The Challenges of Managing ERW/IED Clearance in a Conflict Environment: The Afghanistan Experience

Mohammad Shafiq, Director DMAC, 16 February 2016
Content

• Conflict in Afghanistan: The cause

• ERW/IED in Afghanistan: The challenges

• ERW/IED Management in Afghanistan: The Solutions
Afghanistan

1971, before war
Armed conflicts in Afghanistan

- USSR (1979)
- USSR supported government (1989)
- Mujahedeen (1992)
- Taliban (1996)
- NATO/ISAF supported Gov (2001)
The Original Contamination

92% of the total districts

28,330 Recorded Hazardous Areas

3,734 sq km
Recent Conflicts
### Number of Recorded Security Incidents 2007-2014

Based on IMMAP Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Operations</th>
<th>RPG Rocket Attacks</th>
<th>Small Arm Fires</th>
<th>IED Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9,440</td>
<td>7,147</td>
<td>5,792</td>
<td>31,216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend**

- IEDs
- Operations
- RPG
- Rocket
- Small Arms Fire (SAF)
Security incidents by year (2003 – 2014)

28 armed clashes and 18 IEDs daily in 2014
Firing Ranges – 1010.4 sq km
Explosive Remnants of War
The Challenges Posed by ERW

- Surface and subsurface
- Expected everywhere
- Caused more civilian casualties comparing to mine
The commonly found ERW
The Impact of Mines, ERW and IEDs

- Casualties
- Long term legacy
- Destruction of plants
- Blocking the residential areas
- Blocking access to livelihoods
- Blocking the roads
- Blocking access to education
- Barrier to development projects
- Blocking access to education
750 Casualties a month 1993 – 1997

480 Casualties a month in 1998-2001

113 new cases every month in 2015

UNMACA
A project of
UNMAS

Demining
Recorded Civilian Casualties (2013-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>ERW</th>
<th>PPIED</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>1242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mine & ERW civilian casualties 2001 – 2015 November

Average **38.5 casualties** per month for last 23 months Jan 2014 – Nov 2015

Casualty by Mine = 4,191 (32.8 %)
Casualty by ERW = 8,549 (67.2 %)
Total = 12,740

Grand Total = 24,870
IEDs in Afghanistan
Use of IEDs in Afghanistan

Power source

Switches

Detonator

Main charge

container

Ammonium Nitrate & Sodium Nitrate

Ammonium Nitrate
The extent, nature and types of IEDs used in Afghanistan
The extent, nature and types of IEDs used in Afghanistan
The impact and complexity of IEDs
Figure 1: Aid worker casualties from IEDs in Afghanistan

Note: Incident refers to an IED detonation that killed or injured an aid worker.
Source: Aid Worker Security Database.
Civilian Casualties due to (Mine, ERW Including PPIED) Jan 2014 – Nov 2015

Average 99.3 casualties per month for last 23 months Jan 2014 – Nov 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>ERW</th>
<th>PPIED</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>1,654</td>
<td>2,283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

72.4%
ERW/IED Management in Afghanistan

- Mine, ERW and abandoned PPIEDs – Humanitarian mine action
- C-IED – Military forces and other government institutions
Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan is dealing with mine, ERW and PPIED contaminated areas, but does not deal with operational IEDs
Remnant IEDs in Nawzad District of Helmand Province

- 12.4 sq km contamination in residential areas
- 3 sq km cleared
- 579 IEDs and 2300 ERW found and destroyed
18.78 Million Mines, Cluster Munitions, IED and ERW in 5734 communities/locations
Remaining Contamination

Afghanistan Contaminated and Cleared Districts Map

Date: 11/3/2015

Legend
- Active Hazards
- Expired Hazards
- Contaminated District (258)
- Cleared District (113)
- Non-Contaminated District (29)

Active Hazards Numbers and Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard Type</th>
<th>#Num</th>
<th>Area (SqM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BF</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>44,633,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous Area</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>11,700,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minefield</td>
<td>3996</td>
<td>499,810,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot ERW</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firing Range</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1,037,885,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspected Minefield</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>31,992,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>4494</td>
<td><strong>1,626,080,769</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0 40 80 120 160 200 240 320 Kilometers
Current Recorded Hazard Contaminated Areas

- **MFs & BFs (Legacy contaminations)**
  - 4,305 Hazards
  - 572.9 Sq Km
  - 75FRs
  - 1,008.5 Sq Km
  - 1,615 Communities
  - 260 Districts

- **Firing Range (New contaminations post 2001)**
  - 75 FRs
  - 1,008.5 Sq Km

- **Kinetic Engagement (New contaminations post 2001)**
  - 14 Hazards
  - 18.9 Sq Km
C-IED Capacity in MoD and MoI

**MoI:**
- Two C-IED, EOD Schools (Kabul and Mazar)
- 112 teams (each team is comprised of 3 staff)
- 100 other trained team without tool kit

**MoD:**
- IED and EOD capacity available
IEDD Strategy, training and capacity development plan

IEDD Strategy was signed and approved for implementation in June 2012

It has five pillars:

– Rule of Law
– Security
– Governance
– Diplomatic Engagements
– Public Awareness
Summary of the challenge ahead

• Known contamination is alone a complicated challenge for Afghans
• Possibility of more contamination where no data is collected due to unstable security situation
• New data reveal more civilian casualties in areas where fighting happened.
• Limited information on extent, type, and mechanism of ERWs as a result of ISAF and NATO military of operations
• Lack of enough fund
Solutions

• Fundraising – especially NATO / ISAF donors
• Battlefield Data: requested to NATO/ ISAF / Govt of Afghanistan
• Advocacy for non-use of IEDs in civilian areas and illegality of PPIEDs
• Community demining (hiring demining staff from host communities)
• Monitor changing security levels constantly
• IED identification included in MRE training materials
• MEIFCS Survey to identify UXO in villages nation-wide
• Hotline telephone number for public notification of UXO
THANK YOU

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