



Report on
Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA)
For Year 1395 (2016)



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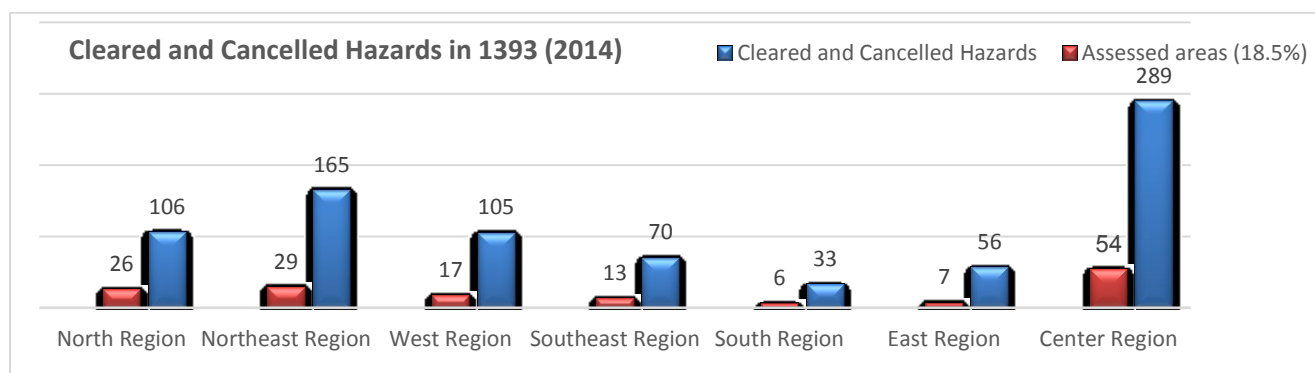
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Introduction:

A Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) is conducted annually by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs in order to assess the impact of demining projects in both cleared and cancelled areas. Cancelled areas refer to areas which are no longer seen as contaminated, and is determined through a technical survey conducted preceding clearance.

During 1395 (2016) DMAC was able to implement PDIA successfully in seven regions, 15 provinces, 39 districts and 121 communities. In 1393 (2014) in total 824 hazardous areas were cleared from mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) or cancelled out of which 146 cleared hazards and 6 cancelled hazards were assessed (in total 152 hazardous areas were assessed). The assessed areas cover 18.5% of the total cleared and cancelled hazards.



PDIA Objectives:

The objectives of PDIA are as follows:

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

Summary of the PDIA Report:

- The total area assessed by PDIA covers 13,800,470 square meters;
- From the areas assessed in PDIA, a total of 10,257 Antipersonnel mines (AP), 48 Antitank mines (AT) and 78,509 ERWs were discovered and safely destroyed by demining teams
- The cleared areas directly benefit 12,140 families where they use the cleared lands for pastures, agriculture, construction of houses, roads and as a source of wood collection,
- Some 30,390 livestock (sheep, goats, cows) are fed in the cleared areas;
- Over the course of one year people have harvested 356,300 kg wheat, 31,900kg onions, 340,000 kg corn, 427,800 kg fruits, 6,300 kg pistachio and 175 kg medical herbs (Hing) in the cleared lands. The value of these crops equals to 14,835,700 Afghanis (AFN) which is equivalent to 218,172 USD which represents an increase in the local economy;
- More than 90% of the people interviewed in the field were aware of Mine & ERW Risk Education programs;
- Government authorities including district governors, police commanders and other local government officials who were met (by PDIA team) demonstrated full satisfaction with the mine action operations;
- No incidents were reported from cleared areas that were assessed;
- Clearance of hazardous areas resulted on decrease of mine incidents on civilians. For example, during 2014 in Zherai district of Kandahar province 41 civilian casualties were recorded, but following mine clearance operations in this district only two incidents were recorded in 2016. Similarly, five persons had become victims of mine and ERW incidents at Qarghaee district of Laghman province in 2014, but no such incident has been reported ever since demining operations were undertaken in the mentioned district.
- Residents of 117 communities who were interviewed were fully satisfied with the work of the mine action program, however residents of four more communities were not satisfied for specific reasons which will be detailed further down in this report.

Table-1, Assessed Areas and Mine/ERW Destroyed:

No.	Region	Number of Areas Assessed	Area (Sq.m)	Mines and ERW Discovered and Destroyed		
				AP	AT	ERW
1	Central	54	2,499,856	496	0	952
2	East	7	565,401	159	0	118
3	South	6	6,847,991	9	0	149
4	Southeast	13	462,725	10	33	18
5	West	17	1,444,350	0	9	0
6	Northeast	29	1,270,140	9,440	0	22,101
7	North	26	710,007	143	6	55,171
Total		152	13,800,470	10,257	48	78,509

Table-2, Beneficiaries of Cleared Lands by Household:

No.	Region	Number of Households Benefitting from the Cleared Lands					Number of Livestock feeding from Cleared Lands	Level of Satisfaction
		Pastures	Agricultural Lands	Residential Houses	Roads	Wood Collection Sites		
1	Central	840	0	50	300	170	7,300	Satisfied ¹
2	East	200	0	800	0	200	650	Very satisfied ²
3	South	300	250	0	0	0	2,000	Very satisfied
4	Southeast	50	100	0	0	0	500	Very satisfied
5	West	130	500	0	0	0	800	Very satisfied
6	Northeast	840	2,500	20	2,500	350	16,350	Very satisfied
7	North	340	1,200	0	0	500	2,790	Very satisfied
Total		2,700	4,550	870	2,800	1,220	30,390	

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

No.	Crop Type	Annual Harvest in Kg	AFN Value per Kg	Total AFN Value	Total Value in USD*
1	Wheat	356,300	13	4,631,900	68,116
2	Onion	31,900	7	223,300	3,284
3	Corn	340,000	9	3,060,000	45,000
4	Various Fruits	427,800	10	4,278,000	62,912
5	Pistachio	6,300	300	1,890,000	27,794
6	Medical Herbs(Hing)	175	4,300	752,500	11,066
Total				14,835,700	218,172

Note: For the purpose of this table, one US dollar was calculated as equivalent to AFN 68. It is also worth mentioning that the above figures represent only 18.5 percent of the total revenue and crops harvested from the cleared and the total revenue and harvests from the entire cleared and/or cancelled lands will be **five times more than the above calculation.*

Activities Undertaken During PDIA:

1. Meetings with members of the provincial and district councils, provide briefings on the project's modus operandi, and share the objectives of the program with them.

¹Satisfied: People were satisfied with mine action operations; however they stated that they were not consulted systematically on prioritization.

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

2. Interviews with various categories of community members, members of community councils, elders, local leaders and landlords in line with the standards determined for all selected provinces.
3. Visits to the cleared/cancelled lands and note the findings in the forms.
4. Determining the level of public knowledge about demining and MRE programs.

PDIA Detailed Report

Post Demining Impact Assessment in Central Region

PDIA assessed 54 areas (53 cleared areas and 1 cancelled area) in Kabul, Parwan, Panjshir and Kapisa provinces. These projects were funded by Germany, Ireland, USA, Japan, Netherlands, and Denmark through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF).

Main Findings from the Cleared/ Cancelled Hazards:

- A total of 2,499,856 sq.m cleared area was assessed.
- 496 AP mines and 952 ERW were discovered from the assessed areas and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 1,360 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas they utilized the cleared lands as pasture, wood collection, as well as for residential and road construction.
- Around 7,300 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.



Road constructed following mine action operations in Salang district of Parwan Province

Case Study: Abdul Ghafar, a resident of Salang district of Parwan province, said during his interview about the impacts of the mine action:

“Prior to demining, there was no road in our village and residents were facing numerous problems especially with transportation of the sick people to health clinics, and delivering agricultural crops to markets. However, as soon as demining was completed, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development under National Solidarity Program (NSP) constructed a road for our community which

has resolved the peoples' problems with regards to transportation and now people are able to use the newly constructed road."

Beneficiaries' Satisfaction Levels:

Residents were satisfied with the cleared lands except for the residents of four communities who were dissatisfied with the mine action operations for the following reasons:

- Residents of Salang district were not happy with the prioritization of areas, because high elevation points were left contaminated and only the lower elevation lands were cleared, while seasonal snow and rainfall will sweep mines and ERWs down the hills, this results in recontamination of the cleared areas. MAPA senior management has adopted the necessary measures to make sure such cases will be not repeated in the future.
- Residents of Lakar village of Gulbahar district were partially dissatisfied with the demining operations and called for more attention to residents' priorities (precise communication channels to liaise with community members were not in place prior to and during implementation). MAPA senior management acknowledges such cases and tries its best to accommodate them, although prioritization is done in view of the financial and technical resources available, as well as occasionally based on donor discretion.
- Residents of Farukhchi and Kharooti communities in Bagram district were dissatisfied with mine action projects implemented in their communities during 1390 and 1391 (approximately 2011 and 2012). The demining operations in those communities had not taken peoples' priorities and requests into consideration. Failure to implement the project in the areas pinpointed by locals has led to dissatisfaction of the residents. The senior management has since taken measures to address these issues through involvement of DMAC quality management inspectors in the pre plan assessment of the hazardous areas prior selection for demining projects.
- Residents of JabalSaraj district are not satisfied with the work plan of the Implementing Partners (IPs) in that district. Based on local people's information, several IPs are busy surveying different parts of the district, but none have resorted to mine clearance so far. The senior management has considered this case thoroughly; however, it is worth noting that the practical demining work can only start after receiving reliable outcomes from the survey process. Thus this instance of dissatisfaction may be over the expectations of the community, which should be address with a more thorough/consultative dialogue with the community.
- Residents of Gorgdara village, in Rukha district of Panjshir province are not satisfied with the cleared areas because some areas that are located in higher elevation are not cleared yet. In this particular case, MAPA is considering the remaining areas as part of its clearance plan in consultation with the local people to take place in the future.

Conflict on Cleared Areas:

Residents of Hofian-e-Sharif, a village of Parwan province stated in their interviews that, following mine clearance, a conflict erupted between them and Tutumdara Ulya village on ownership of a mountain called Chortak, and with people of Shinwari Ghorband on Chinar Mountain. The conflict among these three villages is over the right to utilize the stones and wood of those mountains where the people of Hofian-e-Sharif are claiming to have ownership rights over the two mountains. This is an important matter for the MAPA.

Investigation revealed that there was no conflict at all over ownership of the mentioned areas before and during mine clearance operations which is why the areas were cleared. However, once the areas became mine free, the people of the mentioned villages began to dispute each other over the ownership rights of those areas. The issue was brought to the attention of Land Management Authority of Parwan province. MAPA is resolved to adopt all necessary measures in the future to make sure that mine action will not become the cause of conflict between communities.

Post Demining Impact Assessment in the Eastern Region

A total of seven sites, located at Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, were assessed in the eastern region. Those projects have been funded by USDoS.

Main Findings from the Cleared Hazards:

- A total of 565,401 sq.m cleared area assessed.
- 159 AP mines and 118 ERWs were discovered from the assessed areas and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 1,200 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas as they utilize them as pasture and source of wood, as well as for residential development.
- Some 650 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.

Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels: Local residents were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Post Demining Impact Assessment in the Southern Region

A total of 6 sites (5 cleared and 1 cancelled) were assessed in Kandahar province. These sites belong to projects which were funded by USDoS.

Main Findings from the Cleared/ Cancelled Hazards:

- A total of 6,847,991 sq.m area assessed.
- 9 AP mines and 149 ERWs were discovered from the assessed areas and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 550 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas utilizing the pastures and farmlands.
- Around 2,000 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 35,200 kg wheat per year from those lands which is worth 6,729 USD. This in itself is an indication of an increase in local economy.
- The local people also stated that they harvest 31,900 kg onion from those lands in a year which is worth 3,284 USD.

Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels: Local residents were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Recommendations:

People were satisfied with mine actions activities and recommended that more demining teams be deployed in Zherai district, in order to address mines and ERW problems in that district.

Post Demining Impact Assessment in the Southeastern Region

A total of 13 sites (11 cleared and 2 cancelled) were assessed in Khost and Paktya provinces. These sites belong to projects which were funded by Germany, Australia, Japan, Canada, Netherlands and UN-VTF.

Main Findings from the Cleared/ Cancelled Hazards:

- A total of 462,725 sq.m cleared area was assessed.
- 10 AP mines, 33 AT mines and 18 ERWs were discovered from the assessed areas and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 150 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas utilizing the pastures and farmlands.
- Around 500 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 16,100 kg wheat per year which is worth 3,078 USD.



Picture showing wheat crops in demined area in Gurbaz district of Khost Province.

Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels: Local residents were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Recommendations: Local people requested that the remaining hazards also be cleared.

Post Demining Impact Assessment in the Western Region

A total of 13 sites were assessed in Herat province. The areas belong to projects which were funded by UK and Germany.

Main Findings from the Cleared Hazards:

- A total of 1,444,350 sq.m cleared area assessed.
- 9 AT mines were discovered from the assessed areas and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 630 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas utilizing the pastures and farmlands.
- Around 800 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 250,000 kg wheat per year from those lands which is worth 47,794 USD.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 340,000 kg corn per year from those lands which worth 45,000 USD.
- In addition, the assessed lands yield 400,000 kg fruit in a year which is worth 58,824 USD.



Picture showing harvested wheat in a demined area, Kohsan district of Herat Province

Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels: Local residents were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Existing Challenges in Cleared Areas: People's problems in terms of mine and ERWs contamination has been solved, however residents of Qalata village complained about lack of resources to dig wells for irrigation. They were advised to raise this issue with the relevant authorities such as ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and community development councils.

Post Demining Impact Assessment in the Northeastern Region

A total of 29 sites (28 cleared and 1 cancelled) were assessed in Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces. These sites belong to projects which were funded by Germany, USA, Netherlands, Ireland, Norway and UN-VTF.

Main Findings from the Cleared/ Cancelled Hazards:

- A total of 1,270,140 sq.m cleared area assessed.
- 9,440 AP mines and 22,101 ERW were discovered from the assessed areas and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 6,210 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas utilizing them as pastures and farmlands, as well as for residential development, road construction and wood collection.
- Baghlan province's central Jail and medical facility has been built on a cleared land.
- Around 16,350 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 35,000 kg wheat per year from those lands which worth 6,691USD.
- In addition, the assessed lands yield 2,800Kg of fruit a year which is worth 412USD.

Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels: Local residents were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Case Study: Impact of Mine Clearance in Baghlan City:

Residents of Dasht e Kelagai were satisfied with MAPA's activities and appreciated it. They said: "Prior to demining operations in Dasht e Kelagai, the central jail of Baghlan province was located in a rented house in the city. However, following the mine action operations, government decided to build a building for the central jail in this area and relocate it from within the city. Moving the jail from the city to this area decreased congestion and traffic on roads in the city. Moreover, some shops were opened around the jail and other business activities provided employment opportunities for hundreds of residents of Dasht-e Kelagai."

Case Study: Another Example of the Positive Impact of Mine Action in Takhar Province :

Jurooq village of Baharak district of Takhar province is located along the river which connects almost 50 villages. Prior to demining, the people of all of those villages were facing numerous problems.

People were not able to transport their agricultural and livestock products to markets. Even taking a patient to the hospital was an issue and in some cases they would die on the way to a hospital. However, after clearing Jurooq village from mines and ERW, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development built a road and a bridge under National Solidarity



Interview with Locals in Bahark District of Takhar

Program, as a result of which most of the problems of the residents of Jurooq and other villages were resolved. Now they can easily transport their products to the provincial capital and also their patients make it to health centers faster.

Post Demining Impact Assessment in the Northern Region

A total of 26 sites (25 cleared and 1 cancelled) were assessed in Samangan and Balkh provinces. These sites belong to projects which were funded by US DoS.

Main Findings from the Cleared/ Cancelled Hazards:

- A total of 710,007 sq.m cleared area was assessed.
- A total of 143 AP mines, 6 AT mines and 55,171 ERW were discovered from the assessed areas and safely destroyed by demining teams.
- A total of 2,040 households are directly benefiting from the assessed areas utilizing them as pastures and farmlands, as well as for residential development, road construction and wood collection.
- Around 2,790 livestock (sheep, goat and cow) graze at these cleared lands.
- Assessment of the cleared lands showed that on average local people harvest 20,000kg of wheat from those lands per year which is worth 3,824 USD.
- In addition, the assessed lands yield 25,000kg of fruit a year which is worth 3,676 USD.
- The assessed lands yield 6,300 pistachios over the course of one year which is worth 27,794 USD.

The assessed lands yield 175 kg medical herbs (Hing) over the course of one year which is worth 11,066 USD.

Beneficiary Satisfaction Levels: Local residents were fully satisfied with the cleared lands.

Conclusion:

Post Demining Impact Assessment was undertaken in 152 sites covering a total of 13,800,470 sq.m area. The findings show a considerable decrease in mine and ERWs incidents in the lands assessed by PDIA. For example, during 2014 in Zherai district of Kandahar province 41 civilian casualties were recorded due to mines and ERWs incidents, while the trajectory of such incidents descended following mine clearance operations in this district only two incidents were recorded in 2016. Similarly, five persons had become victims of mine and ERW incidents at Qarghaee district of Laghman province in 2014, whereas no such incident has been reported ever since demining operations were undertaken in the mentioned district.

Furthermore, 12,140 households directly benefit from those areas and have been able to earn a total of 218,172USD through farming in the cleared areas. Additionally, a total of 30,390 livestock are fed and residential establishments are revived in the communities.

This is a clear indication of an improved local economy. In addition, following completion of mine action activities some development and infrastructure building projects have been implemented by stakeholders which have enabled citizens' access to markets and health centers.

Recommendations:

- High elevation areas should be prioritized/cleared first, because rain and snowfall washout mines and ERWs to low elevation, thus, re-contaminating the cleared area.
- Establishing strong communications with communities aimed at determining priorities and securing their support prior to survey or demining operations will enhance the program's efficiency and effectiveness.
- Improve conduct of technical survey operations before clearance for better identification of the actual hazardous areas.
- The nontechnical survey teams should use utmost precision during surveys, identify priorities properly and pay attention to people's viewpoints so that planning is done in accordance with people's demands.

End
