



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre



**"13 MSP to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction"**

Geneva, 02-06 December, 2013

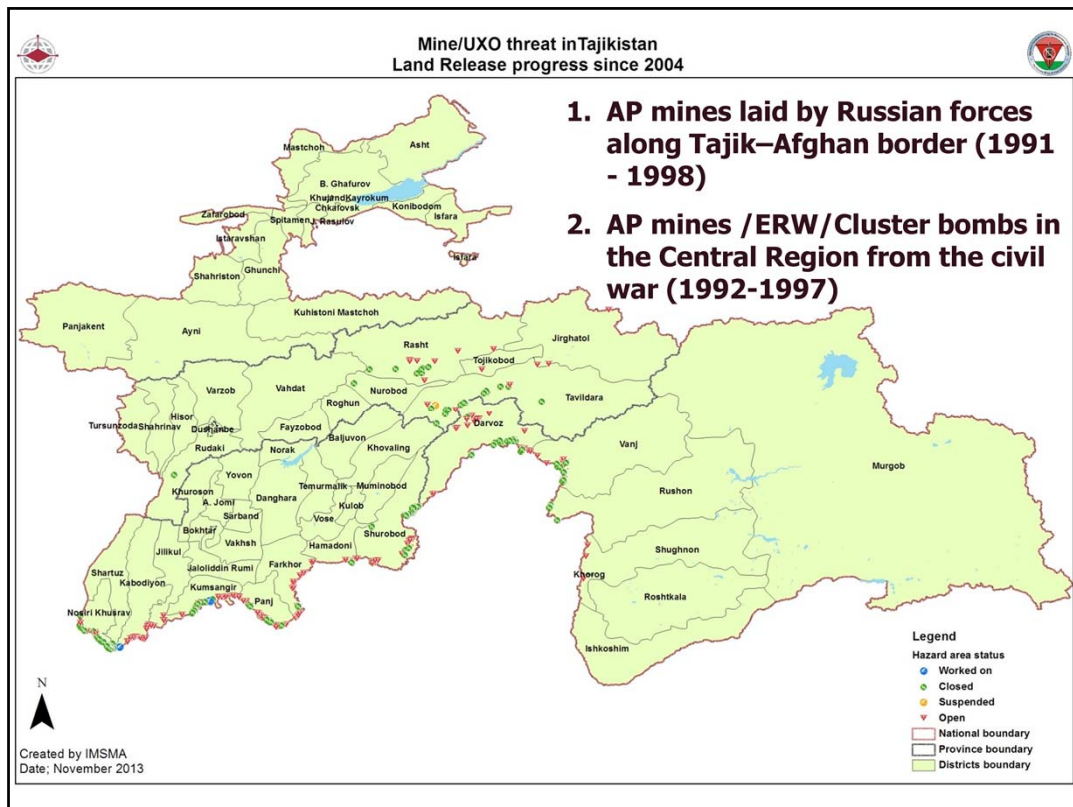
TAJIKISTAN

**"Land Release progress and Article 5 completion
Planning"**

Muhabbat Ibrohimov

1

S1. First of all, using the opportunity, I would like to thank the organizers for the excellent job done. This is a great moment to update you on mine action related activities in Tajikistan. As you may know, 93% of Tajikistan's territory is mountainous and only 7% of the land can be used for agriculture and other development related activities. The geographic condition makes the people depend on these lands.



S 2. This map shows known contaminated areas in Tajikistan, both along the Tajik-Afghan border and in the Central Region. On the map you can see the hazardous areas symbols, the green dots show cleared areas, the blue dots are where we currently operation and the red triangles are the remaining areas that require clearance.

The extension request covered 3 regions. The Tajik-Afghan Border, the Central Region and the Tajik-Uzbek border. We are now concentrating our efforts along the Tajik-Afghan Border and in the Central Region. The situation along the Tajik-Uzbek border has become more clear following survey, the mined areas along this border are now known or expected to be within Uzbek territory. However there is an ongoing process to properly demarcate this border. Thus teams working along the border may require some technical assistance in the future.



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre

The 2010 Baseline



The 2009 Extension Request was based on:

- Results of the 2007-2009 Resurvey
- Minefield Records (with incomplete analysis)

The 2010 Baseline for the Tajik Afghan Border and the Central region estimated that there was **243 hazard areas covering 11 km²**

3

S3. As you may know in 2009 Tajikistan submitted request for extension of deadline for implementation Article 5 obligations and this request was supported by State-Parties during second review conference in Cartagena, Colombia. Deadline was extended for next 10 years until 1 April 2020.

The 2009 Extension Request was based on following:

Results of the 2007-2009 Resurvey

384 Minefield records from the Tajikistan and Afghanistan border, however the reliability of the record were not yet know and the analyze of these record was incomplete

At the start of 2010 the estimated contamination for the TAB and Central was 243 hazard areas with an area of 11 km². However following better analysis of the Minefield Records and clearance that has been conduct in the last three years, this Baseline is not longer clear indication of the remaining problem in Tajikistan.



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre

Operational capacity



	Extension Request based on 2009 operational capacity	Operational capacity by November 2013
FSD	4 Manual clearance teams	3 Manual clearance teams
	2 Non-technical survey teams	1 Non-technical survey team
	6 Mine Detection Dog teams	6 MDD teams
		2 Mechanical Demining Teams with 2 MV-4 machines
HDU MoD	1 Mechanical Demining Team with Minewolf machine	1 Mechanical Demining Team with Minewolf machine
		2 Manual clearance teams
NPA		8 Manual clearance teams

4

S 4. Since we submitted the extension request in 2009, the operational capacity in Tajikistan has changed, as displayed in this table. As of 2010 we have had three operators. In 2013 there are approximately 260 operational staff that includes over 100 deminers in 13 manual teams, 1 Non-technical survey team, 6 MDD teams and 3 Mechanical Demining Teams. With this capacity it is possible to clear over 1.5 km per year. We continue to work on improving efficiency although many of the areas are technically challenging.



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre

Progress 2010-2013



Years	Total Released Area km ²		Discovered and destroyed	
	Cleared area	Reduced area	Mines	ERW
2010	1.248	0.631	2,073	104
2011	1.52	0.561	6,520	167
2012	1.816	0.351	6,341	43
2013*	1.316	0.386	19,428	127
TOTAL	5.9	1.929	34,362	441

* Results up to 20th November 2013

5

S 5. This table summarizes the operational achievements made over the last four years. During this time operators have conducted clearance in 9 districts. In total 5.9 km² has been cleared and a further 1.9 km² reduced through Technical Survey. As a result more than 34,000 antipersonnel mines and over 400 UXO have been found and destroyed. An example of a positive outcome is in Farkhor district, on the border with Afghanistan, where the land released is now being used by the local community to cultivate rice.



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre

Remaining Contamination



Region	District	SHA	CHA	Estimated Survyed Remaining Area m ²	Un-Survyed MFR
TAB	Darvoz		8	319,375	1
	Farkhor		14	218,550	
	Hamadoni		2	199,000	4
	Ishkoshim				1
	N. Khusrav		3	91,800	1
	Panj		25	1,806,660	9
	Qabodiyon			327,077	
	Qumsangir			301,800	8
	Jilikul			162,500	
	Shughnon			56,000	
	Shurobod			818,690	83
	Vanj			2,107,400	3
CR	Darvoz	11		1,496,700	
	Jirgatal	3		615,000	
	Rasht	1		160,000	
	Tavildara	3		497,300	
	Tojikobod	1		157,000	
Total		19	128	9,334,852	110

S6. This table represents the current situation of mine contamination in Tajikistan, following considerable effort to improve Non-technical Survey techniques and the analysis of Mine Field Records. We have completed the survey of 147 Hazardous Areas with a total estimated area of just over 9 km². However we still need to conduct survey for 110 Minefield records that have recently been made available, so the remaining are will increase. These records are for areas where there has been security constrains in the past.

To summarize by putting more effort into survey we are improving our understanding of the level of contamination in Tajikistan.



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre

Operational Challenges



Difficult areas

Operational season

Climate

Financing

7

S7. Conducting survey and clearance efficiently in Tajikistan can be challenging. The Tajik-Afghan border is highly contaminated, and although Minefield Records are now available, in reality the contaminated areas are often larger than recorded. Although following continued analyze our understanding of the level and nature of contamination is improving. Tajikistan is highly mountainous country; many of HAs are located in hard to reach areas and there have been security constrains in some districts. The principal operation season is shorted than in some countries, due to the prolonged winter. Generally, annually operations start in early April and suspending in end of November. We are now training to utilize the winter stand down for training and where possible survey. In Central region, many HAs are only accessible for 3 or 4 months a year during the summer period. Where as during this same period working hours along the border are limited due to very high temperatures. We are working to mitigate this by deploying teams from the border to the central region during the summer months. In addition to the environmental constrains, insufficient funding has delayed operations.



Article 5 Completion Plan



1. Finalize detailed realistic Article 5 completion plan by May 2014.
2. Continued Operational Efficiency Analysis
3. Capacity building needs assessment and plan for strengthening in 2014.
4. Address 110 unsurveyed MF records by the end of 2014 (desk analysis and field visits).
5. Apply a District by District approach and prioritize the Central Region

S8. Article 5 completion planning was addressed in September 2013 in a workshop in Dushanbe supported by the European Union and the ISU. We are working hard to promote operational efficiency and increased productivity to assist with this process we have reviewed Tajikistan's mine action standards with the support of MACCA and the GICHD. This process involved all demining operators.

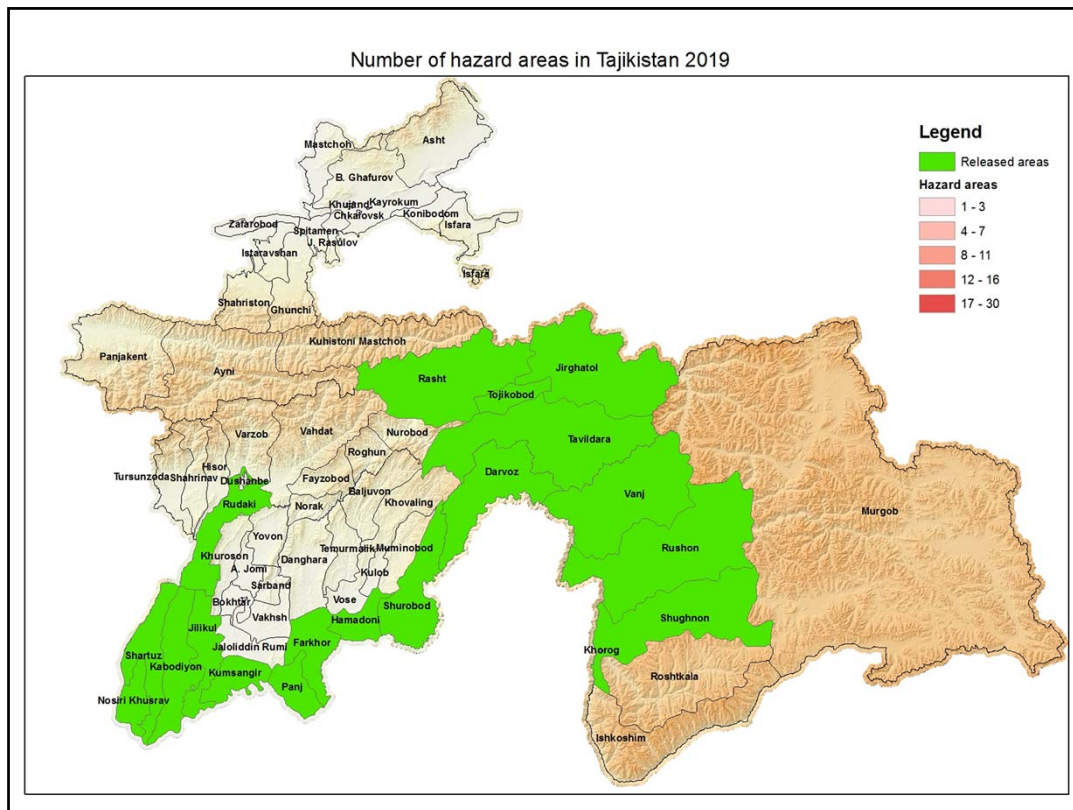
In order to establish the full baseline of all mined areas remaining MFR will be surveyed as soon as possible.

In an effort to improve efficiency and clarity Tajikistan will apply a District by District approach, which takes into account humanitarian priorities and logistical and environmental constraints. For example, we plan to complete the Central Region by 2016 as it has a particular humanitarian importance.

All these plans, of course, depend on the availability of funds – both from the international community as well as from the Tajik government

In an effort to improve efficiency and clarity Tajikistan will apply a District by District approach, which takes into account humanitarian priorities and logistical and environmental constraints. For example, we plan to complete the Central Region by 2016 as it has a particular humanitarian importance.

All these plans, of course, depend on the availability of funds – both from the international community as well as from the Tajik government.



S 9. Completion according to the approved extension request is due by 1 April 2020. This is how we envisage this approach working:

In 2013 3 districts are already free from mines. In 2014 we hope to add another 3, and so on – until the job is done.



Tajikistan Mine Action Centre



**Many thanks
for your attention!**

**... and particularly to all
donors who have
supported Tajikistan to
date.**

10

S10. The Government of Tajikistan is in the process of implementing mine clearance activities according to the Ottawa Convention obligations through the international cooperation and assistance provided by various international organizations and donors including the UNDP, OSCE, ICRC, FSD, NPA. Key donor countries include, Germany, Canada, Norway, United Kingdom, as well as Belgium, Switzerland, France, USA, Japan and Australia.

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank all our donors for their great contribution to the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme. Also we present our highest gratitude and appreciation to the international agencies that have been involved in implementation of mine action program in Tajikistan.