



*MAG CL staff working with primary school student in Sulimaniyah to identify stockpiles of CW*



*MAG MAT conducting in situ safe demolition of anti-personnel landmines in Kirkuk*

**Reporting period: 01 – 30 September 2010**

**Summary of outputs:**

- MAG teams **released 180,616 m<sup>2</sup>** of land through a combination of electronic, hand, mechanical, MDD clearance and area reduction
- MAG teams **removed and destroyed 138** hazardous items
- CWD response teams **completed 191 tasks** to **safely remove and destroy 12,661** Conventional Weapons (CW)
- MAG and national partner NGO's CL teams **conducted 81 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions** targeting **678 beneficiaries** and **4 Small Arms and Light Weapons Risk Education (SALWRE) session** targeting **91 individuals**

In September, MAG Iraq handed over three cleared areas in Dohuk, Sulimaniyah and Diyala governorate to the local communities and the landowners. Handover ceremonies were held in coordination with the General Directorate of Mine Affairs (GDMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA).

The German Federal Republic Consul for Iraq visited the German-funded MAT in Sulimaniyah and provided very positive feedback on the quality and scope of work that MAG is delivering to the local communities.

MAG Iraq Mine Action Teams (MAT) completed clearance operations in seven prioritized clearance tasks in Dohuk, Sulimaniyah and Diyala governorates directly benefiting more than 2,175 individuals and supporting village rehabilitation, agricultural and socio-economic development in the region.

Coordination meetings were held with both regional Mine Action authorities, the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) and the General Directorate of Mine Affairs (GDMA). Activities, plans and priorities were the main points of the meeting agenda. Arrangements for handing over of the cleared lands to the local communities were also discussed during the meetings.

16 MATs deploying from the programme's 3 operations bases in Sulimaniyah, Chamchamal and Dohuk continued clearance operations in 12 clearance tasks that, when completed, will support agricultural and socio-economic development and conflict recovery. MATs were deployed to 4 prioritized clearance sites in Qaradakh area of Sulimaniyah, and Batel and Sarsink of Dohuk. Clearance sites were prioritized through the community assessment survey conducted by MAG Community Liaison (CL) teams. MAG teams identified 1 new contaminated area through demarcation in Penjwin sub-district of Sulimaniyah governorate.

11 Community Liaison (CL) teams continued to deploy on daily basis to deliver MRE and SALW RE, conduct training of trainers for community leaders and teachers, primary school follow up visits, leaflet distribution, and identifying and reporting unguarded stockpiles of CW. Teams visited 155 different

villages in Kirkuk, Sulimaniyah, Diyala, Dohuk and Ninewa (Mosul) governorates. CL teams continued to liaise with land owners and local authorities to secure their approval for clearance activities.

CL teams completed the community assessment survey for 3 villages in Dohuk, 1 in Diyala, 4 in Sulimaniyah and 1 in Kirkuk governorates interviewing 473 individuals to gather vulnerable contamination data. CL staff in Sulimaniyah conducted capacity building training sessions in MRE delivery to 32 Religious leaders in Sulimaniyah and Diyala governorate.

Local partner NGOs (Al Ghad) and (Work for Peace) CL staff conducted 53 religious leader follow up visits to identify further training needs and distribute MRE materials including posters, leaflets, and booklets for the religious leaders trained in between February and May 2010.

MAG's Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) teams deployed to 79 different villages completing 191 emergency tasks to safely remove and destroy 12,661 CW. Highlights included the removal and safe destruction of 6 stockpiles of 6,677 hazardous items in Sharbazher area of Sulimaniyah and the safe removal and destruction of 4 CW stockpiles of 2,330 hazardous items in Chamchamal area of Sulimaniyah. These items were posing significant threat to the local communities and picnickers visiting the area.

MAG's 2 mechanical teams and 2 manual support teams worked in 5 prioritized minefields in Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk governorates to support MATs in achieving operational efficiency. This month, mechanical and support teams deployed 9 different mechanical assets and attachments.

Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) and manual support teams continued their activities in 6 prioritized minefields in Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk governorate undertaking clearance operations in low and medium risk areas of the minefields supporting MATs in achieving operations' efficiency and quality.

The programmes' Training, Monitoring and Evaluation unit (TMEU) is preparing for the 2 Basic Demining Courses (BDC) to take place at MAG's operations base in Chamchamal and Dohuk in the beginning of October 2010.

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



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- Government of Belgium
- SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- German Government
- Irish Aid
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Marshall Legacy Institute

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