

[The Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan]
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC)
Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)

Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

Request for Extension of Article 4 Deadline

For the period
(April 2026- March 2028)



MAPA Vision

Afghanistan free from explosive ordnance where men, women, boys and girls live in a safe environment conducive to sustainable development and where EO victims are fully integrated into society and have their rights and needs recognised and fulfilled





Article 4 CCM Extension Request Template

[The Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan]

A. Executive Summary

1. Duration of the proposed extension:

- a. The proposed extension period is two years from April 2026 to March 2028.
- b. If it's the second extension requested.

2. Rational and resource mobilization:

- a. The proposed extension is necessary because, Afghanistan is faced with lack of required financial means to fund the release/clearance of the recorded CMRs during the current extended deadline of March 2026.

Over four decades of war and armed conflicts have severely affected the economic infrastructure of the country, Afghanistan is therefore, in need of humanitarian assistance including in mine action. In addition, forceful return and deport of Afghan refugees from the neighbouring countries resulted in humanitarian crises and significant challenges to the mine action programme in terms of provision of timely and mine action response to ensure their safety in an environment with explosive ordnance challenges.

The mine action programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) has already started resource mobilization efforts through establishing resource mobilization team making advocacy efforts to expand its donors base at international, regional and national level. During the proposed extension period, MAPA will have the opportunity to mobilize required financial resources to clear/release CMRs including through national budget and national development programs.

- b. Afghanistan has the following financial and technical means available for the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants during the proposed extension:
 - i. Experienced mine action organizations and teams.
 - ii. Required tools and equipment appropriate for CMR clearance.
 - iii. Required communication and safety equipment.
 - iv. Information management system.
 - v. National mine action standards in line with international mine action standards, and operating procedures.
 - vi. The MAPA is in need of financial support to address CMRs and make Afghanistan compliant with Article 4 of the convention.
- c. The MAPA is requesting assistance for the following financial resources:
 - i. A total amount of USD 2,02500 USD for two years to fund 6 x CMR clearance teams in year one (2026/2027) and 10 CMR clearance teams in year two:

- 3. Preparation of future work and the status of work already conducted under national clearance and demining programmes during the initial 10-year period and any subsequent extensions:**
- a. Afghanistan has developed a comprehensive plan for the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants during the proposed extension period. Please see Annex A to this document.
 - b. Afghanistan has completed **[64.5%]** of the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants in areas under its jurisdiction or control since entry into force of the Convention.
- 4. Total area containing cluster munition remnants at the time of entry into force of the Convention for that State Party and any additional areas containing cluster munition remnants discovered after such entry into force:**
- a. At the time of entry into force of the Convention, the total area containing cluster munition remnants in areas under the jurisdiction or control of the State Party was **[7.64 square kilometres]**.
 - b. Since entry into force of the Convention, the Afghanistan has discovered additional areas containing cluster munition remnants of **[17,394,550 square meters in 30 CM Sites]**.
- 5. Total area containing cluster munition remnants cleared since entry into force of the Convention (land release methodologies applied):**
- a. Since entry into force of the Convention, the Afghanistan has cleared a total of **[16,414,520 square meters]** containing cluster munition remnants.
- 6. Total area containing cluster munition remnants remaining to be cleared during the proposed extension:**
- a. The total area containing cluster munition remnants remaining to be cleared during the proposed extension is **[8,988,997 square meters – almost 9 square kilometres]**.
- 7. Circumstances that have impeded the ability of the State Party to destroy all cluster munition remnants located in areas under its jurisdiction or control during the initial 10-year period, and those that may impede its ability during the proposed extension:**
- a. Afghanistan has faced a number of challenges in clearing and destroying cluster munition remnants, including:
 - i. Insecurity/inaccessibility: War and armed conflicts resulted in inaccessibility of CMR sites between 2012 to August 2021.
 - ii. Lack of financial support: Although MAPA faced reduction in financial support since 2012, but a drastic reduction in donors funding after August 2021, has further impeded MAPA's ability to clear CMRs.
 - b. Afghanistan through MAPA is planning to overcome these challenges and continue its efforts to clear and destroy all cluster munition remnants by:
 - i. Making regular advocacy efforts at international, regional and national levels to mobilize required financial resources for the clearance and destruction of all CMRs.
 - ii. Capacity development of the MAPA land release teams and personnel to effectively apply all reasonable efforts and land release principles during the demining operations to enhance operational efficiency.

- iii. Enhance mine action quality management system (QMS) within the programme to ensure the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness in CMR clearance/land release activities, operations, outputs and outcomes.

8. The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the proposed extension:

- a. The proposed extension will have a number of positive humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications for the Afghanistan, including:
 - i. Reduction in CMR accidents to the people in affected communities and to their livestock and properties.
 - ii. Peace of mind and removal of psychological impact of CM contamination.
 - iii. Improved livelihood activities, food security and income generation.
 - iv. Safe movement and social activities between affected communities.
 - v. Support development and rehabilitation.
 - vi. Growing fruit trees and orchards.

9. Provide full contact details of the national focal person with whom follow-up will be conducted:

- a. Name: Nooruddin Rustamkhail
- b. Title: Director
- c. Email: noordin.rustamkhail@dmac.gov.af
- d. Phone Number: +93 706424444

- a. Name: Aimal Safi
- b. Title: Senior Technical Advisor
- c. Email: aimals@dmac.gov.af and aimal.safi71@gmail.com
- d. Phone Number: +93 787382198 and +93 704828372

- a. Name: Mohammad Hamid Wardak
- b. Title: Senior EOD Manager
- c. Email: mohammadhw@dmac.gov.af
- d. Phone Number: +93 705 850 140 / +93 777 503 550

B. Detailed Narrative

Afghanistan signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 3 December 2008, ratified it on 8 September 2011, and entered it into force on 1 March 2012. Following that all known CCM stockpiles have been destroyed during 2012-2014. The mine action programme of Afghanistan is committed to destroy any additional CM stockpiles as soon as identified.

In March 2012, 21 CM hazards covering 7.6 Sq km area was known to be contaminated with CM throughout the country, it was the baseline and planned to be released/cleared up to March 2022. In this period, the programme with financial support from the international donors, managed to release 30 CM hazards covering 12.4 Sq km cleared and 0.25 Sq km area cancelled, and destroy 5,454 items of sub munitions, as additional areas have been surveyed and recorded.

The MAPA managed to address almost double of the CM hazards originally planned as a baseline in March 2012, however, additional CM sites were identified surveyed and released/cleared based on the priorities and needs of the CMR affected communities. The MAPA continue to conduct village by village survey called Mine/ERW Impact Free Community Survey (MEIFCS) through which in addition to other

types of explosive ordnance (EO) CM contamination have also reported and surveyed. The MEIFCS teams have identified and recorded additional 26 CM hazards covering 15.3 Sq km area in all accessible districts and villages.

Despite significant achievements and tireless efforts made by the mine action programme of Afghanistan towards achieving its Article 4 obligations, multiple impeding factors including security challenges, lack of access, identifying additional CM hazards, and lack of adequate funding affected the programme ability to release all known CM hazards and achieve its Article 4 obligations during the course of April 2012 to March 2022. Afghanistan therefore, submitted a 4-year extension request of the Article 4 deadline in 2021, to address and release all known and recorded CMR in the country, the state parties kindly accepted and extended the deadline up to March 2026.

The MAPA faced a drastic and sharp reduction in international funding, after political changes of August 2021 in Afghanistan, resulted in significant reduction of the programme capacity to respond to the EO problem including CM hazards. As operational arm of the national mine action authority, the directorate of mine action coordination (DMAC) in consultation with mine action organizations, UNMAS and CCM ISU developed the second extension request of the Article 4 deadline for additional two years (April 2026-March 2028). The MAPA will be able to release all known CMR up to end of March 2028.

- 1. Total area to be addressed** at entry into force, as defined in Article 2, paragraph 11, and Article 4, paragraph 6.e was *[7.6 Sq Km area]*.

Since entry into force up to the end of March 2022, the programme with financial support from the international donors, managed to release 30 CM hazards covering 12.4 Sq km cleared and 0.25 Sq km area cancelled.

Due to lack of required amount of funds for the clearance of recorded CMRs, DMAC in consultation with PMWRA, the main donor of CM sites clearance and with agreement of CCM ISU, requested an extension of four years (March 2022-March 2026) to achieve the Article 4 obligation.

The land release operations on CMR continued during the current Article 4 extended deadline, where 5 CM hazards covering 3.98 Sq km area have been released including 3.65 Sq Km through clearance and 0.35 cancelled through NTS operations.

- 2. Total area discovered** since the entry into force in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.d was *[17.4 Sq Km]*. 30 CM sites covering 17.4 Sq Km area have been surveyed between 2013 - 2023

- 3. Total new contamination including date of contamination** since entry into force in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1.b *[in case of new cluster munition used, insert area]*.

No new cluster munition contamination is reported nor recorded.

- 4. Area addressed since entry into force disaggregated by cancellation through NTS, reduction through TS or cleared.**

Methods of land release	Year	Area
Non-technical survey	2013	47,790
	2018	160,000
	2021	46,467
Technical survey	0	0
Clearance	2012	119,105
	2013	49,545
	2014	6,300
	2016	92,000
	2017	2,791,147

	2018	4,243,448
	2019	2,721,255
	2021	3,595,673
	2022	1,592,886
	2023	1,029,908
Total		16,495,524

5. Quantity and type of cluster munitions destroyed.

Type	Quantity	Location	Destruction method (if information is available)
RBK 250-275-RBK 500kg	1	Badakhshan	All CMs destroyed using controlled explosive demolition method in disposal sites (CDS) or in-situ considering safety measures, in accordance with AMAS EOD requirements, by EOD qualified personnel.
9M27K 220mm	1	Badghis	
Soviet-AO-1-Sch HE frag bomb let	323	Baghlan	
Soviet-AO 2.5 HE frag bomb let	180	Balkh	
Soviet-AO 2.5 HE frag bomb let	34	Bamyan	
Soviet-AO 2.5 RTM bomb let	16	Daykundi	
Soviet-OFAB 500 kg	1	Farah	
Soviet-ICM 3-O-13	151	Faryab	
Soviet-9N210 and 9N235 HE	480	Ghazni	
Soviet-PTAB 1M HEAT	26	Hilmand	
Soviet-PTAB 1.5M HEAT	308	Hirat	
Soviet-PTAB 2.5 HEAT	1	Jawzjan	
Soviet-PTAB 2.5M HEAT	1582	Kabul	
Soviet-OKT -11 Incendiary	586	Kandahar	
Soviet-PTM-3	5	Kapisa	
Soviet-AP Blast - PFM 1 and PFM 1S	310	Khost	
Soviet-AP - POM 2S mine let	67	Kunar	
Soviet-PGMDM CBU-103	162	Kunduz	
CBU-87	23	Laghman	
M42	161	Logar	
M42, M46 and M77	367	Maydan Wardak	
BLU-97/B and BLU-97A/B	1079	Nangarhar	
SAKAR 30 rocket	26	Nimroz	
	10	Paktika	
	680	Paktya	
	20	Panjsher	
	734	Parwan	
	17	Samangan	
	170	Takhar	
	11	Uruzgan	
Total	7584		

Note: The above mentioned types of CM and Sub munitions are found in Afghanistan and destroyed.

6. Estimated area remaining to be addressed (specify SHA, CHA) in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.f

Location	Suspected Hazardous Area	Confirmed Hazardous Area	Comments
South-East Region	0	6,894,263 m2	10 CM sites, located in Paktya province, Zurmat district
North Region	0	11,715 m2	2 CM sites – located in Samangan province, Dara-e-Suf district
East Region	0	1,824,132 m2	3 CM sites, located in Nangarhar province, Pacheir Agam district
Central Region	0	258,887 m2	1 CM site, located in Bamyan province, Bamyan district
Total	0	8,988,997 m2	16 Active CM Hazards in 4 provinces

7. Amount of time requested, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.a:

Two years, from April 2026 to March 2028.

8. Circumstances which impeded the ability of the requesting State Party to fulfil its obligations, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.g

The following main factors have impeded the ability of the mine action programme of Afghanistan to achieve its Article 4 obligations:

- a) **Insecurity/Inaccessibility:** Most of the CM hazards located in insecure and inaccessible areas before August 2021. Although, security situation is improved after the political changes in Afghanistan and each corner of the country is accessible for the mine action teams to proceed, but drastic reduction in international funding is still one of the significant impeding factors to the programme to clear/release all known CM sites.
- b) **Lack of adequate funding:** Unfortunately, over four decades of war and armed conflicts have severely affected the economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, therefore, the humanitarian mine action sector relies on international financial contribution. Reduction in international donors' support affected the ability of the programme to release CM hazards as planned since CCM entry into force in 2012 and during the current extended deadline of the Article 4 (April 2022-March 2026).
- c) **Weather:** The clearance and land release operations on CM sites located in North (Samangan), Central area (Bamyan) and South-East (Paktya) provinces are limited to few months, mainly from May to November, due to the cold weather and snowfall. However, in Nangarhar province in Easter region, the demining operations is possible throughout the year.

9. National laws and standards in place? Info on national demining structure.

a. National laws:

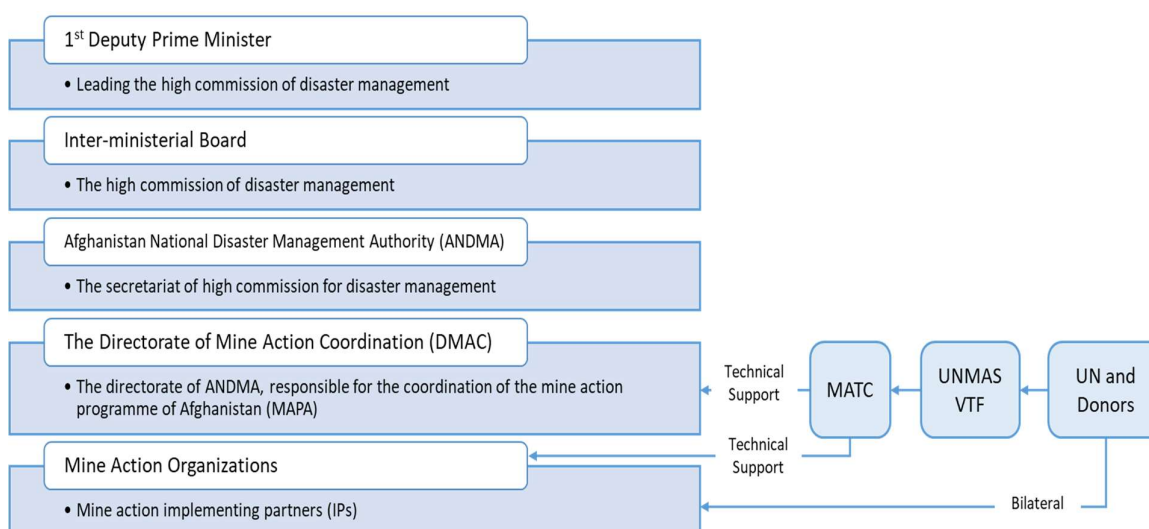
The national law on firearms, munitions and explosive ordnance exist where production, import, export, stockpiling and use of anti-personnel mine and cluster munitions are banned, and their destruction is enforced.

b. National Mine Action Standards (NMAS); and whether they based on the International Mine Actions Standards (IMAS)

Afghanistan has developed a set of national mine action standards (AMAS) in 2006 with a formal review mechanism to regularly update them based on the international mine action standards (IMAS) and Afghanistan specific requirements. The AMAS includes specific standards for “Planning and Prioritization, Land Release, Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey, Clearance Requirements, Battle Area Clearance which includes CM clearance, EO Hazards Marking, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Disposal of Improvised Mines, Mine Action Quality Management System, Environmental Management System, Occupational Health and Safety, Information Management, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, Victims Assistance and more”. All AMAS are currently under review by the standards technical working group (TWG) to update them in line with IMAS and national requirements.

c. National Demining Structure

The below figure illustrates national mine action authority and mine action structure in Afghanistan:



The first deputy of prime minister leads the high commission for disaster management (HCDM), which is an inter-ministerial board where mine action and natural disasters are managed. The Afghanistan national disaster management authority (ANDMA), is the secretariat for HCDM. The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) is one of the directorates of ANDMA responsible of leading and coordination of mine action programme in Afghanistan.

10. Methodologies utilized are in compliance with international standards including IMAS in accordance with Article 4.3 (NTS, TS, clearance)

The land release principles and applying all reasonable effort are considering during the clearance/land release operations on CM sites, including NTS, TS and clearance of the actual CM hazards. DMAC planned to further improve the land release operations through the capacity development interventions to ensure that NTS, TS and Clearance activities are undertaken based on AMAS and IMAS requirements and operational efficiency is enhanced. DMAC conducts external QA monitoring and QC on all land release operations including on CM hazards.

11. Annual projections of Cluster Munitions Remnants (CMR) contaminated areas to be addressed and by what method (NTS, TS, clearance), in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

Year one: 2026/2027

Number of CM hazards	8
Total area	4,374,073 sqm
Number of teams	6
Duration - months	12
Teams average daily target sqm	2750
Team average monthly target sqm	60,000

Year two: 2027/2028

Number of CM hazards	8
Total area	4,614,924 sqm
Number of teams	6
Duration - months	12
Teams average daily target sqm	2750
Team average monthly target sqm	60,000

Each teams consist of the following technical personnel:

- 1 x Team leader (EOD Level 3 qualified),
- 2 x Section leaders (EOD Level 2 qualified)
- 10 x deminers/operators,

All the teams are cross trained in land release operations including NTS, TS, clearance and EOD operations.

The clearance teams will conduct fresh NTS to identify the real boundaries of the hazards and high and low threat area. The teams will then start with targeted investigation TS towards the high threat area, systematic investigation in low threat areas to effectively define the actual hazards for subsequence clearance operations. TS is integrated function within the clearance operations.

12. Methods to be used to render CMR contaminated areas no longer dangerous, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

The MAPA has adopted and implemented and integrated approach of land release, all the demining teams have been trained in land release operations including NTS, TS and Clearance. The methods to be used to render CMR contaminated areas no longer dangerous, the following are planned and already started:

- a. Non-technical survey: NTS teams were assigned in September/October this year to conduct a fresh survey of the area to identify the real extent and boundaries of the CM hazards. The NTS resulted in partial cancellation of 5 CM hazards where 331,513 square meter area decrease in the size and confirmed 11 more CM hazards with the same size reported before.

Upon commencement of land release operations, the teams will conduct a fresh NTS to understand the high and low threat areas in each CM hazard and to find out the actual CM strike sites, this will help the team to plan and undertake TS and subsequent clearance operations effectively.

- b. Technical survey and clearance: The teams will conduct targeted investigation towards the CM strike sites and high threat areas to identify the actual hazardous area for clearance. After defining the entire CM sites through TS operations, the team will conduct clearance operations on the actual hazardous areas to release the area from hazards safely and efficiently. DMAC planned to conduct comprehensive kick-off meetings with each mine action organization prior to commencement of land release

operations, aiming to communicate and enforce the application of all reasonable efforts and adherence to the land release principles in each land release project.

- c. Marking and fencing: all CM sites are already marked with local marking materials (painted rocks), however, fencing is not feasible in Afghanistan context.
- d. Risk education: The clearance teams will also conduct EORE activities during the community liaison activities, however, couple EORE teams will also be assigned to approach women and girls in CM affected communities. There are enough EORE interventions and capacities in Nangarhar, Paktya, Bamyan and Samangan provinces and related regions mainly supported by UNICEF. Therefore, the cost of EORE teams is not included as part of the Article 4 extension request.

To ensure the quality of mine action services and products, DMAC applies mine action quality management system based on the requirements of IMSA 07.12 and AMAS 03.01 including accreditation of the organizations and their teams, QA monitoring of the mine action projects, operations and activities, and quality control of the mine action products and services. In addition, DMAC focus on internal quality management (QM) of all mine action organizations working in land release, EORE, victim assistance, survey and EOD operations.

13. Financial, technical, material, personnel needs per year

Financial requirements:

Needs	2026/27	2027/28
Human resources	644,160	675,840
Operation	168,360	176,640
Support and admin costs	80,520	84,480
Overhead costs	95,160	99,840
Total	988,200	1,036,800

The cost estimation includes all necessary activities related to the implementation of CCM. The mine action programme of Afghanistan has adequate experienced and trained personnel to be recruited for CM clearance, as well as tools and equipment. There will be a need for refresher training of the personnel in survey and clearance operations for their reorientation, the cost of which is included in support and admin cost, the equipment maintenance cost is in operations cost.

Technical needs:

Adequate technical tools are available in the programme, there will be no need to additional tools and equipment.

Material requirements:

Adequate safety, protective and communication tools are available in the programme.

Personnel needs:

For year one 2026/27:

60 x deminers, 6 x team leaders, 12 x section leaders, 6 x medics, 20 x drivers, 18 x guards, 1 x project officer, 2 x operations and QA officers, 2 x admin/clerk and 1 x data officer.

For year two 2027/28:

60 x deminers, 6 x team leaders, 12 x section leaders, 6 x medics, 20 x drivers, 18 x guards, 1 x project officer, 2 x operations and QA officers, 2 x admin/clerk and 1 x data officer.

MAPA has adequate mine action personnel including operations experts, QM officers, EOD operators, team leaders, medical staff and deminers. Adequate technical tools and equipment are available with mine action organizations to conduct clearance operation CMRs. The personnel are awaiting to be recruited and deployed to the field.

14. National financial resources required, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b.

Unfortunately, due to over 4 decades of war and armed conflicts in the country, and many humanitarian needs and competing priorities for humanitarian assistance, it will be challenging for Afghanistan as a state party to CCM to fund CMR clearance from the national budget. It is therefore, crucial to appeal international donors to continue their financial support to release CMRs.

Financial planning:

Under the leadership and coordination of the directorate of mine action coordination (DMAC), the MAPA has established a resource mobilization forum and resource mobilization team to make advocacy efforts to mobilize resources necessary for clearance of CMRs and other explosive ordnance. The MAPA resource mobilization team (RMT) divided to sub-groups to identify and approach possible sources at international, regional and national level including relevant ministries within Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan (IEA). The RMT recently met government authorities through ANDMA and proposed allocation of national budget to fund EO clearance. DMAC is in the process of designing land release projects to be funded by IEA. In addition, a coordination mechanism has been established with relevant ministries to consider EO clearance in their development programs.

Sustainability measures:

The MAPA RMT convened its third meeting to adopt different approaches to funding sources to secure funding for long-term implementation of CCM and APMBC. Different sources at international, regional and national level are identified and some of them are already contacted through related sub-groups. The advocacy efforts will be continued with all possible sources to convince them continue, start and maintain funding the programme.

Financial accountability:

The national budget will be utilized based on the government mechanism established to ensure transparency and accountability. DMAC with technical support of UNMAS through Mine Action Technical Cell (MATC), review all narrative and financial proposals of the mine action organizations. DMAC, then issues an endorsement letter to the winning proposals for funding. The progress reports, completion reports, internal and external QM reports and end of projects are subject to comprehensive review and certification by DMAC, prior to submit them to the donor. Ministry of finance conducts financial audits, oversight and effective use of funds.

15. Assistance needs incl. financial resources required, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.b

The State Party needs international assistance of *[insert amount: USD 2,025,000 need minus national allocation]* etc. per year. Please provide details:

The programme through resource mobilization team, makes advocacy efforts to include CM clearance (or part of it) in national budget, however, during developing the Article 4, this allocation is not clear. DMAC will inform CCM ISU and the state parties, as soon as the national allocation is confirmed.

Needs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Amount
Human resources	644,160	675,840	0	1,320,000
Operation	168,360	176,640	0	345,000
Support and admin costs	80,520	84,480	0	165,000
Overhead costs	95,160	99,840	0	195,000
Total international assistance required	988,200	1,036,800	0	2,025,000

16. Resource mobilization plan

Please provide a Resources mobilization plan:

Resources mobilization plan is a strategic framework designed to secure and manage the necessary resources, including financial, technical, and human resources, to effectively implement the goals and activities outlined in the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Coordination and Communication:

The DMAC is coordination and regulating body for mine action in Afghanistan, there are several coordination mechanisms established within the MAPA. DMAC lead all coordination meetings on regular basis, including:

- a) Monthly stakeholders' coordination meeting: where all mine action organizations, donors or their representatives and relevant UN agencies are participating. All mine action related achievements, challenges, mine action support to humanitarian assistance and high level national plans are discussed and appropriate decisions are made.
- b) Monthly MAPA resource mobilization meetings: where RMT members meet on regular basis, important decisions and updates are provided.
- c) Monthly operations coordination meeting: where all mine action operations related issues including achievements, challenges and shortfalls are discussed and appropriate operational decisions are made.
- d) Coordination meetings with government ministries: these meetings are convened on quarterly basis, where humanitarian and development projects require mine action support are discussed. Through this coordination mechanism several development projects have been supported with funding from related ministry and entity.

In all these coordination mechanisms the current and possible future funding challenges and the importance of resource mobilization, updates, and plans are discussed, especially in stakeholders' coordination meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The MAPA resource mobilization strategy is under the process, which includes a monitoring system to assess the effectiveness of the resource mobilization plan. The strategy will include key performance indicators and milestones to track the progress. As soon as the strategy developed, DMAC will share it with the CCM ISU.

17. Humanitarian, social, economic and environmental implications of the extension, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.h

- a. Humanitarian implications:** CMR clearance and provision of RE in CMR affected communities will result in reduction of civilian accidents and prevention of death and injuries to them. During the implementation, all the CM victims will be recorded, their needs are identified, and referred to the victim assistance services, to receive appropriate assistance based on their needs.
- b. Social implications:** the CMR clearance will improve the safe movement of the people and their access to education facilities, healthcare centres and markets.
- c. Economic implications:** Most of the people in rural areas are relying on agriculture and growing animals as their main income generation, the clearance of CMR will definitely result in improvement of livelihood activities and support their economic situation. The cities and urban areas are using variety of crops, fruits and dairy products produced in rural areas. Mountains in Paktya province where CM sites are located are the main source of Pine-nuts which are exported to international market. Clearance of CMRs will improve access of the communities to Pine-nut trees and collection of the nuts.
- d. Environmental implications:** Clearance of CMRs will contribute to growing trees, and jungles especially in mountainous areas of the Paktya and Nangarhar provinces. This will contribute to improved environment and biodiversity in the area.
- e. Cross-cutting considerations:** The mine action programme of Afghanistan, under the leadership of DMAC is consider gender and diversity in all its mine action activities. To ensure the needs and priorities of men, women, children and diverse group of people are considered in mine action planning, prioritization, implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- f. Monitoring and mitigation:** The MAPA has established impact evaluation mechanisms including post land release impact assessment and landmine and livelihood evaluation. The village-by-village survey is ongoing which include impact assessment of the current EO contamination on the affected communities, humanitarian assistance and development interventions. MAPA planning and prioritization system is based on hazards humanitarian indicators which are regularly reviewed and updated based on new information. In addition, a hotline process is established and managed by the directorate of mine action coordination, and QRT are established to respond to the urgent needs of the communities in removal of immediate EO threats from the communities including provision of risk education.
- g. Research Studies Conducted:** The MAPA has conducted several mine action impact evaluations on yearly basis from 2010 to 2012 and then 2016 to 2020, addressing the aforementioned implications. Please follow the link for details about the studies: <https://dmac.gov.af/publications/mapa-pdia-and-landmine-livelihood-survey-report/>

18. Any other information relevant to the request, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6.i

The mine action programme of Afghanistan has maintained its humanitarian objective and will follow the same to make the country free from known explosive ordnance contamination. However, after the political changes in August 2021, the international support drastically declined, the MAPA requests international community to resume and continue supporting mine action activities in Afghanistan. Mine action supports safety, livelihoods, economy of explosive ordnance affected communities and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout the country. The security is improved and each single affected community in each

corner of the country is accessible, this is the time to support civilian people who have been suffering deaths, injuries and poverty for more than four decades of their lives.

Other scenarios/ and inaccessible areas:

After the political changes of August 2021 in Afghanistan, all the CMRs became accessible, there is no restrictions, apart from the winter season where snowfall and cold weather can cause postponement of clearance operations. However, in winter season all the teams can conduct operations in Nangarhar province. DMAC coordinates all mine action activities throughout Afghanistan with provincial and local authorities.

Gender and diversity considerations:

The mine action programme of Afghanistan is a gender sensitive programme, each organization has a gender and diversity focal point, mine action programming, planning, prioritization takes into account the needs and priorities of women, men, children and diverse group of people within affected communities to ensure mine action services are reached to those in need indiscriminately to all in need of mine action service. Victim Assistance and EORE projects have female staff to easily reach out to the female victims of explosive ordnance and also the at-risk women and girls in affected communities through RE interventions.

National Mine Action Strategy Plan:

A national mine action strategic plan (2025-2030) is developed and included in the national strategic plan of disaster management, which is under review and will be approved by Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). ANDMA is national mine action authority in Afghanistan. The strategy includes key objectives and timeline for the effective implementation of the plan.

Residual contamination management:

The MAPA has established a hotline process and the hotline number is distributed to each affected community to make a call for urgent mine action support including communities affected by CMRs. The community elders are oriented to call the number if any missed device discovered in the cleared/release areas. In addition, the post-demining-impact-assessments (PDIA) are conducted on areas cleared from CMR and other explosive ordnance, and one of the main questions of PDIA is about the missed explosive ordnance in already cleared areas. DMAC leads the hotline and PDIA and regularly assess the results to ensure that any possible missed device is responded to, and the circumstances are investigated to ensure such issues will not repeat again. MAPA has also established a Quick Response mechanism through dedicated teams with survey, EOD and EORE qualifications, to provide immediate response and address the callouts in minimum possible time.

Risk education:

The MAPA risk education programs are planned based on community impact criteria where certain indicators are developed for the planning and prioritization EORE intervention. The EORE teams of the accredited organizations are tasked to deliver RE sessions there. The teams are also trained to undertake a community mapping to identify the at-risk group of people including men, women, girls and boys in the target communities to deliver RE to them. In addition, the EORE teams also conduct pre and post RE assessment. The purpose of pre RE assessment is to know about the level of understanding of audience about the presence of EO, the threat, how they react when facing EO and what risk mitigation steps are they taking to ensure their safety and the safety of others in the community, considering the feedback, the

teams deliver RE. After the delivery of RE, the teams ask similar questions to understand about the changes in their knowledge on how to mitigate the risk and promote safe behaviour. In addition to direct sessions, RE materials including poster, brochures and notebooks with RE messages are distributed within the affected community. All the RE materials and messages include CMs.

EORE in CM impacted communities are delivered during fresh survey activities to ensure the people are well aware of threat posed by the presence of CM.

DMAC in consultation with UNMAS, EORE donors and mine action organizations have implemented the EORE child focused EORE kit, with storyline since 2021. The MAPA maintained using modified material that delivered EORE messages to inform people about the risks posed by EO including CM. A number of changes to improve monitoring and oversight of EORE activities, during 2022 MAPA EORE Quality Assurance (QA) form was developed and implemented to use for External – Internal QA visits by DMAC, MATC and IPs.

There are around 12 Risk Education accredited National and International organizations conducting EORE throughout Afghanistan.

In response to the massive returns of Afghan refugees from the neighbouring countries (Iran and Pakistan), DMAC with support of MAPA IPs could manage to provide RE response to the massive number of returnees and deportees and deployed 18 couple EORE teams in all returnee's entry points, IOM including transit centres, UNHCR encashment centres and temporary camps established by the Government.

Victim Assistance (VA):

Victim assistance (VA) within the broader context of the disability sector as required by the Mine Ban Treaty as well as UNCRPD, the Ministry of Martyrs and Disability Affairs (MoMD) is responsible for the coordination in national and international level. Said ministry used to participate at the high level and states parties' meetings.

The Ministries of Public Health (MoPH), and Ministry of Education (MoE) are also responsible for victim and disability assistance in those fields relating to said ministries.

MoPH is the coordination body for physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support, also coordinates training programs for physiotherapists and healthcare providers.

MoE coordinates the inclusive education (pre-school education, primary and secondary education, Islamic education and literacy) for EO victims and persons with disability.

Special education (sign language and braille), technical trainings are coordinated by Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVET), as independent directorate.

TVET has developed its five-year strategy for the first time and enrolled 36,000 students across 73 fields, in 2023.

DMAC as a coordination body for the mine action programme of Afghanistan, also acts as a bridge for coordination of victim assistance with relevant line ministries including MoPH, MoMD and MoE to coordinate VA activities with related ministries and VA organizations in the country. DMAC also makes advocacy efforts to mobilize resources for VA and coordinate the activities of VA organization at provincial level. Victims of CMs are also included in all VA activities undertaken in Afghanistan. DMAC manages information management system for mine action including VA database. Victims data collection is integrated in survey, land release and EORE activities. The recent survey on all CM sites was conducted in October 2024, where victim data collection was one of the main aspects to be considered. Luckily, there was no recent CM accidents in all CM sites.

Donors: Unfortunately, there is no present donor to the CMR clearance, US PM/WRA was the main donor supported CMR clearance for many years including in 2022. Other donors

supported CMR clearance in Afghanistan include: Canada, DFID, Germany, GFFO, Ireland, Japan, UNMAS Core funds, Finland and Norway.

Implementation Agencies: *Provide information on implementing agencies that are supporting your country to meet its obligations under Article 4 of the CCM.* [Agency Name]

National NGOs	International NGOs	National Commercial
AREA	DRC/DDG	SADC
ATC	FSD	SMCC
DAFA	HALO Trust	WDC
MCPA	NPA	SDG
MDC		UADC
OMAR		KMCC
ACDDO		HDI
JAPO		TDC
HAMRO		
OSDRA		
10	7	8
Total = 25		

19. Annexes (examples):

- a. National Mine Action Standards
- b. Quality control methods
- c. National Mine Action Strategy/Policy
- d. Mine Action Structure
- e. Survey, clearance and risk education work plans in detail
- f. Maps