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**2015 Landmine Monitor Report, Afghanistan**

**Ban Policy**

**Use by non-state armed groups (**NSAGs)

Use: Over the past year, non-state armed groups (NSAGs) have used antipersonnel landmines in 10 countries,[[1]](#footnote-2)with continued large-scale use of victim-activated improvised mines (victim-activated IEDs) across **Afghanistan**. In the reporting period, there were also reports of NSAG use of antivehicle mines in **Afghanistan**.

The use of victim-activated improvised mines (victim-activated IEDs) continued in Afghanistan by armed groups, mainly the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami, that oppose the government. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported that anti-government forces used victim-activated improvised mines in decreasing numbers during early 2016. Victim-activated (pressure plate) improvised mines were responsible for almost half of all casualties recorded from IEDs during the first half of 2016, down 17% from 2015.[[2]](#footnote-3)During this reporting period, NSAGs and criminal groups in Afghanistan were reported to possess stocks of factory-made antipersonnel mines or components to manufacture improvised mines (victim-activated IEDs).

Non-functioning antipersonnel mines in stocks for clearance training: **Afghanistan** is among several States Parties that are still reporting as retained antipersonnel mines devices that are fuzeless, inert, rendered free from explosives, or otherwise irrevocably rendered incapable of functioning as an antipersonnel mine, including by the destruction of the fuzes. Technically, these are no longer considered antipersonnel mines as defined by the Mine Ban Treaty.[[3]](#footnote-4)

**Contamination and Clearance**

**Estimated extent of mine contamination at end of 2015**

|  |
| --- |
| **AfghanistanMassive (More than 100 km2)** |

**Afghanistan** is one of 15 States Parties that do not have a complete picture of the extent of contamination, as there are unrecorded areas. But, The Committee on Article 5 Implementation assessed the degree of clarity of the remaining challenge, finding that **Afghanistan** was one of only seven of the 17 States Parties assessed had provided a high degree of clarity in their reporting.

**Afghanistan** was recorded as coming third place of all programs for clearing the largest amount of mined area in 2015, after Cambodia and Croatia:

**Amount of mined area cleared in 2015**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **State** | **Mined area cleared (km2)** | **Antipersonnel mines destroyed** |
|  | 35.4 | 4,486 |

However, Afghanistan is not on track to meet its deadline for clearance:

**States Parties with antipersonnel mine contamination, their deadlines, and status of any deadline extensions**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **States Parties** | **Original deadline** | **Extension period** | **Deadline** | **Status** |
|  | 1 March 2013 | 10 years | 1 March 2023 | Not on track |

Mine action experienced a severe reduction in funding in 2015, negatively affecting land release results. Inadequate funding was cited as a challenge to achieving the Article 5 implementation deadline in **Afghanistan**.

In **Afghanistan**, the amount of land released in 2015 almost halved from the previous year, due to the downturn in funding.[[4]](#footnote-5)[[5]](#footnote-6)

There was new contamination in 2015 and/or 2016 in Afghanistan. In 2015 and 2016, conflict affected land release operations in nine States Parties including Afghanistan. In 2015, eight personnel from the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA) were killed and 34 injured in security incidents, and 63 were abducted and then released.[[6]](#footnote-7)

**Afghanistan** received the largest amount of funding for mine action globally in 2015 ($52.6 million), from the largest number of donors (17).

**Casualties**

**Afghanistan** continued to record the highest number of casualties in 2015, although the annual total for the country remained almost the same, with just 14 casualties more than the number reported in 2014. All recorded casualties were civilians, including deminers.

In 2015 some three-quarters (74%, or 4,755) of all mine/ERW casualties recorded for 2015 occurred in five states, all of which are conflict-affected, including **Afghanistan,** as well as states Ukraine, Yemen, Syria and Libya.

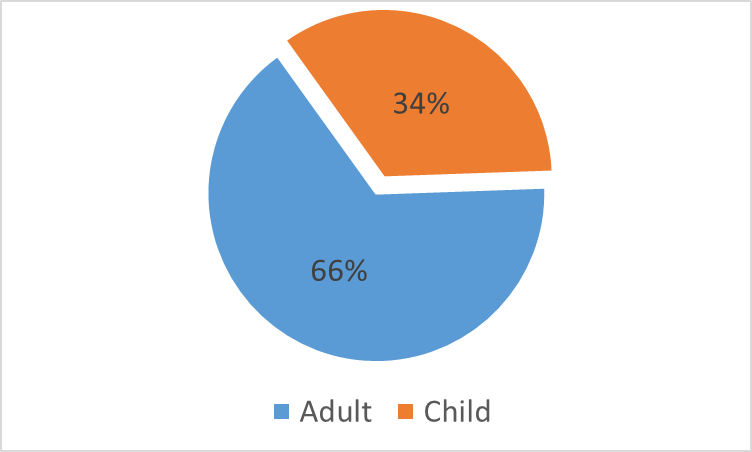
**Casualties in 2015**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Row Labels** | **Casualties** |
| Injured | 778 |
| Killed | 532 |
| **Grand Total** | **1310** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Device** | **Casualties** |
| Antipersonnel Mine | 13 |
| Antivehicle Mine | 10 |
| Cluster Submunition | 4 |
| Other ERW | 229 |
| Victim-Activated IED | 1054 |
| **Total** | **1310** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Age group** | **Casualties** |
| Adult | 862 |
| Child | 447 |
| Unknown | 1 |
| **Total** | **1310** |

**Children as a percentage of civilian casualties for which the age was known**



For **Afghanistan** UNAMA categorizes IEDs by the basic method used to initiate detonation, including victim-activated IEDs, remote control/radio/command-operated IEDs, and suicide IEDs. The most common victim-activated IEDs in **Afghanistan** are pressure plate IEDs, which are improvised landmines.

**Victim assistance**

The national bodies in charge of coordinating victim assistance collaborated with those in charge of coordinating disability rights.

A new National Disability Action Plan for **Afghanistan** remained pending, but was under development.

A lack of funding was reported to have reduced services in **Afghanistan.**

### Summary victim assistance action points based on findings

* Develop, adopt, and implement a national disability plan that includes objectives that respond to the needs of survivors and recognizes its victim assistance obligations and commitments, together with a monitoring structure.
* Expand access to physical rehabilitation needs, particularly in Bamyan and provinces lacking services or where traveling to receive rehabilitation is difficult for survivors.
* Ensure that meaningful participation of survivors is increased at all levels.
* Prioritize physical accessibility, particularly for services and for government buildings.
* Provide psychosocial and psychological support, including peer support in particular to new survivors as well as those who have been traumatized and live in isolation**.**

1. See below for details on use in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. UNAMA, “Afghanistan Mid-year Report 2016 Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” Kabul, September 2016, pp. 49–50, [bit.ly/UNAMA2016midyear](http://bit.ly/UNAMA2016midyear). Although overall casualty numbers decreased, pressure-plate IEDs caused 48% of civilian casualties from IEDs in the first half of 2016 compared to 46% in the first half of 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A total of at least 12 States Parties retain antipersonnel mines in this condition Afghanistan, Australia, BiH, Canada, Eritrea, France, Gambia, Germany, Lithuania, Mozambique, Senegal, and Serbia. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Email from MACCA, 1 May 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Email from the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA), 1 May 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Email from the MACCA, 1 May 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)