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## MAG CWMD Global Update November + December 2008



*Burundi - Assessment of a Police armoury in Buyenzi,  
Bujumbura, Region West*



*Republic of Congo – Preparing artillery shells  
for destruction*

**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, Republic of Congo (RoC), Rwanda, 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.

### Burundi

MAG is working to reduce the conventional weapons (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). The mobile SALW team is currently **surveying police weapons stores** throughout Burundi to support implementation of the Nairobi Protocol Articles 6, 7 and 8.

During the months of November and December 2008 MAG continued its CWMD activities in close cooperation with the Burundian Army and Burundian Police. In November a **total of 18,482 ammunition items** were **destroyed**. Besides **2026 weapons** were **destroyed** at the destruction workshop at the military logistics base. A McIntyre 4000 shears funded by UNDP is now operational, increasing the yield of destruction. In December 2008 the weapons destruction workshop reached its highest destruction output so far with a **total of 1722 weapons destroyed** in less than 3 operational

weeks. Moreover, 5 soldiers and 3 policemen were trained on the job in SAA burning and a total of 66,169 **SAA** were **destroyed**.

The PNB mobile SALW team continued to collect surplus / obsolete weapons and ammunition seized by the police across the country. The **survey of the PNB armouries** advanced further with the assessment teams visiting armouries in the regions South and West. The three main survey objectives are: assessment of the quantity and quality of weapons and ammunition held by the police, assessment of armouries / weapons facilities and assessment of the level of knowledge in terms of weapons management among the police forces. The **preliminary conclusions** of the survey were presented to donors and Burundian authorities, who expressed interest in MAG's proposed solutions to reduce the leakage of police-owned weapons before the elections of 2010, with the objective of limiting potential electoral violence.

## **Cambodia**

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Through the **deployment of a SALW team** in Kampong Cham province, MAG continues to address the threat posed by SALW in rural Cambodia.

In November the team conducted **39 EOD tasks** across 15 villages in Kampong Cham province. A **total of 230 SALW items** were **destroyed** (amongst these were 92 60mm mortars, 31 82mm mortars and 30 40mm rifle grenades). These tasks benefited 559 people from 103 families in total. Beneficiaries of MRE delivered by the team numbered 248 adults and 306 children. During December the team conducted 64 tasks across 19 villages in Kampong Cham province. A **total of 408 SALW items** were **destroyed** (amongst these were 167 60mm HE Mortar, 53 82mm HE Mortar, 73 40mm rifle grenades and 29 M73 hand grenades). These tasks **benefited 853 people** from 143 families. The total number of MRE beneficiaries was 571 adults and 413 children.

## **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

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MAG DRC launched a **nationwide CWMD 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 **weapons destruction centre was established** by MAG at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa.

CWMD operations continued in November and December 2008 and a **total of 1,614 weapons** were **destroyed** during this period; 1,524 in the Kinshasa Central Logistics Base, 39 in Gemena (Equateur Province in north-western DRC), and 51 in Kananga (Kasai Occidental Province in central DRC), all of these activities were funded by the US Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (US DoS WRA). In addition, a total of 5,639 items of ammunition were destroyed during the reporting period: 4,944 of which in Kananga and Kamina funded by the US DoS WRA and the remaining 695 items were destroyed in Ilebo with funding from the Dutch Government. The combined total weight of all the items destroyed was **46,498 kg**.

MAG also **destroyed a total of 230 weapons** belonging to **the Congolese National Police (PNC)** at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa, through funding from US DoS WRA. This activity followed the recent signing of an agreement in September 2008 between MAG and the Ministry of the Interior, which allows MAG to destroy the PNC's surplus stocks. This is very significant as, to date, MAG has been focusing on destruction of military stocks (army, navy and air force) in DRC; this agreement with the PNC opens up a second pillar within MAG's DRC CWMD programme. The destruction of police stocks will significantly reinforce the positive impact of the CWMD programme on the safety of the civilian population and on peace-building at a national and regional level.

Besides the destruction activities the two CWMD teams financed by the Dutch Government undertook **capacity-building training courses**. A full qualitative and quantitative inventory was also carried out by all four MAG DRC CWMD teams during the reporting period.

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

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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. RECSA member states include: Burundi, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. **MAG is providing technical support to RECSA and its member states** through the deployment of a Technical Support Manager (TSM). Main goal is to share best practice and lessons learned from existing MAG US Department of State-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 in July 2008.

In November 2008, MAG's TSM conducted a **brief technical assessment mission in Ethiopia**. During the assessment he visited an Ethiopian Police logistics store, in which a variety of surplus weapons and ordnance were stored. The Ethiopian Police are keen to obtain MAG technical assistance / training in destroying these and also mentioned the presence of additional surplus weapons and ordnance at police stations throughout the country. MAG's TSM is planning another visit to Ethiopia in early 2009 to provide additional technical support.

A joint DTRA, IMATC and MAG **Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) training course** for RECSA member states representatives was held in Nairobi in December 2008. This course was a success and MAG is hoping to conduct additional PSSM training courses in 2009.

## **Republic of Congo (RoC)**

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In September 2008, following confirmation of funding from the UK Government Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) and the US Department of State, MAG 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 are planned to take place nationwide, with the capital city of Brazzaville being the number one priority.

During the reporting period, MAG continued Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) activities in the Republic of Congo, supporting the FAC in the destruction of weapons and ammunition from storage depots in urban areas. After a week of **training on security and standard operating procedures (SOPs)**, a **total of 125 items**, weighing 4,581.6 kg, from the FAC's central Brazzaville depot were **destroyed** by the operations team using controlled demolition techniques.

### **Items destroyed included:**

- 8 x OFAB 500 aircraft bombs
- 29 x 100mm (APDST, HE, HESH) artillery shells
- 34 x PG 2 rockets
- 54 x POMZ 2M antipersonnel mines

Other activities included carrying out a survey of the main stockpile depot in Brazzaville, a demonstration of the dismantling of AP mines and creating a MAG buffer depot.

## **Rwanda**

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MAG started its CWMD activities in Rwanda in November 2008 with funding received from the UK Government Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). MAG is providing **technical assistance and training** to the Rwandan Army in **basic stockpile management and the destruction** of surplus weapons, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and small arms ammunition.

In November MAG deployed a TFM Team leader to **start up** the **new CWMD project** in close cooperation with the Rwanda National Focal Point (RNFP) on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF). During the first few weeks a **central weapons destruction workshop** was **established** at Kanombe Army Camp near Kigali and equipped with a Macintyre 4000 shears. A **central demolition site** was **identified** in Gabiro, north-east Rwanda.

A total of nineteen Rwanda Army and Rwanda Police staff received one week **training in basic weapons cutting** competencies in December 2008. This involved lessons on workshop practice, use of the Macintyre 4000 shears, weapons recognition, weapons safety and weapons registration.

Completing this short course allows the trainees to carry out weapons cutting under MAG TFM supervision, whilst gaining further skills and qualifications through additional vocational training. During the training **355 assault rifles and 3 bolt action rifles** were **destroyed**. Further destruction will resume in January 2009. The project has developed course materials for CWMD training, including a Level 1 EOD course tailored for Rwanda and a set of competencies for a weapons cutting workshop.

## Somalia

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MAG commenced CWMD activities in the Puntland region of Somalia in May 2008. **MAG** has **trained** an **EOD team** consisting of **8 Puntland Police staff** and MAG now supervises the team performing conventional weapons management & disposal (CWMD) activities throughout Puntland.

MAG international staff temporarily relocated to Nairobi on 30/10/08 due to increased security threats and are managing operations remotely until redeployment to Garowe is possible.

Due to the constraints of insecurity in Puntland, operations were limited to Garowe town during November and December 2008. Nevertheless, the **EOD team responded to 13 call-outs** to deal with the problem of UXO in public spaces and private homes in Garowe, the capital city of the Puntland region. They **collected 44 items of UXO** which are now awaiting disposal. They also continued the **UXO awareness campaign** by delivering 3840 leaflets to the community in Garowe encouraging them to report items of UXO to the EOD team so they can come and deal with the problem.

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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