

# ANNUAL REPORT

1393 (April 2014 - March 2015)  
Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)



Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)

# ANNUAL REPORT

1393 (April 2014 - March 2015)



## ABOUT THE MINE ACTION COORDINATION CENTRE OF AFGHANISTAN

The concept of humanitarian mine action was developed in Afghanistan in 1988/9. After the fall of the Taliban and the international community's intervention in 2002, the Government of Afghanistan entrusted interim responsibility for mine action to the United Nations through an organisation named the United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) owned by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

In 2008, to further national ownership of the coordination of mine action, UNMACA was rebranded as the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), remaining an UNMAS project. Oversight and coordination of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is gradually shifting toward national ownership. MACCA is now working together with the Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), previously known as the Department of Mine Clearance (DMC), under the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) to develop strategies and to implement and monitor mine action activities and targets. MACCA and DMAC coordinate nationwide mine action activities through seven MACCA regional offices in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Gardez, and Jalalabad.

As the coordination body, MACCA is also responsible for implementing Afghanistan's ten-year workplan approved under its Extension Request to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, also known as the Ottawa Treaty. To ensure proper coordination and efficiency within the programme, MACCA focuses primarily on planning and priority setting, information management, quality management, resource mobilisation, advocacy and the coordination of all activities undertaken by any MAPA stakeholder towards achieving the goal of "Afghanistan Mine Free by 2023".

Editing: Noorullah Elham and Bríd Sheehan  
 Layout and design: Noorullah Elham  
 Cover photo: Information gathering, HALO Trust Survey/EOD Manager, Ghaza village, Shakardara district, Kabul province – June 2012.  
 Publication title: Annual Report 1393, Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan

© 2015 Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA). This report is and communicates the joint efforts of all stakeholders to the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). The opinions and analysis expressed in this report are those of MACCA on behalf of MAPA, which is an UNMAS project in Afghanistan. Some rights are reserved. This report may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted only for non-commercial purposes and with written credit to MACCA. Where this report is reproduced, stored or transmitted electronically, a link to MACCA's website ([www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)) should be provided. Any use of this report falling outside of these permissions requires prior written permission of the publisher, the MACCA. Permission can be sought by emailing [info@macca.org.af](mailto:info@macca.org.af).

## FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present to you, on behalf of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan's annual report for 1393. This report presents an overview of what MAPA has achieved and the challenges faced by the programme in 1393. ANDMA is the line authority for mine action in Afghanistan and, through its Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), it directs and oversees mine action operations in Afghanistan.

Since the commencement of the mine action programme in Afghanistan, 80 percent of mine contamination has been addressed. To remove the remaining 20%, MAPA needs USD 390 million. This means that as of the start of the year 1394, 4,266 minefields and battlefields covering an area of 534 sq km in 1,603 villages will need to be removed. Article Five of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT) obliges the Government of Afghanistan to clear all remaining minefields in its territory by March 2023. The achievement of this goal will depend on whether MAPA is able to obtain the required funds. Afghanistan has a comprehensive 10-year operational plan, from 2013 to 2023, which guides all demining activities carried out in the country by humanitarian demining organisations. In year one of the said operational plan, Afghanistan exceeded its annual target; however, in year two (1393), only 69.8% of the projected target was achieved as a result of the funding shortfall. In 1393, MAPA received USD 43.7 million to clear mines and ERW, provide victim assistance and mine/ERW risk education, including the cost of programme coordination, amounting to less than 56 percent of the anticipated annual budget.

Unfortunately, the financial outlook for 2015 shows a significant decline in MAPA's predicted budget and it will certainly affect the programme's ability to achieve its target for year three. Considering the financial situation of MAPA, we all need to make every possible effort to do more with less and ensure mine action resources are used as efficiently as possible.

In 1393, the programme cleared 766 minefields covering an area of 51.8 sq km and 46 battlefields with an area of 6.7 sq km in 75 districts. This accounts for 69.8 percent of the annual demining target. During clearance operations, demining organisations discovered and destroyed 11,728 anti-personnel mines, 517 anti-tank mines and 238,247 items of ERW. Moreover, the programme has provided mine/ERW risk education to 977,000 Afghan men, women, boys and girls, and has implemented seven projects in support of victim assistance.

Herewith, I would like to thank MAPA's donors, implementing partners, the United Nations Mine Action Service and other stakeholders for their efforts towards freeing Afghanistan from mines and ERW.

Dr. Mohammad Daim Kakar  
 Director General  
 Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be the signature of Dr. Mohammad Daim Kakar.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE

In 1393 the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan marked its twenty-fifth year of operation. While the final goal of a mine-free Afghanistan is within sight now, there still remains a level of contamination that is one of the largest in the world. New hazards in the form of explosive remnants of war from ongoing conflict present a growing problem that requires new strategies, planning and commitments.



The year will be remembered as one of changes and challenges. The number of victims increased, especially from the increased threat of pressure-plate IEDs. Security worsened. The 34 deminers who were killed in 1393 was equal to the sum total of the previous four years.

There is no justification for these attacks. Deminers are humanitarian workers. Funding declined for the third consecutive year. For the first time the annual operational targets were not achieved. National implementing partners found their financial resources failing to properly sustain their core operating capacity. UNMAS had almost a complete changeover of international staff.

The range of difficulties were many. But there were positive developments that helped counter them. The country experienced both political and security transitions: the national elections and ISAF assumed a new, non-combat role. The MAPA drew praise when it responded quickly after hazards were unexpectedly discovered in the newly created refugee camp in Khost. The survey and clearance of ISAF test firing ranges advanced rapidly and the Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) undertook the quality management.

DMAC, MACCA and the implementing partners continued to apply new operational and financial efficiencies. The MAPA increasingly does more with less. It has reached its highest level of value. But this comes just when funding resources fail to fully utilize that capacity. The lower level of funding also diminishes the benefit of economy of scale relative to coordination costs.

In effect, the year was characteristic of the MAPA. Problems were many but solutions were found. The perseverance to deal with them remained constant. New challenges were confronted directly. Old ones continued to be addressed. Most importantly, many donors remained committed to the programme, with the resources they had available.

With a quarter century of experience and knowledge, and consistently successful achievement year after year, the Mine Action Programme remains one of the most valuable organizational resources in Afghanistan.

Jeffrey McMurdo  
Programme Manager  
United Nations Mine Action Service

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINE ACTION COORDINATION CENTRE OF AFGHANISTAN

The end of 1393 marked the completion of the 26<sup>th</sup> year of successful mine action operations in Afghanistan. During all these years, the dedicated efforts of mine action organisations in an unstable and insecure Afghanistan has brought the country 80% closer to removing landmines and explosive remnants of war left behind from the armed conflict prior to 2001. 30 mine-related deaths and injuries were recorded during 1393. This shows a significant reduction if we compare it with the 796 mine-related casualties recorded in 1380. However, deaths and injuries that are caused by ERW and pressure-plate improvised explosive devices, left behind from the conflict since 2001, have increased alarmingly, causing almost 94 recorded deaths and injuries every month.



One remarkable achievement this year was the expansion of the largest ever ERW clearance operations in the world, that of the abandoned international military high-explosive training ranges (firing ranges). During 1394, we will continue our advocacy efforts to find a solution for the battlefields remaining as a result of the conflict since 2001, as well as the ERW and pressure-plate IED contamination. I hope that all warring sides consider as an utmost priority the protection of civilians from the threat of post-conflict explosive hazards.

I am proud to present this report to the stakeholders of the programme. You will learn from this report that MAPA once again exhibited its resilience by achieving more with less in the most complex and challenging working environment. On behalf of MACCA, I express my sincere appreciation to our donors for their support and to the national and international humanitarian and commercial mine action partner organizations for their continued dedication.

Mohammad Sediq Rashid  
Director  
Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan

Landmine victim, February 2015, Kabul Province  
Photo by, Sayed Mustafa Hamidy



## CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>SECTION 1: SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| 1.1. Contamination at the Beginning of 1393  | 3         |
| 1.2. Civilian Casualties   | 4         |
| <b>SECTION 2: PLAN FOR 1393</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| 2.1. Project Cycle Management  | 6         |
| 2.2. Mine Action Capacity in 1393  | 6         |
| <b>SECTION 3: MAPA ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1393</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| 3.1. Survey  | 8         |
| 3.1.1. Non-technical Survey  | 8         |
| 3.1.2. Technical Survey  | 10        |
| 3.1.3. Survey of the Firing Ranges   | 10        |
| 3.2. Overall Achievements  | 11        |
| 3.3. Land Release Operations in Minefields by Humanitarian Organizations             | 11        |
| 3.4. Battle Area Clearance by Humanitarian Organizations                             | 13        |
| 3.5. Clearance by Commercial Companies   | 14        |
| 3.6. Community Based Demining  | 15        |
| 3.7. Progress towards the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty                             | 16        |
| 3.8. Mine/ERW Risk Education   | 17        |
| 3.8.1. Integration of Mine/ERW Risk Education  | 18        |
| 3.9. Gender and Mine Action  | 19        |
| 3.10. Victim Assistance  | 21        |
| 3.10.1. Disability Core Projects   | 21        |
| 3.10.2. Capacity Building and Technical Support                                      | 22        |
| 3.10.3. Coordination and Advocacy Meetings   | 24        |
| <b>SECTION 4: COORDINATION OF MINE ACTION</b>  | <b>25</b> |
| 4.1. Mine Action Planning and Coordination   | 26        |
| 4.2. Ensuring Effectiveness and Efficiency of Mine Action through Quality Management | 27        |
| 4.2.1. Accreditation   | 28        |
| 4.2.2. Monitoring and Quality Assurance  | 28        |
| 4.2.3. National Mine Action Standards  | 29        |
| 4.2.4. Project and Implementing Partner Selection                                    | 29        |
| 4.2.5. Proposal Review Process   | 30        |
| 4.2.6. Balanced Scorecard  | 30        |
| 4.2.7. End of Project Balanced Scorecard   | 32        |
| 4.3. Transition to National Ownership  | 35        |
| 4.4. Cross-Border Coordination and Cooperation                                       | 35        |
| 4.5. Post Demining Impact Assessment   | 36        |
| 4.6. Resource Mobilisation   | 38        |
| <b>CONCLUSION: THE REMAINING CHALLENGE</b>   | <b>41</b> |
| <b>ACRONYMS</b>  | <b>43</b> |



## TABLES

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Table 1: Contamination by hazard type as of beginning of 1393 | 3  |
| Table 2: 1393 casualties by device type and region            | 4  |
| Table 3: Projects planned for 1393                            | 6  |
| Table 4: MEIFCS achievements during 1393                      | 9  |
| Table 5: Summary of clearance activities in 1393              | 11 |
| Table 6: Summary of minefield activities in 1393              | 11 |
| Table 7: 1393 achievements by organisation                    | 12 |
| Table 8: BAC results during 1393                              | 13 |
| Table 9: Commercial BAC survey and clearance in 1393          | 14 |
| Table 10: CBD teams by organisation in 1393                   | 15 |
| Table 11: Afghanistan benchmark table as of March 2015        | 16 |
| Table 12: VTF and bilateral funding for 1393                  | 40 |
| Table 13: Remaining contamination as of end of 1393           | 41 |
| Table 14: Contamination by region as of end of 1393           | 41 |

## FIGURES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Figure 1: Civilian casualties, 1393  | 4  |
| Figure 2: MAPA workforce during 1393   | 7  |
| Figure 3: MEIFCS status by district at the end of 1393                           | 9  |
| Figure 4: Number of people receiving mine/ERW RE in 1393                         | 17 |
| Figure 5: Teams by type and funding mechanism in 1393                            | 27 |
| Figure 6: BSC results of IPs evaluated for 1388-1393                             | 32 |
| Figure 7: End of project BSC results for demining projects completed during 1393 | 33 |
| Figure 8: Funding breakdown for 1393 (VTF and bilateral)                         | 39 |

# Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan

## 1393 Snapshot

### Civilian Casualties

|  | Killed     | Injured    |
|--|------------|------------|
|  Mines  | 4          | 26         |
|  ERW    | 93         | 277        |
|  PPIED | 358        | 417        |
| <b>Total:</b>  | <b>455</b> | <b>720</b> |

With an average of **98** civilian casualties recorded every month, Afghanistan remains one of the most contaminated countries in the world.



### Destroyed

**250,400** landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW)



### Released

**58.5** million square metres of recorded minefields and battlefields



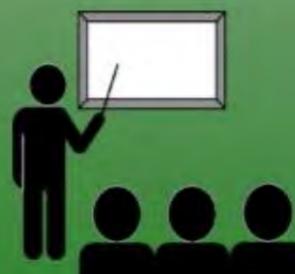
### Released

**270** million square metres of recorded firing ranges



### Victim Assistance

**26,777** mine/ERW victims and other persons with disabilities were supported



### Mine/ERW Risk Education

**614,600** people from mine/ERW affected communities were covered

Afghanistan is a beautiful country, but four decades of war have left behind landmines and unexploded ordnance across much of Afghanistan's soil, land that could be used to enhance the country's development.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the second year of Afghanistan's Ottawa Extension Request work plan, 1393 represents an important year for the programme, with funding and security challenges taking centre stage. Despite a shortfall in funding for the year of over 44%, the programme succeeded in doing more with less, and achieved 69.8% of the land release target. The programme's target under the Ottawa workplan was 83.8 sq km for 1393, but it succeeded in releasing 58.5 sq km by year end through clearance operations.

At the beginning of 1393 (April 2014), there were 4,294 hazardous areas covering 518.9 sq km of land, impacting 1,609 communities in 253 districts of the country. During 1393, 1,452 hazardous areas covering an area of 58.5 sq km have been successfully released through clearance operations. 157 villages in 75 districts were declared entirely free of all known mines and ERW contamination.

While donor funding has decreased in recent years, MAPA remains committed to the work plan and to continually improving the overall productivity of the programme. One of MAPA's great strengths is that its organisations are owned and managed entirely by Afghans, ensuring continuity since the programme began in 1989. The capacity to solve the problem is therefore on the ground; all that is required to achieve the 2023 deadline is financial support. However, the sharp decrease in funding this year has set back the programme and places the achievement of the 2023 deadline to declare Afghanistan mine-free in doubt.

The remaining 4,266 hazards are significant and continue to directly impact 1,603 communities, 255 districts and 33 provinces. Indirectly, of course, the entire country is impacted, as these hazards block access to arable land in many cases and also impede the delivery of key development initiatives unless they are removed.

In addition to the clearance operations, MAPA delivered mine/ERW risk education to communities in order to mitigate persisting risks, with a particular focus on children as the largest

group among victims of mines and ERW. This year, implementing partners provided mine/ERW risk education to over 977,000 people across the country; representing an almost 40 percent increase on the 701,000 people reached in 1392. Moreover, 1,620 school teachers received mine/ERW risk education training through the MoE's child protection officers, while 8,622 Mullah Imams from 18 provinces were trained in mine/ERW risk education at the Imam Training Centre in Kabul.

As part of the Ottawa extension request, during 1393, MAPA continued with the nationwide Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS). This process involves a non-technical survey of all communities as well as immediate destruction of spot ERW found during the survey. During 1393, the survey was completed in 45 districts. Thanks to this survey, this year, 455 new hazards covering 73.3 sq km were found, recorded in the national database and planned for clearance. MEIFCS resurvey operations resulted in a 10 sq km decrease in the area size of previously known hazardous areas and the cancellation of another 91 hazards covering 13 sq km. MEIFCS teams also found and destroyed over 5,000 items of ERW.

The funding target for 1393 was USD 78.2 million including the coordination cost of mine action, which includes planning and priority setting, quality management, information management, advocacy, resource mobilisation and the coordination of mine action operations. Of this total, MAPA received just under USD 43 million from the donors including the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and bilaterally to its implementing partners. This means that MAPA received almost 56% of its required funding in 1393. The funds received were spent on survey, clearance, M/ERW risk education, victim assistance and coordination. A total of USD 11.2 million was allocated from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund; just under USD 1 million was received from UNOCHA, and the remaining USD 30.8 million was provided through bilateral agreements.

## SECTION 1: SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

1393 was the second year of Afghanistan’s Extension Request to Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT), which was submitted in April 2012.

MACCA, DMAC and MAPA’s partner organisations continued to improve the planning and prioritisation of mine action resources in order to clear high-impact hazardous areas, provide mine/ERW risk education to the most impacted communities and offer the required support to the relevant ministries with regard to victim assistance.

The Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) continued for the second year in accordance with the workplan of APMBT Extension Request. MEIFCS teams visit communities thought to be free from contamination and record any new contamination, revisit recorded hazardous areas, conduct non-technical survey, destroy spot ERW and provide mine/ERW risk education to communities.

MAPA encountered some new ERW contamination during 1393, specifically in or around areas where international military had recently vacated. MACCA has advocated hard on the issue and progress has been made by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries, which will be described further in section three.

### 1.1. Contamination at the Beginning of 1393

At the beginning of 1393 (April 2014), there were 4,294 hazardous areas covering 518.9 sq km of land, impacting 1,609 communities in 253 districts of the country. This contamination was the result of the Soviet–Afghan war and the internal armed conflicts prior 2001. In addition, there emerged a new challenge in the form of the firing ranges used by ISAF/NATO during their military operations in Afghanistan. The actual scope of these contaminated areas is not known, as the survey has yet to be completed. During 1393, 26 firing ranges were surveyed and recorded in the national database maintained by MACCA.

The breakdown of mine, ERW and firing range contamination at the beginning of 1393 is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Contamination by hazard type as of beginning of 1393

| Type of Hazard                | Number of Hazard | Area of Hazard (sq km) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Anti-personnel mine           | 2,960            | 248.7                  |
| Anti-tank mine                | 1,116            | 235.6                  |
| Battlefield/ERW contamination | 218              | 34.6                   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>4,294</b>     | <b>518.9</b>           |

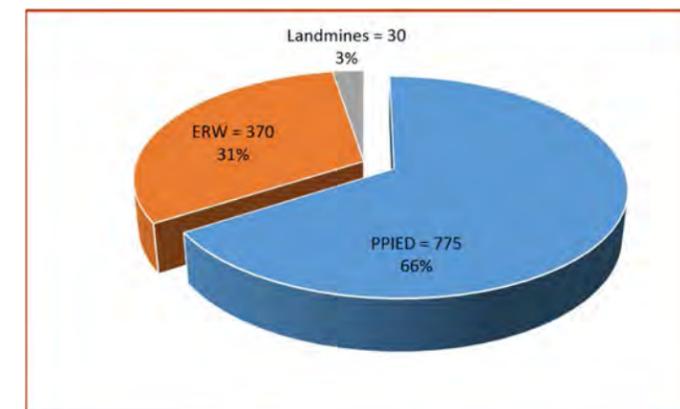
| Type of Hazard | Number of Hazard | Area of Hazard (sq km) |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Firing range   | 26               | 119.9                  |

### 1.2. Civilian Casualties

1,175 civilian casualties were recorded in 1393, indicating an increase in casualties caused by mines, ERW and pressure-plate improvised explosive devices (PPIEDs). This increase in civilian casualties is primarily due to PPIEDs and explosive remnants of war, which make up 98% of all recorded civilian casualties (see Figure 1). PPIEDs are used by anti-government elements to target military personnel and convoys. However, since they are victim-activated (unlike remote-controlled IEDs), many PPIED incidents result in the loss of civilian life. Under the terms of the Ottawa Treaty, victim-activated PPIEDs are considered to be anti-personnel mines.

The locations of emplaced PPIEDs are not recorded, so after every single PPIED incident, a vast area is suspected of containing more PPIEDs. This poses a long-term challenge for Afghanistan.

Figure 1: Civilian casualties, 1393



During 1393, around 98 civilians were killed or injured on average every month by mines, ERW or PPIEDs. Table 2 below shows a summary of civilian casualties for 1393, demonstrating that PPIEDs and ERW have had a significantly higher toll, far greater than mines. The Southern region had the highest share of mine and ERW casualties, while the East and Southeast regions had the second and third highest number of recorded casualties in the country.

Table 2: 1393 casualties by device type and region

| Region       | Mine      |          | ERW        |           | PPIED <sup>1</sup> |            | Total       |
|--------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|              | Injured   | Killed   | Injured    | Killed    | Injured            | Killed     |             |
| Central      | 5         | 0        | 28         | 6         | 9                  | 9          | 57          |
| East         | 7         | 0        | 55         | 17        | 5                  | 16         | 100         |
| North        | 1         | 0        | 28         | 11        | 0                  | 0          | 40          |
| Northeast    | 10        | 0        | 19         | 10        | 46                 | 40         | 125         |
| South        | 0         | 1        | 64         | 22        | 52                 | 55         | 194         |
| Southeast    | 0         | 0        | 48         | 20        | 235                | 176        | 479         |
| West         | 3         | 3        | 35         | 7         | 70                 | 62         | 180         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>277</b> | <b>93</b> | <b>417</b>         | <b>358</b> | <b>1175</b> |

1. Mine/ERW casualty figures are for 1393 (April 2014 to March 2015) recorded by MACCA in IMSMA, whereas PPIED casualty figures are for 2014 and represents data from the UNAMA annual report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, available online on: <http://unama.unmissions.org>.

## SECTION 2: PLAN FOR 1393

The programme's 1393 target under the Ottawa Extension Request<sup>2</sup> workplan was to clear 83.8 sq km of contaminated land, including 29.5 sq km of anti-personnel minefields, 39.1 sq km of anti-tank minefields and 15.2 sq km of battlefields. These hazards had blocked access to agriculture, grazing, water, housing and roads. Despite the funding shortfall noted before and thanks to the efficient execution of clearance projects, MAPA implementing partners succeeded in clearing 58.5 sq km (51.8 sq km of minefields and 6.7 sq km of battlefields), thus meeting achieving 69.8% of the target.

During 1393, MACCA and the APMBT review committee, which consists of representatives from seven humanitarian partners and DMAC, revised Afghanistan's Ottawa Treaty workplan to ensure the most appropriate prioritisation for effective implementation of the plan. MACCA's Planning and Programme Department supported implementing partners in preparing their plans for the coming year (1394) and improved MACCA's impact scoring and priority setting systems.

To enable impact classification, MACCA uses a set of impact indicators with an assigned numeric weighting, which were defined together with DMAC and other relevant mine action stakeholders.

Each hazard receives a score following the application of these weightings. Hazards with scores above nine are classified as high impact, those with scores between six and nine are classified as medium impact, while those that score five or lower are classified as low impact. Hazards with a recorded casualty linked to them and those that block resettlement are automatically classified as high impact. If local authorities and villagers have requested clearance, MACCA regional offices will further investigate and, if approved, the hazard will be amended in the dataset as "high impact with request".



### 2.1. Project Cycle Management

In 2008, MACCA began to projectise the remaining hazards in Afghanistan to enable monitoring and evaluation of every single project using a set of pre-defined objectives, a strategy that proved to be very successful.

Project design is the first stage in the project management cycle and is therefore vital to the life of the project. The following points were taken into consideration when designing projects for 1393:

- Projects that were planned in 1392 in accordance with the workplan of the Ottawa Extension Request, but were not funded;
- Geographical proximity of the hazards to ease access from the logistics perspective;
- Impact classification of the hazards, mostly high impact while medium impact hazards were also selected for clearance in some cases as appropriate;
- Number of beneficiaries of the projects;
- The projects' specific results (e.g., declaration of communities, districts or provinces as being free of all contamination);
- Number of civilian accidents in hazard locations; and
- Blockages to agriculture, water, road, and other infrastructure.

Table 3 below shows a summary of the projects that were planned and funded for 1393.

Table 3: Projects planned for 1393

| Project Type            | No. of Projects | Focus Areas for the Projects   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Demining/clearance      | 80              | Release of 58.5 sq km of contaminated area.  |
| MEIFCS survey           | 4               | Survey of 202 impacted communities and 3,362 unknown communities.                                |
| Mine/ERW risk education | 7               | Provision of mine/ERW risk education to 799 impacted communities.                                |
| Victim assistance       | 5               | Support mine/ERW victims and person with disability in 4 different provinces and 60 communities. |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>96</b>       |  |

### 2.2. Mine Action Capacity in 1393

To facilitate the achievement of the 1393 plan, MAPA's toolbox included demining teams, mechanical demining units, mine dog sets, explosive ordnance disposal teams, non-technical survey teams, mine/ERW risk education teams, and victim assistance teams.

During 1393, eight humanitarian implementing partners (IPs) were engaged in survey and clearance, five IPs delivered disability services, and another five IPs conducted mine/ERW risk education. In addition to MAPA implementing partners, four key Afghan Government ministries - Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), and Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA) - were also directly involved in mine/ERW risk education and victim assistance services.

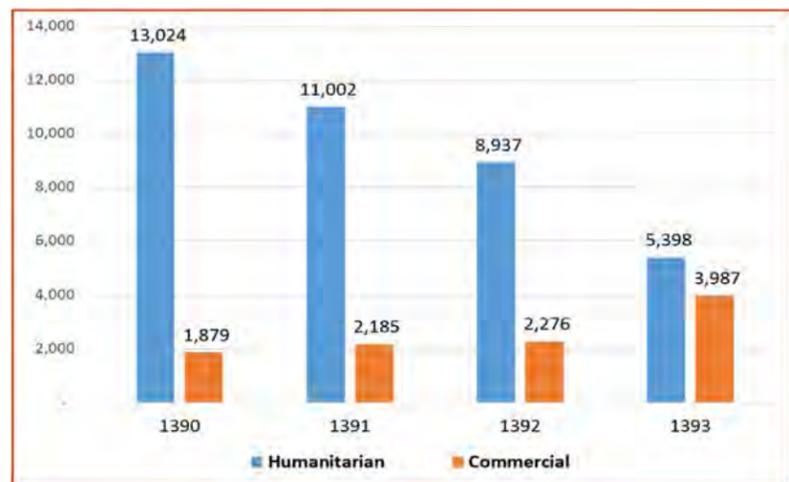
2. Afghanistan's Extension Request to the Ottawa treaty is available online on: <http://www.macca.org.af/macca/treaties-and-other-documentations/>



Moreover, eight commercial companies were also implementing demining projects to ensure safe execution of some key development projects in Afghanistan. These projects included the countrywide firing range clearance; reconstruction of electricity transmission line from Kajaki district to Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province; electricity transmission line from Parwan to Kapisa and Logar to Paktia provinces; 220kv substation of Maidan Wardak province; construction of road in Nangarhar province; and water supply in Kabul provinces.

Over the last three years, the MAPA has continuously faced lose of its humanitarian demining capacity. This has mainly been a consequence of the funding shortfall, especially in the case of national IPs, and have had direct impacted on Afghanistan achieving its target of 2023. Figures 2 below represents a comparison of the MAPA workforce (commercial and humanitarian) of the last four years.

Figure 2: MAPA workforce during 1393



### SECTION 3: MAPA ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1393

The increase in security incidents, combined with the reduction in funding, made 1393 a challenging year for MAPA. The programme did not receive the funding required to complete the survey and clearance projects planned for 1393, and this resulted in a decreased in the survey and clearance output compared to previous years. The programme completed all funded survey and clearance projects during 1393, but the overall achievement against the 1393 target suffered due to the shortfall in funding, with just 69.8% of the target area of 83.8 sq km being released. This will have an impact on the coming years of the workplan unless additional resources are mobilised.

#### 3.1. Survey

Mine/ERW survey can ensure the 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 in MAPA, namely technical survey and non-technical survey.

##### 3.1.1. Non-technical Survey

Non-technical survey is undertaken to collect essential information about a new or an existing suspected hazardous area in order to allow a decision to be made for subsequent technical survey and clearance operations.

As part of Afghanistan’s Extension Request to the Ottawa Treaty, and to obtain the most recent information on the scope of mine/ERW problem in every single community, MAPA launched a nationwide Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS). MEIFCS includes non-technical survey of contaminated areas, immediate action on destruction of known spot ERW endangering the lives and safety of people, as well as communication of key mine/ERW risk education messages to the communities.

The main challenge to the implementation of MEIFCS is the lack of complete information on the number of communities around the country. This number has increased by 140%, since many communities were not originally included in the government’s official gazetteer. Furthermore, the unstable security situation in areas of recent fighting poses another major challenge to the collection of reliable information on the scope of mine/ERW contamination.



The survey teams use alternative methods to collect this information. Where the security situation does not allow the team to go to the village, they invite community elders to the district centre to interview them. Other times, they call villagers by phone and collect information. In this case, the quality of the collected data will be affected.

During 1393, survey teams conducted MEIFCS operations in 45 districts. Operations are ongoing in districts coloured brown yellow, dark green is partially completed, light green is completed, lime is planned, and districts with white colour are yet to be planned.

Figure 3: MEIFCS status by district at the end of 1393

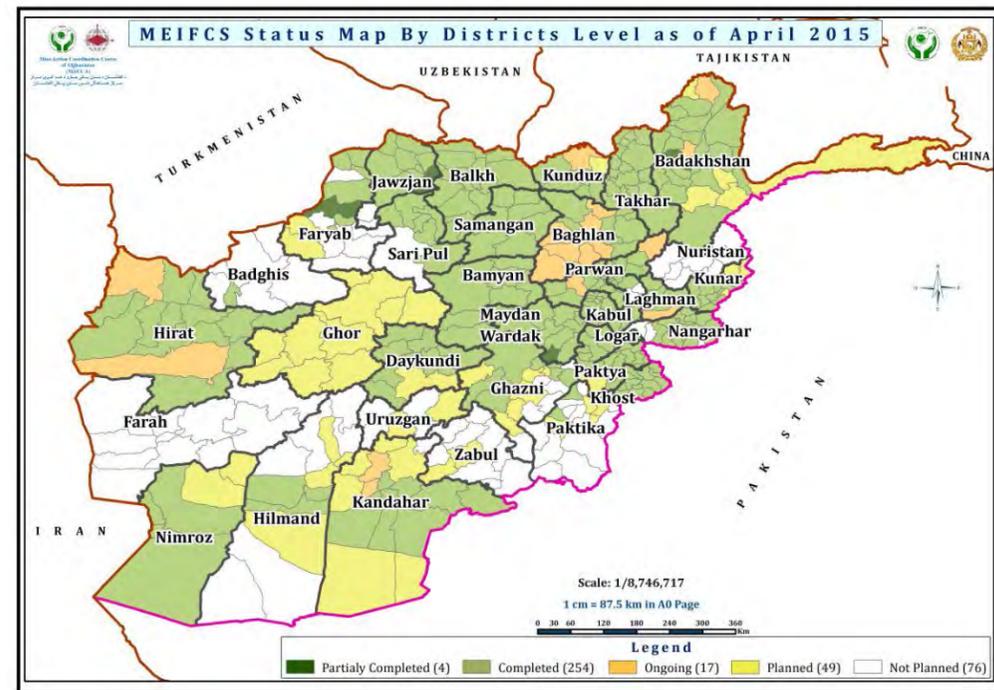


Table 4: MEIFCS achievements during 1393

| Number of Communities Visited | Resurvey of the Recorded Hazards |                           | Hazards Cancelled |              | Previously Unrecorded Hazards |              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
|                               | Not recorded as impacted         | No. of hazards resurveyed | No. of hazards    | Area (sq km) | No. of Hazards                | Area (sq km) |
| 264                           | 3,560                            | 303                       | 91                | 10           | 455                           | 73.3         |

In summary, after adding previously unrecorded hazardous areas<sup>3</sup> identified this year and subtracting cancellations and reductions, MEIFCS resurvey operations results in addition of 50.3 sq km to the national mine action database of Afghanistan. This year, MEIFCS teams also found and destroyed over 5,000 items of ERW.



### 3.1.2. Technical Survey

Technical survey is a detailed physical investigation of the reported hazardous areas to confirm the presence or absence of mines and ERW and can either be conducted as a standalone operation or integrated with clearance operations. In MAPA operations, technical survey is integrated with clearance and the outputs of the technical survey are reflected alongside those of clearance operations.

During 1393, demining teams integrated technical survey with clearance operations on 766 hazards. As a result of technical survey, the size of those hazards originally planned for full clearance operations was reduced, thus allowing for a more efficient use of mine action resources.

### 3.1.3. Survey of the Firing Ranges

In addition to the survey of legacy contamination, NATO/ISAF firing ranges were also surveyed. The firing range contamination is the result of NATO/ISAF's use of heavy weapons for training purposes in these locations. The failure rate of this explosive ordnance means that some ordnance remained live on the surface or in the ground and posed a danger to surrounding communities. From 2009 to December 2014, MACCA recorded 130 casualties resulting from ERW accidents in these firing ranges.

Having received information about civilian casualties in firing ranges, UNMAS and MACCA discussed the issue of firing range clearance with NATO and representatives of the US Embassy in order to obtain from them the locations of all firing ranges and financial support for their survey and clearance. Responding positively, in December 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a contract with the Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA), to launch one of the biggest firing range clearance operations in Afghanistan for clearance of 84 firing ranges that had been used by the U.S. military.

The exact size of contaminated firing ranges is as yet unknown; NATO provided the coordinates of the firing ranges, but did not provide polygon maps of the sites. During 1393, SDA surveyed 55 firing ranges of the total and recorded a contaminated area of 419 sq km. The problem is found to be in 18 provinces of the country, however, the survey will continue in 1394.

All the clearance activities follow the guidelines of the Afghanistan Government standards. The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination carries out quality control and quality assurance activities. Monthly coordination mechanism is set up, coordination is carried out through the High Explosives Training Ranges (HETR) Working Group which includes representatives of troop contributing nations, Government, MACCA, UNMAS and INGO representatives.

3. This year, during the MEIFCS resurvey operations 455 old hazards were newly identified, analyzed and subsequently recorded into the national mine action database.

### 3.2. Overall Achievements

MAPA’s clearance operations in 1393 covered areas contaminated following the Soviet–Afghan war, as well as those contaminated by the Russian-backed government, civil war and fighting between the Taliban and Northern Alliance, NATO firing ranges and explosive remnants of the ongoing post-2001 armed conflict. Table 5 below details the clearance achievements in 1393.

During 1393, clearance operations were carried out by both humanitarian demining organisations and commercial demining companies, all of whom form part of the MAPA collective.

Humanitarian mine clearance was carried out by eight key implementing partners (IPs), of which five are national and three are international organisations. The five national IPs are Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC), Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA), Mine Clearance and Planning Agency (MCPA), Mine Detection Centre (MDC), Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR); the three international IPs are Danish Demining Group (DDG), Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) and the Hazardous Area Life-Support Organization Trust (HALO Trust).

Commercial clearance was carried out by a number of national and international commercial demining companies. The clearance of firing ranges was carried out by an international demining company called Sterling Demining for Afghanistan (SDA).

Table 5: Summary of clearance activities in 1393

| Activity Type  | Area of Hazard (sq km) |
|--|------------------------|
| Total size of minefields cleared by humanitarian organisations   | 51.8                   |
| Total size of battlefields cleared by humanitarian organisations | 6.7                    |
| Total size of minefields cancelled <sup>4</sup>                  | 15.7                   |
| Total size of battlefields searched by commercial companies      | 11                     |
| Total size of firing ranges released                             | 269.8                  |

### 3.3. Land Release Operations in Minefields by Humanitarian Organizations

The clearance of hazards during 1393 provided Afghan communities with safe access to productive land previously blocked by mines and ERW. Table 6 below summarizes the land release related to minefields during 1393.

Table 6: Summary of minefield activities in 1393

| Activity Type                | No. of Hazards | Area of Hazards (sq km) |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Minefields cleared/closed    | 612            | 41.2                    |
| Area reduced                 |                | 0.59                    |
| Minefields partially cleared | 154            | 10                      |
| Minefields cancelled         | 109            | 15.7                    |

As shown in Table 6, humanitarian demining organisations succeeded in working in 766 mine-contaminated areas. Of these, 612 minefields were closed and released, while another 154 minefields were partially cleared, with operations continuing beyond 1393. Compared to the initial 83.8 sq km target area under the Ottawa Treaty workplan, only 69.8% of target areas were released due to the programme’s lack of funds.

This year, following a number of comprehensive assessments, a total of 109 minefields were cancelled from the database and the land released, without any physical demining operations.

Table 7 below details the number of hazards released by humanitarian organisations in 1393, along with their area size, the number and type of devices found and destroyed, including anti-personnel (AP), anti-tank (AT) mines, abandoned improvised explosive device (AIED), explosive remnants of war (ERW), and small arms ammunition (SAA). This table shows the overall land release, which includes clearance and area reduction of minefields.

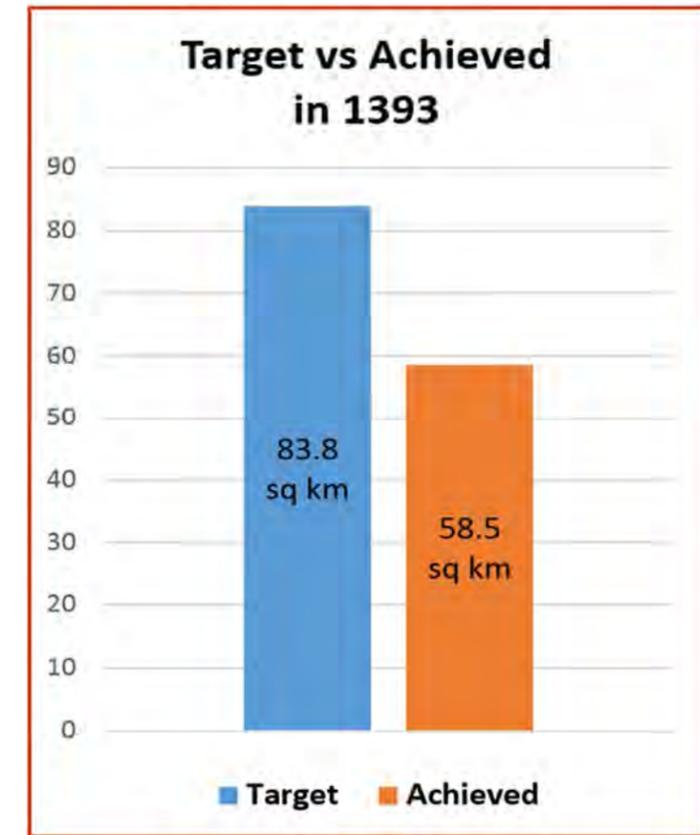


Table 7: 1393 achievements by organisation

| Clearance Agency | Hazards    | Area (sq m)       | AP            | AT         | AIED      | UXO          | SAA           |
|------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| ATC              | 31         | 2,306,150         | 605           | 6          | 0         | 1,757        | 0             |
| DAFA             | 47         | 6,185,317         | 454           | 77         | 23        | 3,672        | 1,378         |
| DDG              | 52         | 2,070,773         | 482           | 2          | 0         | 868          | 1,398         |
| FSD              | 1          | 56,652            | 2,746         | 0          | 0         | 0            | 0             |
| HT               | 439        | 25,320,163        | 6,302         | 210        | 0         | 1,486        | 1,697         |
| MCPA             | 60         | 4,028,877         | 223           | 156        | 0         | 0            | 0             |
| MDC              | 103        | 8,213,894         | 371           | 64         | 0         | 339          | 29,852        |
| OMAR             | 32         | 2,923,634         | 544           | 0          | 0         | 1,230        | 4,274         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>765</b> | <b>51,195,460</b> | <b>11,727</b> | <b>515</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>9,352</b> | <b>38,599</b> |

4. Afghanistan’s cancelled land is a previously recorded hazardous area concluded not to contain evidence of mine/ERW contamination following the non-technical survey.

### 3.4. Battle Area Clearance by Humanitarian Organizations

Battle area clearance (BAC) operations involve the location and disposal of ERW, including unexploded ordnance and abandoned exploded ordnance, but not landmines, over specific areas including battlefields, defensive positions and sites where artillery munitions, including cluster munitions have been fired or dropped.

BAC operations are conducted only by organisations accredited to implement BAC. Depending on the humanitarian priorities and required land use, BAC may involve surface and sub-surface clearance. BAC may be required in both urban and rural areas. BAC operations do not cover the disposal of stockpiled munitions in national storage facilities. Table 8 below shows area cleared under BAC operations and the number of devices found and destroyed as a result during 1393.

Table 8: BAC results during 1393

| Clearance Agency | Surface Area Cleared (sq m) | Subsurface Area Cleared (sq m) | Devices Found and Destroyed |          |               |                |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|
|                  |                             |                                | AP                          | AT       | SAA           | UXO            |
| ATC              | 477,044                     | 28,500                         | 0                           | 0        | 0             | 2,855          |
| DAFA             | 0                           | 49,683                         | 0                           | 0        | 0             | 3              |
| DDG              | 136,791                     | 1,127,977                      | 0                           | 0        | 17,107        | 73,265         |
| FSD              | 45,386                      | 39,969                         | 1                           | 0        | 2,802         | 6,954          |
| HT               | 5,803,470                   | 0                              | 0                           | 1        | 27,128        | 27,828         |
| MCPA             | 243,441                     | 367                            | 0                           | 0        | 275           | 203            |
| MDC              | 18,000                      | 2,735,602                      | 0                           | 1        | 908           | 167            |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>6,724,132</b>            | <b>3,982,098</b>               | <b>1</b>                    | <b>2</b> | <b>48,220</b> | <b>111,275</b> |



### 3.5. Clearance by Commercial Companies

There are a significant number of national and international commercial demining companies conducting mine action operations in Afghanistan at the request of various clients. The commercial mine action sector works largely in support of macro-level infrastructure and development projects. Macro-level development projects tend not to be implemented in areas with known hazards.

During 1393, eight commercial companies were engaged doing BAC survey and clearance to ensure safe execution of some key development projects in Afghanistan. These projects included reconstruction of electricity transmission line from Kajaki district to Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province; electricity transmission line from Parwan to Kapisa and Logar to Paktia provinces; 220kv substation of Maidan Wardak province; construction of road in Nangarhar province; and water supply in Kabul provinces.

Table 9: Commercial BAC survey and clearance in 1393

| Clearance Agency | Surface Area Cleared (sq m) | Subsurface Area Cleared (sq m) | Devices Found and Destroyed |          |          |           |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
|                  |                             |                                | AP                          | AT       | SAA      | UXO       |
| AMDC             | 376,739                     | 0                              | 0                           | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| CMCC             | 2,946                       | 0                              | 0                           | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| KMCC             | 1,440                       | 0                              | 0                           | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| SADC             | 184,070                     | 0                              | 0                           | 0        | 8        | 12        |
| SDC              | 9,094,825                   | 1,166,760                      | 0                           | 0        | 0        | 31        |
| SDG              | 537,625                     | 0                              | 0                           | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| TDC              | 44,646                      | 0                              | 0                           | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| WDC              | 814,320                     | 0                              | 0                           | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>11,056,611</b>           | <b>1,166,760</b>               | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>43</b> |

Nevertheless, there is a justifiable concern due to the protracted conflict and the widespread presence of explosive remnants of war, and therefore, MACCA works with the relevant line ministries and development organisations as required to check areas for possible contamination prior to the start of a development or construction project. Table 9 above shows the achievements of commercial companies in this regard during 1393.

The commercial implementing partners regularly report their achievements to MACCA, which are then recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), a national database maintained by MACCA.

In some cases, development projects are found to be impacted by known hazards, in which case, this work is recorded in IMSMA as clearance of known hazards once clearance has been completed. The implementation of such projects by commercial partners contributes to lessening the remaining mine/ERW contamination in the country. During 1393, only one known contaminated area of 203,350 sq m was cleared by the commercial company, SADC.

### 3.6. Community Based Demining

In order to have access to remote areas where the security situation is not stable and also provide job opportunities to community members, MACCA and the humanitarian implementing partners initiated community-based demining (CBD) in 1387. The core concept is that the traditional implementing partners establish links with the local leadership of a mine/ERW contaminated community and work with them closely in developing mine/ERW risk education and demining project, recruiting the team from the community and training them so that they can carry out clearance operations or mine/ERW risk education sessions in their own communities.



The CBD approach has proved to be a very successful option to reach otherwise inaccessible communities. Moreover, the economic boost provided to communities, through the salaries CBD teams members receive, supports peace and stabilisation and provides the communities with a platform for development once the hazards have been removed. Since demining is a half-day activity, the local deminers can continue looking after their livelihoods in the afternoons with the additional income enabling them to expand or develop new micro businesses. This year, 75 out of MAPA's 399 teams were community based demining or mine/ERW risk education teams.

Table 10: CBD teams by organisation in 1393

| Clearance Agency | Number of Teams |                         |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
|                  | Demining        | Mine/ERW Risk Education |
| AAR Japan        | 0               | 2                       |
| ARCS             | 0               | 21                      |
| DAFA             | 22              | 0                       |
| DDG              | 0               | 4                       |
| MCPA             | 15              | 0                       |
| MDC              | 4               | 0                       |
| HALO             | 0               | 5                       |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>41</b>       | <b>34</b>               |

### 3.7. Progress towards the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty

Afghanistan acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty in September 2002 and became a state party on March 1, 2003, making a commitment towards a complete ban on anti-personnel (AP) mines through the implementation of an overarching framework for mine action. This framework requires the clearance of all emplaced AP mines within ten years, the destruction of all stockpiled AP mines within four years, the provision of mine/ERW risk education, and assistance to mine/ERW survivors.

However, the magnitude of the mine problem in Afghanistan, combined with the ongoing conflict, underfunding and the lack of reliable records of minefields meant that the initial deadline of 2013 was untenable. In March 2012, the Afghanistan Government submitted a request for a ten-year extension of the deadline to complete the removal of all AP mines by 2023. This request was assessed by 14 members of the secretariat to the treaty, and in December 2012, all state parties to this treaty accepted Afghanistan's extension request.

The current baseline and progress is shown in Table 11 below. However, as people continue to return and resettle in Afghanistan, some previously unrecorded hazards continue to be discovered. Therefore, it is expected that the baseline may continue to change to a degree. This, however, has been factored into the Afghanistan's extension request, and the goal for the complete removal of mines within ten years is believed to be achievable, even if previously undiscovered hazards are added.

Table 11: Afghanistan benchmark table as of March 2015

| Hazard Type  | Baseline April 2013 |              | Previously Un-reported Hazards |              | Resurvey Results | Current Target |              | Hazards Processed from April 2013 |              | Remaining Hazards |              |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
|              | No. of Hazard       | Area (sq km) | No. of Hazard                  | Area (sq km) |                  | No. of Hazard  | Area (sq km) | No. of Hazard                     | Area (sq km) | No. of Hazard     | Area (sq km) |
| AP           | 3,439               | 266.4        | 949                            | 52.2         | 0.9              | 4,388          | 319.4        | 1,565                             | 80.8         | 2,822             | 238.7        |
| AT           | 1,248               | 252.1        | 533                            | 92.4         | -13.0            | 1,781          | 331.4        | 587                               | 71.6         | 1,194             | 259.8        |
| BF           | 179                 | 33.5         | 189                            | 23.7         | 0.6              | 368            | 57.9         | 118                               | 22.3         | 250               | 35.6         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4,866</b>        | <b>551.9</b> | <b>1,671</b>                   | <b>168.3</b> | <b>-11.6</b>     | <b>6,537</b>   | <b>708.7</b> | <b>2,270</b>                      | <b>174.7</b> | <b>4,266</b>      | <b>534.0</b> |

As shown in Table 11 above, during 1392 and 1393, a total area of 168.3 sq km was newly recorded, while a resurvey of hazards reduced their area size by 11.6 sq km; at the end, therefore, 156.7 sq km were added to the initial baseline making it 708.7 sq km. This figure only covers mine and ERW contaminated areas historically left from Russian period (1979).

The target for 1393 was to clear 83.8 sq km (15.2% of the initial baseline), while in fact a total of 58.5 sq km area was eventually cleared and 15.7 sq km area was cancelled from the annual target during MEIFCS and other operations. Thus, 69.8% of this year's target was achieved. The cause of this shortfall is underfunding. Overall, if we consider Afghanistan's 10-year Extension Request workplan to date, the first two years of implementation released a total of 174.7 sq km area, while an area of 156.7 sq km of previously unrecorded hazards has since been added to the target.

### 3.8. Mine/ERW Risk Education

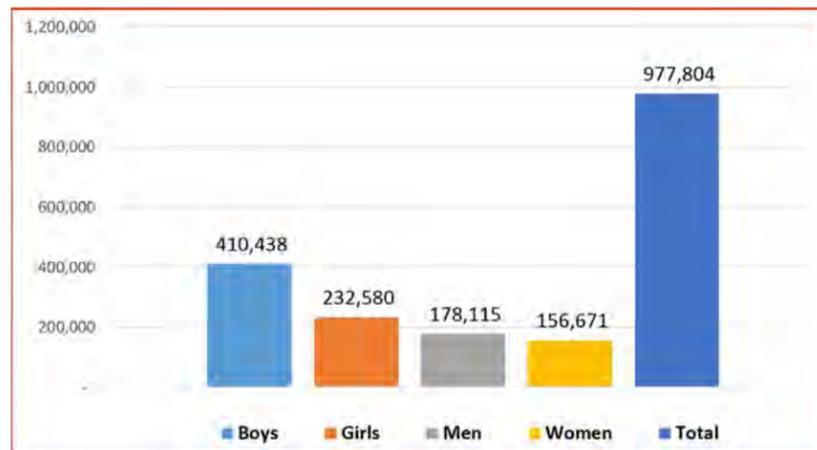
Mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education activities during 1393 were coordinated and implemented based on the MACCA/DMAC 1393 Integrated Operational Framework (IOF) and a classified list of mine/ERW impacted communities, prioritising the most impacted areas to be provided with awareness sessions through MAPA mine/ERW risk education assets and the Ministry of Education’s (MoE) school teachers. During 1393, mine/ERW risk education activities were conducted through the joint efforts of the MACCA Mine/ERW Risk Education Department, DMAC, implementing partners and MoE. This joint effort ensured that mine/ERW risk education projects and activities were appropriately planned and monitored across all target areas in the country.

Based on MACCA/DMAC standards for community based mine/ERW risk education, this year’s activities targeted communities impacted by mines and ERW and that had been identified by MACCA’s community classification and priority setting mechanism.

During 1393, six MAPA implementing partners (AAR Japan, ARCS, DDG, HI, MDC and OMAR) were actively engaged in delivering mine/ERW risk education activities; a combination of 48 male and female teams were allocated to carry out a range of mine/ERW risk education activities in line with the strategy and plans laid out in the 1393 IOF.

As shown below, this year the aforementioned implementing partners provided mine/ERW risk education to over 977,000 people across the country; representing an almost 40 percent increase on the 701,000 people reached in 1392.

Figure 4: Number of people receiving mine/ERW risk education in 1393



Moreover, this year, 1,620 school teachers received mine/ERW risk education training through the MoE’s child protection officers, and with this the total number of teachers who have received mine/ERW risk education training since March 2008, is 25,609. Under the umbrella of the MoE, a total of 88,026 school students were also provided mine/ERE risk education by MoE teachers at their schools in all 34 provinces.

### 3.8.1. Integration of Mine/ERW Risk Education

MACCA has made considerable progress in mainstreaming mine/ERW risk education across several Afghan Government ministries; mine/ERW risk education is now part of the MoE’s national primary education curriculum managed by the MoE. Through a joint effort between MACCA, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA), mine/ERW risk education has also been incorporated into a Mullah Imam training package, enabling Mullah Imams to deliver basic mine/ERW risk education messages through mosques and other public fora.

This year, 8,622 Mullah Imams from 18 provinces were trained in mine/ERW risk education through this programme at the Imam Training Centre in Kabul. The overall target is to reach 15,000 Mullah Imams from all 34 provinces of the country by the end of 1394.

Mine/ERW risk education has also been successfully mainstreamed across several other governmental and nongovernmental networks such as the Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization (ALSO), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Kabul Orthopedic Organization (KOO), Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), and Terre des Hommes (TdH).

During 1393, 102 social workers at ALSO, DRC, KOO, MoRR, NAC and TdH were trained to deliver basic mine/ERW risk education messages to community members including returnees and internally displaced people, two groups who are particularly vulnerable to mines and ERW.

MACCA, DMAC and other relevant MAPA stakeholders will continue to provide technical and administrative support to the Government of Afghanistan to build a national capacity for the oversight and coordination of mine/ERW risk education activities throughout the country.





### 3.9. Gender and Mine Action

To ensure gender is thoroughly mainstreamed throughout the programme, MAPA developed its 2014-2016 Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. During 1393, MACCA's Gender Mainstreaming Associate was responsible for facilitating the implementation of the MAPA GMS. To date, the following is a list of the main activities that were accomplished:

- Establishment of the gender mainstreaming working group with permanent focal points to represent MAPA implementing partners and three line ministries; in total, 24 focal points were nominated by 20 different entities.
- The first GMS workshop brought together gender focal points from AABRAR, AAR-Japan, ALSO, ARCS, ATC, DAFA, DAO, DDG, DMAC, HALO Trust, HI, IFRC, KOO, MDC, SDA and the two line ministries, MoLSAMD and MoPH. The workshop was held as part of the capacity building programme for MAPA stakeholders on gender mainstreaming. Following the workshop, the participants and the team at MACCA officially initiated the implementation of the strategy. Four further GMS focal point meetings were held during this year to discuss progress, challenges and the way ahead.
- MAPA's mine/ERW risk education materials were reviewed from a gender perspective and feedback was provided to organisations to make sure gender is integrated and mainstreamed across all programme activities.
- 13 implementing partners have developed gender action plans based on the requirements of the MAPA GMS.

MACCA remains committed to the advancement of gender equality to improve its staff awareness and management thus providing an enhanced gender-friendly institutional capacity and work environment. MACCA has also raised awareness with regard to the importance of gender equity within all areas of mine action and is working steadily to strengthen its access and to improve information gathering to ensure all target groups are well represented in mine action decision-making.

MAPA's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is available on the MACCA website at: <http://www.macca.org.af/macca/merw-risk-education/>



### 3.10. Victim Assistance

MACCA's Victim Assistance (VA) Department coordinates assistance for mines and ERW victims and other persons with disabilities through MAPA partners. The VA Department is keen to maintain a strong network with its relevant stakeholders including the Government of Afghanistan, implementing partners, donors and other national and international organizations in the sector.

MACCA's ultimate vision is the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as institutional development, capacity building, awareness raising, all in consultation with the relevant components within MoLSAMD, MoPH and MoE.

#### 3.10.1. Disability Core Projects

This year, MACCA, through UNMAS/UNOPS, supported MoLSAMD and MoPH in implementing a number of VA projects prioritised for 1393. This support was in line with MACCA's goal of increasing the capacity of the line ministries and developing the necessary structures within these ministries to coordinate VA/disability services. This year's projects focused on physical rehabilitation, vocational training, disability awareness and advocacy for persons with disabilities including victims of mine/ERW.

##### Physical Rehabilitation

During 1393, Handicap International, Development and Ability Organization, and Kabul Orthopedic Organization were contracted through UNOPS in coordination with MoPH to provide physical rehabilitation and disability awareness services to 12,275 Mine/ERW victims and other person with disabilities in Kandahar, Kunar and Kabul provinces.

##### Economic Reintegration

The inclusion of people with disabilities into all areas of society is vital to ensure their independence and self-reliance. During 1393, Handicap International was also contracted through UNOPS in coordination with MoLSAMD to provide vocational and skill development, disability awareness and advocacy training to 1,613 Mine/ERW victims and other persons with disability for socio-economic reintegration in Herat province.



### 3.10.2. Capacity Building and Technical Support

#### Strategies, Policies and Guidelines

During 1393, MACCA's VA Department provided advisory support to the MoPH on several policy documents, including the translation of spinal cord injury management guidelines, a physical rehabilitation and disability awareness manual for health staff, a disability recognition and certification guideline, a project concept for the treatment of persons with disability outside Afghanistan, and the draft national physiotherapy strategy for 2015-2024.

MACCA provided technical and financial assistance to the Ministry of Education in developing, translating and printing 2,000 copies of the inclusive and child friendly education policy.

This year, the VA Department conducted a desk assessment of the capacity at MoPH, MoLSAMD and MoE to understand the requirements for the coming years. This assessment was guided by the conventions ratified by the Afghan Government including CRPD, CCM, APMBT, Incheon Strategy, Maputo Action Plan, ANDS, Afghanistan Disability Law, and the Afghanistan Inclusive Education Policy.

The three line ministries were also assisted in reporting on Cartagena Action Plan, CCM and APMBT. 12,527 copies of the guidelines on health education and social components of community based rehabilitation (CBR) were distributed to CBR implementing partners and other VA/disability organisations.

#### Joint Monitoring and Evaluation

MACCA uses joint M&E missions as a tool for on the job training of government staff. During 1393, the VA Department was able to conduct seven joint M&E missions with MoPH and MoE staff to monitor physical rehabilitation and inclusive education activities conducted by implementing partners and MoE schools in Badakhshan, Balkh, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kunar, Laghman, and Panjshir provinces.

#### Workshops and Events

In April 2014, the VA Department represented the Asia Pacific CBR Network at the "Bridge Between the Worlds" global conference on assisting landmine and ERW survivors in the context of disability rights and other domains, held in Medellin Columbia by the CCW Implementation Support Unit.



In December 2014, the MACCA VA/Disability Advisor at MoLSAMD together with a delegation from the Ministry attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation Conference on stepping up protection of children with disabilities. This conference was organized by the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and was hosted by the Sri Lankan government in Colombo. It was a useful opportunity for both MACCA and the Ministry staff to rethink this aspect of disability, which has been less of a focus in Afghanistan.

In January 2015, the MACCA VA/Disability Advisor at MoE attended the National Conference on Afghanistan People's Dialogues on Peace, which was hosted by UNAMA and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission at Kabul Serena Hotel. As a result of the advisor's advocacy efforts during and after the conference, participants agreed that the challenge of mine/ERW and disability should be considered as one of the key issues to be dealt with on the road to transforming Afghanistan into a peaceful country.

### Trainings

During 1393, 79 MoE schools teachers were provided with a refresher training of trainers (ToT) training on inclusive education in Herat, Laghman, and Nangarhar and Balkh provinces. This training was aimed at promoting social inclusion of mine/ERW victims and other children with disability.

250 BPHS and EPHS staff members of MoPH working for Parwan, Kapisa, Kunar, Khost, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces were provided a 4-day training that covered disability awareness, physical rehabilitation and an overview of UNCRPD. According to the participants, this training was effective raising their awareness, and strengthening coordination and referrals between the health facilities and rehabilitation centers. This will in general facilitate increasing access of persons with disabilities to health and physical rehabilitation services.

Community based rehabilitation concept was introduced during a 4-day training workshop for 40 Physiotherapy Institute's physiotherapists and Kabul Orthopedic Organization (KOO)'s orthopedic technicians at the training center of KOO in Kabul.

### 3.10.3. Coordination and Advocacy Meetings

The MoPH Department of Disability and Rehabilitation (DRD) was supported in organizing five disability task force meetings to improve the coordination of physical rehabilitation activities among disability stakeholders and MoPH.

The VA Department supported the MoE Inclusive Education Directorate in organizing and chairing ten Inclusive and Child Friendly Education Coordination Working Group (I&CFE-CWG) meetings. The most significant achievement of these meetings was the finalisation of Afghanistan's inclusive education policy.

The VA Department chaired six VA coordination meetings at MACCA. All key VA/disability national and international organisations and line ministry representatives from the MoPH, MoLSAMD and MoE attended. These coordination meetings were intended to highlight the needs of mine/ERW victims within a broader disability context and to reach the communities most heavily impacted by mines and ERW in line with ministry priorities.

As a member of the Child Protection in Emergency Sub-Cluster (CPiE-SC), the VA Department advocated for resource mobilization and mainstreaming of VA/disability issues and mine/ERW risk education awareness messages in the cluster to minimize mine/ERW casualties among the children and to assist children with disability.

The VA Department facilitated eight Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group meetings during 1393 in coordination with MoLSAMD. The main outcomes of these meetings were coordination in Jaipur Foot India programme, mainstreaming and inclusion of disability in UN activities, scholarships for persons with visual impairments, vocational training guidelines and standards, and the CRPD reporting process, among others.

Along with the Advocacy Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ACPD), 22 advocacy meetings were conducted with the Afghanistan First Vice President, ACBAR, AIHRC, the National Assembly, the media and other relevant stakeholders.

11 interviews were conducted with media on various disability related issues such as education, elections, disability rights, children with disabilities, and the new government's response to people with disabilities.



## SECTION 4: COORDINATION OF MINE ACTION

MACCA and DMAC are responsible for the coordination of mine action in Afghanistan and the management of mine action resources, such as survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education and victim assistance to perform safer, efficient and effective operations. Conducting monthly stakeholders and operations coordination meetings, several operational workshops, continuous monitoring visits by headquarter and regional office staff and post-demining impact assessments were key to achieving this goal. Some key activities during 1393 are listed below:

- A balanced scorecard training workshop was held for the IPs in order to enable them to measure their own performances.
- Together with the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs and the UAE Embassy, mine/ERW risk education was provided to over 8,600 Mullah Imams enabling them to convey mine/ERW risk education messages to communities and encourage them to support mine action.
- A MACCA Open Day was held where donors, civil society and Afghan Government representatives were invited for a tour, exhibitions and briefings on the important coordination functions of MACCA and DMAC.
- Mine/ERW training was provided to teachers in highly impacted provinces in the Eastern part of the country.
- MAPA's gender mainstreaming strategy was officially rolled out.
- The quality management systems of seven humanitarian partners were reviewed, and their quality policy, quality manual were developed and their core and sub processes were mapped.
- Version six of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and the Mine action INTelligence tool (MINT) were implemented in MAPA with the support of GICHD.
- MACCA and DMAC continued to advocate strongly for resource mobilization for survey and clearance of firing ranges left behind by NATO/ISAF troops.



### 4.1. Mine Action Planning and Coordination

At the beginning of 1393, there were 4,294 hazardous areas that covered 518.9 sq km of land, impacting 1,609 communities in 253 districts of Afghanistan. In addition, there were 26 recorded firing ranges covering 119 sq km. In order to maximise the effectiveness of the resources available to clear mines and ERW from Afghanistan towards the desired end states, coordination is essential, including sound planning and efficient management practices.

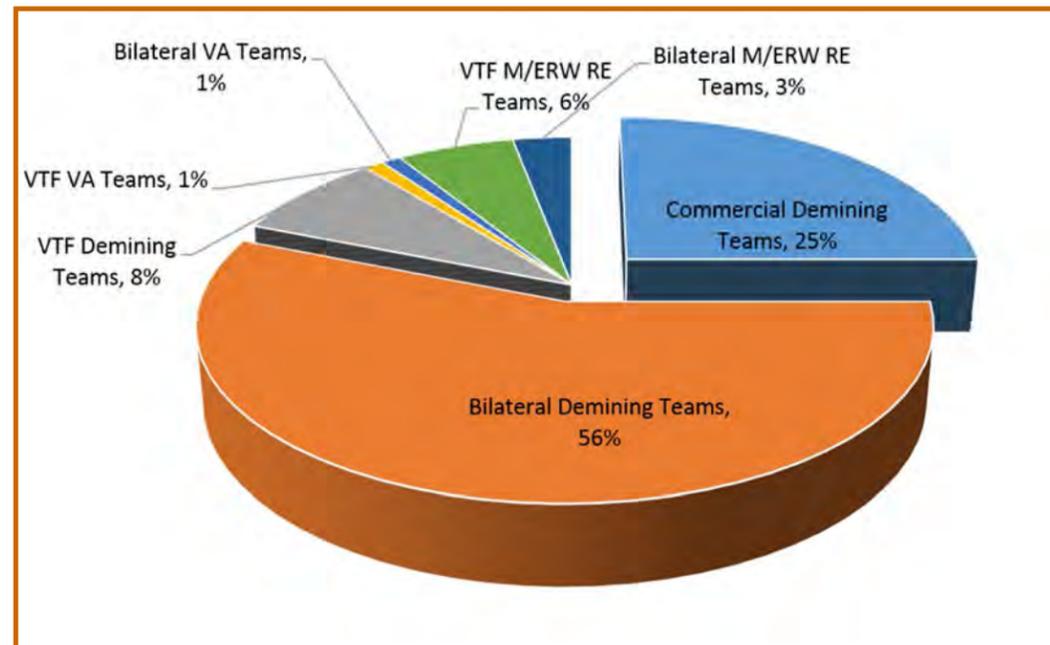
The MACCA Planning and Programme Department works closely with implementing partners (IPs) and stakeholders. The department continuously updates the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), which links individual teams and donor resources to hazards, and analyses progress against defined targets to identify priority gaps to be addressed.

Each year, the Planning and Programme Department works towards developing the indicative plan for the following year. Thus the 1393 Integrated Operational Framework (IOF) was developed in 1392. MACCA seeks to publish a framework before the beginning of the next operational year. This process necessitates wide consultation and the active engagement of Government, IPs and donors. The published framework deliberately does not go into operational detail; while the goals do not change, the process through which progress is made towards meeting the goals does.

A large part of MACCA's analysis of implementation delivery is associated with managing an understanding of how work carried out now translates into anticipated progress. This enables MACCA to establish what hazards remain and, at the appropriate time, to move forward into the cycle of project design and the establishment of an understanding of a programme of multilateral and bilateral projects.

The scale of the coordination challenge can be seen in Figure 5 on the next page, which shows the mine action teams that were operational during 1393 throughout Afghanistan. Please note that this covers all sectors, both humanitarian and commercial, funded via the VTF or bilaterally.

Figure 5: Teams by type and funding mechanism in 1393



#### 4.2. Ensuring Effectiveness and Efficiency of Mine Action through Quality Management

The aim of Quality Management (QM) in mine action is to ensure that the communities, donors, mine action contractors, and national authorities are confident that mine action quality requirements have been met during the delivery of mine action services and the land that is released is indeed safe for use.

QM in mine action covers the accreditation of mine action organizations, monitoring of mine action activities called Quality Assurance (QA) and post-clearance inspection of the cleared land called Quality Control (QC). QA in mine action also includes the management and maintenance of mine action standards as a reference document, which sets out the quality requirements with regard to all mine action activities.

During 1393, as part of improvements made to the Quality Management System (QMS) throughout the MAPA, the internal QM staff of eight mine action organizations (AREA, ATC, DAFA, DDG, HALO Trust, MCPA, MDC and OMAR) were trained in general concept of QMS and also QMS in mine action. Quality Manual, Quality Policy, Process Mapping and Standard Working Procedures for each process have been developed by the IPs and reviewed by MACCA’s QM Department. The QMS design and documentation are based on ISO 9001:2008 QMS requirements.

Seven MAPA QM team meetings were convened to discuss and identify areas for improvement and take necessary actions. The MAPA QM team is working on translating QMS training package. Refresher training will also be conducted for QM staff.

During 1393, a total of 15 demining accidents were investigated; summaries of the lessons learned from these incidents have been processed and shared with the mine action organisations to be considered and practiced during future operations.

##### 4.2.1. Accreditation

Accreditation is essential to ensure that all mine action organisations working in Afghanistan are technically capable and staffed to plan, manage and operationally conduct mine action activities in a safe, effective and efficient way. In addition to monitoring visits and post-clearance inspections, a comprehensive accreditation process has been implemented by MACCA and DMAC to assess all aspects of mine action organisations intending to operate in Afghanistan.

MACCA has established an accreditation board consisting of well-qualified staff from the relevant departments of MACCA and DMAC to undertake accreditation practices with due consideration given to impartiality, integrity and transparency throughout the process. During 1393, two new mine action organizations (one national and one international) applied for accreditation but were unable to fulfil the requirements and were not accredited. In addition, 35 organisational accreditations were renewed and 24 operational accreditations were processed.

As part of the accreditation process, MACCA’s QM Department also managed to test and accredit one mechanical demining unit. The shortage of funds meant that most of the machines went unused and were therefore not tested. The QM Department also tested and licensed 59 mine detection dog teams.

In addition, 15 sets of new and revised mine action survey, land release, mechanical, mine/ERW RE, VA, and medical Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were reviewed and approved.

##### 4.2.2. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Monitoring is an essential part of the quality management process, and together with accreditation and post clearance inspections, it provides the necessary confidence that mine action quality requirements have been met.

During 1393, a total of 1,477 monitoring visits were conducted on project management systems, mine action activities, demining worksites and training courses, which resulted in 1,300 conformity reports, 92 observation reports, 61 minor non-conformity reports and 24 major non-conformity reports. All non-conformities were processed and corrective and preventive actions were taken.

### 4.2.3. National Mine Action Standards

The mine action standards are living documents and are subject to continual review based on new requirements that may emerge from the field and/or new developments in International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). To this end, MACCA established a review board to review and provide technical input for the further improvement of the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS). In 1392, two main standards for land release and mine/ERW survey (AMAS 05.01 and 05.02) were revised and distributed to all mine action organisations and stakeholders.

In addition, in order to formally recognize AMAS as national mine action standards by the Afghanistan Supreme Council of Standards, MACCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) in 2011 to review the complete set of AMAS and prepare them for final approval by Afghanistan's Supreme Council of Standards. During 1393, the ANSA/AMAS Technical Committee reviewed the following standards: AMAS 05.01 on land release, AMAS 05.02 on mine/ERW survey, AMAS 05.03 on marking, AMAS 05.04 on community liaison, AMAS 06.02 on battle area clearance and its Annex A on firing range clearance, AMAS 06.05 on mechanical clearance. All of these standards are now awaiting review by ANSA's editing committee, after which they will be submitted for final approval to the Supreme Council of Standards.

### 4.2.4. Project and Partner Selection Panel

One of MACCA's roles is to provide advice to donors on the best use of funds earmarked for mine action (survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education and victim assistance) in Afghanistan. MACCA provides expertise and advice to UNMAS in terms of allocation of Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action (VTF) contributions for Afghanistan.

The PPSP, comprised of UNMAS and senior MACCA managers and donor representation (in the case of UNMAS), as well as DMAC. A meeting is convened to select projects, the panel considers unfunded mine/ERW survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance projects to be cleared/implemented for the current and/or next year against donor preferences and MACCA planning and prioritization policies. As described in more detail below, the process aims to provide donors with value for money, rather than selecting the cheapest approach on offer.

The PPSP has two main roles:

- Project Selection: determine the mine action "project" to be carried out;
- Partner Selection: determine the process to select the partner to carry out the project

Regardless of whether a donor contributes to the VTF, MACCA's Proposal Review Team (PRT) has in the past reviewed proposals on the request of bilateral donors and provided feedback and recommendations, which the bilateral donor may consider in its decision to award bilateral funding. This is in line with the policy of UNMAS and MACCA to encourage IPs to pursue additional funding mechanisms alongside the VTF. UNMAS and MACCA will continue to

support bilateral donors in reviewing proposals and assuring the quality of bilaterally funded operations.

### 4.2.5. Proposal Review Process

The PPSP is the evaluation panel and reviews proposals on behalf of MAPA donors (both VTF and bilateral on request) and comprises representatives from MACCA Operations, Quality Management, Planning & Programme departments, as well as a representative from DMAC and UNMAS. The team measures the proposals against the evaluation criteria defined in the solicitation or CFP package and ensures that each awarded project has clearly defined outputs, verifies information concerning the hazards implementing partners intend to clear, ensures the project is in line with MACCA and Government priorities for clearance, consideration of standard quality management system, suitability of assets/equipment and represents good value for money. Once the PPSP is satisfied with the project design and proposal, it either provides a recommendation to the bilateral donor to fund a particular project or, in the case of the VTF; it recommends that UNOPS awards a grant or contract to the successful organisation. MACCA's proposal review services are provided free of any charges.

A number of bilateral donors consistently ask for MACCA's endorsement letter prior to confirming fund allocations to an implementing partner; however, there are some bilateral donors who do not use these services facilitated by MACCA. MACCA strongly encourages bilateral donors' involvement in this process, so that all projects being undertaken in the humanitarian sector have defined outputs and are in line with the overall goals of the Afghan Government.

During 1393, the MACCA/DMAC Proposal Review Team reviewed 32 project proposals, of which 27 were for survey and clearance, three for mine/ERW risk education, and two for weapons and ammunition destruction. The team recommended changes based on the hazard status (cancelled, cleared, or planned by another IP at the time of proposal review), thus avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring high priority hazardous areas are cleared first.

### 4.2.6. Balanced Scorecard

The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) was introduced at the beginning of 1388 (2009). This performance management tool measures each implementing partner's projects against a specific set of criteria. The BSC enables MACCA to monitor the output, quality and effectiveness of each project against the same set of indicators on a quarterly basis and at end of project. Not only does the tool allow for comparison between projects, implementers, information that could be useful for donors in funding decisions, it also provides IPs with a baseline for their own improvement and development.

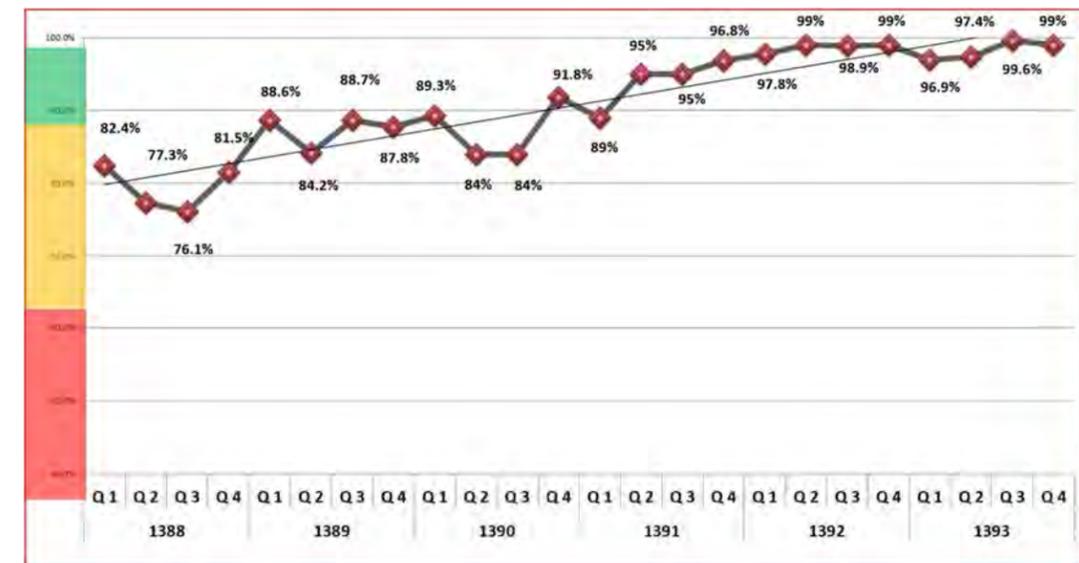
The total possible score (100%) is divided across four indicator sets for demining projects: operations, quality management, demining accidents, and reporting. Recognising that delivering mine action is the primary function of IPs, the operations indicator set has the highest weighting and accounts for 40% of the total score.



The other indicators are divided almost equally and account for 20%, 25%, and 15% of the total score respectively. Each indicator set is further divided into a number of subsets – or questions – that enable MACCA to measure and evaluate the planning ability of an IP, the productivity of assets, the safety and quality of work delivered, and reporting efficiency. Full details are available in MACCA’s BSC Briefing document, which can be found on [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af).

The following graph shows the BSC results of IPs monitored between 1388 and 1393. The trend line indicates a general improvement towards increased productivity and quality.

Figure 6: BSC results of IPs evaluated for 1388-1393



In 1393, a BSC was also developed for Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) as these activities are very important. The MEIFCS BSC is consisting of three indicators i.e. Operations, Quality Management and Reporting and with scores of 50%, 30% and 20% respectively.

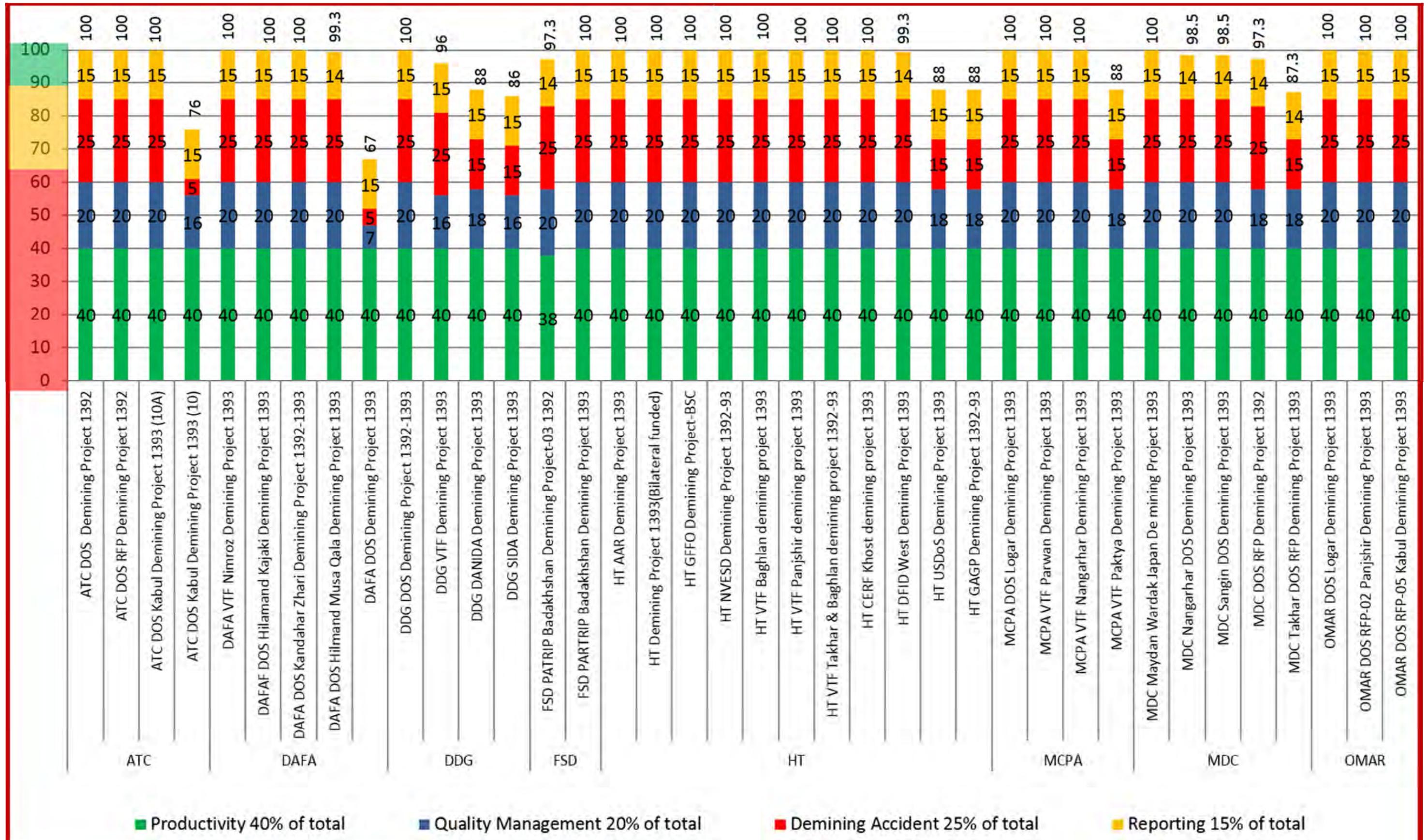
#### 4.2.7. End of Project Balanced Scorecard

In 1393, MACCA used the BSC methodology to carry out end of project monitoring on 38 demining projects implemented by eight MAPA implementing agencies.

Out of 38 demining projects, 30 projects scored between 90% and 100%, which is considered 'highly satisfactory'. Eight projects scored between 65% and 90%, which is considered 'satisfactory', due to some demining accidents as well as other quality management issues. Fortunately, no project scored below 65% or 'unsatisfactory'.

Figure 7 on next page represents a summary of the end of project BSC results for projects completed during 1393.

Figure 7: End of project BSC results for demining projects completed during 1393



### 4.3. Transition to National Ownership

Despite significant obstacles, MAPA has made major progress on national ownership. The government of Afghanistan has designated one of the independent directorates (ANDMA/DMAC) as a government focal point for mine action. In addition, there are permanent focal points for mine action in 18 key ministries and two independent government directorates.

During 1393, the sector remained committed to pursuing transition to national ownership. One key element of this was the development of a mine action bi-law, which was submitted to the Department of Laws of the Ministry of Justice. As a result of this regulation, the existing Natural Disaster Management Commission, which is an inter-ministerial body, will be mandated to provide policy guidance for the mine action sector. Progress was also made with regard to MACCA becoming a national independent, humanitarian organization that is more effective, sustainable and affordable. Discussions on the latter are ongoing with all stakeholders.

The generous support of donors and the hard work of mine action organizations have made MAPA a success story for Afghans and the international aid community. The programme has come a long way, but due to ongoing conflicts Afghanistan is still far from becoming free from mines and other ERW. In order to maintain the quality of mine action service delivery a well thought-out and progressive transition to national ownership is in the best interest of all stakeholders, especially for the vulnerable population who are living with the threats of landmines, ERW and PPIEDs.

### 4.4. Cross-Border Coordination and Cooperation



During 1393, MACCA/DMAC with the support of implementing partners continued to support other mine action programmes globally, for example:

- Sharing mechanical demining best practices with Bosnian firm, Macro-hard Mechanic.
- A brief research paper on impact of Anti vehicle mines was shared with GICHD and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

- MAPA experience in response to the disaster management by the mine action teams were shared during a workshop organized by OSCE in Tajikistan,
- MACCA's Balanced Scorecard experience was shared with other mine action programmes during two workshops in Tajikistan and Geneva.

### 4.5. Post Demining Impact Assessment

Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was implemented to assess the social and economic impact of demining interventions in communities cleared of mines and ERW. PDIA also assessed if survey information on mine and ERW contaminated areas was credible and reflected the facts on the ground. For 1393, GIROA's Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), with minimum technical support from MACCA, conducted PDIA surveys with credible results.

In the planning phase of PDIA, 99 cleared and cancelled sites were selected, which makes up ten percent of the 996 areas cleared or cancelled in 1392. In total, 96 sites were evaluated in 14 provinces including Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktia, Panjshir, Parwan, Samangan and Takhar provinces. Due to insecurity, 3 sites in 3 provinces including Helmand, Kunduz and Logar provinces were not evaluated.



To ensure that the required completion and handover process requirements have been observed and that the required documents are recorded, 20% of the minefield and battlefield completion reports were subject to desk assessment.

The following criteria were taken into consideration for selection for PDIA:

- Security
- Areas cleared by different implementing partners
- Areas in different geographical locations
- At least six months has passed since the areas were released
- Minefields with varied terrain, i.e., flat, mountainous, etc.
- Minefields showed varied outcomes, such as:
  - Quantity of crops produced on cleared land
  - Number of families accommodated on cleared land
  - Estimated amount of income villagers can secure as a result of their land cleared of mines/ERW
  - Number of public works constructed on cleared land

The total revenue earned from 10% of the cleared areas in 1392 based on the assessment sums up to 4,535,121 AFN, which equals to \$79,000. This means that the net revenue earned by the beneficiaries from the entire cleared areas in 1392 amounts to \$7,900,000. We therefore conclude that mine action not only saves lives but also plays a vital role in boosting local economy, creating employment opportunities and implementation of development programs.

#### PDIA's Finding

- In all of the areas covered by PDIA, 95% of the respondents, including local people, members of the community development councils and the local authorities expressed satisfaction with the way mine action organizations worked in their areas. However, 5% of the respondents shared their concerns, based on different reasons with the PDIA teams as reflected in this report.
- The surveys were not conducted properly in some areas. An example is Dasht-e-Amani Village of Rostaq District where some contamination was left behind despite the surveys. It is worth mentioning that following the assessment by PDIA team, the mentioned area was resurveyed by HALO Trust.
- From an area where previously a demining accident on civilians was reported, it was revealed after the investigation carried out by PDIA team that the accidents had taken place in the vicinity of the cleared areas rather than inside the cleared areas. Previous investigations sufficed with this bit of information and had not tried to convince the people of Dasht-e-Chenar. It is recommended that more precise investigation be undertaken in such cases to identify the underlying cause and appropriate measures be taken to address the issue, and the result be shared with the community. The people of Dasht-e-Chenar Village of Rostaq District were not satisfied with investigation undertaken by the MACCA regional office and the conclusion thereof. A subsequent investigation revealed that the problem actually lied with the technical survey because it had overlooked a small area between two minefields.
- Planning lacked accuracy in some areas and the people's priorities have not been taken into

consideration in the central region including Chelsetoon area behind Dasht-e-Padola and Qala-e-Hashmat Khan area in Kabul province.

- Liaison and coordination with local people and local authorities was found weak especially with regard to handover of the released land in some areas such as Hazar-Smooch District in Takhar Province, Hashmat Khan Village in Kabul Province and some other locations.

#### PDIA's Recommendations

- In view of the issues identified during survey of different locations, it is recommended that survey and clearance should not be undertaken by the same mine action organization. Rather, survey projects should be awarded to organizations with long standing solid experience in the field of surveys.
- To ease PDIA process in the future, the completion reports should include the full address of the area, the distance of the cleared land from the benchmark, the community leader's address and telephone number. It is worth mentioning that some organizations have already taken this initiative.
- The technical survey team should practice due precision, identify priorities properly and take people's suggestions into consideration during technical survey.
- In order to ensure closer coordination, mine action organizations are advised to liaise with local authorities and residents and explain their programs to them prior to their intervention and also update the local people and residents at the end of their intervention.

#### 4.6. Resource Mobilisation

MAPA provides essential services for mine/ERW impacted communities in Afghanistan. MAPA is primarily supported by international donors, with the exception of some specific projects, which are funded by the Government of Afghanistan through its national budget. Resource mobilisation plays a very important role in ensuring MAPA's sustainability. In addition to the global fundraising efforts of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), MACCA appeals for funds in support of mine action to help the Government of Afghanistan meet its obligations under international treaties pertaining to mines and ERW.

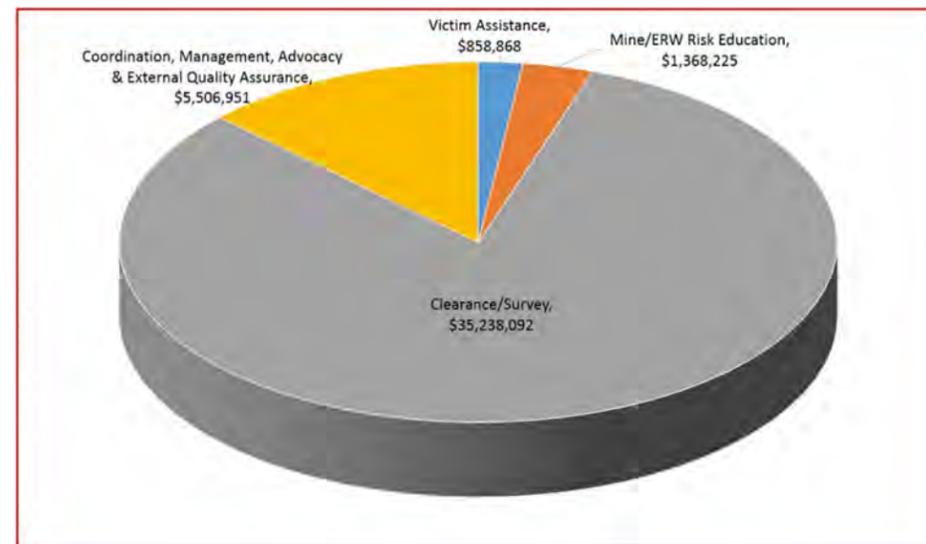
MACCA's resource mobilisation strategy goes beyond the raising of funds to include gaining donor support in terms of time and expertise. One example of this is MACCA's collaboration with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to provide mine/ERW risk education training for around 15,000 Mullah Imams at the UAE's training centre in Kabul, as detailed elsewhere in this report. Such initiatives strengthen partnerships between donors and the programme by broadening donor input to extend beyond financial contributions. MACCA also liaised with sister agencies such as UNHCR and OCHA for the implementation of mine/ERW activities and for clearance activities as part of the refugee response in Khost Province. Moreover, in light of decreasing donor contributions, these particular initiatives have enabled the programme to expand the reach of mine/ERW messaging to communities that are otherwise inaccessible at a minimal cost.

MACCA oversees all funds in support of humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan. Funds for the humanitarian sector are received through two modalities:

- Multilateral contributions to the VTF, administered by UNMAS and contracted through UNOPS to implementing partners (IPs);
- Bilateral agreements between implementing partners and international donors or the Government of Afghanistan.

Funds are made available throughout the year, depending on donor funding cycles and the commencement of new projects. In some cases, donors make multi-year commitments, and their contributions may not be aligned with the Afghan calendar. This requires an allocation process that divides the contribution over two Afghan years.

Figure 8: Funding breakdown for 1393 (VTF and bilateral)



The funding target for 1393 was USD 78.2 million including the coordination cost of mine action. Of this total, MAPA received USD 43.7 million from donors through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and bilaterally to its implementing partners. This means that MAPA received almost 56% of its required funding in 1393. The funds received were spent on survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance and coordination. A total of USD 11.2 million was allocated from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund; just under USD 1 million was received from UNOCHA, and the remaining USD 30.8 million was provided through bilateral agreements.

The chart above shows that the amount contributed to coordination activities has decreased compared to the USD 10.8 million spent on coordination in 1391. MACCA is planning further cost reductions given this reduction in funding. Coordination is nonetheless essential to the effective running of the entire programme, ensuring an effective response to the extension request and assisting the Government in achieving its obligations under the APMBT. Support to coordination allows MACCA and DMAC to continue working on:

1. Determination of mine action policy, prioritisation and planning in line with government requirements and responsibilities including the Afghan National Development Strategy, National Priority Programmes, Ottawa Treaty, Cluster Munitions Convention, and the Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities, among others.
2. Monitoring and evaluation;
3. Management of the national IMSMA database.
4. Maintenance and improvement of Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS), accreditation of implementers and quality assurance of their work ensuring qualified operators conform to AMAS and deliver high quality mine action services.

While the APMBT work plan envisages a reduction in the funds required as the plan progresses, the funds received from donors in the past four years have decreased at a more rapid rate. If this trend continues, it is unlikely that Afghanistan will meet its 2023 deadline under the APMBT.

On a positive note, MAPA remains committed to the work plan and to continually improving the overall productivity of the programme. Indeed, despite the shortfall in funding for 1393, the programme succeeded in doing more with less and met 69.8% of the land release target, with just 56% of the funding required. Moreover, in light of the fall in funding from traditional donors, MACCA and UNMAS reached out to several potential new donors in an effort to expand the programme’s donor base. It is hoped that these discussions will lead to new funding sources in the coming years. The table below shows the breakdown of VTF and bilateral support by donor.

Table 12: VTF and bilateral funding for 1393

| VTF Funding  |                     | Bilateral Funding       |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Donors       | Contributions       | Donors                  | Contributions       |
| Australia    | \$4,530,000         | Belgium                 | \$341,000           |
| Austria      | \$179,457           | DDG Core Fund           | \$8,080             |
| Canada       | \$336,189           | Denmark                 | \$1,656,620         |
| Denmark      | \$800,000           | Finland                 | \$988,900           |
| Finland      | \$1,003,552         | Germany                 | \$2,556,220         |
| Japan        | \$3,600,000         | Ireland                 | \$1,252,152         |
| Lithuania    | \$5,880             | Japan                   | \$993,936           |
| Luxembourg   | \$5,707             | Netherlands             | \$3,353,608         |
| Netherlands  | \$1,289,375         | Norway                  | \$2,735,926         |
| Saudi Arabia | \$100,000           | PATRIP, Germany         | \$435,984           |
| South Korea  | \$50,000            | Poland                  | \$49,000            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$11,900,160</b> | Sweden                  | \$2,300,796         |
|              |                     | UNHCR                   | \$60,000            |
|              |                     | United Kingdom          | \$2,966,848         |
|              |                     | UNOCHA (CERF)           | \$500,000           |
|              |                     | UNOCHA (CHF)            | \$500,000           |
|              |                     | US Department of States | \$10,509,433        |
|              |                     | <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$31,778,503</b> |

## CONCLUSION: THE REMAINING CHALLENGE

By the end of 1393, 4,266 recorded mine/ERW hazards covering an area of 534 sq km existed in Afghanistan. These hazards are located in 1,603 communities, 255 districts and 33 provinces of Afghanistan. 44.7% of the remaining contamination is due to anti-personnel (AP) mines, 48.7% is anti-tank (AT) contamination and the remaining 6.7% is due to ERW.

Table 13 shows the breakdown of known contamination type in terms of number of minefields (MF) and battlefields (BF) and the area contaminated.

Table 13: Remaining contamination as of end of 1393

| Type of Hazard                | Number of Hazard | Area of Hazard (sq km) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Anti-personnel mine           | 2,822            | 238.6                  |
| Anti-tank mine                | 1,194            | 259.8                  |
| Battlefield/ERW contamination | 250              | 35.6                   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>4,266</b>     | <b>534</b>             |

As shown above, most of the contamination results from anti-tank mines, which make up almost 49% of the overall contamination. Table 14 below shows the breakdown of the contamination by region. As was the case last year, most of the AP contaminated areas are located in the Central Region, followed by the Northeast, while the Eastern region has the fewest AP hazards. The Central region also remains the most affected in terms of the number of hazards, contaminated area, population and the number of impacted communities.

Table 14: Contamination by region as of end of 1393

| Region       | Anti-personnel Minefield |              | Anti-tank Minefield |              | Battlefield |              |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|              | Number                   | Area (sq km) | Number              | Area (sq km) | Number      | Area (sq km) |
| Central      | 992                      | 68.1         | 361                 | 53.0         | 52          | 4.5          |
| East         | 160                      | 13.1         | 109                 | 12.0         | 35          | 8.6          |
| North        | 375                      | 21.0         | 53                  | 2.3          | 65          | 8.7          |
| North East   | 840                      | 57.7         | 16                  | 0.6          | 59          | 5.9          |
| South        | 186                      | 32.6         | 231                 | 113.2        | 16          | 4.3          |
| South East   | 206                      | 18.7         | 311                 | 41.8         | 19          | 3.2          |
| West         | 64                       | 27.5         | 113                 | 37.0         | 4           | 0.3          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,823</b>             | <b>238.7</b> | <b>1,194</b>        | <b>259.8</b> | <b>250</b>  | <b>35.6</b>  |

In addition to the contamination described above, one recent challenge has been contamination surrounding International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) firing ranges and bases. From 2010 to the end of March 2015, MACCA recorded 130 casualties resulting from ERW accidents in ISAF/NATO firing ranges. 39 people were killed and 91 were injured; 74% of casualties are children.

To date in 2015, no civilian casualties have been reported although two deminers have been injured while removing unexploded ordinance, 19 casualties were reported in 2014, compared to 50 in 2013, 45 in 2012, nine in 2011, six in 2010, and one in 2009. The casualty numbers in 2012

and 2013 have seen a notable increase. This steep rise in accidents coincides with the withdrawal of international military forces. Accidents have occurred in 18 provinces out of 34, which show that the problem is widespread.

In 2013, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) awarded a contract to Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA) for the survey and clearance of firing ranges. SDA started the survey and clearance of ranges in 18 provinces namely Balkh, Farah, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, Uruzgan and Zabul.



93 firing ranges covering 1,049.6 sq km area have been surveyed so far. Based on IMSMA data, 26 ranges have been cleared, while clearance operations are ongoing on 23 ranges. A total of 371.7 sq km area has been cleared by SDA so far; 1 AP mine, 70,286 items of ERW and 56,681 small arms ammunitions have been destroyed.

**ACRONYMS**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| ACL        | Afghan Campaign for Landmine                       |
| ADC        | Asadbrothers Demining Company                      |
| AGD        | Afghan Greenfield Demining                         |
| AIED       | Abandoned Improvised Explosive Device              |
| AMAS       | Afghanistan Mine Action Standards                  |
| AMDC       | Aims Demining Company                              |
| ANDMA      | Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority |
| ANSA       | Afghanistan National Standards Authority           |
| AOAD       | Accessibility Organization for Afghan Disabled     |
| AP         | Anti-personnel                                     |
| AT         | Anti-tank  |
| ATC        | Afghan Technical Consultants                       |
| BAC        | Battle Area Clearance                              |
| BPHS       | Basic Package of Health Services                   |
| BSC        | Balanced Scorecard                                 |
| CBD        | Community Based Demining                           |
| CBR        | Community Based Rehabilitation                     |
| CDC        | Community Development Councils                     |
| CMCC       | Country Mine Clearance Company                     |
| CPO        | Child Protection Officer                           |
| DAFA       | Demining Agency for Afghanistan                    |
| DAO        | Development and Ability Organization               |
| DDG        | Danish Demining Group                              |
| DMAC       | Directorate for Mine Action Coordination           |
| DSCG       | Disability Stakeholder Coordination Group          |
| EOD        | Explosive Ordnance Disposal                        |
| EODT       | EOD Technology                                     |
| EPHS       | Essential Package of Health Services               |
| ERW        | Explosive Remnant of War                           |
| FSD        | Swiss Foundation for Mine Action                   |
| HALO Trust | Hazardous Areas Life-Support Organization Trust    |
| ICFE       | Inclusive and Child Friendly Education             |
| IMSMA      | Information Management System for Mine Action      |
| IOF        | Integrated Operational Framework                   |
| IPs        | Implementing Partners                              |
| KDC        | Kawoon Demining Company                            |
| KMCC       | Kabul Mine Clearance Company                       |

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| MACCA   | Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan            |
| MAPA    | Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan                      |
| MCPA    | Mine Clearance and Planning Agency                        |
| MDC     | Mine Detection Centre                                     |
| MEIFCS  | Mine or ERW Impact Free Community Survey                  |
| MoE     | Ministry of Education                                     |
| MoEW    | Ministry of Energy and Water                              |
| MoLSAMD | Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs And Disables   |
| MoM     | Ministry of Mines   |
| MoPH    | Ministry of Public Health                                 |
| MOU     | Memorandum of Understanding                               |
| MRE     | Mine Risk Education                                       |
| MRRD    | Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development            |
| NDSS    | National Demining Support Service                         |
| NGO     | Non-Governmental Organization                             |
| OMAR    | Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation |
| P&O     | Prosthetic and Orthotic                                   |
| PIPS    | Project and Implementing Partner Selection                |
| PRT     | Proposal Review Team                                      |
| QA      | Quality Assurance   |
| QC      | Quality Control   |
| RFP     | Request for Proposal                                      |
| SAA     | Small Arms Ammunition                                     |
| SADC    | Storm Afghanistan Demining Company                        |
| SDA     | Sterling Demining Afghanistan                             |
| SDC     | Standard Demining Company                                 |
| SDG     | Safi Demining Group                                       |
| SHA     | Suspected Hazardous Area                                  |
| SMCC    | Salam Mine Clearance Company                              |
| SOPs    | Standard Operating Procedures                             |
| TC      | Technical Committee                                       |
| TDC     | Trust Demining Company                                    |
| TDG     | Titan Demining Group                                      |
| UADC    | United Asia Demining Company                              |
| UNMAS   | UN Mine Action Service                                    |
| UNOPS   | UN Office for Project Services                            |
| VA      | Victim Assistance   |
| VTF     | UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action     |
| WDC     | Wahdat Demining Company                                   |



Hotline: +93 708 606060  
[info@macca.org.af](mailto:info@macca.org.af)

FB/MineAction.Afghanistan  
Twitter.com/MACCA\_AFG

[www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)