



Training with the National Institute for Demining



Chief Rogério António Suco, MAG TOM JP Botha, US Ambassador Dan Mozena and CNIDAH Representative Chile Manuel Chicanha

Reporting period: April 1st 2010 to June 30th 2010

Summary of outputs:

- Clearance of 89,601 m² of land for resettlement of returnees from the DRC and Zambia
- Clearance and verification of 30km of road
- 220 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) spot tasks completed by the Rapid Response Team (RRT), destroying 467 items (10 AT mines, 18 AP mines, 393 items of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and 46 other items of Unexploded Ordnance - UXO)
- 225 community visits by Community Liaison (CL) teams and 201 UXO reports collected
- 88 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions conducted, reaching 4,783 beneficiaries

Impact:

- 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 Remnants of Conflict.
- Contributing to economic growth and stability by creating safer environments and improving economic opportunities for communities

Contributing to conflict recovery and development in Moxico

MAG Angola has concluded its section of the task in the neighbourhood of Sinai Novo. This task was selected to support the development plans of the Ministry of Urbanisation and Rehabilitation and was being implemented in conjunction with Danish Church Aid (DCA), the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and the National Institute for Demining (INAD) to clear and verify land for the construction of 2,000 houses, which will potentially benefit 10,000 people. Work is continuing on the task in 4 De Fevereiro, where MAG is clearing land for the resettlement of returnees from the DRC and Zambia.

The Road Operations Unit is now working on a road task between Chaila and Chivunda, at the request of the municipal administration in Leua. After an accident in 1982, the road was thought to be mined and so it has not been used by vehicles since that time. Opening this road will increase access to the communities for administrators, and will promote agricultural projects in the area. Communities will also benefit from improved access to markets, and to social services in the municipal capital, such as health and education.

Training and Capacity Building

In May, MAG delivered training to INAD in the use of mapping software and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). MAG Angola's GIS officer, Mupepe Mahina, delivered the training on the MapSource software programme, the use of Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) and gave an introduction to the use of GIS in mine action. This training was extremely useful and practical as maps must be produced for official reports submitted to the national mine action authority. According to Country Programme Manager, Danny Kavanagh, "building the capacity of national mine actors is an essential component of our overall demining operations and strategy in Angola. It is vital that we ensure we pass on our corporate knowledge, skills and experience to national organisations and empower them".

Donor visits to the Programme

On April 30th MAG hosted the US Ambassador, his wife and 4 other embassy staff, who visited MAG's work in action. Speaking of his visit, the Ambassador said "My visit to Moxico and, most especially, to the MAG work site outside Luena was a powerful moment for me. There is something so deeply moving about seeing farmers tilling land that once was untouchable, about seeing children playing in an area where mines had earlier been removed, about watching villagers traversing areas that had once been no-go areas. MAG's wondrous legacy in Moxico is everywhere to see as local people resume lives that fear of land mines had until recently made impossible. As the representative of the United States in Angola, I was proud that American taxpayers were helping make possible the fine work that MAG is doing to make Angola, once one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, free from land mines."

On the 17th and 18th of May, MAG Angola also hosted Machteld Cattryse, Policy Officer, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Angola. While in Luena, Machteld visited MAG tasks and spent some time observing the Community Liaison team delivering Mine Risk Education in Alto Luena. Three items of UXO were reported while on the visit, demonstrating that the remnants of conflict are still widely scattered throughout the province. Machteld commented "During my field visit in Luena, MAG demonstrated that its work has a direct impact on its beneficiaries: the local communities of Moxico, living in either urban or rural areas. Through the demining of the region and the assistance given to the local government and communities, MAG helps to clear the way to development."

New Technology Deployment in MAG Angola

The assessment mission for the deployment of the Hand Held Stand Off Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) took place in May. Two members of the MAG HSTAMIDS team and Roger Cresci and Phil Straw from the US Department of Defense Night Vision Electronic Sensors Department (NVESD) visited the programme to test the detector. These detectors employ a dual sensor technology and are able to differentiate mines and UXO from general clutter in the ground, and therefore increase the pace of clearance. They could also be particularly effective in detecting mines with minimum metal which are commonly found in Moxico. As testing was successful, training for national HSTAMIDS operators and deployment of the new technology will go ahead in the next quarter.

Golf day

The annual MAG Annual Golf Day has now been rescheduled for August. Sponsors are currently being contacted and if you, or a company that you know, is interested in sponsoring this event and contributing to MAG's life saving work in Moxico, please contact us at the details given below.

MAG would like to formally express its gratitude to 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
- Unicorn Grocery

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