



MAG CWMD Global Update October 2009



SOMALIA: weight lifting in 40 degree heat in Bossasso, Puntland!



RWANDA – Type 56s prior to destruction at Kanombe workshop

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.

The Dutch-funded MAG-Police Nationale Burundaise (PNB) mobile team worked to collect and destroy surplus and obsolete PNB-owned Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as

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well as some handed-over by the population during the civilian disarmament campaign. Also this month, the team destroyed the **10,000th hand-grenade since the beginning of the year**, an achievement of particular significance given the frequent grenade attacks in Burundi. The Physical Security team, now also funded by the Dutch Government, started to work in the Police Region North where they improved security in 10 PNB armouries.

At the weapons destruction workshop, **284 weapons from the PNB were destroyed**. It is important to note that the weapons were in a good state, meaning it is the first time that 'surplus' weapons have been destroyed in Burundi. In the past, obsolete, seized and handed-over weapons had been destroyed, but no strictly speaking 'surplus' weapons.

Upon request from the National Commission on SALW and Civilian Disarmament (CDCPA), the MAG technicians offered a **one-day training to 48 heads of police stations** in areas where the collects from the population were estimated to yield the most significant results. The policemen learned how to distinguish very dangerous ammunition, how to receive weapons in safety, and how to deal with them while awaiting MAG's intervention.

Finally, MAG would like to thank the Swiss Government for the confirmation of a grant to conduct the survey of Force de Defense Nationale (FDN) SALW; phase 1 of a comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project with the FDN within the framework of the Nairobi Protocol. The survey will capitalize on the methodology developed during the survey of PNB SALW which took place in 2008. Starting in 2010, donor contributions will be required for the implementation of solutions derived from the survey conclusions.

A summary of outputs is as follows:

- Destruction of 284 weapons at the Weapons Destruction Workshop;
- Collection of 349 weapons, 224 magazines, 532 ammunition and 7,548 SAA from the PNB stocks by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Collection of 17 weapons, 16 magazines, 411 ammunition and 1,239 SAA handed-over by the population to the CDCPA by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Destruction of 1,048 ammunition and 20,000 SAA by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Improvement to the physical security of 10 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.

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 October **MAG DRC destroyed its 100,000th weapon since operations began in 2006**. A large celebration marking this important milestone has been planned, and will take place on receipt of the necessary authorisation from DRC authorities.

The TFM supervising the first CWMD team undertook a reconnaissance mission to Goma where **50 tons of potentially dangerous explosives** in the possession of the FARDC are awaiting destruction by MAG. The team itself was on standby for much of the month.

The second CWMD team continued its deployment in South Kivu and deployed from Bukavu to Mwenga and Kamituga in order to collect FARDC weapons. Rather than destroying weapons and ammunition as and when collected, as has been standard practice until now, it has been decided that this team will destroy all recovered items at the end of the deployment. As well as conserving explosives stocks this will also enable MAG to organise an event marking the destruction with local authorities in the provincial capital, following the success of similar operations in Lubumbashi. During this deployment MAG also received from MONUC all weapons collected through the DDR/DDRRR process and designated for destruction. This team also received a visit from MAG DRC's Roving Mechanical Manager to service vehicles in bad condition and conducted internal trainings on IT, English, driving skills, and first aid.

At the Logistics Central Base, weapons destruction activities continued as normal, with **150 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 **2,174,450 items of ammunition weighing 479,659 tons**, as well as **100,129 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 Small Arms and Light Weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates.

During October, 6 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 124 times from the programme's 3 operation bases to 75 different villages completing **313 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. During this month 21,516 CW were safely destroyed. Items included: 3,299 70mm PG, 1,006 anti-personnel landmines, 6,856 fuses, 5,552 mortars, 944 projectiles and 3,454 small arms ammunitions. During October teams **destroyed more than 117 stockpiles**.

The team in Dahuk deployed to Derabun collective town completing 2 tasks to safely **remove and destroy 38 items of CW**. Items were posing a significant threat to the local population. Teams completed 5 tasks destroying 5 stockpiles of **5,241 hazardous items** in Ahmed Klwan village in Penjwin, Sulimaniyah.

The CW awareness program, delivered by the dedicated CL teams, continued during September. 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**, distributing 170 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 October, MAG continued 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 the urban area of Owando where MAG has destroyed 105,443 SAA. Altogether **106,112 items, weighing 3975.25 kg were destroyed** in the town of Owando in October. Exploration mission to Dolisie was also undertaken during October

Items destroyed included:

- 2 x 75mm shell explosive
- 30 x 23mm shell explosive(HEFI)
- 21 x TM 46 anti tank mine
- 40 x POMZ 2M anti personnel mine
- 16 x 60mm mortar shell HE
- 1 x 82mm mortar shell HE
- 107 x grenades rifle (VOG 25, CS)
- 159 x Hand grenade (F1 ,RG4,CS,SMOKE)
- 26 x PG7 anti tank rocket
- 3 x M6 fuse
- 35 x TNT explosive block 0,75 gr
- 3 x Detonating cord explosive (15m)
- 224 x propellant charge,MUV2,MVSH 46 mine fuse
- 76,795 x 7,62x54mm SAA
- 13,705 x 7,62x39mm SAA
- 3,023 x 7,62x25mm SAA
- 10,179 x 12,7mm SAA
- 1,741 x 14,5mm SAA

Other outputs included:

- The team carried out **Casevac training in demolition site.**
- Operation of destruction Owando stock
- Recognition of ammunitions inventories on a ZMD2 Dolisie

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 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 October 2009, **2,877 weapons were destroyed**, including: 2,194 assault rifles, 304 bolt action rifles, 135 SLRs, 114 machine guns, 56 machine gun barrels, 26 SMGs, 17 60mm mortars, 15 shotguns, 5 rocket launchers and 4 hunting rifles. **1,284 assault rifle and bolt action rifle magazines** were also destroyed along with 121 bolt assemblies, 35 spring assemblies and 33 trigger mechanisms.

In total, **20,185kg of ordnance was destroyed this month**, comprising 9,087kg of SAA and 11,098kg of munitions.

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.

Following on from September's successful deployment to Bosasso, MAG this month followed up with an additional assessment of a huge UXO dumping ground on the outskirts of the town. In an area of more than 100,000m² there are estimated to be thousands of items ranging from AT mines to artillery pieces. Given the size of the task the team gathered quotations for the hire of plant machinery and spoke to government and community officials to

gain permission to clear the area. The team is currently waiting from a tasking order from the national mine authority to proceed to the site.

Additionally the EOD team carried out another assessment in Eyl, the main pirate hub of Puntland. **One village was identified for spot task clearances** and security permitting we hope to return within the next month. MAG also completed the protective works around PMAC's explosive store ensuring that in the event of any accident damage will be reduced to a minimum.

Sudan

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.

During October the teams continued to work in in Lainya, Yei and Mundri counties, completing **28 spot tasks, and 11 demolitions**.

A summary of outputs is as follows:

- 28 spot tasks competed
- 2 AP mines removed and destroyed
- 1 SAA removed and destroyed
- 9 small arms removed and destroyed
- 145 other UXO removed and destroyed
- 9,450 direct beneficiaries

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
- Swiss Government
- UNOPS (UN Office for Project Services)
- UK Ministry of Defence