



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Afghanistan's updates on Clearance and Survey

5th Meeting of States Parties to CCM

Costa Rica

2 - 5 September 2014

Afghanistan's statement re the Article - 4:

Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan signed the CCM in December 2008 and ratified it on 8 September 2011.

Cluster munitions beside landmines and ERW have affected many communities in Afghanistan. In the period 1981 - 2010, 222 Afghans either killed or injured as a result of accidents related to cluster munitions however since 2011 no casualties have been reported because of cluster munitions.

With regard to the Article three of the CCM, Afghanistan has already destroyed all its Cluster Munitions stocks before the CCM entered into force.

Regarding the Article four of the CCM, Afghanistan has a comprehensive survey information on the extent and impact of explosives hazards including cluster munitions. Currently, 19 cluster munitions contaminated sites with an area of over 7 sq km remained un-cleared in Afghanistan however two thirds of cluster munitions problem has already been addressed. These cluster munitions sites are located in 4 Provinces out of 34. Clearance of areas contaminated by cluster munitions is included in the national mine action implementation plan. It is worth mentioning that 60% of these cluster munitions contaminated areas are planned for clearance in the period 2013 – 2015 while the remaining parts are planned for later years because of their locations in insecure areas.

Regarding survey, for survey of areas contaminated by landmines and ERW, local people have always been the main source of information however for survey of areas contaminated by cluster munitions, the bombing data (coordinates) provided by the Coalition Forces was very helpful in identification and survey of affected areas.

Regarding MRE, we use different approaches to raise people's awareness on the danger of mines, ERW and cluster munitions including provision of MRE through direct sessions, through media, schools, Mosques and so on. It is notable that for the sake of sustainability, now MRE package is included in the school curriculum from grade 7 to 12. We are working with the Ministry of Education to include MRE in the curriculum of Teacher Training Institutes. Since commencement of mine action programme in Afghanistan, MRE training has been provided for over 20 million Afghans including male, female, boys and girls have been provided with direct MRE trainings. Total population of Afghanistan is estimated 27 million.

Recently we have started another initiative to ensure MRE can continually be provided to as many Afghan communities as possible. In Afghanistan, every community has a

Mosque with a religious leader or Imam which provide religious lessons to children. The United Arab Emirates has launched a project in Afghanistan to provide religious training for 15,000 existing Imams thorough the country. In coordination with UAE, MRE package has been included in the training curriculum. So far 4,331 Imam have received MRE training.

At the end I would like to reiterate once again that the GIRoA commits itself to fulfilling its obligations in relation to the Convention on Cluster Mentions and other international conventions to which Afghanistan is a state party.

Thank you