



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
Directorate of Mine Action Coordination

POST-DEMINEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

REPORT - 1398/2019



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Contents

- Abbreviations: 3
- Introduction..... 4
- Objectives: 5
- PDIA Location 6
- PDIA Implementation: 7
- Main Finding: 8
- Perception of safety: 12
- Case Studies:..... 13
- Conclusion: 18
- Recommendations: 18

Abbreviations:

AMAS	National Mine Action Standards
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
AP	Anti-Personnel
AT	Anti-Tank
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
EO	Explosive Ordinance
EORE	Explosive Ordinance Risk Education
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GIS	Geographical Information System
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
ITF	International Trust Fund – Enhancing Human Security
KG	Kilogram
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
PDIA	Post-Demining Impact Assessment
PM	Political and Military Affairs
Sq. m	Square meter
Sq. Km	Square Kilometer
SSA	Small Arm Ammunition
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
US	United States
USD	United States Dollars
WRA	Weapons Removal and Abatement

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).

Introduction:

Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) refers to the process of determining the value and importance of demining activities, projects and services through a well-organized and comprehensive assessment of the impact of the areas cleared from the landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) on the livelihood of people within communities. Value and importance of demining is assessed primarily in terms of intended use of the areas cleared and changes in the livelihood of people including men, women and children in previously mine and ERW affected communities. The activities and direct outputs of demining interventions are considered in PDIA, mainly as means to promote the desired results in terms of enhanced safety and livelihood of the target beneficiaries.

PDIA is referenced in International and National Mine Action Standards (IMAS and AMAS) which improves the confidence and trust of mine action donors and stakeholders on the efficiency and effectiveness of the utilization funds, contribution enhancing safety and livelihood of affected communities.

The Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) is an evaluation of the mine action impact on livelihoods and developments of the communities and how to further enhance the outcome and impact of mine action intervention in the communities. It also assesses the quality and appropriateness of demining intervention through physical observation of the cleared areas from the perspectives of beneficiaries and end users.

PDIA assesses whether humanitarian demining operations have achieved their objectives of minimizing or eliminating the problem of communities, which are caused by mines and ERW contamination on affected communities, and whether the cleared land is in use by the beneficiaries as intended. PDIA also assesses the accuracy of the information upon which demining operations were prioritized and therefore helps in improving the future planning processes.

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) conducts regular PDIA of land that is released after mine action operations. Cleared hazardous areas are selected randomly in different regions and provinces to measure the socio-economic impact and outcome of demining operations after the land was handed over to the communities.

The 1398/2019 PDIA findings show that mine action operations had many significant impacts on the visited tasks. Clearance operations have made considerable areas of land available to

the communities for grazing, fuel wood and fodder collection in addition to the development interventions that are now possible in lands cleared. This has had major social and economic impact across in the communities visited and is an indication of the positive impact, mine action operations has on the livelihood of people and communities. Moreover, it was also found that many people have received EO risk education and are satisfied with the risk education provided by the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).

The Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) 1398/2019 was funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), through ITF- Enhancing Human Security.

Objectives:

The objective of PDIA is to evaluate the impact of demining interventions in a systematic and objective analysis of the completed projects for informed and proper decision-making, using lessons learnt to improve the planning, prioritization, implementation and results of demining activities on continual basis.

PDIA measures the immediate to medium-term humanitarian, development and socio-economic impact of mine action operations.

It is conducted to:

- Ensure that, the cleared hazards have been in line with the national priorities and, local needs are considered during the planning and implementation phases.
- Determine the level of beneficiaries' satisfaction from the released lands and from the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA) as a whole.
- Determine ways in which released lands are utilized by landowners or local people and ensure that the lands are used as intended i.e. effectively by the beneficiaries.
- Observe improvements in the livelihood of the communities following demining operations to verify that demining brings about positive social and economic changes in the community.
- Note the requests, expectations and suggestions of the local people, and the needs of the governmental bodies linked to the planning and implementation of mine action operations.
- Ensure that donor funding is spent in an effective and efficient way and has brought about positive changes in the lives of programme beneficiaries.
- Verify that, the GIS coordinates on the map match the actual area on the surface of the ground.

PDIA Requirements:

PDIA is conducted after six months to one year of the completed demining projects to allow the users and beneficiaries with enough time for productive use of the released land. PDIA does not only cover those areas which had been released through clearance, but includes areas released through non-technical and technical surveys to verify the effectiveness and quality of land release operations outputs. A percentage of the released land is targeted and selected for

PDIA in specific geographical locations and the findings are used as sample representative of the whole area.

The PDIA focuses on technical aspects of land release interventions and their outputs, and also on socio-economic outcomes and impacts of land released in the impacted communities. The assessment covers local context and situation before land release intervention and after its completion.

The Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) is undertaken at a task level, and mainly collects quantitative data on tasks.

Selection Criteria of released Hazards for PDIA:

Selection of the released hazardous areas was done in a way to find out about the outcomes/impact of mine action in lands with different types of contamination, blockages (agricultural, grazing or residential), hazards and different stages of clearance.

The following criteria and factors are taken into consideration for selection of released hazards for PDIA:

- Safe access to the areas in terms of security to ensure proper data collection.
- Areas cleared by different implementing partners.
- Areas from different geographical locations.
- A minimum of 6 months since land release.
- Minefields with varied terrains, such as flat or mountainous areas.
- Minefields with varied outcomes such as:
 - Quantity of crops produced on cleared land.
 - Number of families accommodated on cleared land.
 - Estimated amount of income villagers can secure as a result of their land cleared of mines.
 - Number of public works constructed on cleared land.

PDIA Team's Structure:

The PDIA was carried out by four trained teams, each involving two staff from DMAC who had experience of previous assessments.

DMAC managed to deploy women surveyors only in the central region in the structure to ensure the views and insights of women and children are obtained. This enabled the PDIA teams to reach out to both female and male community members and to acknowledge, identify and understand the differences, distinct capabilities, responsibilities, needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men. Two women were engaged in three provinces namely, Parwan, Kapisa and Panjshir.

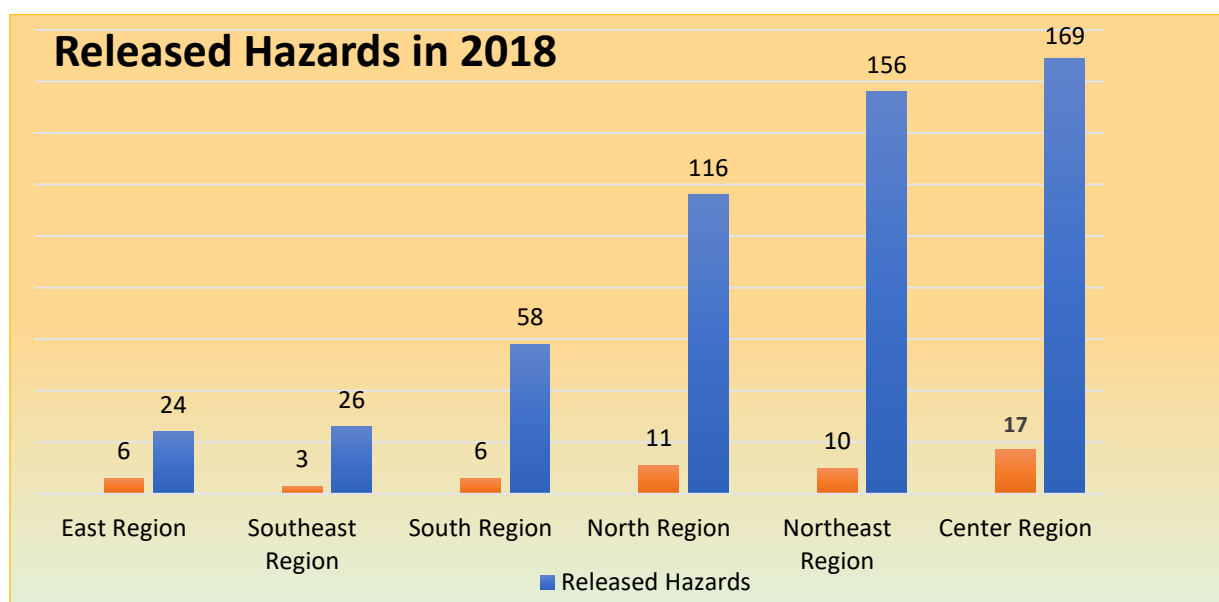
PDIA Locations:

The Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) for 1398/2019 included 53 released hazardous areas, located in 33 communities across 28 districts of 14 provinces namely; Badakhshan,

Baghlan, Balkh, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunduz, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktya, Panjshir, Parwan, Samangan and Takhar during June-October 2019.

During 1397/2018 a total of 549 hazardous areas were released from mines and ERW, out of which 53 released areas were assessed during the PDIA, which makes about 10% of total tasks for 2018.

The total area assessed by PDIA was 6,024,367 square meters, from which a total of 5,968 explosive devices were found and safely destroyed by demining teams.



Implementation methodology:

1. Desk Assessment:

Desk assessment involves studying the land release documents coupled with data from IMSMA to thoroughly analyze the background information. Copies of the documents are made as packages concerning each location. The following land release documents were studied,

- Non-technical survey information;
- Land release completion reports;
- Projects completion reports;
- Demining Project proposals for assessing achievement of outputs and outcomes;
- External QA and QC results;

2. Meeting with Local Authorities and Communities:

To ensure that the provincial authorities, community Shuras and beneficiaries are involved, before the start of the assessment, the PDIA teams, convened meetings with local authorities and communities' Shuras/ beneficiaries for a comprehensive introduction and information sharing on the objectives of PDIA, the potential (realistic) benefits that might come to the community, the methods to be used, people to be involved and timetable for the field visits.

Both, the local authorities and communities'

Shuras/beneficiaries, were keen to know about the positive outcomes/ impacts of mine action activities on the province's development while promising the required support to PDIA teams for the successful completion of the assessment.



3. Field Assessment and Review:

During field assessment and review the following important aspects were considered:

- a) Comparison of land release completion reports with current status of the areas.
- b) Identifying and documenting evidences of any changes that have taken place in the field including photographs.
- c) Interviewing government authorities in the area.
- d) Meeting and discussions with beneficiaries and community members about the benefits of released land and changes in their livelihood.
- e) Interviewing beneficiaries including men, women and children, community elders, CDC and other relevant people with regard to completed demining interventions, based on PDIA questionnaire.
- f) Physical observation of each single released area and collecting related information and evidences.

Main Findings:

- The assessed areas directly benefited 2,279 families; all age groups men, women, boys and girls equally use and benefit from the released lands. The lands are used for agriculture, pasture and as a source of wood collection. The safety of women and children has been particularly enhanced by clearance, as they are often the shepherds caring for the livestock.





- Approximately **8,640** livestock (sheep, goats, cows) are fed in the cleared pasturelands; this contributes to the economic wellbeing of the communities and produces products that can be sold to the neighboring communities.

Table-1, Beneficiaries of Cleared Lands by Household¹:

S.#	Region	Number of Households Benefiting from the Released Areas			Number of Livestock feeding from Cleared Lands
		Pastures & Wood Collection	Agricultural	Residential	
1	Central	550	60	18	3,780
2	East	35	24	20	400
3	South	20	299	0	100
4	Southeast	20	110	0	150
5	Northeast	260	13	0	1,100
6	North	584	266	0	3,110
Total		1,469	772	38	8,640



- Over the course of one year, the communities have harvested crops and animal product/dairy from 53 released hazardous lands with a value of approximately **USD 787,963**, which represents considerable growth in the local economy.

Table-2, Crops Harvested from Assessed Areas Over One Year Period:

S.#	Crop/Product Type	Annual Harvest in Kg	AFN Value per Kg	Total AFN Value Gross Value	¹ Total AFN Expenses of Product/Yield	Total AFN Net Value	Total Value in USD*
1	Cereal Crops (wheat, corn, rice)	627,820	25	15,695,500	3,139,100	12,556.400	167,419

¹Note: Family with an average household size of 7 persons.

2	Various Vegetables	210,000	15	3,150,000	630,000	2,520,000	33,600
4	Various Fruits	84,000	30	2,520,000	504,000	2,016,000	26,880
5	Pistachio	11,170	300	3,351,000	670,200	2,680,800	35,744
6	Medical Herbs (Hing)	714	3,500	2,499,000	499,800	1,999,200	26,656
7	Animal Product/Dairy	1,555,200	30	46,656,000	9,331,200	37,324,800	497,664
Total				73,871,500	14,774,300	59,097,200	787,963

¹Net value is calculated as total gross value minus total expenses of Crop/Product, including seeds, chemicals, irrigation, tractor fees for/ground preparation, expense on Animal hay/medicine, wage of sheep herds, laborer wage and other expenses.

*Note: For the purpose of this table, one US dollar was calculated as equivalent to AFN 75. It is also worth mentioning that the above figures represent only 10 percent of the total revenue and crops harvested from the released land, the total revenue and harvests from the entire released lands will be approximately ten times more than the above calculation.

Table-3: Released lands socioeconomic impacts on communities:

S.#	Land/Facility type	Outcomes	Impacts
1	Agricultural Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income increased - Employment opportunities enhanced - Cost of agriculture production reduced - income generation and opportunity enhanced - More production of livestock and crops - Disaster risk reduced - Human and asset lose control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social activities improved - Economic conditions improved - Peaceful and stable community in long term - Socio-economic development of the local community - Environmental rehabilitation and asset creation
2	Grazing Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income increased - Food security increased as more food was produced, including meat and dairy - Dairy cost of production reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social activities improved - Economic conditions Improved - Sustainable social and economic activities in long terms - Peaceful and stable community in long terms

		- More production of livestock - Disaster risk control and well manage pastures	- Socio-economic development of the local community
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- External QA visits were conducted during clearance operations on all released hazardous lands that were assessed.
- In all 53 (100%) released hazardous tasks that were assessed, the GIS coordinates on the map matched the actual released area on the surface of the ground.
- Residents of communities, land owners, land users or land requesters, and the local authorities who were interviewed by PDIA teams were fully satisfied with the clearance approach of 53 hazardous areas and other mine action interventions like EORE and VA.
- The teams found nothing to report on recontamination or armed conflicts from released areas that were assessed.
- 100% of the assessed areas were properly handed over to the local people/local authorities. The users said that they have signed on the completion reports and attended the handover ceremony. *Despite the evidences indicating that the men in the communities were invited to hand over ceremony, it was found that none of the women and girls in communities were invited to the handover ceremony. In center region, women reported that they, or others in their village, did not know which areas had been demined nor, in some cases, were they informed that demining was taking place. Women have been less informed about clearance operations and the status of minefields than men and children, despite their multiple roles in community life.*
- According to villagers in all 53 hazardous areas selected for the PDIA, no incident happened within the released areas after clearance. Apart from confidence about the quality of demining output, the people were satisfied with the way demining teams liaised with them prior to the start of clearance operations. They said that the demining teams consulted them about which areas have priority for them and which hazardous areas should be cleared first.
- Nothing to report regarding the land dispute after clearance operations, the people interviewed during the PDIA, said that they do not have any land rights issue and none of the released hazards were found to be under dispute.
- The local people started using the land in all 53 assessed areas upon land release.
- The terrain of the visited release land mostly includes hillsides and pasture land so there are no linkages with development as of yet or in near future. The lands are primarily used for agriculture, building residential houses, and cattle-grazing that will contribute

towards enhancing the living condition and providing trade opportunities within and outside the community.

Perception of safety:

The clearance operations have enabled the residents of communities to have full access to their livelihood resources, farm their land efficiently, graze livestock and access other facilities without concern for their safety. When describing the situation before demining, people in the communities talked of their fear of injury and fatalities from mine/ERW accidents and of feeling permanently frightened and concerned about the safety of children. A reduction in this general fear and a feeling of relief was a notable outcome of the demining activity.

This PDIA recorded no casualties due to mines/UXO after clearance in the released lands. Demining output resulted in quick use of the freed assets by men and a great feeling of relief on the part of women.

The table below shows the explosive devices that were found and safely destroyed by demining team in the 53 assessed released areas. This is a clear fact that the work of mine action clearance is justified as a lifesaving operation. If the contaminated areas relevant to this assessment were not cleared, then the accidents of mines/ERWs would have continued to happened on people and on their animals like before.

Table-3, Mine/ERW Destroyed in 56 released areas assessed by PDIA:

No.	Region	Number of Areas Assessed	Area (Sq. m)	Device Destroyed			
				AP	AT	ERW	SAA
1	Center	17	1,587,136	153	0	1,128	301
2	East	6	408,714	129	11	30	660
3	South	6	1,621,490	0	11	7	0
4	Southeast	3	242,743	0	14	46	0
5	Northeast	10	477,779	125	0	180	123
6	North	11	1,686,505	330	0	1,264	1,456
Total		53	6,024,367	737	36	2,655	2,540

Land value:

As most of the visited release land is located in hillside and covers pasture and rain-fed agricultural lands, following clearance the communities/beneficiaries used the land for agriculture and grazing of animals. These are the factors that further increases the value of land in the assessed areas. Based on the evidence land value has increased significantly after the

clearance in 26 communities. The locals stated that the cost of one Jerieb (2,000 sq. m) land was 40,000 AFN (\$530) in a grazing land which was contaminated by mines and ERWs. But after the areas were cleared of mine/ERW, and some people build new houses the cost of one Jerieb (2,000 sq. m) land increased up to 80,000 AFN (\$1,060), this shows 100% increase the value of land in the assed areas.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE):

The EORE activities ensures contributing towards minimizing the threat of EO and ensures the safety of innocent life and limb in the visited communities. According to the assessment, EORE activities enhanced physical and mental well-being of the affected population.

There was a question about EORE to know if the community received EORE and, in particular, what should be done if any suspicious device of any kind is found; the respondents showed adequate knowledge. When asked about the negative impacts of mine/ERW, men and children stated that they know that mines and ERW created many problems in the villages and the mine/ERW damaged different livelihoods, assets of the communities

Based on the information collected from the visited communities, EORE sessions were conducted in the schools of the visited communities and 25,452 students (16,392 boys and 9,060 girls) received EORE in school. The teachers and school management know about EORE messages in the school books.

Based on the findings of the PDIA, six communities as listed below requested the EORE sessions.

Province	District	Village
Kapisa	Nijrab	Bagh Khana Bala
Kabul	Chahar Asyab	Shahtut
Panjshir	Paryan	Chawni Khawak
Badakhshan	Argo	Mayda Dogh Ghalat
Baghlan	Puli Khumri	Bala Duri(2)
Kunduz	Khanabad	Ajal

Case Studies:

Below are some case studies that provide a snapshot of the situation after clearance and the outcome of the demining work.

Case Study: Chawni Khawak Village, Paryan District, Panjshir Province- Grazing Land:

Paryan district has vast areas of grazing lands, which, being important environmentally, provide livelihoods for herders. Both locals and nomads are using the land as pasture; it also involves full-time nomads and settled farmers who take their stock to summer pastures. The area was originally mined because military camps/out posts were positioned on the village land during the mid-1980s. The landmine and ERW problem had a serious impact on access to critical resources, blocking access to grazing land. During the period when the mines/ERW were there, some exploded, killing/injuring two people and about five livestock from the village at different times. The areas were a battleground during the Russian invasion and internal conflicts in 1990s. It therefore, resulted in the migration of inhabitants outside of the village, because the village access to pasture was blocked by mines/ERW.



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During the PDIA survey of those hazards which have been cleared in Chawni Khawak village of Paryan district where the release hazards is used by nomads and settled farmers, they provided their feedback to PDIA team as follows:



These areas were previously mined and we were not able to use them. As our village livelihood depends on animals and livestock, we were facing mine accidents both to ourselves and our animals. They said that every time we

were taking our livestock to the area were very afraid of mine/ERW incident and now that the area has been cleared, we are safely using it.

The community acknowledged the significant support of MAPA in demining activities, they said that the benefits from demining have been the greater utilization of and access to their livelihood's resources. They said the clearance of lands from mine/ERW has made considerable

areas of land available to the whole community for grazing, fuel wood, and fodder collection. This has had major social and economic impact across the whole community.

Case Study: Nauwarid Village, Nahri Shahi District, Balkh Province- Water Well and Agricultural Land:

Nauwarid is a small village with approximately 30 families with an average household size of 7 members, located at about 38 km to the North of Mazar city. This village was on the front line of fighting between Mujahedeen and the Soviet troops. As a result of fighting, this area was heavily contaminated with ERW which had a serious impact on access to critical resources like agricultural land. Two hazardous areas, covering about 0.35 square kilometer area, were cleared of ERW and during clearance operations in 2018, 1,141 ERW were found and safely destroyed by demining teams. The cleared land was handed over for the safe use of the locals, and currently the villagers have full access to livelihood resources. After land release the community people dug water wells in cleared land and used its water for the irrigation of cleared land.

The Shura head of Nauwarid Village stated, "Our village's economy depends on agriculture which suffered a lot before the digging of water well, our fertile lands and gardens turned into barren deserts due to contamination of the land. But today we are very happy that we dug water wells in cleared land. I am grateful to Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan for the clearance of mines/ERWs from our village. As a result of the clearance, most of our social and economic problems have been solved to a great extent."



- 35 hectares of barren land has been rehabilitated and turned into a fertile agriculture land. As a result of clearance, we are now able to cultivate wheat, vegetable and corn in the land.

- Our living standards improved through the income generated from the yield of crop.

- While there was no water well, people in the community fought over water and with construction of this water well, all these social problems are solved.

Case Study: Pasab Village, Zhari District, Kandahar Province- Agricultural Land:



Pasab village is located close to the main Kandahar-Herat Highway, at about 30 km to the west of Kandahar city in a strategic location. Due to its strategic location, this area was on the front line of fighting between 1979 and 1992, Soviet-led forces were using

the Kandahar-Herat highway as a major military and logistical supply route connecting with Turkmenistan. Constant Mujahidin ambushes toppled the Soviet-led forces that resulted in lost control of the main highway and military convoys overturned into the desert of Zhari located north of the main highway. As the Soviet-led forces were overthrown from the main road, Mujahidin extended their attacks and followed the Soviet-led troops in the desert and in 1985 started using anti vehicle mines in the big desert. The flat desert became a major challenge in the way of the soviet-led forces and common battleground.

Four hazardous areas, covering about 1.5 square kilometer area, were cleared of AV mines in 2018 and during clearance operations, in total 11 AV mines and 7 ERWs were found and safely destroyed by demining teams. The cleared land was handed over for the safe use of the locals, and currently the villagers have full access to livelihood resources, following that the community has been using this land for cultivation of cearyl crop and vegetables.



A resident of Pasab village, said, "we have large agricultural and grazing lands and these were the main source of income for our village, but we weren't able to make any productive use of our lands due to the presence of landmines/ERW in the past. We weren't able to use our land for agriculture and animals

grazing. He added on, demining has positively impacted our economic development. After demining operations, agricultural lands have become available for cultivation and tending

animals. There is an improvement in security and stability of the area, before young boys were threatened by the existence of mines, but after demining operations started in our village, there is improvement in the economy and a sense of safety. Currently the local economy depends on cultivation of crops, livestock raising (mainly by women and children), wage labor outside the village and some petty trading (mainly by men). Cereal and livestock production are sufficient to cover household needs and the economic returns from these are good. He acknowledged the significant support of MAPA in demining activities and said that the benefits from demining have been the greater utilization, specifically access to agriculture land. He requested the mine action programme to clear the remaining contaminated areas in their village as well.

Conclusion:

The communities acknowledged the significant support of MAPA in demining activities, they said that the benefits from demining have been the greater utilization of and access to their livelihood resources.

The overall findings of the survey indicate that mine action activities had many significant impacts on the visited communities. As a result of mine action activities, lands were cleared for growing crops, grazing of animals and building residential houses. Clearance has made considerable areas of land available to the whole community for grazing, fuel wood, agriculture, and fodder collection. This has had major social and economic impact across the whole community.

While clearance has clearly increased the economic well-being of the communities, it has also provided a sense of safety and addressed the potential long-term mental traumas. With EORE activities, the communities are now able to adopt safe behaviors and protect themselves should they face a life-threatening situation.

Recommendations:

1. DMAC Gender & Diversity department should ensure, through regional offices and the mine action implementing partners, that the community women and girls are invited to the handover ceremony, so that women are informed about clearance activities and the safety status of land.
2. DMAC should encourage its implementing partners to increase deployment of female EORE teams so that direct and first-hand information can be delivered to female members of the communities.
3. Although, female surveyors were deployed in PDIA data collection in central region, DMAC should increase employment of female surveyors in the structure of PDIA teams to ensure the views and insights of women and girls are taken into account in future interventions.
4. DMAC should further increase its efforts to make sure communities' development needs and priorities are shared with development organizations to strengthen the link between mine action and development.

End of report.
