AMAS 09.01

Third Edition
April 2011

Mine Risk Education (MRE)

Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)
Post Box : 520 Kabul – Afghanistan
Website: www.macca.org.af

CONTENTS

Mine Risk Education (MRE)

1. Introduction

Mine Risk Education (MRE) refers to the educational activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines and ERW by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change amongst 'at risk' groups within communities and throughout the population in the country, including public information dissemination, education and training and community liaison. MRE should ensure that men, women and children in the affected communities are aware of the risks from mines and ERW and are encouraged to behave in a way which reduces the risk to people, property and the environment.

2. Scope

This AMAS describes the standard guidelines for conducting MRE operation in Afghanistan.

3. Components of Mine/ERW Risk Education

MRE in Afghanistan comprises of three complementary and mutually reinforcing components:

3.1 Public Information Dissemination

As part of MRE refers primarily to mass communications activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines and ERW and to raise awareness of the risk to individuals and communities and by promoting behavioural change.

3.2 Education and Training

Activities in MRE refers to all educational and training activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines and ERW and raising awareness with regards to the issues of landmine survivors and other people with disabilities targeting individuals, communities, private and public sector organizations and government and promoting safe behavioural change and inclusive attitudes.

Education and training is a two-way process which involves the imparting and acquiring of knowledge, attitude and practices through teaching and learning. These activities may be conducted in formal and non-formal environments.

3.3 Community Liaison

Community liaison refers to the system and processes used to exchange information between national authorities, mine action organisations and communities on the presence of mines and ERW and of their potential risk. It enables communities to be informed when a demining activity is planned to take place, the nature and duration of the task, and the exact locations of areas that have been marked or cleared. It seeks to gather and provide information with regards to mine/ERW threats and disability services and advocates for barrier free access to all social activities for people with disabilities. Community mine action liaison should be carried out by all organisations conducting mine action operations. These may be MRE-specific organisations, or MRE individuals and/or 'sub-units' within a mine action organisation

4. Project Planning for MRE

The purpose of project planning for MRE is to define the project goals and objectives, and establish a *plan of action* to meet the goals and objectives. Informed planning should enable

the organisation to implement MRE activities efficiently and effectively according to the needs of targeted groups.

Project planning should be informed by, and conducted in accordance with, the national mine action plan. MRE plan needs to be reviewed regularly in order to adapt the project to the reality of implementation. This is conducted through monitoring and evaluation as part of the MRE project cycle as per MRE Project Monitoring Tool. The MRE plan should:

a) Be integrated into the national mine action strategy and the overall national humanitarian and development strategies;

b) Reflect the priorities of the organisations and stakeholders;

c) Reflect the nature of the risks that the mine or ERW hazards pose to populations;

d) Take into account the risk of any negative side effects generated by the activities;

e) Be culturally appropriate;

f) Be based on appropriate means of communication;

g) Where possible, involve the intended beneficiaries in programme, design, implementation and monitoring;

h) Establish clear procedures and structures for reporting to donors;

i) Be sustainable, that is, cover capacity building and training;

j) Be flexible and adaptable;

k) Identify indicators to gauge the progress and the impact of the programme;

l) Identify appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems;

m) Be realistic and take into account programme inputs, such as local and external management capacities and the availability of staff, skills and resources.

5.   General Responsibilities of MRE Implementing Organizations

a) All MRE organizations shall establish an appropriate and effective management system for their MRE operations and shall adapt their SOPs to meet the requirements of AMAS.

b) Making local communities aware of the work of the MAPA, specifically the support that mine action organizations can provide to the community. This support includes education about the threat of mines and ERW, clearance of mines and ERW located in their communities and the marking of hazardous areas.

c) Encouraging the cooperation of the communities in assisting the demining effort and in providing barrier free access for people with disabilities to education and employment opportunity and promoting full participation in Afghan society.

d) Reporting details of new mine or ERW victims to MACCA, where possible referring to victim assistance organisations operating in Afghanistan.

MRE organisations also have a general responsibility of gathering information on the mine and ERW threat in Afghanistan and their impact on communities. Information that shall be reported to the MACCA includes:

a) Mine accidents and incidents.

b) Ammunition/ERW Report

c) Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA).

d) Stockpiled or abandoned mines or ERW (those which are not part of a SHA).

e) Incidences of risky behaviour being carried out by mine affected communities because of the mine and ERW threat.

f) Recent changes and development in the target communities.

g) Population updates of the target communities.

6.   General Requirements for MRE Operations

All MRE organizations shall be accredited prior to start MRE operation in Afghanistan. All MRE operations shall meet an identified need and shall be planned, implemented and managed to achieve measurable outcomes.

MRE organisations shall identify the target outcomes and the means by which they will be measured during the operational planning process. These outcomes, and the means of their measurement, should be agreed by the MACCA before the MRE operation commences.

All MRE operations shall conform to the eight accepted principles:

1) Stakeholder involvement. All stakeholders should be involved in each stage of an MRE operation to ensure that:

   a) The needs of mine-affected communities and groups are addressed including people with disabilities. National and local economic and development priorities are taken into account.

2) Coordination: Coordination activities at national and regional level are important during implementation to ensure that there is consistency of educational content, coverage of all affected areas, effective use of resources, sharing of lessons learned, and assuring that activities are not unnecessarily duplicated.

3) Integration: MRE activities shall be fully integrated with the other mine action, humanitarian and development activities to achieve a synergistic effect.

4) Community participation and empowerment: To facilitate community participation and empowerment:

   a) MRE organisations should work in partnership with existing capacities within communities, including mine/ERW survivors, at risk group, farmer's groups, women's groups, schools, government and community based deminers;

   b) Community ownership should be encouraged from the beginning of the project i.e. planning and implementation; and

c) The target community may participate in design and field-testing of the MRE materials.

5) <u>Information management and exchange:</u> During the implementation phase, it is important that the MRE project continues to provide information to the MACCA to be formally recorded in IMSMA. The MACCA and AMAC should ensure full information exchange between mine action organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

6) <u>Appropriate targeting:</u> MRE operations in Afghanistan shall identify the target groups within impacted communities during the planning phase. Targeted groups should be included as active participants rather than passive recipients within the MRE project.

7) <u>Education.</u> MACCA should develop core MRE curriculum consistent with national core curriculum standards, so that MRE messages are consistent across the country. The substance of the curriculum and messages should be agreed and used consistently by all organisations involved in MRE. The range and type of methodology employed in the delivery of the messages and curriculum should be suitable to the target audience requirements and capabilities. Principles for the use and development of messages include:

   a) Messages should be based on the needs assessment and adapted as necessary following monitoring and evaluation;

   b) Messages should be based on an analysis of mine accidents, the consequences of incidents and the nature of incidents;

   c) Messages should be targeted at populations most at risk;

   d) Messages should be field tested prior to use;

   e) Messages should be as positive as possible and not give the impression that it is impossible to live safely in mine or ERW contaminated environments;

   f) Messages should explain the reasons for recommended actions; and

   g) Messages should be appropriate with culture and religion.

8) <u>Training:</u> MRE organizations should aim to educate target populations on the nature of the mine or ERW risk and promote the adoption of safer behaviours by everyone at risk, including aid workers and other persons working in mine affected regions or communities.

7. Development of MRE Methodologies

Development of MRE methodologies shall ensure that the activities carried out:

   a) Conform to the Afghanistan Mine Action Standards and country strategic plans.

   b) Reflect the priorities of the MAPA and the target groups involved.

   c) Reflect the nature of the threat and problems within the target populations.

   d) Take into account the risk of potential negative side effects.

   e) Culturally appropriated.

   f) Involve the intended beneficiaries in activity design, implementation and monitoring.

g) Offset urban and gender biases and other biases.

h) Are flexible and adaptable.

i) Include indicators to gauge the progress and the impact of the programme.

j) Include appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems.

8. Monitoring of MRE Operations

Monitoring is an on-going process, conducted throughout implementation to provide feedback and information on the application, suitability and effectiveness of MRE tools and methods. Organisations carrying out MRE operations shall ensure that internal monitoring of MRE activities is carried out on a regular basis. See annex A Internal Monitoring and QM guideline for implementing partners.

9. Monitoring Progress of MRE Operations

Monitoring shall be carried out to measure the progress of a MRE task or project against stated objectives. Monitoring of MRE operations include but not limited to the following:

a) MRE sessions and activities: to ensure they are consistent with AMAS, organisation's SOPs, plan and the MAPA strategy for programme activity;

b) Community involvement: observing the level of community involvement within activity and assessing its impact on behaviour changes;

c) Documentation: Action plan, update MRE Kit and materials and MRE guidelines approved by the MACCA;

d) MRE Personnel: on-site organization's personnel and volunteer training activities;

e) Safety: safety of the field staff and the level of their training in field safety procedures;

f) Perception of community: perception of MRE projects and programmes by at-risk communities and behavioural change; and

g) Changes in the make-up of the target risk group.

MRE organisations shall monitor the changing environment within which MRE is delivered. Changes in environment should also be reported to the MACCA to ensure all Mine Action organizations are kept up to date on the status of their operational environment.

10. Evaluation of MRE Operations

MRE organisations shall include evaluation as part of their operational and implementation plans. Evaluation of the quality of MRE activities will ensure progress in achieving programme objectives. Evaluation of MRE should assess the impact of the project or programme, in particular in reducing the human, social or economic impact of mines and ERW. An evaluation may not necessarily be of a single project; it can also consider the organisational approach/policy and strategy on MRE.

11. MRE Support to Demining Operations

MRE teams may be deployed to areas prior to demining operations commencing, to brief the communities on the scope, scale and locations of demining operations and specific safety

requirements. MRE teams should be deployed as part of the community liaison function by briefing local communities on the operations intended to be done.

12. Training and Qualifications

All personnel carrying out MRE activities shall be trained, and or have the appropriate qualifications and experience, for the MRE activities they will undertake. Records of training and qualifications of MRE staff shall be maintained by MRE organisations and shall be available for inspection by external QA inspection teams as required.

13. Quality Management for MRE Operations

12.1 Internal QA

MRE organisations shall conduct regular internal quality assurance inspections of their operations. The internal inspections shall ensure that the systems and processes conform to the organisation's SOPs and agreed plan. Internal QA reports and records shall be available for external QA process.

12.2 External QA

MRE operations should be subject to external QA inspection assigned by the MACCA/DMC. The aim of the inspections is to ensure that the operations are conforming to the principles necessary to achieve quality outcomes and that the operation is being conducted in accordance to the plan agreed with the MACCA. See QA inspection activity checklists for MRE activities.

External inspections and any non-conformity shall be recorded and reported in accordance with AMAS 03.01.

14. Reporting Requirements for MRE Operations

On completion of each MRE activity, the MRE organisation shall complete IMSMA MRE Activity Report and submit it to the relevant AMAC on weekly basis.

15. Communication Requirement of MRE Operations

MRE teams shall establish communications with their base locations and related AMAC whilst they are operating. MRE teams shall comply with the general communication requirements covered in AMAS 08.03.

16. Personal Safety of MRE Personnel

MRE organisations shall comply with the following requirements regarding the safety of their personnel:

a) All MRE personnel shall receive appropriate mine and ERW recognition and awareness training before deploying to work in mine or ERW affected areas.

b) MRE personnel shall be familiar with demining marking systems used in Afghanistan.

c) All MRE activities shall be conducted in known safe areas.

d) MRE personnel visiting a demining worksite shall follow the instructions of the demining worksite supervisor.

e) MRE personnel shall not handle live mines or ERW.