



MAG CWMD Global Update February 2010



A bicycle made of weapon parts created by an artist from Collectif Maoni "Arts for Peace" Festival, Burundi



CWD team preparing for demolition of hazardous items in Chamchamal, Sulimaniyah, Iraq

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 UNDP contract to collect and destroy SALW handed over by the population to the Commission for Civilian Disarmament and SALW (CDCPA) was completed during the first week of February with work in Bujumbura Mairie. For the rest of the month, the MAG-Police Nationale du Burundi (PNB) mobile team continued collecting and destroying PNB-owned SALW in Police Region East as part of the comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Physical Security team improved security in **7 PNB armouries** of Police Region East. Moreover, MAG has received a new contract from the Swiss Government to implement the destruction of surplus PNB stocks and improve the physical security of PNB armouries in Police Region West. This work is expected to start in April.

In February, MAG, Handicap International Belgium and the CDCPA organised the **"Arts for Peace" festival** at the French Cultural Centre of Bujumbura. The event aimed to celebrate

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achievements towards disarmament and SALW control in Burundi, while sensitizing the population to the negative consequences weapons can have on societies. The event consisted of film projections, discussions, photo exhibitions and an exhibition of art works made with parts of weapons that had been destroyed in Burundi with MAG support.

At the end of the month, MAG received a visit from Francis Sang, Executive Director of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), who visited an armoury fitted by MAG.

Summary of outputs:

- Collection of **124 weapons, 231 magazines, 576 ammunition and 3,183 SAA** from PNB stocks by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Collection of **967 weapons, 392 magazines, 237 ammunition and 92,949 SAA** handed-over by the population to the CDCPA by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Destruction of **72,451 SAA, 1,112 ammunition and 4 weapons** by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Improvement to the physical security of **7 PNB armouries** by the MAG physical security team.

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.

In February the first CWMD team continued its deployment in North Kivu where it is collecting potentially dangerous arms and ammunition from the FARDC for destruction. Currently based in Goma, this team deployed to Walikale and within Goma itself where **11 tons of ammunition** were destroyed. The Technical Field Manager (TFM) of the second CWMD team was in Bukavu to complete the first phase of arms and ammunition collection operations in South Kivu. Arms and ammunition collected by the team over the past few months and stored in Bukavu are planned to be destroyed in April.

MAG DRC's QA/QC Manager completed a reconnaissance mission in Orientale province, travelling to Kisangani and the surrounding area to identify FARDC stocks of ammunition to be destroyed by a CWMD team later in the year. He also deployed to Mbakana in Bas Congo province with trained officers from the FARDC to destroy **22 tons of munitions** from the Kibomango strategic stores in Kinshasa.

Also this month, two of MAG's Manual Clearance Teams (MCTs) deployed to FARDC (DRC's Armed Forces) stockpiles to destroy unsafe ammunition. In Katanga province one of the MCTs based in Pweto deployed to Lubumbashi where it destroyed **3.8 tons of ammunition** handed over from the Regional Logistics Base. In Equateur province the MCT based in Gemena deployed to the FARDC depot in Lisala where they were handed over **4.9 tons of ammunition** for destruction, following the visit of the QA/QC Manager to this depot in late 2009. Weapons destruction work at the Central Logistics Base workshop continued as normal with **202 weapons** destroyed in February.

In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed **2,358,372 items** of ammunition weighing **560.9 tons**, as well as **101,032 weapons**.

Iraq

Iraq has been subjected to protracted and intense conflict for over 25 years and is one of the countries most affected by explosive CW. The conflict in 2003 led to further, extensive CW contamination and resulted in large numbers of unsecured and abandoned stockpiles and

caches of SALW. MAG Iraq has eight SALW teams that deploy from the programme's 4 operational bases to **conduct Small Arms and Light Weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates.

During February, 3 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 130 times from the programme's 3 operation bases to **94 different villages** completing **223 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks** in Sulimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. During this month **4,021 CW** were safely destroyed. Items included **52 70mm PG, 1,039 anti-personnel landmines, 16 anti-tank landmines, 312 fuses, 877 mortars, 134 projectiles and 1,387 small arms ammunitions** as well as other types of unexploded ordnance. During February teams destroyed more than **37 stockpiles**.

The CWD team in Dahuk deployed to Asi village completing 2 tasks to safely remove and destroy **1,049 items of CW**. Items were posing a significant threat to the local population. A second CWD team deploying from Sulimaniyah base of operations, completed 10 tasks destroying **86 hazardous items** in Chwarqurna village in Rania, Sulimaniyah.

The dedicated Community Liaison (CL) teams conducted **20 liaison visits to 15 villages** in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah. The team in Dohuk delivered one awareness sessions to **87 primary school students** in Bashiqa village in Mosul governorate.

RECSA (Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa)

The project with RECSA has now come to an end and MAG is **actively seeking funding** from interested donors to be able to continue with the technical support not only to RECSA member states but to Africa in general.

Republic of Congo (RoC)

Since it resumed its formal partnership with the Ministry of Defence in the Republic of Congo in September 2008, MAG has been providing technical support to the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) to **safely manage and dispose of conventional weapons**. With funding from WRA until March 2010, MAG operates countrywide where arms and unsecured stockpiles represent a danger to populations.

Throughout February, MAG worked in the Northern province of Likouala to support the FAC with the destruction of weapons and ammunition from storage depots in the urban area of Impfondo. At the start of February, MAG **trained 7 FAC personnel** to EOD Level One 1 (6 operatives and 1 driver). Demolitions took place outside the town of Impfondo, where MAG destroyed **30,183 items**, including **29,921 SA** weighing **1796,5 kg**.

Items destroyed included:

39 x 75mm shell RR HE /HEAT	1 x grenade rifle AP
16 x fragmentations anti personnel mine	42 x anti tank rocket
35 x shell fuse	1 x hand grenade
11 x 37 mm shell artillery	4 x 60 mm mortar shell
55 x rocket and Cartridge propellant charge	16 x mine fuse (Muv)
10 x igniters hand grenade	16 x detonator
16 x 75 gram TNT explosive block	29,921 items of SAA

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.

February began with a large deployment to Bosasso where MAG carried out Battle Area Clearance of a large area totalling **77,000 square metres**. From this site the team collected over **4,400 items of ERW**.

The team also travelled to Galcaio and carried out surveys of LIS SHAs to the NW close to the Ethiopian border. From this visit several new impacted areas have been identified for future clearance. The team also conducted **5 MRE sessions** to communities around Nugaal district.

Sudan

MAG has been implementing SA/LW activities in Sudan since 2005. Currently there is **one EOD team**, funded by WRA, operating out of MAG's base in Yei, Central Equatoria, with a roving capacity enabling MAG to response to EOD and SA/LW 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 UNOPS, Spanish Government and CIDA.

In Northern Sudan there are two multi-task teams, funded by DFID and WRA enabling them to respond to EOD spot task 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 February 2010:

Summary table	Number removed and destroyed
ERW removed/destroyed	
AP mines	149
AT mines	30
SAA	10,353
Other UXO	5,111
Total ERW removed/destroyed	15,643
Spot tasks completed	104
Stockpiles completed	10 stockpiles of UXO and SAA
Direct beneficiaries	4,900

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
- UNDP
- UNOPS (UN Office for Project Services)
- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

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