



Searching for mines in nuisance minefield in the Chouf mountains



Minefield clearance of military pattern minefield on Blue Line

Reporting period: 1st – 28th February 2011 (17 working days)

- **Clearance, confirmation, and processing of 38,104m² and 427m³** of land using a toolbox approach, including surface and sub surface clearance, electronic detectors, and mechanical processing in Battle Area Clearance work in southern Lebanon affected primarily by cluster sub munitions, as well as mine clearance on the Blue Line and in the Chouf mountains.
- **46,684 direct beneficiaries** and 20,465 indirect beneficiaries
- **Removal and destruction of 23 hazardous Explosive Remnants of War:** 14 sub-munitions and nine items of unexploded ordnance

February saw heavy rainfall in much of south Lebanon which reduced the number of working hours available to MAG; however all teams continued to work to clear areas for future investment in agriculture and infrastructure to provide livelihoods and basic services to the people of south and central Lebanon. MAG deployed seven Battle Area Clearance (BAC) Teams, to continue on-going BAC in five villages: Al Khiam, Jibchit, Mayfadoun, Yohmor and Zawtar Al Gharbiyah. One MAG Mine Action Team (MAT) continued to work on the minefield site in Houla, on the Blue Line. The second MAT worked in the Mtolleh minefield in the Chouf with mechanical support. MAG Lebanon used its mechanical assets to support manual clearance around destroyed buildings and construction sites; the Mechanical Team worked to support minefield clearance in Dellafeh.

All teams are contributing to the **social and economic recovery and development** of Central and South Lebanon through the safe, efficient, and effective clearance of Explosive Remnants of War. In addition 12,541m² (32%) were subject to Quality Assurance of clearance/ verification activities. The terrain where MAG Lebanon works is rocky, mountainous and often heavily vegetated, or built up areas which contain a lot of miscellaneous items, which give the same reading as EO scrap. All items need inspection to confirm an area is free from ERW. In February MAG cut **21,392m² of vegetation**; meaning vegetation had to be cut in 56% of areas before clearance/ verification work could take place. The teams removed **15,683 items of Explosive Ordnance scrap** and a further **45,474 items of scrap metal**. MAG Lebanon carries out manual and mechanical sub-surface clearance and excavation to 20cm depth on its sites; during this month **73% of activities were subsurface clearance and 17% full excavation work**.

Community Liaison (CL) activities continued during the operational period, at the pre-clearance, clearance, and post-clearance stages of MAG's work. There were 88 CL activities conducted during the month. Information collected by the CL teams demonstrates that **14,793m² of cleared land has been used for agricultural development**, primarily olive and fruit groves and horticultural greenhouses **and 944m²** for the development of medium sized infrastructure projects.

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

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