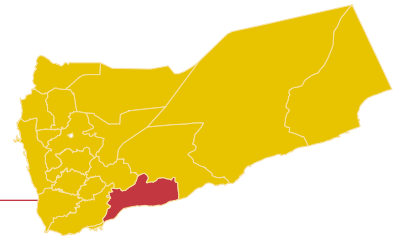


# Abyan Governorate



# Abyan

## A. Summary

In Abyan Governorate, there are 19 communities with a total population of 31,552 impacted by landmine/UXO contamination. No fewer than 15 of the communities are located in Khanfar district. A total of 34 contaminated areas with a reported surface of 84.4 million square meters have been identified. Of this, 26.7 million square meters is reported to be flat land overgrown, at least in part, with tall grass, bushes, and/or trees. The survey recorded 12 recent<sup>1</sup> and 115 less-recent<sup>2</sup> mine victims in the affected communities.

## B. Location

Abyan Governorate is located in the south of the country, bordering the Gulf of Aden in the south, with an area of 16,442 square kilometers and a population of 342,600<sup>3</sup>.

## C. Scope and history of the landmine contamination

Of the 10 districts in Abyan, three are affected by landmines/UXO. Levels of contamination vary from district to district. Landmine-affected districts include Khanfar, Lowdar, and Modya. No landmine/UXO contamination has been reported in the remaining seven districts.

Of the 811 communities in the affected districts, 19 reported mine/UXO impacts. In these 19 communities, 34 contaminated areas reportedly block access to an estimated 84.4 million square meters of land. The mine problem in Abyan is concentrated in Khanfar district, affecting 15 communities. The survey information concurs that landmines/UXO in Lowdar and Modya districts originated during 1970–1972 conflicts. However, mines in Khanfar district are reported to have been laid in the 1994 war of secession.

Ten communities reported only UXO contamination. Two of those communities are located in Al-Mahfad and one in Rosod district where UXO is the only kind of contamination. Six of the UXO-affected communities are located in Khanfar and one in Modya district.

## D. Impact upon communities

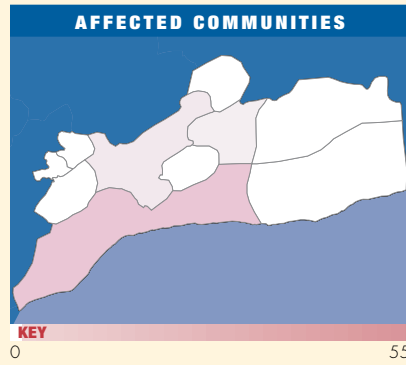
Landmine/UXO contamination affects 19 communities, with a total 31,552 inhabitants. The communities affected consist of 11 compact or dispersed villages, plus five nomadic, one suburban, one seasonal, and one other settlement. As per the

<sup>1</sup> During the past two years.

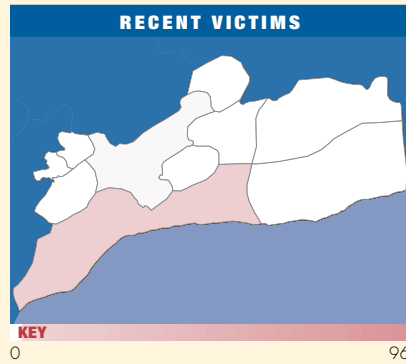
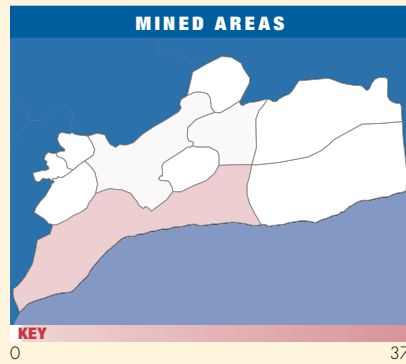
<sup>2</sup> Before the past two years.

<sup>3</sup> Population figures from the Central Statistics Organization (CSO).

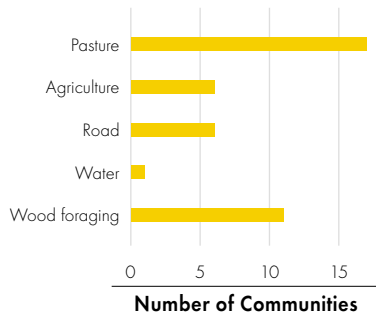
## AT A GLANCE: LANDMINE CONTAMINATION IN ABYAN GOVERNORATE



District	Affected communities	Mined areas	All victims
Khanfar	15	27	104
Lowdar	3	4	20
Modya	1	3	3



### ACCESS BLOCKED BY LAND TYPE



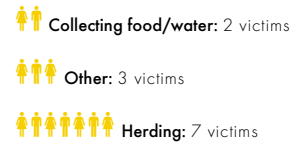
agriculture; six, roads; one, building materials; and one, water.

The survey found that 127 people in Abyan were injured or killed by mines: 12 in the past two years and 115 previously. Of the 12 recent mine victims, 10 had come to harm in Khanfar, and two in Lowdar. The chart at right provides further details on the recent victims concerning their activities at the time of accident.

survey’s scoring mechanism, one community suffers a high level of impact, seven a medium level, and 11 a low level.

In the majority of affected communities, landmine/UXO contamination is blocking access to pastureland. As many as 17 communities reported blocked access to some of their pasture, while 11 did not have access to some of their firewood sources. Among the other types of blockages, six communities reported

### MINE ACCIDENTS BY ACTIVITY



## E. Implications for mine action

Landmines in Abyan were laid primarily along access routes to points of strategic importance and around former military positions during the 1970–1972 conflict and the 1994 war of secession. An estimated total surface of 84.4 million square meters is contaminated by mines or UXO. Of the contaminated area, 26.7 million square meters is flat land overgrown, at least in part, with tall grass, bushes, or trees.

### ESTIMATED CONTAMINATED SURFACE LAND IN SQUARE METERS BY VEGETATION AND GROUND PROFILE

Vegetation	Ground Profile			Total
	Flat land only	Hillside, ridge, and gully	Other	
None	4,545	0	0	4,545
Short grass only	0	0	33,980,000	33,980,000
Tall grass, at least some	21,000,000	0	0	21,000,000
Bushes or trees, at least some	5,738,200	1,932,000	21,775,000	29,445,200
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>26,742,745</b>	<b>1,932,000</b>	<b>55,755,000</b>	<b>84,429,745</b>

A majority of the mined areas are reported to contain a combination of AP, AT, or UXO, though some contain only one of these types.

Among the communities surveyed, none reported to have received any mine awareness training during the past two years. In addition, no victim assistance or mine survey/marketing program was evident during the same period. However, one community in Khanfar district reported mine clearance by

the National Technical Executive Unit (NTEU), while local people in four other communities in the same district reported to have attempted some mine/UXO clearance.

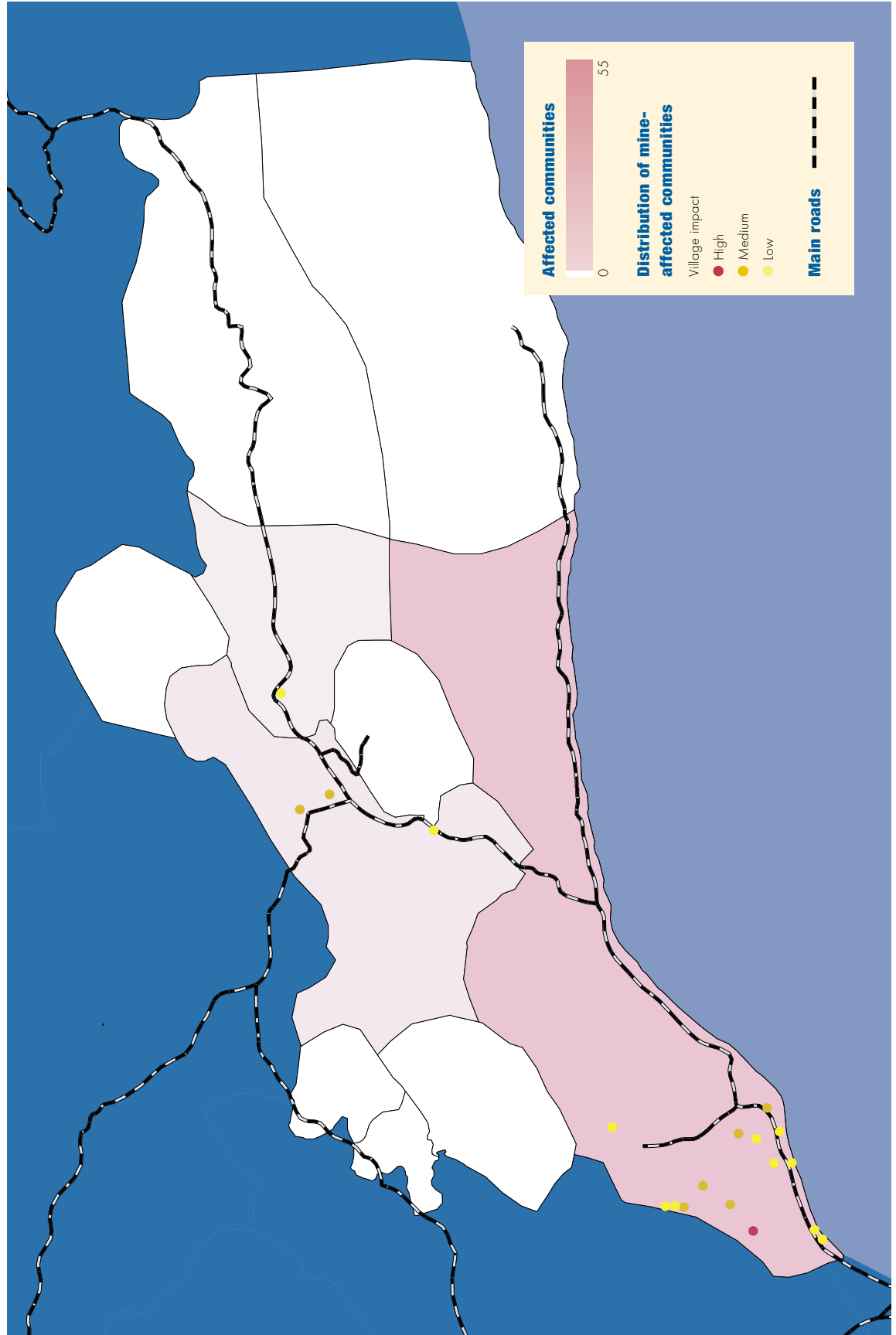
#### ESTIMATED AFFECTED SURFACE LAND BY TYPE OF DEVICES AND NUMBER OF MINED AREAS

Type of device	Mined areas	Surface land (Sqm)
Mines and UXO	27	82,564,545
UXO	6	1,833,200
Anti-tank mines	1	32,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>84,429,745</b>

#### COMMUNITY-WIDE DETAILS OF LANDMINE/UXO CONTAMINATION IN ABYAN

Communities affected	Population affected	Mined areas	Estimated surface area (Sqm)	Victims					
				Recently killed	Recently injured	Killed earlier	Injured earlier	All victims	
Khanfar	Abadi	150	1	500,000	0	1	0	0	1
	Al-Okd	140	3	12,000,000	1	0	5	2	8
	Al-Haroor	1,000	1	32,000	0	0	1	0	1
	Al-Khamelah	2,500	1	150,000	0	1	5	8	14
	Al-Mahnabah	70	3	6,000,000	0	0	10	5	15
	Al-Maseh	1,200	2	6,600,000	0	0	4	5	9
	Al-Sayyadien	220	2	4,480,000	0	0	8	7	15
	Al-Waqa'ah	50	2	900,000	0	0	0	0	0
	Habeel Al-Braq	1,050	1	300,000	0	0	1	0	1
	Jeljalah	84	1	25,000	0	0	1	2	3
	Mabtooh	6	2	9,000,000	0	0	0	2	2
	Mahattat Al-Alam	32	2	23,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
	Ofeani	150	1	1,200	0	0	0	0	0
	Owaydayn	135	2	12,000,000	4	1	21	0	26
	Qarn Al-Zoghayba	240	3	9,000,000	1	1	1	6	9
<b>Total 15</b>	<b>7,027</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>83,988,200</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>104</b>	
Lowdar	Ammkhrbeh	175	2	9,500	0	0	0	1	1
	Imsara	4,000	1	32,000	0	0	2	0	2
	Yasoof	350	1	400,000	2	0	15	0	17
	<b>Total 3</b>	<b>4,525</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>441,500</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>
Modya	Modiya	20,000	3	45	0	0	2	1	3
	<b>Total 1</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Abyan Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31,552</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>84,429,745</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>127</b>

**MINE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN ABYAN GOVERNORATE, RANKED BY IMPACT**





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