



1399 ANNUAL REPORT
APR 2020 - MAR 2021

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN



PREPARED BY
Directorate of Mine Action
Coordination (**DMAC**)



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Acronyms

AIM	Abandoned Improvised Mine
AMAS	Afghanistan Mine Action Standards
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
AP	Anti-personnel
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
AREA	Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy conservation in Afghanistan
AT	Anti-Tank
ATC	Afghan Technical Consultants
AV	Anti-Vehicle
BAC	Battle Area Clearance
BSC	Balanced Score Card
CHA	Confirmed Hazard Area
DAFA	Demining Agency for Afghanistan
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnant of War
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
G&D	Gender & Diversity
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GIS	Geographical Information System
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HALO Trust	Hazardous Area Life Support Organisation Trust
HI	Handicap International
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IM	Improvised Mine
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IP	Implementing Partner
LSP	Landmine Safety Programme
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MCPA	Mine Clearance and Planning Agency
MDC	Mine Detection Centre
MF	Mine Field
MoE	Ministry of Education
MMD	State Ministry for Martyrs and Disabled Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NCR	Non-Conformity Report
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMASP	National Mine Action Strategic Plan
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OHPM	Organisation for Health Promotion and Management
OMAR	Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation
OPS	Operations
PDIA	Post Demining Impact Assessment
PM/WRA	Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QM	Quality Management
SAA	Small Arms Ammunition
SHA	Suspected Hazardous Area
ToT	Training of Trainers
TS	Technical Survey
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
USD	United States Dollar
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VA	Victim Assistance
ITF	International Trust Fund

Foreword

As one of the largest and oldest mine action programmes in the world, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is managed by the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) through its Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) with technical and financial support from international donors and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Since the completion of transition to national ownership in June 2018, the DMAC has been managing the MAPA with support from the wider Afghan Government, UNMAS and GICHD. The Afghan Government is committed to national ownership and has gradually started contributing to the programme from the national budget. We are optimistic that this support will continue and increase in the coming years. However, given the unstable situation of the country and its reliance on international community, the government alone may not be able to fulfil its treaty obligations and commitments without international support. Thus, support from our international donors is vital for the continuation of the programme until the country becomes mine-free.

As State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs with the responsibility to lead and coordinate disaster management and humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, including the MAPA, I am pleased to present MAPA's Annual Report for 1399, outlining key achievements and challenges faced by the programme during the year.

In the year 1399, MAPA cleared 66 sq. Kilometres of contaminated land in the country. Since the inception of the programme in 1367 (1989), the MAPA has addressed almost 81.3 per cent of recorded contamination in the country; however, as of the end of the Afghan year 1399, 265 districts in 34 provinces of the country remain impacted, affecting an estimated number of 2.5 million people living within one kilometre of contaminated land. To put this into perspective, there are 400 districts in 34 provinces in Afghanistan with an approximate population of 33 million people.

Furthermore, the ongoing clashes between the Afghan National Security and Defence Forces (ANDSF) and Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) have further exacerbated contamination levels in the country. Approximately 172.22 sq. kilometres of hazards, mostly improvised mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), from post-2001 contamination in 19 provinces of the country have initially been surveyed and require proper survey. The growing use of improvised mines (IM) by the Anti-Government Elements have led to an increase in the rate of civilian casualties. In the past year, an average of about 139 civilians lost their lives or limbs every month because of landmines including improvised mines and ERW. However, the true figure of civilian casualties is likely to be much higher, as the programme lacks sufficient data collection mechanisms that were in place a few years ago.

A vicious and continuous cycle of conflicts over the last four decades has meant that Afghanistan remains on top of the list of countries affected by Explosive Ordnance (EO) globally. The MAPA, with determined efforts of national and international partners and support from our donors, has destroyed more than 18.9 million ERW, 750,518 anti-personnel mines and approximately 32,401 anti-vehicle mines. I would like to thank all the MAPA donors for their generous contributions during the year 1399. I am particularly grateful to the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, Japan, Finland, Denmark, Canada, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Slovenia as well as donors such as ECHO, PATRIP, ACF, and OCHA. Your contributions have saved countless lives, improved peoples' livelihoods, and economic conditions. Looking forward, I wish for continued assistance and cooperation of all stakeholders, particularly our donors, as we seek to rid this country of explosive hazards.

Ghulam Bahauddin Jailani

State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs

Executive Summary

Despite a significant increase in violence throughout 1399, occurring simultaneously with gains and setbacks made during negotiations in Doha, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) made reasonable progress in 1399¹. The growing insecurity and clashes between the Afghan National Security and Defence Forces (ANSDF) and Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) in various parts of the country rendered the operating environment extremely challenging for mine action implementing partners. Thus, making it difficult to achieve annual clearance targets. Achieving annual clearance targets is also heavily dependent on the availability of funds as well as accessibility of sites requiring the mine action interventions. The required funding for 1399 was 129.3 million USD and 24.9 per cent of this target was secured. This meant because of the funding shortfall, the clearance target was affected.

Insecurity in areas where mine action projects were planned meant that these projects were delayed and, in some cases, moved to other areas. Thus, the annual clearance target was not achieved. This trend has continued for the past eight years and the ongoing conflict, especially since 2009 has added a new burden to the existing contamination. When conducting non-technical surveys (NTS), new hazards of mostly legacy contamination remaining from previous surveys were found creating an addition to the clearance target and thus the APMBC work plan. Part of this contamination is attributed to post-2001-armed conflict between the Anti-Government Elements (AGEs), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Afghan National Security and Defence Forces (ANSDF), creating a major challenge and leaving behind unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Mines (IMs)².

The MAPA has been receiving an increased number of civilian casualty reports, which mainly emanate from Improvised Mines (IMs) and ERW. During 1399, there were 1380 civilian casualties because of Explosive Ordnance (EO), 47 per cent of which were children; 63 per cent of these civilian casualties were due to IMs, an additional 35 per cent were due to ERW and the remaining 2 per cent involved legacy landmines. As of April 2021, at the beginning of 1400, DMAC recorded 4273 hazardous areas covering 1564 sq. kilometres of land in Afghanistan. This includes 585 sq. kilometres of legacy contamination³ and 979 sq. km of new contamination⁴ consisting of improvised mines (IM), ERW and 657 Sq. KM of firing ranges.

¹ The Afghan year 1399 of the Solar Hijri calendar is equal to April 2020 – March 2021 of the Gregorian calendar.

² Improvised Mines refers to Pressure Plate IED or Victim Operated IED for which mine action consider the PPIED as AP mine and part of the Mine Ban Convention is responsible to provide response to only the abandoned Improvised Mine.

³ This includes 49 sq. km of initial hazard areas surveyed but not confirmed.

⁴ This includes 156 sq. km of IHA, 166 sq. km mine, ERW, AIM and 657 sq. km of firing ranges.

During 1399, the clearance of five abandoned firing ranges started in Bamyan province with funding from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). The project is being implemented by a national implementing partner and will be completed by the end of November 2021. The project awarded also has VA and EORE components. There are currently 44 firing ranges that are abandoned and cover a total area of 657 Sq. KM, which need clearance. DMAC is systematically advocating for the clearance of these abandoned firing ranges with NATO countries that were once using them. In addition to the 44-recorded firing ranges, a number of firing ranges are currently being used by NATO countries and National Afghan Security Forces in Afghanistan and are not yet abandoned.

Introduction

MAPA

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. At a global level the MAPA was the first humanitarian (non-military) mine action programme that encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, demining, stockpile destruction, EO Risk Education (EORE), and victim assistance (VA). MAPA employs over 5,000 Afghans and works with over 49 mine action organisations. The programme is also highly committed to build on its experience of mainstreaming gender and diversity in all its pillars of mine action. These partners, which include national and international actors, from both the private and not-for-profit sectors, deliver a wide range of mine action services including manual clearance, mechanically assisted clearance, mine dog detection assets, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), survey, EORE, VA activities and data collection.

MAPA's activities are coordinated and monitored by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)

DMAC

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is a regulatory body for the humanitarian MAPA. Through its headquarters in Kabul and its seven regional offices, DMAC manages, coordinates and oversees the humanitarian mine action activities implemented by national and international non-governmental organisations and commercial companies. DMAC is supported by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) and International Donors. Subsequent to the completion of the final phase of transition in June 2018, DMAC took over the responsibility for programme management of the MAPA from the United Nations Mine Action (UNMAS). UNMAS remains in the country as a close technical advisor and donor to DMAC.

Chapter One: Overview

Background

Afghanistan is one of the most-severely landmine and ERW affected countries in the world. Decades of conflict have left the country littered with mines and ERW that are killing and maiming innocent civilians every day. The contamination in the country dates back to the Soviet era and later to the internal fighting between Mujahideen warring factions in 1992 to 1995 as well as fighting between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance in 1995 to 2001. Contamination during this period is referred to as legacy mine/ERW contamination.

Part of the contamination is attributed to post-2001-armed conflict between the Anti-Government Elements (AGEs), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). This poses a major challenge, as the war with Anti Government Elements (AGEs) has left behind unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Mines (IMs). The MAPA has been receiving an increased number of civilian casualty reports, which mainly emanate from IMs and ERW. During 1399, there were 1380 civilian casualties by mine/ERW and IMs, 47 per cent of which were children; 63 per cent of these civilian casualties were due to IMs, an additional 35 per cent were due to ERW and the remaining 2 per cent were due to legacy mine incidents.

As of April 2021, at the beginning of 1400, DMAC recorded 4273 hazardous areas covering 1564 sq. kilometres of land in Afghanistan. This includes 585 sq. kilometres of legacy contamination⁵ and 979 sq. km of new contamination⁶ consisting of improvised mines (IM), ERW and 657 Sq. KM of firing ranges.

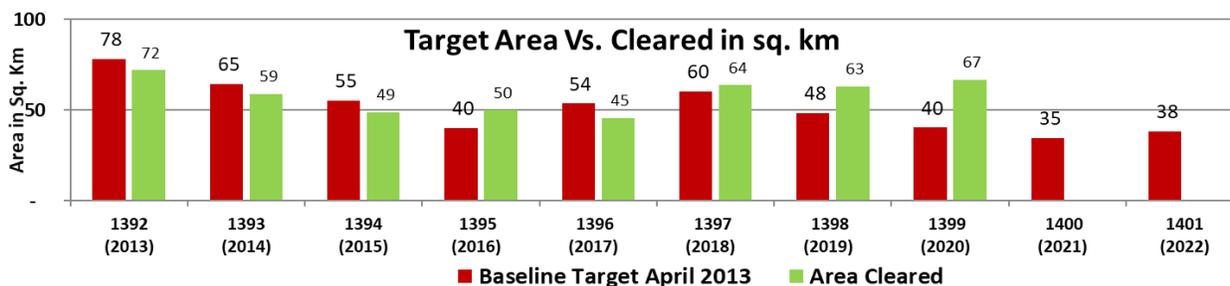
Funding and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

In April 2012, The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) submitted a clearance extension request at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention meeting. By submitting this extension request, Afghanistan committed to clearing all known EO-contaminated areas in its territory by March 2023. The below graph shows initial target set as of April 2013 contrasted with clearance achievements on annual basis:

⁵ This includes 49 sq. km of initial hazard areas surveyed but not yet confirmed.

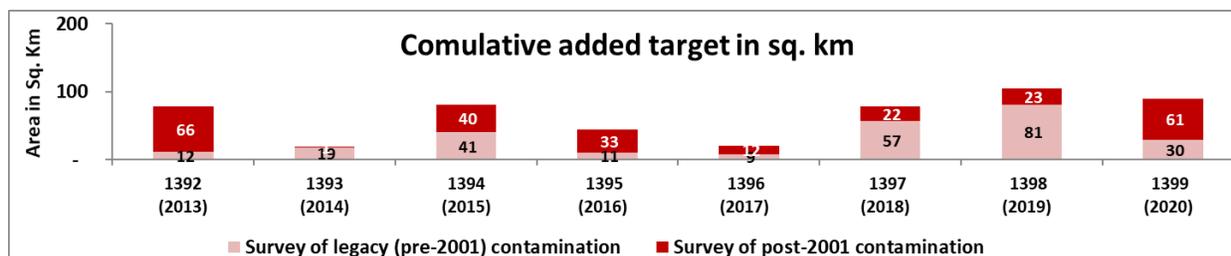
⁶ This includes 156 sq. km of IHA, 166 sq. km mine, ERW, AIM and 657 sq. km of firing ranges.

Figure 1: Initial target set as of March 2013 vs area cleared for the 10 years' work plan.



As shown, the total initial target for the recent eight years was to clear 440 sq. km area of EO contamination, while 469 sq. km area in the same period has actually been cleared, which shows 6.5 % overachievement. But at the same period as a result of continual survey, new contaminated areas have been discovered and added to the database that includes both legacy and new contamination. This has been added to the MBT target to be cleared on annual basis for which the programme did not receive the required funding to provide a timely response.

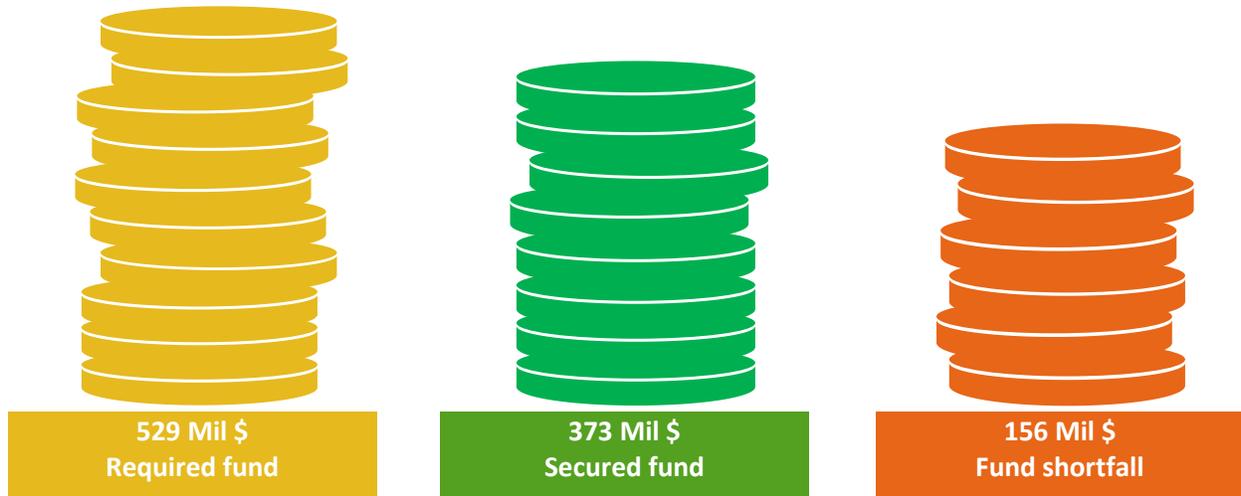
Figure 2: Area added to MBT target each year as a result of non-technical survey



As shown in above graph, Afghanistan was not able to achieve its set target for the past eight years due to funding shortfalls, particularly for the newly surveyed areas. The ongoing conflict, especially since 2009 has added a new burden.

MAPA managed to secure 373 million USD over the last eight years, which equates to 70.5 per cent of the 529 million USD required for those eight years in the APMBC extension work plan covering all pillars of mine action (survey, clearance, EORE, VA and programme management).

Figure 3: Total fund required, secured so far and the shortfall for the current MBT 10-years work plan



While conducting non-technical survey (NTS), new hazards of mostly legacy contamination remaining from previous surveys were found creating an addition to the clearance target and thus the APMBC work plan. The revised funding update suggests 336 million USD is needed to implement the plan in the remaining two years (1400 – 1401). In addition to the recorded hazards in the national database, there are around 205 sq. kilometres of initially surveyed hazards, mostly improvised mines and ERW, from post-2001 contamination in 15 provinces of the country requiring proper NTS. The clearance cost of the 205 sq. kilometres of new contamination is around 151.7 million USD. The overall amount needed increases to 487.7 million USD. In other words, MAPA requires 487.7 million USD to clear all the recorded EO contamination in the country. This amount covers the demining, EORE, VA and programme management for the remaining two years (1400-1401) providing that there is no new contamination discovered and added to the current target.

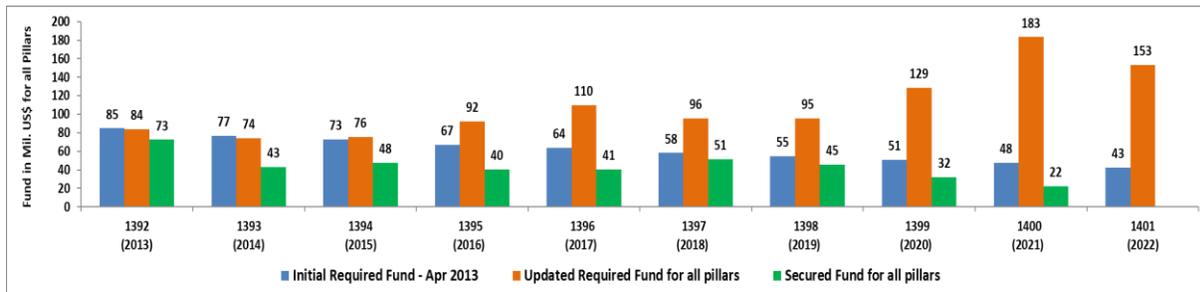
The graph below shows the funding requirement to clear the remaining recorded hazards; the funding requirement for the IHA hazards and the total required funding for both. These figures include funding requirement for other pillars of mine action including the programme management:

Figure 4: Funding requirement for the remaining recorded hazards, the IHA and total funding required



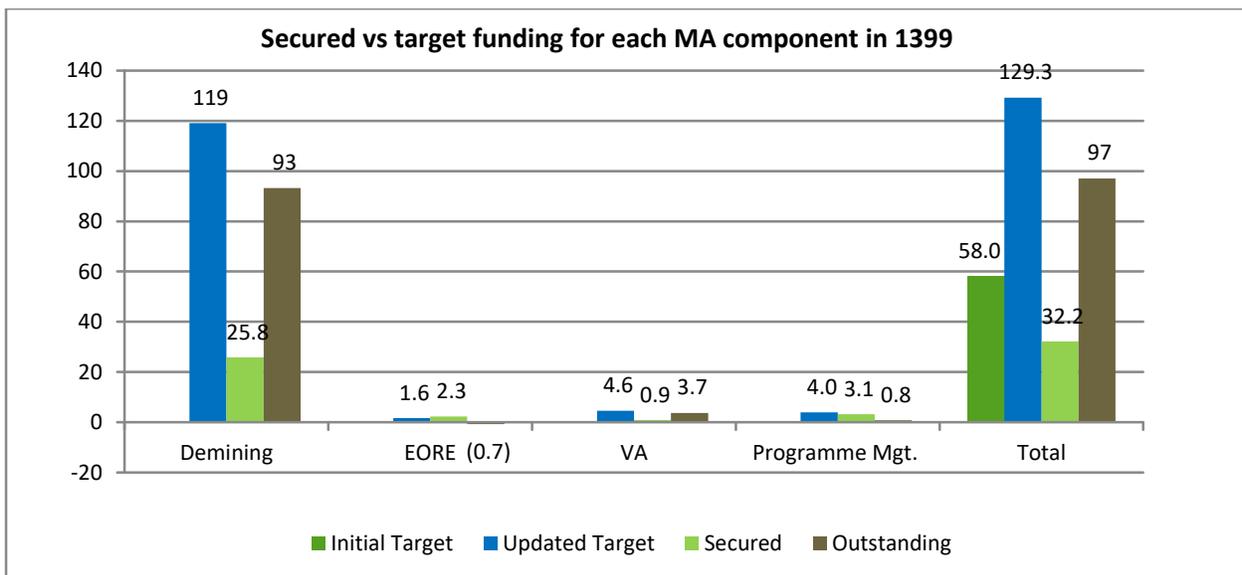
The graph below shows the funding requirement for the original extension plan, the revised funding target, the funding secured to-date and the funding needed for the remaining years to complete the extension plan on time.

Figure 5: Funding requirement of the original extension plan



The required funding for 1399 was 129.3 million USD and 24.9 per cent of this target was secured. This meant that in line with the funding shortage, the clearance target was also affected, as explained in the previous chapter.

Figure 6: Required and secured funding for mine action pillars in 1399



As shown in the graph above the required amount for clearance in 1399 was 129.3 million USD, while 32.2 million USD was secured. There was a gap of 97.1 mil USD.

Chapter Two: Activities

MAPA accomplished the following activities in 1399:	
1	Fundraising efforts for clearance of Firing Ranges with the contributing nations conducted; as a result of which Germany committed to fund their abandoned firing ranges in Balkh province.
2	The first eight years of the 10-year MBT work plan was reviewed with its contributing factors such as productivity rates, planning indicators and the work plan for the remaining two years (1400-1401).
3	DMAC representative participated in evaluation of IPs' submissions for VTF projects in Kabul
4	Twenty-Four staff from DMAC and humanitarians implementing partners took part in Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) survey and clearance training course, the training began in July 2020 and was successfully completed in September 2020.
5	DMAC OPS department conducted the Operations Technical Workshop during 22 – 24 June 2020. The main purpose of the workshop was to review and discuss the important operational issues & share ideas for further improvement of the coordination within MAPA.
6	Mine Action Livelihood Survey was conducted in Parwan province through which 12 communities in 5 districts of the province surveyed.
7	Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was conducted on 58 released hazardous areas in 44 communities, across 32 districts in 13 provinces of the country.
8	DMAC Head of Operations took part in a series of online IMAS Review Board Meetings during the reporting year.
9	MAPA Implementing Partners in coordination with DMAC and Nangarhar provincial authorities declared the city of Jalalabad along with Goshta and Dara-e -Noor districts free of known explosive ordnance.
10	MAPA implementing partner representatives in coordination with DMAC and Parwan provincial authorities declared the district of Jabul-Seraj free of known explosive ordnance.

2.1 Programme Management and Advocacy

To build consensus and cooperation among various mine action stakeholders and parties to conflict, advocacy and programme management can play a vital role. Similarly, effective programme management and advocacy ensures a safe environment for mine/ERW affected communities and promotes the rights of persons with disability. Through advocacy, the required resources can be mobilized in order to save lives and improve livelihoods. DMAC is responsible for the overall management of the MAPA.

International conferences and working groups on related conventions, monthly stakeholder meetings, operations coordination meetings, continuous monitoring visits to the regional offices by HQ staff, IPs projects and organisations balanced scorecard (BSC), information management and post-demining impact assessment are some of the activities carried out as part of programme management and advocacy by DMAC.

2.1.1: Advocacy, Planning and Communications

Table 2: List of advocacy and programme management activities in 1399.

Activities	Outcomes/Results
<p>The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was celebrated by the MAPA.</p>	<p>The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was celebrated by the MAPA through having numerous media interviews and a one-week social media campaign where success stories from mine action survivors were shared on social media. In addition, a video message from ANDMA minister was broadcasted on DMAC social media channels thanking brave Afghan deminers working in the field and asking the Government and donors to continue supporting the MAPA. The MAPA could not organize an in-person high-profile event like previous years due to the first wave of COVID-19 which was at its peak in Afghanistan at the time.</p>
<p>MAPA Donors and IPs Coordination Meeting at Kabul level</p>	<p>On 20th October 2020, a high-level donors and IPs coordination meeting was held at Gulkhana Palace, Office of the 1st Vice President. Co-hosted by the State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs and German Ambassador to Afghanistan, the event was held in a hybrid format with participation of key Government ministries and donor embassies in Kabul.</p>

<p>DMAC representative attended the Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) meetings.</p>	<p>As part of the Advocacy activities, the DMAC representative participated in monthly meetings of the ACPD in Kabul and advocated for the rights of Mine/ERW victims.</p>
<p>MAPA celebrated the International Women’s Day on 8th of March 2020. The event was held at DMAC compound and was participated by staff from various organisations such as UNMAS and MAPA implementing partners.</p>	<p>Celebration of 8th of March, international women’s solidarity was attended by representatives from ANDMA, UNMAS, MAPA IPs, and DMAC management.</p>
<p>Participation and delivering presentation to VA experts meeting on 11th Nov 20.</p>	<p>Raised awareness and enhanced understandings on safety and protection needs of mine victims in situations of risk and emergencies. Complemented panel discussion the Committee held at the intersessional meetings of the APMBBC in June</p>
<p>Through continued advocacy, the MAPA managed to convince New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to fund the clearance of their abandoned firing ranges in Bamyan province</p>	<p>NZDF is funding the clearance of 5 abandoned firing ranges in Bamyan province. The project has already been awarded to a national IP and will be implemented during 2020-2021.</p>
<p>DMAC Director attended the 21st National Directors and UN Advisors Annual Meeting in Geneva.</p>	<p>Former DMAC Director, Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, represented Afghanistan in the meeting and delivered statements. Mr. Yosufi also took part in side events and a special meeting to share MAPA’s achievement and challenges.</p>
<p>The DMAC Director participated in the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Oslo.</p>	<p>DMAC Director provided updates on the progress made by MAPA in the last five years namely; on survey, clearance, victim assistance and explosive ordnance risk education. Mr. Yosufi also chaired a side-event on the role of female deminers in Bamyan in bringing the province to mine-free status. He also attended side events as a panelist</p>

	on the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and on explosive ordnance risk education.
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2.1.2: Research and Development

One of the main activities of DMAC Operations Research and Development Department, in consultation with MAPA's partner humanitarian mine action organisations, is to conduct research and trials. The mentioned practices are undertaken based on the needs and requirements of the programme to further improve clearance operations and to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the asset/tools used by MAPA operators.

Trial on detection capabilities of UPEX 740 M Large Loop in comparison with the search head type 740 M3:

The objective of this trial was to conduct practical test/trial of LLD 740 M, and Search head 740 M3 in order to identify its depth detection capability. Overall, the detection capability of the search head 740 M3 was not the same as UPEX 740 M Large Loop, thus the use of search head 740 M3 not recommended as a replacement of UPEX 740 Large Loop in battlefield clearance operations. The search head 740 M3 can be used as an alternative tool for areas with significant obstacles such as dense bushes and large stones in order to speed up the clearance operation in the battlefields with the said obstacles.

Capacity building of MAPA IPs to deal with Emerging Challenges:

With financial support from UNMAS, 24 participants from DMAC and Implementing Partners successfully completed a three-month long course on Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM), survey, and clearance operations. The training, which was carried out by ARTIOS Global Ltd and HALO Trust, built the capacity of MAPA implementing partners in AIM survey and clearance operations. This will enable the MAPA to launch a thorough land release response to Abandoned Improvised Mines in Afghanistan. DMAC believes that this training held by the MAPA will respond to the issue of Abandoned Improvised Mines in Afghanistan in an effective way which can also be aligned with programme's priorities.

The trainings conducted included;

1. Basic AIM Survey Course
2. Advanced AIM Survey Course
3. Basic AIM clearance Course
4. Intermediary AIM Clearance Course
5. Advanced AIM Clearance Course
6. TOT AIM Clearance Course

Training on Non-Technical Survey (NTS):

Twenty staff from DMAC and implementing partners attended the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) course from 15 – 26 November 2020, in Kabul. The course lasted 11 days and the participants learnt about land release, NTS tools and other necessary skills to successfully plan and understand how to conduct efficient and effective Non-Technical Survey operations in the field. The topics covered included; land release, basic recognition of Explosive Hazards - UXO, landmines and sub-munitions, Sketch mapping, NTS Tools - GPS, Laser Range Finder, compass, base camp and Google earth, Information Management, communicating in NTS – Gender and Diversity, Interview and Negotiate, and Scenario-based training in the field environment.

This course was organized by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in coordination with the DMAC and was funded by the German Humanitarian Assistance.

Training on Technical Survey (TS):

Twenty staff from DMAC and implementing partners attended an online Technical Survey (TS) course from 06-10 December 2020, in Kabul. The course lasted 5 days and the participants learnt about land release, TS tools and all the necessary skills to successfully plan and understand to conduct efficient and effective Technical Survey operations in the field. The following topics were covered during this course; Introduction to Land Release, Operational Efficiency and Technical Survey General Requirements for TS and management resources, different approaches, assets and operational considerations, process mapping and documentation requirements, Quality Management, mapping and reporting, and criteria for cancellation and reduction.

This course was organized by Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in coordination with the DMAC and was funded by the German Humanitarian Assistance.

2.1.3: Quality Assurance and Quality Control

The aim of quality management (QM) is to provide confidence to the beneficiaries, funding bodies, mine action contractors and the Government of Afghanistan that mine action quality requirements are met and that cleared land is indeed safe for use. QM consists of three complementary components: accreditation, monitoring and post-clearance inspection.

As per quality management principles, the QM department plays an important role in maintaining stakeholder satisfaction through the provision of quality services. The main functions of the QM department are: managing and maintaining the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS); managing and undertaking monitoring and quality control of mine action activities, operations and services; investigating demining incidents; managing and maintaining internal quality management systems of

DMAC, including standard operating procedures and processes; conducting internal audit and measuring processes; developing the DMAC Balanced Scorecard reports; and developing QM-related policies.

During the reporting period, the Afghanistan Mine Action Standard (AMAS) 03.02 for Mine Action Planning and Prioritization was revised, finalized and shared with the demining organisations, and other key stakeholders. The AMAS was revised in consultation with the demining organisations through the AMAS review board. It is a technical reference for engagement of the MAPA to deal with the mine action planning and prioritization and can be used to plan and prioritize based on set standards that ensure relevance and need of mine action interventions. It is also used by the demining organisations to develop their SOPs in order to ensure that mine action planning and prioritization are conducted safely, effectively, and efficiently without compromising their neutrality and impartiality by ensuring that all demining activities are conducted solely for humanitarian purposes.

During 1399 DMAC conducted 2,537 QA visits of mine action projects in the country out of which 57 major non-conformities⁷, 54 minors' non-conformities, 80 observations and 2,346 conformities were reported by DMAC quality management inspectors. According to the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS) a major non conformity can generally be defined as a breach of AMAS that is considered to be life threatening. AMAS defines a minor non-conformity as a breach of AMAS that is not considered to be life threatening and/or can be rectified immediately without further training or additional resources being required/deployed.

In 1399, two missed-mine accidents and one missed mine occurred in minefields that were previously cleared by IPs in the years of 2008 and 2016. The first missed mine accident occurred on 22 June 2020 in Kohistan village Center of Kohsan district of Hirat province; the victim was a local driver while he wanted to supply soil using his truck for the purpose of constructing a house in the cleared land. As a result, the driver was killed and the vehicle fully damaged. The area has been resurveyed but not re-cleared yet. The second missed mine accident occurred on 22 Dec 2020 in Liwan village, Salang District of Parwan Province where the victim was a local 46 -year-old resident who as a result of the accident lost his right leg. The area has not been re-cleared yet. One missed mine report was received by the East region's operations associate, while he was conducting the monitoring/visit of the demining teams in Village Pachir Agam District of Nangarhar Province that two missed mines were found in the cleared with no demining accident. The area was re-cleared by the other IP. A Board of Inquiry (BOI) was assigned and lessons-learned summaries of the investigation reports were developed and shared with the stakeholders. The respective IPs were provided with clear instructions for further improvement and the cases were reflected

in the Balanced Scorecards (BSC)⁸. There were two demining accidents and one demining incident reported in 1399, lessons learned summaries were developed based on the investigation reports prepared by the assigned BOIs and shared with the stakeholders.

MAPA Hotline project began in Sep 2012 to timely provide mine action response and remove mine/ERW threat, decrease mine/ERW civilian casualties, remove mine/ERW blockages, ensure communities' priorities for mine action intervention are considered, establish a link between communities and mine action to get their feedback and ensure demining operation effectiveness and efficiency.

2.1.4: Information Management

The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) was developed to help make mine action safer, faster, more effective and efficient. There were calls from the mine action community for computerized decision support tools able to support the coordination and management of their operational activities. IMSMA is currently in use in more than 80 per cent of mine action programmes around the world and is the United Nations preferred information management system for mine action.

By using IMSMA, the Management Information System (MIS) department has the biggest dataset of mine action worldwide. The information/dataset enables MAPA management to make operational and strategic decisions. For better prioritizing of MAPA operational activities, DMAC MIS also conducts some additional data and GIS analysis. DMAC MIS is one of the few MIS departments globally that is using all IMSMA components/objects.

Table 3: IMSMA's activities in 1399

S#	Activity
1	IMSMA/GIS Training Provided to AREA in Jalalabad & MCPA, DDG, MDC & HI in Kandahar ATC in Kabul.
2	IMSMA training for Firing Range staff (05 people).
3	MARS training has been conducted for both PDIA & QM Staff & PDIA has successfully implemented MARS
4	DMAC MIS is working along with GICHD to prepare for IMSMA Core
6	DMAC MIS is working with GICHD to purchase ArcGIS Online Licenses

⁸ Balanced Scorecards (BSC) is monitoring tool based on which DMAC measures IP performance

2.2 Survey and Clearance

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 Explosive Ordnance within that region.

EO survey can ensure safe, efficient and effective use of demining assets for hazard removal or the removal of suspicion of reported EO hazardous areas. Two types of survey are conducted by MAPA: Non-technical survey (NTS) and Technical survey (TS).

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

Technical survey is mainly incorporated jointly with clearance operations while NTS is conducted as a stand-alone operation.

2.2.1: Non-Technical Survey (NTS)

In 1399, NTS was planned to be conducted in 71 districts through three different projects funded by PM/WRA and VTF. The primary focus of the NTS was to capture potentially contaminated areas due to kinetic operations and also any legacy contaminated area not surveyed so far. In those districts. Accurate information was not available to show in which villages the kinetic operations took place; therefore, the NTS teams visited each individual gazetteer communities of the planned districts and other communities of the districts not mentioned in the national gazetteer.

During 1399, the NTS teams completed surveys of 12,501 communities (396 Impacted, 5,788 non-impacted from gazetteer and 6,317 communities out of the gazetteer). In summary, after factoring in previously unrecorded hazardous areas and the area contaminated post-2001, identifying and cancelling non-hazardous areas, the NTS operations resulted in an addition of 26 sq. kilometres of new hazardous areas to the national mine action database of Afghanistan.

2.2.2: Technical Survey

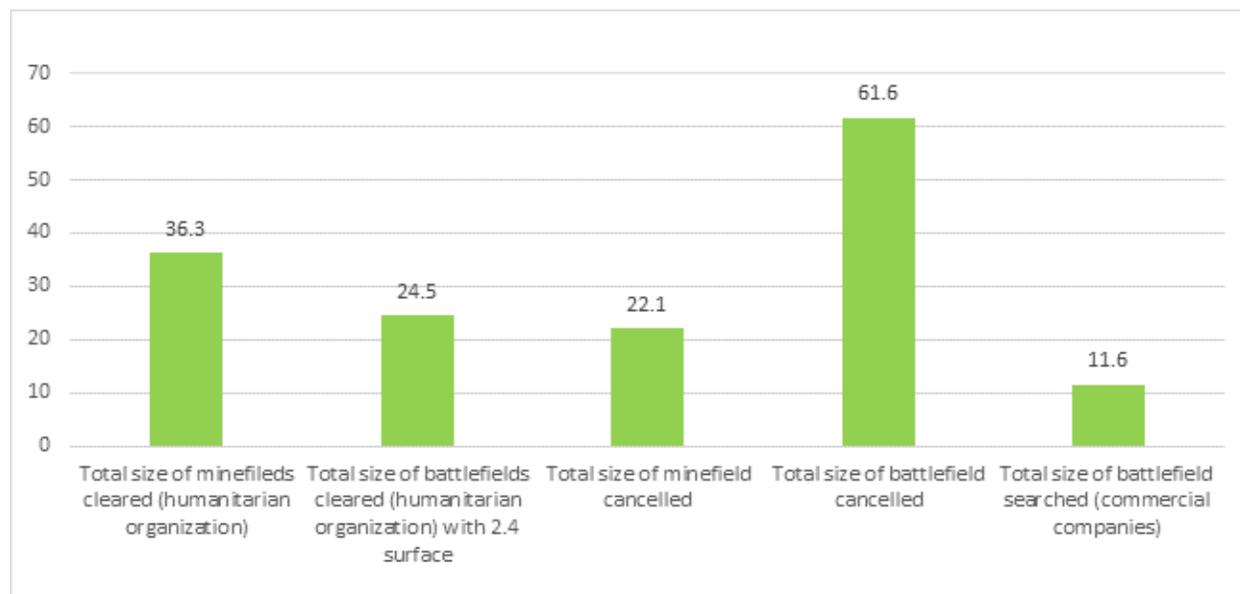
To confirm the presence or absence of mines and ERW, technical survey can be conducted as a stand-alone operation or integrated with clearance operations. In MAPA operations, the technical survey is integrated with clearance and the outputs of the technical survey are reflected alongside those of clearance operations.

Technical surveys result in more effective and efficient use of mine action resources for actual clearance operations.

2.2.3: Clearance

MAPA's clearance operations in 1399 covered areas contaminated during the Soviet-Afghan war, as well as areas contaminated by the Russian-backed government, fighting between the Taliban and Northern Alliance and NATO firing ranges and explosive remnants from the ongoing post-2001-armed conflict.

Figure 7: Clearance achievements (in square kilometres) in 1399



Land Release Achievements

Land Release is the process of removing hazard or suspicion of hazard through Non-Technical Survey, (NTS), Technical Survey (TS) and or clearance operations. The programme's 1399-updated target under the APMBC work plan was to clear 165 sq. km of contaminated land, but due to a shortage of funds, the set target was not reached.

Despite receiving 22 per cent of the required funds (26 million USD received compared to 119 million USD required) for demining, MAPA IPs succeeded in clearing 66 sq. km, 36.2 sq. km of minefields and 30.7 sq. km of battlefields. Clearing those hazards freed 116 communities from known recorded hazards.

Clearing hazards in 1399 provided communities in Afghanistan with safe access to productive land previously blocked by EO. Table 4 below summarizes the EO land release in 1399.

Table 4: 1399 achievements by organisation (Minefield)

Clearance Agency	No of Hazards	Area Released	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed				
			AP	AT	AIM	SAA	UXO
ADC	12	356,753	24	5	-	-	19
ATC	43	7,877,059	94	23	-	-	196

DAFA	99	9,288,803	426	72	-	43	203
DDG	12	495,540	154	-	-	7,743	830
FSD	3	254,442	1,204	-	-	235	63
HT	161	10,754,004	2,365	82	149	2,660	268
KMCC	4	48,010	-	-	-	-	-
MCPA	41	6,261,147	268	117	-	-	19
MDC	3	984,132	-	6	-	-	5
Grand Total	378	36,319,890	4,535	305	149	10,681	1,603

Table 5 below shows areas cleared under Battle Area Clearance (BAC) operations and the number of devices found and destroyed during 1399.

Table 5: Battle Area Clearance Achievements in 1399

Clearance Agency	No of Hazards	BF Subsurface	Area Released	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed		
				AP	SAA	UXO
AREA	5	3,358,327	3,358,327	-	464	86
ATC	3	3,379,201	3,379,201	-	-	172
DDG	6	662,758	662,758	-	8,000	9,505
HT	57	13,220,958	15,670,292	2	14,035	17,120
OMAR	7	1,453,325	1,453,325	-	9,156	8,339
Grand Total	78	22,074,569	24,523,903	2	31,655	35,222

The table below demonstrates the number of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) found and destroyed by humanitarian demining organisations under EOD operations during 1399:

Table 6: EOD Achievements in 1399

Agency	Number of Devices Found and Destroyed					
	AP	AT	AIM	SAA	UXO	CM
DDG	15	3	-	68	924	3
FSD	-	-	-	42	-	-
HT	339	65	75	100,115	59,059	221
OMAR	1	2	-	60	672	-
Grand Total	355	70	75	100,285	60,655	224

Socioeconomic impact of mine action:

It is broadly understood and acknowledged that mine action has tangible impacts when it comes to saving lives. What should equally be understood is that mine action lies at the center of the triple nexus of peace security and development, with social, economic and psychosocial impacts within communities and regions affected by mine action. The impact of mine action is felt beyond the



immediate gains in the community and once an area is cleared, the socioeconomic benefits is felt across the wider economy. A few examples of clearance projects implemented in during 1399 and their socioeconomic impact is listed below;

An economic zone is being built in Mohammad Agha district of Logar province:

Mohammad Agha district of Logar Province is located at about 35 km south of Kabul in the vicinity of the main road to Khost province. This area was once a front line of fighting between the Mujahideen and the Soviet Union and later between the Taliban and Northern Alliance, in the 1985-1995s. The area was contaminated with both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines laid by factional groups. Due to intensive fighting & presence of explosive ordnance most of the



Mohammad Agha district of Logar province where an economic zone is being built

inhabitants were forced to evacuate the village. Based on the request of local people and district governor, the area was cleared by a MAPA implementing partner in 1399. Locals were employed in the implementation of mine action projects and people in the area are no longer worried about the presence of EO. Clearance operations paved the way for the implementation of economic zone. The government is planning to build the economic zone in two phases. Phase one will include construction of roads, irrigation canals and others infrastructures, and phase two of project includes industrial park, research and development center, technical workshops, entertainment park, agricultural and livestock forms.

People in Need (PIN) builds a recycling plant in land previously cleared by the MAPA in Amir Ali Shir Nawee Industrial Area

Amir Ali Shir Nawee Industrial Area is located in Mazar city of Balkh province. This area was the battle ground between Mujahidin and Russian forces in the 1980s and 1990s. The area was littered with ERW and when PIN intended to build Recycling Plant there, the organisations requested the MAPA to clear the area for them. DMAC deployed a quick response team to the area and the area was cleared in February 2021. Since the area was released and handed over to PIN, the organisation is constructing a recycling plant in the area.



A deminer working in industrial area

Kuza Khermana village of Paktya province:

The village of Kuza Khermana is located in Jaji district of Paktya Province and was contaminated with Anti-Personnel mines laid by the Soviet troops during the 1980s. Prior to clearance, several accidents resulting from explosive ordnance resulted in loss of life and limb to local civilians and even livestock in the area. Subsequent to a clearance request by village elders, a MAPA implementing partner surveyed the area and then started clearance operation in 2020. After clearance, the land has been released for productive use of the locals who are now collecting woods, tending animals and collecting pine from the natural trees contributing to their improved livelihoods.



A demining team working in Kuza Khermana village

Success story from the Northern province of Baghlan:

Ma'dan-i-Karkar village is located in Baghlan-e-Jadid district of Baghlan Province. Once a battle ground in the area was contaminated with Anti Personnel (AP) mines in the 1980s and 1990s. The local people felt unsafe and were unable to use the area due to contamination. According to local sources, prior to clearance several mine accidents took place in the village which killed and injured people and animals.

Subsequent to clearance request by village elders, a MAPA implementing partner surveyed the area and then started clearance operation in 2020.

During the clearance operation a total of 32 devices were found and safely destroyed. Once the area was cleared, it was safely handed over to the community.

The locals now use the area safely and without any fear of contamination for variety of different purposes which are listed below;

- The nomads have established almost 20 tents for living and tending the animals/livestock.
- A graveled road has been constructed and is being used by the locals.
- The area has gemstone mines in which local people work and generate income for their families.



Cleared land being used by locals and nomad

Tanga Village, Acheen District of Nangarhar Province:

Tanga village was contaminated with Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM), laid by ISIS in the village and surrounding areas and roads in 2017-2019. According to the local community, the Afghan National Army (ANA) conducted military operations against the AGEs in the area. AGEs laid improvised mines to target the ANA. Once the fighting stopped, AIMs remained in the community. When villagers returned to their communities, several AIM accidents took place which resulted in 16 civilian casualties. Subsequent to a clearance request by village elders, a MAPA implementing partner (IP) surveyed the area and then started clearance operation in 2020. After clearance, the areas which were contaminated with improvised Mines



Cleared land in Tanga village being used for agriculture and house building by the locals

have been released back to productive use. The locals use the released land for agriculture and to build houses.

Operations by Commercial Demining Companies

In 1399, seven commercial companies were engaged in survey and clearance operations of areas requested by their clients to ensure safe execution of some key development projects in Afghanistan. A total surface and sub-surface area of 15.23 sq. kilometres was cleared by 13 commercial demining companies in 1399. It is notable that commercial demining companies



mainly work in support of development projects. Regardless of whether an area contains mines or not, donors/clients of development projects want the area to be checked for mines and ERW in different depths (based on the development projects' requirements i.e. depth of foundation etc.). The clearance figure mentioned here is actually the size of the areas they have checked. The majority of the areas checked by the commercial demining companies were not initially recorded as contaminated in the national mine action database.

2.3 Victim Assistance

According to the DMAC's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), during 1399 the average number of civilian casualties recorded was 127 per month, which demonstrates an approximately three-fold increase compared to 2013.

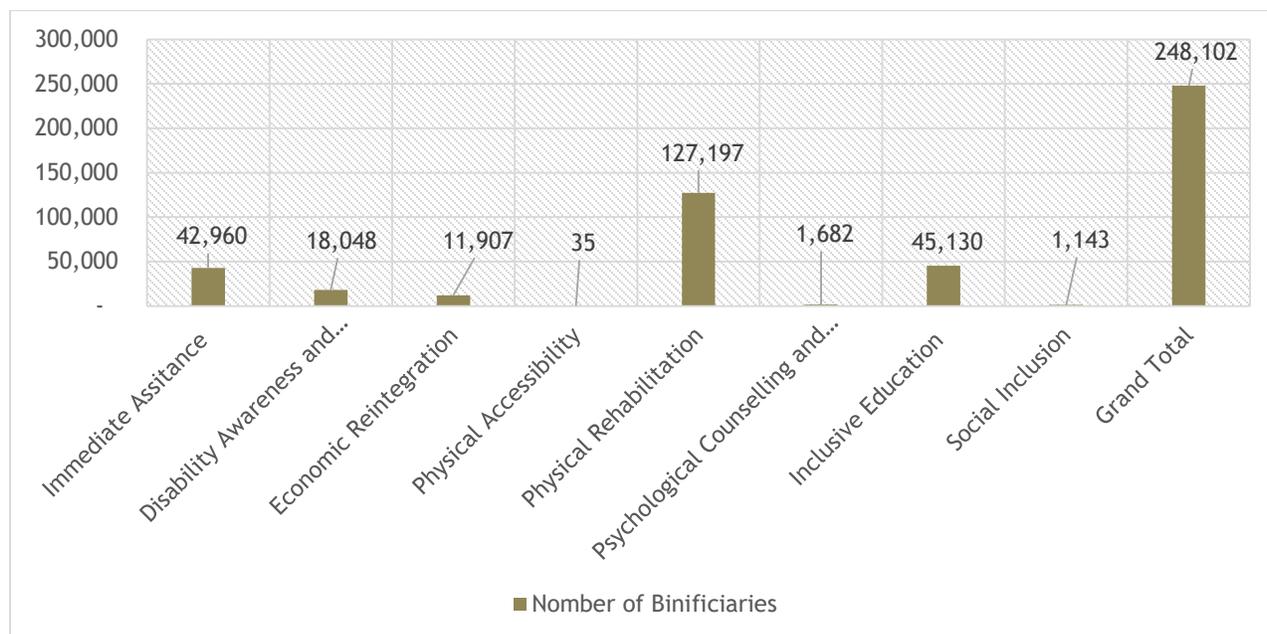
Civilian casualties from victim-operated IEDs (VOIED) increased by 12.5 per cent in 1399, causing 959 civilian casualties (Injured, 460, Killed, 499). VOIED remained the leading cause of civilian casualties accounting for 62.8 per cent of the total casualties during 1399. The second biggest cause of civilian casualties was ERW. 547 casualties were recorded because of ERW (35.8%), the remaining 0.2% of casualties were because of anti-vehicle mines, and cluster munitions combined (one AV, 3 CM). The number of casualties in 1399 increased from 1490 in the previous year to 1525 (2.2%). 425 communities in 33 provinces experienced 580 EO- accidents in 1399.

Victim Assistance Implementation Services in 1399

1) Physical rehabilitation (including prostheses):

According to MMD graphic report 1399 and IMSMA, 248,102 people with disabilities in 20 provinces received Victim Assistance/Disability services during the year 1399. Services provided included;

Immediate Assistance, Disability Awareness and Advocacy Training, Economic Reintegration, Physical Accessibility, Physical Rehabilitation (Physiotherapy, Orthoses and Prostheses), Psychological Counselling and Peer Support, Inclusive Education and Social Inclusion



The mentioned services were provided through the VA/Disability partners, National and International organisations namely: AABRAR, ALSO, AOAD, DAO, HI, ICRC, SCA and SERVE.

44% of service beneficiaries were male and 56% were female in 1399⁹.

Table 7: Victim Assistance activities during 1399

Activity Area	Activity
Information Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the National Disability Information Management System a database has been developed which reflect three main components; Victim (information about individual), Cause of Disability and Services. A comprehensive proposal has been developed to raise funds for biometric registration
Advocacy	<p>As a member of advocacy committees, the DMAC VA department facilitated the following activities and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd of December, the International Day of Person with Disability was celebrated in Chahar Chinar Palace of Presidential Office (Arg) on 5th Dec 2020. The event was participated by H.E. the President, Mohammad Ashraf

⁹ The data have been gathered from two sources; 1- DMAC IMSMA and MMD annual report for 1399.

Activity Area	Activity
	<p>Ghani and the cabinet members where the National Disability Strategy was presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White Cane Day was celebrated in Pyamber Azam Physical Rehabilitation Centre and a number of white canes were distributed to persons with vision impairment. - In addition, DMAC – VA Department in close coordination with other civil society organisations conducted and participated in different advocacy events related to victim assistance.
Casualty data monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim assistance data received from MAPA IPs, UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other implementing partners was monitored and evaluated on a quarterly basis and shared with stakeholders for their decision making.
Integration of VA/Disability affairs in other sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of annual action plan for victim and disability with the following 15 goals; 1. Access to education, 2. Access to employment, livelihood development support and social protection, 3. Access to healthcare, 4. Access to quality and sustainable rehabilitation services, 5. Access to mental health and psychosocial support, 6. Access to humanitarian assistance, 7. Accessibility to buildings, transports and communication, 8. Development of support services, 9. Social participation and awareness raising (combating stigmatization), 10. Access to sports, 11. Participation to public life and political engagement, 12. Rights and access to justice, 13. Empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, 14. Empowerment of persons with disabilities, their families and their organisations, 15. Support to governance, coordination and strategy implementation. - Support development and signing of 42 MoUs between MMD and other Government ministries and entities. In addition, 15 MoUs have been signed with non-Government organisations.
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As part of Advocacy for the right of persons with disability, six Advocacy Committee meetings were conducted. - A total of 40 workshops, technical working groups and taskforce meetings were held to review and finalize National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2030.

Activity Area	Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG) meetings were conducted in MMD. 3 inter-ministerial meetings were conducted as a result of which the Disability Annual action plan was reviewed and MoUs were signed. - Five Taskforce meetings were established in Education, Health, Livelihood, Social Inclusion, Coordination, and Management. - Three Victim Assistance/Disability Coordination meetings were conducted
Strategy and policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection Policy in Mine Action was drafted, - 2 picturized Glossaries one for Causes of Disability and Second for Services was developed - Guideline for using VA-IMSMA was developed - ToRs for Social Inclusion, Education and Livelihood Taskforce meetings was developed. - ToR for DSCG and Provincial DSCG was developed. - SWP along with Process map for VA was reviewed based on P3M3 recommendations.

2.4 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

Throughout 1399, (01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021) risk education (RE) activities were coordinated, implemented and monitored in line with Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS), the Integrated Operational Framework, and the criteria for community prioritization.

Main at-risk groups included communities located in proximity of hazards, returnees, IDPs, nomads, scrap metal collectors, aid workers, returnees, and people on the move (travellers). While the threat remains constant to all the aforementioned groups, the data indicates that children are the most vulnerable to the threat of landmines and ERW given their mobility and lack of care.

DMAC and IPs are making efforts to mitigate the threat landmine and ERW contamination pose to the lives and livelihoods of Afghan civilians. During 1399, seven accredited local and international IPs including OMAR, DDG, HT, MCPA, AREA, HI, and AAR Japan were actively engaged in the delivery of formal and informal RE sessions. To ensure gender is mainstreamed in EORE, 41 couple teams (one male and one female) conducted EORE training sessions.

In order to reach all at-risk groups for the delivery of RE, the following activities were conducted:

- Provision of direct RE sessions to people living in or in vicinity of landmine and ERW impacted communities
- Provision of RE through media, which is an effective communication channel to reach vulnerable communities in remote and insecure areas; two EORE clips in Pashto and Dari, prepared with the help of UNMAS were broadcasted on Shamshad and TOLO tv channels and shared, through sponsored posts on Facebook
- Provision of RE to returnees through UNHCR and IOM encashment centres, transit centres, and zero points; the locations include Pol-i- Charkhi (Kabul), Islam Qalaa (Herat), Milak (Nimroz) Shorandam and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) and Momandara and Torkham (Nangarhar)
- Provision of RE to IDPs and host communities
- Conducted Landmine Safety Program (LSP) for aid workers
- Updated EORE progress report format
- Developed quality assurance monitoring format to be used for internal and external QA by IPs and DMAC QM inspectors
- Data and Information guideline was developed by DMAC to avoid data discrepancies and ambiguities concerning informal and formal RE
- Impact Indicators and prioritization was revised to reflect on the evolving nature of contamination and risks posed to the vulnerable affected populations
- Reviewed, developed and piloted child-focused EORE materials with the help of implementing partners
- UNMAS in collaboration with its partner (DDG) supported the conduct of a one-day - EORE workshop under DMAC's leadership. The workshop aimed to highlight and discuss RE material, means for delivery of messages to encourage participation of the children (children's flip chart)
- Posters showcasing ground signs of Improvised mines and use of new weapons were developed and integrated in to EORE material
- The development process of EORE adult flipchart was initiated and will be completed during the next operational year
- The guideline on delivering EORE during covid-19 pandemic was developed and shared with MAPA IPs
- In order to test the knowledge and understanding of EORE beneficiaries, a new tool as the pre/post session questionnaires were developed and are being used by the EORE instructors in the field

- Material aiming at delivering safety messages for covid-19 were developed and thought to beneficiaries
- ToT trainings were conducted for 272 EORE trainers of the accredited Risk IPs and organisations who implement EORE in the non-formal (indirect) approach, as a complementary activity
- Held meetings with MoIC and Radio Television for dissemination of EORE messages using their platforms
- Held meetings with various media platforms in Ghazni province who agreed to share EORE messages, free-of-cost, through their platforms
- Held meetings with a radio broadcaster (Voice of Nimroz) who also shared EORE messages through their platform, free of cost
- The new hotline number 3334 was installed at DMAC under the lead of EORE department and started to function
- The Comic Books series were developed and distributed to UNICEF and Save the Children aiming at promoting children’s awareness on landmines and other social aspects of life

During the RE sessions, 1,000 green brochures, 69,680 notebooks with EORE messages, 7,500 brochures, 600 pens with Risk Education messages, 83,350 MAPA hotline cards and 197 Trainers kits, 1,500 COVID-19, and 300 IED posers to MAPA IPs delivered for them to distribute to community members during EORE sessions.



Additionally, during the year, Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions were conducted for 12

EORE trainers of RE IPs. LSP training was provided to 23 staff members of humanitarian organisations.

Table 8: Number of RE beneficiaries, via formal EORE, by social status of audience, gender and age group

Programme	Audience Type	No of Sessions	Boys	Girls	Men	Wome n	Total
Formal EORE	Aid Worker/International	22			56	243	299
	Aid Worker/National	43			153	84	237
	Community Member	20,401	63,400	52,856	15,759	21,282	153,297

Community Volunteer	20	98	109	49	57	313
Government Official	6		-	75	-	75
Health Worker	3	4	5	5	3	17
IDP	2,999	10,194	9,176	3,337	5,351	28,058
Kuchies	11	29	22	1	8	60
Military	1		-	4	-	4
Passenger/Driver	18	15	18	125	19	177
Returnee	109	179	157	93	124	553
School Teacher	1	2	-	5	1	8
Scrap Metal Collector/Dealer	81	201	11	215	7	434
Student	991	6,079	4,397	673	1,363	12,512
Women's Group	56	41	145	13	28	227
Grand Total	24,762	80,242	66,896	20,563	28,570	196,271

Table 9: Number of Risk Education beneficiaries, via informal EORE, by social status of audience, and by gender and age group

Programme	Audience Type	No of Sessions	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Total
IF-EORE	Community Member	7,864	50,276	26,757	11,482	9,350	97,865
	Community Volunteer	2	7	50	1	10	68
	IDP	90	447	440	20	57	964
	Returnee	27,435	73,996	13,618	472,894	19,337	579,845
	School Teacher	56	-	-	744	124	868
	Student	887	35,883	7,844	1,821	1,957	47,505
Grand Total		36,334	160,609	48,709	486,962	30,835	727,115

2.5 Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming

The fourth goal of National Mine Action Strategic Plan (NMA SP 2016-2020) is Gender & diversity mainstreaming this ensures that the capabilities, contributions, concerns, and needs of women/men and girls/boys are acknowledged and addressed equally. It has a detailed number of strategic actions, among which major steps were taken in the last year.

G&D position in DMAC was vacant for a couple of months, and in October 2020, this position was filled. The main activities included:

Table 10: Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming activities in 1399.

DMAC, G&D Department accomplished the following activities in 1399:	
1	DMAC-G&D Department has conducted an assessment of mine action IPs from G&D perspective and shared recommendations for improvement
2	DMAC-G&D Department has reviewed the HR Manual and shared the recommendations and input from G&D lens to the relevant department
3	DMAC-G&D Department has conducted a one-day training on G&D in mine action to IPs and DMAC female staff
4	DMAC-G&D has launched 16 Days Activism campaign against GBV
5	DMAC-G&D Department has revised G&D SWP
6	DMAC-G&D Department has launched the photo catalogues from UNMAS, ITF, ANDMA, IPs and DMAC senior managers and G&D Focal points commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment
7	Prepared the concept note on capacity development of GFP and Gender Officers and submitted to UNMAS
8	DMAC-G&D Department marked the 8th of March, international women's solidarity day by attended by ANDMA minister, a number of high-level officials from the ANDMA, UNMAS, MAPA IPs, and DMAC management.
9	Conducted the G&D TWG monthly Meetings
10	Facilitated G&D aspects of NTS training which was conducted by GICHD
11	Developed concept note on capacity development of female staff and GFP of MAPA
12	Assess IP from G&D perspective and provide them advice regarding mainstreaming G&D within programme
13	Advocated for solving mahram issue of female staff in mine action sector

Chapter Three: Key Achievements

The following are a list of the main achievements of the DMAC and the wider MAPA in 1399.

Table 11: Key achievements of the MAPA stakeholders in 1399.

Stakeholder	Achievement	Date
DMAC with financial support from UNMAS	With financial support from UNMAS 24, staff from DMAC and humanitarian implementing partners took part in Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) survey and clearance training course. The training, which was carried out by ARTIOS Global Ltd and HALO Trust, built the capacity of MAPA implementing partners in AIM survey and clearance operations which will enable the MAPA to launch a thorough land release response to the Abandoned Improvised Mines in Afghanistan.	July-September 2020
DMAC with financial support from PM/WRA	Mine Action Livelihoods Survey was conducted in Parwan province through which 12 communities in 5 districts were surveyed	15-22 October 2020
DMAC with financial support from PM/WRA	Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was conducted on 58 released hazardous areas in 44 communities, across 32 districts of 13 provinces of the country	June-October 2020

Chapter Four: Risk Management

Table 12: Challenges faced by the programme in 1399 and mitigation measures.

Challenges	Mitigating Measures
Funding	
Reduced funding	A donor workshop was held in Kabul in October 2020 where all donor embassies joined the meeting both in-person and virtually. Similarly, donors were kept engaged with the programme through ad-hoc meetings and monthly stakeholders’ meetings where the challenges and achievements of the programme were regularly communicated with them.
Security	
As the security situation deteriorated, the programme encountered some challenges. The main challenges were security incidents on demining personnel and stolen demining equipment. Due to the security situation, the MAPA teams were not able to complete all of their tasks normally. They had to either stop operations or leave the districts abruptly where fighting was taking place. The other main issue is when our operations colleagues go for site visit, sudden fighting eruptions in those areas could endanger their lives.	All the MAPA teams were advised to be vigilant and liaise with community elders. It had best results when community elders give Demining personnel safer environment to complete their operations. Selection of demining personnel (Community based deminers) from mine affected areas was another option to minimize the risk. In addition, past incidents were discussed and as lessons learned developed among the teams. Staff were given security briefings to avoid loss of life in those volatile areas. Meanwhile, since the outbreak of COVID-19, all staff were advised to take precautionary measures both in the field and at HQ level to ensure their safety. Those colleagues who had visited the suspected COVID-19 patients were advised to quarantine themselves and if symptoms were witnessed, they were asked to test themselves.
Land Release (Survey & Clearance)	

<p>a) Possible lack of evidence-based survey requests from the communities.</p> <p>b) Potential ineffective implementation of LR process</p> <p>c) Demining Accident</p> <p>d) Setting unrealistic LR target. The IPs pressure on demining teams to achieve the target</p> <p>e) Missed EOs</p> <p>f) Inexperienced community based deminers</p> <p>Possible negative perception among communities</p>	<p>a) Implementation of evidence-based land release process.</p> <p>b) Strengthen monitoring, training of personnel engaged in LR and validation of LR processes and outputs at field level.</p> <p>c) Monitor employee health and safety standards. Provide appropriate training, suitable equipment including PPE, ambulances and trauma kits in line with relevant standards and SOPs.</p> <p>d) Screening of the same geographical field historical data, joint field visits, considering MAPA standard productivity rate, systematic review of technical proposals.</p> <p>e) Strict adherence to standards, employ appropriate equipment, trained personnel and methodology, extensive implementation of QM.</p> <p>f) Existence of proper recruitment policy for IPs and ensuring its implementation, training and monitoring.</p> <p>Proper community liaison and inclusion of concerned community elders in decision making concerning recruitment</p>
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Clearance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security incidents on demining teams. • Suspension of mine action projects. • Monitoring visits from some of mine action projects not conducted due to security problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPs and commercial demining companies were encouraged to conduct proper liaison with the local elders to make sure the security of their staff is maintained. • The IPs were asked to provide proof of their duty of care for their staff. • Mine action organisations were asked to facilitate monitoring visits, and the issue was reflected in the balance scorecard (BSC).
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Explosive Ordinance Risk Education

<p>* Physical access to implement mine/ERW risk education in conflict affected and contested areas.</p> <p>* EORE TOT for MOE and directorate of Kochi school teachers could not be implemented due to reduced funding.</p>	<p>The following new initiatives in EORE will be introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EORE through TVs ○ EORE through Awaaz Afghanistan ○ EORE through radio ○ EORE through new activity cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MOE Child Protection Officers (CPOs) with coordination of DMAC EORE department were able to conduct EORE for students and teachers with little facilities. ● Conduct EORE sessions for adults, using the new EORE flip charts that will be developed.
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Victim Assistance

<p>Limitation in access to services (<i>physically, culturally and financially</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MMD has been supported with the development of physical accessibility concept that is accepted by the Office of the President and presidential directive has been sent to all ministries for their consideration and implementation. - 10 women bench workers are trained in physical rehabilitation and a number of female technicians and Physiotherapists have graduated from three years' diploma in Physical Rehabilitation by HI, SCA under EC fund. - Mobile physical rehabilitation clinics helped mitigate access constraints.
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<p>Lack of understanding of EO-survivors/disability issues and inclusion may result in slow implementation, diverging vision, low participation of persons with disabilities and low quality in implemented activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focus on awareness raising on disability inclusion and a social and right-based approach to disability among key stakeholders ➤ Provide training for management and mid-level staff from line ministries on the strategy and action plan ➤ Develop and implement robust capacity building plans on disability inclusion for each line ministry and provincial governors’ offices <p>From the inception phase, provide technical training to representatives of different groups of persons with disabilities to ensure their meaningful participation at all levels and stages</p>
<p>Lack of funding may result in delayed and slow implementation of planned activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further identify internal resources to be allocated to planned activities ➤ Provide training for financial managers of line ministries on survivors/disability-sensitive budgeting <p>Approach international organisations, multi-donors trust funds and donors to fill funding gaps for targeted activities.</p>
<p>Lack of adequate capacity within MMD – affects implementation, coordination, advocacy, and realization of strategy.</p>	<p>Capacity Development Plan for MMD has been developed with support from COMAC and DMAC.</p>

Chapter Five: Conclusion

As illustrated in the table below, as a result of clearance in 1399 and the years before that, the size of the legacy contamination has been reduced. However, the total size of contamination in the country is still significant and currently at 1474.38 sq. kilometres. The ongoing conflict in various parts of the country has led to a spread of ERW, AIM and IHA. Insecurity in areas where mine action projects were planned meant that these projects were delayed and, in some cases, moved to other areas. Thus, the annual clearance target was not achieved. This trend has continued for the past seven years and the ongoing conflict, especially since 2009 has added a new burden to the existing contamination.

Remaining contamination as of the end of 1399

Type of Hazard	Number of Hazard	Area of Hazard (sq km)
AIM	503	33.23
Anti-personnel mine	1,836	155.51
Anti-tank mine	1,225	275.33
Battlefield/ERW contamination	361	148.19
Firing Range	43	657.00
IHA	244	205.12
Total	4,212	1474.38

As demonstrated in the above table, despite considerable progress, the size of the remaining contamination is still enormous. Nevertheless, despite the unstable security situation, which has made the operating environment ever more challenging for MAPA partners, the programme has made steady progress over the last year.

During 1399, the Programme managed to secure 32.2 million USD of which 25.8 million USD was spent on demining and the remaining amount was spent on risk education, VA and programme management. The required funding was not secured, the overall funding situation in 1399 was worse compared to the previous year (1398) However, because of increased advocacy during 1399, and the MAPA was able to convince Germany to fund the clearance of their abandoned firing ranges in Balkh province. The German Government has since awarded the project to an international Company which will be implemented through a national commercial company during 2021.

In terms of clearance, MAPA was able to clear 67 sq. Kilometres of contaminated land in the country. Since the inception of the programme in 1367 (1989), the MAPA has addressed almost 81.3 per cent of recorded contamination in the country; however, as of the end of the Afghan year 1399, 265 districts in

34 provinces of the country remain impacted, affecting an estimated number of 2.5 million people living within one kilometre of contaminated land.



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