



*The Road Operations Unit (ROU) in operation on the Road to Cassamba*



*Conducting MRE with the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA)*

**Reporting period: January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010**

**Summary of outputs:**

- Clearance of 186,834 m<sup>2</sup> of land for 1,656 beneficiaries
- Clearance and verification of 45km of road
- 239 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) spot tasks completed by the Rapid Response Team (RRT), destroying 831 items ( 6 AT mines, 46 AP mines, 715 items of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and 64 other items of Unexploded Ordnance - UXO)
- 175 communities visited by Community Liaison (CL) teams and 155 UXO reports collected
- 77 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions conducted, reaching 3,863 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 is continuing to support the development priorities of the provincial authorities in Moxico and has been clearing and verifying land in two main task areas in Luena. In 4 De Fevereiro, a block of 165,649m<sup>2</sup> has been released for the resettlement of returnees from other parts of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. This land is already being used by beneficiaries for housing, cultivation, household needs and livelihood opportunities. Work is continuing on the joint task in Sinai Novo (conducted 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. These houses are being constructed as part of the Ministry of Urbanisation and Rehabilitation's plans to build a million houses across Angola.

The Road Operations Unit has recently completed the verification and clearance of a 92km stretch of road, opening access to Cangamba, which is the administrative capital of one of the most isolated and war affected municipalities in the province. MAG's work has improved safe access to markets and essential services such as health and education for the three communities located on this route and for those travelling to and from the municipality, and rehabilitation of the road can now also go ahead.

### **Mine Risk Education (MRE) with military and police forces**

During this quarter MAG Angola delivered Mine Risk Education to military and police personnel stationed throughout Moxico Province. MAG received the request from the military

authorities in Luanda and the National Intersectoral Commission for Humanitarian Assistance and Demining (CNIDAH). Although the police and military often work in mine contaminated areas, some personnel are not aware of the dangers of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), nor of the appropriate actions to take when working in minefields or when mines and ERW are discovered. MAG's Community Liaison teams visited four municipalities - Luena, Luau, Luacano and Alto Zambeze - to deliver MRE to 668 members of the military and police forces. One of the participants, Antonio Rose Domingos, said "We appreciate the training that MAG delivered to the military and the police. Some of our staff didn't know how to avoid the risk [of mines]. We hope that in the future we can work with MAG and that they can give us technical support in MRE and other areas". These MRE sessions have proved to be highly successful and more are likely to be carried out in the future, strengthening the relationship between MAG and FAA and reducing risk for the military forces.

### **New Developments in Technology**

MAG Angola is committed to the continuous improvement of safety and productivity in its programme and to introducing new technologies which will contribute to achieving this. This quarter, MAG Angola's Technical Field Manager, Mark Manning, attended training in the use of a new detector, the Hand Held Stand Off Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS). For two years, MAG has been working closely with the US Department of Defense Night Vision Electronic Sensors Department (NVESD) to conduct Operational Field Evaluations of HSTAMIDS. These detectors operate with advanced 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 be particularly effective in detecting the minimum metal mines which are commonly found in Moxico, where MAG is operating. Field assessment of sites for the deployment of HSTAMIDS will take place in the next quarter.

### **Golf day postponed**

This year the annual Luanda International School and MAG golf day has been postponed until later in the year. Last year the tournament succeeded in raising \$21,350 for spare parts for machines which are used to prepare ground before manual clearance, to cut grass and vegetation, and to detect trip wires. These machines are essential to MAG's work and contribute greatly to increasing productivity. Sponsors and attendees will be informed when the new dates for the 2010 golf day have been confirmed.

### **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
- Unicorn Grocery
- United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

**For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes, please visit [www.maginternational.org](http://www.maginternational.org), or contact:**

Becky Letven  
(Regional Desk Officer)  
e-mail: [Rebecca.Letven@maginternational.org](mailto:Rebecca.Letven@maginternational.org)  
MAG, 68 Sackville Street, Manchester,  
M1 3NJ, UK  
Tel: +44 161 236 4311

Sabrina Brett  
(Angola Programme Officer)  
email: [po@magangola.org](mailto:po@magangola.org)  
MAG Angola Luena Base  
Moxico, Angola  
Mobile phone: +244 929440301

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