



د افغانستان د ماین پاکی چارو د هم غږی مرکز | مرکز هماهنگی امور ماین پاکی افغانستان

Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

MAPA RELEASES CLEARED LANDS TO COMMUNITIES BENEFITING OVER 500 FAMILIES TO MARK INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

Kabul, 17 September 2009: Today, to commemorate International Peace Day the implementing partners of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) officially released land cleared of mines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) back to communities in Kandahar, Logar, Baghlan, Parwan and Kabul provinces. This will benefit over 500 families living in these communities.

MAPA cleared 28 minefields (7 minefields and one battlefield in Parwan, 15 minefields in Baghlan, two minefields in Kandahar, one minefield in Logar and three minefields in Kabul) resulting in the clearance of 649,556 sq m and the destruction of 1,231 anti personnel mines, 7 anti tank mines and more than 2,000 Explosive Remnants of War. Besides mine clearance, Mine Risk Education was also provided to residents of communities.

A resident of one of the communities in Kandahar province explains how mine clearance is having a positive impact on his community: "The stream we were using for irrigation is behind the old Russian security posts. They had put many mines down to protect these posts and so for many years we have not been able to irrigate our land. A number of people also fell victim to the mines. Now the stream and its surrounding areas has been cleared by our community based demining team, we will be able to use our land again and have better crops through irrigation."

Four Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) in important archaeological areas of the World Heritage site in Bamyan have also been cleared of mines and other Explosive Remnants of War. This was carried out in partnership with UNESCO and under supervision of the Afghan authorities. These sites will be officially handed over on 26th September in presence of government officials, donors and other partners.

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About the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan

The concept of humanitarian mine action was developed in Afghanistan in 1988/9. Mine action encompasses all pillars of mine action: advocacy, demining (survey, marking and clearance), stockpile destruction, mine risk education (MRE), and victim assistance (VA). The programme is funded both bilaterally and through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF).

Collectively known as the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), mine action implementers in Afghanistan form one of the largest mine action programmes in the world. Together, these agencies have a twenty year history of successfully delivering mine action in Afghanistan and have cleared over 12,000 hazard areas throughout the country. The MAPA is coordinated by the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), which is funded through a UN modality. The MACCA has sub-offices, known as Area Mine Action Centres (AMACs) in Parwan, Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kunduz, Gardez, and Kandahar.