

## Quarterly news roundup

(Oct - Dec '09):

MAG and Lutheran World Federation, a long-standing partner in Cambodia, jointly hosted a visit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Finn Church Aid during November. The delegation visited MAG/LWF clearance and post-clearance sites in Kamrieng District, Battambang Province.

MAG is proud to announce the following overall results since operations began in 1992 (all data correct as at the end of December 2009):

- **29,340,594**m<sup>2</sup> of land cleared
- **55,117** Anti-Personnel mines destroyed
- **678** Anti-Tank mines destroyed
- **161,772** items of Unexploded Ordnance destroyed
- **60,944** households (**268,734** people) have directly benefitted
- **39%** of the land cleared is for agriculture and productive resources, **31%** is for resettlement, and **30%** is related to public services, collection of natural resources and small-medium infrastructure development

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## New funding from Belgium

Belgian government are a new donor for HMA sector in Cambodia



North-west Cambodia remains heavily contaminated. Photo: Nick Axelrod / MAG

The Federal Government of Belgium has provided 550,360 euros to MAG to fund landmine clearance in Battambang and Pailin provinces for a period of two years.

MAG will utilise this funding to deploy one manual clearance team, one Mine Detection Dog team and one vegetation clearance machine that will provide safe land to benefit the poorest and most marginalised members of communities.

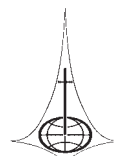
“MAG is proud to be able to bring support from a new donor to the mine action sector in Cambodia,” said Jamie Franklin, Country

Programme Manager for MAG Cambodia.

Belgium has long taken an interest in dealing with landmines and other ordnance, becoming the first country to ban anti-personnel landmines (in 1995) and also the first country to ban cluster munitions (in 2006).

“By funding landmine and UXO clearance activities in Cambodia, Belgium wishes to re-affirm that it is committed to promoting and achieving a world free of landmines and cluster munitions,” said Rudi Veestraeten, Belgian Ambassador in Bangkok.

MAG Cambodia’s work is made possible through the generous support of the following current and recent donors:



# Donor updates:

## DFID



The UK Government's Department for International Development provides programme-wide funding. During the quarter, MAG cleared a total of 548,811m<sup>2</sup> of land, benefitting 28,008 Cambodians. A total of 1,806 APMs were destroyed, along with four ATMs and 4,407 items of UXO. 46% of the land cleared is for resettlement and housing, 34% for safe use and/or access to productive resources (such as farming for rice, cassava and cash crops) and 15% is for medium/large scale infrastructure use and access (such as roads, pathways and local access routes).

## Federal Government of Belgium



In November, the Belgian Government began supporting landmine clearance in Battambang and Pailin Provinces, funding the deployment of one MAT, one MDD team and one Tempest Vegetation Clearance team. During November and December the MAT cleared 19,061m<sup>2</sup> of suspect land in Pailin Province. The team destroyed 42 Anti-Personnel mines, benefitting 17 families (comprising 91 people) who will utilise the cleared land for agriculture and the development of productive resources. The MDD team, sub-contracted from the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), cleared 48,052m<sup>2</sup> of land in Battambang. Three Anti-Personnel mines and nine items of UXO were found and destroyed, benefitting 14 households (comprising 63 people) from the target areas. Intended post-clearance land use will be for agriculture and resettlement.

## Individual donor - Hind Al Adwani

Hind Al Adwani continued to support the all-female MAT who conducted clearance activities in Malai District, Banteay Meanchey until the end of October. During the last month of the project, 5,955m<sup>2</sup> were cleared by the team and 57 AP mines were found and destroyed, providing safe land for housing and farming for 30 people from eight families.

## Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee and Manx Landmine Action



The Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee and Manx Landmine Action continued their support of an EOD team deployed in Pailin Province. During the period the team was deployed in Sala Krau and Pailin Districts and completed 143 tasks. A total of 458 UXO and 123 AP mines were found and destroyed, benefiting 547 people from 93 affected families. RRE sessions were attended by 514 adults and 359 children.

Glossary **APM:** Anti-Personnel mines **ATM:** Anti-Tank mines **CL:** Community Liaison **EOD:** Explosive Ordnance Disposal **MAT:** Mine Action Team **MDD:** Mine Detection Dogs **R&D:** Research and Development **RRE:** Risk Reduction Education **UXO:** Unexploded Ordnance

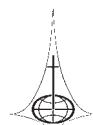
## Japanese Government



From the People of Japan

Funding from the Japanese government supported the deployment of six MATs, three CL teams and one EOD team. During October, 33,947m<sup>2</sup> were cleared by the MATs, with 17 AP mines and one item of UXO found and destroyed. This work benefitted 520 households (comprising 2,317 people). The EOD team conducted 55 tasks which resulted in the clearing of 106 AP mines and 349 items of UXO. A total of 153 households benefited from these tasks. 583 adults and 804 children attended Risk Reduction Education (RRE) sessions.

## Lutheran World Federation



Lutheran World Federation currently provides funding to support the deployment of three MATs and one CL team in Battambang Province. Between October and December, 52,451m<sup>2</sup> of land was cleared and 317 AP mines and 24 items of UXO were destroyed in Kamreang and Phnum Proek Districts. The teams were deployed within three minefield sites during this period. The land cleared is for resettlement, the construction of a school and roads, and the expansion of farming land. This project ended on the 31st December - however, continuation funding for the joint-partnership project is confirmed for 2010.

## MAG America



Following a project amendment in December, The US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA), through MAG America, funded the deployment of four MATs, two EOD teams, one MDD team, one CL team, one mechanical scrub cutting team, two Baseline Survey teams, three R&D teams, and two EOD teams in eastern Cambodia. The MATs cleared 94,899m<sup>2</sup> of land in Pailin, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey Provinces and destroyed 231 APMs and 79 items of UXO. The MDD team cleared 66,597m<sup>2</sup> of land in Banteay Meanchey and Preah Vihear, providing land for resettlement and agriculture for 21 households. Eight APMs and three items of UXO were found and destroyed by the MDD team. The EOD teams were located in Kampong Cham and Battambang Provinces, and conducted 569 tasks, benefitting 908 households. In addition, RRE sessions were conducted with 3,092 adults and 3,235 children. The CL teams conducted community tasks during the period in support of clearance activities.

## NVESD (Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate)



MAG has continued to conduct R&D Projects and Operational Field Evaluations in conjunction with the US Department of Defense's Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD). During the quarter, five R&D teams were deployed in Battambang and Pailin Provinces. The three HSTAMIDS teams cleared 81,000m<sup>2</sup> of land, finding and destroying 489 AP Mines and 22 items of UXO. These activities will directly benefit 2,946 families.

# No more classes without a classroom

A Case Study from Pursat province

**Until March 2008, Veal village school in Pursat province had no proper building - because no one dared to build one.**

There had been accidents involving both landmines and UXO in the village, and community members suspected there must be more in the ground.

The school director, Mr. Meak Hun, got on with his job as best he could, despite the lack of a school building. "Teaching was extremely difficult. I had to teach students under villager's houses," he says.

Buor Seiha, an 11-year-old student, recalls what those lessons were like.

"Each time it rained, we almost got soaked. We didn't have chairs and tables. I had to put my chalkboard on the mat and crouch over it as I wrote," he says.

One of MAG Cambodia's all-female teams came to the village July 2007. It took more than six weeks to clear the land needed for the school, work that was funded by the US Department of State. Six items of unexploded ordnance were found and destroyed.

Once the land was safe, a school was built with the support of two international non-governmental organisations, Sustainable Cambodia and Save the Children Norway. Today, about 300 students



Meak Hun teaching his students in the new school. Mine Risk Education posters decorate the walls.  
Photo: Nicolas Axelrod / MAG

attend the school, a vast increase.

"The number of students [before the school was built] was only around 30 to 40, as the learning environment was not good. Students faced a lot of hardship. Many students went fishing, cutting wood or picking bamboo shoots instead of coming to classes," says Meak Hun.

The local authorities and parents now cooperate to make sure that all children are now sent to school.

Phan Hoeurm says she is happy that she has the opportunity to study in a proper classroom. "Now we have a good school," she says.

## Facts and figures

Programme statistics,  
October - December 2009

Square metres cleared	548,811m <sup>2</sup>
Villages where clearance took place	17
Anti-personnel mines destroyed	1806
Anti-tank mines destroyed	4
UXO destroyed	4407
Number of direct beneficiaries	14,798