

QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT [Q2, 2008]

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan

**Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction
(APMASD)**

01-04-2008 – 30-06-2008



Scattered ammunition found in Balkh Province in June 2008 reveals some of the dangerous conditions in which the project must work to extract hazardous munitions.

Project ID:	00043536
Duration:	December 2004 – March 2009
Component (MYFF):	2.7 Public administration reform and anti-corruption
Total Budget:	USD 21,744,136
Unfunded:	USD 2,143,227
Implementing Partners:	The HALO Trust and Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) teams

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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.

During the second quarter of 2008, the 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. Together with the HALO Trust, which is the implementing partner of ANBP for transportation and destruction of munitions, ANBP began capacity training of 28 officers from the Ministry of Defence's Acquisition Technology and Logistics (ATL) branch in Kabul on 1 June. The training was a month later than originally scheduled owing to the delay in the identification of appropriate English and computer training institutions as service providers towards their capacity building. The three month training course splits the officers into two groups of 14 and provides training in the following areas: basic English, basic computer skills, data collection software, and technical training in ammunition and survey operations as well as Ammunition Consolidation Point safety standards.

Similarly, ANBP completed training the designated staff of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to maintain the 'Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Frontline' database, and subsequently began training two officials designated by the MoD. This new training, which overlaps with some of the aspects of the ATL Officer training, will coincide in part with the above training and is currently set for three months with possibility of extension.

The Ammunition Working Group met more regularly in the second quarter as operational tempo increased thanks to improved weather conditions. It should be highlighted that the Ammunition Working Group is chaired at senior level, namely by a two star general of MoD and includes representation from all concerned parties. It is broadly efficient in its processes and remains an effective forum to coordinate not only tactical operations on the ground, but also to formulate policy and strategic recommendations. Nevertheless efforts were made to organize a Steering Committee meeting with ANBP drafting and circulating the agenda for approval. Subject to the Defence Minister's availability the date is set for the second week of July.

External Evaluation

With the project document extended to 31 March 2009, a final evaluation has been postponed to the second quarter of 2009. In the meantime, preparations are underway to have an external evaluation conducted in 2008. The aim is to evaluate the project as designed in the Project Document and its extension phase particularly in terms of relevance, impact and sustainability along with making forward looking recommendations to ensure that the legacy of the work finds a smooth transition through appropriate mainstreaming process. In the second quarter, the Terms of Reference were drafted and circulated among various stakeholders including the MoD, implementing partners and donors for feedback. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take place in the third quarter or fourth quarter of 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

During the second quarter, ANBP assisted the government in surveying 145 caches, which weighed 384 tonnes and belonged to the liquidated Afghan Military Forces. In addition, the survey teams surveyed 103 caches, which weighed 51 tonnes, of munitions and which belonged to Illegal Armed Groups.

Since the start of the APMASD project, the overall total of Afghan Military Force munitions increased to 1,263 caches, weighing 30,098 tonnes. Similarly, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups munitions increased to 858 caches, weighing 2,779 tonnes. With the improvement in weather conditions and the opening up of routes which had been closed as result of the winter,

there was a noticeable increase in the operational tempo during the second quarter. This is especially the case in the Central Highlands region, which was inaccessible for most of the winter. Nevertheless the operational tempo in 2008, when compared to that of last year for the same period, shows a decrease in pace. Whilst data suggests that large amounts of munitions still exist, many of the readily available caches have already been surveyed and cleared.

Late in 2007, the MoD and Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A) began the construction of a new storage area called Chimtalla to increase the storage capacities of MoD / ANA to achieve better operational results. Though additional work on the security structures continues, in the second quarter the site was sufficiently built so that ammunition collected through the APMASD project can be stored there.

Total Figures Until the Q2 2008	Q2 2008 only	Total
Number of Ammunition Caches Surveyed	319	2,229
Tonnage of Ammunition Surveyed	601	33,060
Tonnage of Ammunition Consolidated	132	9,596
Tonnage of Ammunition Destroyed	2,595	20,097
Pieces of Anti-Personnel Mines Destroyed	12	501,090
Pieces of Anti-Tank Mines Destroyed	1,329	22,233

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

Regional Progress

Progress increased as the weather improved. In the north over 100 caches containing over 200 metric tonnes of ammunition were surveyed and cleared from Balkh, Faryam, Jawzjan, Samangan and Sari Pul Provinces.

As indicated in the previous quarterly report, the HALO Trust completed the clearance of Shebrehgan Airport consisting of 1,714.34 metric tonnes of aerial bombs and guided missiles.

In the northeast, 77 sites with over 75 metric tonnes of munitions were surveyed in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar Provinces.

In the eastern region, over 50 sites with over 11,000 kg of munitions were surveyed in Nangarhar and Kunar Provinces.

In the southeast region, ANBP worked with the Khost Security Department, which collected nearly 2,000 kg of ammunition.

In Kabul and its environs, 35 sites with over 81,000 kg of ammunition were surveyed during the second quarter. Over 79,000 kg of the munitions surveyed were destroyed.

In the Central Highlands, over 5,500 kg of ammunition were surveyed during the second quarter.

In the western region, over 27,000 kg of unserviceable munitions were destroyed by ANBP's implementing partners.

Activities in the Panjshir Valley are still at a standstill with the governor's condition that APMASD activities cannot begin until DIAG activities are completed. The issue of the Panjshir Valley will be raised at the Steering Committee meeting.

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, met with the government and local leaders to locate non-caches of ordnance and in coordination with other stakeholders safely surveyed and removed it. 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. Three security incidents occurred in the second quarter that may have great impact on future ANBP operations. Firstly, the attack in Kandahar City on 13 June 2008 raised concerns regarding the ability to deliver outputs in the city, one of the few parts of the southern region which is still accessible. Secondly, on 3 June, an ANBP DIAG convoy en route from Ghazni to Kabul on a mission got caught in crossfire between Anti-Government Elements and the Afghan National Police (ANP). The UN Protection Unit (also part of the ANP) responded superbly with no injuries sustained. Finally, on 18 June, an APMASD mission en route from Shebrehghan to Mazar-e Sharif was deliberately targeted by assailants who shot directly at the convoy. Whilst the impact of these attacks on programme delivery is currently minimal (amounting to no more than temporary road closures by the United Nations Department for Safety and Security) it has raised larger concerns at the programmatic level. ANBP is reviewing and where needed revising the Standard Operating Procedures for emergency cases along with risk management. Currently, all road missions in the regions will require two-vehicle convoy, preferably with armoured vehicles.

Sustainability

ANBP has focused on enhancing capacity of MoD to ensure that the MoD can implement the project after the APMASD mandate ends. On the operational level, efforts have thus far been successful with MoD official receptive; however as in the case of the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (ATL) officers who are trained to take over the functions of the APMASD project, many have been reassigned by the MoD. Without a sustained commitment from the MoD on a strategic level that project work will carry on and mainstreamed within the MoD, the risk exists that survey, removal and destruction of munitions will cease once the project mandate ends. Efforts are focused on raising long term sustainability with the MoD.

Updated Project Issues and Actions

Cash Flow Crisis

In the second quarter of 2008, the mandate of the APMASD project was extended to 31 March 2009 with the additional funding requirement adjusted from USD 9.8 million to USD 7.7 million. In the first quarter, the Canadian government generously committed CAD 3 million (approximately USD 3.0 million) of which CAD 1.5 million has already been disbursed. Unfortunately, no other solid commitment has been made to date. Currently of the approved funds, the project has sufficient amount to undertake work up until the fourth quarter though not all funding has yet been released. But a lack of additional commitments has left the project facing a cash-flow issue whereby the project will have to significantly scale back on activities in the third quarter if funding is not forthcoming. At present ANBP is in discussion with key donors to gain access to some of the committed funds.

III. Financial Status and Utilization

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

DONOR	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
Canada	5,132,038	5,132,037	-
CANADA – 550	1,472,031	1,472,031	-
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	493,270	493,270	-
Ministry of Finance	500,000	500,000	-
Total	22,744,136	20,600,910	2,143,227

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity [1 April 2008 – 30 June 2008]

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity (1 January - 30 June-08)					
Activity	BUDGET [2008]	TOTAL Exp (1 Jan-31 Mar-08)	TOTAL Exp (1 Apr-30 Jun-08)	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1: Project Management	2,787,003	421,494.94	887,798	1,477,710.14	47%
Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mine	696,439	114,127.06	129,469	452,843.44	35%
Activity 3: APM & Ammunition	2,030,214	554,532.00	101,847	1,373,835.10	32%
Activity 5: Integrated Technolo	587,313	39,915.36	157,124	390,273.74	34%
UNDP GMS 5%	248,697	59,477	38,358	150,861	39%
UNDP GMS 7%	103,550	-	41,204	62,345	40%
Total	6,453,216	1,189,547	1,355,801	3,907,869	39%

Table 3: 2008 Expenditure by Donor [1 Jan 2008 – 30 June 2008]

Donor	Activity	Budget (2008)	Total Exp (1 Jan-31 Mar-08)	Total Exp (1 Apr-30Jun-08)	Balance as of 30 June 08	Delivery Rate %
Canada	Activity 1: Project Management	454,051	601	357,463	95,987	87%
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Amm	40,994	37,353	30,687	(27,046)	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Trar	131	114	17.00	0	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	8,858	(6,389)	17,534.18	(2,287)	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	26,528	1,667	21,353	3,508	
Subtotal Canada		530,562	33,346	427,054	70,162	
EC	Activity 1: Project Management	1,172,383	134,410	(20,165)	1,058,139	13%
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Amm	391,289.00	52,605.23	(4,663)	343,347	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Trar	1,362,762	483,128	(242,231)	1,121,865	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	222,065	6,318	(3,221)	218,968	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	165,710	35,603	(14,225)	144,333	
Subtotal EC		3,314,210	712,064	-284,505	2,886,651	
UK	Activity 1: Project Management	91,462	60,965	9,414	21,083	65%
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Amm	11,500	3,262	3,637	4,601	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Trar	-	0	9,036	(9,036)	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	30,929	940	0	29,989	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	7,047	3,430	1,162	2,455	
Subtotal UK		140,938	68,597	23,249	49,091	
Netherlands	Activity 1: Project Management	417,971	224,384	237,016	(43,429)	103%
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Amm	76,708	20,907	38,486	17,316	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Trar	193,481.00	71,290	126,468	(4,277)	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	42,108	28,359	4,513	9,236	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	38,435	18,155	21,394	(1,113)	
Subtotal Netherlands		768,703	363,095	427,876	-22,268	
Norway	Activity 1: Project Management	1,136	1,136	0	0	85%
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Amm	948	0	4,218	(3,270)	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Trar	108,110	0	53,761	54,350	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	98,353	10,687	106,838	(19,173)	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	10,976	622	8,675	1,679	
Subtotal Norway		219,523	12,445	173,492	33,587	
CIDA	Activity 1: Project Management	650,000	0	304,070	345,930	40%
	Activity 2: Anti-Personnel Mines (APMs) / Amm	175,000	0	57,104	117,896	
	Activity 3: APM & Ammunition Collection / Trar	365,730	0	154,797	210,933	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	185,000	0	31,459	153,541	
	UNDP GMS 7% - See the Donor Agreement	103,550	0	41,204	62,345	
Subtotal CIDA		1,479,280	-	588,635	890,645	
Total		6,453,216	1,189,547	1,355,801	3,907,869	39%

Note: Figures in mines will be adjusted in next budget revision.

Negative figures in the expenditures reflect adjustments made by ATLAS.