



## Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

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### Power Boost to Kabul: Mines Could Have Prevented it

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009.** The announcement of an improved supply of electricity into Kabul from today is a great step forward for Afghanistan. The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) is particularly happy to see this as it was in large part the fruits of their labour. Three years ago, the route now used by power lines was heavily mined and prevented the lines being set up. The land cleared stretched from Pul-i-Kumri to Hairatan in Northern Afghanistan.

Dr Haider Reza, Programme Director, Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan, said, "This is a classic example of how demining is the crucial first step in development. If this route had not been cleared, we would not now be celebrating our improved power supply which will enable development in our country."

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan is responsible for clearing mines throughout Afghanistan to enable the development of infrastructure, extending pasture and agricultural land for farmers, opening up routes to new markets and of course preventing the loss of human lives through mine-related accidents. In 2008 alone, more than 84,000 anti-personnel mines, 900 anti-tank mines and 2.5 million Explosive Remnants of War were destroyed by the MAPA. This resulted in the clearance of over 50sqkm of minefield.

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