

Ghazni Clearance Projects



Bahlol Village, Ghazni City; minefield in the foreground

Ghazni City Clearance Project; US \$7 million (24 month operational period)

- Ghazni City free from the threat of mines by the end of 2012
- 37 hazards removed releasing 6 sq km of land for productive use
- 12,820 families conduct daily activities unhindered by the presence of mines & ERW

Ghazni Province Clearance Project; US \$37.5 million (24 month operational period)

- Ghazni Province free from the threat of mines by the end of 2012
- 223 hazards removed releasing 38 sq km of land for productive use.
- 21, 429 families conduct daily activities unhindered by the presence of mines & ERW

This document was prepared by the
Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013 the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) will declare Ghazni as a Centre of Islamic Civilisation. Ghazni has a rich and valuable Islamic heritage, recognized by this honorable designation. Significantly, 2013 is also the deadline for Afghanistan as a whole being mine-free according to the Mine Ban Treaty or Ottawa Treaty.

Despite Ghazni's fascinating past, the brutal fact of Ghazni's present is that it is a city ravaged by war; within the city limits 37 mined areas render just over six square km unavailable for pasturing, farming and housing; resources vitally needed by the 89,740¹ people living in the city. Critically, these hazards inhibit the safe movement of local populations, and unless cleared, will pose a risk to the many tourists expected to visit Ghazni in 2013. To date 355 local people have already been killed or injured in the city area.

Through the deployment of an integrated demining capacity, encompassing manual deminers, dogs, machines and explosive ordnance technicians, this hazard can be completely removed in an operating period of only 24 months. If clearance commences by April 2010, all known hazard will be removed by the end of 2012 in time for Ghazni's recognition as a Centre of Islamic Civilisation in 2013. The human resources and expertise required are readily available; a financial contribution of \$7 million is all that is required to declare Ghazni free from the impact of mines. Full details of this urgent project are provided in Part I of this document.

With additional financial support of \$37.5 million, activities can be extended to clear the whole province of Ghazni; removing over 38 sq km of hazard also within the timeframe above. Part II of this document provides further information concerning this project.

Financing one or both of these projects offers an exceptional opportunity to contribute to the rehabilitation and recovery of Afghanistan as well as open exploration and celebration of the Islamic significance of Ghazni. Support of these initiatives will achieve

¹ Assuming 7 people per family

tangible results and a permanent and sustainable solution to an extremely pressing problem.

The following proposal provides an outline for the clearance of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) from both the city of Ghazni and the entire province.

The proposal is in four sections:

BACKGROUND provides information required to contextualize these projects

PART I explains in detail the problem and solution for Ghazni City

PART II explains the same for Ghazni Province

BUDGET details the cost breakdown for each project

ANNEXES are letters from the Ambassador to ISESCO and UNESCO confirming the Ghazni declaration

BACKGROUND

1. Ghazni: Centre of Islamic Civilisation 2013²

Ghazni is an ancient city located in Ghanzi Province in Eastern Afghanistan.

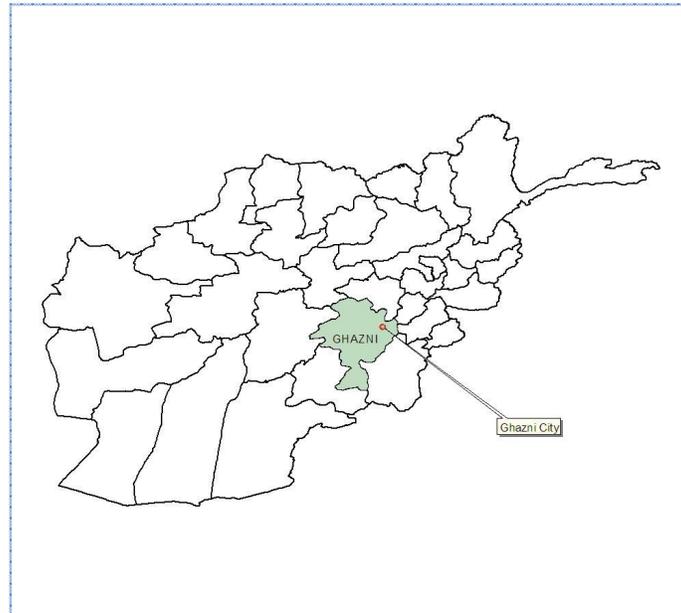


Figure 1: Location of Ghazni, Afghanistan

In 683 AD, Arab armies brought Islam to the area and Yaqub Saffari and Zaranj reigned over the region. It became the stunning capital of the Ghaznavid Empire from 994 to 1160, which encompassed large areas of modern day India, Persia and Central Asia. The Ghaznavids were the first to bring Islam to India and returned with incredible treasures from Indian princes and temples. Writings from the time portray Ghazni as a spectacular city of ornate architecture, vast libraries, lavish court ceremonies and citizens who owned a wealth of treasures.

It was then managed by the Khwarezmid Empire between 1215-1221, when it was attacked again by the Mongol armies of Genghis Khan led by his son Ögedei Khan. In 1747 the city became part of the new kingdom of Afghanistan. The walled, old city of Ghazni, with its numerous bazaars, contains the ruins of ancient Ghazna.

² Various sources collated at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghazni>



Figure 2: Walled City of Ghazni

The minarets of Ghazni, in their stellar arrangement, are a particular feature of the city. Dating from the 12th century, they are the remnants of the mosque of Bahramshah. Their sides are decorated with geometric patterns. There are many important mausoleums in Ghazni City and tombs of poets and scientists, including that of Sultan Mahmud, the founder of the Ghazavid Empire.



Figure 3: Ghazni Minaret

Many notable Islamic poets and scholars have emerged from Ghazni over the years including the famous Sufi poet Sanai and Ali Hujwiri, the Islamic scholar who was significant in the spread of Islam in South Asia. It is this rich cultural history of scholars, poets, writers and stunning architecture which led to ISESCO selecting Ghazni as Centre of Islamic Centre of Civilisation for 2013.

2. Being Declared Centre of Islamic Civilization: Potential Implications for Ghazni

ISESCO's decision to declare Ghazni a Centre of Islamic Civilisation will raise the global profile of Ghazni significantly. In 2013, it is likely that there will be a large conference convened in Ghazni for high-level delegates from many Islamic countries to join. It is also expected that there will be a desire from tourists throughout the world to come to Ghazni as a result of this increase in awareness of its value. It is clear, therefore, that essential preparation for such increased interest in Ghazni is to remove the threat of mines and other ERW from the city but ideally also from the whole province. For an Islamic nation to take the lead and support this endeavor is a rare opportunity to support the development of a key site of Islamic cultural heritage.

In addition to the opportunity for tourism, being declared a Centre of Islamic Civilisation will instill a sense of pride and unity among Afghans and will encourage them to protect and support their Islamic cultural heritage.

Afghanistan is a country which has suffered the blight of war for almost three decades and its people now desire development and peace. The opportunity for tourism in Ghazni presents a significant opportunity for the development of the province's infrastructure and economy. However, in the current context of the vast range of challenges facing the nation, Afghanistan needs the support of other Muslim nations to prepare adequately for this honour to be bestowed on Ghazni City. Added to this is the critical humanitarian imperative of clearing mines from Ghazni City, where 355 civilians have been killed and injured by mines and other ERW since 1990.

3. Mine Action in Afghanistan

The concept of humanitarian mine action was developed in Afghanistan in 1988/9. Mine action encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, demining (survey, marking and clearance), stockpile destruction, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance (VA). The programme is funded both bilaterally and through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)³.

Collectively known as the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), mine action implementers in Afghanistan form one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. Together, these agencies have a twenty year history of successfully delivering mine action in Afghanistan and have cleared over 18,000 hazardous areas throughout the country. The MAPA is coordinated by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), which is funded through a UN modality. The MACCA has sub-offices, known as Area Mine Action Centres (AMACs) in Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kunduz, Gardez, and Kandahar.

4. Coordination and Consultation

In January 2008 the Government of Afghanistan, through the mechanism of an Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB) for Mine Action, designated the Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) to work jointly with MACCA. During 1388 DMC will take over lead responsibility for the following coordination activities: accreditation of implementers; maintenance of Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS); coordination of external quality assurance checks; lead coordination role for MRE with Ministry of Education; the audit of land cleared and cancelled and preparation of the Article 7 Report⁴ for submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition MACCA and DMC will develop and publish a comprehensive UN to Government transition plan and assist the IMB to develop and publish a mine action transition plan.

³ Administered in New York by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

⁴ Article 7 is a legal instrument associated with the Mine Ban Treaty to which the State of Afghanistan is signatory

5. Scope of the Problem Nationally

As of August 2009, there were 6,434 known hazards covering an estimated total area of 665 square km impacting over 2,150 communities in Afghanistan. Approximately 2.7% of all Afghans are severely disabled, with landmine and ERW accidents accounting for around 8.6% of this total.⁵ The impact of disability on economic participation is substantial, impoverishing survivors and their families, straining government and other health care systems, and limiting economic growth and poverty reduction. The MACCA maintains a national database (IMSMA⁶) of all mine action hazards, victim data, implementation plans and activities.

⁵ National Disability Survey of Afghanistan, Ministry of Public Health, Central Statistics Office, Handicap International Report, 2005

⁶ Information Management System for Mine Action

PART I: CLEARANCE OF ALL KNOWN HAZARD IN GHAZNI CITY

1. Project summary

The problem	The solution
37 hazardous areas	14 Demining Teams, 1 EOD team, 1 Dog Set, 2 Mechanical Assets
Access to 6 sq km land denied	24 months of operations
12,820 families affected	Jobs provided for 300 local people
355 civilian deaths and injuries to date	US\$7 million

2. Ghazni City Contamination

Mine clearance began in Ghazni city in 1990 and since then 11,213 mines and ERW have been removed releasing 6.7 sq km of land to productive use. However, the work is only half done; 37 known hazardous areas currently make just over six square km of land within the city limits of Ghazni unsafe and unproductive. The chart below details how these minefields block resources vital to the 12,820 families living in Ghazni who are currently at risk of death and injury and socio-economically restricted by mines and ERW.

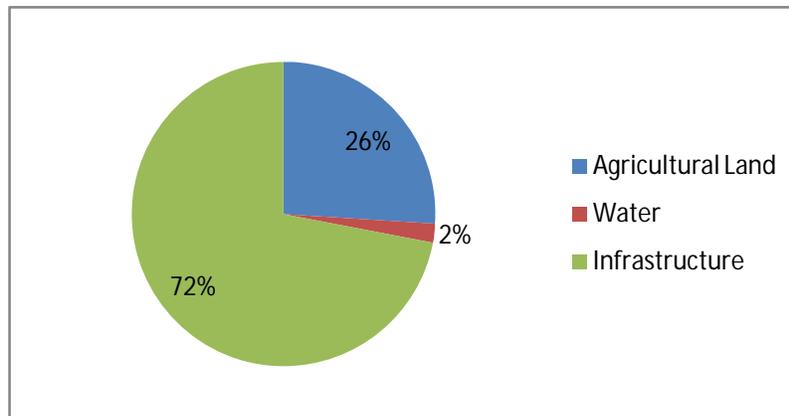


Figure 2: Blockages by Percentage

Accidents continue to happen; to date 355 people have been killed and injured in the city. The photograph below shows a mined area close to houses within Ghazni's city limits. The debris of destroyed vehicles in the foreground provides further evidence of fighting in the locality.



Figure 3: Mine/ERW contaminated area Ghazni City

3. Operational Methodology

The operational methodology of this project is based on a successfully proven integrated approach to demining using Manual Demining Teams supported by Mine Dogs and Mechanical Assets, plus a roving Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) capacity able to destroy individual items such as rockets, mortars and shells currently found throughout the city. The project has been designed to be completed over a period of three years, commencing April 2010 and concluding by the end of November 2012. In each year activities will be suspended for winter between December and March; in total the project requires 24 operational months.

Some clearance sites may fall within areas of archaeological significance which require specific technical expertise to address contamination close to ancient ruins and fragile artifacts. MAPA Implementing Partners already have experience in these types of clearance operations (see www.macc.org.af Newsletter of May 2009 for details of clearance in the historical sites of Bamiyan Province). MACCA will coordinate with UNESCO and the Government of Afghanistan Ministry of Culture in support of these activities.

Cluster number	Number of demining teams	Number of hazards
One	5	5
Two	2	9
Three	6	17
Four	1	6
Total	14	37

Figure 5: Demining teams and hazard, per cluster

The strategy behind clustering minefields and recruiting deminers from each Cluster will replicate the successful Community Based Demining (CBD) approach, piloted in the programme in 2008 and expanded in 2009 to cover eight project locations in Kunar, Nangahar, Helmad, Uruzgan, Ghor, Kandahar and Bamiyan provinces of Afghanistan.



**Figure 6: Community Based Demining team, Marawara District, Kunar Province.
April 2009**

CBD enables community members to take ownership of the contamination affecting them, and to benefit financially from injection of cash into otherwise subsistence economies. This project offers a minimum of 24 months employment allowing individuals to amass resources to enable future business opportunities once the project is completed. Since CBD is a part-time activity, usually undertaken in the mornings

before heat makes operations untenable, project staff can conduct their usual activities such as farming, etc when demining is finished for the day. This enables sustainability and continuity of normal activities, as explained by a Community Based Deminer currently working in his community in Kandahar: *“I am a farmer, but now I have learnt demining also. Demining is difficult, although in different ways from farming, however I am happy to be doing this job because I know it will benefit my community.*

My salary was very low working as a farmer and shop keeper, and so I am glad for how this can help my family and others in my community through the boost to the economy this project provides.

At first, people were worried about us doing this work, but now they can see this work will benefit the community and indeed the whole country and they are happy about this project. I told people in my community that this was holy work for God and I hope that all communities will allow deminers to come and destroy the hidden enemy of mines.”



Furthermore, in areas of more volatile security, the community-based approach has proven successful in ensuring the security of the project through the beneficiaries themselves. It is in the interest of the community, which benefits not only from mine clearance but also from the economic opportunity, to ensure - as far as they can - the security of the project.

4. Outputs

The output of this project will be the complete clearance of Ghazni city

- Ghazni City free from the threat of mines by the end of 2012
- 37 hazards removed releasing 6 sq km of land for productive use
- 12,820 families conduct daily activities unhindered by the presence of mines and ERW

5. Outcomes/beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of this project will be the 89,740⁷ people living in Ghazni city currently impacted by mine and ERW contamination.

Furthermore approximately 300 jobs will be created by the project providing a means of financial support to an estimated 2,100 family members.

Many of the neighborhoods in Ghazni city are severely impoverished and the cash injection resulting from demining teams spending within these communities (fuel, food, expendable stores, etc) will have a positive impact through the provision of income generation opportunities for local people and businesses.

Indirect beneficiaries encompass the total population of Ghazni city including current residents and the influx of IDPs and refugees, the business community, UN agencies, relief and development NGOs, and the Government of Afghanistan who will be able to conduct their activities safely and utilize cleared land for the implementation of development projects and construction activities unimpeded by the presence of mines and ERW.

In 2013, when Ghazni is a Centre of Islamic Civilisation, the many visitors, scholars and interested parties will be free to enjoy the treasures of Ghazni free from the threat of death and injury posed by mines and ERW.

⁷ Assuming 7 people per family

PART II: CLEARANCE OF ALL KNOWN HAZARD IN GHAZNI PROVINCE

1. Project summary

The problem	The solution
223 hazardous areas	85 Demining Teams, 8 EOD Teams, 4 Dog Set, 5 Mechanical Assets
Access to 38 sq km land denied	24 months of operations
21, 249 families affected	Jobs provided for 1,700 local people
546 civilian deaths and injuries to date	US\$37.5 million

2. Ghazni Province Contamination

Mine clearance began in Ghazni Province in 1990 and since then 19,730 mines and ERW have been removed releasing 8.9 sq km of land to productive use. Nonetheless 223 known hazardous areas are recorded in the database, rendering over 38 square km unavailable for pasturing, farming and housing. The chart below details how these minefields block resources vital to the 21,249 families living in Ghazni Province who are currently at risk of death and injury and socio-economically restricted by mines and ERW.

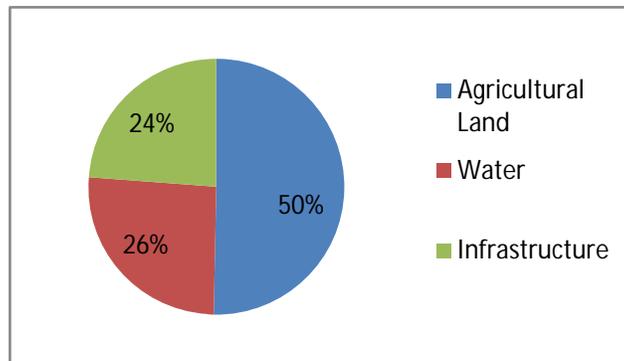


Figure 7: Blockages by Percentage

Accidents continue to happen; to date 546 people have been killed and injured across the province. The map below shows the location of hazard in the province.

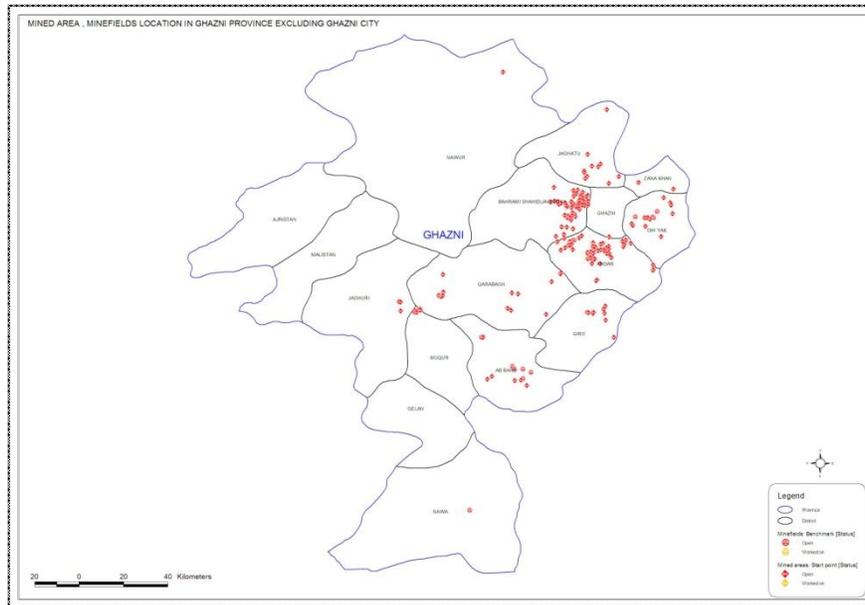


Figure 8: Spread of hazard in Ghazni Province

3. Operational Methodology

As with the Ghazni City Clearance Project described above, clearance of Ghazni Province will also take an integrated approach by conducting manual demining supported by dogs, machines and an EOD capacity. This project has also been designed to be completed over the same time frame; commencing April 2010 and concluding by the end of November 2012 with the same “stand down” period between December and March for the winter months. Activities will be undertaken for a total of 24 operational months.

For operational efficiency and in order to promote community ownership hazards have been grouped into Clusters A to I as indicated in the map below:

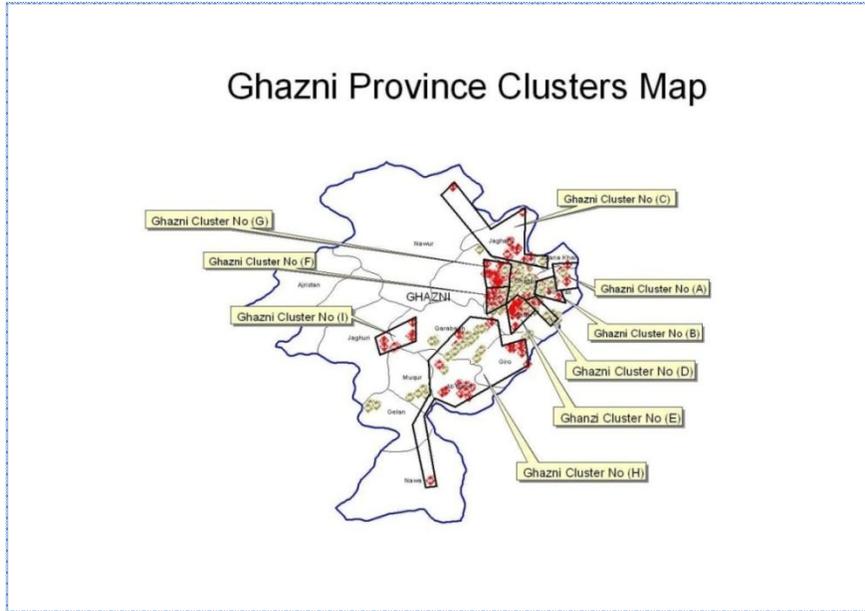


Figure 9: Ghazni Province Clusters

By analyzing the hazard (taking into consideration size, location, contamination type, etc) the assets required to most efficiently remove mine and ERW contamination in each of the Clusters has been determined. The table below summarises the assets required for each Cluster and the associated cost.

Cluster	Area to cleared (sq m)	Number of Demining Teams	Number of EOD Teams	Number of Dog Sets	Number of Mechanical Assets	Cost in US\$
Cluster A	6,662,395	14	1	1	1	6,261,000
Cluster B	5,871,700	13	1	1	1	5,901,000
Cluster C	1,769,550	4	1			1,705,000
Cluster D	1,892,600	4				1,440,000
Cluster E	4,569,886	10	1	1	1	4,821,000
Cluster F	2,272,325	5	1			2,065,000
Cluster G	9,224,624	20	2	1	1	8,686,000
Cluster H	4,483,076	10	1		1	4,545,000
Cluster I	1,940,515	5				1,800,000
TOTAL	38,686,671	85	8	4	5	37,224,000

Figure 10: Assets required for Ghazni Province clearance

For this project a total of 1,700 people will be recruited from the clusters of contaminated communities. Implementing Community Based Demining enables and promotes:

- Community ownership of the contamination which affects them
- Financial benefit to marginalised populations
- Prospect for individuals to amass resources to enable future business opportunities once the project is completed
- Opportunity for project staff to conduct their usual activities such as farming, etc when demining is finished for the day, enabling sustainability and continuity of normal activities
- Increased security of the project through the beneficiaries themselves; it is in the interest of the community, which benefits not only from mine clearance but also from the economic opportunity, to ensure - as far as they can - the security of the project.

4. Outputs

The output of this project will be the complete clearance of Ghazni Province

- Ghazni Province free from the threat of mines by the end of 2012
- 223 hazards removed releasing 38 sq km of land for productive use
- 21, 249 families conduct daily activities unhindered by the presence of mines and ERW

5. Outcomes/beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of this project will be the 148,700⁸ people living in Ghazni Province currently impacted by mine and ERW contamination.

Furthermore approximately 1,700 jobs will be created by the project providing a means of financial support to an estimated 12,000 family members.

⁸ Assuming 7 people per family

Many of the areas in Ghazni Province are severely impoverished and the cash injection resulting from demining teams spending within these communities (fuel, food, expendable stores, etc) will have a positive impact through the provision of income generation opportunities for local people and businesses.

Indirect beneficiaries encompass the total population of Ghazni Province including current residents and the influx of IDPs and refugees, the business community, UN agencies, relief and development NGOs, and the Government of Afghanistan who will be able to conduct their activities safely and utilize cleared land for the implementation of development projects and construction activities unimpeded by the presence of mines and ERW.

In 2013, when Ghazni is a Centre of Islamic Civilisation, the many visitors, scholars and interested parties will be free to enjoy the treasures of Ghazni free from the threat of death and injury posed by mines and ERW.

PROJECT BUDGETS

1. The funds required to complete clearance of **Ghazni City** are **\$7 million** as summarised below:

Clearance Component	Number of teams required	Set up costs	Running costs for 24 month operational period	TOTAL US\$
Community Based Demining	14	672,000	4,368,000	5,040,000
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	1	37,000	228,000	265,000
Mine Dog Sets	1		276,000	276,000
Mechanical Demining Assets	2	1,000,000	360,000	1,360,000
TOTAL in US\$	18	1,709,000	5,232,000	6,941,000

NB. Already established Dog Sets will be utilized, thus no set up costs required.

2. The funds required to complete clearance of **Ghazni Province** are **\$37.5 million** as summarised below:

Clearance Component	Number of teams required	Set up costs	Running costs for 24 month operational period	TOTAL US\$
Community Based Demining	85	4,080,000	26,520,000	30,600,000
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	8	296,000	1,824,000	2,120,000
Mine Dog Sets	4		1,104,000	1,104,000
Mechanical Demining Assets	5	2,500,000	900,000	3,400,000
TOTAL in US\$	102	6,876,000	30,348,000	37,224,000

NB. Already established Dog Sets will be utilized, thus no set up costs required.

There are numerous modalities available for providing financial support for all, or part of this project;

- Bilateral support to mine action NGOs (national and international) who will implement clearance activities coordinated by the MACCA
- Contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action, held in New York and administered by the UN Mine Action Service which utilises UNOPS to contract mine action agencies for clearance coordinated by the MACCA
- Direct contracting of commercial operators specialized in mine and UXO clearance coordinated by the MACCA