

# MAPA NEWSLETTER

APRIL \_ JUNE 2019

*MAPA WORKING TO MAKE AFGHANISTAN  
MINE-FREE*

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



MAPA celebrates the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

On 4th of April 2019, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) celebrated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Kabul. The high-profile event was participated by H.E. Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Government of Afghanistan, H.E. Najib Aqa Fahim, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, H.E. Laluddin Aryubee, State Minister for Martyrs and Disability Affairs, H.E. Toby Lanzer, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN, H.E. James DeHart, Assistant Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Kabul, representatives of donor countries, directors of implementing partners and other government and non-governmental organizations.

In the event the need for an understanding of the importance of mine action both as a humanitarian necessity and as a pre-requisite for development in Afghanistan was re-iterated by all speakers in the event. H.E. Dr Abdullah thanked all donors of the MAPA for their generous contributions to the programme. H.E. Dr Abdullah also stated that given the importance of mine action in the country, the needs of the sector will be discussed in the Council of Ministers and Cabinet meetings to ensure the required level of attention is given to the important work that MAPA is undertaking.

H.E. Dr. Abdullah also promised to discuss the possibility of allocating funds from the national budget to the programme and land to victims' families in the cabinet meetings. Similarly, H.E. Najib Aqa Fahim, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs spoke about need for inclusion of mine action in the national priority programmes. The Event was well-covered by both national and international media.

## DMAC REPRESENTED AT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

The 2019 intersessional meeting for Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention (AP-MBT) was held during 22-23 May 2019 followed by preparatory meeting for the 4th review conference of the AP-MBT on 24th of May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The AP-MBT review conference is held every five years, and state parties organize one or two preparatory meetings before the Review Conference to discuss possible agendas and issues to be discussed in the Review Conference. The fourth Review conference will take place in Oslo, Norway from 25th to 29th November 2019 and will be Presided by the Kingdom of Norway. During the intersessional meeting of the AP-MBT Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC Director, delivered statements on the progress of clearance, Victim Assistance and Cooperation.



Mr. Yosufi also briefed the meeting about the progress DMAC has made following the transition of the MAPA to national ownership as well as review Oslo Action Plan which will build on previous action plans to capture new developments, progress and challenges.

## KEY DMAC AND UNMAS STAFF MEET IN KABUL TO PLAN AHEAD FOR THE MAPA

Following the two retreats (Strategic Planning workshops), where key UNMAS and DMAC staff came together to plan ahead for the MAPA post-transition. Senior staff from the two organizations sat together for the 3rd time in one year to identify priority areas for the MAPA and to evaluate progress made since the last two retreats in Bamyán and New Delhi. This one-day mini-retreat was organized at Kabul-Star Hotel in the capital where DMAC senior managers and UNMAS-Afghanistan staff discussed the way forward. Various important issues such as Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Extension request, DMAC policies and procedures, information management, data collection and many other technical themes were discussed in detail. As an outcome of the last 3 retreat workshops, a plan of action has been developed for DMAC which is reviewed against progress made every six to nine months. The next retreat workshop is likely to be in October 2019.

## GICHD DELEGATION VISIT DMAC & MAPA

A delegation from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) came to Kabul to conduct a joint assessment of DMAC and the MAPA. The delegation discussed and reviewed National Mine Action Strategic Plan, Afghanistan Mine Action Standards, Quality Management procedures and various policies, standards and working procedures. During their week-long mission in Kabul, the delegation met with different departments of DMAC, UNMAS and implementing partners. As strategic partner to DMAC and the MAPA, this assessment will help GICHD to better develop capacity of the programme and mainstream its future support to DMAC and the MAPA which are on GICHD's priority list for support.



At the end of the mission GICHD came up with 14 recommendations for DMAC and the MAPA for further improvement. The outcome of the assessment containing the recommendations and action plan will be shared with DMAC in the near future.

## DMAC ACTING HEAD OF MRE DEPARTMENT VISITS DUGHARON CENTRE IN IRAN

In April 2019, the acting Head of Mine Risk Education (MRE) department of DMAC had a mission to Mashhad in Iran to observe MRE activities conducted in Dugharon Center located at Zero Point at the Iranian-Afghan border. A huge number of returnees are receiving Mine Risk Education on the Iranian side of the border. A total number of 3.5 million Afghan returnees received MRE through this center. The visit provided DMAC an opportunity to exchange experience on MRE with Iran and resulted in revision of MRE materials & approaches based on the needs and context of Afghanistan.

## MAPA ORGANIZES OPERATIONS TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

The MAPA operations technical workshop was conducted from 21 to 24 April 2019. The first three days of the workshop was participated by DMAC regional managers from 7 regions and the DMAC Departments heads. On the final day of the workshop, operation managers from humanitarian demining organizations were also invited to participate the workshop. The main purpose of the workshop was to review and discuss important operational issues & share ideas for further improvement of the coordination mechanism of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) Some of the agenda points of the meeting included the following:

- Revision of AMAS Quality Management chapter
- Improving effectiveness and efficiency of non-technical and technical survey operations

- How to effectively manage external QA/QC visits of projects in hard-to- reach areas
- Group work on developing the liability policy
- Change in MRE materials and methodology
- Improving Victim Data Collection
- Amendment process of demining projects hazards
- Review of MBT Projects by ROs
- Discussion on definition and better identification of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the demining projects
- Group work for discussion on conduct of stand-alone technical survey operations
- How to improve DMAC external QA/QC mechanism for better monitoring of IP activities in the field.



## MINE ACTION LIVELIHOOD SURVEY CONDUCTED IN FIVE DISTRICTS OF KHOST PROVINCE



The mine action Livelihood Survey mainly focuses on the impact of demining activities on peoples' lives, as well as the implementation of development projects in cleared areas, recognizing demining priorities based on peoples' demands and ensuring quality of demining operations. Findings of the survey demonstrate that mine action activities have positively impacted the communities visited. As a result of mine action activities,

lands were cleared for growing crops, grazing of animals, building houses and other public facilities. The residents of the twelve communities in five districts of Khost province can now easily access agricultural lands, water canals, roads, schools and other public services and facilities.

The findings of the report also indicate that most of the people in the surveyed communities were aware of landmine/ERW risks and a number of victims were provided with physical rehabilitation services. Livelihood survey is financially supported by the US Department of state.

## DMAC REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED THE FORUM ON "CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES" CHAIRED BY UNICEF

On Thursday 27 June 2019, DMAC representatives attended the "Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE)" monthly meeting and delivered a presentation on the integration of Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Risk Education (MRE) into other programs. During the presentation, the meeting participants were provided with information on

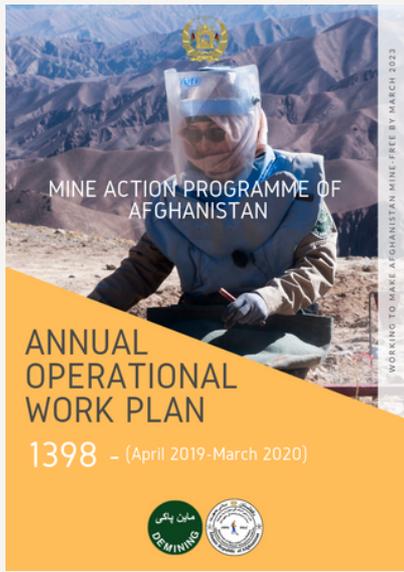
- the governance structure of DMAC and its core functions,
- current approaches in delivering MRE
- key activities carried out in the field of MRE during the year 2018
- challenges and future plans
- plans for collaboration and integration concerning MRE



The presentation allowed for further discussions on potential integration of MRE into the programmes of cluster members. Given the rise in civilian casualties as a result of explosive ordnance, integration of MRE is believed to be key for the Child Protection Cluster members.

The “Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE)” is a sub cluster forum of “Child Protection”. Its members meet once a month to discuss pertinent issues and challenges threatening children in Afghanistan and the role played by organizations working in the field in ensuring the protection of children.

## THE MAPA ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN FOR THE YEAR 1398 IS RELEASED



The MAPA annual operation work plan for the year 1398 (March 2019-April 2020) was released in April 2019. The document has previously been shared with all the stakeholders of the programme and can be accessed in the DMAC website as well.

The work plan consists of four main chapters. Chapter one (overview) covers the remaining contamination as of beginning of 1398, analysis of civilian casualties, the program funding situation and an overview of all mine action related conventions.

Chapter two list activities related to all the pillars of mine action and main functions of DMAC such as programme management and advocacy, planning and prioritization external relations, survey, clearance, mine/ERW risk education, victim assistance, quality management, information management, gender and mainstreaming, and research and development. The planned activities under each of the stated functions are listed with clear deadline which will be tracked on quarterly basis to monitor progress.

The last two chapters cover roles and responsibilities of different departments and individuals and the risks associated with the programme as well as risk mitigating factors. The document was developed with active participation of all the departments within DMAC and a draft was also shared with all the stakeholders for their review and comment.

## DMAC MIS DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS DATA QUALITY WORKSHOP

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is owned and managed by MIS Department of the DMAC. In recognition of the importance of data accuracy, MIS Department conducted a two-day workshop on data quality on 23rd and 24th June 2019. The workshop was opened by DMAC Director and was attended by DMAC regional offices and departments.

MIS Officer (Mohammad Ashraf Safi) Head of Information Management presented on Data Quality Dimension and talked about the points to be observed for better quality of data. The workshop also consisted of working groups on challenges, opportunities and expectations in term of mine action data reporting. At the end of the workshop, it was recommended that DMAC departments should work to establish a technical working group with representatives from Operations and MIS departments as well as the regional offices. The technical working group will verify/update the current IMSMA form templates.



It was also recommended that a new standard working procedure should be established and implemented under the IMAS supervision which can be replicated by all departments in order to ensure that everyone can play their part in ensuring data quality.