



MAG CWMD Global Update April 2010



Destruction of Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) by burning in Burundi



Safe demolition of a stockpile of landmines being conducted by MAG CWD response team in Mahmud Qajar, Diyala

MAG and CWMD – MAG uses the term Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) to more accurately reflect the approach that MAG takes with regard to dealing with the range of munitions it encounters in support of stockpile management, as in many of its projects items outside of the SALW definition are dealt with, 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 training to Physical Security and Stockpile Management.

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

Burundi

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

The Swiss-funded PSSM activities in Region West started this month. The MAG-PNB mobile team worked one week towards the **removal of surplus PNB SALW** during which they collected **114 weapons, 275 magazines, 330 items of ammunition (209 hand-grenades, 54 rifle grenades, 40 mortar shells, 15 rocket propellers, 11 rockets, and 1 AP mine)**, and **64,134 Small Arms Ammunition (SAA)**. While waiting for the authorisation to work in the Region West, the team took the occasion to collect surplus and seized SALW which remained in the southern province of Bururi.

Summary of outputs in March:

- Collection of **232 weapons, 324 magazines, 508 items of ammunition and 69,469 SAA** by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Destruction of **695 items of ammunition and 24,000 SAA** by the MAG-PNB mobile team.

For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world, please visit www.maginternational.org

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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 two mobile CWMD teams and the destruction team based at the Logistics Central Base under funding from the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

The first CWMD Team continued its deployment in South Kivu (10th Military Region) where it is **collecting dangerous ammunition stocks** from the Congolese security forces for destruction purposes. A planned deployment to Baraka in the South of the province was postponed due to **security concerns** which made it impossible to travel in the area and the team therefore had to turn back at Uvira. After their return to Bukavu they worked on the **sorting and packaging of 630 weapons** which will now be sent to the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa for destruction.

The second CWMD Team was **demobilised this month**. From next month only one destruction team will operate, in addition to an evaluation team composed of MAG DRC's QA/QC Team Leader and a technical representative of the FARDC. The principle objective of the evaluation team will be to conduct assessment of stocks in order to identify those items in need of destruction. The CWMD team, or one of MAG's Multi-Task Teams, will then deploy to the area to destroy the identified items.

This month the QA/QC Team Leader deployed to Mbuji Mayi in Kasai Oriental province (5th Military Region) with an officer of the Central Logistics Base where they **identified 4 tons of potentially dangerous ammunition**. These items will now be handed over to MAG next month for destruction purposes. The QA/QC Team Leader then worked with the MAG MTT based in Mbuji Mayi in order to build their capacity to safely dispose of such a large stock of ammunition.

Weapons destruction work at the Central Logistics Base workshop continued as normal with **1,000 weapons being destroyed** by all MAG DRC teams during February.

Iraq

The existence of unsecured/unguarded CW in Iraq presents a major obstacle to the consolidation of national and regional peace and to socio-economic reconstruction and sustainable development. Iraq has been subjected to a protracted and intense conflict for over 25 years, resulting in extensive CW contamination. The conflict in 2003 led to further CW contamination including large numbers of unsecured and abandoned caches of CW, some of which were used in daily attacks that target civilians, security and coalition forces. CW contamination represents a security threat in that items risk being looted and used by armed groups for lethal and unlawful purposes.

During April, 3 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed **98** times from the programme's 3 operation bases to **65** different villages completing **207** emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks in **Sulimaniyah, Dohuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates**. During this month **4,212 CW** were safely destroyed. Items included 188 70mm PG, 687 anti-personnel landmines, 3 anti-tank landmines, 982 fuses, 464 mortars, 1,461 projectiles and 1,452 items of small arms ammunition, in addition to several other types of unexploded ordnance. During April teams destroyed more than **37 stockpiles**.

The CWD team in Sulimaniyah deployed to Mahmod Qajar village, Diyala governorate completing **2 tasks** to safely destroy two stockpiles of **483 items of CW**. Items were removed by a local Mine Action company undertaking clearance operations in a nearby minefield. These tasks were prioritized by the General Directorate for Mine Affairs (GDMA).

The CWD team in Dahuk completed **3 tasks** destroying **164 hazardous** items in Derabun collective town Rizgari, Dohuk. Items were posing significant threat to the lives of the local communities.

The dedicated Community Liaison (CL) teams conducted **36 liaison visits to 20 different villages** in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah, liaising with local authorities, farmers, shepherds, teachers and other villagers.

CL teams conducted **4 Small Arms and Light Weapons Risk Education (SALW RE) sessions** to 34 primary school students in Sulimaniyah governorate. The SALW RE sessions are beneficial to CW-affected communities by minimizing the risk of SALW to individuals living, working and travelling through affected areas.

Somalia

*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 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 OWRA, activities in Puntland re-started in September 2009.*

In April, the Puntland team destroyed the following:

2x IEDs (Fragmentation)	4x Rifle Grenades
1x Light Anti-Tank Weapon	2x 82mm HE Mortars
2x 37mm	1x 12,7mm
2x 14,5mm	6x 100mm APHE

Sudan

MAG has been implementing SALW activities in Sudan since 2005. Currently there is one EOD team, funded by WRA, operating out of MAG's base in Yei, Central Equatoria. This team has a roving capacity enabling MAG to response to EOD and SALW tasks across Greater Equatoria. In southern Sudan, MAG also has teams that conduct spot tasks along with other clearance activities. These teams are funded by the Spanish Government and CIDA. In northern Sudan there are two multi-task teams, funded by DIFD and WRA, enabling them to respond to EOD spot tasks along with other clearance activities.

The teams usually go out for 2-3 weeks at a time fly-camping in different areas before returning to base to rest and refuel. Sudan provides challenging terrain and difficult conditions to work in, particularly during the rainy season when many areas become impassable.

The following is a summary of the results achieved by the MAG Sudan programme in April 2010:

Summary Table	Number removed and destroyed
ERW removed/destroyed	
AP mines	3
AT mines	3
SAA	17,000

For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world, please visit www.maginternational.org

Other UXO	281
Total ERW removed/destroyed	17,287
m2 of Battle Area Clearance	0
Spot tasks completed	120 (100% MAG CL generated)
Stockpiles completed	1
Direct beneficiaries	750

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

- Canadian International Development Agency
- DFID
- Royal Government of the Netherlands
- Spanish Government
- Swiss Government
- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement