



A Mine Detection Dog (MDD) undertaking operations in Kirkuk governorate. MDD deploy as part of a partnership with the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI), funded by US Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

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), Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) and Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) projects in **Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewah, and Sulimaniyah** governorates

- MAG teams **searched and cleared 206,483 m²** of land using hand, electronic, and visual techniques safely removing and destroying **1,113 hazardous items**. Additional **1,004,916 m²** of suspected hazardous land were made safe through demarcation
- Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams delivered **206 MRE sessions reaching 6,521 individuals in 87 villages** in Erbil, Diyala, Dahuk, Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah governorates
- Community Liaison (CL) teams identified **272 dangerous areas in 120 different villages**. Team visited **2 villages in Erbil and 1 village in Dahuk governorates** visiting **34 households to conduct community assessment survey**
- 8 SALW emergency teams **deployed 133 times to complete 739 tasks** during March, **destroying 10,659 items of SALW**
- Mechanical assets were used to clear and prepare **290 m²** of land and processed **4,878 m³** of contaminated earth

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

- MAG Iraq continued to support the capacity building of the Iraqi Mine & UXO Clearance Organization by conducting training 4 staff. Training covered finance and logistics management and was led by MAG's national and international staff. Further training covering CL, MRE and information management will take place in April 2009

- MAG's CL teams provided training in GPS for 19 individuals from MAG's two local partner NGOs working in Kirkuk and Diyala governorates. The training was supported by Stichting Vluchteling
- 31 individuals from Erbil Peshmerga forces graduated from the MAG Basic Demining Course, implemented under a project supported by the US Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
- In partnership with Marshall Legacy Institute, MAG continued to deploy 3 Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) alongside a dedicated clearance team. Teams conducted clearance and verification of medium and low risk areas in Kirkuk

DEMINEING & CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

- **Diyana sector:** MATs searched and cleared **18,326 m²** of contaminated land, destroying a total of **414 conventional weapons**. MAG's teams in Diyana continued working on 4 ongoing tasks in support of **socio-economic rehabilitation, agricultural development and infrastructure development** in Choman, Peran and Sidakan sub districts of Erbil governorate
- **Dahuk sector:** MATs searched and cleared **68,023 m²** of contaminated land, removing and destroying **41 conventional weapons**. Operations continued working on 4 prioritised tasks in support of **IDP resettlement and socio-economic development** in Rzgari, Zawita and Batel sub districts of Dahuk governorate and Zommar sub district of Mosul governorate. Teams identified 2 new minefields in Spindar and Shilkye villages in Dahuk and Mosul governorates. **246,806 m² of suspected hazardous land was demarcated** to support the safety of local communities
- **Chamchamal sector:** MATs searched and cleared **26,806 m²** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **628 conventional weapons**. MATs identified and demarcated 1 new minefield of **21,110 m²** in Kirkuk governorate. Teams continued working on 5 tasks in support of **agricultural development** in Qara Hanjir, Shwan, Laylan and Daquq sub districts. Clearance operations in 1 task were completed in March, with returned land being used to support **agricultural and infrastructure development**.
- **Sulimaniyah sector:** MATs searched and cleared **93,328 m²** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **30 conventional weapons**. MATs continued working on 5 tasks in support of **agricultural development, socio-economic rehabilitation and tourism development** in Sharbazher and Dokan districts. 2 new minefields were identified and demarcated, **totalling 737,000m²**
- **Mechanical assets:** Teams deployed across northern Iraq to **support MATs and improve the efficiency of operations**. Three armoured wheeled shovels and two sifter were used to clear **290 m²** of land and **excavate 4,124 m³** and **sift 754 m³** of contaminated soil

SMALL ARMS LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- **4 dedicated CL teams** deployed from Dahuk, Diyana, Sulimaniyah and Chamchamal sectors to identify and prioritise stockpiles and caches of SALW 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 **7 awareness sessions and distributed 105 booklets and stickers**
- **8 SALW emergency teams deployed 133 times supporting regional security and conflict recovery** during March **completing 739 tasks** in 115 different villages with in Dahuk, Mosul, Erbil, Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk
- Teams destroyed **10,659 items of SALW** in March, with over **110,375 items now destroyed** as part of the SALW project

COMMUNITY LIAISON (CL)

- Team visited **34 households in 3 villages in Erbil and Dahuk governorates** to conduct community assessment. Visits involved interviews with **147 individuals**, including women and children
- Teams identified **272 dangerous areas in 120 villages** that pose a threat to resident communities and block socio-economic development

MINE RISK EDUCATION (MRE)

- MRE teams delivered **206 MRE sessions in 87 villages** reaching **6,521 vulnerable individual** in Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Kirkuk, Diyala and Dahuk governorates. **25,306 MRE posters and leaflets were distributed** to different age groups of students, children and villagers
- Teams conducted **22 MRE radio message sessions** with the support of the local radio stations in Erbil and Dahuk. Radio messages were delivered by the local stations to more than 6,107,766 individuals.

DONORS

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

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