

Маркази Тоҷикистон оид ба Масъалаҳои Минаҳо



Тоҷикистон, Душанбе, 734025, куч. М. Қурбонов 15
Тел: +992 372 21 66 87, 23 51 87, Факс : +992 372 21 66 87
mineaction.tajikistan@undp.org

Tajikistan, Dushanbe, 734025, Mamadali Kurbonov Street 15
Tel: +992 372 21 66 87, 23 51 87, Fax: +992 372 21 66 87
mineaction.tajikistan@undp.org



TAJIKISTAN MINE ACTION CENTRE

03 January 2007

END OF YEAR PORTFOLIO REVIEW – TAJIKISTAN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Mine action in Tajikistan during 2006 achieved exceptional cost efficiency and productivity gains; all 2006 targets were achieved. Nationalisation and capacity building is ongoing and a National Five Year Strategic plan for mine action has been ratified by the national government. As well as these strategic achievements, a mine detection dog centre opened in April 2006 and medium term plans for the project are developing as expected, though we are canvassing donors for an in-kind contribution of an expatriate dog expert to assist with this project during 2007 and beyond.
- 1.2 An Excel worksheet is provided with this report to show a financial update for the period of 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006.

2. PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS DECREASING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF MINES/ERW ON PEOPLE:

- 2.1 **How did mine action work in 2006 affect the lives of local populations and communities?** Mine action is crucial both to directly limit the threat of mines to the health and lives of ordinary Tajiks, and to promote pro-poor economic growth.
- 2.2 The Mine Action Centre is a government body, implying strong national ownership and efficient aid coordination. National partners whose capacities benefit from the support of TMAC's projects include various ministries, the national Orthopaedic Centre, the Tajik Red Crescent and local NGOs.
- 2.3 During 2006, our mine clearance component has been further nationalized, as the Government has prepared to take over greater organizational responsibilities from the Swiss NGO, FSD. TMAC is also taking active part in ongoing discussions about the future position of mine clearance within government structures, primarily with a view of identifying the government body with the best capacities to handle mine clearance.

2.4 The following statistics are from the national IMSMA.

Mine Clearance – lives assisted		
Number of communities	Households	Population/ people
6	852	4481
Note: Median household = 8 persons		

Mine Risk Education – lives assisted	
Number of communities	Population/ people
87	20,132

Victim assistance Programme – lives assisted	
Number of communities	Population/ people
N/K	200

Tajikistan Mine Action Programme directly assisted 24,813 people in 93 communities

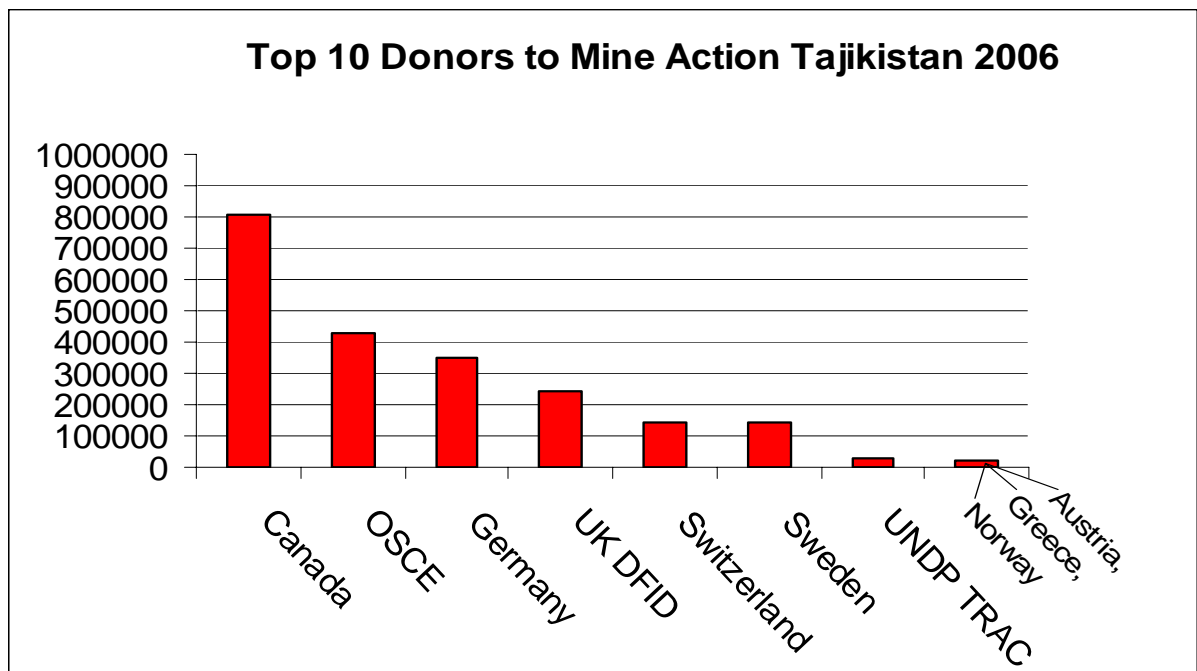
2.5 **Gender.** In mine action field activities, the gender aspect is always accounted for. This amounts to designing mine risk education in a way that makes sense given the roles of men and women in communities. One example of how this is done is to arrange separate awareness raising events for men and women for maximum effect. Moreover, care is taken to make sure that medical and economic victim support reaches out to men and women alike. In other project components, gender is mainstreamed into activities- for instance, when community data is collected, equal numbers of men and women are being surveyed. TMAC employed two new staff members in 2006, both are women.

3. **IMPACT OF CHANGES IN THE HUMANITARIAN/DEVELOPMENT/POLITICAL CONTEXT ON MINE ACTION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:**

3.1 **How did major events (elections, outbreak of violence, political upheaval, establishment of post-conflict governments, etc) affect implementation of strategic plans?** Tajikistan is a stable democracy; there is no ethnic divide here and no significant religious or political unrest. President Imomali Rahmonov has presided over the country since the end of the civil war in 1997. In 2006 there was a presidential election; the incumbent won by a landslide and there was no unrest before, during or after the election process. TMAC continues to work with the acting head and the deputy of the government’s Commission for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (CIIHL) (CTA TMAC is required by UNDP-Government of Tajikistan agreement to report directly to the CIIHL). Although one brief meeting with the CIIHL has been held during 2006, mine action is left largely undisturbed by national government and strategy is generally originated at TMAC for later ratification by national government.

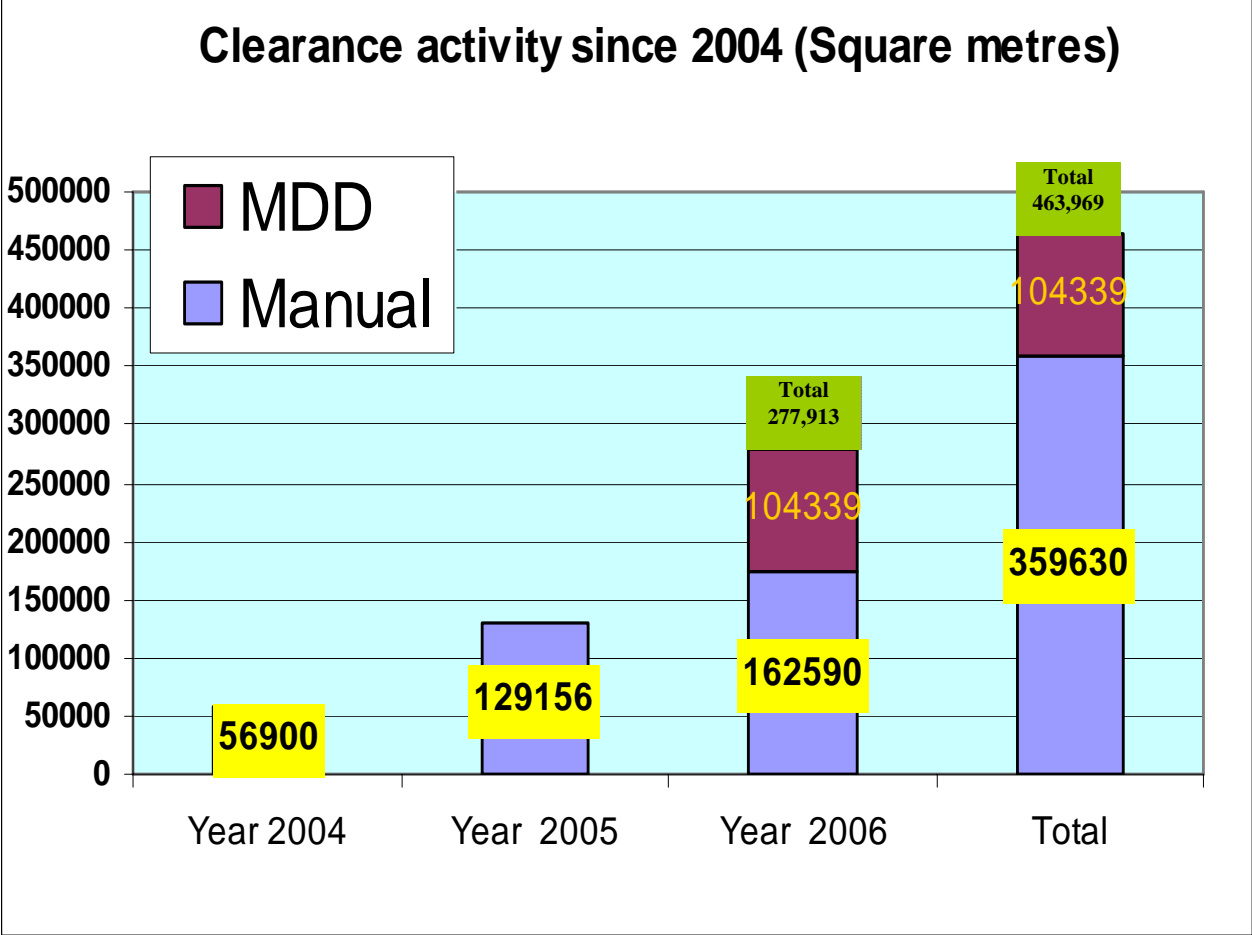
3.2 **How did these changes impact agreed priorities? Was a reprioritization required?** Prioritization of areas for clearance, MRE and other mine action activities is not a great issue in Tajikistan; we work in accordance with the national five-year strategy and an annual work plan which have so far successfully guided all mine action operations without requirement for changes or major amendments to plans for implementation. Major political events or the non-arrival or late arrival of funding tend either to slow the programme down or reduce the areas to be cleared, but seldom necessitate any significant reprioritization of taskings. Five minefields are currently ‘live’ and these will be the focus of our operations when mine clearance operations re-start at the end of the winter period, in April or May 2007.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF FUNDING GAPS AT MID-YEAR



- 4.1 Fund raising efforts have continued throughout the year; with some thrust from the Completion Initiative, we found financing for most planned activities and in this regard the donors shown in the graph above have been stalwart supporters of the programme. However, it has proven difficult to obtain any significant long-term commitment from the donor community.
- 4.2 **Assistance to Victims.** The Government of Tajikistan's victim assistance objectives and plan of action for the period from 2005 to 2009 received plaudits from practitioners in other national mine action programmes and it has also been adopted as a template by other countries. But we are living in a paper paradise so far, because the plan remains largely unsupported. By the end of June 2006, none of TMAC's Victims' Assistance projects or Mine Risk Education projects had been funded and no interest had been elicited from any potential donor. At that time we therefore reluctantly and very substantially scaled down our Mine Risk Education and Victims Assistance projects for 2006, although UNICEF continued with their own MRE pilot project.
- 4.3 **How work stalled and overall impact was reduced by insufficient/lack of funding?** After a very slow start, the central coordinating organisation, TMAC, was eventually funded for 2006. We are so far unfunded for 2007, but there is still plenty to do and plenty of opportunity for donors.
- 4.4 Whilst this has been an exceptionally productive year in mine clearance, there have been challenges associated with funding for national infrastructure and capacity building and for our FSD mine clearance teams, which have had a detrimental effect on deployment of teams to the field. The 2006 season got off to a slow start due to the late arrival of funds and this meant that our two most recently trained survey teams missed three months of Tajikistan's very short demining season because they did not deploy until September. Even more significantly detrimental to operations was the lack of funding to deploy any survey teams after May. This effectively reduced our operational capacity by 21 deminers, thereby eliminating our GMAA and technical survey and EOD capability for the entire year.

4.5 **How has insufficient/lack of funding influenced planning for 2007?** While we remain conscious of the dedication and generosity of our supporters, it seems clear that in future, the international community expect us to do more work in mine action with less funding from international donors. However, to achieve a programme where value-for-money counts, coordination between donors, implementing agencies and other stakeholders needs more focus on the efficient use of mine action resources next year than ever before.



4.6 Today in Tajikistan, we have comprehensively left behind a reputation of being among the world’s most expensive mine clearance programmes; in 2004, it cost more than \$20 to clear each square metre of land handed back to the population. In each of 2005 and 2006 this figure improved by 100%, this was a big increase from last year and was made possible by changes in deployments and procedures as well as TMAC’s introduction of Mine Detecting Dogs into the national programme.

4.7 Based on our working results from 2006, we have planned a national portfolio of projects for next year which anticipates more than twice as much funding as our appeal for last year. Although it relies to some extent on the procurement of at least one demining machine, in 2007 we plan that productivity and cost efficiency of clearance figures will improve again, as they have during the last three years, but such plans rely on funding and without money, they may easily become empty promises. We have almost reached the optimum point of productivity in manual clearance and now we need new assets in order to progress and to move the programme on towards what we know can be achieved here. Radical alternatives may have to be trialled and drastic alterations to current practices may be required. Ministries and government agencies have roles to play in mine action and, if donor support declines, more governmental support will be needed to maintain the programme into the long term future.

- 4.8 According to the World Bank, 83 percent of Tajiks live below the poverty line and with a per capita of USD\$180, Tajikistan is among the world's poorest countries, ranking 112th of 172 countries in the 2002 Human Development Index. The following table shows equivalent USD\$ value of the national government's current contributions to Mine Action in Tajikistan.

Equivalent \$ Value of Government Contributions to Mine Action				
<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	<i>(c)</i>	<i>(d)</i>	<i>(e)</i>
Ser	Contribution	Detail	Equation	US \$ Equivalent pa
1.	Use of helicopters for casualty evacuation	\$1000 per hr + Fuel	6 hrs per year	\$6000 p.a.
2.	Use of training areas, buildings and facilities	Areas at Leninsky	3mths x \$13,000	\$39,000 ¹ p.a.
3.	National TV and radio broadcasting		Info not available	
4.	Human resources from ministries and agencies	Deminers	100 Pers x \$300 x 7mths	\$210,000 ¹ p.a.
5.	Equipment and supplies imported tax and duty-free		Info not available	
6.	National Orthopaedic Clinic	12% usage by mine victims	Annual cost	\$235,000 ¹ p.a.
7.	Disability pensions for mine victims	500 victims	500 x 12 months x \$10	\$60,000 ¹ p.a.
8.	Total			\$550,000 p.a.

¹ Government figures

- 4.9 More resources will accelerate the programme and improve the likelihood that Tajikistan might make significant progress towards it's obligations to the Ottawa Treaty against Antipersonnel Landmines.
- 4.10 Our great concern at this time is that although we know that the enhancements in cost and time benefits a mechanical demining project will bring to the productivity and cost effectiveness of the national demining programme, there is no explicit interest that we are aware of from any potential donor for this project.

Tajikistan is a small country with a population of 6,672,000 people. 93% of its land area is mountainous. Only 11% of the country is arable land. These statistics demonstrate the seriousness of the problem created by landmine contamination; this is a country without superfluity and every square metre of land is valuable and needed for agriculture, habitation or development. From Tajikistan's Portfolio Review 2005.

- 4.11 **What are the implications for other sectors by planned mine action activities not being fulfilled?** Every square metre of lowland or level ground is vital for agriculture and for the burgeoning population of this country to live on – population is now at more than 7,000,000 (See text box above). In 2006/7 we have planned to address 8 mined areas in the Central Region affecting (4 already in progress), clear 8 mined areas in Western GBAO and complete the landmine survey of the Afghan border (1,380 Kms). In total our contaminated areas are more than 25,000,000 square metres.

- 4.12 Mine Action in Tajikistan directly supports the achievements of both health and poverty related Millennium Development Goals. MDG achievement is also one of the guiding principles for TMAC's National Five Year Strategic Plan for mine action, which was adopted by the government during 2006.
- 4.13 **Mechanical Demining.** Without machine(s) to assist clearance and technical survey operations, there is no chance that Tajikistan can come anywhere near fulfilling its obligations to the Ottawa treaty in terms of clearance. Valuable land needed for crops, livestock, habitation and economic development in the country will remain contaminated and unusable. Despite regular upgrading in our dollar-to square metre ratio and consistent commitment to productivity and cost effectiveness in mine action, displayed in continuous improvement to all aspects of the national programme, so far no donor has shown any significant interest in a mechanical clearance capacity for Tajikistan.
- 4.14 Shortfalls in resources for mine action continue to jeopardize plans to achieve higher productivity and there is a growing apprehension among some sections of the mine action community here that, although we are the only structured mine action programme in Central Asia, some major elements of the international community have yet to grasp the opportunities presented by mine action Tajikistan; possibly because there is no oil here. Although many thousands of words have been written, meetings held and attended, proposals proposed and requests made, progress is painfully slow and the future seems almost as uncertain now as it was four years ago. Tajikistan is a small problem; it is an opportunity waiting for stakeholders with vision. Unlike Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Bosnia, Iraq, Sudan and many other countries, solutions here will not mean endless amounts of money over extended periods of time. This is a successful programme and Tajikistan's landmine problems can be solved within a short period if the tools are provided in good time.

5. UNDP TAJIKISTAN TMAC ACHIEVEMENTS 2006

- 5.1 **Capacity Building and national Infrastructure.** The table below shows UNDP TMAC's achievements for 2006.

UNDP Tajikistan TMAC Achievements 2006	
Annual Targets and achievement indicators	Results
<p>Annual Target #1 Government compliance with implementation & reporting requirements of Ottawa Treaty.</p> <p>Indicator 1: Two international meetings attended by the Government.</p> <p>Indicator 2: National Mine Action Strategy written.</p> <p>Indicator 3: Proposal to the Ministry of Justice that includes recommendations for amendments and additions to national legislation to make Tajikistan compliant with the Ottawa Convention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMAC National Director and a government team attended the 7th Meeting of States Parties (7MSP) to the Ottawa Treaty in September 2006 as well as the intersessionals in Geneva during May 2006. • National FYSP written and accepted by government.

<p>Annual Target #2</p> <p>TMAC and the national mine action programme have competent, trained national management</p> <p>Indicator 1: Five people trained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Persons trained internationally. External training for TMAC staff has included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IMSMA training (2 staff members), - Senior management training (1 staff member), - Mid-management training (1 staff member), - Quality assurance training (1 staff member). • Comprehensive in-house and on-the-job training for staff members continued at TMAC.
<p>Annual Target #3</p> <p>Double cost effectiveness and productivity of mine clearance achieved in 2005.</p> <p>Indicator 1: Clear at least 200,000 square metres, at less than \$12.50 per metre.</p> <p>Indicator 2: Deploy an operational MDD capacity to work in the field during 2006 and beyond.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swiss Foundation for Mine Action demining teams cleared more than 270,000 square metres in 2006, at less than \$7.00 per metre. • 12 Mine Detecting Dogs purchased by UNDP, trained and deployed with local handlers. • Mine Detecting Dog Centre designed and planned by TMAC and built with OSCE funding.
<p>Annual Target #4</p> <p>Increase MRE and VA activities in order to reduce impact of landmines on poor communities.</p> <p>Indicator 1: Provide financial, medical and social assistance to 90% of landmine survivors.</p> <p>Indicator 2: Provide education to all affected communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 2006's landmine victims and their families in have received support. • In 2006 MRE volunteers conducted 1786 meeting in poor communities and 20,132 people received MA educational activities. • 87 mine affected communities received land mine education.
<p>Annual Target #5</p> <p>Mobilize donor commitment to the national mine action program.</p> <p>Assure at least \$10,000,000 <i>for mine clearance</i> over the next five years by gaining support for Tajikistan in the UNDP Completion Initiative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing initiative • Stated Completion Initiative commitment for 2006 from BCPR NY, Germany & UK.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 6.1 In last year's report I wrote that *Tajikistan's national programme has sufficient capacity to absorb additional financial, technical and personnel resources, and without considerable increases in these resources, little significant progress can be made to our obligations to the Ottawa Convention or to the rural poor people of Tajikistan who suffer from the effects of landmines.*
- 6.2 This year I am pleased to report that some progress has been made in many areas. However, last year's comments still apply, particularly in terms of Article Five to the Ottawa Treaty; at current levels of funding it remains entirely impossible that Tajikistan can clear all its anti-personnel mines not later than ten years after its entry as a state party to the Convention.

W E Lawrence
UNDP Chief Technical Adviser
Tajikistan Mine Action Centre
william.lawrence@undp.org