



# **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

## **Afghanistan's Statement on Clearance – Article Five**

### **Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention**

Intersessional Meetings, 22 – 24 May 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

*Excellencies,*

*Distinguished Colleagues,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Afghan delegation, I am honoured to present Afghanistan's achievements and challenges in fulfilling its commitments under Article Five of the Convention.

Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world. 3,480 recorded hazards, covering 666 square kilometres remain contaminated by AP & AV mines and continue to affect 1502 communities, 254 districts, in 33 out of 34 provinces of the country. Afghanistan is planning to clear all these recorded AP and AV contaminated areas till March 2023.

In addition to 666 sq.km contaminated areas that are recorded in the national database, there is 235 initially hazard area covering approximately 465 sq.km contaminated by Abandoned Improvised Mines and Explosive Remnants of War and 630 sq.km High Explosive Training Ranges that all need clearance.

At the beginning of the extension request (April 2013) there was 3,439 recorded Anti-Personnel hazards covering 266 sq. km area from which so far 192 sq. km area has been released (166.4 sq. km through clearance, 22 sq. km through cancellation and the remaining 3.5 sq. km through reduction), this includes 38 sq. km of land release since January 2018. Of 38 sq.km area cleared in 2018, over 9,000 AP mines and 13,656 other explosive devices were destroyed.

In addition, remnants of the ongoing armed conflicts add to scale of contamination though the actual extent of new contamination is not yet fully determined. This having been said, we know that on average some 125 Afghan civilians lose their lives or get injured by landmines, ERW and AIM every month, which is one of the highest casualty rates in the world. It is worth mentioning that around 52 % of the civilian accidents are caused by improvised mines, 47% by ERW and some 1% by legacy landmines. Sadly, children comprise 59 percent of civilian casualties caused by mines and ERW.

Unfortunately, improvised mines are still used by anti-government elements as a weapon of choice and these devices are posing a serious threat to the lives of civilians. To address this issue, recently the required AMAS for survey and clearance of AIM contaminated land has been developed by DMAC and IPs through a joint effort and the IPs are developing their SOPs in

view of the recently released AIM AMAS. The national policy on survey and clearance of improvised mines is already in place. Aligned with this effort, one of the MAPA implementing partners has started to train their staff clearance of improvised mines as a pilot project in Helmand Province. Conduct of Non-Technical Survey in some 10 districts contaminated by IM has already been started. It is notable that the Afghan National Security Forces also clear Improvised Mines and other types of Improvised Explosive Devices.

Afghanistan has a detailed work plan to achieve mine-free status by 2023. We are now into the seventh year of the Extension Work Plan. Although we achieved the clearance target for the first year, 2013, achievements respectively were only 69.8% of the target for year two, 60% for year three, 54% for year 4, 34% for year 5 and 38.5% year six. The reasons for not achieving the clearance target was funding shortfall and continually adding the remaining uncleared balance of previous years to subsequent years.

Looking at the funding status for 2019, it is clear that we will not be able to meet our annual targets. As an example, MAPA's funding target for 2019 is USD 95 million, of which USD 23 million has so far been secured. This is approximately 24% of our funding target for 2019.

To overcome this challenge, we work hard to keep MAPA not just highly effective, but also cost-efficient, delivering positive value for money in what

is recognised as one of the most difficult operating environments in the world.

On a final note, on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to express our gratitude for the contributions of all donors and partners.

Thank you very much



State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs  
**Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)**

## APMBC Intersessional Meeting

22-24 May 2019

### Summary of Progress made

- Current deadline: [31 March 2023]
- Request for extension for a period of 5 years until [1 April 2023-31 March 2028]

#### Contamination in total at the time of submission of the recent extension request (April 2013):

Number of hazards	3,439
Area in sq. meter	266,357,040

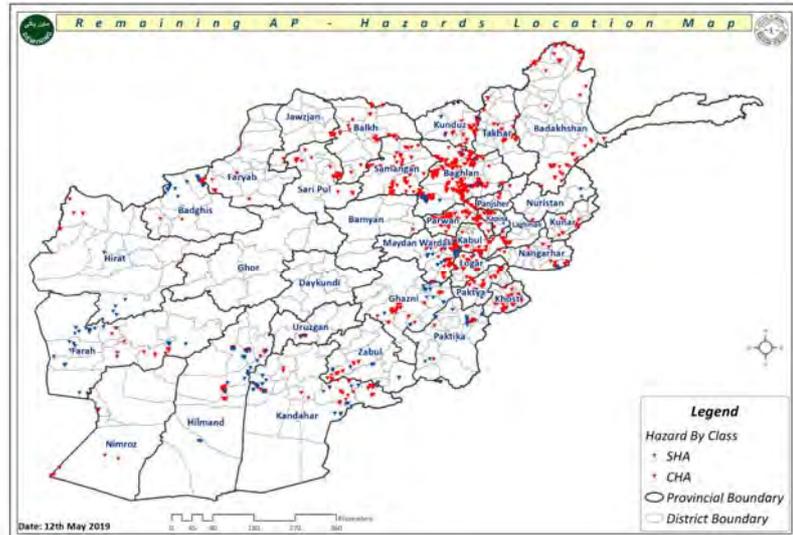
#### Progress made so far:

Description	Since Ext. Request (Apr-2013)		Since January 2018 till March 2019	
	Number of hazards	Size in sq. meter	Number of hazards	Size in sq. meter
Cancelled through non-technical survey	320	22,114,139	28	1,895,176
Reduced through technical survey	3,116	3,566,295	629	1,209,944
Released through clearance		166,427,365		34,934,523

Anti-Personnel Mines Destroyed	9,835
Other (AT-32 AIM-4 ERW 13,620)	13,656

## Remaining Challenges

- ❑ 265 Suspected Hazards  
(84,307,028 sq. m)
  - ❑ 1,705 Confirmed Hazards  
(126,690,243 sq. m)
- Total: 1970 Hazards  
(210,997,271 sq. m)



## Timeline for addressing remaining challenges

- **Required Survey Activities:**
  - NTS of 236 recorded IHA with approx size of 464.7 sq. Km
  - NTS of 110 districts remaining from MEIFCS
  - Assessment of ad hoc requested areas
- **Highlight what the plan / timeline is for addressing the remaining challenges\***

Year	Number of Areas	Amount of Area by sq. m
2019	893	77,082,982
2020	186	48,372,296
2021	430	51,774,630
2022	457	45,477,222

\*subject to sufficient funding / no new contamination

## Challenges and Needs

Challenges - examples	Needs - examples
Insufficient funding: (45 % required funding received in recent 6 years, while for current year 24 % secured so far)	72 mil. \$ needed for current year to achieve the MBT target, this includes all pillars of mine action and cost of remaining other types of contamination
Hard to reach areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access negotiation to be enhanced</li> <li>▪ High level UN talk to the AGEs</li> </ul>
Finalising nationwide NTS	It depends on access negotiation and funding
Ongoing fighting: (results in contamination of areas by ERW and AIM)	Peace