

Division of Responsibilities between DMAC and UNMAS/UN-HMACCA

Introduction

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), since its inception more than three decades ago, has had great achievements in delivering mine action services and clearing landmines and explosive remnants of war in the country, as a result of which large parts of contaminated areas in cities, suburbs, villages and towns, areas covering water resources, agricultural lands, pastures, industrial estates, training centers, development project, highways and power bases have been cleared of EO contamination.

The MAPA, which consists of all demining NGOs, commercial demining companies, and other relevant mine action organizations, is led by the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), a directorate of the Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs. The DMAC was established during Dr. Najibullah's government and continues to this day.

The directorate (DMAC) being responsible for the five main pillars of mine action (coordination, planning, quality management, information management, resource mobilization and advocacy) is also in charge of leading, overseeing, policy making and reporting to the Government of Afghanistan on the achievements of the mine action programme. The directorate has seen many ups and downs since its establishment until today, but it has continued to play its leading role.

In 2002, the then Government of Afghanistan commissioned the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to lead the MAPA. While transferring some of its responsibilities to UNMAS, the DMAC, in coordination with the mentioned entity, also managed most of the coordination function with government agencies.

During Karzai and Ghani's governments, on many occasions, plans for creation of a national mine action body, such as establishing a coordination center at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, and creation of an independent non-profit organization, were presented to the presidents. Each time, the issue was referred to Ministry of Justice for advice by the administrative office of the president and in return, Ministry of Justice wrote back to the administrative office of the president explaining that a directorate by the name of DMAC, operating under the Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, already exists and is responsible for oversight of the civilian mine action programme in the country.

Since most of the programmes were transferred to government ownership, the mine action programme was no exception. The transfer process started in 2016 and was completed in June 2018. From June 2018 until now, the leadership of the MAPA, both humanitarian and commercial, has been fully under the management of the DMAC of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs.

The DMAC, as the owner of the mine action sector in the country, is the only government institution exercising sovereignty of the Afghan government in the mine action sector, and as the programme manager of the MAPA, is responsible for monitoring, controlling, policy-making, coordination and reporting on mine action in the country.

The DMAC's administrative expenses were \$ 3 million a year, of which \$ 1.5 million was paid by the United Kingdom through the UNMAS-managed VTF and \$ 1.5 million by the United States through the ITF. This cost was covering the salaries of about 120 contracted staff, who were paid NTA salary scale, as well as the rent of HQ and regional offices, generators, internet, stationary, furniture and other administrative necessities.

Right after the establishment of the new political system in the country, due to the non-recognition of the new government, the aid process was stopped. The Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA), which was run under the management of the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), was not an exception.

In this regard, in order to manage the new situation and advance the work of the Coordination Center in a correct and effective manner, we entered into a dialogue with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), until after about 5 months we agreed that part of the main responsibilities of the DMAC shall be transferred under the umbrella of a new project called "United Nations Humanitarian Mine Action Coordination Center for Afghanistan" (UN-HMACCA)

Under the new agreement, DMAC as the owner of the Mine Action Sector, confirms that part of the work responsibilities of DMAC will be transferred to the UNMAS (United Nations Humanitarian Mine Action Coordination Center for Afghanistan) so that under the umbrella of the leadership of DMAC and in coordination with it, activities could be carried out.

It should be noted that DMAC, as the owner of the Mine Action Sector and the leader of the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan, reserves the right to, at any time which it considers necessary can continue the activities mentioned by the UN-HMACCA.

Both organization agree that UN-HMACCA is a temporary project of the UNMAS designed to advance some of the demining work, and is valid until the recognition of the new government, and UNMAS at the end of every six months shall take the written agreement of DMAC for extension the activities.

The main party of DMAC is UNMAS. However, coordination between DMAC and UN-HMACCA is carried out at the departmental level, and activities are carried out at the decision-making level between the departments.

Until the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is recognized as a member state of the United Nations, the United Nations Mine Action Service will cover the administrative, personnel and operational costs of the UN-HMACCA, including

personnel salaries, rent, generator costs, internet, stationary, furniture, and DSA of UN-HMACCA personnel for monitoring of the humanitarian demining projects. Once the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is recognized as a member state of the United Nations, this arrangement will be reviewed.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is obliged to cover the administrative, personnel and operational costs of the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination, including personnel salaries, rent, generator costs, internet, stationary, furniture, and the DSA of DMAC personnel for monitoring of all demining projects.

The details of the work of the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination and United Nations Mine Action Coordination Center for Afghanistan are explained in the division of responsibilities between the DMAC and UNMAS/UN-HMACCA which will come into force after the party's agreement and signature.

Annex 1- Division of Responsibilities between DMAC and UNMAS/UN-HMACCA

The table below outlines the division of responsibility between UNMAS/UN-HMACCA and DMAC.

Roles and Responsibilities	DMAC	UNMAS/UN-HMACCA
Regulation of Mine Action Actors		
Establishing a national strategy, to reduce the impact of explosive ordnance	X	
Establishing the strategy, priorities, and workplans for the management of the of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan	X	
Establishing the strategy, priorities, and workplans for the management of the of the Humanitarian Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan in consultation with DMAC		X
Reporting on the progress made on mine action to the de facto authorities	X	
Reporting on progress made on mine action to Humanitarian MAPA stakeholders, including DMAC & donors		x
Take custody of the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards	X	
Establish and manage policies regulations, guidelines and procedures, including those on gender and diversity, align with National Mine Action Standards to regulate mine action activities	X	
Establish and manage policies regulations, guidelines and procedures, including those on gender and diversity, align with International Mine Action Standards to regulate humanitarian mine action activities		X
Accreditation of mine action operators and implementing partners against the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards	X	
Technical review of SOPs of humanitarian mine action operators and implementing partners against International Mine Action Standards and relevant policies.		x
Ensuring Afghanistan's adherence to the relevant international treaties (APMBC and CCW)	X	
Advising the de facto authorities on mine action matters including on international treaties concerning mine action	X	
Liaison with de facto authorities on the security and safety of explosive storage	X	
Coordination		
Chairing of the MAPA Stakeholder Meeting	X	
Chairing of the Humanitarian MAPA Stakeholder Meeting		x
Participating in the Humanitarian MAPA Stakeholder	X	

Meeting as an observer		
Coordinate the interventions of humanitarian NGO (coordinate the interventions of firing ranges in case the funding is channeled through UN)		x
Coordinate the interventions of commercial and development NGO including firing ranges	X	
Representation in the different coordination mechanisms established by the United Nations mine action team, donors and other partners at the global, regional and national levels		x
Collaboration with United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes		x
Coordinating the development and implementation of mine action projects and associated humanitarian activities		x
Supporting the development and implementation of mine action projects and associated humanitarian activities	X	
Liaison with UN organizations requiring mine action support		x
Liaison with Non- humanitarian organizations requiring mine action support	X	

Resource Mobilization		
Resource mobilization from international sources for the whole mine action sector.	X	
Resource mobilization from international sources for humanitarian demining only.		X
Resource mobilization from national sources.	X	
Management of Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)		x
Engagement with UN Trust funds for Afghanistan		X
Planning and Priority Setting		
Overseeing the development, implementation and management of non humanitarian mine action work plans	X	
Overseeing the development, implementation and management of humanitarian mine action work plans		X
Managing the implementation of the national non humanitarian mine action plan (this may include revising the plan as the situation or priorities change and as more information becomes available).	X	
Managing the implementation of the national humanitarian mine action plan (this may include revising the plan as the situation or priorities change and as more information becomes available) in coordination with DMAC.		X
Establishing liaison with de facto government authorities to determine what the immediate and mid-term priorities for mine action are	X	
Establishing liaison with humanitarian and development agencies to determine what the immediate and mid-term priorities for mine action are, and preparation of plans to address these priorities in coordination with DMAC.		X
Assumption of the national and/or regional level management of mine action activities to ensure that immediate and mid-term priorities for mine action are met.		X
Ensuring harmonization between humanitarian and development plans and the national mine action plan	x	
Ensuring harmonization between humanitarian within the national mine action plan		X
Ensuring implementation of the national mine action plan	x	
Information Management		
Establishing and maintaining a management information system. This may be the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), GIS or other similar systems	x	
Establishing and maintaining a management information system for humanitarian demining. This may be the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), GIS or other similar systems		X
Ensure provision of humanitarian mine action data to all relevant stakeholders		X

Establishing and implementing a process of information gathering and analysis so that a comprehensive assessment of the explosive ordnance problem and its different impact on men and women and children can be made		X
Reporting on the progress made on the MAPA to the public, donors, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders	x	
Reporting on the progress made on humanitarian mine action to the public, donors, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders		X
Quality Management		
Quality Assurance /Quality Control of national mine action operations	x	
Quality Assurance /Quality Control of humanitarian mine action operations		X
Overseeing the implementation of Afghanistan Mine Action Standards, to ensure technical, quality and safety		X
Ensuring that the MAPA remain current with international standards and advances in mine action technology, and that the MAPA actively seek to improve the quality and efficiency of their work	x	
Ensuring that evaluations of the MAPA, are carried out in accordance with management needs and the requirements of donors and other key stakeholders	X	
Ensuring that evaluations of the humanitarian mine action programme, or components of it, are carried out in accordance with management needs and the requirements of donors and other key stakeholders		X
Directing research and development (R&D), and training activities to improve the capacity of mine action partners	X	
Directing research and development (R&D), and training activities to improve the capacity of humanitarian mine action partners		X
Monitoring MAPA activities	x	
Monitoring Humanitarian mine action activities		X
Carry out external QA/QC of MAPA		x
Carry out external QA/QC of humanitarian mine action projects		X
Processing and Final Certification of Completion Reports	x	
Convene and chair Investigation of Incidents (BOI)	x	
Support investigation of non humanitarian mine action incidents		X
Conduct BOI of all incidents funded by the VTF or other donors at their request.		X
Manage the Balanced Scorecard	x	
Maintain a balanced scorecard for humanitarian mine action partners		X