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MAG CWMD¹ Global Update July 2008



Assault Rifle after destruction in DRC.



Hazardous items found in Srshma Village

MAG and CWMD - As the scale of the **Conventional Weapons Management Disposal (CWMD)²** problem has become apparent across the world, **MAG has been increasingly involved in addressing the threat posed by these items.** The illicit proliferation of CWMD prolongs conflicts, causes instability, undermines development, and is now well established as the leading threat to human security globally. MAG is currently undertaking CWMD projects in Burundi, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Sudan and Vietnam. In addition, MAG conducted an assessment to the Central African Republic during February 2008 and is currently seeking funding for operations there.

Burundi

MAG is working to reduce the CWMD threat in Burundi through the destruction of Man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS) and other weapons, and through ensuring safe storage of weapons and ammunition currently stored at the military logistics base in Bujumbura. In addition, MAG is in the process of establishing a mobile CWMD destruction team in partnership with the National Police of Burundi (PNB). Under this initiative, MAG has carried out an initial training of 8 police officers who have been seconded to work on the project.

Cambodia

Operations during July were affected by the Government ban on the use or movement of explosives from the middle of the month until after the national elections on the 27th July, followed by a stand down period during the last week of the month. Prior to this teams conducted **122** tasks in **52** villages in Krong Pailin and the provinces of Battambang, Kampong Thom and Kampong Cham. A total of 783 items were destroyed, which included **590 SALW items (amongst these were 222 60mm mortars, 106 82mm mortars, 48 B40 Rocket Propelled Grenades, 59 PG-2 Rocket Propelled Grenades, 23 PG-7 Rocket Propelled Grenades and 80 M40 rifle grenades).** The activities undertaken by the five teams benefited **975** people in total.

¹ To more accurately reflect the range of activities being implemented and types of munitions being dealt with, MAG is using the term CWMD - Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal rather than the Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) used to date

² MAG uses the term *CWMD* to refer to all lethal conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual or a light vehicle, and that also do not require a substantial logistical and maintenance capability (SEESAC definition). This includes military-style automatic rifles, machine guns, man-portable anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and light mortars (PM/WRA definition) and their associated ammunition.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

This month saw the start of operations financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Weapon Destruction took place in Lufalanga near Mbuji-Mayi in the 5th Military Region (Kasai Oriental). In total, 183 weapons were destroyed and the team supported the FARDC in the storage of ammunition to implement safe practices. Over 200 anti-personnel mines were earmarked for destruction in a later bulk demolition, another good step in the respect of the Ottawa Treaty by DRC. The second team deployed to Kindu, 7th Military Region (Maniema), at the end of the month, and ammunition destruction will start next month.

The teams funded by the United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA), destroyed 12 tons of ammunition (mainly from Djolu) in the 3rd Military Region (Equateur) and prepared operations in the 6th Military Region (Katanga) after the leave period at the beginning of the month.

Due to circumstances beyond MAG's control, destruction of weapons at the Central Logistics Base has been temporarily suspended, but is expected to resume shortly.

Iraq

During the month of July SALW team deployed **244** times from 4 operation bases (Diyana, Dahuk, Sulaimaniyah and Chamchamal) to complete **196** emergency small arms and light weapons destruction tasks in **Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Kirkuk and Diyala governorates**. During this month **5,707 SALW items** were safely destroyed in **69 different villages**. Items included different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. During July teams destroyed **52 SALW stockpiles**.

The SALW awareness program was launched by CL teams during the month of July. The programme aims to warn children and other vulnerable groups about the dangers of SALW. A children's activity book, as well as posters and leaflets, were specially designed to support the project. Teams conducted 7 awareness sessions, distributing 163 posters and leaflets in support of their activities during the month of July

Sudan

In July the team worked in Maridi and Tambura County in Western Equatoria. They completed 17 spot tasks throughout the month. The area cleared will assist in the development of community facilities and agricultural land.

Summary Table	Number removed and destroyed
Spot tasks completed	17
Stockpiles completed	0
SAA (up to and including 20mm)	0
Munitions (up to and including 100mm)	56
Munitions (101mm +)	6
Weapons (101mm +)	0
Total ERW destroyed	62
Direct beneficiaries	1150

Vietnam

During July teams conducted **5** clearance tasks, **13** EOD Response Tasks and visited **2,789** houses and **36** scrapyards, searching **11,046 m²** and clearing **35,455 m²** of land, removing and destroying **1,276** items of UXO while performing **267** Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks, and, including **584** items removed from scrap yards.

1,231 SALW items were removed and destroyed including:

157 BLUs (40 x BLU-26, , 58 x BLU-3/B, 3 x BLU-24, 2 x BLU-61, 4 x BLU-63, 50 x BLU Fuzes);

962 Projectiles (624 x 12.7mm, 182 x 20mm HE, 59 x 37mm HE, 5 x 57mm HE, 1 x 57mm SAP, 2 x 60mm HE, 1 x 75mm SAP, 1 x 76mm HE, 1 x 76mm SAP, 3 x 82mm HE, 1 x 90mm HE, 1 x 90mm SAP, 81 x Fuzes);

6 x SAA (6 x AK47 rounds);

73 Mortars (30 x 60mm HE, 1 x 60mm WP, 7 x 81mm HE, 2 x 81mm WP, 2 x 81mm Illum, 2 x 82mm HE, 29 x Fuzes);

31 Grenades (3 x Vietnamese, 2 x M26, 1 x M33/67, 21 x M40 rifle grenades, 3 x M43, 1 x F1);

2 Rockets (1 x 2.75 inch, 1 x PG2)

These activities benefited **42,751** people.

MAG would like to express our 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
- Conflict Prevention Pool (UK Government)
- Royal Government of the Netherlands
- Isle of Man Government / Manx Landmine Action
- Adopt – A – Minefield