



United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
In support of DMAC

دفتر خدمات ماین پاکي ملل متحد
د ماین پاکي د همغږی او انسجام د ریاست په ملاتړ کی

اداره ملی آمادگی مبارزه با حوادث
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
ریاست انسجام و هماهنگی تطهیر ماین
Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)



PRESS RELEASE

SIX DISTRICTS OF BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE DECLERED FREE OF KNOWN MINES AND EXPLOSIVE RMENANTS OF WAR

On 4th April 2017, The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan passed another landmark towards the Ottawa Treaty compliance by successfully declaring six districts of Badakhshan Province free of known mines and explosive remnants of war contamination, during a ceremony held in DMAC/UNMAS Northeast Regional Office. The ceremony also commemorated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Afghanistan has been the victim of violent conflict throughout its history, which has left the land plagued with landmines and UXO, disrupting the social, economic and environmental development of the country. The clearance of these six districts, Khwahan, Raghistan, Kohistan, Arghanjkhwa, Tagab (Kishimi Bala) and Ishkashim was carried out by HALO Trust, FSD and MCPA, with the financial support of Australia, Ireland, Norway and PATRIP.

The demining operations in these six districts made over 481,086 square meters of land safe for productive use; unearthing 23 anti personnel mines, and 15,752 different types of ERW. Furthermore, a total of 9,034 people received mine risk education in these districts. Additionally, in recent years, over 700 villages have been surveyed in to assess potentially contaminated areas.

Alhaj Dr Gul Mohammad Baidar, Deputy Governor of Badakhshan province, remarked his pleasure and appreciation for these mine action activities at the event, and added, "The aim of the Afghan Government is to have an Afghanistan freed of all mines and ERW contaminations, so that its people can live in a safe environment, contributing to growth, progress and development of the country. We are very thankful to the United Nations Mine Action Service, the international community and donors, who have supported the Mine Action programme of Afghanistan and are committed to continue supporting, we hope they can be with us until finishing the job. We are also grateful to the de-miners for their hard work, indeed they are the real heroes because they sacrifice their lives to save others." Sayed Abdullah Dehqan, ANDMA Director in Badakhshan Province, also spoke at this event and highlighted the successful and ongoing transition of mine action coordination functions from the United Nations (UNMAS) to governmental body of DMAC/ANDMA.

The event was well attended by mine action partners, provincial officials, District Governors and heads of key governmental authorities and representatives.

Now that the hazards have been removed, this area can be used to meet the essential needs of people, such as the development of health clinics, schools and roads, or the ability to conduct agriculture practices and produce livelihood options, overall, directly benefiting a significant number of people living in the wider area.

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