



Official Launch of IMSMA^{NG} at MACCA – Kabul

The Information Management System for Mine Action – *Next Generation* (IMSMA^{NG}), which now holds the national database for demining in Afghanistan, was officially launched on March 24th at the offices of MACCA in Kabul. Ian Mansfield, Deputy Director of GICHD, officiated at the launch together with Dr. Reza, National Director of the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan, Hansie Heymans, Chief Information Officer and the MACCA MIS team. Hansie Heymans said: “MACCA can proudly confirm that IMSMA^{NG} is the preferred information management system in Afghanistan!”

The Afghan dataset is one of the biggest IMSMA^{NG} databases of all mine action programmes in the world with close to sixty thousand records. The database will keep growing with additional information and expand to more users. Each month, the MACC MIS enters about 1000 different field reports sent from seven regional offices. The regional offices report on progress, clearance and other mine action activities to the central office at MACCA. It is expected that the current IMSMA^{NG} network at MACCA will expand from seven to over 20 users in order to allow operations staff access the database on a daily basis.

Through adopting IMSMA^{NG} the MACCA is now able to handle all mine action data for Afghanistan. The Afghan Mine Action Programme now is better equipped to coordinate incoming data from field operators by offering adapted data validation and synchronisation functions in order to provide one single national database at reduced effort. Halo Trust sends monthly information that can now be automatically imported into IMSMA^{NG}. By doing so, IMSMA^{NG} offers enhanced reporting capacity for more consistent reports on the mine threat and consequent actions in the whole country.

The project of implementing IMSMA^{NG} in Afghanistan has been a thorough process for the last 18 months. During this time, the GICHD, through the Information Management section, in collaboration with Noah Klemm from the software development company FGM Inc., has provided ongoing support to satisfy the requests of the Afghan Mine Action Programme. The requests included:

- ensuring a migration process¹ that included all elements that needed to be stored and reported on
- improving the speed of IMSMA^{NG} to handle the large dataset
- developing a tasking tool inside IMSMA^{NG} for the monitoring of operational planning

Thanks to the specific requests made by the MACCA, other mine action programmes around the world will also benefit from the enhancements and new functions added to IMSMA^{NG}.

¹ A migration process is a technical procedure that allows the transfer of data and processes from IMSMA Legacy and/or other applications, ie ‘add-ons’, to IMSMA^{NG}

This joint achievement is an important step forward for mine action information management in Afghanistan and the handover of that function to national capacity. The GICHD stands committed to provide ongoing support to the Afghan mine action programme both remotely and on-site to achieve this goal. The GICHD looks forward to providing similar support to those programmes that have requested installations of IMSMA^{NG}.

For more information on IMSMA^{NG}, please visit www.imsma.org