



JAPAN PROVIDES 2 MILLION USD TO MINE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

The Government of Japan has announced a contribution of US\$2 million to support mine action in Afghanistan. Maintaining its strong support for humanitarian demining, Japan is the principal donor to United Nations efforts to eradicate landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

The contribution will benefit over 20,000 Afghans by supporting the removal of 58 hazards over an area of 1.9 square kilometres in the provinces of Bamyan, Faryab, Khost and Kunduz. The contribution will also support the coordination of mine action in the country, allowing the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and Afghan Government's Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) to plan and prioritise mine action activities, accredit and assure the quality of implementing partners' work, and maintain the Afghan mine action database.

“This contribution from the people of Japan maintains a commitment that began many years ago to restore Afghan communities to a secure environment. As funding to Afghanistan declines, generally, such assistance is all the more important to the programme and to the goal of achieving a mine-free Afghanistan by 2023,” said Jeff McMurdo, Programme Manager of the United Nations Mine Action Service in Afghanistan.

“Over the years, support from the People of Japan has freed numerous communities from the threat of mines and other ERW. This latest contribution is very timely, coming ...when the threat from ERW resulting from the ongoing conflict is increasing,” added Mohammad Sediq Rashid, the Director of MACCA.

The Government of Afghanistan welcomed the contribution, with DMC Director Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, saying, “the generous contributions from the people of Japan over the years for mine action have demonstrated Japan's commitment to helping Afghans overcome the challenges they face due to over three decades of war. Japan's consistent support has played a key role in reducing the threat posed by mines and ERW in impacted communities and improving their livelihoods.”

Japan has provided over US\$125 million to the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan since 1991. Its support has led to the clearance of over 22,000 hazardous areas, the destruction of over one million anti-personnel mines and over 16 million items of ERW. The accident rate has dropped from as many as 25 casualties per day in 1993 to just over one casualty daily in 2014. Although considerable progress has been made in Afghanistan, it remains one of the most mine-affected countries in the world.

UNMAS currently supports mine action programmes in Abyei (Sudan/South Sudan), Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur (Sudan), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and the Territory of Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Contact information:

Noorullah Elham
Senior Public Information Officer
+93 702 353 298
info@macca.org.af

more than mines