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## MAG CWMD Global Update January + February 2009



*Rwanda - Weapons cutting by MAG trained Rwanda Army staff at the central weapons destruction workshop*



*Iraq – MAG SALW team preparing a demolition*

**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.

The **survey of the PNB weapons stores** continued with the assessment teams visiting police armouries in Regions South, West and North. The survey activities in the Region South were completed in January followed by completion of the activities in the other regions in February. Overall as part of this survey, over **200 armouries have been surveyed nationwide**. The survey report will be submitted to the PNB next month, but initial conclusions show the following: there is a surplus of SALW, the physical security of the armouries is insufficient and the armouries staff lack training. The results of this survey will enable the PNB to develop a comprehensive programme to secure their

SALW which will be implemented in collaboration with MAG over the next year. It is urgent to act in this respect before the planned 2010 elections and reduce the risks of violence in the electoral period. The mixed MAG/ PNB **mobile SALW team** continued supporting the civilian disarmament campaign by collecting and destroying SALW and ammunition voluntarily handed-over or seized by the PNB. In January the **team collected 80 weapons and 1,052 ammunition items**. Besides the team received one-week training in ammunition demolition to prepare for a series of demolitions planned. In February the team **collected 328 weapons and 2,426 ammunition items and destroyed 394 weapons and 1,813 ammunition items**. 1,788 of the ammunition items were hand-grenades. Criminal attacks with hand-grenades in Burundi are highly frequent so these destructions represent a significant contribution to human security. MAG destroyed 374 weapons in January plus 412 weapons in February at the weapons destruction workshop. Finally MAG Burundi representatives also met with the Minister of Defense to improve the collaboration between MAG and the National Defense Forces (FDN).

## 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 January 2009 the SALW team conducted 51 tasks across 19 villages in Kampong Cham province. A total of 304 items were **destroyed**, which included **296 SALW items** (amongst these were 83 60mm HE mortars, 43 82mm HE mortars, 52 40mm rifle grenades, 14 PG-2 propelled grenades and 23 M73 hand-grenades). **648 people** from 112 families in total **benefited** from the tasks undertaken. Beneficiaries of MRE delivered by the team numbered 287 adults and 272 children.

During February the team conducted 83 tasks across 25 villages. The team **destroyed** a total of 434 items, which included **415 SALW items** (included amongst these were 126 60mm HE mortars, 49 82mm HE mortars, 55 40mm rifle grenades, 20 PG-2 rocket propelled grenades and 26 M33 hand grenades). The tasks undertaken by this team **benefited 827 people** from 132 families in total. Beneficiaries of MRE delivered by the team numbered 366 adults and 477 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.

Destruction activities continued in January 2009 at both the Central Logistics Base and in the first (Bas Congo), fourth (Kasai Occidental) and fifth (Kasai Oriental) Military Regions. In Kinshasa, the joint MAG-FARDC (Congolese Armed Forces) team working at the **Logistics Central Base, destroyed 300 weapons**, while in Bandundu in the first Military Region, **110 weapons** belonging to the Congolese National Police (CNP) were **destroyed**. MAG activities in cooperation with the CNP are relatively new, following an agreement in September 2008 with the Ministry of the Interior, and MAG is currently expanding its activities in this area. Destruction of 986 kg of surplus or unsafe ammunition took place in Bandundu city, through funding provided by the US Department of State, WRA. The CWMD team funded by the Dutch Government destroyed 259 kg of ammunition in Tshala in the fifth Military Region.

In **total 1,245 kg of potentially dangerous ammunition was destroyed** in January 2009. In addition one MAG Technical Field Manager (TFM) completed a reconnaissance trip with MONUC to Lusambo (5<sup>th</sup> Military Region – Kasai Oriental) to assess an ammunition storage site and all teams completed refresher technical training and MEDEVAC exercises.

During February 2009, CWMD Team 1, funded by the US Department of State WRA, deployed to Kahembe and Kenge in Bandundu Province (1<sup>st</sup> Military Region), Mbakana in Bas Congo Province (2<sup>nd</sup> Military Region) and Bunia in Orientale Province (9<sup>th</sup> Military Region). The deployment within Bunia was carried out at the request of UNMACC to destroy 309 weapons collected during the process of integration of rebel CNDP forces into the FARDC. A film crew financed by WRA accompanied CWMD Team 1 during its activities in Mbakana and Bunia. At the same time CWMD

Team 2 (also funded by WRA) was deployed in Kasai Occidentale Province (4<sup>th</sup> Military Region) and CWMD Team 3 (funded by the Dutch Government) was deployed to Lusembo in Kasai Oriental Province (5<sup>th</sup> Military Region), whilst weapons destruction operations continued as normal at the Central Logistics Base.

**In total the three mobile teams and the Central Logistics Base team destroyed 1,380 weapons in February 2009**, bringing the overall number of weapons destroyed by MAG DRC to 83,039. In addition 11,180 items of ammunition were destroyed in February weighing 8,568 kg. The total amount of ammunition so far destroyed by MAG DRC now equals 1,247,476 items with a combined weight of over 345 tons.

Finally all mobile CWMD teams completed **quality control exercises for ammunition destruction** while the Central Logistics Base team did the same regarding weapons destruction. All medical staff from the three mobile teams participated in a two-day technical & medical training seminar in Kinshasa in February.

## Iraq

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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**. **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.

In January 2009 the eight SALW teams resumed operations after technical refresher training. SALW medics were trained in the most up-to-date trauma techniques by paramedics from Global Medic.

The SALW teams deployed 71 times in total and completed 317 emergency small arms and light weapons destruction tasks. A total of **1,822 SALW items were safely destroyed in 63 different villages** in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates. Items destroyed include different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. In **Hisar village** in Kirkuk, SALW items were posing a great threat to the villagers and blocking their daily activities. MAG's SALW teams completed 10 tasks in Hisar and destroyed 262 hazardous items. Teams in Sulaimaniyah governorate safely removed and destroyed 128 items of SALW in Gulani Khwaru village. The dangerous items were located inside the village where the village's primary school is to be built soon. The **CL teams conducted 9 SALW awareness sessions** for vulnerable groups, distributing 292 booklets in support of their activities.

During February 2009 the SALW teams deployed 126 times and completed 607 emergency small arms and light weapons destruction tasks. During this month **7,833 SALW items were safely destroyed in 115 different villages**. Items destroyed include different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. In Zurava village in Mosul the teams completed 14 tasks destroying 50 hazardous items, which were posing a significant threat to the villagers. Teams in Chamchamal completed 7 tasks in **Bamo village** in Diyala governorate and safely removed and destroyed 84 SALW items which were located near the village primary school.

The **CL teams conducted 52 awareness sessions** and distributed 512 booklets and stickers in support of their activities.

## 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 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 January and February 2009 MAG's TSM **provided support during a Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) training course** for the **Ethiopian Army and Federal Police** and follow up support is planned during the next few months. An assessment of an ordnance stockpile near Makelle in the north of Ethiopia was undertaken and a stockpile of more than 1000 ammunition items was found, plans to destroy these items have been made.

MAG also participated in a RECSA partners meeting in Nairobi in February to discuss the new RECSA 5 year strategy and 2 year work plan which will be confirmed during the forthcoming RECSA Council of Ministers meeting scheduled to take place in Burundi in April 2009.

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

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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 are planned to take place nationwide, with the capital city of Brazzaville being the number one priority.

In January 2009 MAG continued its CWMD activities in the Republic of Congo, supporting the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) and destroyed weapons and ammunition from storage depots in urban areas. MAG identified a new demolition area, further away from inhabited neighbourhoods, to proceed with controlled explosions. After a week of refresher training on security and standard operating procedures, a **total of 47,606 ammunition items** (weighing 5,008.6 kg) from the FAC's central Brazzaville depot **were destroyed** by the MAG operations team using controlled demolition techniques. MAG proceeded with the controlled explosions at the new demolition site in February. A **total of 39,402 items** from the FAC's central Brazzaville depot, weighing 7,493.184 kg, **were destroyed** during the month. The last of the FAB 500 High Explosive aircraft bombs from the Brazzaville depot was destroyed observed by the US Ambassador to the Republic of Congo.

### **Items destroyed include:**

#### **January 2009**

- 8 x Atoll air-to-air missiles - 704kg
- 1,302 projectiles from 23mm to 76mm - 1,079.41kg
- 4 x OFAB500 aircraft bombs – 1,988kg
- 46,053 rounds of ammunition - 1171.2 kg
  - 32,095 x 7.62mm;
  - 1514 x 5.56mm;
  - 1,879 x 14.5mm;
  - 10,134 x12.7mm;
  - 431 x 9mm;
- 30 hand flares - 5.4kg
- 209 Grenades (smoke56/teargas/defensiveF1/offensiveRGD5) - 60.59 kg

#### **February 2009**

- 6 x Atoll air-to-air missiles - 528kg
- 2 x 240mm rockets - 470 kg
- 19 x rockets(OG7/PG7/PG2) - 37.65 kg
- 1,091 projectiles and fuses from 23mm to 130mm - 4,453.805 kg
- 7 x aircraft bomb (FAB500 M62/ ZAP 100-105/ P50-75) - 978 kg
- 2 x mortars (60 & 82 mm) - 5.37 kg
- 38,094 rounds of ammunition - 963.309 kg
  - 30,576 x 7.62mm;
  - 1,255 x 5.56mm;
  - 841 x 14.5mm;
  - 4,572 x12.7mm
  - 850 x 7.5mm
- 114 x AT mine fuses(MVN) - 20.52kg
- 67 x Grenades (F1def/VOG25/defensiveRGD5/offensiveRGD5) - 36.53kg

## 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 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.

During January and February **MAG destroyed a total of 7409 weapons** including 62% assault rifles, 14% bolt action rifles, 10% machine guns and 8% self loading rifles. Other items destroyed include grenade launchers, mortar tubes, rocket launchers, sub machine guns, shotguns and hunting rifles. Some of the items destroyed have been of a remarkable quality and in very good condition.

The RDF weapons destruction team members have progressed well towards their weapons cutting competency qualifications. **Final preparations for the planned IMAS EOD Level 1 Course** for the RDF EOD team were also made during this period. The EOD training is scheduled to take place in March. **Construction of a new munitions store** at the Gabiro School of Infantry was **completed** in early February. Surplus munitions scheduled for destruction have already been transported to this new facility in anticipation of the bulk demolition operations at the nearby central demolition planned for March. The Rwandan National Focal Point (RNFP) on Small Arms and Light Weapons and MAG signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in February 2009. This MoU will form the basis for future co-operation between MAG and the RNFP. Finally MAG continues to advise the Rwandan National Focal Point and the Rwanda Defense Forces on best practice of storage of munitions and weapons.

## Somalia

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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.

During January and February 2009, the EOD team responded to 9 call-outs on the 'UXO hotline' in Garowe town and the surrounding region. This resulted in 19 items of UXO being collected from public spaces and people's homes. **A major BAC (battle area clearance) task in Garowe was completed, resulting in 235,000 m2 of visual clearance, 1,000 m2 of sub-surface clearance and 84 UXO items being removed.** The team also discovered 100 kg of explosive from the 1980's that had been buried in the rubble of an abandoned ammunition store in the task area. This ammunition store was destroyed with the cooperation and full support of the Puntland authorities. An estimated 1000 people live very close to this area that has now been fully cleared and verified UXO-free.

MAG international staff were able to redeploy to Puntland in January following a 2 months absence in November and December 2008 because of security concerns.

## Sudan

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**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.

In January 2009 the SALW team completed refresher training and five 5 spot tasks in Yei and Lainya in Central Equatoria, see details in table below.

January 2009	Number removed and destroyed
Spot tasks completed	5
Stockpiles completed	0
SAA (up to and including 20mm)	0
Munitions (up to and including 100mm)	0
Munitions (101mm +)	0
AP Mines	0
AT Mines	0
MANPADS	0
Light Weapons	6 (3 x grenades, 3 x RPG)
Weapons (101mm +)	0
<b>Total items destroyed</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	<b>750</b>

During February the **team completed 66 spot tasks**, see table below for details. Due to insecurity in Central and Western Equatoria the SALW team spent most of its time working in Eastern Equatoria, in particular in Budi, Torit and Juba County.

Summary Table	Number removed and destroyed
Spot tasks completed	66
Stockpiles completed	1
MANPADS- Tubes	0
MANPADS- Gripstocks	0
MANPADS- Batteries	0
AT mines	0
AP mines	107
SAA	362
Small Arms <sup>1</sup>	0
Light Weapons <sup>2</sup>	0
Weapons 101mm+	0
Sub munitions	19
Other UXO	4648
<b>Total items destroyed</b>	<b>5136</b>
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	<b>3200</b>

In addition in February another **MAG team** whilst working in Torit County, Eastern Equatoria **found and destroyed 6 MANPADS – Tubes**

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)
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- Adopt – A – Minefield
- Maurice Rufford Laing Foundation
- Swiss Government