

MAPA Celebrates International Mine Action Day

International Mine Action day is marked globally on April 4th. This year MAPA celebrated with a series of events leading up to the day. On 3rd April an Open Day was hosted by implementing partner OMAR. UN special representative of the Secretary General in Afghanistan joined the ambassadors of the USA and Canada in giving speeches and committing to support Mine Action. All attendees had the opportunity to visit the landmine museum as well as meet many implementing partners who set up displays of demining equipment and children who were invited to learn about the dangers of mines inside a plane which has been converted into a classroom.

They also visited the survivor assistant project of Afghan Mine Action Technology Centre (AMATC). AMATC provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn how to make demining equipment that is then sold to mine action implementers to improve the livelihoods of landmine survivors and other people with disabilities. The tour concluded with a mine detection dog demonstration.



On 4th April, an event was held in the MACCA compound following on from February's poster competition at Bagh-e-Babar. The best posters were selected by a reviewing panel consisting of MACCA senior management and the MRE department. The winners were invited to the MACCA with their families to paint their designs on the garden wall with the help of expert painters.

The winners were then awarded with prizes of art supplies by Dr. Haider Reza, the programme director of MACCA who said "Mines are still killing or injuring an average of 40 Afghans every month. This is an improvement compared to previous years when we had more than 100 victims monthly. Today's event is another example of the hard work and achievements of the Mine Risk Education teams. I am thankful to the donor countries for their support and congratulate the children and their parents for participating and celebrating International Mine Action Day with us".

Elham Ahmad Wardak, a 10 year old winner said: "I am so excited and thankful to MACCA for organizing this event and educating the Afghan communities about the dangers of mines. My message to all students is: 'Do not touch suspicious looking objects and report them immediately to your parents or the relevant authorities'".

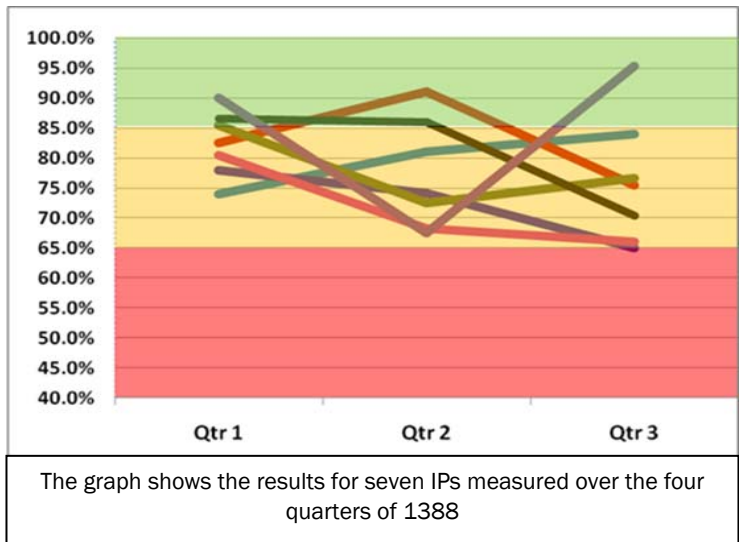
Many MACCA Area Mine Action Centres (AMACs) celebrated International Mine Action Day with various activities such as press trips or inviting key stakeholders to their offices to learn more about the programme. Jalalabad AMAC also organized a poster competition for high school students. The winning entries of this competition, as well as the Kabul poster competition winners, can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/49017220@N05/>

MACCA develops a balanced scorecard for improved monitoring and evaluation of MAPA

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of MACCA’s coordination, MACCA has developed a Balanced Scorecard (BSC) that centralizes the results of monitoring and evaluation of Implementing Partner (IP) activities which were successfully being conducted concurrently in different departments of MACCA. The aim of the BSC is not to replace these activities, which are still on going, but to draw together the results of these monitoring activities. The BSC was introduced at the beginning of 1388 and measures each IP against a specific set of criteria. The tool enables MACCA to monitor the output, quality and effectiveness of each IP against the same set of indicators on a quarterly basis.

Not only does The tool allow for comparison between implementers, information which could be useful for donors in funding decisions, but also provides IPs with a baseline for their own improvement and development. The total possible score (100%) is divided between five indicator sets; operations, quality Management, demining accidents, cost and reporting.

Recognizing that delivering mine action is the primary function of IPs, the operations indicator set has the highest weighting and accounts for 40% of the total score. BSC results between 85% and 100% are



determined highly satisfactory by MACCA. Results in the range of 65% - 85% are deemed acceptable, though follow up of the issues that are lowering the IP score should be highlighted and followed up by the IP. MACCA views result of below 65% as poor. Accreditation may be removed from the IP and in the case of VTF funding a re-allocation of funds to IPs demonstrating better BSC scores may result. All staff of an IP can impact on the score, whether that is a field officer sending reports late or a deminer not following safety protocol. The BSC completes the circle of responsibility and accountability within the Implementing Partners.

MINE AND ERW INCIDENTS JANUARY– APRIL 2010

Month	18 Years and Younger		Over 18 Years		Unknown Age/Gender	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Jan	32	3	22	1	0	58
Feb	14	14	10	3	1	42
March	39	3	9	1	0	52
April	14	0	4	0	0	18
Grand Total	99	20	45	5	1	170

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 April 2011;

All stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be located and destroyed by April 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 JANUARY - APRIL 2010

- * 7,279 AP mines, 292 AT mines, and 272,081 ERW destroyed.
- * 33 communities cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war.
- * 135,462 women and girls and 180,604 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, 574 sq. km has now been cleared. This would mean the MAPA would have now exceeded 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. In short, this work has resulted in an increase in the baseline.

The current baseline and progress is shown in the benchmark table below. 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 mine belts. Therefore it is expected that the baseline will continue to change and the progress towards these goals may fluctuate as the challenges to meeting these goals increases.

AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS TOWARD MINE ACTION BENCHMARKS

70% reduction of mine/ERW contaminated areas by 2011 & clearance of all known anti-personnel landmines by 2013:

Indicator	Adjusted Baseline Mar 2010	Remaining Contamination at 31 Mar 2010	Clearance Processed at 31 Mar 2010	Compact Target of 70% of Hazards	Progress toward Compact	Treaty Target of 100% of Hazards	Progress towards Treaty
Number of Hazards	11,736	6,684	5,052	8,215	61%	11,736	43%
Hazardous Area (sq. km)	1,231	657	574	862	67%	1,231	47%

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.

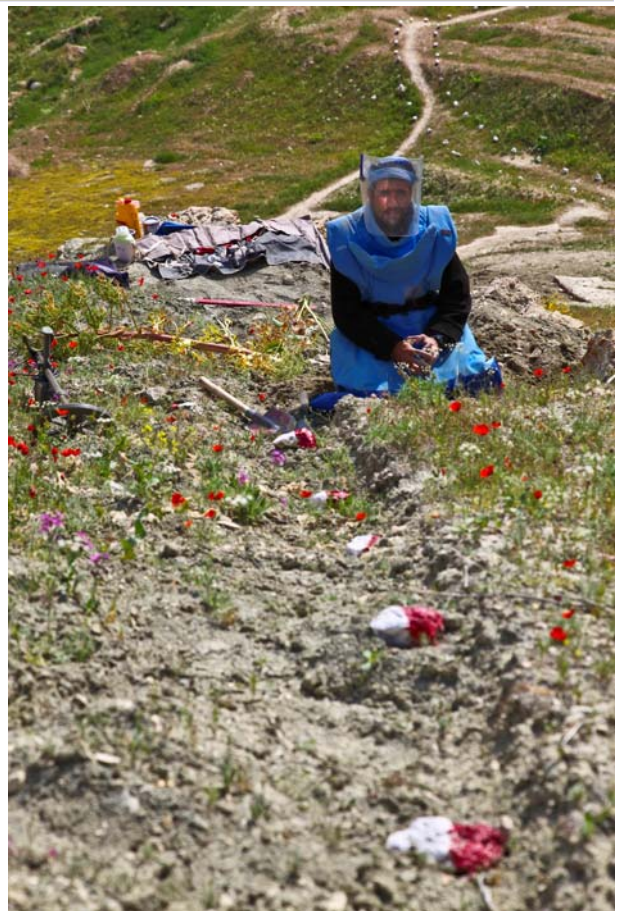


MDD teams returning from demining operation in Charasyab district / June 2009

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 15,000 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 :

