



## MAG CWMD Global Update June 2010



*A student learning to conduct safety operations on a Kalashnikov, Burundi*



*Students working in groups to design SALW RE poster during the SALW RE Poster Competition in Kirkuk governorate, Iraq*

**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, 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, 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 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.*

With funding from the Swiss Government, physical security was improved in six armouries of Police Region West. Due to the unavailability of the PNB personnel of the MAG-PNB mobile team, the collection and destruction of surplus SALW was on hold this month. Because this unavailability is expected to last for some time, a new team, this time from the Civilian Defence, was **trained in basic Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)**. The Civilian Defence is in charge of dealing with mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and this training represents the first step of a long-term capacity building project for the Civilian Defence. During the training, **85 hand-grenades, 69 AP mines, 158 mortar shells, 15 rockets and 7 artillery shells** were destroyed in practical exercises. The collection of PNB surplus SALW resumed on 30 June with the collection of **5 light-machine guns and 140 boxes of Small**

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**Arms Ammunition (SAA)** from Kirundo and Ngozi thus fully completing work in Police Region North. Thirty seized hand-grenades were collected at the same time.

Summary of outputs:

- Training of **9 Civilian Defence personnel** in basic EOD and first aid;
- Collection of **5 weapons, 10 magazines, 69 AP mines, 30 items of ammunition and 201,700 SAA** by the MAG-PC mobile team;
- Destruction of **334 items of ammunition** by the MAG-PC mobile team;
- Improvement to the physical security of **6 PNB armouries** by the MAG physical security team.

## **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**. From July 2010 MAG DRC will commence a project financed by **the Dutch Government** to create official national **Physical Storage and Stockpile Management (PSSM)** standards, provide training in these standards and undertake evaluation and refurbishment of ammunition stockpiles.*

The CWMD destruction team continued its deployment in Mbandaka in Equateur province (3<sup>rd</sup> Military Region) where it disposed of **9 tons of munitions** from the regional stores located outside the town. The team was then put on standby for the week running up to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence celebrations as it was impossible to conduct operations, in particular detonations, during this sensitive time. The 30<sup>th</sup> itself however passed peacefully and no security incidents occurred in any MAG operational areas.

Meanwhile the Stockpile Evaluation Team (which is composed of the QA Team Leader - QATL- plus seconded FARDC liaison officials) worked on the updating of the CWMD Standard Operating Procedures.

Weapons destruction work at the Central Logistics Base workshop continued as normal with **1,002 weapons** being destroyed in June.

## **Iraq**

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*MAG Iraq started implementing the CWMD programme in August 2007 with the **support of PMWRA**. To date, MAG Iraq CWD teams have successfully responded to more than **9,100 emergency tasks** to safely remove and destroy **252,076 CW items**. Since it began MAG Iraq's CWMD programme had **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 June, 4 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 154 times from the programme's 3 operation bases to 107 different villages completing 282 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks in **Sulimaniyah, Dohuk, Mosul, Diyala, Erbil and Kirkuk Governorates**. During this month **6,889 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 more than **83 stockpiles**.

In Sulimaniyah, CWD teams deployed to Dara Maina village, Penjwin district, near the Iraq – Iran borders, to safely destroy 2 stockpiles of **82 items of CW**. The teams also deployed to Dashty Tle village in Mawat area to safely remove and destroy **109 items of CW**. Items were posing significant threat to the local picnickers.

The dedicated MAG Community Liaison (CL) teams funded by WRA conducted **31 liaison visits to 20 different villages** in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah, liaising with local authorities, farmers, shepherds, teachers, village leaders and other villagers. MAG CL teams conducted **10 SALW RE sessions** to 88 primary school students in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah governorates.

Partner teams funded by UNICEF delivered **49 SALW RE sessions** to villagers from 7 different villages in Diyala and 9 different villages in Kirkuk. In total, **4,760 individuals** received SALW RE. MAG's local partner NGO in Kirkuk and MAG CL staff conducted a poster competition funded by the current UNICEF project. 300 students from Kirkuk governorate participated in the poster competition to design SALW RE posters to be used by MAG and partner NGO teams for the delivery of SALW RE.

## **Philippines**

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*SALW are prevalent in the Philippines as a result of decades of internal conflict, together with clan-based society in much of the country and the inability of the Philippine government to develop a unified, transparent and accountable police and security apparatus. MAG undertook a **pilot project during June 2010**, aimed at supporting an initiative led by the Philippine Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process (OPAPP), the office established by Presidential Decree to lead on peace negotiations.*

Aimed at supporting the peace process and the reduction of armed violence in the Philippines, MAG's mission centred around providing **technical support** on the safe, accountable and transparent destruction of weapons acquired through a Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) project led by OPAPP.

Through the provision of technical support, MAG has been able to contribute to strengthened relations with OPAPP and the Philippine military and raise the profile of Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) and the need for accountable weapons management in DDR and Security Sector Reforms (SSR) programmes in the Philippines.

MAG and OPAPP are seeking donor funding to continue and expand technical support to the DDR and SSR process.

## **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 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.*

During June the team focussed on **MRE activities** in Galcaio at four locations within the town. This was of vital importance when considering community safety and additionally the team discovered areas which require clearing. Following this, the team deployed to Bosasso where they met with local police commanders and conducted a UXO sweep of the town.

## Sudan

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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 **respond 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 **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 June 2010:

Summary Table	Number removed and destroyed
ERW removed/destroyed	
AP mines	45
AT mines	138
SAA	1124
Other UXO	1520
<b>Total ERW removed/destroyed</b>	<b>2827</b>
m2 of Battle Area Clearance	81893
Spot tasks completed	139
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	<b>550</b>

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
- UNICEF
- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement -