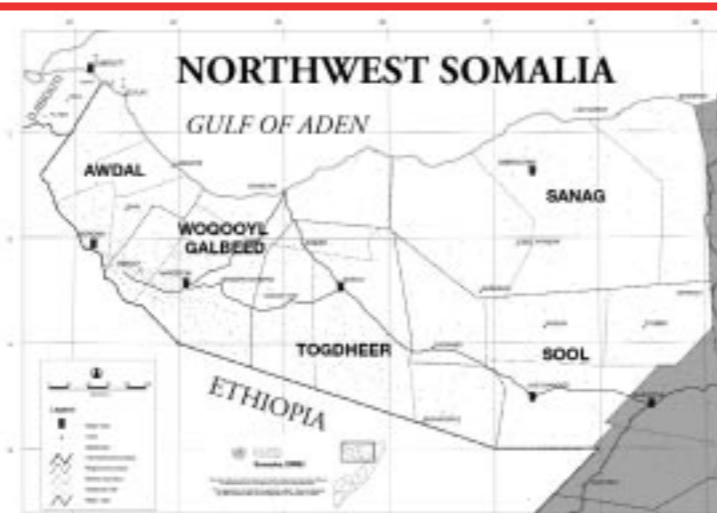


Somaliland

MAG has now commenced a project in Somaliland, in the north west of Somalia, providing training and supervision in Explosive Ordnance Disposal to police personnel. Somaliland is located in east Africa, to the north of Kenya and, although it has declared itself independent, officially remains part of Somalia. Somalia, the scene of the recently released Hollywood blockbuster "Black Hawk Down", has been wracked by civil conflict for over 20 years, resulting in an extensive mine and UXO problem over much of the country. Recently for example, an abandoned Soviet anti-aircraft missile exploded in a market in Mogadishu when a man tried to extract the copper from the missile, killing over 14 people.

The project, which is anticipated to last some 6-9 months, will see 16 police trained in EOD techniques, trauma medicine, radio dispatch and other related skills. Supporting the United Nations Development Programme, MAG has deployed one Senior Technical Advisor to the capital of Somaliland, Hargeisa, and will also deploy a specialist medical trainer in February. Once the police personnel have developed the necessary skills, they will engage in live clearance operations of tasks identified by the Somaliland Mine Action Centre. MAG hopes over the course of this project to provide Somaliland with a sustainable capacity that is able to deal with the problem of mine and UXO contamination over the years to come.

Thank you once again to the generous newsletter reader who donated £10,000 so the assessment could take place in the first place.



LIVE FROM ANGOLA

Wherever MAG works, and however urgent the work, it is always difficult to raise the necessary funds. In one innovative solution, MAG's Sean Sutton went to Angola to publicise the problem live, through the internet.

Working with photojournalist Jeff Russell, Sean sent daily stories and photos from a field satellite telephone to be uploaded the same day onto MAG's web site. Major donors were able to log on and see the progress – and the need for their support.

Below is a report from 'day three' of the mission.

Community Liaison and Emergency Response. Lumege Canjumba Village – Sunday December 5 at 9.35pm.

In 1993 the people of Lumege Canjumba village fled to safety for the second time in three years. After they left, the road was mined and the 700 villagers could not return for three years.

Despite attempts to clear the area, and the destruction of many items of ordnance, two people stood on landmines, one last year and one this year. A MAG Community Liaison Team today arrived in the village to discuss the villagers' problems and prioritise clearance work.

Working from a map drawn in the soil, MAG were shown the locations of different UXO that had been found. We were then taken to see high-priority items that posed a particular threat; including three 82mm mortar bombs and an unexploded hand grenade.

An Emergency Response Team was called, and arrived within half an hour. This team was comprised of a Team Leader; three technicians and a trauma medic. The hand grenade was defused and carried away for later safe detonation.

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MAG head of technical operations Ronaldo Samuanji holding an unexploded grenade after removing it from a village. A MAG community liaison team came earlier in the day to the village to talk to its inhabitants about their problems with land mines and unexploded ordnance. The village leader, the Soba, reported the grenade and other UXO to the MAG team. An emergency response team was promptly dispatched to deal with it.
Lumege Canjumba, Angola. 05-12-2001

Major stars rock for MAG

Sunday 27th January 2002 Guitars Against Landmines concert at The Lowry, Salford Quays was a sell out and raised the roof for MAG!

A host of major stars joined together to help raise awareness of the landmine and UXO problem and to raise money for MAG.

Singer/songwriter Julie Felix hosted the four-hour concert and was joined by John Paul Jones, founder member of Led Zeppelin, Bill

Wyman's Rhythm Kings, Kiki Dee with guitarist Carmelo Luggeri, Steve Harley, Georgie Fame, Roy Harper, and new Manchester-based band Homelife.

John Paul Jones had the mixed-age audience stunned and ecstatic after a set that included Zeppelin classics, new material, and a mandolin duet with close friend, Julie Felix.

The second half opened with Steve Harley bringing the audience cheering to their feet, especially during 'Make Me Smile'. Roy Harper followed and proved he clearly leads the field of

socially and politically aware singer/songwriters.

Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings were fronted by the formidable Georgie Fame and Beverley Skeete who sang a superlative 'Love Letters'. All five key vocalists joined forces with Julie Felix, Bill Wyman and the Rhythm Kings to sing Lennon's peace anthem 'Bring on the Lucy'.

The protest/peace aspect of this concert was there throughout especially, in Julie Felix's rousing new song 'Free the Land'.

'Guitars Against Landmines' looks to have raised £20,000.

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP MAG'S WORK

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POSTCODE _____

TEL NUMBER _____

Please send as much as you can possibly afford. Thank you.

I enclose a donation for £ _____ CHEQUE/PO PAYABLE

TO MAG FUND or please debit my MASTERCARD/VISA/SWITCH/CAF

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE - ISSUE NO (Switch only)

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Under new legislation, tax relief can be claimed on all charitable donations. Please sign the statement below so that MAG may claim tax relief from your gift.

I am a taxpayer and wish MAG to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 as gift aid donations until further notice.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

LEGACY GIVING, please send me a copy of MAG's legacy leaflet.
Please cut out or copy this form and send to the address below.

Alternatively call MAG's credit card hotline **0800 0723 999**



CLEARs MINES SAVES LIVES BUILDS FUTURES
Registered as a charitable company in the UK.
Charity number: 1083008.
Company number: 4016409

AZERBAIJAN – MAG moves out after Azeris nationals complete training

Almost a decade after fighting stopped in Azerbaijan, UXO and landmines still threaten life and livelihoods in many areas. Over the last eighteen months MAG has worked with Relief Azerbaijan, a national NGO, and United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, training local deminers in vital skills such as explosives disposal, survey and demarcation, site management and planning. MAG also worked with Relief Azerbaijan to develop a national training team.

With over fifty deminers and team leaders trained and the training team in place to continue the work, the project has been successfully concluded and MAG has moved out.

During the 18-month project MAG supervised all Relief

Azerbaijan operations, enabling them to answer calls for help from local people and the local authorities, clearing land for schools, roads and power lines to be reconstructed. In November, Relief Azerbaijan responded to a request for assistance from the Red Cross to clear some 40 houses of unexploded weapons. Elsewhere, a water ditch was cleared to allow access for vital repair work – opening up irrigated agricultural land for over three hundred families. MAG assisted Relief Azerbaijan in clearing and marking over 150,000 square metres of contaminated land.

MAG is proud to have been able to provide this much-needed technical assistance and wishes Relief Azerbaijan all the best in the coming months and years in its efforts to help clear Azerbaijan of landmines and unexploded bombs.

Continued from page 1

All three mortars had dangerously damaged fuses and had to be exploded on the spot. MAG staff helped form a barrier to keep people safely away while this was done.

This is not an unusual day for MAG in Angola – explosive items are reported to us almost every day.

We are grateful to New Media for Non-Profits in America for their work on the web site; Integrated Communications Systems for the loan of the satellite phone; and both The Staples Trust, The Open Society Institute Development Foundation, Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation and the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for helping us to fund the project.

You can see the whole of Sean's report on our web site:
www.mag.org.uk

Watch out for the next 'Live' project from Cambodia on the web from the 25th February to 3rd March.



The village leader indicating an unexploded grenade in the village to a MAG Community Liaison team member. Community Liaison teams work with local people to establish the scale, type and whereabouts of their mine and UXO problems.

Lumege Canjamba, Angola. 05-12-2001

Sri Lanka

Work gets under way

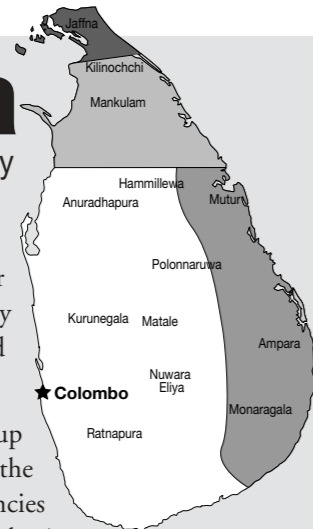
Thank you to all our supporters who donated a magnificent £22,500 to our recent Sri Lanka appeal. Particular thanks must go to the especially generous donation of £10,000 received from one donor.

Now we have the appropriate start-up funds MAG is in discussion with the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) in Sri Lanka on how best to begin establishing the Mine Action Resource Centre (MARC). A Management Committee has been formed to oversee the overall strategic direction of the MARC, with members coming from United Nations organisations and local and international NGOs.

By the time this newsletter is published a MAG Projects Manager will be deployed in Sri Lanka. He will begin to establish the MARC, to identify offices and equipment, help to recruit appropriate national staff members, and develop detailed workplans. He will also assist the CHA in presenting proposals to donors to secure necessary further funding.

The money raised by MAG supporters is vital in providing us with the ability to send the Project Advisor to Sri Lanka for an initial 3-month period. MAG is seeking further donor support to secure the future of the MARC. This body will provide a vital focal point and first step in the long process of ridding Sri Lanka of mines and UXO.

In December a general election was held in Sri Lanka, and subsequently a ceasefire announced between the Tamil Tigers, who are fighting for independence, and the Sri Lankan Government. It is hoped that this will greatly enhance the prospects for the peace process that was begun last year with Norwegian help and which had stalled after violence flared up during the middle of 2001.



Rebuilding livelihoods in OTreng, CAMBODIA

OTreng is a village in the Samlot district of Cambodia. MAG has been working in Samlot since 1999 with support notably from the Isle of Man.

Chin Chourng, 65, has been a farmer there for three years. He is married and has eight children. He moved to this area in 1998 from a village in a different district, where he says his situation was very poor. He had no land, and his income was not enough to feed his family. After moving to O Treng, Chourng still has not enough income from his farm to feed his family adequately.

MAG cleared some of Chourng's land, as well as an area for a pond and road access to it for other villagers. The pond will supply 91 families (687 people) with easy access to water for washing and drinking. World Vision, Cambodia will be constructing a road to the pond for access to villagers. Before the pond was rebuilt the nearest water source was 2 kilometers away, a round trip that would take an hour by oxcart, and longer on foot.

Chourng used to grow crops on unsafe land. He says that he felt very afraid that he or his family would step on a mine, but that they had no choice. Even now, he and his family have to go into the forest behind his house – an area he knows is dangerous – to collect fuel wood. Again, it's a risk he is willing to take for the welfare of his family. Whilst clearing the area that Chourng farms, MAG deminers found 5 anti-personnel mines and 2 items of UXO.

Now Chourng has begun to grow chillies, lemons, oranges and peanuts and has easy access to the water supply. He says that in the future, when his crops are ready for harvest, he will have enough food and money to feed his family.



The village water pond, cleared by MAG

MAG National Staff Profile

Salaam Muhammad – Technical Operations Manager – MAG northern Iraq Programme

Northern Iraq is one of the most severely mined regions in the world; with most of its border areas with Iran being extensively mined between the 1970s and the end of the Second Gulf War.

MAG estimates that 760 villages are badly affected by mines, with 220 million square metres of land suspected to be mined and consequently unused. Over ten per cent of all villages reported the presence of mines as being a major constraint on their incomes.¹

MAG recorded 932 deaths and 1,152 injuries as a result of mine and UXO accidents in 1991 alone before the project began; to date MAG's database records 6,250 people injured and 3,450 killed. What is more, these figures may considerably underestimate the true casualties, due to under-reporting.

¹ Iraqi Kurdistan Research Project Village Survey 2000.

Salaam Muhammad

Salaam's hometown is Penjwen, in Kurdistan, near the Iranian border. During the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) Kurdish villages, including Penjwen, were destroyed, as these were used as the battleground for the war. Buildings were flattened and the farm and grazing land was mined. During this time, 182,000 Kurdish civilians disappeared, never to be seen again.



Salaam Muhammad

In 1981 when Salaam was twelve years old, he and his family were forced to leave their farm and become refugees in Suleimaniyah. They did not return until 1991.

In 1987 Salaam went to Baghdad University to study an Economics and Administration degree. During this time, he was monitored by agents of the Iraqi Government and had to be very careful of what he said and did. Kurds were not free to say what they thought; if they put a step out of place, Kurds could be thrown out of university, put in jail, or even hanged.

In 1991, after the end of the Iraq/Iran war and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the north, Salaam's family returned to Penjwen. However, people in Kurdistan were not aware of the landmines; people were in mortal danger whenever they tried to plant crops, collect wood or carry out any other normal task. Casualties and accidents mounted.

Salaam joins MAG

In 1992 Salaam returned to Penjwen from university. That year MAG arrived in northern Iraq aiming to train an initial 72 deminers from amongst the Kurdish community, and Salaam was amongst the first volunteers. In August 1992 he completed a basic demining course and in April 1993 started work with other deminers to clear minefields in Penjwen.

Salaam today

Since April 2000, Salaam has been Technical Operations Manager, responsible for all technical operations in MAG's Northern Iraq programme, including technical standards and Standard Operating Procedures.

He is responsible for basic demining, survey, instructional, refresher and on-the-job training for all local operational staff. He is also a member of the Senior Management Team and the line manager of all technical and related staff.

MAG's Work in Northern Iraq

Since MAG's programme began in northern Iraq in 1992, we have achieved the following:

- 5,321,165 square meters – the equivalent of over 10,000 football pitches – of land has been cleared of mines/UXO and returned to the community safely
- 86,996 mines have been destroyed
- 423,886 items of Unexploded Ordnance destroyed
- Over 600 deminers have been successfully trained and deployed
- 107,551,867 square metres of land have been 'demarcated'. This means that although the land has not been cleared it is marked unsafe and sectioned off to prevent people straying in mined areas. Because of the instability of northern Iraq, MAG conducted the largest demarcation programme ever there in 1996, in case the programme was ever shut down quickly.

The programme has contributed to a fall in the level of casualties during the year 2000 to little more than 10 percent of those in 1991.