



MAG CWMD Global Update September 2008



Somalia: Bosasso, Puntland – MAG EOD team sorting through a pile of UXO lying next to the outer wall of a shanty settlement



Iraq - CL team conducting SALW awareness session for children

MAG and CWMD – MAG uses the term **Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal** (CWMD) to more accurately reflect 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.

MAG is currently undertaking CWMD projects in Burundi, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Somalia and Sudan. Also MAG is providing CWMD technical support to the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

MAG DRC launched a nationwide SALW programme in September 2006 and received written authorisation from the Ministry of Defence in May 2007 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.

MAG's first CWMD team, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, deployed at the end of September 2008 to Lodja in the northern part of Kasai Oriental, 5th Military Region. The team worked on logistics issues and started reviewing the technical Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the CWMD program. The second mobile CWMD team, funded by the United States Department of State, deployed at the end of the month from Lubumbashi to Kamina, 6th Military Region, to carry out the **destruction of 80 tons of ammunition**. Weapons destruction at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa also continued in September, with a total of **1,100 weapons destroyed** over the course of the month.

Burundi

MAG is working to reduce the CW threat in Burundi through weapons and ammunition destruction and through ensuring safe storage of weapons and ammunition currently stored at the Military Logistics Base in Bujumbura, in cooperation with the Burundian Army (FDN). MAG has also established a mobile SALW destruction team in partnership with the Burundian Police (PNB)

In September 2008 MAG **continued** to carry out **weapons destruction in cooperation with the Burundian Army**. The work to improve the security of the Military Logistic Base (where the weapons destruction activities take place) also progressed well during September and is scheduled to be completed during the first week of October.

The mobile SALW destruction team visited all 15 police stations in the province of Bujumbura Mairie to collect weapons and ammunition. Besides the team also visited 10 other police stations managed directly by the DG-PNB (Police Head Quarters). The **weapons and ammunition gathered at the police stations** have not been destroyed yet. The Burundian police and MAG are still waiting for a formal agreement with the Burundian Army to use the destruction workshop at the Military Logistics Base in Bujumbura for this purpose.

Statistics September 2008:

AMMUNITION	Army (FDN) # destroyed	Police (PNB) # collected and stored
SAA	0	4,902
Hand Grenades	0	2,657
Rifle Grenades	0	63
Rockets	0	46
Rockets Propellers	0	46
Mortar shells	0	13
Artillery shells	0	2
Explosives charges	0	2
Detonators	0	36
TOTAL AMMUNITION	0	7,767
WEAPONS		
Pistol	0	9
Rifle	77	5
Assault rifle	663	33
Sub machine gun	0	2
Machine Gun	0	27
Bayonet	0	2
TOTAL WEAPONS	740	78

Cambodia

MAG continues to address the threat of SALW across Cambodia through the deployment of 6 EOD teams programme wide.

During September 2008 the teams **conducted 181 EOD tasks** in 99 villages in Krong Pailin and the provinces of Battambang, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear and Kampong Cham. A total of 947 **items** were **destroyed**, which **included 808 SALW items** (amongst these were **276 60mm mortars, 182 82mm mortars** and **96 40mm rifle grenades**). The tasks undertaken by the six teams benefited 1,647 people in total.

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 CW.

During September, MAG' SALW teams deployed 130 times from the programme's 4 operation bases to complete **237 emergency small arms and light weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates. During this month **7,965 SALW items** were **safely destroyed in 100 different villages**. Items included different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. Teams destroyed 148 items in Khormal sub-district in Sulimaniyah. Items were located in a valley near the sub-district posing a great threat to the population of Khormal.

Dedicated CL teams were able to **identify 20 dangerous areas** in Takya Jabary sub-district that is part of Chamchamal in Sulimaniyah governorate. They reported them to SALW teams which safely removed and destroyed 135 hazardous items

The **SALW 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 SALW. A children's activity book, as well as posters and leaflets, were specially designed to support the project. **Teams conducted 35 awareness sessions**, distributing 1,353 posters, stickers and leaflets in support of their activities.

RECSA (Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa)

The **Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA)** is an institutional framework to coordinate efforts by member states to prevent, combat and eradicate stockpiling and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa. The following countries are RECSA member states: Burundi, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. **MAG is providing technical support to RECSA**. Main goal is to share best practice and lessons learned from existing MAG WRA-funded SALW projects in Africa with other interested RECSA member states, thereby accelerating the implementation of SALW destruction activities in the region. MAG and RECSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in July 2008.

In September 2008 MAG received confirmation of funding from the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) of the UK Government, to **establish a CWMD project in Rwanda in cooperation with RECSA**, the Rwanda Army and Police. This project is scheduled to start in November 2008, with the **destruction of weapons and ammunition** expected to commence in January 2009 following a training period for the Rwandan Army and Police.

Somalia

MAG commenced activities in the Puntland State of Somalia in May 2008. **MAG has trained an EOD team consisting of 8 Puntland Police staff**, and MAG now supervises the team performing CWMD activities throughout Puntland. Destruction tasks commenced in July 2008 in Garowe town with the first ever recorded destruction of Puntland AP mine stocks, in accordance with the Puntland Government being a signatory to the Geneva Call '*Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action*'.

During the month of September 2008, MAG's EOD team conducted operations in Garowe town, Bosasso town on the northern Puntland coast and in small villages between the two towns.

The remaining munitions of the Garowe Brigade 54 stockpile were destroyed. After that the EOD team deployed to Bosasso town where it first conducted an assessment on the scale and nature of clearance required. Following the assessment, the team **safely removed 2100 items of UXO / AO from public spaces in the centre of Bosasso town**. The team also identified and established a **Central Demolition Site (CDS)** in Bosasso, with the assistance of the regional authorities. Besides the team responded to **call-outs** in Bosasso, Gardo, Yalho and Garowe and

safely removed and destroyed 342 dangerous items from police stations, people's homes and public places. MAG's EOD team **cleared a total of 6.7 tonnes of UXO / AO** in September, making it the most productive month to date for the team. MAG's TFM also delivered 3 days of BAC (Battle Area Clearance) training using large-loop detectors to the EOD team.

Sudan

MAG's SALW team 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 Equatoria also, funded by MAG America and United States Department of State. The team tends to go out for 2-3 weeks at a time fly camping in different areas before returning to base to rest and refuel. South Sudan offers challenging terrain and difficult conditions to work in, particularly during the rainy season when many areas become impassable.

In September 2008 the **SALW team completed 28 spot tasks** close to the town of Yei in Central Equatoria and 7 spot tasks in Western Equatoria.

Statistics summary:	Number removed and destroyed
Spot tasks completed	35
Stockpiles completed	0
SAA (up to and including 20mm)	0
Munitions (up to and including 100mm)	66
MANPADS	0
Light Weapons	0
Total destroyed	66
Direct beneficiaries	1500

Vietnam

MAG continues to address the threat of SALW across the provinces of Quang Binh and Quang Tri in Vietnam through the deployment of 9 Mine Action Teams (MATs) and 3 Community Liaison Teams (CLTs).

During September 2008, the MATs visited 3,863 houses and 8 scrap yards and **performed 400 EOD tasks**. Besides the teams cleared 7,900m² of land. The **total of UXO removed** was 1,078, out of which **877** were **SALW items** (81%), see details below:

SALW munitions sizes	Total Items	Total Weight (kg)
0-20mm	431	80.23
21-60mm + fuses	433	225.71
61-100mm	13	126.48
Total	877	432.42

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
- Conflict Prevention Pool (UK Government)
- Royal Government of the Netherlands
- Isle of Man Government / Manx Landmine Action
- Adopt – A – Minefield
- Maurice Rufford Laing Foundation