



MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

ANNUAL REPORT 1395





According to the 2016 Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict of the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan, 2016 marked the highest number of civilian casualties caused by the detonation of explosive remnants of war since the mission started recording civilian casualties in 2009. Casualty figures rose 66 per cent compared to 2016.

66 %



ERW casualties have increased by 11,3 % compared to 1394.

11,3 %



Mine casualties have decreased by 44 % compared to 1394.

44%



Only 42,6 % of the funding target for 1395 for the MAPA was reached.

57,4 %



ABOUT the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) was established in 1989 under the direction of the office of the Prime Minister to coordinate, oversee and regulate mine action activities in Afghanistan. In 1994 DMAC was amalgamated with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). ANDMA is the principle institution at the national level with the mandate to coordinate and manage all aspects related to disaster management (both natural and man-made disasters) and humanitarian affairs including mine action. DMAC, now one of the directorates of ANDMA, coordinates monitors and oversees the work of the humanitarian Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).

DMAC has been supported by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) since 2008. UNMAS provides technical and capacity development support to DMAC.

The U.S. Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) provides financial contributions to DMAC in support of DMAC's capacity development and to promote national ownership of the programme. PMRWA's contributions to DMAC are made through a Slovenian organization, the International Trust Fund (ITF) – Enhancing Human Security.

2023, Afghanistan Mine Free

Created by: Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)
 Edit: Yngvil Foss - UNMAS, Hamed Mohammadi - DMAC , Sandra Quiroz - UNMAS
 Design: Sohrab Rostayee, DMAC
 Photo: By Zahra Khudadadi & UNMAS

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Foreword

The State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs through its Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), directs and oversees the implementation of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), with technical and financial support from donors and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

As State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs with responsibility for leading and coordinating disaster management and humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, including MAPA, I am very pleased to present MAPA's Annual Report for 1395 outlining the key achievements and challenges faced by the programme during the year.



Since its inception in 1989, the MAPA has addressed 78 per cent of recorded mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the country; however, 3,820 minefields covering 588 square kilometres are yet to be cleared. They continue to affect 1,500 communities in 256 districts, in all but one of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. In addition to the legacy of decades of war, ongoing armed conflict in different parts of the country continue to add to the scale of contamination by unexploded ordnance (UXO). In particular, anti-Government elements have continued to use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) throughout 1395.

During 1395 the MAPA released 49.5 square kilometres from the threat of mines and ERW, around 55% of MAPA's target for 1395. In the process, 98,220 mines and ERW were destroyed. In parallel with these clearance operations MAPA provided mine/ERW risk education to almost 1.7 million civilians living in affected communities. It is worth mentioning that MAPA secured only 43 per cent of its funding target in 1395. The humanitarian demining programme in the country is entirely reliant on financial support and contributions of donors.

Approximately one in five IEDs used in 1395 were pressure-plated or victim-activated devices, and thus classified as anti-personnel mines. Their continuing use is likely to affect Afghanistan's mine action goal of making the country mine- and ERW-free by March 2023. Sadly, an average of over 145 civilian casualties were recorded every month during 1395, meaning that Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily landmine- and ERW-impacted countries in the world.

At an organizational level, during 1395, almost all functions of the programme which were previously carried out by UNMAS were transferred to government ownership. DMAC now has a leading role in the overall coordination of the programme and the key functions such as, resource mobilisation, information management, planning and priority setting, advocacy and oversight (quality management). The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) continues to support DMAC technically as it manages the programme.

Looking forward, I hope for continued support and cooperation from all stakeholders and donors as we seek to meet our Ottawa Treaty target of a mine-free Afghanistan by 2023.

Wais Ahmad Barmak

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State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs

Message From The Programme Manager of The United Nations Mine Action

Within my first few months as Programme Manager, it was already abundantly clear why the MAPA (Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan) is revered around the world for its excellence, resilience and dedication. Its excellence is noted not only in quantity of land released back to the communities for productive use, but in the quality of the operations. While boasting that 49.5 square metres of land was released by MAPA partners during 1395 is, of itself, commendable; it is the manner in which the quality assurance, post demining assessments and incident reports were handled that demonstrates the high regard for safety, procedure and results that all partners in Afghanistan have. This excellence is embodied in five-year National Mine Action Strategic Plan (2016-2021), which was endorsed by the Government and released in April 2016.



The post demining impact assessment carried out in 1395 on areas that were released in 1394 further underscores MAPA's pursuit of excellence and the importance of mine action. The results indicated that from a mere 18% of the land cleared in 1394, income from agricultural and farming practices contributed over US \$218,000 to the local economy. This is in addition to linking communities to markets, enabling the development of roads and electricity infrastructure, freeing land for grazing, and opening areas to residential use. Furthermore, this survey documented areas for improvement, and sought genuine community feedback to ensure that clearance practices and community benefits continue to progress. The resilience of the MAPA family was made evident as 1395 progressed. With a worsening security situation, deminers not only faced the under-acknowledged challenges of their high-risk jobs, but the additional risks of kidnap and attack. The Human Rights section of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan documented 20 separate incidents of attacks and threats against humanitarian deminers, including 12 separate incidents where anti-government elements abducted 110 humanitarian deminers. The resilience of the MAPA family and the strong ties made with the community ensure that these incidents were resolved professionally and swiftly – and never damaged dedication of the countries bravest asset, the deminers themselves.

The dedication of the MAPA partners to continue to achieve was most evident during discussions on the funding shortages experienced in 1395. Despite a record-high number of casualties from mines, ERW and pressure plate IEDs, partners were not able to mobilize the resources needed for 1395 to adhere to the five-year Strategic Plan. Throughout the 12 months, the MAPA partners acted as a family, and came jointly to the table to discuss the challenges and solutions. They forged greater partnerships and were driven to innovation, which has seen linkages to development and support to alternative livelihoods incorporated into clearance operations. Overall, I am proud that the mine action family's response to challenges was to improve services, increase efficiency and strengthen partnerships. In response to the growing number of casualties, the MAPA family continued to step up services to prevent and respond: by delivering Mine Risk Education messages to at risk population and providing victim assistance services to those unfortunate enough to be casualties of mines and ERW. The latter was significantly aided by the Afghanistan Civil Assistance Programme (ACAP) which provides holistic support to civilian victims of conflict throughout Afghanistan.

In closing, 1395 has reaffirmed the decision to continue the transition towards national ownership with the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination. They have been a trusted and close partner throughout the highs and lows of 1395, and I look forward to reporting next year on the successes and progress of this transfer.

Yngvil Foss
Programme Manager (UNMAS, Afghanistan)

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Executive Summary

The fourth year of the Afghanistan Ottawa Extension Request work plan, 1395, demonstrated the continued need for mine action progress against a backdrop of worsening security and increasing incident rates. Tragically, 1395 recorded 1,783 civilian casualties due to landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and pressure-plate IEDs (PPIED), with children comprising the bulk of the casualties. In 1395, the civilian casualties from PPIED made up 60 % of all recorded civilian casualties recorded by the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).

At the beginning of 1395 (April 2016), there were 4,340 hazardous areas, covering 625.6 sq km of land, impacting 1,584 communities in 256 districts of the country. In addition, there were 64 recorded firing ranges covering 983 sq km. As of the end of March 2017, there were a total number of 1,506 communities, thus a decrease by 133 communities throughout the year. These impacted communities remain across 256 districts in 33 out of 34 provinces in the country, affecting an estimated number of 2,545,278 people. The country's contamination levels are further exacerbated by the ongoing kinetic engagements.

Under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty Extension Work Plan, this year's annual target was to clear 90.94 sq km of contaminated land, which included 51.4 sq km of anti-personnel minefields, 29.11 sq km of anti-tank minefields and 10.4 sq km of battlefields. These hazards blocked access to agriculture, grazing, water, housing and roads. Implementing partners successfully cleared 49.5 sq km and reduced an area by 0.9 sq km, thus achieving 55.5% of this ambitious land release target through operations funded bilaterally or through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF). As result of clearing those hazards, two districts and 133 communities were fully released from known recorded hazards.

As part of the Ottawa extension request, during 1395, 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 the immediate destruction of spot ERW found during the survey increasing efficiency for future operations and making communities safer. During 1395, 68 communities were surveyed, both adding previously unrecorded hazardous areas and subtracting cancelled areas or reductions, resulting in the net addition of 47.8 sq km of new hazard areas to the national mine action database of Afghanistan. In addition, the MEIFCS teams also found and destroyed over 200 items of spot ERW. Although this fell short of the 1395 plan to survey 205 impacted communities and 3,655 unknown communities across 16 provinces, it is still significant in light of funding and accessibility challenges.

Accessibility is a challenge that all humanitarian actors encounter in Afghanistan, however, through the Community Based Demining (CBD) approach, MAPA partners are able to reach otherwise inaccessible communities. Moreover, the economic boost provided to communities through the employment of CBD teams supports peace and stabilization, and provides the communities with a platform for development once the hazards have been removed. This year, 71 out of MAPA's 392 teams were community based demining or mine/ ERW risk education teams.

Based on the Mine/ERW risk education (M/ERW RE) prioritization system, 535 impacted communities, including high- and medium-impacted communities and communities within one km of active hazards, were targeted for visits by M/ERW RE teams during 1395. Approximately 17.2 % of these communities received risk education. In addition, the focus of mine and ERW risk education shifted to address the urgent needs of refugees and returnees from Iran and Pakistan, as well as those internally displaced by conflict. Risk education was provided in host communities, UNHCR encashment centres, IOM transit centres and zero-point border crossings to these vulnerable groups.

Throughout 1395, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) remained engaged in the integration of Mine/ERW Risk Education in the broader National Priority Programme for Afghanistan. Collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) demonstrates the success of this advocacy, with more than 100 Child Protection Officers appointed within the structure of Safety and Security Directorates of the MoE. The DMAC and MoE will continue to collaborate on promoting the Risk Education program at schools, specifically through the inclusion of M/ERW RE messages into the national curriculum for grades one to six.

During 1395, DMAC signed letters of agreement with War Child Canada and Terre des hommes regarding the integration of Mine/ERW Risk Education into child protection projects of each organisation. As outlined by the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS), this integrated awareness method is called 'non-formal Risk Education activities', and the DMAC provides M/ERW RE Training of Trainers (ToT) to staff and training aid materials to organization for this informal approach.

During 1395, DMAC (supported by UNMAS) continued to provide support to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) through advice and advocacy on several policy documents, including: the development of the disability and physical rehabilitation strategy for the health sector, input to the national health policy 2015-2020; the development of a new physiotherapy training curriculum; the development of disability, victims and physical rehabilitation indicators for the Health Management Information System (HMIS); and, the development of a comprehensive project concept for the establishment of a national rehabilitation center in Kabul to promote rehabilitation services to victims of war and other persons with disabilities under the leadership of MoPH.

Assistance from mine action partners saw 11,959 persons with disability and victims of war provided with orthosis (2,525), prosthesis (1,187), physiotherapy (3,205), and disability awareness and advocacy training (5,042). DMAC (supported by UNMAS) also facilitated 10 Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG) meetings, chaired by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled.

Alongside these victim assistance initiatives, the Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme (ACAP III) has assisted eligible civilian victims of conflict (including ERW and mine victims), aiming to mitigate the short-term and long-term impacts of conflict on eligible civilians. ACAP III has three components of support: assistance, institutional capacity building, and advocacy and outreach.

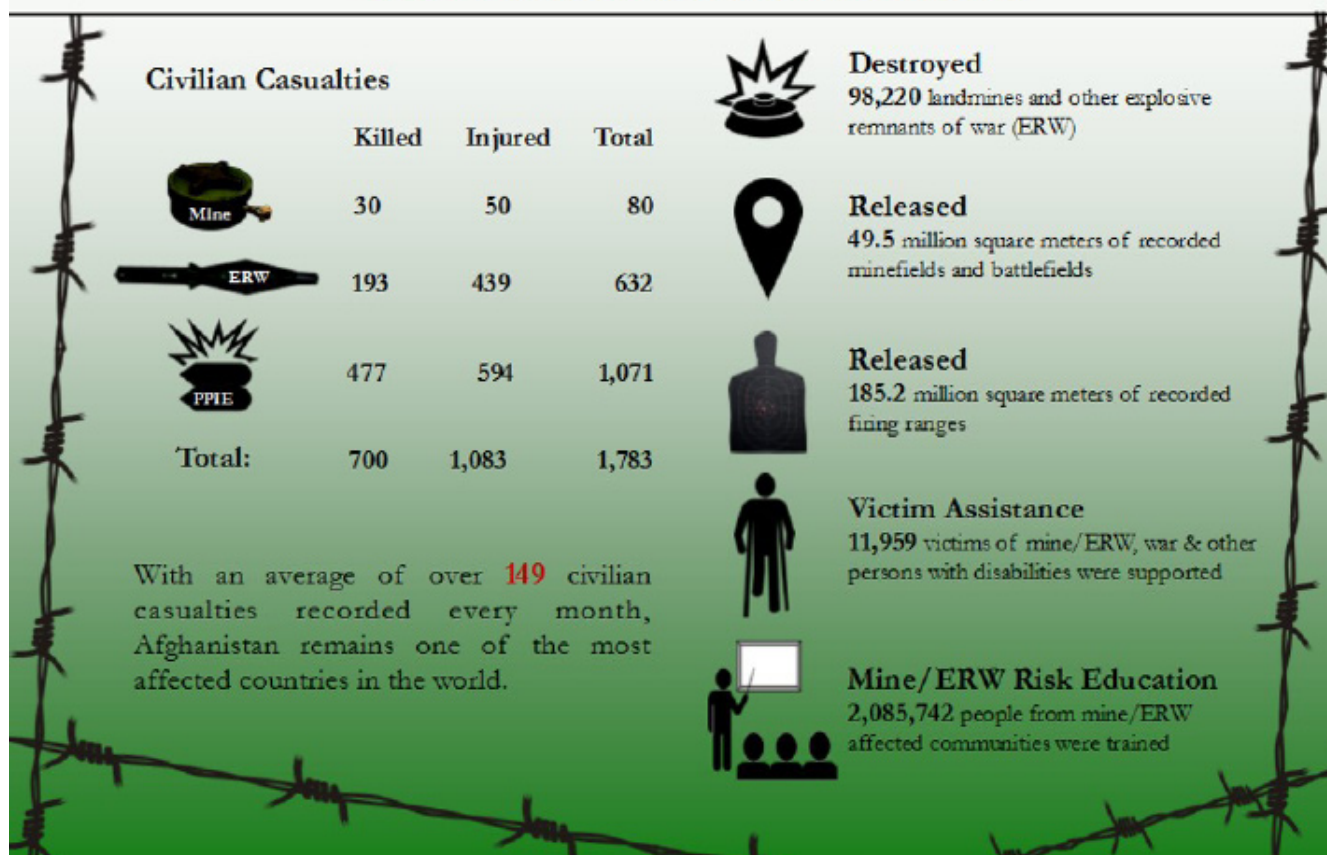
Results from the assistance pillar of ACAP III for 1395 include: the distribution of 5,805 immediate assistance packages to families, reaching a total of 52,184 beneficiaries; provided physical rehabilitation assistance to 2,559 beneficiaries; and provided psychosocial counseling to 10,215 beneficiaries. In addition, ACAP III has supported 2,284 victims and families with income generation assistance.

The funding target for 1395 was US \$93,4 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 operations. Of this total, MAPA received just under US \$40,4 million from donors through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and bilaterally through its implementing partners. This means that MAPA received only 43% of its required funding in 1395. The funds received were spent on survey, clearance, M/ERW risk education, victim assistance and coordination.

A total of US \$9.5 million was allocated from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund; just under US \$1.37 million was received from UNOCHA, and the remaining US \$30.4 million was provided through bilateral agreements.

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

1395

 (1 APR 2016-31 MAR 2017) SNAPSHOT


Section one

Fast Facts for Afghan year 1395 (April 2016 to 31 March 2017)

Table 1 - Casualties: Below table shows civilian casualties of Landmines, ERWs and PPIEDs:

Time Period	Device Type	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
1395 (April 2016 to March 2017)	Landmine	5	51	5	19	80
	ERW	38	115	73	406	632
	PPIED	91	670	68	242	1,071
Sub - Total		134	836	146	667	1783
Since beginning of the programme in 1368 (1989) to 31st March 2017	Landmine	213	4,623	307	2,223	7,366
	ERW	589	7,723	1,132	9,088	18,532
	PPIED	277	2,006	158	736	3,177
Grant Total		1,079	14,352	1,597	12,047	29,075

Table 2 - Scope of the problem: The table below shows the remaining challenges (in square kilometre) of minefield, battlefield and firing range contamination in Afghanistan as of 31st March 2017.

Type	AP	AT	ERW	IED	Total	Remarks
Legacy contamination (prior 2001)	215	277.2	53.9	0.0	546.1	109 districts require MEIFCS survey
New contaminations (Post 2001)	4.7	0.0	35.4	5.4	45.5	There are 420 sq.km post 2001 contaminations (PPIED & ERW) recently assessed, but not yet entered in to IMSMA, which requires further proper survey.
Firing Range	0.0	0.0	373.9	0.0	373.9	17 Firing Ranges that accounts for about 68 sq. km needs survey
Total	219.7	277.2	463.2	5.4	965.5	

Table 3 - Remaining contaminations by region: The table below shows contamination by region in square kilometre, as of 31st March 2017.

Region	Legacy Contamination (Prior 2001)		New contaminations (Post 2001)		Total		Firing ranges contaminations (Post 2001)
	MF	BF	MF	BF	MF	BF	
Central	100.6	2.9	0.1	9.1	100.7	12	138.6
East	19.6	2.6	0.0	13.5	19.6	16.1	24.2
North	18.2	42.0	1.1	0.0	19.3	42	-11.7
North East	66.9	1.8	1.6	3.4	68.5	5.2	7.6
South	167.6	2.3	7.1	0.1	174.7	2.4	172.0
South East	60.7	2.1	0.0	9.4	60.7	11.5	26.2
West	58.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	58.8	0.3	17.0
Total	492.2	53.9	10.1	35.4	502.3	89.3	373.9

Table 4 - Security incidents: The table below shows security incidents involving mine action personnel during 1395 and over the past 7 years.

Time Period	No. of Incident	Details			
		Killed	Injured	Abducted	Released
April 2016 to March 2017	34	5	6	149	149
Since 2010 to 30 June 2017	290	90	129	769	762

Table 5 - Clearance achievements : The table below shows clearance of the minefields and battlefields in 1395 and since the beginning of the programme.

Time Period	Area released by Hazard type in sq. km			Total	Number of Communities Released	Number of Districts Released
	MF	BF	FR			
1395	42.69	6.86	185.17	234.72	133	
Since beginning of the programme 1368 (1989) to 31st March 2017	1,101.0	1,038.6	772.8	2,912.4	2,854	115

Table 6 - Clearance Achievements in Support of Development Projects to Date: The MAPA supported development projects by providing mine action related maps, statistics and clearance services.

Hazardous area checked for development projects	No of sites searched	Size of area searched (Sq.km)
Checked for Explosive Remnants of War	2,951.0	1,338.9
Checked for Mines	1,403.0	67.0
Total number and area checked (Sq. km)	4,354	1,405.0

Table 7 - Device destroyed: Table below shows devices destroyed in 1395 and since the beginning of the programme.

MAPA and MoD	Number of Devices Destroyed			
	AP	AT	IED	ERW ¹
1395	13,387	402	0	84,431 (items)
By MAPA, since beginning of the programme 1368 (1989) to date	716,846	29,582	752	18,204,759(items)
By Afghan Ministry of Defense (stockpile destruction) to date	525,189	31,133	-	31,523(tones)
Total	1,242,035	60,715	752	

Table 8 - Mine/ERW Risk Education: The below tables show mine/ERW risk education activities during 1395 and since beginning of the programme. Table 8 shows those beneficiaries who participated once in the risk education sessions, while the Table 9 shows beneficiaries whom received refresher trainings.

Time Period	Number of Beneficiaries received Mine/ERW Risk Education					
	Sessions	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
1395	53,087	253,267	285,752	516,058	666,718	1,721,795
Since beginning of the programme 1368 (1989) to 31st March 2017	2,936,323	3,591,838	5,072,409	5,775,267	9,251,897	23,691,411

¹ MAPA records the number of items of ERW destroyed whereas the Ministry of Defense records the number of tones destroyed.

Table 9

Time Period	Number of Beneficiaries received Mine/ERW Risk Education					
	Sessions	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
1395	53,087	47,221	78,041	96,453	142,232	363,947
Since beginning of the programme 1368 (1989) to 31st March 2017	327,115	318,976	422,666	536,139	823,085	2,427,981

Table 10 - Victim Assistance Achievements : The table below indicates victim assistance achievements for the year 1395.

Activities based on VA components	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Grand Total
Disability Awareness and Advocacy Training	1,821	1516	916	789	5,042
Physical Rehabilitation	535	644	3,771	2,144	7,094
Total	2,356	2,160	4,687	2,933	12,136

Table 11 - Funding: Table shows funding for the MAPA contributed through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) managed Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and donor contributions channeled to the implementing partners bilaterally.

Funding status	Coordination	Demining	MRE	VA	Total
Funding Target 1395	6,774,510	85,090,000	1,160,000	1,700,000	94,724,510
Funding Secured					
VTF	4,310,667	4,414,754	649,399	110,000	9,484,820
Bilateral	1,274,510	27,963,802	1,206,408	485,857	30,930,577
Total	5,585,177	32,378,556	1,855,807	595,857	40,415,397 ²
Funding gap in 1395	1,189,333	52,711,444	-695,807	1,104,143	54,309,113

²This does not include funding for the firing range project implementation.

Section Two

Scope of the Problem

The tense security situation and ongoing fighting in Afghanistan has left behind Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) contamination. This new contamination is added to the legacy contamination left after the invasion of Afghanistan by Russia. The legacy mine/ ERW contamination refers to the areas contaminated by mine/ERW during the Russian invasion of Afghanistan from 1979 to 1992, internal fighting between Mujahideen warring factions from 1992 to 1995 as well as fighting between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance from 1995 to 2001.

After 2001, military operations by international military forces against the Taliban and ongoing fighting between the Taliban and Afghan military forces resulted in more ERW and IED contamination.

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is receiving more civilian casualty reports, which are mainly the result of ERW and pressure plate IEDs (PPIEDs). Civilian casualties as a result of new ERW contamination and PPIEDs are in addition to other civilian casualties resulting from legacy contamination. MAPA encountered new ERW contamination during 1395 (2016) specifically where the conflicts were active.

1.1 Contamination at the Beginning of 1395 (April 2016)

At the beginning of 1395 (April 2016), there were 4,340 hazardous areas covering 625.6 sq km of land, impacting 1,584 communities in 256 districts of the country. This contamination was the result of the Soviet–Afghan war and internal armed conflicts prior to 2001. In addition, a new challenge emerged in the form of firing ranges used by international forces during their military operations in Afghanistan. The actual scope of these contaminated areas is not known as the survey is yet to be completed.

The breakdown of mine, ERW and firing range contamination at the beginning of 1395 is presented in Table 12 below.

Table 12: Contamination by hazard type as of beginning of 1395

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
Anti-personnel mine	2,764	254.5
Anti-Vehicle mine	1,254	283.7
Battlefield/ERW contamination	322	87.4
Total	4,340	625.6

Area of Hazard (sq km)	Number of Hazard	Type of Hazard
Firing range	64	983

1.2 Civilian Casualties

In 1395, 1,783 civilian casualties caused by landmines, ERW and PPIED explosions were recorded (see breakdown in table below). There is a decrease in mine and ERW civilian casualties compared to 1394, but an increase of civilian casualties from PPIED. The civilian casualties from PPIED make up 60 % of all recorded civilian casualties recorded by MAPA this year (see Figure 1 below). PPIED are used by antigovernment elements to target military personnel and convoys. However, since they are victim-activated (unlike remote-controlled IEDs or suicide vests), many PPIED incidents result in the loss of civilian life. As per the Ottawa Treaty “Anti-personnel mine means a mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons” therefore PPIEDs fall under this definitions (although PPIEDs are not been mentioned in the treaty document). The locations of PPIEDs are not recorded precisely, so after every single PPIED incident, a vast area is suspected of containing PPIED. This poses a long-term challenge for Afghanistan.

Table 13 shows a summary of civilian casualties for 1395, demonstrating that PPIED 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 Western regions had the second, south East & North third and fourth highest number of recorded casualties in the country.¹

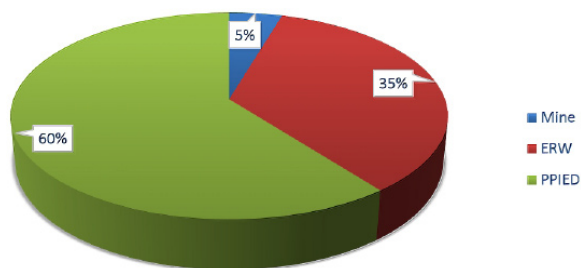


Table 13: 1395 Casualties by Region and Device Type

Region	ERW			Mine		PPIED		Grand Total
	Killed	Injured	Property damage	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	
Central	29	7		2		10	12	60
East	29	21		1	2	22	14	89
North	56	16		16	5	66	35	194
North East	32	19		8		29	29	117
South	147	75	1	12	11	317	241	804
South East	53	13		8	12	50	73	209
West	72	33		2		85	60	252
Grand Total	418	184	1	49	30	579	464	1,725

¹ Mine/ERW casualty figures are for 1394 (April 2015 to March 2016) as recorded in IMSMA. PPIED casualty figures are for the calendar year 2015 and come from UNAMA's Annual Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. Available online at: <http://unama.unmissions.org>



Section Three

Plan for 1395

The 1395 Plan under the Ottawa Extension Request had the following goals (for a narrative on achievements against these goals see Section Three):

1. Clear 90.94 sq km of contaminated land: This consisted of 51.41 sq km of anti-personnel minefields; 29.11 sq km of anti-tank minefields; and 10.42 sq km of battlefields. These hazards blocked access to agriculture, grazing, water, housing and roads;
2. Prioritize effective implementation of the workplan;
3. Survey 40 districts under the MEIFCS plan: This included forty districts covering 205 impacted communities and 3,655 unknown communities in 16 provinces (Daykundi, Kunar, Faryab, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Ghor, Midan Wardak, Logar, Kabul, Nangarhar, Paktika, Paktya, Khost, Ghazni, Baghlan and Kandahar);
4. Provide Mine/ERW risk education to 535 impacted communities: Based on the MRE prioritization system, 535 impacted communities, including high- and medium-impacted communities and communities within one km of active hazards, were targeted for visits by MRE teams during 1395;
5. Provide victim assistance to mine/ERW and persons with disabilities: Provision of VA/ disability services for direct and indirect victims of mines and ERW, as well as persons with disabilities more generally, the following were targets to be achieved in 1395:
 - 500 public places made accessible for persons with disabilities;
 - 700 persons with Disabilities (PwD) received business skills training;
 - 2 CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) Guidelines translated from English to Pashto;
 - 10,000 CBR guidelines are printed and distributed through MoLSAMD;
 - National Disability Plan is translated and 2000 copies are printed;
 - 5000 sign language books printed;
 - 1,000 Children with Disabilities (CwD) are provided with appropriate materials (such as slate, stylus, braille paper, braille board with tips, sign languages dictionary, magnifier glasses etc);
 - Physical Rehabilitation (PR) services are provided through 7 fixed PR centers and 3 Mobile workshops to 27,500 PwD (2200 prosthesis; 8,800 orthosis; and 16,500 physiotherapy) in 21 Provinces and 79,200 PwD , their family and community members have received awareness in Physical rehabilitation;
 - Economic reintegration services provided to 1,018 victim deminers;
 - 3,200 local people trained in 800 mine/ERW affected communities on first aid and data collection including males and females.
6. Officially release the 5 year national mine action strategic plan

2.1. Project Cycle Management

In 2008, UNMAS began to arrange the remaining hazards in Afghanistan into projects to enable the 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. Hazards are gathered to make an MBT project based on pre-determined criteria. In the project design criteria, four main issues are considered:

1. Geographical proximity of the hazards to ease access from the logistics perspective;
2. Impact classification of the hazards, mostly very high and high impact, while medium impact hazards were also selected for clearance in some cases if appropriate;
3. Device consideration - the AP hazards are mostly sorted in separate projects while anti vehicle hazards in other projects as this enables the IPs to easily implement the project;
4. Security considerations - secured projects are sorted in the first phase followed by unsecure projects.

The following points were taken into consideration when selecting projects for 1395:

- Projects that were planned in 1394 in accordance with the workplan of the Ottawa Extension Request, but not funded;
- Projects targeted to be cleared during 1395 and 1396 in order to provide an opportunity for the IPs to select their projects from a wider range. If IPs were selecting projects beyond 1396, they were required to provide justification;
- Donor interest, as donors may provide funds for a specific area/project.

Table 14 below shows a summary of the projects that were planned, funded and completed during 1395

Project Type	No. of Projects	Focus Areas for the Projects
Demining/clearance	102*	Release of 50.5 sq km of contaminated area.
MEIFCS survey	3	Survey of 68 impacted communities and 2,345 unknown communities.
Mine/ERW Risk Education	5	Provision of mine/ERW risk education to 1,309 communities.
Victim assistance	15	Support mine/ERW victims and person with disability in 5 different provinces and 49 communities of 5 different provinces 4communities of 5 different provinces
Total	125	

Note: 104 out of 125 demining projects were completed within the same year, and the remaining 21 projects which were started during the year are ongoing and will be completed during the year 1396 based on their contracts and periods of operation.

2.2. Mine Action Capacity in 1395

To facilitate the achievement of the 1395 plan, MAPA's toolbox included demining teams, mechanical demining units, mine dog teams, explosive ordnance disposal teams, non-technical survey teams, mine/ERW risk education teams and victim assistance teams.

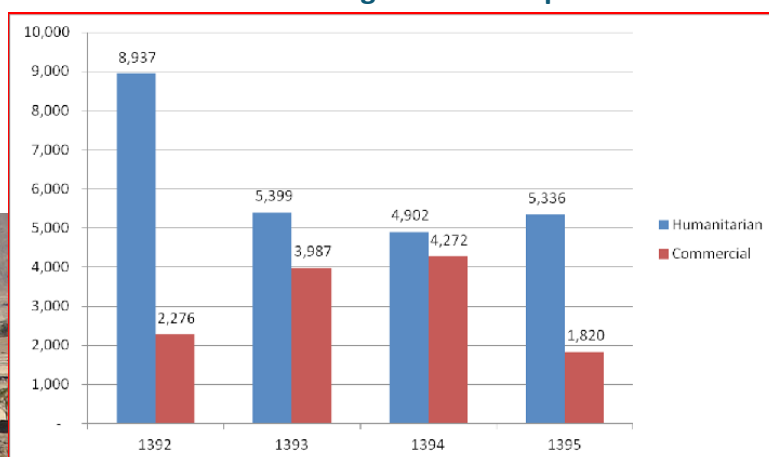
During 1395, nine national and international humanitarian Implementing Partners (IPs) were engaged in surveying and clearing of mine/ERW contaminated hazards. Five IPs delivered disability services. Eight IPs conducted mine/ERW risk education.

In addition to MAPA IPs, four key Afghan Government ministries (in addition to the main ministry, namely ANDMA) – the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) and the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA) - were directly involved in either mine/ERW risk education and/or victim assistance services.

Over the past four years, MAPA has continuously faced a decrease in its humanitarian demining capacity. This has mainly been a consequence of the funding shortfall, especially in the case of national IPs. Figure 2 below represents a comparison of the MAPA workforce (commercial and humanitarian) over the past four years.

Moreover, seven commercial companies also implemented demining projects to ensure the safe execution of some key development projects. These projects included countrywide firing range clearance; reconstruction of the electricity transmission line from Balkh to Baghlan province; the electricity transmission line from Aqina to Mazar and Baghlan, Shabirghan and Andkhoy substations; the Kundoz Mol administrator building site and construction of roads in Bamyan province.

Figure 2: MAPA workforce during 1395 in comparison to last three years



Section Four

MAPA Achievements in 1395

The increase in security incidents, combined with the reduction in funding, made 1395 a challenging year for the MAPA. The programme did not receive the funding required to complete the survey and clearance projects planned for 1395, and this resulted in a decreased output compared to previous years. The projects that did receive funding were fully completed. However, the overall achievement against the 1395 target suffered due to the funding shortfall.

Despite receiving only 37,7% of the required funding (US \$32,1 out of 85,09 million) for clearance, MAPA IPs succeeded in clearing 49.5 sq km (42.7 sq km of minefields and 6.8 sq km of battlefields) and reduced a 0.9 sq km area, thus achieving 55,5% of the target. As a result of the clearance work undertaken during the course of the year, two districts and 133 communities were released and declared free from known recorded hazards.

3.1 Survey

The first essential step before mine clearance is to identify the location of the hazardous area, delineate its boundaries and gather information about the nature of the mines or explosive remnants of war within it. Mine/ ERW surveys can ensure the safe, efficient and effective use of demining assets for hazard removal . Two types of survey are conducted in MAPA, namely the non-technical survey and the technical survey.

3.1.1 Non-Technical Survey

The first survey to be conducted in the field is the non-technical survey (NTS). Its main purpose is to investigate a new or previously recorded mine and ERW contaminated area without physical entrance into the hazard areas. It involves a community liaison and interviewing informants about the contaminated areas as well as visiting the hazard area from safe viewing points. The findings of the non-technical survey are then used for planning a 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) in 2012. MEIFCS includes non-technical surveys of contaminated areas, immediate action on the destruction of known spot ERW endangering the lives and safety of people, as well as communication of key mine/ERW risk education messages to communities.

During 1395, survey teams conducted NTS operations in 27 districts. In total 1,691 villages from the gazetteer and 2,433 villages that were not in gazetteer were surveyed by MEIFCS teams. Table 15 below shows the achievements of NTS during 1395.

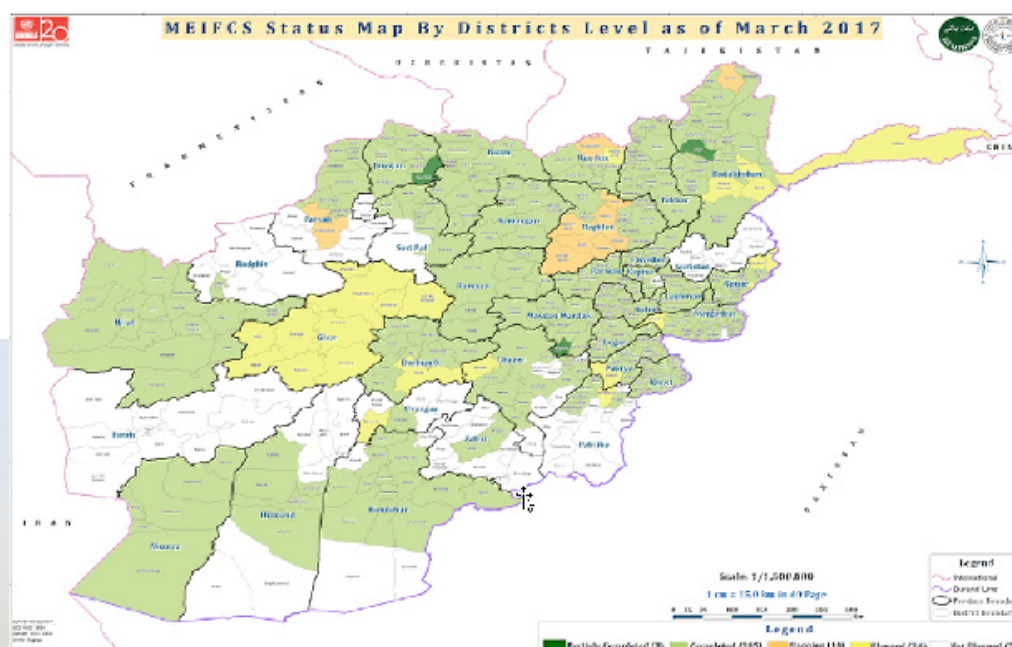
Table 15: NTS achievements during 1395

Hazards Re-surveyed			Hazards Cancelled		New Survey							
No. Of Hazards	Area Increased Sq km	Area Decreased Sq km	No. Of Hazards	Area Sq km	Old Hazards Newly Surveyed Legacy (Contamination)				Hazards Newly Surveyed (Post 2001 Contamination)			
					MF	BF	MF Sq km	BF Sq km	MF	BF	MF Sq km	BF Sq km
71	0.5	0.8	12	2.5	56	2	17	0.07	16	14	13.9	19.7

In summary, after adding previously unrecorded hazardous areas identified this year and subtracting cancellations and reductions, NTS and MEIFCS operations resulted in the addition of 47.8 sq km new hazard areas to the national mine action database of Afghanistan. MEIFCS teams also found and destroyed over 200 items of spot ERW.

The map below illustrates ongoing operations in districts colored orange, partially completed operations in dark green, completed operations in light green, planned operations in lime and districts yet to be planned in white.

Figure 3 : MEIFCS status by district at the end of 1395



3.1.2 Technical Survey

The technical survey is a detailed physical investigation of 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, the technical survey is integrated with clearance operations of the demining teams.

In order to better identify the actual boundaries of the hazardous areas for clearance operations and reduce the parts where there are no evidences of hazard, the demining teams have to conduct technical survey of each individual hazardous. Once the technical survey findings are verified by DMAC/UNMAS regional office, following a Quality Assurance (QA) visit of the task, then the technical survey report is used by the demining teams for continuation of clearance operations of the task. In 1395, technical survey of each individual planned hazardous area resulted in more effective and efficient use of mine action resources, by identifying the actual boundaries of the hazardous areas for clearance operations. It also led to the reduction in 0.9 sq kms of land needed to be cleared.

3.1.3 Survey of Firing Ranges

In addition to the survey of legacy contamination, NATO/ISAF firing ranges were also surveyed. Firing range contamination is the result of NATO/ISAF's use of heavy weapons for training purposes in set locations. Due to high failure rate of weapons, some ordnance remained live on the surface or in the ground and posed a danger to surrounding communities. From 2009 to March 2017, IMSMA recorded 191 casualties resulting from ERW accidents in these firing ranges.

However, the exact size of contamination from abandoned firing ranges is still unknown. It is thought that the total size of the firing ranges may exceed 1,200 sq km. NATO provided the coordinates of each firing range to the MAPA, however, polygon maps of the sites were not provided. Since 1393 until the end of 1395, Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA), which was recently rebranded as JDA (Janus Deming Afghanistan), surveyed 103 firing ranges and recorded a contaminated area of 1,153 sq km of which 1,085 sq km area has been contracted for clearance. The remaining 68.4 sq km, covering 16 hazardous areas (Firing Ranges) were excluded from the scope of the current range clearance project due to the fact that these training ranges are re-shifted/delivered to Government of Afghanistan for their training purposes for ANA/ANP. The problem of contamination is found in 17 provinces of the country, and the survey will continue in 1396.

Moreover, six firing ranges connected to Germany, which are still active and used by the German forces, and five firing ranges connected to New Zealand are expected to be included in the range clearance process in the future as well. However, these firing ranges have neither been surveyed nor have they been contracted for any clearance as of present. New Zealand so far did not consider funding for the clearance of mentioned five firing ranges, though this issue had been communicated to them in the past.

Table 16 below presents survey data on firing ranges. The map below the table illustrates the locations of these firing ranges.

Tabel 16: Firing Ranges survey data:

Surveyed/Recorded		Contracted for Clearance		Not surveyed/contracted yet	
No of Firing Ranges	Area Size	No of Firing Ranges	Area Size	No of Firing Ranges	Area Size
103	1,153 sq Km	85	1,085 sq km	11	unknown

Figure 4 shows geographical location map



All clearance activities of firing ranges follow the guidelines of the Afghanistan Mine Action National Standards (AMAS). DMAC undertakes quality control on 10 per cent of cleared or released areas of each firing range. DMAC also performs quality assurance monitoring of the firing range survey and clearance operations as well as conducting monitoring of Mine Risk Education delivered by JDA to the nearby communities. Monthly coordination mechanisms have been set up, and coordination is carried out through the High Explosives Training Ranges (HETR) Working Group, led by USFOR-A and Resolute Support (RS), as well as representatives from other troop-contributing nations, the US Embassy, DMAC, UNMAS and SDA (JDA) representatives.

3.2 Overall Clearance Achievements

MAPA's clearance operations in 1395 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 from the ongoing post-2001 armed conflict.

During 1395, clearance operations were carried out by both humanitarian demining organisations and commercial demining companies, collectively forming the MAPA. The below table gives a summary of clearance activities conducted during the reporting period.

Table 17: Summary of Land Release in 1395

Activity Type	Area of Hazard (sq km)
Total size of minefields cleared by humanitarian organizations	42.7
Total size of battlefields cleared by humanitarian organizations	6.8
Total size of minefields cancelled	3.9
Total size of battlefields searched by commercial companies 4	2.7
Total size of firing ranges released	254

3.3 Land Release Operations by Humanitarian Organizations

The programme's 1395 target under the Ottawa Extension Request workplan was to clear 90.94 sq km of contaminated land, but due to a shortfall in funding, the MAPA humanitarian demining organizations could not achieve the set target.

Despite receiving only 37.7 % of the required fund (32.1 out of 85.09 million USD) for clearance, MAPA implementing partners succeeded in clearing 49.5 sq km (42.7 sq km of minefields and 6.8 sq km of battlefields) and reduced almost 0.9 sq km area, thus achieving 55.5% of the target. As result of clearing these hazards, 2 districts and 133 communities were released from known recorded hazards.

Figure 5: Planned VS Achieved in 1395

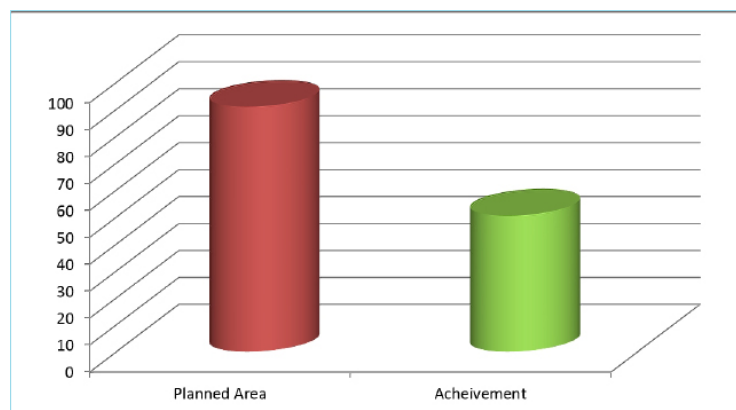


Table 18: 1395 achievements by organization

Clearance Agency	Number of Hazards	Hazard Area Released(sq. m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
			AP	AT	AIED	UXO	SAA
AREA	9	444,436	55	-	0	19	53
ATC	155	7,368,780	1,683	26	0	14,406	3,261
DAFA	60	7,752,620	73	105	0	1,997	140
DDG	11	372,382	77	1	0	854	1,191
FSD	3	325,155	6,475	-	0	23	187
HALO Trust	316	15,896,021	4,106	165	0	920	2,287
MCPA	41	3,238,065	137	65	0	79	19
MDC	37	2,996,062	199	19	0	142	14,761
OMAR	82	4,179,220	539	6	0	810	4,916
Total	714	42,572,741	13,344	387	0	19,250	26,815

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 explosive 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 organizations 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 19 below shows areas cleared under BAC operations and the number of devices found and destroyed as a result during 1395.

Table 19: BAC results during 1395

Agency	Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Sub Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
			AP	AT	AIED	SAA	UXO
AREA	1,174,806	0	0	0	0	0	42
ATC	2,376,536	409,225	0	0	0	3,476	5,494
DAFA	0	301,764	0	0	0	0	796
DDG	345,912	375,972	1	0	0	26	8,104
HT	2,959,396	0	0	0	0	0	1,114
MCPA	0	25	0	0	0	0	1
MDC	2,500	0	0	0	0	300	8
Total	6,859,150	1,086,986	1	0	0	3,802	15,559

3.5 Clearance of Firing Ranges

As seen in Table 20 below, the majority of JGO-DA (JANUS GLOBAL OPERATIONS-DEMINING AFGHANISTAN) field demining capacity was busy on subsurface clearance. It is also notable that FRs subsurface clearance is conducted as full clearance in CHA, where the findings of the Digital Survey reveal a high density of ERWs underground, but in SHA, where findings of the digital survey reveals a low density of ERW underground and it is the largest part of the ranges, JGO-DA applies systematic investigation approach as two meter cutline every 25 meters from south – North and East - West.

Table 20: Summary of achievements in Firing Range project

Surface cleared area sqm	Sub Surface Released Area	Recorded MF Cleared Area	Unrecorded MF cleared area	AP Mine destroyed	AT Mine destroyed	UXO destroyed	SAA
90,000,000	254,000,000	75,000	3,013,000	18	12	12,806	8,894

During the firing range clearance operations, some legacy mined areas were also identified within the boundary of the firing ranges with a total of 3 million square meter which were surveyed and cleared. It is worth mentioning that during the clearance operations of these legacy minefields 30 different types of mines were identified and destroyed.

3.6 Operations by Commercial Companies

There are some 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 1395, five commercial companies were engaged in survey and clearance operations of the areas requested by their clients to ensure safe execution of some key development projects in Afghanistan.

Table 21: Commercial Demining Achievement in 1395

Clearance Agency	Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Sub Surface Area Cleared (sq m)	Devices Found and Destroyed			
			AP	AT	SAA	UXO
ACL	1,950,773	0	0	0	0	0
SDC	822,840	0	0	0	0	0
UADC	2,818	0	0	0	0	0
WDC	186.850	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,776,617.85	0	0	0	0	0

Macro-level development projects tend not to be implemented in areas with known hazards. However, due to the ongoing and worsening situation with regards to the conflict, there is concern that explosive remnants of war may hinder development processes. Therefore, UNMAS and DMAC work with relevant line ministries and development organizations as required to check areas for possible contamination prior to the start of a development or construction project. Table 21 above shows the achievements of commercial companies in this regard during 1395.

Commercial implementing partners regularly report on achievements after completion of tasks to UNMAS, which are then recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), a national database maintained by UNMAS.

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. However in 1395, no known contaminated areas were cleared by commercial companies.

3.7 Community Based Demining (CBD)

The CBD approach has proven to be very successful in reaching inaccessible communities. Moreover, the economic boost provided to communities through the salaries that CBD team members receive supports peace and stabilization 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 pursuing their main livelihoods in the afternoons, with the additional income enabling them to expand or develop new micro businesses. In 1395, 71 out of MAPA's 392 teams were community based demining or mine/ ERW risk education teams. Table 22 below shows community based demining and MRE teams by organization in 1395.

Table 22: CBD teams by organisation in 1395

Clearance Agency	Number of Teams	
	Demining	Mine/ERW Risk Education
AAR Japan	0	3
DAFA	12	0
MCPA	0	6
AREA	9	0
MDC	7	7
OMAR	0	13
DDG	0	7
HT	0	7
Total	28	43

3.8 Progress Towards the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty

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 March 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 23 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 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 23: Afghanistan benchmark table as of March 2017

Hazard Type	Baseline April 2013		Previously Unreported Hazards		Resurvey Results	Current Target		Hazards Processed from April 2013		Remaining Hazards	
	No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)	Hazard	Area (sq km)		No. of Hazards	Area (sq km)	No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)	No. of Hazard	Area (sq km)
AP (+ AP,AT,ERW mixed)	3,439	266.4	1,118	66.6	0.6	4,557	333.5	2,170	108.3	2,387	225.2
AT + ERW	1,248	252.1	736	86.9	24.8	1,984	363.7	839	86.6	1,145	277.2
BF	179	33.5	309	81.1	0.7	488	115.3	178	26.0	310	89.4
Total	4,866	552	2,163	234.6	26.1	7,029	812.5	3,187	220.9	3,842	591.8

As shown in Table 23 above, from 1392 till end of 1395, a total area of 234.5 sq km was newly recorded, while a resurvey of hazards increased their area size by 26.1 sq km; at the end, therefore, 260.6 sq km were added to the initial baseline, making a total of 812.5 sq km. This figure covers mainly mine and ERW contaminated areas left from the Soviet Afghan war (1979 - 1989) and contamination left behind from the fighting between NATO and international forces with ANSF against AGEs post-2001.

3.9 Mine Risk Education

During the year 1395 (Apr 2016 – Mar 2017), Landmine and ERW Risk Education activities were coordinated, implemented and monitored in light of the Afghanistan Mine Action Standard (AMAS), the integrated Operational Framework (IOF) and as per the set criteria for community prioritization.

The main at-risk groups included communities living in proximity of hazards, returnees, IDPs, nomads, scrap metal collectors, aid workers and people on the move (travelers). Among these groups, children have been known to be the most vulnerable to the threat of landmines and ERWs.

During 1395, there were eight Risk Education accredited local and international IPs (HT, MDC, AAR Japan, OMAR, DDG, SDA, AREA and MCPA) actively engaged in the delivery of Risk Education sessions. There were a total number of 72 couple teams (male & female) delivering Risk Education activities. Deployment of couple teams is believed to be an effective way to enable access to at-risk populations from both genders and all age groups.

During the reporting period, Risk Education was provided to different at-risk groups through a number of the below mentioned adapted approaches and initiatives in order to raise the level of awareness and promote safe behavior among the most at-risk populations threatened by landmines and ERW contamination (see table 13 for beneficiary numbers):

- Provision of direct Risk Education sessions to people living in landmine and ERW impacted communities.
- Provision of Risk Education through media outreach, which is believed to be an effective communication channel to reach vulnerable communities in remote and insecure areas. Efforts also included designing and submitting a project proposal including relevant Risk Education activities to promote.
- Risk Education through media i.e. radio, TV, billboards, posters.
- Provision of Risk Education for returnees through UNHCR and IOM Encashment/transit centers.
- Provision of Risk Education for IDPs and host communities.
- Collaborations with MoE for the provision of school-based Risk Education, including a week-long Risk Education campaign at schools.
- Integration of Risk Education in activities of other organizations. Identified additional governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote collaborations with.
- Landmine Safety Program (LSP) for aid workers.

DMAC was actively engaged in activities related to the integration of Mine/ERW Risk Education in the broader national program, of which the Ministry of Education (MoE) is a successful example thus far. Risk Education has been included in the national curriculum (grades 7-12), and there is a basic structure established to monitor Risk Education activities at schools. MoE also appointed more than 100 Child Protection Officers within the structure of Safety and Security Directorates of the MoE across the country. During the year, additional Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions were also conducted for 204 Mine/ ERW Risk Education trainers of Risk Education Implementing Partners.

During 1395, DMAC signed letters of agreement with War Child Canada (WCC) and Terre des hommes (TDH) regarding the integration of Mine/ERW Risk Education into the respective NGOs' child protection activities. This approach is in line with DMAC's strategy to ensure that Mine/ ERW Risk Education is widespread, aiming to reduce deaths and injuries caused by landmines and ERWs. DMAC provided Mine/ERW Risk Education Training of Trainers (ToT) and some training aid materials for the staff of the above-mentioned NGOs. Defined by the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS), this is called a non-formal approach of implementing Risk Education activities in Afghanistan.

As part of continual improvements in the delivery of services, DMAC implemented below mentioned activities in relation to its Risk Education programme.

- Updates to the impact classification scoring and indicators.
- Development of guidelines for the role of community volunteers in Risk Education program of Afghanistan.
- Updates to the Terms of Reference for Risk Education Technical Working Group.



Table 24 Number of Risk Education Beneficiaries by Social Status of Audience, Gender and Age Group

Beneficiary Type	# of Sessions	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Total
Community Members	27,763	305,754	433,485	153,551	209,015	1,101,805
IDPs	7,283	86,444	133,288	36,057	44,304	300,093
Returnees	18,417	218,250	234,039	113,831	106,826	672,946
School Teachers	3	0	0	88	301	389
Students	1,634	74,648	180,526	4,850	14,875	274,899
Aid Workers	9	31	30	36	68	165
Health Workers	2	2	30	0	10	42
Nomads (Kuchies)	45	650	892	182	284	2,008
Others	16	91	54	64	16	225
Grand Total	55,172	685,870	982,344	308,659	375,699	2,352,572

Risk Education sessions delivered in 1395 saw the distribution of a number of training aid materials, including: 21,501 posters, 623,646 brochures and flyers, 350,613 notebooks, 528 Trainers' Kits, 60,110 student/teacher bags with Risk Education messages and 121,800 MAPA hotline cards.

3.10 Gender and Mine Action

To ensure gender is thoroughly mainstreamed throughout the programme, MAPA has included gender related objectives in its National Mine Action Strategic Plan (NMAPS 2016-2020). 1395 saw the following accomplishments with regards to Gender Mainstreaming:

1. Implementation of MAPA-Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Working Group meetings:

In total, 5 gender working group meetings were conducted with the participation of 15 implementing partner focal points, as well as UNMAS and DMAC representatives. The objectives for the establishment of the working group were to start the implementation of MAPA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy; to share achievements and progress made; and to conduct continuous consultations.

2. MAPA-Gender and Diversity policy drafted

The MAPA-Gender and Diversity policy was drafted and made ready for endorsement. The policy was drafted based on the recognized need for MAPA to have a collected commitment towards gender and diversity. The policy will be endorsed in early 1396.

3. Gender markers added as requirement for US-DOS bilateral projects

The US Department of State has adopted gender markers 2a, 2b³ (as is already the case with the VTF funded projects) as a requirement for their bilateral projects, which is a major development towards facilitating a single monitoring mechanism for gender activities.

³ Gender marker 2a (Potential to contribute significantly to gender equality. A gender and age analysis is included in the project's needs assessment and is reflected in one or more of the project's activities and one or more of the project outcomes. Gender marker 2b (Project's principal purpose is to advance gender equality; the gender analysis in the needs assessment justifies this project in which all activities and all outcomes advance gender equality)

4. Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated by UNMAS/DMAC and MAPA to honor and appreciate women's contributions to mine action and to recognize MAPA's commitment to gender equality in its programmes. The event was attended by numerous participants from different entities including Government officials, donors, members of civil society and the media.

5. Directory of Women and diversity group-related organizations developed

In order to further facilitate greater engagement of women and diverse groups within the MAPA, a directory of organizations linked with these groups was developed. Using this directory, all opportunities within MAPA, including vacancies, will be shared with them.

6. Gender training conducted for 3,820 beneficiaries

During the reporting year, 3,820 beneficiaries were provided with gender awareness training by different stakeholders of MAPA.

7. NMASP-Fourth Goal: Gender and diversity mainstreaming

In the MAPA Strategic plan for 2016 to 2020, a specific goal, Goal 4, related to gender and diversity was included, in order to strengthen work on this within the MAPA family. This took several rounds of consultation with all MAPA Stakeholders, with a final agreement on the goals, objectives and actions to be added within the strategy.

8. Gender booklet and gender brochure drafted for gender awareness

A main component of [Goal 4] of Strategic Plan is gender and diversity awareness for both internal and external stakeholders of the Mine Action. In order to reach this important objective, the gender working group held several meetings to develop a gender booklet and gender awareness brochure to be used with Mine Risk Education materials, events and other advocacy occasions.



3.11 Victim Assistance

UNMAS/DMAC coordinates assistance for mine/ERW victims and other persons with disabilities through MAPA partners. UNMAS/DMAC is keen to maintain a strong network with relevant stakeholders, including the Government of Afghanistan, NGO implementing partners, donors and other national and international organizations in the sector. UNMACS/DMAC’s ultimate vision is the realization of the rights of war victims including mine/ERW victims and other persons with disabilities, as well as national institutional development, capacity building and awareness raising, all in consultation with relevant divisions within MoLSAMD, MoPH and MoE.

3.11.1 Victim Assistance and Disability Core Projects

This year, the MAPA designed and planned 7 VA/Disability projects to support victims and disabled people including the provision of physical rehabilitation, economic reintegration, advocacy and awareness, inclusive education and physical accessibility services. However, due to a shortage of funds, only one physical rehabilitation project, based in Farah and Khost provinces, covering five neighboring provinces (Ghor, Nimroz, Paktia, Paktika and Ghazni), was granted to AABRAR.

Table 25: Type and Number of beneficiaries that received UNMAS/DMAC VA Department Physical Rehabilitation Services

Year	Sub VA Component	Beneficiaries				Total
		Women	Men	Girls	Boys	
1395	Orthoses	98	142	52	107	399
	Prosthesis	16	140	6	14	176
	Physiotherapy	538	1,172	49	82	1,841
	Disability Awareness and Advocacy Training	957	1,399	419	142	2,917
		1,609	2,853	526	345	5,333



3.11.2 Capacity Building and Technical Support

During 1395, MAPA continued providing advisory support to MoPH on several policy documents, including the development of the disability and physical rehabilitation strategy for the health sector; input on the national health policy 2015-2020; the development of a new physiotherapy training curriculum; the development of disability/victims and physical rehabilitation indicators for the Health Management Information System (HMIS); and the development of a comprehensive project concept for the establishment of a national rehabilitation center in Kabul to promote required rehabilitation services to war victims and other PwDs under the leadership of MoPH.

In line with ministry institutional capacity building plans, MAPA continued conducting desk assessments of the capacity at MoPH, MoLSAMD and MoE to understand requirements for the coming years. This assessment was guided by conventions ratified by the Afghan Government including Convention on the Rights of Person with Disability (CRPD), Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Anti Personal Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT), the Inchon Strategy, the Maputo Action Plan, Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the Afghanistan Disability Law and the Afghanistan Inclusive Education Policy.

The VA department provided technical inputs on Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), Convention Cluster Munitions CCM and Landmine Monitor reports, financial and technical support for design and printing of “Inclusive and Child Friendly Education Policy”.

In addition to providing support for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) reporting process and the disability law amendment process, ACAP III provided support to MoLSAMD to develop the National Disability Referral Guide (NDRG). The NDRG lists disability service providers in Afghanistan and will be an important tool for individuals to seek care, for service providers to provide appropriate referrals and for the government to assess gaps in available services.

At MoPH, ACAP III assisted in developing the 1396 Annual working plan for the Disability and Physical Rehabilitation Department (DRD) and supported MoPH in developing the Disability and Physical Rehabilitation training manual for health staff. The manual provides information on how to recognize disabilities (and where possible prevent them), where to refer people with disabilities for services and the rights of people with disabilities. The manual is a critical tool to strengthen the link between health service providers (hospitals and clinics) with rehabilitation centers. ACAP III also supported MoPH and MoLSAMD in finalizing technical portions of the disability certification guidelines. Work on the third part (process mechanisms and administrative issues) is ongoing. The disability certification guidelines will establish “degrees” of disability in order to ensure that people with disabilities obtain the correct level of benefits from the government.

The ACAP III ministry advisor and UNMAS/DMAC VA department also presented the National Disability and Physical Rehabilitation Strategy to the Management of Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) for approval and subsequently assisted with changing the strategy to a strategic plan, per the guidance of the MTAG. The strategic plan will align MoPH’s disability and rehabilitation activities with Afghanistan’s national health strategy (2016-2020).

The action plan for inclusive education policy was finalized, in which the responsibility of each organization is identified, including NGOs and UN agencies; the policy was developed and printed by UNMAS/DMAC in March 2015.

The Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG) facilitated nine meetings, chaired by the deputy minister and coordinated by the ACAP III Ministry Advisor to MoLSAMD. The main outcomes of these meetings were: amending the disability law, 3rd December (International Day of Disability) celebration, a discussion on CRPD reporting, request for an independent directorate for disability to Presidential office and disability employment within government agencies.

In 1395, six meetings of the disability taskforce were held in which the disability and physical rehabilitation strategy 2016-2020 for health was reviewed and amended.

In support of the VA Department of UNMAS/DMAC, the Disability and Rehabilitation Department (DRD) of MoPH was able to get an extension from the European Commission (EC) for two years of training for 20 orthopedic technicians from Kunar, Khost, Bamyán and Kabul. The duration of the training was extended from two to three years, and the 20 students graduated in November 2016.

A one-day workshop for the development of disability and physical rehabilitation indicators for the Health Management and Information System (HMIS) was conducted, and a total of 16 indicators for disability and physical rehabilitation were developed and shared with the HMIS directorate, which will be considered in the next revision of the HMIS in MoPH.

DRD of MoPH was supported to review and update the three-year physiotherapy curriculum with a technical partnership with relevant organizations. This curriculum is now officially endorsed and used for physiotherapy training programmes in Afghanistan.

The five-year VA Projects Plan (2017-2022) was developed and shared with stakeholders.

The Inclusive Education department of MoE was supported in integration of Inclusive Education National strategic plan 1396-1400

A Technical Note (Semi-Standard) for Psychosocial Counseling and Peer Support was developed.

3.11.3 Coordination and Advocacy Meetings

The VA Department supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) Inclusive Education Directorate in conducting 10 Inclusive & Child Friendly Education Coordination Working Group (I&CFE-CWG) meetings, which were chaired by MoE and included the participation of all inclusive education (IE) stakeholders to discuss the implementation of the new IE policy. As a result of joint approaches by IE stakeholders, an IE policy implementation plan has been drafted.

The VA Department chaired five VA coordination meetings at UNMAS/DMAC. All key VA/disability national and international organizations and representatives from the MoPH, MoLSAMD and MoE attended. These coordination meetings intended to update the VA/Disability stakeholders on available funding opportunities and highlight the needs of mine/ ERW victims within the broader disability context and to reach 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 children and to assist children with disabilities.

The VA Department facilitated 10 Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG) meetings, chaired by the MoLSAMD Deputy Minister.

Table 26 : List of VA Projects for 1395

No	Projects	Location	Number of Beneficiaries	VA Components
1	First Aid training for CHW at Mine ERW Impacted Communities located in more than 20 Km distance from health	In 800 Mine/ERW Impacted Communities all regions.		Emergency and continuing medical care.
2	(Physical Accessibility) Making 510 Public building physically accessible for PwD (Mine ERW Victims & Other Persons with disability	Kabul ,Nangarhar, Kandahar, Hirat , Ghazni, Parwan, Paktya, Khost, Hilmand, Maydan Wardak, Faryab, Logar, Baghlan, Kunar, Badakhshan, Takhar, Balkh.	410 Public buildings	Physical Accessibility
3	(Support to livelihoods - Vocational Trainings/Capacity building for , 7000 PWDs)	In 21 high Mine ERW impacted Provinces: Kabul ,Nangarhar, Kandahar, Hirat , Ghazni, Parwan, Paktya, Khost, Hilmand, Maydan Wardak, Faryab, Logar, Baghlan, Kunar, Badakhshan, Takhar, Balkh, Samangan, Laghman, Kapisa, Sari Pul, Zabul, Kunduz, Bamyán, Farah.	7,000 families of mine ERW victims are benefited and economically reintegrated.	Economic Reintegration
4	Support of 3 existed orthopedic workshops	Kabul, Faryab and Kunduz	15,000 Mine/ ERW victims and other person with disabilities	Physical Rehabilitation
5	Disability Awareness and Advocacy materials .	Kabul + provinces	Thousands of people including government and non-government authorities are received materials	Social Inclusion and Advocacy
6	Institutional Capacity Building of MoLSAMD, MoPH and MoE Staff	Ministries and Provincial Departments staff		Advocacy and Capacity Development
7	Funding 7 Existing and Establishing of 9 Physical Rehabilitation centers along with 7 Mobile Workshops in 16 provinces	Kandahar, Parwan, Maydan Wardak, Paktya, Khost, Faryab, Baghlan, Kunar, Samangan, Zabul, Kunduz, Bamyán, Farah, Paktika, Uruzgan.	96,000	Physical Rehabilitation
8	Socio-economic reintegration and Psychosocial Support to demining victims	all regions	1,000 demining victims and their family members	Socio Inclusion Economic reintegration & Psychosocial support

Along with the Advocacy Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ACPD), five advocacy meetings, events and discussions conducted with MoLSAMD, AIHRC, ACPD, the Central Statistics Office, family law, disability employment quota, national and international agencies, election reform commission, Ministry of Information and Cultural, Office of the First Lady, Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, physiotherapy day, US Embassy, disability certification degree, Launch of Landmine Monitor, IDDP, CRPD, Afghanistan President, Inclusive education, ACBL and gender and disability.

3.11.4 Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP III)

Since 2015, UNMAS has been engaged in implementing the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP III). ACAP III aims to mitigate the immediate and short-term impact of conflict on civilians, including victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) by assisting victims with recovery. ACAP III provides immediate assistance packages including food and non-food items and short-term assistance including psychosocial counselling, physical rehabilitation support and income generation packages. The project also supports institutional capacity building to strengthen the government's ability to meet the needs of civilian victims of conflict. Advocacy and outreach activities are also conducted to improve awareness of ACAP III and other VA services among communities as well as UN, NGO and government networks.

ACAP III is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). The project operates throughout Afghanistan and activities are anticipated to continue until 2018. Project beneficiaries are selected based on set eligibility criteria.

Immediate and Short-term Assistance

In 1395, ACAP III played a critical role in assisting victims nationwide. Achievements include:

- Distributed immediate assistance packages to 5,824 families reaching a total of 52,606 beneficiaries;
- Provided physical rehabilitation assistance to 2,559 beneficiaries;
- Provided psychosocial counselling to 10,215 beneficiaries;
- Provided income generation assistance to 2,284 beneficiaries.

Institutional Capacity Building

ACAP III provided support to the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled (MoLSAMD) in the reporting process for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD); the disability law amendment process; and to develop the National Disability Referral Guide (NDRG). The NDRG lists disability service providers in Afghanistan and will be an important tool for individuals to seek care, for service providers to provide appropriate referrals, and for the government to assess gaps in available services.

At the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), ACAP III assisted in developing the 1396 Annual working plan for the Disability and Physical Rehabilitation Department (DRD) and supported MoPH in developing the Disability and Physical Rehabilitation training manual for health staff.

The manual provides information on how to recognize disabilities (and where possible prevent them); where to refer people with disabilities for services; and the rights of people with disabilities. The manual is a critical tool to strengthen the link between health service providers (hospitals and clinics) with rehabilitation centers. ACAP III also supported MoPH and MoLSAMD in finalizing technical portions of the disability certification guidelines. The disability certification guidelines will establish “degrees” of disability in order to ensure that people with disabilities obtain the correct level of benefits from the government.

Advocacy and Outreach

With financial support from ACAP III, the VA department trained 4,571 school teachers, Child Protection Officers (CPOs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) on ACAP III awareness, victim assistance and disability rights. Training was provided to 2,722 school teachers and CPOs of the Ministry of Education (MoE) in 16 provinces with an additional focus on Mine Risk Education. Similar trainings were conducted in 14 provinces reaching 1,849 CHWs from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) with a supplementary component on physical rehabilitation.



Section Five

Coordination of Mine Action

Highlights from 1395

DMAC with the support of UNMAS is responsible for the coordination of mine action in Afghanistan and the management of mine action resources, such as survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance and advocacy 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 1395 are listed below:

S/no	Activities	Outcomes / Results
1	<p>In April 2016, the MAPA Second Annual Donors & IPs Coordination Workshop was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, followed by another follow workshop in Kabul, on 11th of October. This workshop was funded by USDoS-PM/WRA.</p> <p>In March 2017, the Third Annual Donor and IPs Coordination Workshop was organized in Geneva, Switzerland. This workshop was funded by USDoS - PM/WRA.</p> <p>All these workshops were chaired by H.E Wais Ahmad Barmak, the State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs.</p>	Donors renewed their commitments to continue their contributions in support of the MAPA. As a result from the series of workshops, the programme management noted an increase of funds to the MAPA.
2	MAPA Celebrated “8th of March - International Women’s Day” in Kabul. It was funded by UNMAS.	It was well represented by the Afghan Government Officials, IPs and other MAPA stakeholders. Families of victim deminers were recognized and provided with kits containing food and non-food items.

4	The “Workshop on Gender & Diversity Policy development for the MAPA” was organized in Kabul supported by the GMAP/GICHD, during May 2016. It was funded by UNMAS.	Through the consultative workshop on Gender and Diversity policy development, all the MAPA stakeholders came together and provided their inputs to draft the most appropriate Gender & Diversity Policy for the MAPA.
5	A NATO Ammunition Training was held in Kabul, in April 2016, with technical and financial support from GICHD.	Through the training on NATO ammunition IPs were able to learn more about these hazards, in order to ensure greater safety in BAC and firing range clearance.
6	Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was carried on the 18 percent of the minefield cleared/cancelled from 2014 and its finding report was published. It was funded by USDoS-PM/WRA.	The PDIA results indicated that, the demining activities carried during the year 2014/15 were planned based on the priorities of the local communities and almost 95% of the land cleared was used for development and livelihoods of the communities.
7	The AMAS on Planning and Prioritization was developed and formally released.	The Planning and Prioritization AMAS, which was developed and released in 1395, was used by IPs in 1396 to better meet the needs of the communities .
8	DMAC/UNMAS technically supported the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in developing National Strategy for Disability and Rehabilitation 2016-2020.	The MoPH National Strategy for Disability and Rehabilitation 2016-2020, guides the VA/Disability sector on how the needs of mine/ERW victims and other People with Impairments can be taken into account and how best their needs can be addressed.
9	DMAC/UNMAS technically contributed in developing the Inclusive Education part of the Ministry of Education (MoE) National Strategic Plan 2016-2020.	The part on the Inclusive Education of the “National Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education 2016-2020” guides the educational institutions on how the needs of the Children with Impairment can be considered and how they can be facilitated with educational opportunities.
10	DMAC/UNMAS ensured that mine action was included in H. E. the President’s speech during the Brussels Conference, held in October 2016.	During the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan held in October 2016, H.E President Ghani, outlined the importance of the Mine Action in mitigating the loss of civilian lives and paving the way for the country’s development.
11	Mine Action was integrated in the relevant parts of the National Strategic documents: 1) Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2) In the relevant parts of the National Priority Programs (NPP) 3) In the New Deal Fragility Assessment, developed by the Ministry of Finance (MoFin) and 4) In the Provincial Development Plans	Since 2012/13 the MAPA is under funded. The donors expressed that non-inclusion of the MAPA in the NPPs and other National Strategic documents is one of the main reasons that contributions ceased. With the inclusion of the mine action in these national Strategic documents, the funding may increase for the programme.
12	Two five-day trainings on “Quality Management System in Mine Action” were conducted for 74 staff members of DMAC/UNMAS and respective IPs. It was funded by USDoS-PM/WRA.	The QMS training will enhance the capacities of the participants with the latest knowledge and it will enable them act more effectively in the field level.

13	The Policy on Survey of the mine/ERW contaminated fields was developed and Released.	The survey of mine/ERW contaminated areas was one of the key challenges for the programme. Now through this policy, only the accredited teams will be permitted to conduct survey, which will result in the increased accuracy of the mine/ERW tasks entered in to the IMSMA.
14	During the year 1395, a trial of the manual demining operations was conducted, based on which the monthly average clearance rate for AT, AP and mixed AP/AT contamination in ground surface (hard, medium and soft ground) was specified for better planning of demining projects.	DMAC/UNMAS proposed new clearance rates for demining operations to the MAPA IPs. This approach intended to allow for better planning of mine/ERW clearance projects, while it also proposes the best productivity rates for any type of clearance operations. The proposed methodology will also help in mitigating the field level mine accidents that were mainly caused due to the pressure of un-realistic clearance targets.
15	Mine Action & Livelihoods Survey for the year 1395 was conducted and targeted Samangan and Bamyan Provinces, funded by USDOS-PM/WRA.	The Mine Action And Livelihoods Survey was carried in total 21 communities of Bamyan and Samangan provinces and a comprehensive report on its findings and recommendations was developed and released. The Survey findings indicate that mine action operations paved the way for many development and infrastructure projects in the targeted communities and on the other hand it had positive impacts on the livelihoods of communities.
16	Land release guideline was developed in local language and it widely shared.	In order that the mine action implementing partners are well guided on the process of land release, the Land Release Guideline was developed in local language by the DMAC/UNMAS Management and it was formally shared with DMAC/UNMAS ROs and MAPA IPs for their consideration.
17	Arc GIS intermediate training provided to MAPA 7 humanitarian IPs.	Through the training on Arc GIS, latest knowledge on the subject matter was shared with participants, aiming at bringing further effectiveness in their work.
18	Training of large loop metal detector and bomb locator for the Quality Assurance and Operations staff of the DDG was conducted.	The training provided the participants with recent knowledge on the subject areas.
19	The 19th National Directors and UN advisors annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland was attended by DMAC Director.	DMAC-Director represented in the 19th Meeting of National Directors and UN Advisors in Geneva, Switzerland and delivered speeches on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan. He also took part in the side-events and special meetings to share MAPA's achievements and challenges.
20	ANDMA provincial representatives attended a training on Demining co-facilitated by the HALO Trust in Kabul in February 2016, funded by USDOS-PM/WRA.	The Demining Training, which brought together 34 provincial representatives of ANDMA, focused on the key activities carried out during demining operations. Following the training, the ANDMA representatives will act as the mine action focal points in their respective provinces and will be better placed to provide mine action operations with required support.

21	Two representatives from DMAC/ UNMAS participated in the forum of experts in support of demining initiatives, in Colombia-during May 2016, funded by USDoS-PM/WRA.	DMAC, Director and the DMAC/UNMAS Chief of Quality department, took part in the forum of experts held in Colombia. During the forum DMAC/UNMAS representatives shared the MAPA experiences with their Colombian counterparts and in return, noted lessons from Colombia that can be applicable for the Afghanistan context.
22	In October 2016, all DMAC/ UNMAS departments merged and the compound was named DMAC with support from UNMAS. Responsibility for the coordination and management of mine action operations passed from UNMAS to DMAC.	Part of the transition process to national capacity, the UNMACA project of the UNMAS formally came to an end and all the programme structure came under the united lead of DMAC.
23	DMAC director represented in the 15th Meeting of State Parties to AP-MBT in Santiago Chile, funded by USDoS-PM/WRA.	Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, Director- DMAC, participated in the 15th meeting of State parties held in Santiago, Chile and delivered the statements on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan. Using the opportunity, he took part in the side-events and separate meetings to share on achievements and challenges of the MAPA with relevant counterparts.
24	In July 2016, a “Workshop on Disaster Preparedness and Response” was organized to IPs staff members, in collaboration with the Environmental Science Faculty of Kabul University and the ANDMA, funded by USDoS-PM/ WRA.	The workshop on Disaster Preparedness and Response aimed at promoting the knowledge of the key IPs members in the subject field and through which it suggested on how Mine Action IPs can deliver the possible support on the occurrences of the natural disasters.
25	Nine DMAC personnel were ISO 9001:2015 certified, following a training session in New-Delhi, India, funded by USDoS-PM/WRA.	Quality Assurance and Control is one of the key priority areas for DMAC/UNMAS management. The nine DMAC personnel that attended a 6 day training and acquired their certification in the field of ISO have enhanced the capacity of DMAC. Through their daily work, they’ll ensure that the quality is being considered in every small task carried out.
26	OSCE Regional Workshop on “Challenges of Explosive Hazards Reduction and Response Capacities Development”.	DMAC/UNMAS four key staff attended the regional workshop on Challenges of Explosive Hazards Reduction and Response Capacities Development, held in Astana-Kazakhstan. In the workshop, the DMAC/UNMAS envoys contributed and shared their knowledge and experience with their counterparts.
27	DMAC Director participated in one of the meetings of the Council of Minister on 30th January 2017 and shared a Presentation on the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan.	DMAC Director was invited to the meeting of the council of Ministers to present on the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). The Council of Ministers were briefed on the areas of the programme and their questions and concerns were addressed.

4.1 Mine Action Planning and Coordination

The DMAC/UNMAS Planning and Programme Department works closely with 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 1395 operational work plan was developed in 1394. DMAC/UNMAS seeks to publish an operational plan before the beginning of the next operational year. This process necessitates wide consultation and the active engagement of Government, IPs and donors.

The scale of mine action coordination challenge and efforts can be seen in Figure 5, which shows the mine action teams that were operational during 1395 throughout Afghanistan. Please note that this covers all sectors, both humanitarian and commercial, funded via the VTF or bilaterally.

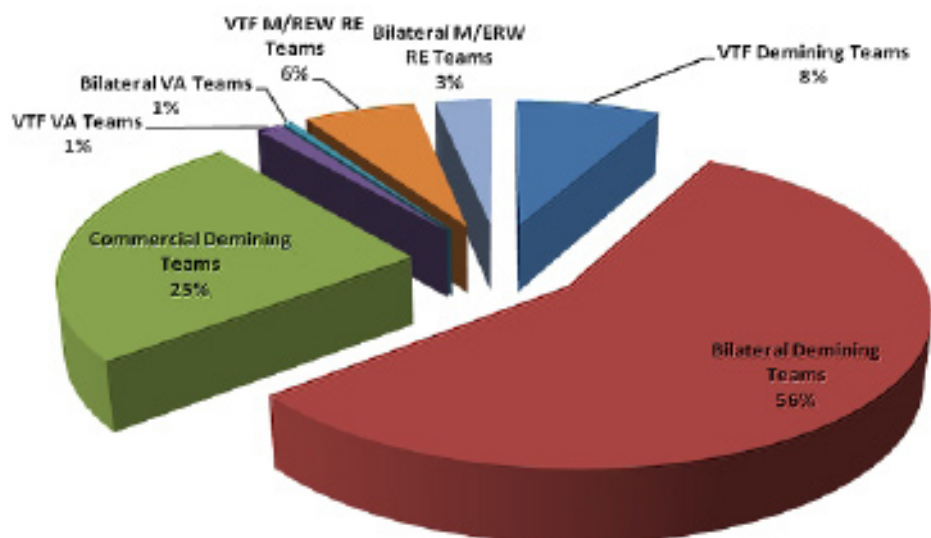
Several improvements were made with regards to planning and coordinating mine action operations: To improve the VTF funding allocation and prioritization process, a 'joint assessment approach' was institutionalized. Previously communities received several visits by a number of implementing partners, and complained about the burden of arranging these. The new joint assessment approach, coordinated by the DMAC/UNMAS regional offices, has helped streamline the approach and minimize the burden on the communities.

Furthermore, the planning and prioritization of AMAS was developed for better management of the planning issues in the program by IPs. As part of this process, all accredited IPs were asked to develop their planning and prioritization SOPs in view of the new AMAS.

Some improvements were also introduced in the planning database, which has resulted in significant time efficiencies in MBT project management.

Meanwhile, the regional offices staff were further involved in the planning processes which has resulted in better project managements, as they now feel responsible as first line project managers for planning of their hazards/projects in their region.

Figure 6: Teams by type and funding mechanism in 1395



4.1.1 Project and Partner Selection Panel (PPSP)

One of UNMAS's roles is to provide advice to donors on the best use of funds earmarked for mine action pillars (survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education and victim assistance) in Afghanistan. UNMAS provides expertise and advice to select projects and partners for the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for mine Action contributions for Afghanistan. The PPSP considers unfunded mine/ERW survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance projects to be implemented for the current and/or next year compatible with donor preferences and the AMBT Extension Request Work Plan. It provides donors with value for money, rather than selecting the cheapest approach on offer.

The PPSP has two main roles:

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

In 1395 19 PPSP meetings were organized which resulted in successful selection of priority projects

4.1.2 Proposal Review Process

The Proposal Review Team (PRT) consist of representatives from different related DMAC/UNMAS departments is the evaluation panel and reviews proposals on behalf of MAPA donors (both VTF and bilateral on request). 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 IPs intend to clear, ensures the project is in line with UNMAS/ DMAC priorities. 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 a grant is issued after a competitive process to a successful organisation.

A number of bilateral donors consistently ask for UNMAS /DMAC's endorsement letter prior to confirming fund allocations to an IP. UNMAS /DMAC 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 APMBT Extension Request Work plan.

During 1395, a total of 16 proposal evaluations have been conducted for VTF projects and 78 proposals have been evaluated from which eight were for survey and clearance, seven for mine/ERW risk education and one for victim assistance.

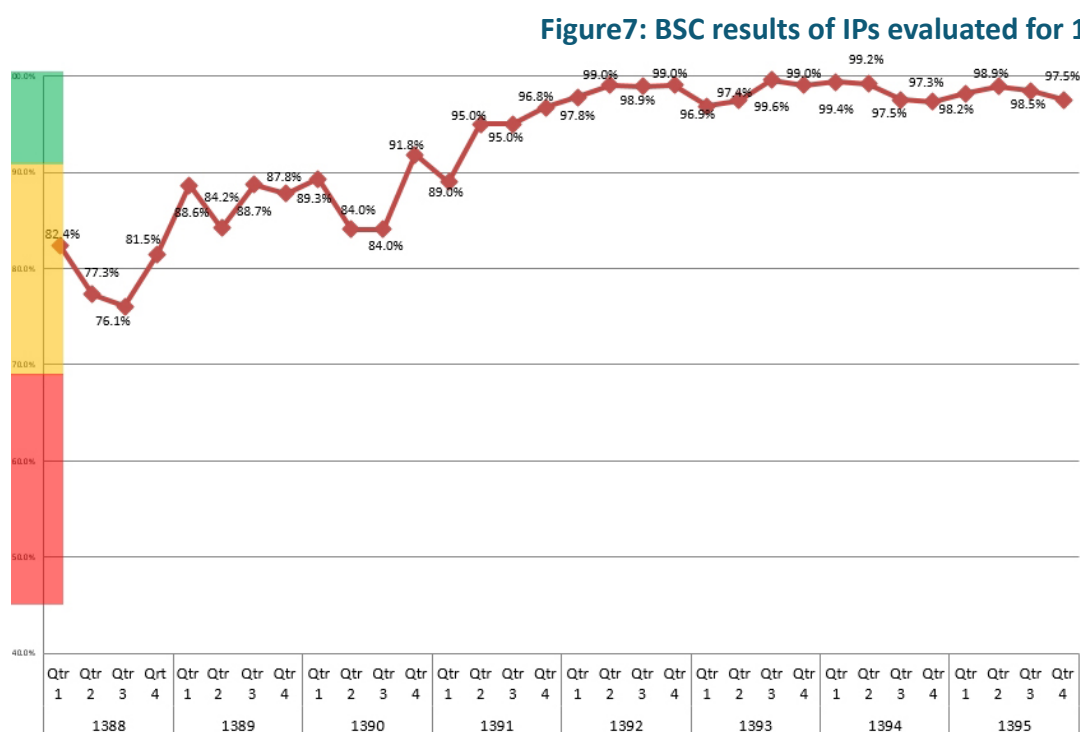
4.1.3 Balanced Scorecard (BSC)

The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) is an integrated planning and performance management system measurement tool with the purpose of continually improving the efficiency and effectiveness of DMAC/UNMAS coordination function. The BSC was introduced at the beginning of 1388 (2009). This performance management tool measures each implementing partner's projects against a specific set of indicators. The BSC enables DMAC/ UNMAS 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 (which looks at the accumulative result of the project).

Not only does the tool allow for comparison between projects (which is information that could be useful for donors in funding decisions); it also provides IPs with a baseline for their own improvement and development. It is also used as an accountability tool for IP managers by which they can measure the quality of their operations and improve where necessary.

Last year, the BSC sub-indicators were reviewed and some changes were introduced upon recommendation from the Balanced Scorecard committee (members from UNMAS-DMAC and IPs). For demining projects, scores are now divided up into five main indicators as follows: (1) Planning and productivity; (2) Quality management; (3) Demining accidents, (4) Reporting; and (5) Gender mainstreaming. For M/ERW RE, VA and survey projects, scores are divided into sets of four indicators. Each indicator set is further divided into a number of subsets or questions for all project types such as demining, survey, mine/ERW RE and VA which enable UNMAS-DMAC to measure and evaluate the planning ability of an IP, the productivity, the quality of work delivered, reporting efficiency and gender mainstreaming which is newly included for all projects.

Figure 7 below shows the BSC results of IPs monitored between 1388 and 1395. The trend line indicates a general improvement towards increased productivity and quality.



In addition, following changes were brought to Survey and M/ERW Risk Education projects BSC.

Survey Project:

In 'quality management' a sub indicator for 'minor NCR' was introduced. In 'reporting' an indicator for 'No Reporting' was added. Furthermore an indicator for 'gender mainstreaming' was also introduced.

M/ERW RE Project:

In 'quality management', the weighting of each major NCR increased from 2 to 3 scores and a sub indicator for 'minor NCR' was created. In 'reporting' the indicator weighting for each inaccuracy and late reporting was changed, each will now result in 1 score lost. Finally, a sub indicator "No Reporting" was added with the weight of 2.5 scores

Victim Assistance (VA) Project:

Based on MAPA plans for this year, a BSC was introduced for VA projects. It covered the different and major components of VA (Economic Reintegration, Physical Accessibility, Physical Rehabilitation, Psychosocial and Social Inclusion). 100% scores are divided into the following four indicators sets; for Planning and Productivity 40%; QM 30%; Reporting 20%; and Gender Mainstreaming 10%. These indicators sets consist of several sub indicators, as in other mine action projects, but with some difference in the weighting to make it more suitable for the VA pillar.

It is also to be worth mentioning that, DMAC/UNMAS now has recruited a Gender and Diversity Officer who is mainly working to make sure that the MAPA is gender sensitive. Furthermore, the gender mainstreaming indicator is included in the BSC for all projects in order to make sure that all mine action projects (survey, clearance, M/ERW RE and VA) successfully mainstream gender concerns.

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 mine action authority 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 1395, as part of improvements made to the Quality Management System (QMS), 70 field and headquarters staff of the Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) and UNMAS national staff were trained in Land Release and QMS in mine action. A Field Risk Assessment (FRA) Form has been developed and shared with mine action organizations for their use when conducting demining operations. The purpose of FRA is to identify all the risk factors associated with each demining worksite including: worksite conditions; the types of anticipated mine and ERW hazards; the procedures to be applied and tools and equipment to be used for clearance. This will enable the teams to undertake informed selection of a combination of actions, measures and steps to mitigate the risk and probability of incidents to a low and tolerable level, and improve safety of the demining teams and ensure safe land release outputs. Application of FRA is obligatory and all organizations are informed to use it in each demining worksite. The QM Inspectors are tasked to verify its proper application during their QA monitoring visits.

4.2.1 Accreditation

Accreditation is essential to ensure that all mine action organizations working in Afghanistan are technically capable and staffed to plan, manage and operationally conduct mine action activities in a safe, effective and efficient way.

DMAC supported by UNMAS has established an accreditation board consisting of well-qualified staff from the relevant departments to undertake accreditation process with due consideration given to impartiality, integrity and transparency throughout the process.

During 1395, two new Victim Assistance organizations applied for accreditation. Both fulfilled the requirements and were accredited. In addition, 45 organizational accreditations were extended for another one year and 42 humanitarian and commercial demining projects have been operationally accredited.

As part of the accreditation process, DMAC supported by UNMAS QM department also managed to test and accredit 12 mine detection dog teams to be deployed for demining operations.

In addition, 4 sets of non-technical survey and land release Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), 3 sets of Quality Management System training packages; 2 sets of non-technical survey Training Management Packages of the humanitarian mine action organizations; 1 amended Firing Range clearance SOP; 2 mechanical demining SOPs; and 2 mine/ ERW RE and 2 Victim Assistance 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 1395, a total of 1,989 QA monitoring visits and QC inspections were conducted on mine action activities and operations (including project management systems, survey and land release operations, explosive management, BAC and EOD operations, internal QA, completion QA, Mine/ERW Risk Education, Victim Assistance, and training courses) which resulted in 1,864 conformity reports, 91 observation reports, 28 minor non-conformity reports and 23 major non-conformity reports. All non-conformities were processed and corrective and preventive actions were taken. In addition, an area of 124,865 sqm of cleared minefields and battlefields, were inspected and checked as part the of QC sampling.

A total of 5,384 QA monitoring and QC inspections were conducted on Firing Range Clearance Project's activities and operations (including project management system, clearance operations, explosive management, internal QA and QC, training programmes, Mine/ERW RE and base camp facilities, and QC inspection of the areas cleared) resulting in 5,349 Conformity reports, 1 observation report, 11 minor non-conformity reports and 23 major non-conformity reports. All non-conformities were processed and corrective and preventive actions have been taken.

4.3 Cross- Border Coordination and Cooperation

As part of South-South cooperation between Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) and DMAC supported by UNMAS, it was agreed to provide two QM Officers from TNMAC with in Quality Management System (QMS) in mine action training in Afghanistan in order to conduct QA monitoring and QC inspection of mine action activities and services in Darwaz districts of Badakhshan province, where access from Afghanistan side is challenging.

4.4 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 have been funded by the Government of Afghanistan through its national budget in past years. Resource mobilisation plays a very important role in ensuring MAPA's sustainability. In addition to the global fundraising efforts of UNMAS Afghanistan to appeal for funds in support of mine action, to help the Government of Afghanistan meet its obligations under international treaties pertaining to mines and ERW, international donors provided funds to DMAC and IPs bilaterally to support coordination and clearance operations.

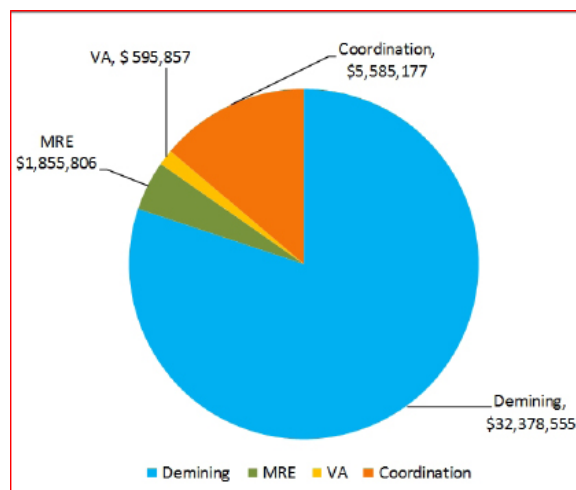
UNMAS Afghanistan, as the lead agency of Mine Action sub-cluster, continued to fully coordinate with Afghanistan Protestation Cluster (APC) and mine action IPs to provide on time response to IDPs, returnees and conflict affected population in North, Northeast, South and East regions. For this purpose, UNMAS Afghanistan liaised and advocated with the sister agencies (UNHCR and OCHA) to allocate financial resources from humanitarian pooled funds to mine action and provided technical support and guidance to mine action IPs how to access these funds. These efforts and initiative have enabled the programme to extend its activities such as mine/ERW risk education, survey and removal of spot ERWs in support of the most vulnerable groups (IDPs, returnees and conflict affected population).

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

- o Multilateral contributions to the VTF, administered by UNMAS and contracted through UNOPS to implementing partners (IPs);
- o 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 below shows funding breakdown for 1395 by mine action components (funding received both through VTF and bilateral channels).

Figure 8: Funding breakdown for 1395



The funding target for 1395 was US \$94.7, million including coordination cost. Of this total, MAPA received US \$ 40.4 million. This means that MAPA received almost 43% of its required funding in 1395. The funds received were spent on survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance and coordination. A total of US\$9.5 million was allocated from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund and the remaining US \$30.9 million was provided through bilateral agreements.

The chart above shows that the amount contributed to coordination activities has decreased by almost 62% compared to the US \$10.8 million spent on coordination in 1388. UNMAS Afghanistan is planning to implement further cost efficiencies given this decline in funding, in line with the transfer of the coordination responsibility to the Government.

Compared to the peak funding year of 1390, which was US \$117 million, the MAPA funding witnessed a steady downward trend, to an initial low in 1392 with US \$72.9 million. The trend further deteriorated in 1392/2013, which saw the large withdrawal of international forces, to around US \$43.7 million. This drastic funding decline severely affected MAPA's ability to pursue its annual targets pledged in Ottawa extension request.

The Ottawa extension request is reviewed each year to include newly reported hazards and to remove the cancelled ones. The review also considers adjusting the unfunded hazards from previous years into the current or next year plans and these unfunded hazards from previous years and newly reported hazards put extra burden on the annual targets. For example; according to the original Ottawa extension plan, the funding target for 1395 was US \$66.8 million, this was later revised to US \$94.7 million. If the funding trend continues to be the same, it is unlikely that Afghanistan will fulfill its obligation toward Ottawa extension plan and achieve its goal of making the country free from Mine/ERW by 2023.

On a positive note, and as mentioned earlier, MAPA remains committed to the work plan and to continually improving the overall productivity of the programme. Indeed, despite the shortfall in funding for 1395, the programme succeeded in doing more with less and met 55% of the land release target, with just 38% of the funding required.

Moreover, in light of the fall in funding from traditional donors, UNMAS Afghanistan 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 27: VTF and bilateral funding for 1395

VTF Contributions	
Donor	Total
Australia	75,000
Canada	3,081,664
Denmark	1,600,000
Japan	2,000,000
Netherlands	560,280
South Korea	2,089,720
UK	78,155
Grand Total	9,484,819

Bilateral Contributions	
Donor	Total
AAR Japan	275,654
AFD (French Development Agency)	364,557
Denmark	1,323,900
Germany	1,663,500
Ireland	1,248,725
Japan	1,379,005
Netherlands	1,486,060
Norway	1,207,290
OCHA - CERF	232,232
OCHA - CHF	1,143,173
PATRIIP/Germany	324,020
STJ Foundation	58,080
Sweden	2,059,500
UK - CSSF	664,203
UK - DFID	2,584,101
UNICEF	27,729
USDoD	115,421
USDoS	14,773,427
Grand Total	30,930,577

Section Six

Conclusion

By the end of 1395, 3,842 recorded mine/ERW hazards covering an area of 591.7 sq km existed in Afghanistan. These hazards are located in 1,506 communities, 257 districts and 33 provinces of Afghanistan. 38.1% of the remaining contamination is due to anti-personnel (AP) mines, 46.8% is anti-tank (AT) contamination and the remaining 15.1% is due to ERW.

These figures illustrate the scale of the legacy contamination. In addition, ongoing armed conflicts exacerbate the problem. During the last months of 1395, the MAPA carried out an initial survey in 17 provinces affected by the recent and ongoing armed conflicts. This survey identified 270 sites with an area of 421 sq km contaminated by ERW and Improvised Explosive Devices.

Table 28 shows the breakdown of known contamination type in terms of number of minefields (MF) and battlefields (BF) and the area contaminated.

Table 28: Remaining contamination as of end of 1395

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
Anti-personnel mine	2,387	225.2
Anti-tank mine	1,145	277.2
Battlefield/ERW contamination	310	89.4
Total	3,842	591.8

Table 29: Contamination by region as of end of 1395

Region	Anti-personnel Minefield		Anti-tank Minefield		Battlefield	
	Number	Area (sq km)	Number	Area (sq km)	Number	Area (sq km)
Central	717	47.72	353	53.0	55	12.1
East	136	10.35	87	9.3	42	16
North	332	18.7	30	0.5	111	42.0
North East	759	67.9	16	0.5	58	5.2
South	170	33.8	284	140.9	16	2.3
South East	209	19.1	287	41.6	24	11.5
West	64	27.5	88	31.3	4	0.3
Total	2,387	225.2	1,145	277.2	310	89.4

Meanwhile, based on National Security Council (NSC) request, 421 of sq km contaminated land mostly by ERW, PPIED and IED post 2001 were identified in 17 provinces of the country during December 2016. This new contamination has not been entered into IMSMA yet, as it needs further non - technical survey.



Acrynoms

AABRAR	Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation
AAR	Association for Aid and Relief
ACBRN	Afghanistan Community Based Rehabilitation Network
ACL	Afghan Campaign for Landmine
ACPD	Advocacy Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ADC	Asad brothers Demining Company
AIED	Abandoned Improvised Explosive Device
AIHRC	Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission
ALSO	Afghan Landmine Survivors Organisation
AMAS	Afghanistan Mine Action Standards
AMDC	Aims Demining Company
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ANSA	Afghanistan National Standards Authority
AOAD	Accessibility Organisation for Afghan Disabled
AP	Anti-personnel
APMBT	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty
ARCS	Afghan Red Crescent Society
AT	Anti-tank
ATC	Afghan Technical Consultants
BAC	Battle Area Clearance
BPHS	Basic Package of Health Services
BSC	Balanced Scorecard
CAMACC	Central Asian Mine Action Coordination Council
CBD	Community-Based Demining
CBMRE	Community-Based Mine Risk Education
CBR	Community-Based Rehabilitation
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
CDC	Community Development Councils
CMAA	Cambodian Mine Action Authority
CPO	Child Protection Officer
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DAFA	Demining Agency for Afghanistan
DAO	Development and Ability Organisation
DDC	District Development Council
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
DRD	Disability and Rehabilitation Department
DSCG	Disability Stakeholder Coordination Group
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
GMAP	Gender and Mine Action Programme
HALO Trust	Hazardous Areas Life-Support Organisation Trust

HDI	Hemayat brothers Demining International
HI	Handicap International
ICFE	Inclusive and Child Friendly Education
IDP	Internal Displaced People
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IPs	Implementing Partners
KOO	Kabul Ortho Organisation
M/ERW RE	Mine/Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MCPA	Mine Clearance and Planning Agency
MDC	Mine Detection Centre
MEIFCS	Mine and ERW Impact Free Community Survey
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disables
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoRA	Ministry of Religious and Hajj Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPCWD	National Partnership for Children With Disabilities
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OMAR	Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation
OSCE	Organisation for Security in Central Europe
OTA	Orthopedic Technician Assistant
P&O	Prosthetic and Orthotic
PDIA	Post Demining Impact Assessment
PIPS	Project and Implementing Partner Selection
PM/WRA	Bureau of Political-Military Affairs / Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
PRT	Proposal Review Team
PWD	Person With Disability
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QMS	Quality Management System
RFP	Request For Proposal
RS	Resolute Support Mission
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

SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TC	Technical Committee
TDC	Trust Demining Company
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNMACA	United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance
VA	Victim Assistance
VPM	Victim Prediction Model
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund

Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)

Sedarat Square,
Kabul 1001, Afghanistan

+93 (0) 708 60 60 60

info@dmac.gov.af

www.dmac.gov.af

FB/Directorate of Mine Action Coordination