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Iraq Programme Update

Progress in September 2009



MAG de-miner undertaking clearance activities in Diyala governorate

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 96,588 m²** of land using hand, electronic, and visual techniques safely removing and destroying **252 hazardous items**. Additional **212,128 m²** of suspected hazardous land were made safe through demarcation
- Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams delivered **245 MRE sessions reaching 3,827 individuals in 146 villages** in Diyala, Dahuk, Kirkuk, Mosul and Sulimaniyah governorates
- Community Liaison (CL) teams identified **228 dangerous areas in 79 different villages**. Team visited **7 villages** in Dahuk and Kirkuk governorates visiting **60 households to conduct community assessment survey**
- 6 CWD response teams **deployed 100 times to complete 283 tasks** during September, **destroying 7,209 items of CW**
- Mechanical assets were used to clear and prepare **13,638 m²** of land and process **6,766 m³** of contaminated earth
- Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) were used to clear **11,321 m² of low and medium risk parts** of two prioritized minefields in Khidr Blakh village of Kirkuk governorate and Balaso village of Diyala 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

- Training for national dog handlers is ongoing in partnership with Marshall Legacy Institute and Global Training Academy
- Local partners' teams conducted MRE delivery training sessions for religious leaders in 20 different villages of Kirkuk and Diyala governorates

DEMINEING & CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

- **Dahuk sector:** MATs released **6,941 m²** of contaminated land, removing and destroying **8 conventional weapons**. Teams continued working on 3 prioritised tasks in support of **IDP resettlement, agricultural development and socio-economic development** in Bamne, Batel and Chamanke sub-districts of Dahuk governorate. Teams completed clearance operations of one prioritized area in Sarsink sub-district. MAG teams identified two new minefields through demarcation in Sarsink and Mangesh sub-districts. **17,900 m² of suspected contaminated land was demarcated**
- **Chamchamal sector:** MATs released **65,232 m²** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **175 conventional weapons**. Teams continued working on 3 tasks in support of **agricultural development and socio-economic development** in Qara Hanjir, Kirkuk and Daquq sub-districts of Kirkuk governorate. Two cleared minefields were handed over to the local community in Chimany Azadi village of Kirkuk governorate
- **Sulimaniyah sector:** MATs released **24,415 m²** of contaminated land. Teams removed and destroyed **12 conventional weapons**. MATs continued working on 5 tasks in support of **agricultural development, socio-economic rehabilitation, tourism development and conflict recovery** in Mawat, Arbat, Tanjaro and Bazyan sub-districts in Sulimaniyah governorate and Khanaqin district in Diyala governorate. Team identified **9 new minefields** through demarcation in Mawat, Qaradagh, Arbat and Byara sub-districts of Sulimaniyah governorate. **194,228 m² 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 9,631 m² and prepare 4,007 m² of contaminated land and to excavate 2,531 m³ and sift 4,235 m³ of contaminated soil** in Diyala and Dahuk governorates. Mechanical team removed and destroyed **57 conventional weapons**
- **Mine Detection Dogs:** MDD teams were deployed to Balaso village in Diyala governorate and Khidr Blakh village in Kirkuk governorate to clear **11,321 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 **10 awareness sessions to 94 vulnerable individuals and distributed 200 booklets**
- **6 CWD response teams deployed 100 times supporting regional security and conflict recovery** during September **completing 283 tasks** in 93 different villages in Dahuk, Mosul, Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates
- Teams destroyed **7,209 items of CW** in September

COMMUNITY LIAISON (CL)

- Teams identified **228 dangerous areas in 79 villages** that pose a threat to resident communities and block socio-economic development
- Teams visited **60 households in 7 different villages** of Dahuk and Kirkuk governorates to **conduct community assessment survey**. Teams **interviewed 2,493 individuals** during their visits

MINE RISK EDUCATION (MRE)

- MRE teams delivered **245 MRE sessions in 146 villages** reaching **3,827 vulnerable individual** in Kirkuk, Diyala, Sulimaniyah and Dahuk governorates. **1,723 MRE leaflets were distributed** to different age groups of students, children and villagers
- Teams from local partner NGOs conducting MRE and SALW awareness delivery training for religious leaders in 20 different villages of Kirkuk and Diyala governorate. Religious leaders will conduct MRE sessions to villagers during Friday sermon in the mosques
- Teams from local partner NGOs working in Diyala and Kirkuk governorates conducted **118 MRE sessions in 11 different villages** to more than **2,363 individuals** and distributed **1,436 MRE leaflets** to more than **5,370 individuals**

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

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