



MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN (MAPA) NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2014



Farza District of Kabul Province is Freed of Known Mines/ ERW

On June 24, 2014, Farza District of Kabul province was declared free of all known mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). The district was officially handed over to the communities and the district authorities during a handover ceremony held in the district conference hall. The ceremony was co hosted by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan and HALO Trust (mine action implementing partner) and was well attended by local authorities, the district governor, and community elders. The Head of MACCA Regional Office, Mr. Sher Agha Ahma-

ment Authority's (ANDMA) Department of Mine Clearance, Mr. Qasim Samanderi thanked the mine action personnel for their important achievements in the region in such difficult terrain and insecurity. He also thanked the local community councils (Shuras) and the district's residents for their support and cooperation with demining personnel in the field.

Farza District had more than 21 minefields and 11 battlefields. During clearance operations, 353 anti-personnel mines, three anti-tank mines, 11,332 items of small arms ammunition and 8,934 items of unexploded ordnance were found and destroyed, which was a great



Farza District Handover Ceremony



Farza District is announced free of Mines/ERW

dzai, warmly welcomed and thanked the local authorities and public for their support and assistance. Ahmadzai congratulated the wider population of the district for their support in completing the clearance of the known hazards. He said he deeply appreciated the community's continual cooperation with demining personnel with regard to their safety and security. He thanked the implementing partners and briefly explained what MAPA has achieved in the central region, especially in the district in question.

The District Governor, Mr. Mohammad Zarif Rashid, also expressed his appreciation for the achievements of MACCA and its partners. The Governor also praised MACCA's close coordination and liaison with governmental authorities and community elders. Mr. Rashid added: "I thank the mine action organisations and implementing partners for clearing the mines and ERW from our villages and district, as they pose a danger to the safety of our men, women and children."

Representing the Afghanistan National Disaster Manage-

achievement.

Now that the hazards have been removed, the district will be included in the Government's development plan and the cleared lands of these districts will be used to build houses and other essential services for the communities, such as agricultural activities, health clinics, schools, businesses, and roads, all of which will directly benefit the communities of the district and indirectly the region's wider population.

The clearance, survey, mine/ERW risk education projects in Farza District were implemented by HALO Trust, Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC), and the Organization for Mine clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR), all of whom are mine action implementing partners of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan.

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

Australia, Canada, EU, Finland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Oman, UAE, and USA.

MAPA is also supported by the following bilateral donors:

Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Government of Afghanistan, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, PATRIP, Sweden, UN OCHA, UAE, UK, and USA.

Mine Risk Education Program for Pakistani Refugees in Afghanistan

Pakistan's military attacks against Taliban militants in North Waziristan Agency, in the tribal regions of Pakistan, forced more than 70,000 Pakistani citizens to immigrate to Afghanistan close border areas. Thousands of families have fled North Waziristan into the eastern parts of Afghanistan, mostly arriving in the districts of Gurboz, Khost (Matun), Tanni, Nadir Shah Kot and Mando Zai in Khost Province.

The newly arrived women, men and children have trekked the mountainous terrains across Pakistan's border to seek safety. People are being accommodated with local Afghan communities and camps for now.

Khost Province is one of the highly mine affected areas in the country. The newly refugee camps are close to some hazard-

cards and leaflet to participants. Also big banners and posters were posted inside the camps.

Gulan camp is located in a desert area closed to the mountain in Gorbuz district of Khost province, which was the main corridor from Miram Shah to most parts of the country. Behind the desert are mountains where the strong Mujaheden bases were existed in the past and across side toward khost city was Russian settlement. So, mujahedeen and Russian have randomly mined their own parts in Gulan desert for keeping their bases safe from the unexpected attacks.

MACCA is also coordinating the clearance of the areas from Mines/ERW. Initially the areas are being surveyed and hazardous and clean areas are marked accordingly in order to facilitate the transportation and eradicate the potential danger. The cleared ways are already being used as narrow line



MRE Sessions for Pakistani Refugees



MRE Banners for Raising Awareness of the Refugees

ous areas. Keeping the safety of the refugees in priority, Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) immediately deployed its Mine Risk Education (MRE) implementing partner (Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)) to start MRE program for all the refugees. Since Pakistani refugees are unaware of the threats of mines/ERW, it is vital for them to be informed. On June 18, 2014, the first MRE sessions started for Gulan refugees camp of Gorbuz District of Khost Province.

As per information given by UNHCR representative in Khost, total 3250 families placed and registered in the camp and more than 20,000 families came to Afghanistan most of them staying in the villages with the villagers. More than 3,600 individual have received MRE sessions in the camp which makes 600 adult and 3000 children male and female.

MACCA also distributed different MRE materials such as notebooks, posters, MRE green Brushers, MACCA hotline

by the inhabitants of the camp and aid agencies' vehicles. The Demining stage started on July 14, the challenges of mines/ERW still existed in close to the camps areas and Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan works really hard to mitigate the problem. Until now 880,000 sq metres areas are surveyed and 3500 sq metres area have been cleared and so far 9 mines are found inside the camp area.

The setting up of the refugees' camps have not been coordinated with MACCA, in the result now the camps are settled in hazardous area.

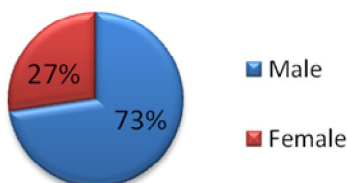
MoU signed between ANDMA and ITF Enhancing Human Security

On 7 July 2014, an official Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the ITF Enhancing Human Security and Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority

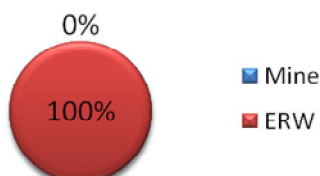
CASUALTIES DURING JUNE 2014

During this month, 11 civilian casualties due to mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) were recorded in Afghanistan.

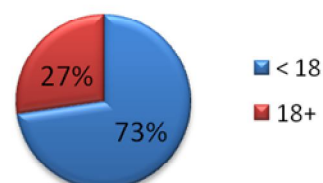
Casualties by Gender



Mine, ERW and AIED Casualties



Casualties by age group



(ANDMA) for future cooperation. On the occasion of signing of the MoU, a ceremony was held at the ANDMA headquarters in Kabul Afghanistan. The MoU was signed by the ANDMA Director General Dr. Mohammad Daim Kakar and ITF Project Manager for Afghanistan Mr. Roman Rursic in presence of representatives from the Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) which is a directorate of ANDMA and the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA).



MoU signing Ceremony at ANDMA Office

ITF Enhancing Human Security, previously known as International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victim Assistance, established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in March 1998. ITF Enhancing Human Security initially aimed at providing assistance and support in relation to post-conflict rehabilitation in Bosnia Herzegovina. ITF Enhancing Human Security is a humanitarian, non-for-profit organization devoted to the elimination of threat from post-conflict and disruptive challenges, including landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and the illicit ownership and use of small arms and light weapons in the world.

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) of the US Department of States has been the biggest donor for Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan. Since the beginning of programme in Afghanistan, it has contributed hundreds of millions US dollars in support of mine action activities in Afghanistan including demining operations, Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance and mines and ERW stockpile destruction. As of 2012, USDOS has been supporting mine action coordination activities in Afghanistan which are carried out by the MACCA and DMC.

In 1393, WRA decided to support MACCA and DMC through the ITF Enhancing Human Security. This MoU helped ITF establish an office and open a bank account in Kabul for implementation of this project. The project will fund employment of 11

A Glance at the Past...

Here are some highlights of the Programme's achievements during the past year:

In 1392, more than 91.2 Sq Km minefields were cleared and released. 12.5 square kilometers of battlefields were searched and cleared. The following villages and districts are announced safe of known Mines/ERW:

- 70 villages in ten districts of Kandahar Province are released. The districts are namely: Panjwai, Zheray, Maiward, Khakraiz, Shah Wali Kott, Mahroof, Arghistan, Speen Boldak, and Daman.
- Ten districts of Badakhshan Province were released. Districts are namely: Yawan, Jurm, Baharak, Khash, Teshkan, Kishim, Yaftal Sufla, Shahri Buzurg, Shuhada and Darayim.
- Seven districts of Takhar Province were released. Districts are namely: Bangi, Dashte Qala, Kalafgan, Khwaja Bahaudin, Ishkamish, Warsaj and Yangi Qala.
- Four districts in Hirat Province namely Enjeel District, Karokh, Chesht-e Sharif and Obe districts were released.
- Three district in Jawzjan Province i.e. Qarqeen, Khanaqa and Aqcha districts were released.
- One district in Faryab Province i.e. Khan-i-Charbagh district was also released.
- Overall 314 villages in 33 districts were cleared from known Mines/ERW.



ANDMA, MACCA and ITF Members

Quality Management Inspectors with MACCA, contribute to capacity development of DMC as a national body for overseeing of mine action activities in Afghanistan as well as capacities of UN MACCA.

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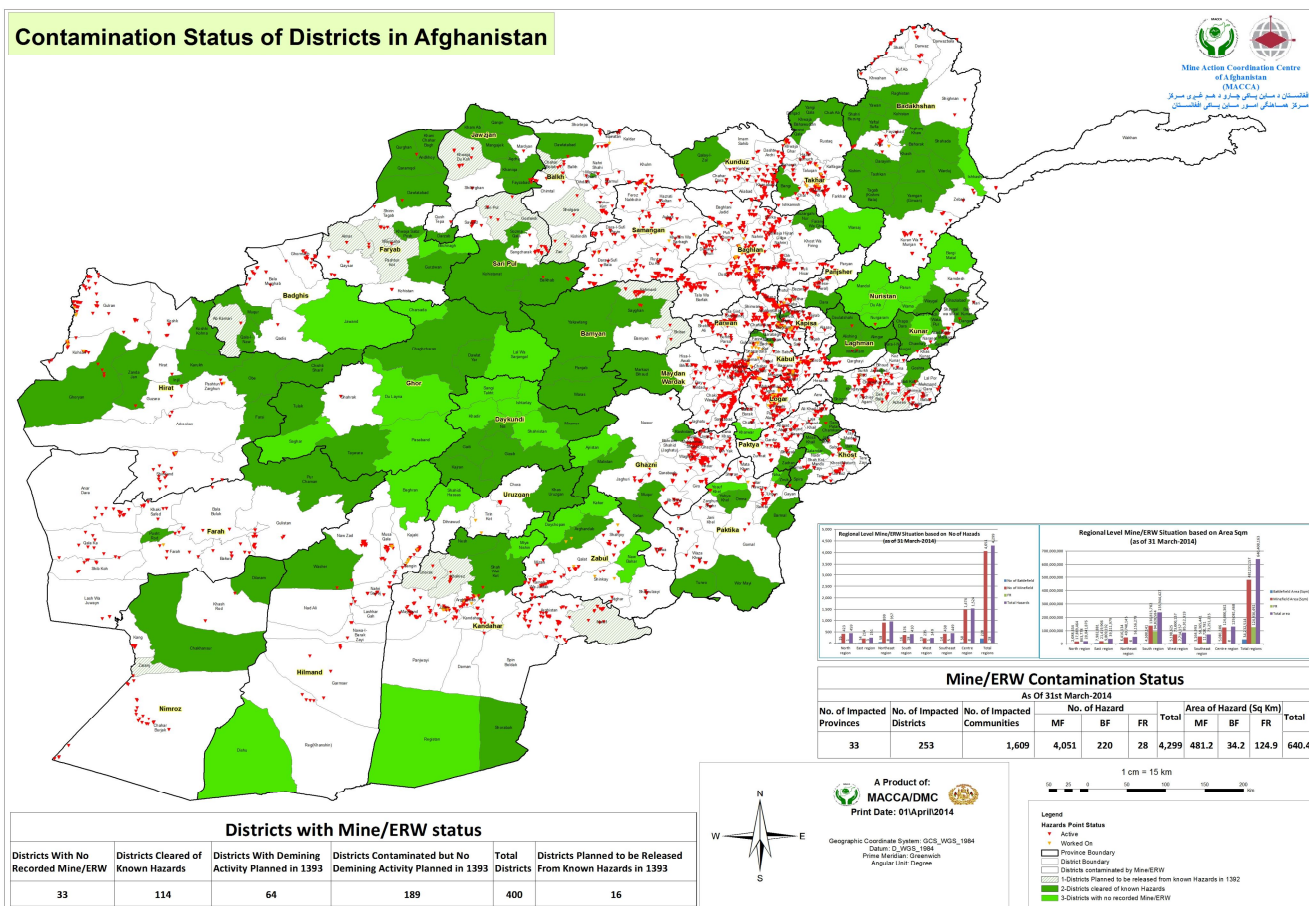
MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS IN AFGHANISTAN

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 June 2014		Resurvey results up to end of June 2014	Current target as of end of June 2014		Hazards processed from April 2013 to end of June 2014		Remaining hazards at the end of June 2014		Progress at the end of June 2014 against current target	
	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Change	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area	Hazards	Area
	a	b	c	d	e	f (a+c)	g (b+d+e)	h	i	j	k	l (% of a & h)	m (% of b & i)
AP + (AP,AT,ERW mixed)	3,439	266.4	638	39.5	-1.5	4,077	304.4	1,112	55.6	2,965	248.8	27.27	18.27
AT + ERW	1,248	252.1	307	44.4	-11.4	1,555	285.1	420	45.7	1,135	239.4	27.01	16.04
BF	179	33.5	115	12.8	1.0	294	47.3	71	13.5	223	33.8	24.15	28.57
Total	4,866	551.9	1,060	96.7	-11.8	5,926	636.8	1,603	114.9	4,323	522.0	27.05	18.04

Contamination Status of Districts in Afghanistan



MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1393 SO FAR

- * 4,387 anti-personnel mines, 111 anti-tank mines, and 67,318 ERW destroyed.
- * Twenty communities cleared of known mines and ERW.
- * 73,390 women and girls, and 44,472 men and boys received Mine/ERW risk education throughout the country.
- * 702 people received disability awareness training sessions.

