



MAG CWMD Global Update March 2010



Stockpile of anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines being prepared for safe destruction by the CWD response team in Sulimaniyah, Iraq



Armourer reviewing his weapons inventory behind a security hatch installed by MAG, Karuzi, Police Region East, Burundi

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 Dutch-funded comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project with the Police Nationale du Burundi (PNB) in **Region East is now completed**, with the exception of five hand-grenades to be removed from an armoury that could not be accessed until now. The teams will now start to implement the same PSSM activities in **Police Region West** with funding from the Swiss Government. The goal of this nationwide PSSM project is to implement quick cost-effective measures that significantly reduce the risks of leakages, thefts and accidents from PNB armouries. These activities are implemented in the context of the *Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa* and the *Geneva Declaration on armed violence and development*.

Summary of outputs in March:

- Collection of **102 weapons, 318 magazines, 347 ammunition and 3,064 SAA** from PNB stocks by the MAG-PNB mobile team;

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- Destruction of **136 ammunition** by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Improvement to the physical security of **9 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.

During March, the first CWMD Team continued its deployment in North Kivu, based out of Goma. The team collected and destroyed **95 tons of surplus or dangerous ammunition** handed over by the Congolese Army (FARDC) for destruction purposes. The team also travelled to Bukavu in South Kivu to complete destruction operations started by the second CWMD team last year. In addition to an assessment visit by MAG DRC's Quality Assurance (QA) Manager, the CWMD Technical Operations Manager (TOM), together with a member of MAG's International Development and Evaluation Team (IDET), visited Goma to meet with regional authorities and stakeholders and to assess the work of the team.

Meanwhile the second CWMD team undertook equipment maintenance and stand-down activities, as this team will not be continued following the end of current financing. The QA Manager evaluated the team, which is currently located in Lubumbashi in Katanga Province, to try to ensure that qualified trained staff are retained and utilised in other MAG teams.

Weapons destruction work at the Central Logistics Base workshop continued as normal with **996 weapons being destroyed** by all MAG DRC teams during March.

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 March, 3 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 88 times to **54 villages** completing **191 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks** in Sulimaniyah, Dohuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. During this month **6,936 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 small arms ammunitions** as well as other types of unexploded ordnance. During March teams destroyed more than **36 stockpiles**.

The CWD team in Dohuk deployed to Surka village, completing 20 tasks to safely remove and destroy **158 items of CW**. Items were posing a significant threat to the local population. A second CWD team completed 27 tasks, destroying **84 hazardous** items in Bngird village in Chamchamal, Sulimaniyah.

The dedicated Community Liaison (CL) teams conducted **29 liaison visits to 17 villages** in Kirkuk and Sulimaniyah liaising with local authorities, farmers, shepherds, teachers and other villagers.

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 March, MAG supported the FAC in the destruction of weapons and ammunition from storage depots in urban areas. Demolitions took place near the town of Impfondo where MAG has destroyed **70,500 SAA**. Altogether **70,656** items, weighing **1888** kg were destroyed in March. March 5th marked the end of the EOD 1 course, and one team of **7 FAC personnel** was **trained and certified at EOD level 1**.

Items destroyed included:

45 x anti tank rocket	1 x anti personal rocket
3 x shell fuse	1 x hand grenade
6 x propellant charge rocket	100 x safety fuse

The project in RoC finished at the end of March 2010. MAG is **actively seeking funding** from interested donors to restart operations in RoC.

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.

During the month of March the team were involved in 10 days of training as the EOD team expanded by 2 additional operators. The **EOD level 1 training** which was carried out also acted as a refresher to existing team members.

The team then travelled to Galcaio and conducted ERW clearance at three sites. During this deployment the team dealt with their first **500lb aircraft bomb**. The local community were naturally very thankful to the Puntland Police EOD Team and MAG for removing this large item from their pastures.

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 respond 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 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 March 2010:

Summary Table	Number removed and destroyed
ERW removed/destroyed	
AP mines	3
AT mines	3
SAA	29,881
Other UXO	14,700
Total ERW removed/destroyed	44,587
m2 of Battle Area Clearance	31,676
Spot tasks completed	44
Stockpiles completed	14 stockpiles of UXO and SAA
Direct beneficiaries	2,845

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