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# Iraq Programme Update

## Progress in June 2009



*Training of trainers conducted by MAG Iraq programme for local partner NGOs*

### **SUMMARY OF THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

The programme continued to reduce risk to vulnerable communities and support conflict recovery and rehabilitation by implementing Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) projects in **Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewah, and Sulimaniyah** governorates

- MAG teams **released 512,694 m<sup>2</sup>** of land using hand, electronic, and visual techniques safely removing and destroying **707 hazardous items**. Additional **125,590 m<sup>2</sup>** of suspected hazardous land were made safe through demarcation
- Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams delivered **84 MRE sessions reaching 2,778 individuals in 42 villages** in Erbil, Diyala, Dahuk, Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah governorates
- Community Liaison (CL) teams identified **278 dangerous areas in 93 different villages**. Team visited **1 village in Erbil governorate** visiting **15 households to conduct community assessment survey**
- 6 CWD response teams **deployed 131 times to complete 712 tasks** during June, **destroying 8,048 items of CW**
- Mechanical assets were used to clear **4,676 m<sup>2</sup>** of land and process **5,848 m<sup>3</sup>** of contaminated earth
- Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) were used to clear **37,134 m<sup>2</sup>** of **low and medium risk parts** of 2 minefields in Mamsha and Qazan Blakh villages in Kirkuk governorate

### **SUMMARY OF IMPACT**

- **Creating a more secure environment** for the Iraqi people by reducing risk to life and limb
- **Building safer communities** and working to improve the **futures of people** affected by explosive remnants of conflict
- **Facilitating national reconstruction** by freeing up land that can be used for livelihood generation and infrastructure projects
- **Contributing to economic growth and stability** by creating safer environments and communities and increasing economic independence for families working in farming and herding
- **Facilitating repatriation** by handing back cleared land that has previously been denied to its returning residents due to contamination by explosive remnants of conflict
- Contributing to the **building of sustainable Iraqi Humanitarian Mine Action Capabilities** in country

### **OPERATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

- Contract were signed for year 2 of the MDD project in partnership with Marshall Legacy Institute, and with Stichting Vluchteling to continue a project of MRE and Initial Contamination Assessment in central Iraq
- MAG Iraq conducted training of trainers for local partner NGOs working in Kirkuk and Diyala governorates. Local partners will participate in the teacher training workshop in Diyala and Kirkuk conducting MRE delivery training for local primary school teachers.

- MAG Iraq continued its coordination with the Ministry of Education within the Kurdistan Regional Government for. Meetings were held between MAG and MoE to discuss the teachers training and MAG's role conducting MRE and SALW awareness delivery training.

## DEMINEING & CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

- **Diyana sector:** MATs released **50,276 m<sup>2</sup>** of contaminated land, destroying a total of **22 conventional weapons**. MAG's teams in Diyana continued work on 3 ongoing tasks in support of **socio-economic rehabilitation, agricultural development and infrastructure development** in Choman, Piran and Galala sub districts of Erbil governorate. Teams completed clearance operations in Sidakan sub district.
- **Dahuk sector:** MATs released **220,773 m<sup>2</sup>** of contaminated land, removing and destroying **200 conventional weapons**. Operations continued working on 5 prioritised tasks in support of **IDP resettlement, agricultural development and socio-economic development** in Bamne, Zakho and Sarsink sub districts of Dahuk governorate and Zommar sub district of Mosul governorate.
- **Chamchamal sector:** MATs released **92,651 m<sup>2</sup>** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **382 conventional weapons**. Teams continued working on 3 tasks in support of **agricultural development and socio-economic development** in Qara Hanjir and Daquq sub districts of Kirkuk governorate. Teams completed clearance operations in one prioritised area within Shwan sub district on Kirkuk governorate.
- **Sulimaniyah sector:** MATs released **148,994 m<sup>2</sup>** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **62 conventional weapons**. MATs continued working on 7 tasks in support of **agricultural development, socio-economic rehabilitation, tourism development and conflict recovery** in Mawat, Sruchk, Qaradagh, Arbat, Tanjaro, Takyia and Dokan sub districts in Sulimaniyah governorate and Khanaqin district in Diyala governorate. Team completed clearance operations in one prioritized area in Qaradagh sub district of Sulimaniyah governorate. Additional **125,590 m<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous land was demarcated**
- **Mechanical assets:** Teams deployed across northern Iraq to **support MATs and improve the efficiency of operations**. Assets and attachments were used to **clear 4,676 m<sup>2</sup> of contaminated land and to excavate 2,808 m<sup>3</sup> and sift 3,040 m<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soil** in Kirkuk, Diyala, Dahuk and Erbil governorates
- **Mine Detection Dogs:** MDD teams continued their deployment to Qazan Blakh and Mamsha villages in Kirkuk governorate to clear **37,134 m<sup>2</sup> of suspected contaminated land in low and medium risk areas** removing and destroying **41 conventional weapons**

## CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION (CWD) EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- **4 dedicated CL teams** deployed from Dahuk, Diyana, Sulimaniyah and Chamchamal sectors to identify and prioritize stockpiles and caches of CW for safe removal and destruction
- CL teams continued the SALW awareness project, which aims to warn children and other vulnerable groups about the dangers of SALW. A children's activity book, as well as posters and leaflets, were specially designed to support the project. Teams conducted **19 awareness sessions and distributed 615 booklets and stickers**
- **6 CWD response teams deployed 131 times supporting regional security and conflict recovery** during June **completing 712 tasks** in 103 different villages in Dahuk, Mosul, Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates
- Teams destroyed **8,048 items of CW** in June

## COMMUNITY LIAISON (CL)

- Teams visited **15 households in 1 village in Erbil governorate** to conduct community assessment. Visits involved interviews with **18 individuals**, including women and children
- Teams identified **278 dangerous areas in 93 villages** that pose a threat to resident communities and block socio-economic development

## MINE RISK EDUCATION (MRE)

- MRE teams delivered **84 MRE sessions in 42 villages** reaching **2,778 vulnerable individual** in Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Kirkuk, Diyala and Dahuk governorates. **548 MRE posters and leaflets were distributed** to different age groups of students, children and villagers
- Teams conducted MRE and SALW awareness delivery training for the local primary teachers participating in the teachers training conducted by the Ministry of Education within the Kurdistan Regional government. **24 teachers training sessions were conducted for 1,008 primary school teachers**
- Teams conducted **80 primary school follow up** visits. Team visited **77 primary school teachers** and interviewed 3,917 primary school students of which 2,088 were males and 1,829 were female children

## DONORS

**MAG would like to express gratitude to the following 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. Belgian Government. Stichting Vluchteling. Marshall Legacy Institute. German Government

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**Chris Loughran, Country Programme Manager**

MAG Iraq, Ainkawa Compound, Erbil, Iraq

Korek: +964-750-445-3271; e-mail: [Chris.Loughran@magiraq.org.uk](mailto:Chris.Loughran@magiraq.org.uk)

**Rebecca Cardy, Regional Desk Officer**

MAG 68 Sackville Street Manchester M1 3NJ United Kingdom

Tel: +44 161 236 4311 Fax: +44 161 236 6244; E-mail: [rebecca.cardy@maginternational.org](mailto:rebecca.cardy@maginternational.org)