CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

STATE PARTY:	**Afghanistan**
DATE OF SUBMISSION	**30 April 2005**
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Form A **National implementation measures**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
a) The national implementation measures referred to in Article 9."

Remark: In accordance with Article 9, "Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control".

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.03.05** to **30.04.05**

Measures	Supplementary information (e.g., effective date of implementation & text of legislation attached).
On 28 July 2002, President Hamid Karzai announced that the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan would become a State Party to the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction*. Afghanistan became the 126th State to ratify the Convention, depositing its instrument of ratification on 11 September 2002. On 1 March 2003, the treaty entered into force in Afghanistan.	

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) was established under the auspices of the United Nations in 1989. By end of September 1990, the MAPA had 432 trained Afghan deminers working in Afghanistan. Since that time, the MAPA has evolved into an umbrella organization that comprises of 16 national and international partner organisations who work on various aspects of mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance, and mine risk education (MRE). Altogether, the MAPA implementing and technical assistance partners now employ some 8,700 Afghans. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA) coordinated the MAPA from 1989 until May 2002. On 1st June 2002, this coordination role was transferred to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). UNMAS's role as the interim coordinator of the MAPA was endorsed by the Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan in early 2003. **On behalf of the Government, the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) functions as the overarching body for the coordination of the MAPA. With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs providing overall policy guidance on behalf of Government, UNMACA maintains de facto responsibility for the coordination (planning, management and oversight) of all mine action activities in Afghanistan. These sectors include, mine and UXO clearance, mine survey, monitoring and training, MRE, victim assistance, advocacy and capacity building. The MAPA also supports the Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) process in Afghanistan through the Mine Action for Peace project designed to train ex-combatants in community-based demining, mine risk education and permanent marking.**	

In order to coordinate mine action policy, the Government of Afghanistan established a Mine Action Consultative Group (MACG). The MACG, which is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, includes members from Government ministries concerned with mine action, mine action donors, the United Nations (UN), and mine action implementing partners. In February 2004, the MACG established a special sub-committee, the Mine Action Task Force, which is comprised of representatives from the Government, the UN, donor countries and implementing partners. The main objective of the Task Force is to provide strategic direction and support to the Government on the transfer of the coordination function for the MAPA from the UN to the Government. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance, the Task Force completed a final draft of the National Mine Action Law in November 2004. The law lays out the roles and responsibilities of the national mine action institutions, including a new National Mine Action Agency. In support of this institutional structure, the Task Force shall continue efforts to finalize the regulatory framework of the national mine action authority, the phased plan and timeframe of the transition process as well as the capacity building programmes and recruitment mechanisms needed to support a successful transfer to full government coordination. **In terms of stockpile destruction, the Afghanistan Ammunition Steering Committee (ASC), chaired by the Ministry of Defense, was established in September 2004 to address the broad issue of explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Afghanistan. The ASC consists of relevant government ministries, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior, the National Security Department, the UN and donor countries. Upon the establishment of the ASC, the previous Stockpile Destruction Working Group (SDWG), established under the MACG, was disbanded as the destruction of anti-personnel mines (APMs) are now planned and coordinated as a part of the broader ERW destruction plan. The Ministry of Defense, in collaboration with UNMACA, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)/ International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and other international and local partners, began a nation wide survey of ERW in December 2004. Preliminary survey results can be found elsewhere in this report.**	

Form B **Stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

Article 7. 1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

b) The total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, to include a breakdown of the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine stockpiled."

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** Reporting for time period from **01.05.04** to **30.04.05**

Under the aegis of the Ammunition Steering Committee, a nationwide survey of ERW, including stockpiled APMs, was launched in December 2004 and has so far identified 2,438 stockpiled APMs. The mines listed below were identified in ERW stockpiles in Kabul, Balkh, Parwan, Herat, Kapisa, and Nangahar provinces; further survey result for these provinces and the 28 other provinces in Afghanistan are expected in the coming months.

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
AP-MON-50	90		
AP-LU6	301		
AP-MON-200	3		
AP-MON-100	1		
AP-OZM4	174		
AP-P2	117		
AP-P4	1		
AP-PMN	309		
AP-PMN-2	109		
AP-POMZ	500		

AP-TS-50	1		
AP-Type-72	29		
AP-YM-1	803		
TOTAL	**2,438**		

Form C **Location of mined areas**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.05.04** to **30.04.05**

1. Areas that contain mines

Location Technical surveyed areas by region	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
Central: 12.2 sqkm **East: 2.9 sqkm** **North: 8.4 sqkm** **South: 10.8 sqkm** **West: 3.0 sqkm** **Southeast: 3.8 sqkm** **Northeast: 14.1 sqkm** **Total: 55.2 sqkm**				**See attached maps.** **Annex C 1: National** **Annex C 2: Central** **Annex C 3: East** **Annex C 4: North** **Annex C 5: South** **Annex C 6: West** **Annex C 7: Southeast** **Annex C 8: Northeast**

	Belgium AP Blast – NR 409 **Chinese AP Blast – Type 72** **Italian AP Blast – SB 33** **Italian AP Blast – TS-50** **Italian AP Blast – VS 50** **Pakistan AP Blast – P2 Mk 2** **Pakistan AP Blast- P4** **Soviet AP Blast – PFM 1** **Soviet AP Blast – PFM 1s** **Soviet AP Blast – PMD 6** **Soviet AP Blast – PMN** **Soviet AP Blast – PMN 2** **Soviet AP Anti-Lift Booby Trap or Delayed charge – MS 3** **Yugoslavia AP Blast PMA-1** **Yugoslavia AP Blast PMA-1A** **Iranian AP Blast YM-1** **Iranian No 4 AP Blast** **Chinese AP bounding Frag – Type 69** **Czechoslovak AP Bounding Frag – PP Mi Sr** **Italian AP Bounding Frag – Valmara 69** **Soviet AP Bounding Frag – OZM-3** **Soviet AP Bounding Frag – OZM-4** **Soviet AP Bounding Frag – OZM-72** **Soviet AP Directional Frag – MON 50** **Soviet AP Directional Frag – MON 90** **Soviet AP Directional Frag – MON 100 & MON 200** **Soviet AP Frag – POMZ 2** **Soviet AP Frag – POM 2s** **USA AP Bounding Frag – M2**	**The exact number of emplaced AP mines is unknown.**	**Between 1978 and 2004**	

2. Areas suspected to contain mines

Location Suspected Hazard Area (SHAs)	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
Central: 204.0 sqkm **East: 52.5 sqkm** **Northeast: 73.3 sqkm** **North: 35.0 sqkm** **Southeast: 98.3 sqkm** **South: 137.1 sqkm** **West: 115.6 sqkm** **Total: 715.9 sqkm**	**See table 1 (areas that contain mines)**	**Unknown**	**Between 1978 and 2004**	**See attached maps.** **Annex C9: Central** **Annex C10: East** **Annex C11: Northeast** **Annex C12: North** **Annex C13: Southeast** **Annex C14: South** **Annex C15: West**

Form D **APMs retained or transferred**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.05.04** to **30.04.05**

1. Retained for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

The Government of Afghanistan has yet to develop a formal policy on the number of APMs to be retained for development and training purposes. The Government on a case-by-case basis approves the number and type of APMs retained by UNMACA on behalf of the MAPA. The list of mines retained at the end of the reporting period is in the table below; these 1,076 APMs are to be used for dog accreditation sites and training. All have had their detonators removed.

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan	**Soviet PMN**	**170**		**Retained from the Stockpile Destruction 3 February 2005 in Herat.**
	Iranian No.4	**35**		
	Iranian YM1	**128**		
	Soviet POMZ-2M	**30**		
	Soviet OZM 3	**20**		
	Soviet OZM 4	**10**		
	Soviet OZM 72	**20**		
	Soviet MON 50	**10**		
	Soviet TM-62	**135**		
	Italian TC-6	**60**		
	Iranian M-19	**110**		
	Soviet TM-46	**40**		
	Soviet TM-57	**15**		
	Soviet MON 200	**2**		
	Pakistan P3 MK1	**5**		
	Pakistan P3 MK 3	**5**		

UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan	**Soviet PMN**	**94**		**Retained from previous stockpile destructions.**
	Soviet PMN 2	**6**		
	Iranian YM 1	**1**		
	OZM-72	**3**		
	Chinese Type 72	**4**		
	Chinese Type 69	**2**		
	Soviet MS3	**1**		
	Soviet MON-50	**18**		
	Iranian No 4	**5**		
	P2 MK1 & 2	**22**		
	Italian TC 6	**12**		
	Soviet TM 57	**55**		
	Soviet TM 62	**5**		
	Soviet TM 46	**2**		
	British MK 7	**16**		
	Italian TC 2.4	**7**		
	Pakistan P3MK 1	**19**		
	Iranian YM3	**1**		
	Iranian YM11	**3**		
	MORSAD 3	**1**		
	Pakistan P2MK 3	**4**		
TOTAL	----------	**1,076**		

2. Transferred for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)
None.

3. Transferred for the purpose of destruction (Article 3, para.2)
None.

Form E **Status of programs for conversion or de-commissioning of APM production facilities**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
e) The status of programs for the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities."

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.03.05** to **30.04.05**

Not applicable to Afghanistan.

Form F **Status of programs for destruction of APMs**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
f) The status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites and the applicable safety and environmental standards to be observed."

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.03.03** to **30.04.05**

1. Status of programs for destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

Description of the status of programs including: Location of destruction sites	Details of:
Maidan Wardak	**Destruction date**: 11 May 2004 **Method:** Detonation
Jalalabad	**Destruction date:** 5,6 September 2004, 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,17 August 2004, 29 July 2004, 14 August 2003 **Method**: Detonation
Pulikhumri	**Destruction date**: 4 September 2004 **Method**: Detonation
Mazar-e-Sharif	**Destruction date:** 14 October 2004 **Method**: Detonation

Kandahar	**Destruction date:** 5 June 2004 27 May – 5 June 2003 **Method**: Detonation
Herat	**Destruction date:** 3,4,5,6 November 2004, 20 July 2004, 12 May 2003 **Method:** Detonation
Herat (CDS)	**APM Stockpile Destruction Project implemented by the Ministry of Defence with assistance from UNMACA, RONCO.** **Implementation period: 2004- 2005** **Collection sites:** Various MoD ammunition depots in Herat **Destruction date:** 3 February 2005 **Method:** Detonation. For more information see: **Annex F1:** Stockpile Destruction Project Completion Report.
Kabul	**APM Stockpile Destruction Pilot Project implemented by the Ministry of Defense with assistance from UNMACA, ATC and NATO/ISAF.** **Implementation period:** 12 December 2003–12 February 2004 **Collection sites:** 39 MoD ammunition depots in Kabul **Destruction date:** 12 February 2004 **Method:** CDS: Detonation Jangalak Factory: Melting of mine casings.

	APMs retained by ATC from the stockpile destruction pilot project in Kabul were rendered free from explosive. **Destruction date:** 1 November 2004 **Method:** Removing explosives
Kunduz	**Destruction date:** 18 November 2003 **Method:** Detonation
Kabul (CDS)	**Destruction date:** 12 May 2003 **Method**: Detonation

2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Description of the status of programs including: Location of destruction sites	Details of:
Nationwide (each mine clearance site)	**APMs are destroyed at clearance sites at the end of daily operations in order to make removal of mines impossible. Some 6,500 Afghans are involved in this clearance effort, including 109 manual clearance team, 41 mechanical clearance teams and 31 Mine Dog Groups.** **Since 1990 the MAPA has cleared 911 million square meters of ERW contaminated land, including 345 million square meters since 1 January 2002. Emplaced devices destroyed since 1990: 300,000 APM; 22,000 ATM; 5.8 million UXO.**

Form G APMs destroyed after entry into force

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.03.03** to **30.04.05**

1. Destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
P4 Mk2	**1,028**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA) and Handicap International Belgium (HIB)**
PMN	**7,324**	**N/A**	**432 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC).** **390 destroyed in Herat 3-6 November 2004 by HALO Trust (HT)** **6,478 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **1 destroyed in Jalalabad 14 August 2003 by ATC.** **13 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.** **10 destroyed in Herat 12 May 2003 by Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR).**
MON50	**1,619**	**N/A**	**424 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **134 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.** **276 destroyed in Jalalabad 9 August 2004 by HT.**

			93 destroyed in Jalalabad 14 August 2003 by ATC. **158 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.** **534 destroyed in Kabul 12 May 2003 by ATC.**
PMD6	**1,291**	**N/A**	**1,275 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO** **16 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.**
POMZ2	**12,737**	**N/A**	**9,924 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO** **200 destroyed in Herat 3 November 2004 by HT** **84 destroyed in Jalalabad 6-7 August 2004 by HT** **7 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.** **32 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.** **2,490 mine casings melted into manhole covers at the Jangalak Factory, Kabul, 12 February 2004 under the supervision of NATO/ISAF and UNMACA.**
MON200	**103**	**N/A**	**2 destroyed in Kabul 1 Novmber 2004 by ATC.** **90 destroyed in Kunduz 18 November 2003 by ATC.** **11 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.**
PP-MI-SR	**318**	**N/A**	**10 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **2 destroyed in Kabul 1 November 2004 by ATC** **12 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.** **294 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2003 by ATC.**
M2	**1**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.**
MON100	**3**	**N/A**	**2 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and**

			HIB. **1 destroyed in Kabul 1 November 2004 by ATC**
OZM72	**792**	**N/A**	**159 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **525 destroyed in Herat 3 November 2004 by HT.** **38 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.** **2 destroyed in Kabul 1 November 2004 by ATC.** **60 destroyed in Kunduz 18 November 2003 by ATC.** **2 destroyed in Kandahar 27 May - 5 June 2003 by DAFA and HIB.** **4 destroyed in Herat 12 May 2003 by OMAR.** **2 destroyed in Kabul 12 May 2003 by ATC.**
PMN2	**522**	**N/A**	**256 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **218 destroyed in Herat 3 November 2004 by HT** **3 destroyed in Pulikhumri 4 September 2004 by HT.** **35 destroyed in Wardak 11 May 2004 by HT** **10 destroyed in Herat 12 May 2003 by OMAR.**
P2	**8**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Jalalabad 14 August 2003 by ATC.**
Type 69	**38**	**N/A**	**2 destroyed in Kabul 1 November 2004 by ATC.** **35 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.** **1 destroyed in Jalalabad 14 August 2003 by ATC.**
PFM 1/S	**144**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.**
YM 1	**242**	**N/A**	**40 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **194 destroyed in Herat 3 November 2004 by HT.** **2 destroyed in Kabul 1 November 2004 by ATC.** **6 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.**

M16A2	**20**	**N/A**	**2 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **18 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.**
TM 57	**217**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.**
M19	**224**	**N/A**	**112 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **12 destroyed in Kabul 12 February 2004 by ATC.**
OZM-3	**784**	**N/A**	**124 destroyed in Herat on 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **660 destroyed in Heart 13 November 2004 by HT.**
OZM-4	**811**	**N/A**	**320 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.** **490 destroyed in Herat 3 November 2004 by HT** **1 destroyed in Kabul 1 November 2004 by ATC.**
LO-6	**40**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Jalalabad on 4 August 2004 by HT.**
YM-2	**5**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Mazar-e- Sharif 14 October 2004 by HT.**
Type-72	**158**	**N/A**	**34 destroyed in Wardak 11 May 2004 by HT** **124 destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.**
RPM-2	**6**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Herat 20 July 2004 by HT.**
Various AP mines	**117**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Jalalabad 29 July 2004 by HT.**
Valmara	**79**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.**
P2MK2	**200**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.**
No.4	**13**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.**
TS-50	**61**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Herat 3 February 2005 by RONCO.**
MS 3	**2**	**N/A**	**All destroyed in Kabul 1 November 2004 by ATC.**
TOTAL	**28,907**		

2. Destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Type	Quantity	Supplementary information
All types	**23,499**	**AP mines are destroyed at each mine clearance site as a part of ongoing demining operations. The 23,499 AP mines were destroyed in the period 1 March 2003 to 31 January 2005**
TOTAL	**23,499**	

Form H **Technical characteristics of each type produced/owned or possessed**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

h) The technical characteristics of each type of anti-personnel mine produced, to the extent known, and those currently owned or possessed by a State Party, giving, where reasonably possible, such categories of information as may facilitate identification and clearance of anti-personnel mines; at a minimum, this information shall include the dimensions, fusing, explosive content, metallic content, colour photographs and other information which may facilitate mine clearance"

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.05.04** to **30.04.05**

1. Technical characteristics of each APM-type produced

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
N/A	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

2. Technical characteristics of each APM-type currently owned or possessed

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
See Annex H1							**For specifications on APMs found in Afghanistan, see Annex H1: Mine Recognition Handbook for Afghanistan**

Form I **Measures to provide warning to the population**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

i) The measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5."

Remark: In accordance with Article 5, para.2: "Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.01.04** to **30.04.05**

Marking

Marking systems used in mine action in Afghanistan have three purposes:

a. The clear and unambiguous marking of the extent of hazardous areas and as warning of the extent of hazardous areas and as warning or physical barrier to prevent people from entering hazardous areas;

b. As a means for the safe and effective control of demining operations;

c. As a means for the marking of cleared areas. The details of marking systems to be employed by all mine action organizations operating in Afghanistan are follows:

Methods

(1) Meaning of color

Three primary colours used within mine action in Afghanistan. These colors are:

a. red to signify a mines or cluster submunition hazard.

b. blue to signify a UXO hazard.

c. white to signify safety

(2) Hazard signs and hazard markers

Hazard signs are square or triangular-shaped notices coloured according to the type of hazard. They are to indicate the nature of the hazard in writing and are to incorporate a skull and crossbones symbol to represent danger. The language used on hazard signs is to be in English, Pashtu and Dari.

(3) Rocks

Painted rocks are the most common form of hazard marker in Afghanistan. When used as hazard markers, rocks are to be at least 15cm in diameter. When marking the boundaries of hazardous areas or suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) with rocks, the following systems may be used:

a. A single line of rocks along the boundary. They are to be painted red or blue, as appropriate, on one side and white on the other. The red or blue side of the rock is to face the hazard area and the white side is to face the safe area.

b. A double line of rocks along the boundary set no more than 0.5m apart, one line red or blue and the other white. The red or blue rocks are to be placed along the boundary closest to the hazardous area; the white rocks are to be placed along the boundary on the safe side.

(4) Physical barriers

There is limited opportunity to use physical barriers as part of hazard, demining and administrative marking in Afghanistan. However, in high-traffic areas where the security of the marking materials can be assured, it may be appropriate to use them. Where fences are used, they are to conform to the following general requirements:

a. Uprights may include trees, buildings, existing structures and posts and are to be positioned not more than 15m apart.

b. A minimum of two strands of any suitable durable material including wire, string, synthetic cord or tape, is to be attached to uprights at 0.25-0.5m and 1.0-1.25m above the ground.

c. Hazard signs are to be attached along the top strand of the fence. They are to be positioned not more than 30m apart and within 5m of each turning point.

Physical barriers are not to be positioned on the immediate edge of a hazardous area unless this edge is clearly delineated by hard standing such as a road or concrete pad. In all other cases, the marking is to be placed 5m back from the edge of the known or suspected hazardous area.

(5) Permanent marking

Permanent marking systems should be used to mark the perimeter of UXO and mine hazard areas, which are not scheduled for clearance in the near future.

All hazard markings are to be in red and white. The red side is to be facing the dangerous side of the mine field. The paint used for marking is to be a durable, all-weather type, which is capable of lasting under extreme conditions for a minimum of one year. The boundary between cleared and unclear ground is to be marked by a permanent marking hazard markers 0.7m high. The hazard marker should be visible at a minimum distance of 30m in normal daylight conditions. There should be a safe distance of 1.0 meter between uncleared area and the permanent marker to allow maintenance around the markers. The distance between the hazard markers should in normal circumstances be a minimum of 30 meters and a maximum of 40 meters.

Maintenance

The demining organization conducting the demining is responsible for the maintenance of the marking systems. It is to maintain these systems while the demining worksite is operational and until such time as it is handed over to another demining organization or as cleared land.

Briefing on marking system

Demining organizations erecting marking systems are responsible for ensuring that local communities are briefed on the location and meaning of the marking systems used.

Mine Risk Education

During the reporting period countrywide efforts were made to protect civilians and aid workers from the effects of mines through a variety of Mine Risk Education activities including: Ministry of Education teacher training programme, implementation of community based mine risk education, mass media and public information materials production, emergency response and activities targeting the returnee, internally displaced and aid worker populations.

Approximately 6,800 communities based non-formal school teachers were trained and provided with MRE teaching materials for use with their students. New MRE training programmes and materials were produced to augment and enhance existing programmes, in particular community based and returnee MRE activities. Awareness programmes through radio were continued. Public information materials including brochures, posters, and film were produced and distributed. MRE sessions and activities were held in communities, encashment centers and IDP camps throughout the country providing awareness messages and MRE materials. Landmine safety training was also provided to aid workers. Training was provided to implementing partners on new methodologies to strengthen capabilities. Implementing partners were trained on the use of monitoring and evaluation tools that will strengthen the reporting mechanisms of the MRE programme and provide valuable feedback to ensure quality programme implementation. Four quality assurance teams and one training team have been deployed to monitor and evaluate MRE activities and provide the implementing partners with refresher training and updated methodologies.

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.

State [Party]: **Afghanistan** reporting for time period from **01.04.04** to **30.04.05**

Victim Assistance

It is estimated that in Afghanistan there are as many as 100,000 survivors of landmines/UXO accidents. Although health care, service provision and rehabilitation are being coordinated through the Ministries of Martyrs and Disabled, Health, Education and Labor and Social Affairs, these services are limited. This leads to the exclusion of large number of people with disabilities including many disabled due to landmines.

During the reporting period, Afghanistan developed a programmatic direction and strategy to encourage inclusive service provision and advocate for the rights of landmine survivors through advocacy and awareness programming. These activities are designed to raise awareness with regards to the rights, needs and dignity of landmine survivors and people with disabilities through awareness training programmes at the community level and through teacher training. Additionally child focused activities will be developed and all activities will be augmented with theatre, film, print materials and media campaign activities.

Afghanistan has had the honour of being named as co-rapporteur for the 2005 meetings of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration and will co-chair these meetings in 2006.