



# MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN (MAPA)

# Annual Report

1396  
2017

MAPA

WORKING TO MAKE AFGHANISTAN MINE- FREE



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## Foreword

The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) through its Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) manages and oversees the implementation of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), with technical and financial support from donors and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Since the beginning of meaningfully initiating the transfer of MAPA coordination from UNMAS to DMAC in 2016, DMAC has demonstrated that it has the required capacity and is willing to take full ownership of the programme and its efficient coordination. As DMAC prepares for the transfer of all functions from UNMAS, it is important that DMAC is supported by the donors to ensure sustainable government ownership, through which the target of a mine-free Afghanistan can be achieved.

As State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs with the responsibility to lead and coordinate disaster management and humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, including the MAPA, I am pleased to present MAPA's Annual Report for 1396, outlining key achievements and challenges faced by the programme during the year.

In the year 1396, MAPA cleared 45 sq. Kilometres of contaminated land in the country. Since the inception of the programme in 1367 (1989), the MAPA has addressed almost 80 per cent of recorded contamination in the country; however, as of the end of the Afghan year 1396, 254 districts in 34 provinces of the country remain impacted, affecting an estimated number of 2,545,278 people living within one kilometre of contaminated land. To put this into perspective, there are 398 districts in 34 provinces in Afghanistan with an approximate population of 36.6 million people. In addition to the recorded contamination, the ongoing kinetic engagements have further exacerbated contamination levels in the country. Approximately 420 sq. kilometres of hazards, mostly improvised mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), from post-2001 contamination in 14 provinces of the country have initially been surveyed and require proper non-technical survey. These hazards have not yet been entered into the national database.

The increasing use of improvised mines (IM) by the Anti-Government Elements have led to an increase in the rate of civilian casualties. In the past year, an average of about 176 civilians lost their lives or limbs every month as a result of landmines including improvised mines and ERW. This indicates that Afghanistan remains to be one of the most heavily mine and ERW affected countries in the world.

Annual assessments demonstrate that in areas where explosive devices have been cleared, peoples' livelihood and economic conditions have improved significantly, land prices have increased and implementation of various development and infrastructure projects have been made possible. Thus, mine action is a pre-requisite for the development of Afghanistan. As a result of this understanding, DMAC has made efforts to engage with the wider development sector in the country in order to mainstream mine action into development.

The MAPA, with tireless efforts of national and international partners and support from our donors, has destroyed more than 18 million ERW, 730,000 anti-personnel mines and approximately 30,000 anti-vehicle mines. These achievements would not have been possible without the generous financial and technical support of our donors. Thus, I would like to thank all members of the MAPA family for their determined efforts and sacrifices in this humanitarian and noble mission.

MAPA has turned its focus to increasing efficiency and pursuing continual improvement. The programme has shared its experience, knowledge and passion with other affected countries, such as Tajikistan, Sudan, Colombia and Turkey. Looking forward, I wish for continued assistance and cooperation of all stakeholders, particularly our donors, as we seek to rid this country of explosive hazards.



Najib Aqa Fahim

State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE

On 1 June 2018 (slightly beyond the reporting period covered in this report) the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) handed over its remaining Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) management roles to the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC). Thus ended nearly 30 years of United Nations involvement in the day to day management of what is now known as the MAPA.

As such, I have the honour and privilege to be the last UNMAS Programme Manager to sign her or his name to this annual report, this being the last one to be jointly published by the Government of Afghanistan and the UN. It is a testament to the talent and leadership of my Afghan colleagues in the DMAC that I am confident to do so with the knowledge that the MAPA is in good hands. There is a national mine action strategy that is being followed to deliver significant socio-economic results for the Afghan people. There is a network of DMAC offices – staffed by well over 100 Afghans working directly for their own government – spread across the country to manage this effort. There are established, high quality, humanitarian mine action operators in Afghanistan, accredited to work in line with Afghanistan Mine Action Standards. There are thousands of humanitarian deminers and risk educators deployed in the field throughout Afghanistan, proudly wearing the green *mine paki* logo.

I am particularly pleased that the first ever female deminers to wear this logo started working in Bamyan province this year. If all goes to plan, with our support, a female deminer will clear the last remaining landmine in that province. As and when this last mine is destroyed, Bamyan will become the only province, of 34, in Afghanistan that is entirely free of landmines, this despite decades of effort which have led to the destruction of some 760,000 emplaced mines, many dating all the way back to the Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989).

Thus, the mine action challenge in Afghanistan is far from over. In fact, due to evolving conflict dynamics, landmines and other explosive hazards are killing and wounding as many Afghans now as at any time during the 21 years since UNMAS was established to coordinate the UN's global mine action work. Sustained international support to the DMAC and the MAPA will be needed if the current entirely Afghan-owned and Afghan-led mine action programme is to achieve its goals in a timely fashion. The UN, as requested by the Afghan Government, and with the support of international donors, stands ready to continue to play a supporting role, including fostering the maintenance of the humanitarian space necessary for mine action to occur.

Landmines and other explosive hazards have injured or killed some 30,000 Afghans over the past 30 years. Those who have survived their accidents often face a daily struggle to live with dignity; more can and must be done to support them. This is an aspect of mine action which the United Nations is committed to support over time.

I would like to pay tribute to the UN Mine Action Programme Managers who have come before me, especially to Martin Barber and Dan Kelly. I first met Martin and Dan when, as a fairly fresh-faced UN official, I joined the then United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan in 2003. At the time Martin



was the Director of UNMAS in New York; he had, and still has, a special place in his heart for mine action in Afghanistan as the first ever UN mine action manager for Afghanistan, and indeed the world. Dan, with a glint in his eye, taught me what he knew of Afghanistan as we travelled the country, by plane, by car and on foot. Both Martin and Dan told me to learn from the Afghans themselves, especially from the directors of the clearance NGOs; it was my great pleasure to do so back in 2003. Having taken up my duties as Programme Manager last year, I am once again learning from some of these same directors.



Patrick Fruchet  
Programme Manager  
United Nations Mine Action Service, Afghanistan

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## Acronyms

ACAP	Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme
ACPD	Advocacy Committee for the Right of Persons with Disabilities
AGE	Anti-Government Element
AIM	Abandoned Improvised Mine
AMAS	Afghanistan Mine Action Standards
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ANSF	Afghan National Security Forces
AP	Anti-personnel
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy conservation in Afghanistan
AT	Anti-Tank
ATC	Afghan Technical Consultants
AV	Anti-Vehicle
BAC	Battle Area Clearance
BLU	Bomb Live Unit
BOI	Board of Inquiry
BSC	Balanced Score Card
CHA	Confirmed Hazard Area
CPIE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CR	Conformity Report
DAFA	Demining Agency for Afghanistan
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnant of War
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GIS	Geographical Information System
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HALO Trust	Hazardous Area Life Support Organisation Trust
I&CFE-CWG	Inclusive & Child Friendly Education Coordination Working Group
IDP	Internally Displaced Person

IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IM	Improvised Mine
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IP	Implementing Partner
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LSP	Landmine Safety Programme
M/ERW RE	Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education
MALS	Mine Action Livelihood Survey
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MCPA	Mine Clearance and Planning Agency
MDC	Mine Detection Center
MEIFCS	Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey
MF	Mine Field
MoCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NCR	Non-Conformity Report
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMASP	National Mine Action Strategic Plan
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OHPM	Organization for Health Promotion and Management
OMAR	Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation
OPS	Operations
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PDIA	Post Demining Impact Assessment
PM/WRA	Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement



QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QM	Quality Management
QMI	Quality Management Inspection
R&D	Research and Development
SAA	Small Arms Ammunition
SHA	Suspected Hazardous Area
SNMAC	Sudan National Mine Action Centre
ToT	Training of Trainers
TS	Technical Survey
TURMAC	Turkish Mine Action Centre
UN	United Nations
UN VTF	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VA	Victim Assistance

## Executive Summary

Despite the rise in insecurity and the growing clashes between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) and Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) in various parts of the country, rendering the operating environment extremely challenging, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) made significant progress in 1396<sup>1</sup>. The MAPA has grown resilient and flexible over its nearly 30-year history and is constantly exploring new ways of liaising with communities and increasing community empowerment to further improve effectiveness while operating in insecure areas of the country. Through community ownership and commitment, successful project outcomes can be ensured.

While considerable progress has been made in the last three decades, Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily-mined countries in the world. In the year 1396, an average of about 176 civilian casualties per month were attributed to landmines including improvised mines (IMs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) across the country. The increasing use of IMs by AGEs, combined with increased ERW contamination from ground engagements, has led to a rise in civilian casualties in the last few years. Sadly, in 1396, 2,135 civilian casualties were due to landmines including improvised mines and ERW, with children comprising 57 per cent of the casualties. Of the total number of 2,135 civilian casualties in 1396, only four per cent of civilian casualties were attributed to legacy mines; the remaining 96 per cent of civilian casualties were caused by ERW and IMs in equal number.

Under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Extension Work Plan, this year's target was to clear 90.94 sq. kilometres of contaminated land, which included 51 sq. kilometres of anti-personnel minefields. These hazards hinder the development and/or growth of agriculture, grazing water, housing, highways and road networks. Implementing partners successfully cleared 45 sq. kilometres, thus achieving 55 per cent of the land release target through operations funded bilaterally or through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF). As a result of clearing those hazards, two districts and 133 communities were fully released from known recorded hazards.

To increase efficiency and productivity, Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) increased outreach with stakeholders this year. For one, DMAC, with financial support from UK Aid and with technical assistance from United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and seven main MAPA implementing partners (IPs), conducted a trial on the Mine Lab F3 detector and organised a technical meeting to demonstrate technologies used to clear anti-vehicle mines. Further, as part of a wider effort to engage with other sectors, DMAC signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) and the Directorate of Kuchies (Nomads). Finally, DMAC submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT) to strengthen collaboration to help with dissemination of risk education messages to targeted and vulnerable groups.

During 1396, DMAC, with support from the UNMAS, continued to provide technical support to the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD). A data registration system of martyrs and persons with disabilities was improved using a biometric approach. A database was developed for the

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<sup>1</sup> The Afghan year 1396 of the Solar Hijri calendar is equal to April 2017 – March 2018 of the Gregorian calendar.

Martyrs and Disabled Division of the Ministry with information on victim assistance services provided by all government and civil society actors in the country, including the UN, national and international NGOs. Through assistance from mine action partners, physical rehabilitation services such as physiotherapy, prosthesis, orthotic services and sensitisation on the rights of persons with disabilities were provided to 6,010 beneficiaries across nine provinces.

Considering the difficulties and constraints faced by the programme, such as the funding shortfall, insecurity and associated challenges, the programme made satisfactory progress. At the beginning of 1396 (April 2017), there were 3,782 hazardous areas, covering 1,764 sq. kilometres of land, impacting 1,584 communities in 256 districts in the country. Some 678 sq. kilometres of the total remaining contamination consisted of legacy contamination and the remaining 1,086 sq. kilometres was new contamination. In addition, there were 64 recorded firing ranges covering 986 sq. kilometres. As of April 2018, 133 communities were freed from contamination throughout the year. The remaining impacted communities are in 254 districts of 33 out of the 34 provinces of the country, affecting an estimated number of 2,545,278 people. The on-going kinetic engagements have further exacerbated contamination levels in the country.

When implementing the 1396 MAPA annual operational work plan, which is the fifth year of the Ottawa Convention Extension Request Work Plan of Afghanistan, it was found that there is a continued need for mine action to progress against a backdrop of the deteriorating security situation and the growing civilian casualties in the country. While the DMAC appreciates the generous financial contributions made by our donors over the last 29 years, it is important to highlight that without a significant scale up of operations through sustained international support, Afghanistan will not be able to meet its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) clearance obligations by 2023.

In accordance with the APMBC extension request work plan, the revised funding target, budgeted on pressing priorities, for 1396 was USD \$110.1 million and as of April 2018, 36.4 per cent of this target was secured. While 94.6 million USD was the requirement for clearance, 31 million USD was secured, indicating a shortfall of 63.5 million USD. For mine/ERW risk education 5.7 million USD was required and only 2.9 million USD was secured, a shortfall of 2.8 million USD. Similarly, for victim assistance 3.4 million USD was needed and only 17.6 per cent of funding was secured. For programme management, 6.3 million USD was the target, of which 5.6 million USD was secured.

## **Introduction**

### **MAPA**

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. The MAPA was the first humanitarian (i.e. non-military) mine action programme in the world and encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, clearance, stockpile destruction, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance (VA). MAPA employs over 7,000 Afghans and works with over 45 mine action organizations. These partners, which include national and international actors, from both the private and not-for-profit sectors, deliver a wide range of mine action services including manual demining, mechanically assisted clearance, mine dog detection assets, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), survey, MRE, VA activities and data collection.

MAPA's activities are coordinated and monitored by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA).

### **DMAC**

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of ANDMA is a regulatory body for the humanitarian MAPA. Through its headquarters in Kabul and its seven regional offices, DMAC manages, coordinates and oversees the humanitarian mine action activities implemented by national and international non-governmental organizations and private sector companies. DMAC is supported by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) and International Donors.

## Chapter One: Overview

### Background

Afghanistan is among the countries most-severely affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Decades of conflict have left the country littered with mines and ERW that are killing and maiming innocent civilians every day. The contamination in the country dates to the Soviet era and later from internal fighting between Mujahideen warring factions from 1992 to 1995 as well as fighting between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance from 1995 to 2001. This is referred to as legacy mine/ERW contamination.

Part of the contamination is to be attributed to post-2001-armed conflict between the Anti-Government Elements (AGEs), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). This posed a major challenge, as the war with AGEs has left behind unexploded ordnance (UXO) and improvised mines (IMs).

The MAPA has been receiving an increased number of civilian casualty reports, which mainly emanate from ERW and IMs. Civilian casualties due to new ERW contamination and IMs add to the civilian casualties from legacy contamination. During 1396, there were 2,135 civilian casualties by mine/ERW and IMs, out of which 57 per cent were children; 48 per cent of these civilian casualties were due to IMs, an additional 48 per cent were due to ERW and the remaining four per cent were due to legacy mine incidents.

As of April 2017, at the beginning of 1396, DMAC recorded 3,782 hazardous areas covering 1,764 sq. kilometres of land in Afghanistan. This includes of 678 sq. kilometres of legacy contamination<sup>2</sup> and 1,086 sq. km of new contamination<sup>3</sup> consisting of improvised mines (IM), ERW and firing ranges.

### Funding and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Extension

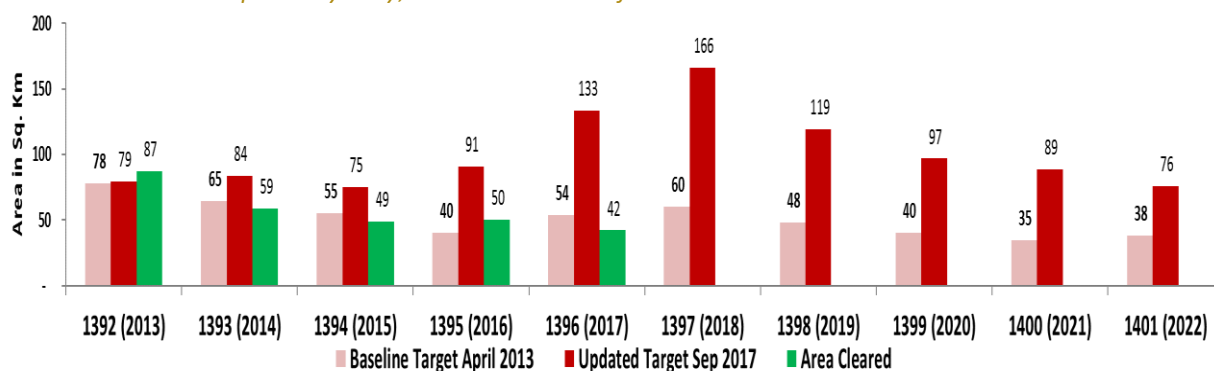
In April 2012, The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) submitted a clearance extension request at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention meeting. By submitting this extension request, Afghanistan committed to clearing all known mine-contaminated areas in its territory by March 2023.

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<sup>2</sup> This includes 104 sq. km of initial hazard areas surveyed but not yet confirmed.

<sup>3</sup> This includes 421 sq. km of IM, 77.2 sq. km ERW and 588 sq. km of firing ranges.

*Graph 1: The original baseline target indicated in the extension plan, the revised target of clearance which is updated yearly, and the amount of cleared areas on an annual basis.*



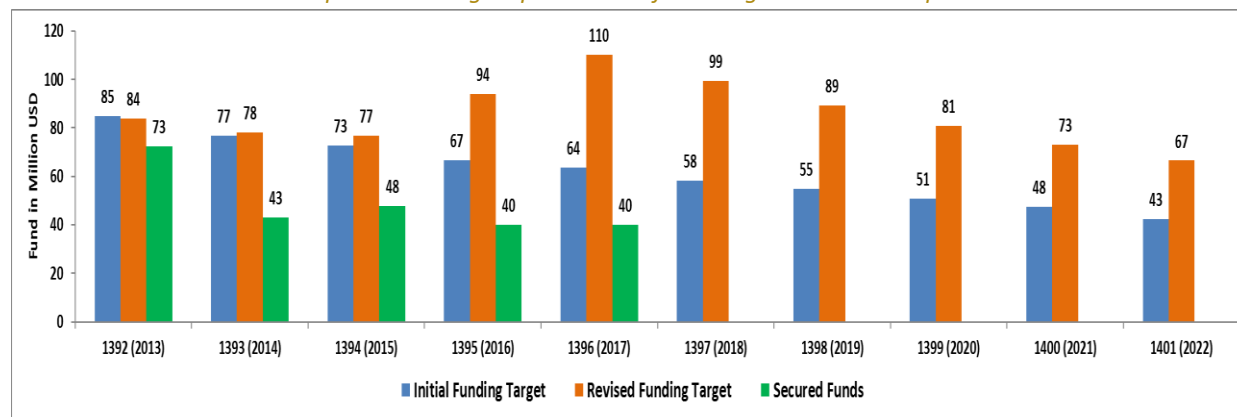
As shown in Graph 1, Afghanistan was not able to achieve its set target for the past five years except in 1392 due to funding shortfalls. The ongoing conflict, especially since 2009 has added a new burden.

MAPA managed to secure 244 million USD over the last five years which equates to 55 per cent of the 443 million USD planned for those five years in the APMBC extension work plan.

While conducting non-technical surveys (NTS), new hazards were found creating an addition to the clearance target and thus the APMBC work plan. The revised funding update suggests 409 million USD is needed to implement the plan in the remaining five years (1397 – 1401). In addition to the recorded hazards in the national database, there are around 420 sq. kilometres of initially surveyed hazards, mostly improvised mines and ERW, from post-2001 contamination in 14 provinces of the country requiring proper NTS. The clearance cost of the 420 sq. kilometres of new contamination is around 146 million USD. Factoring in the 409 million USD, the amount needed now increases to 555 million USD. MAPA requires 555 million USD to clear all the recorded landmines and ERW in the country.

The graph below shows the funding requirement of the original extension plan, the revised funding target, the funding secured to-date and the funding needed for the remaining years to complete the extension plan on time.

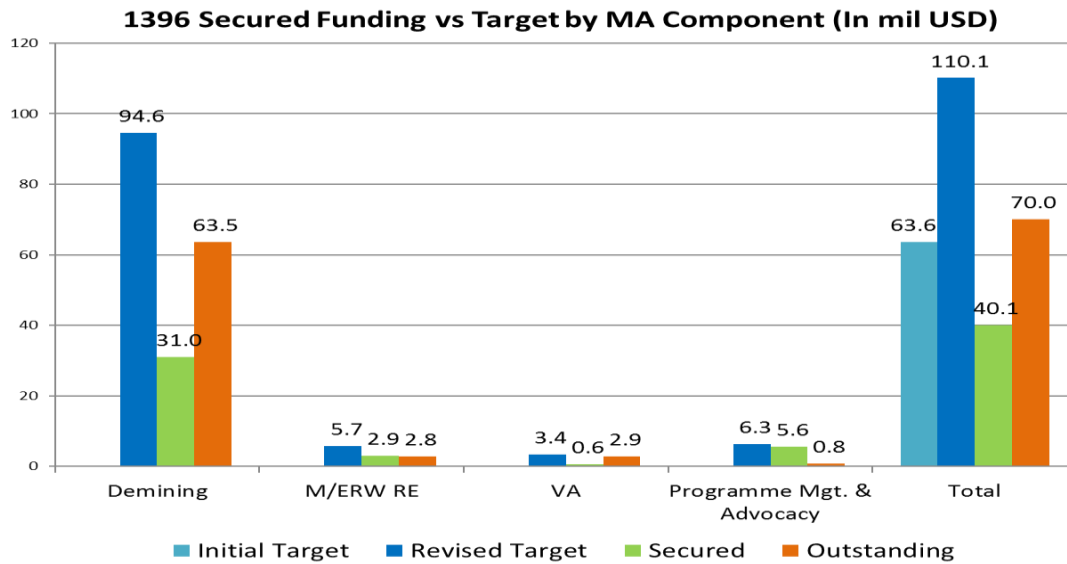
*Graph 2: Funding requirement of the original extension plan.*





The required funding for 1396 was 110.1 million USD and as of the end of 1396, 36.4 per cent of this target was secured. This meant that in line with the funding shortage, the clearance target was also affected, as explained in the previous chapter.

*Graph 3: 1396 required funding and funding secured for each mine action pillar.*



As shown in the graph above the required amount for clearance was 94.6 million USD. While 31 million USD was secured, there was a 63.6 million USD gap.

## Chapter Two: Activities

*Table 1: A Summary of activities completed in 1396.*

DMAC accomplished the following activities in 1396:	
1	Information Management support training to the Turkish Mine Action Programme.
2	IMSMA/GIS training for DMAC east regional staff and implementing partners (IPs) (15 people).
3	IMSMA training for Operations/QMI staff (30 people).
4	Database developed for MoLSAMD in February 2018, which will be the national database with information on people with disabilities, their needs and the causes of their disabilities.
5	IMSMA data migration and preparation for the new version of IMSMA.
6	Designed IMSMA data import scripts for ACAP III income generation data.
7	Finalized approximately 7400 of the 16000 school location data GIS analysis.
8	Updated IMSMA reporting tools.
9	Participation of DMAC personnel in the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) series of trainings in Tajikistan.
10	Welcomed a delegation from Sudan National Mine Action Centre who visited MAPA and DMAC to learn about the programme and its operational management. DMAC also hosted a delegation from the newly established Turkish National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC). TNMAC delegation visited MAPA to exchange experience and to learn about how MAPA operates.
11	Mine Action Livelihoods Survey (MALS) was conducted in two provinces: Nangarhar and Takhar through which 24 communities in 10 districts were surveyed.
12	Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was conducted in 16 provinces of the country, covering 36 districts and 56 communities in 71 cleared hazardous areas.
13	A two-day "Consultative Workshop on the New Approaches to Anti-Vehicle Mine Clearance in Afghanistan" was conducted in Kabul. The workshop was organized by DMAC and technically facilitated by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).
14	DMAC organized the MAPA "Technical Meeting and Demonstration of Technologies Used for Anti-Vehicle Mines Clearance Operations" in Balkh province in November 2017.
15	DMAC Operations Research and Development department, in coordination with MAPA and the seven main humanitarian IPs, conducted a trial on the Mine Lab F3 detector. The aim of the trial was to assess the detection capability. The trial was successful and the results were shared with all relevant organizations.
16	In December 2017, a total of 13 staff members from DMAC and Halo Trust attended a week-long International Organization for Standardization (ISO) training on Lead Auditor (version 9001:2015) in New-Delhi, India.
17	DMAC signed MoUs with the MoE, MoIC and the Directorate of Nomads (Kuchies). DMAC also submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT) to strengthen collaboration with the concerned ministries in relation to dissemination of mine/ERW Risk Education messages to the vulnerable population.
18	DMAC Mine Risk Education (MRE) Department conducted regular, quarterly and ad-hoc meetings with the Risk Education Technical Working Group and discussed subjects regarding the improvement of Risk Education materials and strategies.

19	During December 2017, DMAC organized a national Risk Education Workshop with support from UNMAS and Danish Demining Group (DDG) involving all stakeholders to discuss current threats and challenges and the way forward. DDG has conducted a baseline Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey. Both reports are available at <a href="http://dmac.gov.af/publications/mine-erw-risk-education/">http://dmac.gov.af/publications/mine-erw-risk-education/</a> .
20	DMAC MRE Department manager attended a certified Risk Education training organized by GICHD and UNICEF.
21	The Victim Assistance department of DMAC supported the Inclusive Education Directorate of Ministry of Education to develop a psycho-social guideline for school teachers. The guideline was developed with the contribution of Inclusive & Child Friendly Education Coordination Working Group (I&CFE-CWG) members. The VA department reviewed and made corrections to the first draft of the guidelines which was written in national languages. A total of nine I&CFE-CWG meetings, six VA/Disability Coordination Working Group meetings and five Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group meetings were conducted in 1396.

## 2.1 Programme Management and Advocacy

Programme Management and Advocacy plays a vital role in humanitarian mine action for achieving consensus and cooperation of different mine action stakeholders and parties to the conflict to provide a safe environment for mine/ERW affected communities, promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and resource mobilization. DMAC is responsible for the overall management of the MAPA. Monthly stakeholder meetings, operations coordination meetings, continuous monitoring visits to the regional offices by the headquarter staff and post-demining impact assessment are some of the activities carried out as part of programme management.

### 2.1.1: Advocacy, Planning and Communications

Table 2: List of advocacy and programme management activities in 1396.

Activities	Outcomes/Results
At the beginning of the year 1396 (March 2017, the MAPA 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Donors and Implementing Partners (IPs) Coordination Workshop was held in Geneva followed by a de-briefing session at the Canadian Embassy in Kabul. The workshop was funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) and facilitated by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The workshop and the de-briefing session were chaired by H.E. Wais Ahmad Barmak, then State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs.	Donors reiterated their commitment to the MAPA and a mine-free Afghanistan. As a result, the funding situation did not dwindle.
MAPA celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March. The event was held at Kabul University in which approximately 300 people attended. Participants	The event was well represented by Afghan Government officials, IPs and the MAPA stakeholders.

included high level officials from GoIRA, civil society organisations and MAPA implementing partners.	
The 20 <sup>th</sup> National Directors and UN Advisors Annual Meeting was attended by the DMAC Director in Geneva.	DMAC Director, Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, represented Afghanistan in the meeting and delivered statements. Mr. Yosufi also took part in the side events and a special meeting to share MAPA's achievement and challenges.
The DMAC Director participated in the 16 <sup>th</sup> meeting of States Parties to APMBC in Vienna.	Mr. Yosufi delivered various statements representing the Government of Afghanistan where the country assumed presidency for 2018.

### 2.1.2: Research and Development

One of the main activities of DMAC Operations Research and Development (OPS R&D) Department, in consultation with MAPA's seven partner humanitarian mine action organizations, is to conduct various research and trials. The mentioned practices are undertaken based on the needs and requirements of the programme to further improve clearance operations and to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the tools used by MAPA operators.

During 1396 the following research and trials were conducted:

- DMAC OPS R&D department, in coordination with MAPA's seven partner humanitarian organizations, conducted a trial on the Mine Lab F3 detector. The aim of the trial was to assess the detection capability of the device. The trial was successful, and the results were shared with the IPs.
- To identify the best technology/machines for anti-vehicle (AV) mine contamination clearance, a technical demonstration of all available mechanical assets used for operations in AV mine contaminated areas was conducted in Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province, in which all humanitarian demining organizations participated. The result of the demonstration indicated that among all the machines available, the best asset for AV mine clearance in terms of output and quality of operations is the Front-end Loader Ripper followed by a mechanical cultivator. This asset should be considered after a comprehensive trial of the primary assets for clearance of AV contaminated areas. The report of the demonstration along with recommendations was shared with all IPs.

### 2.1.3: Quality Assurance and Quality Control

The aim of quality management (QM) is to provide confidence to the beneficiaries, funding bodies, mine action contractors and the Government of Afghanistan that mine action quality requirements are met and that cleared land is indeed safe for use. QM consists of three complementary components: accreditation, monitoring and post-clearance inspection. During 1396 DMAC conducted 2318 QA visits of mine action projects in the country.

As per quality management principles, the QM department plays an important role in maintaining stakeholder satisfaction through the provision of quality services. The main functions of the QM department are: managing and maintaining the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS); managing and undertaking monitoring and quality control of mine action activities, operations and services; investigating demining incidents; managing and maintaining internal quality management systems of DMAC, including standard operating procedures and processes; conducting internal audit and measuring processes; developing the DMAC Balanced Scorecard reports; and developing QM-related policies.

During 1396, two missed-mine accidents occurred in minefields which were previously cleared by IPs. The first accident where two civilians were involved resulted in traumatic below knee amputation of one victim's left leg and with slight injuries to the second victim. The area was re-cleared in April 2017 and no mines were found. The second missed mine accident involved an AP mine which resulted in the loss of the victim's right leg. After finalizing the investigation, the area was recleared by the same IP. A Board of Inquiry (BOI) was assigned and a lessons-learned summary was developed. There were five demining accidents reported in 1396, lessons learned summaries were developed based on the investigation report prepared by the assigned BOIs.

#### **2.1.4: Information Management**

The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) was developed to help make mine action safer, faster, more effective and efficient. There were calls from the mine action community for computerized decision support tools able to support the coordination and management of their operational activities. IMSMA is currently in use in more than 80 per cent of mine action programmes around the world and is the United Nations preferred information management system for mine action.

By using IMSMA, the Management Information System (MIS) department has the biggest dataset of mine action worldwide. The information/dataset enables MAPA management to make operational and strategic decisions. For better prioritizing of MAPA operational activities, DMAC MIS also conducts some additional data and GIS analysis. DMAC MIS is one of the few MIS departments globally that is using all IMSMA components/objects.

*Table 3: IMSMA's activities in 1396.*

<b>S#</b>	<b>Activity</b>
1	Information Management support training provided to the Turkish Mine Action Programme.
2	IMSMA/GIS training for DMAC east regional staff & IPs (15 people).
3	IMSMA training for OPS/QMI staff (30 people).
4	Database developed for MOLSAMD.
5	IMSMA data migration and preparation for the new version of IMSMA.
6	IMSMA data import scripts for ACAP III income generation data designed.
7	School data GIS analysis partly completed.
8	IMSMA reporting tools updated.
9	IMSMA Emergency Victim Assistance project templates and data collection forms designed.

## 2.2 Survey and Clearance

### 2.2.1 Survey

The first essential step before mine clearance is to identify the location of the hazardous area, delineate its boundaries and gather information about the nature of the mines or explosive remnants of war within that region.

Mine/ERW survey can ensure 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 by MAPA: technical survey (TS) and non-technical survey (NTS). Technical survey is mainly incorporated jointly with clearance operations while NTS is conducted as a stand-alone operation.

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

#### **Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS)**

As part of Afghanistan's Extension Request to the APMBC, DMAC launched a nationwide mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) in 1391 (2012). MEIFCS includes non-technical survey, destruction of spot ERW, as well as the provision of mine/ERW risk education messages to the communities visited.

By the end of 1395, MEIFCS teams surveyed a total of 1,314 impacted villages and 21,771 villages, where the impact was initially unknown, as well as an additional 30,590 villages which were not recorded in the national gazetteer.

For the year 1396, DMAC planned to complete surveying 412 impacted communities and 8,951 communities of 100 districts where the impact was unknown; however, due to the absence of funds no MEIFCS operations were conducted in 1396.

#### **Non-Technical Survey (NTS)**

In 1396, NTS was planned to be conducted in 24 districts funded by PM/WRA. The initial information indicated that over 200 – 1,500 military operations took place in those 24 districts. The primary focus of the NTS was to capture potentially contaminated areas due to kinetic operations in those districts. Accurate information was not available to show in which villages the kinetic operations took place; therefore, the NTS teams visited each individual gazetteer communities of the planned districts plus other communities of the districts not mentioned in the national gazetteer.

During 1396, the NTS teams completed surveys of 4,436 communities (193 Impacted, 1,552 non-impacted from gazetteer and 2,691 communities out of the gazetteer). In summary, after factoring in previously unrecorded hazardous areas and the area contaminated post-2001, identifying and cancelling non-hazardous areas, the NTS operations resulted in an addition of 13.6 sq. kilometres of new hazardous areas to the national mine action database of Afghanistan.



## **Technical Survey**

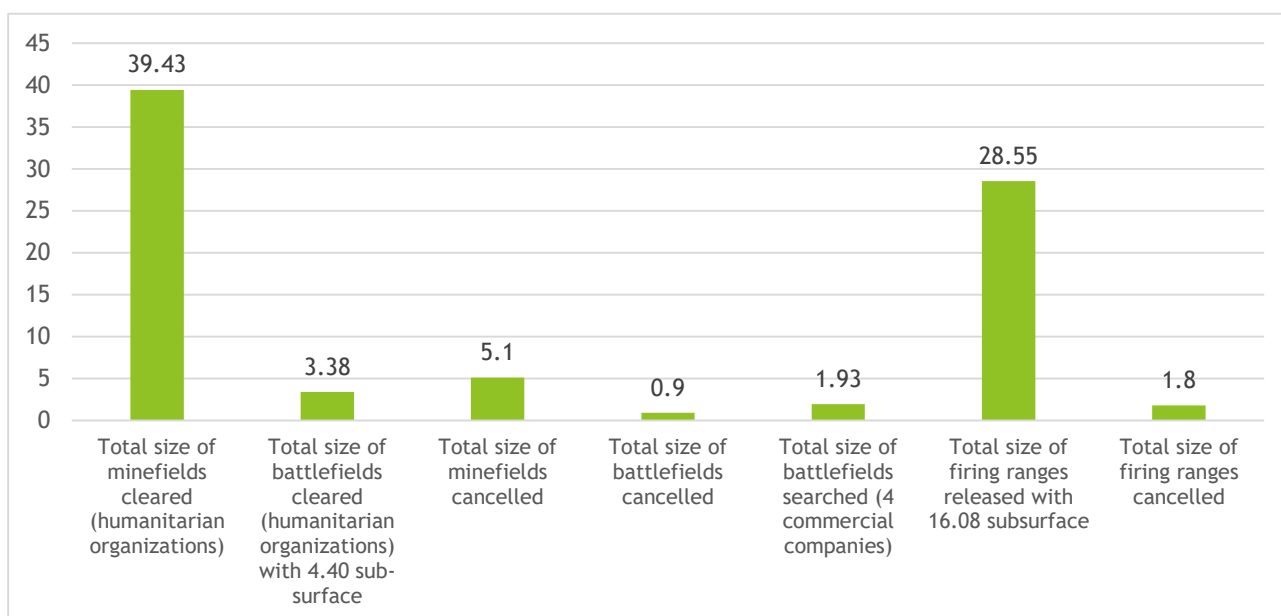
To confirm the presence or absence of mines and ERW, technical survey can be conducted as a stand-alone operation or integrated with clearance operations. In MAPA operations, the technical survey is integrated with clearance and the outputs of the technical survey are reflected alongside those of clearance operations.

Technical surveys result in more effective and efficient use of mine action resources for actual clearance operations.

### **2.2.2 Clearance**

MAPA's clearance operations in 1396 covered areas contaminated during the Soviet-Afghan war, as well as those contaminated by the Russian-backed government, civil war, fighting between the Taliban and Northern Alliance, NATO firing ranges and explosive remnants from the ongoing post-2001-armed conflict.

*Graph 4: Clearance achievements in 1396.*



## **Land Release Achievements**

The programme's 1396 target under the APMBC work plan was to clear 133 sq. km of contaminated land, but due to a shortage of funds, the set target was not reached.

Despite receiving 33 per cent of the required funds (31 million USD received compared to 94.6 million USD required) for clearance, MAPA IPs succeeded in clearing 45.49 sq. km, 39.43 sq. km of minefields and 7.78 sq. km of battlefields, thus achieving 34.2 per cent of the target. Clearing those hazards freed 105 communities from known recorded hazards.

Clearing hazards in 1396 provided communities in Afghanistan with safe access to productive land previously blocked by mines and ERW. Table 4 below summarizes the minefield (MF) land release in 1396.

*Table 4: 1396 achievements by organization (Minefield)*

Clearance Agency	Number of Hazards	Hazard Area Released (sq. m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed			
			AP	AT	UXO	SAA
AREA	19	1,082,473	177	5	74	420
ATC	73	3,422,835	789	24	2,559	574
DAFA	10	3,306,217	56	30	881	378
DDG	6	347,500	90	3	168	0
FSD	6	534,123	6,524	0	114	260
HT	313	22,046,924	5,406	89	916	2,466
MCPA	34	3,597,905	209	22	35	19
MDC	22	2,883,051	7	38	65	5,881
OMAR	42	2,209,263	457	6	530	1,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>39,430,291</b>	<b>13,715</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>5,342</b>	<b>11,746</b>

Table 5 below shows areas cleared by humanitarian demining organizations under Battle Area Clearance (BAC) operations and the number of devices found and destroyed during 1396.

*Table 5: Battle Area Clearance Achievements in 1396*

Agency	Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Sub-Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
			AP	AT	UXO	SAA	BLU
AREA	455,000	2,139,684	-	-	163	980	-
ATC	711,204	44,294	-	-	656	201	-
DAFA	0	2,143,347	-	-	581	26	32
DDG	174,136	71,506	-	-	93	8	-
HT	2,044,191	-	-	-	4,295	203	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,384,531</b>	<b>4,398,831</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,788</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>35</b>

*Table 6: EOD Achievements in 1396*

The table below demonstrates the number of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) found and destroyed by humanitarian demining organizations under EOD operations during 1396.

Agency	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
	AP	AT	UXO	SAA	BLU
ATC	-	-	40	220	-
DAFA	-	-	20	-	4
DDG	6	7	543	254	-
HT	10	-	124	-	-
MCPA	-	-	161	68	-
MDC	2	1	1,839	1,703	-
OMAR	-	8	454	1,271	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>4</b>

*Wild Plants of Tekay mountains are used to make local products*

*Tekay village is located in Jaji Maidan district of the eastern province of Khost. The mountains of the village were once contaminated with landmines left from the Soviet era. Subsequent to clearance with support from MAPA donors, these mountains are now a place where cattle roam and wild plants expand and grow. Locals use these plants to make various products such as brooms, bread baskets, mats, straws and various other products. Locals also collect firewood from these mountains without fear of being injured or killed by a landmine or an explosive remnant of war.*



A deminer working to clear mines from Tekay Mountains in Khost

*Ali Abad village, district 3 of Kabul city*

*Kabul University was on the front lines of the internal fighting between the different factions of the Mujahideen. This area was heavily contaminated with ERW. Based on a request made by the Kabul University, a portion of the remaining contaminated land was cleared by a MAPA implementing partner. The cleared land was then used by Kabul University to build a new building for its Management and Policy Department.*



Cleared land in the vicinity of Kabul University helped the University expand

## Firing Ranges

Of the total contamination of 1000 sq. kilometres of firing ranges, MAPA has cleared 412 sq. kilometres and 588 sq. kilometres remain to be cleared in the country. Achievements from the Firing Range project are summarised below in Table 7.

*Table 7: Summary of achievements in Firing Range project*

Surface Clearance (sq. m)	Subsurface Clearance (sq. m)	Recorded MF cleared area	Unrecorded MF cleared area	AP Mine destroyed	AT Mine destroyed	UXO destroyed	SAA
28,550,824	16,081,202	0	0	2	12	4,122	159

## Operations by Commercial Demining Companies

During 1396, 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. A total surface area of 1,935,897 sq. meters was cleared by five commercial clearance companies in 1396.

### Zargaran Village, Charikar City of Parwan Province

*The villages of Zargaran is located in the strategic city of Charikar and was on the front line of fighting between Mujahideen and Russian troops in the 1980s. This area (road) was contaminated with Anti Vehicle mines laid by Mujahideen against the Russians and the pro-Russian government at the time.*

*Based on the request made by the provincial directorate of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in Parwan, the Zargarn road was cleared in 1996 by a MAPA implementing partner. Clearance paved the way for the implementation of a development project. A new asphalt road was built which now connects more than 50 villages with Charikar city. This has made peoples' lives much easier; the locals can now transport their agricultural products much more quickly than before and with reduced cost of transportation.*



Asphalted road in Zargaran Village built on cleared land, connecting 50 villages to Charikar



## 2.3 Victim Assistance

In 1396, the conflict in Afghanistan continued to take a severe toll on the civilian population, killing and injuring an alarming number of civilians and straining the already taxed and fragile health system. In the year 1396, 2,135 civilians lost their lives and limbs and as a result of landmines, including victim operated IEDs and ERW. The nature of the conflict, which includes the widespread use of improvised explosive devices, has claimed the lives of over 28,000 and has left over 53,000 injured since 2009. The large numbers of survivors of ground engagements, suicide attacks, explosive contaminated areas and other conflict-related threats against civilians are often left with life-altering injuries and disabilities, required access to basic healthcare and more specialized services including physical therapy and psychosocial and economic reintegration support.

During 1396, through physical rehabilitation project funded by the UN VTF, the following was achieved.

*Table 8: 1396 VA achievements and beneficiaries.*

VA Component	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Disability Awareness and Advocacy Training	0	19	190	316	525
Physical Rehabilitation	1,568	2,539	994	1,184	6,285
Total	1,568	2,558	1,184	1,500	6,810

*Table 9: Victim Assistance activities during 1396*

Activity Area	Activity
Information Management	<p>Technical support was provided to MoLSAMD in developing a data format to register martyrs and persons with disabilities through a biometric system.</p> <p>An initial database was developed for the M&amp;D Division for housing data, including victim assistance services, provided by all government and civil society actors in Afghanistan (UN, national and international NGOs).</p> <p>The database is a critical tool for the division to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) analyse services being provided and determine gaps</li> <li>2) prioritize and plan services for greater effectiveness</li> </ol>
Advocacy	<p>As a member of advocacy committees, the DMAC VA department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Conducted six advocacy meetings with different government and non-government organizations for the rights of persons with disabilities.</li> <li>2) Presented its support in the amendment of the Disability Law to stakeholders.</li> </ol>
Casualty data monitoring and evaluation	<p>Victim assistance data gained from Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP III) UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other implementing partners was monitored and evaluated on a quarterly basis and shared with stakeholders.</p>
National Disability Survey	<p>Technical support was provided to MoLSAMD and the Central Statistic Organisation in forming a technical and executive committee and reviewing questionnaires for data collection. Due to funding shortages the survey was postponed. Lobbying efforts are underway.</p>
Physical Rehabilitation	<p>Physical rehabilitation services, such as physiotherapy, prosthesis and orthotic services, as well as sensitisation on the rights of persons with disabilities, were provided to 6,010 beneficiaries in nine provinces.</p>

Although there is a lack of precise information on the number of persons with disabilities in the country, surveys conducted by various organizations in the past suggest that around 800,000 people are living with disabilities in Afghanistan, 2.7 per cent of the population. Access to care is currently very inadequate. An estimated 90 per cent of the Afghan population lives more than 100 km away from a rehabilitation centre; 20 provinces out of 34 have no prostheses or orthoses service providers and lack female health service providers and rehabilitation professionals. Increased government capacity is required to properly care for mine/ERW survivors and ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities.

The ongoing war and the presence of mines, ERW and IEDs in the country increase the prevalence of disability. MAPA is committed to helping the victims of conflicts and maintaining its advisory capacity at MoLSAMD, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and MoE.



Zenab, 13 years old, from Dangam district of Kunar Province

*When Zenab lost her leg in a bomb blast, she was referred to DAO Physical Rehabilitation Center in Kunar to receive assistance. "I was grazing cattle in the mountainous area of my village. I stepped on a landmine and lost my leg which was a painful experience for me", she said. After being discharged from the hospital I suffered emotionally and was always thinking about my chronic disability; all my wishes melted in dust, I was thinking that I became a burden on my family and I always need someone else to help me in my everyday life".*

*Zenab added, "After receiving these services, I can now go to bathroom, move, and walk on my own. The prostheses service actually provided me a new life. After getting the AV service I feel relaxed and try to be a symbol of success for all those individuals who are suffering from the same trouble."*



*Zenab who lost her leg to a landmine receives assistance in Kunar*

Mr. Zazai from Khost Province

*"I was hit by a mine, I lost both of my legs. After the incident, I was stressed and felt that I am not able to work and earn money to fulfill the basic needs of my family.*

*Then I came to Khost Physical Rehabilitation Centre and received prosthesis which helped me restart my business and support my family. These services are essential for people, in particular for victims of Mine/ERW and people with disabilities. Before coming to this centre, I was feeling broken and hopeless, but now I feel strong and am able to perform my daily business normally. Thank you for all the support provided to us.*



*Photo of Zazai after receiving the Victim Assistance Service in Khost PRC – 01-Feb-2017*



## 2.4 Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education

Throughout 1396, landmine and ERW risk education (RE) activities were coordinated, implemented and monitored in line with Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS), the Integrated Operational Framework, and the set criteria for community prioritization.

Main at-risk groups included communities living in proximity of hazards, returnees, IDPs, nomads, scrap metal collectors, aid workers and people on the move (travellers). Of these groups, children are known to be the most vulnerable to the threat of landmines and ERW.

DMAC and its IPs are making efforts to mitigate the threat that the landmine and ERW contamination pose to the lives and livelihoods of Afghan civilians. During 1396, there were eight risk education accredited local and international IPs that were actively engaged in the delivery of RE sessions.

There were a total number of 73 couple teams (comprising one male and one female on each team) delivering risk education activities. Deployment of couple teams is an effective way to enable access to at risk population for both genders and all age groups.

Risk education was provided to different at-risk groups using the below adapted approaches and initiatives, to raise the level of awareness and promote safe behaviours regarding the threats posed by landmine and ERW contamination.

- IPs provided direct RE sessions to people living in landmine and ERW affected communities.
- IPs provided RE sessions to returnees at UNHCR and IOM encashment/transit centres and zero points.
- IPs provided RE sessions to IDPs and host communities.
- DMAC collaborated with the MoE to provide school-based RE, including a week-long RE campaign at schools.
- RE was integrated with other organizations' programme activities. Additional governmental and non-governmental organizations were identified to promote collaboration with DMAC.
- DMAC and IPs initiated a Landmine Safety Program (LSP) for aid workers.
- DMAC and IPs updated impact classification scoring and indicators.
- DMAC and IPs developed guidelines for the role of community volunteers in RE programs in Afghanistan.
- DMAC and IPs updated the Terms of Reference for Risk Education Technical Working Group.

Additionally, during the year, additional Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions were conducted for 347 mine/ERW RE trainers of RE IPs.

The Danish Demining Group (DDG), in coordination with DMAC and UNMAS, facilitated a joint Risk Education (RE) workshop on 13 December 2017 held in the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan. The aim of the workshop was to review the findings of data collection exercises including Baseline and Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys and consolidate their findings in consultation with other RE implementing Partners of the MAPA. The exercises aimed to shed light on existing RE indicators

amongst target groups and the corresponding packages and methodologies, in order to tailor them based on local needs, the evolving conflict dynamics and the changing patterns of risks.

During 1396, DMAC signed MoUs with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) and the Independent Directorate General of Kuchies (IDGK). and Letters of agreement were also signed with Johanniter International Assistance, the Organization for Health Promotion and Management (OHPM) regarding integration of mine/ ERW RE in respective NGOs to conduct informal mine risk education.

DMAC has provided mine/ERW RE ToTs and training aid materials for the staff of partner NGOs. Defined by the AMAS, this is called an informal approach of implementing RE activities in Afghanistan.

*Table 10: Number of Risk Education beneficiaries, via Formal MRE, by social status of audience, and by gender and age group*

<b>Formal MRE Beneficiary Type</b>	<b># of Sessions</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
National Aid Worker	2	0	0	2	5	9
Community Member	37,397	354,711	486,472	205,661	251,728	1,335,969
Community Volunteer	48	65	88	55	231	487
Government Official	2	0	0	0	50	52
IDP	10,753	107,705	127,865	64,233	72,210	382,766
Kochies	95	1,077	1,486	284	214	3,156
Mine Action Personnel	4	0	0	11	43	58
Other	141	1,676	2,348	1,190	1,015	6,370
Returnee	25,151	78,587	117,232	49,202	125,731	
School Teacher	34	1	74	55	261	
Student	3,026	29,383	48,584	8,199	10,524	99,716
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>76,653</b>	<b>573,205</b>	<b>784,149</b>	<b>328,892</b>	<b>462,012</b>	<b>1,828,583</b>

*Table 11: Number of Risk Education beneficiaries, via Formal MRE, by social status of audience, and by gender and age group*

<b>Non-formal MRE Beneficiary Type</b>	<b># of Sessions</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
Community Member	6,183	37,620	46,023	24,368	28,951	143,145
Community Volunteer	4	0	0	0	32	36
IDP	4	54	50	32	22	162
Kochies	17	89	235	27	36	404
School Teacher	27	350	0	231	651	1,259
Student	477	11,889	34,105	1,292	3,662	51,425
Women	176	321	404	221	228	1,350
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,888</b>	<b>50,323</b>	<b>80,817</b>	<b>26,171</b>	<b>33,582</b>	<b>197,781</b>

## 2.5 Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming

Gender & diversity mainstreaming is an integral part of National Mine Action Strategic Plan (NMAPS 2016-2020) of the MAPA. The fourth goal of the NMAPS has detailed a number of strategic actions, among which major steps were taken in the past year.

*Table 12: Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming activities in 1396.*

S/N	Activity
1	A Gender & Diversity booklet was printed in three languages with a circulation of 10,000 copies and distributed to IPs to be used as a supplemental guide on gender mainstreaming in different trainings.
2	The first gender and diversity guideline for the MAPA was developed and endorsed by the MAPA; the guideline is a day-to-day tool in implementing the fourth goal of MAPA NMAPS.
3	A letter of agreement was signed between DMAC and the Ministry of Women Affairs for mutual cooperation on gender mainstreaming activities.
4	Four regional gender mainstreaming trainings were conducted for the MAPA field level managers and staff members in North, South and West regions (Mazar-e Sharif, Kandahar and Herat cities).
5	International Women's Day 2018 was celebrated by the gender and diversity department.
6	Seven gender and diversity monthly meetings have taken place for better coordination of gender mainstreaming activities within the MAPA.

## Chapter Three: Key Achievements

The following are a list of the main achievements of the DMAC and the wider MAPA in 1396.

*Table 13: Key achievements of the MAPA stakeholders in 1396.*

Stakeholder	Achievement	Date
DMAC OSCE	Participation of four personnel from DMAC OPS R&D department in the EOD series of trainings in Tajikistan. The training was fully sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) through PM/WRA.	May, July, September 2017
DMAC with technical support from UNMAS	Mine Action Livelihoods Survey (MALS) was conducted in two provinces, Nangarhar and Takhar, through which 24 communities in ten districts were surveyed.	23-30 April 2017 11-18 August 2017
DMAC with technical support from UNMAS	Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was conducted and almost ten per cent of the cleared hazards in 2016 were visited.	June-September 2017
DMAC with support from UNMAS and facilitated by GICHD	A consultative workshop on the new approaches to AV Mine Clearance in Afghanistan was conducted in Kabul. The workshop was organized by DMAC and was technically facilitated by GICHD.	15-16 August 2017
DMAC UNMAS HALO Trust	In order to make DMAC ISO certified, a total of 13 staff members from DMAC, UNMAS and HALO Trust attended a week-long ISO training on Lead Auditor (version 9001:2015) in New-Delhi, India.	December 2017

## Chapter Four: Risk Management

*Table 14: Challenges faced by the programme in 1396 and mitigation measures.*

Challenges	Mitigating Measures
<b>Funding</b>	
Reduced funding was one of the main challenges faced by the programme.	A donor workshop was held in Geneva where all donors were invited and a number of meetings were conducted with embassies of different donor countries in Kabul to advocate for support for the programme.
<b>Security</b>	
As the security situation deteriorated, the programme encountered some challenges. The main challenges were security incidents on demining personnel and stolen demining equipment. Due to the security situation, the MAPA teams were not able to complete all of their tasks normally. They had to either stop operations or leave the districts abruptly where fighting was taking place.	All the MAPA teams were advised to be vigilant and liaise with community elders. The selection of demining personnel from mine affected areas was an option to minimize the risk.
<b>Survey</b>	
<p>The following were three main challenges and risk factors for conducting surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security</li> <li>• Increased number of out-of-gazetteer villages</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong community liaison and close contact with influential people, the community elders, and community shuras etc. helped mitigate security restrictions for the survey teams.</li> <li>• An anticipated number of out-of-gazetteer villages in the plan based on previous experience of the surveyed districts were re-calculated.</li> <li>• Beside fundraising for other components of the programme by DMAC, IPs made efforts to increase funds for survey as well.</li> </ul>
<b>Clearance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security incidents on demining teams.</li> <li>• Suspension of mine action projects.</li> <li>• Monitoring visits from some of mine action projects not conducted due to security problems.</li> <li>• Mine incidents in cleared areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPs and commercial demining companies were encouraged to conduct proper liaison with the local elders to make sure the security of their staff is maintained.</li> <li>• The IPs were asked to provide proof of their duty of care for their staff.</li> <li>• Mine action organizations were asked to facilitate monitoring visits, and the issue was reflected in the balance scorecard (BSC).</li> </ul>

Mine/ERW Risk Education	
Physical access to implement mine/ERW risk education was challenging in conflict affected and/or disputed areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPs recruited and deployed RE trainers from the local communities, who can speak the language and are familiar with local customs and traditions.</li> <li>• IPs trained and deployed community volunteers from the local communities.</li> <li>• During 1396, IPs made use of media as an alternative (indirect) approach to disseminate mine/ ERW RE messages in insecure areas.</li> </ul>
Victim Assistance	
Physical Rehabilitation: the number of rehabilitation centres and qualified staff was low, and access to these centres and staff was impacted by distance and conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1396, the VA department of DMAC supported MoPH by training physiotherapists and prosthetic/orthotic technicians (direct training or on-the-job training by IPs) including female technicians.</li> <li>• Mobile clinics helped mitigate access constraints.</li> </ul>
Social Inclusion and Advocacy: negative stereotypes of girls and other marginalized groups such as child survivors and other children with disabilities further limit access to education. Women with disabilities, including female survivors, are often excluded from certain social roles, such as marriage and parenting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim assistance interventions attempted to include an element of inclusivity and rights awareness to sensitise persons with disabilities to their rights and the communities and to reduce barriers to their inclusion.</li> <li>• The community-based rehabilitation guides, National Disability Plan, Inclusive Education guidebooks and sign language books were printed and translated widely to increase disability awareness and provide support to vulnerable people in social inclusion.</li> </ul>
Data collection: Shortage of a comprehensive database with up-to-date data that gives an accurate picture of the extent and scope of persons with disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VA department of DMAC advocated for a meaningful utilization of the MoLSAMD database.</li> <li>• 1,000 community health workers supported the data collection process.</li> </ul>



## Chapter Five: Conclusion

As illustrated in the table below, as a result of the clearance in 1396 the size of the legacy contamination has been reduced. However, as indicated the table below, the total size of contamination in the country has increased to 1,765.1 sq. kilometres. This is due to the ongoing conflict in various parts of the country which has led to a spread of ERW, AIM and IHA.

### Remaining contamination as of the end of 1396

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
AIM	54	20.2
Anti-personnel mine	2,034	202.7
Anti-tank mine	1,107	293.8
Battlefield/ERW contamination	308	134.4
Firing Range	38	587.6
IHA	269	526.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,810</b>	<b>1,765.1</b>

During 1396, the programme managed to secure 54,494,501 USD of which 37,647,170 USD was spent in the same year on all pillars of mine action and the remaining amount was part of multi-year projects that extends to 1397 and 1398.

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