

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2011



KABUL CITY CLEARANCE PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Kabul City Clearance Project (KCCP) was developed by MACCA with the aim of clearing the remaining minefields in Kabul city. Decades of conflict in the city have resulted in ongoing mine and UXO contamination problems.

In spite of the great achievements of mine clearance operations of this city in the past, there are still 92 minefields covering six square kilometres, impacting 36 communities with a population of 83,529 families in this city¹.

Fundraising efforts led to the European Union funding phase one of the project. KCCP phase one was then competitively tendered by UNOPS and won by Afghan NGO Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC). The first phase of the project was started at the end of February 2011 and will end on 31st March 2012.

One of KCCP minefields is located in Darulaman, a residential area, where operations are now underway and 150 families are set to benefit from the clearance.

Ghulam Abbaas, 10, (pictured Right) has lived in the area since he was three. He said: "I love football, but because of the mines and other explosives I have not been able to play this game wherever I want. I used to not even be able to walk to school without the fear of mines and other explosives, but now it is better than before,"



Abbaas remembers how his cousin lost his leg in a mine explosion when he was walking to school. He adds: "I hope the area will be totally cleared of mines and other explosives soon. I am looking forward to playing football wherever I want."

To complete the KCCP, the MACCA is seeking funding for phase two of the project, so that the Kabul city can be free of mines forever.

¹ Data as of National Database (IMSMA) on June 2010.

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

Canada, European Commission, Australia, Japan, Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Denmark, Austria, Luxembourg, Oman and Lithuania.

MAPA is also supported by the following bilateral donors:

USA, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Government of Afghanistan, Ireland, Finland, Belgium, Czech & Slovak Federative republic.

TEACHERS IN HELMAND TRAINED IN MINE RISK EDUCATION

This March, a number of teachers were provided with a Mine Risk Education (MRE) training in Helmand province. The training was attended by 227 Teachers from 123 schools of 10 districts in Helmand province was for four days.

According to an agreement between Ministry of Education (MoE) and MACCA, MACCA provides training of trainers to Child Protection Officers (CPOs) who then train MoE teachers in their province and also monitor the teachers' delivery of MRE to students. At present, there are 122 CPOs operating in 34 provinces in Afghanistan, of which two are in Helmand.

Abdul Ghani, a teacher in Dasht e Bolan secondary school was one of the participants.

He has experience of what can happen when teachers are unaware of the dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war. He said: "One day children in my class had found a rocket and wanted to throw stones at it, when I found out, I picked it up and threw it somewhere far from my house,"

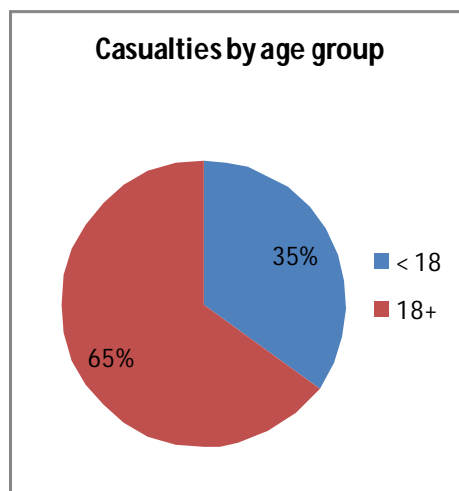
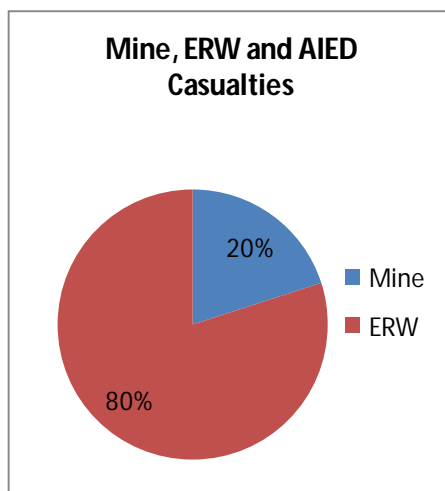
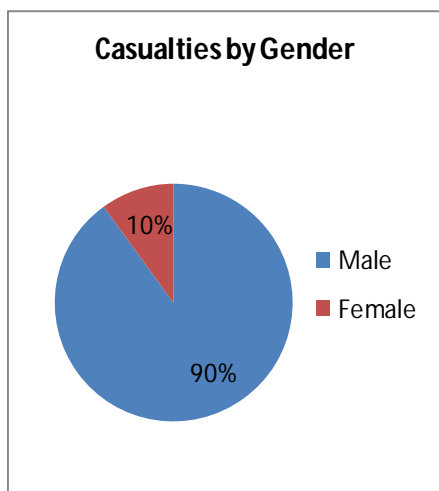
He added: "Now I know the value of this training. That time I could have lost a part of my body or even my life if the rocket had exploded. After this training, I will know better and I will be able to protect myself and the children of my school."



Mohammad Naseem Safi, Head of Department of Education in Helmand appreciated the efforts made by MACCA and praised the professionalism of the trainers. He added: "This training was very effective for the teachers, but we are looking forward to have such trainings for the remaining teachers in the near future, so that they could share the knowledge with others as well."

CASUALTIES IN MARCH 2011

As of April 13, 2011 there were 20 casualties recorded so far in March due to landmines 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(MARCH 2011)

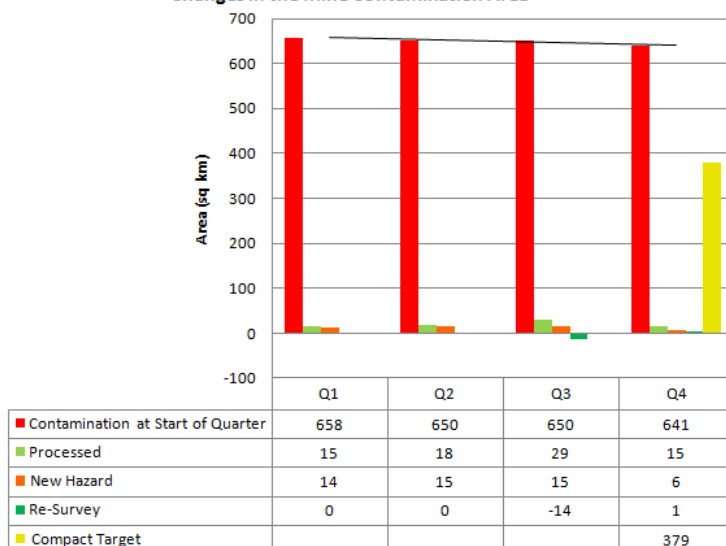
70% reduction of mine/ERW contaminated areas by 2011 and clearance of all known anti-personnel landmines by 2013:

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%

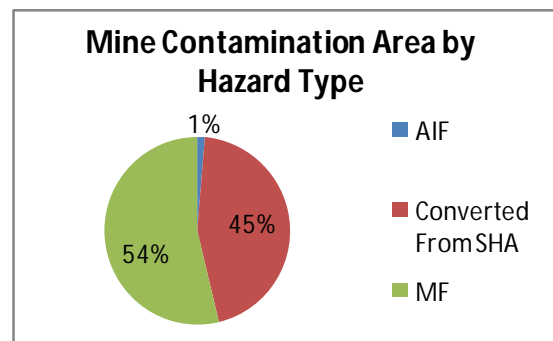
EXPLANATION ON CHANGES TO BENCHMARK TABLE

The graph below further highlights that the significant amount of clearance undertaken by the implementing partners is failing to produce substantive progress towards the 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 fell in March 2011 (beginning of 1390), MACCA encourages donors to take note of this issue.

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 1389 SO FAR (APRIL 2010– March 2011)

- * 33,597 Anti-Personnel mines, 1,104 Anti-Tank mines, and 1,023,826 Explosive Remnants of War destroyed.
- * 184 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 469,078 women and girls and 654,562 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.

