

Solving the Mine Problem in Central Asia - 26 March 2007

AFGHANISTAN

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Overview

- ✦ The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) is the largest and oldest indigenous humanitarian mine action programme in the world - established by the UN in 1989
- ✦ The MAPA is implemented by national and international partners, many of which are Afghan NGOs, and coordinated by the UN Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (UNMACA)
- ✦ The Government of Afghanistan supervises Mine Action through a Consultative Working Group, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs





Ottawa Convention

- ⊕ Afghanistan joined the Ottawa Convention in March 2003 and became the 126th member
- ⊕ This was a bold move for Afghanistan since many other Central Asian and neighbouring countries, including Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, China, Russia, are not members
- ⊕ As a State Party, Afghanistan must:
 - Clear all emplaced anti-personnel mines by 2013
 - Destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines by 2007
 - Provide mine risk education to the Afghan people
 - Assist those who have been injured by mines



Progress to Date

- ⊕ The MAPA has cleared more than 1 billion m² of contaminated land - or more than 60% of all the contaminated land in Afghanistan - since 1989
- ⊕ During that time, the MAPA destroyed more than 322,000 anti-personnel mines, more than 18,500 anti-tank mines and almost seven million pieces of UXO.
- ⊕ More than 480,000 stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed
- ⊕ About 17 million Afghans received mine risk education over the past 18 years
- ⊕ The number of victims each month has dropped by more than 50 percent over the past five years



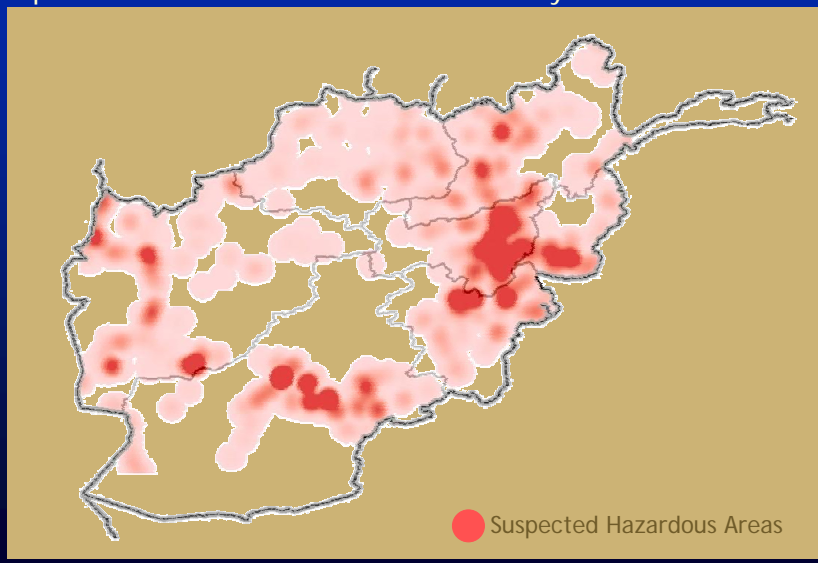
Scope of the Problem

- ✦ 2,300 communities remain contaminated
- ✦ Some 4 million people affected
- ✦ Average of 60 victims per month
- ✦ More than 720 million m² of suspected hazardous areas or known mine fields remain



Scope of the Problem

- ✦ 32 provinces out of 34 are contaminated by landmines and UXO





Mine clearance is a prerequisite for development

- ⊕ The socio-economic impact of clearance on the population and on Afghan economy should not be underestimated*:
 - ⊞ Net value of production on cleared agricultural land has wide variations, ranging from 13,500 USD - to 520,000 US dollars
 - ⊞ Net annual output value from livestock rearing on one square kilometers of grazing area varies regionally between 1,200 US dollars and 2,000 US dollars
 - ⊞ Loss of animals to mine accidents is estimated at about 2,500 US dollars per square kilometer annually.
- ⊕ Mine action translate into a decrease in the victim rate and in an increase in the well-being of Afghan: it is vital to the development of the country

* World Bank study, 2001



Funding Required to Meet Ottawa Targets

To fulfill its obligation to the people of Afghanistan and to meet the international benchmarks the MAPA has an average annual budget of US\$ 90 million for the next 5 years:

⊕ Coordination and Capacity Development	\$8,331,104
⊕ Survey	\$7,568,028
⊕ Clearance	\$71,350,269
⊕ Monitoring and Evaluation	\$2,222,442
⊕ Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance	\$3,468,750

TOTAL REQUIRED FOR 2007 **\$92,940,593**



Current Funding Situation

- ✦ The MAPA reached full funding of its activities in 2003/04 following international intervention in the country and the Taliban's fall
- ✦ Funding shrank in 2005 as donor interest waned - resulting in 40% reduction in humanitarian assets in July 2006
- ✦ Currently, the MAPA has about \$50 ml with recent contributions from the EC, the Netherlands, Canada and US - well short of the \$92.9 ml needed to expand operations and meet Ottawa obligations



The Way Ahead

- ✦ The MAPA demonstrates maturity and willingness to undertake new approaches —do more with less— to address the threat of landmines with a fundamental commitment to the creation of nationally supported institutional capacity
- ✦ The process of the transition from the UN managed programme to a national lead-one is underway
- ✦ The handover to a national authority is to take place over a two-year period; however, the timeframe will be adapted to our requirements and financial availabilities



With the dedication of the mine action employees and the support of donor countries, Afghanistan will build its national institution, achieve its mine action goals and free the land of the threat of landmines

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