

## Operational Overview

All of MAG's teams are multi-functional and highly mobile, and remain flexible in order to tackle a range of different tasks while working in communities.

### Improving community safety, security and wellbeing

By raising community awareness about the risks and dangers through Mine Risk Education (MRE) and by removing the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), MAG's work increases the quality of life in communities by creating a more stable, safe and productive environment.

### Reducing the provincial and national contamination levels

By assessing and prioritising areas that are needed by communities and local authorities, MAG is improving the knowledge of mine contamination in the province and contributing to the reduction of national contamination levels.

### Supporting the development of sustainable livelihoods

The presence of landmines and UXO limits the land available for economic use, such as agricultural production, and restricts access to natural resources for household needs. Blocked roads restrict freedom of movement and access to services such as health and education. By removing these obstacles through clearance, MAG enables vital land to be used and improves safe access to roads, all of which contributes to improving livelihoods.

### Supporting other NGOs and government agencies

MAG has partnered with Africare to assist with the improvement of agricultural development. Our work supports other NGOs and government agencies by providing safe land for humanitarian and development activity.



## Impact and Key Achievements

The impact of MAG Angola's work can be seen in the following key achievements:

- Improved access to land for the resettlement of returnees and the development of housing and agriculture.
- Completed clearance in the bairro of 4 De Fevereiro enabling 10,000 people to live in safety.
- Facilitated the continuation of UNICEF water, sanitation and health projects in Musseringibe by ensuring that the areas are safe.
- MAG ROU team cleared 106 km of road between Cangamba and Moyo increasing access for 12 communities and 11,300 direct beneficiaries.
- MAG RRT cleared a safe perimeter around the school in Chafinda where mines were located as near as six metres from school entrance which enables 300 students to have safe access to education.
- Improved access to local authorities and services such as health and education through road clearance and verification.
- Created safe access to water in Luangrico and assisted in the excavation of a water canal.

**In the last three years, MAG Angola has cleared more than 2.7 million m<sup>2</sup> of land and delivered nearly 900 MRE sessions benefiting in excess of 80,000 individuals while destroying almost 15,000 hazardous items**

- Facilitated the construction of a new bridge and road projects in one of the most isolated areas in Moxico.
- Implemented new Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) technology involving training 16 national staff members, which will increase efficiency and maximise programme outputs.

### Future plans

MAG Angola will look to develop new integrate partnerships with various NGOs that deliver services to communities

such as agricultural training, water/sanitation and infrastructure development. Additionally MAG seeks to develop new programmes in the areas of national capacity building, Armed Violence Reduction and to further the Mine Risk Awareness outreach programmes. The programme will also look to increase gender equality and women's empowerment through the hiring of more women including CL and demining staff. The programme will continue to seek funding to maintain our current level of operations and also for further RRTs.

## Improving Access to Education

The school in Luzi, a landmine-contaminated community of 1,700 people in Moxico Province, has been closed since early 2010 when a mine accident was reported nearby.

MAG has worked to ensure the remaining funds could be secured, and assisted with logistical support and the transportation of building materials from the nearest big town, Luena.

One of the teachers has been giving classes outside his home in the meantime, but attendance has dropped by almost 70 per cent.

One mother told a MAG Angola Community Liaison team: "There is no school. I need my daughter here to work and, if we do not have a proper school for her to learn in, why should my family suffer without her help at home?"

Recognising the importance of ensuring safe access to education, part of our clearance of 248,000m<sup>2</sup> of land includes an area for a new school to be built.

The community was eager to start building the new school but, while they managed to collect a portion of the materials required, lacked the financial resources to complete the project.

There are four Suspected Hazardous Areas in Luzi. As well as posing the threat of death or injury, the presence of landmines and UXO (or their suspected presence) means that land cannot be used for housing or crucial money-generating activities such as farming, producing honey, and collecting firewood and charcoal.

Once the 248,000m<sup>2</sup> of land is cleared, houses can be built and people will be able to live and farm safely.

This will benefit the existing community, people who move onto the newly safe land and those who are living in surrounding communities who pass through the area to access water and firewood, and for other purposes such as hunting and fishing. It will also help reduce overcrowding – which can lead to environmental deterioration and conflict over resources such as water – in safe areas.

"There are more than 400 registered students in this area," the head of the community told us. "More people keep coming to Luzi because it is safer now, so we must find a way to give these people what they need. I want to do this, but I wasn't able to without the support of MAG and their partners. I consider MAG staff part of this community".

MAG will conduct an MRE teacher training project in the new premises, whereby teachers will learn how to deliver safety messages to community members, and children in particular, in order to reduce the risk of mine-related accidents.





## At a glance...

After more than 27 years of civil war, Angola is one of the most mine affected countries in the world. According to the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) in 2007 the most impacted province is Moxico.

MAG began operations in 1994 and currently deploys

- four Mine Action Teams (MATs);
- one Road Operations Unit (ROU);
- two Mechanical Operations Units (MOUs);
- two Rapid Response Teams (RRTs); and
- two Community Liaison (CL) teams.

MAG works with the national mine action authorities (CNIDAH) to select tasks that are impact-focused and in line with the development priorities of the provincial government.



### List of abbreviations

**CL** - Community Liaison. **CNIDAH** - Angolan mine action authorities. **HSTAMIDS** - Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System. **LIS** - Landmine Impact Survey. **MAT** - Mine Action Team. **MOU** - Mechanical Operations Unit. **MRE** - Mine Risk Education. **NGO** - Non-Governmental Organisation. **ROU** - Road Operations Unit. **RRT** - Rapid Response Team. **UXO** - Unexploded ordnance.

MAG (Mines Advisory Group) is a not-for-profit humanitarian organisation, whose global operations directly reduce the devastating effects of armed violence and remnants of conflict. For more than two decades MAG has been removing deadly obstacles to reconstruction, peace and security in some of the world's poorest communities, saving lives and paving the way for safer futures.

MAG has worked in around 35 countries since 1989 and at present has operations in Angola, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Vietnam.

Further information on MAG's work in Angola can be found at:

[www.maginternational.org/angola](http://www.maginternational.org/angola)



# Angola

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