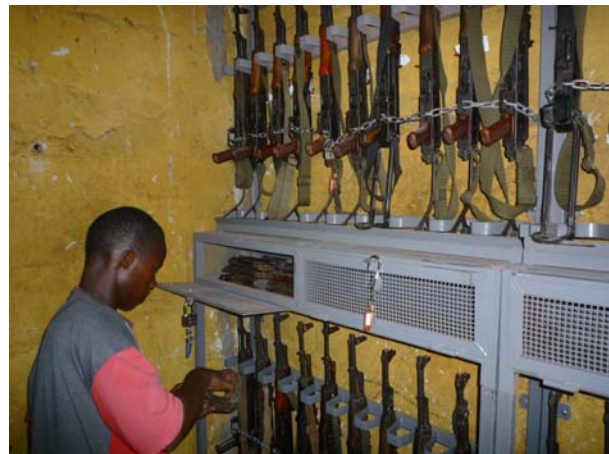




## MAG CWMD Global Update August 2009



*BURUNDI - PNB officer collecting his weapon from the armourer through the hatch installed by MAG, Police Region South*



*BURUNDI - armourer storing magazines in specially-designed drawers of newly installed gun racks*

**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), Rwanda, 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.

Following the leave period, the MAG-PNB mobile team funded by the Dutch Government received **refresher training** and collected surplus and obsolete PNB-owned Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). **Three mortars** had to be destroyed in situ due to their extremely unstable state.

The team also supported the CDCPA (National commission for SALW and civilian disarmament) by collecting SALW that had been gathered by the CDCPA in Bujumbura. The destruction of most items collected, including **182 mortars, 86 hand-grenades and 1 rocket**, took place at Mudubugu Central Destruction Site on August 27 in presence of the Burundian media. Profiling in the media of

demolitions is very important to reassure the population that the SALW they are handing-over are truly destroyed and will not be re-used for other purposes.

The Physical Security team, funded by the Swiss Government, continued working in Region South to **improve security in 9 armouries** in the Provinces of Bururi and Rutana. The project in Region South is expected to be completed next month, after which the team will move to Region North.

Following refresher training for the team at the Weapons Destruction Workshop, **253 magazines** and **14 weapons** were destroyed this month, bringing the total of weapons destroyed to date to **7,993**.

## 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 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.

This month CWMD Team One completed the weapons destruction operations that it started last month in Lubumbashi (6<sup>th</sup> Military Region), destroying **3,583 weapons**. Two members of this team also participated in the International Humanitarian Day event organised by the UN in Kinshasa where they performed a demonstration of demining techniques to dignitaries including the vice-Prime Minister, UN Humanitarian Coordinator, and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General.

The second CWMD Team continued its deployment in Bukavu in South Kivu (8<sup>th</sup> Military Region), where it destroyed **9,608 items of ammunition** weighing 6,378 kg.

At the Logistics Central Base weapons destruction activities continued as normal, although a reduced number of weapons were available for destruction, with 7 weapons being destroyed this month. Refurbishment works on the Ordnance School buildings also continued as per schedule.

In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed **2,071,033 items of ammunition** weighing 472 tons, as well as **97,661 weapons**.

## Iraq

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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 Small Arms and Light Weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates.

During August, 6 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 106 times from the programme's 3 operation bases to 87 different villages completing **291** emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. During this month **7,485 CW** were safely destroyed. Items included different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. During August teams destroyed more than **99 stockpiles**.

Teams completed 23 tasks, destroying **5 stockpiles of 939 hazardous** items in Qara Hanjir village in Kirkuk. Items were posing a significant threat to the local population.

Teams in Sulimaniyah deployed in Meshulan area to safely remove **26 stockpiles** of CW destroying **1,655** items of CW.

The CW awareness programme, delivered by the dedicated CL teams, continued during August. The programme 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 **8 awareness sessions to 159 individuals**, distributing **1,432 booklets and painting books** in support of their activities.

## **RECSA (Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa)**

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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)**

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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**. Activities in Brazzaville continue.

Throughout August, MAG has continued Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) activities in the Republic of Congo. MAG has supported the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) in the destruction of weapons and ammunition from storage depots in urban areas. Access to excess munitions has been difficult this month. MAG has destroyed **338 items, weighing 73.466kg**. This included **1 ATM, 4 grenades and 63 SAA**. The team carried out first-aid refresher training as well as **theoretical and practical EOD training**.

## **Rwanda**

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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 for the destruction of munitions has been identified at Gabiro in north-east Rwanda. Up to June 2009 **14,916 weapons** had been cut, and **8558kg of munitions** had been destroyed.

Operations re-started in August 2009 with a grant from the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US State Department. During the month, a total of **3,704 weapons** were destroyed including 3,011 assault rifles, 186 sub machine guns, 172 bolt action rifles, 166 SLRs, 135 machine guns, 22 rocket launchers, 9 grenade launchers and 3 shotguns. **1312.38kg of munitions**, constituting **1,094 items**, were destroyed during one day of bulk demolitions on 28<sup>th</sup> August. It is hoped that the Gabiro operation can start to destroy munitions in earnest during September.

## **Somalia**

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### **Puntland**

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 staff** 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 will re-start in September 2009.

### **Mogadishu**

UNOPS in Somalia (UNSOMA) is funding the creation of an **African Union EOD capacity** to support its troops in Somalia. The capacity will initially be based in Mogadishu Airport from where it will deploy to deal with the considerable UXO contamination in and around the city. MAG began work in Mogadishu in June 2009, providing two Technical Field Managers to **set up, train and provide ongoing technical advice to this capacity**.

The MAG team joined an AMISOM patrol to try to locate a suitable location for a Central Demolition Site. A site used by an earlier contingent was revisited and at first viewing appeared to be appropriate. Follow-up is not now expected to take place until after the completion of the Contingent rotation. The classroom and the bulk of work to erect an adjacent office building are now complete. Preparations are being made for the **first training course**.

## Sudan

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**MAG's SALW team** (funded by the US Department of State) has been operational in South Sudan since 2005. It currently operates out of MAG's base in Yei, Central Equatoria, but performs clearance activities in neighbouring Western and Eastern Equatoria also. The team tends to go out for 2-3 weeks at a time, 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.

In August, the team worked in Yei and Lainya counties, completing **32 spot tasks**, and completing 4 demolitions in Yei county. **121 items** were removed and destroyed, which will directly benefit **37 people**.

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

- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
- Royal Government of the Netherlands
- Conflict Prevention Pool (UK Government)
- Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
- Swiss Government
- UNOPS (UN Office for Project Services)
- UK Ministry of Defence