



# 1387 MAPA ANNUAL REPORT





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# ACRONYMS



A person in silhouette is using a metal detector in a field. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a helmet. The background shows a hilly landscape with mountains under a clear sky. The sun is visible in the upper left corner, creating a bright glow.

AMAC	Area Mine Action Centre
AMAS	Afghanistan Mine Action Standards
ANBP	Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ARCS	Afghan Red Crescent Society
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
DMC	Department of Mine Clearance
DSU	Disability Support Unit
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
HDI	Hemayat Brothers Demining International
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
LIAT	Landmine Impact Assessment Team
MACCA	Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MCPA	Mine Clearance and Planning Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund



# **1387 MAPA Annual Report** **(Covers 1st April 2008-30th March 2009)**

## **Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)** **and Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)**

The concept of humanitarian mine action was developed in Afghanistan in 1988.

Mine action encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, mine clearance (survey, marking and clearance), stockpile destruction, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance (VA). The programme is funded both bilaterally and through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)<sup>1</sup>.

Due to the scale of the problem, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. The MAPA is the term commonly used to refer to all mine action actors in Afghanistan. The implementers of mine action in Afghanistan have a twenty year history of successful delivery and have cleared over 15,000 hazard areas throughout the country. The MAPA is co-ordinated by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), which is funded through a UN modality. The MACCA has sub-offices, known as Area Mine Action Centres (AMACs) in Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kunduz, Gardez, and Kandahar. More than 20 mine action implementing organizations currently work in Afghanistan, employing over 8,000 personnel.

## **1387 Annual Report**

The purpose of the MAPA report is to consolidate the results of all the mine action players working in Afghanistan. This is prepared by the MACCA on behalf of the MAPA.

The MACCA does not explicitly implement mine action, but rather coordinates the activity and helps advise Government and donors in shaping strategy, projects and activity. The MACCA plays a special advisory role to the UN VTF and assists the VTF to shape and design specific projects to support mine action in Afghanistan.

<sup>1</sup> Administered in NY by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)



# Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to be writing the foreword to this annual report. 1387 has been a high point in the history of mine action in this country and I am proud of all our mine action colleagues working tirelessly towards achieving the vision of a country free of mines and explosive remnants of war.

We know that mine action is not only an end in itself, removing the threat of mines from the people of our country, but is also essential for the wider development of Afghanistan. The World Bank Policy Research Report 'Breaking the Conflict Trap' refers to mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) as "negative investment" or "investment in reverse", since they can permanently detract from the physical, human and social capital that post-conflict countries need for economic progress. This is of great relevance to a country as highly contaminated as Afghanistan. In many areas, mine action becomes a pre-requisite for any type of development work. Therefore, until the threat of mines is removed, it will seriously undermine Afghanistan's development and progress.

However, we are now in a position of having much to celebrate. The results presented in this report mark a significant acceleration in the rate of clearance in the country. In 1387, the MAPA implementers managed the destruction of 68,000 anti-personnel mines, 750 anti-tank mines and 2.4 million Explosive Remnants of War<sup>2</sup>. The combination of clearance and cancellation led to a total of over 90 square km of previously known or suspected hazardous area being returned to communities. In terms of tangible development projects, in 1387 there was a significant increase in the power supply to Kabul which would not have been possible without the mine clearance executed along parts of the route.

Looking ahead, foreign investors plan to develop a copper mine in Ainak, Logar province which could prove a significant boost to Afghanistan's economy and provide hundreds of jobs. At present, the copper mine's location is significantly contaminated with mines and ERW. Within the area there are 50 villages which have suffered almost 70 mine-related injuries and deaths in recent years. Therefore, the clearance of this area represents both a humanitarian and developmental opportunity and the MACCA is working with the Ministry of Mines to ensure that sufficient funding is sourced so that landmines do not hold back this development.

It is not just in major developments such as the copper mine that we can see the potential of mine action enabling development throughout the country. Freeing even a single community from the threat of mines will enable them to grow more crops, graze more animals and access routes to market and education.

In terms of challenges, security has increasingly become a concern for demining teams, especially in the south of the country. In the last year, two demining staff have been killed and nine injured and 45 abducted due to rising criminality and insurgency in those areas.

To tackle the problem of mines and ERW in areas of insecurity a new approach, Community Based Demining (CBD), began in 1387 in the volatile provinces in Kunar, Helmand and Uruzgan. CBD was designed and is implemented under the supervision of MAPA NGOs in consultation with community shura (councils). These CBD projects recruited and trained deminers from within the impacted communities, rather than sending mobile demining teams into new areas. This approach enables mine clearance takes place in otherwise 'hard to reach' areas and also boosts the economy of those communities through the salaries and income from rental of non-technical equipment such as vehicles and buildings. So far, the results have been very encouraging: communities have grasped the potential long-term benefits of this short-term economic boost which has mobilized communities as a whole to provide security for the deminers while the clearance takes place. In this report, we have featured a case study from one of these communities in which you will hear from a community themselves.

The achievements of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan mean that in terms of numbers of hazards the country is now 80% of the way towards meeting the goals set by the Afghanistan Compact signed in London in 2006 and 57% towards meeting the Ottawa Convention benchmark of total clearance by 2013. We know that a mine free Afghanistan is now achievable. All that is needed is the political will and the continued and increased support from long-standing and new donors to make this happen. One thing is clear: we cannot afford to neglect mine action if we truly desire a peaceful and prosperous country for ourselves and our children.



Dr Mohammed Haider Reza  
Programme Director  
Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan

<sup>2</sup> In 2008, there were 84,000 anti-personnel mines, 900 anti-tank mines and 2.5 million Explosive Remnants of War were destroyed by the MAPA. This resulted in the clearance of over 50sqkm of minefields and almost 113sqkm of former battle area.



## Overarching Mine Action Strategy in Afghanistan

The clearance strategy for Afghanistan is focused on achieving the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) benchmarks:

- By March 2011, the land area contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance will be reduced by 70%;<sup>3</sup>
- all stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be located and destroyed by end-2007 (achieved); and
- By end-2010, all unsafe, unserviceable and surplus ammunition will be destroyed.

<sup>3</sup> The MAPA has achieved over 70% progress towards achieving the goal set by the Afghanistan Compact and is over half way towards the Ottawa/ Mine Ban Treaty of completely clearing all mined areas



# Background

## Scope of the Problem

At the beginning of 1388 there were 5,611 hazards remaining affecting 656 sq km and impacting 2,018 communities throughout the country.

Approximately 2.7% of all Afghans are severely disabled, with landmine and ERW accidents accounting for around 8.6% of this total.<sup>4</sup> The impact of disability on economic participation is substantial, impoverishing survivors and their families, straining government and other health care systems, and limiting economic growth and poverty reduction.

The number of casualties in 1387 showed 14% drop overall from the previous year, however, the figures are still too high. On average of 55 Afghans are injured or killed every month, totaling 499 people injured and 163 killed due to mines and ERW. A quarter of these accidents resulted in death and 61% involved children. The following table shows the casualties according to device type. It is important to note the large number of accidents caused by ERW, which is often due to poverty driven high risk behaviours such as scrap metal collection.

<sup>4</sup>National Disability Survey of Afghanistan, Ministry of Public Health, Central Statistics Office, Handicap International Report, 2005

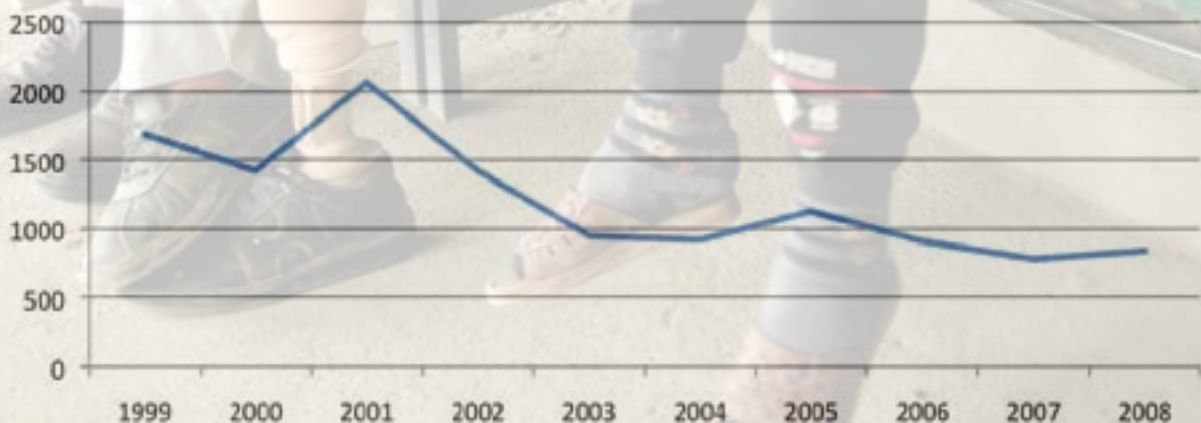


### Total Casualties in 1387 by Device



Below is a graph representing a ten-year overview of the victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war in Afghanistan. This shows a dramatic decrease in the number of victims, which has decreased by over two thirds in this period.

### Casualties in Afghanistan since 1999





# MAPA Highlights from 1387

## Clearance of Known Hazard

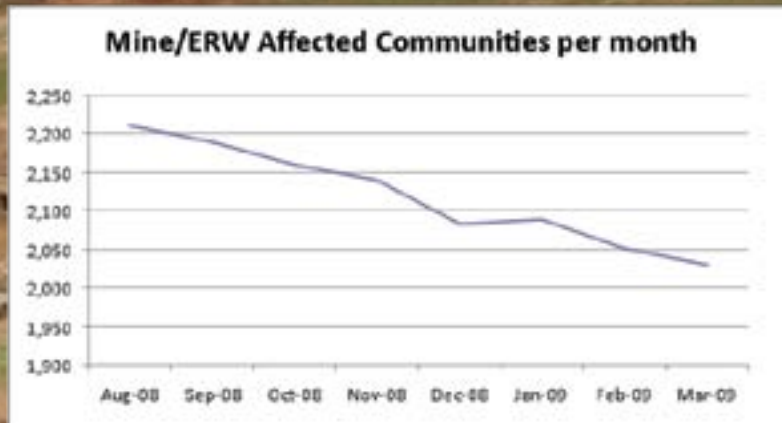
- In 1387, the MAPA implementers managed the destruction of 68,000 anti-personnel mines, 750 anti-tank mines and 2.4 million Explosive Remnants of War<sup>5</sup>.
- Minefield clearance, in combination with the technical clearance management technique known as area reduction, led to the removal of over 57 square km of suspected hazardous area.
- 34 square km of suspected hazardous was cancelled through technical surveys
- The combination of clearance and cancellation led to a total of over 90 square km of previously known or suspected hazardous area being returned to communities.
- The MAPA implementers also checked 130 square kilometres of former battle area
- In terms of area, the MAPA is now 54% towards the goal of mine clearance set by the Afghan Compact for 2011 and 38% towards the total clearance required by the Mine Ban Treaty for 2013.
- In terms of numbers of hazards the MAPA is now 84% towards the goal of mine clearance set by the Afghan Compact for 2011 and 58% towards the total clearance required by the Mine Ban Treaty for 2013. However, the number of hazards figure is subject to change as technical surveying converts Suspected Hazardous Areas into more defined minefields, thereby increasing this figure. In addition, some minefields are cancelled by this process.
- Between August and December 2008, HALO Trust cleared 4,000 mines from a heavily contaminated area in Barikab, Bagram close to an internally displaced people's camp, which had claimed multiple lives and been designated as a 'killing field' by the MACCA.

- 
- ATC completely cleared the mine contaminated areas in the centre of Bamyan and began clearance of the historically important areas around the Buddhas in partnership with specialist archaeologists from UNESCO
  - DDG introduced the Mini-Minewolf to the MAPA funded by the Royal Netherlands Government for a period of four years. The Mini Minewolf will significantly increase the rate at which cleared land can be released to impacted communities.
  - A contract to clear known hazard awarded to Armor Group in Herat province was completed ahead of schedule by 147 days. A total of 461 mines and 18,214 ERW destroyed, clearing more than 2.7 square km of minefield and 1.6 square km of battlefield
  - DAFA successfully initiated Community Based Demining projects (incorporating eight teams) in Helmand, which has enabled mine clearance in an insecure area, whilst also providing jobs and an economic boost to the community.
  - OMAR also successfully designed and began a community based demining project in Kunar province.
  - The Bozena demining machines were introduced to Afghanistan for the first time through a donation to ATC and DAFA by the US Department of State. When effectively deployed, these remote controlled machines have great impact.

<sup>5</sup> In 2008, there were 84,000 anti-personnel mines, 900 anti-tank mines and 2.5 million Explosive Remnants of War were destroyed by the MAPA. This resulted in the clearance of over 50sqkm of minefields and almost 113sqkm of former battle area.



The following graph shows the impact of clearance work on impacted communities over the last six months:



## Mine Clearance in Support of Development Projects

- Over 4 square kilometres of development area was checked for the presence of mines by commercial companies.
- ACL cleared, checked and surveyed over 2 million square metres of Border Police Compound and over 13 million square metres of road.



## Mine Risk Education (MRE)

- Over 1.5 million people received MRE in 1387, 40% of whom were female.
- The integration of MRE into the national curriculum continued: over 16,000 Ministry of Education teachers have now been trained to conduct MRE and the messages integrated into school textbooks for grade 6-9.
- AAR Japan raised awareness of the dangers of mines through its Mobile Mini Cinema to over 50,000 Afghan children covering 28 districts and 8 provinces in the last year.
- Handicap International continued to carry out MRE in the volatile provinces of Hilmand and Kandahar



## Victim Assistance

- DAO continued to develop and organise the broadcasting of Radio and TV programmes run by and for persons with disabilities.
- The Third National Disability Workshop was held, including participation by a wide range of stakeholders from Government, NGO and UN agencies.
- A guide for valuing terminology for persons with disabilities in local languages was developed and published.



The background image shows a person in a grey protective suit and helmet working in a trench at a mine clearance site. The person is using a tool to dig in the reddish-brown soil. In the background, there are large, circular openings in a brick wall, looking out onto a hilly landscape under a blue sky.

# MACCA Highlights

- Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) collocated with MACCA and became directly involved in the planning and coordination of mine clearance operations as the transition to a national authority continues.
- The Government of Afghanistan donated land for a national coordination centre. In the short-term, this will be DMC and MACCA. The plans for construction there will get underway in 1389.
- In order to better reflect the role and identity of the coordination centre, UNMACA was successfully rebranded to MACCA (Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan).
- Improvements to the data management system resulted in removing 150 square km of known hazard from the database, resulting in a cost saving of \$200-300 million to donors. This included activities such as the removal of duplications and improvement in data inputting skills.
- MACCA also launched a website which provides a one-stop shop for anyone looking for information on the MAPA: **[www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)**

## Best Practice for Mine Action Projects

Best practice for mine action projects is for consultation with the MACCA to take place at the earliest possible stage to ensure there is no duplication of effort and that humanitarian priorities are correctly assessed.



# Part One: Implementation of Mine Action (MAPA)

Mine Action in Afghanistan is implemented by a range of international and national Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and commercial entities. The Government of Afghanistan is now also implementing various activities in the areas of MRE and VA. All mine action organisations must be accredited by the MACCA to be operational in Afghanistan and are either contracted bilaterally through direct grant or through the UN VTF modality. All contracts issued for mine action must be in accordance with Afghan Mine Action Standards (AMAS)<sup>6</sup>.

## Mine Clearance Implementation

In 1387, the humanitarian and development sectors of the MAPA deployed more than 500 mobile demining teams, incorporating manual, dog and mechanical assets. These mobile teams are not bound to a specific locality and can be deployed to any area where mine clearance is a priority and the security situation in an area does not pose a danger for 'outsiders'. Many of these deminers have been working for the MAPA for the last 20 years and the organisations are adept at rapid and effective deployment of teams to new areas. This traditional strategy for carrying out mine clearance in Afghanistan constitutes 90% of the mine clearance that is carried out.

## Quality Assurance (QA)

Internal QA is the responsibility of the implementing agency. External QA and monitoring of follow on action is organised by the MACCA. The MACCA publishes quality assurance statistics each quarter.

<sup>6</sup> Full details of all entities accredited to conduct mine action in Afghanistan are held in the MACCA



# Mine Clearance According to Planning Criteria

Humanitarian Mine clearance in 1387 was carried out in accordance with a set of established planning criteria which prioritises mine clearance throughout the country. The planning process was facilitated by the MACCA and all the implementing partners were actively involved in the design of the plan.

Here is a summary of the planning pillars used in the 1387 planning process:

- 'Killing Zones': minefields with a record of mine victims every year since 2003 are identified as 'killing zones'. There were 18 communities containing 101 'killing zones' as at the beginning of 1387.
- Highly Impacted<sup>7</sup> Communities: This is nexus of blockage of a high-value activity and number of victims
- Medium Impacted Communities: This is nexus of blockage of a medium-value activity and number of victims.
- Suspected Hazardous Areas/ Minefields with Victims: Where victims have been recorded, clearance is made a priority.
- Hazards within 500m of a community's Mosque: See box out.

In 1387, MACCA carried out a survey into women's attitudes towards mine contamination and mine action. This is described more fully in the gender section. However, relevant here is that it highlighted the heightened levels of anxiety experienced particularly by women when there were minefields at the centre of their community (specifically where the Mosque is situated).

<sup>7</sup> Impact is determined based on the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) scoring system and includes factors such as victim records and mines causing blockages to the economic and development in the community.



# Summary of Mine Clearance Achievements

- Removal of Small Suspected Hazardous Areas: Hazards less than 5000 square metres in size can be cleared relatively quickly and handed back to the communities.
- Completing Clearance of Districts with Small Hazards: This is the complete clearance of a district by the clearance of a single mined area or the complete removal of hazards from a province.
- Expansion of community based demining approach. This approach reaches insecure or "hard to reach" areas by training community members to clear their own communities.
- Areas of cultural significance: e.g. Bamyán historical sites (Buddhas, Ghulghula city)

Conducting mine clearance in Afghanistan in 1387 was particularly challenging, most notably due to a changing security situation. However, in this context, the implementers were able to find ways to deliver mine action clearance activities at 2,294 sites. At the beginning of the year, the plan was to clear 964 hazards (SHAs and minefields) and over the course of the year, as the Polygon Survey process was conducted, SHAs were broken down into defined minefields which led to the number of those defined minefields increasing. This resulted in a larger number of hazards being cleared.

Polygon Surveys: 34 square km of suspected hazardous area was removed from the database as a result of the Polygon Survey process which more clearly defines minefields through advanced technical surveys. This reduced the scope of the contamination and resulted in significant cost savings.

Hazard	Description
526	hazards cancelled
1,079	hazards cleared
92	Battlefields searched
134	Minefield clearance ongoing into 1388
25	Battlefield searching ongoing into 1388



- **Devices destroyed:** In 1387, the MAPA implementers managed the destruction of 68,000 anti-personnel mines, 750 anti-tank mines and 2.4 million Explosive Remnants of War <sup>8</sup>.
- **Minefield clearance,** in combination with the technical clearance management technique known as area reduction, led to the removal of over 57 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area.
- **Cancellation:** 34 square kilometres of suspected hazardous was cancelled through technical surveys
- **Overall land returned to communities:** The combination of clearance and cancellation led to a total of over 90 square kilometres of previously known or suspected hazardous area being returned to communities.
- **Battle area clearance:** The MAPA implementers also checked 130 square kilometres of former battle area
- **Hazard clearance:** In terms of hazards, the target was 812 hazards (SHAs & MFs) – the actual achievement was 1,079 hazards.
- **Killing zones** (where there are a high rate of accidents): 95 killing zones out 101 were completed
- **Communities released:** 417 impacted communities cleared and released back to community, here is a breakdown of the communities cleared by region:

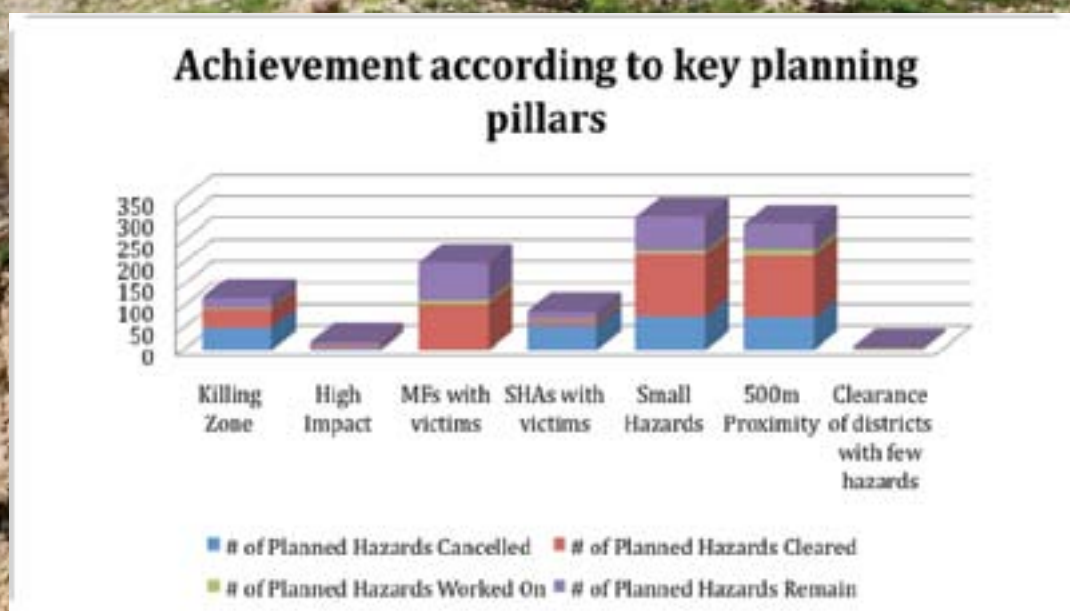
Region	No of Communities Completely Cleared
Central	182
East	41
North	49
North-East	53
South	15
South-East	19
West	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>

<sup>8</sup> In 2008, there were 84,000 anti-personnel mines, 900 anti-tank mines and 2.5 million Explosive Remnants of War were destroyed by the MAPA. This resulted in the clearance of over 50sqkm of minefields and almost 113 square km of former battle area.



- Districts cleared: 8 districts with few hazards declared with the agreement of the Shura to be cleared of known hazards
- Community Based Demining: Resumption of operations in the three most volatile areas of the country i.e. Uruzgan, Helmand and Kunar through the expansion of Community Based Demining
- Clearance of Areas of Cultural/ Historical Benefit: Clearing the Bamyán centre, an important cultural area.

The following graph highlights the achievements of 1387 against the key planning pillars:





# Clearance of Known Hazard by Agency

## Productivity Rates by Agency

The table below highlights the productivity by agency. Please note that the total cleared is less than the overall total of clearance mentioned above since this does not include the area cleared through the technique known as 'area reduction'.

The number of mines cleared per square metre depends on the type of land being cleared. Therefore in 1387, many of the high numbers of mines in relatively small areas can be linked to the clearance of minebelts, particularly in the Bagram airbase area. The ability to clear Bagram is an example of the difference that rule of law has made to the MAPA in the last few years. Some years ago, it would not have been possible to access this site for clearance

Agency	Area	AP	AT	ERW
Armor Group	1,053,923	325	-	16,070
ATC	8,034,420	4,020	87	14,738
DAFA	4,052,576	853	40	7,754
DDG	768,899	5,884	19	5,177
HID	174,864	2,186	12	11,653
Halo Trust	10,244,618	34,211	49	28,284
MCPA	2,294,945	258	14	7,794
MDC	14,832,434	1,395	330	40,644
MT	104,191	-	-	2
OMAR	5,912,085	6,146	49	51,745
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,472,954</b>	<b>55,278</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>183,861</b>

## 1387 Battle Area Productivity Rates

Agency	Area	AP	AT	ERW
Armor Group	2,257,356	-	-	47,352
ATC	619,562	-	-	19,953
DAFA	888,747	145	104	153,080
DDG	1,841,771	-	-	81,590
HID	159,964	-	-	9,334
Halo Trust	16,483,758	2,063	4	219,833
MCPA	1,421,987	1	-	6,509
OMAR	3,452,269	2	-	104,458
RONCO	42,537	-	-	562
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,167,951</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>642,671</b>



# Working in Insecure Areas: Community Based Demining (CBD)

In many parts of Afghanistan the operating environment is challenging, particularly from a security point of view. To overcome this, MACCA and implementing partners have developed a community based demining (CBD) programme.

The CBD approach has proven to be effective where projects are successfully anchored into the local population – projects are currently in Helmand, Kandahar, Ghor, Kunar and Uruzgan. CBD is built on the premise that the personnel and resources needed for the project are sourced locally, where possible, ensuring a flow of cash into the community. Experienced mine action personnel from MAPA NGOs liaise directly with target communities to identify personnel who can be recruited from within mine impacted communities and provided with specialist training by implementing partners. Non-technical equipment such as vehicles and supplies are rented or procured locally.

In the context of CBD, the concept of community is critical, and should not be seen strictly as a locality. Based on the environment, a community may be a single village, a cluster of villages in a valley, a district, or two halves of two different districts related by cultural group. The notion of community is defined by the local population and they have ownership of the process to assess threats local to them.

## Community Based Demining (CBD) Outcomes

CBD has the multiplier effect of bringing income into hundreds of local households as a supplement to their existing earnings (demining is a half-day activity allowing for retention of existing employment), while also creating opportunities for additional revenue streams into the community. MAPA Implementing Partners ensure that communities understand the employment is short-term, so that unrealistic expectations are not built up and the community can derive long-term benefit from the short-term earnings and income boost.

CBD also enables opportunities for other external actors to use the process as a platform for other follow-on development or humanitarian activities. CBD provides excellent opportunities for replication, as once the model has been implemented in one community it can be explained and the positive outcomes demonstrated, encouraging participation and execution in neighbouring localities.

CBD contributes to stability and the rule of law by creating employment, enhancing the livelihoods of family groups and bringing communities together for a common purpose.

# Impact of Community Based Demining:

A Case Study from Kunar, Afghanistan

The following case study provides a snapshot of the impact that the establishment of community based demining can have within just a few months. This includes views from elders, a community member who was recruited as a deminer and the wife of a community based deminer.<sup>9</sup>

## View of the Community Elders



"The mines and ERW has created lots of problems for our village. We can't use much of our land for tending our livestock or collecting firewood and stones for building houses because we worry about mines. This has a big impact on our daily lives.

When the community based demining started in our village recently, our people were happy that they would soon be able to use the land again. Being able to graze our livestock, grow crops and collect firewood and materials for constructing houses will have an extremely positive impact on our lives. The people of our village will be happy to be free from the deadly threat of mines and ERW.

When the mine clearance operations started it also had a positive impact on the social and economic situation of our villagers. A lot of jobs have been created for the residents of our community by this programme.

We hope that the mine action programme will clear all mine contaminated areas close to our village. As members of this Shura, we strongly support the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan activity in the area. We are very thankful to the MAPA for the clearance of mine contaminated areas in our village. We will do all we can to ensure the security of their staff, vehicles and equipment."

## View of a Community Based Deminer

"My name is Ahmad and I live in Kunar province with my wife and four children. I am very poor and was worried about being able to provide for my family before I started work with the community based demining programme in our village.

When the recruitment for community based demining programme started, I was selected by our community elders. The mine clearance training was very useful and interesting. As a Muslim, I believe that this is worship for my Allah and I am very happy with this job.

This job has really improved my life. Before, I was unemployed and travelled long distances looking for work to earn money to support my family. But now I am working close to my home village, I can earn money and go back to my family at night. I am happy that with my work as a deminer, I can support my family and now I feel hopeful that my children's future will be bright."



<sup>9</sup> Names and images have been changed to protect identities.



## View of Community Based Deminer's Wife

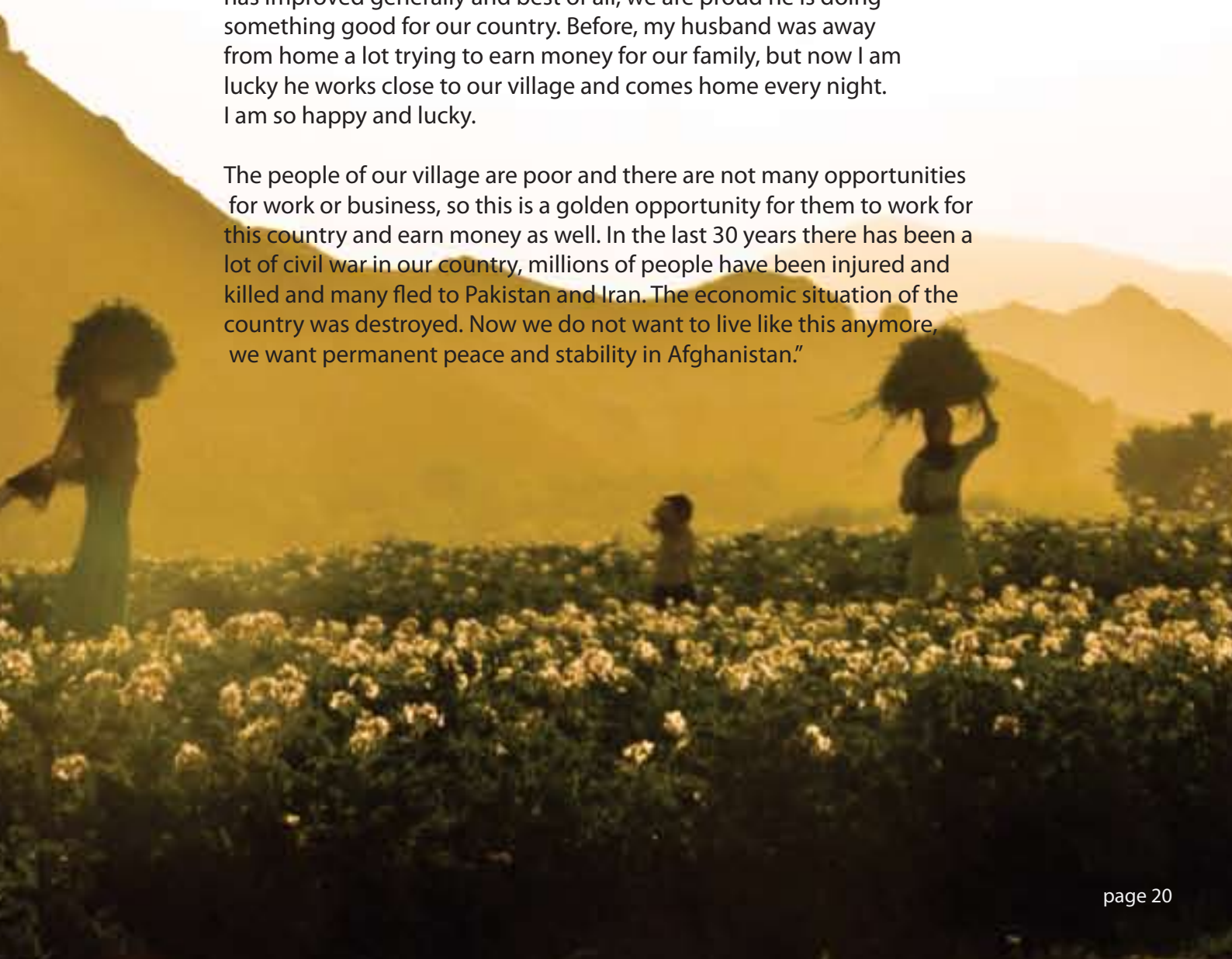
"My name is Arzo and I am 35 years old. My husband is working as a community based deminer in our village.

When we returned back to our homeland from Pakistan in 1998, we didn't know there were mines laid near our village by Russian and Afghan military forces. When I was told by a neighbour there were mines near to our village, I was very afraid and did not want to go there. The mines and ERW make life very difficult for us. We cannot walk around that area and won't allow our children to go there to collect stones, firewood and tend the livestock. The clearance is really helping us since we know the threat of mines and ERW is becoming less day by day.

I do worry about my husband and the risks of his work as a deminer but I support him since it will protect our people from the threat of mines and ERW. We believe that his job as a deminer will be valued on the day of judgement.

Since my husband started working as a deminer, there have been some positive changes in my life. We have been able to buy some new clothes for ourselves and our children, our economic situation has improved generally and best of all, we are proud he is doing something good for our country. Before, my husband was away from home a lot trying to earn money for our family, but now I am lucky he works close to our village and comes home every night. I am so happy and lucky.

The people of our village are poor and there are not many opportunities for work or business, so this is a golden opportunity for them to work for this country and earn money as well. In the last 30 years there has been a lot of civil war in our country, millions of people have been injured and killed and many fled to Pakistan and Iran. The economic situation of the country was destroyed. Now we do not want to live like this anymore, we want permanent peace and stability in Afghanistan."





# Commercial Development Work

In addition to the humanitarian mine clearance, which is specifically aimed at removing known hazardous areas, there is also a great deal of commercial work necessary for development. For example before roads or buildings can be built, the area must be confirmed as being free from mines. Overall, this is a generally a process of checking and does not affect the total of known hazard recorded in the national database. Therefore in 1387, although 4 square kilometres of land was checked for mines, these were not in known suspected hazardous areas and so are reported separately and very few mines were discovered in these areas.



Agency	Development Area	AP	AT	ERW
ACL	2,658,565	-	-	1,391
Armor Group	120,000	-	-	-
DC	-	1	-	2
EODT	1,594,870	-	1	38
KDG	11,000	-	-	-
RONCO	102,882	52	4	-
UXB	200,000	2	-	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,687,317</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,462</b>

**Note to Donors Regarding Development Based/Checking:** Donors should be aware that contracted 'checking' of areas not known to be hazardous can have unexpected outcomes. For example, if a potential development area, which is not known to be hazardous, is being 'checked' by deminers close to a community which is known to be impacted, the community will see the demining taking place in a safe area whilst their community remains contaminated. Without an understanding of the insurance requirements that make such 'checking' necessary, they interpret this as evidence of corruption. The MACCA therefore requests a 'joined-up' approach and are happy to work with donors and commercial companies carrying out development/ checking work to ensure that any nearby impacted communities can also be cleared.



# Challenges to Mine Clearance

A row of people, likely demining personnel, wearing blue protective suits and clear face shields. The image is a close-up, showing the side profile of the person in the foreground, with others visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

The rising criminality and insurgency led to a number of unfortunate incidents affecting mine action staff in 1387. As a result of these two mine action staff were killed in Kandahar and Paktya, nine were injured in Farah, Nangahar, Laghman and Kabul and 45 were abducted in Kandahar. Logar and Paktya.

In addition, 2 deminers died and 44 were injured as a result of demining accidents.



# Victim Assistance

The victim assistance implementing partner is Development and Ability Organisation (DAO). DAO was founded in early 2004 to develop advocacy and awareness activities and research for people with disabilities throughout Afghanistan.

Highlights of DAO activity in 1387 were as follows:

- A Disability Terminology Handbook in the local languages to promote valuing terminology regarding disability was developed, printed and distributed to Government and media.
- Over 1,600 men and 330 women from 15 provinces throughout the country were trained in disability awareness and leadership and management. These trainings reached persons with disabilities as well as a large number of Government officials.
- A promotional film was produced and a roundtable discussion broadcast on TV on International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Producing and broadcasting a range of radio and TV programmes run for and by persons with disabilities



# Mine Risk Education

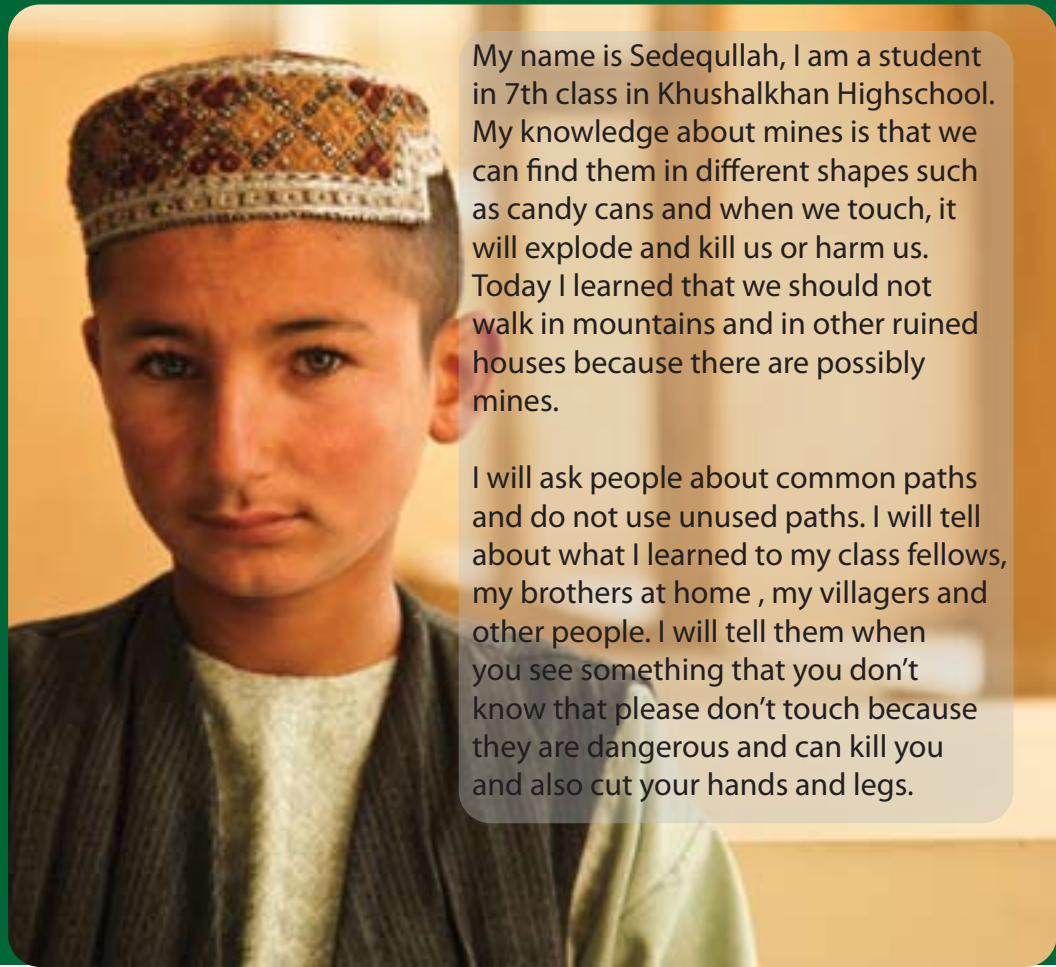


During 1387, over 1.5 million Afghans benefited from Mine Risk Education (MRE), of which over 40% were female. Since more than half of mine accident victims are children, there is a particular focus of providing MRE to children and 70% of the MRE beneficiaries were children.



Mine Risk Education is implemented by a wide range of NGOs including OMAR, ARCS, Handicap International, Mobile Mini Circus for Children and AAR Japan. The photographs display the variety of techniques used to communicate these risk education messages – from movies, to community outreach and even a circus!

As highlighted in last year's report, MRE has now been transitioned to Government and therefore further detail on MRE is to be found in the section entitled Ministry-led Mine Action Activities.



My name is Sedequallah, I am a student in 7th class in Khushalkhan Highschool. My knowledge about mines is that we can find them in different shapes such as candy cans and when we touch, it will explode and kill us or harm us. Today I learned that we should not walk in mountains and in other ruined houses because there are possibly mines.

I will ask people about common paths and do not use unused paths. I will tell about what I learned to my class fellows, my brothers at home, my villagers and other people. I will tell them when you see something that you don't know that please don't touch because they are dangerous and can kill you and also cut your hands and legs.



# Gender

The MAPA places a high priority on gender considerations in all aspects of programming, despite the challenges of the traditionally male-dominated world of mine action and the cultural issues specific to Afghanistan.

A highlight of the last year was the first pilot survey of Afghan women's attitudes to mine action, which was carried out by the MACCA among 300 women throughout the country. As highlighted in the section on planning priorities above, this emphasised the increased anxiety experienced by women when a minefield was in the centre of their community. In addition to assessing the impact of mines, the survey also looked at whether Afghan women thought that they could actively participate in mine action. Due to the cultural issues, it was expected that few women would see a participatory role for themselves; however, two-thirds of the women expressed a desire to be actively involved. The report also asked for women's recommendations for mine action in Afghanistan.

Although most women felt that the priorities set by the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan were in line with the high risk areas, they felt that more needs to be done in terms of mine clearance and also to increase Mine Risk Education, particularly focusing on women and children.

Ongoing training of national MAPA staff continued to build capacity in terms of gender expertise, including the MACCA MRE coordinator attending an UNMAS gender workshop held in Italy in September. Furthermore, both MACCA gender focal points (one of whom is female) attended two gender workshops on mainstreaming gender and gender equality conducted by UNDP, UNIFEM and UNAMA and the gender retreat hosted by UN Country Team in Kabul. As a result MACCA has maintained good coordination of its gender activities with other agencies and NGOs.

As an example of gender mainstreaming into MAPA programming, in the MACCA, efforts to address the gender imbalance in recent years has yielded positive results among national and national staff despite the cultural challenges. From 1384-1387 the number of female international staff almost doubled and there was an increase in the proportion of national females which comes close to 100%.

	% of females among international staff	% of females among national staff
End-1384	23%	0.04%
End-1387	43%	3%



# Part Two: Coordination Function (MACCA)

## Co-ordination and Consultation

Over the last year, the MACCA has continued to provide coordination for the MAPA through activities such as the harmonization of the 1388 integrated work plan<sup>10</sup>.

A key element for strategic management and planning of mine action in the country is IMSMA, the data management software that tracks the location and features of all hazardous areas and the progress against goals. In 1387, improvement of data management led to reduction of 150 square km of suspected hazardous area, resulting in a cost saving to donors of between \$200m and \$300m.

For example, the reporting process for the data collected in 181 districts throughout the country was standardized and deployed to improve the quality and availability of the data. The enhancement of the planning database was also a vital development in the last year, which has enabled the development and monitoring of a clearance plan according to humanitarian priorities. This is reflected in this report, where we report clearance according to planning priorities rather than purely in terms of numbers of hazards and square metres.

MACCA reaches out to donors through media and direct advocacy to encourage both multilateral and bilateral funding for the MAPA and ensure that the goals of the programme are not held back by the lack of funds. A calculation of the funds required in bilateral and multilateral funding was presented at a press conference in January 2009, resulting in widespread international and national media coverage. This outreach directly resulted in additional bilateral funding from a number of donors. Additionally, MACCA has gradually moved to creating 'projects' which provide donors with ownership of a specific area or type of activity, thereby increasing funding to the project. An example of this is the clearance of Central Bamyan district, including the World Heritage sites in partnership with UNESCO. MACCA also produces some proposals and reports on behalf of implementers contracted by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In the last year, MACCA also developed and launched a website to make information on the MAPA more easily accessible for media, donors, government and any other interested parties: [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)

MACCA supported the Department of Mine Clearance to ensure coordination of mine action across different ministries through Inter-Ministerial Board meetings. The most recent of these was held in February 2009 and included participation from the Ministry of Defence, Police and Ministry of Mines and Industry. Another important activity is the transition of mine action to a national authority, the achievements of which are expanded in the next section.



<sup>10</sup> In the last year, an evaluation was carried out of the MACCA on behalf of the EC. This can be accessed at [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)



# Government Support to Mine Action

In the long-term it is the aspiration of both the United Nations and the Government of Afghanistan that the management of the residual threat of landmines and other explosive remnants of war will be handled by a national authority. Until 2013, Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) have appointed the Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) as the Government focal point for mine action. For more detail on the relationship between the MAPA and the Government of Afghanistan, please see the 2008-2013 Strategic Guideline on the MACCA website ([www.macca.org](http://www.macca.org)).

In early 1387, the Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) collocated with the MACCA and began working closely with the operations department in the planning and coordination of mine action throughout the country. The Government of Afghanistan also donated land to build a national mine action centre in order to reduce the ongoing rental costs to the programme. Initially this will be for both DMC and MACCA. In the next year, plans for construction on the site will begin.

DMC is now actively participating in operational meetings, briefings and field missions as part of national authority monitoring and quality assurance activities. DMC also took an active part in the finalization of the Integrated MAPA Work plan for 1388. DMC has also been working with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and MACCA to establish working relationships for information sharing and the coordination of MoE MRE activities of the teacher training, child protection and educational media departments.

Furthermore, the Government of Afghanistan represented Afghanistan's progress towards Mine Action Treaty goals both nationally and internationally at the Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty. Mrs Soraya Paikan, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled presented on victim assistance and Dr Adrak, the Director of ANDMA, provided an update on progress towards mine clearance at the 9th Meeting of States Parties in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2008.


Nine MACCA staff are now embedded in the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled to support transition through the provision of technical advice. It is not envisaged that these posts will return to the MACCA structure – they will either be absorbed into the Tashkil (organizational structure) of the Government or gradually phased out.



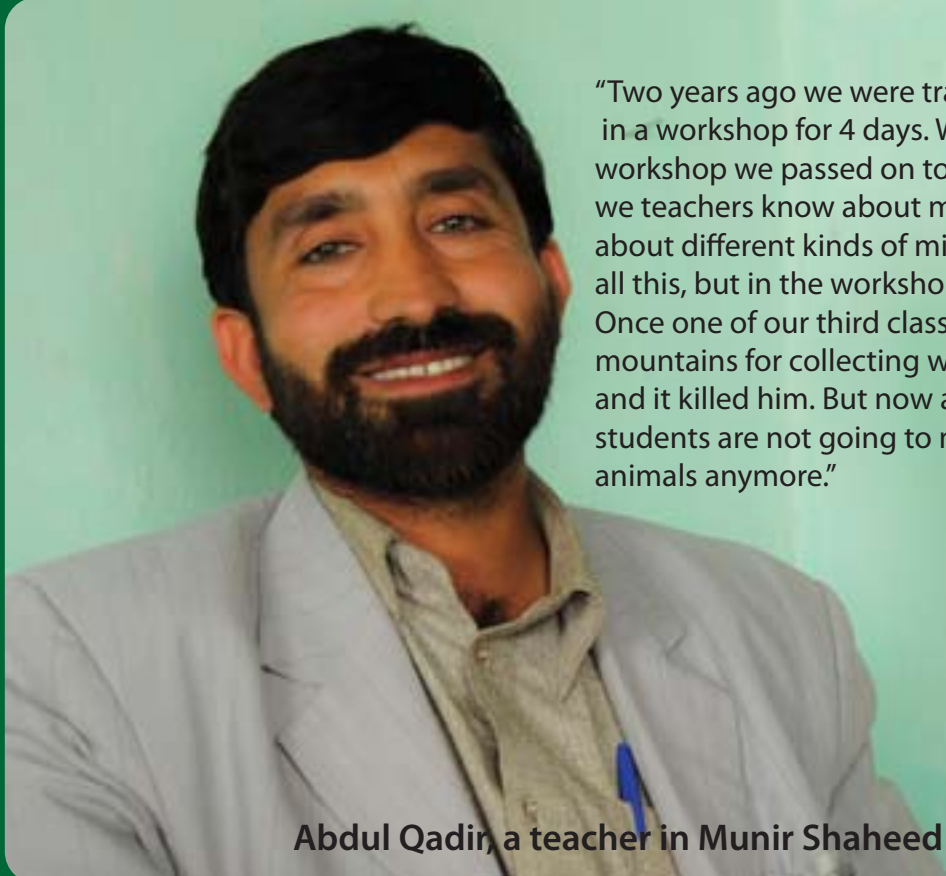


# Ministry-Led Mine Action Activities

## Ministry of Education (MoE)



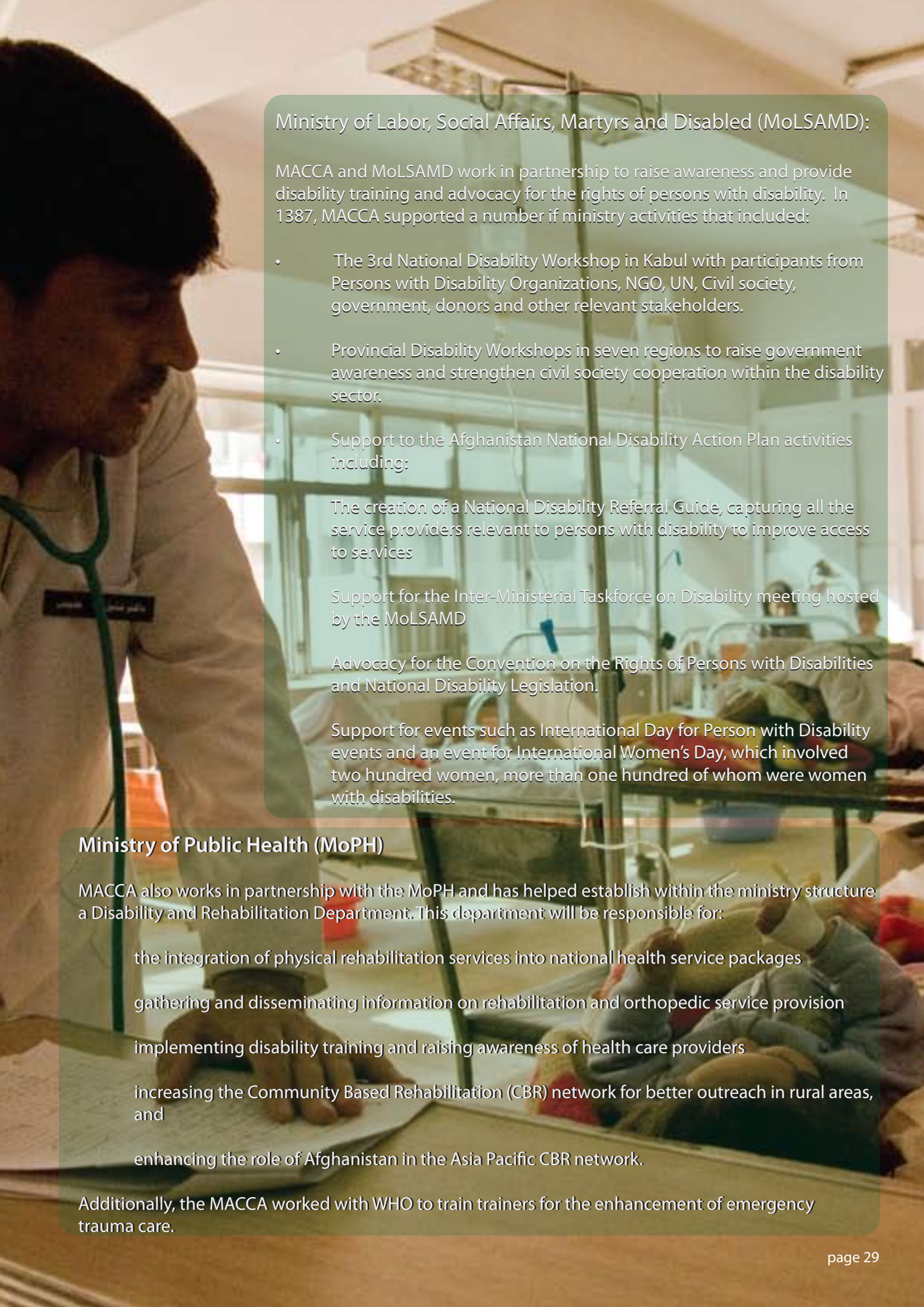
MACCA and the MoE work closely throughout the country through school teachers and the MoE child protection programme. The MoE, with the support of MACCA, has now trained 122 Child Protection Officers (CPOs) as trainers of Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Disability Awareness promoting inclusive attitudes and education practices. These CPOs have trained over 16,000 teachers from 9,000 schools. In addition, MRE and disability messages have been integrated into the national curriculum in Uzbeki, Blochi, Pashae, Pamiri, Turkmani and Noristani. (see MRE section for further detail on this).



"Two years ago we were trained in mine risk education in a workshop for 4 days. What we learned in the workshop we passed on to the school students. Now we teachers know about minefields in the area and about different kinds of mines. Before I didn't know all this, but in the workshop I learned all about it. Once one of our third class students went up those mountains for collecting wood, he stepped on a mine and it killed him. But now after our MRE lesson the students are not going to mountains to graze their animals anymore."

**Abdul Qadir, a teacher in Munir Shaheed Secondary School**





## Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD):

MACCA and MoLSAMD work in partnership to raise awareness and provide disability training and advocacy for the rights of persons with disability. In 1387, MACCA supported a number of ministry activities that included:

- The 3rd National Disability Workshop in Kabul with participants from Persons with Disability Organizations, NGO, UN, Civil society, government, donors and other relevant stakeholders.
- Provincial Disability Workshops in seven regions to raise government awareness and strengthen civil society cooperation within the disability sector.
- Support to the Afghanistan National Disability Action Plan activities including:

The creation of a National Disability Referral Guide, capturing all the service providers relevant to persons with disability to improve access to services

Support for the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce on Disability meeting hosted by the MoLSAMD

Advocacy for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and National Disability Legislation.

Support for events such as International Day for Person with Disability events and an event for International Women's Day, which involved two hundred women, more than one hundred of whom were women with disabilities.

## Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

MACCA also works in partnership with the MoPH and has helped establish within the ministry structure a Disability and Rehabilitation Department. This department will be responsible for:

the integration of physical rehabilitation services into national health service packages

gathering and disseminating information on rehabilitation and orthopedic service provision

implementing disability training and raising awareness of health care providers

increasing the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) network for better outreach in rural areas, and

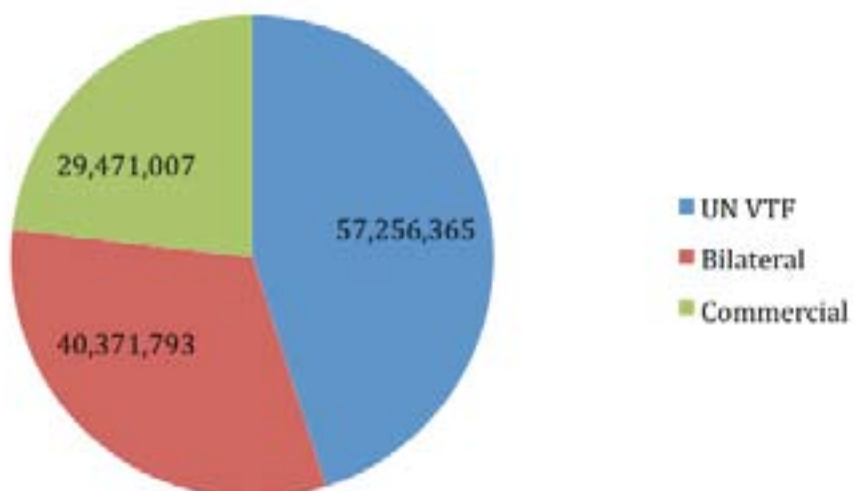
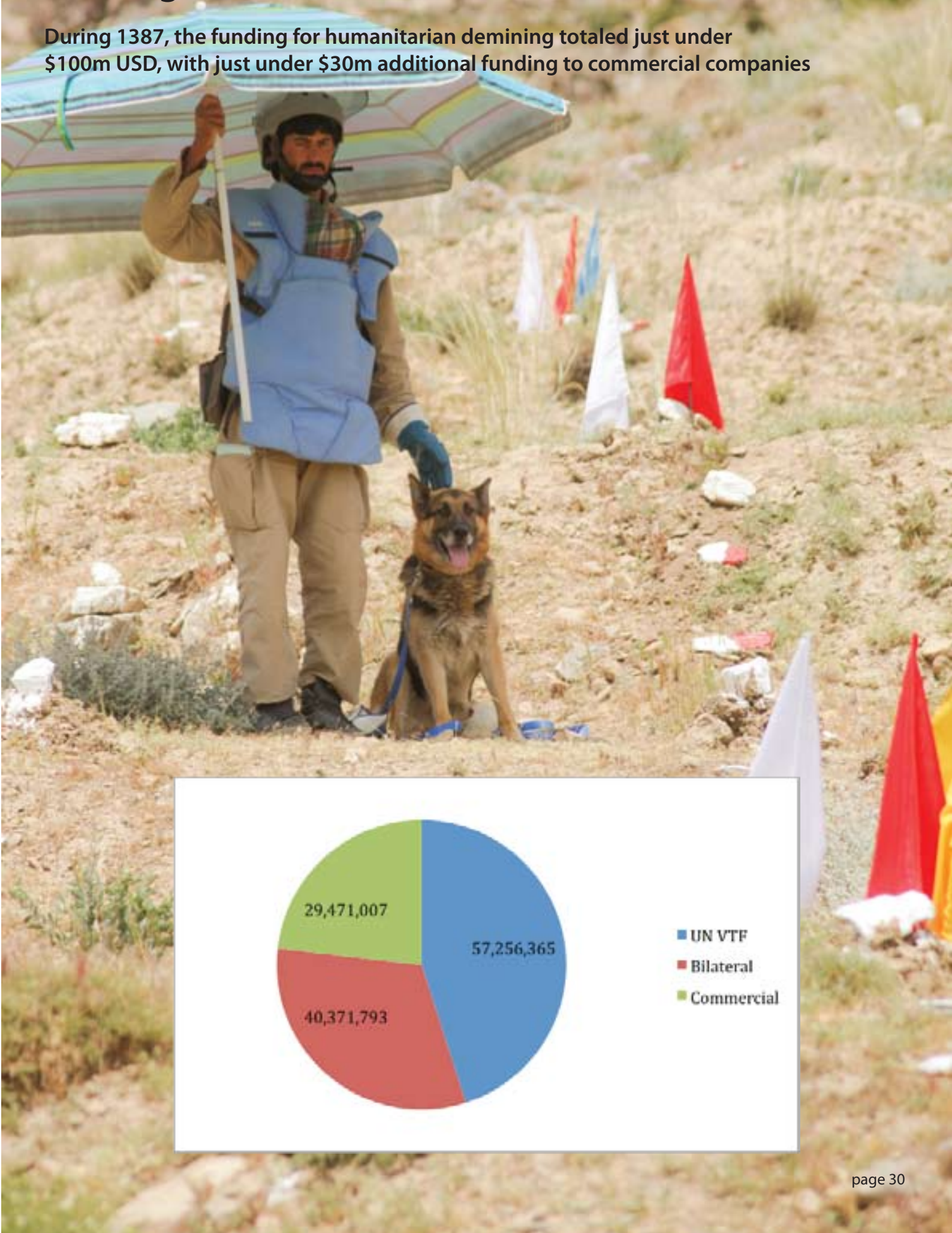
enhancing the role of Afghanistan in the Asia Pacific CBR network.

Additionally, the MACCA worked with WHO to train trainers for the enhancement of emergency trauma care.



# Funding for Humanitarian Mine Action in 1387

During 1387, the funding for humanitarian demining totaled just under \$100m USD, with just under \$30m additional funding to commercial companies





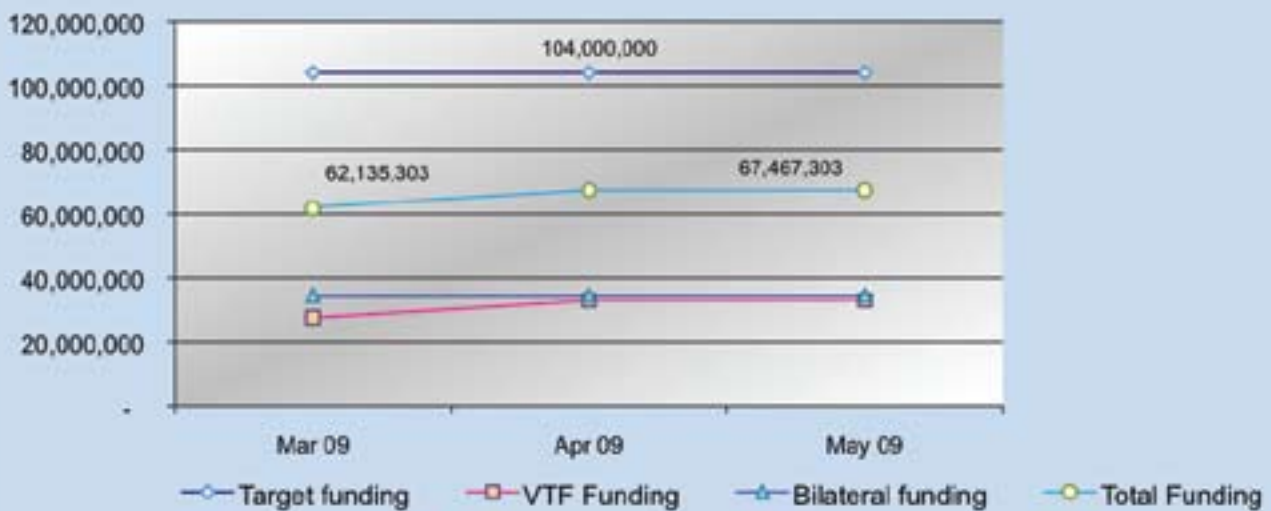
# Looking Ahead to 1388 and Beyond

## Key 2009/10 (1388) Integrated Operational Plan<sup>11</sup> Deliverables

Survey, marking and clearance of 128 sq km of hazardous area at 946 sites located in 484 mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) affected communities;

Provision of mine risk education (MRE) for 362,000 people at risk in 484 affected communities, for 2,300 impacted communities through media and school activities<sup>12</sup> and for at least 195,000 returnees at assistance centres by the end of 1388 (March 2010)

In order to achieve the goals of mine clearance set by the Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Treaty) and the Afghan Compact, the MACCA has calculated the required funding required by the MAPA is approximately \$500m for the next five years (in multilateral and bilateral funding). Looking ahead to 1388, at the time of going to press, the MAPA is 70% towards our funding target of \$104m (see graph below).



The integrated operation plan is developed and coordinated by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and the Government Department for Mine Clearance. Electronic copies of the plan are available from [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)

There may be in this transitional period some cross over between direct MRE activities conducted by field MRE teams and MoE School teachers. Media related activities are also part of MRE transition.

<sup>11</sup>The integrated operation plan is developed and coordinated by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and the Government Department for Mine Clearance. Electronic copies of the plan are available from [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)

<sup>12</sup>There may be in this transitional period some cross over between direct MRE activities conducted by field MRE teams and MoE School teachers. Media related activities are also part of MRE transition.



# Funding by Donor (bilateral and multilateral funding)

Total Funding by donors as of June 30, 2009		
Donors	Contribution	%age
Denmark	1,787,379	3%
Netherlands	2,523,129	4%
Germany	5,244,118	8%
Sweden	1,878,384	3%
Finland	1,031,250	2%
Ireland	1,183,105	2%
Norway	1,329,368	2%
USA-DOS	15,060,638	23%
UK	2,709,118	4%
Japan	1,424,286	2%
UN	18,000	0%
Belgium	249,518	0%
Czech	101,050	0%
VTF	29,975,963	46%
	<b>64,515,305</b>	<b>100%</b>

Portfolio	Total 1388 fund balance as of		
	Apr 09	May 09	June 09
Preselected contractors	12,572,000	12,572,001	14,952,002
RFP	4,682,258	4,682,258	4,682,258
Coordination	10,341,703	10,341,703	10,341,703
Total VTF	27,595,961	27,595,962	29,975,963
Bilateral	34,539,342	34,539,342	34,539,342
Total Fund	62,135,303	62,135,304	64,515,305
Target	104,000,000	104,000,000	104,000,000



# Interaction with Government

As per the 1388 plan, the next steps for the DMC/MACA partnership will be the transition of specific elements of mine action coordination and planning to the government (DMC). MACCA and DMC have begun developing comprehensive transition plans that increases government capacity and responsibility.

Outlines of action and a draft MOU are in the development stages. Within this plan the DMC will need to develop its own capacity development plan for implementation during the next years. The MACCA and DMC will form subcommittees to develop action plans and capacity development initiatives ensuring co-responsible relationships within the implementation and exit strategies of the United Nations.





Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan Implementing Partners include:







Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan

**[www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af)**