

Armed Violence Reduction

- MAG's global operations directly reduce the devastating effects of armed violence by removing the remnants of conflict that pose obstacles to reconstruction and development, as well as preventing the leakage of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that could be used by new groups to destabilise the peace process.
- MAG works with national governments to deal with the 'instruments' of armed violence, helping them to meet their international commitments under the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA), Geneva Declaration, and Nairobi Protocol through: the identification of stockpiles and armouries; stockpile assessment and safe storage (including Physical Security and Stockpile Management – PSSM); the destruction of surplus or obsolete weapons and ammunition; marking and tracing weapons; and training and capacity building.
- Having historically addressed the legacy of armed violence in clearing Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), MAG understands the risk factors that drive armed violence and has worked to develop preventative measures and international standards in Armed Violence Reduction (AVR) practice, through its contribution to the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms project, development of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs), publications such as the Small Arms Survey and by providing technical support to the Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA) in Nairobi.

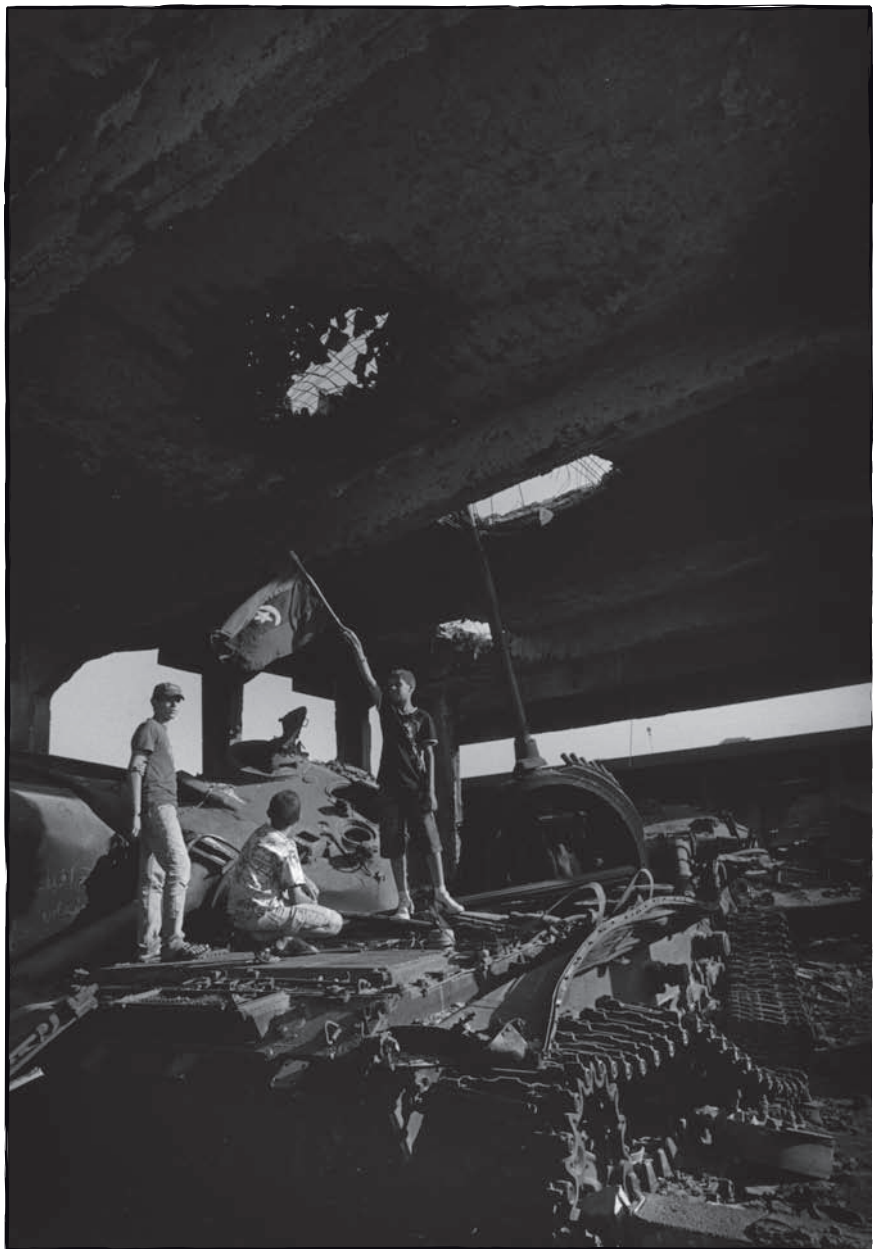
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Developing capacity

- Building national capacity is a key objective in all MAG programmes and almost 95 per cent of employees are national staff, maximising the long term development impact of our work. Improving the skillbase and broadening the experience of a country's workforce is an investment in the development of the country.
- MAG has devised recruitment policies that ensure the poorest and most vulnerable people in communities are not only beneficiaries of clearance, but also have the opportunity to be gainfully employed in the process.
- Training of staff is integral to the way MAG works, producing national demining professionals while ensuring that courses are tailored, taking into account the specific requirements of each particular country.

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Emergency response

- MAG has a track record of responding quickly and efficiently to humanitarian emergencies that arise as a result of conflict, and has often been the first on the ground once the fighting has ceased.
- MAG is recognised worldwide as an expert organisation providing comprehensive solutions that minimise casualties while supporting rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Alongside emergency clearance and Mine Risk Education (MRE) to assist the safe return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, MAG can also provide strategic planning and support to local and international authorities, drawing on its experience of working in Iraq in 2003, Lebanon in 2006, Gaza in 2009 and Libya in 2011.

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Humanitarian Mine Action

- MAG has more than 20 years experience in the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) field and is widely acknowledged as having pioneered industry standard methods designed to have the maximum positive impact on communities' stability and development.
- Using a toolbox approach that integrates the latest technologies, manual clearance, mechanical assets and Mine Detection Dog teams (as appropriate and where the terrain allows), MAG ensures that its clearance operations are effective, efficient and provide the very best value for money in terms of outputs and beneficiary impact.
- MAG's Community Liaison teams carry out crucial data gathering and information management, involving liaison with key beneficiaries that strengthens local information networks alongside other agencies and national authorities. The analysis of data from contamination surveys inform the prioritisation and implementation of clearance tasks through to the measurement of outcomes.
- Members of MAG's Mine Action Teams are trained in a variety of the following skills: demining, Explosive Ordnance Disposal*, technical survey, medical and first aid, and training and management skills. This means that teams can be split into smaller units as required focusing on identified beneficiary needs, while reducing costs, duplication of effort and response times.

** Explosive Ordnance Disposal or EOD describes the coordinated response in locating, identifying, making secure and then safely removing and destroying remnants of conflict.*

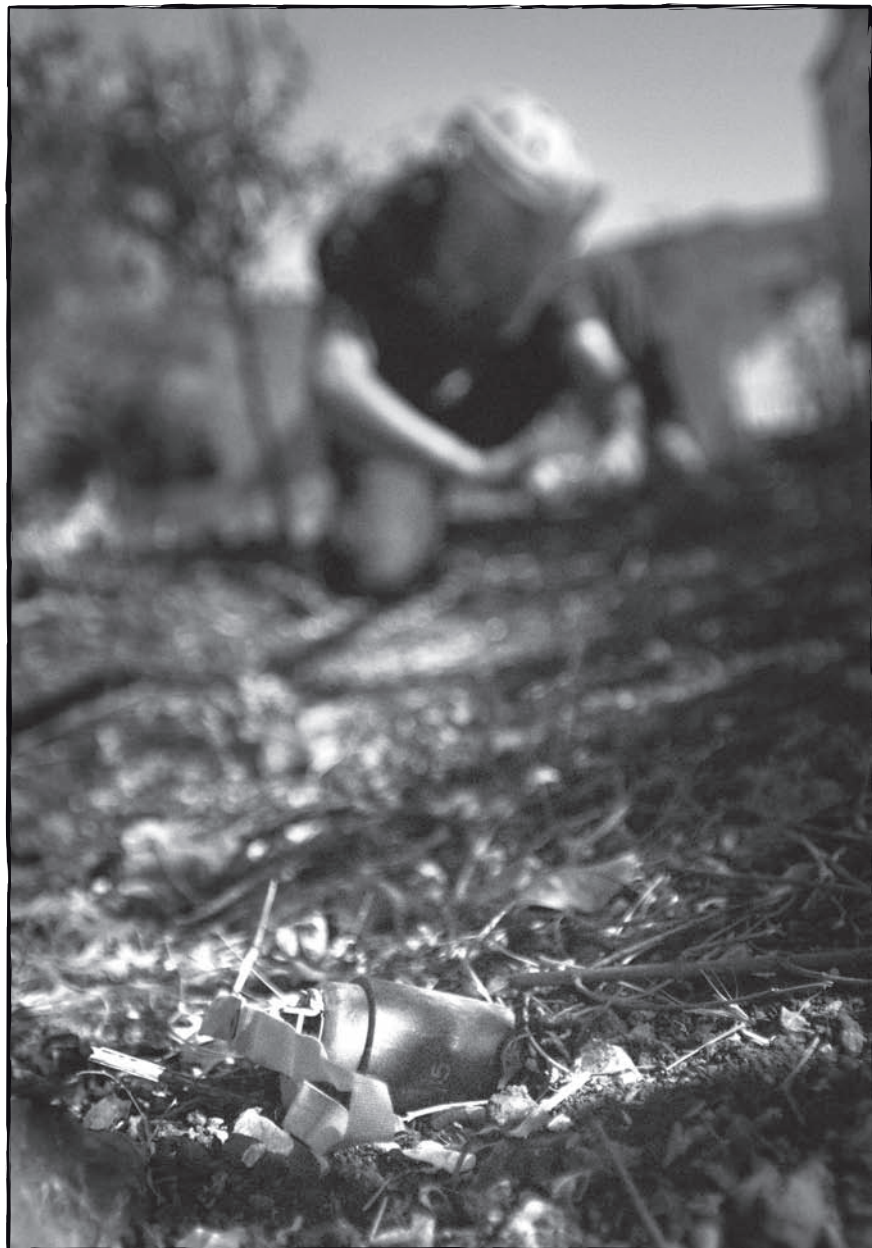
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MAG and the Millennium Development Goals

- Armed violence and remnants of conflict devastate lives. It is no coincidence that the world's 10 poorest countries are either in a state of conflict or emerging from one. By releasing land, increasing safe access to vital resources – water, education, trade and health services – and by promoting gender equality in many of these countries, MAG's work actively contributes to the Millennium Development Goals.
- MAG's operations integrate with development and human security aims, achieving results that support post-conflict recovery, reduce the availability of weapons, and minimise their transfer into unauthorised hands and across borders.
- Remnants of conflict not only cause death and injury, but also prevent access to life-saving resources, undermine development and lock people into poverty. MAG works using a 'livelihood approach', enabling communities to achieve local results that improve their chances of reaching the first Millennium Development Goal: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 50 per cent in 2015.
- MAG's approach is flexible and can be designed or modified to achieve development impact that contributes to poverty reduction and empowerment of vulnerable communities.

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Responding to the threat from cluster munitions

- MAG has been clearing cluster munitions worldwide since 1994, focusing on the most affected countries including Cambodia, Kosovo, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Sudan and Vietnam.
- Through a unique combination of Community Liaison - to prioritise operations based on humanitarian need - manual clearance and Battle Area Clearance (BAC)*. MAG has pioneered an impact-driven approach that is the benchmark for safe and efficient clearance.
- Due to our successful track record and reputation for innovation, MAG is in an ideal position to provide donors and affected countries with cost-effective solutions that will help to meet the commitments issued under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

* The systematic and controlled clearance of hazardous areas where the hazards are known not to include landmines.

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Safer communities

- Since 1989 MAG's goal has been two-fold: firstly, to make life for ordinary people living in conflict-affected areas safer by removing or reducing the threat and, secondly, to actively improve their chances of building sustainable, secure futures.
- MAG helps strengthen institutions and networks while enhancing local capacity to address safety and security within at-risk communities, by arranging meetings between key local community representatives, national authorities responsible for resettlement and international partner agencies to ensure that priority areas are cleared.
- This integrated approach ensures the most effective impact on people most in need and that this work is followed up by development agencies responding to the community's need for sustainable growth.

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Security Sector Reform

- MAG provides expertise to support initiatives that enable post-conflict societies to make the transition from a state of war to one where access to humanitarian relief is possible. Increasingly MAG has a role to play where former combatants are disarmed and reintegrated into society, rule of law and national institutions are being strengthened, human rights are understood and applied, and economic recovery can begin.
- Small Arms and Light Weapons destruction projects implemented by MAG highlight the key role that Security Sector Reform (SSR) plays in preventing countries falling back into a state of conflict.
- MAG is now in a position to actively become formally engaged at an operational level in relevant stages of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and SSR.

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Threat reduction education

- MAG's innovative approaches to threat reduction and Mine Risk Education (MRE) have set the standard in communicating tailored safety messages to at-risk communities.
- Working with and training teachers and village leaders, integrating with national curricula and using a range of materials and techniques – including TV and radio adverts and billboards where appropriate – MAG teaches safer behaviour and how to recognise the danger posed by landmines, unexploded ordnance and abandoned stockpiles of weapons and ammunition.
- Additionally, risk education serves as an entry point for MAG's Armed Violence Reduction (AVR) work, where it is used to identify civilian stockpiles of weapons.

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Weapons disposal and security

- Finding and destroying unsecured stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, to reduce the risks of unplanned explosions and the leakage of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) to armed groups for criminal activity is an integral part of many MAG programmes worldwide.
- MAG first became involved in the destruction of SALW in the mid-1990s, destroying surrendered weapons and ammunition at the end of hostilities in Angola and Cambodia.
- MAG has developed innovative SALW destruction programmes and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) initiatives in countries such as DR Congo, Rwanda, Somaliland and Burundi. Army and police authorities have been trained to safely store legitimately held stockpiles, and destroy excess and unstable caches using hydraulic shears and cutting techniques. This capacity-building approach ensures that vital knowledge remains in country after MAG's international staff have left.

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