



Japanese Funding Helps to Rebuild Lives and Livelihoods in Nineveh Governorate

Grant Assistance for Grass-Root Human Security Project

The Project 'Explosives Clearance in Nineveh Governorate for the early and safe return of Internally Displaced Persons to their original homes' sees US\$868,041 delivered for grass-roots human security.

22 February 2016: The Government of Japan is providing US\$868,041 to assist non-governmental organisation MAG (Mines Advisory Group) in destroying landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) for the benefit of communities displaced by violence in Northern Iraq.

This crucial funding is enabling the purchase of specialist mechanical demining equipment to clear mines and UXO in newly liberated parts of Nineveh Governorate, benefiting 1,500 people in the sub-districts of Rabeea, Sinoni and Zummar. Furthermore, the funding will support the specialised training of MAG staff to deal with the contamination in the area.

There was widespread destruction of infrastructure in these areas during the conflict, which has left the deadly legacy of UXO hidden amongst the rubble. This is preventing internally displaced people (IDPs) from returning home safely and means that the process of rebuilding cannot begin.

Charge d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in Iraq, Hirofumi Miyake, said: "Last month Japan pledged US\$105 million for humanitarian assistance to IDPs and refugees in Iraq and stabilisation of the liberated area. This grant for grassroots project is a part of our efforts to contribute stabilisation in the liberated area. We hope that people in Rabeea, Sinoni and Zummar return to their original homes and restore peaceful life as early as possible."

MAG Iraq's Country Director, Nina Secharan, said: "The need for this work cannot be exaggerated. The humanitarian impact of landmines and UXO on IDPs is huge."

"People wanting to return home following the violence are unable to do so, afraid of the danger lurking in their damaged or destroyed houses. Having already suffered so much, what these communities want more than anything is to get on with rebuilding their lives. This funding from the Japanese Government will make it safe for them to do so."

In total, 26,400m² of land will be cleared by the excavation, demolition and rubble removal machines.

Additional Information:

The funding will see the following equipment deployed to MAG's mine and UXO clearance operations in Rabeea, Sinoni and Zummar sub-districts:



Crawler excavator: a machine to demolish houses and buildings, and find explosive remnants of war.



Demolition attachment: used to press and crush rubble.



Wheel loader: a vehicle that moves rubble from the demolition site to a disposal site.



40 ton trailer: a vehicle that moves explosive ordnance disposal equipment to the disposal site.



Training: The staff training package will be provided by international training specialist Optima Group.

Notes for Editor:

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects(GGP):

The Japanese Government offers the "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects" (GGP). The feature of this scheme is to aim to make a direct impact on the well-being of grassroots communities, empower local residents, strengthen their capacities and improve the livelihood of the local population by implementing GGP carried out by various bodies such as NGOs, local authorities and so on.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

MAG shared the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its work to ban landmines.

In 2015, MAG:

- made more than 33 million square metres of land safe around the world, working in Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia
- removed and destroyed more than 100,000 deadly explosive items such as landmines and unexploded bombs
- gave more than 22,000 'risk education' sessions, helping half a million people to stay safe until land is cleared.

Around 1.4 million men, women and children directly benefited from MAG's work. Another two million more are estimated to have benefited indirectly.

For further information on MAG's work in Iraq and around the world, email info@maginternational.org.