



Outcomes of GMAP Work to Promote Gender Mainstreaming in the Mine Action Programmes of Afghanistan and South Sudan

The Gender Mainstreaming Strategies of the Mine Action Programmes of South Sudan and Afghanistan were developed with the assistance of the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) through a grant funded by UNMAS, as well as a financial contribution from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The strategies present the common objectives that will guide the work of all stakeholders in the respective countries to ensure that:

- i. All those affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) enjoy equal access to age- and gender-sensitive assistance and services;
- ii. Direct and indirect victims are fully integrated into society;
- iii. The mine action programme contributes to the adoption of safer behaviours, and to the creation of an environment conducive to development.

During the strategy development process in 2013 the GMAP Programme Manager and a national consultant carried out meetings, discussions and interviews with key stakeholders, as well as facilitating two day strategy development workshops in both Afghanistan and South Sudan. As a result of this work, a number of outcomes have now been reported which are summarized below.

Afghanistan

Gender Mainstreaming Associate recruited

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) has recruited a female Gender Mainstreaming Associate to facilitate the implementation of the strategy.

Gender and mine action training carried out

In November 2014 MACCA gender focal points conducted a two day workshop for twenty two MAPA and Government focal points to ensure they are aware of the gender mainstreaming requirements for each organization. The training covered equality and balance, policy development, action planning, gender markers, proposal development, and the monitoring and evaluation of gender and mine action activities in during 2014-2016.

Twenty three couple MRE teams deployed

MRE teams composed of husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, fathers and daughters have been deployed to reach the affected communities and also the returnees coming from Pakistan and Iran. Fourteen with the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), four with the Danish Demining Group (DDG), two mobile cinema teams deployed by the Association for Aid and Relief Japan, two by the Mine Detection Center and one by Sterling Demining Company.

Revision of the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards

Gender issues have been integrated into the relevant Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (AMAS) including those for community liaison, mine/ERW survey and land release and quality management. The amendments made are particularly related to ensuring that all age and sex groups are interviewed prior, during and after clearance. The revised AMAS are in the process of being approved as recognized national standards by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Quality assurance processes have been revised

Gender criteria are now included in the QA completion form and the MACCA has contracted one of the companies to conduct QA monitoring on their behalf to actively seek community feedback from women, girls, boys and men about demining services provided. The company has hired one woman in each team to ensure that they are able to approach women and girls as part of this activity.

South Sudan

Gender in mine action training

In November 2014 the Mine Action Sub Cluster Gender Focal Point (GFP) Marysia Zapasnik, and the UNMAS Gender Focal Point, Iulia Toma organized two workshops on mainstreaming gender in mine action. The training covered gender in clearance, non-technical survey and MRE, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and progress on the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy. Training on gender sensitive quality assurance is also planned during 2014 for the OPS/QA team.

Revision of contracting and grant-making documentation

In the 2014/2015 statement of works (SOWs) and request for proposals (RFPs) bidders were encouraged to provide mixed teams for Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Community Liaison (CL) activities. The majority of contractors have complied with this recommendation and have hired females on their CL and MRE teams. The 2014/2015 RFP requested that a code of conduct including gender awareness be attached to the proposal. Most of the contractors complied with this criterion.

For the RFP that will be launched in November 2014 for Two Multi-Task teams, UNMAS has incorporated more prescriptive language and will be scoring contractors on gender elements. The evaluation criteria and weighting will be published with the RFP so all bidders are aware of the importance of including gender mainstreaming into their proposals/operations. Gender balanced teams for MRE and CLO are now required not just recommended. Contractors are required to provide a plan outlining CL activities that will take into consideration the gender perspective as well as a plan for gender-sensitive MRE activities.

Additional reported outcomes

The relevant IMSMA forms have been revised to ensure the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age (SADD); the relevant NTSGs have been revised from a gender perspective, taking into consideration the GMAP recommendations; MRE materials are being revised to ensure greater gender-sensitivity.