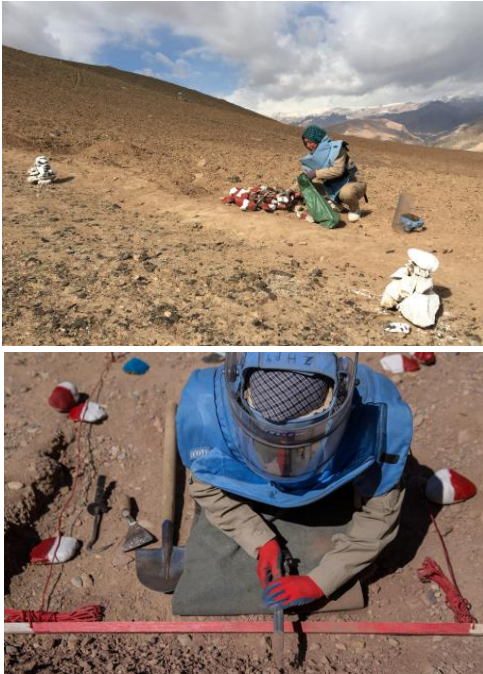




Afghan Women in Mine Action



*Ms. Mamlakat Ibrahimi,
during a manual
demining operation in
Bamiyan*

“I am thankful to the project and request MAPA to keep us involved in other upcoming mine action projects elsewhere the country.”

Afghanistan is one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world. The central province of Bamiyan was once on the front line of Soviet-Afghanistan war, and therefore, contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). For the first time in the history of the country, fifteen brave Afghan women were trained in survey and clearance. The training helped the female demining team clear the last recorded anti-personnel minefield in Bamiyan. In recognition of their bravery and determination, the team was nominated for the 2019 Arms Control Person(s) of the year award.

Mamlakat Ibrahimi is a member of the female demining team who worked in Bamiyan province. She is a mother of one daughter and her husband is missing. She lives with her aged parents who have no income to provide for their basic needs.

Ms. Mamlakat was introduced to Danish Demining Group (DDG), a humanitarian demining NGO that helped train the team, via the Directorate of Womens' Affairs in Bamiyan province. After one-month training, she passed the exam and started her job as a deminer. She worked on the last minefield in Bamiyan for 6 months earning 30,000 Afghani, approximately USD 400 a month. She helped make Bamiyan a safer place, starting work at 6:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon.

Mamlakat states that her life changed when she became a deminer. She went out “I feel very good when I see my daughter and other children playing in the fields which I know are now safe.”

She also adds that “working mine action has given me confidence to work outside even in dangerous areas which proves that women are also as hardworking as men.”

