

# MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

## MARCH/APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER



### MACCA HANDED OVER TO ALL-AFGHAN TEAM

At the start of Afghan year 1391, the last of the international technical advisors left the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) in a move towards complete national ownership of the mine action programme. The coordination centre is now fully Afghan, consisting of MACCA personnel and staff of the Afghan Government's Department of Mine Clearance (DMC), sharing the same offices and working together on all issues related to coordination. To provide support to their work, a small UNMAS project office has been established on the same compound.

Mohammad Sediq Rashid, MACCA's Chief of Operations and its new OiC, said: "The main reason for this move is that the responsibility of coordinating and planning mine action in an affected state should lie with the government of that country."



*Mohammad Sediq Rashid, MACCA's new OiC, discusses the Mine Ban Treaty Clearance Plan with his team.*

"The capacity to manage mine action coordination by Afghans now exists," said Alan Macdonald, formerly the head of MACCA and now in charge of the UNMAS project office. "Therefore there is no requirement for international technical advisory support on a daily basis. Now is the best time to make this move. The programme is working on the Mine Ban Treaty Clearance Plan, which will bring the problem in Afghanistan to a close."

The Mine Ban Treaty Clearance Plan was produced by MACCA and the DMC as part of the Government of Afghanistan's request to the Secretariat of the Ottawa Convention – also known as the Mine Ban Treaty – to extend until 2023 the country's deadline to clear its territory of all anti-personnel mines, an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention. It contains 314 projects, costed and ranked according to priority for clearance, and will serve as a blueprint for clearance activities coordinated by MACCA and DMC.

A smaller UNMAS office, which will have just four international staff by the end of 1391, will continue to provide support to the MACCA-DMC partnership by contracting implementing partners to provide mine action services and monitoring and evaluation on behalf of donors to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for Assistance in Mine Action.

Over time, it is foreseen that the MACCA-DMC partnership will evolve into a different structure in response to changing programme requirements and the partnership's strategic vision. (Please see the chart on the next page, from this year's Integrated Operational Framework, or IOF, for a possible model for years 2012-2017. The IOF is available online at [www.macca.org.af](http://www.macca.org.af))

The MACCA is currently supported through the VTF but in the future, alternate modalities of funding the MACCA will be explored, such as on-budget support to the Government of Afghanistan. Funding modalities, along with other aspects of implementation, will be determined by the MACCA-DMC partnership, who will take the coordination of mine action forward. "What we end up with," said Mr. Macdonald, "is an Afghan process for an Afghan problem."

#### **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:**

UAE, USA, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Government of Afghanistan, Ireland, Finland, Belgium, Czech Republic



# MACCA MARKS INTERNATIONAL MINE AWARENESS DAY

The International Day for Mine Awareness is celebrated every year by the United Nations and its partners to draw attention to those who suffer from the impact of mines ERW around the world.

MACCA marked this day through a “Support your Deminer” media campaign, launched several days prior to the day and lasting for one month to highlight the work of Afghan deminers. As part of the campaign, posters and billboards depicting deminers were placed around the country, focusing on Afghanistan’s major cities and travel hubs.

“The poster and billboard campaign was very effective and has had a real impact on the visibility of mine action and raising awareness and greater support”, said Abdul Samy, MACCA’s Area Mine Action Center Manager in Kandahar. He added: “In fact, it encouraged thousands of Kandahar residents as well as people travelling via Kandahar to look at, read, consider and perceive the main message that is: Landmines and ERW are a live and long-lasting threat. I believe it influenced them to make informed, respectful and supportive observations and debates over the risky but extremely valuable work of deminers.”

Samy said: “In short, the campaign led to raising greater support and respect towards the deminers and the programme as a whole.”

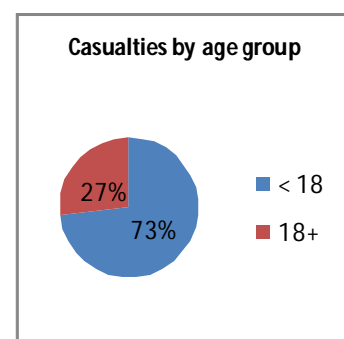
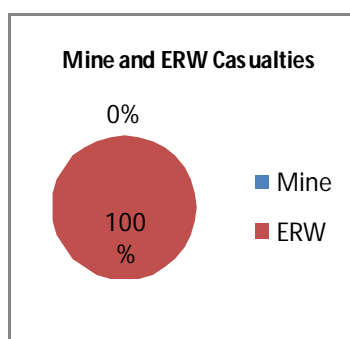
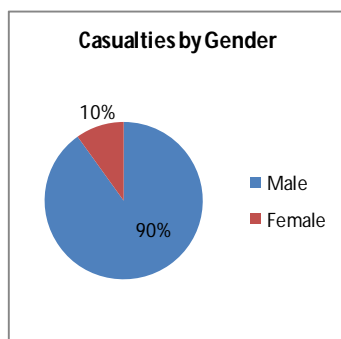
**Photo:** For International Day for Mine Awareness, MACCA rolled out the ‘Support Your Deminer’ Campaign, placing high-visibility materials, including posters, bill-boards and LCD screens around the country. In this photo, a bill-board depicting demining work hangs over a taxi stand in Darbe-Kandahar in Kandahar City.

**Photo credit:** MACCA.

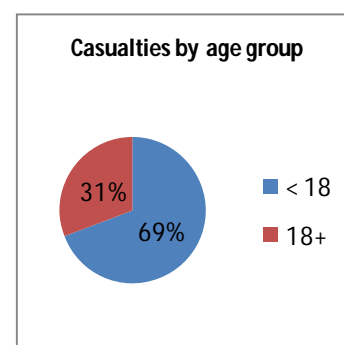
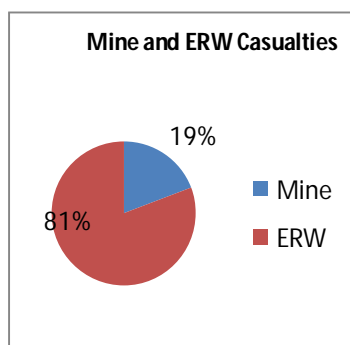
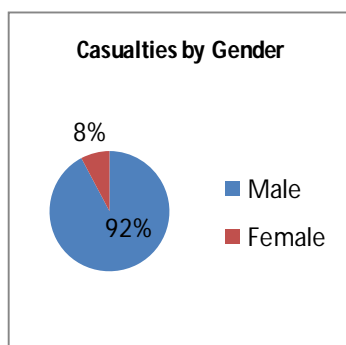


## CASUALTIES IN MARCH AND APRIL 2012

In **March 2012**, there were 30 casualties due to mines and ERW recorded in Afghanistan.



In **April 2012**, there were 28 casualties due to mines and ERW recorded in Afghanistan (data as of May 21, 2012).



**NB:** Casualty reports take time to come in from the field and so the monthly total may increase some weeks after this newsletter is published.

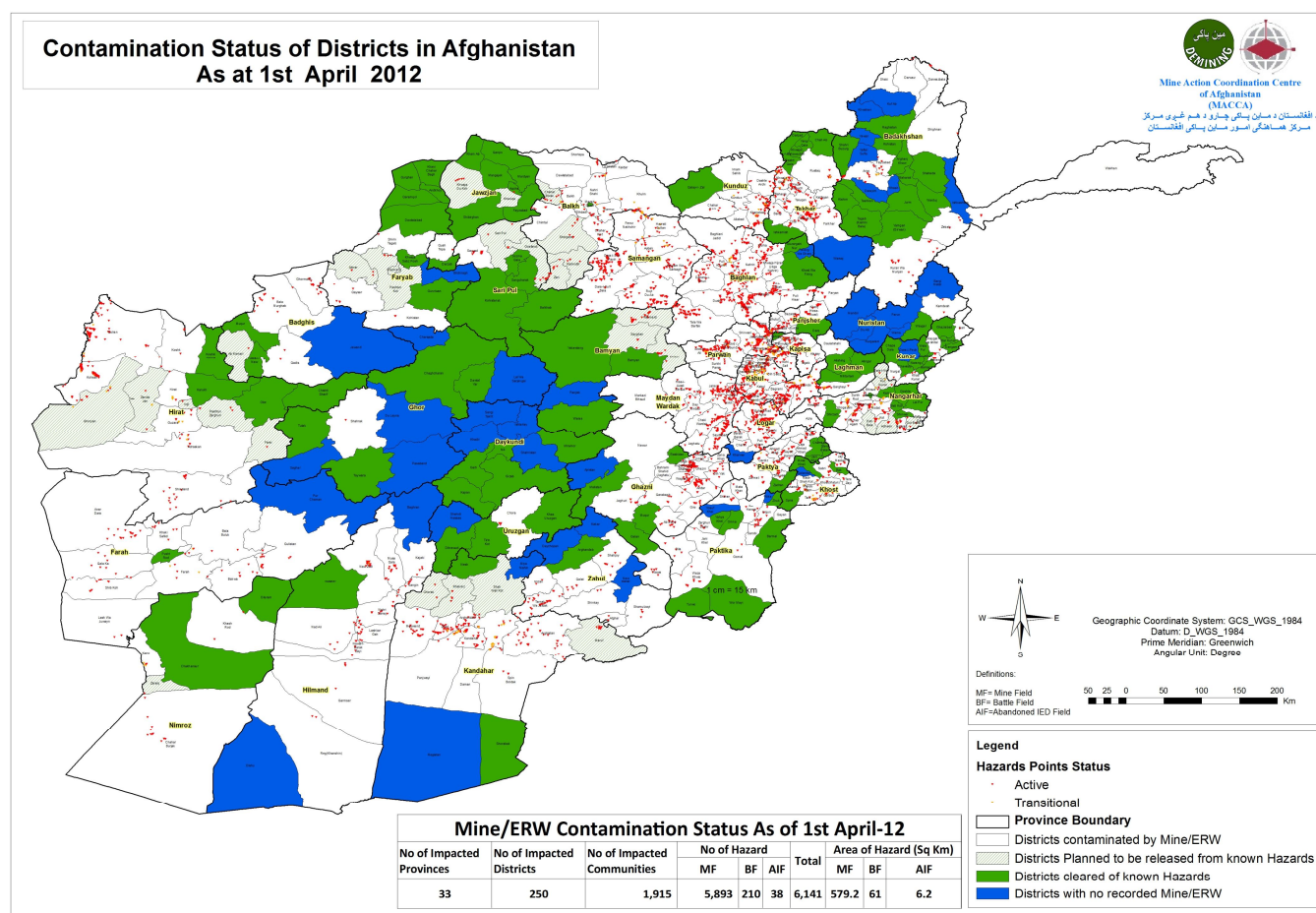
# MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS IN AFGHANISTAN

## Ottawa Convention:

As part of its obligations under the Ottawa Convention, Afghanistan aimed to clear all emplaced anti-personnel (AP) mines by 2013; destroy all known AP mine stockpiles by 2007; provide mine risk education and assist mine survivors. To note, the Ottawa Convention is about the removal of AP mines, and not of anti-tank (AT) mines or ERW. However it is equally important to ensure that the other hazards are not forgotten whilst the focus is on meeting the Ottawa Convention obligations. In March 2012, the Government of Afghanistan applied for 10-year extension of its deadline to clear all AP mines. All AP mine stockpiles have already been destroyed.

**BENCHMARK TABLE-APRIL 2012**

	Baseline		New Hazard		Hazard Processed		Progress		Remaining Hazard	
	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	% of Hazards	% of Area	Hazards	Area
AP (+ AP,AT,ERW mixed)	8,914	711,875,788	16	828,030	4,639	403,680,979	52.04	56.71	4,275	308,194,810
AT + ERW	4,879	615,189,116	6	520,242	3,465	351,656,575	71.02	57.16	1,414	263,532,542
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,793</b>	<b>1,327,064,904</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,348,272</b>	<b>8,104</b>	<b>755,337,554</b>	<b>58.75</b>	<b>56.92</b>	<b>5,689</b>	<b>571,727,352</b>



## MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS—TOTAL FOR YEAR 1390

- \* 25,190 AP mines, 996 AT mines, and 698,693 ERW destroyed.
- \* 259 communities cleared of mines and ERW.
- \* 468,906 women and girls and 641,286 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.

## MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS IN YEAR 1391 SO FAR (April 2012)

- \* 2,286 AP mines, 93 AT mines, and 45,529 ERW destroyed.
- \* 14 communities cleared of mines and ERW.
- \* 14,540 women and girls and 13,816 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.