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## ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2016

**United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan**

**Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme**

**[01-01-2016 – 31-12-2016]**



**Project ID:00059170**

**Duration: 01/01/2016 - 31/12/2016**

**Component (CPAP): Promotion of environmental sustainability**

**Total Budget 2015: \$859.795.00**

**Implementing Partners:**

**Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre**

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## I. Context

Tajikistan is contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war as a result of civil war in 1992–1997 and mine-laying along the Afghan border by Russian forces. Population living along parts of the border with Uzbekistan face a threat from mines laid by Uzbekistan along parts of their side of the still disputed border. There is also a residual threat from cluster munition remnants in the Central Region, although the precise location and extent of contamination is not known. The extent of contamination from other explosive remnants of war is limited. Tajikistan acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1999 and to the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in 2005 including its Protocol II and V on ERW. Currently Norway, USA, Japan, OSCE, ICRC and UNDP are the main donors to Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. The Government of Tajikistan has supported the programme with in-kind support from the beginning and in 2014 it issued direct financial support from the national budget for TNMAC for the first time.

In 2003, UNDP and the Government of Tajikistan agreed on setting up a comprehensive Mine Action Programme, managed by a Mine Action Centre (MAC). After 10 years of UNDP services, all agreed that to demonstrate ownership, ensure the development of a national sustainable capacity to manage residual risk, and be able to design a sound transition strategy for UNDP, nationalizing the MAC was a top priority. In January 2014, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan decreed a new State Entity called Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC). Also the institution that has served as National Mine Action Authority since 2003 to lead the oversight and coordination among government institutions at policy making level was confirmed, the Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL). TNMAC reports to the First Deputy Prime Minister, who also acts as Chair of the CIIHL. UNDP and other agencies such as the OSCE Office in Tajikistan support the new TNMAC. UNDP's role to help maintain the functions of the mine action centre were guaranteed as part of its ongoing Support to Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP) (Prodoc III 2016-2020). UNDP continued building institutional and technical capacity during 2015. In addition to UNDP support, OSCE office in Tajikistan has also contributed to capacity building of TNMAC.

The role of any national mine action center is to ensure smooth management of the overall mine action programme (planning, monitoring & evaluation, reporting, fundraising) and effective and efficient support to the implementing partners (IPs). In the case of Tajikistan's demining programme the team-leaders, deminers, paramedics etc. are mostly military staff seconded from various security agencies to TNMAC. The deminers work under the supervision of the respective IP. TNMAC plays a crucial role in tasking, quality management, information management and reporting. Besides land release it also coordinates mine risk education and victim assistance. On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs TNMAC reports on progress made to fulfill its international obligations.

TNMAC as a legal national entity responsible for management, coordinating, monitoring as well as tasking and quality management of mine action related activities is recognized nationally as well as internationally. TNMAC got sufficient number of national staff which were trained and supported by UNDP. UNDP provided capacity building support as well as started transfer of the trained staff to TNMAC. In 2016, the number of UNDP staff decreased from 22 to only 10 staff out of which two were contracted on 50% involvement.

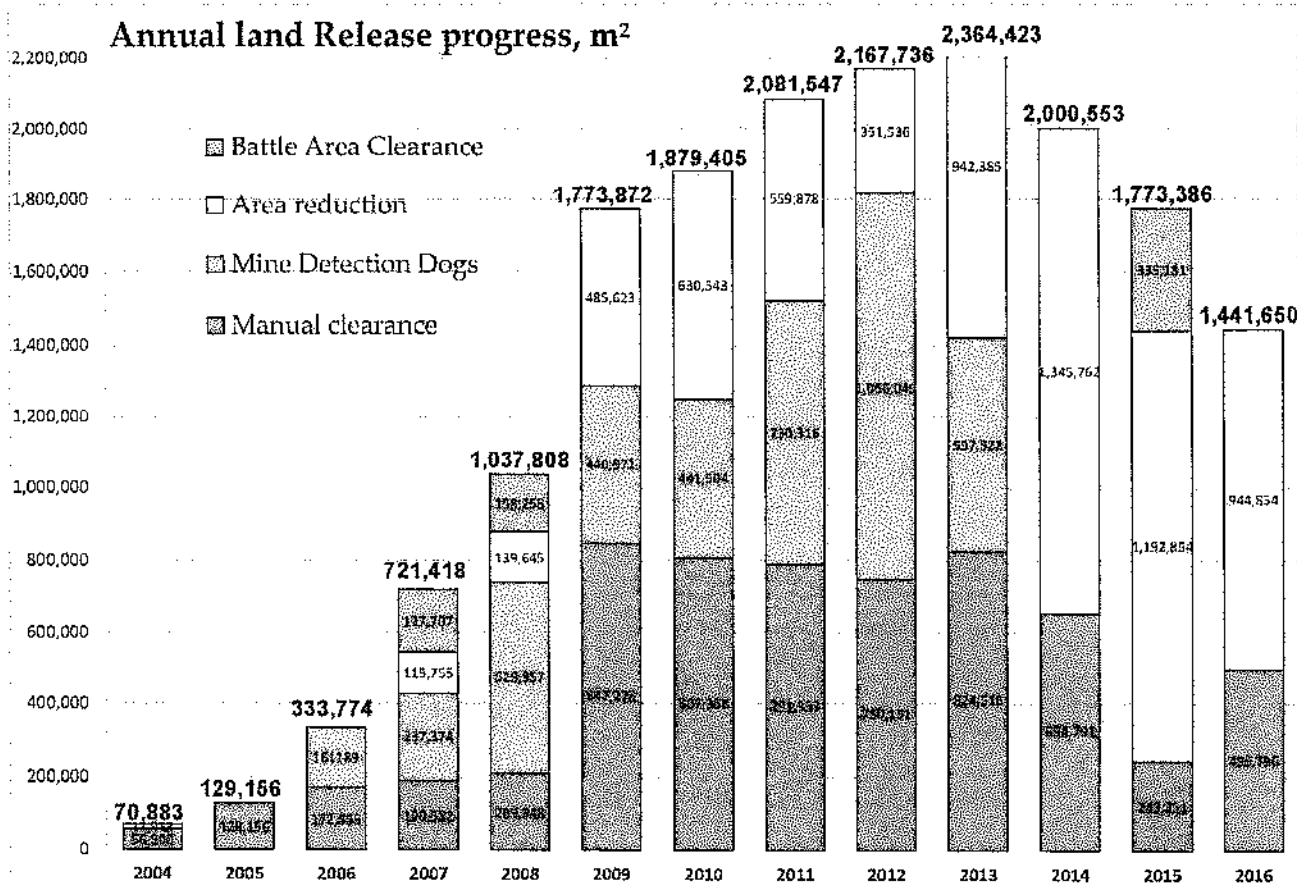
Currently, UNDP is engaged into capacity building of TNMAC, with technical and advisory support across land release (mine/ERW clearance activities), mine risk education, victim assistance and information management areas. In order to ensure proper capacity building process, certain responsibilities were handed over to TNMAC staff.

## II. Results summary and implementation review

In 2016, UNDP supported TNMAC in coordination, tasking, monitoring and evaluation, information management of all mine action related activities in Tajikistan. Since its creation, the capacity of the programme gradually increased which resulted in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the mine action activities in general and land release in particular. Land release activities are implemented by international and national agencies such as the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Humanitarian Demining Group of the Ministry of Defense and Union of Sappers of Tajikistan (UST). UNDP support and advise TNMAC in managing the Land Release activities and provide tasking for mine clearance organizations, conducting Quality Assurance (QA), Quality Control (QC), keeping international networking as well as managing and continuously upgrading the information management and IMSMA system in TMAP.

During 2016, despite the reduction of demining capacity with only manual demining in use (as the areas are not suitable for machines and dogs any longer) as well as the issues related to accessibility and security situation along the Tajik-Afghan border area, the land release operations almost reached the annual target for 2016. In 2016, 1.44 sq. km of land contaminated with landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was cleared and released. As a result, more than 3,188 landmines and ERW were identified and destroyed mainly in remote and hard-to-reach areas (mountainous). 13 contaminated areas were cleared and four areas suspended due to end of operational season. 13 cleared areas quality controlled and prepared for handover to local population for safe usage. The *Diagram 1* shows Land Release progress in Tajikistan since 2004.

The Non-Technical Survey (NTS) activities were continued during 2016. UNDP convened a technical workshop group (TWG) among Land Release partners to prepare a combined field assessment with technical intervention in nine suspected battle areas (SHA) in Rasht district of the Central Region of Tajikistan. The comprehensive field assessment comprised LR and Information Management (IM) staff from TNMAC, UNDP and NPA. As a result, three suspected battle areas (initially registered as a dangerous areas) with total size of 1,450,000 m<sup>2</sup> have been cancelled and released from the database.



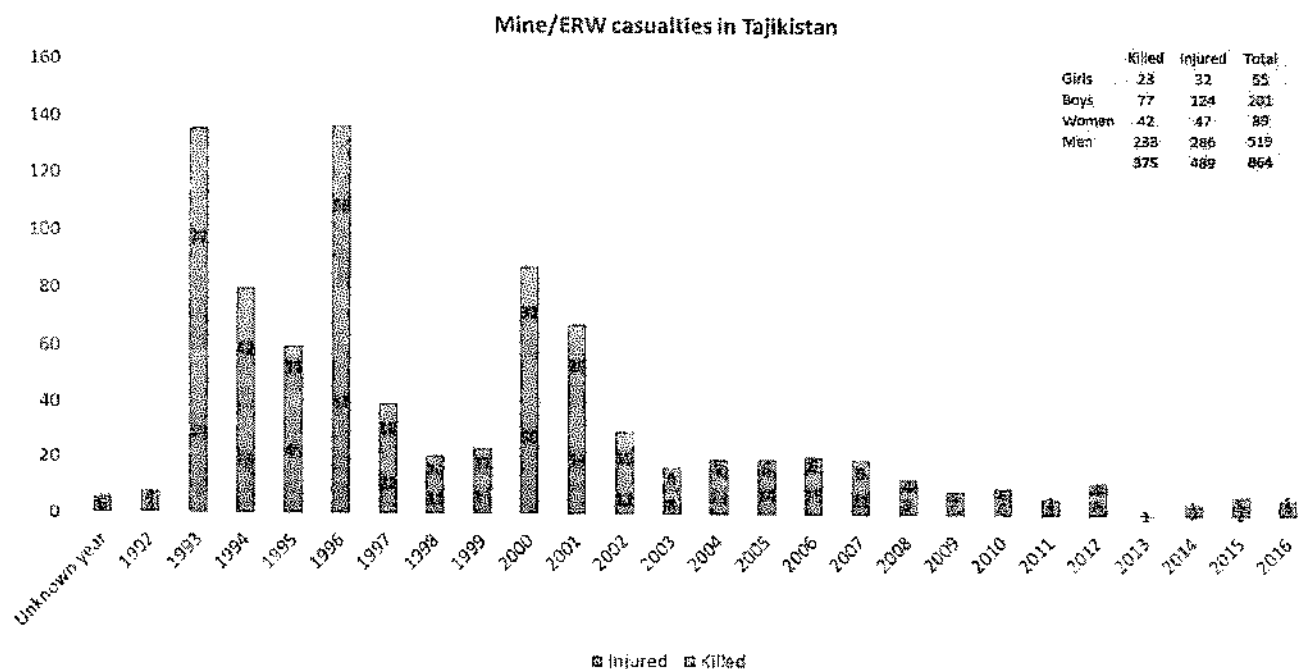
*Diagram 1. Historical Land Release progress.*

In May 2016, UST was contracted by UNDP to continue conduct the non-technical survey (NTS) along the Tajik Afghan Border. In addition, UST conducted Mine Risk Education activity and installation of mine/ERW warning signs along the Tajik-Afghan (Sh. Shohin, former Shurobod) and Tajik-Uzbek (Asht and Isfara districts) border communities. UST teams were to the three military polygons located in Sh. Shohin and Rudaki districts. The teams conducted survey in the additional 20 minefields (covering 16 minefield records with a total size of 889,000 m<sup>2</sup>) in Sh. Shohin district. UST conducted Mine Risk Education with population and staff of Border Forces (totally covered 310 people) around 15 surveyed minefields. Also, UST teams installed Mine Warning Signs in 15 identified and registered minefields. All related field reports are timely submitted to TNMAC and passed the quality control procedures.

Comprehensive mine/ERW risk education (MRE) activities have contributed to a significant reduction in the number of landmines/ERW casualties. Mine Risk Education (MRE) is successfully mainstreamed into the national school curriculum programme and interventions of the Red Crescent Society Tajikistan (RCST). During 2016 34 landmines/ERW affected districts in Tajikistan were covered with MRE programmes. With UNDP's capacity building to MRE national educators across Tajikistan (Back to office report by UNDP MRE Advisor), 54,069 MRE beneficiaries (12,721 girls; 18,172 boys; 9,386 women; 13,790 men) were covered by MRE by RCST.

MRE disaggregated data was collected based on the requirements defined jointly by TNMAC and ICRC/RCST. Based on these requirements, with UNDP support training on MRE data collection was conducted for the RCST volunteers. As a result, all data collected by RCST volunteers were entered into IMSMA database system.

MRE is successfully mainstreamed into the national school curriculum programme and interventions of the Red Crescent Society Tajikistan (RCST). MRE activities resulted on significantly decreasing of the number of mine/ERW casualties from 88 persons in 2000 to 6 persons in 2016. The historical casualty data is illustrated below in *Diagram 2*.



*Diagram 2. Historical Land Release progress.*

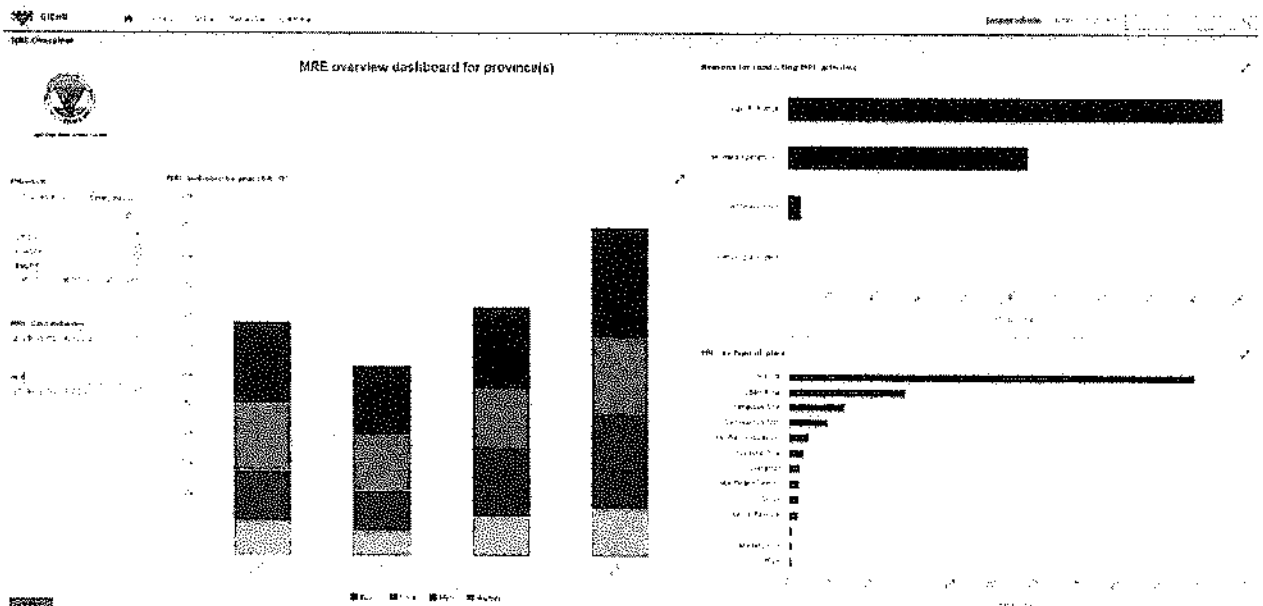
Victim Assistance (VA) has been a focus area since 2006. In 2016, UNDP continued the capacity building of TNMAC VA staff through on-the-job training, coordination and management of VA activities in Tajikistan as well as supported the participation in the International Conference “Towards the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” organized in Erevan, Armenia and study tour to Cambodian Mine Action Centre. Numbers of the VA Technical Working Group meetings during 2016 to discuss VA and needs assessment of mine/ERW victims. UNDP contributed to the training organized by ICRC on VA needs assessment data collection where ICRC and RCST volunteers participated. The progress and challenges related to data collection were present and discussed about volunteers.

With UNDP’s advisory and technical support, Needs Assessment survey data on landmine/ERW victims, disaggregated by sex and age, was collected for the period of 2013-2016. In order to enable an increased public acceptance and understanding of disabilities, UNDP also continued the accessibility projects in major public areas of Dushanbe (such as Republican Hospital Karabolo and Circus). Both cases were finalized and considered as a successful projects. Direct income generation and socio-economic support was provided to more than 1000 survivors and their family members, through micro-loans and vocational trainings. UNDP supported TNMAC in conducting the Summer Rehabilitation camp for 75 mine/ERW including other people with disabilities.

UNDP STMAP continuously supported TNMAC in capacity building of its IM staff in 2016. TNMAC has two IM staff members to carry out the IM related activities. UNDP STMAP provided on the job training for GIS and IMSMA staff. UNDP involved a local GIS Consultant in April to train national staff and provide service support to TNMAC. This position is fully supported from US DOS budget.

In May 2016, one of the TNMAC IM staff participated in the IMSMA Administrator Level -2 training in Switzerland. This gave an opportunity to learn from the course as well as from other participants representing various country programs. TNMAC IM staff are now in position to run the IMSMA database with land release data, mine accident and victim as well as Mine Risk Education information data. TNMAC and the implementing partners are following the recently developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on IM, which were shared with partners in 2015.

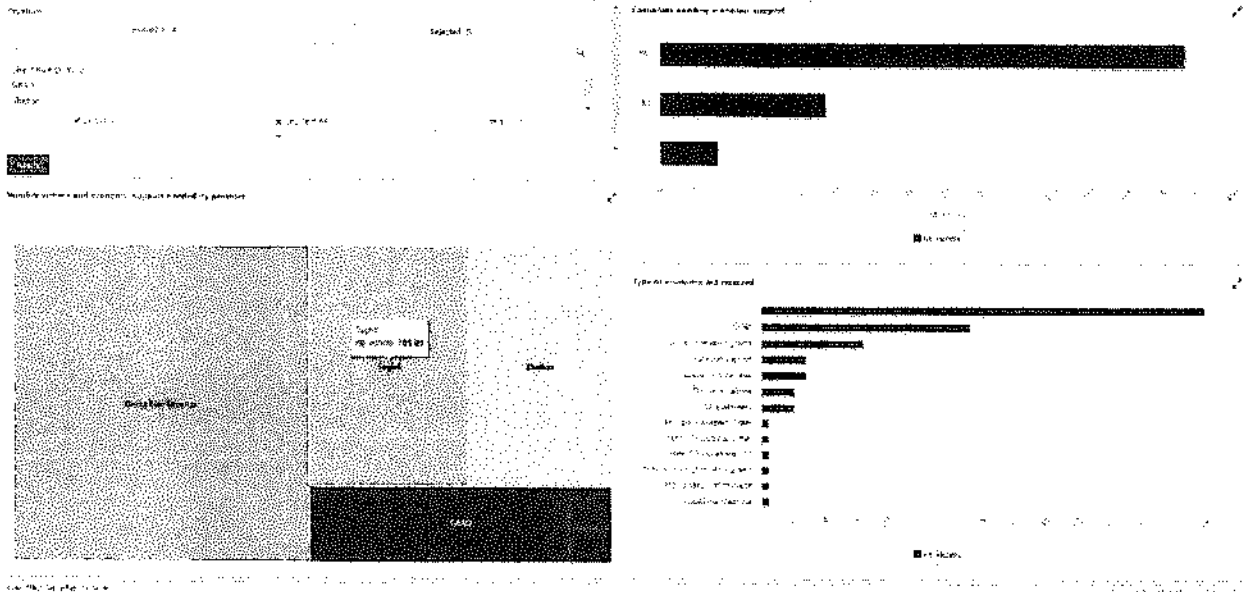
The GICHD invited UNDP Project Manager/ IM Advisor as a trainer to conduct the regional IMSMA Administrator Level-1 training course in Kiev from 13-24 August 2016. TNMAC GIS Specialist as well as was participants from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine and Tajikistan attended and benefited from the course. TNMAC GIS Officer obtained IMSMA A-1 level. To demonstrate accountability and transparency of mine action activities in country, Mine Action Intelligence Tool (MINT) with GICHD support was developed for Tajikistan. This tool allows an efficient accessing and retrieving mine action data through the web-based application. MINT for TMAP reflect the strategic and operational dashboards that satisfies the programme needs. Below are the illustrations of MINT dashboards used for various purposes and projects (Picture 3 and 4).



Picture 3. Sex and age disaggregated MRE activity dashboard.

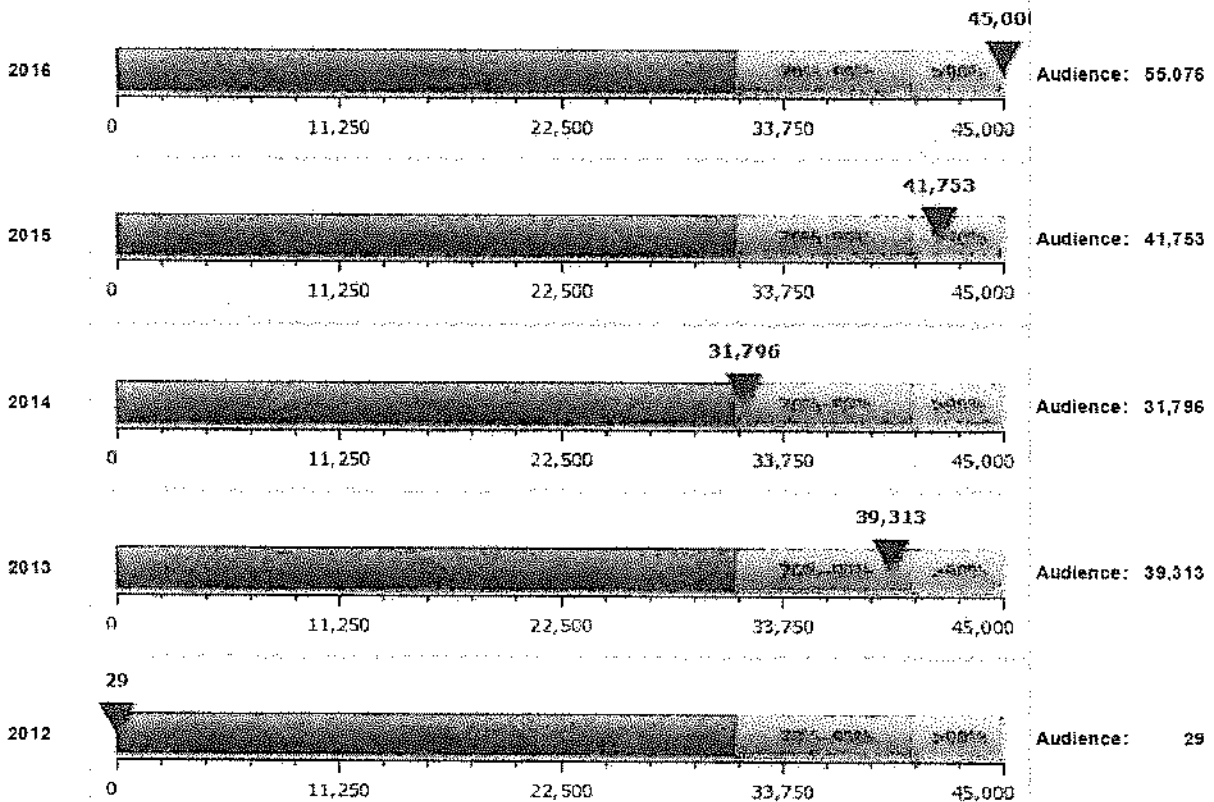
The dashboard shows the gender and sex disaggregated data on MRE activities for Tajikistan. It also shows the analyses on the reasons for conducting MRE as well as the type of place where MRE was conducted. This analyze supports the decision making process as well as useful for further planning of MRE activities.

### Casualties Needs Assessment - Economic Support



Picture 4. Casualties needs assessment.

### Progress towards annual MRE target (45,000 participants)





## A. Project Results and Impact Summary

<b>Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP)</b>	
<b>Target 2016</b>	<b>Result 2016</b>
1.1	Implement capacity development plan and transition plan to provide TNMAC with required capacity. UNDP has sufficient and qualified staff to advise/support TNMAC.
1.1	In 2016, UNDP involved the International Technical Advisor to assess the capacity and review the Transition Strategy (2015-2017) and Capacity Development Plan for TNMAC based on the current needs. UNDP staff continued to enhance the institutional and technical capacity TNMAC capacity in management and coordination, planning, M&E, QA and QC of all mine action related activities. In addition, using the SSC initiatives. UNDP created opportunities for TNMAC staff to benefit from the exchange experience programs with Cambodia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine.
1.2	Endorse all strategic documents by April 2016; UNDP provides the required advice and support to TNMAC and implementing partners to fulfil the key strategic documents.
1.2	In July 2016, the Humanitarian Mine Action Law was endorsed by the Government of Tajikistan. Following the endorsement, the national law was introduced for international and national partners. In 2016, the Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategy (2016-2020) and National Mine Action Standards were reviewed and submitted to Government of Tajikistan for endorsement. Article 5 Completion Plan of Ottawa Convention was reviewed UNDP, shared with partners and agreed by TNMAC.
1.3	MA Programme of Tajikistan is internationally and nationally known to work for full compliance with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and CCW Prot. II and Prot. V.; it manages to raise sufficient financial and technical support.
1.3	With continuous commitments and efforts of UNDP, Tajikistan Mine Action Programme is recognized, nationally and internationally. Its experience in various areas is used within the region (Ukraine, Armenia and Afghanistan). In 2016, UNDP was able to mobilize financial resources for 2016-17 (2016: US DOS 600K for STMAP and US DOS 100K for TNMAC; 2017 commitments: US DOS 400K for STMAP and 275K for TNMAC) to implement Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and CCW Prot. II and Prot. V. Annual progress reports on APMBC and CCW Prot. II and Prot. V were developed and submitted to UN through Government of Tajikistan.

2.1	Land release operations conducted according to NMAS and internal SOPs; revision mechanism of NMAS and SOP of 4 land release implementing agencies is in place; accreditations undertaken and approved according to schedule.	2.1	25 chapters of NMAS were reviewed based on CIIHL requirements and agreed with related national ministries and agencies and submitted to the Government of Tajikistan for endorsement. NMAS are available in three languages (Tajik, Russian and English). Land Release SOPs were developed and used by TNMAC and implementing partners accordingly.
2.2	Coordinated release of at least 1.5 km <sup>2</sup> of the contaminated land and survey of 101 unsurveyed MFR during 2016.	2.2	Despite the reduction of demining capacity in country and security issues along the Tajik-Afghan border, app. 97% of annual mine/ERW clearance target (1,500,000 m <sup>2</sup> ) was achieved. In 2016, 1,451,757 m <sup>2</sup> of mine/ERW contaminated land was released. As a result, 1,303 mines and 1,885 ERW were identified and destroyed mainly in remote and hard-to-reach mountainous areas; 12 released areas were cleared, quality controlled and prepared for handover to local population for safe usage. 36 unsurveyed minefield records were surveyed and as a result 45 new mined areas were properly registered.
2.3	The national mechanism to address the residual threat is defined. Inaccessible/non-executable tasks are properly marked.	2.3	The Concept note to address the residual threat was developed by UNDP CTA and shared with TNMAC. In addition. The issues of inaccessible/non-executable tasks were discussed during the technical work group meetings. These issues were reported during the high level meetings in Geneva integrated in the Article 5 completion plan of Ottawa Convention. Unfortunately, an appropriate national mechanism to deal with residual contamination is still not available. However, during the CIIHL meeting in Dec. 2016, it is recommended by the head of commission to involve more national NGOs to address the remaining mine/ERW contamination including the residual threats.
2.4	Train TNMAC QM staff in standards and SOP of other countries; Provide QM activities in cross-border programme and other opportunities.	2.4	In 2016, during the Regional Outreach Programme in Azerbaijan, TNMAC Quality Management staff were introduced to land release activities of other countries within the region (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan

			and Iran). Unfortunately, due to the security situation along the Tajik-Afghan border, the implementation of cross-border initiatives were not implemented. However, it was discussed and agreed by TNMAC, Afghanistan MACCA and our donor (US DOS/WRA) to fund this initiative and implement it in 2017.
3.1	Build capacity of TNMAC and government focal points on VA/disability support; Review support provided to 20 ex-deminers and their families casualties of mines/ERW.	3.1	In 2016, 60 local architects and designers in Khujand, Khorog and Garm benefited from the trainings on “Tajikistan Standards for accessibility to buildings and constructions for Persons with Disabilities (PWD)”. In addition, full accessible environment for PWD was provided in the Dushanbe Circus and the Research Institute of Expertize and Rehabilitation of PWD which also serve as a visibility for accessibility solutions. UNDP provided technical support to TNMAC in organizing the Summer Rehabilitation Camp for 75 landmine/ERW survivors and other PWD). UNDP supported TNMAC to participate in the International Conference “Towards the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” in Yerevan, Armenia.
4.1	MRE reaches at least 45,000 beneficiaries in 330 mine/ERW affected communities. All affected communities near polygons are reached. New set of MRE materials designed, produced and disseminated; MRE trainers provide (refresher, ToT) training to RCST volunteers/trainers and Border Guards-trainers.	4.1	During 2016, 330 communities located in 34 landmines/ERW affected districts in Tajikistan were covered with MRE programmes. As a result, 54,069 MRE beneficiaries (12,721 girls; 18,172 boys; 9,386 women; 13,790 men) were reached by MRE safety messages. MRE is successfully mainstreamed into the national school curriculum programme and interventions of the Red Crescent Society Tajikistan (RCST).
5.1	TMAP obtained an appropriate IM structure/capacity to satisfy the national and international reporting obligations, IM capacity among IPs improved as well.	5.1	TMAP IM capacity was enhanced in 2016. Two TNMAC staff obtained the GICHD Management Information Qualification Certification (Administrator level 1 and 2) in 2016. Comprehensive data analyses and products (maps, dashboards, statistics, etc.) are provided to users. STMAP Project Manager contributed (as a trainer) to the GICHD IMSMA Certification course in Ukraine where 12 participants from the

		<p>region (Ukraine, Armenia, Tajikistan and Georgia) representing different orgs (national and international NGOs) benefited from the course. As a result of the available experience in programme, Tajikistan was selected by GICHD one of the pilot countries to implement MINT and PriSMA (priority setting tool for Mine Action).</p>
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## B. Implementation Strategy Review

Following creation of Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) as a new national legal entity UNDP focused on institutional and technical capacity building of TNMAC. This legal decision has manifold implications regarding the mine action strategy and especially for UNDP to define its changed role – from de facto implementer to eventually full NIM. In 2016, an MoU was signed between TNMAC and UNDP describing the changed relationship in generic terms until the end of 2016 in line with the current PRODOC (2016-2020). TNMAC secured an area of 6 ha land outside Dushanbe to serve as training area for demining, etc. UNDP with the US DOS support continued construction of the training area. As a result basic infrastructure is available in the training area.

A high level Working Groups continued to discuss the mine action law endorsed by the Government of Tajikistan in July 2016. Following the endorsement, the national law was introduced for international and national partners. In 2016, the Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategy (2016-2020) and National Mine Action Standards were reviewed and submitted to Government of Tajikistan for endorsement. Article 5 Completion Plan of Ottawa Convention was reviewed UNDP, shared with partners and agreed by TNMAC

Significant progress has been made in 2016 despite the fact that the US DOS contribution (USD 600,000) was received only in April 2016. UNDP continued to support TNMAC in coordination, tasking, monitoring and evaluation, as well as in information management of all mine action related activities in Tajikistan. UNDP staff provided on the job trainings for TNMAC staff on Quality Management, Information Management, MRE and VA.

Based on the UNDP Mine Action Transition Strategy (2015-2017), only the key UNDP staff members were kept to ensure sustainability and smooth implementation of the capacity development initiatives. In 2016, eight full time SC and two part time IC staff were contracted by UNDP to implement the capacity building plan. In addition, UNDP staff provided service support to TNMAC. Despite the achievements in capacity building of TNMAC during the last two years, TNMAC faced challenges in staffing during the second half of 2016. The TNMAC IM Officer (ex. UNDP staff) and Quality Management Officer supported through OSCE have left the programme. In addition, UNDP Land Release Advisor was offered an international job in Iraq with MAG. The Land Release Advisor is planning to leave Tajikistan in February 2017. This position will be advertised soon. It is a big challenge for the programme to loose such a key positions. However, in the end of 2016, the IM and QM Officers positions were advertised, after two times of re-announcing the positions, TNMAC hired the best possible candidates for both positions. The new QM joined TNMAC in December 2016 and the IM Officer will act as of February 2017. In order to build the required capacity, UNDP and TNMAC agreed on a joint capacity building initiatives

which are included in the UNDP Annual Work Plan 2017. In addition to this, UNDP staff helped TNMAC

In order to ensure a smooth transition and proper capacity building process, certain responsibilities were handed over to TNMAC staff. In 2016, UNDP allocated \$209,795 from its core funds (TRAC) to support to Tajikistan Mine Action Programme activities. Unfortunately, as of December 2016 app. \$45,000 funds (transferred from UNDP to TNMAC) is stuck due to some problems in “Agroinvestbank”. TNMAC could not have an access to use these funds to implement some of the mine action related activities in 2016. As a management response, UNDP submitted an official letter through the MFA to find solutions for this problem. TNMAC management also met several times with the head of the Agroinvestbank but unfortunately no progress. It is only in January 2017 when the management of the bank promised that these funds will be accessible in 2017.

To ensure the transparency and accountability of the financial resources, UNDP decided to introduce the financial management system (1C accounting software) for TNMAC. This application allows to track the delivery as well as support TNMAC in financial management. This software has been installed and customized based on the needs of TNMAC. However, further trainings are needed for TNMAC staff to ensure successful implementation of the system.

Two specialists from GICHD and the Implementation Support Unit to the APMBC (ISU) visited TNMAC in September 2015 to review the Article 5 Completion Plan. The review allowed to introduce a new structure which better defines the needs. The final draft version was shared with partners in December 2015. UNDP and TNMAC convened a meeting for operational staff of implementing agencies on land cancellation, reduction and clearance. All issues related to cancellation and reduction were discussed and optimal solution was proposed.

Based on the recommendations in the 2015 External Evaluation report it was decided to engage an International Technical Advisor (ITA) to ensure smooth transition of mine action assets, knowledge and expertise to TNMAC. The recruitment of the position process was finished in April 2016. As a result, Mr. Ian Mansfield with more than 25 years’ experience in Mine Action was selected as the successful candidate for this position. The ITA was introduced to TMAP and partners as well as visited the operational sites in Darvoz and Vanj districts during an initial visit in June 2016. He was also introduced to the processes and main programmatic documents, such as the UNDP Mine Action Transition Strategy (2015-2017), Article 5 Completion Plan, UNDP Project Documents and the Annual Plans, Standards and SOPs.

The ITA reviewed the Article 5 Completion Plan and provided valuable comments in order to make it more specific and useful document. As a result of his first visit, he provided number of recommendations that need to be considered as high priority. The second mission of the ITA was conducted in September 2016 where Mr. Ian Mansfield was leading the High Level Meeting on introducing the National Law and the National Mine Action Strategy (2016-2020). The aim of this meeting is to introduce the National Law on Humanitarian Mine Action and Mine Action Strategy, and to discuss their implications for humanitarian demining activities in Tajikistan. \

In May 2016, UNDP invited GICHD staff to support TNMAC in conducting the Priority Setting System Workshop for Tajikistan Mine Action Programme as well as assessing and the remaining mine/ERW contamination areas in Tajikistan. Twenty five people representing Mine Action implementing partners were invited to participate in this workshop. The recent challenges related to tasking, prioritization and security related issues along the Tajik-Afghan border were discussed during the workshop. As a result, draft criteria and indicators were prepared for developing the mine action priority setting system for Tajikistan. Beside the workshop, the GICHD colleagues

joined the UNDP and TNMAC staff in an assessment and evaluation of the remaining mine/ERW contamination areas in the Central Region. GICHD staff provided recommendations to TNMAC on defining the criteria and indicators for the prioritisation model, by taking into consideration the context and situation of specific region.

UNDP staff continued to enhance the institutional and technical capacity TNMAC capacity in management and coordination, planning, M&E, QA and QC of all mine action related activities. In addition, using the SSC initiatives. UNDP created opportunities for TNMAC staff to benefit from the exchange experience programs with Cambodia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

UNDP STMAP continued productive relationships with the donor community. With an appropriate communication and proper fundraising strategy, UNDP STMAP was able to mobilize the following financial resources for 2016 to support Mine Action related activities in country: Regular (UNDP TRAC 1) - \$209,795 and US DOS - \$650,00. This financial contribution allowed TNMAC to achieve its annual target. In addition, UNDP STMAP mobilized financial recourses for 2016 from US DOS - \$400,000 and UNDP TRAC - \$175,000 which are integrated in the AWP 2017. Due to some issues with the “Agroinvestbank” and security situation along the Tajik-Afghan border, some of the UNDP supported activities were not properly implemented in 2016.

### III. Detailed project activities review

#### Activity 1

Funding source/ Project title	Activity description
<p><b><i>TRAC, US DOS</i></b>  <i>Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP)</i></p>	<p><i>TNMAC capacity to plan, coordinate and monitor mine action related activities is supported and reinforced by UNDP in order to implement the national mine action strategy and the transition strategy.</i></p>

#### Overview of Activities:

UNDP continued its support to TNMAC in coordination, tasking, monitoring and evaluation, information management and quality management as well as other mine action related activities in Tajikistan. UNDP also provided on the job training for TNMAC staff on Quality Management (QM), Information Management (IM), Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA) and supported the national staff in participation in the international trainings and regional workshops. Two TNMAC staff (Operation and Information Management Officers) successfully undertook Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) courses Levels I, II and III, conducted by USA Army which was organized by OSCE in Tajikistan.

In order to ensure a smooth transition and proper capacity building process, certain responsibilities were handed over to TNMAC staff. In 2016, UNDP allocated \$209,795 from its core funds (TRAC) to support to Tajikistan Mine Action Programme activities. Unfortunately, as of December 2016 app. \$45,000 funds (transferred from UNDP to TNMAC) is stuck due to some problems in “Agroinvestbank”. TNMAC could not have an access to use these funds to implement some of the mine action related activities in 2016. As a management response, UNDP submitted an official letter through the MFA to find solutions for this problem. TNMAC management also met several times with the head of the Agroinvestbank but unfortunately no progress. It is only in January 2017 when the management of the bank promised that these funds will be accessible in 2017.

Based on the UNDP Mine Action Transition Strategy (2015-2017), only the key UNDP staff members were kept to ensure sustainability and smooth implementation of the capacity development initiatives. In 2016, eight full time SC and two part time IC staff were contracted by UNDP to implement the capacity building plan. In addition, UNDP staff provided service support to TNMAC. Despite the achievements in capacity building of TNMAC during the last two years, TNMAC faced challenges in staffing during the second half of 2016. The TNMAC IM Officer (ex. UNDP staff) and Quality Management Officer supported through OSCE have left the programme. In addition, UNDP Land Release Advisor was offered an international job in Iraq with MAG. The Land Release Advisor is planning to leave Tajikistan in February 2017. This position will be advertised soon. It is a big challenge for the programme to lose such a key position. However, in the end of 2016, the IM and QM Officers positions were advertised, after two times of re-announcing the positions, TNMAC hired the best possible candidates for both positions. The new QM joined TNMAC in December 2016 and the IM Officer will act as of February 2017. In order to build the required capacity, UNDP and TNMAC agreed on a joint capacity building initiatives which are included in the UNDP Annual Work Plan 2017. In addition to this, UNDP staff helped TNMAC in hiring the Project Coordinator's position for the US DOS supported project under TNMAC.

As part of the capacity building initiatives, with U.S. Department of States/ WRA and UNDP financial support, the key staff members of TNMAC, UNDP as well as the representatives of the Government of Tajikistan and local NGOs benefited from the numbers of studies and south-south cooperation initiatives organized during 2016. Tajikistan Mine Action Programme has not only benefited from these opportunities but also contributed to other programmes within the region. More detailed information is provided below:

- Participation in the regional workshop on “Laws, Standards and Management of Mine Action Programme” conducted in Baku, Azerbaijan on 4 – 8 April 2016 conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). During the seminar all issues related to management of land release and enhancing the regional cooperation in Mine Action were discussed. It was agreed that such platform can be further enhanced and used to discuss the progress and issues related to mine action across the region and countries.
- UNDP MRE Advisor and TNMAC VA Officer participated in International Conference “Towards the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” on October 20-21, 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, in partnership with UNDP and UNICEF in Armenia and USAID-funded Armenia Pension Reform Implementation Programme (USAID/PRIP). The conference aimed at creating a platform for local and international practitioners, academicians and professionals to exchange the best practices, discuss the drawbacks and lessons learnt and engage in debates on the best possible solutions regarding the disability determination and assessment processes in the frames of WHO ICF philosophy.
- UNDP and TNMAC organized the exchange study tour to Cambodian Mine Action Authority in September 2016. Ten participants representing the Government of Tajikistan, TNMAC, UNDP and local NGO. During this visit all issues related to land release practices, gender mainstreaming, victim assistance, security, strategies and regional cooperation as well the peacekeeping operations were discussed. As a result, the delegation found some

areas where the best practice (gender mainstreaming, victim assistance and land release activities) from Cambodia which are applicable in Tajikistan's context.

- In May 2016, TNMAC IM Officer participated in the IMSMA Administrator Level -2 training in Switzerland. In August 2016, TNMAC GIS Officer participated in the IMSMA Administrator Level -1 course in Kyiv, Ukraine. Both of them obtained the MIQ certifications. These courses gave an opportunity to enhance the IM knowledge as well as learn from other participants representing various countries and programs.
- In August 2016, STMAP Project Manager was involved as a trainer to contribute to the Regional Certification training on Information Management (IMSMA: Administrator - 1) conducted by GICHD and with support of OSCE in Kiev, Ukraine. The two week training was conducted in August 2016 where 12 participants from Ukraine, Armenia and Tajikistan representing various NGOs and national entities such as DDG, HALO Trust, NPA and TNMAC as well as from relevant national ministries of Ukraine participated and benefited from the certification course. In addition, the experience and practice available in Tajikistan on IM was shared with participants.
- UNDP supported the participation of the Executive Director, Union Sappers of Tajikistan (UST) in the Senior Management course in Mine Action at James Madison University. The course was crucial for the Executive Director as a person in charge and helped him to better manage the land release related activities, mainly non-technical survey implemented by UST.
- UNDP Land Release Advisor benefited from the training course on Integrated Mine Action for Better Results took place in Spiez, Switzerland from 24 to 28 October 2016. The training course was organized by UNICEF in collaboration with UNDP, GICHD and other partners and sponsored by the Government of Switzerland. The participants representing UNMAS, UNICEF, UNDP, OSCE, MAG, Handicap International, FSD, DDG and DCA participated in this training course. The course covered the theoretical part and practical solutions on results based management, priority-setting mechanisms and systems, theory of change, results framework, survey and surveillance and M&E mechanisms. The course provided an opportunity for mine action stakeholders to develop more integrated strategies that ultimately deliver better results (Back to Office Report available upon request).

UNDP and TNMAC welcomed the representatives from UNMAS and MACCA in Afghanistan to get introduced with Tajikistan's experience in Mine Action in September 2016. As it was described by our Afghan colleagues, the visit allowed to study the experience of Tajikistan in nationalization of Mine Action Centre, transitioning mechanism available in Tajikistan to ensure and sustain mine action capacity. It is suggested by Afghan colleagues, that the transition mechanism and contracting modality implemented by UNDP and TNMAC can be applicable for Afghanistan.

Based on the recommendations in the 2015 External Evaluation report it was decided to engage an International Technical Advisor (ITA) to ensure smooth transition of mine action assets, knowledge and expertise to TNMAC. The recruitment of the position process was finished in April 2016. As a result, Mr. Ian Mansfield with more than 25 years' experience in Mine Action was selected as the successful candidate for this position. The ITA was introduced to TMAP and partners as well as visited the operational sites in Darvoz and Vanj districts during an initial visit in June 2016. He was also introduced to the processes and main programmatic documents, such as the UNDP Mine Action Transition Strategy (2015-2017), Article 5 Completion Plan, UNDP Project Documents and the Annual Plans, Standards and SOPs.



The ITA reviewed the Article 5 Completion Plan and provided valuable comments in order to make it more specific and useful document. As a result of his first visit, he provided number of recommendations that need to be considered as high priority. The second mission of the ITA was conducted in September 2016 where Mr. Ian Mansfield was leading the High Level Meeting on introducing the National Law and the National Mine Action Strategy (2016-2020). The aim of this meeting is to introduce the National Law on Humanitarian Mine Action and Mine Action Strategy, and to discuss their implications for humanitarian demining activities in Tajikistan.

In addition to this, based on the contract, the ITA fulfilled the following deliverables:

- **Support UNDP STMAP on preparation of concept notes and advise on potential speakers/moderators/panellists for all workshops planned within the project framework period.** Concept note and agenda for the high level workshop on National Mine Action Law was developed and agreed by TNMAC Director. The workshop was conducted successfully with participation of 40 people representing all implementing partners and national stakeholders. The National Mine Action Law Plan (the document available upon request) was translated into English and Russian languages and shared among the participants.
- **An ongoing advice provided to TNMAC Director and senior TNMAC and STMAP staff in order to enhance capacity building of TNMAC.** Regular advice was provided to the Director TNMAC through a series of meetings and a summary note. The review and progress of the UNDP Transition Strategy (2015-2017) and Capacity Building Plan (the document available upon request) was discussed with the Project Manager of STMAP as well as provided updated comments and advice to the LR Adviser on the Article 5 Completion Plan and followed up with the ISU APMBC for process advice. Also a paper (not a listed deliverable) on an analysis of a broader view of Transition to National Ownership in Tajikistan was prepared.
- **Support the finalization, roll out and implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy 2016-2020. Oversee the revision (update) the APMBC Article 5 Completion Plan, in line with the operational reality (eg resource mobilization, prioritization, security considerations).** The National Mine Action Strategy 2016 -2020 is submitted to the Government for approval. The structure of the strategy was changed based on the governmental standards. The governmental team worked on the draft Tajik version of the strategy and introduced some changes into the structure and content. In addition to Tajik version, the translation is available in Russian language. Once the final version will be approved, the English version will be prepared accordingly. Comments on the APMBC Article 5 Completion Plan (report available upon request) were provided and shared with TNMAC, UNDP as well as contacted the ISU APMBC to get advice about completing the plan and the process for submission of the Plan to the Article 5 Analysing Committee before the 15th MSP to be held in Chile in early December 2016.
- **Annual progress on the implementation of the Transition Strategy is assessed (joint workshop), progress made is documented and a revised version is submitted.** The ITA conducted a review of the existing Transition to National Ownership Strategy (Versions 1 and 2), documented the progress made to date and prepared a revised version (Version 3). Face-to-face meetings/interviews with the members of each section were conducted within TNMAC. As the Transition Strategy documents were quite large and mainly consisted of charts and tables, a document titled 'Notes on Transition to National Ownership Strategy

Review' (the document available upon request) was developed to explain some issues more clearly. New 'Transition Organogram' was developed and submitted for consideration by TNMAC and UNDP for consideration.

- **Recommendations provided on the needs and level of involvement of UNDP to support TNMAC is provided.** The ITA provided a verbal debrief to the UNDP Country Director and Head of Programme Unit on Monday, 7 November. He also produced a paper titled 'Recommendations on the Level of involvement of UNDP – Future support to TNMAC' (available upon request). It was recommended by the ITA to sustain the current structure of UNDP support TNMAC until the end of 2017 to ensure successful capacity building process. It was observed in 2016 that two trained TNMAC staff (IM Officer and QM Officer) left the programme. In addition to this, UNDP Land Release advisor was offered an international position with MAG in Iraq which requires UNDP and TNMAC to consider and update the capacity building plan.
- **Provided the end of year report on advice provided to Director TNMAC and staff and end of year report on operational efficiency of land release tasking and activities.** The land release activities were dominated by a lack of tasking from TNMAC due to security concerns on the TAB. However, the ITA assessed the current system and prepared a paper titled 'Operational Efficiency of Land Release Tasking and Activities – End of Year report'-report available upon request.
- **At least 3 project proposals are prepared and submitted to potential donors.** The ITA prepared one generic project proposal that covers all aspects of mined action. In addition to this, project proposals were developed and submitted to the UN Portfolio of Mine Action projects. If these generate any interest or if a potential new donor is identified, then the generic proposal can be tailored to suit the donor and a budget figure added.

In May 2016, UNDP invited GICHD staff to support TNMAC in conducting the Priority Setting System Workshop for Tajikistan Mine Action Programme as well as assessing and the remaining mine/ERW contamination areas in Tajikistan. Twenty five people representing Mine Action implementing partners were invited to participate in this workshop. The recent challenges related to tasking, prioritization and security related issues along the Tajik-Afghan border were discussed during the workshop. As a result, draft criteria and indicators were prepared for developing the mine action priority setting system for Tajikistan. Beside the workshop, the GICHD colleagues joined the UNDP and TNMAC staff in an assessment and evaluation of the remaining mine/ERW contamination areas in the Central Region. GICHD staff provided recommendations to TNMAC on defining the criteria and indicators for the prioritisation model, by taking into consideration the context and situation of specific region as well as introduced the Deduct Demining Application (DDA) and the possible usage of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for NTS and Land Release planning activities. In addition to the GICHD colleagues, it was a great opportunity for us to have the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) representatives - Mr. Rodney A. Robideau, SCA Program Manager / Grants Officer Representative and Mr. Geary Cox, Program Manager / Government Technical Monitor who came to visit Tajikistan from 26 May - 04 June 2016 for monitoring the US DOS supported activities. The US DOS representatives had a chance to participate in closing ceremony of the workshop and highlighted the issues related to tasking and security along the border and recommended to be more efficient in these activities. A number of meetings were held with U.S. DOS representatives in UNDP and TNMAC offices, where updates on progress and operational issues were provided. Following the meetings, the development of an action plan was

recommended for TNMAC to address the issues related to tasking, coordination and security along the Tajik Afghan border.

In September 2016, based on the competitive process, UNDP contracted the Gender in Mine Action Programme (GMAP) to a) conduct the gender and diversity assessment in TMAP, b) organize and lead the regional workshop on gender and diversity and c) develop Gender Guidelines for TMAP. Ms. Arianna Calza Bini, the director of GMAP visited Tajikistan in September 2016 to conduct the gender and diversity assessment. She met all the IPs, TNMAC and UNDP. In addition, group meetings were conducted with female and male staff. The report on gender and diversity assessment was prepared and submitted to UNDP and TNMAC. A two-day Regional Workshop on Gender and Diversity in Mine Action was conducted on 2-3 November 2016 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The immediate objective of the workshop was to raise awareness and increase knowledge of stakeholders in the region on the importance of Gender and Diversity for Human Security and Mine Action and how gender and diversity can effectively be mainstreamed in mine action programmes by sharing concrete examples from various countries. The total of 40 people from Ukraine, Armenia, Afghanistan and Tajikistan attended the benefited from the event. The event served as a great platform for sharing experience and best practice in gender mainstreaming in mine action available in the region and beyond. The event was funded by US DOS. As a result, the gender requirements and principles are integrated into the Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategy (2016-2020). After conducting the gender and diversity assessment and the regional workshop, GMAP developed the Gender Guidelines (available upon request) for Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (TMAP). These guidelines will serve as a basic for developing Gender Strategy for TMAP which is planned for 2017.

The US DOS and UNDP financially supported TNMAC Director and UNDP Project Manager to participate and present Tajikistan Mine Action Programme during the 'National Directors and UN Advisors', the APMBC Intersessional and the 15<sup>th</sup> MSP meetings held in Geneva and Santiago during 2016. TNMAC Director made a presentation on land release progress and challenges, on south-south cooperation and other areas of mine action. UNDP Project Manager presented on Monitoring and Evaluation of the UN Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018 and the UNDP VA Advisor presented on victim assistance and disability components. In addition, the meetings served as a great platform for meeting donors, including the US DOS as well as other potential donors and international organizations. Other meetings were held with GICHD, NPA, MACCA and GMAP to discuss possible support to TNMAC in developing a priority setting system and conducting a regional workshop on Gender in Mine Action.

In October 2016 TNMAC Director and STMAP Project Manager participated in the US DOS Grantee symposium. The travel cost for participation was covered from US DOS support through UNDP. During this meeting, TNMAC Director and UNDP Project Manager had serious of meetings with US DOS representatives and partners such as UNDP, NPA, Halo Trust etc.

In November 2016, UNDP Tajikistan Country Office sent an official Note Verbal to the Government of Tajikistan through MFA raising the concerns of UNDP, the donors and Implementing Partners regarding the ongoing issues along the Tajik Afghan border, mainly in Khatlon province. This issue remained unsolved during 2016. Only the NTS operations were allowed in Shurobod district. These issues were also discussed in the Steering Committee meeting conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 where the Governmental Commission on Implementation of the International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL) participated along with international partners. In January 2017, TNMAC obtained the permission to conduct the mine/ERW clearance operations in Shurobod district. At the same time the Government of Tajikistan is considering the remaining border districts of Khatlon province to conduct mine/ERW clearance operations. All implementing

partners were informed about this decision and TNMAC is in the stage of preparing the tasks for NPA, FSD and MoD and once the weather allows the team will be deployed as soon as possible.

### **Results Achieved:**

- UNDP initiated and supported TNMAC in developing the Humanitarian Mine Action Law which was endorsed by the Government of Tajikistan.
- UNDP involved international advisor and GICHD to develop Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategy (2017-2020) and National Mine Action Standards which were submitted to Government of Tajikistan for endorsement. In addition, UNDP developed Article 5 Completion Plan of Ottawa Convention and submitted to UNDP and partners for endorsement.
- The Humanitarian Mine Action Law was endorsed by the Government of Tajikistan.
- The Tajikistan National Mine Action Strategy (2017-2020) and National Mine Action Standards were reviewed and submitted to Government of Tajikistan for endorsement.
- Gender and Diversity Guidance for Tajikistan Mine Action Programme was developed.
- Article 5 Completion Plan of Ottawa Convention was reviewed UNDP, shared with partners and agreed by TNMAC.
- The UNDP Transition Strategy (2015-2017) and Capacity Building plan to strengthen national ownership were reviewed. UNDP support role staff functions and responsibilities were revised as appropriate;
- Tajikistan fulfilled its reporting requirements in accordance with Article 7 of MBT and CCW Protocols II and V;
- Implementing partners from land release, disability support/ victim assistance and risk education received quality support including monitoring and quality management through UNDP STMAP;
- TNMAC IM Officers obtained the GICHD IMSMA Administrator Level 1 and 2 certifications.

### **Impact on Beneficiaries:**

TNMAC is recognized as a national mine action entity globally. Donors started financially support the Centre directly and international partners are cooperating with TNMAC. An example is to establish the cross-border cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in Mine Action.

The endorsement of the National Law on Humanitarian Demining supports accelerating mine action related activities. Mine Action Programme is considered high priority for the national Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL).

The Gender and Diversity requirements in Mine Action are considered on various level. The female demining team established by Norwegian People's Aid is an example of implementing the gender principles in humanitarian mine action

After obtaining knowledge through participation in the certification courses (local and international) as well as via on-the-job trainings supported by UNDP, the key TNMAC staff members are in position to manage and coordinate mine action related activities in Tajikistan.

The experience on nationalization and transitioning, Information Management, Victim Assistance and Gender and Diversity considerations) available in Tajikistan Mine Action Programme is used within the country and the region (Ukraine, Armenia and Afghanistan).

## Activity 2

Funding source/ Project title	Activity description
<p><b><i>TRAC &amp; US DoS</i></b>  <i>Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP)</i></p>	<p><b><i>Support TNMAC to manage, plan, task and monitor land release activities in line with the Article 5 Completion Plan and ensure compliance with National Mine Action Standards and SOPs.</i></b></p>

### Overview of Activities:

In 2016, UNDP STMAP provided support to TNMAC in coordination and regulation as well as tasking and quality control of Land Release activities in Tajikistan. Numbers of round tables, technical working group meetings, workshops devoted to operational efficiency, developing of the National Mine Action Standards, improving the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) and land release methodologies were conducted both on national and international levels. UNDP STMAP supported TNMAC in conducting the monitoring of operations related trainings, actively facilitated the capacity building of land release staff, strengthening the survey and demining operations during the reporting period. The national staff capacity of the implementing agencies such as the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Humanitarian Demining Company (HDU) of the Ministry of Defense and the Union of Sappers of Tajikistan (UST) was further enhanced in 2016.

Despite the reduction of demining capacity and issues related to accessibility and security along the Tajik-Afghan border, land release operations almost reached the annual target for 2016. In 2016, 1.44 sq. km of land contaminated with landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was cleared and released. As a result, more than 3,188 landmines and ERW were identified and destroyed mainly in remote and hard-to-reach mountainous areas. 13 contaminated areas were cleared and four areas suspended due to end of operational season. 13 cleared areas quality controlled and prepared for handover to local population for safe usage.

Joint NTS activities were continued during 2016. UNDP convened a technical workshop group (TWG) among Land Release partners to prepare a combined field assessment with technical intervention in nine suspected battle areas (SHA) in Rasht district of the Central Region of Tajikistan. The comprehensive field assessment comprised LR and Information Management (IM) staff from TNMAC, UNDP and NPA. As a result, three suspected battle areas with total size of 1,450,000 m<sup>2</sup> has been cancelled and released from the database.

In May 2016, TNMAC deployed the UST NTS team to a military polygon located in Bobojon Gafurov district of Sughd Region. As a result, the NTS team installed 15 mine/ERW warning signs around the polygon and marked it with accurate GPS coordinates. At the same time, UST NTS team provided community liaison in Chorukdaron, Temurmaliq, Oftobruya villages. In addition, MRE activities were provided to the officers and soldiers of the military polygon and school children. The below pictures illustrate these activities.

In June 2016, TNMAC provided tasks to UST to start installation of the additional 35 mine/ERW warning signs along the Tajik-Uzbek border in Asht and Isfara districts of Sughd Region. The team was able to install 18 mine/ERW warning signs in Asht district and 17 in Isfara district with proper geographic definitions (GPS coordinates).

In July 2016, TNMAC deployed UST NTS teams to the three military polygons located in Sh. Shohin and Rudaki districts. At the same time, within the current contract requirements, TNMAC tasked UST to conduct NTS of unsurveyed minefields in Sh. Shohin district. As a result, three military polygons were surveyed where 22 Mine/ERW warning signs were installed. In addition, UST conducted NTS in 20 unsurveyed mined areas in Sh. Shohin district, these areas were properly registered and mapped based on the NMAS requirements. All related field reports are timely submitted to TNMAC and passed the quality control procedures. The 2015 contract: 87-2015-RFQ-UNDP-TMAC, dated October 1, 2015 was successfully completed. The below pictures show the NTS and MRE activities in Sh. Shohin district.

In order to continue the NTS operations along the Tajik-Afghan border, particularly in Sh. Shohin district, UNDP launched a tender for conducting the NTS operations. The case was announced from 5 to 19 May 2016. Only one company – UST applied and based on the UNDP rules and regulations, in order to ensure proper competitive process, the case was extended till 6 June 2016. No additional proposals were further received. After considering the application, the evaluation committee recommended to contract the Public Organization “Union of Sappers of Tajikistan” (UST). Since the proposed contract total amount reaches the \$50,000 threshold, the case is submitted for CAP review and UST was contract in August 2016 to conduct NTS in the remaining unsurveyed minefields of Sh. Shohin district. Prior to deployment, TNMAC conducted the refresher training for the NTS teams. After the refresher training, TNMAC provided tasks and deployed two NTS teams of UST to conduct survey operations. The teams conducted survey in the additional 20 minefields (covering 16 minefield records with a total size of 889,000 m<sup>2</sup>) in Sh. Shohin district. All these 16 minefield records are located in "Sangi tarakida", "Darai Mahshakar", "Safedsang", "Turg", "Mars", and "Kofarkash" areas of the Sarigor community in Sh. Shohin district. In addition to the NTS operations, UST conducted Mine Risk Education with population and staff of Border Forces (totally covered 310 people) around 15 surveyed minefields. Also, UST teams installed Mine Warning Signs in 15 identified and registered minefields. All related field reports are timely submitted to TNMAC and passed the quality control procedures.

The composition of the UST NTS team consists of the former UNDP staff who will contribute to the process of data collection and identifying the mined areas along the Tajik-Afghan border area. In order to implement the project, new Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for NTS operation with Technical Survey intervention were developed, discussed and agreed with Implementing Agencies. These SOPs allows more flexibility in decision making processes.

During 2016 the following activities were conducted to make sure that the land release activities are appropriate and based on best practice and National Mine Action Standards (NMAS):

- UNDP STMAP Advisor and two TNMAC QA Officers participated in the regional workshop on “Laws, Standards and Management of Mine Action Programme” held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 4 – 8 April 2016 conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). During the seminar all issues related to management of land release and enhancing the regional cooperation in Mine Action were discussed. It was agreed that such platform can be further enhanced and used to discuss the progress and issues related to mine action across the region and countries;

- UNDP supported the participation of the Executive Director, Union Sappers of Tajikistan (UST) in the Senior Management course in Mine Action at James Madison University. The course was crucial for the Executive Director as a person in charge and helped him to better manage the land release related activities, mainly non-technical survey implemented by UST;
- UNDP Land Release Advisor benefited from the training course on Integrated Mine Action for Better Results took place in Spiez, Switzerland from 24 to 28 October 2016. The training course was organized by UNICEF in collaboration with UNDP, GICHD and other partners and sponsored by the Government of Switzerland. The participants representing UNMAS, UNICEF, UNDP, OSCE, MAG, Handicap International, FSD, DDG and DCA participated in this training course. The course covered the theoretical part and practical solutions on results based management, priority-setting mechanisms and systems, theory of change, results framework, survey and surveillance and M&E mechanisms. The course provided an opportunity for mine action stakeholders to develop more integrated strategies that ultimately deliver better results (Back to Office Report available upon request);
- STMAP LR Advisor participated in OSCE Workshop "Challenges to Explosive Hazards Reduction and Response Capacities Development" organised in Astana (15-18 Nov 2016). The event provided productive platform for exchange of experiences and best practices in EH RR on a technical level;
- 12 operational meetings were conducted with participation of all management and operational staff of UNDP/STMAP, TNMAC and demining Agencies (FSD, NPA, HDU of MoD and UST) where the operational progress, and challenges were discussed;
- TMAC QM team was involved in monitoring, coordination and evaluation and certification of the training courses conducted by implementing agencies during 2016 operational season;
- In October 2016 conducted joint field trip with participation of the representatives from STMAP, TNMAC and Border forces to evaluate possible task areas in Tajik-Afghan border in Khatlon region for planning of activities in 2017. As a result, 51 mined areas were identified that are subject to clearance in 2017.
- Questionnaires on Cluster Munition Remnant (CMR) and mine Contamination, Survey, and Clearance in Tajikistan in 2015 prepared and submitted to ICBL.
- UNDP STMAP supported TNMAC to conduct two accreditation of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and Humanitarian Demining Company of MoD. The accreditation is considered successful and certificates were provided to the organizations.
- UNDP developed the new SOP "Non-Technical Survey with Technical Survey intervention" for TNMAC. These SOPs describes the integrated approach on TS and NTS and are being used by UST
- Three demining agencies conducted training courses for 77 civilians, 93 military staff from MoD and 19 military staff from Committee of Emergency Situation, including:
  - FSD conducted training courses for 19 civilians;
  - HDG MoD conducted training courses for three civilians, 23 officers/70 soldiers from MoD and 5 officers/14 soldiers from Committee of Emergency Situation;
  - NPA conducted training courses for 55 civilians, including eight females.

Based on the 2016 TNMAC operational plan the following activities were conducted:

- 17 Land Release, seven EOD and six NTS tasks were prepared and submitted to FSD, NPA, UST and HDG/MoD;
- TMAC QM team conducted 12 long-term visits where conducted 35 monitoring activities in 20 task sites and quality control of 13 cleared areas;
- Regular on job training on Land release and Quality management was conducted for 4 operational staff of TNMAC;
- The land release progress reports as well as completion surveys and the suspension reports were quality checked and provided to IMSMA system
- Maps of landmines/ERW contamination areas were regularly updated and communicated among partner organizations and donors;

The need for a proper training centre and facility which all implementing partners can benefit from is a key for conducting mine/ERW clearance operations in Tajikistan. The Government of Tajikistan allocated six hectare land for a Mine Action Training Area. Based on negotiation with TNMAC and the Government, the US DOS supported construction of the Training Centre within this area. The basic infrastructure was built in 2015 with US DOS support. However, the Training Centre requires proper infrastructure to function well and serve its purpose. In order to continue enhancement of the centralized training area for the national mine action program's needs, UNDP with the agreement of TNMAC, decided to involve the Civil Engineer from UNDP Country Office to contribute to development of project related documents. The UNDP Civil Engineer developed the tender documents and Request for Quotation (RFQ) titled "Land improvement, providing water and electricity supply to TMAP Training Centre" located in Choryakkoron jamoat, Rudaki district. The tender was advertised in April 2016 in local newspapers and posted on the UNDP Tajikistan website, with the deadline for submission on 28 April 2016. As a result, 12 bids were received. The evaluation committee recommended awarding the contract to LLC "Firuz". The amount of the offer provided by LLC "Firuz" is \$54,076. Since the contract offer exceeds 50,000 threshold, the case was subject to CAP review and approval. The case was approved by CAP and contract signed between UNDP and LLC "Firuz" on 27 July 2016.

On 25 August 2016, UNDP received the refusal letter from LLC "Firuz". UNDP Procurement Unit and UNDP STMAP have met with the director of LLC "Firuz" and he has persistently refused to fulfil its obligations under the signed contract. As the company was not initiated any works on site until August 2017, UNDP terminated the contract and consider the contracting of the next technically qualified bidder (LLC "Safar-66") after obtaining its consent to implement the contract. The contract between UNDP and LLC "Safar-66" was signed on September 7, 2016.

LLC "Safar-66" started construction on 12 September, 2016. On 28 November 2016, UNDP received letter from LLC "Safar-66" on completion of works. Inspection team consisted from representatives of UNDP, STMAP and TNMAC visited constriction area for evaluation of completed works. During the visit evaluation team identified some shortages and officially requested the LLC "Safar-66" to complete these shortages by end of December 2016. The rain and snow also affected timely delivery. It is planned to finalize the case by the end of January 2017.

#### **Results Achieved:**



25 chapters of the updated NMAS were reviewed again based on the new requirements of the Government of Tajikistan. All 25 NMAS chapters are available in three languages (Tajik, Russian and English). Developed NMAS chapters were submitted to the Government of Tajikistan for endorsement.

UNDP staff supported TNMAC in successful coordination of LR activities at field level. Despite the reduction of demining capacity and issues related to accessibility and security along the Tajik-Afghan border, land release operations almost reached the annual target for 2016. Since beginning of 2016, 1.44 sq. km of land contaminated with landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was cleared and released efficiently. This achievement composes 96% from the 2016 annual LR target (1,500,000 m<sup>2</sup>). As a result, more than 3,188 landmines and ERW were identified and destroyed mainly in remote and hard-to-reach mountainous areas. 13 contaminated areas were cleared and four areas suspended due to end of operational season. 13 cleared areas quality controlled and prepared for handover to local population for safe usage.

During 2016, Land Release activities were conducted in 17 mined areas along Tajik-Afghan border and in Central Region. Out of the 17 mined areas 13 were fully released by implementing agencies, quality controlled and accepted by TNMAC and prepared for handover to the local authority for the safe use. The safety and security situation has also improved in 2016. No any demining accident has been registered this year.

As a result of the joint Non-Technical Survey (NTS) activities in Rasht district of the Central Region of Tajikistan three suspected battle areas with total size of 1,450,000 m<sup>2</sup> has been cancelled and released from the database.

NTS activities were conducted in six military polygons to identify raise awareness among the communities living around these polygons. As a result, UST NTS teams installed 67 ERW warning signs around these polygons.

35 mine/ERW warning signs were installed along the Tajik-Uzbek border in Asht and Isfara districts of Sughd Region (18 mine/ERW warning signs in Asht district and 17 in Isfara district).

NTS was conducted by UST in 55 minefields (covering 42 minefield records) with a total size of 2,023,000 m<sup>2</sup> in Sh. Shohin district. In addition to the NTS operations, UST conducted Mine Risk Education with population and staff of Border Forces (totally covered 310 people) around these surveyed areas.

The operational tasks, progress, mine clearance, completion and suspension reports of all cleared mined areas were quality checked, accepted by Quality Management team and entered into IMSMA database.

### **Impact on Beneficiaries:**

Removing 3,188 landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) reduced the threat of landmines in the affected communities. The cleared land will be used for different purposes including agriculture, fishing farm, grazing of animals, gold production and river coast fortifications.

In addition, approximately 100,000 local people in remote communities, mainly in Central Region and GBAO, will benefit from these cleared areas. These areas provide safe environment for three border patrol units where more than 400 solders carry out their daily duties.

The land release staff benefit from the use of new National Mine Action Standards. Less time and higher security measures are introduced in the new NMAS which allow the Demining Agencies to use more efficient and safer mine clearance methodologies.

### Activity 3

Funding source/ Project title	Activity description
<p><b><i>TRAC &amp; US DoS</i></b>  <i>Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP)</i></p>	<p><i>Victim Assistance activities are further mainstreamed into programmes and projects developed and implemented by national institutions, United Nations, or other development partners, to fulfill the rights of people with disabilities including mine/ERW victims</i></p>

### Overview of Activities:

In 2016, UNDP Victim Assistance (VA) was involved in carrying out the VA related activities in Tajikistan. Based on the strategic and AWP 2016, UNDP supported TNMAC in coordination, monitoring and evaluation, conducting trainings, workshops and seminars as well as improving the regional cooperation on Victim Assistance. In addition, the VAU was involved in developing capacity of national VA partners and disability policies, providing referral services, conducting an evaluation of the psycho-social support projects and coordination and support of the persons with disabilities through micro-credits initiatives and micro-grants. Specific steps were taken towards mainstreaming of the VA into other UN and governmental institutions.

The following activities were undertaken during the 2016:

- Adaptation of the two pilot physical accessibility related sites (both located in Dushanbe) nominated by the Technical Working Group (TWG) was implemented by two construction companies: the LLC "Safar 66" and LLC "Vahdat LTD". The LLC "Safar 66" performed construction works on renovation and adaptation of toilet premises and two toilet cabins of the State Dushanbe Circus for use by people with disabilities by 30 October, 2016. Dushanbe Circus was made fully accessible for people with disabilities. In addition, The LLC "Vahdat LTD" was contracted to conduct renovation and adaptation of the toilet facilities of the Research Institute of the medical-social expertize and rehabilitation. The contract was signed on 16 November 2016 with construction to be completed until 13 February 2017;
- UNDP and TNMAC in close cooperation with the Committee of Architecture and Construction (CAC), the Research Institute of Architecture and Construction and local governments, organized three regional trainings on "Tajikistan standards for accessibility to buildings and constructions for Persons with Disabilities" in the regional centers:
  - in Khujand (7-10 June 2016) for 20 local architects and designers from Khujand, Istravshan and Buston cities, as well as from Bobojon Gafurov, Isfara, Zafarabad and Devashtich districts of Sughd Province;

- - in Khorog (7-10 November 2016) for 20 architects and designers from GBAO, namely Shugnon, Rushon, Roshtkala, Ishkoshim, Murgab and Vanj districts;
- - in Garm (21-24 November 2016) for 20 Rasht valley's local architects and designers, namely Garm, Nurabad, Sangvor (previous Tavildara), Jirgatal and Tajikabad districts.

In total, 60 local architects and designers from Sugd oblast, GBAO and Rasht valley benefited from these trainings. As a result of the training, the participants obtained sufficient knowledge on Tajikistan standards for accessibility to buildings and constructions for Persons with Disabilities, which have been adopted by the Government of Tajikistan;

- In order to increase provision of psychological aid and its quality, the VA National Consultant hired by the UNDP conducted an evaluation of the psycho-social support projects implemented in the framework of Victim Assistance pillar. During the 4 quarter of 2016, the National VA Consultant conducted two field trips: a) to Sugd oblast (15 -18 October 2016) and b) to Rasht valley (21 – 22 October 2016). The main evaluation findings including recommendations for future projects were presented and discussed at the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting conducted on 27 October 2016, where 28 participants participated and provided inputs - comments and recommendations which were addressed in the final evaluation report;
- TNMAC in cooperation with UNDP organized the summer rehabilitation camp for 75 landmine/ERW survivors and other PWDs from 25 July to 5 August 2016 in the “Bahoriston” sanatorium in Sughd. The Camp's Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as accessibility training and other events were broadcasted on local and regional TV channels and «Jahonnamo» channel which greatly contributed to the awareness-raising of the population on mine actions and disability in general as well as on the rights of PWDs;
- Monitoring of VA projects, including monitoring of the reconstruction process was organized several times by the TNMAC and UNDP STMAP Programme responsible staff together with key VA partners - representatives of the Society of Persons with Disabilities “Imkoniyat” and the League of Women with Disabilities “Ishtiroq”;
- Cooperation with the US-based NGO “Polus Center” continued in 2016. The “Polus Center” organized two trainings on “wheelchair-fitting”: one in the Rasht Central District Hospital (CDH) and another one in the State Unitary Enterprise of Prosthetic Orthotic Plants (SUEPOP). Three wheelchairs were donated to the CDH in Gharm and some equipment donated to the SUEPOP. In addition, direct economic support was provided to seven landmine/ERW survivors (six landmine survivors living in the Rasht Valley and one survivor in Dushanbe received micro grants). Capacity building support was provided to SUEPOP's technicians through on-the-job training. Both training were very well received by participants;
- During 3 years (from 15.11.2013 till the 15.11. 2016) micro-credits were provide to 154 survivors and other PWDs (each MCF served per 77 beneficiaries) by two MCFs granted by the UNDP. The contracts with two MCFs “Rushdi Sugd” and “Fayzi Surkhob” were extended for additional six months (until 15 May 2017) with no cost implications in order to achieve the initial targets (each MCF should serve at least 105 beneficiary);

- In 2016, TMAC VA organized two TWG meetings related to the integrated approach to Victim Assistance, presentation results of the external evaluation of the psycho-social support projects as well as planning, reporting and accessibility;
- In 2016, UNDP continued the capacity building of TNMAC VA staff through on-the-job training, coordination and management of VA activities in Tajikistan as well as supported the participation in the International Conference “Towards the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” organized in Erevan, Armenia and study tour to Cambodian Mine Action Centre;
- UNDP contributed to the training organized by ICRC on VA needs assessment data collection where ICRC and RCST volunteers participated. In total 105 IMSMA forms were collected by RCST volunteers in 2016. The total amount of collected forms is 789. These forms were quality checked and entered into IMSMA database. Based on survey results assistance was provided to 170 families of victims through ICRC’s MEI project. Most of them are MEI (160) and only 10 are adhoc.
- VA pillar contributed in organizing of the regional conference on Gender in Mine Action and presented «Gender considerations in VA in Tajikistan».

### Results Achieved

Mainstreaming of the VA programme into UNDP disability component of the Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme, UNPRPD funded project of UN Country Team (UNCT) and MoHSPP activities in favor of persons with disabilities (PwD) was successfully continued;

Two toilets in the important pilot sites for people with disabilities in Dushanbe were reconstructed so that both sites become completely physically accessible for landmine survivors and other people with disabilities in 2016.

More than 90% of accurate and reliable landmine/ERW victim and Needs Assessment survey data (disaggregated by sex and age) was collected by ICRC/RCST and entered into TNMAC IMSMA database.

Collaboration with national and local partners enabled to provide rehabilitation support and assistance to 170 families of victims through Micro-Economic Initiatives (MEI) project of the ICRC (most of them are MEI -160 and only 10 are adhoc) and to seven landmine/ERW survivors received direct economic support from “Polus Center”. Additionally to this, 87 mine and ERW victims continued income generation activities with micro-credits provided by two MCFs.

With the technical support and assistance of UNDP, the Government of Tajikistan provided high-quality input for the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention and intercessional meetings in Geneva, Switzerland.

### Impact on Beneficiaries:

Economic conditions and livelihood of 264 landmines/ERW victims and their families were improved through their involvement in economic reintegration activities (87 continued income generation projects with micro-credits received from two MCFs and 177 received micro-grants);

75 landmine/ERW survivors and other PWDs benefited from medical treatment, psychological rehabilitation, adaptive sport and art-therapy during the summer rehabilitation camp in the sanatorium “Bahoriston”.

More than 2,500 people with disabilities including landmine survivors have proper access and benefiting from the cultural events conducted in the Dushanbe Circus and medical services provided in the Research Institute of Medical and Social Expertise and Rehabilitation.

Mass media coverage of the Opening/Closing Ceremonies of the summer rehabilitation camp as well as regional accessibility trainings contributed to the awareness raising of the population on disability in general as well as on accessibility and rights of PWDs.

#### **Activity 4**

<b>Funding source/ Project title</b>	<b>Activity description</b>
<p><b><i>TRAC &amp; US DoS</i></b>  <i>Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP)</i></p>	<p><b><i>Mine Risk Education is provided by implementing partners and community members to all mine/ERW-affected areas.</i></b></p>

#### **Overview of Activities:**

From 2016, US DOS started to support Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities in Tajikistan. UNDP supported TNMAC to develop a comprehensive training plan and new educational and visibility materials to support the key educators on the national level. In addition, the UNDP MRE Advisor provided on-job training on effective communication, designing info materials, monitoring field plan, gender awareness and safe briefings on mines/ERWs for TNMAC MRE staff. This will help the national staff to better understand the subject and implement the MRE related activities in more effective manner.

MRE activities integrated into the school curriculum and successfully mainstreamed into the national programme. Schools were identified as the ideal place where children could learn health messages in MRE sessions. Child-to-child approach to disseminate safe messages improved and supported the care that older children gave to their younger brothers and sisters. Sessions aimed to make the schoolchildren aware of the need of effective messaging in MRE.

UNDP supported TNMAC in developing the publications of the new educational materials for various target groups. Posters and leaflets will be used by the volunteers and village leaders during their meetings with communities. Also, UNDP supported TNMAC in conducting a technical working group meeting with the involvement of a VA component, in order to strengthen the role of TNMAC MRE & VA pillars on successful coordination, planning and implementation of mine action activities related to MRE and Victim Assistance. This integrated approach is crucial and will be implemented in the future.

Within the framework of the regional MRE training plan, sessions on community and school based activities were included to refresh the knowledge of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) MRE volunteers and schools teachers. The objectives of these trainings are to train the staff of local authorities, volunteers and teachers living in mines/ERWs affected communities to transfer MRE knowledge to local inhabitants and how to live safely within the proximity of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

In April 2016, the first joint MRE-VA technical working group meeting was held at the Sheraton hotel in Dushanbe, with participation by 23 members representing various international and national agencies on Victim Assistance and Mine Risk Education. The achievements and challenges of MRE-VA in 2015 were discussed during the meeting. In addition, 2016 MRE-VA plans were shared and adapted based on the comments and discussions.

MRE trainings were organized from May 3-6, 2016 in four border units of Khatlon region which aimed to increase proper awareness of patrols about danger of landmines/ERWs. The total number of 111 frontier guards gained comprehensive information on safe behaviour and received messages against landmines hazards. MRE trainings were held in each border unit with the provision of educational materials, presentations, etc.

Monitoring visits were conducted in 10 target communities and schools located in the mine/ERW affected areas of Khatlon region in May 2016. This visit also served as on-the-job practical trainings for TNMAC MRE staff to practice the provision of safety briefings and presentations for local authorities. A number of meetings was conducted with local authorities, communities' women councils, branches of the Tajikistan Red Crescent Societies and schools to inform them of the role of TNMAC in monitoring and coordination of MRE related activities. Safety briefings were provided on ERW hazards left near the army base in Khuroson and Muminobod districts. TNMAC MRE staff provided safety briefings to 680 people (315 boys, 290 girls, 57 men and 18 women). MRE field reports were submitted to IM department for entering into IMSMA database.

Designing of the new MRE educational and visibility materials has been completed, and field testing of materials was done with target group of adults and children living in mine and ERW affected communities. The materials will be printed and distributed to national educators and RCST MRE Volunteers, communities' members, schools teachers, women councils and shepherds. These materials will assist to enhance the MRE community and school based activities. In addition, posters, brochures, leaflets, slides, guidelines and banners were designed to teach children and adults about the dangers of mines and ERW. Moreover, MRE materials with safe messages against mine/ERW will be provided to 290 target schools in four regions.

UNDP supported TNMAC to continue effective collaboration with the Tajik State Border Committee to develop MRE training programme to protect patrols serving on the frontier units. MRE trainings were conducted in five border units of Sugd Region in August 2016. Its aim was to make border patrols properly aware of the danger of landmines. The total number of 104 frontier officers from Panjakent, Istaravshan, Maschoh, Isfara and Asht were given comprehensive information on safe behaviour. The MRE training was held in each border unit provided educational materials and presentations were provided. MRE has promoted good cooperation with frontier units in the southern border area of Tajikistan. MRE staff conducted number of sessions and classes for the frontier guards on how to identify hazardous areas and to minimize the risks. It also aimed to develop their understanding of mine action role in the country. TNMAC Director has joined the meetings and highlighted the importance of safety briefings and messages to prevent mine/ERW accidents. Generally, in 2016, MRE trainings organized in 9 border units of Khatlon

and Suhd regions to 215 frontiers that gained necessary information on safe behavior and message against landmines hazard. These trainings were recorder in MRE forms which cover the total participants/officers and staff and entered into IMSMA database.

Safety briefings about mine and UXO risk education and handouts provided to 30 villages of Shohin, Muminobod (namely jamoat Balkhobi close to army polygon) and Khuroson districts. Meetings held with the involvement of the local authorities (women councils, village leaders, schools management and health sectors) as wells with the district branches of the Red Crescent, and district education departments.

MRE focal point represented by Ministry of Education and Science have been involved to support education sectors, namely to integrate mine/Risk Education in target schools of four regions. Uzbek speaking schools of Sugd region were provided by comic booklet “1001 mines”.

STMAP MRE consulted TNMAC on quality implementation of the small project in seven districts funded by OSCE. The project held drawing competitions 15 rural schools, TV-spot demonstrated in national TV, info and visibility materials disseminated to schools.

STMAP MRE revised trainings modules on “MRE Community, School and Media Based Activities”, “Gender in MRE”. Moreover, twenty types of educational and visibility materials were developed and approved by TNMAC. Printing of the MRE materials is going on.

The list of mine/ERW accident was updated. In 2016, two UXO accidents and one landmine accident were registered. As a result, one civilian killed by UXO, two civilian injured by UXO, one boy injured by UXO and two military border patrols got severe injures by landmines in border area. All accidents happened in border area of Khatlon and village affected by leftovers of the Momirak polygon. The registered data is entered to the IMSMA database.

In 2016, MRE provided by implementing partners in 34 mine/ERW-affected districts. The total number of 54,069 MRE bens. (12,721 girls; 18,172 boys; 9,386 women; 13,790 men) reached by MRE safety messages. MRE integrated into the school curriculum and mainstreamed into the national programme. MRE contributed main role to advocate gender-sensitive policy and promoted gender awareness among volunteers, communities’ members and teachers through its activities. In Addition, MRE trained 215 frontiers in Tajik-Afghan and Tajik-Uzbek borders.

### **Results Achieved:**

The annual target of MRE was exceeded. RCST MRE Volunteers provided 969 IMSMA Field Reports with gender disaggregated data and disseminated MRE safe messages to 54,069 MRE beneficiaries (12,721 girls; 18,172 boys; 9,386 women; 13,790 men). This data entered to IMSMA data base;

On-job and fields MRE trainings held for TNMAC MRE staff on Landmine Safety Guide, Gender Process in MRE/Advocacy, MRE based activities in community, school and media level, effective communication, designing materials, monitoring field plans;

Contributed in preparation of International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, as well as provided info to villages MRE teachers to organize classes to support campaign #Together Against Mines in April;

STMAP MRE promoted TNMAC to support 15 rural schools in organizing drawing competitions, broadcastings of TV-spot, dissemination of materials in contaminated communities of 7 district. MRE Round Table held in border jamoat Farob, Panjakent;

UNDP supported TNMAC in developing publications of the new educational materials for various target groups. Posters and leaflets will be used by the volunteers and village leaders during their meetings with communities. 20 types of various MRE educational and visibility materials were designed, field tested and printed out for further distribution among national stakeholders, namely RCST, Ministry of Education, women councils, shepherds and borders;

UNDP MRE promoted guide to conduct Round Table funded by OSCE in border jamoat Farob of Panjakent. 370 Comic Booklet “1001 Mines” in Uzbek language provided to the district education department of Panjakent for distribution among Uzbek teachers/students;

**Impact on Beneficiaries:**

Safety behavior and quality communication on MRE improved among districts and communities stakeholders which is the main achievement of the pillar. As a result, 54,069 (12,721 girls; 18,172 boys; 9,386 women; 13,790 men) local population directly benefited from MRE.

As a result of comprehensive MRE activities, specifically schools based activities, the number of mines/ERWs casualties has significantly decreased **from 83 persons in 2000 to 6 persons in 2016.**

In addition to the traditional MRE awareness raising, public information is disseminated to advocate for the support of mine action and provide safety messages to the wider public in partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, Ministry of Education and Science, and women councils. TV-spot demonstrated periodically by Jahonnamo on protection MRE metallic billboards installed in mine/ERW affected places and conveyed the message to broader audience through the country.

**Activity 5**

Funding source/ Project title	Activity description
<p><i><b>TRAC &amp; US DoS</b></i>  <i>Support to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (STMAP)</i></p>	<p><i><b>Information Management (IM) effectively supports TMAP in the management, planning, prioritization and implementation of mine action-related activities.</b></i></p>

**Overview of Activities:**

UNDP STMAP continuously supported TNMAC in capacity building of its IM staff in 2016. TNMAC has two IM staff members to carry out the IM related activities. UNDP STMAP provided on the job training for GIS and IMSMA staff. UNDP involved a local GIS Consultant in April to train national staff and provide service support to TNMAC. UNDP IM and LR staff supported TNMAC in conducting a detailed analysis of the remaining contamination in the Central Region and Tajik-Afghan border for the purpose of planning the 2016 operations and developing a comprehensive APMBC Article 5 Completion Plan. The GIS Consultant developed detailed maps



of the remaining contamination and spatial analyses that can be used for developing a priority setting system.

The following activities were taken place in 2016 to implement the capacity building initiatives and plan:

- In May 2016, one of the TNMAC IM staff participated in the IMSMA Administrator Level -2 training in Switzerland. This gave an opportunity to learn from the course as well as from other participants representing various country programs. TNMAC IM staff are now in position to run the IMSMA database with land release data, mine accident and victim as well as Mine Risk Education information data. TNMAC and the implementing partners are following the recently developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on IM, which were shared with partners in 2015;
- The GICHD invited UNDP Project Manager/ IM Advisor as a trainer to conduct the regional IMSMA Administrator Level-1 training course in Kiev from 13-24 August 2016. TNMAC GIS Specialist as well as was participants from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine and Tajikistan attended and benefited from the course. TNMAC GIS Officer obtained IMSMA A-1 level;
- UNDP STMAP is in the process of implementing the GICHD/TNMAC IM Action Plan. As a result of the IM Consultation workshop and the IMSMA A2 level course organized by GICHD in 2015, the UNDP IM Advisor was able to enhance MINT. The tool now includes more dashboards to reflect and track the strategic and operational goals of the programme. MINT was presented during the National Directors and UN Advisors meeting in February 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, where the US DOS representative participated. Certain programmatic information and statistics will be available for the wider public during the third quarter of 2016. MINT has a great potential to demonstrate accountability and transparency of mine action activities in the country;
- The Information Management team of TNMAC, with UNDP support, provided a basic dataset for developing the Priority Setting System for TMAP. All geographic dataset information is shared with GICHD for consideration and development of the tool;
- The IM products are continuously shared among partners. One IM meeting was organized by the UNDP Project Manager with involvement of TNMAC and IPs. The aim of the meeting was to further improve the Mine Action reporting system and its quality;
- Ongoing Land release progress reports (9 reports) were received from Ops. Department and entered into IMSMA database. Developed map of Non-Technical Survey areas for TNMAC Director, which was presented in the meeting with US DoS donors;
- Prepared the overall map of mine/ERW contamination areas according to updated information on Land Release activities and completed minefields received from implementing partners;

- All available Land release (14 progress, 13 completion, 3 suspension) reports entered into IMSMA database. Detailed land release maps of remaining minefield areas for TNMAC Director, which was presented in the meeting with Border Guard management;
- The overall map of mine/ERW contamination areas according to updated information on Land Release activities and completed minefields received from implementing partners;
- The DGPS equipment was prepared for activation (installed Terrasync software) and functioning well. DGPS was subscribed with awaiting status for geo-correction system was provided by OmniSTAR;
- GICHD supported TNMAC to make necessary changes in the MINT reports. MINT reports are shared with users (head of mine action pillars) and included in all reports. Below are example of MINT dashboards. Some of the dashboards (Article 5 completion report) are still work in progress.

Despite the progresses, there is an issue of sustaining the IM staff. TNMAC IM staff which was trained by UNDP and GICHD just recently left the organization. It is important to have a backup in IM unit particularly which needs to be considered for the coming year human resources planning.

#### **Results Achieved:**

- The IM capacity of TNMAC was further enhanced; the national staff were trained on IMSMA reporting requirements, during 2016, two TNMAC staff obtained IMSMA A-1 and A2 level Certification by GICHD in Speiz, Switzerland and Kiev, Ukraine;
- IMSMA database is up to date and all statistics and maps are prepared and shared with implementation partners as well as used for reporting and presentations purposes;
- IMSMA provides evidence-based data to fulfill international reporting obligations;
- MINT was developed to reflect mine action data through the web based application; it was enhanced and presented to TNMAC and all implementing partners;
- As a result of coordination meetings and Land Release technical working group (TWG) the coordination and management of mine action related activities in Tajikistan was strengthened.

#### **Impact on Beneficiaries:**

TNMAC Information Management system provides more accurate and reliable data. The results and analyses were made available to national and international partners. MINT is developed to reflect disaggregated mine action data, which serves as an efficient tool to support decision-making process based on evidence. Mine Action community including donors, partners and users will certainly benefit from disaggregated data provided via MINT.

The experience on Information Management available in UNDP support to Tajikistan Mine Action Programme to support other countries (Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia) within the regions through trainings and exchange experience initiatives.

## IV. Implementation challenges

### Risks:

Six major risks that had been identified in the UNDP/TMAC MA Prodoc 2016-2020 were under the observation of UNDP/TMAC during 2016. All relevant steps were taken by UNDP to coordinate the management of those risks by the relevant governmental institutions, demining agencies and other implementing partners.

- 1. Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) may not have sufficient capacity to independently manage all mine action activities in the country.**

After establishment of TNMAC in January 2014, UNDP supported the capacity building initiatives through on-the-job trainings, exchange experience and regional cooperation in Mine Action. TNMAC key local staff obtained knowledge on Information Management, Quality Management, Victim Assistance, Mine Risk Education, project management and finance management. However, two certified staff (Quality Management and Information Management Officers) left the programme in 2016. There is a potential risk of sustaining the staff within TNMAC.

- 2. The Project Target on Land Release activities (12.6 km<sup>2</sup> by 1 April 2020) could not be achieved (security).**

Despite the reduction of demining capacity and issues related to accessibility and security along the Tajik-Afghan border, land release operations almost reached the annual target for 2016. Since beginning of 2016, 1.44 sq. km of land contaminated with landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) was cleared and released efficiently. This achievement composes 96% from the 2016 annual LR target (1,500,000 m<sup>2</sup>). However, the NTS is discovering new areas that were not initially registered. Therefore, it is the initially remaining area was increased. As of December 2016, it was estimated that app. 12 km<sup>2</sup> remains to be contaminated. Using the available assets and limited timeframe (only three operational years) Tajikistan may not reach its obligation by April 2020.

- 3. The Project Target on Land Release activities (12.6 km<sup>2</sup> by 1 April 2020) could not be achieved (financial).**

However, due to the security situation along the Tajik-Afghan border area

- 4. A national and sustainable EOD Rapid Response mechanism will not be set up to address the residual ERW hazards after releasing all known mined areas.**

Several internal meeting was conducted to discuss residual mine/ERW risks after 2020. TNMAC Director is involved in managing this issue. STMAP staff provide technical support for realization of this project. Concept Note on Residual Risk from Landmines & Explosive Remnants of War developed by UNDP/STMAP CTA. It is planned that in 2017, the CIHL will identify the entity that can deal with the residual threats post 2020.

- 5. Effective contribution to Victim Assistance by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP) will not succeed.**

The Victim Assistance focal point in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of RT (MoHSPP) was appointed by the Minister in the beginning of 2016. The MoHSPP's VA focal point is one of the responsible persons for the successful integration of VA into all MoHSPP disability related activities. However there is a strong need for capacity assessment and capacity building of the MoHSPP focal point as well as a development of a legal framework for further mainstreaming.

**6. ICRC ends/reduces the support of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) as key MRE implementing partner.**

As of the end of 2016, app. 80% of the Needs Assessment survey was conducted by ICRC and the support of the RCST. There is a potential risk that ICRC may end its project to survey the remaining 20% of mine/ERW casualties.

**Issues:**

The programme faced some issues and challenges during 2016. The main challenges that affected timely implementation of the planned activities are the following:

- Due to the accessibility and security issues along the Tajik-Afghan border of Khatlon province, the mine/ERW clearance capacity was not fully deployed. This led to returning back the donors funds by the Implementing Partners.
- Due to some problem with "Agroinvest Bank" UNDP supported activities were not fully implemented in 2016. The project was able to implement only 89% of its planned activities.
- Sustaining the trained local staff for TNMAC is an issue. Only in 2016, two trained staff left the programme. This will have a negative impact on implementation of the UNDP Transition Strategy (2015-2017) and capacity building plan.

## **V. Lessons learnt and next steps**

**Lessons Learned:**

The following lessons were learned in 2015:

- More efforts are required to strengthen the coordination between TNMAC and the Government of Tajikistan with regards to implementation of the Ottawa Conventions obligations;
- TNMAC middle management staff capacities are still limited to operate independently and need further improvement; the capacity building plan needs to be revised on annual bases to ensure that it reflects the reality;
- Sustainability of IM staff should be taken into considerations. Without an appropriate IM staff the programme will face challenges in prioritization, planning, coordination and decision making processes;

- Improve the planning, monitoring and tracking mechanism of land release and victim assistance related activities;
- Post clearance survey needs to be conducted to quantify and qualify the impact of the areas cleared from mine/EWR;
- In addition to the approved annual operational plan develop an alternative plan for the cases of changing security situation and impossibility of implement an approved annual operational plan;
- More appropriate methodologies and approaches are required to address the remaining minefields located in relatively difficult environment in Shurobod district; close coloration is required with local authorities and relevant national entities to implement the NTS in Tajik-Afghan border in 2017;
- TNMAC and the Government should find the ways to establish an appropriate mechanism with UNDP and donors support to ensure that existing national EOD capacity is sustainable and able to respond to the residual ERW risks when they occur.
- UNDP and TNMAC experienced the opportunity of regional and south-south cooperation. This initiatives needs to be strengthened further not to ensure that TNMAC is benefiting from this;

### **Recommendations:**

Following recommendations based on the internal and external monitoring and evaluation are provided for developing the Programme's activities in future:

- Involvement of the International Technical Specialist with short term involvements will be required to support TNMAC in implementation of the Ottawa Conventions obligations by April 2020;
- Research is required with involvement of the technical expertise from the region, preferably from Afghanistan to propose a way of dealing with residual contamination, specifically for those areas where the available standards and SOPs do not allow removing mines. These are mainly hard to reach areas;
- UNDP STMAP has to make sure successful implementation of the UNDP Transition Strategy (2015-2017) mainly for the asset and capacity building parts. The key mine action staff (Land Release, Information Management, VA and MRE) should provide all efforts to build a sustainable capacity for TNMAC. TNMAC should ensure sustainability of its staff;
- To ensure that TNMAC MRE capacity suits the purpose of the programme and well the activities are well integrated into the national curriculums. In addition, it is recommended to identify innovative/more efficient approaches for MRE.
- "Development of a pipeline of project concept notes for funding, across MA areas"

- UNDP STMAP should ensure the continuation of the Information Management in providing capacity-building support to the implementing agencies, particularly the national NGOs recently involved in mine action;
- There is a need for TNMAC staff to learn and improve their English language to participate in international trainings offered by GICHD and other institutions;
- Strengthen the capacity of national and international partners and enhance coordination to use integrated approach in Victim Assistance. With UNDP support, TNMAC will ensure effective coordination between the national and international agencies involved in disability issues. It is recommended that victim assistance should be part of broader development and disability agenda.
- UNDP STMAP should develop more comprehensive land release methodologies in general in NTS in particular to address the issues of remotely and difficult accessible hazard areas; strong cooperation with GICHD on international level and Mine Action Centres of Afghanistan, Iran and Azerbaijan on the regional level within PoP is desirable;
- To improve and enhance the south-south cooperation between Tajikistan- Afghanistan on mine action related activities.

## VI. Financial status and utilization

### *Financial status*

If the project has multiple phases, all figures should refer only to the current phase of the project (refer to the dates in the project document).

**Table 1: Contribution overview [start date of the project – end date of project]<sup>1</sup>**

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP/TRAC	209,795	200,795	
US DoS	650,000	581,661	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>859,795</b>	<b>782,456</b>	

<sup>1</sup>The "resource over gap).

onstrating a funding

**Table 2: Funding status (as of the end of the year)**

Financial Status

DONOR NAME	RECEIVED*	EXPENDITURES			PROJECT BALANCE	EARMARKED**	AVAILABLE FUNDING (as of 1 Jan of the next year)	REMARKS
		Period Prior to the Reporting Year	Reporting Year Only	TOTAL				
UNDP/TRAC	209,795		200,795	200,795	9,000			
US DOS	650,000	51,659	530,001	581,661	68,340			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>859,795</b>			<b>782,456</b>	<b>77,340</b>			

\*The *Received* column in this table should match the figures in the column (of the same title) in the Resource Overview table.

\*\*The *Earmarked* column should specify if any donors have earmarked their funding to a specific activity or other requirement.

### *Financial utilization*

The figures in this section (budget, expenditure, and balance) can refer only to the reporting period (i.e. one year).

**Table 4: Annual expenditure by donor [1 January – 31 December]**

DONORS	ACTIVITY (as in ATLAS)	BUDGET (year)	EXPENDITURES*	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE (%)	REMARKS
TRAC	ACTIVITY 1. Capacity of TMAC	191,795	171,771	20,024	96%	
	ACTIVITY 2. Demining and Survey	12,000	19,223	-7,223		
	ACTIVITY 3. Victim Assistance	2,000	270	1,730		
	ACTIVITY 4. Mine Risk Education	2,000	9,530	-7,530		
	ACTIVITY 5. Information Manager	2,000	-	2,000		
<b>Sub-total Donor TRAC</b>		<b>209,795</b>	<b>200,795</b>	<b>9,000</b>		
US DOS	ACTIVITY 1. Capacity of TMAC	229,758	184,211	45,547	89%	
	ACTIVITY 2. Demining and Survey	186,211	236,619	-50,408		
	ACTIVITY 3. Victim Assistance	120,393	92,045	28,348		
	ACTIVITY 4. Mine Risk Education	63,092	23,822	39,270		
	ACTIVITY 5. Information Manager	50,546	44,963	5,583		
<b>Sub-total Donor DFAIT/Canada</b>		<b>650,000</b>	<b>581,661</b>	<b>68,340</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>859,795</b>	<b>782,455</b>	<b>77,340</b>	<b>91%</b>	

\*Remarks provided in the last column of this table should pertain to any notable aspects of utilization/delivery % vis-à-vis the relevant donor(s).

#### Mandatory Format:

- 1) **Titles.** Expenditure tables under the 'Financial utilization' part of this section must spell out the activity description titles as specified in the project budget and the names of donors. ATLAS codes can be included as well but are not sufficient.
- 2) **Figures.** All figures must be in USD, and should be rounded to whole numbers. No decimals.
- 3) **General Management Support (GMS).** All figures must be inclusive of UNDP GMS %. When the draft is submitted to UNDP/PCO via email, please specify whether or not the draft includes GMS. If not, UNDP/PCO finance will insert it.

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

When submitting your draft report to UNDP country office, please include the following: 1) a soft copy of all financial tables in Excel in addition to any tables embedded in the report and 2) specify whether the figures come from ATLAS or from the project.



#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures/ Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) may not have sufficient capacity to independently manage all mine action activities in the country.	January 2016	Operational	Lack of professional capacity of the TNMAC staff and TNMAC's inability to sustain trained and experienced staff may lead to low performance. Low accountability and transparency by TNMAC might lead to mistrust among UNDP and other key development partners. P = 3 I = 4	UNDP will continue to build TNMAC institutional and technical capacity; UNDP aims to financially support TNMAC specialists but gradually decreasing	UNDP PM	UNDP PM	Updated as of January 2017	The President of Tajikistan agreed on nationalization of mine action programme and tasked the GoT to establish the National Mine Action Centre
2	The Project Target on Land Release activities (12.6 km <sup>2</sup> by 1 April 2020) could not be achieved.	January 2016	Security	Most of the remaining contaminated areas are located in sensitive areas along the border with Afghanistan and inside Shuroobod District. Security may make areas inaccessible for unknown time periods. This will impact the result of land release operations. Probability: P = 3 Impact: I = 5	GoT, CIHL, TNMAC jointly with the operations agencies will undertake regular risk assessments and act upon contingency planning. UNDP and UNDSS to support risk management and support implementation.	UNDP PM	UNDP Land Release Advisor	Updated as of December 2016	The annual land release targets for 2016 are almost (96%) achieved.

3	The Project Target on Land Release activities (12.6 km <sup>2</sup> by 1 April 2020) could not be achieved.	January 2016	Financial	Land release (LR) operations are undertaken by implementing partners, who mainly raise their own funds but may not be able to mobilize sufficient funding. UNDP supports resource mobilization but it is proving difficult to attract donors to support mine action in Tajikistan. Low LR capacity means the convention obligation may not be fulfilled. Probability: P = 2 Impact : I = 4	UNDP and TNMAC jointly implement TNMAC's resource mobilization and partnership development strategy. UNDP BPPS and UNDP CO aim to raise donor support through their own channels.	UNDP PM	UNDP Land Release Advisor	Updated as of December 2016	The annual land release targets are achieved in 2016. But due to the security situation the some of the Implementa tion partners could not use the full assets. Some financial resources were returned back to the donors/
4	A national and sustainable EOD Response mechanism will not be set up to address the residual ERW hazards after releasing all known mined areas.	January 2016	Operational	A national EOD Rapid Response mechanism is not operational as of December 2015; EOD tasks are undertaken by the INGO FSD. If no national and sustainable mechanism is established ERW and possibly newly identified mined areas will pose a threat to Tajikistan once international funding	Support TNMAC to establish a sustainable national mechanism to address residual threat from landmines and ERW, i.e. spot tasks and tasks identified after all known mined areas and battle areas have been cleared.	UNDP Land Release Advisor	UNDP Land Release Advisor	Updated as of December 2016	Concept Note on Residual Risk from Landmines & Explosive Remnants of War developed by

				seizes to support mine action.  Probability: P = 2 Impact : I = 3												UNDP/ST MAP CTA. It is planned that in 2017, the CIHL will identify the entity that can deal with the residual threats post 2020.
5	Effective contribution to Victim Assistance by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP) will not succeed.	January 2016	Operational	The MoHSPP is the national focal point for VA. It has a low capacity to support conflict victims and to address disability issues at all levels. This limits the opportunities for mine/ERW victims to access medical, social and economic services and activities.  Probability: P = 4 Impact : I = 4	UNDP will support the capacity of MoHSPP to ensure that existing health care and social service systems, rehabilitation programmes and legislative and policy frameworks are adequate to meet the needs of all citizens – including landmine survivors and family members of deceased victims.	UNDP Advisor	VA	UNDP Advisor	VA	UNDP MRE Advisor	UNDP MRE Advisor	Updated as of December 2015	Updated as of January 2017	The MoU between UNDP and the MLSPP was signed. The MoU provided a legal framework for developing a state programme on social protection of PWD.	More than 80% of the data has	
6	ICRC ends/reduces the support of the Red Crescent	January 2016	Strategic	The involvement of RCST/ICRC in direct execution of MRE	UNDP will continue to liaise closely between											

	<p>Society of Tajikistan (RCST) as key MRE implementing partner.</p>			<p>activities is of utmost importance for implementing the MRE strategic objectives. Loosing this key partner would lead to less MRE and potentially an increase in mine/ERW accidents. P = 3 I = 4</p>	<p>TNMAC and ICRC/RCST to ensure MRE activities are conducted by the RCST in the most affected areas.</p>				<p>been collected during the needs assessment survey. UNDP, TNMAC and ICRC met to discuss the future of the project.</p>
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