

LANDMINES AND LIVELIHOODS IN AFGHANISTAN

February 2011



Presentation content

- Objectives of the presentation
- Objectives of the project
- Methods
- Findings
- Conclusions
- Next steps

Objectives of the presentation

- Provide feedback on the findings from the survey
- Provide a basis for discussion of the next steps

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3

Objectives of the Project

- Understand the development outcomes of mine action
- Provide evidence for recommendations on:
 - criteria used to select priorities
 - adaptations to the priority-setting process
 - enhanced linkages with rural and community development organisations
- Report to the (GoA) and donors
- Capacity Development to MAPA and AIRD to conduct further surveys
- Inform internal and external QA on quality at the development outcome level

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4

Team formation: 4 teams of 5 people each (social scientist, LIAT, IP man and woman, driver) + DMC + MACCA



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5

Training of teams

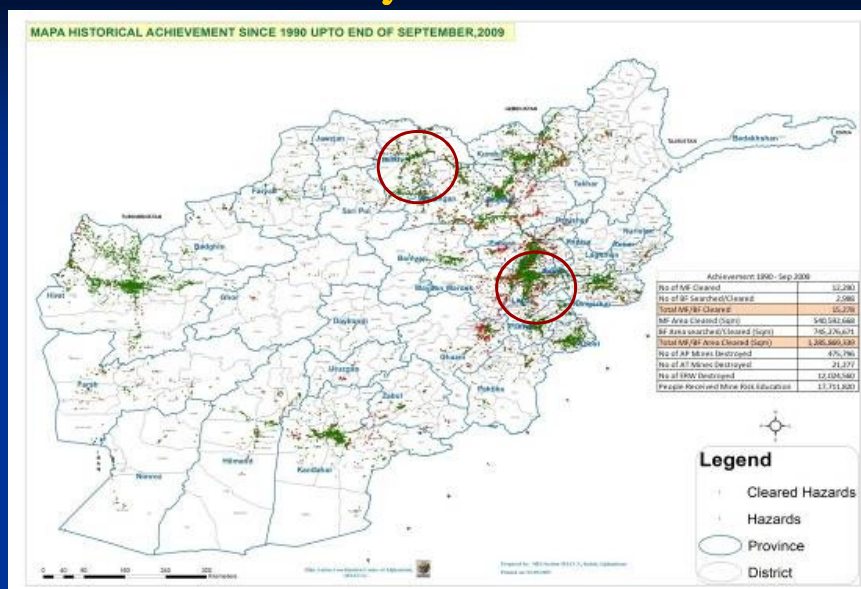


Implementation and reporting

- Survey: 25 villages in Kabul, Parwan, Balkh and Samangan
- Draft report
- **Stakeholder meetings**
- Final report

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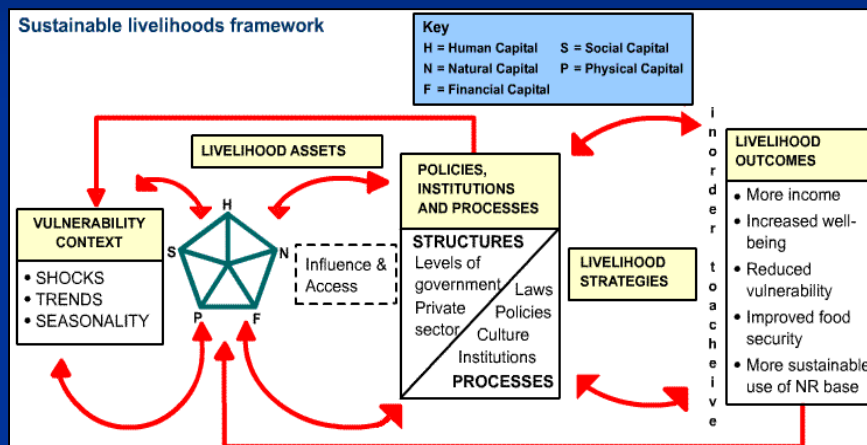
Survey locations



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Methods used

- **Approach:** Participatory survey based on the Sustainable Livelihoods framework



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9

Tools used

1. Secondary data
2. Introductions
3. Time-Line
4. Village maps
5. Community Profile
6. Quantitative data sheet
7. Focus Group Discussions
8. Case studies
9. Farming system diagrams
10. Photographic record of activities, benefits and context
11. Qualitative assessment of each community

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Introductions, Time Line, FGD



Women participating in the tools





Preliminary findings



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Mine/UXO clearance process

- Different threats (AP/AT/UXO – often a mix)
- Different lengths of time (Soviet, Mujahadeen, Taliban)
- Different locations: hilltops, watercourses, roads, buildings, crop-land.
- Concentrated (MF) or dispersed (BF or cluster bombs – e.g. Gur-e-Mai)

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Who's land?

- Government, communal or private land
- Restitution or appropriation – no follow up



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Worth it in the end!

- From application to mine clearance starting took 10 years in Kariz-e Mir
- From starting to fully cleared took 9 years in Rabat
- BUT villagers generally very pleased with the conduct of mine-action personnel and the benefits brought to their community. They respect the professionalism of de-miners and trust their work
- Where demining is incomplete they want them to continue to completion

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Perceptions of safety

- Women concerned for safety of children and men.
- *"The benefit of demining is that we feel safe; if our children go out, or our husbands go to work we feel relaxed because they are safe."* Woman in Ala Chapan
- **No community members killed since clearance**
- Discrepancy between MACCA and villager's casualty figures
- Children able to go to school and play safely (but often collect scrap metal)
- Men receive information directly, so best able to judge safety
- **Trust shown by quick use of cleared assets**

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Clearance enables people to...

- Return home from within and outside Afghanistan
- Re-build homes, businesses and communities
- Access and improve their gardens
- Access grazing land for villagers and nomadic Kuchis
- Access fuel and wild food, & stone, sand and soil for building from the mountains
- Build mosques, schools, telecom masts, cemeteries and petrol stations
- Use paths/roads for access, recreation and sport
- Use cleared battlefield used for markets/shops
- Undertake major infrastructure projects (e.g. the Hayratan railway line)
- Open new or re-furbished factories
- Repair watercourses
- Build new settlements for displaced people (Sarwan Tapa)



Rabat: grapes on demined land

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Base Sokhta: 1500 houses for National Security staff



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21

Gujer Khail – upgrade to higher value agriculture



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Gore Mar: Recreation



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Khwaja Burhan: Phone masts, grazing and recreation



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Qala-i-Kashif: 70 market stalls on UXO site



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Benefits of clearance

- Men emphasise productive opportunities plus the infrastructure installed to date.
- Women emphasise the safety and recreational benefits that give them peace of mind and a better life for their children.

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Complaints

- Military camp, Chahar Asyab, on cleared land restricts use by women. However, men graze cattle and use area as a pathway.



- Lack of development support from government or NGOs is holding up the use of agricultural assets; e.g. Sayghanchi needs engineer for water channel.
- In a few cases, villagers are unhappy about unfair use of cleared land (e.g. land grabbing by a local politician in Qal'eh-ye-Khwaja, dominance of "people of power" in Hayratan, and building houses for the "elite" in Qal'eh-ye-Khater).

Support for survivors

- We interviewed men and women survivors, and some (women) carers.
- More men than women affected by mine accidents due to greater exposure to risk
- But disfigurement is devastating for women: *"Now you are injured I will take another wife"*
- Only one example of a female survivor receiving financial assistance, while majority of men get some assistance
- Both men and women received free emergency medical treatment (better available in large urban centres)



- 9 male survivors received artificial limbs (mainly from ICRC)
- 13 male survivors received financial support (regular payments from MoLSAMD; on-off payments from NSP, ICRC and Rahimi Foundation)
- MoLSAMD rate is 700 Afs/month (US\$15) – not a living wage

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Interview with mother of mine victim



Kariz-e Mir: Support to survivor to open shop



Mine Risk Education

- Asked men, women and children their knowledge of mines and UXO; what to do if find one; colours of stones and flags; status of clearance
- All villages had received some MRE
- Men and children have had more MRE than women
- Some villages have had MRE 6-7 times
- Happens in schools, mosque, homes

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MRE 2

- Not all children go to school; women have restricted mobility
- Some visual aids (posters, leaflets, but only in 3 villages)
- Patchy coverage (especially for women and girls)
- Some women get information indirectly through husbands
- Good recall about what to do and colour coding of stones, even for children of 7 years old

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MRE: Sarwan Tapu



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Findings Women & Girls



Impacts of demining: women and girls

- Impacts varied considerably between villages (urban, peri-urban, rural)

Direct benefits

- Able to return home (Rabat)
- Words used by women: safety, security, moving freely, relaxed, without worry
- Girls - access to school
- Access to gardens (almonds, fruit & vegetables - Suffokhel), grazing and fuel, and recreation areas

Indirect benefits

- Cleared land used for housing, mosques, schools, markets/shops, water channels, telecom masts

Development priorities for women

- Clinics (mentioned everywhere) and health education
- Schools &/or teachers: primary & secondary for girls (mentioned almost everywhere)
- Water for HH consumption & agriculture
- Sanitation
- Roads/access
- Electricity
- IGAs within home (contract carpet weaving good, sewing, tried before in some areas but lack of market was a problem)
- Literacy classes for women

N.B. Frustration with development organisations that promise a lot and do nothing

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37



Capacity assessment

- Do you feel confident in using all of the survey tools?
- **Yes**
- **Could you** implement a similar survey in another Province?
- **Yes**
- Could you train other teams in the survey methods?
- **Yes**
- Is the reference material sufficient?
- **Yes, but need to add the Quantitative Data sheet**
- What more training and backstopping do you need to conduct additional surveys?
- **Nothing further needed if it was a simple repeat of the same tools and methods, and if AIRD is there in the field to support.**

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Capacity of teams to conduct similar surveys

- Logistics and equipment were appropriate to the task
- The survey teams are technically able to repeat a carbon copy in other locations with AIRD support in the field
- **But:**
 - Need to further develop survey skills (especially probing, precision, analysis and recording) to get more in-depth information
 - Need to change women's tools to better build on what women know
 - Women surveyors need practice in reacting to the answers they receive and asking additional probing questions. Also further practice in observation – to look around them and ask questions relating to what they see as well as what they are being told.
 - Report-writing was done by external consultant; need to develop this capability locally

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Highlights

- Team of men, women, IARD, externals
- Training
- 25 villages in 2 Regions = Pilot
- Livelihood framework + range of tools = holistic information
- Range of hazards
- Prioritisation
- Quality management
- Clearance time and effort
- **No community members killed since clearance**

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Highlights 2

Quick use of freed assets

- Range of benefits: productive; behavioural; recreational
- Economic benefits
- Development opportunities: physical, educational, vocational
- Survivor support: gender bias
- MRE in all villages, but patchy across population
- Team confident in their own capacity, **but** capacity and methodological gaps

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Development opportunities

Types of opportunity

- Those mentioned by communities
- Major infrastructure projects
- Additional opportunities

Beneficiaries

- Men, women, children in the community
- Wider economic development

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DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY	# villages requesting
Clinic	15
Electricity	11
School	9
Safe drinking water/wells	8
Roads	6
Bridges and culverts	5
Literacy classes for women	5
Education for women	5
Rehabilitation of water courses	4
Water for irrigation	3
Tailoring facility (for women)	2
Assistance for survivors	2
Completion of clearance	2
Refuse collection/disposal	2
Drainage/solution of high water table	2
Employment: Facilities for Primary School; Rehabilitation of Mosque	1 each
Womens shura; Fertiliser; Vet clinic, female teachers for girls	1 each

Development opportunities

- Each village is unique (e.g. size, access to services; cohesion, organisational capacity)
- Rapid use of assets due to confidence, hard work and community cohesion
- A) Things they can do for themselves
- B) Things they need help with
- C) Things that have to come from outside

Development opportunities

- Physical asset development
- Educational/vocational development
- Not a comprehensive or democratic process (like NSP)
- Major infrastructure projects (not mentioned by communities)
- Agricultural production (not mentioned by communities - apart from irrigation, vet clinic and fertiliser)

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