



## MAG CWMD Global Update March 2011



*Iraq: Removal of hazardous items located near Sulimaniyah – Kirkuk main road, on an archeological site in Takya Kaka Mand sub-district.*



*Swaziland: Installation of gun racks at the army's Mbuluzi training course camp*

**MAG and CWMD** – MAG uses the term Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) to refer to its work in support of weapons and ammunition disposal and security. This includes dealing with Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as well as items such as aircraft bombs, large calibre artillery, mortar ammunition and rockets. The term also reflects the different roles that MAG takes on within this sector, from direct clearance activities and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), to capacity building and training. CWMD is a coordinated and integrated approach which supports states to develop sustainable solutions to armed violence, and is an essential contribution to local, national and regional security and aspects of Armed Violence Reduction (AVR).

MAG is currently undertaking CWMD projects in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Swaziland.

### **Burundi**

*MAG Burundi started in 2007 with a programme to support the Government of Burundi in **reducing the threat of SALW and unsecured stockpiles**. MAG is currently offering technical support to the Weapons Destruction Workshop and is supporting the Burundian Government in implementing the Nairobi Protocol - Articles 6, 7, 8 and 9.*

Despite the official end on 28 February of the survey of the Burundian Army (Force de Defense Nationale – FDN) SALW, funded by the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, the SALW Survey Team continued the assessment of 17 depots in Bujumbura and Bubanza (1<sup>st</sup> Military Region). MAG continued to provide technical advice during this period.

The main survey conclusions are that there are many weapons and ammunition which are degraded, obsolete or surplus, some ammunition that represents a high risk of accidental explosion, the

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infrastructure for the storage of weapons and ammunition is poor, most stocks need security improvements and armouries need to be built. Finally, the armourers lack training to safely store and manage weapons and ammunition.

From the survey data, the FDN has already compiled a list of unstable SALW for destruction and identified priorities for armoury and ammunition depots rehabilitation/construction. The training of armourers has also been set as a priority.

MAG Burundi is therefore looking for funding to implement solutions to the weaknesses identified: the destruction of degraded, obsolete or surplus weapons and ammunition; the rehabilitation or construction of armouries and ammunition depots; and the training of armourers.

## Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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*MAG DRC launched a nationwide CWMD programme in September 2006 and in May 2007 received written authorisation from the Ministry of Defence to **destroy surplus military stocks** in all Military Regions. Also in May 2007, a destruction centre was established by MAG at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa. In September 2008 MAG received written authorisation from the Ministry of the Interior (extended in April 2009) to commence CWMD activities with **the Congolese National Police**.*

*MAG DRC is currently operating **one mobile CWMD team, a mobile stockpile assessment team, and the destruction team** based at the Logistics Central Base under funding from the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA). Under funding from the Dutch Government MAG is also creating official **national PSSM standards**, providing training in these standards and undertaking the evaluation and refurbishment of ammunition stockpiles.*

Under MAG's Dutch funded PSSM project, the ammunition stockpile assessment of the depot in Mbandaka, undertaken in February, was presented to the General and Governor of Equateur in March. Both parties are currently drafting letters of support for MAG's proposed project to reconstruct the ammunition depot. MAG completed the training of trainers for the ordnance professors at the FARDC Logistics School in Camp Kokolo. All of the trainees passed the final exams and were presented with diplomas during a graduation ceremony at Camp Laono on 25 March. Ordnance specialists from Mbandaka, Kananga, and Kisangani have been selected and will begin their training on 11 April at the Logistics School in Kinshasa. The rehabilitation of the armoury in Camp Kokolo began in March. Additionally, the rehabilitation of the road to the site of the new ammunition depot (construction to begin in April) in Camp Kokolo began in March. The tender for the reconstruction of the new ammunition depot was launched and MAG is currently awaiting offers.

Under the US Department of State funded project, the mobile destruction and assessment teams were deployed to Goma during February. A total of 2.96 tons of ammunition were destroyed during March in Goma. At the Arms Destruction Workshop an additional 1,000 arms were destroyed.

## Iraq

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*MAG Iraq started implementing the CWMD programme in August 2007 with the **support of the US Department of State WRA**. To date, MAG Iraq CWD teams have successfully responded to more than **10,915 emergency tasks** to safely remove and destroy **319,024 CW items**. Since it began MAG Iraq's CWMD programme has **directly benefited more than 1 million individuals**.*

*MAG's **Small Arms and Light Weapons Risk Education (SALW RE) programme** began with RE sessions in schools in July 2008. Working with local partners, MAG's SALW RE warns children of the threats of playing with SALW, with the aim of reducing the risk to children in homes with unguarded SALW.*

In March, four Conventional Weapons Disposal (CWD) response teams continued operations, deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed **128** times from the programme's three operation bases to **87** different villages, completing **252** emergency conventional weapons destruction

tasks in **Sulimaniyah, Dohuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk Governorates**. This month, **5,222 CW** were safely destroyed. Items included items of 70mm PG, anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank landmines, fuses, mortars, projectiles and small arms ammunition in addition to several other types of unexploded ordnance. Teams destroyed **74 stockpiles**.

In Chamchamal, the CWMD team deployed to Chimany Azady village of Kirkuk governorate to safely remove and destroy two stockpiles of **1,242 items of CW**. The team in Sulimaniyah deployed to Mahmod Qajar area of Diyala governorate to safely remove and destroy five stockpiles of **1,039 items of CW**. Items were posing significant threat to the local communities in the area.

The dedicated MAG Community Liaison (CL) teams funded by WRA conducted **6 liaison visits to 6 different villages** in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah, liaising with local authorities, farmers, shepherds, teachers, village leaders and other villagers. MAG CL teams delivered **7 SALW RE session to 89** primary school students in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah governorates.

## Somalia

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*MAG commenced its CWMD activities in the Puntland region of Somalia in May 2008 with funding from the US Department of State WRA. MAG **trained an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team** consisting of **7 Puntland Police officers** and further provided technical assistance and equipment for the team performing CWMD activities throughout Puntland. All training and field operations are carried out in close coordination with the national governing authority the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC). With further funding from WRA, activities in Puntland re-started in September 2009. The UK Government's Conflict Prevention Pool is providing funding for additional **Community Liaison Teams** and survey activities from August 2010 and has recently granted an extension from April 2011.*

During the month of March 2011, the EOD team worked on three task dossiers in Mudug Region. They located 78 items which were destroyed at the Central Detonation site in Garowe.

MAG became aware of the potential risk of contamination of a Siinay Military site in Galkayo following a sizable explosion in a storeroom on the premises which destroyed many surrounding buildings and walls allowing for unauthorised public access. The area was of priority as local communities, including children, regularly walked through the area putting themselves at risk. Negotiations were undertaken to assess the base and after gaining permission from the Siinay Military Commander, the EOD team and TFM surveyed the area and returned to Garowe for preparations. They returned on 29<sup>th</sup> March to commence the task. At the site they carried out a BAC visual surface search of 310sqm and the area was found to be heavily contaminated.

The CL teams covered remote and previously insecure areas of East Sanaag delivering MRE to 6,895 people in 22 communities throughout March. The last week of the month saw the lead-up to International Mine Action Day. To raise awareness of the day and humanitarian mine action, the CL teams visited three schools in Garowe and gave MRE presentations to nearly 3,000 people and trained 6 teachers in MRE delivery. Red wrist bands bearing the coordinated "UXO – Don't Touch!" message in Somali proved very popular among the school children who proudly showed them off and found creative ways to use them – anklets, key rings and mobile phone protectors, among others.

## Sudan

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*There are two **specialist EOD teams**, funded by WRA in southern Sudan. One team (MAT1) concentrates on operations in Central and Western Equatoria, while the second team (MAT2) concentrates on operations in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. Additionally MAG has **eight Multi-Task Teams (MTTs) and thirteen Community Liaison (CL) Teams** operating in Kassala, Blue Nile, Greater Equatoria and Jonglei. The integrated MTTs conduct minefield survey and clearance, as well as carrying out CW disposal as necessary. MAG Sudan conducts integrated operations and the CL*

teams are the main generators of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Dangerous Area (DA) Reports which are cleared by the MAG technical teams.

In southern Sudan MAT1 deployed to Yei and Morobo Counties in Central Equatoria where they completed 10 spot tasks clearing 10 UXO. MAT2 travelled north of Bor in Jonglei State to Panyagor where they disposed of two stockpiles including: 160 anti-personnel mines; 36 anti-tank mines; one MANPADS battery and tube, 1,904 UXO; and 1,704 Small Arms Ammunitions (SAA). The team then travelled back south to Bor, and completed 14 spot tasks and 5,600 sqm of Battle Area Clearance, disposing of 47 UXO and 48 SAA. Approximately 9,040 people benefitted from these activities.

In northern Sudan, MTT1 continued work in Hamesh Korieb whilst MTT2 moved to Telkuk, before returning to Hamesh Korieb in mid-March. Together the teams completed 275,000 sqm of Battle Area Clearance disposing of 190 UXO. The teams also disposed of three stockpiles containing 834 UXO and 13,000 SAA, and three emergency spot tasks were responded to, where one grenade and two aircraft bombs were removed from schools in Rural Kassala. MTT3 worked alongside DCA in Ulu, Blue Nile State in March, disposing of 16 UXO through 3,525 sqm of Battle Area Clearance. Approximately 11,040 people benefitted from these activities.

CL teams in southern Sudan deployed across Greater Equatoria and Jonglei and collected 52 new DA reports which will be passed on to the MAG EOD teams for swift clearance. All teams had a regular stand down period between 19 and 27 March.

CL teams 10, 12 and 13 deployed to Hamesh Korieb, Rural Kassala and Telkuk respectively, generating 31 DA reports, 25 of which were disposed of by MAG clearance teams on the same day.

A summary of the outputs from the month of March can be found below:

Summary Table	Number removed and destroyed
ERW removed/destroyed	
AP mines	160
AT mines	36
SAA	14,752
MANPADS – Tube	1
MANPADS – Battery	1
Other UXO	3,004
<b>Total ERW removed/destroyed</b>	<b>17,954</b>
Number of demolitions	33
Spot tasks completed	27
Newly reported DAs	83
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>20,080</b>

## Swaziland

*In Swaziland, MAG is undertaking a short project with the Swaziland Police (RSPS) and Army (USDF) to help them to **reduce their stocks of identified unserviceable and unusable SALW** and to **improve storage conditions** for their remaining stocks of weapons. Activities in country started in January 2011 and finished in March.*

In March, the gun racks manufactured in Burundi arrived, and by the end of the project they had all been installed; 25 in the army's Mbuluzi training course camp and 25 in the Police Operational Support Service Unit Camp in Ngonini. As a consequence, 500 weapons are now stored safely and securely. Training for representatives from the police and the army in installation and safe usage of the gun racks was carried out and the international Technical Field Manager – Team Leader carried out ongoing supervision and support for a short period before the project closed as planned.

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to our CWMD projects around the globe:

- Act for Peace
- AECID - Spanish Government
- Belgian Government
- CHF
- CIDA
- DFAIT (Canadian Dept of Foreign Affairs and International trade)
- DFID
- Dutch Government
- ECHO
- GOAL
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Swiss Government
- UK Government, Africa Conflict Prevention Pool
- UN
- United States Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement