



MAG CWMD¹ Global Update August 2008



Iraq - CL team conducting SALW awareness session for children



Somalia - Destruction of a 100mm high explosive projectile during Puntland Police EOD team demolitions training

MAG and CWMD - As the scale of the Conventional Weapons Management and 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 conventional weapons (CW) 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, Somalia, Sudan and Vietnam. Also MAG is providing CWMD technical support to the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region.

Cambodia

MAG continues to address the threat of conventional weapons (CW) across Cambodia through the deployment of six Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams country wide.

During August the EOD teams conducted 293 EOD tasks in 122 villages in Krong Pailin and the provinces of Battambang, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear and Kampong Cham. A total of 1,722 items were **destroyed**, which included **1,416 SALW items** (amongst these were **449 60mm mortars, 147 82mm mortars, 82 B40 propelled grenades, 110 PG-2 propelled grenades, 41 PG-7 propelled grenades and 198 40mm rifle grenades**). The activities undertaken by the six teams benefited **2,088** 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.

Burundi

MAG is working to reduce the CWMD 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. MAG has also established a mobile SALW destruction team in partnership with the National Police of Burundi (PNB).

In August 2008 various improvements in the security of the military logistics base in Bujumbura have been realised. Also a **variety of weapons and small arms ammunition was collected and safely stored** for destruction at a later date by the PNB mobile SALW team, see details in table herebelow:

August 2008	items collected
Ammunition	Police - PNB
SAA	25,471
Hand Grenades	1,705
Rifle Grenades	11
Rockets	7
Rockets Propellers	0
Missiles – MANPADS	0
Mortar shells	10
Artillery shells	0
Explosives charges	2
Total items	27,206

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

MAG DRC launched a nationwide SALW 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.

Following high-level intervention in August 2008, **weapons destruction operations re-started in the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa**, with funding from the United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA). These operations had been on hold since April 2008. 300 weapons were destroyed during the last week of August and the destruction of a further 1,000 weapons is planned for September 2008.

The CWMD team funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has been deployed in the 7th Military Region (Maniema) since last month, completed the **ammunition destruction activities in Kindu**, during which a **total of 1,025 items weighing 800kg were destroyed**. An important part of the work was to strengthen the knowledge of the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) about the safe storage of ammunition, in order to improve the national capacity in ammunition stock management. MAG carried out on-the-job training of FARDC representatives to refresh their knowledge of the rules for safe storage of ammunition and worked alongside them to make improvements in the organisation of specific stores.

The Technical Operations Manager conducted an **assessment mission in Kananga**, 4th Military Region (Kasai Occidental). One mobile CWMD team funded by the United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) will deploy there in October.

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 August 2008, **SALW teams deployed 277 times** from the programme's four operation bases and completed 277 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks in **Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Kirkuk and Diyala governorates**. During this month **86 SALW stockpiles (total of 5,767 items) were safely destroyed in 97 different villages**. Items included different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. The SALW teams destroyed 1,090 items in Derabun village in Dohuk, where SALW items were found only 20 meters away from the village on some agricultural land used by the villagers for cattle grazing.

The **SALW awareness programme**, delivered by the dedicated CL teams, continued during August. 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 programme. Teams **conducted 32 awareness sessions**, distributing 865 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.

During August 2008, as part of its RECSA support activities, MAG conducted a **technical assessment to Rwanda**. Following the assessment MAG has secured funding from the British Government to carry out a **CWMD project** in Rwanda in cooperation with the Rwanda Army aiming at the destruction of over **50,000 weapons and over 200 tons of ordnance**.

MAG also attended two conferences held during the month of August in the region, namely: the '*Enhancing Capacity for Tackling Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation in the Great Lakes Regions and East Africa*' conference held in Kampala and the '*Arms Trade Treaty, International Transfers and Development*' conference held in Nairobi.

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*'.

MAG's EOD team was based in the town of Garowe in the Nugal region of Puntland in August 2008, conducting EOD operations in and on the outskirts of Garowe town. The **EOD team destroyed 36 items** in August 2008, collected as a result of spot task call-outs from the community in Garowe town to the 'UXO hotline' and in response to new UXO warning signs that MAG has installed around the town. The items destroyed were: **1 x parachute flare, 3 x RPG, 1 x No 36 hand grenade, 13 x 85 mm AP projectile's, 4 x HVAPDS, 4 x 85 mm HE Projectile's, 1 x 100 mm AP projectile, 5 x Breda Mod 42 grenades, 4 x RG4 grenades**.

MAG Technical Field Manager conducted a 6 day **training on 'use of shaped charges and low-order techniques for demolitions'** and '**use of protective works in demolitions'** for the **EOD team**. The team also attended a 4 day training in Garowe on Mine Risk Education organised by Handicap International. UNDP and SRSA visited MAG's operations in Puntland and assisted with some of the demolitions training.

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.

In August 2008 the **SALW team completed 11 spot tasks** in and around Juba County in Central Equatoria, benefiting 835 people directly and resulting in **568 items removed and destroyed**, see details below:

Summary Table	items removed and destroyed
SAA (up to and including 20mm)	114
Munitions (up to and including 100mm)	454
MANPADS	0
Light Weapons	0
Total items destroyed	568

Vietnam

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

During the month of August 2008 the MATs conducted **3 area clearance tasks and 350 EOD spot tasks, benefiting a total of 35,063 people**. As part of these tasks the teams visited 1,765 houses and 43 scrap yards, searched 1,809 m² and cleared 34,590 m² of land, removing and **destroying 2,085 SALW items**, specifically:

* **169 Bomb Live Units (BLU's)** (26 x BLU-26, 13 x BLU-3/B, 84 x BLU-63, 1 x BLU M118 Rockeye, 45 x BLU Fuzes)

* **1,726 Projectiles:** (1,601 x 12.7mm, 52 x 20mm High Explosive (HE), 61 x 37mm HE, 1 x 57mm HE, 1 x 57mm Semi Armour Piercing (SAP), 1 x 76mm HE, 5 x 76mm SAP, 2 x 90mm HE, 1 x 90mm SAP, 1 x 100mm SAP)

* **122 Mortars:** (34 x 60mm HE, 2 x 60mm WP, 8 x 81mm HE, 1 x 81mm White Phosphorous (WP), 1 x 81mm Parachute Illuminating (Para Illum), 29 x 82mm HE, 47 x Fuzes)

* **58 Grenades:** (6 x Vietnamese, 10 x M26, 1 x M33/67, 4 x M39, 24 x 40mm rifle grenades, 7 x M43, 3 x F1, 3 x other)

* **10 Rockets:** (1 x 66mm Light Antitank Weapon (LAW), 1 x Projected grenade (PG2), 2 x 75mm, 6 x Fuzes)

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