

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2011



“Living with Landmines” Exhibition Highlights International Mine Action Day

International Mine Action day, marked on April 4th each year was established by the United Nations to draw attention to the immense suffering caused by landmines around the world. This year MACCA organized a photo exhibition to honour those who have impacted by land mines as well as those working towards solving the problem.

The photos were taken in various locations in Afghanistan by world renowned portrait photographer Marco Grob, who volunteered to come to Afghanistan to help highlight the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war on the lives and livelihoods of Afghans.

“I didn’t want to concentrate on the parts of their bodies which were disabled, you can see what it did to them, how they dealt after with it in their faces.” Marco said reflecting on the images of survivors.

A public exhibition of the photographs was held in Babur Gardens, Kabul for one week. Following the public exhibition, a private show was held for donors and media at the US embassy, hosted by Ambassador Eikenberry.



Gulsom, 16, student in a tailor shop. She was 5 years old when she lost her leg in a landmine



During his speech, Ambassador Eikenberry expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Mine Action workers in Afghanistan and added: “As I look around this exhibit at the inspiring images of the many Afghans still affected by unexploded ordnance and landmines, I am reminded of the urgency of our effort and our need to work collaboratively to rid Afghanistan of this unacceptable menace.”

(Left to right) Dr. Mohammad Daim Kakar, Director General, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Alan Macdonald, MACCA Programme Director and U.S Ambassador Eikenberry (Picture Courtesy of US Embassy)

MAPA is supported by the following donors to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action:

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UNMAS APPOINTS NEW MACCA DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF

The New MACCA Programme Director Alan Macdonald and Chief of Staff Abigail Hartley were officially appointed by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), on the 1st of May 2011.

Alan Macdonald, the former MACCA Chief of Staff, has worked with the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan since late 2007. He began working in mine clearance in Afghanistan in 1995, and subsequently worked in Angola, Somalia, Mozambique, and Eritrea before returning to Afghanistan in 2003. He has also worked for Cranfield University in the Mine Action department and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

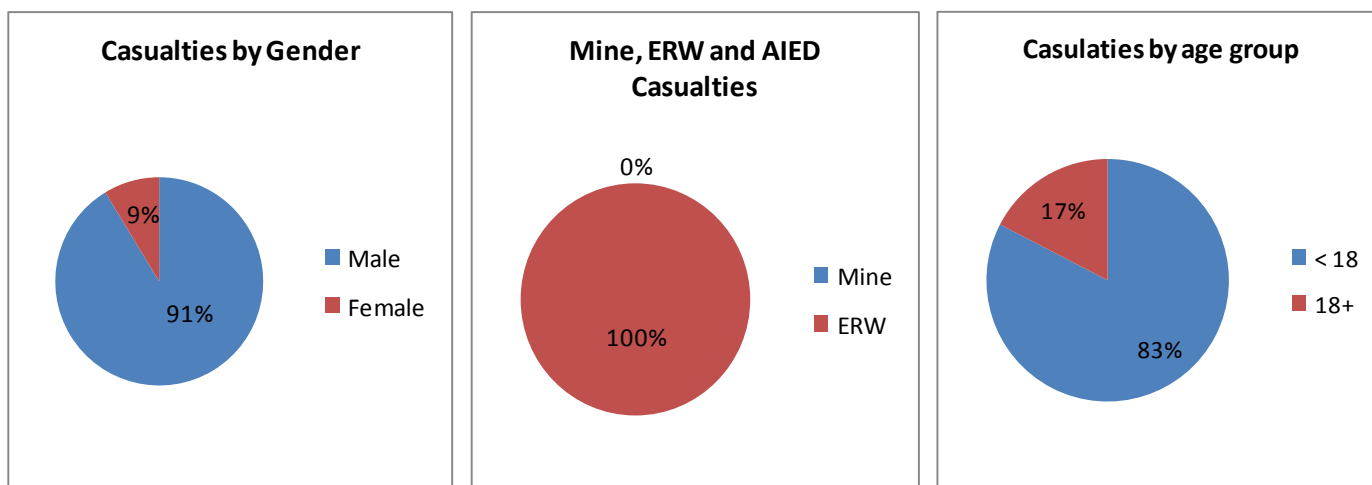
Abigail Hartley, former Senior Programme Officer, has been selected as the new Chief of Staff. She has over a decade's experience in mine action, having worked for many years with the mine clearance organization Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Sudan, Sri Lanka and at HQ level before joining the MACCA as Senior Programme Officer in October 2008.

Dr Haider Reza, who has held the post of Programme Director for the past three years, has taken up the post of Director of the Mine Action Programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Justin Brady, Officer in Charge, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), says: "We are so grateful to Dr Haider Reza for the way in which he has led the MACCA over the last three years and feel privileged that he is willing to contribute his expertise to support the emerging mine action national authorities in DRC as well as further the mandate of MONUSCO. For the MACCA, we look forward to the fresh perspective and drive the new leadership will surely bring and are grateful that their previous experience in the programme will ensure stability and continuity as we support the Government of Afghanistan realize their vision for mine action in the country."

CASUALTIES IN APRIL 2011

As of May 16, 2011 there were 23 casualties recorded so far in April due to landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Please be aware that casualty reports take time to come in from the field and so the monthly total tends to increase for some weeks after this newsletter is published. The below charts show a breakdown of these casualties:



MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS IN AFGHANISTAN

Ottawa Treaty:

- Clear all emplaced anti-personnel mines by 2013;
- Destroy all known anti-personnel mine stockpiles by 2007; and
- Provide mine risk education to Afghans and assist mine survivors.

Afghanistan Compact:

- Land area contaminated by mines and ERW will be reduced by 70% by March 2011;
- All stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be located and destroyed by March 2007.

AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS TOWARD MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS (APRIL 2011)

70% reduction of mine/ERW contaminated areas by 2011 and clearance of all known anti-personnel landmines by 2013:

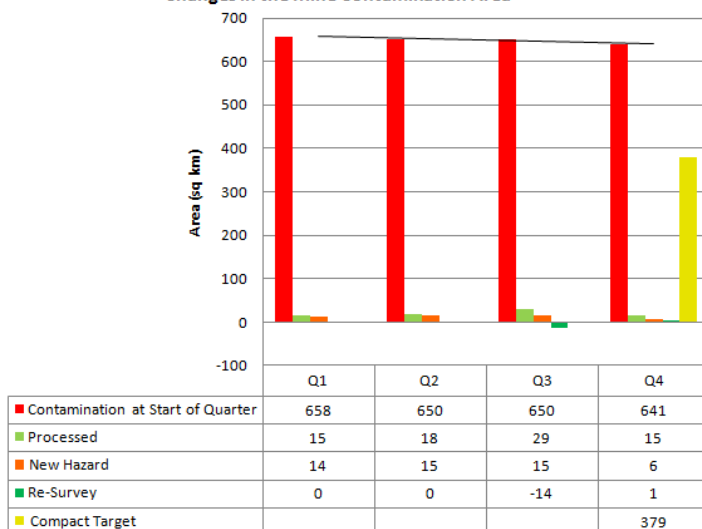
Indicator	Adjusted Baseline	Remaining Contamination	Clearance Processed	Compact Target of 70% of Hazards	Progress towards Compact	Treaty Target of 100% of Hazards	Progress towards Treaty
Number of Hazards	12,884	6,545	6,339	9,125	69%	12,884	49%
Hazardous Area (km ²)	1,284	627	657	905	73%	1,284	51%

EXPLANATION ON CHANGES TO BENCHMARK TABLE

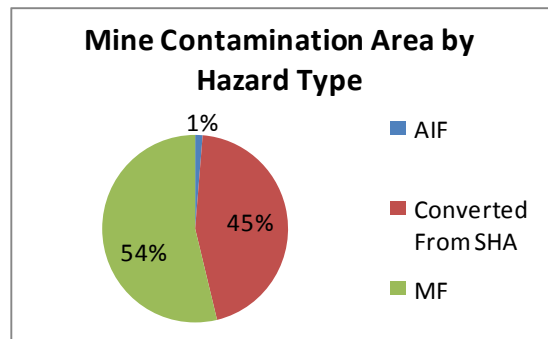
The graph below further highlights that the significant amount of clearance undertaken by the implementing partners is failing to produce substantive progress towards the Mine Ban (Ottawa) Treaty. The Afghan Compact goal (based on a benchmark of January 2006) of removing 70% of all known hazard by March 2011 was not met. The above graph shows that 69% progress towards this goal. The reasons the target was not met are a complex combination of security, funding and previously unknown hazard being added to the database, hence increasing the benchmark.

The pie chart below shows the breakdown of the type of minefield currently remaining on the database. The 45% which is labeled as being converted from Suspected Hazardous Area needs further investigation as it is based on data from 2004.

Changes in the Mine Contamination Area



Mine Contamination Area by Hazard Type



AIF: Abandoned IED Fields
 MF: Mine Field
 SHA: Suspected Hazardous Area

MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY IN 1390 SO FAR (APRIL 2011)

- * 1,826 Anti-Personnel mines, 122 Anti-Tank mines, and 58,217 Explosive Remnants of War destroyed.
- * 7 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 37,525 women and girls and 51,691 men and boys received Mine Risk Education throughout the country.

