



MAG deminers working the field using the raking method in Adampan village, Mannar District, March 2010.

Reporting Period: 01- 31 March 2010

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- **Ongoing non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance in Mannar and Vavuniya Districts** in support of the planned return of families displaced by conflict
- **Non-technical survey conducted in 9 GN in Maritimpattu DS in Mulliativu District**
- **3 clearance tasks ongoing** in Periyapandivirichchan in Madhu DS, Adampan in Manthai West DS, both in Mannar District, and Paddikudiyiruppu in Vavuniya North DS
- **1 clearance task completed** in Sinnapandivirichchan in Madhu DS, Mannar District
- **620 anti-personnel mines, 1 anti-tank mine and 39 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) uncovered**
- **Search and clearance of a total of 291,293m²** of land through a combination of manual and mechanical methods

Impact Summary:

- Survey and clearance in support of IDP returns in Mannar, Vavuniya and Mulliativu Districts.
- Non-technical survey completed at Periyapandivirichchan West GN in Mannar and 5 GN divisions in Mulliyavalai area in Maritimpattu DS in Mulliativu District, **releasing 103,504,100m²** (over 103km²) of land in support of the returns process, **benefitting 1,757 families (7,323 individuals)**
- Creating a more secure environment for the people of northern Sri Lanka

ACTIVITIES

MAG Sri Lanka is carrying out emergency survey of priority areas in Northern Sri Lanka and clearing them from landmines, UXO and IEDs, for the return of IDPs currently being accommodated in camps around Vavuniya. According to figures in March 2010 approximately 92,000 people remain in these camps.

MAG received 9 new tasks in Maritimepittu DS Division, Mullaitivu District in early March. Non-technical survey was completed in 5 of these GN in the Mulliyavalai area during March releasing over 61km² of land for the planned return of 5,623 people due to commence in April. Non-technical survey is currently ongoing in the 4 remaining areas of Kumalumanai East, West and Central and Thannimurippu GN.

Community Liaison teams also completed non-technical survey in Periyapandivirichchan West GN Division in Mannar District, releasing over 42km² and identifying over 12km² of land for follow up technical survey and clearance.

Technical Survey and Clearance activities were completed in the Sinnapandivirichchan village in Madhu DS in Mannar District. These activities released 355,997m² at this site using a combination of manual clearance and Battle Area Clearance. In all, 1,260 antipersonnel mines and 12 UXO were uncovered in Sinnapandivirichchan, with 612 landmines removed in March alone. Survey and clearance tasks were restarted this month in Adampan GN Division in Mannar District after it had been suspended in December 2009 due to rain causing flooding. Work here, as well as in Paddikudiyiruppu village in North Vavuniya and Periyapandivirichchan West in Mannar District, were ongoing as of the end of March.

Training

The MAG Community Liaison Manager provided 1-day training to the Sri Lankan Army's Humanitarian Demining Unit on Community Liaison in Vavuniya. There were 60 participants, 10 from each district of northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Following completion of the training, participants will conduct Mine Risk Education and Community Liaison activities in the region. The full 5-day training programme was organised by UNICEF.

The 2 volunteers from the Canadian organisation Global Medic completed the 2-week training programme for 17 MAG Trauma Medics in early March.

In the News

Four MAG staff were interviewed in morning television talk shows in Sinhala, Tamil and English during the last week of March. Nilanthi (Grants and Finance Officer) was interviewed in Sinhala, Maya (HR Manager) and Komathy (CL Officer) were interviewed in Tamil and Ashan (Programme Officer) was interviewed in English. Two of these shows were live, and the interviewees talked about their roles and the work MAG is doing in Sri Lanka.

Programme Visits

Representatives from the British High Commission in Colombo and DFID London visited MAG field sites in Madhu DS, Mannar District, on 4 March

Future plans

MAG Sri Lanka is currently working in Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya districts in support of the returns process. Once the returns process is completed, MAG will shift its focus to enabling livelihoods activities for returnees. MAG is now actively seeking funding to continue its emergency mine action programme during the second half of 2010.

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For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world please visit www.maginternational.org, or contact:

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