



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

دفتر خدمات ماین پاکى ملل متحد
د ماین پاکى د همغږى او انسجام د ریاست په ملاتړ کې



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

JAPAN CONTRIBUTES 2 MILLION DOLLARS TO MINE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

(April 11, 2017) Kabul - Afghanistan. In March 2017, Japan announced its contribution of US\$ 2 million to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) for the clearance of landmine and explosive remnant of war (ERW) contamination in Nimroz, Afghanistan. This contribution from Japan is directed towards the clearance of contaminated areas prioritized in line with Afghanistan's obligations under the Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

The clearance operations under this contribution will directly benefit an estimated 339 people living within 500 metres of the contaminated areas in six villages of Chahar Burjak District, Nimroz. The indirect beneficiaries are estimated at 107,490, while an additional 100,000 people will benefit from the release of land currently blocking approximately 40 km of the road between Zaranj and Chahar Burjak districts of Nimroz and Dishu district of Helmand. As a result of the clearance, the traveling distance will be significantly reduced in these areas. Furthermore, this clearance will help Afghan civilians more broadly, with many gaining indirectly from the productive use of the previously contaminated land, and any further development activities in the area.

The project will take place in Nimroz province, and release an estimated total area 1.60 million square meters of recorded landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination. In addition to funding grants to the UNMAS implementing partners, the contribution from Japan will enable effective coordination and quality management of Japanese-funded activities.

Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, Director of the Afghan Government's Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), thanked the government of Japan, stating, "On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to extend my sincere appreciations to the people and Government of Japan for the continued generous support they have provided in to the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). This contribution will enable demining of priority minefields in Nimroz Province, and will also cover a portion of the activities related to coordination and oversight of mine action activities. These funds will directly contribute to saving lives and limbs of Afghan civilians, and open roads and enable development activities



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within the impacted communities; additionally it will contribute in ensuring demining operations are carried out as effectively and efficiently as possible and in line with the national standards”.

This generous contribution brings Japan’s total support to the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, directed through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund, to US\$ 61.6 million since 2003. This has led to the clearance of some 25,000 hazardous areas, and the destruction of over a million anti-personal mines and over 18 million items of ERW, saving lives and bolstering livelihoods across the country.

THE END

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