

## MAG ANGOLA PROGRAMME UPDATE OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2008



*Luxia clearance July 2008*



*Luxia: people farming newly cleared land,  
January 2009*

### SUMMARY

**Reporting Period:** 01 October to 31 December 2008

#### Activities & Outputs Summary:

- Clearance of 234,286 m<sup>2</sup> of land, including 39,935m<sup>2</sup> of road
- Mechanical preparation of 93,650 m<sup>2</sup> of land
- 120 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks, completed by the Rapid Response Team, destroying 556 items (3 AT mines, 46 AP mines, 263 items of Small Arms Ammunition, 228 Light Weapons and 16 other UXO).
- 74 communities visited by Community Liaison (CL) teams and 116 UXO reports collected
- 64 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions conducted, reaching 2,634 beneficiaries.
- 11 Impact assessments completed

#### Impact Summary:

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

### Clearance Activities

**Luxia:** MAG completed the clearance of 3 out of 4 suspected areas in Luxia and the two teams involved in this task are now working in the remaining area. For this clearance operation MAG used manual clearance, supported by mechanical assets (for ground preparation), as well as the risk matrix technique<sup>1</sup>. The clearance operations in Luxia directly benefit the 1,540 people living in this community as well as the population from neighbouring communities who use its infrastructure (a school and a health post). With the conclusion of the clearance in the 3 areas, the population has started to build houses and undertake farming activities in the three former contaminated areas.

<sup>1</sup> The risk matrix is a tool that uses a series of analytical elements organised in a matrix to sign off previously suspected land. For example if land has been used for agriculture for a certain number years without incident, after analysis it can be signed off.

**4 de Fevereiro:** The clearance operation in 4 de Fevereiro continues. Between beginning the operation in May and operations standing down in December 2008, MAG cleared a total of 177,691m<sup>2</sup> in this area of which 110,682 m<sup>2</sup> were cleared during this reporting period.

**Sandando - Sacutoha Road:** MAG completed the clearance of this 3km length of road during the month of October 2008, opening a shorter route between the two villages and enabling children from Sacutoha to attend school in Sandando. It directly benefits 2,500 people living in the two villages.

*Right: the Road Operations Unit working on the Sandando – Sacutoha road*



## **Community Liaison (CL) Activities**

### **Prioritization:**

During 2008 MAG established a modified systematic process enabling the prioritization of future interventions in order to result in the highest humanitarian benefit. During this reporting period, MAG visited and assessed 122 communities, identifying them as high, medium or low priority.

### **Area Reduction:**

MAG has eliminated a total of 28,027,863 m<sup>2</sup> of suspected area in 27 communities in Moxico Province. This was done by the Community Liaison teams repeating surveys of Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) indicated in the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) using new and more precise mapping techniques. In the process, 43 SHAs that originally had a total area of 32,967,800 m<sup>2</sup> in the LIS were reduced to 4,939,937 m<sup>2</sup>. At the same time, 18 areas which were regarded as SHAs by the LIS were cancelled because they were no longer considered 'suspect' by the communities. Before a specific SHA is cancelled, relevant and formally agreed factors are considered, such as whether the land has been in use for long periods (e.g. over 2 years for construction (with excavation), or 3 years for agriculture), without mine incident. Subsequently the community leaders complete a cancellation form, in order to confirm that they are happy that the land no longer be considered suspect. In November 2008, MAG submitted to CNIDAH (the Mine Action Authority in Angola) the operational report of the Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA) in Moxico surveyed for area reduction, enabling the IMSMA database to be updated.



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