

HURT LOCKER STAR VISITS MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN

This month, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan was host to an Oscar nominated actor — Jeremy Renner of *The Hurt Locker* — who has teamed up with UNMAS to raise awareness of mine action globally. Jeremy wanted to come to Afghanistan to see for himself the work being done.

During his four day visit, the actor visited the Bamiyan world heritage sites cleared of mines last year, ventured onto a minefield in Bagram with Afghan deminers, joined high school students during a mine risk education session in Kabul and spoke with survivors about their experiences.

"I'm a man of action and that's why I like what the United Nations and its partners are doing here; action — mine action. We are not just talking about it, but taking action to solve this problem," said Renner.



Photo above: Jeremy Renner visiting a minefield in Parwan province, Bagram



Photo above: Jeremy Renner with students of Habibia High school - Kabul city

"I'm here to be educated and then educate people about an issue that can be solved with the proper levels of funding."

The Hollywood star recently narrated an advocacy film for UNMAS that is available on their website: www.mineaction.org.

MACCA HOLDS SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS RESEARCH TRAINING

As the first step towards conducting a research project to better understand the development outcomes of demining, MACCA/DMC hosted a training workshop this month. The research project, known as ‘The Livelihoods Survey’, will be led by Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), who has been contracted by UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), to assist in the design and implementation of a pilot project.



Photo above: Training participants discussing research techniques

The five-day training workshop was attended by Afghan mine action Implementing Partners (HALO Trust, DDG, OMAR, MCPA and ARCS), DMC and the Afghanistan Institute for Research and Development part of the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development who will implement the three week pilot survey. The event was facilitated by international specialists in sustainable livelihoods provided by GICHD and staff of the

MACCA. The objectives of the training were to understand the principles, approaches and tools to be used in the survey, practice survey and agree on teams, roles and logistics for the survey. It is anticipated that the pilot survey will be conducted in 25 communities of Central and Northern Afghanistan from 26th June – 15th July 2010.

In future, MACCA plans to undertake community-level surveys on a periodic basis to monitor socio-economic achievements and identify changes to policy and practice that could further enhance the contribution that the MAPA makes towards Afghanistan’s development.

MINE AND ERW INCIDENTS JANUARY– JUNE 2010

Month	18 Years and Younger		Over 18 Years		Unknown Age/Gender	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Jan	34	3	24	1	0	62
Feb	11	14	13	3	1	42
March	59	5	23	0	0	87
April	17	1	9	0	0	27
May	21	2	11	2	0	36
June	24	6	16	2	0	48
Grand Total	166	31	96	8	1	302

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.

DESTRUCTION OF ALL KNOWN STOCKPILES OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

The Government of Afghanistan successfully fulfilled its Article 4 of Ottawa Treaty and Afghanistan Compact benchmark to destroy all known stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in its territory in October 2007.

KEYS TO MEETING THE BENCHMARKS FOR MINE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

- * Sustaining existing capacities
- * Expansion of Community - Based Demining
- * Programming through focused projects
- * Introduction of competitive tendering
- * Enhanced fundraising to ensure resources to meet benchmarks

CHALLENGES TOWARDS BENCHMARKS

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan must increase multilateral and bilateral funding to mine action to achieve the targets set by the Ottawa Treaty and the Afghanistan Compact. Essentially, funding needs to be coherent to enable effective delivery; this means funds must be received before the beginning of the year . If the funds are provided, the MAPA has the technical capability to achieve the targets.

MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY JANUARY - JUNE 2010

- * 15,324 AP mines, 499 AT mines, and 467,545 ERW destroyed.
- * 90 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 237,844 women and girls and 322,453 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.

EXPLANATION ON CHANGES TO BENCHMARK TABLE

Introduction:

In January 2006, when the Afghan Compact was signed, the baseline set of known hazard was 719 sq. km, therefore the target of clearing 70% of the hazard required a removal of 503 sq km. The benchmark table below shows that to date, 574 sq. km has now been cleared. This would mean the MAPA would have now exceeded the goal of 70% clearance, if the baseline had remained the same.

However, the baseline set at that time was in fact an incorrect picture of the overall hazard in the country. Much work has been done over the last few years to ensure that the national database presents an accurate picture of known hazard is included in this database. For a full explanation on these changes, please see p25-27 of the 1389 Integrated Operational Framework, available on www.macca.org.af. In short, this work has resulted in an increase in the baseline.

The current baseline and progress is shown in the benchmark table below. However, as people continue to return and resettle in Afghanistan, new hazard continues to be discovered. In addition, there is new hazard being laid by the insurgent forces in some parts of Southern Afghanistan, although not in traditional high-density mine belts. Therefore it is expected that the baseline will continue to change and the progress towards these goals June fluctuate as the challenges to meeting these goals increases.

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 Mar 2010	Remaining Contamination at 31 Mar 2010	Clearance Processed at 31 Mar 2010	Compact Target of 70% of Hazards	Progress toward Compact	Treaty Target of 100% of Hazards	Progress towards Treaty
Number of Hazards	11,736	6,684	5,052	8,215	61%	11,736	43%
Hazardous Area (sq. km)	1,231	657	574	862	67%	1,231	47%

THE MINE ACTION STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

The strategy for mine action is based on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's vision of a country free from landmines and ERW, where people and communities live in a safe environment conducive to national development, and where landmine and ERW survivors are fully integrated in the society and thus have their rights and needs recognized and fulfilled. To turn this vision into reality, the government has established benchmark obligations within its national development strategy, the Afghanistan Compact, which are in accordance with its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.

SUPPORT TO MINE ACTION NATIONAL CAPACITY

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) supported by the United Nations and the Government of Afghanistan through its Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)/Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) have formed a partnership within the MACCA offices to plan, coordinate and ensure the quality of all mine action activities in Afghanistan.



MDD teams returning from demining operation in Charasyab district / June 2009

MAPA AND MACCA SUMMARY

The concept of humanitarian mine action was developed in Afghanistan in 1988/9. Mine action encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, demining (survey, marking and clearance), stockpile destruction, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance (VA). The Programme is funded both bilaterally and through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)^[1].

Collectively known as the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), mine action implementers in Afghanistan form one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. Together, these agencies have a twenty year history of successfully delivering mine action in Afghanistan and have cleared over 15,000 hazard areas throughout the country. The MAPA is coordinated by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), which is funded through a UN modality. The MACCA has sub-offices, known as Area Mine Action Centres (AMACs) in Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kunduz, Gardez, and Kandahar.



Demining Operation in Samangan province

Photo by Jacob Simkin, April 2009

MAPA is supported by :

