

‘Abandonment’ in the Protracted Conflict Environment that is Afghanistan

NDM, 15 February 2018

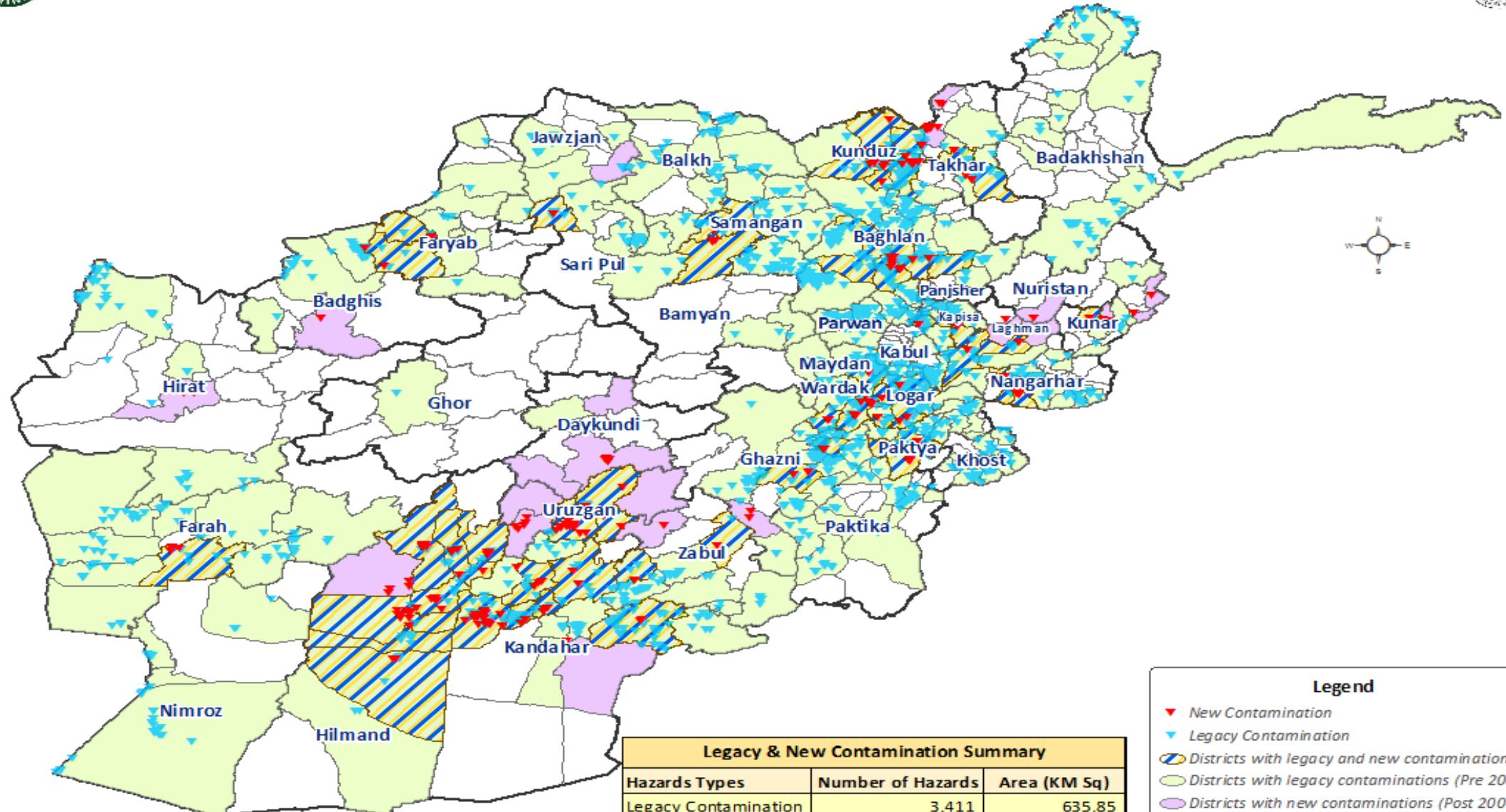
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New Mine Usage Confirmed (and Denied) as of 2011

- ICBL quotes UNAMA & the Taliban responding to UNAMA
 - “[E]ach pressure plate IED serves as a massive anti-personnel landmine with the capability of destroying a tank. Civilians who step or drive on these IEDs have no defense against them and little chance of survival.” UNAMA, “Afghanistan: Mid Year Report 2011, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” Kabul, July 2011.
 - “UNAMA accuses Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate of having caused casualties to the common people by planting land mines. However, all the country men know that Mujahideen use landmines which are controlled remotely, i.e. they are not detonated by heavy pressure. So Mujahideen’s mines aim only at a specific targets.” Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, “Statement of the Islamic Emirate Regarding the Repeatedly Baseless Accusations of UNAMA,” 19 July 2011.



Scope of legacy and new Mine/ERW contaminations in Afghanistan



Legacy & New Contamination Summary

Hazards Types	Number of Hazards	Area (KM Sq)
Legacy Contamination	3,411	635.85
New Contamination	299	474.91
Total	3,710	1,110.77

Legend

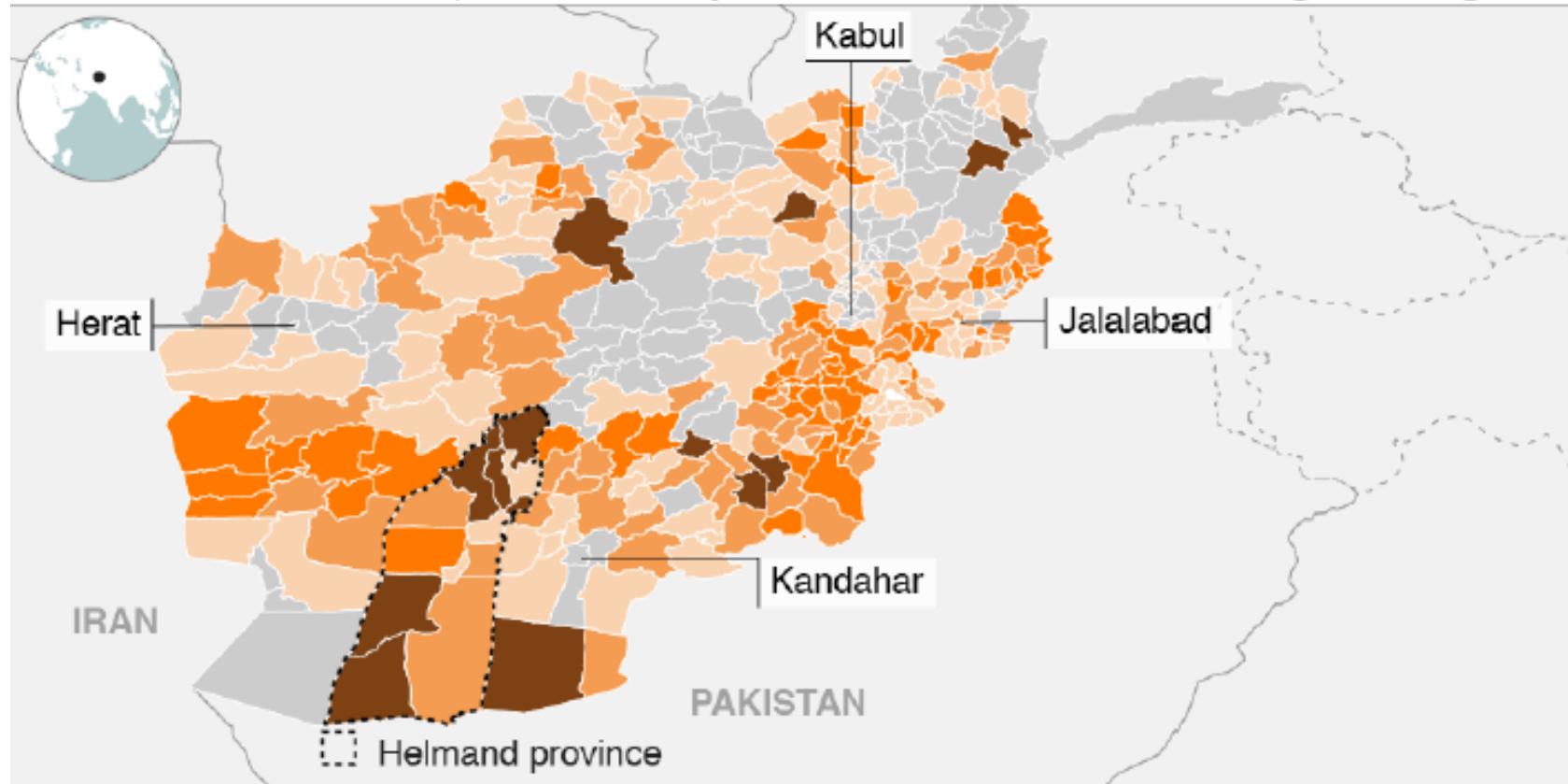
- ▼ New Contamination
- ▼ Legacy Contamination
- ▨ Districts with legacy and new contaminations
- ▨ Districts with legacy contaminations (Pre 2001)
- ▨ Districts with new contaminations (Post 2001)
- ▬ Provincial Boundary
- ▬ District Boundary

Date: 8th Jan 2018

0 45 90 180 270 360 Kilometers

Taliban presence in Afghanistan by district

Labelled cities have also experienced deadly suicide attacks, car bombs and targeted killings



How the districts break down:

Open Taliban presence in government-held areas

- High - attacked at least twice a week, 15% of districts
- Medium - attacked at least three times a month, 20%
- Low - attacked once in three months, 31%

■ Full government control, 30%

■ Full Taliban control, 4%

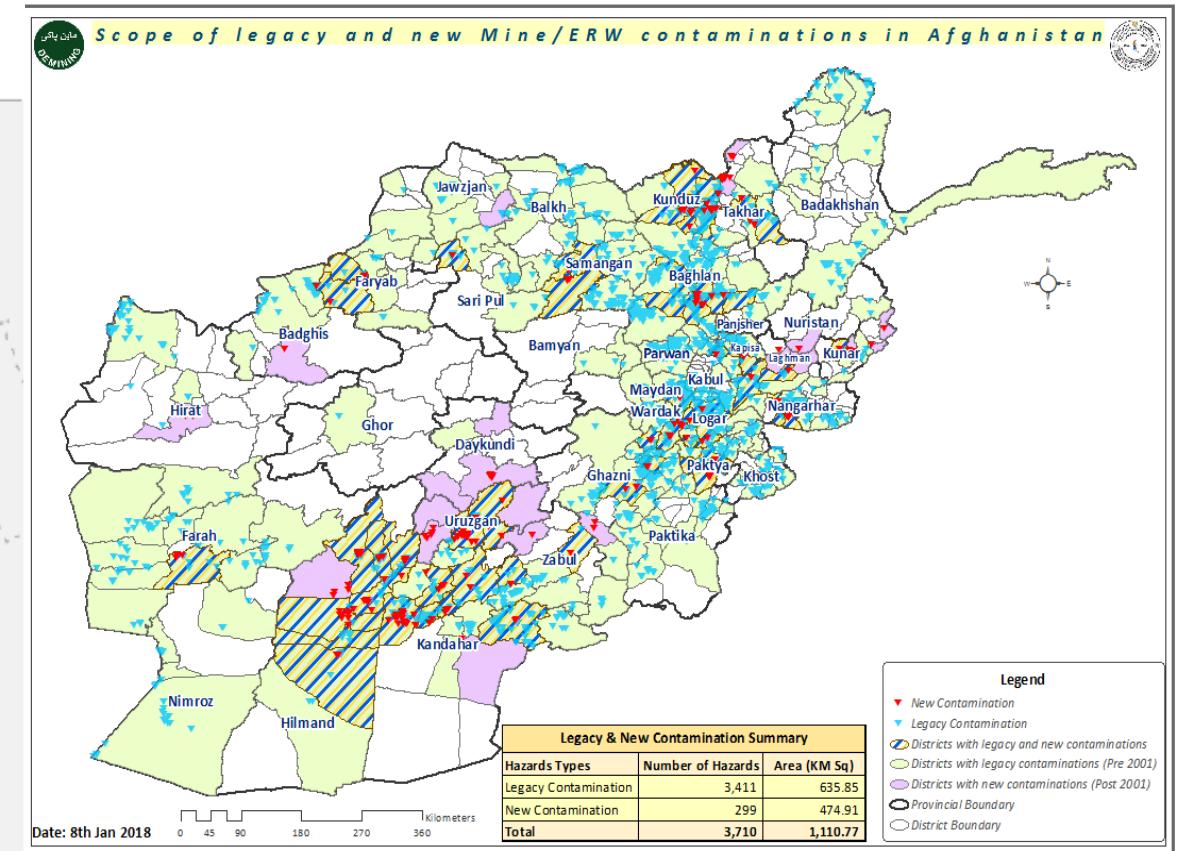
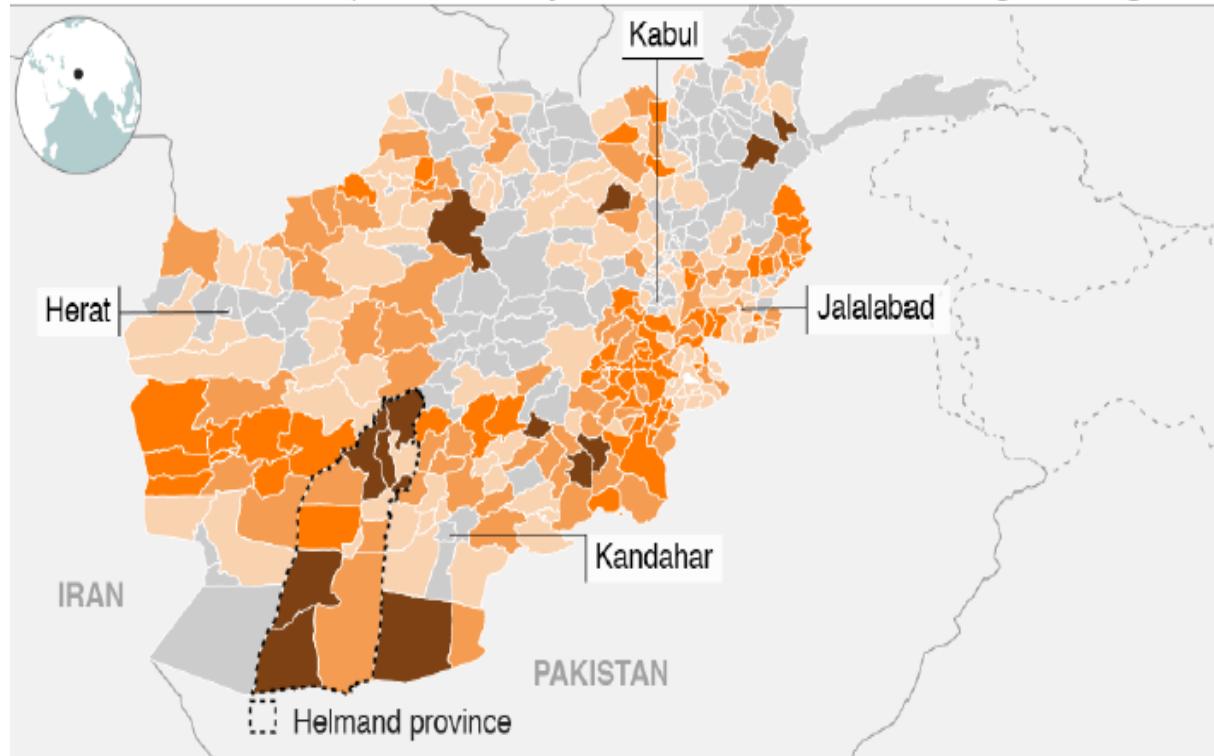
Source: BBC research, 23 August - 21 November 2017

BBC

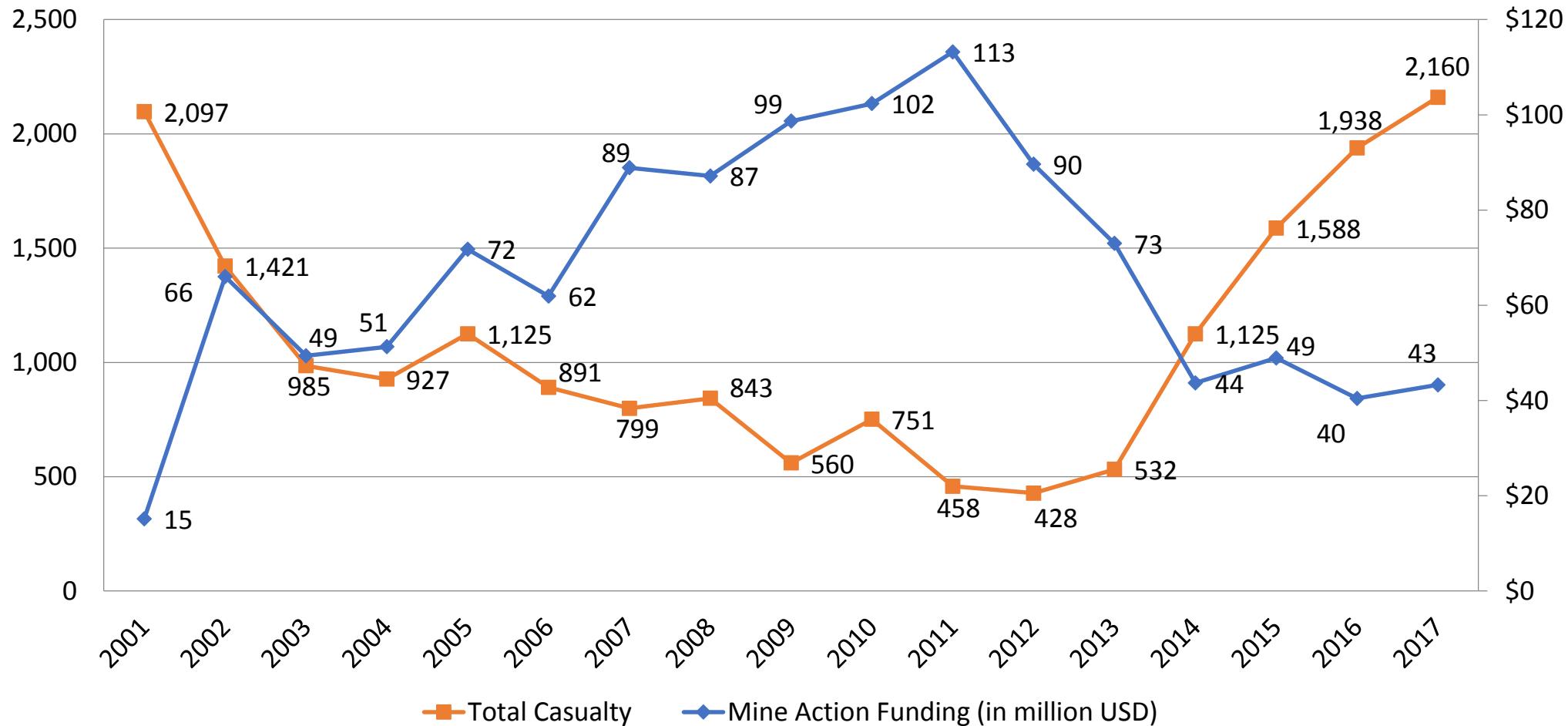
Side by Side

Taliban presence in Afghanistan by district

Labelled cities have also experienced deadly suicide attacks, car bombs and targeted killings



Casualties and Mine Action Funding



*Projected

Source: Integrated Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

'Abandoned' & 'Not Abandoned'?

**Not
Abandoned**



Image provided by GICHD

Discussion. Please!

- Abandonment: Is this a new challenge or have we always done this as part of humanitarian mine action? As part of community liaison? Speaking to the parties to a conflict?
- Abandonment: Is it a process rather than an event?
- Abandonment: Role of Humanitarian Diplomacy?
- Abandonment: Needs to be ‘certified’ or ‘verified’?
- Abandonment: A pre-condition to establishing durable consent to clear.