

AFGHANISTAN

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2023
(NOT ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	2017	2016
Problem understood	8	8
Target date for completion of mine clearance	7	7
Targeted clearance	7	7
Efficient clearance	7	7
National funding of programme	4	4
Timely clearance	6	7
Land-release system in place	8	8
National mine action standards	7	6
Reporting on progress	7	7
Improving performance	6	6
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	6.7	6.7

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Afghanistan's mine action programme completed a transition to national ownership in 2017 but is struggling to maintain productivity in the face of financial constraints and deteriorating security which has increased contamination while hampering survey and clearance.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) should update its Article 5 extension request to reflect lower levels of funding and clearance and the additional challenge posed by mines of an improvised nature.
- Afghanistan should act quickly to pass the long-debated national mine action law.
- The government should provide funds from the national budget for mine action.

CONTAMINATION

Afghanistan is one of the countries most affected by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) resulting from the decade-long war of resistance that followed the Soviet invasion of 1979, the 1992–96 internal armed conflict, 1996–2001 fighting between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance, and the United States (US)-led coalition intervention in late 2001, which added considerable quantities of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Continuing conflict between the government, the Taliban and other armed groups is still adding contamination, particularly by mines of an improvised nature, which have overtaken legacy mined areas as the biggest humanitarian threat.¹

By the end of 2017, Afghanistan had 2,073 mined areas containing anti-personnel mines affecting 205km², according to data provided to Mine Action Review by the Department of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC). This represented a second successive year of net decline in the extent of anti-personnel contamination. But surveys continue to find new areas of legacy mine contamination. DMAC added 92km² of mine and ERW contamination to the database in 2017 and reported 20km² affected by abandoned mines of an improvised nature, though it has yet to reach a reliable estimate of much larger areas assessed as contaminated by such mines.²

Table 1: Remaining contamination at the end of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017³

Type of contamination	Hazardous areas					Area (km ²)				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Anti-personnel mines	2,981	2,825	2,765	2,387	2,073	240	230	251	225	205
Anti-vehicle mines	1,140	1,156	1,243	1,145	1,122	236	256	275	277	297
Improvised mines*	28	19	23	N/R	57	5	4	5	N/R	20
ERW**	179	254	279	310	310	35	38	63	89	119
Totals	4,328	4,254	4,310	3,842	3,562	516	528	594	592	641

* Abandoned devices only

** 2017 data includes 18 areas with cluster munition remnants over 6.86km²

In contrast, Afghanistan's latest Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 transparency report said its Article 5 obligations at the end of 2017 comprised 2,130 hazardous areas covering almost 225km² (see Table 2), 7.45km² less than at the start of the year.⁴

Table 2: Anti-personnel mine contamination by region (at end-2017)⁵

Region	Mined areas	Area (km ²)
North-east	703	62.94
Central	595	39.82
South	176	44.70
West	67	34.00
South-east	199	18.77
North	286	15.93
East	104	8.50
Totals	2,130	224.66

DMAC reported that 143 of Afghanistan's 400 districts had been cleared of mines by the end of 2017. The MAPA had declared six districts of Badakhshan to be mine free in April 2017. The HALO Trust reported in February 2018 that the western province of Herat was free of mines after years of operations involving clearance of more than 600 mined areas. Land release had opened up 40km² of farmland.⁶

Mines of an improvised nature

Afghanistan's Article 5 clearance obligations have been significantly increased by landmines of an improvised nature, which have also contributed to a sharp upturn in casualties in recent years. Afghanistan now identifies them as the greatest challenge for the mine action sector.⁷

In 2017, the United Nations recorded 1,019 civilian casualties (438 civilians killed and 581 injured) as a result of pressure-plate mines of an improvised nature, compared with 11 people reported killed and 41 injured by foreign-made anti-personnel mines.⁸ Although the number of civilian casualties from conflict rose sharply

in the first half of 2018, mines of an improvised nature caused 314 casualties (including 114 deaths and 200 injuries), 43% less than in the same period of 2017.⁹

At the request of the National Security Council, DMAC's implementing partners conducted a rapid assessment of 22 provinces at the end of 2016. Implementing partners reported five provinces as inaccessible.¹⁰ In the remaining 17, they identified 270 areas affected by post-2001 ERW, covering an estimated 421km², in which anti-personnel mines accounted for 5.3km² and improvised devices, including pressure-plate mines of an improvised nature, affected 228km². This included almost 55km² classified as high risk, mostly in Kandahar, Helmand, and Urozgan provinces, as well as 3.5km² of medium risk and 170km² as low risk. Anti-vehicle mines affected 90,000m² and ERW were nearly 188km².¹¹

The MAPA entered the assessment results into the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database in late 2017.¹² At the end of March 2018, DMAC estimated that pressure-plate mines of an improvised nature affected an area of 248km².¹³

Other explosive contamination

Afghanistan has massive ERW contamination, which has continued to rise as a result of continuing conflict. DMAC reported total ERW contamination at around 1,674km² as at the end of 2017, reporting "legacy contamination" of 588km² dating back to before 2001 and 1,086km² that occurred after 2001.¹⁴

DMAC estimates of anti-vehicle mine contamination have risen steadily as a result of survey in the last five years, reaching nearly 300km² by the end of 2017 (see Table 1). The estimate of ERW contamination has similarly more than tripled since 2013 to 119km² in 2017, not including NATO firing ranges.

By the end of 2017, Afghanistan said it had closed 64 firing ranges and released 555km² of firing range land, destroying in the process 26 anti-personnel mines, 50 anti-vehicle mines, and 93,228 items of UXO.¹⁵ DMAC reported 42 ranges covering 605km² remained to be cleared.¹⁶

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Afghanistan's mine action programme, originally established in 1989, is led by DMAC, which comes under the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority. It received operational support in planning, prioritising, and information management from the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) through the UN Mine Action Centre of Afghanistan or UNMACA, which changed its name to "UNMAS in support of DMAC" (UNMAS/DMAC) in November 2016.¹⁷

DMAC staff had increased to 159 working in 15 departments by the end of 2017 after personnel transitioned from UN to DMAC contracts.¹⁸ Department heads were due to continue as UNMAS advisers to DMAC until also coming under DMAC management by the end of June 2018, though the transition process was completed a month early.¹⁹ A total of 240 personnel were still employed in UNMAS/DMAC in 2017 but the number was due to fall to 209 in 2018.²⁰

Strategic Planning

Afghanistan's Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in 2012 set out plans for clearance of all known areas contaminated by mines and ERW by March 2023. It consolidated the 4,442 mine and ERW hazards then remaining into 308 projects to facilitate monitoring of progress and resource mobilisation, an approach that continues to shape mine action planning.²¹ However, the extension request targets were soon overtaken by a sharp drop in donor funding, which fell by more than half between 2011 and 2014, and by the addition of extensive contamination by mines of an improvised nature, expanding the extent of Afghanistan's Article 5 obligations.

A five-year plan for 2016–20, adopted in January 2016, did not amend extension request clearance targets but set four strategic goals:²²

- Facilitate development
- Engage with other sectors
- Reduce the impact of mines and ERW, and mitigate the impact of mine incidents; and
- Mainstream gender and diversity to ensure participation in, and shared benefits of, mine action.

The plan set out 33 objectives and 111 associated actions. These included incorporating mine action into Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes and Sustainable Development Goals; integrating mine action into the activities of line ministries, improving fundraising; completing survey; and keeping implementation of Afghanistan's Article 5 extension on track. The plan acknowledged that continued use of mines of an improvised nature on the present scale could prevent Afghanistan from meeting its Article 5 clearance deadline.²³

DMAC's concept paper on mines of an improvised nature reported that none was cleared in 2017 but proposed clearance of the entire ERW-affected area of 421km² identified in 17 provinces at a projected cost of US\$146 million. DMAC continued to discuss approaches to tackling mines of an improvised nature with operators and was due to roll out a strategy for clearance in 2018.²⁴

DMAC also produced a concept paper in 2017 proposing clearance of all remaining anti-vehicle mine contamination, consisting at the time of the report (mid-2017) of 1,096 hazardous areas covering 292km² across 26 provinces. Contamination consists mainly of minimum-metal mines laid randomly over large areas and sometimes at a depth that can be difficult for conventional detectors to locate. The paper recommended clearance by front-end loaders with mechanical follow-up at an estimated cost of almost US\$128 million.²⁵

In 2018, Afghanistan expected to release almost 64km² of contamination from anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, and ERW (57.5km² through clearance and 6.4km² through area reduction). Two-thirds of the area to be cleared was in central areas and the north-east of the country.²⁶

Legislation and Standards

DMAC has prepared draft mine action legislation to be included as an annex to a 2005 law banning the use, acquisition, and stockpiling of weapons, ammunition, and explosive items. After years of review by the Ministry of Justice, the draft has reportedly been referred to the cabinet's legislative committee for approval.²⁷

An "Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) technical working group", set up in November 2017, has been assigned the task of drafting standard terminology and policy for tackling mines of an improvised nature. A policy paper on AIMS issued by DMAC in May 2018 after consultations with implementing partners set out 11 principles to be followed by implementing partners.²⁸ These included the following:

- All survey and clearance should be conducted in accordance with MAPA principles of neutrality and MAPA members shall not participate in or facilitate counter-IED activities, including providing information on AIMS to security forces
- Afghan national mine action standards are the default standards for AIM activities but operators should also draft specific SOPs for AIM-related operations
- Each organisation and team needs DMAC accreditation for each type of activity
- AIM activities should receive a high level of internal and external QA
- AIM clearance should only be conducted with the full consent of the community and all relevant actors, and should not be conducted in areas of ongoing conflict
- AIM activities should be recorded on IMSMA, including information on access, level of conflict, and details of each device or suspect device
- All survey should be conducted by teams trained and accredited for AIM non-technical survey
- If new AIM contamination is suspected in areas that were previously cleared or identified as clear, resurvey should be coordinated by DMAC with full consent of all relevant actors and include an assessment of the level of conflict.

Quality Management

DMAC teams conduct external quality assurance (QA) of implementing partners and checks on their internal QA processes. DMAC had 26 QA/quality control (QC) staff working in seven regions, which conducted 2,399 monitoring visits in 2017. The staff reported 57 major and 59 minor non-conformities.²⁹ Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) operations in Afghanistan's remote northern province of Badakhshan are accessed mainly through Tajikistan, and QA is conducted by the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) on behalf of DMAC to avoid travel and visa delays.³⁰

DMAC also conducted external QA/QC of firing range clearance with 21 QM inspectors who carried out 2,708 visits in 2017 during which they reported three major non-conformities.³¹

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) was accredited by DMAC in November 2017 to conduct a Third Party Monitoring project funded by the US Department of State to monitor performance of all implementing partners receiving US funding.³²

Information Management

DMAC manages a national database using IMSMA. The database contains data on victim assistance and risk education. Regional mine action offices with read-only IMSMA access to the database verify survey and clearance results but data entry is conducted only by experienced staff at the national level.³³

In 2017, DMAC classified ERW contamination not just by type but also by source and date. DMAC was debating approaches to recording data on landmines of an improvised nature and IEDs. Results of DMAC's preliminary assessment of contamination which have not been subject to survey are recorded as "initial hazardous areas" but are not entered into the national database.³⁴

Operators

The MAPA employed a total of 7,156 people at the end of 2017 but the sector has been facing severe financial constraints, and in 2018 DMAC expected the number would fall to 5,376.³⁵

Mine clearance is conducted by six national and three international NGOs.³⁶ Long-established national NGOs are: Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC), the Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA), the Mine Clearance Planning Agency (MCPA), the Mine Detection and Dog Centre (MDC), and the Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR). AREA, a national NGO accredited in 2014, became operational at the end of 2016. International NGOs active in survey and clearance in 2017 were Danish Demining Group (DDG), The HALO Trust and FSD. As noted above, NPA started work in 2017 providing QA/QC of projects funded by the US Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA).

LAND RELEASE

The MAPA cleared a total of 40km² of overall mined area in 2017, 17% less than in 2016. A significant percentage of 2017 clearance concerned land contaminated only by anti-vehicle mines. The amount of cleared land affected only by anti-personnel mines or mixed AP/AV mines amounted to 28.2km².³⁷ This represents a slight increase in anti-personnel mine or mixed AP/AV mine clearance, compared to the equivalent 27.1km² in 2016.³⁸

Survey in 2017

DMAC reported adding mine and ERW contamination totalling almost 93km² to the database in 2017, of which 62km² was mined area (46 SHAs affecting 47km² and 97 CHAs covering almost 15km²) [see Table 3]. It also reported that operators cancelled 39 suspected mined areas covering 2.4km² in 2017.

Table 3: New suspected or confirmed mined areas identified in 2017³⁹

	SHAs identified	Estimated area (m ²)	CHAs identified	Estimated area (m ²)	Total area (m ²)
Mined area	46	47,049,041	97	14,746,667	61,795,708
Battle area	14	20,923,157	9	10,009,617	30,932,774

DMAC had planned survey of 24 districts in Year 1396 (2017–18) under the “Mine and ERW Impact Free Community Survey” (MEIFCS) started in 2012 but it was held back by lack of funding. The only recorded MEIFCS activity was undertaken by FSD, which surveyed 13 communities in Badakhshan.⁴⁰ MCPA deployed nine teams to conduct non-technical survey on ERW contamination resulting from fighting in 24 districts across 12 provinces.⁴¹

Clearance in 2017

MAPA reported release of 40km² of overall mined area through clearance and area reduction in 2017 [see Table 4]. It included a total of 29.1km² affected by anti-personnel mines or a mixture of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, of which 28.2km² was released through clearance and 0.94km² through area reduction [see Table 5].⁴² No clearance of mines of an improvised nature was reported in 2017 despite growing attention to the issue.⁴³

Afghan implementing partners were mainly responsible for an upturn in clearance in 2016 and accounted for most of the downturn in 2017, mainly as a result of financial constraints. In 2017 six national implementing partners collectively cleared 17.4km², little more than half the area they cleared in 2016, with DAFA and MDC in particular experiencing loss of contracts. Only AREA, which started demining in 2016, significantly expanded operations in 2017 (clearing 1.3km²).⁴⁴

The HALO Trust increased its area clearance by more than a quarter in 2017 and accounted for more than half the total mined area cleared by the MAPA. The increase was made possible by increased funding, which saw HALO Trust add around 870 staff over the year, bringing the total to 3,420 (of whom 2,975 were engaged in operations). It expected additional United Kingdom funding to support a further increase in capacity in 2018. The HALO Trust expanded its area of operations to include the southern province of Kandahar in addition to its work in the centre, north, north-east, south-east, and the west. In 2018, The HALO Trust completed training its first team in survey, clearance and disposal of mines of an improvised nature.⁴⁵

DDG, with three clearance teams and one survey team and 35 field staff, implemented one DANIDA contract in 2017, clearing almost one-third less land than in 2016 but destroying more mines. It won an additional contract in 2017 from WRA but started work in 2018.⁴⁶ FSD increased capacity from three demining teams to four in 2017 and increased the amount of land released through clearance by more than 60% to 0.5km², as well as destroying more than 6,500 anti-personnel mines. Productivity looked set to drop in 2018 as a result of loss of funding from a foundation which had supported clearance in one district, though discussions were underway for that support to resume in 2019.⁴⁷

Table 4: Mine clearance in 2017⁴⁸

Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	Area reduced (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
AREA	21	1,295,095	0	195	5	80
ATC	82	4,050,832	252,471	924	18	4,197
DAFA	10	3,330,914	0	0	49	523
DDG	7	227,636	70,581	81	3	139
FSD	6	533,688	0	6,526	0	114
HALO	336	21,919,980	0	6,052	139	1,007
MCPA	41	2,836,400	114,895	180	17	51
MDC	16	2,207,307	0	2	21	44
OMAR	58	3,643,027	523,784	643	10	1,069
Totals	577	40,044,879	961,731	14,603	262	7,224

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

Table 5: Clearance of mined area containing anti-personnel mines in 2017⁴⁹

Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Area reduced (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
AREA	1,295,095	0	195	5	80
ATC	3,302,107	240,108	924	0	4,114
DAFA	11,320	0	0	0	0
DDG	227,588	70,581	81	0	139
FSD	533,688	0	6,524	0	114
HALO	17,674,607	0	5,975	11	964
MCPA	1,765,792	101,508	148	1	47
MDC	4,817	0	2	0	0
OMAR	3,362,203	523,653	643	0	1,064
Totals	28,177,217	935,850	14,492	17	6,522

Deminer Safety

DMAC reported two deminers were killed and one injured in the course of demining in 2017 but 14 security incidents reported in 2017 inflicted greater losses. This included one AREA deminer who was murdered

by anti-government elements in Nangahar province in September. A total of 97 staff were abducted but later returned. Operators also reported equipment losses, including detectors, VHF radios, and mobile phones.⁵⁰

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the 10-year extension granted by states parties in 2013), Afghanistan is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2023. Afghanistan will not meet this deadline.

The extension request Afghanistan submitted in 2012 is not on track to fulfil its targets. A sharp downturn in donor funding since 2012 resulted in loss of MAPA capacity and a drop in combined anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mine clearance rates (see Table 6), although anti-personnel mine clearance rates have increased over the last three successive years (see Table 7). To catch up, DMAC called for funding of \$110 million in 1396 but received just short of \$40 million. The MAPA required \$76 million in 1397 (2018–19) to support release of 144km² of mine and ERW contamination but expected to receive funding at the same level as the previous year or slightly more.⁵¹

Afghanistan also has to reassess its Article 5 obligations to take account of extensive contamination by mines of an improvised nature. The extent of this new contamination has yet to be determined by survey but preliminary estimates in 17 of 22 affected provinces identified 152 hazards covering approximately 228km². Moreover, mitigating the threat is obstructed by insecurity which renders some areas inaccessible to deminers, and even where there is access clearance teams will be limited to tackling only the hazardous areas where they have the consent of all relevant parties.

Table 6: Combined anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mine clearance in 2013–17

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2017	40.04
2016	49.25
2015	35.38
2014	62.87
2013	60.11
Total	247.65

Table 7: Anti-personnel mine clearance in 2013–17⁵²

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2017	28.12
2016	27.12
2015	13.44
2014	22.28
2013	N/R

- 1 See, e.g., reports that armed opposition groups mined the highway linking Kabul and Ghazni during fighting in August 2018: "Intense fighting as Taliban presses to take Afghan city", Reuters, 12 August 2018.
- 2 Emails from DMAC, 11 April and 18 August 2018.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F. The form also states that 2,088 anti-personnel mine hazards covering 223km² remained at the end of 2017.
- 5 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F.
- 6 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018; UNMAS/DMAC, "Six districts of Badakhshan Province declared free of known mines and explosive remnants of war", Press release, 4 April 2017; Jared Ferrie, "Herat declared mine free after 10-year clearance drive", Reuters, 15 February 2018.
- 7 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Background, p. 5. The report states that, between 2001 and 2013, average monthly casualties fell from 175 to 36, but that in 2017 the average monthly casualty toll had risen to 171.
- 8 UNAMA, "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Annual Report 2017", February 2018, pp. 31–32; and Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form J.
- 9 UNAMA, "Mid-year Update on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 1 January to 30 June 2018", 15 July 2018, p. 5.
- 10 The five inaccessible provinces were Baghdis, Ghor, Laghman, Sar e Pul, and Zabul.
- 11 DMAC, "Concept Note: Demining Operations in Mines/ERWs/Pressure Plate IEDs Contaminated Areas", Undated but 2017, p. 2 and Annex A.
- 12 Email from DMAC, 12 September 2018.
- 13 DMAC, "MAPA Fast Facts, Quarterly Update, 4th Quarter 1396 (January–March 2018)".
- 14 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Background. The report identifies a total of 1,764km² of ERW contamination but provides estimates of pre-2001 and post-2001 contamination which amount to 1,674km². DMAC's "Fast Facts" reported ERW contamination of 1,800km² at the end of March 2018, recording the area affected by anti-personnel mines as 208km² and by anti-vehicle mines as nearly 504km².
- 15 Article 7 report, Form C.
- 16 Data provided by DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 17 Email from Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi, Chief of Staff, UNMAS/DMAC, 16 May 2017.
- 18 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 19 Email from DMAC, 18 August 2018.
- 20 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 21 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 29 March 2012, pp. 167–75.
- 22 National Mine Action Strategic Plan, 1395–1399 (2016–2020), State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, undated but 2016, pp. 2–7.
- 23 National Mine Action Strategic Plan, 1395–1399 (2016–20), State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, undated but 2016, p. 22.
- 24 UNMAS/DMAC, "Concept Paper: Demining Operations in Mines/ERWs/Pressure Plate IEDs Contaminated Areas", Undated but 2017, p. III.
- 25 DMAC, "Concept Note for Clearance of Anti-Vehicle Remaining Mined Areas in Afghanistan", undated but 2017, pp. 3–8.
- 26 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F.
- 27 Email from DMAC, 18 April 2018; Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form A.
- 28 Email from DMAC, 18 April 2018; DMAC, "Policy on Abandoned Improvised Mines Demining in Afghanistan", May 2018, pp. 2–4; interview with Patrick Fruchet, Head of Office, UNMAS Kabul, in Geneva, 8 June 2018.
- 29 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 30 Email from Mathew Wilson, Head of Operations, FSD, 23 July 2018.
- 31 Email from DMAC, 12 September 2018.
- 32 Email from Vanja Sirica, Country Director, NPA, 25 April 2018.
- 33 Telephone interview with Anne-Li Naucleur, Information Management Adviser, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, 24 August 2018; and email, 30 September 2018.
- 34 See Article 7 Report (for 2017), Background; interview with Mohammed Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC, 8 June 2018; email from DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 35 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 Emails from DMAC, 11 April and 16 July 2018. Afghanistan's Article 7 report for 2017 (Form F) recorded clearance of 27,848,953m² in 2017, reduction of 948,213m², and cancellation of 1,729,047m².
- 38 Article 7 Report (for 2016), Form F.
- 39 Emails from DMAC, 11 April and 16 July 2018.
- 40 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 41 The 12 provinces were Baghlan, Faryab, Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktika, and Paktya.
- 42 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Ibid.
- 45 Email from Calvin Ruysen, Regional Director for Central Asia, HALO Trust, 16 May 2018.
- 46 Email from Maria Berwald, Programme and Operations Coordinator Afghanistan and Colombia, DDC, 25 April 2018.
- 47 Email from Mathew Wilson, FSD, 23 July 2018.
- 48 Email from Abdul Qudos Ziaee, UNMAS/DMAC, 18 July 2018. Data records clearance of anti-personnel and mixed mined areas.
- 49 Email from DMAC, 18 July 2018. Afghanistan's Article 7 report for 2017 (Form F) recorded clearance of 27,848,953m² in 2017, reduction of 948,213m², and cancellation of 1,729,047m², with the destruction of 14,624 AP mines and 286 AV mines.
- 50 Email from DMAC, 11 April 2018; "UNMAS Afghanistan and DMAC strongly condemn brutal murder of an Afghan deminer in Nangahar", UNMAS/DMAC statement, 12 September 2017.
- 51 Interview with Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC, in Geneva, 8 June 2018; email from DMAC, 1 April 2018; UN Mine Action Gateway, "Survey and Clearance of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in 1397 (April 2018 – March 2019)", accessed at www.mineaction.org/resources/project/7471.
- 52 Email from DMAC, 18 July 2018; and Afghanistan's Article 7 reports for 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 (Form F).