



H.E. Minister Jailani, State Minister for Disaster Management met with Directors of MAPA IPs

On 22 September 2020 H.E. Ghulam Bahauddin Jailani, State Minister for Disaster Management met with directors and representatives of humanitarian and commercial mine action implementing partners & UNMAS OIC at Gulkhana Palace. During this introductory meeting H.E. Minister Jailani spoke about Government's willingness to support the mine action sector and stressed that the sector has to ensure that the areas cleared of mines and explosive remnants of war no longer pose a threat to people and livestock.

H.E. Minister Jailani also expressed his sincere appreciation for the active involvement of MAPA IPs in

providing emergency assistance to the flood-affected people of Charikar city in Parwan province. Devastating flash floods struck the city of Charikar in the early hours of the morning on 26th of August 2020 and destroyed more than 500 houses as well as causing more than 100 deaths.

Subsequently IP directors and representatives talked about the challenges they face and shared their recommendations with the State Minister. In reply, H.E. Minister Jailani re-assured IPs that all necessary efforts will be made to overcome the challenges faced by operators.

MAPA contributed to emergency response operation in the aftermath of Charikar flash floods

As a result of flash flooding in Parwan province, at least 100 people died and dozens were injured. Flooding struck the city of Charikar early on Wednesday morning 26 August 2020 while people were asleep. Unfortunately, many of the victims were women and children. In line with the Guideline on the use of MAPA capacity to respond to natural disasters, DMAC management went to the city of Charikar and arranged the deployment MAPA vehicles, including ambulances, trucks and excavators to the province to help with emergency response to affected population.



MAPA Capacity is Being Built to Deal with Emerging Challenges

Afghanistan still remains one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world. The country is further littered with new types of contamination due to the ongoing conflict. Owing to the significant increase in the number of casualties due to Improvised Mines (IM), which currently stands at about 58%, detection and clearance of improvised mines is a challenge, which requires specialized expertise, training and experience.

With financial support from UNMAS, 24 participants from DMAC and Implementing Partners successfully completed a three-month long course on AIM, survey, and clearance. The course was taught by ARTIOS Global Ltd and HALO Trust, focusing on the subjects listed below:

1. Basic AIM Survey Course
2. Advanced AIM Survey Course
3. Basic AIM clearance Course
4. Intermediary AIM Clearance Course
5. Advanced AIM Clearance Course
6. TOT AIM Clearance Course



DMAC Conducts National Disability and Inclusion Review Workshop in Herat

Aiming to ensure that the national disability & inclusion strategy responds to the needs and priorities of persons with disabilities and their families, and is tailored to capacities of stakeholders at a sub-national level to implement the strategy, the National Disability and Inclusion Review workshop was conducted in Herat City from 29-30 September.



The workshop was attended by local government entities such as the provincial Directorates of Education (DoE), Public Health (DoPH), Martyrs and Disability Affairs (DoMD), Paralympic, Labour and Social Affairs (DoLMA) and DMAC/ANDMA, National and International Organizations such as ICRC, HI, ACBAR, Afghanistan National Association of Blend (ANAB), CHA, organizations of Person with disability; High School of Persons with Hearing impairment, Pire- Herat foundation for PwD, and Blend School representative.

At the end of the workshop provincial /regional priorities were highlighted, pathway of change (for key stakeholders) was outlined and assumptions for the realization of change were identified; and suggested strategic frameworks were enriched with inputs from stakeholders at provincial and regional levels.

DMAC developed new Physical Rehabilitation Center in Bamyan

The Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled records show 3,232 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), are registered in Bamyan Province.

PwDs face similar problems like the rest of the inhabitants, particularly: Living far away from physical rehabilitation services i.e. to fit prostheses, orthoses, and/or receive physiotherapy. PwD's living in Bamyan Province need to travel to Kabul or Mazar for these types of services; rare or no access to economic reintegration programs; Programs are focused on facilitating access to one service e.g. training centers, instead of looking at all the services people may need to develop an economic livelihood; and families of those killed by EO are often overlooked by economic livelihood programs. This project, with the guidance of DMAC, will assist



10,750 victims who have been injured and/or families of those killed in Bamyan Province by EO during 2020-2021. A person with disability and their family members will benefit from this project by receiving physical rehabilitation, psychosocial counselling and awareness of their rights.

In light of the above, this project will focus on the following activities concerning VA:

- ⇒ Collection of comprehensive data about individual victims, through the IP, in the areas where clearance work is undertaken;
- ⇒ Providing physical rehabilitation services to UXO victims in the Bamyan Province;
- ⇒ Conducting psychosocial counselling sessions for UXO victims and their families
- ⇒ Enhancing awareness about psychosocial services in five districts of Bamyan Province
- ⇒ Reduce extra cost & risk for traveling to Kabul or Mazar for receiving physical rehabilitation services.



DMAC conducted Post Demining Impact Assessment in 13 Provinces of Afghanistan

The Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) was carried out during June-September 2020 on 67 former minefields which represents about 11% of cleared tasks in the year (2019). PDIA was conducted in six regions including 49 communities, across 33 districts of 13 provinces (Kabul, Parwan, Panjsher, Kapisa, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Khost and Paktya. PDIA was financially supported by the US DOS, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, and Office of

Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) through ITF- Enhancing Human Security.

This assessment 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 the quality of demining operations. The assessment findings show that mine action activities had many significant

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As a result of mine action activities; lands were cleared for growing crops, grazing of animals, building resident houses and other public facilities and thus, making a positive impact on the livelihoods of people.

A photograph showing three men standing in front of a building under construction. The building has brick walls and some windows. One man is holding a clipboard and talking to the others. There are some trees and a pile of bricks in the background.

In line with goals 1 and 2 of the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021; Facilitating Development and Engagement with other Sectors, DMAC provided EORE to 300 staff members of the watershed management project at Loya Jirgah tent.

A large group of men, many wearing white hard hats and high-visibility vests, are standing in rows in a large hall, likely attending a formal meeting or conference. The hall has a high ceiling with many lights and a large patterned rug on the floor.

The trained staff members will then provide risk education to their respective field staff. This ensures that 45000 workers of the project are aware of risks explosive ordnance pose, minimizing potential accidents caused by mines and explosive remnants of war. Such collaborations are expected to be essential to development projects as landmines continue to endanger lives and limbs across Afghanistan.

AOAD provides vocational training to 200 PwD in Physical Accessibility

Under the project funded by US Department of State's PM/WRA, Accessibility Organization for Afghan Disabled (AOAD) trained 200 male and female Persons with Disabilities (PwD's) affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war. The aim of the project was to enhance sustainable employability of the participants and to provide a skilled foundation to build a career – reducing poverty and unemployment for the victims. The project also entailed improvement of physical accessibility by constructing 9 Physical Accessible Washrooms along with Ramps in 5 Government schools and 5 washrooms within Health Clinics in Charasayab district ward 8, and Bagramy district of Kabul province.



MAPA receives funding from the national budget

While Afghanistan remains heavily contaminated with explosive ordnances, the mine action program of Afghanistan (MAPA) has made significant strides in attracting donors' interest. The MAPA, through its community based demining, has a large network of skilled deminers across Afghanistan; while the capacity remains adequate, the key barrier in clearing lands is funding. DMAC is pleased to announce that the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) has started funding demining.

The GoIRA has allocated 17,997,375 AFN which are being used to clear and release 414,253 m² of land, encompassing thirteen hazardous sites,

contaminated by anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. These landmines are currently present in Gurbuz, Sabari, and Tarizi districts of Khost province.

The said project commenced on 22/05/1399 and is expected to be completed on 31/01/1400. The socio-economic benefits exceed the primary aim of fencing harm to innocent civilians and potentially saving lives; at least sixty-nine individuals have availed job opportunities through this contract and with lands released, farming, resettlements, infrastructure development and other productive uses are enabled.

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