



MAPA Capacity is Being Built to Deal with Emerging Challenges

More than 50% of civilian casualties in the country is caused by Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM), also known as victim-operated IEDs. Based on requests received from the affected communities, DMAC and UNMAS in consultation with the implementing partners decided to plan a training in order to build the capacity of implementing partners to deal with the increasing challenge of AIM, while also taking into account the neutrality of the programme.

With financial support from UNMAS, 24 DMAC and MAPA participants are taking part in AIM survey and clearance training from 28 June to 30 September 2020. The training, which is being carried out by ARTIOS Global Ltd and HALO Trust, aims to build the capacity of MAPA implementing partners in clearance operations in Afghanistan.

DMAC participated at the Intersessional meetings of AP Mine Ban Convention

The 2020 intersessional meeting of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) was held from 30 June to 02 July 2020. The meeting was held virtually due to the current pandemic threat of COVID-19 and was participated by more than 500 people from all Explosive Ordnance (EO) affected countries and other mine action international organizations. Hosted by GICHD and Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the APMBC, the meeting discussed issues including Gender & Diversity, Victim Assistance, safety and protection in situation of risks and humanitarian emergencies, cooperation compliance and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

IED Clearance Operations in Afghanistan

Humanitarian Operations

Reference:
Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) Policy

- Conducted by Humanitarian Demining Organizations
- Deals only with Pressure Plate IEDs defined as AIM
- Does not deal with active IEDs
- Does not deal with remote control and other types of IEDs
- Need to get consent and support of communities
- IED threat mitigation
- Work based on request of locals



Military Operations

Reference: C- IED Strategy

- Conducted by Military Forces
- Operates in Military conflict situation
- Deals with all types of IEDs mainly based on their own need
- Are well trained and well equipped
- Have limited time to spend on detecting and destruction of large areas contaminated by IEDs



as well as aligning coordination to support implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

DMAC director and head of planning and programme department participated in the meeting as speakers, and DMAC heads of VA, EORE and OPS departments participated as observers. Afghanistan had two presentations during the second and third day of the meeting. The two presentation were:

1. Anti-personnel mines of improvised nature as the main challenge to the country, measures taken by the programme so far, and the plan of action for future to provide response to areas contaminated with abandoned improvised mines (AIM) as well as to separate data related to AIM.

2. DMAC capacity development initiatives in relation

to the Oslo Action Plan.

As a result of the meeting, it was noted that use of improvised mines is an emerging challenge for the affected countries which needs serious efforts, attention and international cooperation.

Best Practices

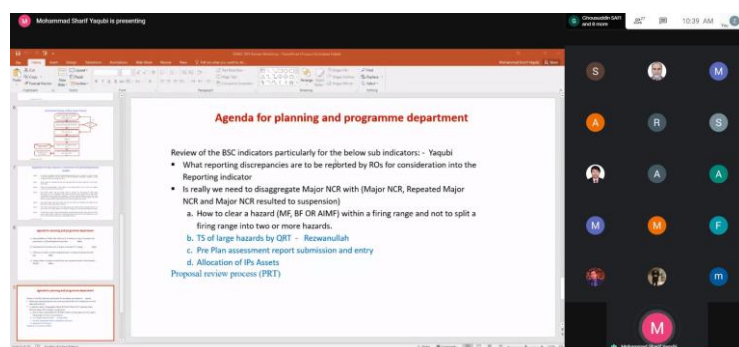
1. AIM Technical Working Group Established

	Activities	Deadline
1	A Technical Working Group (TWG) from DMAC and P/should be established.	30-Dec-2019
2	Standardized terminology for Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM).	15-Jan-2018
3	Development of a policy with regards to engagement MAPA in Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM).	08-Oct-2018
4	A concept notes for comprehensive threat assessment and Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of AIM on national level.	20-May-2018
5	Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) Risk Education (RE) throughout the country.	End of October 2019
6	Meet between MAPA and National Security Forces (NSF, NIS) & with other involved parties.	End of July 2020
7	Developing of format for reporting of AIM field operations.	End of September 2018
8	Specific field in ISMAA for tasking and reporting procedures for improvised mines issues.	End of December 2018
9	Exchange visit of DMAC staff for sharing information/lessons learned with countries which are already engaged in addressing the threats from improvised mines.	End of April 2020
10	Development of national standards (AMAS) & SOP/Operations methodology (Survey and Clearance).	20-May-2019
11	Development of SOP/Operations methodology (Survey and Clearance).	End of June 2020
12	Advocacy with all involved parties in relation to neutrality and impartiality MAPA.	End of February 2020
13	A concept research details budget requirements for resource mobilization.	March 2020
14	Training source and training package for capacity development of staff.	March 2020
15	Identify the required technical equipment including appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).	February 2020
16	Accreditation & QA/QC procedures for improvised mines clearance.	End of October 2018



DMAC Conducts Operational Technical Workshop

DMAC conducted operations technical workshop virtually from 22 to 24 June 2020. The three-day workshop was participated by DMAC regional offices operations staff from 7 regions and DMAC departments heads. The main purpose of the workshop was to review and discuss important operational issues and exchange ideas to further improve coordination mechanisms of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).



The following issues were discussed during the workshop:

- Development of mechanism for external QA/QC of commercial demining projects.

- Promotion of hotline short code through DMAC regional offices and Implementing Partners.
- Marking of accessible boundaries during NTS (new Survey & Resurvey)
- Special QA visits of tasks cleared 30% or more, where no Explosive Ordnance (EO) was found.
- Quick Response Team (QRT) guideline and action plan for tasking of QRT to respond spot ERW
- Effective external QA/QC visits to victim assistance projects.
- Improving Victim Data Collection,
- Linkage of EO incidents to hazards for better planning and prioritization.
- Inclusion of ROs in proposal review and AMAS review.

The outcome of the workshop was an action plan developed and shared with DMAC regional offices and departments for further follow up and implementation.

DMAC Assists MMD to Develop the National Disability Strategy (2020-2030)

The State Ministry for Martyrs and Disabled Affairs (MMD) with support from DMAC, and UNMAS, is developing a National Disability Strategy for ten years (2020-2030). The strategy will be finalized by end of October 2020 and aims to provide guidance to all sectors in taking the necessary steps to reach out to persons with disabilities and to protect their rights, as well as ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to services they need on an equal basis and considers how persons with disabilities should be included in humanitarian responses and disaster risk management.



The first draft of the strategy has been drafted by DMAC- VA department and is shared with all the relevant organizations to enable various contributions through a consultative process. The document addresses the following sectors:

1. Access to education
2. Access to healthcare
3. Access to physical rehabilitation
4. Access to mental health and psychosocial services
5. Access to vocational training, employment and livelihood development
6. Accessibility (buildings, information, transport) and social inclusion
7. Rights protection and access to justice
8. Data collection.

For the time being, 5 technical working groups and other thematic groups have been created as follows:

1. WG1 - Access to education

2. WG2 - Access to health care and rehabilitation services

3. WG3 - Access to vocational training, employment and livelihood development services

4. WG4 - Accessibility, social inclusion, empowerment of persons with disabilities and rights protection (access to justice, protection & legislation)

5. WG5 - Humanitarian response and disaster risk management.

DMAC, UNMAS and MMD will provide support and guidance to the technical working groups. In addition to the above review phase, the strategy will be finalized following the three phases below;

Phase 2 - Consolidation of the draft strategy

Phase 2 will begin once the working groups have provided the additional information needed on the current situation, challenges and priorities. UNMAS' Disability Inclusion Specialist will synthesize information into the draft strategy which will be shared with the review committee.

Phase 3 - Review Workshop(s) or conference

A consultative and holistic review workshop will take place, ideally once COVID-19 restrictions have eased (or virtually if required). Representatives of various stakeholders will be invited to discuss the draft strategy and formulate recommendations.

Phase 4 - Production of the final draft

UNMAS' Disability Inclusion Specialist will incorporate the inputs and recommendations from the review workshop into the final draft. The final draft will be submitted to the review committee for approval.

DMAC with Support from GICHD is Developing the New National Mine Action Strategic plan

In light of the current National Mine Action Strategic Plan (NMA SP) which was developed in 2015 and covers 2016 – March 2021, the new

strategy will cover the next five years (2021-2024). DMAC has assigned a team led by planning department which also consist other relevant staff from different departments to work on the new strategy.



A work breakdown structure (WBS) for the development of the next NMA SP has been drafted. GICHD has committed to provide their technical and financial support for developing the stated NMA SP. So far, a focal point from GICHD has been assigned and a draft plan as a road map/timeline for the project has been shared with DMAC. Once the COVID situation gets back to normal, face to face meetings will be conducted to finalize the documents.

Currently the NMA SP and its progress is being reviewed and in light of the findings of the review and evaluation, new goals, objectives and action plans will be drafted for the new NMA SP. The new strategic plan will be drafted in consultation with all stakeholders and its final draft will be endorsed by the State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs.

Clearance of Firing Ranges in Bamyan Starts with Funding from New Zealand

With funding from New Zealand, clearance of the Bamyan firing ranges project was inaugurated on 1st June 2020. The project entails clearance of explosive ordnance and suspected hazards in areas previously used as firing ranges by the New Zealand Defense Forces. In addition to land release and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, the project has a victim assistance component through which around 1500 people will be assisted with new prosthesis and orthosis, 3000 people will receive

physiotherapy, 3000 people will receive awareness and 18000 people with disabilities will receive psychosocial counseling.

DMAC is responsible for oversight, QA and QC of the project through a dedicated team which will also be funded by New Zealand. Recently DMAC senior managers visited the project to ensure that the project is going smoothly and in accordance with the contract.

An insight into adaptive EORE in Afghanistan (2019-20)

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education bridges the gap between known and suspected hazards and land-release intervention. The year 2019-20 saw a variety of tailored novel EORE approaches and significant achievements. Following are some initiatives briefly explained.

Integration of EORE in child protection in emergencies (CPIE) cluster:

DMAC advocated for EORE to be included in the work undertaken by UNICEF partners and cluster

members of CPIE. As a result, EORE ToT training was provided to several cluster members.



EORE data clean-up

DMAC's EORE department, with technical support from GICHD, initiated a tireless data clean-up process where data from over three decades was cleaned-up. All implementing partners and other humanitarian actors involved were reached out to in the process. The clean-up is reaching its final stages and is expected to be completed by mid-August 2020. As a result, the data recording templates were revised, data and information guidelines were drafted, and implementing partners were brought on board to help isolate common mistakes and avoid similar errors in the future. The information management system for mine action (IMSMA) now has accurate and reliable data concerning EORE.

Speaking Books:

DMAC, with funding and assistance from UNMAS, will shortly introduce electronic speaking books to help engage children and reduce the likelihood of children casualties. The speaking books follow a storyline where safe behavior, risk awareness, reporting, and helping friend and family are stressed.



IED Risk Education

Owing to the growing casualties caused by IEDs, DMAC with funding and assistance from UNMAS, have drafted IED RE posters. DMAC's stance has been very clear, considering the sensitivity of the devices and political issues adhered to them, which is to focus on ground-signs and dangerous behavior instead of device shapes. Additionally, billboards of similar nature had also been erected and radio spots were developed and disseminated through local radio stations.

EORE video clips

DMAC, with funding from UNMAS and support from its contractors, saw through the script and production of two video clips geared towards children and adults. These clips focused on key EORE messages and were aired on Shamshad and TOLO news channels as well as DMAC's social media handles.

EORE during COVID-19

DMAC's EORE department drafted detailed guidelines on resumption of EORE activities amidst the unfortunate pandemic in a safe and productive manner. The guidelines are currently being followed and EORE is being delivered across Afghanistan.

EORE to deportees at airport

In response to concerns raised by UNICEF about safeguarding the rights of deportees, DMAC intervened and stressed on the need for EORE for deportees that have been away for a longer period of time. This is in light of the dynamic nature of conflict in Afghanistan and areas previously safe may have been littered with explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnances. As a result, DMAC prepared relevant safety messages concerning returnees/deportees at the airport and disseminated them through IOM.

Contact Us



Info@dmac.gov.af



0708606060



Sedarat Square, next to Alfalah Bank, Kabul Afghanistan 0101



DMAC Afghanistan



www.dmac.gov.af