

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2022
EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 MARCH 2026

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION: MEDIUM

BASED ON NATIONAL AUTHORITY DATA

12 KM²

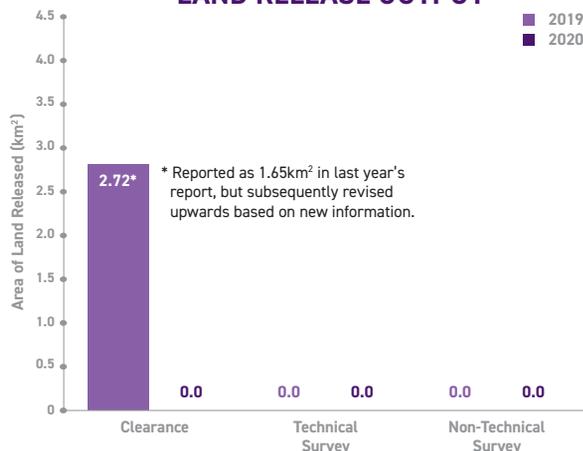
SUBMUNITION
CLEARANCE IN 2020

0 KM²

SUBMUNITIONS
DESTROYED IN 2020

276

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Afghanistan added three new confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) to its national database in 2020, increasing its estimated total area of cluster munition remnants (CMR) contamination by almost one third. One of the three CHAs identified in 2020 was located in Faryab province where the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) said liaison with local communities had enabled implementing partners to gain access for mine action for the first time in a decade. Discovery of eleven new hazardous areas in 2021, coupled with delays in delivery of donor funding, meant Afghanistan would be unable to complete clearance as expected within its CCM Article 4 deadline. In August 2021, it submitted a request for a four-year extension.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Afghanistan should confirm whether there are any additional cluster munition contaminated areas (including any areas suspected to contain submunitions), beyond those already set out in its latest extension request, which it has not yet surveyed, including in areas where security conditions currently prevent access.
- In view of continuous discovery of unexploded submunitions, Afghanistan should set out clearly the national capacity it will have to address residual CMR identified after fulfilment of its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 clearance obligations.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	8	9	Afghanistan has known and suspected CMR contamination that means that it will not fulfil its Article 4 clearance obligations by its March 2022 deadline. It continues to identify previously unrecorded submunition hazards, underscoring the possibility that further areas needing clearance will emerge over time. Operators also encounter scattered "legacy" submunitions in the course of other tasks.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is nationally managed but most DMAC salaries and operations are funded by international donors and CMR clearance is funded by the United States and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	7	6	DMAC is committed to mainstreaming gender which featured in the 2016–20 strategic plan. Implementing partners have made slow progress putting the plan into practice but most added gender focal points in 2020. Although women are hired in community liaison and risk education as well as administrative positions, recruitment of women for operational roles in Afghanistan's deeply conservative society continues to be limited. DMAC appointed a new Gender and Diversity Manager in October 2020, and MAPA organisations now each have a gender focal point.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	8	8	DMAC has an Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation database and is preparing to upgrade to IMSMA Core with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Operators say DMAC's data entry can be slow but it provides extensive disaggregated information. Afghanistan routinely submits comprehensive Article 7 transparency reports. These have often been late due to slow government review procedures but in 2021 the report was submitted in early May.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	8	8	Afghanistan has requested a four-year extension to its Article 4 deadline, during which it plans to release the remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas. Afghanistan included a work plan in its extension request, with annual CMR clearance planned up to October 2025. More broadly, DMAC worked with the GICHD to prepare a five-year mine action strategic plan for 2021–26.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	7	7	The MAPA has national mine action standards in Dari and English that are subject to regular review and in 2019 it introduced new standards for clearance of mines of an improvised nature.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	8	DMAC had planned to complete CMR clearance in 2020, then by October 2021. Due to non-receipt of expected funding, the MAPA did not release any CMR contamination in 2020, but had still aimed to complete clearance by the end of 2021. However, further delays to funding, in addition to discovery of 11 cluster munition-contaminated areas in 2021, meant that Afghanistan will not meet its Article 4 deadline and has had to request an extension. The length of the extension—four years—was an unexpected surprise, and is linked to additional funding only being made available from end of 2022 and clearance operations in Paktya only being possible for a six month period during, due to adverse weather conditions in the winter.
Average Score	7.1	7.8	Overall Programme Performance: GOOD

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Directorate 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 and Dog Centre (MDC)
- Organisation for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding sector (formerly known as Danish Demining Group (DDG))
- HALO Trust
- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- 18 companies (15 national and 3 international), but none active in CMR clearance.

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Afghanistan has limited CMR contamination, in comparison to its much larger landmine problem, and had expressed confidence it would complete its CCM Article 4 obligations in 2021 or by its March 2022 deadline. Instead, continuing discoveries of hazardous areas in 2021 made it necessary for Afghanistan to request an extension of its Article 4 deadline. In August 2021, it asked for another four years.¹

In 2020, DMAC had added three CHAs covering 1.72km² to the database which brought the number of hazardous areas to 10 and raised total contamination by nearly 30% to 7.54km² at the end of the year (see Table 1).² The 2020 additions included two CHAs covering 1.67km² in eastern province of Nangahar. DMAC also added a small CHA with unexploded US-made BLU-97 submunitions in northern Faryab province, not previously known to be affected by CMR.³

At the time it submitted its request in August 2021, Afghanistan had roughly 12km² of known and suspected CMR contamination outstanding.⁴ This comprised 21 confirmed CMR hazardous areas (CHAs) covering a little over 9.89km², including 11 CHAs identified by HALO Trust rapid response teams during 2021, and suspected hazardous areas in Paktya province thought to cover approximately 3km².

The confirmed contamination consisted of:⁵

- 5 CHAs in Faryab and Paktya with a total area of 3.58km² undergoing clearance and due for completion in 2021.⁶ At the time the request was submitted DMAC estimated 40% had already been cleared leaving approximately 2.15km² still to be cleared;

- 5 CHAs in Nangahar covering a total of 4.23km², including two discovered in 2020;
- 11 CHAs discovered in 2021. These included seven in Paktya, covering 5.26km², two in Bamyán (392,756m²) affected by Soviet-era cluster munition remnants, and two in Samangan (11,715m²).

The hazardous areas in Paktya province were close to an existing project but had not been surveyed previously because armed groups did not allow access. DAFA believed there may still be more unexploded submunitions in Zurmat district of Paktya province in locations where armed groups still deny access. DMAC said these areas are thought to cover around 3km².⁷

Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) operations in 2020 destroyed 276 submunitions in eight provinces. These consisted mostly of Soviet-era submunitions, pointing to the widespread presence of scattered items dating from the decade-long war of the 1980s.⁸

CMR make up only a small part of Afghanistan's extensive explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination, which includes a wide range of other unexploded ordnance. There are also hundreds of square kilometres of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mine contamination, including mines of an improvised nature (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Afghanistan for further information).

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area (at end 2020)⁹

Province	District	CHAs	Area (m ²)
Nangahar	Pachier Agam, Dur Baba	5	4,233,907
Faryab		1	46,467
Paktya	Zurmat	4	3,259,627
Totals		10	7,540,001

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Committee fulfils the role of a mine action authority acting through the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). The MAPA is led by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), a department of ANDMA. From its headquarters in Kabul and seven regional offices, DMAC manages and coordinates the work of national and international implementing partners. DMAC provides strategic planning and annual work plans, sets priorities and standards, accredits operators, conducts quality management operations, manages the mine action database, and conducts resource mobilisation.¹⁰

The MAPA is nationally managed but remains almost entirely internationally funded. DMAC transitioned from being a project of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to national management, a process formally completed in June 2018. Most of DMAC's staff of 155 is paid by UNMAS and ITF Enhancing Human Security. The Government of Afghanistan paid 15 staff.¹¹

The MAPA employed a total of 5,910 people at the end of 2020, including 4,700 people in field operations. Of 48 humanitarian and commercial organisations involved in the mine action sector, 31 were accredited for survey and clearance, and the remainder were engaged in victim assistance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), or a monitoring and support function.¹² Most explosive ordnance survey and clearance is undertaken by nine humanitarian NGOs. DMAC coordinates closely with implementing partners through technical working groups that address planning and priority setting, operations, survey, mechanical clearance, risk education, improvised mines, quality management, and victim assistance.¹³

Afghanistan issued a decree in September 2019 adding an annex to the existing Law on Firearms Ammunitions and Explosive Materials, which includes cluster munitions in a ban on the use, acquisition, trading and stockpiling of weapons, ammunition, and explosive items without a requisite licence.¹⁴

The government earmarked a payment of AFN 20 million (approximately US\$250,000) for a humanitarian mine clearance project for the first time in 2019 but lengthy bureaucratic procedures meant the funding was not received until 2020.¹⁵ The government pledged additional funding of about US\$500,000 in 2020 for demining operations in Nangahar province's Achin district.¹⁶

UNMAS supported DMAC in 2020 providing funding of US\$7.1 million through the Voluntary Trust Fund, down from US\$17.4 million provided the previous year. UNMAS noted that donors delivered the funding previously committed but new funding was limited reflecting the priority given to the COVID-19 response. Funding went to six implementing partners for survey, clearance, and the delivery of EORE. UNMAS operated in 2020 with 32 national and 3 international

staff providing technical advice, training, and capacity building. It expected to add three more international and one national staff in 2021. UNMAS also reports that it has conducted advocacy at a political level for humanitarian mine action with armed non-state actors, including the Taliban, with leadership and in the field at a local community level to facilitate access for survey and clearance.¹⁷

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) provided third-party monitoring of all mine action and conventional weapons disposal projects funded by the US Department of State, working with 18 staff, of whom six were international staff. In 2020, it monitored a total of 21 grants worth approximately US\$13 million to nine organisations, including 14 grants for mine clearance and 1 for non-technical survey. The grants did not include survey or clearance of CMR hazards.¹⁸

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The MAPA has had a policy on gender in mine action since 2014 and set gender mainstreaming as one of four goals in its 2016–20 strategic plan. It states that "achievable targets, reflecting prevailing circumstances and conditions, will be adopted to support and encourage progress wherever possible."¹⁹ However, Afghanistan's Article 4 deadline extension request noted that "the ongoing conflict, political issues and uncertain peace process in Afghanistan has major implications for women's workforce participation in different areas of Afghanistan."²⁰

Progress in the prevailing circumstances has continued at a modest pace. In 2021, DMAC planned to reinforce its 155 staff by hiring one woman employed as a human resources assistant and three women as interns for the gender and diversity, information management, and risk education departments. In June 2021, DMAC said it was awaiting receipt of funding to make those appointments. In MAPA's workforce, the number of women employees had increased from 170 towards the end of 2019 to 212 in the last quarter of 2020.²¹

After leaving the position vacant for some months, DMAC appointed a new gender focal point in October 2020 and reported that by the end of the year the new incumbent had reviewed the gender and diversity content of DMAC's internal policy documents and guidelines, provided training for the gender focal points of implementing partners as well as some training on non-technical survey for male and female staff of DMAC and IPs.²² DMAC reported that all vacancy announcements are now gender sensitive, that a woman is present in all recruitment panels, and that women candidates' scores are automatically accorded extra points, in line with Afghan labour law. It also reported having a human resources manual that recognises rights of female employees, including maternity leave and reduced working hours for pregnant women.²³ DMAC operates a hotline taking calls from affected communities which it said also allows interests of minorities to be taken into account.²⁴

DMAC reported that six national implementing partners all now have a dedicated gender and diversity officer. UNMAS

reported it recruited gender mainstreaming officers for five of them in 2020 who were working in conjunction with DMAC and UNMAS on reviewing their gender standards and training. They were also responsible for ensuring implementing partner projects engaged with women and addressed the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys.²⁵ In 2020, GICHD held a non-technical survey training and according to GICHD at least two operators had plans in 2021 to deploy couple teams to conduct non-technical survey.²⁶ Some implementing partners employ women in operational as well as administrative roles but deploying women in field operations in particular remains challenging in Afghanistan's deeply conservative society. Danish Demining Group (DDG), now known as Danish Refugee Council Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding Sector, operated with female deminers for the first time in 2018 in Bamyan province. After they completed the DDG demining tasks, the teams were taken on by OMAR to conduct battle area clearance (BAC) on firing ranges in Bamyan province.²⁷

A technical working group on gender and diversity meets regularly with implementing partners to promote implementation.²⁸ DMAC's review of IP project proposals also ensures gender issues are considered in operational planning.²⁹ In addition, GICHD reported that there are gender mainstreaming checklists which DMAC applies to operators and feeds into grant management systems.³⁰

The gender strategy and Afghanistan's national mine action standards (AMAS) for community liaison underscore the importance of including women and girls as well as boys and men in non-technical survey, and pre- and post-clearance impact assessments and for equal access to employment for women. The strategy called for implementing partners to identify forums in which to access under-represented groups, including women and girls, and to ensure data collection and reporting was disaggregated for gender and age.³¹ The AMAS also refer to the importance of consulting representatives of different groups, such as tribal and religious leaders.³² EORE teams are required to include a female and male trainer.³³

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

DMAC is preparing to upgrade its national database from the present New Generation version to IMSMA Core but says the process of cleaning up data to be uploaded into the new system will not be completed until 2023,³⁴ two years beyond the expected completion date previously predicted.³⁵ In the meantime, DMAC in collaboration with the GICHD brought into service in 2020 the Mine Action Reporting System (MARS), a digital tool for improving data collection in the field. MARS will initially be used for post-demining impact assessments and quality management but will later cover all survey and clearance activities as well.³⁶

Afghanistan submits comprehensive Article 7 reports annually and DMAC's information department produces a range of monthly, quarterly, and annual reports as well as reports on request and maps.³⁷ DMAC also holds monthly data coordination meetings which implementing partners said had resulted in improvements, but complained that entry of survey and clearance data continued to be slow because of a shortage of trained information management staff in DMAC.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Afghanistan does not have a CMR-specific strategic plan. The Article 4 deadline extension request submitted in August 2021 asked for four more years until March 2026. It included annual and monthly targets for non-technical and technical survey and clearance of 9.89km² of CMR contamination between November 2022 and October 2025. This includes 0.65km² in 2022, 5.35km² in 2023, 2.14km² in 2024, and 1.75km² in 2025.³⁸

Afghanistan's Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in 2012, foresaw completion of clearance of all known mine and ERW contamination by the requested Article 5 deadline of March 2023. This remains a benchmark against which DMAC measures progress but long ago ceased to be a realistic target given shortfalls in the level of financing needed to achieve it. DMAC, working in close coordination with the GICHD, has drafted a new five-year mine action strategic plan for 1400 to 1404 (April 2021 to March 2026), including annual work-plan targets,³⁹ which it planned to launch during a high-level event in September 2021.⁴⁰

The national strategic plan for 2016–20 reaffirmed Afghanistan's identified four broad goals: facilitating development; engaging with other sectors and government departments to have them include mine action in their development plans; preventive action to reduce the impact of mines and ERW, including by enhanced resource mobilisation, completing survey of all communities, conducting EORE, and keeping its extension request work plan on track, responsive functions to provide required assistance for the victims of explosive ordnance; and gender and diversity mainstreaming.⁴¹

DMAC awards tasks to implementing partners through a process of competitive bidding. The US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement has asked DAFA to bid for clearance of five tasks, four in Paktia province and one in Faryab. UNMAS planned to issue a call for proposals for the remaining five tasks (also to be funded by the US),⁴² but this did not cover the 11 cluster munition-contaminated areas subsequently identified since April 2021. Afghanistan's extension request indicated the US would provide the required funding in late 2022 or early 2023.⁴³

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Afghanistan has comprehensive national mine action standards that are International Mine Action Standard (IMAS)-compatible and subject to regular review. CMR survey and clearance are addressed in AMAS 06.02 (Battle Area Clearance).⁴⁴

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Mine action is conducted mainly by six national and three international implementing partners. Several, including ATC, DAFA, HALO Trust and MCPA, have conducted survey of cluster munitions hazards in recent years but clearance has only involved two. DAFA conducted five of the six tasks tackled in 2019 and ATC the other.⁴⁵ Most operators tackle some residual CMR in the course of clearing mined and battle areas.

In its 2021 CCM Article 4 extension request, Afghanistan indicated that there are approximately ten demining NGOs and 23 commercial demining companies capable of conducting CMR clearance.⁴⁶

Only manual clearance of CMR is conducted in Afghanistan.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

Afghanistan did not cancel, reduce, or clear any cluster munition-contaminated areas in 2020.⁴⁷ However, 276 submunitions were destroyed in EOD operations during 2020.

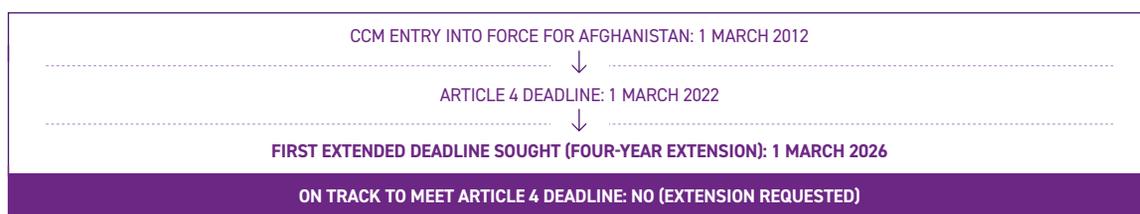
SURVEY IN 2020

Intensive liaison with local communities and armed entities enabled an implementing partner to work in Faryab province for the first time in a decade. Non-technical survey conducted by ATC identified a small CHA of 46,467m² affected by BLU-97 submunitions. Non-technical survey in Nangahar also confirmed three hazardous areas totalling 1,720,714m².⁴⁸

CLEARANCE IN 2020

Afghanistan did not conduct any area clearance of CMR-affected land in 2020. DMAC reported that HALO Trust and DDG destroyed a total of 276 submunitions in the course of EOD operations in nine provinces.⁴⁹ They included 12 BLU-97 items found in Kabul province and the remainder, described by DMAC as "legacy contamination", consisted mainly of Russian-made fragmentation submunitions.⁵⁰ DDG reported destroying 69 submunitions, mostly in the Kabul area.⁵¹

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 4 of the CCM, Afghanistan is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2022. Afghanistan recognised it would be unable to meet this deadline and in August 2021 requested an extension of four years.

Afghanistan made no progress on clearance in 2020 and continuing discoveries of CMR hazardous areas derailed prospects for achieving completion within its original Article 4 deadline. At the end of 2020, DMAC had identified 10 tasks affecting 7.5km² remaining to be cleared. Although this significantly exceeded the most CMR clearance conducted in any recent year (see Table 2) Afghanistan had, as recently as March 2021, still expressed confidence it would be able to complete clearance by the end of the year or by March 2022 if it received the necessary donor funding and insecurity did not block access to the tasks.⁵²

With funding from PM/WRA, DAFA had started work on five tasks which, according to latest estimates totalled about 3.58km² and by July 2021 had cleared around 40%. UNMAS had issued calls for proposals from IPs for clearing the other five tasks in Nangahar province carried over from 2020 and totalling about 4.23km² but work could not start because expected donor funding had not been received. It was subsequently agreed that the United States will also fund these five tasks.⁵³ However, in the meantime, survey had found 11 other CMR-contaminated areas in three provinces covering a total of about 5.6km². As a result, Afghanistan realised it would be unable to complete its Article 4 obligations by the start of March 2022 and had to request an extension of its deadline.⁵⁴

Afghanistan requested an extension of four years, requiring deployment of 165 clearance teams at a projected cost of US\$2,350,700.⁵⁵

The surprise in this development was the amount of time requested. In early 2021, DMAC had assessed that it would be able to clear more than 7km² by March 2022 (subject to availability of funding). The extension request seeks four years to tackle what it now estimates may be around 15km². The request identifies a number of challenges to implementation:⁵⁶

- **Insecurity:** which may be the major consideration behind the time requested. The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan has long proved able to operate in areas controlled by anti-government elements, but access requires lengthy negotiation and operations are not possible in areas of active hostilities that have expanded sharply in recent months.
- **Climate:** most of the hazards are in cold (high altitude) locations where clearance operations are not possible in winter months between November and May.
- **Funding shortfalls:** these have constrained Afghanistan's ability to implement its strategy for mine and CMR clearance. Funding that was expected to come through UNMAS for CMR clearance in 2021 did not materialise, necessitating discussions to find a replacement donor. The extension request says the US PM/WRA will be able to provide the funding needed by late 2022 or early 2023.

Table 2: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2020	0
2019	2.72 ⁵⁷
2018	4.24
2017	2.89
2016	0
Total	9.85

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

Afghanistan's Article 4 extension request did not specify plans for tackling contamination identified after completion. It noted, however, that the MAPA comprises 10 demining NGOs and 23 commercial companies with trained staff and capacity for clearing cluster munitions.⁵⁸

1 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary.

2 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, Head of Planning and Programme, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

3 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 11 April 2021.

4 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

5 Ibid., Annex C, p. 19.

6 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 8 July 2021.

7 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary, Executive Summary and p. 10.

8 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 11 April 2021. The provinces included Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Nangarhar, Paktya, and Parwan; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form 3.

9 Email from DMAC, Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, Head of Planning and Programme, 17 March 2021.

10 Email from Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi, Chief of Staff, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)/DMAC, 16 May 2017.

11 Email from DMAC, Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

12 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

13 Email from Abdul Qudos Ziaee, Head of Operations, DMAC, 3 April 2019.

14 CCM Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form A.

15 Email from Fazel Rahman, DMAC, 25 February 2020. The funding was allocated for clearance of a total of 403,423m² in two districts of south-eastern Khost province.

16 Email from Mohammed Shafiq Yousufi, Director, DMAC, 20 July 2020.

17 Email from Sohaila Hashemi, Communications and Advocacy Officer, UNMAS, 22 April 2021.

18 Email from Mats Hektor, Country Director, NPA, 7 and 19 April 2021.

19 DMAC, "National Mine Action Strategic Plan 1395-1399 (2016-2020), State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, undated but 2016, p. 17.

20 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

21 Emails from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March and 21 June 2021.

22 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

23 Emails from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021; and Arianna Calza Bini, GICHD, 27 July 2021.

24 Email from Fazel Rahman, DMAC, 25 February 2020.

25 Email from Sohaila Hashemi, Communications and Advocacy Officer, UNMAS, 22 April 2021.

26 Email from Arianna Calza Bini, GICHD, 27 July 2021.

27 Emails from Daniel Bertoli, Head of Programme - Afghanistan, DDG, 14 April 2021; and Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 21 June 2021.

28 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

29 Email from Fazel Rahman, Project Manager - Operations, DMAC, 25 February 2020.

30 Email from Arianna Calza Bini, GICHD, 27 July 2021.

31 DMAC, "Gender mainstreaming strategy of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan", undated but 2013, pp. 3-9.

32 GICHD, Integrated Capacity Assessment Report, 5 July 2019 (draft), p. 17.

33 Email from Fazel Rahman, DMAC, 25 February 2020.

34 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

35 Emails from Fazel Rahman, DMAC, 25 February and 28 April 2020.

36 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

37 GICHD, Integrated Capacity Assessment Report, 5 July 2019 (draft), p. 16.

38 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Annex D.

39 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 11 April 2021.

40 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 4.

41 DMAC, "National Mine Action Strategic Plan 1395-1399 (2016-2020), State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, undated but 2016, pp. 2-5.

42 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021; and 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 10.

43 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

44 Statement by Mohammed Shafiq, GICHD workshop, Geneva, 26 March 2019.

45 Email from Fazel Rahman, DMAC, 25 February 2020.

46 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary.

47 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

48 Emails from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March and 11 April 2021.

49 Afghanistan's initial 2021 Article 4 deadline extension request reported destruction of 2,718 submunitions in 2020. DMAC subsequently informed Mine Action Review that this was an unintentional error which it planned to correct, and it confirmed that 276 submunitions were destroyed in 2020. Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 8 August 2021.

50 Emails from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March and 11 April 2021.

51 Email from Daniel Bertoli, DDG, 14 April 2021.

52 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 17 March 2021.

53 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 14.

54 Email from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 8 July 2021.

55 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary.

56 Ibid., p. 14.

57 Afghanistan's Article 7 report for 2019 recorded cluster munition clearance of 3.62km². DMAC commented that this might include tasks started in 2018 and that 2.72km² represents clearance conducted in 2019. This total included clearance of 1.07km² which resulted in clearance of 2 submunitions and 1,205 UXO items. Mine Action Review consequently assessed this task as BAC and excluded it from its summary of CMR clearance, which it reported as amounting to 1.65km². DMAC has confirmed that due to a civilian death at this location attributed to a submunition and the suspected presence of other CMR the task was cleared applying cluster munition clearance protocols, not BAC. The Review accordingly has reinstated 2019 CMR clearance of 2.72km². (Emails from Mohammad Akbar Oriakhil, DMAC, 23 and 28 June 2021).

58 2021 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, Executive Summary.