

Quarterly news roundup:

A delegation from MAG HQ visited in September, including MAG's Chief Executive Lou McGrath, Director of Marketing and Communications Helen Jenkins and two trustees. The group visited current MAG operational sites in Battambang and Pailin as well as areas where MAG has previously cleared and development activities are now being implemented with communities.

Community Liaison processes were reviewed, ahead of a planned revision of standard operating procedures for Community Liaison staff.

A joint partnership visit with Lutheran World Federation was undertaken in August. MAG and LWF representatives visited operational and post-clearance development sites in Battambang and developed ideas and plans for a two year continuation of the MAG / LWF integrated Mine Action and Development project.

The MAGazine will return to a quarterly production schedule, with the next issue in January.

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MAG Cambodia online at:
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Seeking new partnerships!

A message from Country Programme Manager Jamie Franklin

Dear Colleagues

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I took up my current role as Country Programme Manager for MAG Cambodia in June 2009 and have worked for the organisation for six years.

As many of you already know, wherever possible MAG integrates landmine and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance with development activities. We do this by working in collaboration with organisations who need safe land to implement their own projects and who bring added value to the clearance work conducted by MAG.

For example, over recent years MAG has cleared land that organisations like CARE, World Vision, Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service have then used for building water supplies and schools or expanding agriculture.

Such partnerships ensure that cleared land produces maximum benefits for community members. They also mean that funding provided to MAG for landmine and UXO clearance continues to have a positive impact long after the



actual clearance work has been completed.

We are keen to establish more partnerships and integrated projects in order to ensure productive post clearance land use and longer term development outcomes.

Whether you work for an NGO or local authority, live in a contaminated area or are interested in clearance on a commercial basis, I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in partnering with MAG. Feel free to contact me directly by email to cpm@mag.org.kh

Best regards,

Jamie Franklin

MAG Cambodia's work is made possible through the generous support of the following current and recent donors:



Donor updates:

DFID



During this quarter MAG continued with year three of its programmatic funding provided by the UK Government's Department for International Development. Since the start of the grant in 2007, MAG has cleared 8,407,510 m² of land, benefitting 169,230 Cambodians. This safe land has been returned to target communities for productive use, with 46% used for resettlement and housing, 34% for agriculture (rice and cash crops), 15% for medium/large scale infrastructure or access routes (roads / pathways) and 5% for other uses.

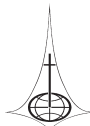
Japanese Government



From
the People of Japan

The current project supports the deployment of six Mine Action Teams (MATs), three Community Liaison teams and one Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team. Between July and September, 130,764 m² were cleared by the MATs, destroying 77 antipersonnel mines, one anti-vehicle (AV) mine and 78 items of UXO in the process. This work benefitted 1,390 households. The EOD team destroyed 157 AP mines, two anti-vehicle mines and 932 items of UXO. 1,085 households benefited from the EOD tasks. More than 3000 people were exposed to Risk Reduction Education messages.

Lutheran World Federation



Lutheran World Federation supports the deployment of three Mine Action Teams and one Community Liaison team in Battambang Province. Between July and August, 69,483m² of land was cleared, with 307 anti-personnel mines and 21 items of UXO destroyed, in Kamrieng and Phnum Proek Districts. The teams were deployed within a new minefield site during this period, which included the grounds of a school. The clearance of this area benefitted 554 children.

NVESD (Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate)



MAG continues to conduct Research and Development (R&D) projects and Operational Field Evaluations in conjunction with NVESD, part of the US Department of Defense. During the quarter, five R&D teams were deployed in Battambang and Pailin Provinces. The three HSTAMIDS R&D teams cleared 36,462m² of land, destroying 445 anti-personnel mines and five items of UXO. These activities will directly benefit 1,645 families for the purposes of resettlement, agriculture and social infrastructure (a pagoda).

Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee and Manx Landmine Action



During the quarter, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team funded by these donors was deployed in Sala Krau and Pailin Districts (Pailin province) and completed 119 tasks. A total of 504 items of UXO, 169 anti-personnel mines and two anti-vehicle mines were found and destroyed, benefitting 86 households. Risk Reduction Education sessions involved more than 600 people.

Hind Al Adwani

Hind Al Adwani continued to support the all-female Mine Action Team, which conducted clearance activities in Malai District, Banteay Meanchey province during the last quarter. 16,819m² of land were cleared, with 80 anti-personnel mines and five items of UXO destroyed. Funds from this donor were also used to provide clearance support for CFEDA (Cambodian Family Economic Development Association), a local NGO that is implementing a community development programme in Malai.

MAG America



The US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA), through MAG America, funds 11 different teams. The manual clearance teams cleared 43,357 m² of land in Pailin and Banteay Meanchey Provinces, and destroyed 70 anti-personnel mines and 41 items of unexploded ordnance. 36 beneficiary households will utilise the land for agricultural production. The Mine Detection Dog team (with support from the mechanical scrub cutting team) cleared 53,572 m² of land in Banteay Meanchey and Preah Vihear to benefit 55 households. The three WRA-funded EOD teams (in Kampong Cham and Battambang) conducted 379 tasks, benefitting 556 households. In addition, Risk Reduction Education sessions were conducted with more than 4,300 adults and children.

Other donors

During this quarter other support has included programme funding from the Imperial Tobacco Group, and support for equipment and procurement from the Australian Network to Ban Landmines / Methodist Ladies College.

“Development here has doubled”

A case study from Battambang province

Two years after MAG Cambodia finished clearing land in Ou Chamlong village, Battambang province, business is booming.

Two former minefields have been transformed into plots thick with sweetcorn, tapioca and beans. Large trucks from Thailand arrive in the village and buy the produce to take back over the border.

Ou Chamlong is a relatively small village of 225 households, but almost 3000 anti-personnel mines and about 80 items of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) were found and destroyed here.

Duk Nan, 60, describes the village before it was cleared.

“Most of the land was left unused, as it was heavily mined. It became thickly forested,” he recalls.

“At that time, if we had food, that was enough,” says Nan. Today, his money stretches beyond what is necessary for supporting his five daughters. “I have a motorbike, cows and a television,” he says.

Ou Chamlong’s village chief, Kim Chin, says that development in



A truck in Ou Chamlong village being loaded with fresh produce. Photo: Nick Axelrod / MAG

the village occurred soon after the clearance work, and that no safe land is left unused.

“Development here has doubled. People’s living conditions are now a lot better,” he says.

Facts and figures

Programme statistics,
July - September 2009

Square metres cleared	465,897 m ²
Villages where clearance took place	29
Anti-personnel mines destroyed	1,453
Anti-tank mines destroyed	11
UXO destroyed	4,129
Number of direct beneficiaries	16,742

Top MBA for MAG staff

In August, Soth Diep graduated with a Masters in Business Administration from Build Bright University, receiving the top mark on his course. As he also came in the top ten students nationwide, he received his certificate from H.E. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia.



“I would like to thank the staff who supported me during the course. MAG wants to see people grow rather than to see people stay in one place,” says Diep. MAG paid for most of the course fees.

Diep joined MAG Cambodia in 2000 and has held four positions within the organisation. He is currently Mine Action Quality Assurance Manager and a member of the programme’s Senior Management Team.

“We are very proud of Diep,” says Jamie Franklin, Country Programme Manager. “Building national capacity is a key objective in all MAG programmes.”