

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

**S1.** First of all, I would like to thank the Convention Committee on Article 5 implementation in organizing this meeting despite the continuing difficulties and limitations caused by the global pandemic.

Today I would like to present the key points of Tajikistan efforts in land release operations and Mine Risk Education and Reduction for the period of 2019-2021.

In 2021, Tajikistan continued its land release operations with the same capacity that was in 2020:

- Six manual demining teams of NPA.
- Six manual demining teams of HDC MoD.
- Four non-technical survey and TS teams.
- One WAD team of FSD.

**S2.** On this slide you can see Tajikistan progress for 2019-2021. This map shows the districts with different colors, from which the green color belongs to the districts already free from mines. For 2019-2021 we had the target for clearing 4,035,915 m<sup>2</sup>, but in reality by end of October 2021 the result is 4,121,464 m<sup>2</sup>, which is 102% of the planned target.

You can see more details on the slide.

During 2019 – end October 2021, previously unknown mined areas (without MFRs) measuring 1,683,218 m<sup>2</sup> were identified. Also confirmed minefields with MFRs measuring 835,370 m<sup>2</sup>.

In 2020 and 2021, mechanical demining assets were used on the flat areas of the Tajik-Afghan border to support mine clearance process in Tajikistan. Total processed by MDM – 148,712 m<sup>2</sup>.

Thanks to district-by-district approach, which was used in 2021, Khovaling district announced a mine free district, after NTS/TS and clearance activities of the 2 minefields in Shugnow community.

**S3.** Here you can see how the cleared land is used after the hand-over. The major part (colored in yellow) is used for pastureland, dark green and gray show the percentage of land used by border guards and for agriculture accordingly.

**S4.** Despite the significant progress made by the country there is still much to be done ahead. Based on the information in IMSMA, the remaining challenge as of end October 2021 is 164 hazardous areas (CHA and SHA) measuring 8,064,664 m<sup>2</sup> to be addressed during the following years. To achieve this goal it is highly required to increase the existing capacity.

**S5.** This page demonstrates the existing and required capacity for conducting survey and demining operations to meet the obligations under Article 5 Extension document. The existing 4 Survey teams are to be increased up to 6 teams. The existing 12 clearance teams are to be increased up to 18 teams.

**S6.** This table shows the annual milestones of land clearance to be achieved by the end of 2025, as well as current national and international resources, and additional funding required for increasing the existing capacity. As you can see, the amount of USD 10 060 906 is required to be added to complete the set tasks by the deadline.

**S7.** Around half million of local population were living in mine-affected areas. Zones of risks are usually in hills and mountains where most villages are located.

Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines and explosive remnants of war is 885 victims (535 survivors, 350 fatalities). In 2021: 2 men injured and 1 man died.

**S8.** Now let me say some words about Mine Risk Education and Reduction.

Taking into account the fact that Mine Risk Education is one of the pillars of the humanitarian mine action, Tajikistan pays a special attention to this direction. MRE sessions for teachers, schoolchildren, border guards, and community members of mine risk areas located within Tajikistan are conducted every year to distribute relevant information and knowledge among at-risk population residing close to contaminated areas, which significantly reduces the risk of injury or death from a landmine/UXO explosion.

Here you can see the statistics of MRE activities coverage in the country for the period of 2019-2021.

**S9.** The target audience covered by MRE interventions in the country are herds, farmers, border guards, children, adults, etc.

**S10.** MRE sessions for teachers and community members of mine risk areas located within Tajikistan are conducted every year by TNMAC specialists and RCST field staff for distribution of relevant knowledge among at-risk population residing close to contaminated areas.

NTS and TS teams, before starting practical field operations, conduct MRE sessions and inform nearby communities about the danger of mines and UXOs.

MRE activities are conducted for various groups of the population, taking into account the gender and age categories, with civilian population, communities, shepherds, tourists and others.

Information is provided through the presentation and dissemination of handouts (booklets, brochures, banners) in schools involving school teachers, in communities and in mosques, in military units.

**S11.** In 2021, the International Mine Awareness Day was held in one of the most mine contaminated areas of Tajikistan Sagirdasht jamoat, Darvoz district.

This event aimed at prevention of mine accidents, explosions, and the penetration of the local population into dangerous minefields, as well as to establish close cooperation between the rural population and the local authorities. This event brought together the representatives of district administration, the district department for emergency situations, representatives of the education department, internal affairs, teachers of secondary schools, representatives of border detachments, the management staff of military units of Sagirdasht village, and the media.

**S12.** We are in full commitment to perform the planned activity with the purpose to meet the obligations and make the life of our people safe!

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank our current donors, US DoS, OSCE, Norway and our partners GICHD, ISU, ICRC for their valuable contribution to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. Also, we present our highest gratitude and appreciation to the international agencies (NPA and FSD) that have been involved in the implementation of mine action program in Tajikistan.

Thank you for your attention!