

ISSUE ONE

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MAG ANGOLA PROGRAMME UPDATE - AUGUST 2007



MAG Angola's Road Operations Unit and one of the Mechanical Operations Unit clear the area approaching Luvuei Bridge Site which subsequently resulted in the construction of a 36 metre steel bridge



MAG Angola is proud to announce its inaugural Programme Update.

The primary aim of the publication is to provide an insight into the ongoing activities of MAG Angola and to keep stakeholders up to date with our progress in contributing to reducing the threat posed by Remnants of Conflict and to post-conflict development in Eastern Angola.

MAG Angola works in Moxico Province, the area which suffered the fiercest fighting during the 27 year conflict and the area most affected by mine and UXO contamination in Angola. MAG currently deploys six Mine Action Teams; one Road Operations Unit; two Community Liaison Teams; one Rapid Response Unit, one Impact Assessment Team; and two Mechanical Operations Units, operating five mechanical assets, in order to provide targeted clearance to affected communities.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

Clearance and verification of 212,358m² of land and road through a combination of hand, electronic and visual search techniques

Mechanical preparation of 12,068m² of contaminated land by MAG Angola's Mechanical Operations Units.

Removal and destruction of a total of 824 items including 553 small arms light weapons, 7 anti-personnel mines, 54 unexploded ordnance (UXO), 1 improvised explosive device (IED) and 209 abandoned rounds of ammunition

Completion of 128 emergency clearance tasks thus benefiting 55,552 men, women and children

10 mine risk education sessions conducted benefiting 1,371 individuals

Completion of The World Food Programme (WFP) Road and Bridge-Building Project

August saw a significant development in Eastern Angola – the completion of the WFP road and bridge building project in which MAG was a major partner. On the 25th August, a 245km stretch of major road was officially declared open by the Governor of Moxico. The clearance of the bridge sites and verification of the road marks the conclusion of MAG's role in the \$8 million project which involved a range of stakeholders and partners including local authorities, international NGOs, the UN and European Governments. As a result of MAG's ongoing work since early-2005, it is now possible, for the first time in decades, to travel safely on the main primary road running deep into the interior of Moxico Province. It is expected that socio-economic conditions and sustainable development will now dramatically improve for communities in one of the poorest parts of Africa. For more information please refer to: <http://www.mag.org.uk/news.php?p=8887&a=0>

Municipal Clearance at Alto Campo

MAG has completed its activities in one of the largest mine fields in Angola, the 5.4 million m² site around Luena Airport. Given the size of the site, the proximity to the Provincial capital and the substantial level of contamination, MAG has devoted significant resources to reducing contamination at the site and this has had a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of the surrounding communities. The result has been the manual clearance of over 85,000m². During the clearance, teams identified, removed and destroyed 567 anti-personnel mines, 7 anti-tank mines and 240 UXO. In addition to the clearance of 85,000m², MAG applied its area reduction methodology to a further 200,000 m² resulting in the land now being returned to the community.

Impact Analysis

MAG is currently piloting innovative impact assessments and conflict analysis methodologies. The aim of the Impact Assessment Team is to gauge the socio-economic impact of clearance tasks completed by MAG Angola over the past three years. The rationale is that by providing a critical eye on previous clearance activities and the associated impact, MAG is able to offer a better quality service to affected communities. Such a methodology includes the collection of the following five data sets: conflict analysis, post-clearance assessment, outcome data, gross domestic product and GIS livelihood maps. In August, MAG Angola drafted an 11-page impact assessment report on Luanga – a 59,000m² area cleared by the organisation in early 2007.

News Round-Up

- The Dutch Government has awarded MAG funding for a further four years. The funding will be used to provide a clearance capacity in remote areas and to promote sustainable development.
- MAG also received funding from Adopt-A-Minefield which will be used to purchase essential technical survey equipment enabling improved efficiency and effectiveness from the clearance teams.
- On the 26th August, MAG Angola welcomed its new Country Programme Manager, Mr Christopher Dyer. Please feel free to contact Chris at cpm@magangola.org or by phone on +244 222 354730.
- MAG Angola also promoted Mr Evaristo Cambembe to acting Community Liaison Team Manager. Evaristo has served with MAG for four years and will take over the temporary management of all Community Liaison teams. We wish both Chris and Evaristo every success in their career with MAG Angola.

For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes please contact:

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