

FSD's Mine Clearance Activities in Tajikistan - Updated on 20th December 2006

An update on operations

Background: The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) in Tajikistan is carrying out humanitarian Mine clearance activities in the country since 2003 in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 20th of June 2003 with the Government of RT and ratified by the Parliament on 30 June 2003. FSD has started with 2 Survey Teams (ERT), in 2004 it expanded to 2 Manual Clearance Teams (MAT) and in 2005 FSD had 4 MAT's and 4 ERT's, but couldn't deploy one ERT due to lack of funds. One of the main FSD objectives, Capacity building, was always a key component to the programme. The services which FSD has been providing through the programme are mainly training of the national operational and support staff, equipping them and actually deploying them in the minefields prioritised through IMSMA database and tasked by Tajikistan Mine Action Centre(TMAC).

Activities in 2006: In 2006 FSD continued expansion of the programme and included 6 MDD Teams as a new element. Unfortunately we couldn't deploy any of ERT's this year due to the lack of funding.

Manual Clearance Teams: Manual clearance had been deployed in Central Region, Khatlon Area and Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), namely in the following minefields: Shull and Chorcharogh in Rasht, Shtiyon in Tavildara, Halkayor in Panj, Dashti Yazghulom in Vanj and later on in Pushing of Darvoz and also Kirghochak in Rudaki Direct Rule District.

Before deployment of the teams FSD has conducted these training courses this year;

- ❑ Basic Deminers Refresher Course FSD/T/BDC(R)-03/06
- ❑ Basic Deminers Course FSD/T/BDC-03/06
- ❑ Medical Training Course FSD/T/MED-03/06
- ❑ Basic Deminers Course FSD/T/BDC-05/06
- ❑ Basic Deminers Course FSD/T/BDC-08/06
- ❑ Basic Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course FSD/T/BEOD-12/06
- ❑ Team Leaders Course FSD/T/TL-12/06

During 2006 Manual Clearance Teams have been able to accomplish the following:

Minefield/Task	UXO	AT Mine	AP Mine	SqM	SAA
Dashti Yazghulom	13	0	852	86246	0
Chorcharogh	1	0	0	53715	0
Shull	0	0	1	21496	0
Shull Road	0	0	0	2527	0
Panj	0	0	113	843	0
Shtiyon	0	0	0	1031	0
Pushing	10	0	0	6211	0
Kirghochak	0	0	118	303	0
EOD	27	1	2	-	600
TOTAL	51	1	1086	172372	600

The teams have made considerable improvements in efficiency and productivity compared to last year, with over a 100% increase in the land cleared. Taking into consideration the fact of late and lack of funds and also weather constraints, this is a very good achievement.

Mine Detecting Dog Teams: It was really a firm step forward to create, get trained and finally deploy 6 MDD teams consisting out of 12 dogs. Dogs really helped in efficiency and productivity, which enabled FSD to complete several tasks this year. We actually got the dogs in country just 02 July 2006 from Kabul after 2 months training with the previously selected Tajik Dog Handlers. Trainings and adaptation process continued in country and first deployment of the dogs was possible just in August 06 and continued through November and was ceased because of the weather conditions. Dog's teams were deployed in Shull minefield, Shull Road and Chorcharogh in Rasht and Shtiyon in Tavildara.

The statistics for a few months of operations for dogs were as the following:

Minefield	Sum-Area Searched	Sum-Indications	Sum-Results of Indications
Chorcharogh	39380	0	0
Shull	23861	0	0
Shull Road	11068	0	0
Shtiyon	30030	1	1
TOTAL	104339	1	1

And so, the general achievements by both manual and MDD's through the year are as the following:

Minefield/Task	UXO	AT Mine	AP Mine	SqM,	SAA
Dashti Yazghulom	13	0	852	86246	0
Chorcharogh	1	0	0	93095	0
Shull	0	0	1	45357	0
Shull Road	0	0	0	13595	0
Panj	0	0	113	843	0
Shtiyon	0	1	0	31061	0
Pushing	10	0	0	6211	0
Kirghochak	0	0	118	303	0
EOD	27	1	2	-	600
TOTAL	51	1	1086	276711	600

Thanks,

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Programme Manager

FSD

Tajikistan