

# Landmine Safety Programme:

## Mine/ERW Risk Education

### For Afghanistan



Presented by the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan

# What is Mine/ERW Risk Education? Why are you here?

You are here to learn about the threat of  
Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War  
and how to stay safe.

## The Threat

Mine & Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)  
Recognition

Danger Indications

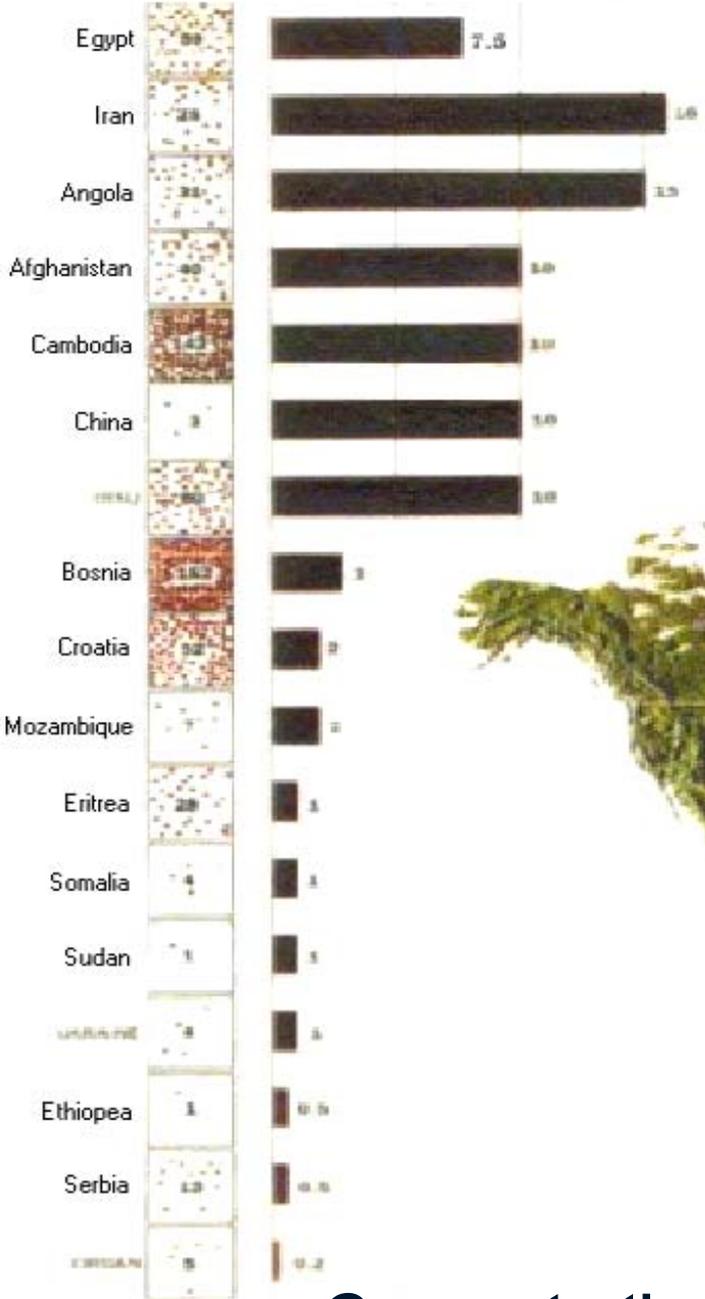
## Preparedness & Safe Behavior

Traveling and Working in Risk Areas

Emergency Procedures



# Mines and ERW are all over the world



Concentrations and densities around the world today



# Situation in Afghanistan Today

Afghanistan still has more than 1,655 impacted communities containing approximately 4,760 suspected hazardous areas contaminated by landmines/ERW, making it one of the most impacted landmine and ERW affected countries in the world.

Landmines and ERW affect all 33 provinces that constitute Afghanistan. Of the affected lands 69% consist of grazing land, 11% agricultural, 10% roads, 6% residential areas, and 2% irrigation systems.

**Be aware,  
mines don't care!**



# Anti-personnel (AP) Landmines common to Afghanistan

- Blast AP
- Fragmentation AP
- Stake AP
- Directional Fragmentation AP
- Bounding Fragmentation AP

Landmines are victim activated.



# UXO: Mortars and rockets common to Afghanistan

☒ Mortar shells

☒ Rockets

☒ Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG)

☒ Artillery Shells

☒ Bombs

UXO are most commonly detonated by tampering causing multiple injuries and victims.



# Anti-Tank AT, grenades, fuses and BLU common to Afghanistan

⊕ AT mines (anti-tank)

⊕ Grenades

⊕ Cluster Bombs & BLU

⊕ Fuses

AT mines are often surrounded with AP mines.

Between 5 & 30% of cluster-munitions fail to detonate upon impact.



Fuse



Fuse



Fuse



Anti-Tank Mine (TO4)



Hand Grenade



Fuse



Fuse

5cm  
5cm



Anti-Tank Mine Fuse



Cluster Munition



Anti-Tank Mine (TM62)



Cluster Munition (BLU-97)





Abandoned Ordnance



BLU-97/B  
659470-30  
LOT AT033110-003

**BLU-97**







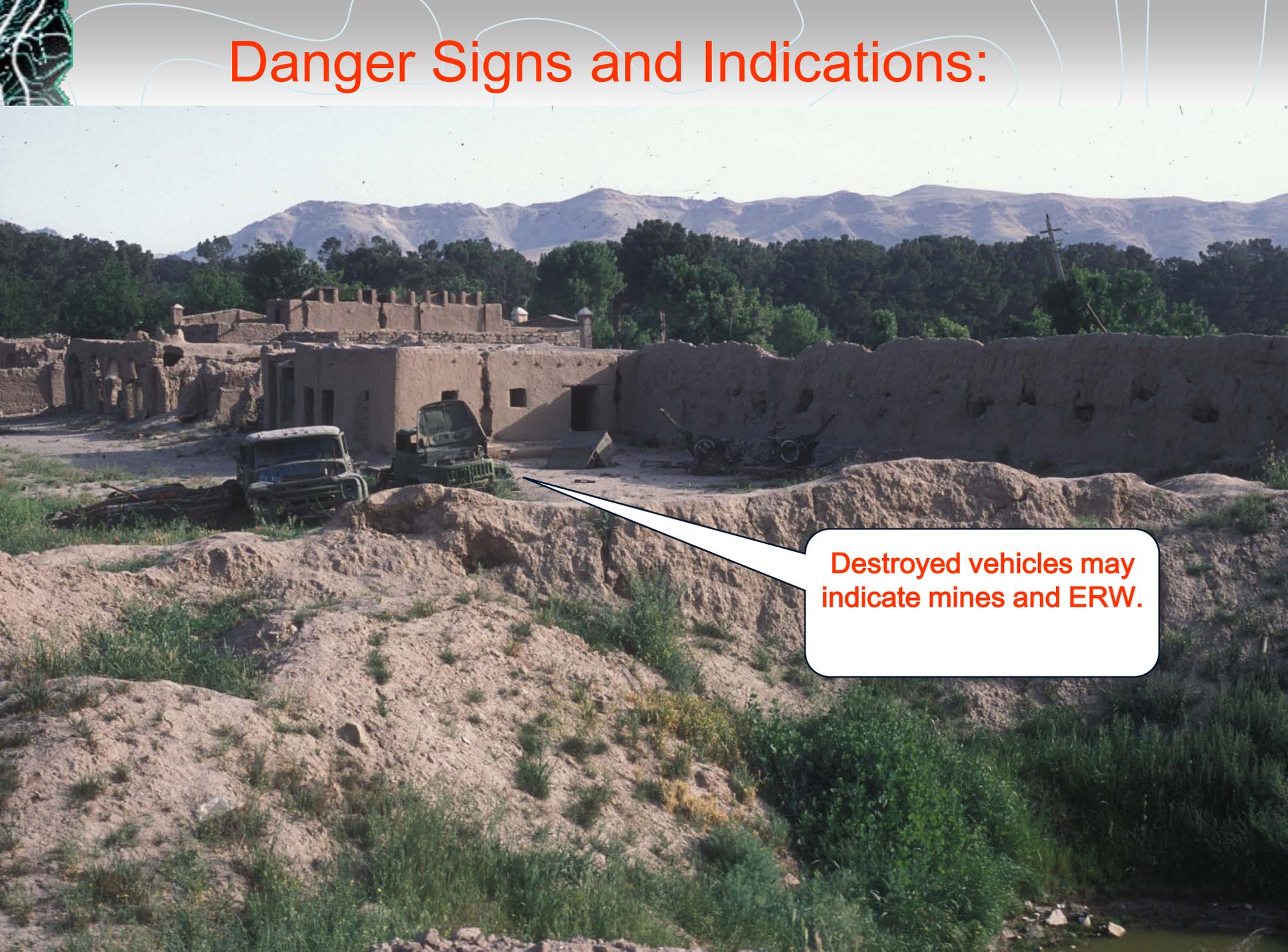
# Landmine/ERW Danger Signs and Indicators

# Danger Signs and Indications:

Overgrown areas and destroyed buildings are a sign of danger.



# Danger Signs and Indications:



**Destroyed vehicles may indicate mines and ERW.**

# Danger Signs and Indications:

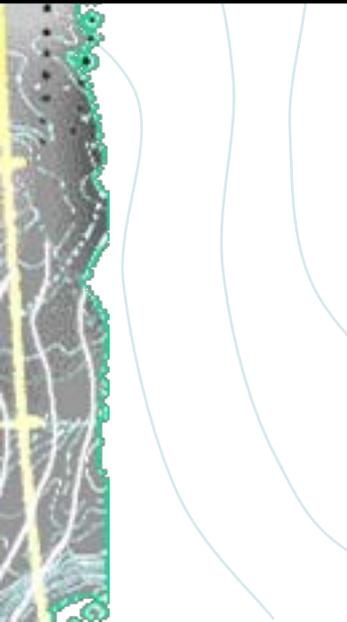


Markings on buildings indicate the presence of mines or ERW

# Danger Signs and Indications:



Empty munitions crates and other military trash are a sure sign of mines and ERW.



# Danger Signs and Indications:

Dead or injured animals signify a landmine threat



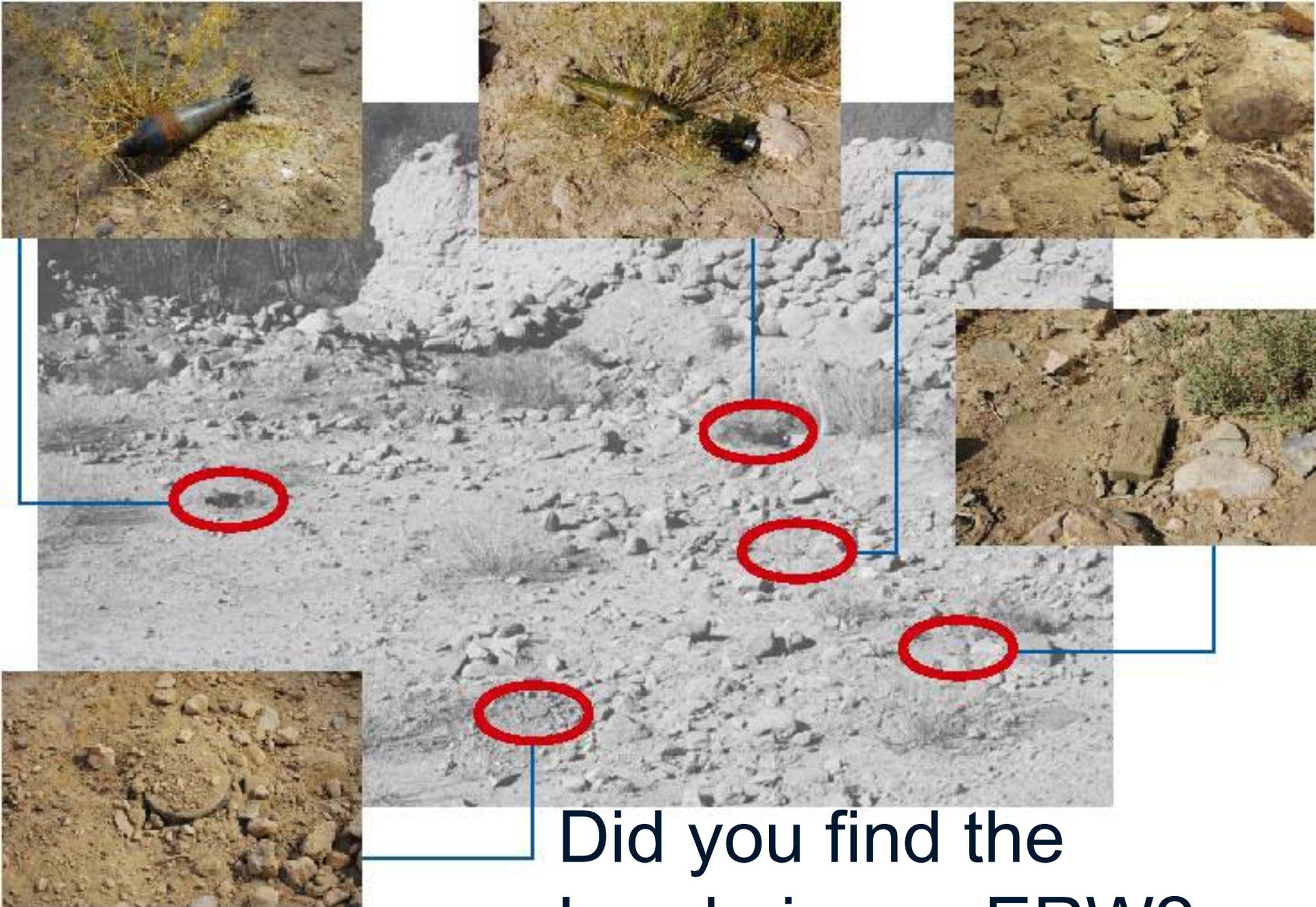
# Movement of Mines

- Be aware of the seasonal impacts on mines and ERW
- Winter snows cover mines and ERW, the danger signs and any existing markings
- Snow melt and heavy rains can wash mines and ERW into previously cleared land and safe areas.
- Dust can cover marking stones and other indicators making them less visible or impossible to see.
- Seasonal movement of people and activities such as grazing and farming increase risks.



Can you find the Landmine or ERW?





Did you find the  
Landmine or ERW?

# Preparedness and Safe Behavior

How you and your agency can be prepared and work safely in the field.



Don't assume mines will be easy to see.





Find out as much information about the area you are traveling through and to, before you leave for the field.

**Who do you contact?**

**Mine Action Coordination Centre of  
Afghanistan (MACCA)**

**[info@macca.org.af](mailto:info@macca.org.af)**

**MACCA Hotline - 0708 60 60 60**

Agency Security Offices

Local government and community leaders

NGOs and Mine Action agencies working in the area  
you plan to visit.

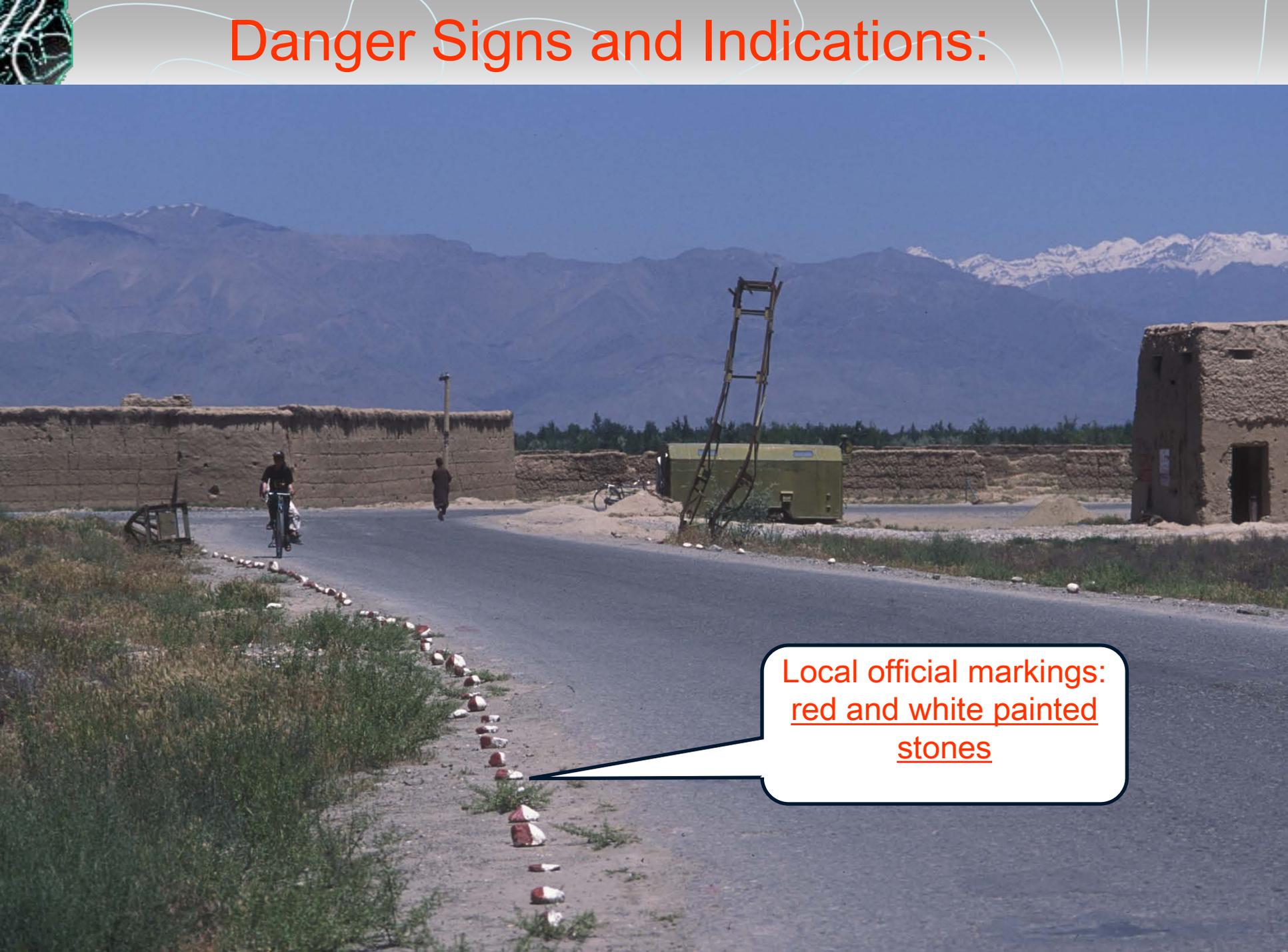


# Questions to ask ... ?

- Any fighting in the area? If so, where?
- Any soldiers living/working/passing through the area?
- Any Mine/ERW incidents in this area involving people, animals or vehicles? What caused the incident (mine or ERW)? Where and when did it take place?
- Which areas are suspected or known to be mined/UXO contaminated? How do you know?
- Are there any roads/tracks/crossings/fields/wells/houses that the locals avoid?
- Have there been any explosions? If yes! Where?
- How are mine/UXO contaminated areas marked?
- Which routes/areas are considered safe?



# Danger Signs and Indications:



Local official markings:  
red and white painted  
stones

# Danger Signs and Indications:

Unofficial markings can be made of anything. Lines of stones, piles of stones, military debris etc.



# Danger Signs and Indications:



Stacked stones  
are often used to  
warn of mines

# Danger Signs and Indications:



Sticks crossed over  
may indicate a  
minefield

# Reporting Mines and ERW

## Who:

- Your agency
- Local Authorities
- MACCA
- UNDSS
- Local Demining Agency

## What:

- Shape
- Color
- Size
- Type (if known)
- Other identifying marks

## Where:

- Province
- District
- Village (GPS if known)
- Landmarks/KM from
- Other identifying indicators



[info@macca.org.af](mailto:info@macca.org.af)

# Safety Advice for Organizations:

- Collect detailed information on the mine/ERW threat in your area of operations and update regularly.
- Establish vehicle and travel reporting systems for field missions and ensure compliance.
- Maintain updated contact details of key agency personnel, emergency aid providers and mine action agencies in area.
- Provide Landmine and ERW related information to all staff under your supervision, including safe routes, dangerous areas and emergency contact information.
- Ensure all staff who may be at risk received Landmine and ERW safety training. (This includes drivers and interpreters too.)
- Understand that your level of alertness to the landmine/ERW threat will decrease over time, and safety refresher training should be required.
- Ensure staff receive first aid training, focusing especially on trauma care, and that vehicles are equipped with first aid and trauma care kits.
- Ensure vehicles have maps and effective communication equipment in working order. And ensure everyone knows how to use them.

## Safety Advice for Individuals:

- ⊕ Prior to travel, obtain information on dangerous areas
- ⊕ Never venture into known dangerous areas, explore military installations or equipment
- ⊕ Never collect mines or ERW or other military hardware
- ⊕ Do not attempt to clear or move mines or ERW
- ⊕ Do not touch anything strange, unusual or of value lying on the ground or hanging from a tree
- ⊕ Be aware of local warning signs and always respect them
- ⊕ Always be alert for other clues of possible danger
- ⊕ Always provide important safety information to others.
- ⊕ **DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!!!**
  
- ⊕ Never touch mines, unexploded or abandoned ordnance, or suspicious objects for any reason
  
- ⊕ **USE COMMON SENSE!**

# Travel by Foot

- Follow agency required travel/route reporting systems
- Carry communications on you (radio, sat phone, etc.)
- Get someone to guide you
- **Don't touch anything**
- Do not enter overgrown areas, paths or tracks
- Do not move anything to clear a path. Do not touch!
- Do not enter abandoned buildings
- Do not go "visit" deminers or go to look at a landmines/fields
- Do not pick up "souvenirs" or anything (pens, books, etc.)
- **STAY ALERT!**



# Travel by Vehicle

- ✿ Follow agency required travel/route reporting systems
- ✿ Check in as required
- ✿ Don't travel alone
- ✿ Stay on well traveled routes/paved roads if possible
- ✿ Do not travel at night
- ✿ Beware of obstacles
- ✿ Never drive over anything
- ✿ Never leave the road to drive around things
- ✿ Have window open 1 inch so the blast can escape
- ✿ Wear you seat belt at all times even in the back seat
- ✿ Do not leave the road to relieve your self
- ✿ Stay alert at all times. No headphones, no napping



# Preparedness and Safe Behavior

*If you see a mine warning clue (an exposed mine, a hole where a mine has exploded, military debris, anything suspicious)*

**ASSUME YOU ARE IN A MINE FIELD!**



# STOP

**M** **Movement:** Stop. Remain Calm. Stay still and do not move your feet.

**I** **Inform:** Inform and warn people around you. Call for help, but keep others away.

**N** **Note:** Note the area. What else can you see: mines, tripwires, mine signs? Visually locate the nearest safe area: the last place you know your were on a safe surface, such as a paved road, well used path, concrete or steel structure.

**E** **Evaluate:** Evaluate your course of action. Be prepared to take control of the situation.

**D** **Do not:** Do not move, if there is no safe area to be found, or if you can't reach it without stepping on unknown ground, Wait for help to arrive.

# Assisting a Victim

- ✿ **Stay Calm!**
- ✿ Do not rush to the victim.
- ✿ Do not try to rescue her/him in what may be a minefield.
- ✿ Talk to the victim; warn them not to move; advise how to self-administer first aid; advise that help is on the way.
- ✿ Note time and location and the number of injured.
- ✿ Call for help. Arrange for both mine clearance assistance and medical evacuation.
- ✿ Prepare a first aid kit.
- ✿ **Wait for assistance to arrive.**



# Emergency Procedures

Once in a minefield there is little you can do, but wait for help.

It is better to sit two days in a mine field than the alternative of death or serious injury.



There are many signs that mark dangerous areas.



The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan has a database with all the info you require including maps.



[info@macca.org.af](mailto:info@macca.org.af)

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a fragment of a topographic map with contour lines and a yellow path.

**And yet still  
people wander  
into minefields or  
touch things they  
do not know  
about.**



WHY  
?



# Why people find themselves in minefields and other dangerous areas

- People don't believe the obvious mine indicators.  
**If you see the signs, believe them, you don't have to see the mines.**
- People see others using a path and decide it must be safe.  
**This is not always the case. People often find their ways through dangerous areas over and over before an accident happens.**
- People find themselves in unsafe areas by taking their eye off road, losing their concentration, and allowing others to decide what is safe for them.

**Pay attention to where you are at all times. Know the common places where mines and ERW are likely to be.**

**Be vigilant and in control when others are driving you.**

**Make your own decisions about what is safe and what is not.  
When in doubt, stay out.**

**Remember the warning signs and markings.**

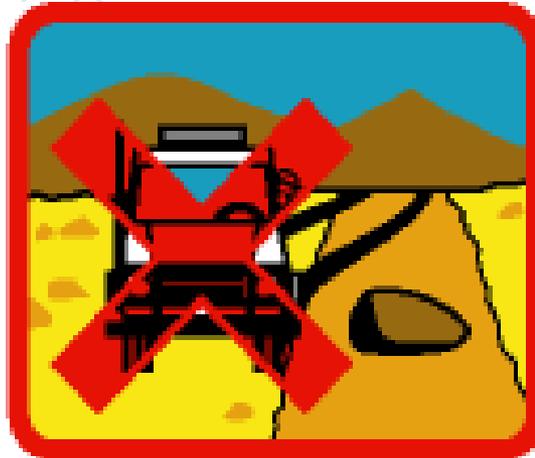


# Reduce Your Personal Risk

- Attend mine awareness trainings often
- Carry your Landmine Safety Handbook and review it regularly
- Obtain current mine information (Maps, etc.)
- Observe local behavior & patterns
- Use approved "Proven" routes only
- Stay on paved or concrete surfaces if possible
- Avoid gravel shoulders and verges
- Plan journeys and study routes
- Inform others of your travel plans



# Field & Vehicle Safety



# Don't become a casualty!

- ❁ Always be on the lookout for indicators of mining activity, "If you see the signs, you don't have to see the mines".
- ❁ Don't go in any abandoned or destroyed buildings. All buildings are potentially mined and booby-trapped.
- ❁ Don't go souvenir hunting.
- ❁ Remember your mission.
- ❁ Stay alert - Be safe.
- ❁ Use Common Sense





**Don't let this happen to you.**



# QUESTIONS?

