



# UNMAS

**NEEDS DRIVEN. PEOPLE CENTRED.**

# The Role of the UN:

## Advancing Human Rights Approaches through Advocacy

- **Key Normative Frameworks**

- CCW
- APMBC

- **Advocacy and Implementation**

- IHL approaches
- Engagement with parties to the conflict

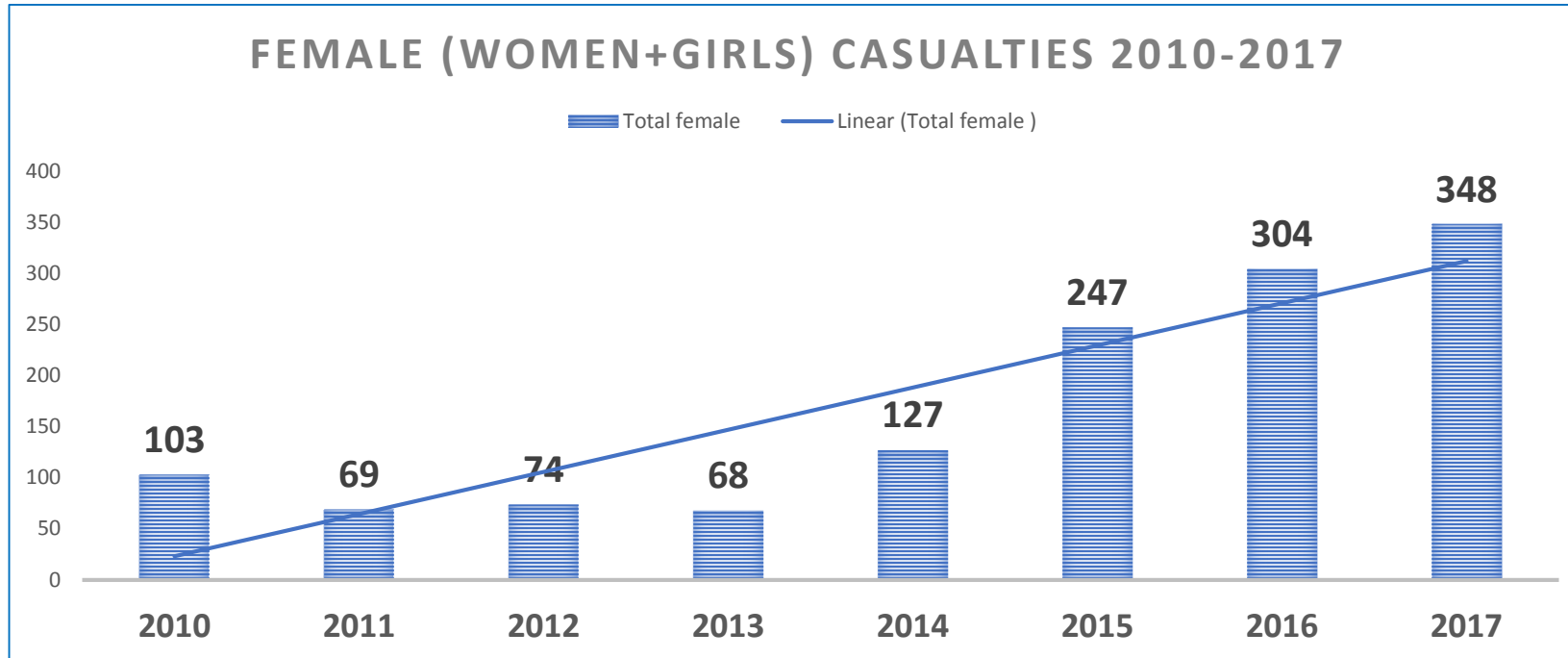
# QUICK SNAPSHOT

## Casualty Figures *(IMSMA figures)*

- 2018 – 99% due to VOIED and ERW
- 2017 – 96% due to VOIED and ERW
- Current 65% injury rate

## Trends and Highlights

- 90% of civilian casualties from ERW children
- Impact on women increasing over years



# KEY NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS:

## *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons & Additional Protocol V*

### Obligations:

- mark and clear, remove or destroy explosive remnants of war, and to take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population from their risks and effects
- Convention to track and mark locations of possible contamination
- user who does not exercise control over the territory,” are obligated to “provide where feasible, *inter alia*, technical, financial, material or human resources assistance, and ensure that leftover devices are destroyed.”



### What the UN can/is doing

- recommendations to all parties to the conflict
- Risk education and EOD activities
- Protection of civilians from Explosive Ordnance Working group

# KEY NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS:

## *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*

- 1998 - Mulla Omar – Edict on Landmines, echoing the spirit of the APMBC
- 2002 – Government of Afghanistan – Acceding to the APMBC
- 2009...trends in casualties and warfare begin to differ

# KEY NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS:

## *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*

Examples that principles and the spirit of both the edict and the APMBC are being applied

- Denial of use of VOIED
- Marking of VOIED and advice on safe access routes
- Modification of VOIED in Helmand to avoid Civilian Casualties



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# KEY NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS:

## *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*

***Prima Facie ... the Taliban accepts that these devices are indiscriminate and not an internationally accepted form of warfare.***

# ADVOCACY & IMPLEMENTATION:

## *Three Tiered Approach*

- Continued Advocacy by Senior Level UN officials to senior level Taliban Officials on both human rights and peace.
- Return to, and reminder of, Humanitarian Principles for mine action
- Increase grass roots engagement with communities in contested areas and those that purport to represent the Taliban to eventually have durable and dual consent to clear and fund relevant risk education messages





# In closing....

A multi-disciplinary approach –

- with UN advocated normative frameworks
- UN advocacy on high level principles to high-level officials
- UN positioning and advocacy to donors and other UN stakeholders on:
  - increased engagement
  - humanitarian principles

We must engage more with parties to the ensure that human rights and IHL are at the forefront of changes in strategy, approaches to conflict and protection of civilians.



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QUESTIONS?

