



End of Term Exams: Children have returned to Keerisuddan School in Madhu DS Division in Mannar after it re-opened on the 17th of February 2011. 38 families returned to Keerisuddan in October 2010 after MAG conducted survey and clearance activities, removing 75 mines and 10 UXO from the village area.

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- North-based Community Liaison (CL) teams completed **baseline Non Technical Survey (NTS) in Maluvarayarkaddayadampan** In Madhu DS Division in Mannar. CL teams also conducted **second phase Non Technical Survey (NTS) in 14 tasks in Mannar, two in Puthukudiyiruppu Division in Mullaitivu and one in Paddikudiyiruppu in Vavuniya North**
- CL teams in Batticaloa conducted **NTS verification in 18 tasks in Kattankudy, 44 in Manmunai South, 21 in Manmunai west, and 10 in Porativu Pattu DS Divisions** during the period.
- Phase II NTS ongoing in June in **five tasks in Madhu DS Division** in Mannar District.
- **2 Safer Village plans conducted** in Mullaitivu District.
- **Technical Survey and Clearance conducted in Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) across 6 GN Divisions** during the period: Periyapandivirichchan West and Sinnapandivirichchan in Madhu, Mannar District; Udayarkaddu North, Vallipunam and Suthanthipuram in Puthukudiyiruppu Division in Mullaitivu; and, Paddikudiyiruppu in Vavuniya North.

Impact Summary:

- **Clearance of 140,251m² of land**, uncovering 656 anti-personnel mines and 297 UXO, resulting in the **release of 831,270m² of land**.
- **21,800,000m² of land released** as safe by NTS in the Northern Province, enabling the return of **417 individuals (123 families)**.

ACTIVITIES

According to the *Joint Humanitarian and Early Recovery Update- June 2011* published by UN OCHA, 363,131 persons had returned to their home villages in the Northern Province by the end of June 2011. Of the 12,077 IDPs remained in IDP camps in Vavuniya and Jaffna Districts, the majority will return to Mullaitivu where MAG was given three additional tasks in June.

Community Liaison (CL) teams in the Northern Province conducted Non Technical Survey (NTS) on a new task in Maluvarayarkaddadampan GN Division in Madhu DS Division, Mannar District, identifying 1,191,850m² of Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs). The CL teams also conducted phase II NTS in 17 tasks in Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya District, surveying 31,500,000m² in total and cancelling 21,800,000m² of this land as low risk. In addition, at the request of the Regional Mine Action Office (RMAO) MAG deployed CL teams to conduct survey activities in Batticaloa District in the Eastern Province in early 2011. Between April and June 2011, these teams released 400,000m² of land back to the communities as safe for usage. This will benefit 5,437 individuals (1,452 families) who are already living in these areas by enabling access to vital land enabling a variety of livelihoods activities.

CL teams in the North also conducted Safer Village Plans with returning communities in Thevipuram and Vallipunam GN Divisions in Puthukudiyiruppu DS Division in Mullaitivu. Prior to resettlement, MAG conducted survey and clearance activities in these areas and, through a holistic approach working with returning communities, Safer Village Plans were developed. Key to assisting communities as they go about rebuilding their lives and re-establishing their livelihoods, Safer Village Plans identify and prioritise the wider needs of the community, develop comprehensive risk reductions strategies and allow information to be shared with government departments and development agencies.

Between April and June 2011 the technical survey and clearance teams continued to operate in Periyapandivirichchan West and Sinnapandivirichchan GN Divisions in Mannar District, Paddikudiyiruppu GN Division in Vavuniya North, and Suthanthipuram GN Divisions in Puthukudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu. These teams are currently operational in these task areas. In addition two tasks in Udayarkaddu North GN Division and one in Vallipunam GN, all in Puthukudiyiruppu DS Division in Mullaitivu District, were completed during the reporting period. In total the teams cleared 140,251m² of land in these tasks, removing 656 landmines and 297 items of UXO. Overall, HMA activities led to the release of 831,270m² of land as safe in these areas.

Programme visits:

- MAG hosted a visit from the Japanese Embassy to Batticaloa District in the Eastern Province in May.
- MAG hosted a visit to operations in the North by Kate McFarland from WRA, Rachel Sorey from USAID and Melissa Minogue from MAG America in June.
- Australian Journalist, Ben Doherty visited MAG operations in May. His article can be found at <http://www.smh.com.au/world/sweeping-changes-as-women-sign-up-for-mineclearing-jobs-in-sri-lanka-20110510-1ehc3.html#ixzz1M0gBqDSo>

A documentary featuring MAG's all-female demining team was aired on Al-Jazeera programme *Witness* in May. View the full programme here: <http://www.maginternational.org/witness>

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