

# AFGHANISTAN



## CLEARING THE MINES 2019

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2023  
NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)  
MINE CONTAMINATION:

**MASSIVE, 200km<sup>2</sup>** (ESTIMATED)  
AT LEAST

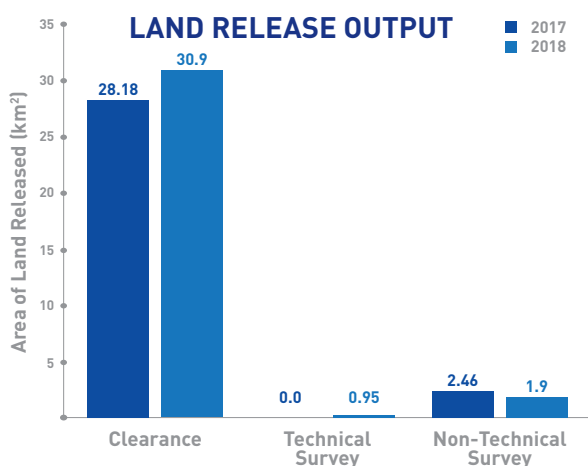
AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2018

**30.90km<sup>2</sup>**

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2018

**8,865**

(including 47 destroyed  
during spot tasks)



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per Maputo +15 Political Declaration aspiration): **LOW**

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Improved donor funding enabled the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) to increase annual clearance of anti-personnel mined area to 30.9km<sup>2</sup> in 2018. The Department of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) introduced a national standard for clearing mines of an improvised nature (called "Abandoned Improvised Mines" (AIMs) nationally) in March 2019, the first national programme to do so. Clearance capacity

operating to the national standard had been deployed by The HALO Trust already in November 2018. DMAC also established a technical working group to address survey and clearance of these improvised mines. Danish Demining Group (DDG) deployed the first all-woman demining team in Bamyan province in 2018.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Afghanistan should revise and update its Article 5 deadline extension request to provide a timeline to take account of lower levels of donor funding and the additional challenge of AIMs.
- The Afghan government should provide funding to mine action, particularly in areas where survey and clearance facilitate priority national development projects.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	7	The MAPA has an advanced understanding of its anti-personnel mine problem but is still getting to grips with the extent of contamination by improvised mines, which now account for the vast majority of casualties.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP &amp; PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	8	DMAC manages and coordinates mine action and completed its transition to full national ownership in June 2018 but the government does not provide significant funding, leaving it dependent on international donors.
<b>GENDER</b> (10% of overall score)	6	Gender policies are in the process of development and subject to regional cultural practices. DDG pioneered deployment of an all-women demining team in Bamyan province, but the extent to which national organisations pursue gender issues is unclear. Casualty and risk education data are disaggregated by gender.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT &amp; REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	8	DMAC has an experienced information management team working with an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation database that provides extensive, disaggregated data although operators say data entry sometimes lags. Afghanistan submits Article 7 transparency reports annually but sometimes late. Most national operators did not respond to requests for information.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	8	Afghanistan's Article 5 deadline extension request was among the most comprehensive and DMAC produces annual workplans. Implementation has been hampered by funding shortfalls and insecurity.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	6	The MAPA has updated national standards compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). It introduced new standards for clearance of mines of an improvised nature in March 2019 and has also set out an environmental policy and set of standing operating procedures (SoPs). DMAC and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) were reviewing land release standards with a view to increasing operational efficiency.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	7	The MAPA has maintained anti-personnel mine clearance at a consistent level in the face of funding and insecurity constraints, but in 2018 was still developing a strategy for dealing with mines of an improvised nature.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: GOOD</b>

## DEMINING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

- Afghan National Disaster Management Authority
- Department of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC)
- Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)
- Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA)
- Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA)
- Mine Detection Centre (MDC)
- Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR)
- 15 commercial companies accredited, one reported active in anti-personnel mine clearance in 2018

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Demining Group (DDG)
- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

### OTHER ACTORS

- UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)