

Mine Action Support Group



UNMAS

UNMAS AFGHANISTAN

May 2021

Vision 2024

Vision

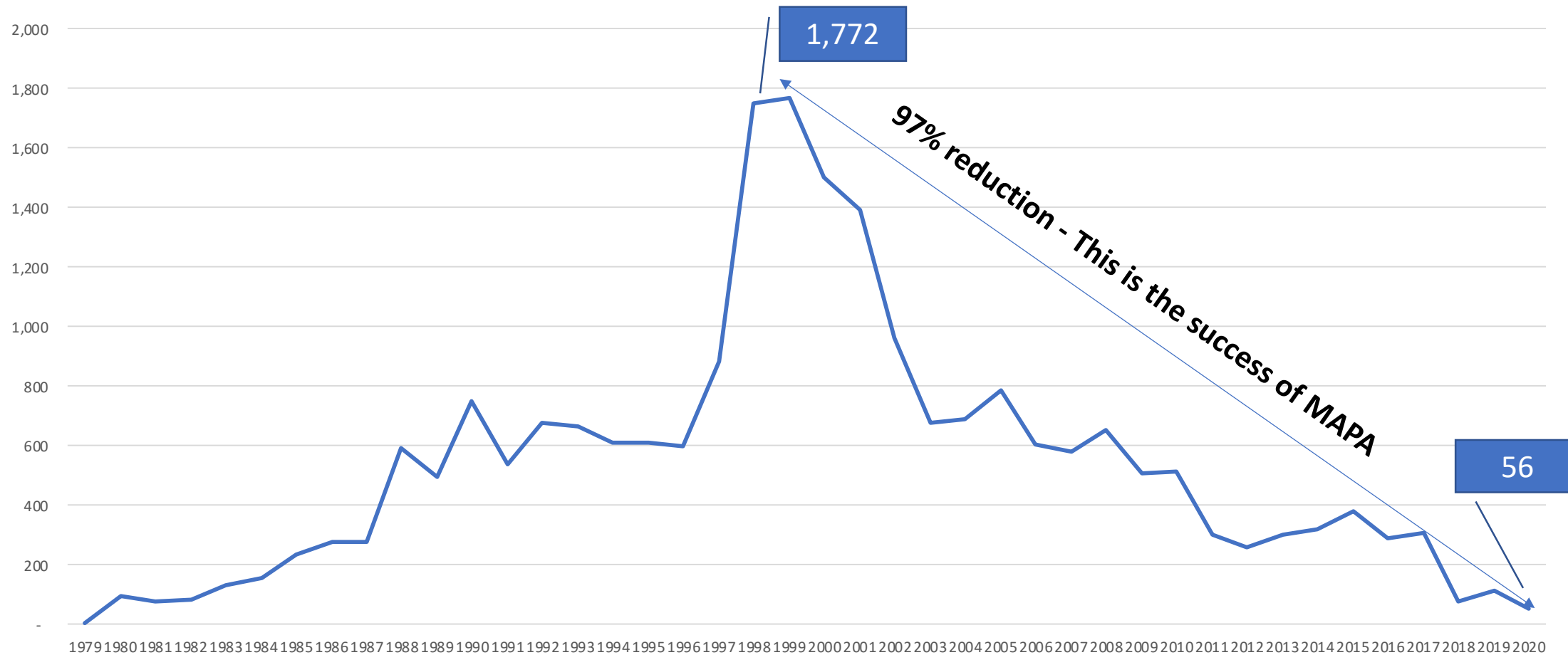
A country free from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) where people and communities live in a safe environment conducive to national development and where landmine and ERW survivors are fully integrated into society and thus have their rights and needs recognized and fulfilled.

UNMAS will do this by:

- Building and sustaining the capability of the national mine action authority through technical advice on strategic planning and hazard prioritization; advocacy and resource mobilization; programme, funds, and contract management; the implementation of national legislation and international standards as well as piloting and mainstreaming of new technology.
- Developing capacity to address the increasing casualty numbers through gender-sensitive community liaison, behavioural change focused risk education and the improvement of the clearance capability of partners through technical training and the provision of specialized equipment, with particular focus on improvised mines.
- Enhancing information management to improve prioritization, performance monitoring and impact evaluation.
- Engaging with the wider humanitarian and development community through the Protection Cluster, the Humanitarian Access Group and other forums to ensure mine action projects are delivered in a principled manner and complement the delivery of assistance in other sectors.
- Establishing a conflict prevention and protection mechanism tailored to the Afghan context.
- Advocating for the rights of mine and ERW victims and their families, as well the inclusion of the needs of people with disabilities in all mine action projects.
- Mobilizing resources by providing reliable, up-to-date information on needs and solutions to stakeholders and raising awareness on the success of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan between 1987 - 2021

Link to the UNMAS Afghanistan program <http://www.unmas.org/en/programmes/afghanistan>

Impact: Civilian Casualty by pre-2001 Contamination (1979-2020)





View of West Kabul during mine clearance 1998



View of the same neighborhood 2021

Success of Mine Action in Afghanistan

Since 1989, humanitarian mine action partners in Afghanistan have cleared **745,750** AP mines, **30,790** AV mines and over **18.8 million** items of ERW, releasing **3,224** km² of land released for productive use to **3,154** communities.





View of West Kabul during mine clearance 1998



View of the same neighborhood in 2021



View of Jebrail Township Herat province during mine clearance
2011



View of the same area Jebrail Township Herat province After
mine clearance (2017)

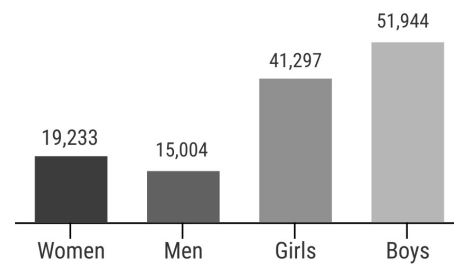
Achievements 2020

In 2020, UNMAS has helped
Afghanistan to:

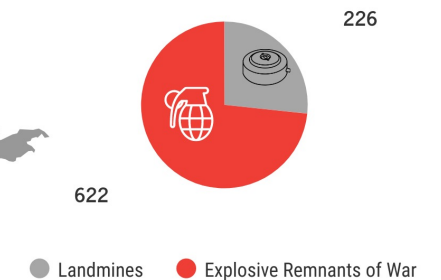
Clear 15 sq. km. of contaminated land

- Benefited a population of 547,766 in 160 communities
- Enabled the implementation of agricultural, livelihood and housing initiatives

Deliver risk education to 127,478 people



Destroy 848 landmines and Explosive Remnants of War



Enhance national capacity

- Deployed Gender Specialists to local humanitarian demining NGOs
- Provided training and equipment to the MAPA for the survey and clearance of improvised mines
- Developed and provided COVID-19 awareness posters to be included in all MAPA explosive ordnance risk education programs

Current Challenges

Improvised Mines and ERW

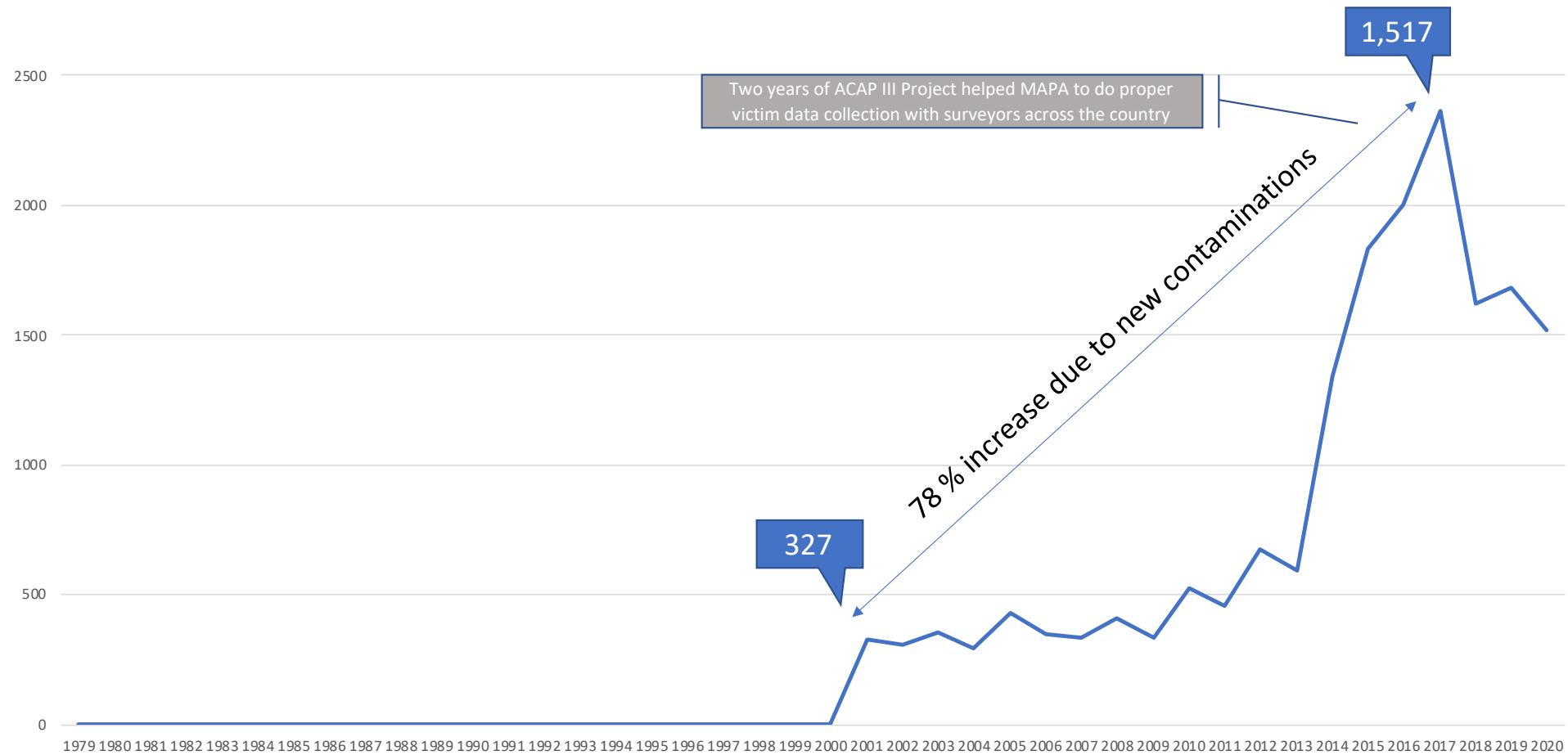
Access and Security

US Troop Withdrawal and Peace Process

Supporting safe returns and humanitarian delivery

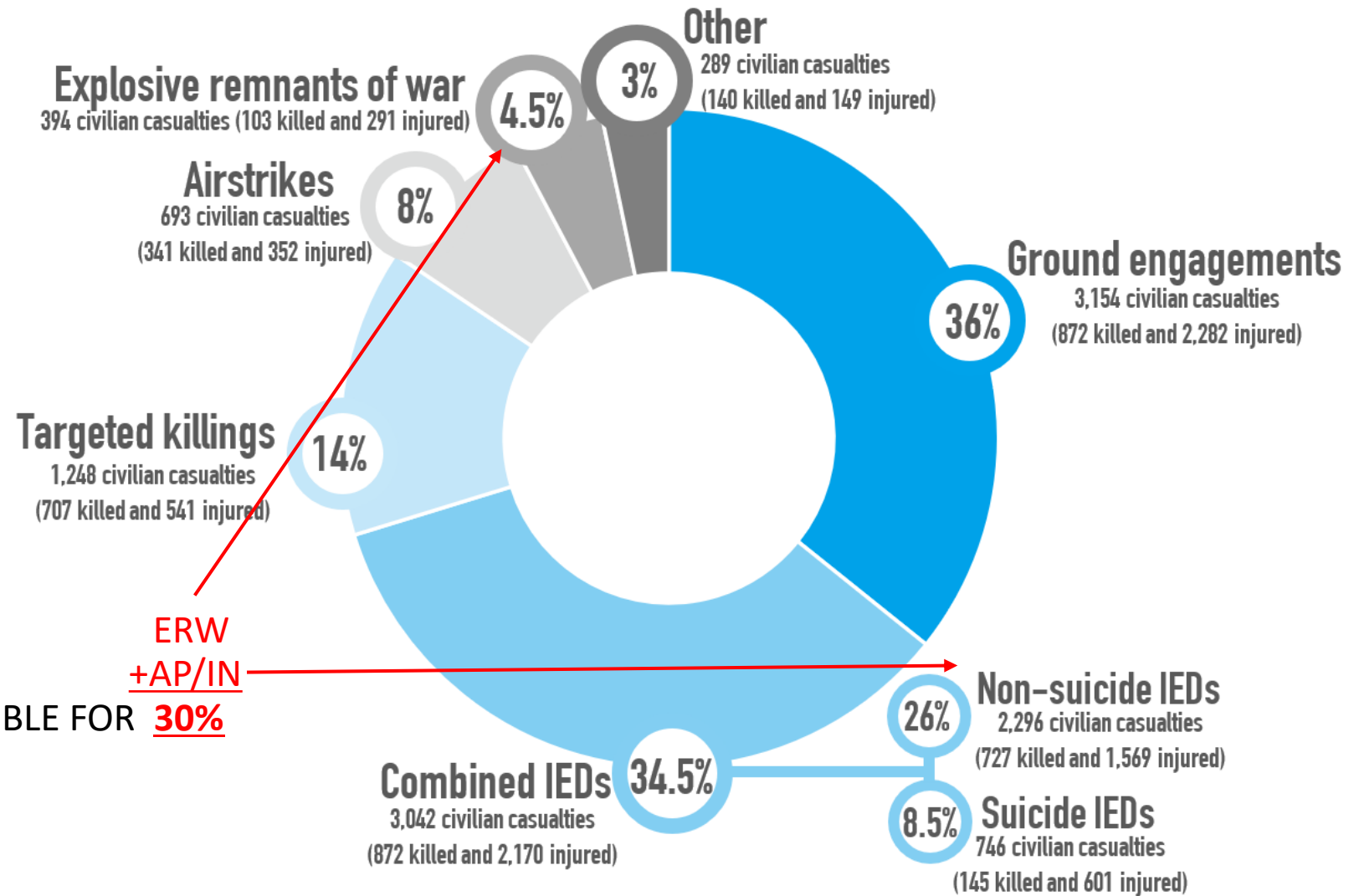
Funding Required

Threat: Civilian Casualties by Post 2001 Contamination



Trend Analysis for 2020 – Civilian Casualties

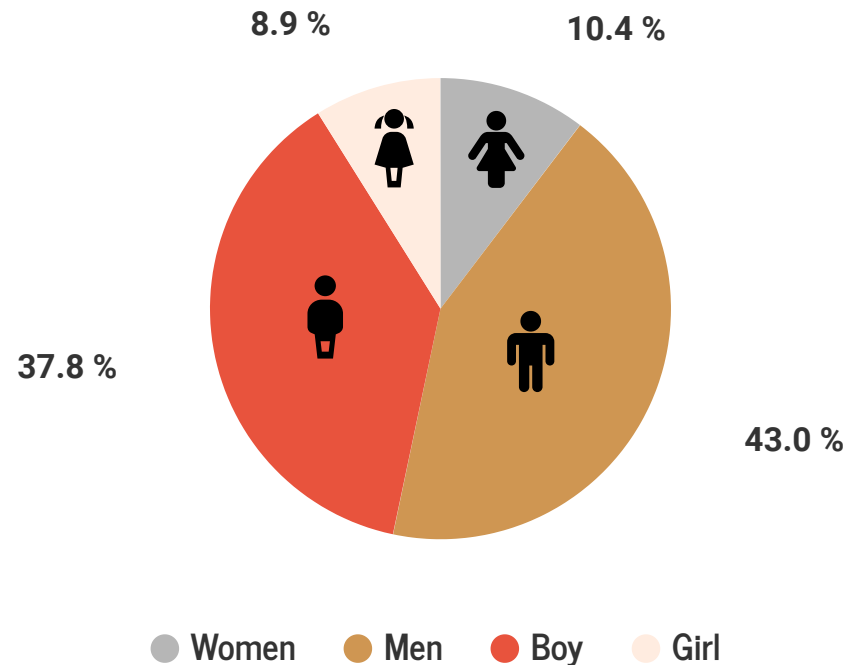
EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS RESPONSIBLE FOR **30%**



Summary of Explosive Hazard Casualties 2020

Anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (APM/IN) and ERW from more recent armed clashes caused **98.8 percent** of the explosive hazard-related casualties recorded in 2020. In the same year, **more than 72 percent of the ERW casualties were children.**

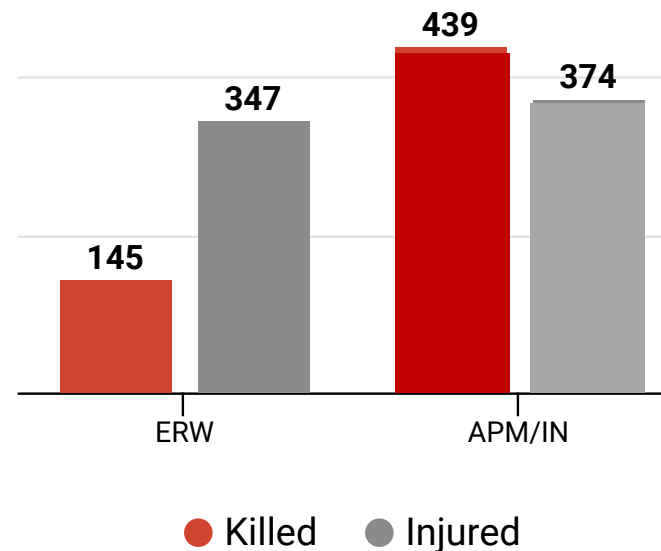
Breakdown of Victims by Age and Gender- Jan to Nov 2020



Breakdown of Casualties By Devices- Jan to Nov 2020

ERW: Explosive Remnants of War

APM/IN: Anti-personnel Landmines of an Improvised Nature



Bending the casualty curve: AP/IN

2019

- UNMAS assists DMAC complete AMAS for AP/IN - 1st of its kind
- Oslo Conference
- Begin advocacy to Donors on funding AP/IN clearance

2020

- UNMAS trains MAPA partners on **technical aspects of AP/IN** survey and clearance.
- UNMAS builds DMAC capacity for the **quality management** of AP/IN survey and clearance
- Provides AP/IN clearance **seed equipment** from training to the DMAC
- MAPA partners develop **internal training plans and SOP** AP/IN with UNMAS technical assistance.

2021

- IPs accredited by DMAC as per AMASUNMAS Pilot clearance projects in process.
- Funding secured for AP/IN clearance
- Further capacity building and pilot projects in process
- MAPA better able to assist humanitarian delivery and bend the casualty curve.

Access Challenges

KEY FIGURES

	IN APRIL 2021	IN 2021	
	117	620	total number of access incidents
	25	106	total incidents related to health workers or facilities
	2	11	aid workers killed
	3	27	aid workers injured
	6	36	aid workers abducted

Humanitarian Access

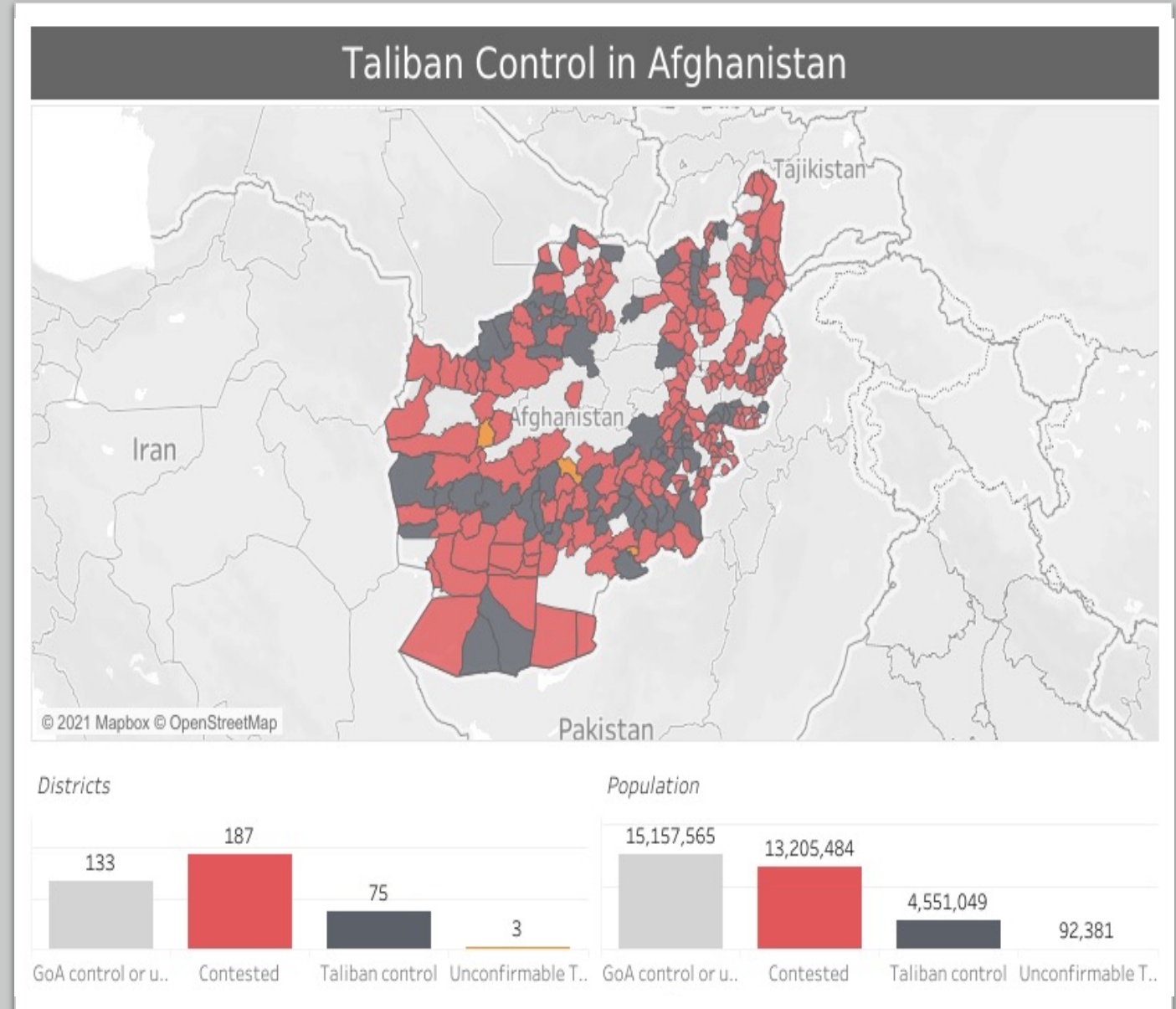
Humanitarian operations are frequently disrupted by conflict, IEDs, bureaucratic processes, and checkpoints.

In 2020, several health facilities were forced to close because of insecurity, affecting the provision of essential health services. For example, in April/May 2021, 6 health facilities in Arghandab, Kandahar suspended after access routes were contaminated with IEDs, preventing access by staff and patients.

Political outcome of intra-Afghan peace talks and the foreign policy adopted by the new US administration will be key in shaping future humanitarian access.

UNMAS Access Negotiation Approach

- Engagement with NSAGs for an 'exemption' for humanitarian mine action agencies from taxation and for a guarantee of safe and continuous access to areas in need. Currently, this engagement happens in-person and in writing.
- Advocacy with UNAMA and donors to obtain their support during negotiations with the Taliban.
- Advocacy, via the DMAC, at a high level of the Government to ensure that pro-government elements exempt mine action operators from taxation requests.
- Instituting access negotiation training and skills development for UNMAS/3rdParty personnel to keep skills relevant and up to date.



US Troop Withdrawal and Peace Process.

Scenario A: Intensifying Conflict

- Following withdrawal, Taliban applies pressure to cities while attempting to increase hold in the countryside. Peace process remains stalled.
- Latest OCHA "Afghanistan: Spring Disaster Contingency Plan" assumes a risk of intensifying conflict which would in turn lead to an increase in EO contamination increasing casualties and risks to delivery of humanitarian aid.

Scenario B: A lull in Conflict or Ceasefire

- Peace process is renewed and parties agree to a temporary ceasefire while they negotiate.
- Mine action is a necessary enabler of response in the 30 first days of a ceasefire with newly accessible areas needing to be assessed for EO.
- Ensuring safe return and movement of IDPs.
- Experience in the immediate aftermath of peace agreements in other theatres and in Afghanistan show casualties unabated or increasing mostly due to an increase in returns and travel to previously inaccessible areas.

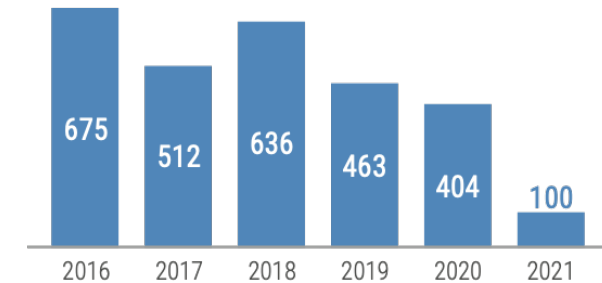
Supporting Returns and Humanitarian Delivery

- Conflict or ceasefire mine action *crucial to urgent humanitarian delivery* in both scenarios.
- *EORE for vulnerable pop. is essential (see left)* in addition to mass broadcast messaging
- UNMAS funded Quick Response Teams deployed across Afghanistan for emergency EOD/BAC clearance in IDP/Returnee locations.
- Land release to allow more safe returns and socio-economic access.
- AP/IN Clearance (a major security challenge for humanitarian providers)
- Survey and risk mitigation for humanitarian delivery and socio-economic projects

- Deadliest conflict in the world.
- Annually averaging half a million new IDPs and half a million returnees. 50% are children.

Past six years

■ Number of IDPs (thousands)



- Highly vulnerable to explosive hazard risk
- In 2020, UNMAS funded EORE reached 127,000 returnees and IDPs at encashment and transit and zero-point centers

Funding Needs

Main funding needs of the estimated under upcoming Article 5 extension.

- ❖ \$200 million to clear firing ranges (not from humanitarian funds)
- ❖ \$10 million for survey and land release to release 200 - 400 million sq m of SHAs (Saves \$130 - \$300 million in full blown clearance)
- ❖ \$450-500 million for AP/IN clearance over next 6 years for casualty reduction and treaty compliance
- ❖ \$3-5 million annually EORE leading to behavioral change and casualty reduction
- ❖ \$3-4 million for DMAC support (50% USA and 50% VTF)
- ❖ \$4 million annually UNMAS coordination and technical support

Exit Strategy



UNMAS Afghanistan will scale down its presence and assistance in coordination with the Government of Afghanistan when the comparative advantage of the United Nations as a **neutral humanitarian** and **finance provider** is no longer required or relevant, either due to the capacity to conduct this nationally or due to sustained peace.



QUESTIONS?

UNMAS thanks the following donors for their generous support for 2020 - 2021:

Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Netherlands, Denmark, New Zealand, CERF and Japan.