



## MAPA CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION

On 3rd of April 2018, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) celebrated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Kabul. The event was jointly celebrated by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and brought together key authorities

from the Government, donor-embassies in Afghanistan, the MAPA IPs and the media. The event was organized at the Marble Palace and was attended by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the National Unity Government. In his speech,

Dr. Abdullah highlighted the importance of mine action as a priority for the Government and called on all the donors to continue supporting MAPA and the Afghan Government in eliminating the threat of landmines and other explosive remnants of war from the country.



## WORKING TO CLEAR WAY FOR TAPI GAS PIPELINE

To mark the start of work on the Afghan part of the international gas pipeline known as TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India), representatives from all the four countries gathered in Herat in February this year. The Managing Board of this national infrastructure project sensibly allocated a budget for demining activities of the project.

Following the completion of the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of TAPI by MDC, the Technical Survey (TS) of the project was awarded to Aims Demining Company (AMDC) and Mine Detection Center (MDC) in March 2018 and was completed in June 2018. In line with its mandate,

DMAC conducted Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) of the technical survey by recruiting eleven (11) Quality Management Specialists for a period of three months.

The salaries of these Quality Management Specialists were funded primary contractor of TAPI, Vinco-Imtiaz Construction Company (VICC). It is highly likely that the Coordination Office of TAPI will widen the pipelines corridor which will likely lead to a technical survey of the expanded area followed by clearance. In recognition of the importance of the view of mine action as a precursor to development, TAPI Board's consideration of mine action interventions represents the epitome of this understanding in practice.



## **TRANSITION TO NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND CAPACITY TRANSFER OF UNMAS TO DMAC COMES TO A SUCCESSFUL END**

In line with the capacity transfer plan which was jointly developed by DMAC and UNMAS, on 1st June, 2018, UNMAS transferred the remaining key positions of mostly department-heads to DMAC. The practical steps for the implementation of this plan began in November 2016 and DMAC with technical support from UNMAS, is now officially managing and-leading the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan.

## **QUALITY MANAGEMENT INSPECTORS OF TNMAC GIVEN RE-FRESHER TRAINING ON QMS**

In an attempt to promote cross-border and south-south cooperation, the Tajikistan National Mine Action Center (TNMAC) has agreed to provide quality control and quality assurance of FSD projects in Darwaz district of Badakhshan. The projects implemented by FSD are better accessed through Tajikistan due to rugged terrain.

TNMAC has assigned two of its DMAC-trained quality management officers to conduct QC and QA of the projects on behalf on DMAC. In April this year,



DMAC QMS department convened a four-day long training session for TNMAC quality management officers to prepare them for the job and to improve their technical knowledge and skills.



## DMAC HOSTS A DISCUSSION ON HOW MAPA IPS CAN POTENTIALLY ACT AS FIRST RESPONDERS TO NATURAL DISASTERS

On 2nd June, 2018, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Qasim Haidari-Deputy Minister for Policy, Coordination and Planning of the State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs chaired a meeting on how mine action implementing partners can voluntarily get involved in helping to respond to victims of natural disasters in areas where they have presence. The meeting was facilitated by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) and was attended by the representatives of key mine action implementing partners of the MAPA.



A DMAC-drafted document on how this voluntary assistance can be delivered in practice was the outcome of the meeting which now serves as a guiding document for MAPA IPs who wish to contribute to response operations in the wake of natural disasters. The document has been submitted to State Minister's office for approval and implementation.

## REPRESENTATION AT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF AP-MBT

At the Intersessional Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, held in Geneva, in June this year, Afghanistan was represented by Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC Director. Mr. Yosufi sat in the panel of speakers in two side events-

- respectively titled as "Abandoned Improvised Mines in Afghanistan: Gaining Access and Consent" chaired by Netherlands and "Achieving National Ownership: the Afghanistan Case". DMAC Director also delivered Afghanistan's statements on "Clearance", "Cooperation and Assistance" and Victim Assistance.



## AFGHANISTAN DONOR AND IPs COORDINATION WORKSHOP HELD IN GENEVA

The Afghanistan Donor and IPs Coordination workshop for mine action was held in Geneva on 9 -11 April 2018. The workshop, organized by DMAC with technical facilitation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD, was financially supported by the United States,





## **PARTICIPATION AT THE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON CCW**

Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC Director took part in the Meeting of Experts for the Amended Protocol II and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), on 11-13 June 2018, in Geneva. In this meeting DMAC Director sat in two side events and one plenary session and spoke on the following topics;

- Status of ERW in Afghanistan
- Status of Pressure Plate IEDs in Afghanistan
- Assistance provided to victims of IEDs in Afghanistan.

## **REGIONAL EOD TRAINING COURSE IN TAJIKISTAN**

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) organized a regional Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training in partnership with the U.S. ARCENT as the focal training partner hosted by the Tajik Ministry of Defense to develop competencies of trainees from military, law enforcement and security services as well as civilian agencies, to the specific requirements of IMAS.



Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (US PM/WRA). The workshop which brought together MAPA donors and IPs under the same roof to discuss the achievements and challenges of the programme, was the fourth of its kind organized for the second time in Geneva preceded by annual workshops organized successively in Dubai and Dushanbe.



The participants of the training were nationals of four regional countries (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan). A total of 9 Afghan participants took part in the training, 7 of which were from DMAC and two from the Ministry of interior. Of the 7 DMAC participants, 5 were trainees and the remaining 2 were co-instructors who had passed this training in 2017.



## **DMAC PUBLISHES ITS POLICY ON 'EXTERNAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT OF DEMINING ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT'**

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs introduced its Policy on 'External Quality Management of Demining Activities in Support of Development Projects' on 7th May, 2018. This policy aims to ensure the delivery of high quality demining services undertaken in support of development interventions through the private sector in Afghanistan.

### **DMAC ORGANIZES LSP TRAINING FOR VOX OPERATORS**

8 VOX project operators were given training on Landmine Safety Programme (LSP) by the MRE Department of DMAC on 24 – 25 June 2018. The training was conducted through two sessions for two groups of operators working for VOX and was based on a request from UNOPS {VOX Afghanistan} project through UNMAS. VOX Afghanistan operators have recently started data collection on IDPs and Returnees' needs. Mine Action is one of the fields where VOX will be involved in, therefore, it was felt that LSP training was a requirement for data collection.

### **FIRING RANGE QMIS GIVEN PDIA TRAINING**

The Firing Range project has been extended until October 2018 and will be focusing on the assessment of active firing ranges and Post Demining Impact Assessment of the cleared ranges. Given the importance of PDIA, it was decided that a short PDIA training was needed for the Quality Management Inspectors. The three-day training was organized by the operations department of DMAC in June this year.

This policy details the importance of external Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) of demining activities, operations and outputs to ensure that the quality requirements are met and that the confidence of stakeholders, funding bodies, development investors and the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) is built.



The objective of this training was to enhance the capacity of QMIs to conduct PDIA.

## MAPA DEVELOPS ITS POLICY ON CLEARANCE OF ABANDONED IMPROVISED MINES (AIM)

DMAC in consultation with the MAPA developed a policy on clearance of Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM). This policy directs the engagement of the MAPA to deal with the increasing challenge of confirmed and suspected AIM contamination in the country. Figures suggest that a significant percentage of civilian casualties in Afghanistan are caused by improvised mines also known pressure plate IEDs. The policy will also help IPs to safely clear abandoned improvised mines while taking-

## ACBL MEETS TO SELECT A NEW STEERING COMMITTEE

The Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines (ACBL), which is a non-governmental and non-political forum, was established on 5th Aug 1995 in Kabul, aiming for a total ban on landmines. Through a meeting organized by the Victim Assistance department of DMAC, a new steering committee was elected in order to to reactivate the ACBL as an effective forum where it can advocate and campaign for:

- The removal the new obstacles faced the programme due to a deteriorating security situation and the increasing risks faced by operators in the field
- A ban of new contamination and expansion of hazardous area due to production and use of PPIEDs and ERW



-into account the efficiency of the clearance operations. The paper aims to ensure that MAPA IPs uphold their neutrality and impartiality as they rid the country of explosive materials in order to save to lives and limbs of civilians.

- To highlight funding shortage to achieve a mine-free Afghanistan by 2023
  - To fulfill the requirements of CRPD for the inclusion of mine/ERW victims in society
- The meeting was opened by a statement from Mohammad Shohab Hakimi, MDC Director and H.E. Najeeb Aqa Fahim, State Minister for Disaster Management and-Humanitarian Affairs. Through votes, the following seven people were elected as a new steering committee for ACBL for the next two years:

1. Mr. Shahab Hakimi, MDC
2. Mr. Omar Khan Muneeb, DAO
3. Mr. Abdul Khaliq Zazai, AOAD
4. Mr. Haji Ahmad Shah, CCD
5. Mr. Samiulhaq Sami, HI
6. Mr. Muniruddin Burhani – AABRAR
7. Mr. Ali Akbar Jafari, H4AH

