

QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT [Q1, 2008]

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan

Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (APMASD)

01-01-2008 – 31-03-2008



A local commander Sakhidad from Shibar District (Bamyan) voluntarily handed 2,150 kg of ammunition over to the APMASD team on 16 March. With no roads between the ammunition cache and the main road, 16 donkeys were hired to transport the ammunition two kilometres to the road.

Project ID:	00043536
Duration:	December 2004 – May 2008
Component (MYFF):	2.7 Public administration reform and anti-corruption
Total Budget:	USD 21,272,105
Unfunded:	USD 2,143,226
Implementing Partners:	The HALO Trust, Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA)

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I. Implementation Progress

Output 1 – Joint Planning Support to Government established and the capacity of Government to ensure compliance with international treaty obligations and enhanced community security through destruction of anti-personnel mines (APMs) and destruction / collection of other ordnance concentrations.

In the first quarter of 2008 Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) continued to work with the government to build its capacity and assume greater responsibility for the collection and destruction of ammunitions. Specifically, ANBP continued training the designated staff of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to maintain the 'EOD Frontline' database. The training is expected to be completed in the second quarter. ANBP also continued to provide English training courses to these individuals in order to operate effectively the English language database. This will ensure the smooth transfer of custodianship from ANBP to MoD when the project mandate ends.

The Ammunition Working Group met with less regularity in the first quarter owing to a decreased operational tempo. With the seasonal change at the end of the first quarter, more remote areas of the country slowly became accessible which in turn increased the number of working group meetings. It will be recalled that the Ammunition Working Group is chaired at two star level by MoD and includes representation from all concerned parties. It is broadly efficient in its processes and remains an effective way to coordinate not only tactical operations on the ground, but also to formulate policy related recommendations.

As a result of completing Ammunition Collection Point (ACP) handover to the government last year, ANBP revised the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in late 2007. The SOP provides specific guidelines for the systematic management and operations of all Ammunition Survey Teams. Following the finalization of the SOP, on 5 February ANBP hosted an internal workshop to inform the relevant staff of the new SOP as well as provide project updates, lessons learnt and the way forward. Participants of the workshop included Ammunition Survey Team associates, field officers, central office database officers and management. Participants discussed improving coordination with stakeholders in the field and increasing operational tempo.

Evaluation

Given that a project evaluation was foreseen in the Project Document, UNDP, in 2007, began the process of hiring an external consultant, including circulating the Terms of Reference towards selecting a candidate. Unfortunately, the candidate declined at the last moment, leaving the evaluation behind schedule. Recognizing the imperative for a formal review of the project, ANBP senior management responded by assigning ANBP's Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) section to undertake the task internally. Though the M&E section was formed to monitor and evaluate the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) project, the staff evaluated the APMASD project late in 2007 and finalized the report in the first quarter of 2008.

The overall assessment was favourable, recognizing ANBP's accomplishments in a number of areas – namely, creating professional management teams for the Ammunition Survey Teams; forming both an Ammunition Steering Committee and Ammunition Working Group; surveying, collecting and destroying mines and ammunition; and enhancing the capacity of the government in order to take full responsibility of the project. Nevertheless, the evaluation noted challenges and shortcomings including the lack of a proper baseline, limited access of caches in specific regions owing to the deteriorating security situation, limited cooperation from some MoD officials in the field and reluctance of the MoD at the central level to destroy unsafe ammunition.

Key recommendations included increasing efforts to enhance the capacity of MoD officials, training more MoD officials, increasing logistical support in order to meet standard international

operative levels, extending the Project Document in line with DIAG and reaching consensus among stakeholders on the disposal of unsafe ammunition.

As a result of the recommendation, ANBP immediately went to action and asked the managers of its Regional Offices to cite key issues with ATL officers in the field. The managers responded highlighting various concerns such as tasking of Implementing Partners, handling of ammunition and reporting systems. Based on the feedback, ANBP at the central level prepared a plan whereby all regional ATL officers will be given three-month training at one location (tentatively Mazar-e Sharif or Kunduz). ANBP presented this to Major General Abdul Wakil Hotak, Assistant to Deputy Minister – ATL Department, who enthusiastically supported the idea. Currently, ANBP is working with other stakeholders to coordinate efforts on the matter. It is anticipated that the course will begin on 1 May 2008.

UNDP and ANBP intend to conduct a final evaluation after the completion of the project mandate, currently set at 31 May 2008.

Output 2 – Caches of APMs identified, moved and destroyed; legitimate ammunition stockpiles sorted; actions taken to destroy unsafe ammunition and transfer good ammunition under government control.

Statistical Progress

In the first quarter, ANBP assisted the government in surveying 28 caches, weighing 8 tonnes, belonging to the liquidated Afghan Military Forces. In addition, the survey teams surveyed 73 caches, weighing 23 tonnes, of munitions belonging to Illegal Armed Groups.

Since the start of the Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (APMASD) project, the overall total of Afghan Military Force munitions increased to 1,129 caches, weighing 29,721 tonnes. Similarly, the Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) munitions increased to 781 caches, weighing 2,738 tonnes. During the first quarter, the operational tempo was noticeably modest owing to the harsh winter. The record low temperatures experienced this winter made many parts of the country inaccessible; however as the temperature increased in March 2008, ANBP redoubled efforts to make up for the lower rates in the winter.

The table summarizes the figures for the survey, consolidation and destruction of munitions irrespective of ownership.

Total Figures Until the Q1 2008	Q1 2008 only	Total
Number of Ammunition Caches Surveyed	101	1,910
Tonnage of Ammunition Surveyed	30.94	32,459
Tonnage of Ammunition Consolidated	0.79	9,464
Tonnage of Ammunition Destroyed	24.72	17,502
Pieces of Anti-Personnel Mines Destroyed	67	501,078
Pieces of Anti-Tank Mines Destroyed	412	20,904

ANBP's contract with the HALO Trust was renewed in the fourth quarter after an open bidding process and the contract is ending on 31 March 2008. Work is underway to extend the contract to 31 May 2008 to align it with the end of the project mandate.

Regional Progress

Progress has been slow throughout the country owing to the cold weather. In accordance with the request from MoD, ANBP agreed to move ammunition from Jangalbagh and Kunduz to the Mazar-e Sharif depot. At the first quarter, ANBP received an official letter from MoD specifying the type of assistance requested of ANBP and the services provided by the government. ANBP began work in the last week of March but it noted that the containers in the depot and the depot's security are not sufficient.

In Shaberghan airport, the HALO Trust began destroying guided missiles. By the end of the first quarter, 252 missiles were destroyed and 2,637 SKO-5 Helicopter Rockets were segregated, leaving 10 guided missiles and 139 area bombs. It is anticipated that this activity will be complete in the second quarter.

In Gund-e-Walga, Balkh province, the HALO Trust surveyed 4.5 metric tonnes of ammunition and destroyed 3.2 metric tonnes of unserviceable ammunition.

In Faryab province, work at the Ghund-e Jejak Dowlat Abad continued with the HALO Trust transporting and destroying 68.92 metric tonnes of ammunition.

In March, ANBP surveyed sixteen sites in the eastern region. Currently ANBP is compiling the reports to ascertain the exact amount of metric tonnes surveyed.

Activities in the Panjshir Valley ceased early in the year owing to restricted access. Late in March, Panjshir Governor Haji Bahlool Bahij invited UNAMA and ANBP to a meeting where he raised the issue of ownership of mines and ammunition that the government was confiscating through the APMASD project. Though the governor indicated his willingness to cooperate with the DIAG project, no clarity was provided on his stance for the APMASD project, stating that munitions are an issue between him and the MoD.

In the fourth quarter of 2007, at the request of MoD, the HALO Trust and WRA began a village specific exercise whereby their respective teams entered each village and asked for the locations of non-caches of ordnance. Thus far, several hundred villages have been surveyed and the database was transferred to ANBP in March. Although ANBP is not directly involved, it remained abreast of developments with this initiative in order to coordinate the deployment of its Ammunition Survey Teams as circumstances demanded.

II. Project Implementation Challenges

Updated Project Risks and Actions

Security

The worsening security situation in some regions precludes efforts to carry out surveys and the transport of ammunition - especially in the East, South and parts of Western Afghanistan. To mitigate the risk posed by the deteriorating security situation in these regions the project has continued focusing its main efforts and resources in areas where results can be achieved and resources utilized efficiently.

Political Direction

The inability to hold an Ammunition Steering Committee with the key stakeholders remains an issue in 2008. An Ammunition Steering Committee meeting, normally chaired by the Minister of Defence with the Canadian Ambassador in attendance, has not taken place since August 2006. Nevertheless, all parties remain engaged and willing to meet, with the main obstacle being conflicting schedules of senior officials. However, on technical issues and towards monitoring key progress, consensus has always been forthcoming at the working level along with guidance from donor meetings.

Insufficient Storage Capacity

The MoD and Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A) are working to increase the storage capacities of MoD / ANA to achieve better operational results. CSTC-A and MoD began the construction of a new storage area called Chimtalla, which is scheduled for completion in the second quarter. In addition to storing new NATO ammunition, ammunition collected through the APMASD project will also be stored there.

Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (ATL) Officers

ANBP has been working with the MoD's ATL officers in developing their capacity to takeover the functions of APMASD project. Whilst the officers have been receptive to learning and appear capable of handling the project without international assistance, unfortunately many have been re-assigned to tasks that are irrelevant to the APMASD project. This transfer of officers undermines the capacity development component of this project and threatens the MoD's ability to takeover the project after the mandate ends. ANBP is currently negotiating with MoD to keep the officers in their current postings.

Updated Project Issues and Actions

Project Mandate

In the fourth quarter of 2007, ANBP received endorsement from the government and International Community for the extension of ANBP's two projects by one additional year to March 2009. For the APMASD project, the additional funding requirement would be approximately \$9.8 million. At the same time, ANBP employed further cost-saving measures in order to sustain project activities in the interim. This allowed for a no-cost extension to 31 May 2008¹, with the expectation of initiating activities for project closure in late March. Thanks to the Canadian government's generous contribution, in March which covered some amount of the required funds shortfall; however, it is not sufficient to cover the entire extension period, requiring thus, further efforts towards successful resource mobilisation.

¹ The 2008 Annual Work Plan was revised accordingly and is included in the Annex.

III. Financial Status and Utilization

Table 1: Contribution Overview [February 2005 – March 2008]

DONOR	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
Canada	5,132,037	5,132,037	-
Netherlands	2,409,639	1,500,000	909,639
UK	3,000,000	3,000,000	-
EC	1,785,605	1,785,605	-
EC	7,633,588	6,400,000	1,233,588
Norway	317,965	317,965	-
UNDP Core Fund	493,272	493,272	-
Ministry of Finance	500,000	500,000	-
Total	21,272,105	19,128,879	2,143,226

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity [1 January 2008 – 31 March 2008]

Activity	BUDGET (2008)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1 Jan to 31 Mar 08)	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1: Project Management	1,172,433	421,495	750,938	36%
Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APM's) /Ammunition Survey	484,852	114,127	370,725	24%
Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Transportation / Security	1,274,843	554,532	720,311	43%
Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	161,471	39,915	121,556	25%
UNDP GMS 5%	162,821	59,477	103,344	37%
Total	3,256,420	1,189,547	2,066,873	37%

Table 3: 2007 Expenditure by Donor [1 January 2008 – 31 March 2008]

Donor	Activity	Budget (2008)	Total Exp (1 Jan-31 Mar-08)	Balance as of 31 Mar 08	Delivery Rate %
Canada	Activity 1: Project Management	10,100	601	9,499	
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Ammunition Survey	35,954	37,353	-1,399	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Transportation / Security	12,526	114	12,412	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	9,090	-6,389	15,479	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	3,562	1,667	1,894	
Subtotal Canada		71,232	33,346	37,886	47%
EC	Activity 1: Project Management	642,383	134,410	507,973	
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Ammunition Survey	361,289	52,605	308,684	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Transportation / Security	1,062,524	483,128	579,396	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	55,550	6,318	49,233	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	111,671	35,603	76,068	
Subtotal EC		2,233,417	712,064	1,521,353	32%
UK	Activity 1: Project Management	91,462	60,965	30,497	
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Ammunition Survey	11,500	3,262	8,238	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	10,100	940	9,160	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	5,951	3,430	2,521	
Subtotal UK		119,013	68,597	50,415	58%
Netherlands	Activity 1: Project Management	425,988	224,384	201,604	
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines	76,109	20,907	55,202	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Transportation / Security	199,793	71,290	128,503	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	28,378	28,359	19	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor	38,435	18,155	20,280	
Subtotal Netherlands		768,703	363,095	405,608	47%
Norway	Activity 1: Project Management	2,500	1,136	1,364	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	58,353	10,687	47,666	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor	3,203	622	2,581	
Subtotal Norway		64,056	12,445	51,611	19%
Total		3,256,420	1,189,547	2,066,873	37%

Negative figures in the expenditures reflect adjustments made by ATLAS.