



Bufty: A Mine Detection Dog

Bufty and her handler Muhammed Ali Sdiq in Iraq

MAG Update
April 2016





Bufty and Muhammed clearing a path through a minefield in Kirkuk. This means the deminers can walk through the minefield safely and start clearing the rest of the contaminated land.

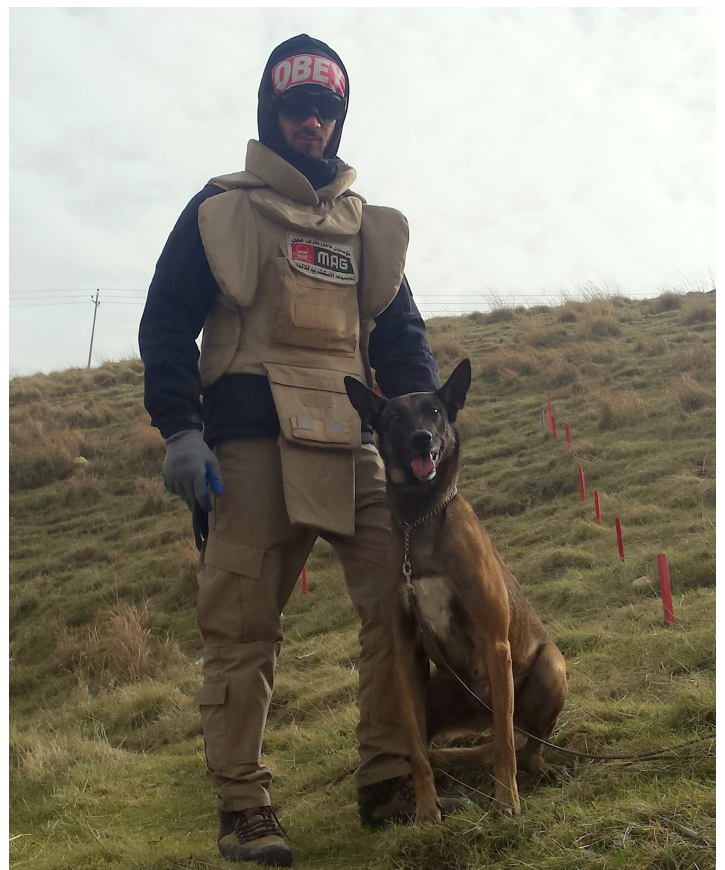
Bufty's Story

Bufty is female Belgian Shepherd Mine Detection Dog (MDD), born 1 March 2010 in Norwegian Peoples Aid's global training centre in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Bufty received full training in Bosnia and when she arrived in Iraq on the 12 June 2012, she was a fully trained MDD and ready to work with MAG's team in Iraq.

Once she arrived in her new home in MAG's Chamchamal base in northern Iraq, Bufty received final training with her new handler Muhammed Ali Sdiq.

This included training on how to identify mines in the local environment (scent imprinting). Bufty passed her first Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) accreditation on 30th May 2013 and became fully active from this date.



Bufty and her handler Muhammed February 2016



Bufty clearing land in the Kirkuk area of Iraq. The land will be used for grazing livestock by local people once clearance is finished.

Bufty's Achievements

Bufty finds landmine and unexploded bombs with Muhammed so MAG can destroy them to make land safe. She also double-checks areas which have been demined (land quality checks). This safe land is released back to local people who desperately need it to grow food, build homes and live free from fear.

Bufty and Muhammed worked in minefields in the Kirkuk governorate during Q3 2016. Bufty has been in great health and was fully operational during this quarter. We are pleased to report their achievements as follows:

January:

Land cleared: **6,037 m²**

Land quality checked: **700 m²**

February:

Land cleared: **4,603 m²**

Land checked: **0 m²**

March:

Land cleared: **5,163 m²**

Land quality checked: **0 m²**

TOTAL LAND CLEARED Q3: 15,803 m²

TOTAL LAND CHECKED Q3: 700 m²

TOTAL LAND CLEARED Q1 - Q3:

27,632 m²

TOTAL LAND CHECKED Q1 - Q3:

2,200 m²

All the land cleared in Q3 will be used for agriculture by local communities, in particular, grazing livestock.

Thank you Anicura and VSF Sweden for supporting Bufty and humanitarian mine action in Iraq!