



The MAPA Donors and IPs Coordination Meeting for 2020 was held at Gulkhana Palace

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) organized the 2020 Afghanistan Donor Coordination Meeting for Mine Action. The meeting was held on 20th of October 2020 at Gulkhana Palace, Office of H.E. the 1st Vice President. The event was co-hosted by H.E. Ghulam Bahauddin Jailani, State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs and H.E. Axel Zeidler, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Afghanistan.

The event was attended by a number of high-level officials from the UN and donor embassies in Kabul including H.E. Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, UN Resident Coordinator, H.E. Scott Weinhold, Assistant Chief of Mission (ACOM) US Embassy, Mr. Andy McCoubrey, Development Director, DFID, Mr. Kamada Takashi, Economic Counsellor – Embassy of Japan, GICHD, ICBL, UNMAS and DMAC management.

H.E. Minister Jailani expressed his sincere gratitude to

to donors supporting the MAPA and urged them to continue assisting the MAPA until we reach the goal of a mine-free Afghanistan.

Following H.E Minister Jailani's speech, H.E. Ambassador Axel Zeidler spoke of Germany's commitment to supporting the MAPA. Subsequently, H.E. Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, H.E. Scott Weinhold, Mr. Andy McCoubrey, and Mr. Kamada Takashi spoke about the importance of mine action as a confidence-building measure for peace and as a pre-requisite for development of the country.

The event was followed by Presentation on DMAC priorities, opportunities and funding patterns presented by Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC Director outlining the achievements of the MAPA, the remaining contamination/challenges, funding situation, and MAPA priorities for 1399/2020.

DMAC participated in the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC

The Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18th MSP) is a formal meeting of the 164 states parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The 18th MSP was held in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention and pursuant to decisions of the 2019 Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties. During the 18th MSP, States Parties had the opportunity to highlight their achievements and challenges in implementing the key objectives of the Convention and their Oslo Action Plan commitments. The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) participated in 18th MSP to the APMBC on Wednesday 18th Nov 2020. The meeting was held virtually in which member states and mine action organizations participated. During the meeting Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC



Director provided a statement on progress made so far. Additionally, the State Ministry for Martyrs and Disability Affairs also provided a statement on Victim Assistance. DMAC director also attended the “enabling Best Practice through National Standards” side event on 20 November 2020 focusing on databasing AMAS to enable quicker alignment to IMAS.

DMAC supports MMD to reactivate PRC after seven years

The Pyamber Azam (PBUH) Rehabilitation Center (RC) was made functional again with support from DMAC after seven years of inactivity.



On 5th of October 2020 an official opening ceremony was held by the Ministry for Martyrs and Disabled Affairs where representatives from Government and non-government organizations and the media participated.



Fortunately, since October last year more than 300 people have received physical rehabilitation services in the center.

This center aims to support persons with debilities in terms of their social integration in order to have an active role in society.

GICHD supports DMAC to draft the new National Mine Action Strategic Plan (NMASP) (2021-2025)

DMAC with technical and financial support from GICHD conducted a four-day workshop in Kabul Star Hotel in which more than 50 participants from DMAC departments, UNMAS, NPA, IPs, and 10 relevant government ministries participated. Additionally, in the workshop which was held from 30 November – 3rd of December 2020, around 28 online participants were connected from outside Kabul including Geneva.

During the workshop, the findings of the review of the current NMASP was presented to all the participants. The review covered the successes, gaps and recommendation for the next strategic plan. Meanwhile, the SWOT, stakeholder, PESTLE, Gender & Diversity, and risk analysis were conducted as part of group and based on current situation of MAPA. At the end of the workshop 5 strategic goals were identified to which the work of



the MAPA in the next five years will feed into. The 5 strategic goals set covers the following areas; 1- Land release and EORE (Live saving), 2- Victim assistance (to meet the needs and rights of victims), 3-Sustainable development of Afghanistan and its people, 4-Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming, and 5-Advocacy and coordination

DMAC conducted a one-day training on Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in Mine Action

On 25th of November 2020 The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) conducted a one-day training on G&D Mainstreaming in Mine Action. The main objective of the training was to enhance capacity of the newly recruited gender focal points and gender officers in Mine Action. During the training DMAC Director, Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi expressed his commitment towards women's empowerment in the organization and called all IPs to identify the main issues which women are



facing at community level and as well as inside the organizations. The training was mainly focused on Gender and Diversity Language in Mine Action in light of national and international legal instruments. The training was attended by gender and diversity representatives of ANDMA, DMAC, and IPs. Based on the suggestions which were raised by IPs, DMAC will work to modify a training package on G&D in MAPA in light of Afghanistan domestic law including Constitution, Elimination of Violence against Women Law, law on prevention and prohibition of harassment of women and children in Afghanistan, Labor Law and international instruments including CEDAW, 1325 UN-Security Council Resolution, Convention on Child Rights, SDG, CCM, CCW, AP MBC and other international standards.

Fifty MAPA staff participate in Liability workshop

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) and Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) arranged a three-day workshop (7th, 8th, and 14th of October) on Risk Management and the ever-present issue of liability in mine action.

The workshop provided a diverse platform to delve deeper into the issue of Liability and Risk Management with representation from DMAC, GICHD, implementing partners, guest speakers with experiences from Vietnam, Germany, Cambodia, and Switzerland, and a legal consultant who provided a legal lens throughout the process. The first day equipped the participants with an insight into the definitions involved with RM and Liability; this helped ensure a common understanding of liability, residual contamination, tolerable level of risk, and the idea of risk management. The second day helped the participants understand how different countries deal with the issue of liability and how it interacts with different legal

frameworks. This was followed by a detailed discussion on how liability is perceived among different layers of stakeholders of the mine action programme of Afghanistan (MAPA).



The third and last day of the workshop allowed participant groups to prepare and present their perspective and frames of reference on liability, the legal framework, national standards, tolerable level of risk, and residual contamination. The next steps involve exploring the legal framework of Afghanistan further and drafting the liability policy. This policy aims to assist the national mine action programme in decision-making, programme planning, and research.

20 MAPA staff receive training on Non-Technical Survey (NTS)

Twenty MAPA participants attended the Non-Technical Survey course from 15th – 26th November 2020, in Kabul. This course was organized by Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in coordination with the DMAC and was funded by the German Humanitarian Assistance. The course lasted 11



days and the participants learnt about land release, NTS tools and other necessary skills to successfully plan and understand how to conduct efficient and effective Non-Technical Survey operations in the field. Subjects including Land Release and Non-Technical Survey, Basic Recognition of Explosive Hazards - UXO, landmines, sub-munitions and IED components, Sketch mapping, NTS Tools - GPS, Laser Range Finder, compass, base camp and Google earth, Information Management, Communicating in NTS – Gender and Diversity, Interview and Negotiate, and Scenario-based training in the field environment, were some of the topics covered during this course.

GICHD trains MAPA staff on Technical Survey (TS)

20 MAPA staff attended an online Technical Survey (TS) course from 07th-10th December 2020, in Kabul. This course was organized by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in coordination with the DMAC. The course which was funded by the German Humanitarian Assistance lasted 4 days and the participants learnt about land release, TS tools and all the necessary skills to successfully plan and understand to conduct efficient and effective Technical Survey operations in the field. The following topics covered were covered during this course; Introduction to Land Release, Operational Efficiency and Technical Survey, General Requirements for TS and management of

resources, Different approaches, assets and operational considerations, Process mapping and documentation requirements, Quality Management, Mapping and reporting, and Criteria for cancellation and reduction.



Jabul-Seraj, a strategically located district in Parwan province was declared free of known explosive ordnance

On Wednesday 16th December 2020, DMAC director along with MAPA implementing partner representatives and Parwan provincial authorities declared the district of Jabul-Seraj free of known explosive ordnance. The district of Jabul-Seraj is strategically located in the north of Parwan province connecting the province to Kapisa and Panjshir provinces. As a result of contamination in the district, 69 civilians had lost their lives and limbs. With funding from Canada, Germany, Japan, Finland, Norway, Netherlands, Australia, US



USDOS, and Ireland 20.5 square kilometers of contaminated land in the district was cleared of explosive ordnance and as a result more than 150,000 explosive devices were found and destroyed. But, this didn't just come at a financial cost, unfortunately 6 mine action staff also lost their lives whilst working in the district to save lives. DMAC and MAPA is grateful for the continued support from our donors and partners without whom this achievement would not have been possible.

Final review workshop on Disability strategic plan

The final review workshop of National Disability strategic plan was held in Kabul from 24-27th of October 2020. The aim of this workshop was to ensure 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 national level to implement the strategy. The workshop was attended by government line ministries such as MoE, MoPh, MoLSA, other entities such as TEVAT, Kabul Municipality, national and international organization such as ICRC, HI, ACBAR, ANAB, CCD, SCA, AABRAR, DAO, AOAD, organizations of Person with disability; High School of Persons with Hearing impairment and Blind School representatives.

During this workshop H.E. State Minister for Martyrs and Disability, representative from the office of H.E the President, DMAC Director,

UNMAS OIC committed to supporting the strategy. 21 Working Groups were organized and 21 topics were discussed through the working groups, pathway of change (for key stakeholders) are outlined and assumptions for the realization of change have been recognized, suggested strategic frameworks have been enriched with inputs from stakeholders at national level. Following the workshop on 5th of Dec 2020, the draft National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2030 was presented to H.E. President and the Cabinet by Head of VA Department of DMAC. H.E. the President appreciated the initiative and ordered MMD and DMAC VA department to develop an action plan to be shared with relevant government organizations for their comments and final inputs. It should be mentioned that the NDIS ownership is with the Ministry for Martyrs and Disability and DMAC.



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