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Iraq Programme Update

Progress in November 2009



CWD response team in Dahuk preparing and destroying hazardous items

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 121,761 m²** of land using hand, electronic, and visual techniques safely removing and destroying **202 hazardous items**. Additional **106,441 m²** of suspected hazardous land were made safe through demarcation.
- Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams delivered **73 MRE sessions reaching 177 individuals in 34 villages** in Diyala, Dahuk and Sulimaniyah governorates.
- Community Liaison (CL) teams identified **229 dangerous areas in 60 different villages**. Teams visited **14 villages** in Diyala, Dahuk and Sulimaniyah governorates visiting **87 households to conduct community assessment surveys**.
- 6 CWD response teams **deployed 103 times to complete 310 tasks** during November, **destroying 15,652 items of CW**
- Mechanical assets were used to clear and prepare **1,985 m²** of land and process **1,876 m³** of contaminated earth.
- Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) were used to clear **15,833 m² of low and medium risk parts** of two prioritized minefields in Zardah village of Sulimaniyah governorate and Khidr Blakh village of 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

- Two Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) and two national handlers were accredited by the General Directorate for Mine Affairs (GDMA) in November. Training is ongoing in partnership with Marshall Legacy Institute and Global Training Academy. Accreditation of 4 additional dogs and handlers will be conducted by the GDMA in January 2010
- Financial Management training course was conducted by MAG Iraq for 4 staff of local partner NGOs working in Diyala and Kirkuk governorates
- MAG Iraq entered into a partnership with UNICEF to deliver SALW risk education training to local partner NGOs in Baghdad, Basrah, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates

DEMINE & CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

- **Dahuk sector:** MATs released **7,652 m²** of contaminated land, removing and destroying **8 conventional weapons**. Teams continued working on 2 prioritised tasks in support of **IDP resettlement and agricultural development** in Bamrne and Badarshke villages. MAG teams identified one new minefield through demarcation in Bade village of Zawita sub-district. **17,952 m² of suspected contaminated land was demarcated**.
- **Chamchamal sector:** MATs released **73,747 m²** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **174 conventional weapons**. Teams continued working on 3 tasks in support of **agricultural development and socio-economic development** in Tkya Jabary sub-district of Sulimaniyah governorate and Shwan sub-district of Kirkuk governorate. Teams demarcated **4,329 m² of suspected contaminated land** in Shwan sub-district of Kirkuk governorate.
- **Sulimaniyah sector:** MATs released **40,362 m²** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **20 conventional weapons**. MATs continued working on 3 tasks in support of **agricultural development, socio-economic rehabilitation and conflict recovery** in Tanjaro and Takya sub-districts in Sulimaniyah governorate and Khanaqin district in Diyala governorate. Teams completed clearance operations in 3 prioritized areas in Tanjaro, Mawat and Chamchamal sub-districts in Sulimaniyah governorate and started clearance operations in 3 prioritized tasks in Qara Dakh sub-district of Sulimaniyah governorate. Teams demarcated **84,160 m² of suspected contaminated land** in Sulyawa village of Qara Dakh sub-district.
- **Mechanical assets:** Teams deployed in northern Iraq to **support MATs and improve the efficiency of operations**. Assets and attachments were used to **clear 1,876 m² and prepare 190 m² of contaminated land and to excavate 267 m³ and sift 1,509 m³ of contaminated soil** in Diyala and Sulimaniyah governorates.
- **Mine Detection Dogs:** MDD teams were deployed to Khidr Blakh village in Kirkuk governorate and Zardah village in Sulimaniyah governorate to clear **15,833 m² of suspected contaminated land in low and medium risk areas**.

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION (CWD) EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- **4 dedicated CL teams** deployed from Dahuk, 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 **5 awareness sessions** in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah governorates to **146 vulnerable individuals and distributed 141 booklets**.
- **6 CWD response teams deployed 103 times supporting regional security and conflict recovery** during November **completing 310 tasks** in 83 different villages in Dahuk, Mosul, Erbil, Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk governorates.
- Teams destroyed **15,652 items of CW** in November.

COMMUNITY LIAISON (CL)

- Teams identified **229 dangerous areas in 60 villages** that pose a threat to resident communities and block socio-economic development.
- Teams visited **87 households in 14 different villages** of Diyala, Dahuk and Sulimaniyah governorates to **conduct community assessment survey**. Teams **interviewed 1,692 individuals** during their visits.

MINE RISK EDUCATION (MRE)

- MRE teams delivered **73 MRE sessions in 34 villages** reaching **177 vulnerable individuals** in Dahuk, Sulimaniyah and Diyala governorates. **820 MRE booklets and posters were distributed** to different age groups of students, children and villagers.
- Teams from local partner NGOs conducting primary school teachers monitoring visits, and religious leaders monitoring visits in 6 different villages of Kirkuk and Diyala governorate. Teams **distributed 420 teacher's guides and MRE booklets during their visits**. Primary school teachers and religious leaders were trained to deliver MRE in July and August 2009.

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
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Marshall Legacy Institute
- German Government
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

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