

MAPA NEWS LETTER

Mine Action Programme of
Afghanistan

January – March 2018



Work Plan for Legacy Contamination sent to Office of the National Security Council

Following a presentation by DMAC director at the National Security Council (Supreme Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces) meeting chaired by H.E. The President, the NSC requested DMAC to provide a detailed work plan for the clearance of remaining legacy contamination. DMAC has provided the work plan to the Office of the NSC in 22 pages with the following details;

- The history of landmine/ERW contamination in the country.
- MAPA achievement so far
- The current scale of mine/ERW problem and the remaining challenges

- Information management, quality management, financial management, risk management and land release processes
- Planning and priority setting in mine action
- The management process and 10 years extension work plan and its progress so far

In the work plan it was also noted that the successful implementation of the work plan will depend on the availability of funds and that the programme needs USD 343 million to clear the remaining 535 sq KMs of legacy contamination. The programme was underfunded over the last five years which led to a backlog of contamination adding to an already piled-up work.

Celebration of International Women's Day

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) celebrated International Women's Day on 7th March 2018 at Safi Landmark Hotel in Kabul. Celebration was accompanied by women's products show, MRE role play focusing on the role of women in mine action, live music, poetry, modeling show, cash assistance to families of deminers who had lost their lives and limbs during mine clearance operations in the previous year and appreciation of gender mainstreaming champions in the mine action family. Celebration was attended by senior government officials, representatives of UN agencies, embassies, civil society, women empowerment organizations and other MAPA stakeholders and partners.



MAPA's intervention on TAPI project

As a precursor to development projects, mine action has facilitated the implementation of numerous development projects in the country. In February this year the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline (TAPI), also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline which is a natural gas pipeline being transported from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then to India was inaugurated in a ground-breaking ceremony in Herat province. In 2017 MDC, a MAPA implementing partner carried out a technical survey of mine/ERW contamination in support of the TAPI project. MDC and Aims Demining Company currently working on technical survey of the project.

DMAC as governmental mine action organisation will conduct Quality Control and Quality Assurance of the project to ensure that mine action operation is carried out in line with the national mine action standards, work plan and client requirements.



MIS Department mission to TURMAC

DMAC is privileged to have a rich and comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) section. Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is a tool used for planning and priority setting as well as for restoring various types of mine action related data. Mohammad Ashraf Safi MIS head of DMAC was invited to Ankara by UNDP Turkey to conduct an information support training for the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC) staff. The mission was for 4 weeks, starting from 21 January to 17 February 2018 travel inclusive.

Objectives of the mission:

- Review IMSMA installation, country structure and data recording and collection processes, and to advise and provide on-the-job training to improve them
- Prepare for and conduct an IMSMA users training course in the context of mine action in Turkey

Outcomes of the mission:

- Information Management standard operating procedure was reviewed and finalized
- IMSMA Administration training for 14 TURMAC staff members from MIS, Mine Risk education (MRE), Quality Management (QM) & Operations departments
- Migration of 3,843 Hazards & around 60,000 location information.



- IMSMA Land Import (Excel) scripts was designed with Technical assistance from GICHD and was implemented in TURMAC.
- Information/Data flow structure was developed and approved for TURMAC
- Training IMSMA designed for TURMAC with 20 sample MTRs.

Technical Support to Sudan National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) through UNMAS Sudan

As part of south-south cooperation which is an obligation for states parties to share their experience in mine action in accordance with article six of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention and Convention on Cluster Munitions, Dr. Aimal Safi, Chief of Quality Management from UNMAS Afghanistan visited NMAC Sudan in late February this year to support the Sudanese organization in establishing an effective Quality Management system. This two-week long visit was based on an earlier visit made by NMAC Management Team of the MAPA in May 2017. The MAPA also has continued cooperation with other mine-affected countries such as, Tajikistan, Turkey and Colombia.

Purpose of the Mission to Sudan:

The mission was planned to review the current working processes of NMAC departments and their functional sections, identify areas for improvement, revise and update the processes. to establish Quality Management Systems based on ISO 9001:2015 and IMAS 07.12. Through the above measures, a more sustainable delivery of high quality mine action services to the mine action customers and stakeholders could be ensured.

Establishing QMS for NMAC Sudan will provide the programme and its stakeholders the confidence that NMAC is capable of meeting and exceeding its objectives and other requirements such as safety, efficiency and effectiveness of the Mine Action activities and services.

Expected Outcomes :

- 1) A completed assessment of the existing quality management system that each department of NMAC practices.
- 2) Quality Management System is established and guidelines on its implementation is shared
- 3) Challenges and training needs are clearly identified for each department with regards to the actual implementation of the quality management system in mine action.

Mission Achievements:

The functions of Planning, Programme, Operations, Quality Management, MRE, Victim Assistance, Management Information System and Communications and Public Relations Departments have been assessed and the division of responsibilities of each department were identified and presented to NMAC key staff including NMAC director and UNMAS Programme Manager.

In total 11 processes were developed and mapped, a process mapping training and practical working group session was held for key staff of NMAC. Each department has been assigned to map their identified processes based on their division of responsibilities and ToRs. A session on developing Quality Objectives with practical exercise was also held and the format for quality objectives and their tracking process has also been developed and presented to the top management.



The requirements of IMAS 07.12 and the ISO 9001:2015 and how the processes, procedures, objectives, roles and responsibilities and quality policy fit to the mentioned standards and the QMS have been presented and practically shown to the top management of NMAC and UNMAS Sudan.

At later stages of the mission, some of the National Mine Action Standards of Sudan were reviewed and recommendations for improvement and establishing a formal review board, and an in-depth review of all national standards in the light of IMAS and Sudan specific requirements have been presented to NMAC top management. Dr. Aimal's mission was completed with appreciation from UNMAS and NMAC Sudan management.

Training Workshop on “Quality Management System in Mine Action” for the Provincial Directorates of ANDMA

A training workshop on Quality Management System in Mine Action for the provincial directorates of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) was organized from 10th to 15th March 2018, in the HALO Trust Compound, Kabul.

The workshop was organized by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority and was facilitated by the HALO Trust with financial support of DFID-UK.

The opening of this workshop was attended by H.E Mohammad Aslam Sayas, Deputy Director General of ANDMA, DMAC, UNMAS and the HALO trust.

The objective of this workshop was to enhance the capacity of the ANDMA provincial representatives so that they are able to support the mine action activities in their respective provinces and act on behalf of DMAC in overseeing and addressing specific field issues encountered by the mine action implementing partners.



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