



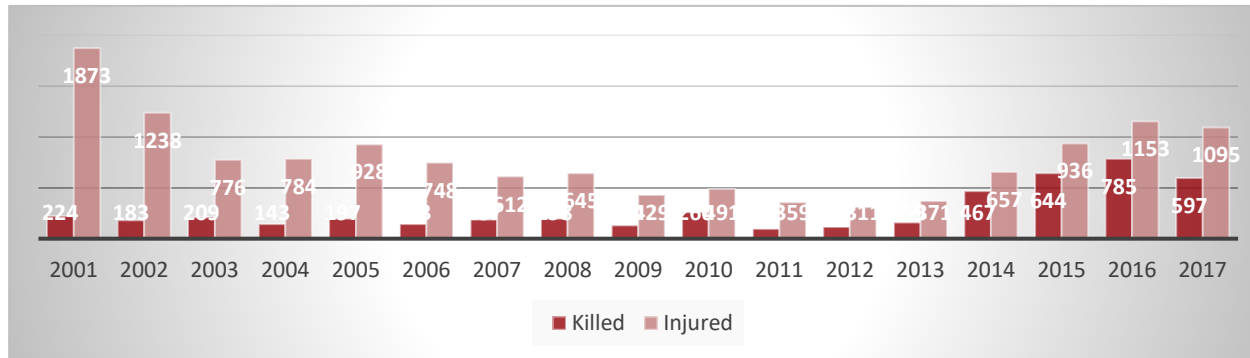
EORE for returnees to Afghanistan

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Background

- 2016 saw massive influx of undocumented and registered Afghans from Pakistan (616,000+) and Iran (approx. 440,000)
- More than 1 million Afghans remain displaced within Afghanistan – many returnees not able to return "home"
- 2017 saw average monthly EO casualty rates of 170+ (IMSMA until Oct 2017)
- By 2014, PPIEDs caused more accidents than any other type of EO



DDG response and activities 2017

- EORE in UNHCR encashment centres and IOM transit centres → ‘EORE walk-through’
- EORE in urban areas with high numbers of returns movements → community-based EORE
- EORE delivery based on standardised materials (minus IEDs)
- Baseline survey on border crossings
- KAP survey in areas with IDPs, recent returnees and host communities
- Casualty data analysis on behalf of MAPA: IMSMA database since 1 January 1978 → focus on 2009-2014 and 2015-2017 (October)
- Review of previous KAP surveys and assessments (2004; 2005; 2009/10)

The EORE walk-through

- One of several 'sections' at reception centre
- Arrivals have to pass through as part of comprehensive arrival services package
- Small groups/families
- Displays and presentations covering:
Recognition of mines/ERW; warning signs, safe/unsafe behaviour incl. inclusion of PwD; RE video; distribution of leaflets and hotline calling cards
- Total time = less than 10 minutes



The research

- Baseline: To what extent do recent returnees to Afghanistan constitute unaware or uninformed at-risk categories?
- Methodology: Questionnaire (1,056), observations

RE target	600,000	Sample size	1,065
Men (18+ years)	95,000	16% of target	170
Women (18+ years)	104,000	17% of target	181
Boys (5-17 years)	204,000	34% of target	362
Girls (5-17 years)	197,000	33% of target	351

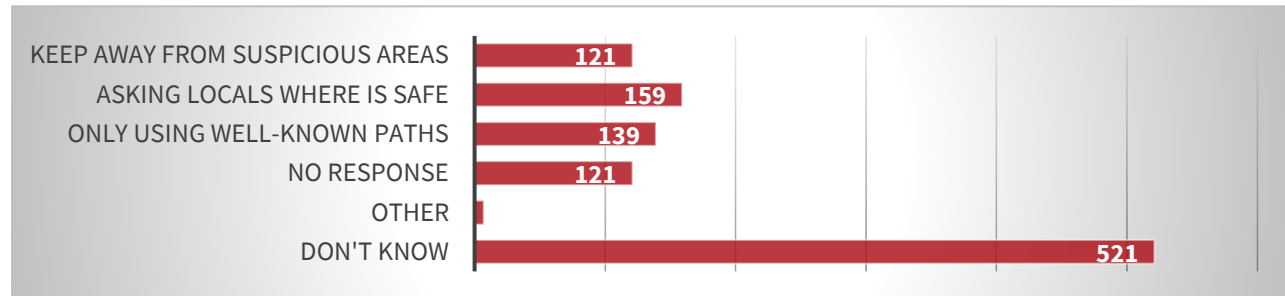
- KAP survey: To what extent are remaining landmine/ERW casualties a result of intentional/forced, reckless or misinformed risk taking?
- Methodology: Questionnaire (1,039), focus group discussions

Findings: Previous KAP surveys

- By 2009/2020: *“the population seems to have a good level of knowledge and sound practice with regard to mine risk, in particular when people have received MRE training ... The overwhelming majority of people are fully aware of the dangers of mines”*
 - Correlation between RE and “mine risk awareness level”?
- Seeming correlation between recent experiences of violent conflict and fatalism regarding mines/ERW accidents
- However, *“in some cases interviewees who were unsure about what to say tended to give the answers they thought the interviewer wanted to hear i.e. yes.”* (2009/2010)

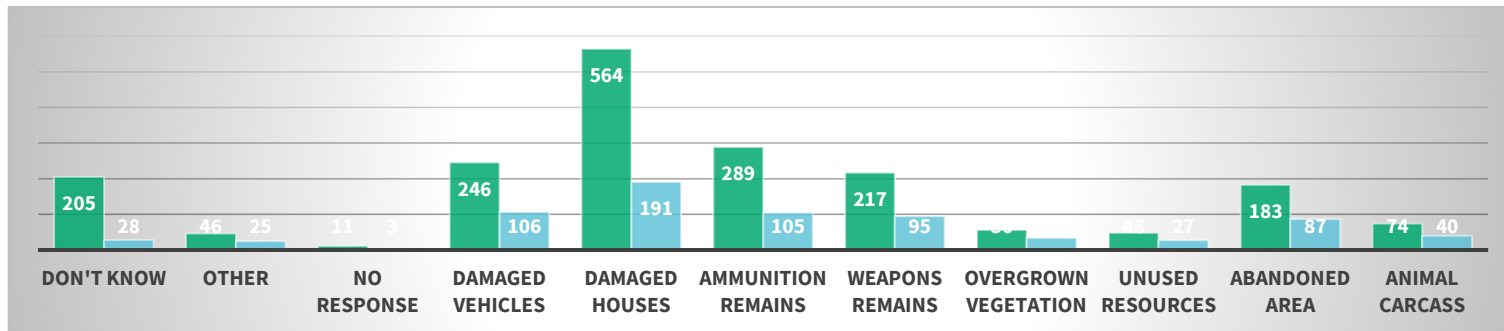
Findings: DDG baseline 2017

- By 2017, returnees had generally been out of Afghanistan for a long time, a third of respondents had been gone for more than 20 years
- 130 out of 1,056 said they had previously received EORE
- Well established needs for EORE. However...
- Most had correct ideas about where mines/ERW are likely to be found
- 24% would call for help if encountering mines/ERW
- Half did not know how to avoid mines/ERW accidents when going to a new area. Though...



Findings: DDG KAP survey 2017

- 32% of had previously received EORE but overall a high awareness of EO
- Only 12% overall (and 27% of people who previously received EORE) had heard about the hotline number
- 19% overall (48% of those with previous EORE) would ask locals “where is safe” when moving into an unknown area
- “*What are clues to identifying a dangerous area*”? (all respondents = green graph; respondents with previous RE = blue graph)



Lessons learned

- ‘Mine Smartness’ (2003) still a valid concept:
 - mine-affected people generate their own broadly effective means of offsetting explosive threats
 - “people take risks for reasons that make sense to them”
- One-size-fits-all messages to highly diverse at-risk groups disregards that many people are intimately familiar with the explosive threats and, in many cases, have developed alternative coping mechanisms or ‘mine smartness’
- EORE messages should acknowledge and build on the knowledge and “common sense” already present in communities and help people find alternatives (e.g. livelihoods and coping strategies) when forced by circumstance to take risks



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