

FACT SHEET

Anti Personnel Mines & Stockpile Destruction program

March 2006



Unexploded ordnance



Ammunition stockpile in the Panjshir Valley



Unsafe ammunition being destroyed

PHOTO: POST CONFLICT REFORMS

The Anti Personnel Mines and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction Program (APMASD) - Afghanistan's New Beginnings Program (ANBP) conducted a nationwide ammunition survey in November 04, funded by Canada, to estimate the amount of ammunition that had been abandoned and or has passed its expiry date and has to be made safe.

After over 25 years of war, an estimated 100,000 tones of legal or illegal ammunition is known to either intentionally or unintentionally litter Afghanistan. Much of the ammunition that has been abandoned lies in unguarded locations, has not been maintained or is no longer required. This ammunition is now being assessed to ascertain if it is identifiable, safe and or economically useable. Ammunition that is useable is relocated to a safe GoA regional location - the remainder is destroyed by specialist teams.

The national program formally commenced in July 05. Eight teams, known as Weapons and Ammunition Destruction Teams, (WAD's) coordinated by ANBP, comprising two international IP's, provide technical expertise on disposing and or transporting ammunition, and work together with teams from the MoD to build their mid to long term capacity. Together, the teams jointly remove the threat posed by the ammunition to those innocently and or otherwise tempted, to interfere with it.

The initial survey, funded by the Canadians, with in kind technical support from the State Dept's ERW program, inspects and assesses the threat on site and, if required, carries out emergency destruction. Every day, additional ammunition is being discovered or notified to teams suggesting that the program will take some time before it is completed. For this reason a key element of the Program is focused towards building the MoD's capacity to assist the MoD to deal with the issue.

The total cost of the operational two year program is estimated to be in the region of \$16m. The Canadians and UNDP are, to date, the key donors together with in kind support received from the US State Department's Explosives Remnants of War (ERW) program. More donors are coming forward but more effort is needed by UNDP to identify further funding to widen the donor base for this important program.

Further detailed information is available on www.ddrafg.com