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Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

Livelihoods Analysis of Landmine/ERW Affected Communities

Third Survey: Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan (September 2012)

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The MACCA:

The Mine Action Coordination Center of Afghanistan (MACCA) is a UN-supported organization responsible for the coordination of all mine action activities in Afghanistan. MACCA is also responsible for supporting the development of national capacity for mine action management to the Government of Afghanistan. The MACCA employs national personnel to provide support to mine action operations through its headquarters in Kabul and regional offices in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Gardez, and Jalalabad. They work directly with the impacted communities, government representatives, UN offices, and aid organizations in their areas of responsibility.

Acknowledgements

The successful conduct and completion of mine action and livelihoods survey in Badakhshan was a team effort involving a number of organizations (MACCA, DMC, AIRD, DDG, ARCS, OMAR and MCPA), each of which made useful contributions to the project. In particular, we would like to thank MACCA regional office northeast and also Badakhshan ANDMA office for their contributions to the successful completion of the survey. The MACCA regional office manager, Sayed Agha Atiq, and the operations assistant, Abdul Wali Safi, provided commendable assistance to us during the survey implementation in Badakhshan.

We are very grateful to the four communities that received us in a very friendly and hospitable way, and patiently provided the information required for attaining the objectives of the survey. We hope that the information in this report will benefit these and other mine-affected communities in Afghanistan.

It is worth mentioning that our special thanks go to Barry Pound and Asa Massleberg for their help in the review of the survey report, and also to Ted Paterson, who not only reviewed the report but also completed the economic part of this survey report.

Contents

Acronyms

AAR	Association for Aid and Relief	**IDPs**	Internally Displaced Persons
AIRD	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development	**IMAS**	International Mine Action Standards
ALIS	Afghanistan Landmine Impact Survey	**IMB**	Inter-Ministerial Board (for Mine Action)
AMAS	Afghanistan Mine Action Standards	**IMSMA**	Information Management System for Mine Action
ANDMA	Afghanistan Nation Disaster Management Authority	**IOF**	Integrated Operational Framework
AP	Anti-Personnel (mine)	**MF**	Minefield
ARCS	Afghan Red Crescent Society	**MACCA**	Mine Action Coordination Center of Afghanistan
AT	Anti-tank (mine)	**MCPA**	Mine Clearance Planning Agency
BAC	Battle Area Clearance	**MDC**	Mine Detection Dog and Demining Center
CBMC	Community-Based Mine Clearance	**MoLSAMD**	Ministry of Labor, Social Affair, Martyrs and Disability
CSO	Central Statistics Office	**MoE**	Ministry of Education
DDG	Danish Demining Group	**MMCC**	Mobile Mini Circus for Children
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)	**MoPH**	Ministry of Public Health
DMC	Department for Mine Clearance	**MRE**	Mine Risk Education
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	**NTS**	Non Technical Survey
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War	**OMAR**	Organization for Mine clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	**PDIA**	Post Demining Impact Assessment
		PWD	Person with Disability
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Deming	**QA**	Quality Assurance
GMAP	Gender and Mine Action Programme	**QM**	Quality Management
GoA	Government of Afghanistan	**QC**	Quality Control
		RE	Risk Education
HI	Handicap International	**TS**	Technical Survey

Executive Summary

Introduction

To better understand the impact of mine action on development & livelihoods of the communities, the Mine Action Coordination Center of Afghanistan (MACCA) and the Government of Afghanistan Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) initiated a series of mine action and livelihoods surveys.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD was contracted by MACCA to assist in the design and implementation of a pilot project using the Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) approach for the community-level survey and analysis work.

The first survey was conducted in 2010, through which 25 communities in Kabul, Parwan, Balkh and Samangan provinces were surveyed. The second survey in 2011 was conducted in the west of the country where four locations in Herat Province were surveyed.

In both the first and second surveys, two international consultants and also national consultants were involved. The involvement of the two international consultants contributed not only to successful completion of the survey, but also created capacity in MACCA to conduct further surveys without direct involvement of the international consultants.

This third landmines and livelihoods survey was designed and conducted by two national staff of MACCA and national consultants from Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). The third survey was implemented during September 2012 in Badakhshan province in the northeast region of the country.

The main objective of the study was to get a better understanding of the mine action impact on livelihoods and developments of the communities and how to further enhance the positive impact of mine action intervention to the communities.
The mine action and livelihoods survey third report is intended to contribute to more complete reporting to the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and donors on the contribution made by the MAPA to Afghanistan's development, and to inform the post-clearance survey efforts of demining operators (internal QA) and the MACCA/DMC (external QA plus national standards) on quality at the development outcome level.

Method

As in the two previous surveys, the Sustainable Livelihood Approach was used for the Badakhshan survey as a basis for obtaining a balanced and holistic view of the situation in ERW/landmine-affected communities. Within this asset-based approach, a range of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools were applied.
As preparation for the survey, 3-day training on livelihoods analysis was attended by the survey teams. The MACCA two national staff who was involved in two previous surveys facilitated the training.
The survey was conducted in the Northeast Region of Afghanistan where four communities in two districts of Badakhshan province were surveyed.

Security, accessibility, contrast between urban and rural settings, and contrast between types of hazard (mines and ERW), and cleared or on-going clearance sites were the criteria for selection of the four communities included in this survey.
The communities were: Bay Malasi (Argo District) with 100 families; Urusak (Faizabad District) with 90 families; Artin Jelow (Argo District) with 110 families and Chata (Faizabad District) with 160 families.

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall the survey was conducted successfully and collected useful information, enabling the formulation of recommendations against the set objectives which can be used for further improvement of the mine action programme of Afghanistan.

Conclusions (Development Outcomes and Impact)

Overall it was found that people in the affected communities are familiar with demining activities, which they perceive as saving lives, encouraging the refugees and IDPs to return to their villages, enabling them to cultivate their lands, tend their animals, collect fire wood, build their houses, schools and clinics, and walk free without fear, as well as creating opportunities for implementing development projects.

Clearance enables a wide range of land and non-land activities and employment opportunities and encourages internal and external investment. It also enables the building of schools, and safer access to schools for children and teachers.

The population wants demining activities to be strengthened, especially in communities where nothing has been done recently. People generally hope that clearance activities will be extended to all areas.
The villagers including victims also need vocational and literacy trainings.

Recommendations (Development Outcomes and Impact)

- MAPA should continue to conduct regular landmines and livelihoods surveys in partnership with AIRD in order to understand the livelihoods and development outcomes of mine action at the household and community levels, and to plan or stimulate post-clearance development activities that are appropriate for the specific situations, needs and priorities of each community.
- MAPA partners should take development and livelihoods impacts of mine action in communities into account from the beginning of developing a demining project, and should be tracked after the implementation of the demining project to be sure that the development outcomes are in line with expectations
- MACCA should assess the challenges/constraints of the above recommendation and provide appropriate advice to mine action organizations on how to achieve this
- Mine action and development should be linked through the coordination of communication, monitoring, research and development initiatives
- MACCA and DMC should ensure that communities' development needs and priorities are shared with development organizations to strengthen the link between mine action and development

- In order to maximize the developmental benefits for women, the organizations involved should ensure that the development priorities of women are taken into account in information gathering and prioritization processes, and in post clearance activities, and that all information is disaggregated and analyzed by sex and age.

Economic Analysis

According to MACCA records, a total of just over 646,000 sqm of area, comprising 25 minefields, have been cleared in the four communities. At MACCA's standard cost estimates, this represents an investment of about USD 808,000, although the actual costs were probably higher because Badakhshan is somewhat remote and the average task was relatively small at 2.5 ha.

1. Reported Use of Land

The post-clearance dominant land use reported was for crop agriculture, with wheat predominant followed by watermelon, alfalfa and pistachio. All communities reported that cleared land was also being used for grazing livestock (cows, sheep and goats), while houses have been built on cleared land in Bay Malasi, Chata and (especially) Urusak. Both Bay Malasi and Chata reported that clearance provided residents with access to stone or sand for building purposes.

Unfortunately, the data collected was inadequate for calculating the economic returns stemming from the use of the cleared land. However, all communities reported land sales values before and after clearance, which provide some indication of the economic value of clearance.

2. Casualty Reduction

The four communities reported a total of 185 casualties from landmines in the years prior to clearance. In addition to the intrinsic value of saving lives and limbs, an elimination of such casualties also reduces economic costs stemming from the loss of productive labour and the care that families need to provide for disabled survivors of landmine accidents.

3. Resettlement

Residents from Artin Jelow, Chata, and Bay Malasi all report that some residents fled to other provinces or neighboring countries during periods of heavy conflict (particularly prior to the departure of Soviet forces in 1989). Clearance likely contributed to the decision of some to return, and the residents of Bay Malasi, in particular, highlighted that the returns happened after demining operations began in 1992.

Recommendations (Economic Analysis)

Should MACCA want an economic analysis of demining operations as part of future Landmine and Livelihoods exercises, it should consider the following steps:

- Prior to the field survey, compile dossiers of basic information on all communities to be visited from the IMSMA database and other sources. This data should include, at least:
  - Recorded population
  - Recorded landmine and UXO casualties
  - Areas of suspected and confirmed mine/UXO contamination
  - Areas cleared (minefields; BAC)

  - The reported intended use of land post-clearance
  - Whether return/resettlement was one of the justifications given for demining
- Training for surveyors on how to use information from the community dossiers during the community visits, both to verify that information and to indicate when more probing might be useful (e.g. when there are significant discrepancies between the information in the dossier and the information from residents during the community visits)
- Training to the social scientists from AIRD and to MACCA and DMC personnel supporting the survey teams in basic quantitative analysis and the data requirements for this, so they can are alert to opportunities to collect more detailed data on specific cases when and if these opportunities arise

In addition, MACCA should expect some gaps in the data collected in future surveys, and that it may uncover opportunities for more detailed economic analysis (case studies) of certain demining tasks. It should consider the possibility of contacting community leaders after the community visits to clarify data, plug data gaps, and explore specific case studies in greater detail.

Conclusions (Prioritization)

Apart from weak liaison in one community, the findings of the survey indicate that the priority setting process of MAPA is working very well. The criteria used to select the contaminated areas for clearance are really useful for directing the focus of demining operations on hazard areas which have blocked development of the communities and safe access of people to livelihood sources. These are all elements that have been considered in the priority setting criteria of MAPA.

Although community members were found to be satisfied with mine action work on clearing priority areas, but in terms of consultation with the community it was found that only men of the community have been consulted, but not women and children. Also in one village the men told us that the demining team did not consult them on the conduct of clearance.

This indicates that, with the current approach of Ottawa ranking and projectization, there might be less than ideal emphasis given by demining organization on seeking the consultation of the community to know their preferences.

Recommendations (Prioritization)

- To obtain women and girls' perception on priority areas, MACCA, in consultation with the demining organizations, should seek possible ways of obtaining different community members perception when collecting prioritization-related information from affected communities.
- MACCA and DMC should make sure that a process is in place through which the mine action operators working in a community conduct a detailed survey of the community where they believe they have completed clearance of all known hazardous areas to make sure no other hazard areas is left (e.g. Bay Malasi village, where people say that still there is a contaminated area in their village)
- The MACCA and DMC, in consultation with mine action implementing partners, should seek all possible ways to ensure that all hazardous areas within demining projects planned in a community shall be properly assessed in consultation with the community prior to implementation of the demining project. The assessment of each hazard should have a written

statement from community showing their satisfaction with the selection of the hazard for clearance.

- MACCA/DMC should take action about the suggestion of people on giving priority to marking of the contaminated areas not planned for immediate clearance, as this will avoid people crossing the hazardous areas.

Conclusions (Quality Management)

According to positive feedback received from communities showing their confidence in the quality of demining activities, and comparing the number of civilian accidents before clearance with the total absence of civilian accidents after clearance, it is obvious that the quality of the demining teams' outputs is good. External and internal QA and QC visits to demining operations have also contributed to the delivery of good quality demining services to the communities. However, looking at the comments of some respondents on the lack of proper consultation with the community for priority-setting, and the lack of recording and marking of remained hazards, there is need for further improving the focus of quality management on these aspects of mine action interventions.

Recommendations (Quality Management)

- Conduct random QA visits to assess and document handover processes of cleared land back to the community. This will help MACCA to improve quality management and to document experiences to make sure that the process is working well.
- The MACCA quality management should assess the possibility of increasing the quality of mine action interventions on reducing civilian mine victims through the marking of hazardous areas not planned for immediate clearance.
- Since most community members are asking for the completion of a village, rather than clearing one hazard area and leave others for the future, this issue should be highlighted during the project proposal review process to make an assessment if it is practical to complete clearance of all the hazards in the community.
- To ensure the linkage of mine action with development and communities' livelihoods preferences, the MACCA QM process should establish a mechanism for identifying this issue at a very early stage of developing demining projects.
- Conduct of regular PDIA will ensure an understanding of the impact of implemented demining projects on communities.
- Since good quality NTS is critical for effective and efficient demining operations, random post-QA visits of survey operations carried out by demining organization should be planned and conducted by MACCA, so that they can objectively assess the survey capability of demining organizations.
- Quality management should have some focus on the process of community liaison of demining organizations with the communities so they can ensure the involvement of female and male community members in planning, implementation and outcome assessment of demining interventions.
- The quality management of MACCA should have a proper plan for conducting QA of victim assistance activities as there is no such systematic plan in place at the present time.

Conclusions for Mine/ERW RE

The survey shows that all four villages surveyed received some Mine/ERW RE through the NGOs, school teachers and community elders.

- Most of the women did not receive Mine/ERW RE first-hand in these communities.
- The data showed that not all children attend school and many women have restricted mobility outside the home.
- There was little evidence of female Mine/ERW RE teams interacting with female community members in three out of the four villages.
- Currently only the ARCS female team is covering Badakhshan, and they are not able to reach all remote areas.

Recommendations for Mine/ERW RE

- Access to women in all surveyed communities needs to be improved while planning Mine/ERW RE activities –through the recruitment of more female trainers.
- Mine/ERW RE activities in these villages should be more focused on identification of the challenges (access and seasonal variations) to ensure reaching all sectors of those communities.
- Mine/ERW RE follow–up sessions need to be conducted in all surveyed communities in particular for boys and girls who do not attend school and for women who cannot attend the Mine/ERW RE sessions.
- It is recommended that the Ministry of Education should take more responsibilities for MRE; in particular recruiting mine action focal points in communities. Teachers should expand their Mine/ERW RE sessions for their community members in the villages, not only in the schools.
- All new MoE teachers in the schools in these villages need to receive Mine/ERW RE training through MoE Child Protection Officers.
- The media outreach programmes needs to be further improved and more Mine/ERW RE materials should be distributed in those communities.
- These villages should be given priority for female Mine/ERW RE teams to ensure they are reaching more women and girls.
- It is important that IPs with the support of MoE teachers should train female community volunteers in those areas to provide awareness to community members.
- It is recommended to ensure that Mine/ERW RE monitoring sessions reach all sectors of the society (men, women, boys and girls) to ensure sex and age disaggregated data is collected.
- Review the current Mine/ERW RE tasking criteria/indicators for community selection in consideration of the particular exposure of boys (aged 9 – 17) and men to mine and ERW accidents.

Conclusions (Victim Assistance)

Most accidents occurred in spring time while people were busy with agricultural activities.

- Men are at greatest risk.
- The number of children injured is less than for adults.
- The MRE programme was conducted in each of the surveyed points.
- Little government or NGO support was provided to survivors or indirect victims.
- There was no Disabled Rehabilitation in the four surveyed areas.
- There is a scarcity of life facilities (Schools, Health centres, Roads, Transportation) in the four areas.

Recommendations for Victim Assistance

- Identify the number of mine/ERW survivors by village, District, Province and gender to facilitate the provision of VA/disability services for victims of landmine and ERW, including indirect victims.
- Assess the current situation on Victim Assistance and support to disability services in Afghanistan to help/facilitate the priority settings for mine/ERW survivors and other PWDs.
- Support the development of the Afghanistan National Action Plan (ANDAP) for the provision and sustainability of the services for PWDs to ensure all components of Victim Assistance are addressed.

Capacity Development:

A small group of Afghan nationals (from MACCA, DMC, AIRD and some IPs) has now had good exposure to the theory and practice of sustainable livelihood surveys in mine action situations during three surveys in central, northern, western and north-eastern Afghanistan. This group has shown that it is collectively capable of designing, planning, coordinating, conducting, analyzing and reporting such surveys, apart from the collection and analysis of data related to the financial returns from mine action investment.

This third livelihoods survey had limited, but strategic, inputs from international staff at the planning, training and reporting stages. These inputs improved the rigour of the survey, and the English and layout of the report, as well as leading on the economic analysis of survey findings.

It is felt that the cadre of experience livelihood surveyors is now well able to train others in the theory and practice of livelihood surveys, especially given the existence of training materials (e.g. photos, videos and flip chart examples of maps and other tools from the field) in English and Dari.

Continued links to internationally-recognized organizations, such as GICHD, provide additional credibility to the outputs of MACCA surveys.

Recommendations:

Future surveys could be conducted without any international support, as long as the same survey format and survey objectives are maintained.

If the objectives for the surveys change, or if it is felt that the tools need to be modified, then it may be worth bringing in international expertise to assist with the necessary modifications in design and implementation. It may also be that external expertise can help with the collection of data sets (from secondary sources and/or primary data) that will assist with the economic analyses (e.g. land values, crop and livestock production and gross margin values etc.).

Alternatively, Afghan nationals could be trained in the collection of appropriate datasets and their analysis. However, it is not possible to foresee all the questions that future Livelihood surveys might ask, so links to external expertise should be maintained.

The support from AIRD should be further strengthened or formalized as at present it depends on the availability of experienced female and male staff.

Introduction

As a result of more than 30 years of war in Afghanistan, landmines and ERW have been used extensively by different military forces. Russian forces, the Russian-backed Afghan forces and the Mujahedeen, used landmines during their fighting. Extensive use of ordnance by Russian and Afghan forces created a significant ERW problem in the country. After the fall of the pro-Soviet regime, extensive and indiscriminate use of mines continued during fighting between mujahedeen warring factions and then between Taliban and anti-Taliban forces called the Northern Alliance. The United States led coalition military action following the 11th September 2001 terrorist attacks resulted in further ERW contamination in the country.

Despite extensive demining operations, there are still 5,689 known hazardous areas covering 571 sq km of land throughout the country, impacting lives and livelihoods of the communities. Although the casualty rate has dramatically reduced, still there is an average of 30 victims per month as a result of landmine and ERW explosions.

Below are tables showing the disaggregated information in each region by type of device

Table 1.Mine contamination by region

Region	No. of AP Minefield	Size of AP Minefield (sq km)	No. of AT Minefield	Size of AT Minefields (sq km)	Number of ERW contaminated areas	Size of ERW contaminated areas(sq km)
Central	1,867	110.77	421	58	60	17.50
East	154	13.37	97	9	9	3.35
North	555	19.07	48	2	20	1.50
North East	1,018	53.67	28	1	47	15.62
South	234	54.21	188	91	29	2.15
South East	212	21.04	263	42	5	1.49
West	111	34.68	274	51	21	14.66
Total	**4,151**	**306.81**	**1,319**	**254**	**191**	**56.27**

As a result of current mine and ERW contamination, a total of 1,815 communities are directly impacted; besides, there is indirect impact of this contamination on other communities, because hazard areas located in a community also affect neighboring communities.
Mine and ERW contamination is a major barrier to livelihoods of the communities and has hindered the implementation of development projects aimed to assist impacted and non-impacted communities.

Background of the Mine Action and Livelihoods Survey

For better understanding of the effect of mine action intervention on development & livelihoods of the communities, the Mine Action Coordination Center of Afghanistan (MACCA) and the Government of Afghanistan Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) initiated a series of mine action and livelihoods surveys.

To initiate this process, the MACCA contracted the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), working within the framework of the MoU between the GICHD and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), to assist in the design and implementation of a pilot project.

Initial discussions between the MACCA and the GICHD led to an agreement to adopt a Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) approach for the community-level survey and analysis work.

The first survey was conducted in 2010, through which 25 communities in Kabul, Parwan, Balkh and Samangan provinces were surveyed. The second survey in 2011 was conducted in the west of the country where four locations in Herat Province were surveyed.

In both the first and second surveys, two international consultants and also national consultants were involved. The involvement of the two international consultants contributed not only to successful completion of the survey, but also created capacity in MACCA to conduct further surveys without direct involvement of the international consultants.

The third landmines and livelihoods survey was designed and conducted by two national staff of MACCA and national consultants from Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). The third survey was implemented during September 2012 in Badakhshan province in the northeast region of the country.

The most prominent change from previous surveys is that in this third survey there was no direct involvement of international staff; rather the capacity had been developed in MACCA and DMC national staff to plan, conduct and analyse the survey in consultation with male and female consultants from the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

Objectives of the Survey

There are four main objectives as below:

1. Learning – to gain a better understanding of the development outcomes and impacts accruing from demining and how to enhance these through:
    a. revisions to the criteria and priority setting process used for demining, MRE and victim assistance
    b. enhanced linkages with the government counterparts and development organisations
2. Accountability – more complete reporting to the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and donors on the contribution made by the MAPA to Afghanistan's development
3. Capacity Development – ensure the MAPA, in partnership with Afghan livelihoods experts, can conduct such surveys on a periodic basis and analyse the data using the SL framework

4. Quality Management – inform the post-clearance survey efforts of demining operators (internal QA) and the MACCA/DMC (external QA plus national standards) on quality at the development outcome level

Survey Location and Selection of Communities

The focus of this survey was the Northeast Region of Afghanistan, comprising the two districts of Badakhshan province.

The four communities included in this survey are all in Badakhshan Province. The northeast regional staff shortlisted 10 communities on the basis of security, accessibility, contrast between urban and rural settings, land type blocked (agricultural, grazing or residential), contrast between types of hazard (mines and ERW), and cleared or on-going clearance sites. After further assessment, these 10 communities were reduced to four on the basis of current security reports.

The communities surveyed were: Bay Malasi (Argo District) with 100 families; Urusak (Faizabad District) with 90 families; Artin Jelow (Argo District) with 110 families and Chata (Faizabad District) with 160 families.

The MACCA database provided details for the four chosen communities. These are in Annex 2 and the profiles of the communities are given in Annex 3.

Survey Implementation

Meeting With Badakhshan Governmental Authorities:

Prior to start of the survey, the MACCA and DMC staff involved in the survey, accompanied by the head of the Badakhshan ANDMA, had a meeting with the governor of Badakhshan Province and briefed him about the survey and its objectives. The Governor was very interested and highlighted how important mine action is for the development of Badakhshan Province. He promised support of the governmental authorities for the successful completion of the survey.

The governor of Badakhshan is briefed about the survey objectives and location of the survey

Training:

As preparation for the survey, there was a three days' training for the survey teams to ensure a common understanding of the survey objectives and to practice the survey and data collection tools.

Annex One provides a list of the participants and facilitators.

The purposes of the training were to**:**

- Gain a common understanding of the task
- Understand the principles, approaches and tools to be used in the survey
- Practice the tools and skills that will be used in the survey
- Agree on teams, roles, equipment, timetable and logistics for the survey.

The training covered the following topics:

- The SL approach
- Gender and mine action
- SL analysis tools
- Quantitative data for the economic analysis of mine action
- Land allocation and land use questions
- Logistics of the survey

Group work during training in Badakhshan

The Organizations Involved

1. MACCA
2. DMC
3. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD)
4. Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
5. Demining organizations:
   - Danish Demining Group (DDG)
   - Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)
   - Mine Clearance Planning Agency
   - Organization for Mine Awareness and Rehabilitation (OMAR)

Human Resources

MACCA

From the MACCA side, Qudos Ziaee and Samim Hashimi who gained experiences from conducting two previous landmine and livelihoods surveys led the technical aspects of the exercise, including detailed design, planning, practical training, and support during field work, analysis of community data, and reporting**.**

DMC Staff

Two staff from DMC who took part in previous two surveys were also engaged in the third survey. They coordinated implementation of the survey with the provincial and district authorities, and also took part in the data collection process with the survey teams.

Afghan National Consultants

Based on a contract signed between MACCA and MRRD/AIRD, one male and one female national consultant from AIRD were involved in survey implementation, data analysis and report writing.

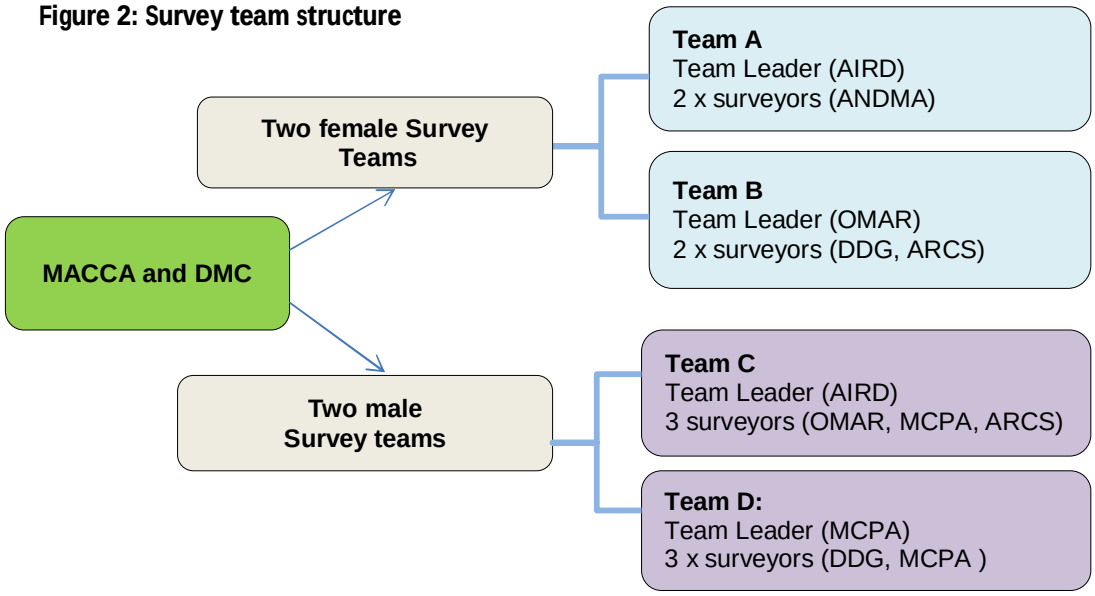
Survey Teams

There were four survey teams from a mix of the above organizations. Some of the survey teams which took part in previous surveys were also involved in this third survey.
The male consultant was roaming between the two male teams and the female consultant was roaming between the two female teams providing help and advice to the teams. In addition DMC staff and MACCA staff accompanied teams in the field.

Team members (TL = Team Leader):

Team A (female):	Team B (female):	Team C (male):	Team D (male):
1. Gulalai	**1. Mariam**	**1. Shapoor Qayomi**	**1. Mohammad Ayaz**
2. Tamkeen	2. Mahboba	2. Rafiq Khan	2. Abdul Hadi
3. Wahida	3. Mahboba	3. Hamid Haidari	3. Nimatullah
		4. Abdul Saboor	4. Gul Agha

Figure 2: Survey team structure



Mahram (Chaperones)

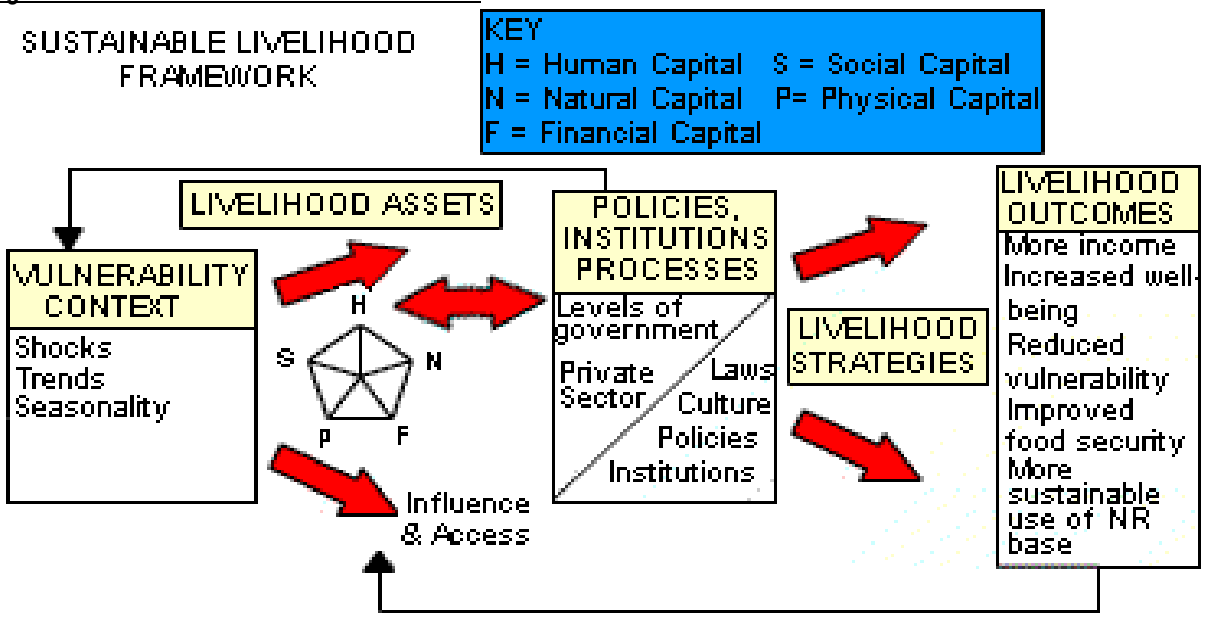
Since the female surveyors were not from Badakhshan, each of them was accompanied by a Mahram during their stay in Badakhshan. The chaperones did not travel with the female surveyors to the communities when they were going for data collection during the day.

Methodology

As in the two previous surveys, the Sustainable Livelihood Approach was used for the Badakhshan survey as a basis for obtaining a balanced and holistic view of the situation in ERW/landmine-affected communities.

The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, which is presented in Figure one below, has been developed to help understand the result of mine action work on development and livelihoods of the communities.

Figure 1:Sustainable livelihoods framework



The framework views people as operating in a context of vulnerability, shown at the left of Figure One. Within this context, they have access to certain assets or poverty reducing factors (human, social, natural, financial and physical capital). The levels and utilization of these assets are influenced by the external political, institutional and legal environment. Together people's assets and the external environment influence household's livelihood strategies in pursuit of beneficial livelihood outcomes that meet their own livelihood objectives. Within this asset-based approach, a number of PRA tools were applied.

Survey Tools

Below is a list of the tools that were used by male and female survey teams for collecting the data during survey:

- Analysis of available data regarding the communities which were selected for the survey, particularly the MACCA IMSMA database
- A comprehensive introduction to provide information on the team, the objectives of the mission, the potential (realistic) benefits that might come to the community, the methods to be used, people to be involved and time table for the visit
- A "Time-Line" to understand the community's experiences from the time the area was contaminated with mines/ERW up to the present. Once the time-line has been drawn a number of questions were asked about survivors/victims, MRE and the use and economic value of assets cleared
- "Community Maps" drawn-up with the villagers. Note that these are not classical PRA social maps, but a rapid mapping exercise to show the relationship between the village and the contaminated/cleared areas. Once the map was drawn further questions were asked about the use and economic value of assets cleared
- Identification of groups of better-off and poor community households for interview using separate focus group discussions, daily clocks and seasonal calendars
- A series of focus group discussions with community leaders, and community members from different age, sex and socio-economic groups
- Daily clocks and seasonal calendars
- Case studies of landmine/ERW survivors and indirect victims
- Economic quantitative data collection questionnaire
- A review by all surveyors to share impressions and conclusions from the visit

Survey Material

Each male and female survey team was equipped with the following equipment when going to the communities for survey:

- Flip charts
- marker pens
- notebooks
- biro pens
- steel ruler
- compass
- digital camera

Stakeholders

The principal stakeholders of the survey are MACCA, DMC, MRRD/AIRD, mine action IPs, donors and the Government of Afghanistan.

Survey Process

As shown in the visit schedule below, each community was visited by a men's and women's team over a two-day period. The community was contacted prior to the team's arrival, and the visit started with a formal introduction of the team and its objectives, taking care not to raise expectations among community members. The introductions were followed by the Time Line and Community Maps. During these processes, community members identified landmine/ERW survivors and indirect victims who were subsequently interviewed. In addition, the communities identified six

poor and six better-off households, and the teams interacted with these socio-economic groups separately using focus group discussion, daily clock and seasonal calendar tools. A photographic record was taken of the village and the survey process.

A review of the survey findings, processes and tools was carried out on 19 Sep 2012. All materials, carefully labeled, were collected by AIRD consultants for translation.

Table 2: Community visit schedule

Community Name	District	Women's team/days	Men's team/days
Baimalsi	Argo	A (15-16 Sep 2012)	C (15-16 Sep 2012)
Artin Jelow	Argo	B (15-16 Sep 2012)	D (15-16 Sep 2012)
Urusak	Faizabad	B (17-18 Sep 2012)	C (17-18 Sep 2012)
Chata	Faizabad	A (17-18 Sep 2012)	D (17-18 Sep 2012)
There was one day debriefing by all the teams on 19 Sep 2012 in a training hall in Badakhshan city			

Collected Data & Report Writing

Apart from some minor issues, the data collection went very well. People met with in the communities were very willing to participate, and provided detailed information related to survey objectives. The surveyors used questions from the checklists in the local language including follow-up key questions with supplementary "probing" questions (who, what, why, where, when, how). This helped the villagers to provide the detailed information correctly and honestly.
Using the economic data collection questionnaires, the teams collected information for analysis of the economic benefit of demining.
All the collected data and other materials were translated by AIRD staff and the soft copy translations and hard copy original field materials were used by the report writing team (Shapur Qayyumi, Qudos Ziaee and Samim Hashimi) to develop the report. There were some discrepancies in the translations, but the report writing team could use the original field data to ensure the accuracy of what was reflected in the report.

A stakeholder feedback meeting held in Kabul, during which the recommendations of the survey was discussed and suggested changes incorporated into the report.

Part Related To Survey Findings

The survey collected valuable information and recommendations from four communities on the impact of mine action on development, the economic returns from mine action, and on the prioritization, quality management, mine risk education and victim assistance aspects of mine action.

The survey findings about each of the above mentioned issues are reflected separately along with some case studies.

Apart from describing briefly gender and diversity in the context of mine action (next section), this issue has also been integrated into the different parts of the report.

There are conclusions and recommendations for each section derived from the data collected by survey teams, the observations of surveyors, supervisors and consultants, secondary data and the experience of the team members.

There is also a part describing the conclusion on the capacity of MACCA personnel to be able to design, conduct, analyze and report on future landmines and livelihoods surveys.

Gender and Mine Action

Women, girls, boys and men are affected differently by landmines/ERW and, therefore, need to be assisted in different ways. Gender influences the type and intensity of exposure to landmines/ERW, the risk of becoming a victim, and the ability to access medical and psychological services, long term reintegration, and mine/ERW-risk education and employment opportunities.

Due to their gender-specific mobility patterns, roles and responsibilities, women, girls, boys and men often hold different information on areas that are contaminated, or suspected of being contaminated, in their communities. If all groups are not consulted in information gathering activities, vital and life-saving information may be lost. In other areas of mine action, such as victim assistance and Mine/ERW- risk education, gender determines the access to and impact of activities and services, where females often face more restrictions compared to males. Gender specific roles and responsibilities can also mean that women, girls, boys and men have distinct clearance priorities.

Gender Equality in Mine Action

Mine action is an integral part of the wider development and humanitarian sector, and therefore contributes to the achievement of United Nations' Millennium Development Goal 3: "Promote gender equality and empower women". Mine action organizations are obliged to ensure gender equality and to actively empower women in their activities, and can do so in the following ways:

1. Offer non-traditional employment opportunities for women.
2. Include female survivors and heads of households affected by landmines/ERW in socio-economic reintegration and inclusion programmes.
3. Include females in consultations with the communities about mine/ERW contamination and priority-setting for clearance and other mine action activities.

Gender Sensitive Surveys

A gender perspective has been mainstreamed throughout the process of this survey. The MACCA gender focal point was involved in all the phases of the survey - planning, training, implementation, data analysis and report writing. In order to access both females and males in the affected communities' two female survey teams participated in the survey. This enabled the survey to reach out to both female and male community members, and to acknowledge, identify and understand the differences, distinct capabilities, responsibilities, needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men. All data was collected and analyzed in a sex and age disaggregated manner, enabling a thorough gender analysis, identifying gender specific issues and patterns. Key gender

considerations during the course of the survey included the following:

- Male surveyors cannot generally access female community members due to cultural restrictions
- *Solution*: Experienced and qualified women were trained to work in all-female survey teams
- Some survey tools were deemed not to be appropriate for women and girls in the affected communities
- *Solution*: Female surveyors played an active role in adapting the tools to the local context
- Cultural restrictions and norms prevent some women from travelling and working away from their family and home area

Solutions:

1. Women were recruited locally to the extent possible
2. Women from outside of Badakhshan were accompanied by a Mahram (male family member)

Interview with women

Conclusion

The MACCA/MAPA continues to improve its staff awareness and management thus providing an enhanced gender-sensitive institutional capacity and work environment. The MACCA has also raised awareness with regards to the importance of gender equity within all areas of mine action and is working steadily to strengthen its access to women and information gathering strategies to ensure all target groups are well represented in mine action decision making processes.

Impacts of Mine Action on Development

Selection of the four communities was in such a way to know the mine action situation and impact on both urban and rural communities. The number of communities surveyed was small, so cannot be fully representative of all affected communities in the region. However, selection sought to contrast urban and rural settings, different types of contamination and different stages of clearance.

Of the four communities surveyed, two are close to Faizabad city and can be classified as urban

(Bay Malasi and Chata villages), while the other two are rural (Urusak and Artin Jelow villages). Each of the communities had its own distinct character which is described in the Community Profiles **(Annex 3).**

Most of the agricultural land in Bay Malasi, Artin Jelow, Urusak and Chata villages is rain fed. These fields had been heavily contaminated by mines and ERW. According to villagers, in the past there had been several accidents on villagers and mostly on their animals; furthermore, they could not use these lands due to the risk from mines/ERW.

All four communities are distinct in terms of their physical, natural, human, social and financial assets, resulting in their facing different challenges and opportunities for development. Three surveyed villages, Artin Jelow, Chata and Bay Malasi, have main road access, enabling marketing of products and access to employment opportunities. However, Urusak village does not have a good road to connect its inhabitants to the center of the district; especially in winter and the rainy season, the road is in bad condition because of mud and steep gradients. This requires the Urusak people to walk long distances by foot to reach the center of the district.

Two of the four communities, Urusak and Artin Jelow, do not have access to electricity; the two others, Bay Malasi and Chata, have some limited access to electricity. In Chata village, the community has just started building a small dam, aiming to use it for providing full time electricity for the community.

Two of the four communities have no access to drinking water. This especially is a major challenge in Urusak village, as there is only one water fountain which provides drinking water for use by the community.

Development Opportunities Arising From Mine Action

It was found that in all four villages the people have great esteem for mine action. In all four communities the people highlighted the importance of mine action work in facilitating further development opportunities, and they were saying that mine action is a pre-condition for implementation of any other development projects. They stated "*We express our respect for the hard-working staff of the demining organization whose members are working bravely and honestly".*

The blocked assets released as a result of mine action intervention in four communities were mainly access road, residential areas, crop land, grazing land, and areas for building of schools and clinics.

Apart from enabling these development possibilities, the clearance has provided peace of mind to community members, especially for the women. When describing the situation before demining, people in the communities talked of their fear of injury and fatalities from mine accidents. According to villagers, the most valuable outcome of mine action is eliminating the fear and concern of being killed or injured while working in the agriculture lands, tending animals and walking around.

Another good result of demining is building schools on cleared land in the three communities,

Chata, Urusak and Artin Jelow, where the students are now studying.

In one community the men told us that mine action work also enabled communities to maintain relations with each other. **"***When there were mines we were not able to have easy access to our neighboring communities where we have relatives. We had to go long distances to participate in wedding parties, or take part in condolence ceremony if someone was dead in a neighboring community".*

Mine action has also facilitated the safe return of refugees and IDPs back to their communities by enabling them to know about danger of mines through MRE, and to clear residential areas so the IDPs and refugees are able to rebuild their residential areas after they were cleared of mines and ERWs.
The clearance of previous contaminated areas resulted in access of people to livelihoods sources, like farming, collecting firewood, tending animals, and building houses and shops.

The financial value of cleared land has increased after clearance. The increase of land value is most prominent in Bay Malasi village where the contaminated land was located close to the airport of Badakhshan.
The value of the land has been further enhanced by the building of houses, mosques, clinics, community centers, shops, schools, business and also the installation of facilities such as electricity, water, telephone and roads.
Information obtained through the daily clock and seasonal calendar tool reveals that men and women, boys and girls are differently exposed to risks from landmines/ERW, especially in spring, summer and autumn. However, winter is a quiet time when all are mostly at home, so less exposed to landmine/ERW risk. From spring through to autumn, men are more engaged in farming activities than are women, and also in marketing and purchasing outside the village, which involves travel and possible risk from landmines/ERW. Boys are also involved in tending the animals, and, like men, are more exposed to risks from mines and ERW.
When asked about the danger and negative impacts of mine/ERW, all groups; men, women and children stated that they know that mines and ERW created many problems in the village, that there have been many mine and ERW accidents in the past and that mine/ERW damaged different livelihoods assets of the communities.

The survey findings indicate that there is big difference between the number of victims recorded in MACCA data base and what the community members told to the survey teams. This discrepancy of victim data had also been found in the two previous Livelihood surveys. There might be some factors behind this discrepancy of data, such us poor data collection, confusion over the area under estimation and might also be to some extent due to exaggeration by the communities.

S#		Mine/ERW According to MACCA Database		Mine/ERW Victims According to villagers	
	Village	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
1	Urusak	0	0	45	13
2	Chata	0	3	20	15
3	Bay Malasi	23	16	28	19
4	Artin Jelow	0	0	8	7

Box 1: Mine action benefits to women and girls in the four communities

- Female respondents in one community pointed out that they "feel safe and secure" – the psychological impact of not worrying as much about accidents was highlighted by most women
- The women interviewed in Chata village where all contaminated areas have been cleared highlighted moving around freely and safely, and sending their children safely to school, as key benefits resulting from clearance. But in the three other communities where still there are mine and ERW contaminated areas, residents showed their continuing concern about these areas. They said that mine action organisations should clear all contaminated areas and if an area is not planned to be cleared soon, then the areas shall be marked so the children and people know where the hazardous area starts and thus avoid going there.
- Free movement – *"we can use the cleared lands "* - was highlighted by most women as a key benefit stemming from clearance
- Many women pointed out that one key benefit stemming from clearance is that they no longer worry about their children having accidents: *" We can move and walk easily and our children can play without fear"*
- The safe conduct of agricultural activities was underlined as a key benefit. Corn, lentils, watermelon and wheat are common crops
- A group of women in Bay Malasi pointed out: *"we are thanking mine action teams who helped us a lot"*
- A group of interviewed girls in Artin Jelow and Urusak villages pointed out that they: *"can go to school, play and go to other villages"*
- Girls in one community said: *"we now feel safe".* They also highlighted that when there had been landmines, they did not feel safe when playing, collecting firewood and fetching water

Another important development result of clearance in communities where demining work is completed is that communities notice that the completion of demining attracts development organizations to plan and implement development projects in their communities. For example in Chata village, apart from school, clinics and building the road, the community asked a development organization to plant the surrounding hillsides of the village with the trees to transform them into a green area. Other sides of the hill were previously a mine and ERW contaminated area which was cleared by a mine action organization. Now they have succeeded to plant more than 45,000 small trees there. It was interesting when they told us that using donkeys, they carry big plastic barrels full of water to irrigate these small trees. The villagers say that now, because the trees are small and need less water, they can manage to irrigate them, but they are trying through the government to attract help of some development organizations to build a water supply system so they could easily irrigate these trees in future.

Newly planted trees in Chata village to make the srounding hills green

Development Challenges and Constraints

Once the threat of mines/ERW is removed, community members are theoretically able to use the assets cleared for productive purposes. However, they are often constrained by lack of cash (to start, maintain or expand their businesses), poor availability of, or access to, inputs for agriculture or construction, or lack of training in the enterprises that are best suited to the prevailing social and economic conditions. Lack of literacy can be a constraint, as can the lack of linkages to support organizations or lack of political support.

Water for irrigation is a constraint to most communities of Badakhshan, even when they are close to a major river called Kokcha, but since most of the lands are located higher than the river bed, they cannot use the water of Kokcha for irrigation, nor have attempts been made by government or by any development organizations to use the Kokcha for irrigation purposes.

Development Priorities of Communities

The table below lists the priorities identified by community women and men during our discussions with them. In addition, all expressed the wish that clearance should be completed in their communities.

Table: Development priorities as expressed by community women and men

Village	Women	Men
Bay Malasi	Literacy and vocational courses, school,	Access road to rain fed agriculture areas, water for irrigation, clinic, vocational training, flood protection wall
Artin Jelow	School, literacy and vocational training courses, clinic, safe drinking water	Clinic, school, electricity, vocational courses, drinking water, tower for telecommunication
Urusak	Safe water for drinking, vocational training, road, clinic	Clinic, Road, Water for drinking, vocational trainings, electricity
Chata	Literacy and vocational courses	School, drinking water system, dam for irrigation

Conclusions (Development Outcomes and Impact)

Overall it was found that the people are familiar with demining activities, which are perceived as saving lives, encouraging the refugees and IDPs to return to their villages, enabling them to cultivate their lands, tend their animals, collect fire wood, build their houses, schools and clinics, and walk free without fear, as well as creating opportunities for implementing development projects.

Clearance enables a wide range of land and non-land activities and employment opportunities and encourages internal and external investment. It also enables the building of schools, and safer access to schools for children and teachers.

The population wants demining activities to be strengthened, especially in communities where nothing has been done recently. People generally hope that clearance activities will be extended to all areas. The villagers including victims also need vocational and literacy training.

Recommendations (Development Outcomes and Impact)

- MAPA should continue to conduct regular landmines and livelihoods surveys in partnership with AIRD in order to understand the livelihoods and development outcomes of mine action at the household and community levels, and to plan or stimulate post-clearance development activities that are appropriate for the specific situations, needs and priorities of each community.
- MAPA partners should take development and livelihoods impacts of mine action in communities into account from the beginning of developing a demining project, and should be tracked after the implementation of the demining project to be sure that the development outcomes are in line with expectations
- MACCA should assess the challenges/constraints of the above recommendation and provide appropriate advice to mine action organizations on how to achieve this
- Mine action and development should be linked through the coordination of communication, monitoring, research and development initiatives
- MACCA and DMC should ensure that communities' development needs and priorities are shared with development organizations to strengthen the link between mine action and development

- In order to maximize the developmental benefits for women, the organizations involved should ensure that the development priorities of women are taken into account in information gathering and prioritization processes, and in post clearance activities, and that all information is disaggregated and analyzed by sex and age.

Economic Returns to Investment in Mine Action

Quantitative Analysis

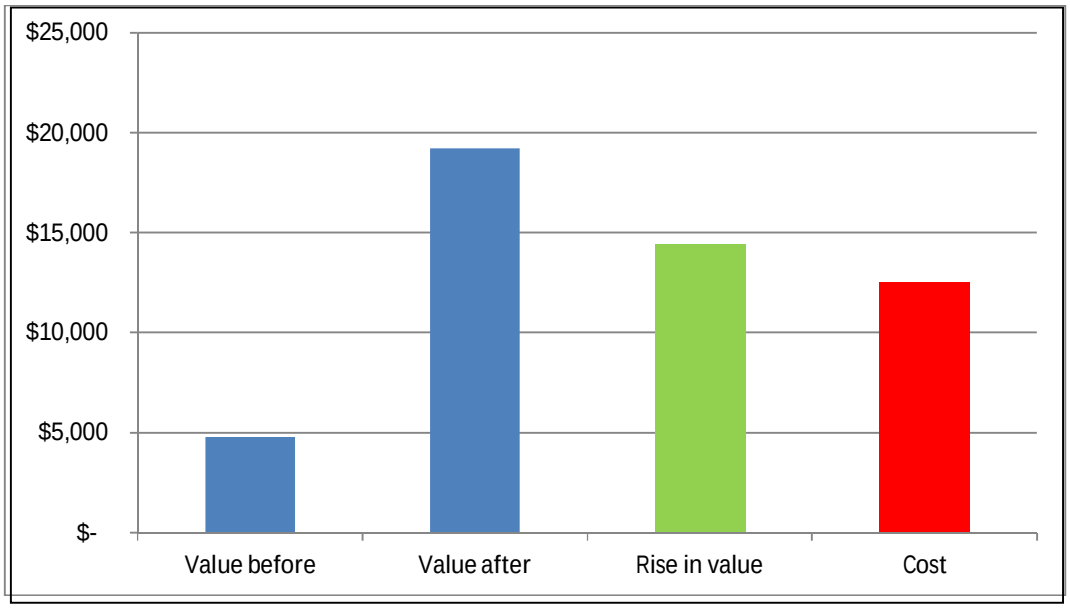
Cost of Demining

According to MACCA records, a total of just over 646,000 sqm of area, comprising 25 minefields, have been cleared in the four communities. At MACCA's standard cost estimates, this represents an investment of about USD 808,000, although the actual costs were probably higher because Badakhshan is somewhat remote and the average task was relatively small at 2.5 ha.

Reported Use of Land

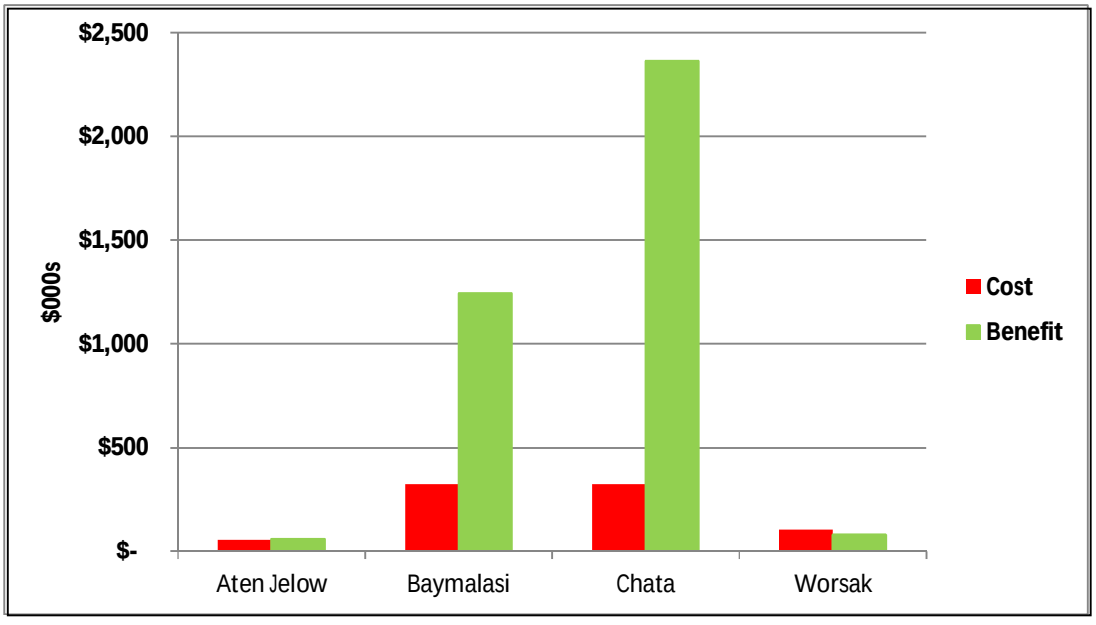
The post-clearance dominant land use reported was for crop agriculture, with wheat predominant followed by watermelon, alfalfa and pistachio. All communities reported that cleared land was also being used for grazing livestock (cows, sheep and goats), while houses have been built on cleared land in Bay Malasi, Chata and (especially) Urusak. Both Bay Malasi and Chata reported that clearance provided residents with access to stone or sand for building purposes.

Unfortunately, the data collected was inadequate for calculating the economic returns stemming from the use of the cleared land. However, all communities reported land sales values before and after clearance, which provide some indication of the economic value of clearance. The logic is depicted in the graph below, using the figures reported for Artin Jelow as an example. The first two columns depict the reported value of land before and after clearance, respectively. The third column shows the rise in value after the clearance took place: presumably, most if not all of the rise in value was due to the elimination of the landmine threat, so the rise in value represents the economic benefit stemming from clearance. In this case, the economic benefit (i.e. rise in land value) is a bit more than the cost of the demining (the fourth column) so we can conclude that the benefits exceed costs.



The chart below compares costs (based on the average cost of demining per square meter in Afghanistan) and benefits (based on the difference between the reported land value before and after clearance). Land values in Bay Malasi and Chata are very high, as these are close to or easily reached from Faizabad city. Regardless, the reported figures may well overstate the benefits because residents in the communities may be reporting the highest land values rather than the average land values for all areas cleared. Regardless, the picture is, nonetheless, indicative: economic benefits clearly exceed clearance costs in both Bay Malasi and Chata while costs and benefits are about equal in Artin Jelow and costs probably exceed benefits in Urusak.

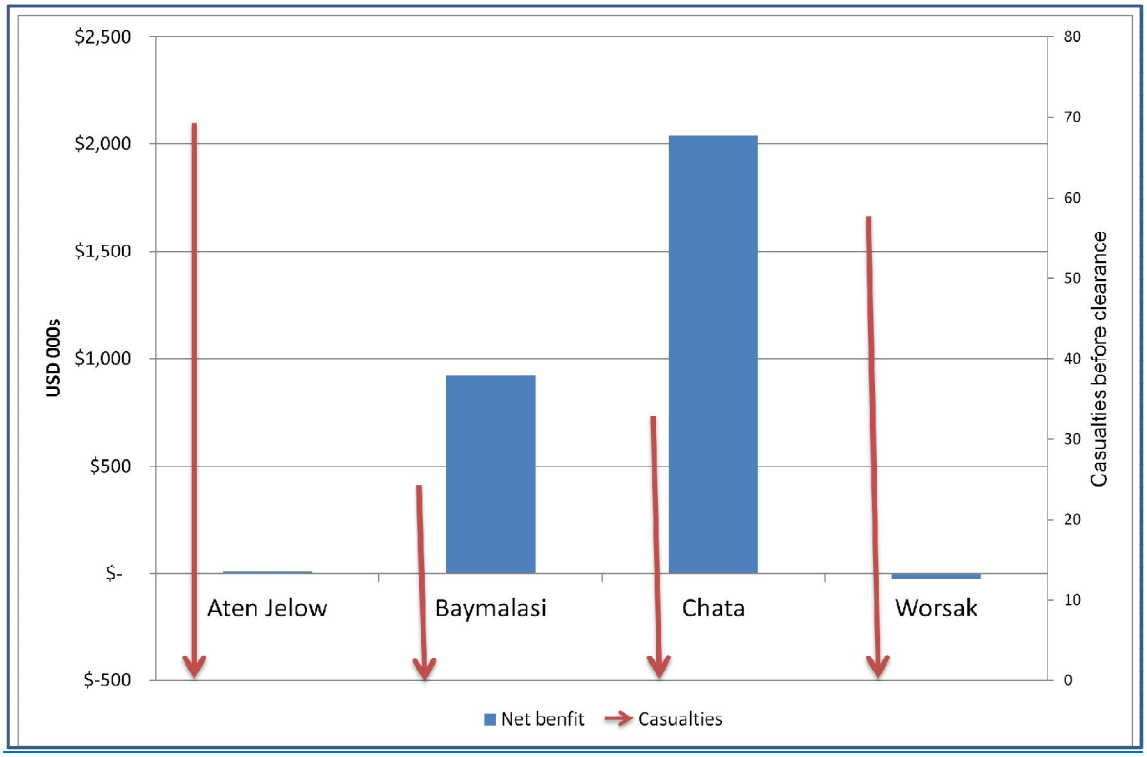
Figure 1 – Estimated costs and economic benefits from demining



Casualty Reduction

The four communities reported a total of 185 casualties from landmines in the years prior to clearance. In addition to the intrinsic value of saving lives and limbs, an elimination of such casualties also reduces economic costs stemming from the loss of productive labour and the care that families need to provide for disabled survivors of landmine accidents. The graph below summarizes the net economic benefits (benefits minus costs) and the casualty reduction benefits for each of the communities.

Figure 2 – Net economic benefits and casualty reduction in the four communities



Resettlement

Residents from Artin Jelow, Chata, and Bay Malasi all report that some residents fled to other provinces or neighboring countries during periods of heavy conflict (particularly prior to the departure of Soviet forces in 1989). Clearance likely contributed to the decision of some to return, and the residents of Bay Malasi , in particular, highlighted that the returns happened after demining operations began in 19 92.

Recommendations for Future Surveys

Should MACCA want an economic analysis of demining operations as part of future Landmine and Livelihoods exercises, it should consider the following steps:

- Prior to the field survey, compile dossiers of basic information on all communities to be visited from the IMSMA database and other sources. This data should include, at least:
    - Recorded population

  - Recorded landmine and UXO casualties
  - Areas of suspected and confirmed mine/UXO contamination
  - Areas cleared (minefields; BAC)
  - The reported intended use of land post-clearance
  - Whether return/resettlement was one of the justifications given for demining
- Training for surveyors on how to use information from the community dossiers during the community visits, both to verify that information and to indicate when more probing might be useful (e.g. when there are significant discrepancies between the information in the dossier and the information from residents during the community visits)
- Training to the social scientists from AIRD and to MACCA and DMC personnel supporting the survey teams in basic quantitative analysis and the data requirements for this, so they can are alert to opportunities to collect more detailed data on specific cases when and if these opportunities arise

In addition, MACCA should expect some gaps in the data collected in future surveys, and that it may uncover opportunities for more detailed economic analysis (case studies) of certain demining tasks. It should consider the possibility of contacting community leaders after the community visits to clarify data, plug data gaps, and explore specific case studies in greater detail.

Prioritisation of Mine Action

One of the objectives of the survey was to assess and further improve the prioritization process of MAPA, based on which mine action projects are designed, planned and implemented in the field.
The initial decision on priority planning of hazard projects is based on the negative impacts which the hazard areas impose on the community. There are impact indicators and a scoring process for priority setting process of MAPA based on which the contaminated areas for clearance are categorized as high, medium and low impacted areas. Hazards with scores above 9 are classified as high impact, hazards with scores 6 to 9 are classified as medium impact and hazards that score 5 or lower are classified as low impact. Hazards with recorded victims and those that block resettlement are automatically classified as high impact.
During 2012, in light of the Ottawa treaty, the MACCA and DMC worked on a 10-year extension request. In preparation for this extension request each MF and battle field BF was further analyzed and categorized resulting in the allocation of an "Ottawa Ranking". The Ottawa Ranking refers to the priority for clearance. The factors used to determine the Ottawa Ranking are shown in the table below.

Indicators for Ottawa ranking

Impact classification factor	**Ottawa Ranking**
Victims in the last 2 years	1
High impact with victims beyond 2 years	2
High & medium impact	3
Population over 100	4
Low impact,	5
Low impact, top of mountains	6

Any hazard which has caused an accident within the last two years has been given an Ottawa Ranking of 1; this means that such hazards will be cleared first. Any hazard which is already classified in IMSMA as high impact and has caused an accident in any time frame beyond 2 years has been given an Ottawa Ranking of 2 and is the second priority for clearance. All remaining hazards which are already classified as high and medium impact have been given an Ottawa Ranking of 3. All low impact hazards which affect a population of over 100 people have been given an Ottawa Ranking of 4. Remaining low impact hazards have been given an Ottawa Ranking of 5, with the exception of low impact hazards on the top of mountains, which now have an Ottawa Ranking of 6.
The indicators are reflected in IMSMA and the update information collected about each single hazard areas is linked with these indicators. For example if there was a recorded hazard area causing blockage to safe use of grazing, but with no recorded accident , then the area might be classed as medium impact, but if a new assessment reported an accident to the community or the people requested its immediate clearance because a school or a hospital is going to be built, then the impact of the hazardous area will be changed from low, to medium or medium to high, because the new information is recorded into the IMSMA resulting in an automatic change of the hazard impact status.

In light of the impact indicators and Ottawa Ranking, the mine action programme of Afghanistan is now conducting the clearance of mine and ERW contaminated areas based on a project approach, because the project approach enables better monitoring and evaluation of each project. In addition resource mobilization for individual or groups of projects has been a successful strategy within MAPA in recent years. The mine action organization that is going to implement the project is responsible for conducting the refresher assessment of each individual hazardous area of the project, and providing a mixture of update information from feedback it receives from consultation with the communities and its own technical judgment.

In order to maintain community satisfaction, community involvement is critical for prioritization of a hazard area for clearance or for planning MRE.

Survey Findings on The Priority Process Of Mine Action

The survey teams used different tools to collect information from the communities on this topic; however the most useful tool was the focus group discussions conducted with groups of women, girls, boys and men on the mine action processes, the inclusion of communities in priority setting and the satisfaction of community members with the conduct and outcome of hazard clearance.

The survey findings in the majority of cases indicate that the communities are satisfied with the priority setting process used by MAPA. The people in all four villages expressed that they are happy because the most important areas which were in immediate need of clearance according to the villagers have been cleared by mine action teams.

In Artin Jelow village the people stated that clearance of an area which was in the center of the village resulted in the construction of a school where their children can go for education.

The respondents in the four communities told us that mine action work brought benefits mostly to poor people as these people can now go everywhere to tend animals and also collect fire wood.

"We are grateful to the work of demining team, because, if there was no demining in our village, we could not collect fire wood from areas which were in the past full of mines."

They also added that: *"since the mined areas are in our grazing land and those who are collecting fire wood or tending animal are mostly at risk; therefore, the grazing areas should have priority for clearance."*

Women were found to be deprived of having a chance to directly communicate their clearance priorities to mine action teams. There appears to be a specific problem in sharing and receiving information with community women, as due to lack of female community liaison staff in demining organizations there were no instances of mine action organizations consulting with female members of the communities on priority of area for clearance. For instance, the women interviewed told the female survey teams that this survey is the first time they have been asked about their clearance priorities. However, some of them said that when there were discussions in their houses about demining teams; they told their husbands which area is important and which should be cleared first.

In three of the villages, the survey teams found that the villagers were satisfied with clearance operations, as according to them the prioritization was done in consultation with the community. But in one village, the people said that although they are happy with the work of the mine action organization, there was no consultation with the community.

Below two examples show the different perceptions of two distinct communities:

Participation in priority for Clearance: Bay Malasi Villages
Question: Are there still mine or ERW contaminated areas in your village?
Answer: Most of the areas have been cleared; in one area the demining team is working, and there is still a hazard area on Ghaza Mountain which needs to be cleared.
Question: Are you happy with the work of mine action, and have you been consulted on priority of area for clearance?
Answer: We are very grateful to mine action personnel because they talked to us, explained their plan and asked us for our preferences. We told them which area should be cleared first, and they worked based on our preferences. First they cleared the mine areas located within the center of the community and then the agriculture land and rain fed lands of the community.
Question: Do you have any suggestions?
Answer: That it would be good if the demining team clears the remaining hazard areas or at least marks them.

However, in Chata village, according to some people, there was a lack of consultation, and the demining teams conducted clearance without seeking the views of the community.

Participation in Priority for Clearance: Chata village

Question: Are there still mine or ERW contaminated areas in your community?
Answer: No, all the areas have been cleared by mine action teams.
Question: Were you consulted on which areas to be cleared first?
Answer: In recent years, no one from mine action consulted us.
Question: Really! Then how do you know all the areas have been cleared by mine action?
Answer: We found about their work, when they came to us to certify a document indicating that all areas have been cleared by them. We asked them to show us which areas have been cleared by them. I, with some other members of the community, went with the mine action team where they showed us the area cleared by them. When we saw the areas we found that all of the areas which we were afraid to use was not cleared, so we told the team that we are not going to certify your document as the clearance has been conducted without community consultation and that is why all parts of the contaminated areas have not been cleared. We told the team that the parts which they had not cleared should be cleared and then we will certify the document, otherwise in future there could be accidents to the people.

The team worked for seven more days and cleared the parts which we showed them and then we certified their document.

Although clearance is completed in our village, we recommend that in other villages, all mine action activities should be done in consultation with the community, rather than working without consultation and then coming to them for certification of their document.

Conclusion (Prioritization)

Apart from weak liaison in one community, the findings of the survey indicate that the priority setting process of MAPA is working very well. The criteria used to select the contaminated areas for clearance are really useful for directing the focus of demining operations on hazard areas which have blocked development of the communities and safe access of people to livelihood sources.

The findings of the survey reveals that, although the perception and preference of people on priority of contaminated areas for clearance was different and based on the community need, overall the criteria respondents had in setting priorities were: peace of mind, development of their community and safe access to agricultural, residential, road, water sources and grazing areas. These are all elements that have been considered in the priority setting criteria of MAPA.

Although community members were found to be satisfied with mine action work on clearing priority areas, in terms of consultation with the community it was found that only men of the community have been consulted, but not women and children. Also in one village the men told us that the demining team did not consult them on the conduct of clearance.

This indicates that, with the current approach of Ottawa ranking and projectization, there might be less attention by demining organization on seeking the consultation of the community to know their preferences.

Recommendations (Prioritization)

- To obtain women and girls' perception on priority areas, MACCA in consultation with the demining organizations should seek possible ways on obtaining different community members perception when collecting prioritization-related information from affected communities.
- MACCA and DMC should make sure that a process is in place through which the mine action operators working in a community conduct a detailed survey of the community where they completed clearance of all known hazardous areas to make sure no other hazard areas is left(e.g. Bay Malasi village, where people say that still there is a contaminated area in their village)
- The MACCA and DMC, in consultation with mine action implementing partners, should seek all possible ways to ensure that all hazardous areas within demining projects planned in a community shall be properly assessed in consultation with the community prior to implementation of the demining project. The assessment of each hazard should have a written statement from the community showing their satisfaction with the selection of the hazard for clearance.
- MACCA/DMC should take action about the suggestion of people on giving priority to marking of the contaminated areas not planned for immediate clearance, as this will avoid people crossing the hazardous areas.

Quality Management

To maintain safe and standardized mine action operations, there is need to have a proper quality management process in place. MACCA has a quality management department that is responsible for the conduct of external QA and QC of mine action operations in the field, to make sure operations carried out by demining organizations are in line with the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS).

There are different chapters of AMAS in the light of which the Demining organizations develop their standard operating procedures (SOP) and the quality of mine action operations is measured against AMAS and demining organizations SOPs.

All demining organizations working in Afghanistan shall be accredited by MACCA, otherwise they are not allowed and authorized to conduct mine action operations.

The accreditation process involves review of capabilities of the demining organization including review of their SOPs; their human resources, equipment, procedures, and also practical demonstration of mine action operations to find out how the capabilities are being applied in the field.
While the MACCA QM department conducts external QA and QC of mine action operations of demining organizations, there is also internal QA and QC conducted by each demining organization for their own teams.

External monitoring complements an internal monitoring system and verifies that the QA procedures and QC inspections of all mine action organizations working in Afghanistan are appropriate and being applied effectively. It provides MACCA with confidence that the land which was cleared is safe for its intended use

The findings of external QA and QC visits are shared with the relevant demining organizations and they are asked to provide their corrective action regarding any non-conformity found during QA or QC visits. The results of QA and QC visits, including the corrective actions specified, are recorded in the MACCA national database.

Survey Findings on Quality Management

The findings of the survey indicate that there is local trust in the quality of mine action outputs in terms of releasing safe land.

In all four communities visited during the survey, no one talked of any accident or incident within the cleared area after clearance was completed and the cleared areas were handed over back to the communities.

Most community members were very grateful for the work of demining teams and expressed their trust and confidence that the areas cleared by mine action teams are safe for their use. Surprisingly though, a person in Bay Malasi village told us that he dares not use his land which was cleared by the demining team as he still has concerns about the existence of mines and ERW in his land. Other members of the same community were saying that the clearance was conducted very well and that the demining teams briefed them after they completed the clearance. They added that the demining team told the villagers that if there is still concern about safety, then the demining team members will walk in any part of the cleared area.

To find out more, we asked the man who was not willing to use his land cleared by the demining further questions, and finally we found out that he was the witness of a mine accident that happened to his son and his brother which resulted in the death of his son and serious injuries to his brother. The accident had happened in previous years, when no clearance had been done. The man told us that although the demining teams cleared his land, when he remembers the sound of the previous accident and the bloody body of his son and brother, he dare not use his land again. He added: "I *will never let my children to enter the areas where once I lost my son as I do not want to lose my other children*" This shows the long-term trauma of the indiscriminate use of landmines, of which the ultimate victims are innocent people.

Interviewed women in Artin Jelow and Urusak villages pointed out that the *"Demining team's work is commendable, as they are clearing the areas where in the past many accidents happened to the people and animals, but after clearance our men and children can go there and we will not have any concern about their safety."*

The findings of the survey also revealed that, despite showing confidence about quality of demining work, there were some complains too. For example, in Chata village, the people complained about the lack of demining team consultation with the community on the prioritisation of clearance of hazard areas. The village leader told us that "*the clearance was conducted without consultation with the community".* Also, community members, including the women, girls and boys of Bay Malasi village, showed their concern about a remaining hazard area in their village which was not surveyed by mine action.

During the mapping exercise, and also during each separate focus group discussion we had with men, boys and women, they told us about an un-cleared hazard area in Ghaza Mountain of the village, while, according to the MACCA data base, all hazardous areas have been cleared and there was no record of such a hazard area. The villager said: "*There is still a contaminated area in Ghaza Mountain which needs to be cleared, because we are afraid that we or our children might become victims of a mine accident.*"

In all of the communities it was found through focus group discussions and case studies that the mine/ERW victims did not receive sufficient victim assistance; different groups of mine victims (women, girls, boys and men) stated that no one is following-up on this issue.

Demining team in Urusak village

Conclusions (Quality Management)

According to positive feedback received from communities showing their confidence in the quality of demining activities, and comparing the number of civilian accidents before clearance with the total absence of civilian accidents after clearance, it is obvious that the quality of the demining teams' outputs is good. External and internal QA and QC visits to demining operations have also contributed to the delivery of good quality demining services to the communities. However, looking at the comments of some respondents on the lack of proper consultation with the community for priority-setting, and the lack of recording and marking of remained hazards, there is need for further improving the focus of quality management on these aspects of mine action interventions.

Recommendations (Quality Management)

- Conduct random QA visits to assess and document handover processes of cleared land back to all members of the community. This will help MACCA to improve quality management and to document experiences to make sure that the process is working well.
- The MACCA quality management should assess the possibility of increasing the quality of mine action interventions on reducing civilian mine victims through the marking of hazardous areas not planned for immediate clearance.

- Since most community members are asking for the completion of a village, rather than clearing one hazard area and leaving others for the future, this issue should be highlighted during the project proposal review process to make an assessment if it is practical to complete clearance of all the hazards in the community.
- To ensure the linking of mine action with development and communities' livelihoods preferences, the MACCA QM process should establish a mechanism for identifying this issue at a very early stage of developing demining projects.
- Conduct of regular PDIA will ensure an understanding of the impact of implemented demining projects on communities.
- Since good quality NTS is critical for effective and efficient demining operations, random post-QA visits of survey operations carried out by demining organization should be planned and conducted by MACCA, so that they can objectively assess the survey capability of demining organizations.
- Quality management should have some focus on the process of community liaison of demining organizations with the communities so they can ensure the involvement of female and male community members in planning, implementation and outcome assessment of demining interventions.
- The quality management of MACCA should have a proper plan for conducting QA of victim assistance activities as there is no such systematic plan in place at the present time.

MINE/ERW RISK EDUCATION

Introduction:

The End Goal of the Government of Afghanistan for **Mine/ERW RE** will be achieved when a comprehensive and sustainable system is in place to educate and raise awareness to people and communities nationwide regarding the residual mine/ERW threats, including sufficient information to recognize and report these items to the appropriate authorities.

Mine/ERW RE refers to the educational activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines and ERW by raising awareness and promoting behavioral changes amongst 'at risk' groups. Mine/ERW RE should ensure that women, girls, boys and men in the affected communities are aware of the risks from mines and ERW and are encouraged to behave in a way which reduces the risk to people, property, and the environment. The objective is to reduce the risk to a level where people can live safely, and to re-create an environment where economic and social development can occur free from the constraints imposed by contamination.

The MRE operations within Afghanistan are based on:

- An operational principle of understanding the landmine/ERW threats to communities and individuals
- Identifying vulnerable and target groups
- Providing appropriate and targeted messages, and
- Confirming new knowledge used in annual planning and priority settings.

The Mine/ERW RE programme is currently comprised of the following MAPA MRE implementing partners:

1. OMAR
2. Handicap International (HI)
3. ARCS
4. Association for Aid and Relief (AAR Japan)
5. Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC)
6. DDG

Survey Findings – Mine/ERW RE In Badakhshan:

The survey included questions about when Mine/ERW RE was carried out, by whom and where and what should be done if any suspicious device of any kind is found.

The knowledge of mines and ERW and their location, the significance of different colours and the status of the demining activities varied between villages, but also between women, girls, boys and men.

Mine/ERW RE Focus Group Discussions

Artin Jelow Village, Argo District – Badakhshan

According to a focus group discussion with men, Mine/ERW RE trainings were conducted during 2009, 2010 and 2011 by the mine action organizations (OMAR and HI) in Masjids, schools and Madrasas (Religious schools) for men and boys, but for women the trainings were conveyed through men and boys – that is indirectly, rather than directly.

The focus group highlighted that the Mine/ERW RE was useful, and that community members involved understood different types of mines and they received information about the location of the minefields. They were able to differentiate different types of mines and their detonators, and the colors which show the dangerous and safe areas. A group of girls said that they were also able to attend the sessions in Masjids and schools, but mostly they received the information from their parents.

The majority of girls and boys in Artin Jelow have received MRE, and they mentioned that mines and ERW are dangerous and can be found in un-cleared and unknown areas. They said that they will report the location to the demining teams and community elders if they come across mines or ERW.

Both boys and girls said that the red color is the danger sign and they will not go there. They said that they got the information through Mine/ERW RE teams and school teachers that mines are dangerous and can kill or injure humans.

They said that there were pictures about the type of mines (like soap, butterfly, hand lighter and small box). They said there are still mines in cemeteries, Kham Pokhta and Rashed Big areas. They said "*We are happy that our village is clear now and we are not scared when we are going to school*". According to the focus group, men and boys are more vulnerable because there is rain fed

lands for harvesting of wheat, vegetables and bean. The major part of the cemeteries which are situated behind the school is still contaminated by mines, according to information the children have received from their parents, brothers, teachers and the HALO Trust organization.

The information collected from this village suggests that MRE varies between men and women, boys and girls. According to the men focus group, the Mine/ERW RE was conducted more than 10 times in this community and they said that they are well aware of the threats and are well able to make informed decisions. They also mentioned that they received posters and leaflets showing the risky behaviors. They said that Mine/ERW RE was not conducted for women.

Bay Malasi Village, Argo District – Badakhshan

Based on a focus group discussion with men, they said that Mine/ERW trainings were conducted in their village during 2003 – 2011 by OMAR and other mine action organizations in Masjids and schools. They didn't highlight the name of the other organizations.

The group highlighted that they have learned how to be safe from these dangerous objects. They said that they will never touch Mine/ERW for any reason. Moreover they learned about the colors and sign boards, which show minefields areas and that they should not go there. They said that men, boys and girls are able to attend Mine/ERW RE sessions, but that women could not as there were no female MRE teams. However, they have shared their knowledge with women. The majority of men, boys and girls in Bay Malasi have received MRE, and they mentioned that mines and ERW are dangerous and can be found in un-known areas. They added that they will report to the demining teams if they come across mines or ERW.

The group of women confirmed that they have not received Mine/ERW RE directly through Mine/ERW RE teams but they have received the information from their elders and it would be helpful if they receive information and share it with their children. The groups of boys and girls said that they have received MRE through NGO teams, school teachers (from the school books) and their parents.

Chata Village, Faiz Abad City – Badakhshan

According to a focus group discussion with men, they said that Mine/ERW RE was conducted three or four times in their village by mine action NGOs. They did not remember the name of the organizations. They found the lessons very useful and helpful in terms of being safe in mine/ERW affected areas. They said that boys and girls received MRE in separate classes, but that women could not attend.

The group of women said that a man and a woman came to their village in 2011 and provided Mine/ERW RE to men, boys and girls but they couldn't attend as the training was conducted in Masjed and school away from their houses. They said that their children also received Mine/ERW RE through Ministry of Education teachers.

The group of boys said, mines are dangerous things which are made from plastic, wood and metal. They said *If we see mines, we will inform our fathers and elders of the village. We got this information from radio, television, teachers and MRE training courses and there are no mines in or around our village and we are not scared.*

The women said that they received Mine/ERW RE through their elders, but they could not attend the MRE sessions directly. Women's challenges to access and attend MRE sessions are mainly due to cultural norms and values that restrict women's movements and participation in activities outside of their households.

Urusak Village, Faiz Abad City – Badakhshan

The MRE was conducted in Urusak during 1993 and 1994 by OMAR according to the village people. Some other people mentioned that MRE was conducted during the period of Rabani in their village.

According to a focus group discussion with men, MRE was conducted in their village and they have learned what to do if they come across mines and ERW. But according to a focus group discussion with women, they highlighted that they have not received any Mine/ERW RE. The group of men said that mostly men and boys received MRE in their village.

According to an interview with school teachers, they are providing awareness to children in the school, but they also mentioned that not all girls and boys are attending school in Urusak.
A group of boys and girls in the school mentioned that they know mines and ERW are dangerous items and they will not touch them. They mentioned that they have received MRE through school teachers and their parents. The boys said that they received MRE several times from their parents, NGOs and school teachers. They added that mines are dangerous, and can kill them if they touch them. They said that if they saw a mine they would report it to the police. They also mentioned that they will avoid going to places contaminated by mines and ERW.

Summary of the Findings

There were differences between the information collected from men and from women and the same between boys and girls, even for the factual information – for example dates of MRE activities, Mine/ERW MRE NGOs, recent victims and numbers of victims. Some of this is due to inaccuracy of recall, and some due to a lack of knowledge or reference leading to guesstimates being provided to the survey teams.

The information collected by women surveyors' shows a lack of knowledge amongst community women about events outside their immediate homestead and family, and the difficulties they face in getting information directly from Mine/ERW RE teams, due to the lack of female trainers. This varies from one community to another. It was also highlighted that there should be more female staff to conduct Mine/ERW RE sessions for women.

It was also highlighted that the level of Mine/ERW RE coverage for women appears to vary between villages and between age groups, with younger women more likely to have received Mine/ERW RE through their parents, NGOs or school teachers. The need for Mine/ERW RE remains acute and the general ability of women to recall Mine/ERW RE messages was mixed. Some women were adequately informed about mine and ERW risks and have been able to provide details on the location of mines and knew of the warning signs, whereas others were unsure of the location of minefields.
In Artin Jelow and Chata villages, there was evidence of better Mine/ERW RE compared to the other two villages surveyed aimed at school children, covering younger girls and boys between 7 – 12 years old and teenagers. Several boys and girls in these communities were able to give examples of

safe behavior such as avoiding contaminated sites and knowing who to inform when mine or ERW are seen.

The women in one community mentioned that they have received information mostly from their elders. In the community of Bay Malasi most of the women related that they have not received any type of Mine/ERW risk education yet. While it is clear that MRE teams have visited all surveyed communities, it appears that only in one community did female Mine/ERW teams reach out to women.

MRE Pathways

The messages promoted by Mine/ERW RE teams, school teachers and the elders of the surveyed communities reach community members by different routes. Those found in the communities include:

1. Teachers received Mine/ERW RE, then taught the children in schools
2. Most of the women said that they received information from village elders
3. In all communities the boys and most of the girls said that they received information through Mine/ERW risk education teams, school teachers and their elders and Mine/ERW RE materials. They added that they have learned how to behave when faced with a mine or ERW, and who to inform.

4. No Mine/ERW community volunteers were trained in these communities.

MRE Situation in The Surveyed Communities

Village	Women	Girls	Men	Boys
Artin Jelow	The information was shared with women through their elders. The women somehow know about mines and ERW threats, but access to women in this community seems to be difficult compared to men, boys and girls.	The majority of girls received Mine/ERW RE through NGOs and school teachers. The girls know about the danger of mines and ERW + the warning signs, but still there were some girls with low knowledge.	In this community, the men were mostly aware of the threats posed by landmines and ERW.	The majority of boys are aware of the risks and risky behavior in this village. In particular boys aged 9 – 18 years who mostly received Mine/ERW RE through NGOs and school teachers.

Bay Malasi	In this village, the majority of women received Mine/ERW RE through community elders. They couldn't attend the session and access to women needs to be improved not only in this village but in all villages. More female Mine/ERW RE teams are required.	In Bay Malasi , most of the girls have been informed of safe behavior and who to report dangerous items to if they come across them.	Almost all men have been informed what to do whenever they come across mine/ERW and who to report and where the dangerous objects can be found in their community.	The group of boys (mostly the teenagers) is aware of risky behaviors and has mostly received Mine/ERW RE through their parents, NGOs and school teachers. They were able to answer most of the questions.
Chata	The women in this community received Mine/ERW RE through the elders of the village. Women know about mine/ERW risks and risky behaviors.	The girls know about the danger of mines and ERW in this village. In particular the girls who are attending school.	The majority of men understand the danger of mine and ERW in this village.	The group of boys in Chata seemed to be more aware of risky behaviors and dangerous areas in this community.
Urusak	Women had low knowledge about mines and ERW in this village.	The girls, in particular school girls, were more aware of the risky behaviors.	The elders of the community shared information with the women.	It seemed that the Mine/ERW RE sessions were more effective for boys in this village based on their knowledge.

The table below shows the number of people who have received MRE through demining organizations in the surveyed communities according to the MACCA database. Ministry of Education data is not included here:

Number of People Who Have Received MRE, Based On the MACCA Database

Location			**People who have received MRE**			
Province	**District**	**Village**	**Men**	**Women**	**Boys**	**Girls**
Badakhshan	Argo	Bay Malasi	556	225	923	319
Badakhshan	Argo	Artin Jelow	673	68	1,636	1,008
Badakhshan	Faizabad	Chata	426	280	2,616	67
Badakhshan	Faizabad	Urusak	0	0	0	0

Conclusions for Mine/ERW RE

- The survey shows that all these four villages received some Mine/ERW RE through the NGOs, school teachers and community elders.
- Most of the women did not receive Mine/ERW RE first-hand in these communities.

- The findings indicated that not all children attend school, and many women have restricted mobility outside the home. Both of these behavioural traits restrict their access to Mine/ERW RE.
- There was no evidence of female Mine/ERW RE teams interacting with female community members in 75% of the villages.
- Currently only the ARCS female team is covering Badakhshan, and they are not able to reach all remote areas.

Recommendations for Mine/ERW RE

- Access to women in all surveyed communities needs to be improved while planning Mine/ERW RE activities –through the recruitment of more female trainers.
- Mine/ERW RE activities in these villages should be more focused on identification of the challenges (access and seasonal variations) to ensure reaching all sectors of those communities.
- Mine/ERW RE follow–up sessions need to be conducted in all surveyed communities in particular for boys and girls who do not attend school and for women who cannot attend the Mine/ERW RE sessions.
- It is recommended that the Ministry of Education should take more responsibilities for MRE; in particular recruiting mine action focal points in communities. Teachers should expand their Mine/ERW RE sessions for their community members in the villages, not only in the schools.
- All new MoE teachers in the schools in these villages need to receive Mine/ERW RE training through MoE Child Protection Officers.
- The media outreach programmes needs to be further improved and more Mine/ERW RE materials should be distributed in those communities.
- These villages should be given priority for female Mine/ERW RE teams to ensure they are reaching more women and girls.
- It is important that IPs with the support of MoE teachers should train female community volunteers in those areas to provide awareness to community members.
- It is recommended to ensure that Mine/ERW RE monitoring sessions reach all sectors of the society (men, women, boys and girls) to ensure sex and age disaggregated data is collected.
- Review the current Mine/ERW RE task criteria/indicators for community selection in consideration of the particular exposure of boys (aged 9 – 17) and men to mine and ERW accidents.

Victim Assistance ("Disabled Is Not Unable")

Introduction

The long period of continuous war severely damaged Afghanistan's economic, social and political life and social structure. Even after years of clearance operations, an area of 589 Km^2 in 1783 villages and 246 Districts of 33 Provinces remains contaminated by mines and UXOs. (Ref: UN MACCA database).

The residents of these areas still face the problems of mines and ERW, which need to be carefully and fully cleared by mine action teams and by the direct support of donor agencies and humanitarian services.

Mine action activities are not simple, but dangerous and hazardous, with a threat to the life of those engaged in clearing the contaminated areas of mines and ERW.

Existing alongside these hazards is very dangerous for the people of Afghanistan, especially for those unaware of mines and ERW. Because of this we still have new victims on a daily basis. Despite MRE awareness programmes all over the country, we hear of people dying due to mine/ERW accidents. The main reasons for these incidents are: lack of awareness of the dangers, and poverty leading to risk taking in suspect areas.

The fear of mines and ERW takes root in the minds and feelings of all Afghan citizens and remains for a long time in their consciousness.

The long period of direct and indirect occupation and the civil war have had a strong influence on the mentality of the Afghan people. Even now the people are suffering from suicide attacks, explosions and the dangers from mines inserted by warlords, the Mujahedin and the Afghan army.

The majority of people are killed or injured by mines/ERW while grazing livestock or collecting fuel to keep their homes warm and protect themselves from the hard winter.

In each of the four communities surveyed, female and male victims of mine/ERW accidents (both direct and indirect victims) were identified, and where possible they were interviewed.
The victim stories are given in Annex 4.

Name of survivor or indirect victim	**Sex of victim**	**Village**	**Kind of assistance provided**			
			Training	**Money**	**Medical treatment**	**Food products**
Sister of M Nasim	Woman	Chata	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Farid Jan	Man	Chata	Nil	Nil	Artificial foot	Nil
Wife of disabled	Woman	Artin Jelow	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil
Imam M.	Man	Artin Jelow	Nil	Nil	Artificial foot (Kunduz Hospital)	Nil
Emamat	Man	Artin Jelow	Nil	6000Agh/per year	Artificial foot	Nil

Abdul Rawoof	Man	Artin Jelow	Nil	Cash money by Ustad Rabani (ex-president)	Nil	Nil
Wife of Baz M.	Women	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Kabul Hospital	Nil
Gul Nigar sister of A. Waheed	Woman	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Saifura sister of Nazar Mohammad	Women	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Qandee sister of Azimulla	Woman	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ashor Bebe sister of three victims	Woman	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Masuma daughter in law of victim	Woman	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bebe Zahra sister of Aka Khan	Woman	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zofenoon wife of victim	Woman	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Gul Shah wife of victim	Woman	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bebe Saheqa	Girl	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nazarulla	Man	Urusak	Nil	9000Afg/per year	Faizabad Hospital	Nil
Abdul Hameed father of victim	Man	Urusak	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Eqbal Bebe	Woman	Bay Malasi	Nil	Nil	Little treatment	Nil
Wife of Abdul Qahar	Woman	Bay Malasi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
ZebulNesa wife of Sadruddin	Woman	Bay Malasi	Nil	4000/ per month/ working as book keeper	yes	Nil
Daughter of M. Ata	Woman	Bay Malasi	Nil	Nil	Artificial foot	Nil
Daughter of Mohammad Abed	Woman	Bay Malasi	Nil	Nil	Yes	Nil

Yaumoddin	Man	Bay Malasi	Nil	9000Afg/ per year	Artificial foot, Faizabad hospital	Nil
Agha Mohammad	Man	Bay Malasi	Nil	Nil	Faizabad hospital	Nil
Mohammad Saber	Man	Bay Malasi	Nil	Nil	Faizabad hospital	Nil

Interview with women who lost their family members in mine/ERW accidents

Conclusions (Victim Assistance)

- Most accidents occurred in spring time while people were busy with agricultural activities.
- Men are at greatest risk.
- The number of children injured is less than adults.
- The MRE programme was conducted in each of the surveyed points.
- Little government or NGO support was provided to survivors or indirect victims.
- There was no Disabled Rehabilitation in the four surveyed areas.
- There is a scarcity of life facilities (Schools, Health centres, Roads, Transportation) in the four areas.

Recommendations for Victim Assistance

- Identify the number of mine/ERW survivors by village, District, Province and gender to facilitate the provision of VA/disability services for victims of landmine and ERW, including indirect victims.
- Assess the current situation on Victim Assistance and support to disability services in Afghanistan to help/facilitate the priority settings for mine/ERW survivors and other PWDs.

- Support the development of the Afghanistan National Action Plan (ANDAP) for the provision and sustainability of the services for PWDs to ensure all components of Victim Assistance are addressed.
- Support the development and referral guidelines for landmine and ERW survivors and other PWDs to MoLSAMD, MoPH, MoE and other organizations working in Afghanistan including the collection of disaggregated data by sex and age.
- Recognize and take into consideration accessibility issues of all mine and ERW survivors in particular the female survivors and victims when designing and implementing VA activities.
- Deploy female VA staff members to ensure affected women and girls can be reached (for example through house to house visits), and that their needs and priorities are taken into consideration.
- Lobby the Afghanistan government, and remind it of its treaty obligations under the APMBC, CRPD and the CCM, to ensure that all mine/ERW victims and PWDs have equal and full access to adequate, affordable, gender and age sensitive emergency and continued medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, social and economic inclusion services, physical accessibility and legal assistance
- Sensitize affected women about their rights, and ensure any sensitization campaigns are carried out in an age and gender sensitive manner, taking into consideration illiteracy and access issues.

Capacity Development:

A small group of Afghan nationals (from MACCA, DMC, AIRD, MCPA and some IPs) has now had good exposure to the theory and practice of sustainable livelihood surveys in mine action situations during three surveys in central, northern, western and north-eastern Afghanistan. This group has shown that it is collectively capable of designing, planning, coordinating, conducting, analyzing and reporting such surveys, apart from the collection and analysis of data related to the financial returns from mine action investment.

This third livelihoods survey had limited, but strategic, inputs from international staff at the planning, training and reporting stages. These inputs improved the rigour of the survey, and the English and layout of the report, as well as leading on the economic analysis of survey findings.

It is felt that the cadre of experience livelihood surveyors is now well able to train others in the theory and practice of livelihood surveys, especially given the existence of training materials (e.g. photos, videos and flip chart examples of maps and other tools from the field) in English and Dari.

Continued links to internationally-recognized organisations, such as GICHD, provide additional credibility to the outputs of MACCA surveys.

Recommendations:

Future surveys could be conducted without any international support, as long as the same survey format and survey objectives are maintained.

If the objectives for the surveys change, or if it is felt that the tools need to be modified, then it may be worth bringing in international expertise to assist with the necessary modifications in design and implementation. It may also be that external expertise can help with the collection of data sets

(from secondary sources and/or primary data) that will assist with the economic analyses (e.g. land values, crop and livestock production and gross margin values etc.).

Alternatively, Afghan nationals could be trained in the collection of appropriate datasets and their analysis. However, it is not possible to foresee all the questions that future Livelihood surveys might ask, so links to external expertise should be maintained.

The support from AIRD could be further strengthened or formalized as at present it depends on the availability of experienced female and male staff who have many calls on their time.

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations for MAPA

Below are the summary of all the conclusion and recommendations related to each part of the findings of the survey.
Overall the survey was conducted successfully and collected useful information, enabling the formulation of recommendations against the set objectives which can be used for further improvement of the mine action programme of Afghanistan.

Conclusions (Development Outcomes and Impact)

Overall it was found that people in the affected communities are familiar with demining activities, which they perceive as saving lives, encouraging the refugees and IDPs to return to their villages, enabling them to cultivate their lands, tend their animals, collect fire wood, build their houses, schools and clinics, and walk free without fear, as well as creating opportunities for implementing development projects.

Clearance enables a wide range of land and non-land activities and employment opportunities and encourages internal and external investment. It also enables the building of schools, and safer access to schools for children and teachers.

The population wants demining activities to be strengthened, especially in communities where nothing has been done recently. People generally hope that clearance activities will be extended to all areas.
The villagers - including victims are in need of vocational and literacy training.

Recommendations (Development Outcomes and Impact)

- MAPA should continue to conduct regular landmines and livelihoods surveys in partnership with AIRD in order to understand the livelihoods and development outcomes of mine action at the household and community levels, and to plan or stimulate post-clearance development activities that are appropriate for the specific situations, needs and priorities of each community.
- MAPA partners should take development and livelihoods impacts of mine action in communities into account from the beginning of developing a demining project, and
- ..should be tracked after the implementation of the demining project to be sure that the development outcomes are in line with expectations
- MACCA should assess the challenges/constraints of the above recommendation and provide appropriate advice to mine action organizations on how to achieve this
- Mine action and development should be linked through the coordination of communication, monitoring, research and development initiatives
- MACCA and DMC should ensure that communities' development needs and priorities are shared with development organizations to strengthen the link between mine action and development
- In order to maximize the developmental benefits for women, the organizations involved should ensure that the development priorities of women are taken into account in information gathering and prioritization processes, and in post clearance activities, and that all information is disaggregated and analyzed by sex and age.

Economic Analysis

According to MACCA records, a total of just over 646,000 sqm of area, comprising 25 minefields, have been cleared in the four communities. At MACCA's standard cost estimates, this represents an investment of about USD 808,000, although the actual costs were probably higher because Badakhshan is somewhat remote and the average task was relatively small at 2.5 ha.

Reported Use of Land

The post-clearance dominant land use reported was for crop agriculture, with wheat predominant followed by watermelon, alfalfa and pistachio. All communities reported that cleared land was also being used for grazing livestock (cows, sheep and goats), while houses have been built on cleared land in Bay Malasi , Chata and (especially) Urusak. Both Bay Malasi and Chata reported that clearance provided residents with access to stone or sand for building purposes.

Unfortunately, the data collected was inadequate for calculating the economic returns stemming from the use of the cleared land. However, all communities reported land sales values before and after clearance, which provide some indication of the economic value of clearance.

Casualty Reduction

The four communities reported a total of 185 casualties from landmines in the years prior to clearance. In addition to the intrinsic value of saving lives and limbs, an elimination of such casualties also reduces economic costs stemming from the loss of productive labour and the care that families need to provide for disabled survivors of landmine accidents.

Resettlement

Residents from Artin Jelow, Chata, and Bay Malasi all report that some residents fled to other provinces or neighboring countries during periods of heavy conflict (particularly prior to the departure of Soviet forces in 1989). Clearance likely contributed to the decision of some to return, and the residents of Bay Malasi, in particular, highlighted that the returns happened after demining operations began in 1992.

Recommendations (Economic Analysis)

Should MACCA want an economic analysis of demining operations as part of future Landmine and Livelihoods exercises, it should consider the following steps:

- Prior to the field survey, compile dossiers of basic information on all communities to be visited from the IMSMA database and other sources. This data should include, at least:
  - Recorded population
  - Recorded landmine and UXO casualties
  - Areas of suspected and confirmed mine/UXO contamination
  - Areas cleared (minefields; BAC)
  - The reported intended use of land post-clearance
  - Whether return/resettlement was one of the justifications given for demining
- Training for surveyors on how to use information from the community dossiers during the community visits, both to verify that information and to indicate when more probing might be useful (e.g. when there are significant discrepancies between the information in the dossier and the information from residents during the community visits)

- Training to the social scientists from AIRD and to MACCA and DMC personnel supporting the survey teams in basic quantitative analysis and the data requirements for this, so they can are alert to opportunities to collect more detailed data on specific cases when and if these opportunities arise

In addition, MACCA should expect some gaps in the data collected in future surveys, and that it may uncover opportunities for more detailed economic analysis (case studies) of certain demining tasks. It should consider the possibility of contacting community leaders after the community visits to clarify data, plug data gaps, and explore specific case studies in greater detail.

Conclusions (Prioritization):

Apart from weak liaison in one community, the findings of the survey indicate that the priority setting process of MAPA is working very well. The criteria used to select the contaminated areas for clearance are really useful for directing the focus of demining operations on hazard areas which have blocked development of the communities and safe access of people to livelihood sources.

The findings of the survey reveals that, although the perception and preference of people on priority of contaminated areas for clearance was different and based on the community need, overall the criteria respondents had in setting priorities were: peace of mind, development of their community and safe access to agricultural, residential, road, water sources and grazing areas. These are all elements that have been considered in the priority setting criteria of MAPA.

Although community members were found to be satisfied with mine action work on clearing priority areas, in terms of consultation with the community it was found that only men of the community have been consulted, but not women and children. Also in one village the men told us that the demining team did not consult them on the conduct of clearance.

This indicates that, with the current approach of Ottawa ranking and projectization, there might be less than ideal emphasis given by demining organization on seeking the consultation of the community to know their preferences.

Recommendations (Prioritization)

- To obtain women and girls' perception on priority areas, MACCA, in consultation with the demining organizations, should seek possible ways of obtaining different community members perception when collecting prioritization-related information from affected communities.
- MACCA and DMC should make sure that a process is in place through which the mine action operators working in a community conduct a detailed survey of the community where they believe they have completed clearance of all known hazardous areas to make sure no other hazard areas is left (e.g. Bay Malasi village, where people say that still there is a contaminated area in their village)
- The MACCA and DMC, in consultation with mine action implementing partners, should seek all possible ways to ensure that all hazardous areas within demining projects planned in a community shall be properly assessed in consultation with the community prior to implementation of the demining project. The assessment of each hazard should have a written

statement from community showing their satisfaction with the selection of the hazard for clearance.

- MACCA/DMC should take action about the suggestion of people on giving priority to marking of the contaminated areas not planned for immediate clearance, as this will avoid people crossing the hazardous areas.

Conclusions (Quality Management)

According to positive feedback received from communities showing their confidence in the quality of demining activities, and comparing the number of civilian accidents before clearance with the total absence of civilian accidents after clearance, it is obvious that the quality of the demining teams' outputs is good. External and internal QA and QC visits to demining operations have also contributed to the delivery of good quality demining services to the communities. However, looking at the comments of some respondents on the lack of proper consultation with the community for priority-setting, and the lack of recording and marking of remained hazards, there is need for further improving the focus of quality management on these aspects of mine action interventions.

Recommendations (Quality Management)

- Conduct random QA visits to assess and document handover processes of cleared land back to the community. This will help MACCA to improve quality management and to document experiences to make sure that the process is working well.
- The MACCA quality management should assess the possibility of increasing the quality of mine action interventions on reducing civilian mine victims through the marking of hazardous areas not planned for immediate clearance.
- Since most community members are asking for the completion of a village, rather than clearing one hazard area and leave others for the future, this issue should be highlighted during the project proposal review process to make an assessment if it is practical to complete clearance of all the hazards in the community.
- To ensure the linkage of mine action with development and communities' livelihoods preferences, the MACCA QM process should establish a mechanism for identifying this issue at a very early stage of developing demining projects.
- Conduct of regular PDIA will ensure an understanding of the impact of implemented demining projects on communities.
- Since good quality NTS is critical for effective and efficient demining operations, random post-QA visits of survey operations carried out by demining organization should be planned and conducted by MACCA, so that they can objectively assess the survey capability of demining organizations.
- Quality management should have some focus on the process of community liaison of demining organizations with the communities so they can ensure the involvement of female and male community members in planning, implementation and outcome assessment of demining interventions.
- The quality management of MACCA should have a proper plan for conducting QA of victim assistance activities as there is no such systematic plan in place at the present time.

Conclusions for Mine/ERW RE

The survey shows that all four villages surveyed received some Mine/ERW RE through the NGOs, school teachers and community elders.

- Most of the women did not receive Mine/ERW RE first-hand in these communities.
- The data showed that not all children attend school and many women have restricted mobility outside the home.
- There was little evidence of female Mine/ERW RE teams interacting with female community members in three out of the four villages.
- Currently only the ARCS female team is covering Badakhshan, and they are not able to reach all remote areas.

Recommendations for Mine/ERW RE

- Access to women in all surveyed communities needs to be improved while planning Mine/ERW RE activities –through the recruitment of more female trainers.
- Mine/ERW RE activities in these villages should be more focused on identification of the challenges (access and seasonal variations) to ensure reaching all sectors of those communities.
- Mine/ERW RE follow–up sessions need to be conducted in all surveyed communities in particular for boys and girls who do not attend school and for women who cannot attend the Mine/ERW RE sessions.
- It is recommended that the Ministry of Education should take more responsibilities for MRE; in particular recruiting mine action focal points in communities. Teachers should expand their Mine/ERW RE sessions for their community members in the villages, not only in the schools.
- All new MoE teachers in the schools in these villages need to receive Mine/ERW RE training through MoE Child Protection Officers.
- The media outreach programmes needs to be further improved and more Mine/ERW RE materials should be distributed in those communities.
- These villages should be given priority for female Mine/ERW RE teams to ensure they are reaching more women and girls.
- It is important that IPs with the support of MoE teachers should train female community volunteers in those areas to provide awareness to community members.
- It is recommended to ensure that Mine/ERW RE monitoring sessions reach all sectors of the society (men, women, boys and girls) to ensure sex and age disaggregated data is collected.
- Review the current Mine/ERW RE tasking criteria/indicators for community selection in consideration of the particular exposure of boys (aged 9 – 17) and men to mine and ERW accidents.

Conclusions (Victim Assistance)

Most accidents occurred in spring time while people were busy with agricultural activities.

- Men are at greatest risk.
- The number of children injured is less than for adults.

- The MRE programme was conducted in each of the surveyed points.
- Little government or NGO support was provided to survivors or indirect victims.
- There was no Disabled Rehabilitation in the four surveyed areas.
- There is a scarcity of life facilities (Schools, Health centres, Roads, Transportation) in the four areas.

Recommendations for Victim Assistance

- Identify the number of mine/ERW survivors by village, District, Province and gender to facilitate the provision of VA/disability services for victims of landmine and ERW, including indirect victims.
- Assess the current situation on Victim Assistance and support to disability services in Afghanistan to help/facilitate the priority settings for mine/ERW survivors and other PWDs.
- Support the development of the Afghanistan National Action Plan (ANDAP) for the provision and sustainability of the services for PWDs to ensure all components of Victim Assistance are addressed.

Capacity Development:

A small group of Afghan nationals (from MACCA, DMC, AIRD, MCPA and some IPs) has now had good exposure to the theory and practice of sustainable livelihood surveys in mine action situations during three surveys in central, northern, western and north-eastern Afghanistan. This group has shown that it is collectively capable of designing, planning, coordinating, conducting, analyzing and reporting such surveys, apart from the collection and analysis of data related to the financial returns from mine action investment.

This third livelihoods survey had limited, but strategic, inputs from international staff at the planning, training and reporting stages. These inputs improved the rigour of the survey, and the English and layout of the report, as well as leading on the economic analysis of survey findings.

It is felt that the cadre of experience livelihood surveyors is now well able to train others in the theory and practice of livelihood surveys, especially given the existence of training materials (e.g. photos, videos and flip chart examples of maps and other tools from the field) in English and Dari.

Continued links to internationally-recognized organisations, such as GICHD, provide additional credibility to the outputs of MACCA surveys.

Recommendations:

Future surveys could be conducted without any international support, as long as the same survey format and survey objectives are maintained.

If the objectives for the surveys change, or if it is felt that the tools need to be modified, then it may be worth bringing in international expertise to assist with the necessary modifications in design and implementation. It may also be that external expertise can help with the collection of data sets (from secondary sources and/or primary data) that will assist with the economic analyses (e.g. land values, crop and livestock production and gross margin values etc.).

Alternatively, Afghan nationals could be trained in the collection of appropriate datasets and their analysis. However, it is not possible to foresee all the questions that future Livelihood surveys might ask, so links to external expertise should be maintained.

The support from AIRD could be further strengthened or formalized as at present it depends on the availability of experienced female and male staff.

Annexes

Annex 1

Participants in the Badakhshan Landmines and Livelihoods Training and Survey

	Name	Position	Organisation	Duty station
1	Samim Hashimi	Sr. MRE/VA Projects Manager	MACCA	Kabul
2	Abdul Qudos Ziaee	Operations Projects Manager	MACCA	Kabul
3	Gul Agha Mirzai	Sr. SOP Manager	DMC	Kabul
4	Abdul Habib Rahimi	Sr. Manual Manager	DMC	Kabul
5	Shapur Qayyumi	Research Officer	AIRD	Kabul
6	Gulalai Habib	Data Analysis Manager	AIRD	Kabul
7	Ahmad Maseeh	Mahram	AIRD	Kabul
8	Mohammad Rafiq	MRE supervisor	OMAR	Kabul
9	Maryam	MRE Instructor	OMAR	Kabul
10	Delawar Khan	Mahram	OMAR	Kabul
11	Abdul Hadi	MRE Instructor	DDG	Mazar
12	Mahbooba	MRE Instructor	DDG	Mazar
13	Hamid Haidari	MRE instructor	ARCS	Kabul
14	Mahbooba	MRE Instructor	ARCS	Badakhshan
15	Tamkeen	Surveyor	ANDMA	Kabul
16	Shafiq	Mahram	ANDMA	Kabul
17	Wahida	Surveyor	ANDMA	Badakhshan
18	Abdul Saboor	LIAT team Leader	MCPA	Jalalabad
19	Niamatullah	LIAT Surveyor	MCPA	Jalalabad
20	Mohammad Ayaz	LIAT team Leader	MCPA	Kabul
21	Asef Jan	Driver	MCPA	Kabul
22	Ahmad Wali	Driver	OMAR	Kabul
23	Feda Mohammad	Driver	DDG	Mazar

Annex 2

MACCA database information on the 4 selected villages

S#	Location			No.of Hazards Cleared		Area Cleared(Sqm)		No.of Remaining Hazards		Remaining Hazards Size (Sqm)		Orgs. Involved	No Of Victim		Total Number of Beneficiaries
	Province	District	Village	MF	BF	MF	BF	MF	BF	MF	BF		Killed	Injured	
1	Badakhshan	Faizabad	Urusak	0	0	0	0	2	0	85400	0	HT	0	0	560
2	Badakhshan	Faizabad	Chata	11	0	258805	0	0	0	0	0	HT	0	3	10352
3	Badakhshan	Argo	Bay Malasi	7	0	258939	0	0	0	0	0	MCPA,HT	23	16	700
4	Badakhshan	Argo	Artin Jelow	5	0	42917	0	1	0	9418	0	MCPA,HT,MDC	0	0	630

Annex 3

Community Profiles

Chata, Central District, Badakhshan Province

Visited on - 18 September 2012 by Teams B and D.

Chata is a suburb of Faizabad city, located about 5 km from the centre of Badakhshan in the south of the Faizabad beside the Baharak road. This village occupies a hilly area with no asphalt road and is characterized by high mountains, most of them covered by snow resulting in a full river all year round. The village is very close to the centre of Faizabad and, compared to the other three surveyed villages, the signs of development and progress were visible. The population of Chata is said to be around 4,200 people. Most of the residents are Sonee, with a vision of unity and development.

The village (according to the responses from villagers) was contaminated with mines and ERW in 1357 (1978) and early 1358 (1979) by the government to protect itself from Mujahidin attacks.

The people know about the dangers of mines and ERW. This was reflected in the stones and walls of schools and Masjids (Mosque), where these things are marked with a tick, signifying that a previously contaminated area is now cleared of mines. All of the contaminated areas of mines have already been cleared. Before clearance there was only one damaged school on the site. But now there are two high school buildings for 750 girls and 650 boys. The villagers are trying to get the surrounding hills of the community green by planting more than 45,000 trees. The survey here took time to arrange. The leader of the DDA Shora was informed before the mentioned programme, and he expressed his preparation and other members for it. Phone calls and direct contact by DMC active members (Gul Agha Mirzai and Abdul Habib Rahimi) convinced him to cooperate with the survey team and provide a good environment for the survey in Chata village. The leader of the Shora complained about the mine action process, as mine action activities were completed without consulting with the local Shora.

As in other villages, the survey team was very well respected due to its highly commendable behavior, appropriate clothing, equipment, assigned roles, and good written reference material. Team members knew their assignments and started their survey without any problems. They had prepared written lists of questions for each tool. The conduct of survey and manner was good during questioning, and the villagers were able to participate in the making of maps.

Community members are providing information to the survey team

The men's team met the DDA, CDC Shora and other senior members of the village (including the school teachers, Islamic leader and land owners) at the big hall of Masjid, (which was constructed by the assistance of the villagers).

Task	Time started	Time finished	Minutes for the tool
Arrival and starting up	0830	0920	50
Introductions	0920	0950	30
Time line + questions	0950	1025	35
Map + questions	1050	1200	70

The clearance of mine contaminated areas was done successfully, and after it was handed over to the community, and people decided to re-build their houses and start their agriculture activities. Around 30 mines and ERW incidents happened, which resulted in death of 20 persons, and injury to 15 people. This issue caused a breakdown of work in the agriculture lands and rain fed lands and grazing areas. According to the focus group discussion, men stated that: *"After the explosions happened in areas, we lost our trust to go to whole area. Now we have no fear of mines and ERWs, because the contaminated areas of mines were cleaned by Mine Action teams"*.

A school, mosque, electricity supply and water channel, as well as many residential buildings have already been built which shows the development of the community. The cleared agricultural lands are being used by villagers. The electricity and water channel for washing and livestock were established for the use of the villagers. But the villagers are paying 45 Afg/Kw (= about 0.90 US$), which is very costly for them.

According to villagers, there are development needs such as asphalt road, transportation, dam for irrigation and 24-hour electricity for the community. The government and NGOs were

criticized by the villagers for not supporting and not fulfilling the needs and demands of the people of community. Instead they are paying taxes to government, but have no facilities in return. To have a good job, some people were asking for vocational training to be enabled to make a living.

Female survey team impressions

The meeting with female community members was held at the girls' school located in the centre of the village of Chata. The survey team first met with the male principal of the school. This person helped them to organize a group of female teachers. The survey team started their work with the introduction of survey group, survey tools like time line and map during the first meeting.

Time line

The majority of women had less information about the contaminated area of mines and ERW in the particular area where they are living. They all belong to the Tajik tribe.

According to the women, , all people who live in the Chata village did not immigrate to Iran or Pakistan, but they were displaced to other districts or provinces of Afghanistan. The people left for other safe places when the Russian invasion started in the 1980s. The women returned to the area at different times, and received MRE. They have also received MRE in the community, delivered by female and male teams and by their family members.

Impressions of male survey members

According to men information from men, 12persons have been killed and 20 injured in contaminated areas of mines and ERWs.

Among other things, a Mosque, new schools for girls and boys have been constructed in the cleared area. The cleared rain fed agriculture lands which are situated on the near hills are being used by villagers and they also planted small trees in surrounding hills so they get the hills green. After clearance of the land, the costs of the agriculture lands become high.

Land disputes

According to the men, there are few land-disputes in the area, because the boundary of each land was determined before. The majority of Badakhshan is province covered by mountains and hills, so where there is less land then there is fewer disputes. The majority of people of Badakhshan, especially men, are educated and this is the main reason that there is less conflict over land issues.

Challenges:

- Lack of clinic;
- Lack of asphalt road
- Lack of work facilities

Urusak, Faizabad centre of Badakhshan Province

Visited 18-19 September 2012 by Teams A and C.

Urusak village is a small area located 9 km away from Faizabad center behind the mountains. This village is situated among the hills and mountains on the North of the Faizabad city. The road connecting the village to Faizabad city is in bad condition. The road is not asphalted and it is a big problem for people, who want to go for shopping or pick or drop ill people to the city hospital. To reach the village by car is very dangerous, because the road is very narrow and there are a lot of curves. The villagers told us that the road cannot be used during rainy season and the winter.

There exists just one medium school for both girls and boys, which provide education for them up to 9th grade. The school area was previously contaminated by ERW and was then cleared by EOD mine action teams. Due to the long distance from the village to city schools and due to poverty, the majority of them cannot continue to get education.

According to men's focus group discussions there were several minefields over the mountain close to the Urusak village, where the Mine Action team is working right now to clean mountains and hills which were contaminated with mines by the Afghan army during the Noor Mohammad Tarakee period in 1978. Due to these mines, 45 people were killed and 13 people injured. This contaminated area is situated in the East and South parts of the village at Chawkee and Kala Monara Mountain. Clearance is ongoing and villagers are very happy about the humanitarian activities of the de-miners.

Already 250 houses have been built in Kala Monara after mine cleaning. About 43 jereeb of rain fed agricultural land has been cleared of mines.

The majority people of this village are working on rain fed agriculture lands. In case of drought, the villagers have nothing to eat. Some of them go daily by foot to the city to work as physical laborers or as shopkeepers or slaughterers. The majority people of this village are living at or below the poverty line.

Interview with members of the Urusak community

The water for irrigation and drinking is the big problem for the residents of this village. The taste of the drinking water is salty and not potable, as we checked it, but still most of the people are using it as they do not have other option apart from walking 5 km distance to bring drinking water. Deep boreholes are needed to provide the water for villagers. There is need for a fund to make water supply for villagers. The villagers requested us to pay more attention to this important issue.

Fountain which provides salty water for Urusak villagers

Some of the residents of the village including men, women, boys and girls are bringing water daily for drinking and washing from a long distance (about 5 Km) by donkey or on their shoulders. It is very hard and dangerous for them, because the people who did not get MRE may fall into mine or ERW incidents and can lose their life.

Female survey team

The meetings were held in the village leader's house. According to female survey team, they were warmly welcomed by the women of the village.

The survey team had focus group discussions with other female family members and they collected very useful information.

Focus Group Discussions

Two groups of women who had been met during the previous days at the village leader house had focus group discussions about the Mine Action activities in the village. A group of women had been interviewed the previous day, said that *"the majority of decisions are made by men and we have no information".* The women were aware about the clearance activities in the community through their family members. Particularly the information had been shared with them by their husbands. Usually, when clearance was done, the women were informed accordingly by their husbands. The women are very happy and agree about the mine action activities. *"All areas were dangerous before demining; we were very worried when our men and children were going outside."*

The women are not aware of any landmines being discovered in the area after it had been cleared, because in Afghan society the men are main figures in decision making and getting information. The women are usually in second step to get information or to be aware of any important issues in the village. Main land uses in cleared areas have been related for cultivation activities, and women are only involved in cultivation activities or work at home like cooking, washing of clothes.

In terms of land ownership, the women believe that once the land has been cleared, it is their own land. Usually the women are not the owner of land, unless her husband has died. People who own the land had their land certificates before the clearance. Moreover the border of each land is determined from long past time and each villager knows about it.

No land disputes are ongoing according to the women. In case of some land issue problems, the village leader can decide who owns the land. According to women, the value of the land before clearance was very low, and now the land prices have increased. Women, especially the housewife and illiterate, are not aware of any future development plans for the area. But the women who are working in the government offices or the members of the different local Shoras are in picture about development and all kinds of activities. The women have conveyed their problems and needs to the village leader. The village leader is supposed to take these suggestions and present them to the province level to solve it. Women's development priorities include:

- Electricity
- Schools
- Better asphalt roads
- Transportation
- Water
- Vocational trainings

Before clearance, some of the women had no land to use for cultivation. After clearance, they can use cleared lands for cultivation. Only some of them own land, the others are paid to work on other households' land. Single women can have their own houses. They also informed us that *"there is a lot of rain fed lands available."* However, it's hard to cultivate the land, because it is so dry in Badakhshan and they pray for a lot of rain. Wheat and other products can grow under these conditions. Now the women feel safe when they walk around the agriculture lands and grazing area; they don't worry about mines and ERWs any longer.

Artin Jelow village of Argo District, Badakhshan Province
Visited 15-16 September 2012 by Teams B and D.

Artin Jelow is situated 60 km from the centre of Badakhshan and belongs to Argo district, which is one of the under-developed districts in the province. One big minefield has been cleared on mountain near to the residential area, where before was placed the USSR army contingent in the present school beside the road connecting Badakhshan with Kabul through Takhar, Kundoz and Baghlan provinces. According to men interviews, there was a Russian military camp in the

past and because of that the problem of mine and ERW contamination caused by Russian troops and Mujahideen. This contamination resulted in killing and injury to 71 people in the village. The Mine Action teams surveyed the contaminated areas in Artin Jelow and, in consultation with the community, started clearance of the areas one by one. Now most of the areas have been cleared, but still one area remains for clearance.

The interviews with men were held at a Masjid situated in center of the village. We arrived around 9 am and immediately the community members, including some disabled people with missing limbs/eyes due to mine and ERWs incidents, arrived. The majority people were injured by mine and ERW inserted by Russian troops (to protect them self from Mujahidin attacks) next to their army camps and over the mountains surrounded them.

After introduction and explaining the objectives of the survey, the team divided into two groups.

One interviewed survivors and the other did daily clocks and seasonal calendars. At the same time a group of boys was invited to be interviewed. The survey team also interviewed the head of the Shora separately to know about the mine action activities development process and challenges and problems existing in the community. He narrated the story of mine action in the village and incidents which happened.

Most people (apart from Shura head) appeared very poor. The survivors impressed us by their good attitude to life, never giving up hope and actively looking for work, but the problem is lack of proper job for people generally and the disabled in particular. The majority of people, who lost their family members or part of their body, are living under the poverty line. There exists one clinic with limited facilities for villagers. As we visited and talked with the doctors, they just check ill people but have no medicine to cure them. A sad issue is the lack of maternity home for delivery of pregnant women. The doctor showed a room which was unsuitable for mother and child. As we talked with the head of the Shora, he told that the men, women, children come from remote areas by donkey, which takes 2-3 hours.

A small clinic in the Artin Jelow village

We also visited the existing school of the village. The condition of school was not too good. The girls are attending the school at the morning time (8 to 12 Am) and boys from (1 to 4 Pm).
A boy told us, that he is traveling daily by foot two and half hours to reach to school and back.

Female team
The community members were aware in advance that the survey team would visit them. Women were waiting for them in a meeting room at the home of the village head. The team was welcomed by the women present at the home, and they told that they would allocate the time for them. There is a concern among the women in the community, and they are still having no trust that the area around the Russian military camp is cleaned of mines and ERWs.

A woman narrated: *"Even while the Russians were seeing the lights in the homes, they fired. I escaped to another district"*. She continued with laughing *"Because of the firing I was very panic stricken and in my hurry I hugged a small dog thinking that it is my baby. After a few minutes I came to know that I left my son at home".*

The expectations of the community women were very high. They are expecting that the survey team should provide for them with food and medicine or other assistance. Despite this difficult situation, the survey team managed the situation well, and the purpose and objectives of the survey was explained to the village women by the women team that the Mine Action and livelihood survey is not in position to help them out with food and medicine and money.

The women told us that they have not received MRE and do not know exactly that which areas have been cleared and which one is left, but they said that according to men there is still one hazard area in the community. They told us that there have been many accidents to the villagers and also to their animals. They were asking for drinking water, electricity, well equipped clinic, vocational and literacy training.

Development issues in the community
- Have no school for girls;
- No safe drinking water
- Need for big clinic with medical facilities;
- There was no vocational training;
- Lack of electro power in the village;
- In field of cultural activities the village has a building of Islamic studies for 190 children.

Bay Malasi village of Argo District, Badakhshan Province
Visited on 15 and 16 September 2012, by Teams A and C.

Bay Malasi is a village on the West side of the Faizabad city and South side of the main Badakhshan Kabul road (about 12km down from the centre). It is about 15 minutes' drive from Faizabad city. The village has a big Masjid, a Community Development Council small building,

electricity and other amenities. The houses are constructed mainly traditionally by mud and brick. The village is situated about (600 M) south of the main Kokcha river, but despite the existence of this big river near to the community, the villagers are suffering from lack of safe drinking water and water for irrigation.
According to the head of the village, they had a small water canal, which was built over the Kokcha River few years ago and the water of this canal was enough for them, but unfortunately, this water canal was diverted by force to Qorogh village and the New City of Faizabad. The people of this village now are facing a big problem of water.

The people living in this area belong to the Uzbek tribe. The people of this community, visited by the survey team, were very kind and united. This has resulted in good community cohesion and good leadership. There is no conflict over land. The leader of the village is a powerful and active man. He was met by DMC members two day before the survey, so he and his villagers were prepared for the meetings.

People are assisting the survey team to draw the community map

The men's survey team met the head of the shora and other senior community members at the Masjid of the village. The community is managed, and its development activities coordinated, by the shora.
Arrangements were made to interview survivors, conduct interviews with farmers and do daily clocks, seasonal calendars and FGD on day two.
Bay Malasi was in the front line of the civil war, because this village situated (700 M) from Faizabad Airport where Russian military forces were stationed, so the mentioned village was under hard artillery attacks and the surroundings of the airport were heavily mined. It was the main reason of mine incidents of villagers living near to Airport of Faizabad, which caused the death of eight people and injured 16 people.

Two minefields have been cleared and one is under clearance by a demining team. According to villagers there is another hazard area in Ghaza Mountain, but there was no record of any such hazard in the MACCA database. They were told that a lot of livestock were killed by mines.

A man, who lost his son said: *"Despite the cleaning of mines from my land, I have no desire to work on it, because my son was killed and my brother was injured, while this land was contaminated by mines".*

The water canal and agricultural land were also affected. There has been no compensation for loss of livelihoods in this way. They want to get the compensation from the Russian government.

There were no land disputes as most people have a land title certificate (land has been handed down from father to sons). However they told us that some of the land that, according to the villagers, belongs to them was used for enlarging the Badakhshan airport. There is no government land apart from where the CDC office is located.

80% of the population left the town during the troubles and returned from 1371 (1992) when land mine clearance started.

Development issues, Bay Malasi

An Arabic organization started work on the big Masjid and just constructed the foundations of it, and then they left the area.

The Masjed is still uncompleted

The people of this village are under the danger of seasonal floods, which can be more dangerous than mines and ERWs. The, flooding has been a problem in the past. About 2 years ago it flooded in the village and few houses were destroyed. A villager told: *"Apart from fear of mines, we are very scared now from floods in the area."*

There is no school inside the village, so the children go to another village which is about 40 minutes from the Bay Malasi village.

The most serious problem in the community is the lack of water, both for drinking and for irrigation.

Challenges in Bay Malasi village

- Lack of school for girls and boys;
- Lack of clinic
- Fear of seasonal floods from three points
- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of safe drinking water and irrigation water
- Lack of road to reach the agriculture lands

ANNEX 4

Case Studies

Case studies with women and men in Chata village

1. I am the sister of Mohammad Naseem. I am married. I am a housewife. My brother was killed in 1381 (2002) when he went to collect bushes and wood from the mountain. The people of the village carried him to our home and then buried him. We did not receive any assistance from any NGOs and government up to date. It is our request from the government, donors and rich people to provide for us livestock like cows, sheep and wool to run our life.
   A lot area of mountain and valleys are still contaminated by mines which need to be cleaned, to save the life of those poor boys that go for grazing and collecting wood and bush.
   I request you to convey our request to the related officials.

2. My name is Farid Jan. I am 28 years old. I am married and I am jobless. I was going to work, and while I walked on the path the incident happened and I was injured and lost my foot. The reason of my disability was the explosion of a mine inserted under the soil.
   I did not receive any assistance, just the Red Cross provided me with an artificial foot.
   A bag of flour provided to disable people cannot solve the problem of these people, including me, but the establishment of proper system will help us.
   We need to have a proper job to run our life, s that we don't need to depend on others.
   Although I lost my foot, I want to have a job and to work.

Case studies with women and men in Artin Jelow

1. I am the wife of a disabled person. My husband went for grazing of livestock in Artin Jelow Mountain. During this activity he had a mine incident. Due to the mine explosion he was injured and lost his leg about 30 years ago. Our family helped him and carried him to our home. Due to bad weather we could not to hospitalize him, and he remained three days at home. After three day my father in law and brother of my husband transported him to Faizabad hospital. He remained one month in hospital. He did not receive any assistance, even medicine. After leaving hospital he remained one month at home and lived with difficulties. Then he was taken to Kunduz hospital where he got an artificial foot, which was provided there. He changes his leg after each one and half year, because it has some problems.
   A few years ago he married me, and now we have four children (one daughter and three sons). His brother helps us to run our life. We have a piece of agriculture land.
   We did not receive any assistance yet. The direct victim (Imam Mohommad) was also interviewed and gave the same story.

2. My name is Emamat. I am a 53 year old man. I am married.

I was injured and disabled by anti-personnel mine while I was busy in pasturing of livestock in the Artin Jelow area. The main reason of my disability is poverty. The Red Cross assisted me to get an artificial foot, and the government is helping me with 6000 Afghani per year. It is my opinion that all contaminated areas should be cleaned of mines and the MRE training courses should be conducted especially for women and children.
I request personally from the government to increase the salary of disabled people.

3. I am Abdul Rawoof. I am 56 years old and married. I am working as shopkeeper. I was disabled in an anti-personnel mine explosion in 1360 (1981). The incident happened while I participated in the anti-Russian Jehad (war). I lost my way through the cleared area of minefield and strayed into the contaminated area. The mine incident happened and I lost my foot. The reason of my disability was war against Russian Occupation.
   I got an artificial foot from the Red Cross and cash money from Ustad Rabani (ex Afghan president). The contaminated of mines areas should be cleaned and the MRE training courses should be conducted, especially for children, to have no more mine victims.
   If the government and other assistance NGOs provided a small credit, I would be able to run my life through business and work in my shop.

Case studies with women and men in Urusak

1. I am the wife of Baz Mohammad. I am 28 years old. I am married. I am a housewife. My husband is 30 years old. He was busy grazing sheep in the Kham Chan desert when the mine incident happened and he was injured. Although his eyes were damaged he can see. In this incident he lost 12 sheep and goats. Previously Baz Mohammad cultivated, harvested and grazed other people's animals, but now he cannot do it. He is working now as mason. He cannot fulfill a lot of work. He visited an eye specialist and the doctor advised him to go to Kabul for treatment, because in his eyes still remained pieces of explosives (fire powder).

2. I am Gul Negar, sister of Abdul Wahed. I am 40 years. I am a housewife. I am married.
   My brother Abdul Wahed was a 30 years old man when he was killed by a mine while serving with the Mojaheddin. He was the only provider of food for his father, brother and sisters. In his family is just one brother, who is not able to work. The people of the village help them. They did not receive assistance from government and NGOs. These people should be supported, and the facilities should be provided by the government and NGOs.
   The people received MRE.

3. My name is Saifura. I am 40 years. I am married.
   My brother, Nazar Mohammad, was a 15 year old boy during the Russian occupation. He wanted to bring bush, wood and animal dung from the Chawkee desert. The mine explosion killed Nazar Mohammad and his father. Nobody and no organization helped us. The people got MRE. The people of the village are poor and in need. Any kind of moral and financial assistance like dressmaking (tailoring), embroidery and sewing by hand (Khamak dozee) can be useful for them.

4. I am Qandee, sister of Azimulla. I am 65 years. I am married. I am a housewife.
   My brother Azimulla was a 30 year old and serving in the Afghan army at the time of the incident. While he collected the bush and wood the mine incident happened and my brother was killed in Dashte Chawkee. Nobody helped him, even the NGOs. It is our request to clean all contaminated area of mines and conduct MRE training courses. If the government could provide cows for us and established tailoring courses for women, then the people can get the money needed to run their life.

5. My name is Ashor Bebe, daughter of Qeemat Baha. I am 60 years. I am married.
   My brothers (Alam 18 years old, Jora Khan 24 years old and Walee 26 years old) were all killed in a mine explosion in Dashte Kala Monara about 27 years ago. They had gone to collect the bushes and wood for heating the home and cooking of dishes. My uncle and my step brother help me to run my life. No NGOs have assisted me still.
   The people should not go to mountains, which are contaminated by mines, and the people should take the MRE training courses.
   The government should provide animal husbandry projects, and establish small handicrafts projects like embroidery, tailoring, sewing by hand and poultry projects.

6. My name is Masuma, daughter of Amrolla. I am 30 years. I am married. I am a housewife.
   During the Russian occupation my mother-in-law (40 years old) and sister-in-law (15 years old) went with a party of relatives to Ogar Mountain. Both of them were killed because of a mine which was inserted under the path. Their family did not receive any assistance from the government or from donor agencies. I am ready and able to run the projects like embroidery, tailoring, hand sewing, animal and poultry husbandry and to support our life by these activities. The people should get MRE training programmes and the villages and areas should be cleaned of mines to run their life safety.

7. My name is Bebe Zahra, sister of Aka Jan. I am 65 years. I am married.
   My brother was a 25 years old man at the time of the accident. He had gone to Bazar (market). The incident happened during the Islamic regime. The mine was inserted under the public way. He was killed in the mine explosion. He was a farmer and only food providerfor his home. He has two sons and two daughters. The smallest of them is ten years old. The children are working now for others and grazing animals and by this way they are running their own lives. At the beginning of the mine incident with Aka Jan, his brother helped them, but now the sons, although are not very old, can work and support themselves. The NGOs did not assist them still.
   If the government helps us we welcome it, to establish the projects which bring a good income.

8. I am Zofenoon, daughter of Mulla Safar. I am 40 years. I am married. I am a housewife.
   My husband was killed with his two productive cows in a mine explosion, while he worked on other's agriculture land.

His family did not receive any assistance yet. I am working in other people homes to earn something. The government and NGOs should help me, because I have nothing.

9. My name is Gul Shah, wife of Jamal. I am 40 years old. I am married. I am a housewife.
   My husband had gone to the grazing area with animals and wanted to collect bushes and wood when the mine incident happened and he lost one eye. He is blind in one eye. His cousin dropped him to hospital and his father spent the money for it. The NGOs did not assist him yet. It is my opinion that the people should get the MRE training courses and people should not go to those areas which are still not cleared.
   The people requested the government to help them by providing cows or money, because they are poor.
   I am worried now about the future of my sons, because they worked as shepherds and now they are working as porters.

10. Her name is Bebe Shaeqa, daughter of Safar Mohammad. She is 7 years old. The girl was injured because of mine explosion and the piece of mine shrapnel entered her head, which paralyzed her one hand and one foot. She cannot move normally and her hand became bent.
    Nobody helped us. She is small and has no suggestions to make.

11. I am Nazarulla. I am 50 years old. I am married. I am a laborer
    I was injured and disabled in 1365 (1986), while I grazed livestock far away from our village. The mine incident happened and I lost a part of my foot and part of my hand. This mine belonged to the anti-personnel type, which is called (Sanduqee) or box.
    The villagers carried me to Faizabad City Hospital and transported me to Kunduz and then to Kabul for more and better treatment. The Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled give me (9000) Afghani per year.
    I hope that the other people should not touch unknown things, to look like me.
    I hope that the government should provide the job opportunity for us and increase our salary.

12. My name is Abdul Hameed, the father of a victim. I am 60 years old. I am married and working as a farmer. My son had gone for harvesting of wheat and by bad chance he found an old UXO (Bullet) and started to hit it with a stone. The bullet exploded and my son was killed on the spot. This incident happened last year in 1390 (2011) in Holy Ramadan month.
    We did not receive any assistance yet.

Case studies with women and men in Bay Malasi

1. I am Eqbal Bebe. I am 50 years old. I am married. I am a housewife.
   I worked on my yard of my house and collected the useless grass from the agriculture land and suddenly the mine incident happened and the fingers of my hand were lost. In this incident the hand of my daughter was also cut. My daughter is now married and living in a far area of Badakhshan. I was taken by my father-in-law to the clinic and all my treatment

expenditure was paid by my close relatives. All the house work is now done by the wife of my son. Before the incident I could do wool spinning, but after the incident I never did it. My husband died, and now I am living with my sons. As my fingers are cut, I need assistance.

2. I am the wife of Abdul Qahar. I am 40 years. I am married.
   My husband was 40 years old man when he was injured in a mine explosion and his hand was cut from his arm due to this incident. This incident happened before the demining programme. All his flock perished due to this mine explosion.
   Before the explosion he worked as a shepherd, but he now has a small shop in the village. Although my father-in-law is a very old man, he is helping my husband. I am very happy with my husband.

3. I am the daughter of Mohammad Ata. I am 20 years. I am a housewife.
   My father M. Ata is now 50 years old man. He was injured in a mine explosion while grazing his livestock. He lost his foot in the incident. The family picked him to hospital. The Red Cross hospital made him an artificial foot. The father, uncle and brother of Mohammad Ata assisted him. His foot is now fine. Before he worked as a farmer, but now he is unable do continue. He is working as cook in Red Crescent. His brother and son are helping him at home. There is no change in his life now.
   This incident happened before the mine cleaning (demining).

4. I am the daughter of Mohammad Abed. I am 18 years. I am a student.
   My father is now a 50 year old man He was injured by a mine explosion while he harvested in Toor Mountain. His two cows were killed and he was injured in his hand. The villagers who were there helped him and picked him to hospital. The piece of mine still remained in his hand and he is feeling too much pain in his hand. Now he has no cow and nobody is helping him. He is working as a laborer. His wife is happy with him, but he is suffering because of his disability. Although there is a lot of bush and wood in Toor Mountain, but the people don't dare to go there because of fear of mines. It is remarkable to say that the people did not receive any assistance from government and donor agencies; just one person got an artificial foot. This incident happened before the mine cleaning.

5. My name is Yaumoddin. I am 30 years. I am married
   I was disabled at the beginning of President Rabani's ruling, while I grazed livestock. The anti-personnel mine explosion removed by leg from the knee down.
   I was dropped by donkey from the village to Faizabad Hospital, then I went to Kabul and visited the Red Cross Hospital and they made me an artificial foot. The Martyr and Disabled Department gave me a disability card and allocated the salary of 9000 Afghani per year. It is our opinion that the people should not go to contaminated area of mines (dangerous places). The government and the donor agencies should provide vocational work for us or give long term credit.

6. My name is Agha Mohammad. I am 28 years. I am married and have 4 children.
   The incident happened at the end of the ruling period of President Dr. Najeebulla, while I was busy harvesting of my land. My cow was killed and I lost fingers from my right hand and my right eye. I was dropped by the people of the village to Faizabad Hospital for treatment. I did not receive any assistance from government and NGOs. I hope that the people should not touch unknown mines and UXOs. I am doing nothing, and I am depending on my brother's assistance. I hope that the government and donor agencies will help to provide a vocational training to run my life independently.

7. My name is Mohammad Saber. I am 38 years. I am married and have 6 children.
   I was pasture during the end ruling of President Dr. Najeebulla, while I injured in mine incident and lost my left foot. I was transported by the people of the village to Fazabad Hospital. No any organization helped me yet. I hope that the people should not touch unknown thing and the people should paid attention to sign of mine action groups. I hope that the government should provide work facilities for me.

8. My name is shamsudin , I am a farmer. I went to our rain fed land on the other side of the village with my son and my brother. We wanted to start agriculture work on our land. My son and my brother were busy working when I heard the sound of a big explosion. It was a mine, and when I arrived I saw my son and my brother were full of blood. I shouted for help. Later on the villagers arrived but my son was dead and they took my brother to hospital. He lost his hand, and had other injuries also.
   My brother told the story to the villagers. He said that he and my son saw something partly covered by the earth and when they hit it with the axe the accident happened.