

## MAG ANGOLA PROGRAMME UPDATE JULY – SEPTEMBER 2008



*Rapid response team leader verifying a RPG 7 for removal in Lucusse*



*MAT 3 Team Leader in Luxia with community school in the background*

### SUMMARY

**Reporting Period:** 01 July – 30 September 2008

#### Activities & Outputs Summary:

- Clearance of 154,507m<sup>2</sup> of land, including a 78,855m<sup>2</sup> area of road
- Mechanical preparation of 54,622m<sup>2</sup> of land.
- 118 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks completed by the Rapid Response Team, destroying a total of 730 items, (2 Anti-Tank mines, 20 Anti-Personnel mines, 614 items of Small Arms Ammunition and 94 other UXO).
- 154 communities visited by Community Liaison (CL) teams and 113 UXO reports collected
- 98 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions conducted, reaching 3,581 beneficiaries
- 4 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

**Camanongue–Lumeje Road:** The clearance of the road from Camanongue to Lumeje was completed in September. The road can now be used as an alternative route for travel between Camanongue and Luena in place of the main road which is in very bad condition. Furthermore, it provides access to Camanogues and Luena, as well as to other villages such as Luxia and Luangrico, for the communities working and living in the area. The Road Operations Unit will deploy to Leua municipality in October and to Lucusse from November.

**Ongoing activities:** MAG has continued to work in the 4 de Fevereiro and Luxia areas on tasks which were started in May and June respectively:

- 4 de Fevereiro covers a large area 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 people living in that community

**Ground preparation:** In August, MAG moved the mechanical means belonging to the Mechanical Operations Unit away from route clearance and verification activities to carry out ground preparation in the 4 de Fevereiro area. This enabled the subsequent use of different clearance methods (including large loop detectors), and was an important contributor to a large increase in productivity on this task. The technical teams were also successful in significantly reducing suspect areas by using a risk matrix tool combined with in-depth discussions with local people; in this way it was possible to establish with more certainty the borders of contaminated areas.

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

### **'Vote in Safety' Campaign**

MAG Angola launched a special 'Vote in Safety' campaign in Moxico in order to minimise mine accidents before the country's elections in September, the first since the civil war ended. Community Liaison (CL) teams visited the communities that housed Polling Stations, and held meetings in which they discussed safe voting behaviour and provided Mine Risk Education.

People living in communities without Polling Stations were also visited, and were advised to stay on paths during their journeys to vote, and not to stand in dangerous areas should they have to queue; pictures were developed specifically for the occasion, depicting a man holding a voting card and walking on a path in between mine signs.



*Vote in Safety campaign*



*CL team leader taking measurements of an SHA*

### **Area Reduction**

Based on training given on mapping software in early July, and the use of new technical equipment such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Laser Range finders, the CL teams are developing new maps and more precise measurements of suspected areas identified by the Landmine Impact Survey. The accurate mapping and recording of the physical boundaries of Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) is of huge significance as it provides MAG with a far more accurate picture of mine contaminated areas than was available using previous LIS data. As a consequence the prioritisation process is strengthened, ensuring local communities gain the maximum impact of the clearance work MAG subsequently undertakes.

---

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

- 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 this or any of MAG's programmes across the world please visit [www.maginternational.org](http://www.maginternational.org), or contact:**

Nicky Asfaw (Regional Desk Officer)  
MAG, 47 Newton Street, Manchester, M1 1FT, UK

e-mail: [Nicky.Asfaw@maginternational.org](mailto:Nicky.Asfaw@maginternational.org)  
Tel: +44 161 236 4311 Fax: +44 161 236 6244