



Rice bowl one year on: since MAG completed clearance in the Rice Bowl tasks in Manthai West in 2009, life has been returning to normal with paddy cultivation and home gardens re-starting. Houses are being constructed and residents have been provided with temporary shelters by development agencies.

Reporting Period: 01 September - 31 October 2010

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- CL teams carried out re-Survey in 7 GNs in Oddusudan and 1 in Maritimipittu, in Mullaitivu District and Periyapandivirichchan West in Mannar.
- Technical Survey and Clearance tasks completed in Theravil, Mannikapuram, Vallipunam and Visuamadu East GN Divisions in Puthukudiyurippu DS Division and Devapuram GN Divisions in Mannar District.
- Technical survey and clearance commenced in Thevipuram in Puthukudiyurippu during the reporting period and is currently ongoing
- Clearance of 312,311m² of land through manual clearance and BAC
- 2,333 anti-personnel mines and 1,293 items of UXO uncovered

Impact Summary:

- 79.6 km² of land surveyed in these tasks, releasing 1.3km² of land as safe.
- This process benefitted 4,359 individuals (1,300 families)

ACTIVITIES

According to Government sources the number of IDPs remaining in temporary camps in Vavuniya is 16,025 as of 10 November 2010¹. 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 this returns process. To date 9,404 individuals (3,136 families) have returned to villages where MAG has been operational. As the returns process draws closer to completion, MAG will also be looking at addressing the urgent need to support returning communities to re-establish their livelihoods by releasing farmland, paddy fields and other priority areas, as safe in the upcoming months.

During the reporting period CL teams have carried out non-technical survey activities in Periyakulam, Othiyamalai, Palampasi, Kulamurippu, Karuvelankandal, Puliyanukulam and Thanduvan GN Divisions in Oddusudan DS Division, Mullaitivu, covering 23 villages and benefitting 2,457 individuals (793 families). In total 78km² of land was surveyed and 1km² released. Survey was also re-initiated in Periyapandivirichchan West in Mannar District, where 1.2km² of land were surveyed, and Kumulumanai East in Mullaitivu, where 400,650m² of land was released as safe.

Between September and October technical survey and clearance activities continued in Adampan, Periyapandivirichchan and Sinnapandivirichchan in Mannar District and Paddikudiyiruppu in Vavuniya District. The task in Devapuram in Madhu Division, Mannar District was completed in October and three tasks in Mannikapuram GN Division and one in Visuamadu East GN Division in Mullaitivu District were completed in September. Two tasks in Theravil GN Division and one in Vallipunam GN Division, all in Mullaitivu, were also completed in October. Currently survey and clearance activities are ongoing in Thevipuram GN Division in Mullaitivu, in addition to the ones in Mannar and Vavuniya District. In all, during the reporting period 312,311m² of land cleared and 2,333 anti-personnel mines and 1,293 UXO were uncovered, including 1,648 landmines in October alone. This is the highest number of landmines removed by MAG Sri Lanka during a single month.

A Mine Risk Education capacity building project is underway in partnership with UNICEF. Capacity assessments of the five local partners are currently being conducted and three basic training workshops were conducted by MAG staff for key personnel from Community Trust Fund, Rural Development Fund and Sarvodaya in October.

In October MAG hosted an Al Jazeera film crew who were filming a documentary for their 'Witness' programme. The crew focused on the work and day-to-day lives of MAGs female demining team. The documentary will be aired in the upcoming weeks. MAG CL staff also hosted a visit to Sinnapandivirichchan village in Mannar by a UN subcontractor who was making a film about mine action in the country.

Rodney Robideau, the Program Director from the US Department of State, Office off Weapons Removal and Abatement, visited MAG operations in October. He was accompanied by the CPM and visited MAG tasks in Puthukudiyurippu and met with various stakeholders, including representatives from the Sri Lankan Army and the Mullaitivu Government Agent.

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- *CIDA*
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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:

*Matt Thomas (Regional Operations Manager) e-mail: Matt.Thomas@maginternational.org
MAG, 68 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3NJ, UK Tel: +44 161 236 4311 Fax: +44 161 236 6244*

¹ <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/RMOI-8B32SQ?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=lka>
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