



MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN MAPA NEWSLETTER

MAPA
WORKING TO MAKE AFGHANISTAN MINE-FREE

OCTOBER _ DECEMBER 2018

MAPA REPRESENTATION AT THE GENEVA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN



The Geneva Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan was held on 27 and 28 November 2018. This conference was aimed at showcasing the solidarity of the International community with the People and Government of Afghanistan, as well as for the Afghan Government to renew its commitment in bringing reform and development.

This conference was also important in measuring the results against \$ 15.2 billion commitment made in 2016 by the International community for Afghanistan. Based on the invitation from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and in agreement with the Embassy of the I.R of Afghanistan in Switzerland, Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi- DMAC Director, attended one of the side-meetings of the Conference on “Protecting Children to Safeguard Afghanistan’s

Future” and delivered a presentation. In this side-meeting which was chaired by Ms. Mariam Safi, Executive Director, Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS), DMAC Director, briefed the meeting on the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war, particularly on children and he shed light on the strategies and responses the mine action programme of Afghanistan has to protect civilians from these devices.

Other members to the side-event included; Ms. Sima Simar, Director, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Mr. Cornelius Williams, UNICEF Associate Director and Global Chief of Child Protection and Ms. Danielle Bell, Chief, UNAMA Human Rights Service (HRS), Former Chief UNAMA HRS.

Representation to this conference has a great value for DMAC and generally for the MAPA, as it was the first time that the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan was given the chance to participate and represent the programme at such a high-level conference and share the challenges this programme faces with other entities working on human rights and protection.

AFGHANISTAN PRESIDED OVER THE 17TH MSP FOR THE AP-MBC

The Seventeenth Meeting of the State Parties (17th MSP) on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (AP-MBC) was held from 26 to 30 November 2018, in the Geneva and was presided by the I.R of Afghanistan. The meeting was opened by Dr. Suraya Dalil Ambassador of the I.R of Afghanistan and the UN in Geneva. The opening ceremony also featured messages from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, H.E Salahuddin Rabbani; the Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Yves Daccord; the Convention's Special Envoy, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Bin Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan; the Director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Hector Guerra; the Director of Fundacion Red, Jesus Martinez; as well as the President of the Council of Foundation of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Barbara Haering.

Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi- DMAC Director represented the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) in the meeting and delivered statements on the progress of Article five, seven, nine and on Victim Assistance. Mr. Yosufi, chaired a side-event organized by the EU Non-Proliferation & Disarmament Consortium. In this side-event, Mr. Yosufi provided a list of recommendations to the donor community on how their funds can be best utilized for humanitarian mine action purpose and how donors contributions can have better results. Mr. Yosufi also took part in a side-event on Negotiating Humanitarian Access for mine action in conflict situation.

DMAC Director also had bilateral meetings with the representatives from Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and authorities of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to discuss programme related strategic issue. As the president of the 17th MSP, Afghanistan handed over the presidency of the annual meeting for 2019 to the of Kingdom of Norway.



DMAC PARTICIPATED IN THE COUNTERING EXPLOSIVE THREAT AND DEMINING CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

The conference brought together key stakeholders in Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Area Clearance from across the EOD community, including NGOs, government, private sector and the military. DMAC was given the opportunity to have a keynote presentation on removing IEDs and Legacy landmines in Afghanistan which covered the following key points;

- How demining operations are currently carried out in Afghanistan
- Breaking down the demining mission – key objectives and landmarks towards a mine-free Afghanistan
- Timescales for becoming a mine free nation?
- How the international agencies can support the aim of a mine-free Afghanistan

The conference was held in London from 11 – 13 December 2018 and some of its participants included; Dr Mathew Offord MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Explosive Threats, Ms. Agnes Marcaillou, United Nations Mine Action Service Director, Major General (ret) James Cowan CBE DSO, Chief Executive Officer of the Halo Trust and Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

GICHD DELEGATION VISIT MAPA TO PREPARE FOR THE 2019 DONOR COORDINATION WORKSHOP



A delegation from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the organization facilitating annual Afghanistan and Implementing Partners Donor Coordination Workshops for Mine Action, arrived in Kabul in November 2018. The aim of the mission was to consult with DMAC, MAPA implementing partners and some donors on themes and agenda of the workshop.



During the week-long mission, Ms. Tammy Hall-Head of Strategies and Standards Division and Alain Nellen-Project Officer met with the directors of the implementing partners including victim assistance organizations in order to better plan for and organize an outcome-oriented donor workshop.

The 2019 Afghanistan and Implementing Partners Donor Coordination Workshop for Mine Action will be held in Geneva on 26 – 28 March 2019.

THE FIRST FEMALE DEMINING TEAM IN AFGHANISTAN CLEARED A MINEFIELD IN BAMYAN



Based on an invitation from the Danish Demining Group (DDG), DMAC Director Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi paid a visit to Bamyan from 17 - 19 November 2018. The objective of this field visit was to attend a ceremony held by DDG and DAFA for handover of a cleared minefield located in Ahangaran Village of Bamyan Province to the intended beneficiaries. This minefield was cleared by a female demining team funded by UNMAS. This was the first female demining team in the history of the mine action programme of Afghanistan, which was jointly managed DDG and DAFA under a project funded by UNMAS. During this ceremony, DMAC Director participated in issuance of appreciation certificates to a number of demining team members who had outstanding_

performance during the course of project implementation.

DMAC Director also attended another ceremony that was held in the same province by DDG to mark the completion of a non-technical survey of five firing ranges. These firing ranges were used by the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team based in Bamyan Province during the years 2003 - 2013. The ranges were surveyed once in 2014 by an international demining company, namely Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA). DMAC, through various channels has been encouraging the Government of New Zealand to fund the clearance of the firing ranges in Bamyan. Recently, the Government of New Zealand has promised to fund clearance of these firing ranges. To ensure validity of previous survey data and specify the current status and scale of contamination, DDG was deployed to undertake a fresh non-technical survey on these five firing ranges under a project funded by UNMAS. The fresh survey of DDG resulted in a significant reduction in the original size of contamination that had been reported by SDA.



RESURVEYING OF THE FIRING RANGES USED BY NEW ZEALAND ARMED FORCES RESULTED IN THE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF THE RANGES

Considering operations efficiency and the fact that initial survey of these firing ranges was carried out in a commercial context, the management of the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) decided to coordinate and oversee the resurveying of the Firing Ranges through one of MAPA's humanitarian implementing partners.

The resurvey project was funded by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and designed for three essential components which are non-technical survey, Mine/ERW Risk Education and Permanent Markings of the accessible sides of the firing ranges. The project was awarded to Danish Demining Group (DDG) and was monitored by DMAC firing ranges quality management inspectors.

The re-survey resulted in the cancellation of one of the Firing Ranges and significant reduction in the size of the other four ranges. The total size of the contaminated area was reduced from 219 square kilometers to just 39 square kilometers.

UNMAS/DMAC FEMALE STAFFS' EXPOSURE VISIT TO A MINEFIELD AND A DEMOLITION SITE IN BAGRAM



On 12 December 2018, female staff from UNMAS, DMAC (Afghan Directorate of Mine Action Coordination) and HALO Trust visited a minefield and demolition site in Bagram district of Parwan province in Afghanistan. The staff had an opportunity to ask questions and witness firsthand technical procedures of demining and demolition of explosive remnants of war. In addition, they observed risk education sessions for women and children conducted by Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR). This exposure visit helped increase knowledge and understanding of female staff working in mine action.



DMAC MIS STAFF GIVEN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MINE ACTION SCRIPT TRAINING BY GICHD

An IMSMA Script Training was conducted by Anne-Li from GICHD in Green Village from 28 October - 03 November 2018.

Three DMAC Information Management system (MIS) staff participated in the training which helped the participants with the delivery of Script writing method and briefing of existing scripts. In addition to this, MIS DMAC, UNMAS & GICHD had discussion on current data quality, IMSMA reporting and implementation of latest technologies in MAPA MIS. Ms. Anne-Li also provided information to the participants of the training on the new version of IMSMA (IMSMA Core). the training helped builds staff capacity.

DMAC STAFF ATTENDED RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT (RBM) AND SYSTEMATIC QUALITY MANAGEMENT (QM) IN MINE ACTION COURSE IN SPIEZ

Three staff members from the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) participated in a five-day long training course titled "The Results Based Management (RBM) and systematic Quality Management (QM) in mine action". The course was organized by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), from 12th to 16th November 2018 in Spiez, Switzerland.



MIS department also held an Arc GIS 10.5 training internally in order to improve staff skills. This training was conducted from 24 to 28th November 2018 by Mr. Mohammad Zaheer - GIS/Remote sensing officer. The aim of the training was to develop mapping technologies, which is necessary for planning and decision-making process. The primary objective of the training was to provide a practical approach on the principles and concepts of GIS and Remote Sensing used by MAPA. The result of the training helped staff to create, analyze and produce GIS map based on stakeholder requests.

The course provided an opportunity for mine action stakeholders to develop basic knowledge of the benefits of Results Based Management (RBM) and systematic Quality Management (QM) in mine action, and introduced the participants to up-to-date methods and tools. The aim of the course was to show mine action staff, practitioners and donors the use of available tools and methods for managing all parts of the mine action project cycle for better results and improved quality. RBM also provides a framework to define and measure the impact, efficiency, relevance and effectiveness of programmes. At the end of the course, the participants were awarded with course completion certificates.



DMAC REPRESENTATION AT THE REGIONAL IED AWARENESS TRAINING IN DUSHANBE



This was a 5-day training which started on 26 November 2018 and was completed on 30 November 2018. The first four days of the training consisted of theoretical work with the final day of practical demonstrations. The course mainly covered visual indicators of IED, IED elements, counter IED principles, IED initiating systems, reaction to suspected IED, post blast analysis and evidence awareness. Anti- governments elements (AGEs) are increasingly using IEDs in Afghanistan therefore this training will help the programme as it is prepares to deal with the challenge.

LIFE UNDER THE CEILING MADE OF DESTRUCTIVE ROCKETS

A delegation from DMAC visited Qezelabad, a village located in the North-eastern perimeter of Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province. The roof of most of the houses in this extraordinary village in Mazar-e-Sharif were covered with BM21 rockets used as beams.

EOD teams of a MAPA implementing partner removed BM-21 rockets from the roof of houses in the village. During survey 19 houses were identified to have BM21 rockets in their roofs used as beams (dastak). The villagers were unaware of the risks associated with these rockets and did not have the financial means to buy wooden beams, as is common in Afghan villages, to cover their roofs. Instead they used rockets which were easily available in their village. The villager elder known as Qand Agha stated that;

A regional IED awareness training was held in the capital city of Tajikistan in which participants from four countries (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan) took part. The course was hosted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and was financially supported by PMWRA with technical support of TNMAC and MoD Tajikistan. Three people represented Afghanistan in the training which consisted of two participants from the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and another participant from DMAC.



" Due to our poor economic situation, we used these rockets as an alternative to wooden beams and luckily demining teams came to talk to us and we showed them these contaminated houses. They cleared our residential houses and afterwards our houses were reconstructed and we are all very happy with the work that has been done here.

