



MAG deminer undertaking clearance operations in Sulimaniyah governorate



MAG MAT deploying to a minefield in Diyala governorate

Reporting period: 01 – 31 August 2010

Summary of outputs:

- MAG teams **released 303,874 m²** of land through a combination of electronic, hand mechanical, MDD clearance and area reduction
- MAG teams **removed and destroyed 206** hazardous items
- CWD response teams **completed 235 tasks** to **safely remove and destroy 10,410** Conventional Weapons (CW)
- MAG and national partner NGO's CL teams **conducted 128 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions** targeting **1,268 beneficiaries** and **11 Small Arms and Light Weapons Risk Education (SALWRE) session** targeting **537 individuals**

In August, MAG Iraq handed over five cleared lands in Kirkuk governorate to the local communities and the landowners. Handover ceremonies were held in Qarahanjir sub-district in coordination with the General Directorate of Mine Affairs (GDMA) and the attendance of the mayor of Qarahanjir.

MAG Iraq Mine Action Teams (MAT) completed clearance operations in four prioritized clearance tasks in Dohuk, Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk governorates directly benefiting more than 900 individuals and supporting village rehabilitation, agricultural and socio-economic development in the region.

Coordination meetings were held with both regional Mine Action authorities, the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) and the General Directorate of Mine Affairs (GDMA). Activities, plans and priorities were the main points of the meetings agenda. Arrangements for handing over of the cleared lands to the local communities were also discussed during the meetings.

16 MATs deploying from the programme's 3 operations bases in Sulimaniyah, Chamchamal and Dohuk continued clearance operations in 11 clearance tasks that, when completed, will support agricultural and socio-economic development and conflict recovery. MATs were deployed to 5 prioritized clearance sites in Ninewa (Mosul), Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk. Clearance sites were prioritized through the community assessment survey conducted by MAG Community Liaison (CL) teams. MATs identified 3 new areas of contaminated land through demarcation in Khanaqin sub-district of Diyala, Qaradakh sub-district of Sulimaniyah and Qarahanjir sub-district of Kirkuk.

11 Community Liaison (CL) teams continued to deploy on daily basis to deliver MRE and SALW RE, and conduct training of trainers for community leaders and teachers, primary school follow up visits, leaflet distribution, and identifying and reporting unguarded stockpiles of CW. Teams visited 243 different villages in Kirkuk, Sulimaniyah, Diyala, Dohuk and Ninewa (Mosul) governorates. CL teams continued to liaise with land owners and local authorities to secure their approval for clearance activities.

CL staff in Sulimaniyah conducted capacity building training sessions in MRE delivery to 37 Religious leaders in Sulimaniyah and Diyala governorate. CL staff in Dohuk conducted primary school follow up

visits to the teachers trained in June and July 2010. The follow up visits helps identifying further training needs. MRE materials were distributed during the follow up visits.

Local partner NGOs (Al Ghad) and (Work for Peace) CL staff conducted primary school follow ups to identify further training needs for the teachers trained in June and July 2010 during the Ministry of Education (MoE) annual teachers training. MRE materials including posters, leaflets and booklets were distributed during the follow up visits.

MAG's Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) teams deployed to 84 different villages completing 235 emergency tasks to safely remove and destroy 10,410 CW. Highlights included the removal and safe destruction of 3,112 hazardous items in Sharbazher area of Sulimaniyah and the safe removal and destruction of 10 CW stockpiles of 3,260 hazardous items in Chamchamal area of Sulimaniyah. Items were posing significant threat to the local communities and picnickers visiting the area.

MAG's 2 mechanical teams and 2 manual support teams worked in 5 prioritized minefields in Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk governorates to support MATs in achieving operational efficiency. This month, mechanical and support teams deployed 9 different mechanical assets and attachments.

Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) and manual support teams continued their activities in 7 prioritized minefields in Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk governorate undertaking clearance operations in low and medium risk areas of the minefields supporting MATs in achieving operations' efficiency and quality.

The programmes' Training, Monitoring and Evaluation unit (TMEU) is preparing for the Basic Demining Course (BDC) to take place at MAG's operation base in Chamchamal in the beginning of October 2010.

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



- Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State
- The US Army Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands
- Government of Belgium
- SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- German Government
- Irish Aid
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Marshall Legacy Institute

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