



## MAG CWMD Global Update May 2010



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



*An Anti-Tank mine which was cleared by MAG, found on the Kaya Road linking Sudan and Uganda*

**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, 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 continued this month. The MAG-PNB mobile team collected surplus PNB SALW in the provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke (**216 weapons, 459 magazines, 1,218 items of ammunition and 42,773 Small Arms Ammunition (SAA)**) and destroyed **653 items of ammunition and 24,000 SAA**. Physical security improvements took place in **10 armouries** of the same provinces. Operations were stood down for one week around the municipal elections of 24 May.

### **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*

For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world, please visit [www.maginternational.org](http://www.maginternational.org)

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.

At the beginning of the month the CWMD Destruction Team completed its deployment in Bukavu, where they destroyed **6.8 tons of dangerous ammunition** that have been collected during the course of MAG's operations in South Kivu province from Congolese army (FARDC) stores. Following this, the team then deployed to Mbuji Mayi in Kasai Oriental province to assist MAG's Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Multi-Task Team, which is based there, to dispose of a large stock of ammunition identified in the FARDC stocks as being potentially dangerous. However due to the build up towards the 30<sup>th</sup> June celebrations marking 50 years of independence, and the heightened security levels surrounding this event, it was not possible to obtain the necessary permits to conduct demolitions. These items will now be destroyed after 30<sup>th</sup> June and in the mean time the CWMD team has redeployed to Mbandaka in Equateur province.

Due to a period of leave, the Stockpile Evaluation Team did not operate this month.

Weapons destruction work at the Central Logistics Base workshop continued as normal with **799 weapons** being destroyed in May.

## 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. MAG's **Small Arms and Light Weapons Risk Education (SALW RE) programme** began with RE sessions in schools. Surveys conducted during the initial phase of the programme showed that nearly all of the children in the area have accessible guns and other weapons in their houses. The local police in Diyala and Kirkuk confirmed this data, estimating that there are **SALW in 95% of the households in the area**. 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.*

During May, an additional CWD response team was added to MAG Iraq's 3 CWD response teams. The new team was trained by MAG Iraq's training, monitoring and evaluation unit (TMEU) at MAG's operations base in Sulimaniyah. The team deployed from Sulimaniyah base to undertake CWD operations on May 16<sup>th</sup>. CWD response teams funded by WRA continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 148 times from the programme's 3 operation bases to 109 different villages completing 280 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks in **Sulimaniyah, Dohuk, Mosul, Diyala, Erbil and Kirkuk governorates**. During this month **4,042 CW** were safely destroyed. Items included **222 70mm PG, 546 anti-personnel landmines, 6 anti-tank landmines, 1,321 fuses, 574 mortars, 317 projectiles and 121 items of small arms ammunition**, in addition to several other types of unexploded ordnance. Teams destroyed more than **43 stockpiles**.

The CWD team in Sulimaniyah deployed to Mahmud Qajar village, Diyala governorate to safely destroy a stockpile of **526 items of CW**. Items were removed by a local mine action company undertaking clearance operations in a nearby minefield. The task was prioritized by the General Directorate for Mine Affairs (GDMA). The CWD team in Dohuk completed **14 tasks** destroying **62 hazardous** items in 5 different villages of Fayda sub-district, Mosul. Items were posing significant threat to the lives of the local communities.

The dedicated MAG Community Liaison (CL) teams funded by WRA conducted **29 liaison visits to 18 different villages** in Kirkuk, Diyala and Sulimaniyah, liaising with local authorities, farmers, shepherds, teachers, village leaders and other villagers. MAG CL teams

conducted **5 SALW RE sessions** to 9 primary school students and 53 villagers in Kirkuk governorate. The SALW RE sessions are beneficial to SALW-affected communities by minimizing the risk of SALW on individuals living, working and travelling through the contaminated areas.

Partner teams funded by UNICEF delivered SALW RE sessions to youth from different youth centres in Laylan, Altun-Copri, Dibis, Daquq, Kazewa and Rizgary areas of Kirkuk governorate and Khanaqin in Diyala governorate. In total, **89 youth received SALW RE** of which 34 were female and 55 were male.

Local partner NGOs and MAG CL staff conducted a poster competition funded by the current UNICEF project. Youth centres from Kirkuk and Diyala governorates 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. Final results of the poster competition will be announced during the first week of June, when posters from 3 youth centres will be chosen and will be printed to be used as SALW RE materials.

## **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 May the team safely destroyed **656 items of CW** and over **half a ton** of propellant.

In addition to this, the team was involved in an extended period of refresher training in order to maintain a credible and safe skill set. Three existing and three new team members were trained to IMAS Level One.

Further to this the EOD team which is also trained in CL/MRE carried out **7 MRE sessions** to communities in southern Bari region.

## **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, 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:

<b>Summary Table</b>	<b>Number removed and destroyed</b>
ERW removed/destroyed	
AP mines	3
AT mines	1
SAA	24,532
Submunitions	6
Other UXO	103
<b>Total ERW removed/destroyed</b>	<b>24,645</b>
m2 of Battle Area Clearance	67,453
Spot tasks completed	82
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	<b>860</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
- UNOPS (UN Office for Project Services)
- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement