



# AFGHANISTAN

## Mine Action Support Group

**Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi - Director of the Directorate of Mine Action (DMAC)**

**Mr. Mohammad Wakil Jamshidi - Officer-In-Charge, Programme Manager, UNMAS**

**15 October 2020**



# Agenda

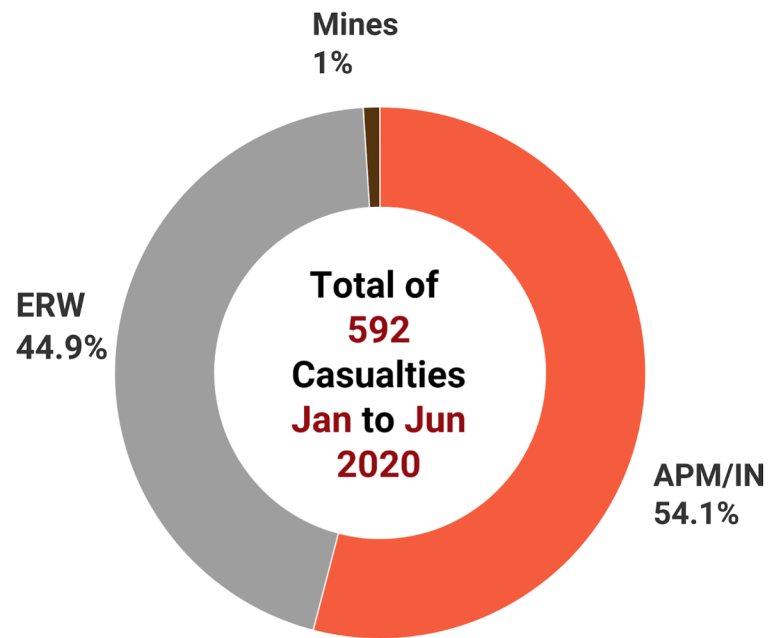
1. Mine action environment in Afghanistan
2. Response: MAPA, DMAC, UNMAS, GICHD, UNICEF and operational implementing partners.
3. Key achievements
4. COVID-19: 'Stay and deliver'
5. Focus areas for the future: peace process and AIM clearance
6. Support from the MASG

# Afghanistan - Context

- Civilian casualties rose from a historical low of **36 per month in 2012** to **over 130 per month in 2019**
- **98 per cent** EO-related civilian casualties are due explosive remnants of war (**ERW**) and anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (**APM/IN**), also known as victim-operated improvised explosive devices (VOIED)
- Approximately **80 per cent of ERW civilian casualties are children**

# 2020 trends and key incidents

## Notable incidents:



**Mid 2020 Casualties by Devices**

- **Arghistan, Kandahar: 26 died and 2 others injured in 5 incidents over three days in August**
- Nahri Saraj, Helmand: A roadside IM detonated, killing 8 - including 7 children - and injuring 2 others.
- Spin Boldak, Kandahar: A roadside IM detonated on civilian vehicle, killing 3 and injuring 3 others (3 Aug)
- Ghor-Kabul Highway, Ghor: A roadside IM detonated on civilian vehicle, killing 7 people (20 Aug)
- Jaghato, Ghazni: A roadside IM detonated on civilian vehicle, killing 7 people (23 Aug)
- Spin Boldak, Kandahar: A roadside IM detonated on civilian vehicle, killing 13 and injuring another 2 (27 Aug).
- Daikundi, Kunduz, Paktika, Helmand: roadside Improvised AP Mines killed 22 civilians and wounded 28 more during month of Sep 2020



# Response - Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan

- **DMAC** executes key programme management functions, such as priority setting, planning, quality management, data-collection, information management, research and development, training, advocacy, public relations and resource mobilization and management. DMAC accredits all mine action operators in line with national mine action standards and regulates them in line with the same.
- **UNMAS** is a key technical and financial assistance partner of DMAC, providing support in areas such as strategic planning and advocacy, resource mobilization and funds management and contracting. UNMAS also provides technical support to implementing partners, including on AIM Clearance, access negotiations and gender mainstreaming.



- **GICHD** is a key partner of DMAC providing support in areas such as strategic planning, research and development, trials, introduction to and of new technologies, quality management and information management.
- **Operational implementing partners:** An Afghan process implemented through Afghan demining NGOs implementing Mine Action (EORE, clearance, survey, marking, and stock destruction) – The HALO Trust, HI, DDG, MDC, MCPA, AREA, DAFA, ATC, OMAR, FSD.



NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.

# Response - Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan



- **UNICEF** has central to its mandate the protection and promotion of the rights of children, including through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on Children and Armed Conflict. In collaboration with DMAC, UNAMA, UNMAS, and other partners, UNICEF supports: the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations, EORE programming, IHL/IHRL advocacy and child-focused victim assistance.





# Key achievements

- Over 3,000 sq km area cleared from various types of landmines and ERW
- More than 20 million of various type of explosive ordnance, including landmines, destroyed
- Full transition of the programme management and advocacy function from UNMAS to DMAC in June 2018
- Abandoned Improvised Mines Afghanistan Mine Action Standard (AIM AMAS), first of its kind in the world and capacity building of national implementing partners in clearance
- First minefield cleared by a mixed-gender demining team in Bamyan in 2018 - with follow-on projects employing female deminers in 2019 and 2020
- Revision of risk education material to align with behavioural change communication theory
- Support to the State Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled Affairs (MMD) in the revision and finalization of the National Disability & Inclusion Strategy for 2020-2030
- 693 EO child survivors were referred for special services and received victim assistance (2019)



# COVID-19 Response Activities

- DMAC issued a **COVID-19 guidance** document mid-March, which is **still in place**. Under this, mine action activities can be implemented following individual risk assessments and **approval from DMAC**. The situation is reviewed periodically, and the guidance will be adjusted as needed
- Few MA activities and projects, in particular face-to-face risk education, had to be temporarily suspended, but all have **restarted** under with strict adherence to COVID-19 preventative measures. DMAC issued additional guidance on how to deliver **RE in the context of COVID-19**
- A new poster including **COVID-19 messages** to be distributed alongside EORE awareness materials.
- VA is one key priority of the HRP amended for COVID-19.

# Focus areas for the future

- Continued capacity building and the clearance of Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM), also known as anti-personnel landmines of improvised nature (APM/IN)
- Identifying the scale of AIM and ERW contamination at national level through survey and planning for their clearance
- Engaging with other sector for promotion, identification and utilization of synergies - e.g. with the Ministries of Interior and Defence on the implementation of the CCW
- Diversification of EORE approaches (e.g. child protection AOR, child friendly spaces)
- Mine action as a peace building tool: **confidence building measure, reintegration, peace sustainment**
  - E.g. 2004-2006 Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme
  - Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process 2002 -2004

# Challenges

- Ongoing conflict – accumulation to existence problem
- Access to contaminated areas for humanitarian mine action teams
- AIM clearance and behavioral change-focused explosive ordnance risk education – complicated
- Spot ERW – not registered in IMSMA and locations not known



# MASG Support

- Build on progress and achievements to date through sustained donor funding.
- Funding to clear Abandoned Improvised Mines - and ERW
- Advocacy for the inclusion of humanitarian mine action as a component of peace initiatives



**Questions?**