



Returning to Periyapandivirichchan: The photo above shows children playing in their back yard next to a 'Cleared by MAG' sign after returning to their home in Periyapandivirichchan in August 2010. Clearance is ongoing in Periyapandivirichchan and 1,714 anti-personnel mines have been found during this task alone.

**Reporting Period:** 01- 31 August 2010

**Activities & Outputs Summary:**

- **Non-technical Survey (NTS) ongoing in 2 Grama Niladhari (GN) in Oddusudan Division in Mullaitivu District**
- **Technical Survey and Clearance completed in Valluvarpuram GN Division in Puthukudiyurippu DS Division during the month**
- **Technical survey and clearance commenced in Theravil in August in Puthukudiyurippu, Mullaitivu District**
- **Clearance of 125,338m<sup>2</sup> of land through manual clearance during the month**
- **1,080 anti-personnel mines, 160 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 4 anti-tank mines uncovered**

**Impact Summary:**

- **NTS completed in 3 GN in Puthukudiyurippu DS Division, Mullaitivu District, releasing 67.3km<sup>2</sup> of land, which includes 23 villages**
- **NTS in these 3 tasks will benefit 9,996 individuals (2,504 families)**
- **Completion of Valluvarpuram task is set to benefit 2,809 returnees (660 families), who will return to the area in the upcoming months.**

## ACTIVITIES

MAG Sri Lanka has been carrying out emergency survey and clearance of landmines and UXO in priority areas in Northern Sri Lanka since April 2009 in support of the IDP resettlement process. According to UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) figures, 258,846 individuals have been resettled in the Northern Province at the end of August 2010<sup>1</sup>. Resettlement to Mullaitivu has gained considerable momentum in the past few weeks and MAG will continue to support the resettlement process. The total number of IDPs currently remaining in camps, as of 25<sup>th</sup> of August, is 33,000, according to Government sources<sup>2</sup>.

NTS was completed in Iranaipalai, Kombavil, and Mannakandal GN Divisions in Puthukudiyiruppu DS Division in Mullaitivu district during August by the Community Liaison (CL) teams. 67.33km<sup>2</sup> was released by this process in these three GNs out of a total land area of 67.69km<sup>2</sup>, leaving only 364,410m<sup>2</sup> of hazardous areas requiring follow up technical survey in these three tasks. In Mannakandal GN Division, 23 out of a total of 24 villages surveyed were released during the month through the NTS process. Mine action activities carried out in these task areas are set to benefit 9,996 individuals (2,504 families) once the areas are released. In September, NTS will be ongoing in Periyakulam and Othiyamalai GN Divisions in Oddusudan DS Division in Mullaitivu District.

Technical survey and clearance activities commenced at a new task, Theravil GN Division, in Puthukudiyiruppu DS Division during August, in line with MAG Sri Lanka's changing focus in Mullaitivu District. Clearance and technical survey are also ongoing in Mannikapuram and Valluvarpuram GN Divisions in Mullaitivu, as well as Adampan, Periyapandivirichchan and Sinnapandivirichchan in Mannar District and Paddikudiyiruppu in Vavuniya District. In all 125,338m<sup>2</sup> of land was cleared using manual methods during the month in these tasks. 160 UXO, 1080 antipersonnel mines and 4 anti-tank mines were removed during these activities.

A project to strengthen the capacity of 5 local Mine Risk Education (MRE) implementing agencies, operational in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, is currently being implemented by MAG in partnership with UNICEF. A new Community Liaison Manager (CLM) was deployed as part of this project and has carried out assessments of CTF, Sarvodaya and EHED/Caritas during August. A 2-week training curriculum for the 5 agencies has also been designed and will be implemented later in the year.

Lorena Carrilo and Olga Lucia from MAG Colombia visited the programme last week. The purpose of their visit was to gain experience from MAG Sri Lanka on the NTS process.

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<sup>1</sup>Resettlement Progress – since October 2009 (Northern Province):

[http://reliefweb.int/rw/fullmaps\\_sa.nsf/luFullMap/4800B8E2341BAA01C12577920031017C/\\$File/map.pdf?OpenElement](http://reliefweb.int/rw/fullmaps_sa.nsf/luFullMap/4800B8E2341BAA01C12577920031017C/$File/map.pdf?OpenElement)

<sup>2</sup><http://reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FERB-88QCDR?OpenDocument>