



*Left: Destruction of surplus ammunition was completed this month in Kindu, 7th Military Region (Maniema).
Right: Community Liaison Officers lead a Mine Risk Education session in Basankusu, Equateur.*

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 August 2008 – 31 August 2008

Summary of outputs:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 4,900 m² of land** through a combination of hand, and visual techniques
- **Removal of a total of 1,397 hazardous items** by the HMA teams
- **Destruction of 1,025 items of ammunition and 300 weapons** by the CWMD¹ teams
- **199 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **176 Mine Risk Education sessions** conducted, targeting **12,353 beneficiaries**

Summary of activities:

Weapons destruction operations re-started this month in the Central Logistics Base (CLB) in Kinshasa. In the last week of August, 300 weapons were destroyed, and 1,000 are scheduled for destruction in September.

In Maniema, the Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) Team completed the destruction of surplus ammunition in Kindu and supported the FARDC in the implementation of safe storage procedures, as building a national capacity in ammunition stock management is key to reducing the threat posed by conventional weapons stocks to civilians.

In Equateur, the Community Liaison Team conducted a successful deployment to the sector of Basankusu where survey was conducted in 62 communities and 8,746 beneficiaries were sensitized to the risks of mines and UXO. In Katanga, HMA teams returned to the Pweto-Moba-Moliro triangle. The Manual Clearance Teams (MCTs) cleared 95 dangerous areas in the surroundings of Pepa, Moba and Pweto, removing 1,180 dangerous items and improving access to 60 agricultural sites, 27 housing sites and 6 roads.

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

ACTIVITIES

Equateur

The Community Liaison Team (CLT) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency deployed to the sector of Basankusu, south of the Congo River. They surveyed 62 communities and identified 28 new dangerous areas, which will be cleared shortly by the Manual Clearance Team (MCT). 30 Mine Risk Education sessions were given to 8,746 beneficiaries, half of them reached during large sessions in Basankusu Central Market and Gandela Market in Iyenga. The MCT continued working on a Battle Area Clearance task around Camp Ngashi in Mbandaka.

Katanga

In August, the HMA teams funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UK Department for International Development returned to the Pweto-Moba-Moliro triangle. The MCTs cleared 95 dangerous areas in the surroundings of Pepa, Moba and Pweto, thus removing 1,180 dangerous items and improving access to 60 agricultural sites, 27 housing sites and 6 roads. The CLTs worked mainly in the surroundings of Mutotomoya, where they found 115 dangerous areas. The number of DAs identified is particularly high as, although the area had been visited and cleared in the past, when refugees and internally displaced people recently re-settled in the sector they uncovered new dangerous items, often while starting to cultivate previously abandoned fields. Due to the high contamination, the CLTs also conducted 146 MRE sessions for 3,607 people.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

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

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 ammunition destruction in Kindu, destroying a total of 1,025 items weighing 800kg. An important part of the work was to strengthen the knowledge of the 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 the safe storage of ammunition by working alongside them to make improvements in the organisation of specific stores. An ammunition/weapons depot where basic safety rules are not implemented poses a threat to the civilian population because of the risk of unplanned explosions and, should weapons be stolen, of increased banditry or violence by armed groups. The second Dutch-funded CWMD team had a leave period following the operations in Lufalanga last month.

Finally, 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.

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to the DRC programme:

- Department for International Development (UK)
- Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- United States Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

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