

Mine Action Support Group

Kabul, Afghanistan - 3 June 2021



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UNMAS Vision

A country free from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) where people and communities live in a safe environment conducive to national development and where landmine and ERW survivors are fully integrated into society and thus have their rights and needs recognized and fulfilled.



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UNMAS Response

Building and sustaining the capability of the national mine action authority

Developing capacity to address the increasing casualty numbers, with particular focus on improvised mines.

Enhancing information management to improve prioritization, performance monitoring and impact evaluation.

Engaging with the wider humanitarian and development community, including on the Afghan Peace Process

Advocating for the rights of mine and ERW victims and their families

Mobilizing resources by providing reliable, up-to-date information on needs and solutions to stakeholders



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Building and sustaining the capability of the
national mine action authority

Financial
Support

Technical
Advisory



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Developing capacity to address the increasing casualty numbers, with particular focus on improvised mines.

2019

- AIM AMAS
- Advocacy
- Behavioural change focused (BCC) Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Strategy Development

2020

- Capacity building for partners, including DMAC
- Seed equipment for training
- Development of training plans and SOPs
- Behavioural change focused EORE – Roll-out

2021

- Accredited Implementing Partners
- Pilot clearance and on-the –job learning
- Follow-up trainings
- Behavioural change focused EORE – Roll-out

2022

- Large-scale clearance of abandoned improvised mines
- Behavioural change focused EORE – Roll-out



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BCC EORE - Innovation

Sometimes dangers are invisible like Coronavirus, and hidden like ERW.



- Speaking books & Comic Books
- EORE Material with integrated COVID-10 messages
- EORE Flyers - collaboration with IOM
- VIAMO - “Via Mobile” - EORE message via mobile
- Mass media (radio and TV)

At this time, due to new Coronavirus:

And at any time, due the presence of ERW.



Stay home to better protect yourself and your family from infection from Coronavirus.



Stay away from areas contaminated with explosive hazards and prevent friends and family from putting their lives at risk



Wash your hands regularly and **avoid touching** your face



Avoid touching unknown, suspicious items “if you didn’t put it there - don’t pick it up.”



Avoid handshaking and hugging each other while greeting



Dangerous and suspicious items are dealt with/cleared by expert deminers, **avoid contact of any kind with them**



If you become symptomatic, isolate yourself in your home and **take advice from health professionals** by calling: **166**



If you encounter any suspected dangerous item, leave the place and **report to an elder or the demining authorities** by calling: **0708 60 60 60**

Share these messages to help save your family and friends from this virus

Share these messages to help save your family and friends from explosive ordnances



By following mentioned tips, you can protect yourself and your family



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Enhancing information management to improve prioritization, performance monitoring and impact evaluation

Collation of datasets and information from other UN Agencies to deliver as OneUN

Revision of the Balanced Scorecard to better reflect gender considerations and allow better prioritization of resources

Review and improve the Post-Demining Impact Assessment methodology and incorporate new best practices and improved technology



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Engaging with the wider humanitarian and development community, including on the Afghan Peace Process

Afghanistan
Peace
Process

Humanitarian
assistance

Development
activities

Safe and
dignified
return



Advocating for the rights of mine and ERW victims and their families

National Disability and Inclusion Strategy

Referral system

Employment of people with disabilities in mine action projects

Advocacy for the rights of landmine and ERW survivors, including through the DMAC, in the Cluster system and other forums



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Mobilizing resources by providing reliable, up-to-date information on needs and solutions to stakeholders

Government

International
community

Alternative
financing, such
as private
foundations

Cross-cutting issues





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Gender Mainstreaming

Comprehensive capacity building for national implementing partners and DMAC

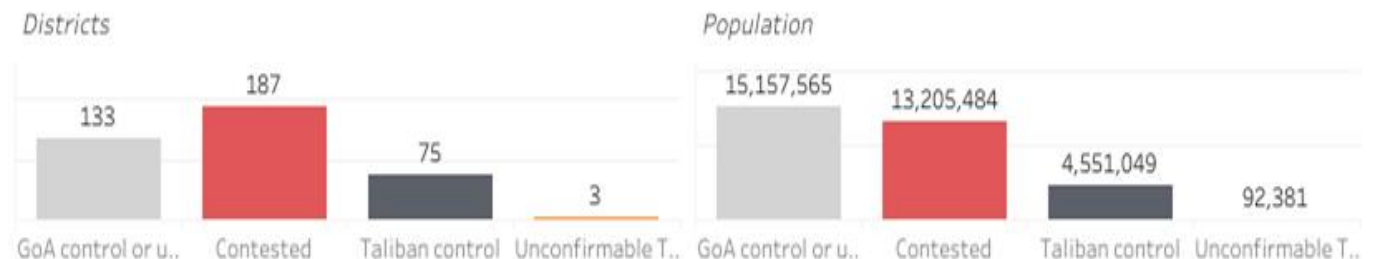
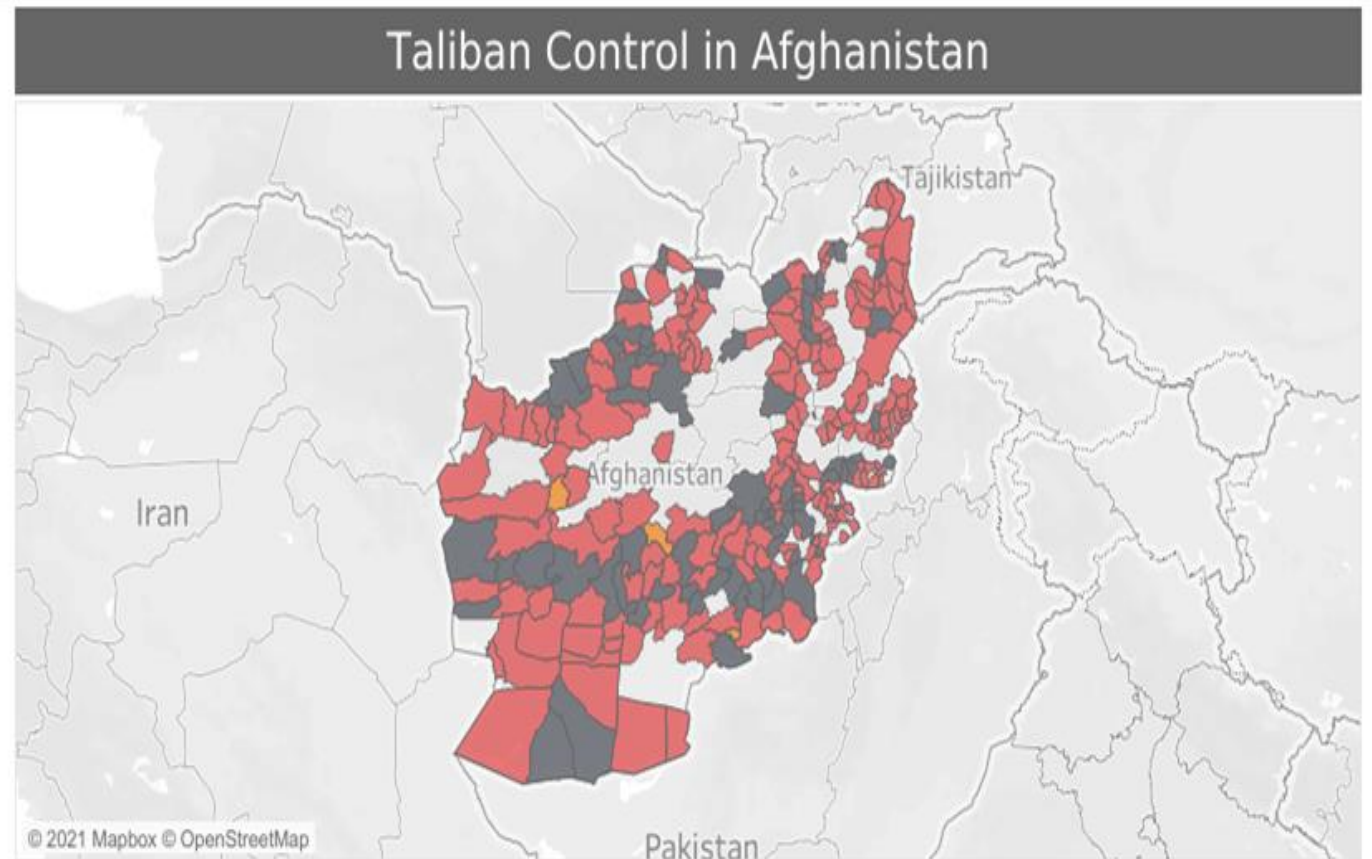
Strengthening gender mainstreaming in UNMAS processes

Replication of the female demining project in another province

Revision of the Balanced Scorecard to ensure it reflects the importance of gender considerations in mine action programme design

UNMAS Access Negotiation Approach

- Engagement with NSAGs for an ‘exemption’ for humanitarian mine action agencies from taxation and for a guarantee of safe and continuous access to areas in need. Currently, this engagement happens in-person and in writing.
- Advocacy with UNAMA and donors to obtain their support during negotiations with the Taliban.
- Advocacy, via the DMAC, at a high level of the Government to ensure that pro-government elements exempt mine action operators from taxation requests.
- Instituting access negotiation training and skills development for UNMAS/3rd Party personnel to keep skills relevant and up to date.



Scenario planning: 2021 and beyond





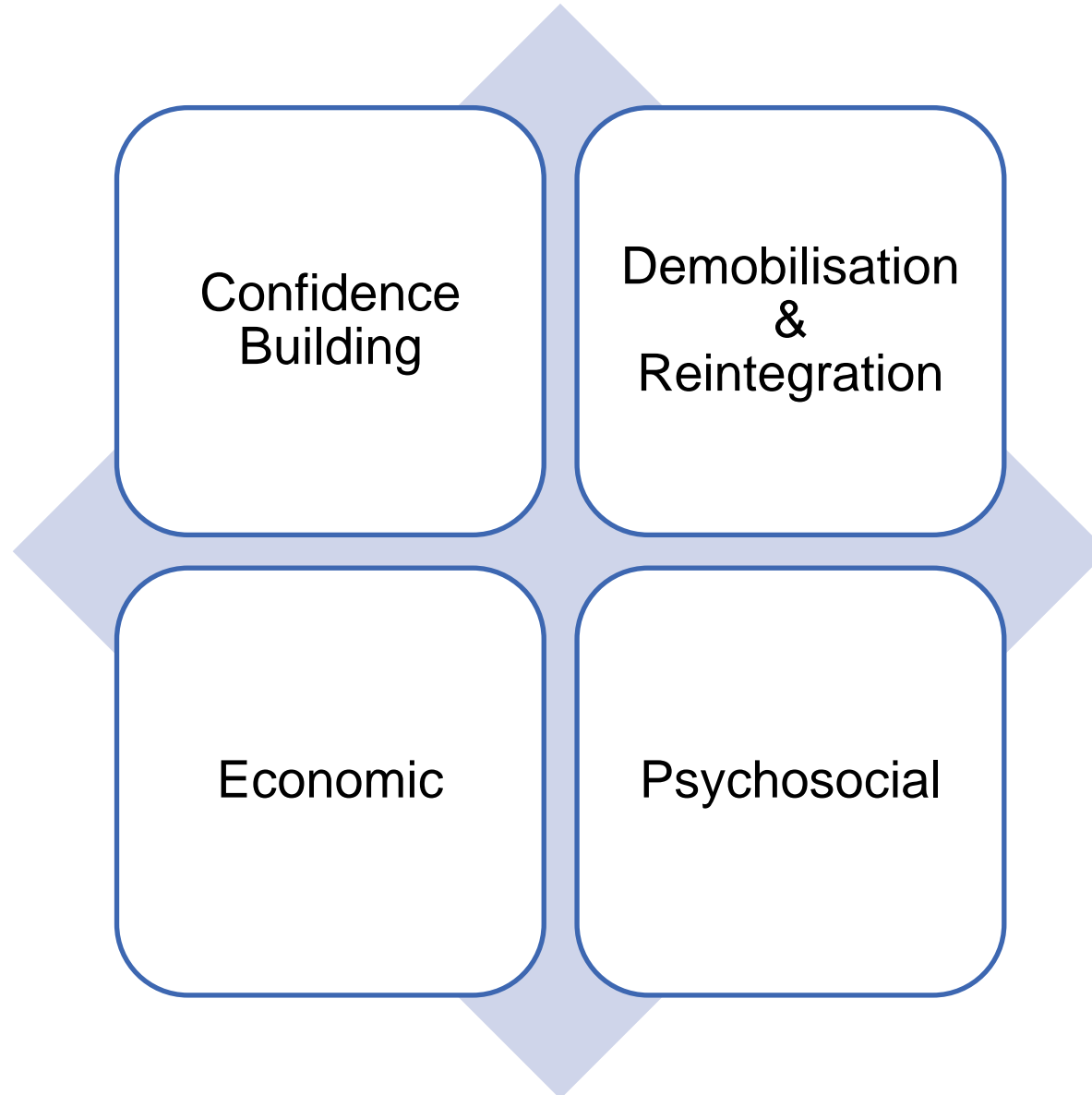
Scenario A: Intensifying Conflict

- Following withdrawal, the Taliban applies pressure to cities while attempting to increase hold in the countryside. Peace process remains stalled.
- Increase in explosive ordnance contamination, casualties and risks to delivery of humanitarian aid.
- Operational environment becomes more challenging

Scenario B: Ceasefire/Lull in hostilities

- Due to the cessation of hostilities, previously inaccessible areas become accessible
- Increased population movements increases the risk of civilian casualties until wide-scale clearance can take place.
- Operational environment improves and engagement with previous conflict parties becomes easier

Scenario planning – Long-term peace





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Scenario planning – Increased involvement with the MAPA

Expanded operations in Afghanistan

Rehiring of qualified Afghan staff

Deployment of international experts

Exit plan with handover in mind



Flexible working policy

Equipment to enable work
from home

All processes in place from
2020/COVID-19

Funding Needs



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Estimated under upcoming Article 5 extension

USD 200 million to clear firing ranges (not from humanitarian funds)

USD 10 million for survey and land release to release 200 - 400 million sq m of SHAs (Saves \$130 - \$300 million in full blown clearance)

USD 450-500 million for APM/IN clearance over next 6 years for casualty reduction and treaty compliance

USD 3-5 million annually EORE leading to behavioral change and casualty reduction

USD 3-4 million for DMAC support (50% USA and 50% VTF)

USD 4 million annually UNMAS coordination and technical support



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