



Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

2022 Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM),

Geneva

16 to 17 May 2022.

Afghanistan's statement on the Article - 4:

Excellences, Distinguished Heads of Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Government of Afghanistan signed the CCM in December 2008 and ratified it on 8 September 2011. And entered it into force on 1 March 2012. Following that, all known CCM stockpiles were destroyed during 2012-2014.

According to the DMAC-MIS data since 1979, there are 41,090 mine, ERW, CM and AIM casualties recorded, out of which 253 are due to Cluster Munitions (CM). Children making 61% of all CM Casualties.

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, the program managed to release more than 30 CM hazards covering 12.7 sq. km area since the convention's entry into force in March 2012. This covers 12.4 sq. km area cleared and 0.25 sq. km area cancelled. Based on reports, 416290s.m is cleared from cluster munitions with 32 bomblets and 20852 fragments found in April, 2022. Based on DMAC_MIS data, 9.7 s.km area still need to be cleared. No reduction is reported during land release as the indicated areas were fully checked for sub-surface items. 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. By the change of government and takeover of new regime, all the area is fortunately secure now and ready for conducting survey and clearance operations. The support of donor communities is immensely needed in this regard for make use of this precious opportunity at maximum and alleviate the risks of ERW which still take the lives of many, largely children. At the beginning of year 1400 (April 2021), there were 10 recorded CHA CM hazards in the database which needed clearance. DMAC requested the two main donors (PMWRA and UNMAS through VTF fund) of the program for funding the clearance of the mentioned hazards. Fortunately, the two donors committed to provide funds for the remaining 10 CM hazards in a manner that five hazards allocated to PMWRA fund and five hazards for VTF fund through UNMAS.

PMWRA has managed to fund Demining Agency for Afghanistan (DAFA) one of the national mine action NGOs that was involved in implementation of a CM project during recent three years. DAFA already started clearance of the five allocated hazards. They are on track and we hope it will be completed by the end of this year.

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

There are 16-recorded CM hazards with total size of 9.9 sq. km out of which 11 of them surveyed since April 2021 and the remaining five left from previous years, are open, need funding and clearance. Total of 16 CM hazards are open. Nevertheless, since the government changed and Mine Action Program of

Afghanistan (MAPA) plan to conduct nationwide survey, the size CM contaminated hazardous areas many evolve as accessibility to insecure areas have become possible.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) refers to the educational activities that seek to reduce the risk of injury from explosive ordnance by raising awareness and promoting behavioral change amongst 'at risk' groups within communities and throughout the population in the country, including public information dissemination, education and training and community liaison. EORE should ensure that men, women and children in the affected communities are aware of the risks from mines/cluster munitions and are encouraged to behave in a way, which reduces the risk to people, property and the environment.

EORE activities are carried out to communities and other at-risk groups across Afghanistan by accredited implementing partners. EORE activities are conducted using Social Behavior Change Communication by aligning the material to the needs of audience and with the use of appropriate means and channels that are; deployment of couple teams in the targeted communities, use child and adult friendly material, installation of billboards and promoting awareness on the risk or EO through mass media. Aside of implementing EORE in the field, EORE teams will make sure audience have an understanding from different types of EO namely; anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, Improvised devices, cluster munition and others. They will also be briefed about the marking and ground signs in the field and the teams will assist in marking the EO contaminated hazardous areas where possible.

Victim Assistance in MAPA is referred to a set of activities and strategies aimed to provide age and gender-sensitive assistance to EO- victims, including emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as, provide assistance for their social and economic inclusion. VA is implementing in eight components, which form all activities and services provided by different Government and non-government organizations in Afghanistan.

In response to Article-5, the VA is considered as one of the main objectives of MAPA strategic and action plans. Technical support is provided to relevant stakeholders in developing a centralized and responsive national information management system (NIMS), ensuring continuous collection, analysis and sharing of all EO casualty data.

At the end I would like to reiterate once again that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan(IEA) commits itself to fulfilling its obligations in relation to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other international conventions to which Afghanistan is already a state party. Providing full pledged support to humanitarian activities is the top priority of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Thank you