

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2011



HOWZAT! AFGHAN CRICKETERS WITH DISABILITIES DEFY THE ODDS

A team of Afghan cricketers, all of whom have physical disabilities, won a tournament in Jalalabad in February beating three able-bodied teams. The tournament was organized by Jalalabad Disability Foundation, with the financial support of UNMAS.

“The main reason for the tournament was to encourage young people with disabilities and to demonstrate the inclusion and skills of persons with disabilities to the world.” said MACCA Victim Assistance Disability Project Officer Zabihullah Haidar.

Khushal, 18, who is the trainer of the Afghan Disability team, was very excited about the match and said: “It is rare to see a team of people with disabilities playing against team of able bodied players,”



Above: The winning team holding the trophy after the tournament

“The match was very interesting, and our team was so proud when we won the tournament. Now everyone who saw the match knows that we can also do anything others can.”

According to Khushal, out of the 20 members of their team, six of them have disabilities due to landmines and other explosive remnants of war.



He added: “These days people with disabilities are provided with vocational training in order to learn a skill, work and earn money. But it is even more important for them to gain respect among the people. This tournament and similar activities clearly demonstrate the talents of people with disabilities. I believe that Afghans have started to see that people with disabilities can do whatever other people can.”

Left: Khushal in the centre with his other team members

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

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MACCA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION COURSE

International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET), is an internationally recognized course, which trains almost 80 professionals annually.

This February, a 5 day “Mini IPDET” course run by Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), was conducted in Afghanistan to train Mine Action professionals to design better results-based proposals and plans for mine action programmes, for example using the organizational theory of change model. In addition, the participants were trained on how to develop effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks and link the mine action to development activities.

Participants included MACCA, demining and MRE organizations, DMC, Afghan ministries and international members from Tajikistan Mine Action Center (TMAC), Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) and UNMAS.

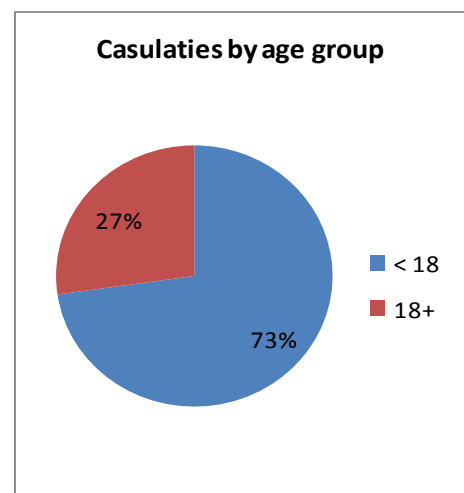
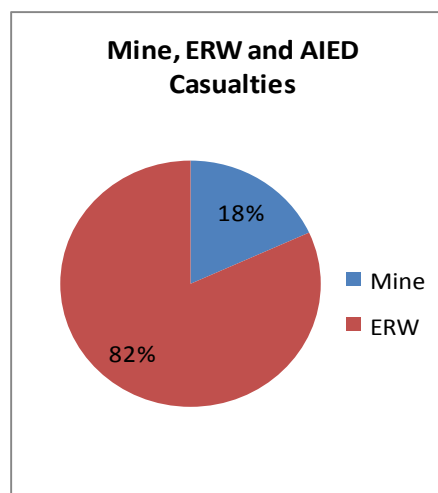
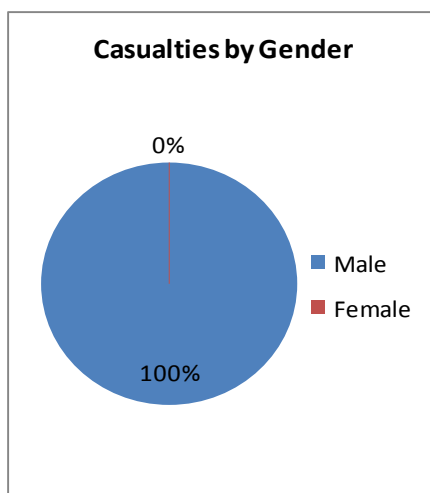
Mrs. Shahriniso Davlyatova, the Mine Risk Education Coordinator for UNDP, Tajikistan, was one of the participants to the course. She said: “The course fully met my expectations in various ways, particularly the monitoring and evaluation framework part. As a Mine Risk Education Coordinator in Tajik Mine Action Centre I gained useful knowledge on evaluating mine action, mine victims’ support and mine risk education.”

“We organized this workshop in order to develop a common language among MAPA implementers. Such workshops allow more participants, not only MAPA, but other agencies to have a clear knowledge of development evaluation in terms of Mine Action.” said Ted Paterson Head of Evaluation and Policy Research and from GICHD.



CASUALTIES IN FEBRUARY 2011

As of March 17, 2011 there were 22 casualties recorded so far in February due to mine and other explosive remnants of war. 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 sent. 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.

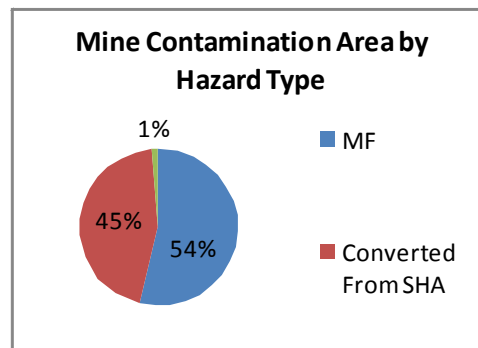
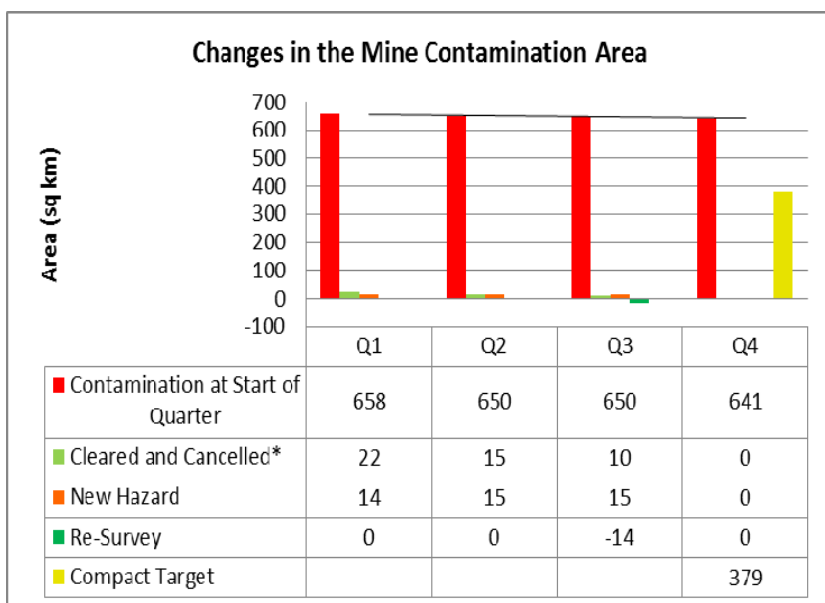
AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS TOWARD MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS(JAN 2011)

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	12,754	6,638	5,752	6,116	69%	12,754	48%
Hazardous Area (km ²)	1,277	641	622	894	70%	1,277	49%

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 Afghan Compact and the Mine Ban (Ottawa) Treaty. The trend line in the graph below shows that the overall contamination is not reducing in line with clearance achievements due to new hazard being added to the database. It is important to note that this is newly-discovered not newly-laid hazard. As the deadline for the Afghan Compact falls in March 2011 (beginning of 1390), MACCA encourages donors to take note of this issue.



MF: Mine Field
SHA: Suspected Hazardous Area

* Cancelled area is land, incorrectly reported as minefield which the minefield team cancelled once technical survey was carried out.

MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY IN 1389 SO FAR (APRIL– FEBRUARY 2011)

- * 32,173 Anti-Personnel mines, 1,001 Anti-Tank mines, and 971,350 Explosive Remnants of War destroyed.
- * 167 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 357,419 women and girls and 504,915 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.

