

Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA)

Report

2014 coincides with Afghan year 1393

Implemented by: Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)



Photos of PDIA Implementation in Herat and Samangan Provinces

PREAMBLE:

Post-demining impact assessment (PDIA) is conducted to determine the outcomes of mine action activities in the field. It examines the positive changes to the lives and livelihoods of Afghan civilians that result from landmine and explosive remnant of war (ERW) clearance, gauges beneficiary satisfaction levels in relation to quality of mine action services they have received, and identifies issues that must be addressed in future projects. PDIA is usually conducted on a 10% sample of minefields/battlefields cleared from mines and ERW, with beneficiary communities visited at least six months after completion of a demining task in the same community. Six months is considered minimum interval between end of clearance in a minefield and implementation of PDIA in order to objectively observe and measure outcomes of demining services in cleared minefields. This report covers the PDIA conducted by DMAC between May and October 2014, which targeted hazardous areas cleared during 2013.

OVERVIEW:

- In 2013 a total of 996 minefields were cleared or cancelled;
- 99 of these cleared minefields, equivalent to 10%, were selected for assessment;
- The cleared minefields selected for PDIA are located in 14 provinces (Parwan, Panjshir, Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan, Balkh, Samangan, Kandahar, Khost, Paktia, Nangarhar, Laghman, Herat and Kabul);
- Three minefields in three provinces (Kunduz, Helmand and Logar) were not visited due to insecurity.

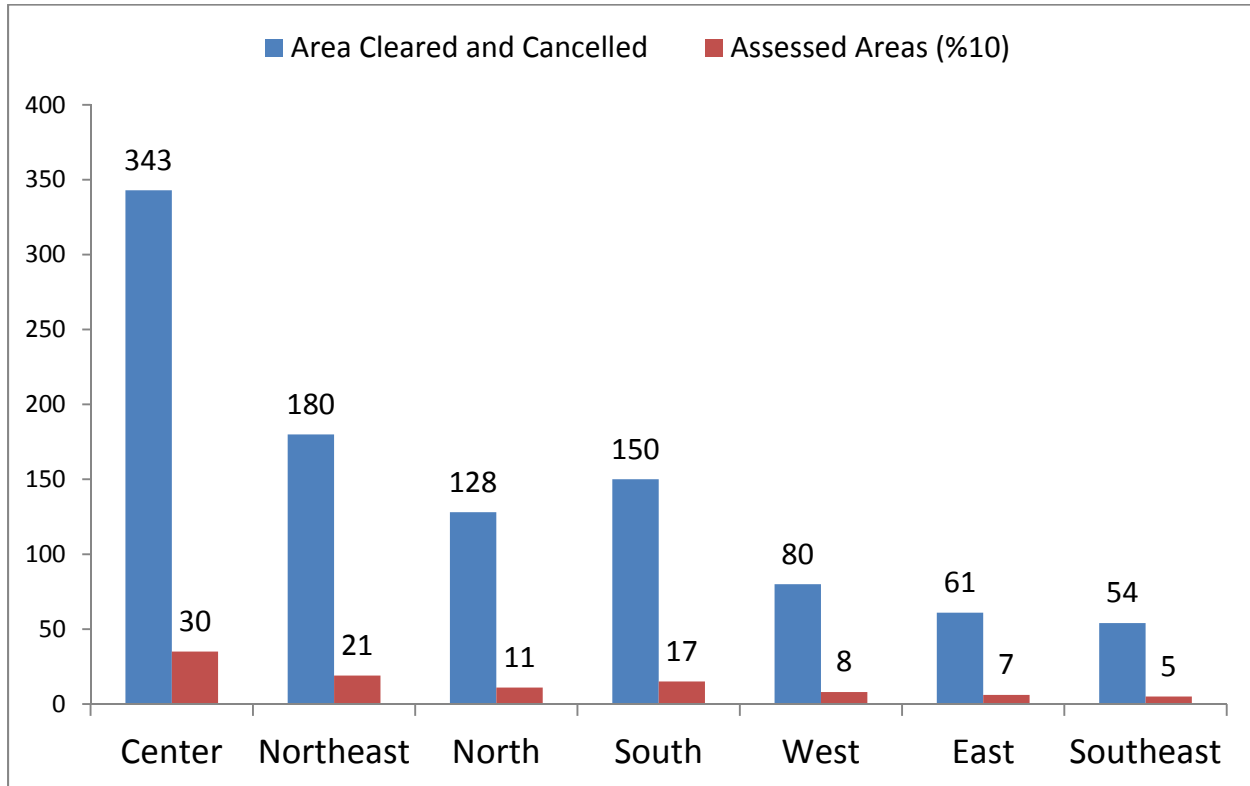
OBJECTIVES:

PDIA is conducted to achieve the following objectives:

- To verify that areas have been cleared in accordance with national priorities and confirm that people had a role to play in determining those priorities;
- To determine the level of beneficiaries' satisfaction with clearance operations and their outcomes, and with the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) overall;
- To observe the way in which cleared land is utilized by landlords or local people;
- To observe the social and economic changes that occur in beneficiary communities as a result of clearance operations; and
- To provide data that will facilitate the planning and coordination of future clearance operations with enhanced social and economic impacts;
- To support improvements in the effective use of mine action resources.

The chart below illustrates the hazards selected for PDIA during 2014 in comparison to the total number of hazards cleared in different regions.

Areas Cleared or Cancelled in 2013



CENTRAL REGION:

A total of 30 cleared minefields and battlefields were visited in the central region. The following is PDIA findings in central region:

Parwan Province:

13 cleared minefields covering an area of 448,483 sq m were visited in Parwan Province. Clearance of these minefields was funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement of (PMWRA), Japan and through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF). These minefields have been cleared by HALO Trust, MDC, DDG and ATC. From these minefields 195 anti-personnel mines, 5 anti-tank mines and 125 ERW have been destroyed. It is worth mentioning that during the PDIA, local people reported about six ERW, which were destroyed by OMAR team.

Achievements:

According to beneficiaries, clearance of the mentioned areas has led to the following outcomes:

- Two metric tonnes of wheat and one metric tonne of corn, worth 58,128 AFN and 15,000 AFN respectively, is now yielded per year;
- 200 grape vines are cultivated in the cleared areas;
- 400,000 AFN worth of firewood is collected per year
- 2,000 households now have access to drinking water following the clearance of a canal
- 300 households are now able to graze their livestock on cleared pastures;
- 15 household livelihoods are now supported by newly accessible hunting areas;
- 150 households now have access to a drinking water reservoir

The following picture shows a canal and a grazing area that are in use after they are cleared of mines and ERW.

**Challenges:**

PDIA teams identified a number of challenges, which must be addressed by future demining operations:

- In Kharooti village of Bagram district, residents complained about problems with residual mines and ERW in the cleared areas, which had yet to be addressed at the time of the PDIA. Three mine incidents had been recorded in the vicinity of cleared areas. One mine detonated against international military forces, a second against livestock and a third was found by local people during the construction of a house. An investigation conducted by the PDIA team concluded that the mentioned mines were located in areas, which had not been identified as requiring clearance by local people and were not, therefore, targeted by clearance teams. The minefields in this village had initially

been surveyed by MCPA and DDG. Following the PDIA report, this issue addressed by MCPA. Clearance of these areas has been included in the OPS plan of 1394.

- In Koh-e-Lakar village of Gulbahar district, PDIA team discovered that a mine explosion had killed livestock in a recorded cleared area (MF #014). Moreover, two mines were discovered in the cleared area by the PDIA team. Investigations revealed that the mines had been moved to the mentioned area by rainwater flowing down from an adjacent mountain, after clearance operations had concluded. The area was re-surveyed by the concerned demining organization. In order to prevent mines from sliding down mountains and hillsides onto cleared areas at their feet, it is recommended that demining operations commence at the top of mountains before moving downhill to plain areas. This message was communicated to the demining organizations and necessary measures were taken. A joint investigation, which was carried out following the PDIA report, concluded that these mines have been migrated from the upper parts of the mountain. The investigation team was formed of DMAC, UNMACA, OMAR and ATC representatives. ATC and OMAR had cleared the minefields in this area. The accident area belonged to ATC.

Panjshir Province:

In Panjshir province PDIA targeted three areas cleared by DDG and OMAR covering 114,787 sq m. These areas are located in Kharo and Arezo villages of Hesa-e-Awal and Shutul districts. The demining operations had been funded by the PMWRA. As a result of clearance 29 antipersonnel mines, 77 ERW and 240 items of small arms ammunition have been destroyed.

Kabul Province:

In Kabul province PDIA covered 15 cleared areas with a total area of 389,487 sq m. The clearance operations in these areas were funded by PMWRA and implemented by DAFA, DDG, ATC and HALO Trust. 105 antipersonnel mines and 101 ERW were destroyed during these operations.

Shakardarah District of Kabul Province:

Following observation of the cleared areas, the PDIA team held meetings with community members and beneficiaries. The residents and chairmen of the community development councils (CDCs) of the following villages were satisfied from the demining work and paid tribute to the hard work of the demining organizations. They also pinpointed some issues, which are echoed below:

- The handover ceremony of cleared lands at Karez-e-Bala Village was not held appropriately. According to the local people, since some mine incidents claimed lives in those areas prior to clearance, therefore despite the fact that the people know that the areas are now mine free, but they are still scared and do not dare to enter those areas. The chairperson of the CDC and the members of the community mentioned the following reason for the fear: *“Since the beneficiaries were not present in the handover ceremony of the released lands, and the community leader signed the handover papers at home without attending the handover ceremony, therefore we are still afraid of that area.”* The beneficiaries expected that they should have been present in the handover ceremony and should have observed the deminers moving around in the minefield. We have communicated this issue to IPs and also intend to do the following for further improvement:
 - We have an AMAS chapter on this, which can be followed by IPs. – IPs will be asked to make sure they will have their own SOP on completion handover of cleared minefields in line with the AMAS
 - We asked IPs to further strengthen their community liaison, DMAC and UNMACA will increase frequency of external QA visits to completion handover process
- We learned about a bomb at Karez Village of Shakardara District at a location called Baghan. The type of the bomb is not known; however, the owner of the orchard Ahmad Anan says he has reported the fact to a demining agency in the area some three months ago. The personnel of the mentioned demining agency verified the bomb but have not yet taken any measures to remove it. DMAC communicated the issue with the relevant demining HALO Trust and they assured to take action.
- A person named Hazargul had formerly hidden two rockets in his land but was afraid to bring them out. He is demanding the mine action agencies to remove the threat of those rockets. DMAC communicated the issue with HALO Trust WAD team and they destroyed them.
- According to the local residents of Karez-e-Bala, years ago, two antitank mines were planted at Bi-Bi-Pekai area by two individuals from the same village who have already been martyred. The residents were sure that the mines still existed in the area. They said that the locations of the mines were known to them but not exactly enough. Therefore, they requested the mine action teams to detect and clear those mines. The issue was reported to the United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) for their further follow up.

Hashmat Khan Village, Ward Eight, Kabul City:

There were complaints about the cleared minefield # 0898. People were saying that the handover of the area was not done properly i.e. the people were not invited to attend the handover ceremony. The local residents were also complaining about the prioritization of the hazardous areas. The community leader said: "The area in which mine incident has taken place was left on its own while the surrounding areas were cleared."

The issue was communicated with the concerned mine action organization through UNMACA. The area reported by local people was surveyed and included into the OPS plan of 1394. As said earlier, one of the PDIA aims is to feed back our planning and prioritisation processes. Normally, after every PDIA, the findings have been presented to UNMACA, DMAC and relevant IPs. Actually, PDIA objectives in relation to improvement of planning and prioritisation have been achieved

Guldara District of Kabul Province:

The local people and officials were complaining about the way the areas were prioritized. They were asserting that the survey teams did not consider their demands.

Padola Desert, Ward Seven, Kabul Province:

No issue was reported about the cleared minefield # 864, but the local people were complaining about the incident that happened to an eight-years-old boy and two livestock at the neighbouring area. The onsite investigation revealed delays in clearance of the mentioned area. Also, a triangular area with an approximate length of 200 meters and average width of 15 meters was left unprocessed among the surrounding three cleared areas while it should have been covered by one of those projects. The mentioned area was assessed, surveyed and included in one of the future projects.

Paghman District of Kabul Province:

People were using the cleared lands and no specific problem was reported. However, an unexploded artillery shell existed at Qala-e-Hakim Khan area, which was marked by PDIA team and reported to UNMACA for their further action.

Kalakan District of Kabul Province:

The cleared land is used as pasture. Moreover, PDIA team found a heavy unexploded shell at the cemetery of Baba Qochqar area, marked and reported it to a mine action organization. Where from the items were found has not been a minefield or battlefield but in Afghanistan, presence of ERW can be expected everywhere. HALO Trust EOD team has already destroyed it.

NORTHEAST REGION:

Twenty cleared areas covering 717,125 sq m were visited. The visits took place in Badakhshan, Takhar and Baghlan Provinces. The clearance operations of these areas were funded by PMWRA, Japan and through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund. Demining teams from HALO Trust, MDC and ATC detected and destroyed 336 antipersonnel mines and 45 ERWs in these areas. The cleared areas are being utilized in the following ways:

- 52 metric tons of wheat worth of 742,800 AFN has been harvested;
- 1,000 pistachio plants have been planted;
- 500 livestock graze in the pasture;
- 50 families use a canal, which was cleared at Kalafgan district of Takhar Province.



The pictures above show the cleared lands at Warsak village of Faizabad the capital city of Badakhshan Province and the centre of Kalafgan District (harvest)

Current Challenges:

The following challenges were identified during PDIA:

- The local officials at Hazar-Smooch District of Takhar province were dissatisfied with the handover of the released lands. They were claiming that the mine action organizations do not invite them to the handover ceremonies of the released lands. UNMACA/DMAC have given IPs a community liaison form to fill it every time when they meet with local people/authority. Community liaisons are to be carried out by IPs at least three times throughout the course of project implementation, once before commencement of operations, once at the middle of the project and once at the end. DMAC and UNMACA external QA will more focus the community liaison in order to make sure the process is further improved.
- The people of Dasht-e-Chenar District of Takhar province reported about a mine incident at the vicinity of a cleared minefield 0017 hurting a person and a cow. The

investigation team from UNMACA and DMAC found out as a result of their investigation that a 300 m X 300 m area was left un-cleared between two cleared areas and the incident had taken place in the same area. This is an indication of a weak technical survey. The survey teams were advised to investigate and collect information about the areas, which were not included in the polygons of the nontechnical surveys, and then include the same in the clearance plan. The issue has been already addressed by ATC.

WESTERN REGION:

PDIA team visited a total of eight cleared minefields, which cover 422,302 sq m area. These minefields have been cleared by HALO Trust. Demining teams have detected and destroyed four anti vehicle mines and two ERW in the mentioned areas. Of the cleared areas, four areas were funded through the VTF; three by UK and one area by PMWRA. The cleared areas are utilized in the following ways:

- 560 kg wheat harvested worth of 80,000 AFN per year;
- Other crops including okra, green beans, eggplant, tomato, pumpkin, onion and more worth of 120,000 AFN are harvested;
- 150,000 AFN gained through grape sale per annum.
- 535,000 AFN gained through sale of 10,700 apricot and almonds trees per annum;
- 26,000 AFN per annum gained through sale of rose plants per;
- 15,000 AFN gained through sale of flowers (roses and other types)
- Two of the cleared lands are being considered for construction of township for teachers and persons with disabilities. Another two cleared areas are being considered for cultivating a special plant, which is to be imported from Iran by a NGO named HELP. The plant will prevent sand flow to people's doorsteps.
- A segment of the cleared land, which leads to Jebail Township, is currently undergoing residential construction activities where the value of each plot of land has already gone up by 2 million AFN.

Demands of the Community Members:

People were suspicious about safety of the left side of a canal located at Jebail Township and requested for its clearance. These suspected hazardous areas exist 4 km east of cleared hazard H/5764 in Kohestan Village of Kohsan District, which have already been surveyed, and the people are requesting their clearance. There are also suspected areas at 2km distance toward the north of this area, which have not been surveyed yet.

SOUTHERN REGION:

17 cleared minefields, which cover 4,960,035 sq m area, were visited during PDIA. DAFA and MCPA have removed 86 anti-personnel mines, 47 anti-tank mines and 652 ERW funded by United Arab Emirates and the PMWRA. The cleared lands are used for the following purposes:

- 74 metric tons of wheat harvested worth of 1,055,500 AFN per annum;
- Vegetables worth of 100,000 AFN per annum;
- Watermelons harvest worth of 700,000 AFN per annum;
- Clearance of pastures used by 460 livestock; and
- Increase in residential land value by 460,000 AFN.



The above picture shows farmers in their farmland at Nawi Dai village of Daman district of Kandahar province.

NORTHERN REGION:

In the northern region PDIA covered 11 hazards stretched over 453,364 square meters of land. Demining teams of HALO Trust and OMAR were able to detect and destroy 137 antipersonnel mines and 54 ERWs in the mentioned sites. The operations were funded by Germany, Norway and DFID. The cleared areas are utilized in the following ways:

- 280 kg wheat harvest worth of 4,000 AFN per annum;
- 560 kg potato harvest worth of 8,000 AFN per annum; and
- 5,432 livestock graze at the cleared pastures.

Challenges:

The area located near minefield # 5807 in Saighanchi village of Khulm district of Balkh province is a suspected hazardous area and people are demanding its clearance. The area has already been surveyed.

EASTERN REGION:

PDIA covered 7 cleared areas (with a total area of 176,493 square meters) in eastern region. The teams from ATC, MDC and OMAR were able to clear 89 anti-personnel mines, 2 anti-tank

mines and 135 ERWs in the mentioned areas. The operations in the mentioned region were funded by PMWRA. The cleared lands are being utilized in the following ways:

- 2,800 kg rice harvest worth of 68,000 AFN per annum;
- 500 livestock graze in the cleared pastures;
- A cleared school is being attended by students in Jalalabad

Challenges:

The local people requested clearance of the surveyed areas in Sarkando Village of Qarghaee District of Laghman Province. They also requested mine/ERW risk education training for the people of Qarghaee District.

SOUTHEAST REGION:

In the southern region PDIA visited 5 cleared areas, which covered 225,953 square meters area. The teams from MDC and MCPA were able to clear 69 anti-personnel mines from these areas. The clearance operations in this region were funded by PMWRA. The cleared areas are used in the following ways:

- 28 metric tons fire wood collected worth of 306,000 AFN;
- Clover cultivation for livestock worth of 181,240 AFN; and
- People collect hay for livelihood from the cleared lands.

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AREAS COVERED BY PDIA NATIONWIDE:

The following positive changes were observed in the people's livelihood at the 86 areas covered by PDIA during 2014.

- Production of 129 metric tons wheat worth of 1,088,191 AFN; a variety of vegetables worth of 409,240 AFN; fruits worth of 850,000 AFN; planting of 4,000 pistachio, apricot and almond plants; harvest from fruit trees worth of 576,000 AFN; firewood worth of 706,000 AFN; 1 metric ton corn worth of 15,000 AFN and 3 metric tons rice worth of 68,000 AFN every year.
- 2,000 households are using the drinking water from the cleared canal and 11,992 livestock graze at the cleared pastures. Moreover, 15 households do hunting in the cleared mountains.
- Clearance of a water reservoir as a source of drinking water; secondary roads in the neighbourhoods; clearance of an area in Jebrail Township of Herat Province where

construction of houses is ongoing leading to an increase in the price of the land up to 2,000,000 AFN; 150 households use the drinking water source which has been cleared; clearance of a school in Jalalabad and the increase in the price of plots of land in Kandahar province up to 460,000 AFN.

Total Revenue Earned from the Cleared Areas:

The total revenue earned from 10% of the cleared areas in 2014 based on the assessment sums up to 4,535,121 AFN, which equals to \$79,000. This means that the net revenue earned by the beneficiaries from the entire cleared areas in 2014 amounts to \$7,900,000. We therefore conclude that mine action not only saves lives but also plays a vital role in boosting local economy, creating employment opportunities and implementation of development programs.

IN SUMMARY:

- In all of the areas covered by PDIA, 95% of the respondents, including local people, members of the community development councils and the local authorities expressed satisfaction with the way mine action organizations worked in their areas. However, 5% of the respondents shared their concerns, based on different reasons with the PDIA teams as reflected in this report.
- The surveys were not conducted properly in some areas. An example is Dasht Amani Village of Rostaq District where some contamination was left behind despite the surveys. It is worth mentioning that following the assessment by PDIA team, the mentioned area was resurveyed by HALO Trust.
- From an area where previously a demining accident on civilians was reported, it was revealed after the investigation carried out by PDIA team that the accidents had taken place in the vicinity of the cleared areas rather than inside the cleared areas. Previous investigations sufficed with this bit of information and had not tried to convince the people of Dasht-e-Chenar. It is recommended that more precise investigation be undertaken in such cases to identify the underlying cause and appropriate measures be taken to address the issue, and the result be shared with the community. The people of Dasht-e-Chenar Village of Rostaq District were not satisfied with investigation undertaken by the UNMACA regional office and the conclusion thereof. A subsequent investigation revealed that the problem actually lied with the technical survey because it had overlooked a small area between two minefields.

- Planning lacked accuracy in some areas and the people's priorities have not been taken into consideration in the central region including Chehelsetoon area behind Dasht-e-Padola and Qala-e-Hashmat Khan area in Kabul province.
- Liaison and coordination with local people and local authorities was found weak especially with regard to handover of the released land in some areas such as Hazar-Smooch District in Takhar Province, Hashmat Khan Village in Kabul Province and some other locations.

General Recommendations:

- In view of the issues identified during survey of different locations, it is recommended that survey and clearance should not be undertaken by the same mine action organization. Rather, survey projects should be awarded to organizations with long standing solid experience in the field of surveys.
- To ease PDIA process in the future, the completion reports should include the full address of the area, the distance of the cleared land from the benchmark, the community leader's address and telephone number. It is worth mentioning that some organizations have already taken this initiative.
- The technical survey team should practice due precision, identify priorities properly and take people's suggestions into consideration during technical survey.
- In order to ensure closer coordination, mine action organizations are advised to liaise with local authorities and residents and explain their programs to them prior to their intervention and also update the local people and residents at the end of their intervention.

End of the report

Prepared by DMAC