



MDD undertaking clearance in Kirkuk



MAG CL staff training IKMAA staff

Reporting period:

01 – 28 February 2010

Summary of outputs:

- MATs **released 438,562 m²** of land through a combination of hand, electronic, hand clearance and area reduction
- MATs **removed and destroyed 886** hazardous items
- CWD response teams **completed 223 tasks to safely remove and destroy 4,021** Conventional Weapons
- CL teams **conducted 180 MRE sessions** targeting **4,322 beneficiaries**

Summary of activities:

This month, the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) approached MAG to provide primary school follow up training to IKMAA staff working in Soran, Erbil. In response MAG delivered two day training to four staff from IKMAA's Mine Risk Education (MRE) department in Erbil. This training comes in line with MAG's strategy to support mine action authorities efforts in developing regulatory authorities and mine action standards.

At the beginning of the month, MAG Iraq Projects Manager met with UNICEF representative in Amman, Jordan to discuss the current partnership, project progress and administrative issues. Stichting Vluchteling continuation funding was confirmed until the end of January 2011. The new funding will enable MAG Iraq's two national partner NGOs to conduct effective MRE and contamination assessment to assist vulnerable communities, IDPs and returnees in central Iraq. New Memorandum of Understanding's (MoUs) were prepared and signed by MAG and the two national partners.

Dohuk

Deploying from MAGs operational base in Dohuk, 4 Mine Action Teams (MATs) funded by SIDA and Irish Aid deployed to undertake clearance operations in two new prioritized tasks in Batel sub-district and continued clearance operations on another task in the same area. Teams maintained the demarcation of one minefield during February in Sarsink sub-district. Teams completed clearance operations in two prioritized clearance tasks in Batel sub-district of Dohuk governorate and Zummar sub-district of Ninewa (Mosul) governorate.

CL teams funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State, SIDA and Irish Aid deployed on a daily basis to 19 different villages in Dohuk and Ninewa (Mosul) governorates to deliver MRE, primary school follow up, and identify and report unguarded stockpiles/cashes of conventional weapons. Teams visited Faida sub-district of Ninewa (Mosul) governorate and met with the director of the General Police Office to discuss the security situation in the area and gather information about the contamination.

The sector received a support visit from the Technical Operations Managers (TOM), based in Erbil HQ, who conducted quality assurance and provided feedback on the implementation of clearance operations.

CLC participated in the NGO monthly coordination meeting held in Dohuk's governor office by the Office of Public Relations. Different members from Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament and representatives from Peace Winds of Japan (PWJ), Mercy Corps, UNICEF, UNOCHA, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS), and Dohuk IDP relation office and other NGOs working in Dohuk attended the meeting. During the meeting, briefs on each organizations' activities were presented and coordination methods between local authorities and the organizations were discussed.

Sulimaniyah

Five MATs funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State and the German Government continued undertaking clearance operations in six clearance tasks in Diyala and Sulimaniyah governorate's. Teams identified one new clearance task through demarcation in Khanaqin sub-district of Diyala governorate, and completed clearance operations in two prioritized tasks in Khormal and Takya sub-districts of Sulimaniyah governorate. The cleared land will be used to agriculture and utilized for grazing.

CL teams funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State, Stichting Vluchteling, UNICEF and the German Government deployed on a daily basis to 51 different villages in Diyala and Sulimaniyah governorates and visited the mayor of Kalar district in Diyala to discuss the current operations in Bawa Mahmud village.

The Sector Manager met with the Victims Officer at the General Directorate for Mine Affairs (GDMA) to discuss the collection of Mine Victim data and statistics.

Chamchamal

On February 18th, the sector held handover ceremonies in attendance of representatives from the General Directorate for Mine Affairs (GDMA), police, and local authorities to hand over four cleared minefields and two Battle Area Clearance (BAC) tasks that were completed in November and September 2009. The cleared land will be used by the villagers for agricultural and infrastructure development.

During the month, four MATs funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands and the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State continued undertaking clearance operations in four clearance tasks in Altun-Copri and Laylan sub-districts of Kirkuk governorate and Chamchamal sub-district of Sulimaniyah governorate. One new minefield was identified through demarcation in Laylan sub-district of Kirkuk governorate. Teams completed clearance operations in one prioritized task in Chamchamal sub-district of Sulimaniyah governorate.

Mechanical operational activities were limited primarily to non-clearance tasks such as sampling and construction work due to wet weather and ground conditions.

The manual support team which enables mechanical and MDD teams to deploy independently of MATs to increase productivity and flexibility deployed alongside MATs to undertake clearance operations in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah governorates. The support team identified one new minefield through demarcation in Zalan sub-district of Sulimaniyah governorate.

MAG Iraq has developed an international and national MDD capacity in partnership with Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI), Global Training Academy (GTA) and Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC). In February 2010, an internal assessment was conducted by the MDD supervisor for four MDDs currently holding GDMA accreditation. All four dogs passed the internal assessment and were deployed alongside the manual support team to undertake clearance operations in low and medium risk parts of one prioritized minefield in Altun-Copri sub-district of Kirkuk governorate.

CL teams funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands deployed on a daily basis to 8 different

villages in Kirkuk governorate delivering MRE, conducted post-clearance assessments, community assessment survey, and identify and report unguarded stockpiles/cashes of conventional weapons.

The sector received a support visit from the finance manager based in Erbil HQ to support the sector manager and sector's bookkeeper in the production of the financial reports. The security officer based in Erbil HQ visited the sector to meet with the Head of Western Sulimaniyah Security to facilitate the movement of MAG vehicles in the area.

With financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Netherlands, the TMEU's classroom at Chamchamal sector has been renovated during the month. A new building has been prepared for the sector's explosive store as well as the electricity power station.

Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD)

CWD response teams funded by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State deployed on a daily basis to 96 different villages in Sulimaniyah, Kirkuk, Diyala, Dohuk and Ninewa (Mosul) governorates to safely remove and destroy reported unguarded stockpiles/caches of conventional weapons. Highlights include, the destruction of 288 hazardous items near a main road in Dohuk, removal and safe destruction of two hazardous items found on a road used by school children in Pasi, and the destruction of a stockpile of 761 items found inside the village of Asi.

In Sulimaniyah, the CWD team destroyed 19 hazardous items located inside a villager's house in the village of Hero, and 37 hazardous items were removed and destroyed in a task near the dam in Qazan Blakh, Kirkuk. The team also removed and destroyed 15 hazardous items from the soccer stadium in Shoresh, Sulimaniyah. All of the tasks mentioned above were reported through MAG's toll free number.

Training

The TMEU started the Basic Demining Course (BDC) with the financial support of the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State for 30 trainees in the sector and is expected to be completed at the beginning of March.

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
Irish Aid
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands
Stichting Vluchteling
Marshall Legacy Institute
German Government
The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
The US Army Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate

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