



International Assistance to the National Mine Action Programs:

The Case for Afghanistan

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- ✚ Background and an Overview
- ✚ Extent of the Problem
- ✚ International Assistance and the way forward



History and introduction of the MAPA



- 1989 -Withdrawal of Russian forces - Collapse of Russian-Backed Regime and the Return of millions of Refugees,
- Millions of mines in the ground
- MAPA was established in 1989 The largest and first UN program in the world
- Establishment of National NGOs,
- First time civilians were engaged in mine clearance - succeeded and set an example to the rest of the mine affected countries



History of Mines and ERW Contamination

Wars in the country and indiscriminate use of mines and other munitions : All warring factions have contributed to the problem

1. 1979-1989: Russians
2. 1989-1992: Russian Backed Government
3. 1992-1995: Mujahideen Government
4. 1995-2001: Taliban
5. Sep 2001 until today: Coalition Forces Campaign- Cluster munitions BLU 97 and other UXO problems





MAPA Coordination

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
Focal Point for Mine Action on Strategic Level -
provides policy guidance

UNMACA
(Mine Action Center for Afghanistan)

7 Area Mine Action
Centers

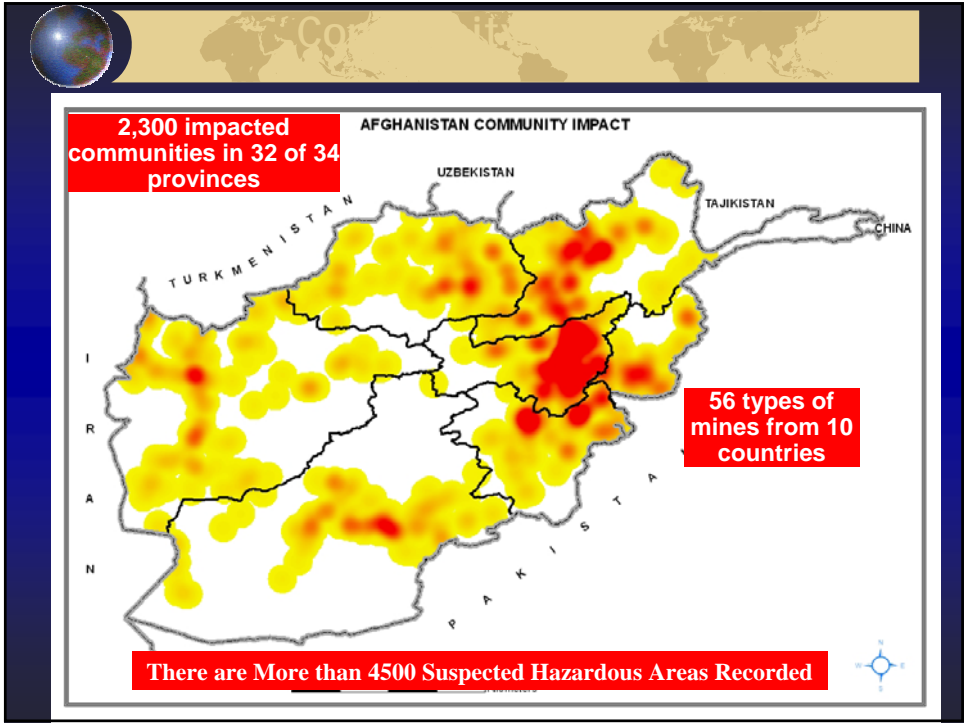
21 Mine Action
Organizations



Programme Components

- o Coordination
- o Mine Risk Education
- o Victim Assistance
- o Demining - Survey, Clearance, marking
- o Stockpile Destruction
- o Quality Management
- o Technical Training
- o Capacity Building









More than 3 millions Nomads
(Kuchies) are living in Afghanistan



Mines are impeding the
development and reconstruction





Landmines and UXO Victims



- ✦ An average of 63 Afghans fell victim to mines and UXO each month: a more than 50% decrease from just five years ago



International Assistance for Mine Action in Afghanistan

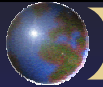
- ✦ Afghanistan became a failed state shortly after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989,
- ✦ Warlords were dominant
- ✦ The country needed an organization comprised of Afghans who were dedicated to mine action and viewed as impartial actors alleviating the humanitarian disaster.





The Creation of the MAPA

- ✦ To answer this need, the UN created the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA), the world's first indigenous mine action programme, in 1989.
- ✦ Today, the MAPA is implemented by international and national partners - many of which are Afghan NGOs - and is coordinated by the United Nations Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (UNMACA).



National capacity is key...

International Community helped establish national NGOs in 1989. That indigenous capacity has been the driving force behind MAPA's success.





The Way Ahead



- There is obviously a long term need for mine action in Afghanistan - so keep the program impartial and away from the political influence
- National capacity and the national ownership needs to be further strengthened
- National Mine Action Standards, guidelines, work procedures needs to be further developed
- Increased work is required on the local capacity development
- Finally I encourage the countries in the region to get benefit from the MAPA's experiences e.g. MAX program and join the global movement against mines



Thank You for your Attention
Questions