



# MAPA NEWSLETTER

Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan

November- December 2017

## MAPA representatives joined the 4th Persian Regional Cooperation Workshop on “Legal Efficiency and Liability”

A MAPA delegation attended the 4th Regional Cooperation Workshop on “Legal Efficiency and Liability” for Persian Speaking countries at Sheraton Hotel, Dushanbe-Tajikistan. The three-day workshop was organized by the Language Outreach Programme of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) from 28 – 30 November 2017, and was hosted by the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC). The Afghan delegation consisting of thirteen representatives from the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and key mine action implementing partners led by Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi-DMAC Director participated in the workshop. Other participant organizations included; the Swiss Foundation for Demining (FSD) and Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA).

This workshop’s aim was to develop/enhance the liability policies of the Persian speaking Mine Action Programmes.



## US.DOS PM/WRA Delegation visits MAPA

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018, DMAC had the opportunity to welcome Mr. Rodney Robideau, SCA Programme Manager and Grants Officer Representative and Mr. Geary Cox, Deputy Programme Manager of PM/WRA. During their visit to DMAC office, the delegation was briefed on the current activities of DMAC and the MAPA. In the course of their mission to Afghanistan, the PM/WRA delegation also met with representatives of MAPA implementing partners and UNMAS. During this visit, PM/WRA re-iterated its commitment to supporting the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) for the years to come.

## IMSMA Training for MAPA staff in Jalalabad

The MIS department of DMAC conducted a six-day IMSMA user level training in DMAC regional office, Jalalabad from 18 to 23 November 2017.

The training was mainly focused on Improving Information Management & Data reporting, understanding of IMSMA & GIS, Introduction to mobile data collection technology, understanding & the use of IMSMA reporting tools for data analysis, using ARC GIS to design Maps, as well as briefing on IMSMA Import Scripts. Participants from DMAC, UNMAS and a number of implementing partners including AREA, MDC and DDG attended the training.



## DMAC representation at the Conference on Certain Conventional Weapons, India

An international Conference on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) was held in New Delhi, India on 5-6 December 2017. Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, Director of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and UNMAS Operations Manager, Mr. Abdul Qudous Ziaee represented the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) in the conference.

The Afghan delegates delivered presentations on challenges of mine, ERW and PPIEDs in Afghanistan. The conference was organized as part of the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) and the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sustained efforts towards the faithful implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The event brought together over 50 government representatives from 22 countries across the wider Asia, Gulf and East African regions, as well as experts from a number of international and regional organizations to discuss weapons regulated under the CCW and those currently on the CCW agenda.

The President of Afghanistan, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons through a presidential decree in February 2016. This convention had been passed by both houses of the National Assembly on January 5, 2015 through order number 135.



## Afghanistan takes over the Presidency of the 17<sup>th</sup> MSP to Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Afghanistan, one of the most mine-affected countries in the world, took over the Presidency for the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties (MSP) to Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2018. This was announced in the 16<sup>th</sup> MSP held in Austria.

Mr. Yosufi, DMAC Director, attended the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties (16MSP) held at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria. The 16MSP was participated by over 300 delegates from mine/ERW affected countries, landmine experts and survivors. The meeting was held in the Austrian capital on 18 to 21 December 2017. Currently Afghanistan is working with other national and international partners to develop a plan in order to be able to meet its treaty deadline.

The Afghan mine action programme is at an important phase as the country and its partners are carrying out the necessary surveys to gain greater clarity on the nature and extent of the contamination. The country developing a revised implementation plan so as to take into account the increased new challenges it faces.



New reports indicate that after a decade of steady decline, the number of landmine victims has increased sharply, largely affecting civilians, and disproportionately, children. Thus, the implementation of a global comprehensive ban on landmines and assistance to survivors is as relevant as ever.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was adopted on 18 September 1997 and entered into force on 1 March 1999. The Convention has a clear humanitarian goal – it seeks to put an end to the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. To achieve this, the Convention is comprehensive in prohibiting the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and calling for the destruction of all stockpiles, the clearance of all mined areas and assistance for landmine victims.

## Workshop on Gender in Mine Action

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan is committed to ensuring that gender and diversity are mainstreamed into its activities. Gender and diversity mainstreaming represents one of the four goals of the MAPA strategic plan (2016-2020). This is to ensure that all gender and diversity groups participate in, and benefits from, the work of the MAPA, and that the MAPA benefit from the insight and participation of gender and diversity groups in all aspects of its work.

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) organized a one-day workshop on 20 December 2017 aimed at raising awareness about mine action in the country and encouraging the participants, particularly women to work with the programme.



## ISO. 9001:2015 “Lead Auditor” course for DMAC, UNMAS and HALO Trust staff in India

A total of 13 staff members from DMAC, UNMAS and Halo Trust attended a week-long ISO training , Lead Auditor (version 9001:2015) in New-Delhi, India. The training which was facilitated by the British Certification Incorporation and financially supported by the HALO Trust CSSF project funded by UK-DFID was held from 16 to 21 December 2017.

The six-day course covered the key concepts of quality management (QM) principles, QM systems, the processes and requirements for auditing as well as the roles and requirements for the auditor. At the end of the course, the participants were evaluated against the course topics, and all thirteen participants successfully passed the exam and were issued ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Lead Auditor certificates by the G-CERTI certification body. G-CERTI is an internationally accredited certification body recognized by the International Organization for Standardization-ISO.



## Risk Education Workshop in Kabul

A Risk Education Workshop that brought together the MAPA Implementing Partners and stakeholders to review the existing process of mine and Explosive Remnant of War (ERW) risk education methodology and material, was held at Kabul Intercontinental Hotel. The workshop which was organized on 13 December 2017 aimed to find new approaches of providing tailored Risk Education (RE) packages based on the emerging local needs, the evolving conflict dynamics and the changing patterns of risks. The exercise initiated was in line with the national priorities of DMAC and UNMAS. As a part of this process, DDG has implemented a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey in its current risk education project.



During the opening of the workshop, Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, Director of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) thanked the participants and stated “Mine Risk Education is one of the five pillars of Mine Action and an important one for preventing the civilian casualties. Mr. Yosufi added, “the number of civilian casualties from explosive devices have significantly risen which is because of the use of IED, in particular PPIED as well as ongoing conflict in the country and I hope that this MRE review workshop could help much in improving MRE educational methodologies and materials”. Hinting to this he went on to say “MRE delivery has been more qualitative in the past and we hope to find more innovative MRE approaches rather than traditional ways in order to be able to measure success”. He also added that the KAP survey which evaluates the impact of MRE is in dire need of improvement.

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