



# MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN (MAPA)

# Annual Report



# 1397



## Table of Contents

Acronyms.....	1
Foreword.....	4
Executive Summary .....	6
Introduction .....	8
MAPA .....	8
DMAC.....	8
Chapter One: Overview.....	9
Background .....	9
Funding and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Extension .....	9
Chapter Two: Activities .....	12
2.1 Programme Management and Advocacy .....	13
2.1.1: Advocacy, Planning and Communication .....	13
2.1.2: Research and Development.....	14
2.1.3: Quality Assurance and Quality Control.....	15
2.1.4: Information Management .....	16
2.2 Survey and Clearance .....	17
2.2.1 Survey.....	17
2.2.2 Clearance .....	18
2.3 Victim Assistance .....	23
2.4 Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education.....	25
2.5 Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming.....	28
Chapter Three: Key Achievements.....	29
Chapter Four: Risk Management .....	30
Chapter Five: Conclusion .....	32

## 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 Centre
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
ITF	International Trust Fund
MMD	State Ministry for Martyrs and Disability Affairs

## 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 completion of the final phase of transition in June 2018 DMAC has proved that with financial and technical support from donors including UNMAS, GICHD and the Afghan Government, the organisation is capable of managing the programme well. The Afghan Government is committed to national ownership and has for the first time allocated 20 million Afghanis (approximately USD 250,000) to the programme. We are optimistic that this support will continue and increase in the coming years. However, given the unstable state of the country and its reliance on the international community, the government alone may not be able to fulfil its treaty obligations and commitments without international support. Thus, support from our international donors is vital for the continuation of the programme until the country becomes mine-free.

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 1397, outlining key achievements and challenges faced by the programme during the year.

In the year 1397, MAPA cleared 64 sq. Kilometres of contaminated land in the country. Since the inception of the programme in 1367 (1989), the MAPA has addressed almost 77.5 per cent of recorded contamination in the country; however, as of the end of the Afghan year 1397, 255 districts in 34 provinces of the country remain impacted, affecting an estimated number of 2,834,636 people living within one kilometre of contaminated land. To put this into perspective, there are 400 districts in 34 provinces in Afghanistan with an approximate population of 35 million people. In addition to the recorded contamination, the ongoing altercations between the Afghan National Security and Defence Forces (ANDSF) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) have further exacerbated contamination levels in the country. Approximately 416.6 sq. kilometres of hazards, mostly improvised mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), from post-2001 contamination in 18 provinces of the country have initially been surveyed and require proper survey.

The growing 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 112 civilians lost their lives or limbs every month as a result of landmines including improvised mines and ERW. However, the true figure of civilian casualties is likely to be much higher, as the programme lacks sufficient data collection mechanisms that were in place a few years ago. A cycle of continuous conflicts over the last four decades has meant that Afghanistan still remains on top of the list of countries affected by Explosive Ordnance (EO) globally.

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.

The MAPA, with tireless efforts of national and international partners and support from our donors, has destroyed more than 18.2 million ERW, 733,603 anti-personnel mines and approximately 30,193 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



## Executive Summary

Despite the rise in insecurity and the growing clashes between the Afghan National Security and Defence Forces (ANDSF) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in various parts of the country, rendering the operating environment extremely challenging, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) made significant progress in 1397<sup>1</sup>. The MAPA has grown resilient and flexible over its 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 1397, an average of about 112 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 NSAGs, combined with increased ERW contamination from ground engagements, has led to a rise in civilian casualties in the last few years. Sadly, in 1397, 1,344 civilian casualties were due to landmines including improvised mines and ERW, with children comprising 59 per cent of the casualties. Of the total number of 1,344 civilian casualties in 1397, one per cent of civilian casualties were attributed to legacy mines; the remaining; more than 99 per cent of civilian casualties were caused by ERW and IMs in almost equal number.

Under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Extension Work Plan, this year's target was to clear 166 sq. kilometres of contaminated land, which included 63.9 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 64 sq. kilometres, thus achieving 38.5 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, 116 communities were fully released from known recorded hazards.

During 1397, DMAC, with support from the UNMAS, continued to provide technical support to the Ministry of Martyrs and Disability Affairs (MMD). A data registration system of martyrs and persons with disabilities was improved using a biometric approach which is still under process and hopefully it will be functional by end of 2019. A database was developed with information on victim assistance services provided by all government and civil society actors in the country, including the UN, national and international NGOs. The database was reviewed once again after establishment of the new authority (MMD) which needs further work during 1398. The database will be installed in the MMD by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1398. 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 beneficiaries across 9 provinces.

Considering the challenges faced by the programme, such as the funding shortfall, insecurity and associated challenges, MAPA made good progress compared to the previous year. At the beginning of

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<sup>1</sup> The Afghan year 1397 of the Solar Hijri calendar is equal to April 2018 – March 2019 of the Gregorian calendar.



1397 (April 2018), there were 3,756 hazardous areas, covering 1,762 sq. kilometres of land, impacting 1,502 communities in 256 districts in the country. Some 620 sq. kilometres of the total remaining contamination consists of legacy contamination<sup>2</sup> and the remaining 512 sq. kilometres is new contamination that is entered into the national database and recorded as IHAs (Initially Hazardous Area). In addition to that, there are 41 recorded firing ranges covering 630 sq. kilometres. As of April 2018, 116 communities were freed from contamination throughout the year. The remaining impacted communities are in 255 districts of 34 provinces of the country, affecting an estimated number of 2,834,636 people. The on-going kinetic engagements have further exacerbated contamination levels in the country.)

When implementing the 1397 MAPA annual operational work plan, which is the sixth of the 10-year AP-MBC Extension Request Work Plan for 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 30 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 March 2023.

In accordance with the APMBC extension request work plan, the revised funding target, budgeted on pressing priorities, for 1397 was USD \$96 million and as of April 2019, 53 per cent of this target was secured. While 89.7 million USD was the requirement for clearance, 45.8 million USD was secured, indicating a shortfall of 44 million USD. For mine/ERW risk education 6.3 million USD was required target and only 2.2 million USD was secured, a shortfall of 4.1 million USD. For programme management, which includes coordination, planning and priority setting, information management, quality management and advocacy, 3 million USD was the target and was secured 100 per cent.

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<sup>2</sup> Legacy contamination refers to contamination from before 2001

## Introduction

### **MAPA**

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. At a global level the MAPA was the first humanitarian (i.e. non-military) mine action programme that encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, demining, stockpile destruction, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance (VA). MAPA employs over 6,000 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 clearance, 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. Subsequent to the completion of the final phase of transition in June 2018, DMAC took over the responsibility for programme management and coordination of the MAPA from the United Nations Mine Action (UNMAS). UNMAS remains in the country as a close technical advisor and donor to DMAC.

## 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 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 Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) 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. During 1397, there were 1,344 civilian casualties by mine/ERW and IMs, 59 per cent of which were children; 51 per cent of these civilian casualties were due to IMs, an additional 48 per cent were due to ERW and the remaining one per cent were due to legacy mine incidents.

As of April 2018, at the beginning of 1397, DMAC recorded 3,756 hazardous areas covering 1,762 sq. kilometres of land in Afghanistan. This includes of 620 sq. kilometres of legacy contamination<sup>3</sup> and 512 sq. km of new contamination<sup>4</sup> consisting of improvised mines (IM), ERW and 630 Sq. KM of firing ranges.

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

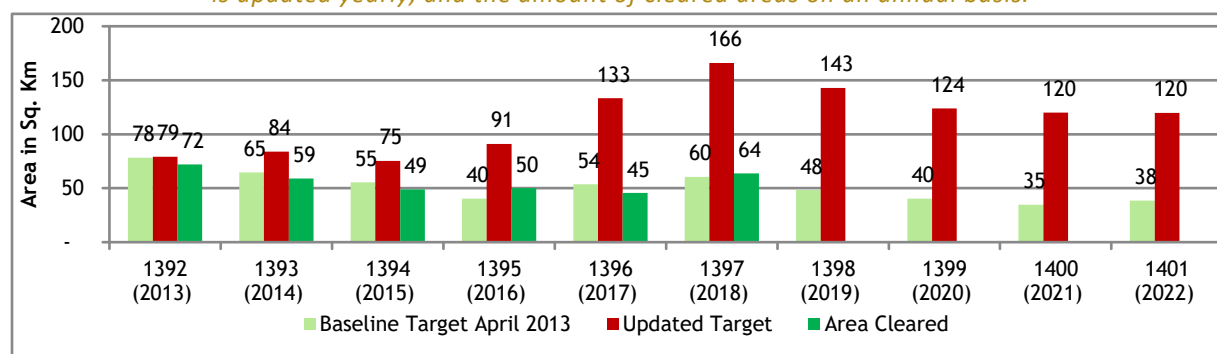
In April 2012, The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) submitted a clearance extension request at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention meeting. By submitting this extension request, Afghanistan committed to clearing all known mine-contaminated areas in its territory by March 2023.

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<sup>3</sup> This includes 104 sq. km of initial hazard areas surveyed but not yet confirmed.

<sup>4</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.*



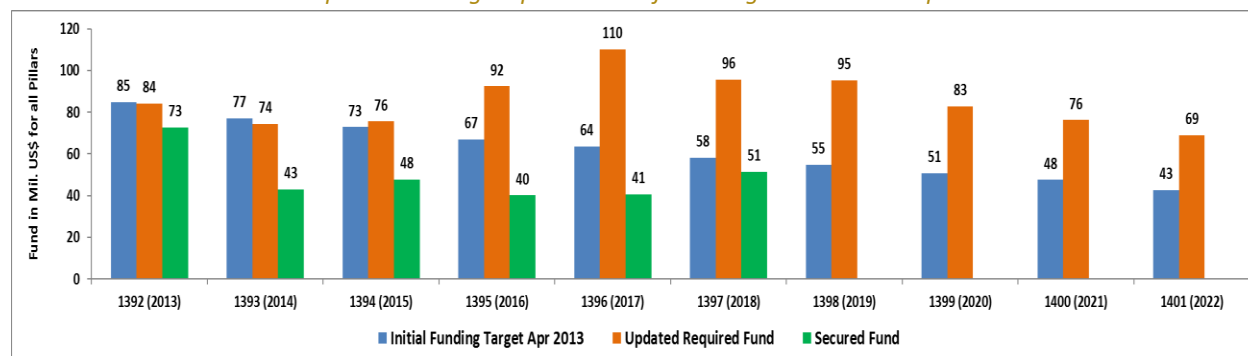
As shown in Graph 1, Afghanistan was not able to achieve its set target for the past five years due to funding shortfalls. The ongoing conflict, especially since 2009 has added a new burden.

MAPA managed to secure 273 million USD over the last six years which equates to 55.6 per cent of the 532 million USD required for those six years in the APMBC extension work plan.

While conducting non-technical surveys (NTS), new hazards of mostly legacy contamination remaining from previous surveys were found creating an addition to the clearance target and thus the APMBC work plan. The revised funding update suggests 368 million USD is needed to implement the plan in the remaining four years (1398– 1401). In addition to the recorded hazards in the national database, there are around 416 sq. kilometres of initially surveyed hazards, mostly improvised mines and ERW, from post-2001 contamination in 18 provinces of the country requiring proper NTS. The clearance cost of the 464 sq. kilometres of new contamination is around 161 million USD. Factoring in the 344 million USD, the amount needed now increases to 505 million USD. MAPA requires 505 million USD to clear all the recorded landmines and ERW in the country.

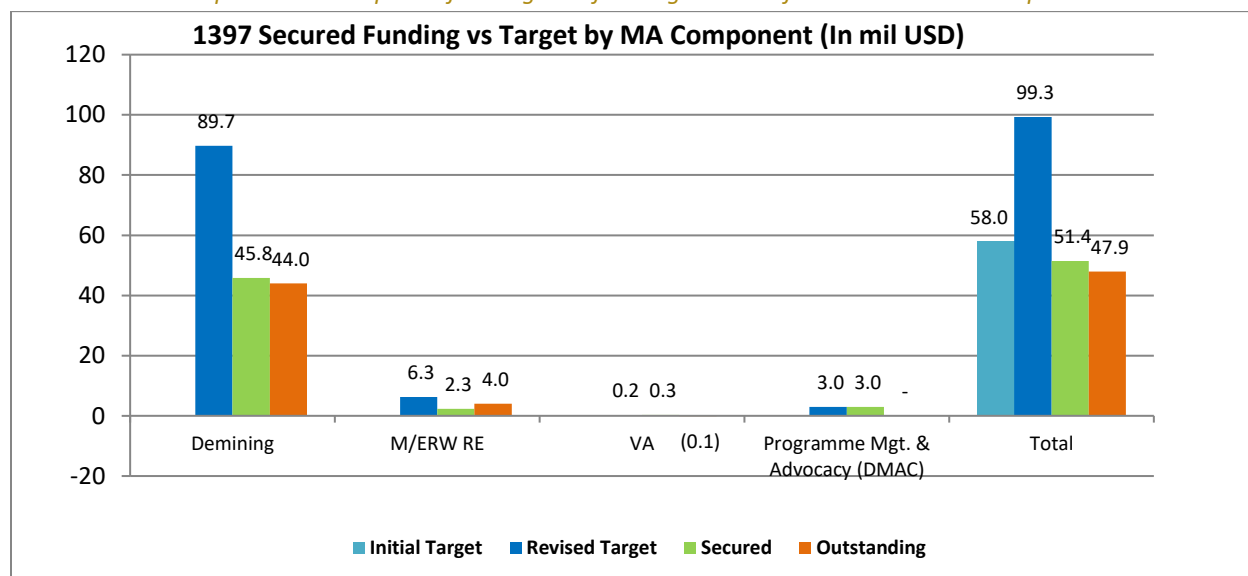
*The graph below shows the funding requirement of the original extension plan, the revised funding target, the funding secured to-date and the funding needed for the remaining years to complete the extension plan on time.*

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



The required funding for 1397 was 96 million USD and 48.9 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: 1397 required funding and funding secured for each mine action pillar.*



As shown in the graph above the required amount for clearance was 89.7 million USD. While 45.8 million USD was secured, there was a 44 million USD gap.

## Chapter Two: Activities

*Table 1: A Summary of activities completed in 1397.*

DMAC accomplished the following activities in 1397:	
1	Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) Technical Working Group was established involving IPs, UNMAS and DMAC representatives.
2	<p><b>OPS R&amp;D department developed the MAPA Policy on Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM):</b> The Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) policy was developed by DMAC in coordination and consultation with the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) humanitarian demining organizations.</p> <p>The policy directs the engagement of the MAPA for dealing with the challenge of confirmed or suspected AIM contaminated areas in Afghanistan.</p> <p>This policy guides the conduct of Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) demining activities of the MAPA in order to ensure that AIM contaminated areas are cleared safely, effectively, and efficiently. This policy also intends to prevent the MAPA and IPs from compromising their neutrality and impartiality by ensuring that all AIM demining activity is conducted solely for humanitarian purposes.</p>
3	<p><b>DMAC OPS R&amp;D department conducted a Case Study on Mechanical Approach for Anti Vehicle (AV) Contaminated Areas Clearance in Kandahar Province, 18-20 March 2018:</b> The findings of the case study provided information about the methods, structure of the team, operations methodology and revealed that the average productivity of mechanical ripper followed by mechanical cultivator is between 105,000-110,000 sq. m per month. The case study also provided recommendations to MAPA for further improvement and operations efficiency of clearance operations in AV mine contaminated areas.</p>
4	<p><b>DMAC OPS R&amp;D department conducted new trial on productivity rate FEL Machine Ripping and Follow Up Cultivating in Kandahar Province, 08-11 May 2018:</b> The main objective of this trial was to find out evidence-based monthly productivity rate of FEL machines ripping operations followed by mechanical cultivator in hard and medium ground. The trial also provides recommendations to Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) to further improve the efficiency of clearance operations in AV mine contaminated areas. Overall, the trial confirmed that the method is very efficient with high quality output for clearance of AV mine contaminated areas and as a result of the trial the productivity from 45,000 sqm/month was increased to 90,000 sq. m/month.</p>
5	Mine Action Livelihoods Survey was conducted in Khost province through which 12 communities in 5 districts were surveyed
6	Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was conducted on 56 cleared hazardous areas in 36 communities, across 26 districts in 10 provinces of the country
7	On behalf of the Afghanistan Mine Action Programme (MAPA), DMAC OPS R&D manager participated in the series of the IMAS Review Board Meetings during the reporting year in Geneva, Switzerland.
8	DMAC OPS Manager attended the senior managers training facilitated by James Madison University during 25 June – 13 July 2018 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

9	Participation of two staff from OPS R&D department in the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) series of trainings in Tajikistan.
10	As part of GICHD study and report on the Anti Vehicle Mine (AVM) accident and based on their request from DMAC, the AVM civilian accidents and casualties' data was prepared and sent to them for the duration of Jan – Dec 2018
11	OPS R&D department manager attended the Regional Workshop on Improvised Explosive Device Threat Awareness which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan during 10 – 14 Sep 2018.
12	<p>- As part of technical support to State Minister office to Martyrs and Disability Affairs (MMD) and Disability Sector First draft of the National Disability Strategy (NDS) developed and shared with strategy development committee for their review and comments, the second version will be finalized by end of Jun 2019.</p> <p>- As part of Advocacy the VA department of DMAC, facilitate the Afghan Campaign to Ban Land Mine (ACBL) General Assembly meeting through which the election has been conducted for the new Steering Committee members and Chairperson, the Standard Working Procedure (SWP) for ACBL is developed and this committee started its work.</p> <p>As part of coordination among VA sector six VA/Disability Coordination Working Group meetings, 10 Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD), three Inclusive Education Working Group meetings and two Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group meetings were conducted in 1397. As well as the four Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) meetings which are chaired by UNICEF, were attended.</p>

## 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 1397.

Activities	Outcomes/Results
5th Annual Donors and Implementing Partners (IPs) Coordination Workshop for Mine Action. 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).	<p>Donors reiterated their commitment to the MAPA and a mine-free Afghanistan.</p> <p>At the workshop which was organised between 25-28 March 2019, GICHD and DMAC agreed on conducting a follow-up visit, to conduct a capacity assessment and draw a proposed course of action for</p>



The workshop was chaired by H.E. Najib Aqa Fahim, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs.	future collaboration, tied to the recommendations of the workshop.
In preparation for the 5th Annual Donors and Implementing Partners (IPs) Coordination Workshop for Mine Action in Geneva, DMAC External Relations Department produced a 7.5-minute documentary highlighting and summarizing three decades of mine action in the country and the achievements of the programme to date.	The documentary provides a glimpse into the work of the MAPA in the last 30 years and was shared widely in the social media pages by DMAC, UNMAS and donors.
The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was celebrated by the MAPA.	The high-profile event was participated by H.E. Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Government of Afghanistan, H.E. Najib Aqa Fahim, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, representatives from UNAMA and other UN agencies in the country as well as representatives of donor countries, directors of implementing partners and other government and non-governmental organizations.
MAPA celebrated International Women's Day on 10 March. The event was held at DMAC compound Participants Were DMAC staff and MAPA implementing partners.	The event was well represented by DMAC, IPs and other stakeholders of the MAPA.
The 21st 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 17th 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 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 asset/tools used by MAPA operators.

### **Case Study on Mechanical Approach for Anti Vehicle (AV) Contaminated Areas Clearance - Kandahar Province, 18-20 March 2018:**

According to Afghanistan mine action national database, AV contaminated areas represent nearly 50% of all remaining recorded mine contamination in Afghanistan. Clearance of this remaining AV contamination by manual operations is costly and time-consuming. Therefore, DMAC operations R&D Department seeks alternative approaches to tackle the challenge of remaining AV contamination more effectively and efficiently.

The DMAC Operations R&D Department developed a concept note indicating that use of Front-End Loader (FEL) machine ripping operations followed by mechanical cultivator is very efficient and effective for clearance of AV mine contaminated areas. In light of the concept note, UNMAS announced a demining project for mechanical clearance operations of AV mine contaminated areas in South region and the project was granted to IP.

The monthly productivity of mechanical operations reported during implementation of the project was about 110,000 sq. m. This monthly productivity was confirmed by DMAC regional office South. To further make sure of the quality of operations, DMAC OPS department conducted a case study. The findings of the case study provided information about the methods, structure of the team, operations methodology and revealed that the average productivity of mechanical ripper followed by mechanical cultivator is between 105,000-110,000 sq. m per month. The case study also provided recommendations to MAPA for further improvement and efficiency of clearance operations.

### **Front End Loader (FEL) Machine Ripping and Follow Up Cultivating Productivity Rate Trial - Kandahar Province, 08-11 May 2018:**

Operations R&D department, in coordination with humanitarian IPs, conducted the new trial on FEL machines productivity rate in Kandahar, the trial was attended by 31 technical representatives from demining IPs and DMAC. The main objective of this trial was to find out evidence-based monthly productivity rate of FEL machines ripping operations followed by mechanical cultivator in hard and medium ground. The trial also provides recommendations to Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) for further improving the efficiency of clearance operations in AV mine contaminated areas. Overall, the trial confirmed that the method is very efficient with high quality output for clearance of AV mine contaminated areas and as a result of the trial the productivity increased from 45,000 sqm/month to 90,000 sq. m/month.

#### **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.

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 the reporting period, the Afghanistan Mine Action Standard (AMAS) # 06.10 for clearance of Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM) contaminated areas was finalized and shared with the demining organizations and other DMAC key stakeholders. The AMAS was developed in consultation with the demining organizations and UNMAS global technical advisor. It is a technical reference for engagement of the MAPA to deal with the challenge of confirmed or suspected AIM contaminated areas and can be used by the demining organizations to develop their SOPs in order to ensure that AIM contaminated areas are cleared safely, effectively, and efficiently without compromising their neutrality and impartiality by ensuring that all AIM demining activity is conducted solely for humanitarian purposes.

During 1397 DMAC conducted 3,074 QA visits of mine action projects in the country out of which 47 major non conformities<sup>5</sup>, 68 minor non conformities, 83 observations and 2876 conformities were reported by DMAC quality management inspectors. According to the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS) a major non conformity can generally be defined as a “breach” of AMAS that is considered to be life threatening. AMAS defines a minor non conformity as a “breach of AMAS that is not considered to be life threatening and/or can be rectified immediately without further training or additional resources being required/deployed.

In 1397, two missed-mine accidents occurred in minefields which were previously cleared by IPs in 2012. The first missed mine accident happened on 29 April 2018 in Gardiz district of Paktya province on a vehicle of a construction company. As a result of the accident, three people were injured (one person got severe injuries and two others got minor injuries on their body) and the vehicle was completely damaged. The area was re-cleared by the same IP and no mines were found. The second missed mine accident occurred on 17 April 2018 in Paghman district of Kabul province on a local resident, the accident resulted in traumatic below knee amputation of victim’s Left leg and multiple injuries to his right leg and hand. A Board of Inquiry (BOI) was assigned and lessons-learned summaries of the investigation reports were developed and shared with the stakeholders. The respective IPs were provided with clear instructions for further improvement and the cases were reflected in the Balanced Scorecards (BSC)<sup>6</sup>. There were three demining accidents reported in 1397, lessons learned summaries were developed based on the investigation reports prepared by the assigned BOIs and shared with the stakeholders.

#### **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.

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<sup>6</sup> Balanced Scorecards (BSC) is monitoring tool based on which DMAC measures IP performance

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 1397.*

S#	Activity
1	IMSMA/GIS training for DMAC regional staff & IPs (15 people).
2	IMSMA training for OPS/QMI staff (30 people).
3	Database Installation/Training for MOLSAMD.
4	IMSMA data migration and preparation for the new version of IMSMA.
5	Implementation of IMSMA Mobile data collection technology in MAPA
6	Implementation of Online Report/Information Sharing technology in MAPA
7	Development of MIS SWP and revision of AMAS as per new IMAS
8	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 mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW) 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 AP-MBC, 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 1397, 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 1397, DMAC planned to complete surveying 412 impacted communities and 8,951 communities of 110 districts where the impact was unknown; however, due to the lack of funds no MEIFCS operations was conducted in 1397.

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

In 1397, NTS was planned to be conducted in 25 districts funded by PM/WRA. The initial information indicated that over 51 - 200 and 201 - 500 military operations took place in those 25 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 1397, the NTS teams completed surveys of 5,267 communities (177 Impacted, 1,795 non-impacted from gazetteer and 3,295 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 9 sq. kilometres of new hazardous areas to the national mine action database of Afghanistan.

### **Technical Survey**

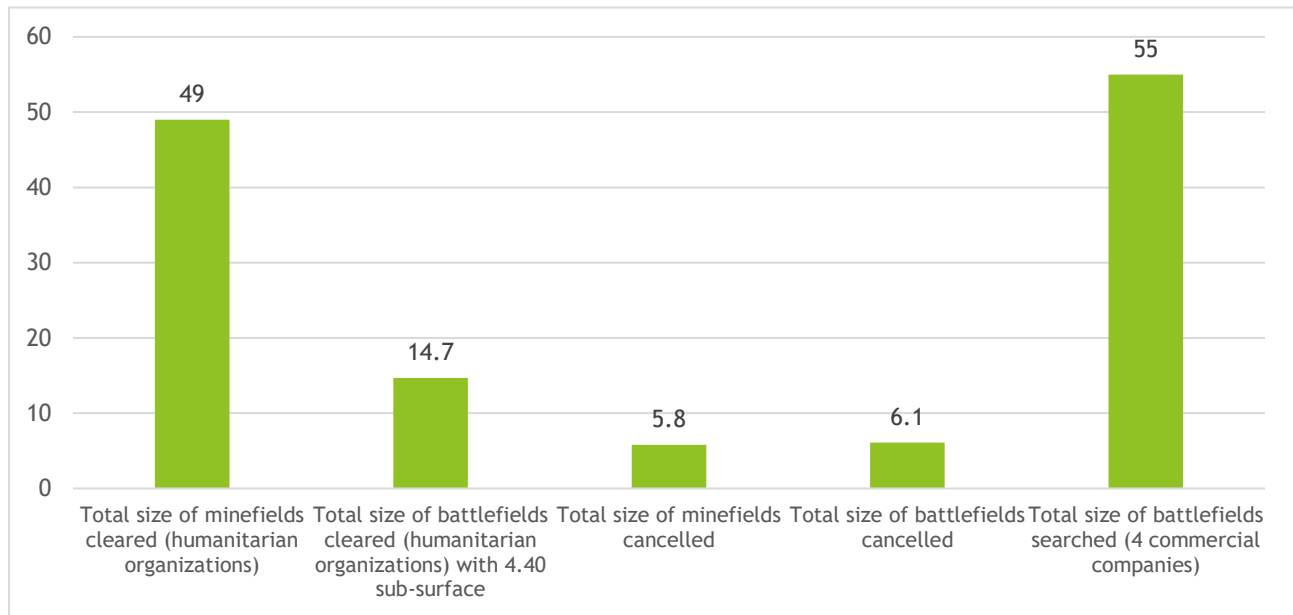
To confirm the presence or absence of mines and ERW, technical survey can be conducted as a stand-alone operation or integrated with clearance operations. In MAPA operations, the technical survey is integrated with clearance and the outputs of the technical survey are reflected alongside those of clearance 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 1397 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 1397.



### **Land Release Achievements**

Land Release is the process of removing hazard or suspicion of hazard through Non-Technical Survey, (NTS), Technical Survey (TS) and or clearance operations. The programme's 1397 target under the APMBC work plan was to clear 166 sq. km of contaminated land, but due to a shortage of funds, the set target was not reached.

Despite receiving 37 per cent of the required funds (41 million USD received compared to 110 million USD required) for clearance, MAPA IPs succeeded in clearing 64 sq. km, 49. sq. km of minefields and 15. sq. km of battlefields. Clearing those hazards freed 105 communities from known recorded hazards.

Land Release is the process of removing hazard or suspicion of hazard through Non-Technical Survey (NTS), Technical Survey (TS) and or clearance operations.

Clearing hazards in 1397 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 1397.

*Table 4: 1397 achievements by organization (Minefield)*

Clearance Agency	Number of Hazards	Hazard Area Released (sq. m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
			AP		AT	UXO	SAA
AMDC	19	355,769	0	0	0	12	0
AREA	11	621,679	239	0	0	48	0
ATC	92	4,498,417	889	0	13		495
DAFA	12	1,980,366	20	1	14	189	0
DDG	32	1,924,578	183	0	0	285	0
FSD	4	193,622	2,033	0	0	45	834
HT	283	26,433,568	4,728	3	133		1,440
MCPA	54	5,011,300	283	0	30	420	269
MDC	12	3,057,613	0	0	24	33	2,848
OMAR	80	4,645,231	802	0	1	310	5,519
OMARI	2	150,763	0	0	0	0	0
TDC	7	160,503	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>49,033,409</b>	<b>9,177</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>11,405</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 1397.

*Table 5: Battle Area Clearance Achievements in 1397*

Agency	Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Sub-Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
			AP	AT	UXO	SAA	BLU
AMDC	263,256	0	0	17	0	0	AMDC
AREA	4,054,726	0	0	118	5,661	0	AREA
ATC	896,866	2	0	661	0	0	ATC
DAFA	4,081,133	0	0	996	0	219	DAFA
DDG	3,371,889	0	0	15,898	7,555	0	DDG
HT	1,541,867	1	0	4,236	15,592	0	HT
JGO	76,535	0	0	95	87	0	JGO
MCPA	15,781	0	0	123	70	0	MCPA
OMAR	2,246,786	2	0	3,536	14,835	0	OMAR
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,548,839</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,680</b>	<b>43,800</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>Total</b>



The table below demonstrates the number of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) found and destroyed by humanitarian demining organizations under EOD operations during 1397.

*Table 6: EOD Achievements in 1397*

Agency	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
	AP	AT	UXO	SAA	BLU
ATC	0	0	21	0	0
DDG	1	0	1,113	282	3
FSD	5	0	239	0	0
HT	152	35	56,796	105,400	97
MCPA	0	0	9	0	0
MDC	0	0	131	210	0
OMAR	0	1	14	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58,323</b>	<b>105,892</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **Socioeconomic impact of mine action:**

It is broadly understood and acknowledged that mine action has tangible impacts when it comes to saving lives. What should equally be understood is that mine action lies at the center of the triple nexus of peace security and development, with social, economic and psychosocial impacts within communities and regions affected by mine action. The impact of mine action is felt beyond the immediate gains in the community and once an area is cleared, the socioeconomic benefits is felt across the wider economy. A few examples of clearance projects implemented during 1397 and their socioeconomic impact are listed below;

#### **A new town built for Refugees and Retunees in cleared land in Qal'eh-ye-Segeh village, Laghman province**

*In the middle of the desert, Qal'eh-ye-Segeh village was on the frontline of fighting between Mujahideen and Russian troops. This area was contaminated with Anti Vehicle mines, laid by Mujahideen against the Soviet Union troops and the then Soviet-backed Afghan Government forces. Based on the request of the Laghman provincial directorate of Refugees and Repatriation the village was cleared by a MAPA implementing partners in 1397. Following clearance operations Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation Laghman is developing a tree plantation/greenary project in the area and its preliminary activities has started.*



*Ongoing tree-plantation project on cleared land*

### **Kaftar Khana Village, Andarab District of Baghlan Province:**

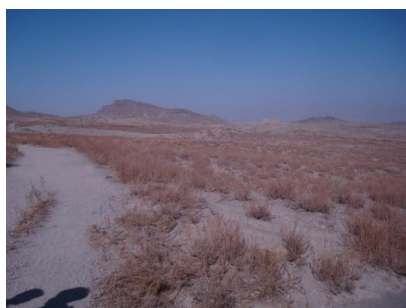
Kaftar Khana is a village that was on the front line of fighting between the Taliban and Northern Alliance in 1999. The village was contaminated with AP mines laid by factional groups and most of the inhabitants were forced to evacuate the village due to intense fighting.

Prior to clearance, a mine accident happened on a civilian (Mr. Sahabudeen S/O Sayed Hasamudeen) which caused serious injuries to the victim. After the accident, the villagers left their houses due to fear of more accidents. Based on the request of local people this village was cleared by a MAPA implementing partners in 1397. Fortunately following clearance the villagers safely use their houses without any fear of mine or ERW.



Clearance Operation in Kaftar Khana Village

### **Dara-e- Mullah Qudarat village, Paktya province:**



Before Clearance

Dara-e-Mullah Qudarat is a medium-sized village located about 15 km south of Gardiz city in a strategic location called Sato Kandaw, the Paktya-Khost main road passes throughout this area and this is the single point connecting Paktya to Khost province. Due to the strategic location of Sato Kandaw, this area was on the front line of fighting between Mujahedeen and the Soviet troops. A number of conflicts has taken place in this area and thus, the area was contaminated with different types of AV mines. Mines were laid during 1981-1985 by Mujahideen against the Soviets and the pro-Russian governmental forces. Prior to clearance a mine accident happened on a local tractor and contamination restricted the residents from collection of firewood and other natural resources because they feared of more accidents.

Based on the request of local people, the village was cleared by MAPA implementing partners in 1397. Fortunately following clearance the villagers safely use this area for collection of firewood and other natural resources without any fear about the existence of mines and other explosive devices.



Villagers Collecting Firewood After Clearance

MIS Firing Range project are summarised below in Table 7.

*Table 7: Summary of achievements of the 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
873,636,306	102,861,843	436,226,065	26	53	134,290	76,266	873,636,306

### **Operations by Commercial Demining Companies**

During 1397, 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 55,728,427 sq. meters was cleared by 9 commercial clearance companies in 1397. It is notable that commercial demining companies mainly work in support of development projects. Regardless of whether an area contains mines or not, donors/clients of development project wants the

area to be checked for mines and ERW in different depths (based on the development projects' requirements i.e. depth of foundation etc) in order to ensure the area is safe. The clearance figure mentioned here is actually the size of the areas they have checked. The majority of the areas checked by the commercial demining companies were not initially recorded as contaminated in the national mine action database.

## 2.3 Victim Assistance

In 1397, the conflict in Afghanistan continued to take a severe toll on civilian population, killing and injuring an alarming number of civilians and straining the already taxed and fragile health system. In the year 1397, 3,251<sup>7</sup> civilians lost their lives and limbs 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 32,000 and has left over 59,500<sup>8</sup> 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.

*Table 8: 1397 VA achievements and beneficiaries.*

VA Component	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Disability Awareness and Advocacy Training	1570	215	1105	1039	5868
Physical Rehabilitation	1685	4008	370	791	6854
Total	3255	6162	1475	1830	12722

*Table 9: Victim Assistance activities during 1397*

Activity Area	Activity
Information Management	<p>Technical support has been provided in mapping to single window management system in MMD.</p> <p>A project proposal has been developed to rollout the registration of 300,000 records of Martyrs and PwD through biometric system, project will be implemented in 1398.</p> <p>An initial database was developed for the MMD 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 to determine gaps</li> <li>2) prioritize and plan services for greater effectiveness</li> </ol> <p>The previously developed database in MMD was damaged due to a terrorist attack, the second database is under development based on IMSMA</p>
Advocacy	As a member of advocacy committees, the DMAC VA department:

<sup>7</sup> IMSMA report April 2018 to Mar 2019

<sup>8</sup> UNAMA civilian casualties report for 2018

Activity Area	Activity
	1) Conducted six advocacy meetings with different government and non-government organizations for the rights of persons with disabilities. 2) Presented its support in the amendment of the Disability Law to stakeholders.
Casualty data monitoring and evaluation	Victim assistance data gained from Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP III) <sup>9</sup> , Emergency Victim Assistance (EVA), UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other implementing partners was monitored and evaluated on a quarterly basis and shared with stakeholders. Four quarterly report of civilian casualties developed and shared with stakeholders.
National Disability Survey	Technical support was provided to MMD and the Central Statistic Organisation in forming a technical and executive committee and reviewing questionnaires for data collection. The survey was funded by Asia foundation on late 1397. The final report of the survey will be shared with stakeholder on middle of 1398 by Asia foundation.
Physical Rehabilitation	Physical rehabilitation services, such as physiotherapy, prosthesis and orthotic services, as well as sensitisation on the rights of persons with disabilities, were provided to 13,130 beneficiaries in nine provinces.
Strategy and policy development	During 1397, the first draft Afghanistan National Disability Strategy was developed and shared with VA/Disability stakeholder for comments and further improvement. But, due to establishment of new authority (MMD) it was decided to bring fundamental changes to the strategy based on the requirement of MMD.

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 live more than 100 km away from a rehabilitation centre; 20 provinces out of 34 have no prostheses or orthoses service providers and there is a lack of female health service providers and rehabilitation professionals. Increased government capacity is required to properly care for mine/ERW survivors and to ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities.



*A patient receiving victim assistance services in PRC of Kunar Province*

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

Uzma from Watapur who was referred to receive physical rehabilitation assistance stated “After Losing my leg in a bomb blast I wasn’t able to do any house work, I was in a difficult situation with my disability. My parents were always thinking about me and they were also unhappy about my disability. As a matter

<sup>9</sup> The ACAP III was ended on late 1396 and the COMAC program started a few month later of ending ACAP III. The VA department of DMAC is in very close relation with COMAC and will continue exchanging of coordination including data collection.

of fact, I was not able to go with my friends and relatives to wedding ceremonies and other parties because of my disability. I usually stayed at home and was very lonely.”

Uzma added that when she went to the Physical Rehabilitation Center, she received great services from experienced and professional doctors and technicians. She continued “I really want to express appreciation towards them. Now I can take care of my parents, sisters and brothers.”

“When I received Prosthetic services from the physical rehabilitation center, it brought a positive change to my life and I live with my family and can now participate in daily activities and feel much better. Before receiving assistance, I was suffering from hopelessness and nothing meant anything to me. I am now quite relaxed and take part in all activities.”

Another victim referred to the same rehabilitation center stated “VA services bring a big change in my life, now I realized that disability is not inability and I can also perform all the tasks which a normal person can do.

“Before the victim assistance I faced with a lot of problems during my daily works, I couldn’t walk, stand and set smoothly and I had a lot of problems, but now I feel comfortable while waking, standing, sitting and working.”



*Abdul Aziz, a mine victim, from Bala blok district of Farah Province receiving VA services*

## **2.4 Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education**

Throughout 1397 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 located in proximity of hazards, returnees, IDPs, nomads, scrap metal collectors, aid workers and people on the move (travellers). While the threat remains constant to all the aforementioned groups, the data indicates that children are the most vulnerable to the threat of landmines and ERW given their mobility and lack of care.

DMAC and IPs are making efforts to mitigate the threat landmine and ERW contamination pose to the lives and livelihoods of Afghan civilians. During 1397, eight accredited local and international IPs were actively engaged in the delivery of RE sessions. Considering the cultural complexities across Afghanistan, 57 couple teams (one male and one female) were involved in delivering RE; inclusion of a female MRE trainer ensures access to the evidently hard to reach female population.

In order to reach all at-risk groups for the delivery of RE to increase risk awareness and promote safe behaviour, the following activities were conducted,

- Provision of direct Risk Education sessions to people living in or in vicinity of landmine and ERW impacted communities
- Provision of Risk Education through media outreach, which is an effective communication channel to reach vulnerable communities in remote and insecure areas

- Provision of Risk Education to returnees through UNHCR and IOM Encashment centres, transit centres, and zero points
- Provision of Risk Education to IDPs and host communities
- Conducted Landmine Safety Program (LSP) for aid workers
- Updated monitoring MRE checklist for gender mainstreaming
- Updated guideline for the review and development of MRE IEC materials
- Data and Information guideline was developed by DMAC to avoid data discrepancies and ambiguities concerning informal and formal RE
- Impact Indicators and Prioritization was revised to reflect on the evolving nature of contamination and risks posed to the vulnerable affected populations
- UNMAS in collaboration with its local partner (DDG) supported the conduction of a one-day MRE workshop under DMAC's leadership. The workshop aimed to highlight and discuss RE material, means for delivery of messages to encourage participation of the children (children's flip chart).
- A workshop was conducted on new MRE flip chart for children (story pictures)
- ToT trainings were conducted for 153 Mine/ ERW Risk Education trainers of the accredited Risk IPs and organizations who implement MRE in the non-formal (indirect) approach, as a complementary activity
- Landmine Safety Programme was conducted for 223 to operations staff of UNODC, AWAAZ and MoE school teachers for their safe operations in field.

DMAC conducted meetings with Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) to reflect on the MoU signed between the two; as a result, MoIC will print the MRE messages in the national newspapers i.e. Anis, Hewad, and Eslah.

Given the wide reach of the mass media, DMAC extended its request to a number of TV channels to air its MRE video messages; as a result, Education TV (Maarif) and Youth tv agreed to disseminate the messages gratis. DMAC's MRE department will continue to advocate for free of cost dissemination of its video, audio, and print messages.

During the RE sessions, 39,600 green brochures, 130,850 notebooks with MRE Messages, 254,250 ways to home brochures, 40 teacher bags, 3,125 pens with Risk Education messages, 144,250 MAPA hotline cards and 95 Trainers' kits were distributed.

Additionally, during the year, 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 data, and Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys. and consolidating 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, and the Organization for Health Promotion and Management (OHPM) regarding integration of mine/ ERW RE in respective activities to include 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>
Community Member	6,591	65,396	47,938	26,807	28,216	168,357
Community Volunteer	7	0	0	34	2	36
IDP	1,266	15,566	12,150	7,001	7,597	42,314
Kochies	1	9	3	0	0	12
Returnee	11,949	47,879	21,811	88,737	17,577	176,004
School Teacher	8	0	38	21	6	65
Student	616	8,940	6,269	1,077	1,283	17,569
Womens Group	2	0	42	0	4	46
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>20,440</b>	<b>137,790</b>	<b>88,251</b>	<b>123,677</b>	<b>54,685</b>	<b>404,403</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>
Aid Worker/National	2	0	0	2	6	8
Community Member	957	8,381	13,360	4,106	6,082	31,929
Kochies	18	192	511	0	10	713
School Teacher	10	0	0	67	114	181
Student	184	18,646	22,616	146	707	42,115
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>27,219</b>	<b>36,487</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>6,919</b>	<b>74,946</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 1397.*

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 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.
7	Balance Score card finalized for better capacity building of quarterly work.
8	Checklists finalized for MRE- Survey and clearance- VA departments for better work.
9	UNMAS organized a four-day training on (Grants management, proposal writing, project management, Gender and diversity Mainstreaming at UNOCA compound.
10	Gender department and DMAC/UNMAS female staff had a visit MRE Team at DDG training comp
11	Gender department, DMAC/UNMAS female staff had a field visit to a Halo Trust training site in Shakardara district of Kabul. The visit was organised by UNMAS Afghanistan.

## Chapter Three: Key Achievements

The following are a list of the main achievements of the DMAC and the wider MAPA in 1397.

*Table 13: Key achievements of the MAPA stakeholders in 1397.*

Stakeholder	Achievement	Date
DMAC OSCE	Participation of four personnel from DMAC 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, November 2018
DMAC with financial support from PM/WRA	Mine Action Livelihoods Survey was conducted in Khost province through which 12 communities in 5 districts were surveyed	08-16 August 2018
DMAC with financial support from PM/WRA	Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was conducted on 56 cleared hazardous areas in 36 communities, across 26 districts of 10 provinces of the country	June-September 2018
DMAC with technical and financial support from UNMAS	A 3 days planning workshop was conducted in Kabul participated by representatives of DMAC all departments, UNMAS and all IPs in which priority areas were identified to be focussed during 1398	24-26 February 2019
GIS Training	MIS department conducted GIS training to produce, analyse and design GIS maps for internal and external stakeholders	24 – 28 November 2018
IMSMA Script Training	MIS Officer, Database programming specialist and Data/GIS Associate got training in IMSMA script training held in Green Village sponsored by GICHD.	28-oct-03 Nov 2018
DMAC MRE Department and the following informational magazines through MoIC, Anis, Hewad, and Islah.	M/ERW Risk messages were developed and shared with Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC). These messages will be featured in MoIC's informational magazines i.e. Hewad, Anis, and Islah. Given the number of readers of each magazine, the messages will help DMAC enhance its reach in raising awareness among the population in need.	February 2018
DMAC MRE department DDG, IPs (TWGs)	DDG, in consultation and under supervision of DMAC, has prepared flipcharts, containing MRE messages, aiding in delivering MRE to children (6-18-year olds). The Flipcharts have been approved by TWGs, inclusive of all relevant IPs, and will soon be used in conducting MRE where children are the primary focus.	During 2018

## Chapter Four: Risk Management

*Table 14: Challenges faced by the programme in 1397 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. The other main issue is when our operations colleagues go for site visit and sudden fighting eruptions in those areas could endanger the lives of our staff.	All the MAPA teams were advised to be vigilant and liaise with community elders. It had best results when community elders give Demining personnel safer environment to complete their operations. Selection of demining personnel (Community based deminers) from mine affected areas was another option to minimize the risk. In addition, past incidents were discussed and as lessons learned developed among the teams. Staff were given security briefings to avoid loss of life in those volatile areas.
<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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mine action organizations were asked to facilitate monitoring visits, and the issue was reflected in the balance scorecard (BSC).</li> </ul>
<b>Mine/ERW Risk Education</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Physical access to implement mine/ERW risk education was challenging in conflict affected and/or disputed areas.</li> <li>* We were going to conduct MRE TOT for MOE and directorate Kochi school teachers. Reduced funding was one of the main challenges and this could not be considered.</li> </ul>	<p><b>New Initiative in MRE approaches is going to be introduced such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MRE through TVs</li> <li>○ MRE through Awaaz Afghanistan</li> <li>○ MRE through radio</li> <li>○ MRE through newspapers</li> <li>○ MoE CPOs with coordination of DMAC MRE department were able to conduct MRE for students and teachers with little facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Victim Assistance</b>	
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 1397, the VA department of DMAC supported MoPH to train 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 MMD database.</li> <li>Project document has been developed for data collection through ARCS from clinics and impacted communities.</li> </ul>

## Chapter Five: Conclusion

As illustrated in the table below, as a result of the clearance in 1397 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 1,750.94 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 1397

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
AIM	132	33.16
Anti-personnel mine	1,833	175.51
Anti-tank mine	1,186	303.19
Battlefield/ERW contamination	288	141.46
Firing Range	41	630.76
IHA	348	466.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,828</b>	<b>1,750.94</b>

During 1397, the programme managed to secure 51 million USD of which 45.8 million USD was spent on demining and the remaining amount was spent on risk education VA. Although the required funding was not secured, the funding situation in 1397 was better compared to the previous year (1397) and MAPA was able to clear more areas than in 1396.

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