Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)

NEWSLETTER





VOI.NO. 87 -





The city of Jalalabad along with Goshta and Dara-e -Noor districts have been declared free of known explosive ordnance

In a ceremony held on 10 February 2021 in Jalalabad, MAPA Implementing Partners in coordination with DMAC and Nangarhar provincial authorities declared the city of Jalalabad along with Goshta and Dara-e-Noor districts free of known explosive ordnance. Contamination was the cause of 413 civilian deaths and injuries in the released districts of Nangarhar province. With funding from USDOS, Australia, Germany, Canada, Japan, European Union, FCDO, VTF donors and CIDA,

6 square kilometers of contaminated land in the districts was cleared of explosive ordnance and as a result more than 810,000 explosive devices were found and destroyed. In addition to the financial cost paid for by our donors, to whom we are grateful, unfortunately 25 mine action staff also lost their lives whilst working in these districts to save lives.

The new four-digit (3334) MAPA toll-free hotline number is launched

In order to provide DMAC and the MAPA clients and beneficiaries with the facility to contact and share request for the clearance of hazardous areas, report the existence of spot Explosive Ordnance in their communities and/ or share any concerns about the activities of the Implementing Partners; a new four-digit toll-free short code (3334) is now operational. The new hotline number which is launched and operationalized with the financial support from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) will be used alongside the existing ten-digit number (0708606060) to allow callers connect to the DMAC and MAPA from February 2021 onwards.



DMAC Releases Post -Demining Impact Assessment Report for 1399/2020

DMAC conducted Post Demining Impact Assessment (PDIA) for 1399/2020 on 58 released hazardous areas, located in 44 communities, across 32 districts of 13 provinces namely; Baghlan, Balkh, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktya, Panjshir, Parwan, and Samangan during the months of June-October 2020. PDIA findings demonstrate that mine action operations and services provided safe access for the locals and paved the way for the implementation of development and infrastructural projects in all the cleared areas and communities. Approximately 95 percent of the cleared lands used by the communities for agricultural, housing, animal grazing and other socio-economic activities, indicate that mine action activities have brought positive changes to the lives of communities and the beneficiaries. The targeted communities expressed their satisfaction with mine action activities when they were interviewed as part of the assessment.





PDIA evaluates the impact of mine action on livelihoods of communities through collection of quantitative data on the use of land six months to one year after a minefield or battlefield is cleared of Explosive Ordnance (EO). The objective of PDIA is to measure the immediate to medium-term humanitarian and socioeconomic impact of mine action PDIA activities. assesses whether humanitarian demining operations have achieved their objective and whether the cleared land is used by the beneficiaries as intended. PDIA also assesses the accuracy of the information upon which demining operations were prioritized and therefore, helps to improve future planning processes.

DMAC VA department takes part in an exchange visit to India along with three other directors from MMD

As per the direction from H.E. President of IRA, a delegation consisting three directors from MMD and Head VA Department of DMAC conducted an official mission to India from 22-29 Jan 2021. The main objectives of this mission were:

 To visit Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahanyat Samiti (BMVSS) Jaipur foot Center (physical rehabilitation center) and Indian Spinal Injuries Center (ISIC) and to sign MoUs, with key organizations in victim/disability



sector with the aim of seeking their technical support and expertise, in training of experts.

 To explore the chain of administration for physical rehabilitation services in India to see whether a similar model can be replicated in the Afghanistan.

Since the visit, an MoU has been drafted which will be signed between MMD and BMVSS, as well as with Ministry of Social Justice of India. During this mission delegation met the Afghan Embassy in India and a focal point was nominated by them to follow the VA/Disability issue on behalf of MMD with Indian Authorities.



DMAC celebrated the International Women's Day

The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination celebrated the International Women's Day. The celebration was held on 8th of March 2021 in DMAC Compound in which a number of high-level officials from the ANDMA, UNMAS, MAPA IPs, and DMAC management participated.

H.E. Ghulam Bahauddin Jailani State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs expressed his sincere gratitude to MAPA for their support in empowering women in mine action sector.

Following H.E. Minister Jailanis' speech, Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, DMAC Director outlined the commitment of DMAC towards mainstreaming gender and diversity within MAPA such as goal 4 of the National Mine Action Strategic Plan.





Later a number speaker such as ANDMA HR Director Ms. Karishma Khaliq, Mr. Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi, Deputy Programme Manager of UNMAS, Zakira Khaterzai, Social Center for Women with Disability, Laiega, Female Deminer, and IPs representative Mr. Mohammad Sharif Yaqubi talked about the role of women in society as a whole and mine action in particular. The event was concluded by DMAC gender and diversity mainstreaming manager Ms. Darwish who emphasized on Women's inclusion at all decisionmaking levels within the mine action sector. MAPA's leadership were presented with their quotes serving as a reminder their commitments to gender and diversity mainstreaming.

DMAC along with a technical committee supported MMD with the development of 15 Action Plans to guide the implementation of the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2030

The National Disability Inclusion strategy 2030 reflects the commitment of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to a national approach of enabling and empowering persons with disabilities to maximize their potential and participation as equal citizens. It aims to build national consensus and leadership, effectively driving collective efforts to ensure persons with disabilities can access the services they need, address discrimination and transform negative attitudes in society. Within the framework of national development plans, the strategy provides a shared agenda to help achieve the vision of an inclusive Afghan society that enables persons with disabilities to achieve their full potential as equal citizens. The action plan consist of the following divisions with Disability Sector:

- Access to education
- Access to employment, livelihood development support and social protection
- Access to healthcare

- Access to quality and sustainable rehabilitation services
- Access to mental health and psychosocial support
- Access to humanitarian assistance
- Accessibility to buildings, transports and communication
- Development of support services
- Social participation and awareness raising (combating stigmatization)
- Access to sports
- Participation to public life and political engagement
- Rights and access to justice
- Empowerment of women and girls with disabilities
- Empowerment of persons with disabilities, their families and their organizations
- Support to governance, coordination and strategy implementation.

DMAC released Mine Action Livelihood Survey Report for 1399/2020

Mine Action Livelihood Survey is conducted to evaluate the impact of demining projects on local communities. The 1399/2020 mine action livelihood survey was conducted in October 2020 in 12 communities covering 4 districts namely; Bagram, Chaharikar, Jabalussaraj, Salang and Shinwari of Parwan province. This survey mainly focused on the impact of mine action 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 survey findings indicate that mine action activities had substantial impact on the visited communities. Cleared land is now being used for agriculture,



grazing animals and building houses as well as other public facilities. As a result of clearance operations considerable areas of land has become

available for the communities to be used for productive use. The cleared areas are directly benefiting 5,050 families in the visited communities.

The mine action livelihoods survey was funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), through ITF- Enhancing Human Security.



A new Taskforce was established under MMD leadership to track the implementation of NDIS

To build national consensus and leadership, effectively driving collective efforts implementation of National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) it was felt that a technical and operational forum was needed to be established. Therefore, MMD with support from DMAC has initiated and conducted five sectorial taskforce meetings to have a final review of NDIS 2030 and Action Plans. All meetings were led by H.E. Minister of MMD Mr. Hamidullah Faroogi and participation from high-level representatives from various related ministries. Presentation on each sector's strategies and action plans was presented by Mr. Habib Khan Zazai Head of VA Department of DMAC.



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