

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2010



MACCA HIGHLIGHTS INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

September 21, International Peace Day is celebrated annually around the world. In Afghanistan UN agencies and partners ran sports competitions, drama shows and local gatherings to promote peace in the country.



To support this effort, various MACCA offices held events to highlight this day around the country. In Kunduz, a 'Football Competition for Peace' was organized by Afghanistan Culture and Media Communication Foundation (ACMCF), with support from MACCA, Mediothek and UNAMA, who used the opportunity to encourage young people to make efforts bring peace to the country.

In Kabul, MACCA together with Disabled Social Centre of Independent Human Rights Commission (IHR) held a gathering where the children and disabled people gathered together to enjoy dramas and songs of peace sung by children, waving flags of peace in their hands.

According to head of Disabled Social Centre of IHR: "Believing in peace and striving for it is the duty of every society member. Human rights and justice will develop only in a peaceful environment."

In Bamyán, MACCA joined the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to participate in a 'trek for peace'. MACCA also developed a model of Shiber district in Bamyán complete with minefields and mine action operations. The picture shows the MACCA Bamyán area manager showing the display to children.



MAPA is supported by the following donors to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action:

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AFGHAN MINE ACTION EXPERTS TRAIN NEPALI ARMY

This month, two Afghan Mine Action experts were invited by the Nepali Army to provide training on Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). MACCA staff members Jafar Dehqanpor and Haji Abdul Qader Kakar travelled to Katmandu, Nepal to provide the training.

The MACCA trainers supported the review of the Army curriculum and training outlines, revised lessons and delivered the EOD level 3 course. The EOD level 3 course covers theory, practical applications and live demolition.

The course manager John Hare, was highly impressed by the training provided and wrote in a letter of appreciation: "Their professional approach and personalities were much appreciated and the course would have been weaker but for their assistance."

The picture (right) shows the group carrying out a controlled explosion.

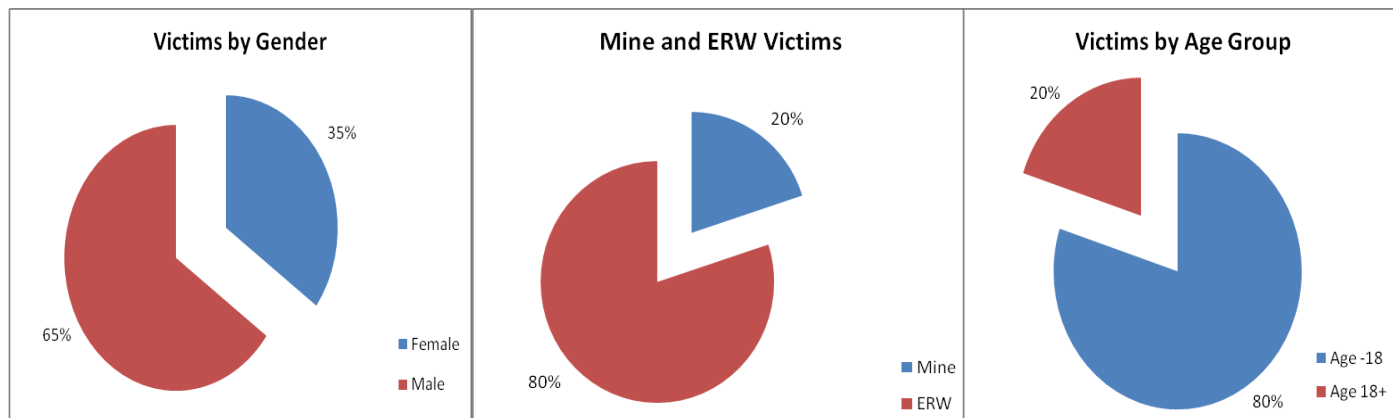


Both of the trainers enjoyed the experience. Mr. Jafar one said: "It was a real privilege to be invited to train others in our area of expertise at an international level."

In the picture (left) the Afghan Mine Action Experts are observing the trainees in the classroom for a task given to them.

CASUALTIES IN SEPTEMBER 2010

In September 2010 there were 20 casualties recorded due 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 Sept 10	Remaining Contamination-at 30 Sept 10	Clearance Processed at 30 Sept 10	Compact Target of 70% of Hazards	Progress toward Compact	Treaty Target of 100% of Hazards	Progress towards Treaty
Number of Hazards	12,528	6,776	5,752	8,770	66%	12,528	46%
Hazardous Area (km ²)	1,262	650	612	883	69%	1,262	48%

EXPLANATION ON CHANGES TO BENCHMARK TABLE

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, 612 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. For a full explanation on these changes, please see p 25-27 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 July fluctuate as the challenges to meeting these goals increases.

MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY APRIL- SEPTEMBER 2010

- * 21,187 AP mines, 626 AT mines, and 456,365 ERW destroyed.
- * 80 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 243,571 women and girls and 332,428 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.

