



MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN (MAPA) NEWSLETTER: JULY 2015



The Jangalak industrial complex is declared free of mines and explosive remnants of war

Jangalak industrial complex in Kabul City was declared free of all known mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and was officially handed over to the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA).

Jangalak industrial complex was contaminated by mines and ERW during the civil war in Kabul. Clearance project in Jangalak began on 1st December 2014 and was completed on 16th July 2015. During clearance operations, more than 992 air munitions, 3,640 ERW, and around 100 small arms bullets were found and destroyed over an area of 70,000 square metres of land. Clearance of the site was bilaterally funded by the US Department of State and was carried out by HALO Trust, an implementing partner of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA). The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) maintained oversight of the project.

Afghanistan has been through many years of war. Different types of weapons were used during the conflict that have left tonnes of unexploded ordnance behind that will endanger and haunt the lives of millions over the coming decades. The Jangalak industrial complex is one such example. The industrial complex is one of the development projects of the GIROA. At the request of the government and since the presence of ERW on the site was a direct threat to civilians living close to Jangalak, MACCA reprioritised The survey of Jangalak was conducted by DDG, another implementing partner of MAPA, in October 2014.

The Jangalak complex was one of the most productive factories of Afghanistan with more than 3000 workers and staff. Due to the civil war, the factory complex was fully destroyed. Now that clearance has been completed, the Ministry of Finance is planning to build a large printing press inside the Jangalak industrial complex, which will employ about 1,000 workers.



Mohammad Shafiq Yusufi—DMAC Director



Sher Agha Ahmadzai—MACCA Area Manager



Handover Ceremony



Jangalak Industrial Complex

MAPA is supported by the following donors to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action administrated by UNMAS:

Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Saudi Arabia.

MAPA is also supported by the following bilateral donors:

ARR Japan, Belgium, DDG Core Fund, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Norwegian Red Cross, PATRIP, Poland, Sweden, UNHCR, UK, UNOCHA, and US DOS.

MAPA 1394 Operational Work Plan is released

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) believes in transparency and accountability in all of its work. It was in this spirit that on 9th July 2015 MAPA released its Operational Workplan for the year 1394 (April 2015 to March 16).

The Programme and Planning Department of the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) was the focal point for the Operational Workplan, with all MACCA departments contributing to its content and major mine action implementers being involved in its development and review. The Workplan is the product of the participatory efforts of all implementing partners involved in mine action projects across the country and is intended to help implementing partners understand the strategies, targets and priorities for this year and beyond to better implement their planned projects and to focus activities where the needs are greatest in terms of mine/ERW survey, clearance, risk education and survivor assistance. This Operational Workplan also covers issues of advocacy/communication, external quality management, information management information, funding and security.

The 1394 MAPA Operational Work Plan reiterates the mine action related strategic goals of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and sets out the operational priorities and objectives of the mine action programme of Afghanistan for the year 1394. The plan encompasses all pillars of mine action (survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance) and details the third year of Afghanistan's Article 5 extension request to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT). During 1394, the programme is targeting the clearance of 75.4 square kilometres of land contaminated by mines and ERW. The achievement of this clearance target is dependent on funding, of which just 45% of the required USD 65.9 million for this year has been secured to date.

MACCA hopes that the document will be a useful point of reference for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all mine action interventions in Afghanistan.

MACCA Regional Offices Meet with New Governors

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) is responsible for coordinating mine action affairs with the government and non-government entities. To this end, MACCA maintains continual contact with relevant government authorities and other organizations. Once the National Unity Government of Afghanistan was formed, MACCA visited government authorities, including the President of Afghanistan, His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, as well as newly appointed ministers and governors in Kabul and in the regions.

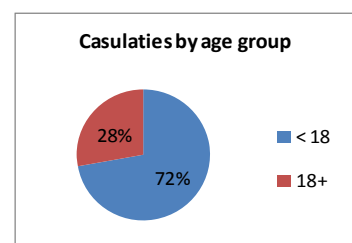
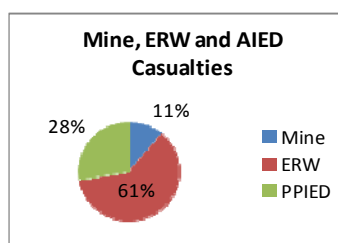
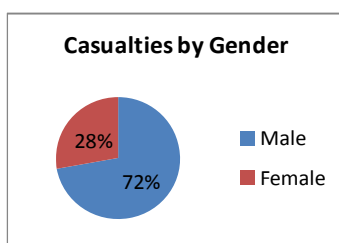
MACCA East Regional Office staff recently met with the newly appointed governors of Nanagrhar, Kunar and Laghman. The purpose of such visits is to familiarize the authorities with the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), MACCA's responsibilities in the region, the challenges that MAPA and MACCA are facing and the scope of the mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) problem at the regional and provincial levels. MAPA's recent achievements in the region were presented, as well as the number of civilian casualties recently recorded in the region and MAPA's plan for the year (1394).

The initial meeting was organized with the new governor of Nanagrhar Province, Mr. Mohammad Salem Kunduzi, on 7th June 2015. The following meetings were with Mr. Alhaj Waheedullah Kalemzai, Governor of Kunar Province and the new Governor of Laghman, Mr. Abdul Jabar Naimee. The governors were also informed that mine action activities usually start during the autumn and winter in the eastern provinces due to the warmer weather conditions in these areas. Moreover, the governors were briefed on the emergency requests submitted by the local people regarding mine/ERW clearance or incidents. The governors learned how MAPA and MACCA take action on such requests, considering available resources and the security situation in the provinces.

At the end of the meeting, MACCA presented maps of the recorded hazards in the respective provinces, as well as briefing packages on MAPA and MACCA. The governors asked that MAPA and MACCA coordinate closely with the local government in the region and provided assurances that the authorities will support MAPA in the region however possible.

CASUALTIES DURING JULY 2015

During May, 18 civilian casualties due to mines, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and PPIEDs were recorded in Afghanistan.



LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA – LESSONS FROM EUROPE

1st – 2nd June 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia

One hundred years after the First World War started, seventy since the Second World War ended, and forty years after the Second Indochina War concluded, explosive hazards remain in place in many countries. Much has been achieved over the past decades in understanding and reducing the risks associated with explosive remnants of war (ERW). The objectives of this symposium was to increase regional cooperation and contribute to the development of effective, efficient, and appropriate national policies, strategies, and practices in managing ERW contamination in the long-term. From Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) Mr. Mohammad Wakil – chief of staff participated at the symposium. Such symposium help the Mine Action Programmes of Afghanistan (MAPA) to take proactive action in establishing required processes and procedures in order to provide necessary response to the residual contaminations by the time all known hazards are cleared. Attending such symposiums can also help to learn from countries living over 100 years with the risk of residual contaminations and best practices could be applied.

The symposium featured interactive sessions on lessons learned and practices developed in Europe while addressing ERW contamination from past conflicts, with insights from subject matter experts, policy developers, national authorities, NGOs, and donor representatives.

Discussions investigated the similarities between Southeast Asian and European experiences with particular emphasis on the lack of precise baselines for the extent of contamination, and the evolution of different sustainable national responses. In supporting the development of appropriate risk management strategies for residual contamination, the symposium aimed to provide an important international platform for knowledge exchange.

Comprehensive risk management of residual contamination can appear to be a complex and overwhelming challenge when addressed in a single effort. The use of distinct, practicable components can contribute to better understanding and management of residual ERW in the long term.

The Management of Residual Explosive Remnants of War (MORE) aims to inform today's decision makers and promote change in the ways countries affected by more recent wars, particularly in Southeast Asia, apply measures to mitigate the hazards of residual ERW.

The MORE project examines contemporary approaches in 15 countries in Asia and Europe dealing with such 'old' explosive contamination. It is designed to support and encourage the cur-

rent focus on the development of manageable national mechanisms for ERW response and the presentation of realistic national plans and timeframes to address complex contamination. The project identifies sustainable solutions including operationally efficient and risk encompassing policies that promote value for money.

Afghanistan has been the victim of invasions and internal armed conflicts for more than 40 years that contaminated the every parts of the country. Every conflict that occurred left behind ERW and the more drastic problem is that there are no records and data on the conflicts occurred during these years, which makes the clearance tasks more complicated and difficult. Learning from the experience of other countries will benefit the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) in planning and implementation of the mine action projects. Past experience shows that it is more appropriate to move away from proactive clearance practices and policies to responsive long-term survey and clearance mechanisms that are sustainable, proportional to the reduced threat and fitting to the intended use of the contaminated land.

Recent examples of ERW found in Europe:

Example 1: A 50 Kg bomb was discovered 200 m from the Wembley Stadium in London on 22 May 2015.

In 400 meter cordon a number of residential and business addresses were evacuated.



Bomb found in London



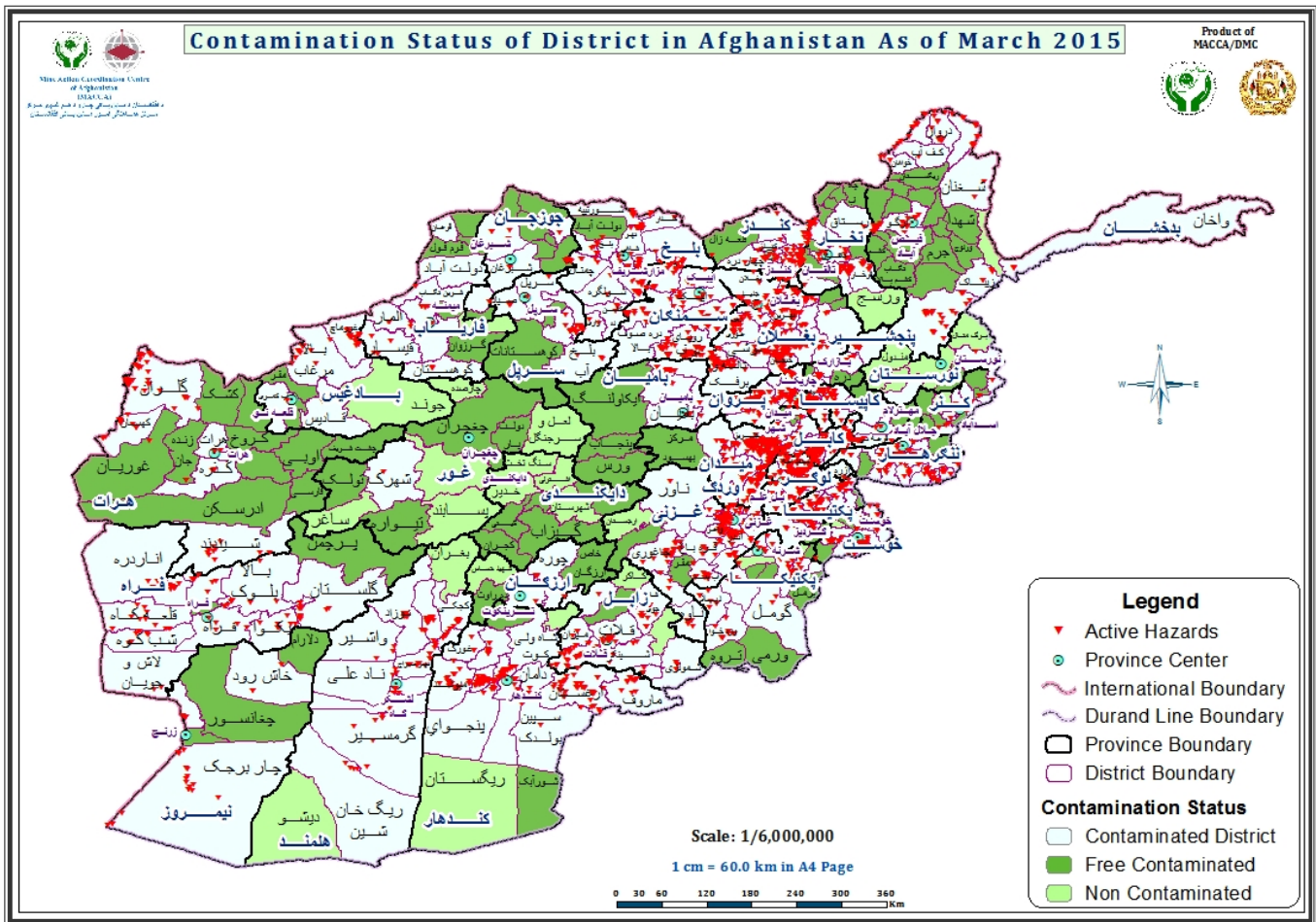
Management of Explosive Remnants of War Symposium in SOUTHEAST ASIA

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(Note1)		Previously unreported hazards up to end July 2015		Resurvey results up to end of July 2015	Current Target as of end July 2015		Hazards Processed from April 2013 to end July 2015		Remaining Hazards as end of July 2015	
	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Change	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area
	<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>
AP(+ AT,ERW)	3,439	266.4	987	53.6	0.9	4,426	320.9	1,591	81.8	2,835	239.0
AT + ERW	1,248	252.1	604	105.7	-13.8	1,852	343.9	609	73.9	1,243	270.0
BF	179	33.5	200	27.1	0.6	379	61.3	120	22.3	259	39.0
Total	4,866	551.9	1,791	186.5	-12.4	6,657	726.1	2,320	178.1	4,337	548.0



MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1394 SO FAR

- * 1,884 anti-personnel mines, 207 anti-tank mines, and 96,311 ERW destroyed.
- * 24 communities cleared of known mines and ERW.
- * 119,836 women and girls, and 167,386 men and boys received Mine/ERW risk education throughout the country.
- * 2,168 people received victim assistance and disability activities including Disability awareness & advocacy, Physical Rehabilitation and socio-economical reintegration . (VA Data as per April 2015)

MAPA Current Donors for the year 1394:

