



Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

International Mine Action Day Highlights Impact of Mine Action throughout Afghanistan

29 March 2010. This year's celebration of International Mine Action Day (April 4th) will be focusing on the impact that mine action is having throughout the country. In the last year, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) was active in 1,810 communities in 33 provinces throughout Afghanistan. Over 10,000 individuals are working for the various implementers of the MAPA – in the last year this included 653 demining teams and 70 teams conducting mine risk and disability awareness. As a result of their work, 212 communities were cleared of mines completely and 710 communities received Mine Risk Education.

Although the costs of mine action can look high, a recent calculation by the MACCA of the total cost of clearing all the known minefields from the country shows that when it is correlated with the number of people currently impacted by mines, the cost is just \$277 per person.

Dr Haider Reza, Programme Director, Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan said: “The significant contamination of mines throughout Afghanistan means that mines have a negative impact on the daily lives of over three million Afghans. The mine action programme works in almost every province in the country, clearing mines and raising awareness of the risks to reduce the impact on the lives of Afghan people and the development of our country.”

Looking to the year ahead, the mine risk education programme plans to reach 850 communities and with present funding, there will be 36 more humanitarian demining teams added to the capacity. The programme also plans start a new mine clearance project in Ghazni city, which will support the Government's preparations for Ghazni's designation as an Islamic Centre of Civilization by ISESCO in 2013.

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NB. Data included in this press release was drawn from IMSMA, the national database live data on the 9th March 2009