



Japanese Funding Helps to Rebuild Lives and Livelihoods in Nineveh Governorate

**Grant Assistance for Grass-Root Human Security Project
'The project for explosives clearance in Ninawa Governorate to facilitate safe return of internally displaced persons to liberated areas' sees US\$764,171 delivered for grass-roots human security.**

19 March 2017: The Government of Japan is providing US\$764,171 to assist non-governmental organisation MAG (Mines Advisory Group) clear landmines and make land safe for the benefit of communities displaced by violence in northern Iraq.

This crucial funding is enabling the purchase of mechanical demining equipment to clear improvised landmines, booby-traps and other explosive remnants of war from the land, infrastructure and buildings in recently liberated parts of Nineveh Governorate, benefiting an estimated 1,850 people in the sub-district of Hamdaniya.

The risk to physical safety from the concentrated use of improvised mines and booby-traps in conflict affected areas is preventing internally displaced persons (IDPs) from returning home safely. The process of rebuilding cannot begin.

Ambassador of Japan to Iraq, Fumio IWAI, said: *"Last month Japan pledged around US\$100 million for humanitarian assistance to IDPs and refugees in Iraq and stabilisation of the liberated areas. Response to explosive hazards in the newly liberated areas is one of our prioritized fields and this grant for grassroots projects is a part of our efforts to contribute to stabilisation in the liberated areas. We hope that people in Hamdaniya can return to their original homes and restore peaceful life as early as possible."*

MAG Iraq's Country Director, Nina Seecharan, said: *"The need for this work cannot be exaggerated. The humanitarian impact of landmines and UXO on IDPs is catastrophic. People wanting to return home following the violence are unable to do so, afraid of the danger lurking in their farmland and 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. More than anything they just want to go home. This funding from the Japanese Government will make it safe for them to do so."*

Last year, the Government of Japan also has funded the grant of US\$868,041 for explosives clearance in the sub-districts of Rabeea, Sinoni and Zummar, implemented by MAG under the scheme of Grant Assistance for the Grass-Root Human Security Project. The equipment funded under this project continues to be deployed and have a massive impact supporting life-saving clearance activities in the region.

Additional Information:

The funding will see the following equipment deployed to MAG's explosives clearance operations in Hamdaniya sub-district:



Light Wheel Tractor: this machine will have tine rake and bucket attachments and will assist with the removal of improvised landmines from the ground.



Wheeled Excavator: a machine to process damaged and destroyed houses and buildings, and find explosive remnants of war and to be used with the attachments such as Hydraulic breakers, Tine rakes, Shear Jaws



Fuel Trailer: a vehicle to refuel the mechanical assets without having to be transported back to the base which saves time and increases efficiency.



Detector: a handheld device used by manual clearance teams to locate improvised and conventional explosive devices.

Notes for Editor:

Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security 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 and in 2015:

- Made more than 33 million square metres of land safe around the world 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.
- Delivered 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, please email info@maginternational.org.