

“Building futures through partnership”



Above 1: Mr. Thu with his wife and child, standing on his pepper plantation on MAG cleared land

News Roundup

* US. Ambassador attended MAG Quang Nam's project opening ceremony on 12 October.

* Visit of Irish Minister for Trade and Development and Irish Ambassador to Vietnam to MAG Quang Tri in late October.

* MAG's Exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City from 7-25/December.

* MAG Quang Nam's first Mine Action Team recruited and trained from September to October.

Mr. Nguyen Dinh Thu (45 yrs old) lives with his wife and two children in the coastal village of Son Ha, in Northern Quang Tri Province. 24 years ago, Mr. Thu was hoeing the small piece of land his parents gave him and he struck a bomb that had stayed undisturbed for 13 years since the end of the war;

“I didn't know what happened, there was a very big bang and later on I found myself covered in blood. I could hear people around me discussing how to take me to the hospital. You know now we are poor but at

that time we were much poorer. We had no ambulance, no taxi, no motorbike, not even a bicycle. They had to carry me in a hammock for 25km to the nearest medical facility. My two hands have been blown off and my body was riddled with shrapnel”.

Working in partnership with Roots of Peace, MAG's development partner in Quang Tri, Mr Thu's land was identified as a priority area for an agricultural project which aims to produce commercial crops for the most in need households in the area.

In August 2012, MAG deployed the teams to clear the area of land in which Mr Thu had been injured all those years ago. After two days, 11 more UXO had been safely removed from 500m² of land. Roots of Peace then helped the family to plant pepper trees on the land which MAG had cleared.

“Previously, I had found some small UXOs on the surface over there. My neighbours had also found some but I didn't know there was that many underground. MAG has helped to clear my land to plant pepper tree so that I can earn a living”, continued Mr. Thu.

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Building Futures through partnership

When asked about his future plans for the land, Mr. Thu's face lit up as he looked at the growing pepper trees in his small garden: *"I also have a rice farm, and grow cassava and peanuts which had previously produced enough for daily life... but pepper is much more valuable in the market. After MAG's clearance, I planted the pepper in August 2012. It will take four years for the first harvest and then we will get one crop a year. We will use the additional income to send our children to school."*

Nick Roseveare, MAG's Chief Executive, came to MAG Vietnam in January 2013, and visited Mr Thu on his pepper farm to see how the project was progressing.



Above 2: Nick Roseveare greeting Mr. Thu on his pepper garden

During the visit, Nick told Mr Thu: *"It's really important that we clear land which not only saves lives and limbs, but also in the long term, that something positive can be done for you and your family."*

US Ambassador attended MAG's project opening ceremony in Quang Nam



Above 3: US Ambassador David Shear (red tie in the middle) with MAG's first MAT in Quang Nam and local authorities.

In October 2012, MAG's first project in Quang Nam, the first of its kind in the province, was officially launched with the attendance of US Ambassador David Shear, Quang Nam Vice Chairman of PPC Mr. Dinh Van Thu and other relevant authorities.

At the launch ceremony, Ambassador Shear announced the grant of US\$1.6 million to MAG, the US Government partner for clearance operations in Quang Binh and Quang Nam province.

"The United States is committed to working with the Government of Viet Nam on cleaning up UXO. These programmes underscore a comprehensive effort to overcome this legacy of war, and building trust and understanding between our two nations as we face this challenge together," said Amb. Shear.

Mr. Dinh Van Thu also shared that: *"Quang Nam is one of the six most heavily contaminated provinces in Vietnam and MAG is the first mine action operator here. Many thanks MAG for mobilizing all the resources to make this project happen."*

“Impact for Peace” photo exhibition travels to Ho Chi Minh City

Following the success of the photo exhibition in October 2011 in Hanoi, MAG has brought “Impact for Peace” to Ho Chi Minh City with the goal of introducing MAG’s mine action activities and raising public awareness of the UXO danger.

The exhibition features the work of three photographers, MAG’s own Sean Sutton, Aidan Dockery, a photographer from the UK, and Na Son, a Vietnamese photographer, to document MAG’s daily operations and depict the impact which the remaining ordnance has on those living with it, as well as the people who risk their lives clearing it. The exhibition is a stark reminder of the enduring legacy of war. *“I’ve witnessed war” Na Son said, “I’ve seen the rockets. I respect MAG and the people who work for them. They are more than brave. I don’t think that word even covers them and what they do.”*



Above 5: Museum guide taking the audiences on the tour of the exhibition



Above 4: Ribbon cutting ceremony to open the exhibition, which ran from 7th to 25th December 2012

“A week ago, a bomb explosion killed four children in Vinh Long, a province not very far from Ho Chi Minh City. For us, the war did not end in 1975” Mrs Huynh Ngoc Van, Director of the War Remnants Museum, explained, “it has continued up ‘till now and it will continue across Vietnam”.

With the exhibition featuring in such a prominent role at the War Remnants Museum - consistently one of the most popular museums in Saigon - MAG’s work will now play to as wide an audience as can be hoped for in the city. For Portia Stratton, MAG Vietnam’s Country Director that is one of the key successes of the exhibition: *“The War Remnants Museum is such an important and prominent site. Being here is going to help us raise awareness of the level of ordnance remaining in Vietnam and dangers it poses to the people.”*

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Donor Updates

US Department of State - WRA

The second half of 2012 saw WRA teams remove 3,050 items of UXO by completing 3,955 Dangerous Areas, 164 EOD response tasks and 29,005m² of static site clearance. 6,659 household surveys were conducted by CL teams to identify 1,983 Dangerous Areas and 424 household visited by MAT teams to identify 47 Dangerous Areas.

In Quang Nam, the CL Team conducted 4,276 household surveys and identified 587 Dangerous Areas; the MAT completed 37 EOD tasks and removed 81 items of UXO.



UK Aid

During the last six months of 2012, UK Aid teams cleared 65,784 square metres of land, completed 3,892 Dangerous Area spot tasks, 663 EOD Response tasks and removed a total of 6,358 UXO.

CL Teams conducted 8,018 household surveys that identified 3,406 Dangerous Areas.



Humanitarian Demining R&D

The Rockhound mulcher continued to support mechanical vegetation clearance in Quang Binh province (in Tuyen Hoa District from July to November and in Bo Trach District from November to December). The Seppi Mulcher has been operational in Quang Tri province. Combined, the two mulchers have cleared 32,404 square metres of vegetation saving 2,315 hours of manual clearance time.



FACTS & FIGURES

Programme Statistics: July - December 2012

◆ Square Metres Cleared:

94,789

◆ Number of Villages worked in:

111

◆ Number of EOD Response Tasks:

864

◆ Number of household surveys:

19,377

◆ Number of UXO destroyed:

9,489

◆ Number of beneficiaries:

298,651



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