

MAG ANGOLA PROGRAMME UPDATE JANUARY – MARCH 2009



Road Operations Unit deminer removing an AT mine (no. 8 type) in Leua – Chafinda March 09

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 January to 31 March 2009

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- Clearance of 323,061 m² of land, and 828,057 m² of road
- Mechanical preparation of 104,204 m² of land
- 101 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) spot tasks completed by the Rapid Response Team, destroying 322 items (4 AT mines, 84 AP mines, 63 items of Small Arms Ammunition, 166 Light Weapons and 5 other items of Unexploded Ordnance - UXO)
- 124 communities visited by Community Liaison (CL) teams and 81 UXO reports collected
- 79 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions conducted, reaching 4,025 beneficiaries
- 6 Impact Assessments completed

Impact Summary:

- Creating a safer and more secure environment by reducing risk of death or injury and working to improve the daily lives of the people in Moxico affected by the Remnants of Conflict.
- Facilitating local reconstruction by clearing land and opening access routes, therefore contributing to livelihood regeneration and infrastructure projects.
- Contributing to economic growth and stability by creating safer environments and improving economic opportunities for communities.

Clearance Activities

Luxia: During the first quarter of 2009, MAG cleared 232,171 m² of land in Luxia, removing 13 AP mines, and 9 UXO. This task started in June 2008 and it is expected to be concluded at the end of April 2009.

4 de Fevereiro: MAG started clearance in the 4 de Fevereiro minefield in May 2008 and expects to conclude part of this task at the end of April 2009. Between January and March 2009 MAG cleared 89,798 m² of land and removed 5 UXO.

Musseringinge: Responding to a request from UNICEF, MAG cleared 1,092m² and removed 1 AT mine and 4 UXO in the village of Musseringinge, north of Luena, on the road north to Camanongue. The objective of this activity was to enable UNICEF to rebuild a water tank in the community. Once the tank is working it will benefit 1,250 people living in this area.



Clearance in Musseringinge village Feb. 09
photo Abel Tesfai



CL officer & community member, Camanongue, Feb 09

Roads in Chafinda: In January and February 2009, MAG completed the clearance of 3 roads in the Chafinda sector of Lucusse commune, south of Luena. In total MAG cleared 80 km. Clearance was done by the Road Operations Unit (ROU) and by one of the Mechanical Operations Units (MOU). MAG removed 5 AP mines, 1 AT mine and 1 item of UXO. These 3 roads benefit 6 communities, totaling 1,887 people, linking them to the main road Luena – Lucusse – Lumbala Nguimbo and greatly improving their access to basic services.

Community Liaison (CL) Activities

Pre-clearance Assessment and Prioritization:

From January to March the CL teams visited 124 communities to conduct pre-clearance assessments. The information gathered was used for the MAG Angola prioritization process to decide in which communities MAG was going to begin clearance activities. For the prioritization process MAG used elements such as: proximity of the suspected hazardous areas (SHA) to the community; the existence of alternatives to the Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA); community needs and the proposed future use of the land; the number of residents and the potential beneficiaries; Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) classification of the area proposed for clearance (high, medium or low impact), and logistical issues. MAG uses this process to select areas where clearance work will have the greatest impact for communities.

Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB):

MAG started to implement a KAPB (Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour) survey in January 2009. The KAPB survey is intended to assess changes in people's behaviour after Mine Risk Education (MRE) has been delivered and to establish whether people are practicing the safe behaviours which were communicated in MRE sessions with communities. It is also to establish what people's attitudes to mines and UXO are. The results of the analysis of KAPB survey will feed into MAG's MRE activities and will inform who the main targets should be and the materials and messages that should be used to ensure that all sections of the community, especially those most vulnerable, are aware of the dangers that exist and are reducing risk behaviour. Between January and March MAG conducted 18 KAPB surveys in communities in Moxico.

MAG would like to formally thank the following current donors to the Angola programme:

- Chevron Oil – Angola
- Department for International Development (UK)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

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Nicky Asfaw (Regional Desk Officer)
e-mail: Nicky.Asfaw@maginternational.org
MAG, 68 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3NJ, UK
Tel: +44 161 236 4311

Sabrina Brett (Angola Programme Officer)
email: po@magangola.org
MAG Angola Luena Base
Tel: +244 92 426 2745