

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

NEWSLETTER: MAY 2011



INNOVATIONS IN MINE RISK EDUCATION: NOMADS AND STREET ART

Afghanistan's Nomadic Koochi tribe is particularly at risk of mine accidents due to their mobile lifestyle. To prevent further landmine accidents among Koochi tribes, MACCA has partnered with UNICEF's Koochi mobile schools teacher training programme to incorporate Mine Risk Education.



Mirza Jan a teacher in Kochi Mobile School

Mirza Jan, a teacher in a Koochi school in Nangarhar province was one of the participants of Mine Risk Education Training in Nangarhar Province said: "We learnt many things from this very important workshop which could save our families' lives."

Another innovative approach to Mine Risk Education in May was led by the Italian Cooperation. 30 children were taught on the risks of mines through a day of "Street Art" at MAPA Implementing Partner OMAR's office.

The aim was to creatively raise awareness of landmines among children, the most heavily impacted group in Afghanistan today. Michele Cavaliere said: "In this show we teach the children how to paint Street Art, so that they are able to transform themselves from potential

victims into a voice of communication."

"I told them they will become positive heroes and live as heroes, because you learn how to tell your friends how to be aware of mines. You just visited a landmine museum, saw different types of mines, learnt how dangerous mines are, these are all things you can share with your friends, who were not that lucky to come here and learn all these."

Shakirah was one of the participants to this show and said: "I will never forget what I learned today about mines and other explosives, this was fun rather than training."

"We have created a format and trained three assistants, who are able to repeat the creative laboratory, so this will be like rain; we are only a drop and other drops keep coming." said Michele.



Shakirah one of a School Students (right)

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

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MAPA WORKERS TRAINED IN PROTECTION TO IMPROVE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

The MACCA is part of the Protection Cluster which aims to facilitate better coordination between humanitarian actors in the area of protection of civilians. A recent global protection cluster mission highlighted the potential for the MAPA to play a greater role in providing information to other actors due to their wide reach. As a result, MACCA is now working with UNHCR to train the MAPA workers throughout the country to improve their understanding of protection issues.

One of the first trainings was in Jalalabad and was conducted by UNHCR for representatives of all the implementing partners in eastern region. Abdul Wakil Ahmadzai, Area Manager of AMAC Jalalabad said: "The Protection Cluster provides an effective way of working with other humanitarian agencies. For example, recently in Barikot villige Nari district of Kunur province there was a heavy flood. Since mine action was active in the area we were alerted of this by the community and were able to share it through the protection cluster. Because of the training we now know what information to provide to Protection Cluster to help them take action." In future, this will help us enable humanitarian assistance to affected communities in emergency situations.

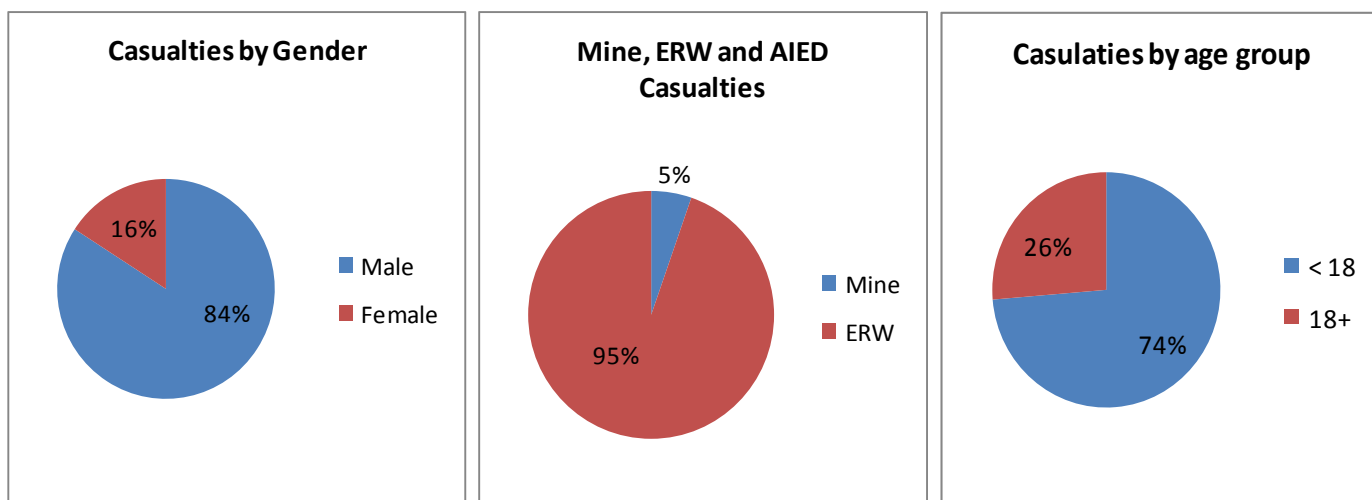


(Protection Cluster Training's Participants in the picture)

So far the training has taken place in four regions: South-East, North, Central and East, the remaining regions (South and North-East) have training planned in the next month.

CASUALTIES IN MAY 2011

As of June 16, 2011 there were 19 casualties recorded so far in May 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'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:

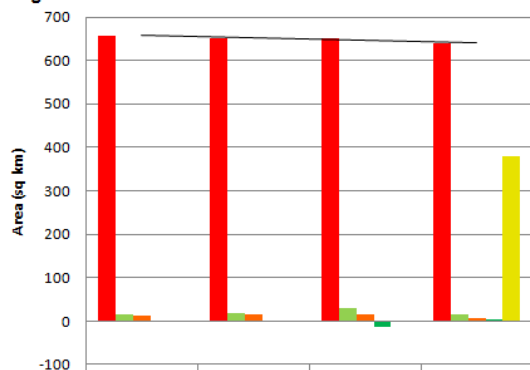
Indicator	Adjusted Base-line	Remaining Contamination	Clearance Processed	Treaty Target of 100% of Hazards	Progress towards Treaty
Number of Hazards	12,884	6,545	6,339	12,884	49%
Hazardous Area (km ²)	1,284	627	657	1,284	51%

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.

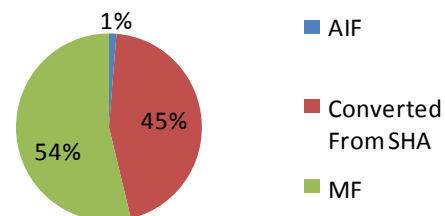
The pie chart below shows the breakdown of the type of minefield currently remaining on the database. The 45% which is labeled as being converted from Suspected Hazardous Area needs further investigation as it is based on data from 2004.

Changes in the Mine Contamination Area



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Contamination at Start of Quarter	658	650	650	641
Processed	15	18	29	15
New Hazard	14	15	15	6
Re-Survey	0	0	-14	1
Compact Target				379

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 (MAY 2011)

- * 4,548 Anti-Personnel mines, 194 Anti-Tank mines, and 162,733 Explosive Remnants of War destroyed.
- * 25 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 78,664 women and girls and 109,352 men and boys received Mine Risk Education throughout the country.

