



**STATUS OF RISK EDUCATION IN
AFGHANISTAN
REPORT OF REVIEW WORKSHOP
13 DECEMBER 2017**

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

The Danish Demining Group (DDG), in coordination with the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has facilitated a joint Risk Education (RE) workshop on 13 December 2017 held in the Intercontinental hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan. The aim of the workshop was to review the findings of data collection exercises including Baseline and Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys and consolidate their findings in consultation with other RE implementing Partners of the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA).

The exercises aimed to shed light on existing RE indicators amongst target groups and the corresponding packages and methodologies, in order to tailor them based on the local needs, the evolving conflict dynamics and the changing patterns of risks. DDG undertook the baseline and KAP survey in Kabul, Hirat and Nangarhar provinces in October 2017 and concluded the data management and analysis by mid December 2017. During this exercise, DDG find out that its current RE packages and materials needs to be reviewed and tailored based on the needs of different target groups and their responses to the research exercises.

In addition, DDG acknowledges the importance of national ownership and participation of all MAPA partners to improve the ongoing RE interventions across the entire country, and meet the evolving needs, especially with the anticipated high returns expected in 2018. The surveys should support DDG and other MAPA partners in better understanding the gaps and needs of host communities, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees and other potential target groups and finally adapting RE packages and corresponding materials accordingly.

The workshop was successful and witnessed an active engagement of MAPA partners and stakeholders. Participants from the following organisations were present at the workshop: **DMAC, UNMAS, ATC, HI, OMAR, JGO, AREA, MCPA, HT, MDC, AAR-Japan, NRC, UNICEF, UNOCHA and UNAMA.**

DDG presented the trends and gaps of casualty data and also presented DDG findings of the KAP survey. Workshop participants gave valuable recommendations on the way forward and the importance of empowering the Technical Working Group (TWG) on following the applications of these recommendations in the future..

2. WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Session	Objective	Format / responsible
08:30 – 08:45	Arrival and registration	N/A	
08:45 – 09:30	Opening and Objectives and overview of agenda of the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the objectives, set the scene for expected outcomes of the day and the active contribution of participants. - Overview of the DDG’s Review/KAP process and the expected outcomes - A brief introduction to Risk Education - A brief overview of the situation today and general trends related to contamination and its impacts. 	<p>Prepared remarks DMAC UNMAS PM/ Deputy & DMAC Director/Deputy Director</p> <p>DDG HoP</p>
09:30 – 10:30	Findings of IMSMA casualty data analysis and gaps in data collection	To present the IMSMA casualty data analysis and trends: What do we know about the victims?	<p>Presentation DDG RE/AVR Advisor</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Tea break		
10:45 – 11:45	Findings of IMSMA casualty data analysis and gaps in data collection (continued)	Ibid; and to get perspectives from other stakeholders; to begin formulating recommendations	<p>Presentation & group work DDG RE/AVR Advisor</p>
11:45 – 12:30	KAP survey findings: previous and present	To present the findings of previous KAP surveys undertaken by the MAPA and the most recent DDG baseline and KAP survey	<p>Presentation DDG RE/AVR Advisor</p>
12:30– 13:30	Lunch and prayer break		
12:30 – 13:30	KAP survey findings: previous and present (continued)	Ibid.	<p>Presentation DDG RE/AVR Advisor Including feedback from group</p>
13:30 – 14:30	What does the KAP and IMSMA casualty analysis findings mean for our work?	To discuss the effectiveness and efficiency of current RE strategy; engaging the groups to discussion implementation strategy, taking into consideration findings from previous sessions.	<p>Group work All</p>
14:30 – 15:30 (Including tea break)	Presentation of group work findings	To present findings and recommendations for improving RE	<p>Presentation All</p>
15:30 – 16:30	Next steps	<p>Summarising findings and what they mean for the MAPA going forward; agreeing on next steps</p> <p>Discussions will also include feedback on the role of the Technical Working Group and action items with regards to its future role and follow-up.</p>	<p>DMAC</p>

3. SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

3.1 WELCOME NOTE

- **Ms. RADWA RABIE** (*DDG Program Manager*) welcomed all the participants and emphasized the collaborative efforts between all IPs and the support of DMAC and UNMAS to device this exercise. The workshop offers an opportunity for MAPA IPs come together to some recommendations and conclusions on how to improve RE methodologies in Afghanistan in response to the evolving humanitarian needs.
- **Mr. MOHAMMAD SHAFIQ YOSUFI** (*Director of DMAC*) highlighted the significant rise of civilians' casualties from landmines, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Pressure Plate Improvised Explosive Devices (PPIED) despite provision of mine/ERW RE for many years. A monthly average of 190 casualties per month still places Afghanistan as the country with the highest civilian casualties. Current RE methodologies are outdated and more focused on quantity. Furthermore the rise in casualties is more or less linked to increased conflicts and widespread use of PPIED. He added, "Mine Risk Education and mine clearance are the important pillars of Mine Action both are really important to go in parallel for preventing and reducing the civilian casualties". The workshop offers a good opportunity for MAPA partners to come together and discuss how to improve RE interventions to address the increasing casualties through innovative approaches and improved synergies amongst the IPs.
- **Mr. PATRICK FRUCHET** (*UNMAS Program Manager*) stated it was time to change RE approach and have to work in multi-faceted fashion. Such workshops are important to draw joint recommendations, study and validate field findings, to improve the work further. He emphasized the different complementary roles of all those present. He also emphasized the importance of new technologies: smart phones, GPS, cameras, etc. this opens the window to move away from traditional paper-based surveys and operations to new approaches to enhance data collection digital data collection, survey, quality assurance and information management. It will help us in making the Information Management System more efficient so that we can understand our work from result perspective rather than from a process perspective.

3.2 PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The purpose of the workshop was to review the findings of the baseline and KAP survey conducted by DDG along with the casualty data analysis and findings of previous KAPs conducted in Afghanistan with the purpose to highlight trends and gaps and make recommendations on possible changes needed including for existing RE package and materials. This will help MAPA IP tailor their programs and packages in response to the evolving needs of different ages and target groups, the local needs, the conflict dynamics and the changing patterns of risks. The workshop was important to initiate this review process, particularly in the light of the influx of returnees; most of whom have never been to Afghanistan for almost 20 or 30 years, increase in displacements due to on-going conflicts and increase in number of accidents despite provision of mine/ERW risk education.

DDG implemented the following exercises to find out gaps in current RE methodologies **1) a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey** in Kabul, Hirat and Nangarhar and **2) Returnees baseline survey** in UNHCR and IOM centers. The surveys were completed from October to December 2017, during which one month was allocated for data validation and analysis.

In coordination with DMAC and UNMAS, DDG organized the joint workshop with MAPA IPs to present its findings and validate them with the aim to draw some joint conclusions that will eventually be disseminated to DMAC/UNMAS and the MAPA IPs for the notice and further action of the national Risk Education Technical Working Group.

3.3 PRESENTATIONS

3.3.1 INTRODUCTION TO RE

Mr. HUMAYUN ACHAKZAI, UNMAS/DMAC Mine Risk Education Manager, made a presentation on mine/ERW risk education in Afghanistan. Mr. Achakzai started with defining the five pillars of Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) including RE. He elaborated on the role and importance of mine/ERW RE and explained that RE is not only about providing safety message but also a matter of assisting with additional tasks such as data gathering, community liaison and regular exchanging of information between Mine Action agencies and communities, recording and reporting dangerous items through the DMAC hotline number, and supporting victim assistance including victim surveillance and referral to services. Mr. Humayun added:

“We need to have a clear strategy to understand specific target groups, the risky behaviours and aligning our messages to address risk behaviors of our target groups. One size does not fit all, therefore we should not have same material for all risk takers. Hence [the RE materials] should be reviewed”.

Mr. Achakzai further explained the four means of communication in RE:

1. **Person-to-person or interpersonal communication;**
2. **Traditional media:** performance arts in an entertaining way; drama, theatre/ circus show, storytelling, poem, songs, etc.;
3. **Mass media:** TV, Radio, internet, newspaper, magazine, etc.; and
4. **Small media:** Posters, brochures, flipcharts, notebook, pen etc.

Mr. Achakzai then listed the five at risk categories:

1. **The Unaware:** The person does not know about the danger of mines or ERW; this category typically includes very young children.
2. **The Uninformed:** The person who knows about mines or ERW but does not know about safe behaviour; this includes children or the elderly.
3. **The Reckless:** The person knows about mine safe behaviour but ignores it; this category typically includes adolescent boys playing with ERW).

4. **The Intentional** (sometimes also called **the Forced**): The person has no option but to intentionally adopt unsafe behaviour; this includes especially male youths or adults farming or grazing in suspected hazardous areas or collecting scrap metal to sell.
5. **The Misinformed**: The person has been given poor information about safety or believes, wrongly, that s/he knows all about landmine/ERW (former soldiers/front line fighters).

Mr. Achakzai talked about the importance of testing RE material and raised the issue of MAPA IPs often not testing RE materials. He underscored the importance of testing materials in order to know whether they are understandable, relevant and socially acceptable. He further emphasised that testing should be done among the target audience who should be the ultimate judge.

Currently, RE is provided in impacted communities, which are those communities living within one kilometer from any mine/ERW hazards, to internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees. RE is further integrated in the school curriculum for different grades (1-6 and 7-12, respectively); however, Mr. Achakzai stated that the RE provision is not very systematic for what reason DMAC plans to work with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to improve the standard of RE provided in schools.

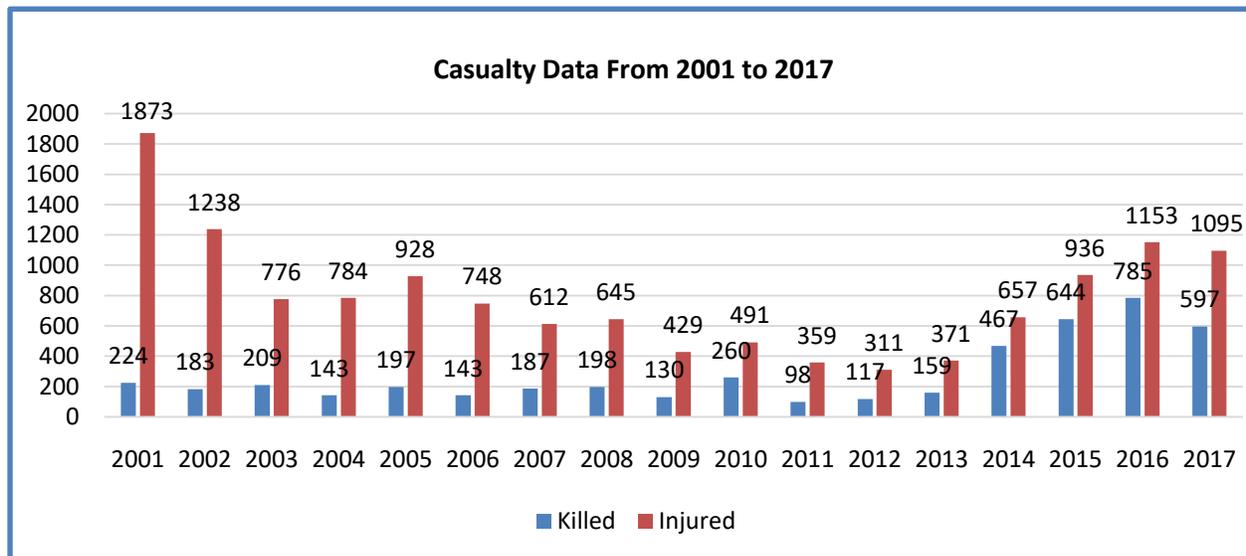
Mr. Achakzai concluded his presentation by giving an overview of mine/ERW problems in Afghanistan:

“Afghanistan is still one of the most mine/ERW affected countries in the world with a total of 3,933 hazards still to be cleared which contaminated 1,624 square kilometers of area. The hazards have 1,600 communities where approximately 2.5 million of the population lives which is excluding the population living close to hazards which are not recorded in IMSMA”.

3.3.2 ANALYSIS OF CURRENT CASUALTY DATA

Ms. KIM KARINA KAAGAARD KRISTENSEN, DDG Risk Education/Armed Violence Reduction Advisor, presented the findings of an analysis of available Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) data undertaken by DDG. The objective of the analysis was to uncover trends and gaps in current IMSMA casualty data in Afghanistan.

Casualty collection in Afghanistan started in January 1978; however, the dataset only comprises six entries in the first two years as the data collection was not very systematic. Starting in 1980, casualty data has been collected regularly. The IMSMA casualty dataset comprises 30,000+ entries reported by MAPA IPs, Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)/DMAC, United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other key stakeholders, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS). IMSMA data confirms that Afghanistan remains one of the countries most affected by ERW and Pressure-Plate IED (PPIED) and as a result sees one of the highest numbers of civilian casualties in the world. The IMSMA casualty data does not include casualties of weapons which are not Mine Action mandated, such as Vehicle-borne IED and Body-borne IED. Overall casualty numbers started decreasing in 2003 with another small drop can also be seen from 2009 to 2013; however, the number of civilian casualties has continued to climb since 2014.



The casualty data analysis specifically looked at two historical periods:

1. **2009-2014:** From when MAPA undertook the last KAP survey in 2009 until the drawdown of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and hand-over of full security responsibility to the Afghan national security forces at the end of 2014.
2. **2015-2017:** From the beginning of the Resolute Support (RS) Mission, the NATO-led training, advisory and support mission, on 1 January 2015 until 13 October 2017 (the end of the available IMSMA dataset). A period marked by substantial increases in security incidents and civilian casualties.

A total of **3,849** casualties were recorded in the IMSMA database from **2009-2014**; boys and men were the major victims and most of the accidents caused by ERW and PPIED. It is to be noted that there was a massive peak in casualties in 2014 where PPIED caused more accidents than any other explosive weapon. Between **2015-2017**, a total **5,217** casualties were recorded in the IMSMA database. In this period casualty numbers continued to climb and PPIED caused the highest number of accidents in 2015 and 2016. In 2017 the numbers of accidents caused by PPIED and ERW are identical and remain very high. Further, 2015-2017 saw a slight increase in AP- and AT-mine induced accidents compared to 2011-2014.

In order to accurately plan and implement RE interventions, it is important to understand the activities which are putting people at risk, i.e. the activity undertaken at the time of the accident. The IMSMA data show that many accidents happen while people are travelling or playing/undertaking recreation activities. However, the IMSMA data has substantial gaps where the activity at the time of the accident is unknown.

The key characteristics of the casualties were summarised as follows:

- The majority of victims are boys/adolescents (under the age of 18) and men (over the age of 18).
- Community members represent the highest number of victims.

- Boys/adolescents (under 18) get injured during recreational activities, while tending to animals/livestock and while travelling.
- Girls/adolescents (under 18) get injured/killed to a much lesser extent than boys but when they do it is often also while undertaking recreational activities or travelling.
- Men particularly get injured/killed while travelling or when passing/standing nearby the accident.
- Women (over 18) represent the smallest portion of casualties; however, the number of adult women casualties have doubled or tripled compared to 2009-2014.
- Women overwhelmingly get injured while travelling and followed by doing household work.
- Returnees and IDPs are not highly represented among victims.
- The main devices causing accidents during recreational activities and while tending animals are ERW. However, during travelling PPIED followed by ERW are main devices to cause accidents.

A number of trends and gaps in the current IMSMA dataset and data management were identified:

- Data is not comprehensively disaggregated according to age groups: 0-5, 6-11, 12-17, 18-59 and 60+
- Activity at the time of accident is often not (accurately) registered.
- There is a large group of “unknowns” and blanks.
- Social group is not adequately registered.
- It is often not registered whether victims has ever received Risk Education.
- Information regarding children’s and adolescents’ educational attainment is often missing.

3.3.3 DDG BASELINE/KAP SURVEY FINDINGS

Ms. KAAGAARD KRISTENSEN then gave an overview of the KAP surveys conducted by MAPA in 2004, 2005 and 2009-2010 in and provided an overview of the findings of 2017 baseline/KAP survey conducted by DDG. AKAP is a representative survey conducted on a particular population to identify the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of a population on a specific topic – in this case landmines and ERW. Through the KAP, knowledge levels and gaps as well as factors which influence unsafe behavior and negative practices can be identified. As such, the KAP is useful in helping to tailor RE packages and materials according to the needs of identified at-risk groups.

DDG undertook an integrated exercise based on two surveys:

- 1) A baseline covering IOM reception facilities, including Zero Point (ZP) and Transit Centres (TC), and UNHCR Encashment Centres (ECs) in Kabul, Kandahar, Nimroz and Nangarhar provinces. DDG RE teams were operational in these locations while undertaking the baseline.
- 2) A KAP survey covering Kabul, Herat and Nangarhar provinces and focusing on current or previous high impacted communities, areas which has seen high return movements and IDP settlements.

The findings of the combined baseline/KAP survey were expected to:

- Provide more detailed information regarding (a) knowledge of host communities, returnees and IDPs with regards to mines/ERW; (b) attitudes towards risk awareness, including safe and unsafe behaviour; and (c) practices in terms of reporting and stated behaviour towards/around explosive hazards.
- Increase the understanding of socioeconomic factors that influence risk-taking behaviour.
- Produce recommendations for tailored, innovative and appropriate RE methodologies and messages for different demographics of the target population.

Main findings of baseline survey:

- More than 50% of respondents had no education.
- Respondents exhibited common sense but clearly lacked information, therefore recognition of potentially dangerous area may be more important than recognition of specific explosive weapons.
- Since all respondents were returnees only 5% of knew/had heard of the DMAC hotline number; those who knew of it had gotten RE at Zero Point.

Major findings of KAP survey:

- 32% replied to have received RE but majority said they did not receive RE.
- Only 12% respondents said that they have heard about hotline number.
- The majority of respondents seemed to be aware that mine/ERW is victim activated.
- The majority of respondents had never encountered any mine/ERW.
- 34% would run away or go back if they thought they were in a minefield, which indicates prevailing misconceptions about safe behaviour.

4. GROUP WORK

4.1 TAKEAWAYS FROM CASUALTY DATA ANALYSIS

Following the presentation on casualty data, all workshop participants discussed the findings in groups in order to agree on main conclusions, gaps and make recommendations for improving casualty data collection and management in the future.

What are the key takeaways?

- Traveling and tending animals are the main causes of civilian accidents.
- Majority of casualties represent boys and men.
- The southern region is the most affected in terms of casualties.
- Most of the accidents are caused by ERW and PPIED.

What are the gaps in current casualty data?

- The data has large number of unknowns.
- There is a lack of source of information – due to insecurity and inaccessibility.
- Technical expertise has not been fully included.
- Sources have not been fully verified during the data collection.
- There is no breakdown of casualties, which happened while travelling.

- Casualties from ERW does not show whether it is from legacy or recent conflicts.
- There is a lack of coordination between IPs on the data collection.

Considering what we know about the victims, what are the implications for RE and for other programming?

- There are a lot of “don’t knows”; there is need to focus on staff trainings and data collection in order to reduce the “don’t knows” in the future data collection.
- There should be a proper follow up system in place for the data collection.
- Provision of tailored RE to different target groups and prioritization in terms of high casualties.
- M&E system should be in place.
- Consideration of gender and diversity mainstreaming concept while providing RE.
- Regular data analysis should take place.
- The hotline number should be similar to emergency numbers such as 119 (police), it should be toll free, it should be possible to call from any network.
- Kochi movements should be mapped in order to reach them for the provision of RE.

How to correct/ensure comprehensive casualty data collection and data management?

- There should be a unique data compiling network within the MAPA.
- Mobile technology should be used to collect data electronically thereby minimizing errors.
- Good coordination and communication among organizations and data collection teams/units.
- Capacity for data collection should be increased and a mechanism for accurate data collection at country level should be established.
- Awareness raising of communities should take place through media in order to ensure that accurate data can be provided.
- Tailored messages should be provided to travellers who represent majority of casualties.
- There should be a focus on training and monitoring of surveyors to reduce the gaps (“unknowns”) in data collection.
- Data verification needs to be improved.
- Data collection categories should be clarified and broken down.

4.2 FEEDBACK ON DDG BASELINE/KAP SURVEY

Following the presentation on previous KAP surveys and the most recent DDG baseline/KAP survey, participants were again broken into groups to discuss the findings and provide recommendations for follow-up.

What are the surprises, highlights and key points that grabbed your attention?

- Very few people had information about hotline number.
- The majority of the respondents replied that they have not received RE.
- 81% of the respondents replied that they do not know about contamination in their communities.
- The data indicates that there are many people with no RE who still know about mines/ERW.

What will you change or recommend for the current RE material?

- The RE Technical Working Group should hold regular meetings to review and test RE materials.
- The DMAC hotline number should be included in all RE materials.
- Specific guidelines should be developed for updating RE materials.
- RE messages should be broadcasted through mass media (TV, radio, video clips).
- RE materials should be prepared in 3D with actual size of devices.
- Cartoons should be used in child-based RE materials.

What are the key changes of or consideration to include in RE methodology and programming?

- RE coverage should be expanded in order to deliver RE to most at-risk groups.
- Real stories of the people injured or killed should be included in RE materials.
- Travelers should be targeted with RE before they move from one place to other.
- RE material should be reviewed based on KAP findings.
- Internal and external QA should be improved/increased.
- RE should be included in the curriculum at all education levels.
- RE material needs to be gender sensitive to address the needs of both male and female.
- RE should be provided through animated movies and video clips.
- RE should be provided based on specific needs as identified by casualty data, e.g. people traveling and playing.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The workshop generated the following recommendations for the MAPA:

- There should be proper monitoring mechanisms to evaluate and monitor the quality of RE sessions and to measure different aspects of RE.
- We need to move from paper-based surveys and to the use of electronic data collection, which will increase effectiveness and efficiency as well as reduce time.
- As humanitarian organizations we do not want to be associated with any kind of conflicts between two groups while collecting data and/or delivering RE.
- The majority of accidents have happened while traveling but it is not very clear whether or not they are also linked to conflicts. No matter what this group should receive RE and be taught about safe behaviour while travelling.
- KAP survey should be implemented in the entire country and used to tailor RE.
- Many respondents have no education which is really important to know as our work can be linked to other organizations such as UNICEF in order to not only provide RE but also education in target communities.
- 81% of the KAP respondents did not know about any potential contamination in their communities; in order to reduce casualties, the people should be informed of the contaminated areas.

- We need to look into our resource allocation and target the most at risk groups as the number of casualties is higher than previous years. First priority areas in proposals should be requested/obtained from DMAC rather than considering the donor requirement.
- We need to develop animated movies and cartoons for the child-friendly RE sessions.
- A list with complete hazards should be distributed reers.
- We need to come up with innovative and creative ideas rather than sticking to old material.
- Current material is more focused on recognition; it should be focused on safe behaviours rather than recognition.
- We need to increase the use of mass media in terms of providing RE.
- Inclusion of other organization such as UNICEF and UNAMA in different RE aspects would be very useful.

5.2 ACTION POINTS

In order to follow up on the recommendations generated by the workshop participants, the following action points were set:

- Review and testing of all existing MRE materials.
- Improvement of data collection and management system.
- Improvement of hotline services by:
 - Selection of an easy to remember (three-digit) hotline number
 - Decreasing the cost of calls or making the hotline toll free
 - Raising awareness of the hotline number through all messages and materials
- Improvement of training of RE teams to ensure that all aspects of RE is delivered correctly.
- Improvement of planning/prioritization of RE tasks based on gender, age and identified risk-taking behaviours.
- Tailoring of RE to specific groups on the basis of age, gender and at-risk/risk-taking behaviour.
- Development of child friendly material.
- Consider the threat of PPIED relative to other devices in RE materials and approaches.
- Inclusion of realistic and overly graphic pictures in RE material.
- Increase/improve cooperation with other humanitarian organizations.
- Improve M&E of RE to ensure a focus on quality rather than quantity.

5.3 CLOSING

The RE review workshop was held jointly by DDG, DMA on 13 December 2017. The one-day workshop brought together MAPA IPs and stakeholders review the casualty data and current state of RE, including the appropriateness of material and methodologies. The workshop concluded by suggesting that there is a definite need for reviewing and revising, as needed, RE materials and methodology to ensure that they are appropriate, relevant, effective and efficient in addressing the needs and characteristics of different target groups, including ensuring that RE materials and methodologies are gender, age and diversity sensitive and accurately consider the five at-risk categories. The workshop further resulted in a list of action points, which require further action planning, including determining responsibilities and timelines.

At closing the workshop, Ms. Radwa Rabie (DDG Program Manager) and Mr. Humayun Achakzai (UNMAS RE Manager) stressed out that the communication and collaboration among MAPA IP will continue in order to improve RE methodologies and ensure that it mirrors the rising casualties and variant needs of the target populations.