

# MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

## NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2010



### MINISTRY OF DEFENSE APPLAUDS MACCA ON COORDINATION EFFORTS

Ministry of Defense (MoD) awarded a certificate of appreciation to MACCA for their strong coordination and effective implementation of the stockpile destruction. Afghanistan acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 11 September 2002 and became a State Party on 1 March 2003 which includes a commitment to destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines within five years. The responsibility for stockpile destruction lies with the MoD, supported by MACCA. MACCA provides technical and coordination assistance of Accreditation and Licensing of all Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) teams, Quality Assurance/Quality Control of all Afghanistan New Beginnings Program (ANBP) EOD Teams in the field, support to accident investigations and recording of clearance statistics into IMSMA. Major General Abdul Wakil Hotak, Deputy of Technical and Financial Section said "I am thankful to MACCA's Ammunition Working Group for their effort and hard work which helped MoD identify and destroy stockpiles all around the country. It is my pleasure to provide this appreciation letters to all in the Ammunition Working Group". Since Afghanistan joined the Ottawa Convention, 4,328 stockpiles have been destroyed, 38,000 tones of ammunitions were surveyed, 9,693 tones of serviceable ammunitions were submitted to MoD, 514,973 Anti-Personnel and 23,877 Anti-Tank mines were destroyed, and about 1,300 Anti-Personnel Mines have been retained for trainings and mine detection dog accreditation.

### MACCA TRAINS KUNDUZ HEALTH STAFF IN MINE RISK EDUCATION

MACCA's North-East Area Mine Action Centre (AMAC) provided Mine Risk Education (MRE) to 135 health staff including 40 women from 70 different clinics and health centres from seven districts of Kunduz province. The Kunduz health department requested the AMAC to conduct MRE sessions for their health staff so they can take appropriate precautions during their field visits as well as provide urgent response to mine victims. The two day health coordination workshop was organized by Merlin Health Centre and Care Afghan Family (CAF). The Head of Clinics, Advisors, Managers,



supervisors, Master Trainer and technical staff members participated. The participants were taught how to protect themselves in the field. They were also requested to support MAPA in data collection of mine accidents and victim assistance. Mr. Sayed Hussein Hashimi, Program Director, Merlin Kunduz said "This training will help Merlin and CAF staff providing medical treatment to the civilian casualties caused by mines and explosive remnants of war. Also we will support the AMAC in data collection when new accidents and persons with disability are referred to our health centres". Merlin also requested the AMAC to conduct MRE trainings for Takhar and Badakhshan health staff, the North-East AMAC plan to conduct these training in February.

#### **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.

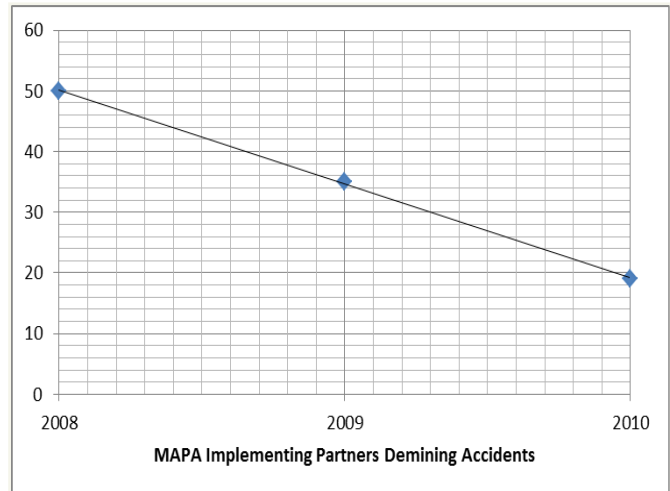
#### **MAPA is also supported by the following bilateral donors:**

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

## MAPA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS SUCCESSFULLY REDUCE DEMINING ACCIDENTS

According to figures at the end of 2010, the number of demining accidents has reduced by more than half (62%) over the last two years. This is credit to the increased attention of implementing partners supported by MACCA Quality Management (QM) Section.

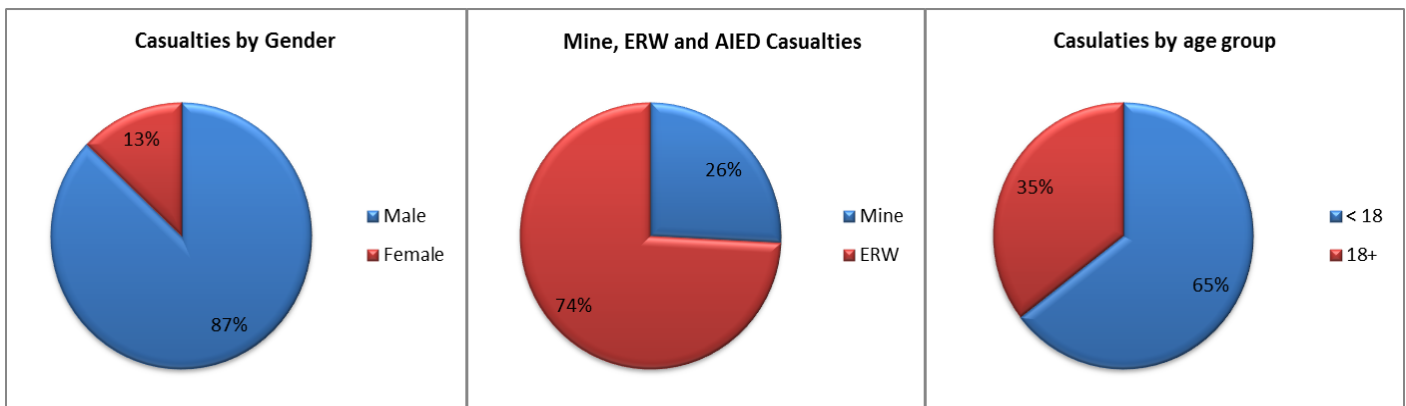
All mine action program implementing partners have internal Quality Assurance Systems, using related Standard Operating Procedures and checklists to measure the performance of their teams. An example of an innovation among the implementing partners last year was when ATC identified that many accidents were happening during excavation. They then developed a new excavation tool which was tested and approved by MACCA Quality Management Section for practical use in the field. This tool proved to be safe and productive and had a positive impact in reducing demining accidents. DAFA managed to avoid any demining accidents in 2010 by focusing their efforts in the field and their senior staff (both the Quality Assurance and operations from HQ) spent more time with their teams in the field of operations. They strengthened their internal Quality Assurance system and managed the shortfalls immediately after findings.



Some of activities of MACCA QM include quality circle meetings with implementing partners to find ways for decreasing accidents and training for field operation to focus on critical issues during their Quality Assurance visits. Lessons learnt are developed for each accident, appropriate corrective actions recommended and regular follow up visits conducted to make sure the corrective actions have been taken by implementing partners. Dr. Aimal Safi the head of MACCA Quality Management Section says “Continual improvement should be a permanent objective of each organization. Management review of past performance is the basic way to decrease the number of accidents and reduce the accidents in the future”.

## CASUALTIES IN DECEMBER 2010

In December 2010 there were 31 casualties recorded due to mines and other explosive remnants of war. 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:

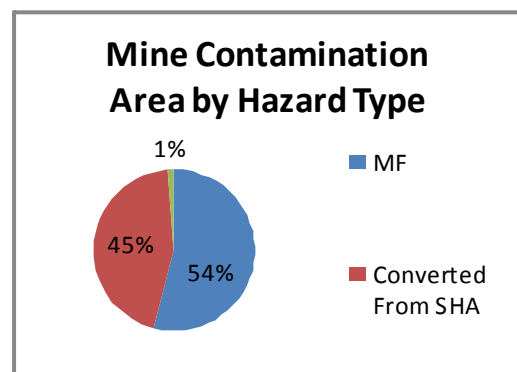
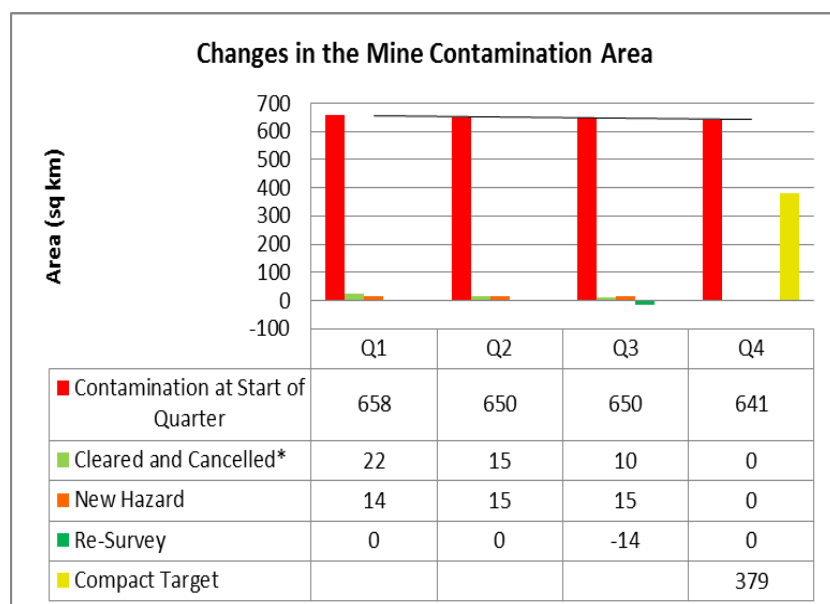
- Land area contaminated by mines and ERW will be reduced by 70% by March 2011;
- All stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be located and destroyed by March 2007.

### AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS TOWARD MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS

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

Indicator	Adjusted Baseline Jan 11	Remaining Contamination-at 13 Jan 11	Clearance Processed at 13 Jan 11	Compact Target of 70% of Hazards	Progress toward 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 <sup>2</sup> )	1,277	641	622	894	70%	1,277	49%

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– DECEMBER 2010)

- \* 29,817 Anti-Personnel mines, 867 Anti-Tank mines, and 774,487 Explosive Remnants of War destroyed.
- \* 126 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- \* 368,233 women and girls and 500,286 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.

