

MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF AFGHANISTAN NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2010



1389 INTEGRATED OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED

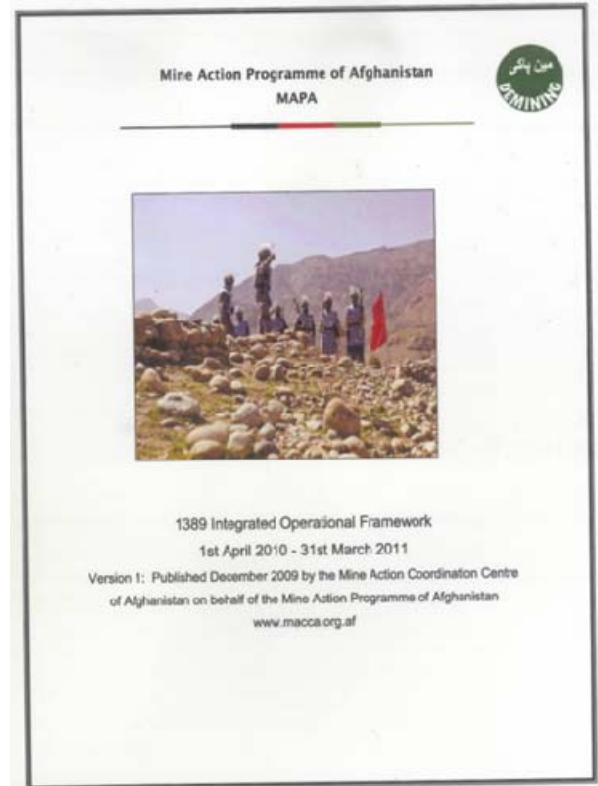
In January, MACCA launched the 1389 Integrated Operational Framework (IOF) presenting the policies and plans agreed by the collective of organizations known as the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) for the year ahead.

The 1389 IOF includes the Government of Afghanistan's strategic goals for mine action, data analysis of the scope of the problem, progress to date, potential solutions and guidance to donors and implementing partners on the prioritization of mine clearance.

The prioritization criteria includes minefields which have caused victims, block access to water or potential agricultural land and those close to a community's centre. The MACCA believes that this strategic approach to determining humanitarian priorities for mine action over the last 3-4 years has had an impact on reducing the number of victims and should continue to do so until the threat of mines and ERW is eliminated.

If the IOF is fully funded, some 157 sq km of contaminated land will be returned back to communities. In addition to the implementing partners' projects, the IOF also includes MACCA-developed large impact projects including clearance of Kabul City, Ghazni City and Province and Clearance of Eastern Afghanistan.

According to the proposals in the IOF, Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance advocacy requires \$2.8 million, with the entire amount pledged. At present there is a funding shortfall for mine clearance of \$163 million against the target of the IOF.



To meet the Afghan Compact target, the MAPA would need to remove 293 sq km of contaminated land from the database in 1389. The IOF presents projects that could remove 157 sq km of contaminated land – even this will require a significant expansion of the programme. Therefore, it is clear from this point that the Afghan Compact will not be met without even further investment on the programme. The size of the mine contamination problem is now clear and Afghanistan has the professional workforce which could be expanded simply with an injection of further resources to mobilize and increase this workforce.

EU DONATES OVER 21 MILLION EUROS TO MINE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

The European Union has committed 21,750,000 Euros to mine action in Afghanistan over the next two years through an agreement with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

The funds will support a range of mine clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance projects in various provinces throughout Afghanistan, particularly in the Central and North-Eastern region. On a national level, the funds will support coordination of the entire programme towards its strategic goals and national capacity support to the Department of Mine Clearance and other ministries in response to requests by the Government.

Dr Haider Reza, Programme Director, MACCA, said: "We are deeply appreciative of this significant contribution by the European Union to the work of mine action throughout the country. We believe that this contribution will make a significant impact by reducing the injuries and fatalities caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war in our country and pave the way for development."

In addition to supporting ongoing projects, the funds will support the inception of two new Community Based Demining Projects in Logar and Kabul, which involves training up and providing expert oversight to members of mine-impacted communities to clear the contamination from their own villages. This means that the mine clearance projects provides employment and an economic boost to the local community, as well as creating local ownership and a platform for further development.

MACCA AND DMC LAY FOUNDATION STONE FOR NATIONAL MINE ACTION CENTRE

On Saturday 30th January, Dr. Mohammad Haider Reza, Programme Director of Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) and Dr. Adrak, Director of the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) together laid the foundation stones for the new National Mine Action building in the presence of donors and media.

The building for Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) will be constructed in a 6,000 square meters compound, located in 15th precinct, Qasaba area of Kabul city.

The land was given to DMC by the Government of Afghanistan.



MINE AND ERW INCIDENTS IN JANUARY 2010

Month	18 Years and Younger		Over 18 Years		Unknown Age/Gender	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
January	21	1	12	1	0	35

MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS IN AFGHANISTAN

Ottawa Treaty:

Clear all emplaced anti-personnel mines by 2013;

Destroy all known anti-personnel mine stockpiles by 2007; and

Provide mine risk education to Afghans and assist mine survivors.

Afghanistan Compact:

Land area contaminated by mines and ERW will be reduced by 70% by March 2011;

All stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be located and destroyed by March 2007.

DESTRUCTION OF ALL KNOWN STOCKPILES OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

The Government of Afghanistan successfully fulfilled its Article 4 of Ottawa Treaty and Afghanistan Compact benchmark to destroy all known stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in its territory in October 2007.

KEYS TO MEETING THE BENCHMARKS FOR MINE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

- * Sustaining existing capacities
- * Expansion of Community - Based Demining
- * Programming through focused projects
- * Introduction of competitive tendering
- * Enhanced fundraising to ensure resources to meet benchmarks

CHALLENGES TOWARDS BENCHMARKS

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan must increase multilateral and bilateral funding to mine action to achieve the targets set by the Ottawa Treaty and the Afghanistan Compact. Essentially, funding needs to be coherent to enable effective delivery; this means funds must be received before the beginning of the year . If the funds are provided, the MAPA has the technical capability to achieve the targets.

MINE ACTION ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY IN JANUARY 2010

- * 961 AP mines, 61AT mines, and 27,553 ERW destroyed.
- * 2 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 22,263 women and girls and 34,814 men and boys received MRE throughout the country.

EXPLANATION ON CHANGES TO BENCHMARK TABLE

Introduction

In January 2006, when the Afghan Compact was signed, the baseline set of known hazard was 719 sq km, therefore the target of clearing 70% of the hazard required a removal of 503 sq km. The benchmark table below shows that to date, 426 sq km has now been cleared. This would mean the MAPA would be 85% towards the goal of 70% clearance, if the baseline had remained the same.

However, the baseline set at that time was in fact an incorrect picture of the overall hazard in the country. Much work has been done over the last few years to ensure that the national database presents an accurate picture of known hazard is included in this database. For a full explanation on these changes, please see p25-27 of the 1389 Integrated Operational Framework, available on www.macca.org.af

As a result, the baseline was adjusted up to 1,097 sq km. As of December 2009, the remaining contamination is 671 sq km. However, as people continue to return and resettle in Afghanistan, new hazard continues to be discovered. In addition, there is new hazard being laid by the insurgent forces in some parts of Southern Afghanistan (although not in traditional high-density minebelts). Therefore it expected that the baseline will continue to change and the progress towards these goals may fluctuate as the challenges to meeting these goals increases.

Nevertheless, this should not undermine the excellent achievements of the implementers of mine action over the last twenty years through the support of donors. It is the belief of the MACCA that - with continued and increased funding - the MAPA can make significant progress towards these goals and eliminate the threat of mines and ERW from Afghanistan.

Quarterly updating of table: Please note that the benchmark table will now be updated on a quarterly basis and the table from the preceding quarter will be published monthly in the MAPA newsletter.

AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS TOWARD MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS

70% reduction of mine/ERW contaminated areas by 2011&clearance of all known anti-personnel landmines by 2,013:

Indicator	Adjusted Baseline Dec 09	Remaining Contamination at 31 Dec 09	Clearance Processed at 31 Dec 09	Compact Target of 70% of Hazards	Progress toward Compact	Treaty Target of 100% of Hazards	Progress towards Treaty
Number of Hazards	11,512	6,816	4,698	8,058	58%	11,512	41%
Hazardous Area (sq. km)	1,097	671	426	768	56%	1,079	39%

THE MINE ACTION STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

The strategy for mine action is based on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's vision of a country free from landmines and ERW, where people and communities live in a safe environment conducive to national development, and where landmine and ERW survivors are fully integrated in the society and thus have their rights and needs recognized and fulfilled. To turn this vision into reality, the government has established benchmark obligations within its national development strategy, the Afghanistan Compact, which are in accordance with its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.

SUPPORT TO MINE ACTION NATIONAL CAPACITY

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) supported by the United Nations and the Government of Afghanistan through its Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)/Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) have formed a partnership within the MACCA offices to plan, coordinate and ensure the quality of all mine action activities in Afghanistan. The most recent Inter-ministerial board meeting was held in March, key topics discussed included information exchange between ministries of Aynac copper mine.



MDD teams returning from demining operation in Charasyab district / June 2009

MAPA AND MACCA SUMMARY

The concept of humanitarian mine action was developed in Afghanistan in 1988/9. Mine action encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, demining (survey, marking and clearance), stockpile destruction, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance (VA). The programme is funded both bilaterally and through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)^[1].

Collectively known as the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), mine action implementers in Afghanistan form one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. Together, these agencies have a twenty year history of successfully delivering mine action in Afghanistan and have cleared over 12,000 hazard areas throughout the country. The MAPA is coordinated by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), which is funded through a UN modality. The MACCA has sub-offices, known as Area Mine Action Centres (AMACs) in Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kunduz, Gardez, and Kandahar.



Demining Operation in Samangan province Photo by : Jacob Simkin, April 2009

MAPA is supported by :

