



# MAG

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## MAG Sri Lanka Programme Update May 2010



IDPs return home to Sinnapandivirchchan village in Mannar District from the Menik farm camp in Vavuniya District, May 2010. MAG survey and clearance teams uncovered 1,260 anti-personnel mines here. Anti-clockwise from top left: 1. and 2. IDPs return home in buses. 3. Sinnapandivirchchan school has now reopened and children have come back to class.

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

### Activities & Outputs Summary:

- **Non-technical Survey (NTS) ongoing in 3 Grama Niladhari (GN) in Puthukudiyurippu Division** in Mullaitivu District, and technical survey and clearance in Mannar and Vavuniya Districts
- **NTS completed in 5 GN** in Mullaitivu District
- **3 clearance tasks ongoing** in Periyapandivirchchan in Madhu Division, Adampan in Manthai West DS Division, both in Mannar District, and Paddikudiyiruppu in Vavuniya
- **NTS released 39km<sup>2</sup> of land** in 5 completed GN, **including 5 villages in Thannimurippu GN**, Maritimepittu DS Division in Mullaitivu District.
- **Clearance of 396,886m<sup>2</sup> of land**
- **278 anti-personnel mines, 75 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 250 rounds of Small arms ammunition uncovered**
- Safer Village Pilot scheme undertaken in Sinnapandivirchchan in Madhu Division

### Impact Summary:

- To date **3,227 individuals (1,133 families)** have returned to areas released by MAG in Maritimepittu DS Division in Mullaitivu District.
- **238 individuals (67 families) return to Sinnapandivirchchan village** in Madhu DS Division in Mannar district in May.
- A further 8,190 individuals (1,966 families) are expected to return soon to other areas released during the reporting period
- Please visit <http://www.maginternational.org/MAG/en/news/sri-lanka-updates/> for case studies highlighting the impact of MAG's work in Sri Lanka

## ACTIVITIES

MAG Sri Lanka is carrying out an emergency survey of priority areas in Northern Sri Lanka and clearing them from landmines and UXO, for the return of IDPs currently being accommodated in camps. 76,568 people are still accommodated in temporary camps<sup>1</sup>.

Community Liaison (CL) teams completed non-technical survey in 5 tasks in Mullaitivu district during the month. This includes Kumulumunai East (Zone B) and Thannimurippu GN in Maritimpittu Division, and Valluvarpuram, Theravil and Mannikapuram GN in Puthukudiyurippu Division. This means that NTS in all GN tasked to MAG in Maritimpittu have been completed, and the focus has shifted to tasks in Puthukudiyurippu Division. In all, 39.08km<sup>2</sup> of high priority land was released by CL teams in May, including 5 villages in Thannimurippu GN Division, and over 86km<sup>2</sup> was identified for follow on technical survey. In June it is expected that NTS will be completed in the remaining 3 tasks in Puthukudiyurippu DS Division.

Technical Survey and Clearance activities continue in Periyapandivirichchan in Madhu Division, Adampan in Manthai West Division, both in Mannar District and Paddikudiyurippu in Vavuniya North. These activities cleared 396,886m<sup>2</sup> of land through a combination of Battle Area Clearance and manual clearance in May. 278 anti-personnel mines and 75 UXO were uncovered during the month, with 157 landmines being found in Adampan and 120 in Periyapandivirichchan.

GN	Resettled families	Resettled individuals
Mulliyawalai Center	123	323
Mulliyawalai West	409	1133
Mulliyawalai East	349	1028
Mulliyawalai South	118	358
Kumulamunai West	134	385
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>3,227</b>

By the end of May, the Government Agent for Mullaitivu District stated that 3,227 individuals (1,133 families) had returned to areas released by MAG in Maritimpittu Division in Mullaitivu.

CL teams also piloted a new Safer Village concept in Sinnapandivirichchan village, in order to reduce the risk of accidents and promote livelihoods in mine-affected areas. This involves a participatory evaluation of needs and impact, which includes the mobilization of a Safer Village Committee. Together with MAG, the Committee then develops and agrees on a Safer Village Plan, including measurable objectives and activities, which is then monitored and evaluated by MAG CL teams and the committee at regular intervals

**Programme visits** – the following visits took place during May:

- A Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) delegation consisting of Mr. Michael Brownell – Acting Director General, CIDA Headquarters, Mr. Pierre Héroux, Counselor – Development, Canadian High Commission, Mr. Nihal Attapattu – Senior Development Officer, Canadian High Commission on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.
- A delegation from the US Department of Defense visited MAG sites during the week commencing 9 May, as preparation for their support in the form of one Front-End Loader to be deployed to the programme
- The Australian Deputy High Commissioner Sophia McIntyre visited operations in Mullaitivu District on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May.
- Benno Neeleman, a photographer from the Netherlands, visited tasks in Mannar district on 25 and 26 May on behalf of MAG donor Stichting Vluchteling.

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- *AusAID*
- *CIDA*
- *Stichting Vluchteling*
- *US Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement*

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Matt Thomas (Regional Desk Officer) e-mail: [Matt.Thomas@maginternational.org](mailto:Matt.Thomas@maginternational.org)  
MAG, 68 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3NJ, UK Tel: +44 161 236 4311 Fax: +44 161 236 6244

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<sup>1</sup>Joint Humanitarian Update North East Sri Lanka (Report #24)  
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