



# MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN (MAPA)

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## MACCA TRAINS MULLAH IMAMS IN MINE/ERW RISK EDUCATION

Until Afghanistan is declared mine-free, Mines and explosive remnants of war risk education is essential to protecting communities from the threat posed by mines and (ERW). UNMAS and MACCA have made considerable progress in mainstreaming M/ERW RE across several ministries; for example, M/ERW RE is now part of the national curriculum of the Ministry of Education. While this has significantly increased the number of children receiving risk education, we know that five million children do not attend school and therefore do not have access to this life-saving information.

In response to this, UNMAS and MACCA contacted Afghanistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) with the aim of integrating training in M/ERW RE for Mullah Imams.

The United Arab Emirates Embassy in Kabul has generously supported a training programme for 15,000 Mullah Imams in collaboration with the MoRA. Each course lasts for two weeks and is attended by around 500 Mullah Imams. The course aims at capacity building and focuses on social and religious issues.

With the UAE's agreement, UNMAS and MACCA began M/ERW RE sessions and also installed a minefield model at the UAE's Imam training centre in Kabul to complement the training. In the second week of each course, MACCA RE staff conduct a three-hour training session for the 500 Mullah Imams in attendance. This is a valuable opportunity for Mullah Imams to receive risk education training in order to reach children, as well as community elders and parents, at mosques and madrasas in some of the most remote areas across the entire country. Printed aids are provided for the Mullah Imams to take with them and use in their own risk education sessions. MACCA has also developed a specific guideline in Dari and Pashtu to support the delivery of risk education and a new poster including pictures of mines and



MRE Training Session for Mullah Imams

ERW, safety messages, and the markings and clues to look out for. So far, 1,743 Mullah Imams from Ghazni, Paktika, Paktya, Khost, Laghman, Kabul and Parwan have been trained to conduct M/ERW RE.

The UAE has been an important supporter of mine action in Afghanistan in recent years. From 2011 to 2013, the UAE funded the Emirates Mine Clearance Project of Afghanistan (EMCPA) in Kandahar. The project was a remarkable achievement, directly benefiting over 28,000 people and addressing

53% of Kandahar's hazardous areas. The project followed a community-based demining (CBD) approach, which involves employing local people to carry out demining operations instead of bringing in teams from outside the community. The basis of CBD is strong community liaison; the local deminers employed by CBD programmes are less likely to be harassed and attacked by local groups opposed to the government, as

they have the support and trust of the local community. This was an important factor in the success of this project, which was completed in one of Afghanistan's most challenging provinces.

This M/ERW RE initiative for Mullah Imams has enabled UNMAS and the UAE to build on the success of the UAE's mine clearance project in Kandahar. It is hoped that this partnership will continue long into the future.

## ENHANCING MAPA'S CONTRIBUTION TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN AFGHANISTAN

The Mine Action Programme implementing partners beside their core mandate provided help and support in coping and dealing with natural disaster incidents. In continuous to that a two-day workshop was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 24-25 April 2014, on enhancing MAPA's contribution to Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery in Afghanistan. The workshop was organized jointly by Cranfield University UK, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Author-

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ity (ANDMA), and the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) with financial support from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The main aim of this workshop was to clarify the future role of mine action organizations in disaster management in Afghanistan, and to share knowledge on the disaster management competencies required by senior and middle managers at mine action organisations. The workshop was also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as disaster management is one of the confidence building measures under the Heart of Asia Regional Cooperation Initiative, which Afghanistan has signed. 19 senior staff from ANDMA, DMC, MACCA, ATC, DAFA, DDG, MCPA, MDC and OMAR participated in the workshop alongside their Tajik counterparts.

Afghanistan is a country that is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, including floods, droughts, avalanches, earthquakes, snow storms and so on. On the top of that, three decades of continual wars in Afghanistan has resulted in this country becoming heavily contaminated by landmines and ERW. Mines and ERW pose a huge threat to the lives of Afghans and impede economic and development activities.

Currently, almost 9,000 personnel are engaged in activities related to mine action in Afghanistan and have presence in 224 communities, 64 districts of 17 provinces out of 34.



Participants of workshop training course

Demining teams are equipped with heavy machinery, ambulances, medics and communication tools, which can be a good potential for disaster response and risk reduction.

Workshop participants discussed how, when provided with some training in mine action, MAPA could effectively be used to oversee mine action activities, victim data collection, monitoring and evaluation and so on. MAPA has an excellent

information management system could further strengthen ANDMA's information management capability. More importantly, I see this initiative as very positive and I am sure it will result in the practical application of all available synergies, specifically in Afghanistan, where the capacity to deal with disasters is still developing, compared to other countries in the region.

It is hoped that the workshop will be a launch pad for further similar efforts in the future to clarify where MAPA can add value to disaster management and response.

### BALANCE SCORECARD TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR MINE ACTION IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

MACCA's main concentration is on quality work and quality management. In order to monitor and evaluate the quality of its implementing partners (IPs)'s activities in different projects. MACCA started the usage of the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) in 2009. Basically BSC is "an integrated strategic planning and performance management system". BSC is a perfect tool to measure activities systematically and professionally.

The implementation of BSC resulted in improving projects execution since this process started.

In relation to MACCA's continuous support and based on the IPs' request, MACCA's Planning Department conducted half-day workshop on BSC in order to enable the IPs to develop BSC for their projects and organizations. The representatives of all humanitarian mine action NGOs participated at the workshop.

The IPs participated at the training workshop were:

**HALO, TRUST, ATC, DDG, FSD, DAFA, MDC, OMAR, MCPA, AAR Japan Afghan, Red Cross Society, Handicap International, ALSO, AOAD-Accessibility Organization for Afghan Disabled, DAO-Development & Ability Organization, AABRAR-Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation And Recreation and KOO.**

By conducting such training workshops, MACCA is aiming to gradually transfer the projects' BSC preparation responsibility to the IPs and MACCA will only keep certification and monitoring power. Partners will prepare the projects BSC voluntarily with the support of the MACCA Planning and Programme Department.

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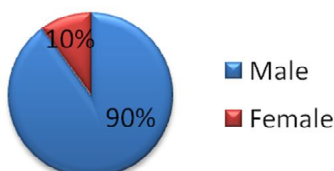
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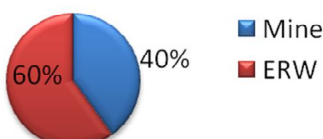
## CASUALTIES DURING APRIL 2014

During this month, 10 civilian casualties due to mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) were recorded in Afghanistan.

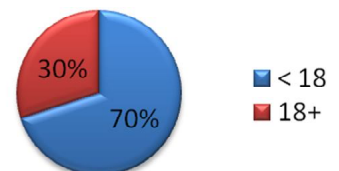
Casualties by Gender



Mine, ERW and AIED Casualties



Casualties by age group

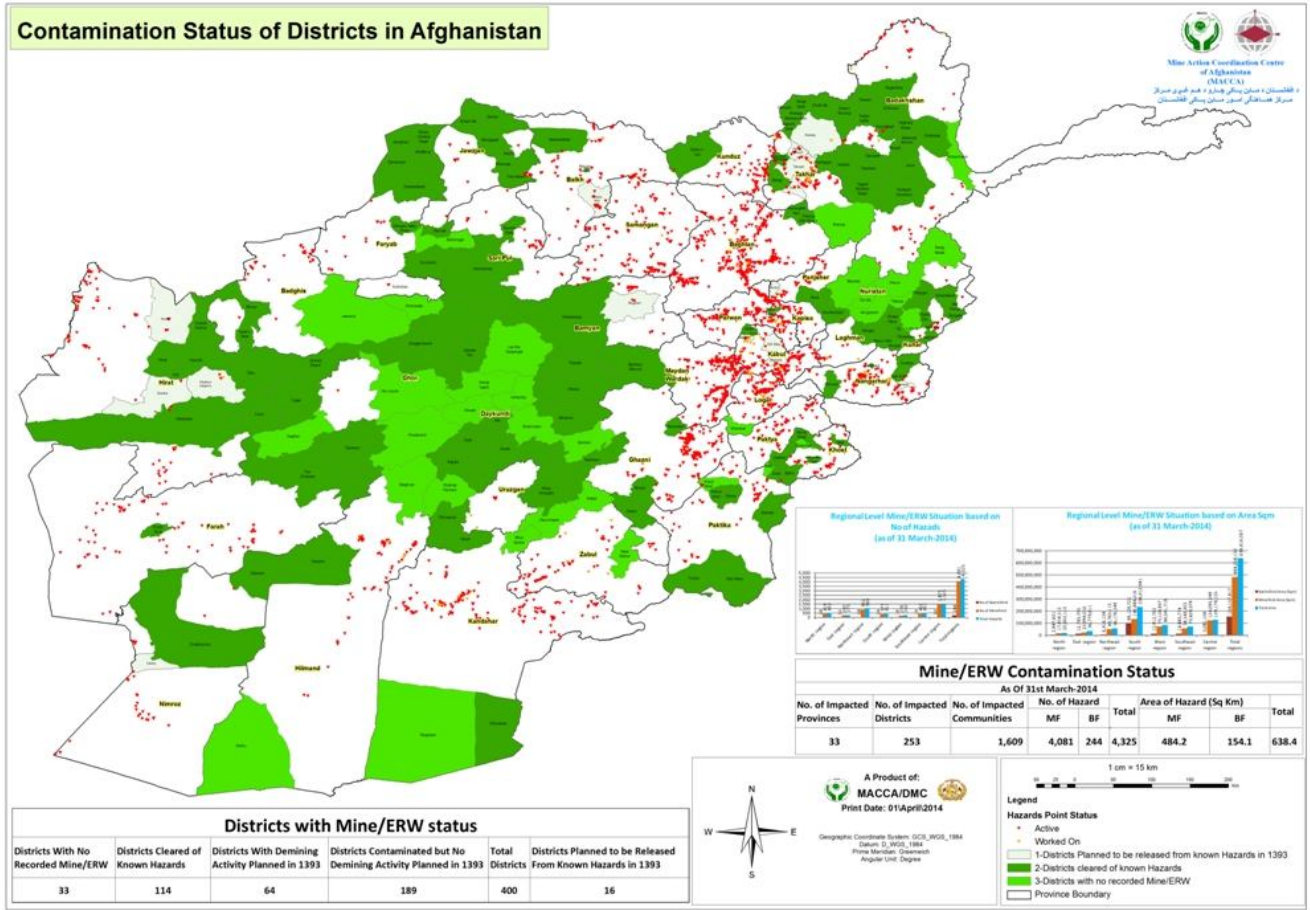


# MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS IN AFGHANISTAN

## 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 other hazards are not forgotten whilst the focus is on meeting the Ottawa Convention's obligations. In March 2012, the Afghan Government submitted a request for a ten-year extension of the deadline to remove all AP mines by 2023. All AP mine stockpiles have already been destroyed. This request was assessed by 10 members of secretariat at the end of November 2012, where all parties accepted the Afghanistan's request. The current baseline and progress is shown in the benchmark table below. In this table "Hazards" represents number of hazardous areas and "Area" represents the area of hazards in square kilometers.

Hazard type	Baseline April 2013		Previously unreported hazards, up to end of April 2014		Resurvey results up to end of April 2014	Current target as of end of April 2014		Hazards processed from April 2013 to end of April 2014		Remaining hazards at the end of April 2014		Progress at the end of April 2014 against current target	
	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area		Change	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Hazards
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>f (a+c)</i>	<i>g (b+d+e)</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l (% of a &amp; h)</i>	<i>m (% of b &amp; i)</i>
AP + (AP,AT,ERW mixed)	3,439	266.4	541	33.1	-1.6	3,980	297.9	1,023	50.2	2,957	247.7	25.70	16.86
AT + ERW	1,248	252.1	277	37.5	-9.6	1,525	279.9	405	44.5	1,120	235.4	26.56	15.89
BF	179	33.5	111	12.4	0.8	290	46.8	68	12.5	222	34.3	23.45	26.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,866</b>	<b>551.9</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>-10.5</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>624.5</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>107.1</b>	<b>4,299</b>	<b>517.4</b>	<b>25.82</b>	<b>17.15</b>



## MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1393 SO FAR

- \* 771 anti-personnel mines, 41 anti-tank mines, and 21,704 ERW destroyed.
- \* Three communities cleared of known mines and ERW.
- \* 5,044 women and girls, and 7,013 men and boys received Mine/ERW risk education throughout the country.

