



DMAC participated at the Fourth Review Conference of AP Mine Ban Convention

The Fourth Review Conference of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (AP-MBC) was held from 25 to 29 November 2019, in Oslo, Norway. DMAC Director Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi attended the Conference, representing the MAPA. Mr. Yosufi provided updates on the progress made by the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) in the last five years namely; on survey, clearance, victim assistance and explosive

ordnance risk education. Mr. Yosufi chaired a side-event on the role of female deminers in Bamyan in bringing the province to mine-free status. He also attended side events as a panelist on the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and on explosive ordnance risk education.

New Zealand Defence Force signs a Memorandum of Arrangement with DMAC to clear firing ranges in Bamyan

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) and the New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF) recently signed a Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) to clear the four firing ranges that were used by the NZDF when they were in Afghanistan as part of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). Under this MoA, the NZDF will provide the required funds for Programme management, demining, EORE, and Victim Assistance through competitive

tendering to implementing partners accredited by DMAC in delivery of mine action in Afghanistan. As part of the arrangement, DMAC will work closely with the NZDF to facilitate, coordinate, monitor or oversee the work that will be carried out in the field by the MAPA implementing partners. Once these contaminated firing ranges are cleared of explosive hazards, Bamyan will become mine/ERW free.

Afghan Women IN Mine Action

Afghanistan's first female demining team wins 2nd place in the 2019 Arms Control Person(s) of the Year award contest



In recognition of the heroic work of Afghanistan's first female demining team, the team was nominated for Arms Control Person(s) of the year award. Each year, the Arms Control Association nominates individuals and groups for Arms Control Person(s) of the year

award. Nominees for Arms Control Person of the Year are recognized for advancing effective arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament solutions and raising awareness of the threats posed by mass casualty weapons. In total there were 10 nominations for this year and Afghan female demining team won the second place.

The nomination is a significant achievement for the team and will prove inspirational for other women in the country to take a more active role in the development of Afghanistan.

The award for the Arms Control Person(s) of the year was given to Mr. Areg Danagoulian and his colleagues at MIT who developed an innovative new nuclear disarmament verification process using neutron beams.

DMAC and UNMAS senior managers meet in Kabul to review progress made since the last strategic planning workshop in India

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) organized the third retreat since transition of mine action authority to national ownership on 2 – 4 December 2019. The retreat was held in Kabul with participation of DMAC and UNMAS leadership to review the progress made since the last two retreats; June 2018 and January 2019, which were held consecutively in Bamyan and India. Other participants of the retreat included; Mr. Eddie Borup from ILX Group, a London-based consultancy firm, which carried out an assessment of DMAC in October 2019 and Mr. Rory Logan from GICHD who joined the discussion remotely through skype. It was concluded that given the results of the recent P3M3 Maturity

Assessment by ILX Group, DMAC has made significant progress since the previous maturity assessment and retreats in the last couple of years and is on the right track to achieve its goals.



PM/WRA delegation visit Kabul for programme review

Mr. Rodney Robideau - US PM/WRA - SCA Programme Manager accompanied by Mr. Arash Popalzai- Programme Specialist from the US Embassy in Kabul visited DMAc on 18 November 2019. The delegation met with DMAc management where they were provided with a brief on key achievements of the DMAc since PM/WRA's previous mission a year ago. Mr. Robideau reiterated PM/WRA's continual support to DMAc and the MAPA as a whole for at least the next few years. The mission was part of PM/WRA's annual review of the programmes.



DMAc representation at Mine Action Technology Workshop in Basel

The 7th Mine Action Technology Workshop was organized by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on 7 – 8 November 2019 in Basel, Switzerland. In total 170 participants from over 50 countries, representing over 80 organizations globally shared their knowledge and experience on the use of remote sensing and robotics in mine action.

The aim of the workshop was to promote dialogue and cooperation between equipment manufacturers, researchers and end-users of these technologies. During the workshop the participants discussed how the use of remote sensing and robotics can better assist in planning, monitoring, and evaluating clearance operations as well as identify suspected contaminated areas and support the land release process.



DMAc contributed to the celebration of the International Day for Persons with Disability held at the Presidential Palace

The International Day of Persons with Disability was celebrated in Salam Khana Palace on 3rd December 2019. H.E. President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani participated in the celebration of the International Day for Persons with Disability (IDPD) along with 800 other participants including Government officials, civil society organizations, and persons with disability. This was the first time that the event was celebrated with participation of such high-profile government officials, since Afghanistan started celebrating this event 20 years ago.

The theme for the 2019 IDPD was: "Promoting the participation of persons with disability and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda".

The annual observance of the International Day for Persons with Disability was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3 and Afghanistan started celebrating this day 20 years ago.



The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize

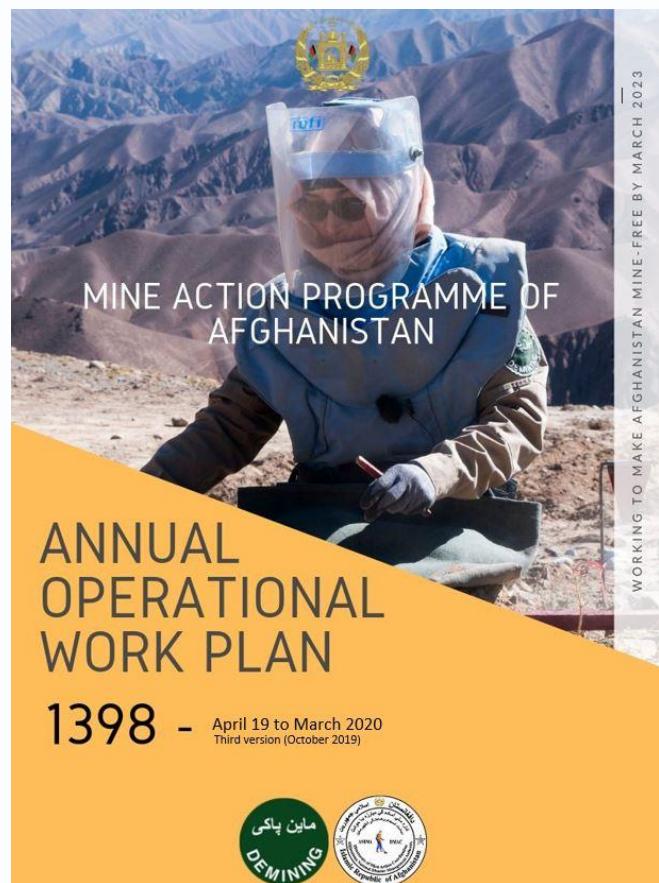
DMAC releases the third version of MAPA Annual work plan for 1398

The annual operational workplan is normally revised after each quarter to ensure it is updated and reflects the progress made on planned activities. The first version of MAPA annual operation workplan 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 programme funding situation and an overview of all mine action related conventions. Chapter two list activities related to all the pillars of mine

support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disability. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

Part of the celebration included an Exhibition of arts produced by Persons with Disability as well as presentations and speeches by victim assistance organizations and a statement by H.E. President of Afghanistan. Some of the main points included in H.E President's remarks were as follows;

- 3% of all staff employed in Government organizations should consist of persons with disability
- All buildings constructed in the future should consider constructing ramps to ensure that people with disability are able to access the premises.
- The year 1399 will be the Disability Support Year.



action and main functions of DMAC such as programme management and advocacy, planning and prioritization external relations, survey, clearance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), victim assistance, quality management, information management, gender and diversity 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.

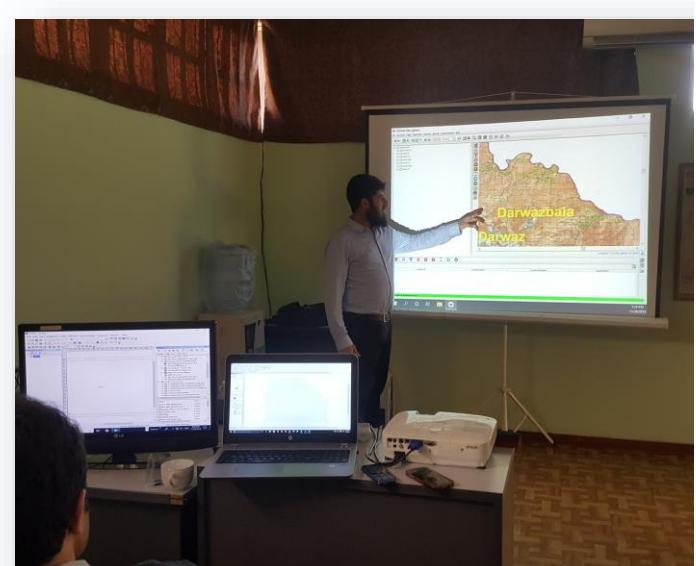
The second version of operational work plan was released on July 2019, while as per set procedure this document has been recently updated and its third version released which reflects all changes and updates as of the end of second quarter 1398 (September 2019). In third version, the readers can find the update on the progress of activities planned by different departments of DMAC. Meanwhile, the update project list in terms of its status (operational, completed, planned and open) are also available for the current year. The update document has been shared with the IPs through email, and it is available in DMAC website as well.

DMAC MIS trains FSD in GIS/IMSMA

The MIS department of DMAC trained FSD staff working in Tajikistan on GIS and IMSMA reporting. The training was conducted from 24 Nov – 10 December 2019. The training aimed to develop capacity of FSD in information management for operation and planning purposes.

DMAC discusses the issue of sporadically laid Anti-vehicle mines in a workshop

A Workshop with participation of DMAC, mine action humanitarian organizations, UNMAS and GICHD, was organized to discuss the issue of irregularly laid Anti-Vehicle mines in Kabul from 18-19 November 2019. The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform to discuss operational experience in dealing with sporadically laid AV mines in large areas and to try to identify possible solutions and agree on next practical steps. The workshop was finalized with an outcome of action points to be followed.



MAPA Communication staff attend a photography training in Kabul

The External Relations Department of DMAC with financial and technical support of UNMAS and DAF Records organized a photography training in which representatives from all IPs were given the opportunity to improve their photography skills. The training entailed the use of DSLR cameras, adobe Lightroom and Snapseed for smartphones and was held on 24 – 28 November 2019. The training included practical photography sessions which will prove beneficial for MAPA communication staff with aim of improving quality of photographs used in MAPA publications.

19 MAPA staff were trained by GICHD on (NTS)

Nineteen staff from DMAC and implementing partners attended the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) course from 14 – 27 October 2019, in Hammana, Lebanon. The course lasted 10 days and the participants learnt about land release, NTS tools and Ground Sign Awareness.

This course was organized by GICHD for Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, and funded by the Auswärtiges Amt - German Federal Foreign Office.



DMAC starts using MARS to speed up data collection

A recently developed data collection tool by GICHD known as MARS (Mine Action Resources) which is compatible with IMSMA, was introduced to DMAC by MIS Department. The tool is user-friendly, free of cost and will increase data quality and reliability. DMAC has officially started using MARS for Post-Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) since November 2019.

Given the benefits the tool brings in terms and speed and reliability of data collection, it will be introduced to all MAPA implementing partners in the near future.



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