



Farmer from Sulimaniyah working in her land after it has been cleared by MAG in 1993



Farmers from Kirkuk plowing their land after it has been cleared by MAG in 2010

Reporting period: 01 – 31 December 2010

Summary of outputs:

- MAG teams **released 586,199 m²** of land through a combination of electronic, hand mechanical, MDD clearance and area reduction
- MAG teams **removed and destroyed 1,001** hazardous items
- CWD response teams **completed 203 tasks** to **safely remove and destroy 4,629** Conventional Weapons (CW)
- MAG and national partner NGO's CL teams **conducted 278 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions** targeting **3,728 beneficiaries** and **5 Small Arms and Light Weapons Risk Education (SALWRE) session** targeting **52 individuals**

MAG Iraq handed over nine cleared minefields to local communities in Kirkuk governorate. The handover ceremonies took place in Laylan sub-district with attendance of GDMA representatives, members of local communities, representatives from the local authorities, mayors of Qarahanjir, Layla and Perde sub-districts as well as MAG Iraq representatives.

MAG Iraq MATs completed clearance operations in six prioritized clearance tasks in Ninewa (Mosul) and Kirkuk governorates directly benefiting more than 1,700 individuals and supporting village rehabilitation, agricultural and socio-economic development in the region. In Kherava village of Ninewa (Mosul) governorate, MAG MATs cleared one cluster-munition contaminated area releasing land to be used by local farmers and shepherds for farming and grazing. In Qarahanjir sub-district of Kirkuk governorate, MAG MATs cleared two minefields releasing land to be used by local communities for farming wheat and barley.

MAG MATs deployed to demarcate one newly identified minefields in Sulimaniyah governorate. In total, 55,590 m² of suspected hazardous land was demarcated to IMAS¹.

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. Meetings were held to discuss the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays' close down, the annual refresher training in January 2011 and the resuming of operations in mid-January 2011.

The programme closed down and suspended all operations for two weeks during Christmas and New Year's holidays. All operations will be resumed after the annual refresher training in January 2011.

17 MATs deploying from the programme's 3 operations bases in Sulimaniyah, Chamchamal and Dohuk continued clearance operations in different clearance tasks that, when completed, will support agricultural development, IDP resettlement and conflict recovery.

¹ International Mine Action Standards

11 Community Liaison (CL) teams continued to deploy on daily basis to deliver MRE and SALW RE, 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 116 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 and Dohuk delivered SALW RE to 26 shepherds and students to minimize the risk of SALW on their lives.

Local partner NGOs, Al Ghad and Work for Peace CL staff delivered 58 MRE sessions to 659 individuals from 14 different villages of Kirkuk and Diyala governorates. Teams were deployed to gather information and collect data in 3 dangerous areas in Diyala governorate. Teams continued conducting Community Assessment Survey in 2 villages of Kirkuk governorate.

MAG's Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) teams deployed to 39 different villages completing 73 emergency tasks to safely remove and destroy 6,955 CW. Highlights included the removal and safe destruction of 6 stockpiles of 3,857 hazardous items in 3 villages of Chwarta area of Sulimaniyah and the safe removal and destruction of 6 CW stockpiles of 2,201 hazardous items in Qarahanjir sub-district of Kirkuk. These items were posing significant threat to the local communities.

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.

Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) and manual support teams continued their activities in 2 prioritized minefields in 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) started preparing for the upcoming annual refresher training. The annual training will be conducted for all MAG Iraq teams in January 2011 after the Christmas and New Year's close down.

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



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- MAG America
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- Government of Belgium
- SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- German Government
- Act for Peace
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Marshall Legacy Institute
- Irish Aid

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