

MAG ANGOLA PROGRAMME UPDATE APRIL – JUNE 2008



Clearance 4 de Fevereiro



Preparing for a demolition on the Bie/Huambo road outside Luena

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 April 2008 – 30 June 2008

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- Clearance of 119,874m² of land, including a 69,527m² area of road
- Mechanical preparation of 92,078m² of land
- 45 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks completed by the Rapid Response Team, destroying a total of 99 items (8 Anti-Tank mines, 17 Anti-Personnel mines, 37 Small Arms, 25 Light Weapons and 12 other UXO)
- 38 communities visited by Community Liaison (CL) teams and 51 UXO reports collected
- 18 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions conducted, reaching 837 beneficiaries
- 3 Impact Assessments completed

Impact Summary:

- Creating a more secure environment by reducing risk of death or injury and working to improve the futures of people in Moxico affected by Remnants of Conflict
- Facilitating local reconstruction by freeing up land that can be used for livelihood generation and infrastructure projects
- Contributing to economic growth and stability by creating safer environments and communities and increasing economic independence for families

Clearance Activities

Chifoio village: this was an area of intensive conflict, particularly during the last phase of the war which finished in early 2002. Most of the population fled and only returned once peace was achieved. MAG's intervention was requested by the leaders of the community because it was suspected that there were mines within the inhabited area. As people were living close to the areas where the teams were operating, special MRE activities and materials were developed while the clearance operation was underway, so the population would know how to avoid risk (particularly when deminers were working). The clearance benefited a total of 343 persons who were already living in the village and will potentially have an impact on others who, MAG has been informed, are likely to move there in the future.

Road Lumai Luio: MAG cleared 35,477 m² of this road, which is part of the main road linking Luena to the south of the province and to Zambia. This is a crucial road for the development of the Moxico province and for easier access to remote areas that for years were isolated. It is now possible to travel by road all the way to the Zambian border.

Ongoing activities: MAG is continuing to work in 4 de Fevereiro, Luxia and on the road Camanongue-Lumeje:

- **4 de Fevereiro** covers a large surface on the periphery of Luena with a high number of returnees living on and around the site
- The four suspected areas in **Luxia** are very close to the community infrastructures including a school and health centre. The clearance will directly benefit approximately 2,265 persons living in that community
- The **Road Camanongue to the Lumeje River** can be used as a secondary road from Camanongue to Luena and opens access to the river for communities in the area

Community Liaison (CL) and Mine Risk Education (MRE) Activities

MAG has been developing its **MRE** activities in partnership with a local NGO – Kalofulofu. This NGO is run by volunteers and uses music, dance and drama to convey MRE messages. Over the period of this report, specific MRE materials were prepared in anticipation of the elections, which are scheduled for September 2008. The aim of this targeted MRE was to inform populations how to reduce the risk when they have to travel to possibly unknown areas to vote.



MRE Session



Kalofulofu MRE activity using dance

As well as the prioritisation and mapping work carried out in support of the technical teams, the Community Liaison team is currently working on carrying out **Impact Assessments**, to measure the social and economic impact of MAG's clearance activities. The findings of these impact assessments are of great importance in supporting MAG's operations and future planning.

Special Events

On July 8, MAG and Luanda international School organized the **2008 Golf Day**. As well as functioning as a fundraising event in support of MAG's work in Angola, this crucially serves as an opportunity to raise awareness among the participants about the problems of landmines and other dangerous unexploded items in Angola. For more information about the event and its sponsors, please visit: www.maginternational.org/MAG/en/news/angola/

Thanks

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to the Angola programme:

- Adopt a Minefield
- Department for International Development (UK)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

For more information on MAG Angola or on any of MAG's programmes across the world please visit www.maginternational.org, or contact:

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