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## Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan Fact Sheet

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) is the largest programme of its kind in the world. The MAPA is implemented by partner organizations, most of which are Afghan or international non-governmental organizations, and is coordinated by the United Nations Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (UNMACA). Oversight from the Government of Afghanistan is provided through the Mine Action Consultative Working Group, which is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Work is underway to transfer the coordination of the MAPA from UNMACA to the Government of Afghanistan.

- **Ottawa Treaty:** Afghanistan joined the International Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (also known as the Ottawa Treaty) on 1 March 2003, becoming its 126th member. The Treaty obligates Afghanistan to clear all of its minefields by 2013 at the latest, to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines in Afghanistan by March 2007, to provide mine risk education to the Afghan people and to assist those who have been injured by mines.
- **Victims:** Almost 60 Afghans fall victim to mines or unexploded ordnance (UXO) each month, down from an estimated 150 to 300 per month in 2002 after MAPA's clearance and mine risk education efforts, but still far too high. Half of all recent victims are caused by UXO as some tamper with deadly UXO to sell the metal for profit. Seventeen percent of Afghanistan's mine victims are children between the ages of 5 and 14, the highest rate for this age group in any country which has conducted a nationwide impact survey.
- **Current Contamination:** Some 2,370 Afghan communities are impacted by more than 700 million square meters of suspected hazardous areas. As many as 4.2 million Afghans live in these communities, which are spread across 32 of 34 Afghan provinces. The contamination not only kills and maims, it also hurts livelihoods as reconstruction and rural development projects are impeded by mines and UXO.
- **Recent Clearance:** The MAPA cleared 138 million square meters in 2005 and almost 17 million square metres in the first quarter of 2006. During this clearance, the following devices were destroyed: more than 38,590 anti-personnel mines (APM), 1,410 anti-tank mines (ATM) and more than two million items of UXO.
- **Historical Clearance:** Since 1990, the MAPA has cleared more than one billion square meters of contaminated land. Devices destroyed since 1990: more than 332,000 APM, more than 18,730 ATM and more than seven million pieces of UXO.
- **Stockpile Destruction:** Since joining the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, Afghanistan has destroyed 65,973 stockpiled APM.
- **Mine Risk Education:** Since 1990, more than 16 million Afghans have received some form of mine risk education. The MAPA uses various techniques to help communities cope with the mine and UXO risk they face. These include: teams and community volunteers who run risk education sessions in communities and for refugees, internally displaced persons and nomads; mass media campaigns; and training teachers to provide risk education to their students.
- **Workforce:** The MAPA partner organizations employ some 10,000 Afghans across the country.