

Rapid response to clear UXO 'dump'



Above: A MAG deminer carefully removes more than 200 items from a UXO 'dumping' area in Quang Tri province

Responding to a call from a member of the public in regards to the discovery of Unexploded Ordnance, a MAG Community Liaison (CL) Team was immediately deployed to Duc Duc village in Vinh Linh District, Quang Tri. On arrival they met with Mr Nguyen Van Chien who made the call to MAG.

"We were building a new road in the village when I discovered an old bomb crater full of many bombs and projectiles" said Mr

Chien. "I immediately reported it to MAG".

Verifying the report that Mr Chien had made, the CL team coordinated with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD) to come to Duc Duc village the following day.

The MAG EOD team secured the site and commenced the removal of the UXO. By the time the task was finished a total of 225 items had been removed from the bomb crater.

Quarterly news roundup

- * A delegation from Quang Nam province visited MAG Quang Binh operations.
- * Political Officer from the US Embassy in Hanoi also visited MAG Quang Binh operations at the same time as the Quang Nam visit.
- * MAG hosted a delegation from Irish Aid for the purpose of conducting an evaluation of MAG operations in Quang Tri in December.
- * MAG hosted a workshop in Dong Ha, Quang Tri in November, to share the findings of our Community Liaison Impact Assessment toolkit

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu, whose land is close by to the crater, explained how so many UXO came to be there.

"These UXO were dumped here by scrap metal collectors when the scrap yard owner, who they tried to sell them to, refused to buy them. They have been here for one year. I have been so scared that I have not dared to go near there since that time."

Mr. Hoang Minh Phuong, MAG's EOD team leader said: "Our

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Rapid response to clear UXO “dump”cont...

team has conducted many emergency tasks before, but we have never found such a large amount of UXO of so many different kinds and sizes like this task. To complete this job safely, we had to arrange to transport all these UXO to the bulk demolition range in Vinh Thai commune for detonation today.”

After MAG had completed the removal of the UXO, Ms. Thu added: “I know that people threw UXO into this crater but I never imagined that there would be that many! I just worried someone who doesn’t know about the dangers may die”.

“MAG are excellent! They have removed successfully that big crater of bombs and UXO so fast and carefully. After removing all the UXO, they also used the detectors to check the whole area again to make sure nothing else was underneath the ground. I am now feeling much more relieved that all the contaminated land has been cleared. I have MAG’s number here, so I know that if I find anymore UXO in the future, I can contact MAG right away.”



Above:

Ms Nguyen Thi Thu feels safer now that 225 UXO have been cleared away from near her household

New Asset arrives to improve clearance productivity



Quang Tri:

During the month of October MAG received the delivery of its latest asset to improve UXO clearance productivity. The “Seppi” mulcher attachment will be used in Quang Tri province to remove dense vegetation that cause delays to UXO clearance.

Before the use of mechanical vegetation cutters, MAG deminers would need to manually remove vegetation which is a time consuming process and interrupts the real work of searching and removing UXO.

MAG operates a similar machine in Quang Binh province and in 2011 its use saved 1,895 man hours. With more time spent on removing UXO than clearing vegetation, MAG’s productivity has greatly improved.

MAG has been able to procure the Seppi Mulcher as part of the Operational Field Evaluation it is conducting with the Humanitarian Demining R&D division with NVESD.

Quang Nam delegation visits MAG Operations

Provincial authorities from Quang Nam province spent two days visiting MAG's operations in Quang Binh province in November 2011 to learn more about how MAG conducts Humanitarian Mine Action activities in Vietnam.

As MAG prepares to commence operations for the first time in Quang Nam, the visit was used as an opportunity to introduce the methodologies that MAG uses. The delegation from Quang Nam, led by Director of Foreign Affairs, Mr Nguyen Hoang Minh, had the opportunity to see first hand Community Liaison, Mobile Operations and Explosive Ordnance Disposal tasks during a field trip to Tuyen Hoa district, Quang Binh province.

MAG's partner in Quang Binh province, the Department of Foreign Affairs, also actively participated in the visit by sharing their experiences of planning and coordinating Mine Action activities.

MAG thanks both Quang Binh and Quang Nam DoFA's for their participation in this visit.



Above: MAG Technical Operations Coordinator, Mr Thang provides a briefing to the Quang Nam delegation, Quang Binh



Above: MAG Country Director, Hannah Bryce, provides opening remarks at the launch of "Impact for Peace" photo exhibition, Hanoi.

"Impact for Peace"

Photo Exhibition in Hanoi

Over a 10 day period in October 2011, MAG presented the photo exhibition "Impact for Peace" at the Maison des Arts gallery in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The exhibition featured 40 black and white images of MAG's work in Vietnam over a 10 year period, as captured by award winning photographer Sean Sutton.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by both the UK and Irish Ambassadors to Vietnam as well as representatives from other embassies and local media. Speaking at the launch, MAG Vietnam Country Director Hannah Bryce explained that the purpose of the exhibition was to demonstrate the impact that MAG's work has in Vietnam, and to also raise awareness that there is still much more work to be done in many communities still affected by explosive remnants of war.

To learn more about MAG in Vietnam and around the world, visit:

www.maginternational.org



Donor Updates

US Department of State - WRA

This quarter teams removed 1,627 items of UXO by completing 1,735 Dangerous Areas, 34 EOD response tasks and 27,365 m2 of static site clearance. The CL teams conducted 5,096 household surveys.



UK Aid

During this quarter UK Aid teams cleared 45,098 square metres of land, completed 1,032 Dangerous Area spot tasks and removed a total of 928 UXO.



CL Teams conducted 4,076 household surveys

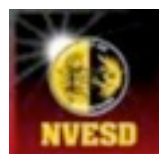
Irish Aid

The Irish Aid EOD team completed 238 EOD Response tasks during the quarter and removed a total of 1,170 items of UXO.



NVESD Humanitarian Demining R&D

The Rockhound mulcher continued to support mechanical vegetation clearance in Tuyen Hoa district of Quang binh province. The Seppi mulcher was delivered to Quang Tri.



FACTS & FIGURES

Programme Statistics: October - December 2011

◆ Square Metres Cleared:

72,463

◆ Number of Villages worked in:

54

◆ Number of EOD Response Tasks:

272

◆ Number of household surveys:

9,172

◆ Number of UXO destroyed:

3,725

◆ Number of beneficiaries:

102,086



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