

MAPA
WORKING TO MAKE AFGHANISTAN MINE-FREE

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE (PEACE DAY) OBSERVED IN AFGHANISTAN BY THE MAPA

The MAPA family celebrated the International Day of Peace under the theme "The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70" on 23 September 2018, at the MDC compound. The event was participated by H.E. Najib Aqa Fahim, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, Government Officials from key ministries, representatives from the Afghanistan

Independent Human Rights Commission, UNMAS and MAPA implementing partners and stakeholders. In his remarks H.E. Minister Fahim highlighted the efforts made by the MAPA as steps towards peace and stabilization in the country. Minister Fahim stated that "peace does not mean the absence of war, rather it is presence in a civil society with social justice, mutual respect and mutual understanding." The event was well-broadcasted by the national media and TV stations. Tolo and Ariana televisions had live coverage of the event. Approximately 100 deminers from the main implementing partners of the MAPA had a parade for peace within



the MDC compound. The event aimed to mark the immense efforts of deminers over the past 29 years and to showcase the MAPA's contribution to peace and security in the country.

REPRESENTATION AT THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE "BLED STRATEGIC FORUM (BSF)"

The 13th International Conference of the Bled Strategic Forum was held on 10 - 11 September 2018 in Slovenia.

DMAC Director, Mr. Yosufi attended all the relevant discussions and side events of the forum and shared information on the mine action programme of Afghanistan with other



participants in the forum. Mr. Yosufi was also part of a panel discussion on the second day of the forum under the title of “De-Victimising Victims” which was organized in partnership with ITF Enhancing Human Security. The panel discussed the possible ways donors can bridge the gap between victim assistance and other fields of humanitarian mine action, and also how mine victims can be empowered and re-integrated back in the community.

PM/WRA VISITS DMAC FOR PROGRAMME REVIEW

PM/WRA Programme Manager for South and Central Asia, Mr. Geary Cox visited DMAC on 16th September 2018. Mr. Cox was accompanied by Mr. George DuSoe and Mr. Arash Popalzai from the US embassy in Kabul. During their visit, they were briefed by the DMAC with a summary of the key achievements of the programme over the past year. The PM/WRA team was also provided with information on key areas DMAC and MAPA need support. Mr. Geary advised DMAC to develop a concept note by outlining all the support the MAPA requires and present it to PM/WRA through their process of the unsolicited proposals. He further added that, the U.S. PM/WRA will review DMAC’s concept note and will provide feedback on the possibility of support. On 19th of September 2018, U.S. PM/WRA hosted



an evening reception at the US embassy in Kabul to praise the work of the MAPA in saving civilian lives and improving peoples’ livelihoods in the country. H.E Najib Aqa Fahim - the State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, Officials from DMAC, UNMAS, MAPA donors and IPs were present in the reception which was hosted by Mr. Jim DeHart – Assistant Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

RETREAT IN BAMYAN

Following the successful completion of transition in June 2018, UNMAS organized a retreat for DMAC and UNMAS senior staff

to evaluate where DMAC stands following the transfer of capacities from UNMAS. The retreat, which was held in Bamyan from 8th



to 11th July 2018, was an opportunity for DMAC and UNMAS staff to reflect on transition and the way ahead. In light of the priorities set by DMAC, an action plan was developed in consultation with UNMAS with identified areas of focus for DMAC for the year ahead. As a follow up to the Bamyan Retreat, another meeting was hosted by UNMAS on 3rd September 2018 at UNOCA where DMAC and UNMAS agreed on mutual cooperation for the action points to be implemented as priority.

THE CABINET OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN ENDORSES ADDENDUM OF LAW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AP-MBC AND CCM

Since 2014, DMAC led a working group that developed a law as an instrument for the implementation of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This will supplement an existing law banning the use, acquisition, trading and stockpiling of weapons, ammunition and explosive items without the required legal license. This law relates specifically to the provisions of the Ottawa

Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This law has been approved as an addendum to the existing Law approved by the cabinet and endorsed by H.E. President through decree # 307 dated 14/6/1397 (5 Sep 2018). Processing of this law through the Ministry of Justice, however, took a long time and was challenging for DMAC. Finally, through DMAC's persistence, the law was endorsed by H.E. the President.

POST-CONFLICT EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN GHAZNI

Following the clashes between the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) and the Taliban in Ghazni in August this year, DMAC with support from the implementing partners; ATC, HALO trust and OMAR deployed quick response demining teams to the province. These quick response teams were one of the first humanitarian groups that arrived in the province as soon as the road to the province was opened.



Heavy clashes between ANDSF and Taliban resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of civilians and several public and private facilities in the city were destroyed. When the conflict was over, the city was left heavily contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERWs) and explosive materials which



LANDMINE AND LIVELIHOODS SURVEYS CARRIED OUT IN TWO REGIONS

Mine Action Livelihood Survey (MALS) was carried out in September this year in 12 communities, of five districts of Khost Province in the southeast of the country. The initial findings of the survey indicate that mine action activities were indeed valuable to the communities that were surveyed. A detailed MALS report for 1397/2018 is being developed and will be published during the upcoming reporting quarter.

WORKSHOP ON THE REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF DATABASE FOR VA/DISABILITY

A workshop on National Disability Database development and review was jointly conducted by DMAC-VA department

prevented aid agencies from entering the city. The deployed quick response teams destroyed 103 different types of ERWs and provided Risk Education to 7691 people from different age and sex groups and enabled access of humanitarian aid organizations in the city.

POST DEMINING IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN 1397

Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) for 1397/2018 was carried out during July-September 2018. PDIA for 1397/2018 covered 73 cleared/cancelled hazards from the previous year. These hazards were randomly selected from 44 villages in 29 Districts of 11 provinces of the country. The selected hazards make 17% of the total cleared/cancelled land during 1396/2017. A detailed PDIA report for 1397/2018 is being developed and will be published during the upcoming reporting quarter.



and the Martyrs and Disabled Division of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD). The workshop was held

to review and develop the national disability database as a main source of information about people with disabilities and their needs, causes of disability and services needed. This workshop was participated by H.E. Mohammad Aqa Kohistani, Deputy Minister of Martyrs and Disabled Affairs of MoLSAMD, Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC Director and representatives from most of the VA and MRE organizations working in Afghanistan. The database will serve as a unique source of information for MoLSAMD in understanding which particular geographical location has the greatest number of people in need of services and will help the Ministry to identify the organizations providing



services and the locations where they work. It will also help the sector to understand the needs of the people and will facilitate aid delivery. All organizations including the MoLSAMD VA/Disability division will have access to this database and they will be able to utilize the information for their planning purposes.

WORKSHOP ON "EMPLOYMENT IN MINE ACTION & THE ART OF JOB SEEKING"

The Gender Mainstreaming department of the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) in coordination with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, conducted a one-day workshop on "Employment in Mine Action & The Art of Job Seeking" on 29th August 2018. The workshop was attended by around 20 participants and was aimed at raising awareness on mine action, explaining the role of women in mine action as well as practical knowledge in job seeking.



AIM DEMINING POLICY DEVELOPED

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) released its Policy on the clearance of Abandoned Improvised

Mines (also known as Pressure-Plate IEDs) in Afghanistan, on 5th of September 2018. The policy was developed by a technical working group formed of DMAC top management and key representatives of the MAPA Implementing

Partners (IPs). The policy is a guidance to all the implementing partners who might engage in the clearance of Abandoned Improved Mines, in the future. The Policy

also intends to prevent IPs from compromising their neutrality and ensuring that AIM clearance and survey is conducted solely for humanitarian purpose.

DMAC STAFF ATTENDED THE SMC

A group of five DMAC staff members attended the South and Central Asian Regional Senior Managers' Course (SMC) in Dushanbe – Tajikistan. This course was organized with the financial support from the US PM/WRA and was facilitated by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) of the James Madison University (JMU), from 25th June to 13th July 2018. The course also welcomed participants from other central and south Asian countries such as Tajikistan, Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Sri-Lanka.



FIRING RANGES POST DEMINING IMPACT ASSESSMENT- PDIA

66 firing ranges have successfully been cleared and handed over to the beneficiaries. As part of evaluation process, DMAC has undertaken Post Demining Impact Assessment of the cleared/closed FRs as well in order to measure the immediate and midterm humanitarian, development and socio-economic impact of demining operations in these cleared areas/firing ranges. 21 firing ranges covering 343 Sq. Km area have been assessed in 5 different regions through 5 PDIA teams to examine whether demining



objectives are achieved and whether the livelihood of the communities have improved. Final report of the project will be shared with all stakeholders of the programme in the coming days.