to Trade from Aid • 4 •





The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) collaborates with 13 other UN departments, agencies, programmes and funds to ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated response to the problems of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War, including cluster munitions.

The UN General Assembly created UNMAS in 1997 to serve as the UN focal point for mine action and to support the UN's vision of "a world free of the threat of landmines and Unexploded Ordnance, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies."



The International Road Transport Union (IRU) is the world road transport organisation, which upholds the interests of bus, coach, taxi and truck operators to ensure economic growth, social development, and prosperity via the sustainable mobility of people and goods by road worldwide.

The IRU, as the global voice of the road transport industry bringing together 170 Members in 73 countries across all five continents, works towards achieving the twin goals of Sustainable Development and Facilitation of trade and road transport worldwide, to safeguard and promote an industry that is vital to and which plays a crucial role in every economy and everyone's life.



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"This contribution greatly facilitated our work to support the civilian population of Afghanistan in their efforts to rebuild lives and livehoods following the devastation of decades of conflict and instability."

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"(...) the assistance of IRU has contibuted to a safer and more prosperous Afghanistan.

I very much look forward to continuing a fruitful partnership with the International Road Transport Union."

UNMAS Director's Foreword



As United Nations focal point for mine action, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is responsible for ensuring an effective, proactive and coordinated UN response to landmines and explosive remnants of war. In peacekeeping and emergency settings, UNMAS establishes and manages mine action coordination centres in mine affected countries, plans and manages operations, mobilises resources and sets mine-action priorities or assists the Government in doing so, where the mine action coordination centre has been transitioned to the national authorities. While advancing its vision of a world free from the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war, UNMAS contributes to UN efforts towards implementing sustainable peace through justice and security.

This life-saving work would not be possible without the financial support of the international community. It is thus with great pleasure that I note the successful completion of the project between the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and UNMAS for removal of landmines and explosive remnants of war on and adjacent to roads linking Kabul to its Central Asian neighbours. With the IRU's contribution, the project was designed to reduce the threat of injury and death posed to those who travel and work on and around these routes, contributing to road safety and enhancing trade links.

As the first contribution received directly from an international organisation, the UNMAS/IRU partnership represents an important milestone. The IRU contribution along with funding of \$2 million from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF) was used to fund NGOs as well as the UNMAS-managed Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and the resulting project has proven to be an unequivocal success. With this land now returned to communities for productive use, the socio-economic impact of this clearance cannot be understated. In the longer term we hope that, through removing the detritus of war and degrading the legacy of conflict, the project will contribute to the reconstruction, development and stabilisation of Afghanistan.

We thank the IRU and look forward to continuing this partnership in the years to come.

Justin Brady Acting Director United Nations Mine Action Service February 2012



IRU Secretary General's Foreword



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In 2011, the International Road Transport Union (IRU) teamed up with UNMAS to support demining activities in Afghanistan, in the framework of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. The objective of this collaboration was to clear several square kilometres of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) from the 700 kilometre ring road that connects Kabul to Afghanistan's Northern Provinces and Central Asian neighbours, thus reducing the threat of injury and death to those who travel along and work around these routes.

This innovative public-private partnership, implemented from April 2011 to March 2012, has contributed to the reconstruction, development and stabilisation of Afghanistan, and helped the country move from aid to trade by international road transport.

The direct beneficiaries are the 42 communities of over 3,000 Afghan families living in the vicinity of the 86 hazardous zones covered by this project. The indirect beneficiaries include the estimated 7 million people living in the six provinces through which the ring road runs.

Road transport is no longer merely a means of transport, but has become a vital production and mobility tool in all economies and the driver of economic and



social progress. By improving road safety and securing domestic and international trade road links, the project has also reinvigorated socio-economic opportunities between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and beyond. As the President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, once stressed: "...Once we are on our feet with our own economy, with our mineral resources, with our businesses, with our country becoming a hub for transportation in Central Asia and South and West Asia..., Afghanistan will remain a good, strong, and economically viable partner with allies."

Improving road safety and facilitating trade and international road transport have always been at the core of the IRU's actions for over 60 years, making the IRU a natural partner for relevant UN Divisions and programmes, such as UNMAS. Indeed, following World War II, the IRU helped expedite Europe's reconstruction by developing the TIR transit System, which dramatically improved the integration of Europe's trade and economy. Now, some 60 years later, the road transport industry is proud to contribute tangibly once again to the economic recovery of yet another war-torn region.

The IRU is committed to moving Afghan economic development forward by removing the physical obstacles, including landmines and other ERW, for the benefit of every Afghan citizen. The IRU is also working together with its national Member, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), and in close cooperation with the Afghan Government to remove the non-physical obstacles to national and international road transport on Afghanistan's territory resulting from inadequate border crossing procedures, through the implementation of the key UN multilateral trade and transport facilitation instruments such as the TIR Convention, whose efficiency is proven in many other countries.

This UNMAS-IRU public-private partnership for "Demining Afghanistan" is a very concrete step in the right direction to driving progress and ultimately peace to ensure the sustainable mobility of people and goods in the region. It is the IRU's hope that this project will serve as an inspiration for others to join us in putting into practice the IRU motto: 'Working together for a better future'.

Martin Marmy Secretary General International Road Transport Union Since the beginning of the innovative partnership between the IRU and UNMAS, Afghanistan's position in the field of trade has much improved, with the clearance of roads and adjacent villages freeing up important trade pathways.

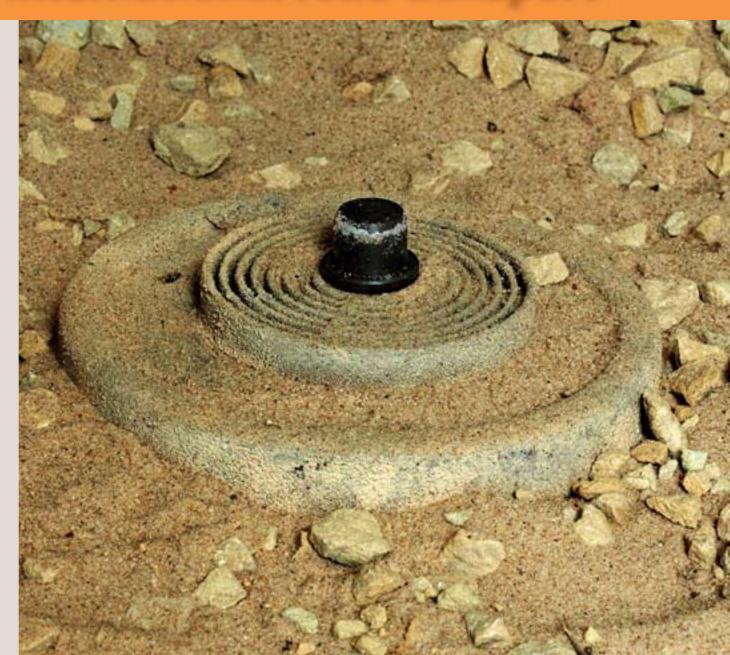
This outstanding initiative by the IRU has helped to bolster the trade between Afghanistan and Central Asia and facilitate the trade of supplies from the Middle East and Southeast Asia. We hope that such support from the IRU will continue in the future until we clear all mines and other explosives from all roads and paths that are used for trade and humanitarian activities, and that similar initiatives can be undertaken with other organisations."

Alhaj Khan Jan Alakozai, Deputy Chairman, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Demining Afghanistan: moving from aid to trade by international road transport

An Innovative Public-Private Partnership: April 2011 - March 2012

6



Imagine kneeling on the ground, 32°C weather, hands sweating from work gloves, chest covered by a 20 kg flak jacket, as you look out from behind a 5mm-thick protective face visor.

You use a small spade to gently dig away at the earth and grass surrounding a small landmine or other explosive remnant of war – the memory of a conflict fought in a distant past, yet still affecting lives in the present.

Diffusing it removes one less threat to the men, women and children in the community, allowing them to rebuild houses and schools, as well as businesses to boost the economy, so they can start living happier lives again.

Now imagine waking up the next morning, as you prepare to do it all over again.

This is the IRU-UNMAS Project of Demining Afghanistan.

A Picture Tale...





نزدیک شدن Nazdik Shodan نیدې کېدل

True to its commitment to achieve sustainable development, notably by furthering the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through facilitated, safe and secure road transport, the IRU teamed up with UNMAS to support demining activities in Afghanistan in the framework of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

The IRU and UNMAS formalised this innovative public-private partnership by signing an Agreement at the UN Headquarters in New York on 28 January 2011 outlining their common objectives to "*increase security and intensify socio-economic development of Afghanistan to facilitate its integration in the global trade and economy systems ... and develop cooperation in road transport <u>safety and security</u>".*

Quality roads are a prerequisite to improve a country's economy and develop trade. Providing good quality roads mean that they are mine-free. In our case, they are crucial to the stable economic development of the country. It is important that you see it with your own eyes. The organisations which de-mine roads have found some that date back to ancient war times. Therefore, clearing roads from mines is a huge task, and we are fully aware of the importance and significance of this operation. In essence: this work is a question of life or death for our country.

General Atta, Governor of Balkh Province, Afghanistan



Watch the Project Movie



Short term objectives and direct beneficiaries

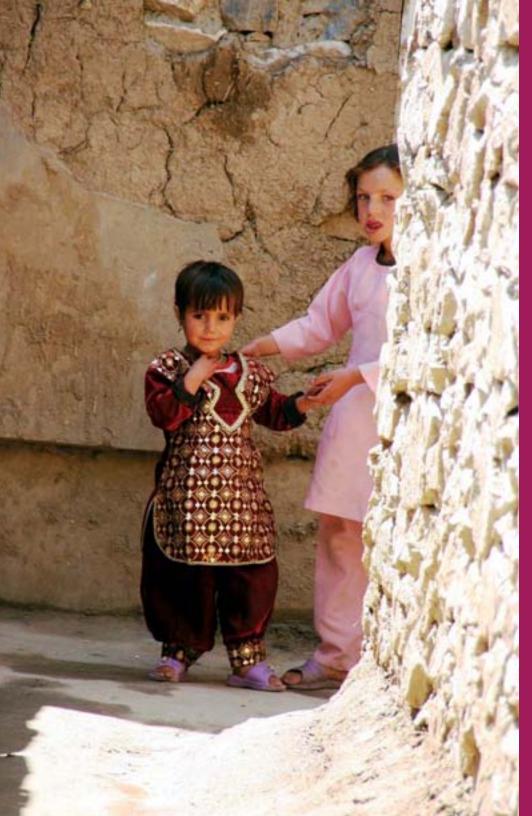
Since the very start, the Association of Road Transport Carriers of Georgia (GIRCA) has supported the UNMAS – IRU project for Demining Afghanistan. Landmines, and other explosive remnants of war, are significant obstacles to development. There are also minefields in Georgia, so we understand all too well the threat it poses to the road transport industry. Road transport is highly essential for Afghanistan, as only road transport can offer the flexibility to reach any village or community, thus improving the distribution of goods and mobility of people, and ultimately driving peace and progress in this war-torn region.

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Demining Afghanistan creates more opportunities for road transport development. This IRU-UNMAS partnership is an excellent example of the road transport industry taking responsibility, not only for delivering goods on time, but also for improving road safety and providing security for the sustainable transport of both goods and people, which makes the project even more valuable."

Gia TSIPURIA, Secretary General, GIRCA (Georgia)

The aim of this public-private partnership was to improve road security in war-torn Afghanistan by clearing roads and road adjacent minefields and battle areas posing a significant threat to the movement of goods and passengers along the routes linking Kabul to its Central Asian neighbours. It sought to reduce the risk of injury and death posed to the thousands of people who travel along and work around these routes every week, contributing to road safety and enhancing trade links.



Short-term benefits of the project: Quick facts and figures

- **Clearing of 86 hazardous zones,** in the Central, Northern and North-Eastern regions of Afghanistan;
- clearance zones were located within a 100 m corridor on either side of the 700 km ring road which connects Kabul to the provinces in the Northern provinces of Parwan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Samangan, Balkh and Jowzjan;
- daily lives of **42 communities impacted**;
- beneficial to over **3,000 families**;
- **employment opportunities provided for over 200 people** from the affected communities;
- road safety and security improved for the **thousands of people** travelling on these routes every week.

If any country or any citizen knows the importance of roads – it is Afghanistan. If we could have road networks, even feeder road networks to connect to major commercial centres, economic activity would start up again."

Sham L. Bathija, Senior Adviser for Economic Affairs to the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Mehrabudin High School in the 7th District, Deh Dana, covered by the project

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Long term objectives and indirect beneficiaries

In the long term, this project is expected to contribute to the reconstruction, development and stabilisation of Afghanistan. This landlocked country, strategically located along the Silk Road could, once roads secured, play an essential role in Euro-Asian trade and road transport links, bringing prosperity to the entire landmass through the revitalisation of the ancient Silk Road.

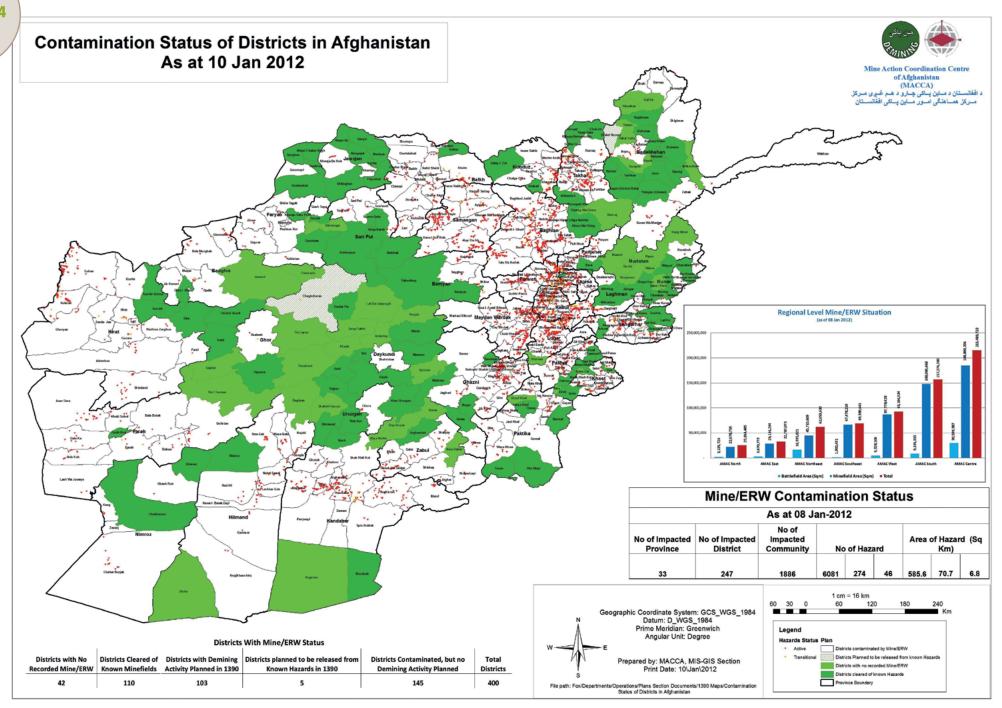
This effort to clear mines and foster development concretely supports the UN MDGs as UNMAS and the IRU are proactively helping the people of Afghanistan by contributing to their safety and smooth running of their economy. The UNMAS-IRU public-private partnership further illustrates how "Working together for a better future" can support innovative partnerships that tackle critical issues for development.

Afghanistan is our neighbouring country to the East, which separates us from China. Transit deliveries via Afghanistan, both to and from China, could greatly facilitate economic development for Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In this context, we consider the demining of Afghanistan as a very positive step towards regional trade transport development. We also believe that the International Road Transport Union, to which both Afghan and Tajik road transport operators belong, has set an excellent example of an innovative public-private partnership aimed at solving important problems to improve the quality of life for every Afghan citizen."

Makhmadaly Shokirov, President, ABBAT, Tajikistan

Expected long term outcomes of the project: Quick facts and figures

- Yields a positive impact on the living conditions of over 7 million people living in the 6 provinces through which the ring road runs;
- secures the mobility of local communities, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees who are at daily risk of mine/ERW accidents and whose movements are restricted by landmines and ERW contamination;
- allows drivers to use the road more safely;
- reduces the cost of food and non-food items;
- returns land to its original agricultural use (mainly wheat and rice);
- increases opportunities for trade and business;
- allows for safe maintenance and reconstruction of the existing road which is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Public Work;
- strengthens the trade among Afghanistan's provinces and with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and ultimately Europe, all of which are connected through this road.



Rolling out the project

At the end of March 2011, the IRU chartered a truck, which left Le Havre in France, to bring demining equipment provided by the Halo Trust all the way down to Kabul, Afghanistan, in order to supply demining teams and other clearance assets on location.

Meeting with local Shura

Prior to starting the project, a number of meetings were held with the local Shura and local authorities such as the district governor, chief of police and community elders from the target areas, in order to gain their support for the project's implementation. Community buy-in helped mitigate the potential security related risks that project personnel might face.

Staffing

Local people were recruited as deminers, medics, drivers and guards, as it is preferred that demining personnel are recruited from the impacted communities whenever possible. In addition to their employment as deminers, personnel hired to work close to their communities could also carry on with their other work, such as farming, tending livestock and shop keeping after they finished demining each day. As this project covered a substantial distance, personnel were recruited as a mix of both local people from the target area and experienced staff from the Implementing Partners' core capacity.

Recruitment of demining personnel was conducted in consultation with the target areas' local Shura, which helped implementing partners hire the appropriate people and also promoted the feeling of project ownership among the local population of the contaminated areas to be de-mined, while supporting the personnel's general safety and security. The implementation by ATC and HALO of the UNMAS/IRU project was a useful component of the wider mine action programme delivery – it is encouraging to see funding partnerships of this nature in Afghanistan."

Alan Macdonald, Director, Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)





I'm a man of action and that's why I like what the United Nations is doing here, action mine action. We are not just talking about it, but taking action to solve this problem," I'm here to be educated and then educate people about an issue that can be solved with the proper levels of funding."

See Jeremy Renner's visit to Afghanistan

Jeremy Renner, Actor, U.S.





Training

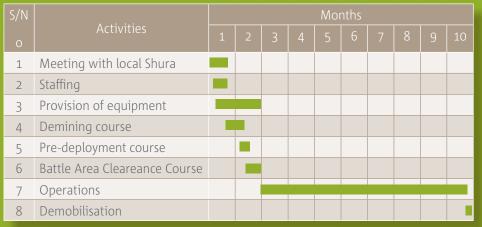
It took an average of 45 days to prepare and train each team for the beginning of operational demining activities. The following training was needed before they could be deployed into a live hazardous area to clear mines and ERW:

- Demining Course to recognise different types of mines and learn the techniques of manual mine clearance and disposal of antipersonnel and antitank mines using explosives.
- Pre-deployment Course to start work, conducted in simulated minefields as part of a warm up exercise before the deminers are deployed into a 'live' minefield.
- Battle Area Clearance (BAC) teaching deminers to recognise different types of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and to conduct battle area clearance. The completion of this course authorised deminers to destroy up to 85mm calibre UXO.

Once the training was completed, the new teams were accredited by the MACCA to ensure they had the adequate training and could work safely.

The deminers were then able and equipped to commence work.

Launched on 14 April 2011 in Kabul, the demining project was carried out over a en-month period:





Demining partners and clearance assets

Funding provided in support of mine clearance by IRU and UNMAS has been an excellent initiative in building the Afghan economy, improving safe trade between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries mainly in Central Asia that, like Afghanistan, are landlocked and rely heavily on road transport for trade.

The HALO Trust, through this clearance, made secondary roads and the edges along main highways in the North and Northeast of the country safer for thousands of passengers who use these roads on a daily basis. The Kutchie population, indigenous nomads who move their convoys of camels, horses, donkeys and mules during the summer months from the South of the country to the North and Northeast using these roads, also massively benefitted from IRU funded mine clearance in Afghanistan.

HALO Afghanistan would like to thank the IRU for its generosity in supporting the humanitarian clearance activities completed under this project. In addition, the equipment purchased under this contract will help the HALO Trust conduct humanitarian missions to clear mines and ERW in Afghanistan in the long term. I would like to reiterate the fact that this has been an outstanding initiative by the IRU to fund humanitarian mine clearance in Afghanistan, and has helped improve the trade between Afghanistan and Central Asia, China and Russia as well as facilitating the movement of goods being imported from the Middle East and Southeast Asia transiting through Central Asia to Afghanistan.

We hope that such assistance from the IRU will continue in the future until we clear all mines and ERW from the edges of all primary, secondary and tertiary roads in Afghanistan."

Dr. Farid Homayoun, Country Director, The HALO Trust Afghanistan



HALO Trust and ATC were preselected to implement this project as, geographically, these two implementing partners had a long-term presence in the project areas making them familiar with the situation of minefields and battlefields and nature of terrains which required clearance. The Salang Tunnel was selected as a project splitter where its northern part was implemented by the HALO Trust and southern part by ATC.

THE HALO TRUST

The HALO Trust

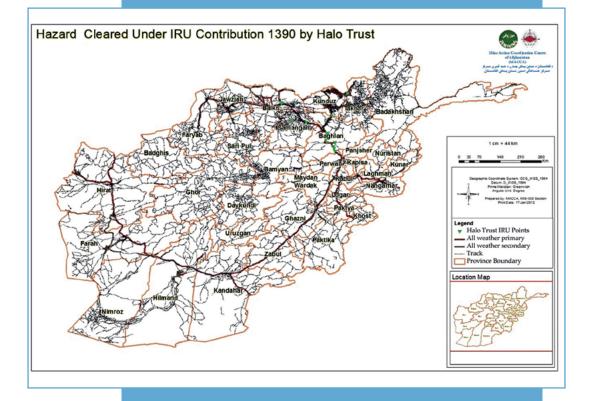
The HALO Trust is a non-political, non-religious, non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in South West Scotland, registered in England as a charity, and in the United States as a not-for-profit organisation. The HALO Trust specialises in the removal of the hazardous debris of war. It is the world's oldest and largest humanitarian landmine clearance organisation.

The HALO Trust's operations cover Central Asia, South East Asia, the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, the Caucasus and the Balkans.

Under the IRU-UNMAS project, the HALO Trust deployed six Demining Teams (DT), one Battle Area Clearance Unit (BAC) and two Mechanical Demining Units (MDU) who worked over 45 different hazards, and destroyed:

- 106 antipersonnel mines
- 200 explosive remnants of war
- 12 small arms ammunition
- 1 antitank mine

6,530 people who were living in direct threat from landmines and ERW in 12 communities, seven districts and four provinces benefitted from the land cleared by the HALO Trust. The map shows the geographical location of hazards removed by the HALO Trust under this project.





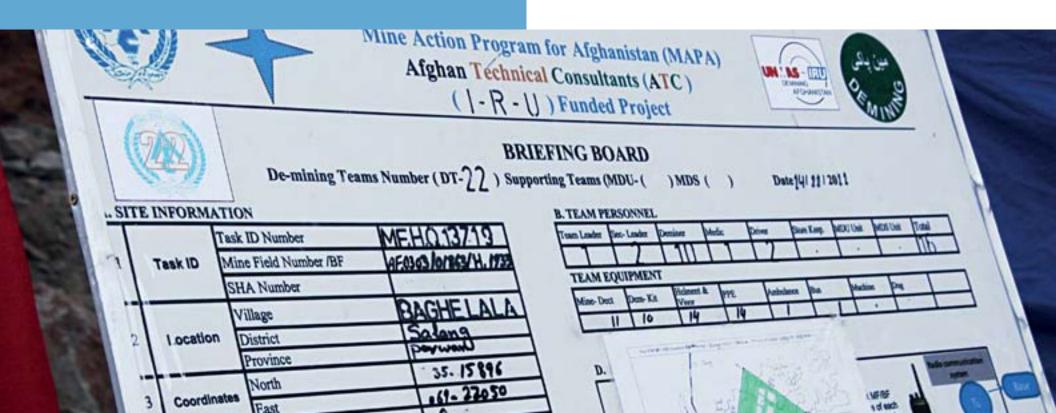
Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC)

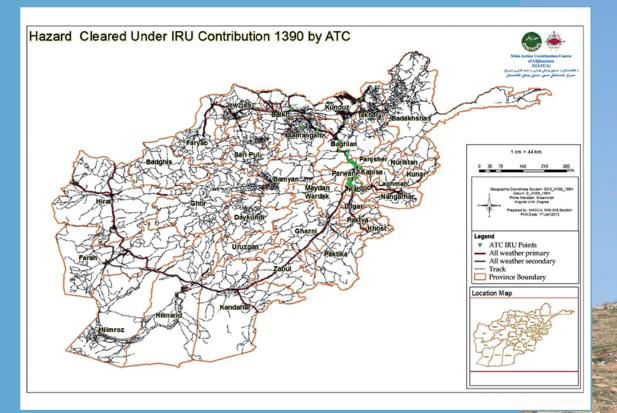
Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) is the oldest and largest non-profit NGO for humanitarian mine clearance in Afghanistan. Established in October 1989 by the current Director, Kefayatullah Eblagh, ATC started demining operations in early 1990 and has since then developed into a highly organised and effective NGO, employing some 1,300 personnel.

Under the IRU-UNMAS project, ATC deployed six DT, one Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD) and one MDU, who worked over 41 hazards, and destroyed:

- 1,769 antipersonnel mines
- 830 explosive remnants of war
- 3,243 small arms ammunition

The cleared land benefitted 7,387 people who were living in direct threat from landmines and ERW in 30 communities, 11 districts and three provinces. The map shows the geographical location of hazards removed by the ATC under this project.





The IRU took the initiative to fund demining organisations in Afghanistan through UNMAS/UNOPS to clear both sides of the highways connecting Kabul to Central Asian countries and facilitate safe transportation internationally. Fortunately, ATC was chosen by UNMAS/UNOPS to implement this vital project. During the implementation of this project, ATC was able to clear 41 minefields/battlefields on both sides of the Kabul-Salang Highway.

In clearing these hazards, ATC also provided an area for schoolchildren and inhabitants of the villages to play and resume their normal lives. When Mr. Igor Rounov, an IRU representative, visited a site in Salang where clearance activities were completed in late 2011, the people's satisfaction with the IRU and the UN was very visible. The people's enthusiasm and appreciation towards demining activities of the IRU-funded teams were impressive.

Furthermore, implementation of this life-saving project provided job opportunities for some 150 experienced Afghan deminers.

I would like to thank the IRU, UNMAS, UNOPS and MACCA for their initiative, timely financial support and cooperation to provide funds to ATC to clear these sites. I hope that, through their continuous support, we will have the opportunity to make our country's highways and surrounding areas free from mines and explosives remnants of war."

Kefaytullah Eblagh, Founder and Director, Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC)

Kung-Fu lesson, organised by the Centre for Disabilities, Hmaza Club, Pule Khoshk, Dashte Barchi.

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Benefitting local communities and economies

The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) inspectors conducted Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) visits to all clearance worksites to ensure the activities were carried out in line with the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards. In addition to the QA and QC activities, MACCA's regional offices in Central, North, North-Eastern and Western regions ensured that the demining assets were used in an efficient way so that all hazardous zones covered by the project were secured on time.

The IRU funded project was completed to the expected level of quality. Both ATC and HALO Trust safely and successfully achieved their projects' planned targets. MACCA continually monitored delivery of the IRU project to ensure that it was implemented safely and in line with the national and international mine action standards.

More on the blog





Mines and other explosives left behind from the Soviet occupation and civil war have created massive problems for us. We were not able to use agricultural land, grazing land, attend to our livestock and collect firewood from the contaminated areas or the road for transportation. I remember accidents affecting both people and animals in my village. They were tragic and unforgettable. We are very happy with the mine action operations here, since it has already improved our lives."

Azizullah, Resident of Dara Zendan village, Afghanistan



"Now we are very happy that there are no mines in the area, and we are thankful that our villagers came together and requested Mine Action to clear this area from mines and other explosives. They finally came and cleared the area from these hidden enemies to humans. We appreciate mine action activities from the bottom of our heart."

Mohammad Ilyas, Resident of Gamandy village, Afghanistan



There were many mine accidents in this area before clearance and many people lost their legs, hands, eyes and even their lives," Ahmad Shah recalled. "Now we have many shops and oil pump stations in the area. This is a busy road and every day, thousands of passengers and drivers pass by; some buy food from the shops and oil from the pump stations. Now, we will be able to take care of our families and communities."

Ahmad Shah, Resident of Godar, Afghanistan



remember, a family came here, I think from Kabul for a picnic, their child who was around 6 years old went a bit far and lost his leg in an explosion. This is one of the accidents I have seen and I have heard other people too, talking about such accidents in our village. But if the area is cleared of mines and other explosives, this can have a very positive effect on our livelihood condition."

Mohammad Naser, Resident of Aghul Khan village, Afghanistan We can now freely walk anywhere we want, we can get our goats and sheep grazing to those areas where we were not able to get them when it was contaminated, we can drive our cars and trucks to the highway now and most important is that our children don't have to walk long distances to get to school, they can go to school by bus."

Abdul Hakim, Resident of Nayab Abad village, Afghanistan



• "One of the ways to strengthen our economy is to graze our animals, collect dairy from them and sell it to local markets, but only if that village has been cleared from mines and unexploded ordnance."

Shir Agha, Resident of Doshakh village, Afghanistan



Abbreviation Key

AMAC	Area Mine Action Centre
AMAS	Afghanistan Mine Action Standards
AP	Antipersonnel mine
AT	Antitank mine
ATC	Afghan Technical Consultants
BAC	Battle Area Clearance
BSC	Balanced Scorecard
DMC	Department of Mine Clearance
DT	Demining Team
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
HALO Trust	Hazardous Areas Life Support Organisation Trust
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IP	Implementing Partners
IRU	International Road Transport Union
MACCA	Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MDU	Mechanical Demining Unit
MIS	Management Information System
PMT	Project Monitoring Tool
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
SAA	Small Arms Ammunition
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

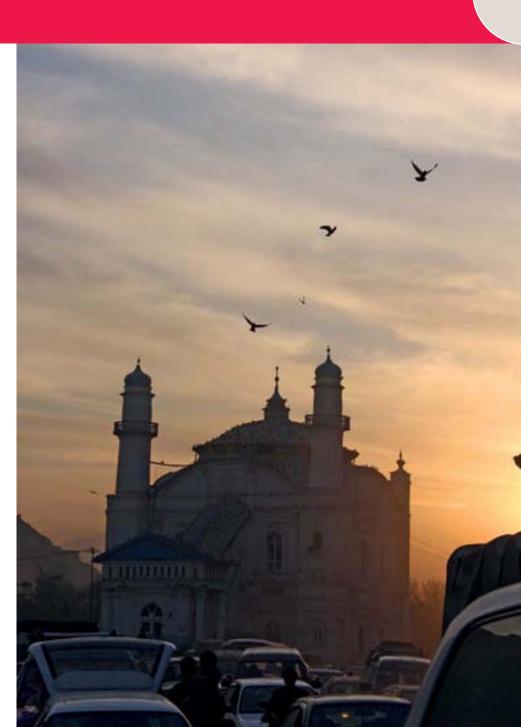


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