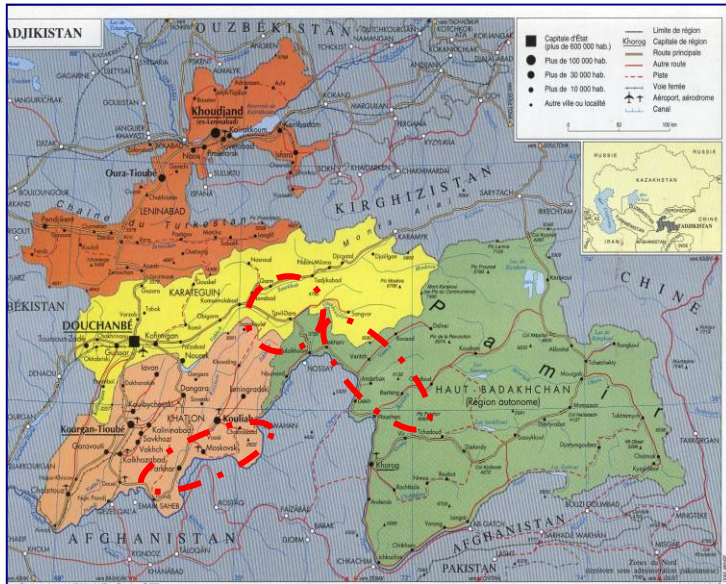


Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) Operations – 2007



Since the beginning of the FSD demining Operations in 2007 the FSD manual demining capacity expanded from two Mine Action Teams (MAT) to five and a half MAT's. With the support of one Mine Detection Dog set mine clearance activities resumed on 12 March 07 in the Panj minefields on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. During the month of May one MAT deployed to the Rasht valley and one team deployed to the Rudaki district to conduct clearance activities. The FSD operations, through the year expanded to various districts in the Khatlon, Central and GBAO regions and all operations were suspended during the third week of December 07 for the winter season.

Manual Clearance: Before deployment of the original Mine Action teams FSD has conducted refresher training courses on manual demining, medical and EOD. In addition FSD also conducted four Basic deminers' courses, a FSD medical course, EOD course, Battle Area Clearance and a Team Leaders course to new deminers.

Despite the fact that most of the operations took place in high altitude areas and under sometime difficult conditions, the MAT's increased their productivity during 2007. The number of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) found and destroyed also increased during the nine months of operations. The teams conducted operations in 19 minefields and completed 10 minefields during 2007.



Battle Area Clearance (BAC): Early June FSD started with limited searching equipment, provided by the TMAC a small BAC team to deal with the cluster munitions problem identified in the Garm district. Upon receiving more searching equipment the search team expanded to a section and redeployed to the Saghridasht district.

Areas affected are playgrounds near to schools and since these munitions has a similar shape as balls children have the tendency to play with them with fatal results at times.

The search team found and destroyed a large number of AO 2.5 (top left) and Shoab (bottom left) sub munitions in and around villages and in grazing pastures.

FSD Statistics for 2007

Location	M ² Cleared	BAC m ²	MDD m ²	Reduce TS	Items found and destroyed				
					AP	AT	Sub Munitio n	UXO	Other
Panj	9017		6370	58921	137				
Vanj	68707		76199		300			30	2
Saghridasht	56963	136148	105601	17265	63	2	99	38	
Rasht valley	41338	41559	7051	20350	5	0	129	123	2
Kirghochak	6136		1234		1584	0		106	
Maskovski	2178		650	7542		0		38	
Rushan	5883		39744			0			
Tavildara	0				2	0		193	1
Orton	96		1175			0			
Rudaki					15	0			
Norobod						1			
Totals	190318	177707	238024	104078	2106	3	228	528	5
Mechanical - Panj					12560				

Actual cleared	368025	Area reduced; TS, MDD, Mech	354662	Total all Activities	722687	Items destroyed	2870
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Mine Detecting Dog teams (MDD)

The 6 MDD teams consisting out of 12 dogs as always contributed a great deal too the overall success and statistics achieved during operations in 2007.

Apart from the original training on mines and UXO detection, the Mine Dog Center (MDC) coordinator and MDC assistant successfully trained a number of the dogs on sub munitions found in Tajikistan. The dogs assisted in area reduction / verification activities during BAC operations with excellent results.

Obedience and box training is an ongoing process to establish a solid "partnership" between the dog handler and dog.





Survey team

A joint FSD-TMAC survey pilot project was funded by the OSCE to reassess previously surveyed areas.

Three survey team leaders were trained and they deployed to the GBAO region. The team successfully resurveyed and reduced a large quantity of square meters in previously surveyed Suspected Hazardous Areas the districts of Rushan, Vanj and Darvos.

The local authorities in the affected communities were extremely helpful and rendered valuable assistance to the survey team.

Photo left: FSD survey team members and Main from TMAC in the process to interview a member of the Border committee while soldiers (photo below) assist the survey team to install danger mine signs.

New survey results

Previous Results		New Results	
Victims	19	Victims	27
SHA surveyed	19	SHA surveyed	41
SHA m ² recorded	22 409000	SHA m ² recorded	4 826 400
		SHA m ² reduced	17 582 000

