mechanical demining units, mine dog sets, explosive ordnance disposal teams, non-technical survey teams, mine/ERW risk education teams, and victim assistance teams.

During 1394, eight humanitarian implementing partners (IPs) were engaged in survey and clearance of mine/ERW contaminated hazards, five IPs delivered disability services, and another five IPs conducted mine/ERW risk education. In addition to MAPA implementing partners, four key Afghan Government ministries - Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), and Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA) - were also directly involved in mine/ERW risk education and victim assistance services.

Moreover, eight commercial companies were also implementing demining projects on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan to ensure safe execution of some key development projects. These projects included the countrywide firing range clearance; reconstruction of electricity transmission line from Kajaki district to Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province; electricity transmission line from Parwan to Kapisa and Logar to Paktia provinces; 220 kW substation of Maidan Wardak province; construction of road in Nangarhar province; and water supply in Kabul province.

Over the last three years, the MAPA has continuously faced loss of its humanitarian demining capacity. This has mainly been a consequence of the funding shortfall, especially in the case of national IPs. Figure 2 below represents a comparison of the MAPA workforce (commercial and humanitarian) of the last four years.

Figure 2: MAPA workforce during 1394 in compare to last three years



# Section 3: MAPA Achievements in 1394

The increase in security incidents, combined with the reduction in funding, made 1394 a challenging year for MAPA. The programme did not receive the funding required to complete the survey and clearance projects planned for 1394, and this resulted in a decreased in the survey and clearance output compared to previous years. The programme achieved all funded survey and clearance projects during 1394, but the overall achievement against the 1394 target suffered due to the shortfall in funding, with just completion of 63.8% of the target area of 75.4 sq km planned for 1364 being released. This will have an impact on the coming years of the workplan unless additional resources are mobilised.

## 3.1. Survey

Mine/ERW survey can ensure the safe, efficient and effective use of demining assets for hazard removal or the removal of suspicion of reported mine/ERW hazardous areas. Two types of survey are conducted in MAPA, namely technical survey and non-technical survey.

### 3.1.1. Non-technical Survey

Non-technical survey is undertaken to collect essential information about a new or an existing suspected hazardous area in order to allow a decision to be made for subsequent technical survey and clearance operations.

As part of Afghanistan’s Extension Request to the Ottawa Treaty, and to obtain the most recent information on the scope of mine/ERW problem in every single community, MAPA launched a nationwide Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS). MEIFCS includes non-technical survey of contaminated areas, immediate action on destruction of known spot ERW endangering the lives and safety of people, as well as communication of key mine/ERW risk education messages to the communities.

There were also some teams that were only conducting the NTS operations but not destruction of spot ERW. The main challenge for the MEIFCS and NTS teams was the lack of complete information on the number of communities around the country. This number has increased by 140%, since many communities were not originally included in the government’s official gazetteer. Furthermore, the unstable security situation in areas of recent fighting poses another major challenge to the collection of reliable information on the scope of mine/ERW contamination.

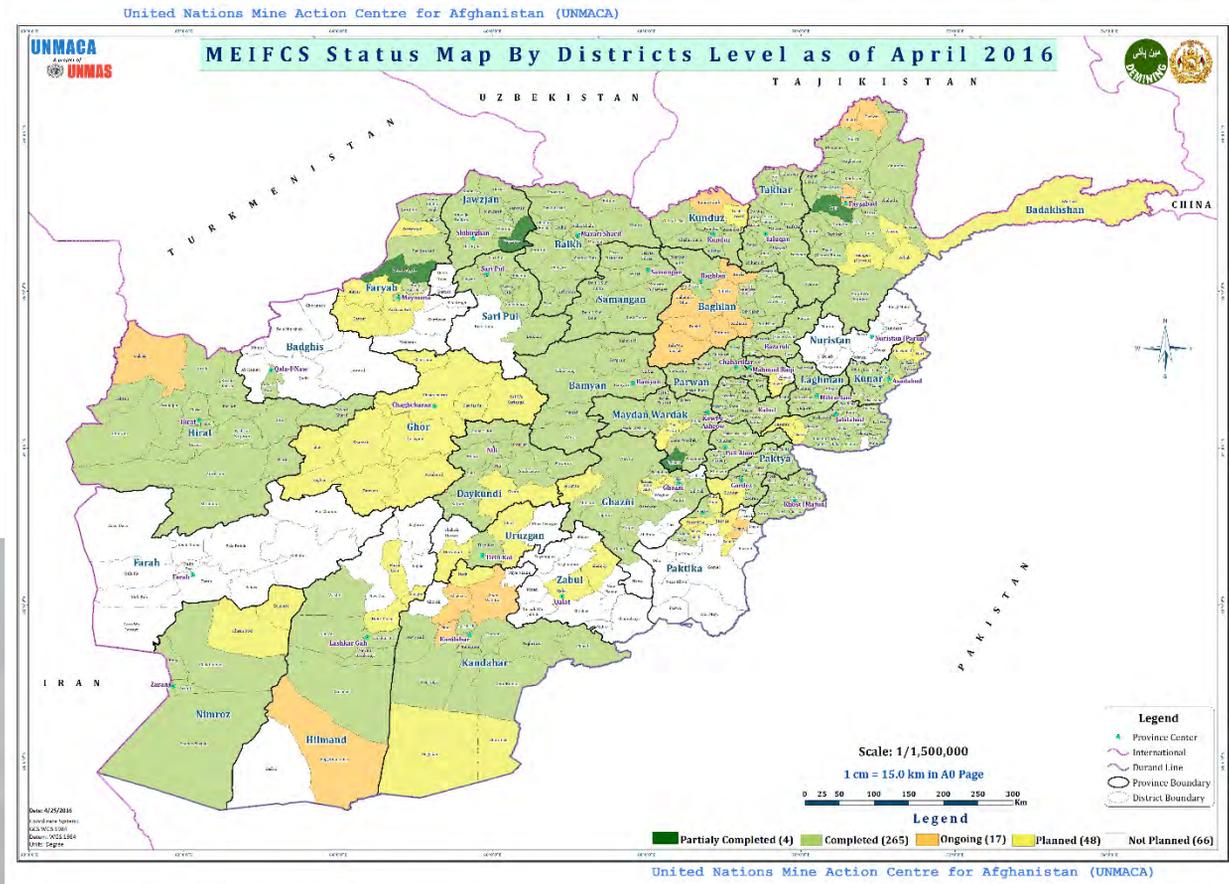
During 1394, survey teams conducted MEIFCS operations in 17 districts. In total 1,045 villages from gazetteer and 2,470 villages which were not in gazetteer surveyed by the MEIFCS teams. The map below illustrates the ongoing operations in districts colored orange, dark green is partially completed, light green is completed, lime is planned, and districts with white colour are yet to be planned.

Table 4: NTS achievements during 1394

Resurvey of the Recorded Hazards			Hazards Cancelled		Previously unrecorded Hazards		Area Sqkm	
No. of hazards resurveyed	Area Increased Sqkm	Area Decreased Sqkm	No. of hazards	Area Sqkm	MF	BF	MF Sqkm	BF Sqkm
217	3	4.6	22	1	321	87	56.3	55.3

In summary, after adding previously unrecorded hazardous areas identified this year and subtracting cancellations and reductions, the NTS and MEIFCS operations resulted in addition of 106 sq km new hazard areas to the national mine action database of Afghanistan. MEIFCS teams also found and destroyed over 1,190 items of spot ERW.

Figure 3 : MEIFCS status by district at the end of 1394



### 3.1.2. Technical Survey

Technical survey is a detailed physical investigation of the reported hazardous areas to confirm the presence or absence of mines and ERW and can either be conducted as a standalone operation or integrated with clearance operations. In MAPA operations, technical survey is integrated with clearance and the outputs of the technical survey are reflected alongside those of clearance operations.

Technical survey resulted on more effective and efficient use of mine action resources for actual clearance operations and also 0.3 sq km area reduced.

### 3.1.3. Survey of the Firing Ranges

In addition to the survey of legacy contamination, NATO/ISAF firing ranges were also surveyed. The firing range contamination is the result of NATO/ISAF's use of heavy weapons for training purposes in these locations. Due to failure rate some ordnance remained live on the surface or in the ground and posed a danger to surrounding communities. From 2009 to March 2016, UNMACA recorded 139 casualties resulting from ERW accidents in these firing ranges.

Having received information about civilian casualties in firing ranges, UNMAS and DMAC discussed the issue of firing range clearance with NATO and representatives of the US Embassy in order to obtain from them the locations of all firing ranges and financial support for their survey and clearance. Responding positively, in December 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a contract with the Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA), to launch one of the biggest firing range clearance operations in Afghanistan for clearance of 34 firing ranges that had been used by the U.S. military.

The exact size of contaminated firing ranges is unknown; NATO provided the coordinates of the firing ranges, but did not provide polygon maps of the sites. During 1394, Sterling Demining for Afghanistan (SDA), a commercial contractor demining organization surveyed 5 firing ranges and recorded a contaminated area of 59.6 sq km. The problem is found to be in 17 provinces of the country, however, the survey will continue in 1395.

All the clearance activities follow the guidelines of the Afghanistan mine action national standards. The DMAC carries out quality control and quality assurance activities of the firing range survey and clearance operations. Monthly coordination mechanisms are set up, coordination is carried out through the High Explosives Training Ranges (HETR) Working Group which includes representatives of troop contributing nations, DMAC and other relevant Government agencies, UNMAS and SDA representatives.



## 3.2. Overall Achievements

MAPA's clearance operations in 1394 covered areas contaminated following the Soviet–Afghan war, as well as those contaminated by the Russian-backed government, civil war and fighting between the Taliban and Northern Alliance, NATO firing ranges and explosive remnants of the ongoing post-2001 armed conflict.

During 1394, clearance operations were carried out by both humanitarian demining organisations and commercial demining companies, all of whom form part of the MAPA collective.

Humanitarian mine clearance was carried out by eight key implementing partners (IPs), of which five are national and three are international organisations. The five national IPs are Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC), Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA), Mine Clearance and Planning Agency (MCPA), Mine Detection Centre (MDC), Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR); the three international IPs are Danish Demining Group (DDG), Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) and the Hazardous Area Life-Support Organization Trust (HALO Trust).

Commercial clearance was carried out by a number of national and international commercial demining companies. The clearance of firing ranges was carried out by an international demining company called Sterling Demining for Afghanistan (SDA). Table 5 below details the clearance achievements in 1394.

Table 5: Summary of clearance activities in 1394

Activity Type	Area of Hazard (sq km)
Total size of minefields cleared by humanitarian organisations	44.9
Total size of battlefields cleared by humanitarian organisations	3.2
Total size of minefields cancelled	2.2
Total size of battlefields searched by commercial companies <sup>4</sup>	4.2
Total size of firing ranges released	454

### 3.3. Land Release Operations in Minefields by Humanitarian Organisations

The clearance of hazards during 1394 provided Afghan communities with safe access to productive land previously blocked by mines and ERW. Table 6 below summarizes the land release related to minefields during 1394.<sup>3</sup>

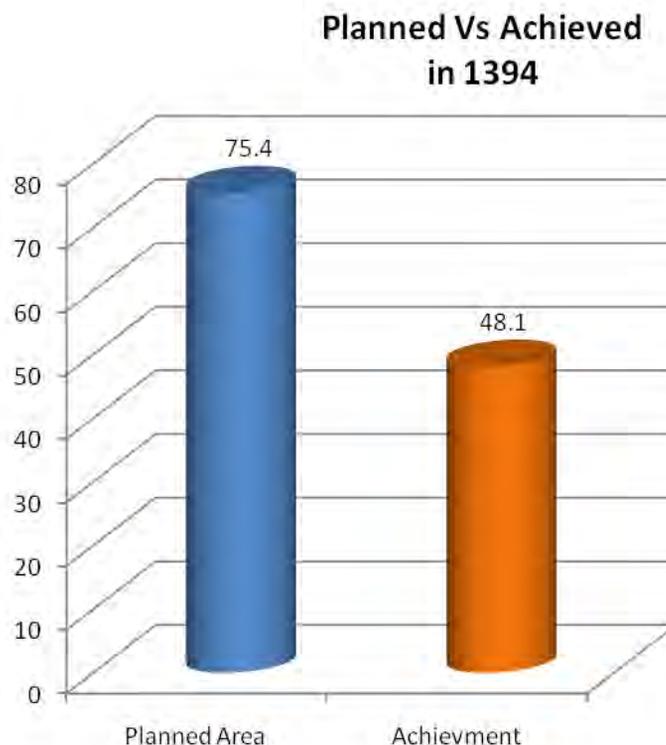
Table 6: Summary of minefield activities in 1394

Activity Type	No. of Hazards	Area of Hazards (sq km)
Minefields cleared/closed	391	23.7
Area reduced		0.3
Minefields partially cleared	275	20.9
Minefields cancelled	53	2.2

As shown in Table 7, humanitarian demining organisations succeeded in working in 666 mine-contaminated areas. Of these, 391 minefields were closed and released, while another 275 minefields were partially cleared, with operations continuing beyond 1394. Compared to the initial 75.4 sq km target area under the Ottawa Treaty workplan, only 63.8% of target areas were released due to the programme’s shortage of funds.

This year, following a number of comprehensive assessments, a total of 53 minefields were cancelled from the database and the land released, without any physical demining operations.

Table 7 below details the number of hazards released by humanitarian organisations in 1394, along with their area size, the number and type of devices found and destroyed, including anti-personnel (AP), anti-tank (AT) mines, abandoned improvised explosive device (AIED), explosive remnants of war (ERW), and small arms ammunition (SAA). This table shows the overall land release, which includes clearance and area reduction of minefields.



<sup>3</sup> Afghanistan’s cancelled land is a previously recorded hazardous area concluded not to contain evidence of mine/ERW contamination following the non-technical survey.

<sup>4</sup> These are the battlefields surface or subsurface searched by commercial demining companies based on requirements of their clients.

Table 7: 1394 achievements by organisation

Clearance Agency	Number of Hazards	Area of Hazard (sq m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
			AP	AT	AIED	UXO	SAA
ATC	75	3,023,815	543	17	0	398	0
DAFA	107	7,396,234	673	65	0	4,161	1,946
DDG	14	742,780	190	2	0	609	270
FSD	4	53,307	1,418	0	0	14	457
HT	290	19,575,763	3,390	271	0	1,134	768
MCPA	24	1,129,208	142	16	0	0	0
MDC	100	10,632,938	906	162	13	1,976	40,578
OMAR	52	2,066,269	210	2	0	173	2,809
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>44,620,314</b>	<b>7,472</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8,465</b>	<b>46,828</b>

### 3.4. Battle Area Clearance by Humanitarian Organisations

Battle area clearance (BAC) operations involve the location and disposal of ERW, including unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance, but not landmines, over specific areas including battlefields, defensive positions and sites where artillery munitions, including cluster munitions have been fired or dropped.

BAC operations are conducted only by organisations accredited to implement BAC. Depending on the humanitarian priorities and required land use, BAC may involve surface and sub-surface clearance. BAC may be required in both urban and rural areas. BAC operations do not cover the disposal of stockpiled munitions in national storage facilities. Table 8 below shows area cleared under BAC operations and the number of devices found and destroyed as a result during 1394.

Table 8: BAC results during 1394

Clearance Agency	Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed			
			AP	AT	SAA	UXO
ATC	365,000	40,115	0	0	0	256
DAFA	959,165	1,259,527	0	12	31,048	10,220
DDG	619,917	1,286,893	0	0	64,125	68,376
FSD	18,640	9,540	21	0	825	3,858
HT	1,236,269	0	0	0	0	3,491
MCPA	13,700	0	0	0	0	0
MDC	0	515,917	0	0	1,105	1,064
OMAR	3,212,691	3,111,992	21	12	97,103	87,265
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,212,691</b>	<b>3,111,992</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>97,103</b>	<b>87,265</b>

### 3.5. Operations by Commercial Companies

There are some national and international commercial demining companies conducting mine action operations in Afghanistan at the request of various clients. The commercial mine action sector works largely in support of macro-level infrastructure and development projects. Macro-level development projects tend not to be implemented in areas with known hazards.

During 1394, five commercial companies were engaged in survey and clearance operations of the areas requested by their clients to ensure safe execution of some key development projects in Afghanistan.

Table 9: Commercial Demining Achievement in 1394

Clearance Agency	Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	SubSurface Area Cleared (sq m)	Devices Found and Destroyed			
			AP	AT	SAA	UXO
AMDC	2,684,631	0	5	0	0	15
KMCC	2,328	0	0	0	0	0
SADC	188,700	0	0	0	0	0
SDC	81,970	0	0	0	0	0
WDC	1,200,000	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,157,629</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>

Nevertheless, there is a justifiable concern due to the protracted conflict and the widespread presence of explosive remnants of war, and therefore, UNMACA and DMAC work with the relevant line ministries and development organisations as required to check areas for possible contamination prior to the start of a development or construction project. Table 9 above shows the achievements of commercial companies in this regard during 1394.

The commercial implementing partners regularly report their achievements after completion of tasks to UNMACA, which are then recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), a national database maintained by UNMACA.

In some cases, development projects are found to be impacted by known hazards, in which case, this work is recorded in IMSMA as clearance of known hazards once clearance has been completed. The implementation of such projects by commercial partners contributes to lessening the remaining mine/ERW contamination in the country. During 1394, none of known contaminated area was cleared by a commercial company.

### 3.6. Community Based Demining

In order to have access to remote areas where the security situation is not stable and also provide job opportunities to community members, UNMACA and the humanitarian implementing partners initiated community-based demining (CBD) in 1387. The core concept is that the traditional implementing partners establish links with the local leadership of a mine/ERW contaminated community and work with them closely in developing mine/ERW risk education and demining projects, recruiting the team from the community and training them so that they can carry out clearance operations or mine/ERW risk education sessions in their own communities.

The CBD approach has proved to be a very successful option to reach inaccessible communities. Moreover, the economic boost provided to communities, through the salaries CBD teams members receive, supports peace and stabilisation and provides the communities with a platform for development once the hazards have been removed. Since demining is a half-day activity, the local deminers can continue looking after their livelihoods in the afternoons with the additional income enabling them to expand or develop new micro businesses. This year, 87 out of MAPA's 410 teams were community based demining or mine/ERW risk education teams.

Table 10: CBD teams by organisation in 1394

Clearance Agency	Number of Teams	
	Demining	Mine/ERW Risk Education
AAR Japan	0	6
DAFA	25	0
HI	0	3
MCPA	15	6
MDC	7	2
OMAR	0	11
DDG	0	6
SDA	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>

### 3.7. Progress towards the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty

Afghanistan acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty in September 2002 and became a state party on March 1, 2003, making a commitment towards a complete ban on anti-personnel (AP) mines through the implementation of an overarching framework for mine action. This framework requires the clearance of all emplaced AP mines within ten years, the destruction of all stockpiled AP mines within four years, the provision of mine/ERW risk education, and assistance to mine/ERW survivors.

However, the magnitude of the mine problem in Afghanistan, combined with the ongoing conflict, underfunding and the lack of reliable records of minefields meant that the initial deadline of 2013 was untenable. In March 2012, the Afghanistan Government submitted a request for a ten-year extension of the deadline to complete the removal of all AP mines by 2023. This request was assessed by 14 members of the secretariat to the treaty, and in December 2012, all state parties to this treaty accepted Afghanistan’s extension request.

The current baseline and progress is shown in Table 11 below. However, as people continue to return and resettle in Afghanistan, some previously unrecorded hazards continue to be discovered. Therefore, it is expected that the baseline may continue to change to a degree. This, however, has been factored into the Afghanistan’s extension request, and the goal for the complete removal of mines within ten years is believed to be achievable, even if previously undiscovered hazards are added.

Table 11: Afghanistan benchmark table as of March 2016

Hazard Type	Baseline April 2013		Previously Unreported Hazards		Resurvey Results	Current Target		Hazards Processed from April 2013		Remaining Hazards	
	No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)	No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)		No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)	No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)	No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)
AP	3,439	266.4	1,180	81.3	-0.1	4,619	347.6	1,892	98.0	2,727	249.6
AT	1,248	252.1	743	132.7	-15.1	1,991	369.6	754	89.1	1,237	280.5
BF	179	33.5	294	80.3	0.6	473	114.5	152	27.1	321	87.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,866</b>	<b>551.9</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>294.4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>7,083</b>	<b>831.7</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>214.2</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>617.5</b>

As shown in Table 11 above, during 1392, 1393 and 1394, a total area of 294.4 sq km was newly recorded, while a resurvey of hazards reduced their area size by 14.6 sq km; at the end, therefore, 279.8 sq km were added to the initial baseline making it 831.7sq km. This figure covers mainly mine and ERW contaminated areas historically left from Russian period (1979) and the contamination left behind from NATO and international forces with ANSF against AGEs post 2001.

The target for 1394 was to clear 75.4 sq km (13.7% of the initial baseline), while in fact a total of 48.1 Sq km area was eventually cleared and 2.2 sq km area was cancelled from the annual target during MEIFCS and other survey operations. Thus, 63.8% of this year’s target was achieved. The cause of this shortfall is underfunding. Overall, if we consider Afghanistan’s 10-year Extension Request workplan to date, the first three years of implementation released a total of 214.2 sq km area, while an area of 279.8 sq km of previously unrecorded hazards has since been added to the target.

### 3.8. Mine/ERW Risk Education

Mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education activities during 1394 were coordinated and implemented based on the MAPA 1394 Annual Operational Work Plan and a classified list of mine/ERW impacted communities, prioritizing the most impacted areas to be provided with awareness sessions through MAPA mine/ERW risk education assets and the Ministry of Education’s (MoE) school teachers. During 1394, mine/ERW risk education activities were conducted through the joint efforts of the UNMACA Mine/ERW Risk Education Department, DMAC, implementing partners and MoE. This joint effort ensured that mine/ERW risk education projects and activities were appropriately planned and monitored across all target areas in the country.

Based on the programme’s standards for community based mine/ERW risk education, this year’s activities targeted communities impacted by mines and ERW and that had been identified by community classification and priority setting mechanism.

During 1394, 4 MAPA implementing partners (AAR Japan, OMAR, DDG, and MCPA) were actively engaged in delivering risk education activities; a combination of 28 male and female teams were allocated to carry out a range of risk education activities in line with the strategy and plans laid out in the MAPA 1394 annual operational work plan.

As shown below, this year the aforementioned implementing partners provided risk education to over 1,150,028 people across the country; representing an almost 15 percent increase on the 977,804 people reached in 1393.

Figure 4: Number of people receiving mine/ERW risk education in 1394

Programme	No. of Sessions	Women	Men	Girls	Boys
MRE	50,827	170,802	214,381	265,060	399,432
Informal MRE	1,052	341	6,471	14,107	79,434
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,879</b>	<b>171,143</b>	<b>220,852</b>	<b>279,167</b>	<b>478,866</b>

Moreover, this year, 2,266 school teachers received training of the trainer risk education training through the MoE's child protection officers. OMAR have trained 500 teachers in Ghazni, Badakhshan, Kandahar, Kunar and Badghis provinces totaling the number of teachers who have received mine/ERW risk education training since March 2008 to 28,375. Under the umbrella of the MoE, a total of 80,248 school students were also provided risk education by MoE teachers at their schools in all 34 provinces.

### 3.8.1. Integration of Mine/ERW Risk Education

UNMACA has made considerable progress in mainstreaming risk education across several Afghan Government ministries; risk education is now part of the MoE's national primary education curriculum managed by the MoE. Through a joint effort between UNMACA, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MORA), risk education has also been incorporated into a Mullah Imam training package, enabling Mullah Imams to deliver basic risk education messages through mosques and other public fora.

This year, 4,749 Mullah Imams from all provinces were trained in risk education through the Imam Training Centre in Kabul.

Risk education has also been successfully mainstreamed across several other governmental and nongovernmental networks such as the (TDH-Jalalabad), Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA), Danish Demining Grope (DDG) MRE Trainers, Ministry of Refugees and Returnees (MoRR), Child Protection officers of Ministry of Education (MOE), New Kabul DCDA staff, MCPA, ANDMA, MOPH, and MOLSAMD

During 1394, 232 trainers, community and other staff at (TDH-Jalalabad), Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA), Danish Demining Grope (DDG) MRE Trainers, Ministry of Refugees and Returnees (MoRR), Child Protection officers of Ministry of Education (MOE), New Kabul DCDA staff, Mine, Clearance and Planning, Agency (MCPA), ANDMA, MOPH, and MOLSAMD were trained to deliver basic risk education messages to community members including returnees and internally displaced people, two groups who are particularly vulnerable to mines and ERW.

During 1394 over, 112 personnel of the Afghan Government and a number of NGO staff were trained in LSP they will be delivery risk education messages to colleagues and communities.

DMAC, UNMACA and other relevant MAPA stakeholders will continue to provide technical and administrative support to the Government of Afghanistan to build a national capacity for the oversight and coordination of mine/ERW risk education activities throughout the country.



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*“Mine Action is humanitarian action, and an excellent example of the MAPA’s work is last year’s response to the conflict in Kunduz city. The mine action sector was the first to deploy to the city once fighting had ceased, providing safe access for a broader range of humanitarian actors, and enabling the provision of essential assistance to the civilian victims of the conflict”.*

*Mr. Mark Bowden, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Afghanistan.*

*Mine Action Day 3 April 2016*

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### 3.9. Gender and Mine Action

To ensure gender is thoroughly mainstreamed throughout the programme, MAPA developed its 2014-2016 Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (GMS). During 1394, UNMACA was responsible for facilitating the implementation of the MAPA GMS. The following was accomplished:

#### 1. Conduction of MAPA- Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Working Group:

In the reporting year 14 gender working group meetings were conducted with participation of 15 implementing partner's focal points and DMAC representatives. The objectives for the establishment of the working group were to start the implementation of MAPA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, to share the achievements, progress made and conduct continuous consultations.

#### 2. MAPA- Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Workshop for the gender focal points of IPs

The workshop brought together 23 Gender Focal Points from 15 Implementing Partner Organizations (AABRAR, AAR-Japan, ALSO, ARCS, ATC, DAFA, DAO, DDG, DMAC, HALO Trust, HI, IFRC, KOO, MDC and SDA) and 2 line ministries (MoPH and MoLSAMD). The participants and UNMACA team initiated the process of implementation of MAPA-Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and ensured clarity on the activities and responsibilities on how to mainstream gender based issues and activities in to their programmes, plans and policies. The workshop was held as part of the capacity building programme of stakeholders on MAPA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

#### 3. Gender sensitive documentation within MAPA

The standard operations procedure, HR policies, codes of conduct, quality management, survey, and community liaison forms, MRE materials and other relevant documents were reviewed by gender focal points both at UNMACA and IPs levels. The purpose of the revision was to ensure that the documents are gender sensitive and bring the needed amendment based on gender strategy requirements, in order to make MAPA a gender sensitive programme.



#### 4. Celebrating the International Women's 2016

The International Women's Day 2016 was celebrated by UNMACA and MAPA to honor and appreciate women's contributions to mine action and to recognize the MAPA's commitment to gender equality into its programmes to provide services to all Afghans. The event was attended by around 150 participants from different entities including an Afghan Government minister, a parliament member, representatives of the Presidential Office, first vice presidential office, Ministry of Women affair, donor community, civil society and media.

#### 5. Integration of IASC's gender marker code 2a/2b in Voluntary Trust Funds Grants

According to the MAPA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy all projects within MAPA are required to consider the IASC gender markers. Therefore, the gender marker codes 2a and 2b are mandatory in the projects funded through the VTF since April 2015. The purpose of consideration of gender marker codes 2a and 2b is to mainstream gender at the entire project cycle management.

#### 6. Gender sensitive project proposal revision

To ensure that the needs and priorities of all gender, social and age groups are considered in the proposals and that women are part of the implementation of projects, the UNMACA gender focal point is a member of proposal review committee. All the victim assistance projects under ACAP III, M/ERW risk education projects and some of the clearance and demining projects have been reviewed from gender perspective.

#### 7. Extending MAPA-Gender Mainstreaming Strategy awareness to Regional offices

The mission was part of the MAPA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy's objectives to promote and raise awareness on the strategy to the field staff, to relevant local line governmental directorates and to monitor the projects implementation based on the MAPA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in order to ensure that gender is mainstreamed throughout the programme.

#### 8. NMASP- Goal 4th : Gender and diversity mainstreaming

During the two workshops by GICHD on developing the NMASP 206-2020, the goal on gender and diversity was identified, thereafter three working groups were held for further developing the objectives, milestones, actions and timeline and etc.

UNMACA remains committed to the advancement of gender equality to improve its staff awareness and management thus providing an enhanced gender-friendly institutional capacity and work environment. UNMACA has also raised awareness with regard to the importance of gender equity within all areas of mine action and is working steadily to strengthen its access and to improve information gathering to ensure all target groups are well represented in mine action decision-making.

MAPA's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is available on the UNMACA website at: <http://www.macca.org.af/macca/merw-risk-education/>



### 3.10. Victim Assistance

UNMACA coordinates assistance for mines and ERW victims and other persons with disabilities through MAPA partners. UNMACA is keen to maintain a strong network with its relevant stakeholders including the Government of Afghanistan, NGO implementing partners, donors and other national and international organizations in the sector.

UNMACA's ultimate vision is the realization of the rights of war victims including mine/ERW victims and other persons with disabilities, as well as national institutional development, capacity building, awareness raising, all in consultation with the relevant components within MoLSAMD, MoPH and MoE.

#### 3.10.1. Victim Assistance and Disability Core Projects

This year, the UNMACA VA department through UNMAS/UNOPS support and consultation with MoLSAMD, MoPH and MoE, designed a number of VA projects for Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme III (ACAP III) funded by USAID. These projects were classified into three main components in accordance to the scope of ACAP project including assistance (immediate and long term), institutional capacity development of line ministries, and advocacy and outreach.

**Physical Rehabilitation:** To support the ACAP III project, this year, the UNMACA VA department designed and developed projects to support operations in three physical rehabilitation centers in Kunar, Kabul and Khost, to establish three new fixed rehabilitation centers in Uruzgan, Farah and Kunduz provinces, and to establish four new mobile rehabilitation units associated with fixed rehabilitation centers in Faryab, Khost, Kabul and Uruzgan provinces. DAO, AABRAR, EMPOR and KOO were contracted through UNOPS in coordination with MoPH to provide physical rehabilitation services to 20,602 civilian victims of war including mine/ERW, IED and victims of kinetic activities and non-war victims including other person with disability and disability awareness and advocacy to 22,851 community members Mine/ERW victims and other person with disabilities in targeted provinces.

**Economic Reintegration:** The inclusion of war victims and other person with disabilities into all areas of society is vital to ensure their independence and self-reliance. During 1394, UNMACA VA designed and developed economic reintegration projects to provide vocational and skill development to 1,000 civilian victims of war in six provinces such as Kunduz, Kunar, Kandahar, Ghazni, Helmand and Nangarhar.

#### 3.10.2. Capacity Building and Technical Support

**Strategies, Policies and Guidelines:** During 1394, UNMACA VA department provided advisory support to the MoPH on several policy documents, including the development of Disability and Physical rehabilitation strategy for the health sector, Input to the national health policy 2015-2020, Development of the new physiotherapy training Curriculum and developed disability/victims and physical rehabilitation indicators for Health management Information System (HMIS) and developed a comprehensive project concept for the establishment of national rehabilitation center in Kabul to promote required rehabilitation services to the war victims and other PwDs under the leadership of MoPH.

In line with ministry institutional capacity building plans, the VA Department conducted a desk assessment of the capacity at MoPH, MoLSAMD and MoE to understand requirements for the coming years. This assessment was guided by the conventions ratified by the Afghan Government including CRPD, CCM, APMBT, Inchon Strategy, Maputo Action Plan, ANDS, Afghanistan Disability Law, and the Afghanistan Inclusive Education Policy. In addition, the ACAP III project conducted a needs assessment of the disability and martyrs function of MoLSAMD in six provinces, including Kabul, and the Deputy Minister's office. As a result, a capacity development action plan has been proposed for endorsement and implementation. In addition to the work conducted on these assessments, three line ministries were also supported in reporting on Cartagena Action Plan, CCM and APMBT.

The UNMACA VA Department also developed an awareness training manual for MoPH's community health workers (CHWs) and MoE's child protection officers (CPOs) and school teachers on victim assistance, disability support, and ACAP III program awareness. The manual was translated into Dari and Pashto and was printed and shared with MoPH and MoE.

The UNMACA VA/Disability Advisors provided continued technical support on inputs, comments, suggestions on MBT, CCM, Landmine Monitor reports, developing disability degree, children with disability and inclusive education policy design and print, disability employment monitoring, IDDP, CRPD reporting process, MoPH disability strategy, MoLSAMD capacity building need assessment, military disability policy, IMWCD and its action plan, stakeholders MoU, disability law amendment process, national disability conference and having disability independent body.

60,000 school bags with awareness messages in Dari and Pashto have been produced with support from ACAP III with the aim of minimizing casualties and the impact of war among school children in particular from mines/ERWs. The bags will be distributed in close coordination with MoE to school children living in communities throughout the country most affected by war.

Joint Monitoring and Evaluation: UNMACA uses joint M&E missions as a tool for on the job training of government staff. During 1394, the VA Department was able to conduct 13 joint M&E field missions with MoPH and MoE staff to monitor physical rehabilitation activities conducted by implementing partners and to conduct and monitor ongoing teacher's awareness training in Nangarhar, Kunar, Parwan, Herat, Kabul and Laghman provinces .

Workshops and Events: In September 2015, the UNMACA VA department representatives along with Afghan CBR team participated in the Asia Pacific CBR Network regional Congress in Japan under the theme of "Poverty Reduction through Community-based Inclusive Development (CBID) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", The UNMACA advisor to MoPH was one of the key speaker in the congress and provided comprehensive presentation under the theme of sustainable collaboration among the stakeholders.

UNMACA VA representative participated in the International physiotherapy day celebration ceremony organized by the Afghan Association for Physiotherapy (AAPT), the president decree on the occasion of the international physiotherapy day 2015 was recited.

UNMACA VA representative participated in the quarterly coordination workshop of MoPH for the implementing partner of the Basic Package of the Health Services (BPHS) and Essential Package of the Hospital Services (EPHS), The main purpose of the workshop is to discuss the achievements, challenges and share the plan for the next quarter, The VA/Disability and physical rehabilitation related issues were raised in the workshop as well. Supported MoPH in the organization of one day workshop to agree on the road map for the development of standard and well defined disability certification degree guideline for the Country and organization of one day workshop for the development of disability/victim assistance and physical rehabilitation indicators for the Health, Management Information System (HMIS) and total of 16 indicators were developed and submitted for the approval.

A three day awareness workshop on VA, ACAP III and the institutional capacity needs assessment of MoLSAMD was conducted in Kabul. 72 MoLSAMD staff members from 33 provinces participated including Kabul senior staff, provincial directors, and provincial martyrs and disability managers.

Two three day training of trainer workshops on VA awareness, ACAP III awareness and advocacy for the rights of person with disability were conducted for 117 MoE Child Protection Officers (CPOs) and 150 Community based Health Supervisors(CHS) from 34 provinces to training 9,000 School teachers and Community Health Workers in 34 provinces.

### 3.10.3. Coordination and Advocacy Meetings

The MoPH Department of Disability and Rehabilitation was supported in organizing 6 disability task force and physiotherapy advisory board meetings to improve the coordination of physical rehabilitation activities among disability stakeholders and MoPH.

The VA Department supported the MoE Inclusive Education Directorate participated in 11 IE coordination group meetings which was chaired by MoE and participated by all IE stakeholders to discuss the implementation of new IE policy implementation, in the result of joint approaches of the IE stakeholders the IE policy implementation plan has been drafted and approved by the stakeholders shared with MoE authority for their final review and dissemination.

The VA Department chaired four VA coordination meetings at UNMACA. All key VA/disability national and international organisations and line ministry representatives from the MoPH, MoLSAMD and MoE attended. These coordination meetings were intended to update the VA/Disability stakeholders on available funding opportunities and highlight the needs of mine/ ERW victims within a broader disability context and to reach the communities most heavily impacted by mines and ERW in line with ministry priorities.

As a member of the Child Protection in Emergency Sub-Cluster (CPiE-SC), the VA Department advocated for resource mobilization and mainstreaming of VA/disability issues and mine/ERW risk education awareness messages in the cluster to minimize mine/ERW casualties among the children and to assist children with disability. During 1394 the Mine/ERW RE and Disability are considered as thematic area of intervention in Afghanistan Child protection in Emergency Sub- Cluster - ACPiE- SC annual action plan for 2016.

The VA Department facilitated 11 Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG) meeting which chaired by MoLSAMD Deputy Minister. The main outcomes of these meetings were discussion on new MoLSAMD leadership, assistance and support to Shah Shaheed civilian victims, white cane day, disability updates, disability employment, 3rd December Celebration, independent disability body, stakeholders MoU, CRPD reporting and disability law amendment,

Along with the Advocacy Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ACPD), 33 advocacy meetings, events and discussion with MoLSAMD, AIHRC, ACPD, Central Statistics Office, family law, disability employment quota, national and international agencies, election reform commission, Ministry of Information and Cultural, Office of the First Lady, Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, physiotherapy day, US Embassy, disability certification degree, Launch of Landmine Monitor, IDDP, CRPD, Afghanistan President, Inclusive education, ACBL and gender and disability,

The UNMACA VA department conducted 15 live and recorded TV and news agency interviews on various disability issues as part of advocacy and awareness for the right of People of Disabilities.

### 3.11. Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme (ACAP III)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a Program Contribution Agreement with the United Nations, acting through its Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS) in April 2015 to assist and support eligible civilian victims of the conflict in Afghanistan under the third phase of Afghan Civilian Assistance Program. Program implementation commenced on 1st July 2015 and the program is scheduled to continue until February 2018.

The overall objective of ACAP III is to mitigate the short-term and long-term impact of conflict on eligible civilians, including victims of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

ACAP III scope has three components:

**Component 1 - Assistance:** The activities within this component are aimed at assisting eligible civilian victims through assistance with food and non-food items in the immediate aftermath of the incident, and long term assistance in victim's recovery process through physical rehabilitation support, psychosocial counseling and access to economic reintegration opportunities.

**Component 2 - Institutional Capacity Building:** This component aims to build the capacity of government institutions to manage services to conflict victims. The program focuses on the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled (MoLSAMD) and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), which are both are actively engaged in providing disability and victim assistance in the country.

**Component 3 - Advocacy and Outreach:** The objective of the advocacy and outreach component is to improve the knowledge of new and existing victim assistance services among communities as well as the UN, NGO, and government network. Under this component ACAP III conducts awareness training for government workers, in particular employees of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health at the national and sub-national levels and public information campaigns using print, radio, TV and similar outlets.

The results achieved during 1394 include:

- o Distributed immediate assistance packages to 4,196 families reaching a total of 30,940 beneficiaries;
- o Identified a total of 1,275 victims for ACAP III long-term service assistance;
- o Conducted institutional capacity assessment of the Martyrs and the Disabled Department of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled (MoLSAMD);

- o Held ACAP III awareness training with 600 community health workers and 1,155 school teachers in various provinces;
- o Community awareness sessions by physical rehabilitation sub-grantees have reported reaching out to total of 22,851 persons; and
- o Conducted public information campaigns using TV and radio. Government engagement at both the national and sub-national level continued in ACAP III implementation through participation in victim assistance coordination meetings, and sessions on sharing ACAP III related information.



# Section 4:

## Coordination of Mine Action

UNMACA and DMAC are responsible for the coordination of mine action in Afghanistan and the management of mine action resources, such as survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance and advocacy to perform safer, efficient and effective operations. Conducting monthly stakeholders and operations coordination meetings, several operational workshops, continuous monitoring visits by headquarter and regional office staff and post-demining impact assessments were key to achieving this goal. Some key activities during 1394 are listed below:

- Development of the 5-year (2016-2020) National Mine Action Strategic Plan.
- UNMACA's achievement of ISO 9001:2008 certification (to standardize and ensure consistency in UNMACA internal processes and quality management system).
- Official handover of over 5 districts and 107 communities, being announced free from known hazards.
- Celebration of the international day of mine awareness and assistance in mine action, international day of peace, international women's day, and the UN day.
- Officially launch of the Mine Action Street in Kabul, through a video message from H. E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.
- Coordinating the Mullah Imams training
- Regional cooperation workshop between Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan

### 4.1. Mine Action Planning and Coordination

At the beginning of 1394, there were 4,266 hazardous areas that covered 534 sq km of land, impacting 1,603 communities in 255 districts of Afghanistan. In addition, there were 68 recorded firing ranges covering 957.6 sq km. In order to maximise the effectiveness of the resources available to clear mines and ERW from Afghanistan towards the desired end states, coordination is essential, including sound planning and efficient management practices.

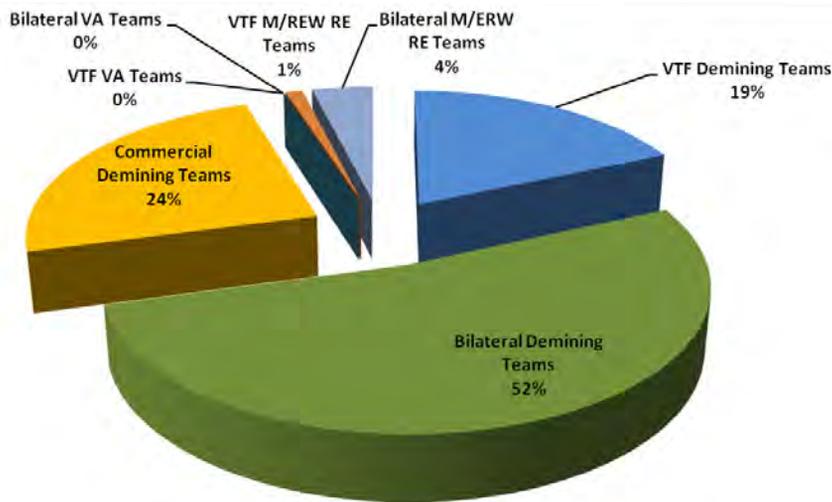
The UNMACA Planning and Programme Department works closely with implementing partners (IPs) and stakeholders. The department continuously updates the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), which links individual teams and donor resources to hazards, and analyses progress against defined targets to identify priority gaps to be addressed.

Each year, the Planning and Programme Department works towards developing the indicative plan for the following year. Thus the 1394 operational work plan was developed in 1393. UNMACA seeks to publish an operational plan before the beginning of the next operational year. This process necessitates wide consultation and the active engagement of Government, IPs and donors. The published framework deliberately does not go into operational detail; while the goals do not change, the process through which progress is made towards meeting the goals does.

A large part of UNMACA's analysis of implementation delivery is associated with managing and understanding of how the work carried out and translates into anticipated progress. This enables UNMACA to establish what hazards remain and, at the appropriate time, to move forward into the cycle of project design and the establishment of an understanding of a programme of multilateral and bilateral projects.

The scale of mine action coordination challenge and efforts can be seen in Figure 5, which shows the mine action teams that were operational during 1394 throughout Afghanistan. Please note that this covers all sectors, both humanitarian and commercial, funded via the VTF or bilaterally.

Figure 5: Teams by type and funding mechanism in 1394



#### 4.2.4. Project and Partner Selection Panel

One of UNMACA's roles is to provide advice to donors on the best use of funds earmarked for mine action (survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education and victim assistance) in Afghanistan. UNMACA provides expertise and advice to select projects and partners for the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for mine Action (VTF) contributions for Afghanistan.

The PPSP, comprised of UNMAS and senior UNMACA experts and DMAC representative. A meeting is convened to select projects, the panel considers unfunded mine/ERW survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance projects to be implemented for the current and/or next year against donor preferences and the AMBT Extension Request Work Plan. As described in more detail below, the process aims to provide donors with value for money, rather than selecting the cheapest approach on offer.

The PPSP has two main roles:

- Project Selection: determine the mine action "project" to be carried out;
- Partner Selection: determine the process to select the partner to carry out the project

Regardless of whether a donor contributes to the VTF or bilaterally, the PPSP reviews proposals on the request of bilateral donors and provided feedback and recommendations, which the bilateral donor may consider in its decision to award bilateral funding. This is in line with the policy of UNMAS and UNMACA to encourage IPs to pursue additional funding mechanisms alongside the VTF. UNMAS and UNMACA will continue to support bilateral donors in reviewing proposals and assuring the quality of bilaterally funded operations.

#### 4.2.5. Proposal Review Process

The PRT is the evaluation panel and reviews proposals on behalf of MAPA donors (both VTF and bilateral on request) and comprises representatives from UNMACA experts as well as a representative from DMAC and UNMAS. The team measures the proposals against the evaluation criteria defined in the solicitation or CFP package and ensures that each awarded project has clearly defined outputs, verifies information concerning the hazards implementing partners intend to clear, ensures the project is in line with UNMACA and DMAC priorities for clearance, consideration of standard quality management system, suitability of assets/equipment, methodology and represents good value for money. Once the PPSP is satisfied with the project design and proposal, it either provides a recommendation to the bilateral donor to fund a particular project or, in the case of the VTF; it recommends that a grant is issued after a competitive process to a successful organisation.

A number of bilateral donors consistently ask for UNMACA and DMAC’s endorsement letter prior to confirming fund allocations to an implementing partner. UNMACA and DMAC strongly encourages bilateral donors’ involvement in this process, so that all projects being undertaken in the humanitarian sector have defined outputs and are in line with the overall goals of the AMBT Extension Request Work plan.

During 1394, the PPSP reviewed 84 project proposals (including ACAP III projects), of which 46 were for survey and clearance, 7 for mine/ERW risk education and 31 for Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme (ACAP III). The team recommended changes based on the hazard status (cancelled, cleared, or planned by another IP at the time of proposal review), thus avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring high priority hazardous areas are cleared first.

### 4.2.6. Balanced Scorecard

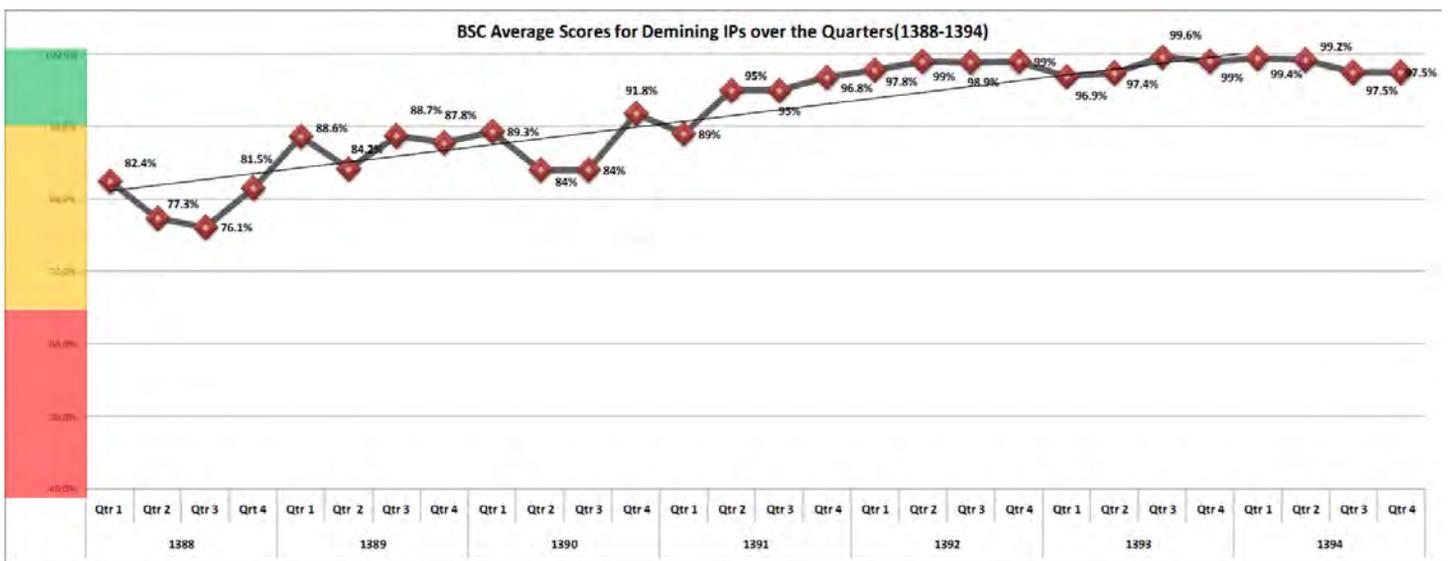
The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) was introduced at the beginning of 1388 (2009). This performance management tool measures each implementing partner’s projects against a specific set of indicators. The BSC enables UNMACA/DMAC to monitor the output, quality and effectiveness of each project against the same set of indicators on a quarterly basis and at end of project which is the accumulative result of project. Not only does the tool allow for comparison between projects, implementers, information that could be useful for donors in funding decisions, it also provides IPs with a baseline for their own improvement and development.

The total possible score (100%) is divided across four indicator sets for demining projects: operations, quality management, demining accidents, and reporting. Recognising that delivering mine action is the primary function of IPs, the operations indicator set has the highest weighting and accounts for 40% of the total score.

The other indicators are divided almost equally and account for 20%, 25%, and 15% of the total score respectively. Each indicator set is further divided into a number of subsets – or questions – that enable UNMACA to measure and evaluate the planning ability of an IP, the productivity of assets, the safety and quality of work delivered, and reporting efficiency. Full details are available in UNMACA’s BSC Briefing document, which can be found on [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af).

The following graph shows the BSC results of IPs monitored between 1388 and 1394 if this annual report is going to be communicated with donors, it will be better to add English years as well. The trend line indicates a general improvement towards increased productivity and quality.

Figure 6: BSC results of IPs evaluated for 1388-1394



In 1394, a BSC was also developed for Mine/ERW Survey operation. The Survey BSC consists of three indicators i.e. Operations, Quality Management and Reporting and with scores of 50%, 30% and 20% respectively.

The accumulative sum of the projects BSC result from the beginning to the end of the project on quarterly basis makes end of project BSC and shares with IPs once the project is completed.

## 4.2. Ensuring Effectiveness and Efficiency of Mine Action through Quality Management

The aim of Quality Management (QM) in mine action is to ensure that the communities, donors, mine action contractors, and national authorities are confident that mine action quality requirements have been met during the delivery of mine action services and the land that is released is indeed safe for use.

QM in mine action covers the accreditation of mine action organizations, monitoring of mine action activities called Quality Assurance (QA) and post-clearance inspection of the cleared land called Quality Control (QC). QA in mine action also includes the management and maintenance of mine action standards as a reference document, which sets out the quality requirements with regard to all mine action activities.

During 1394, as part of improvements made to the Quality Management System (QMS) throughout the MAPA, the QM and Operations staff of eight mine action organizations (AREA, ATC, DAFA, DDG, HALO Trust, MCPA, MDC and OMAR) were trained in Land Release and QMS in mine action. Monitoring and Quality Control checklists have been reviewed and revised.

Six MAPA QM team meetings were convened to discuss and identify areas for improvement and take necessary actions. The QMS and Land Release training package has been translated to national languages and provided to the IPs.

During 1394, a total of 12 demining accidents were investigated; summaries of the lessons learned from these incidents have been processed and shared with the mine action organisations to be considered and practiced during future operations.

### 4.2.1. Accreditation

Accreditation is essential to ensure that all mine action organisations working in Afghanistan are technically capable and staffed to plan, manage and operationally conduct mine action activities in a safe, effective and efficient way. In addition to monitoring visits and post-clearance inspections, a comprehensive accreditation process has been implemented by UNMACA and DMAC to assess all aspects of mine action organisations intending to operate in Afghanistan.

UNMACA has established an accreditation board consisting of well-qualified staff from the relevant departments of UNMACA and DMAC to undertake accreditation practices with due consideration given to impartiality, integrity and transparency throughout the process. The final approval of accreditation certificates transferred from UNMACA to DMAC as part of national ownership. During 1394, six new Victim Assistance organizations applied for accreditation, fulfilled the accreditation requirements and were accredited. In addition, 49 organisational accreditations were renewed and 26 operational accreditations were processed.

As part of the accreditation process, UNMACA's QM department also managed to test and accredit 27 mine detection dog teams to be deployed for demining operations.

In addition, 8 sets of new and revised mine action survey, land release, Firing Range clearance, mechanical demining, mine/ERW RE and Victim Assistance Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were reviewed and approved.

### 4.2.2. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Monitoring is an essential part of the quality management process, and together with accreditation and post clearance inspections, it provides the necessary confidence that mine action quality requirements have been met.

During 1394, a total of 2,241 monitoring visits were conducted on project management systems, mine action activities, demining worksites, internal QA and training courses, which resulted in 2,016 conformity reports, 111 observation reports, 77 minor non-conformity reports and 37 major non-conformity reports. All non-conformities were processed and corrective and preventive actions were taken.

### 4.2.3. National Mine Action Standards

The mine action standards are living documents and are subject to continual review based on new requirements that may emerge from the field and/or new developments in International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). To this end, UNMACA established a review board to review and provide technical input for the further improvement of the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS).

In order to formally recognize AMAS as national mine action standards by the Afghanistan Supreme Council of Standards, UNMACA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) in 2011 to review the complete set of AMAS and prepare them for final approval by Afghanistan's Supreme Council of Standards. During 1394, the ANSA/AMAS Technical Committee reviewed AMAS 06.02 on battle area clearance and its Annex A on firing range clearance. All previously reviewed standards are under the review of ANSA editing committee; after which they will be submitted for final approval to the Supreme Council of Standards.

### 4.3. National Ownership of the programme

During the year 1394, significant progress was made in transitioning the programme leadership to national ownership, following are some key points:

- From November 2015 onward, DMAC approves the final Clearance Completion Reports of hazards. While before that, the function was carried out by UNMACA. This step will further improve the quality of work within the MAPA.
- With financial support from US Department of State, office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, now DMAC maintains the 90 percent of the quality management operational capacity of the programme, and oversees all field activities related to Firing Ranges clearance through 11 contracted staff (operation assistant) and 10 civil servants.
- DMAC issues the accreditation certificate to qualified organizations working in the field of mine action.
- UNMAS reaffirmed its commitment on transferring UNMACA departments and mine action core responsibilities, under DMAC leadership.
- The transfer of UNMACA will gradually be taking place during the year 1395.



#### 4.4. Cross-Border Coordination and Cooperation

During 1394, Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) with support from the UNMACA continued its cooperation with other mine action programmes;

As part of regional cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Tajikistan Office invited 4 senior experts from DMAC and UNMACA to an exchange visit from Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) between 17 to 21 August 2015. The exchange visit aimed to share experiences and best practices and using the opportunity improving the exiting mine action standards to enhance effectiveness of the programmes.

For this purpose the Afghan delegation reviewed the following key areas in TNMAC:

1. Mine Action Planning and Prioritization;
2. GIS function and Information Management System;
3. CASEVAC and MEDEVAC in Hard-to-Reach Areas and Demining Incidents Investigation;
4. Non-Technical and Technical Survey Operations;
5. Reporting formats and TNMAC Internal SOPs;
6. Field Operations of a Demining Team relating to Ministry of Defense.
7. External QA functionality of TNMAC.

After revision these areas, the TNMAC counterpart were provided with recommendations for improvement

During the month of November 2015 (from 9th to 11th); Mine Action Regional Workshop on “Best Practices and Cooperation” was hosted by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) – Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) with support from Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and all Afghanistan Mine Action Implementing Partners. The workshop was participated by the high level authority officials from Azerbaijan, Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan itself. During the workshop updates were discussed and other progress on mine action was shared by representatives from mentioned country representatives.



## 4.6. Resource Mobilisation

MAPA provides essential services for mine/ERW impacted communities in Afghanistan. MAPA is primarily supported by international donors, with the exception of some specific projects, which are funded by the Government of Afghanistan through its national budget. This year, the Government of Afghanistan funded the clearance of the Aynak Copper Mine Project (in Logar Province). Resource mobilisation plays a very important role in ensuring MAPA's sustainability. In addition to the global fundraising efforts of UNMAS Afghanistan to appeal for funds in support of mine action, to help the Government of Afghanistan meet its obligations under international treaties pertaining to mines and ERW, international donors provided funds to DMAC and IPs bilaterally to support coordination and clearance operations.

UNMAS Afghanistan resource mobilisation strategy goes beyond the raising of funds to include gaining donor support in terms of time and expertise. One example of this is the use of Japanese machines to five projects implemented by DAFA, MDC and OMAR in Helmand, Kandahar, Kabul and Nangarhar provinces.

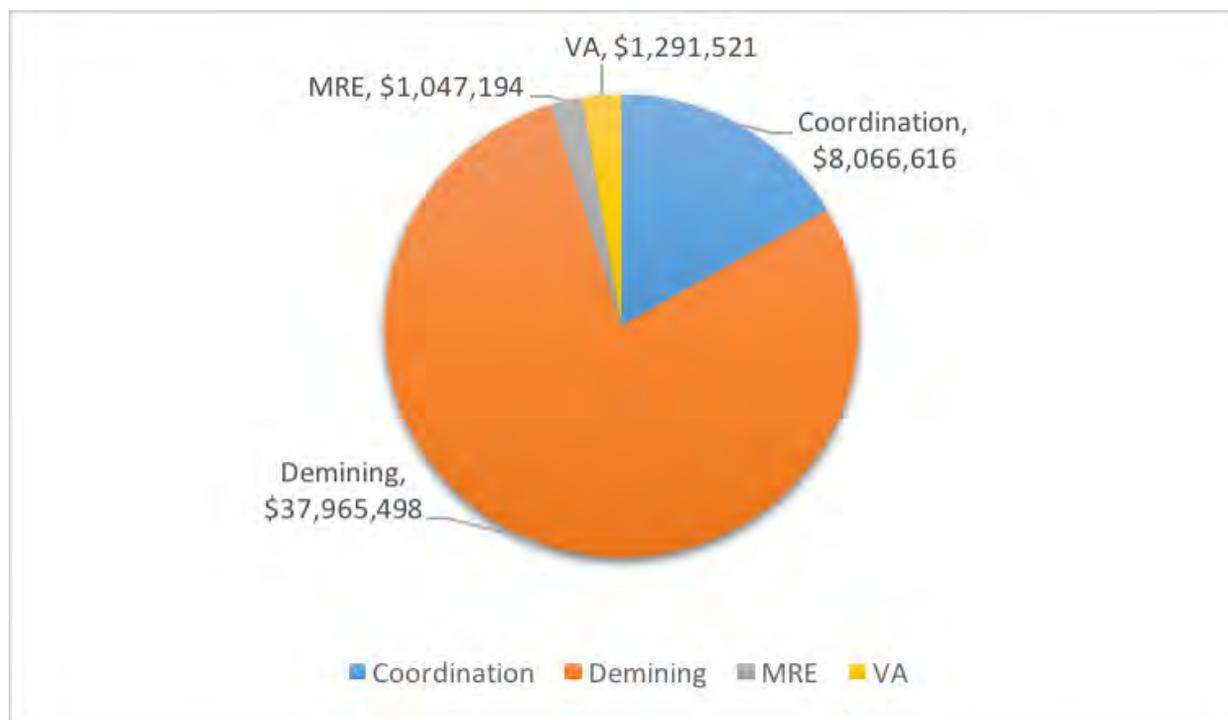
Such initiatives strengthen partnerships between donors and the programme by broadening donor input to extend beyond financial contributions. In late 2015, UNMAS Afghanistan also liaised with sister agencies such as UNHCR and OCHA for the implementation of mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance and clearance activities as part of the conflict's IDP response in Kunduz Province. Moreover, in light of decreasing donor contributions, these particular initiatives have enabled the programme to expand the reach of mine/ERW messaging to communities that are otherwise inaccessible at a minimal cost.

UNMAS Afghanistan oversees all funds in support of humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan. Funds for the humanitarian sector are received through two modalities:

- o Multilateral contributions to the VTF, administered by UNMAS and contracted through UNOPS to implementing partners (IPs);
- o Bilateral agreements between implementing partners and international donors or the Government of Afghanistan.

Funds are made available throughout the year, depending on donor funding cycles and the commencement of new projects. In some cases, donors make multi-year commitments, and their contributions may not be aligned with the Afghan calendar. This requires an allocation process that divides the contribution over two Afghan years.

Figure 8: Funding breakdown for 1394 (VTF and bilateral)



The funding target for 1394 was USD 76.7 million including the coordination cost of mine action. Of this total, MAPA received USD 47.6 million from donors through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and bilaterally to its implementing partners. This means that MAPA received almost 62% of its required funding in 1394. The funds received were spent on survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance and coordination. A total of USD 14.6 million was allocated from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund and the remaining USD 33 million was provided through bilateral agreements.

The chart above shows that the amount contributed to coordination activities has decreased compared to the USD 10.8 million spent on coordination in 1391. UNMAS Afghanistan is planning further cost reductions given this reduction in funding. Coordination is nonetheless essential to the effective running of the entire programme, ensuring an effective response to the extension request and assisting the Government in achieving its obligations under the APMBT. Support to coordination allows UNMAS Afghanistan to support DMAC to continue working on:

1. Determination of mine action policy, prioritisation and planning in line with government requirements and responsibilities including the Afghan National Development Strategy, National Priority Programmes, Ottawa Treaty, Cluster Munitions Convention, and the Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities, among others.
2. Monitoring and evaluation.
3. Management of the national IMSMA database.
4. Maintenance and improvement of Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS), accreditation of implementers and quality assurance of their work ensuring qualified operators conform to AMAS and deliver high quality mine action services.

While the APMBT work plan envisages a reduction in the funds required as the plan progresses, the funds received from donors in the past four years have decreased at a more rapid rate. If this trend continues, it is unlikely that Afghanistan will meet its 2023 deadline under the APMBT.

On a positive note, MAPA remains committed to the work plan and to continually improving the overall productivity of the programme. Indeed, despite the shortfall in funding for 1394, the programme succeeded in doing more with less and met 63.8% of the land release target, with just 58% of the funding required. Moreover, in light of the fall in funding from traditional donors, UNMAS Afghanistan reached out to several potential new donors in an effort to expand the programme’s donor base. It is hoped that these discussions will lead to new funding sources in the coming years. The table below shows the breakdown of VTF and bilateral support by donor.

Table 12: VTF and bilateral funding for 1394

VTF Contributions	
Donor	Total
Canada	3,321,774
Finland	761,810
Italy	303,775
Japan	2,000,000
Lithuania	3,500
Netherlands	1,184,875
South Korea	49,900
Switzerland	490,485
UK	5,931,304
USAID	520,443
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,567,866</b>

Bilateral Contributions	
Donor	Total
AAR Japan	410,268
AFD (French Development Agency)	373,464
Afghanistan (MoMP)	1,533,846
Canada (Start Programme)	807,754
Denmark	1,349,100
EU – ECHO	725,864
Finland	982,877
Germany	1,669,500
ICBL	75,000
Ireland	1,571,151
Netherlands	3,711,627
Norway	1,253,132
OCHA - CHF	722,083
PATRIP/Germany	274,745
Sweden	2,059,500
Tawanmandi	34,500
UK - DFID	2,893,229
US DOS	13,355,323
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>33,802,962</b>

# Section 5: Conclusion

By the end of 1394, 4,279 recorded mine/ERW hazards covering an area of 592.1 sq km existed in Afghanistan. These hazards are located in 1,577 communities, 256 districts and 32 provinces of Afghanistan. 44.7% of the remaining contamination is due to anti-personnel (AP) mines, 48.7% is anti-tank (AT) contamination and the remaining 6.7% is due to ERW.

Table 13 shows the breakdown of known contamination type in terms of number of minefields (MF) and battlefields (BF) and the area contaminated.

Table 13: Remaining contamination as of end of 1394

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
Anti-personnel mine	2,723	238.7
Anti-tank mine	1,236	267.1
Battlefield/ERW contamination	320	86.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,279</b>	<b>592.1</b>

As shown above, most of the contamination results from anti-tank mines, which make up almost 49% of the overall contamination. Table 14 below shows the breakdown of the contamination by region. As was the case last year, most of the AP contaminated areas are located in the Central Region, followed by the Northeast, while the Eastern region has the fewest AP hazards. The Central region also remains the most affected in terms of the number of hazards, contaminated area, population and the number of impacted communities.

Table 14: Contamination by region as of end of 1394

Region	Anti-personnel Minefield		Anti-tank Minefield		Battlefield	
	Number	Area (sq km)	Number	Area (sq km)	Number	Area (sq km)
Central	906	62.3	347	51.0	60	15.5
East	192	12.1	86	8.2	34	8.5
North	353	19.0	55	0.9	115	42.9
North East	831	69.0	17	0.5	58	5.4
South	173	31.1	318	131.9	28	2.9
South East	206	17.8	310	41.3	21	10.7
West	62	27.5	103	33.2	4	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>86</b>

In addition to the contamination described above, one recent challenge has been contamination surrounding International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) firing ranges and bases. From 2010 to the end of March 2016, UNMACA recorded 162 casualties resulting from ERW accidents in or around these firing ranges, 50 killed and 112 injured; 72.8% of the victims have been children.

102 firing ranges covering 1,138.7 sq km area have been surveyed so far. Based on Afghanistan IMSMA data, 33 ranges have been cleared/closed, while clearance operations are ongoing on another 69 ranges. A total of 846 sq km area has been cleared so far; 5 AP mine, 27 AT mines, 77,629 items of ERW and 68,819 small arms ammunitions have been found and destroyed.



## Acronyms

AABRAR	Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation
AAR	Association for Aid and Relief
ACBRN	Afghanistan Community Based Rehabilitation Network
ACL	Afghan Campaign for Landmine
ACPD	Advocacy Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ADC	Asad brothers Demining Company
AIED	Abandoned Improvised Explosive Device
AIHRC	Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission
ALSO	Afghan Landmine Survivors Organisation
AMAS	Afghanistan Mine Action Standards
AMDC	Aims Demining Company
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ANSA	Afghanistan National Standards Authority
AOAD	Accessibility Organisation for Afghan Disabled
AP	Anti-personnel
APMBT	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty
ARCS	Afghan Red Crescent Society
AT	Anti-tank
ATC	Afghan Technical Consultants
BAC	Battle Area Clearance
BPHS	Basic Package of Health Services
BSC	Balanced Scorecard
CAMACC	Central Asian Mine Action Coordination Council
CBD	Community-Based Demining
CBMRE	Community-Based Mine Risk Education
CBR	Community-Based Rehabilitation
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
CDC	Community Development Councils
CMAA	Cambodian Mine Action Authority
CPO	Child Protection Officer
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DAFA	Demining Agency for Afghanistan
DAO	Development and Ability Organisation
DDC	District Development Council
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
DRD	Disability and Rehabilitation Department
DSCG	Disability Stakeholder Coordination Group
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
GMAP	Gender and Mine Action Programme
HALO Trust	Hazardous Areas Life-Support Organisation Trust

HDI	Hemayat brothers Demining International
HI	Handicap International
ICFE	Inclusive and Child Friendly Education
IDP	Internal Displaced People
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IPs	Implementing Partners
KOO	Kabul Ortho Organisation
M/ERW RE	Mine/Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MCPA	Mine Clearance and Planning Agency
MDC	Mine Detection Centre
MEIFCS	Mine and ERW Impact Free Community Survey
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disables
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoRA	Ministry of Religious and Hajj Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPCWD	National Partnership for Children With Disabilities
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OMAR	Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation
OSCE	Organisation for Security in Central Europe
OTA	Orthopedic Technician Assistant
P&O	Prosthetic and Orthotic
PDIA	Post Demining Impact Assessment
PIPS	Project and Implementing Partner Selection
PRT	Proposal Review Team
PWD	Person With Disability
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QMS	Quality Management System
RFP	Request For Proposal
RS	Resolute Support Mission
SAA	Small Arms Ammunition
SADC	Storm Afghanistan Demining Company
SDA	Sterling Demining Afghanistan
SDC	Standard Demining Company
SDG	Safi Demining Group
SHA	Suspected Hazardous Area
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

TC	Technical Committee
TDC	Trust Demining Company
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNMACA	United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VA	Victim Assistance
VPM	Victim Prediction Model
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund



[www.dmac.gov.af](http://www.dmac.gov.af)  
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