



MAG CWMD Global Update November 2009



Burundi: The MAG-PNB mobile team registers weapons handed over to the CDCPA during the civilian disarmament campaign, Bujumbura Mairie



RoC: Ammunition being prepared for destruction in Nkayi

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.

This month MAG was pleased to receive a contract from UNDP to collect and destroy SALW handed-over by the population to the National Commission for Civilian Disarmament and SALW (CDCPA) during the civilian disarmament campaign. The MAG-Police Nationale du Burundi (PNB) mobile team collected in just one week **559 weapons, 1,470 magazines, 1,055 ammunition (including 1,034 hand-grenades) and 40,602 Small Arms Ammunitions (SAA)** from police stations in Bujumbura Mairie.

Implementation of the comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project with the PNB continued in Region North with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The MAG-PNB mobile team collected surplus and obsolete PNB-owned SALW: **18 weapons, 23 magazines, 356 ammunition and 9,310 SAA**. During the same period, the Physical Security team improved security in **15 PNB armouries**. Work is almost complete in Police Region North, and it is expected the teams will move to Region East in January 2010.

Finally, thanks to funding from the Swiss Government MAG hosted the visit of a Professor and a student from the French Engineering College *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Metiers* (ENSAM) to conduct a feasibility study for recycling in Burundi the scrap metal originating from weapons destruction by smelting it to produce agricultural tools and other objects. This project could eventually employ former combatants to support their reintegration in civilian life.

A summary of outputs is as follows:

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- Collection of 18 weapons, 23 magazines, 356 ammunition and 9,310 SAA from PNB stocks by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Collection of 559 weapons, 1,470 magazines, 1,055 ammunition and 40,602 SAA handed-over by the population to the CDCPA by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Destruction of 1,342 ammunition by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Improvement to the physical security of 15 PNB armouries by the MAG physical security team;
- Refresher training on weapons transport and first aid for the MAG-PNB mobile 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.

MAG DRC is also currently refurbishing the Ordnance Department of the Logistics School at the FARDC Central Logistics Base, under financing from the UK Ministry of Defence, in anticipation of putting in place **technical stockpile management training courses** there at a later date.

During November, the first CWMD Team returned from Mbandaka in Equateur Province and deployed to Mbakana in Bas Congo where they prepared to destroy a number of items of ammunition collected from stockpiles located within Kinshasa. Destruction of these items will take place next month. Earlier, the Technical Field Manager of this team travelled to Mbandaka to negotiate with regional authorities the handing over to MAG of 7 tons of potentially dangerous ammunition for destruction purposes.

The second CWMD team continued its deployment in South Kivu (10th Military Region), where it is recovering arms and ammunition from FARDC bases as well as items that have been collected through the DDR process which are handed over to MAG via the UN Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC). In November, the team collected **98 weapons, 176 items of large ammunition and 5,406 rounds of SAA**, through deployments to Uvira and Humbo. All these items will be destroyed next month near the regional capital Bukavu following the holding of an official ceremony there with local authorities.

One of the Manual Clearance Teams normally associated with the Humanitarian Mine Action side of the programme also contributed to the CWMD programme this month by destroying **449 items of ammunition** from the Regional Logistics Base in Lubumbashi (Katanga Province – 6th Military Region) that were identified as potentially dangerous by CWMD Team 1 during its weapons-destruction deployment there in July.

The refurbishment of the Ordnance Department of the Central Logistics Base was completed this month under funding from the UK Ministry of Defence. MAG DRC is hoping to put in place **a technical stockpile management training programme** there in 2010. Weapons destruction work at the Central Logistics Base workshop continued as normal with **250 weapons** being destroyed this month.

In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed **2,174,899 items of ammunition**, as well as **100,379 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 conventional weapons (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 SALW destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates.

During November, 6 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 103 times from the programme's 3 operation bases to **83 different villages completing 310 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates. During this month **15,652 CW were safely destroyed**. Items included **513 70mm PG, 1,322 anti-personnel landmines, 1,889 fuses, 2,463 mortars, 5,323 projectiles and 3,527 SAA** as well as other types of unexploded ordnance. During November teams destroyed more than **95 stockpiles**.

Teams in Dahuk deployed to Bajid Kandal collective town where items were posing a significant threat to the local population especially child. Sixteen tasks to safely remove and destroy **187 items of CW** were completed

In Moffar village Chamchamal, Sulimaniyah, teams completed 16 tasks destroying **9 stockpiles of 5,144 hazardous items**.

The CW awareness program, delivered by the dedicated Community Liaison (CL) teams, continued during November. The program aims to warn children and other vulnerable groups about the dangers of CW. A children's activity book, as well as posters and leaflets, were specially designed to support the project. Teams conducted **5 awareness sessions to 146 individuals** in four different villages of Sulimaniyah governorate and one village of Kirkuk governorate, distributing 141 booklets in support of their activities.

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)

As of September 2008, with the confirmation of funding from CPP and WRA, the Mines Advisory Group has resumed its formal partnership with the Ministry of Defence in the Republic of Congo. MAG is providing technical support to the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) to **safely manage and dispose of conventional weapons**.

Throughout November, MAG has continued CWMD activities in the Republic of Congo. MAG has supported the FAC in the destruction of weapons and ammunition from storage depots in urban areas. Demolitions took place in the cities of Dolisie and Nkayi where **MAG has destroyed 25,546 SAA**. Altogether **26,698 items, weighing 3663.86kg** were destroyed in November.

Items destroyed included:

- 148 x 75mm artillery shell explosive
- 14 x 82 mm HEAT B10 artillery shell
- 2 x 90 mm HE artillery shell
- 477 x 23mm shell explosive(HE)
- 80 x 60 mm mortar shell HE
- 25 x 82 mm mortar shell HE
- 1 x Schemel launcher rocket incendiary
- 15 x grenades rifle (VOG 25, SAE 54,40mm)
- 62 x Hand grenade (F1 ,RGD5)
- 81 x anti tank rockets (PG7,PG2)
- 6 x anti personal rockets (OG7)
- 36 x M6 fuse
- 123 x TNT explosive block 0,200 gr
- 3 x Detonating cord explosive (15 m)
- 19 x (BA F1,MVSH 57 mine fuse,)
- 60 x (propellant charge, detonator pyro, blasting cap, safety fuse)
- 41 x 5,56mm SAA
- 1,150 x 7,5mm SAA
- 13,098 x 7,62 x 54mm SAA
- 5 x 7,62 x 51mm SAA
- 7959 x 7,62 x 39mm SAA
- 9 x 7,62 x 33mm SAA

- 2480 x 12,7mm SAA
- 804 x 14,5mm SAA

Other outputs:

- The team carried out **Casevac training** in demolition site.
- Reconnaissance of ammunitions stockpile in the Ouessou Zone Militaire D5.

Rwanda

MAG started its CWMD activities in Rwanda in November 2008. MAG is providing **technical assistance and training** to the Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) in basic stockpile management and the destruction of surplus SALW and munitions. MAG established a central weapons destruction workshop at Kanombe near Kigali and **trained two RDF teams** in weapons recognition and weapons cutting. A central demolition site for the destruction of munitions has been identified at Gabiro in north-east Rwanda. Operations re-started in August 2009 with a grant from the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US State Department.

During November 2009, **3,541 weapons were destroyed**, including 2,913 assault rifles, 1 bolt action rifle, 8 sniper rifles, 15 SLRs, 18 machine guns, 35 machine gun barrels 535 SMGs, 4 grenade launchers, 1 rocket launcher and 9 shotguns. **1,559 assault rifle magazines and 44 SMG magazines were also destroyed.**

Twelve operational days were possible at the Gabiro range this month, where **20,201kg of munitions (3,814 items) and 1,565kg of SAA were destroyed.**

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.

November was an extremely busy month for MAG in Puntland. The Police EOD team received Mine Risk Education (MRE) which will enable them to go out to communities and warn against the dangers of UXO and mines and how best to mitigate against the risk. MAG's Regional Community Liaison Manager conducted a **one week training course** followed by field assessments. In addition to this the team developed Puntland-specific MRE tools in order to improve the learning experience and transfer of knowledge.

Following this the EOD team deployed to Galcaio where w access to a large army stockpile in the centre of the town had been granted. From this stockpile the team removed over **12 tons of UXO** which was then safely destroyed in a series of bulk demolitions in Garowe.

Lastly, in conjunction with Danish Demining Group and Handicap International, MAG entered a partnership to produce child focused MRE materials for Somaliland and Puntland. It is hoped that field trials and final versions will be agreed before the end of the calendar year.

Sudan

MAG has been implementing SALW activates in Sudan since 2005. Currently there is one dedicated SALW team operating out of MAG's base in Yei, Central Equatoria, and also performing clearance activities in neighbouring Western Equatoria. The team is funded by WRA. In Southern Sudan, MAG also has teams that conduct EOD spot tasks, and logistically remove CW along with other clearance activities. These teams are funded through UNOPS, Dutch Government, DFAIT and CIDA. In Northern Sudan there are two multi-task mine action teams, funded by DIFD and WRA that both conduct EOD spot tasks or logistically remove

CW along with other clearance activities. MAG have located and destroyed 6 SAM7 MANPADS, which were found in the Jonglei area of Southern Sudan.

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.

A summary of outputs for November is as follows:

- 52 spot tasks completed
- 4,073 items removed and destroyed. Including:
 - 326 AT mines
 - 29 AP mines
 - 4 submunitions
 - 1,418 other UXO
- 2,472 direct beneficiaries.

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

- Belgian Government
- Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Canadian International Development Agency
- DFID
- Royal Government of the Netherlands
- Swiss Government
- UK Ministry of Defence
- UNDP
- UNOPS (UN Office for Project Services)
- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement