



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

POST-DEMINEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

REPORT - 1397/2018



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Abbreviations

ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
AP	Anti-Personnel
AT	Anti-Tank
AV	Anti-Vehicle
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
DMC	Department of Mine Clearance
DOS	Department of State
EOD	Explosive Ordinance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GIS	Geographical Information System
ITF	International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security
KG	Kilogram
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
PDIA	Post-Demining Impact Assessment
PM	Political and Military Affairs
Sq. m	Square meter
Sq. Km	Square Kilometer
SSA	Small Arm Ammunition
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
US	United States
USD	United States Dollars
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund
WRA	Weapons Removal and Abatement

Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) was established in 1989 under the direction of the then office of the Prime Minister to coordinate, oversee and regulate mine action activities in Afghanistan. In 1994, DMAC was amalgamated with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). ANDMA is the principle institution at the national level with the mandate to coordinate and manage all aspects related to disaster management (both natural and man-made disasters) and humanitarian affairs including mine action. DMAC, now one of the directorates of ANDMA, coordinates, monitors and oversees the work of the humanitarian Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).

DMAC is supported by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) since 2008. UNMAS provides technical and capacity development support to DMAC.

The U.S. Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) provides financial contributions to DMAC in support of DMAC's capacity development and to promote national ownership of the programme. PMRWA's contributions to DMAC are made through a Slovenian organization, the International Trust Fund (ITF) – Enhancing Human Security.

Introduction

The Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) is an evaluation of the mine action impact on livelihoods and developments of the communities and how to further enhance the outcome and impact of mine action intervention in the communities. It also assesses the quality and appropriateness of demining intervention through physical observation of the cleared areas from the perspectives of beneficiaries and end users.

The Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) is undertaken at a task level, mainly collects quantitative data on tasks and is carried out between six months to one year after a minefield or battlefield is cleared of mines and ERWs.

PDIA assesses whether humanitarian demining operations have achieved their objectives of minimizing or eliminating the problem of communities, which are caused by mines and ERW contamination on affected communities, and whether the cleared land is in use by the beneficiaries as intended. PDIA also assesses the accuracy of the information upon which demining operations were prioritized and therefore helps in improving the future planning processes.

The Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) 1397/2018 was funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), through ITF- Enhancing Human Security.

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) conducts regular PDIA of land that is released after mine action operations. Cleared hazardous areas are selected randomly in different regions and provinces to measure the socio-economic impact and outcome of demining operations after the land was handed over to the communities.

The 1397/2018 PDIA findings demonstrate that mine action operations and services provided safe access of the locals and also paved the way for implementation of development and infrastructure projects in all the cleared areas and communities. Approximately 90 per cent of the cleared lands are used by the communities for agricultural, housing, animal grazing and other socio-economic activities. This indicates a positive impact of the mine action on the livelihood of people and communities. Moreover, it was also found that many people have received Mine/ERW risk education and are satisfied with the risk education provided by the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).

Objectives

PDIA measures the immediate to medium-term humanitarian, development and socio-economic impact of mine action operations.

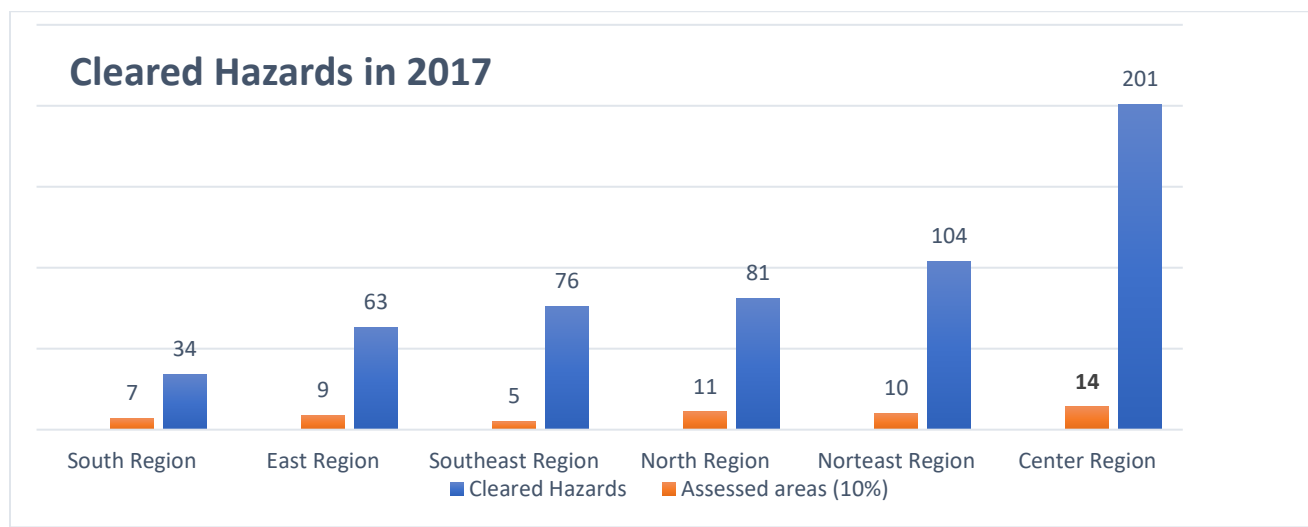
It is conducted to:

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

PDIA Location

During 1396 (2017) a total of 599 hazardous areas were cleared from mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) out of which 56 cleared hazards were assessed during the PDIA, which makes about 10% of total tasks for 2017.

PDIA of **56** cleared hazardous areas in **36** communities, across **26** districts of **10** provinces namely; Parwan, Kapisa, Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Kandahar, Khost, Baghlan, Balkh and Samangan and in six regions of Afghanistan were carried out.



Selection Criteria of Cleared Hazards for PDIA

Selection of the cleared hazardous areas was done in a way to find out about the impact of mine action both urban and rural communities. The 56 (10%) cleared hazardous areas assessed cannot be fully representative of all cleared hazardous areas. However, the selection sought to contrast between urban and rural settings, different types of contamination, different land type of blockages (agricultural, grazing or residential), different type of hazards and different stages of clearance.

The following criteria and factors are taken into consideration for selection of cleared minefields and battlefields for PDIA:

- Safe access to the areas in terms of security for better information gathering
- Areas cleared by different Implementing Partners
- Areas from different geographical locations
- At least 6 months should have passed on areas after they are cleared
- Minefields with varied terrains, such as flat or mountainous areas
- Minefields with varied outcomes such as:
 - Quantity of crops produced on cleared land
 - Number of families accommodated on cleared land
 - Estimated amount of income villagers can secure as a result of their land cleared of mines
 - Number of public works constructed on cleared land

PDIA Teams Structure

The PDIA was carried out by four trained teams, each consisting of two staff of DMAC who had experience from previous assessments.

DMAC could manage to deploy women surveyors only in the central region in the structure of each survey team to ensure the views and insights of women and children are obtained. This enabled the PDIA teams to reach out to both female and male community members and to acknowledge, identify and understand the differences, distinct capabilities, responsibilities, needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men. Participation and inclusion of the women surveyors considerably enhanced the breadth of information obtained.

PDIA Implementation phases

- Desk assessment of completion reports and selection of sites for PDIA.
- Preparation of the PIDA plan.
- Start implementation of the PDIA:

- Conduct meetings with the local authorities at a district and province levels and DMAC regional offices, in order to brief them on the PDIA objectives and to ensure the areas selected for PDIA are secure.
- If required re-plan the PDIA based on the information provided by local authorities and DMAC Regional Offices.



PDIA team meeting with local authority



PDIA team interviewing community members

- Departure to target areas and meet with the local Shuras (councils)
- Conduct Interviews with community members, community councils, elders, local leaders and landlords.
- Conduct visits to the cleared MF/BF and note down the findings in the standard PDIA forms.
- Photograph the cleared MF/BF.

Main Finding

- The assessed areas directly benefited 7,559 families; the lands are used for agriculture, pasture, housing, roads and as a source of wood collection.
- Over the course of one year, the communities have harvested crops, animal product/dairy and firewood; from 56 cleared hazardous lands attained USD 849,265, which represents considerable growth in the local economy.
- Approximately 7,122 livestock including sheep, goats, cows are fed in the cleared areas.
- The total area assessed by PDIA covers 4,583,295 square meters, from which a total of 5,085 explosive devices were found and safely destroyed by a demining team. This is a clear fact that the work of mine action clearance is justified as a lifesaving operation.
- No incidents were reported by the communities after the areas handed over to them by demining teams.
- No news on recontamination or armed conflicts from cleared areas that were assessed.
- 100% of the assessed areas were properly handed over to local people/local authorities. The users said that they have signed on the completion reports and attended the handover ceremony.
- 100% of people interviewed during the PDIA did not have any land rights issue.
- None of the cleared hazards were found to be under dispute.
- Residents of communities who were interviewed by PDIA teams were fully satisfied with the clearance approach of 54 hazardous areas, 97% of total 56 cleared hazardous areas, but the two other cleared hazardous areas indicated their dissatisfactions either in relation to the priority setting of the minefields in their communities or reported that that survey is not carried out properly – this means that some areas were missing in the survey or priority hazardous areas have not been identified.

Table-1, Mine/ERW Destroyed in 56 cleared areas assessed by PDIA

No.	Region	Number of Areas Assessed	Area (Sq. m)	Device Destroyed			
				AP	AT	ERW	SAA
1	Central	14	705,278	239	1	277	0
2	East	9	1,412,957	142	3	796	2,577
3	South	7	1,080,935	68	8	5	468
4	Southeast	5	181,618	8	5	0	0
5	Northeast	10	532,483	230	4	71	0
6	North	11	670,024	150	4	29	0
Total		56	4,583,295	837	25	1,178	3,045

Table-2, Beneficiaries of Cleared Lands by Household¹

No.	Region	Number of Households Benefiting from the Cleared Lands					Number of Livestock feeding from Cleared Lands	Level of People Satisfaction
		Pastures	Agricultural	Residential	Roads	Wood Collection Sites		
1	Central	825	0	20	2,500	170	1,650	Very
2	East	749	0	50	0	100	1,498	Satisfied ³
3	South	0	90	23	0	0	180	Very
4	Southeast	530	14	2	200	200	1,088	Satisfied
5	Northeast	521	20	10	0	318	1,082	Very
6	North	800	12	5	0	400	1,624	Very
Total		3,425	136	110	2,700	1,188	7,122	

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

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

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

Table-3, Crops Harvested from 56 Assessed Areas Over One Year Period

No.	Crop/Product Type	Annual Harvest in Kg	AFN Value per Kg	Total Value AFN	Total Value in USD ⁴
1	Wheat	907,848	20	18,156,960	242,093
2	Corn	9,000	25	225,000	3,000
3	Various Fruits	67,520	30	2,025,600	27,008
4	Various Vegetables	1,013,543	20	20,270,860	270,278
5	Animal Product/Dairy	640,980	35	22,434,300	299,124
6	Firewood	83,160	7	582,120	7,762
Total				63,694,840	849,265

Note: The above figures represent only 10 percent of the total revenue and crops harvested, while the revenue and harvests from the entire land cleared during 1396/2017 will be equal to ten **times more than the above calculated figure (e.g. USD \$ 849,265.*

⁴Note: In this table one US dollar is equivalent to AFN 75

Findings of PDIA in Different Regions

1. PDIA Implementation in Central Region

A total of 14 cleared hazardous areas, covering 705,278 sq. m, located in 7 districts of Parwan and Kapisa provinces were assessed in the central region. The assessed areas in the central region were cleared with financial support from the US. Department of State, Government of Germany, Finland and Japan through bilateral contracts and the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for mine action managed by the UNMAS.

1.1 Key outputs from the Cleared hazardous areas

- A total of 3,515 households are directly benefiting from the cleared hazardous areas and the cleared lands are used for housing, access road, grazing of animals and as a source of wood collection.
- 239 AP mines, 1 AT mine and 277 ERW were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- Around 1,650 livestock including sheep, goat and cow are grazing in these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one year the local people collected 148,500 kg of animal/dairy products with an estimated value of USD 69,300.
- The local people also stated that they collected 11,900 Kg of firewood from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 1,110
- Construction of asphalt road in Zargaran village, Charikar district of Parwan province:



The Zargaran village of Charikar district is located in a strategic location and due to the strategic location of this area, it was the front line of fighting between Mujahideen and the Soviet troops. Heavy fighting between the mentioned groups resulted in the area being cross-controlled by these sides. This road was contaminated with Anti Vehicle mines, the mines laid by

Mujahideen against Soviet troops and the pro-Soviet government forces. Based on the request of MRRD department in Parwan, the Zargarn road was cleared in 2017 by implementing partners which paved the way for implementation of a development project/construction of the asphalted road. This road connects more than 50 villages with Charikar city, through the construction of this road



people travel with reduced fare and also transport their agricultural products in a reduced time period with less cost of transportation to the local and central markets.

1.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels

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

2. PDIA Implementation in Eastern Region

A total of 9 cleared hazardous areas, covering 1,412,957 sq. m, located in 5 districts of Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces were assessed in the eastern region. The assessed areas in the eastern region were cleared with financial support from the US. Department of State, Norway and Canada through bilateral contracts and using the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for mine action managed by the UNMAS.

2.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards

- A total of 899 households are directly benefiting from the cleared hazardous areas and the cleared lands are used for housing, grazing of animals and as a source of wood collection.
- 142 AP mines, 3 AT mines, 796 ERW and 2,577 SAA were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- About 1,498 livestock including sheep, goat and cow graze at these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one year, the local people collected 134,820 kg of animal/dairy products with an estimated value of USD 62,916.
- The local people also stated that they collected 7,000 Kg of firewood from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 653.
- Ongoing construction of 50 houses on cleared land



New houses built on cleared land

Elders of Darbanak village said that 60% of the population fled the village during the internal conflicts to the close by communities and they returned to their homes following the start of demining operations in the area. Due the increased number of returnees to the area, the villagers had to expand the village and for this purpose they selected a piece of land which was cleared from mine/ERWs to build another 50 houses.



2.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels

locals were mostly satisfied with the work of mine action in their villages, but they stated that the prioritization of hazards in the Kama district of Nangarhar province was not carried out appropriately. Their concern was about the selection of unnecessary areas for clearance while more important places were left contaminated with mines/ERWs.

3. PDIA Implementation in the Southern Region

A total of 7 cleared hazardous areas, covering 1,080,935 sq. m, located in 2 districts of Kandahar province were assessed in the southern region. The assessed areas in the southern region were cleared with financial support from the US Department of State bilaterally and with support from the Republic of Korea through the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for mine action managed by the UNMAS.

3.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards

- A total of 113 households are directly benefiting from the cleared hazardous areas and the cleared lands are used for housing and agriculture.
- 68 AP mines, 8 AT mines, 5 ERW and 468 SAA were discovered from the assessed areas and were safely destroyed by demining teams.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that, on average, local people harvested 892,248 Kg of wheat per year which is worth about USD 237,933.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on an average local people harvest 1,005,043 Kg of vegetables per year, worth around USD 268,012.
- The local people also stated that they harvest Kg 65,100 of fruits from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 26,040.
- About 180 livestock including sheep, goat and cow graze in these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one year, the local people collected 16,200 kg of animal/dairy products with an estimated value of USD 7,560.



3.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels

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

4. PDIA Implementation in the Southeastern Region

A total of 5 cleared hazardous areas, covering 181,618 sq. m, located in 3 districts of Khost province were assessed in the southeast region. The assessed areas in the southeastern region were cleared with financial support from the Government of Japan and South Korea using the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for mine action managed by the UNMAS.



4.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards

- A total of 946 households are directly benefiting from the cleared hazardous areas and the cleared lands are used for agriculture, access road, housing, grazing of animals and as a source of wood collection.
- 8 AP mines and 5 AT mines were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvested 7,000 Kg of wheat per year which is worth around USD 1,867.
- The local people also stated that they harvested 9,000 Kg of corn from those lands in a year which is worth USD 3,000.
- The local people also stated that they collected 14,000 Kg of firewood from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 1,307.
- Around 1,088 livestock including sheep, goat and cow graze at these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one year the local people collected Kg 97,920 animal product/dairy, which is worth USD 45,696.
- Construction of gravel road in Patlan village, Gurbaz district of Khost province:



The Patlan is a small-sized village on the outskirts of Gurbaz district, this area was on the front line of fighting between Mujahedeen and the Soviet troops, a portion of this road was contaminated with Anti Vehicle mines, the mines were laid by Mujahideen against Soviets. Based on the request of Patlan village, the road was cleared during 2017 by demining teams. The clearance operations of AV mine contaminated areas paved the way for implementation of a development project, gravelling of the village road). This road connects four villages with Khost city. Through the construction of this road, people travel

with reduced transportation fare and also transport their agricultural products sooner with lesser cost.

Some of the village workers are hired by the project as wage workers to build the mentioned road by MRRD department.

4.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels

Local residents were satisfied with the cleared lands, but people from Patlan village of Gurbuz district reported that demining teams have not considered their demands in relation to the priority setting of the minefields in their communities. They mentioned that prior to the start of survey and clearance operations, the survey and demining teams did not consult them about prioritization of the mine and ERW contaminated areas for clearance.

5. PDIA Implementation in the Northeastern Region

A total of 10 cleared hazardous areas, covering 532,483 sq. m, located in 3 districts of Baghlan province were assessed in the northeastern region. The assessed areas in the northeastern region were cleared with financial support from the US Department of State bilaterally and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, the Government of Japan through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (UN-VTF) for mine action managed by the UNMAS.

5.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards

- A total of 869 households are directly benefiting from the cleared hazardous areas and the cleared lands are used for agriculture, housing, grazing of animals and as a source of wood collection.
- 230 AP mines, 4 AT mines and 71 ERW were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that, on average, local people harvested 3,500 Kg of wheat per year which is worth around USD 933.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on an average local people harvest 7,000 Kg of vegetables per year, worth around USD 1,867.
- The local people stated that they harvest 420 kg of fruits from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 168.



- The local people also stated that they constructed 10 houses on the cleared lands.
- The local people also stated that they collected 22,260 Kg of firewood from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 2,078.
- Around 1,082 livestock including sheep, goat and cow graze in these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one year the local people collected 97,380 Kg product/dairy, which is worth USD 45,444.

5.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels

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

6. PDIA Implementation in Northern Region

A total of 11 cleared hazardous areas, covering 670,024 sq. m, located in 6 districts of Samangan and Balkh provinces were assessed in the northern region. The assessed areas in the northern region were cleared with financial support from the US. Department of State, Government of Germany, Finland and the United Kingdom through bilateral contracts and using the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for mine action managed by the UNMAS.

6.1 Key outputs from the cleared hazards

- A total of 1,217 households are directly benefiting from the cleared hazardous areas and the cleared lands are used for agriculture, housing, grazing of animals and as a source of wood collection.
- 150 AP mines, 4 AT mines and 29 ERW were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 5,100 Kg of wheat per year which is worth USD 1,360.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on an average local people harvest 1,500 Kg of vegetables per year, worth USD 400.
- The local people stated that they harvest 2,000 of fruits from those lands in a year which is worth USD 800.
- The local people also stated that they constructed five houses on cleared lands.
- The local people also stated that they collected 28,000 Kg of firewood from those lands in a year which is worth around USD 2,613.
- Around 1,624 livestock including sheep, goat and cow graze at these cleared lands.
- Over the course of one year the local people collected 146,160 Kg product/dairy, which is worth USD 68,208.





- Clearance of rain fed agricultural land in Mullah Baba village, Marmul district of Balkh province:

Mullah Baba village was on the front line of fighting between Mujahedeen and the Soviet troops which blocked safe access for locals to their livelihood resources. These rains fed agricultural hilly lands were contaminated with landmines

and recently cleared by the DMAC implementing partner. Prior to the clearance the land was not in use by locals, but following clearance, it is now a safe place and locals without fear of explosion, use these areas for agriculture and grazing of animals.

6.2 Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels

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

Conclusion

PDIA 1397/2018 findings revealed that local people and local authorities recognize the achievements of Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) to a great extent. PDIA was undertaken in 56 sites covering a total of 4,583,295 sq. m area and its findings indicate that mine action operations paved the way for the communities' access to their livelihood resources and almost 90% of the land cleared was used by the communities. In addition, following the completion of mine action activities, some development/infrastructure and roads) projects have been implemented by stakeholders which have enabled the local populations' access to markets and health centers.

Furthermore, 7,559 households directly benefit from the selected areas and have been able to earn a total of USD 849,265 through farming. Additionally, a total of 7,122 livestock are fed in the cleared lands. This is a clear indication of an improved local economy.

Furthermore, the PDIA teams identified that there is still a need to further improve the survey/demining teams' liaisons with local communities/authorities.

Recommendations

1. Although, female surveyors were deployed in PDIA data collection in central region, DMAC should increase employment of female surveyors in the structure of PDIA teams to ensure the views and insights of women and girls is taken into account, so the women can be more directly informed about clearance activities and the safety status of land during clearance.
2. Improve the conducting of Non-Technical Survey (NTS) operations for better identification of all hazardous areas in communities.
3. The non-technical survey/pre-plan assessment teams should use utmost precision during surveys/ pre-plan assessment for better identifying the priorities and pay attention to people's viewpoints so that planning is done in accordance with people's demands.
4. Establishing strong communications with communities aimed at determining priorities and securing their support. Implementing such measures prior to survey or demining operations will enhance the programme's efficiency and effectiveness.
5. Where possible, all hazardous areas should be cleared from a community to avoid confusion within a community.

End of report.
