



MAG CWMD Global Update April 2009



BURUNDI - MAG-PNB mobile team member securing grenades for transport



SOMALIA – MAG / Puntland Police EOD operators explain how they plan to set up a demolition, monitored by MAG's TFM. Local media filmed the demolition for Somali TV.

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 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 mixed MAG-Police Nationale Burundaise (PNB) mobile team, funded by the Dutch Government, received refresher training on SALW collection and transport following their leave period. During April, they **collected 25 weapons, 269 magazines, 3,329 munitions items** (including 251 grenades and 41 AP mines) as well as items of explosives and pyrotechnics. They **destroyed 24 grenades *in situ*** as their degraded state prevented transport, **and 20,000 Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) items** through burning. Finally **300 magazines were destroyed** at the Weapons Destruction Workshop.

Cambodia

Through the deployment of **1 SALW** team in Kampong Cham province, MAG continues to address the threat posed by SALW in rural Cambodia.

During April the SALW team conducted **31** tasks across **17** villages in Kampong Cham province. A total of 291 items were **destroyed**, which included **245 SALW items**. The tasks undertaken by the team benefited **244** people from **45** families in total. Beneficiaries of MRE delivered by the team numbered **136 adults** and **178 children**.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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, MAG established a **weapons destruction** at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa. In September 2008 MAG received written authorisation from the Ministry of the Interior to extend the SALW programme to also cover the Congolese National Police. MAG DRC is currently operating two **mobile CWMD teams** and the destruction team based at the Logistics Central Base.

MAG DRC reached a new **agreement with the Ministry of the Interior** on 10 April, expanding the scope of activities which it is authorised to carry out in cooperation with the Congolese National Police. Whereas the previous agreement signed in September 2008 was limited to inventory and destruction activities, this new agreement entitles MAG DRC to conduct **stockpile rehabilitation and training** activities as well. Two new international support staff joined MAG DRC in April: a **Roving Mechanical Manager (RMM)** and a **Community Liaison Technical Advisor (CLTA)**. They will provide support to both the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) side of the programme and the CWMD side. The CLTA in particular will work on **developing indicators to measure the impact** of innovative new CWMD activities planned over the coming year. Discussions also took place this month with the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) regarding increasing the scope of their work within DRC to include CWMD activities.

The first mobile CWMD team deployed to Mbakana in Bas Congo Province, **destroying 9,693 items of ammunition** with a total weight of 29,356 kg, originally from Kibomengo. Meanwhile the second mobile CWMD team deployed to Kamina in Katanga Province, where they **destroyed 150 items of ammunition** weighing 5,182 kg. At the Logistics Central Base destruction activities carried on as usual and a total of **254 weapons were destroyed** this month. In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed 2,005,920 items of ammunition weighing 411.55 tons, as well as 85,986 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. Besides MAG is running a **SALW awareness program**, delivered by dedicated CL teams which aims at warning children and other vulnerable groups about the dangers of SALW. A children's activity book, as well as posters and leaflets have been specially designed to support the activities.

During April, MAG Iraq's 8 SALW teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of SALW. Teams deployed 152 times from the programme's 4 operational bases to complete 953 emergency small arms and light weapons destruction tasks in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. During this month **11,297 SALW were safely destroyed**, including different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. A total of **233 stockpiles were destroyed**. In Zaren village in Sulaimaniyah the teams completed 12 tasks destroying 1,047 hazardous items which were posing a significant threat to the villagers. Teams in Chamchamal in Kirkuk governorate completed 3 tasks in Ali Bayan village, safely removing and destroying 366 items of SALW. The SALW awareness program also continued during April. The **CL teams conducted 7 awareness sessions**, distributing 199 booklets and stickers 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. 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 CWMD projects in Africa with 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.

During April MAG's TSM attended a workshop on Arms and Ammunition Stockpile Management organised by ISS in Pretoria. MAG's TSM also attended the 5th **RECSA Council of Ministers' meeting** held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 20 and 21 April, 2009. The meeting brought together ministers and plenipotentiaries from the RECSA member states of Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Also in attendance were various partners of RECSA in the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol. The Council **approved RECSA's key new strategy documents** that will guide further implementation of various programmes: the 5 year strategic plan and budget, the information, education and communication strategy; the 2 year work plan and budget and the audit reports for the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years. The Council admitted the **Republic of Congo as new RECSA member state**, increasing the total of member states to 13. At the end of the meeting, the Republic of Burundi handed over the chairmanship of the RECSA Council of Ministers and the Technical Advisory Committee to the Republic of Djibouti.

Republic of Congo (RoC)

MAG resumed its formal partnership with the Ministry of Defence in the Republic of Congo in September 2008, following confirmation of funding from the UK Government Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) and the US Department of State. MAG is providing **technical support to the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) to safely manage and dispose of conventional weapons**. Activities have also started in the port city Pointe Noire through meetings with regional military structure, a rapid assessment and **EOD1 training** of 7 Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) personnel, consisting of theoretical & practical modules, first aid and Medevac/Casevac procedures.

During April, MAG continued Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) activities in the Republic of Congo, supporting the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) in the destruction and management of weapons and ammunition in storage depots in urban areas. MAG proceeded with the **controlled demolition** (explosion and burning) **of 47,133 items**, weighing 16,057.967 kg in total, from the FAC's Dam depot and various military units in Pointe Noire. The highlight of the month was the **successful destruction of 4,509 AP mines**. The breakdown of items destroyed is as follows:

• 39,141 rounds of ammunition	906.994 kg
• 19 x rockets (PG7, OG7, OG9, 140mm)	158.82 kg
• 890 artillery shells (23, 25, 30, 37, 100, 122, 130mm)	4,517.668 kg
• 1,706 x miscellaneous (fuses)	534.375 kg
• 4,509 x AP mine (PPM2, PMN, POMZ)	2845.5 kg
• 640 x AT Mine (TM 57, TM 46)	6,077.93 kg
• 131 x mortar (60, 82, 120mm)	470.53 kg
• 13 x hand grenade (F1, OF37, M-DN11, RGD5)	5.37 kg
• Propellant in bulk	100 kg
• 84 x weapons	440.78 kg

A further **7 FAC personnel** completed **EOD1 training** and received certificates. Besides all 1st Military region **logistics managers and armament technicians** of the Air Forces, Army, Navy, Gendarmerie, Police, Customs and Forest Guard were trained in **elementary safety and security rules** in stockpile and depot management and handling of ammunition. Finally in April 2009, the Republic of Congo was formally admitted as 13th RECSA member state by RECSA.

Rwanda

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 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.

In April MAG continued to provide **technical support** to the Rwandan National Focal Point for Small Arms and Light Weapons, advising on best practice for weapons storage and stock keeping. The **Rwandan Defense Forces (RDF) Weapons Destruction Team progressed well towards their Level One Weapons Cutting Competency Qualification**. They are getting trained and gaining practice in weapons recognition, weapons safety and workshop practice disciplines. Workshop practice involves all aspects of running a safe weapons destruction workshop, including correct clearance, sorting, registration and destruction procedures. The soldiers are also trained in accident prevention and first aid. It is anticipated that the team will qualify to run the workshop without direct MAG supervision in May 2009. MAG will then move to a quality assurance role and **resume surplus munitions demolitions** at the Gabiro School of Infantry.

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 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. Activities are carried out through close coordination with the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC).

During April the Puntland Government requested the MAG / Puntland Police EOD team to travel to Bosasso to remove and destroy a stockpile inside the Government statehouse. The team inspected the statehouse and safely **removed 54 items of UXO and 78 anti personnel mines**. All items removed were transported back to the central demolition site in Garowe for destruction. During this task MAG's TFMs had a **meeting with the President of Puntland** who expressed his gratitude to the MAG / Puntland Police EOD team for the work done in Puntland and offered his government's full support. The EOD team also conducted **assessments of 11 villages** surrounding Garowe town, the assessed villages will be prioritized and follow up EOD remediation action will take place in May 09. Besides the team received **on-the-job and classroom training** focussing on EOD task site execution, command and control of an EOD task site. The team continued hands on training in live bulk demolitions. This hands-on training is part of the continued training effort for the Puntland Police EOD Team as they work towards the next formal assessment of their abilities scheduled to take place in June 2009.

Sudan

MAG's SALW team (funded by the US Department of State WRA) 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 fly 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 April 2009 the SALW team worked in Yei, Morobo and Lainya and completed **15 spot tasks and 310sqm of Battle Area Clearance (BAC)**. The team destroyed a total of 16 UXO, 7 light weapons and 1 anti tank mine. The clearance undertaken directly benefited 1,310 people.

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to our CWMD projects around the globe:

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