

Humanitarian Mine Action

MAG's clearance operations decrease the risks posed by landmines and UXO and enable communities to protect themselves while opening up access to fertile land and essential facilities, services and trading opportunities.

Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) is implemented through integrated clearance and Community Liaison (CL) teams, who reduce the threat by removing and destroying hazardous items, and through risk education activities, which provide risk mitigation strategies to affected communities. CL enables effective two-way communication with the local

Since 2007, MAG has cleared more than 2000 landmines and nearly 300 cluster munitions, while carrying out just over 10,000 risk education sessions, reaching nearly one million beneficiaries.

population and ensures that humanitarian priorities for risk education and clearance tasks are met.

Through a dedicated partnerships team, MAG is building the capacity of national NGOs specialising in CL: Humanitas Ubangi, ECC MERU, CRAFOP and RIAO. Collaboration with the National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross is ongoing to develop a national reporting network for Dangerous Areas and a victim reporting network respectively.

In the HMA field, MAG is operating:

- seven CL teams (one of which is composed of MAG staff and six composed of staff from local partner NGOs under MAG's technical coordination;
- six Multi-Task Teams; and
- two Manual Clearance Teams.



Physical Security and Stockpile Management

Destruction of unsafe arms and ammunition

Since 2006, MAG has been successfully working with the FARDC to build capacity in terms of stockpile management and to destroy any unsafe, obsolete or surplus weaponry. Using mobile Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) teams MAG has toured the country visiting the Regional Logistics Bases and Special Units in each Military Region. A mobile ammunition destruction team is also focusing on activities in North Kivu province in the East. Unsafe ammunition in these stockpiles is handed over to MAG to be disposed of at nearby destruction sites. Presently, all arms destruction is conducted at the arms destruction workshop in Kinshasa, averaging 900 weapons per month.

Since 2007, MAG has destroyed more than 818 tons of ammunition, including 3,791,288 munition items and 12 Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS). Additionally teams have destroyed more than 116,000 unserviceable and out of date weapons.

Coordination and partnership

MAG works in close collaboration with the FARDC and the PNC and is the only humanitarian organisation with access to armouries and ammunition depots. In coordination with both these bodies, MAG has drafted PSSM standards. When approved they will provide a framework for other activities, such as the evaluation of storage depots and developing the capacity of trainees in the Logistics School.

Training

In 2009 MAG restored the Ordnance

Department of the Inter-Ministerial Logistics School in order to put in place a nine-month long PSSM technical training programme. MAG continues to work with the FARDC working group to develop training modules, closely linked to official national standards and assist FARDC instructors and evaluators through training and ongoing support.

Stockpile assessment

Using newly developed PSSM standards, MAG has created a unique evaluation tool that can be used to assess the compliance of stockpiles to these standards in addition to assessing the risks and socio-economic impact of explosive

incident on surrounding communities. An assessment team has been created and trained in

applying these evaluation tools and the tool will be rolled out across other MAG programmes.

Weapon Securitisation

MAG has commenced Phase I of a weapon securitisation project, in coordination with UNDP and the National Commission on SALW (CNC), to assess armouries in Kinshasa and Bas Congo provinces, design and build five prefabricated armoury prototypes, and commence weapons marking. This project aims to secure and mark existing arms, in order to curb the illicit sale and trafficking of weapons in DR Congo and to ensure the protection of civilians.

Improving Humanitarian Access

MAG's clearance at Mbandaka Airport (Equateur) released land for the construction of a new terminal for the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in DRC (MONUSCO).

An attack on the airport by Enyele rebels resulted in a large number of unexploded shells, mortars and grenades that contaminated the area. At MONUSCO's request MAG teams conducted surface and sub-surface Battle Area Clearance (BAC) on areas designated for the new terminal. Mohamed Abdullahi, Head of Office for MONUSCO Mbandaka said: "Before beginning work on the airport it was essential to co-ordinate a survey of the area to ensure that development work could take place in safety."

MAG conducted a rapid BAC response on two areas at the airport. A multi-task team then carried out search techniques to identify and clear surface and sub-surface contamination.

A total of 17,616m² was cleared to prepare the ground for construction of the new terminal. In addition, two long-barrelled guns were found, as well as 305 items of small arms ammunition.

This operation, in rapid response to a request from the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC), has proved to be essential in improving aviation security in Mbandaka and the development of new MONUSCO facilities will ensure the continued stabilising presence of the mission in the region that has an estimated population of more than one million.





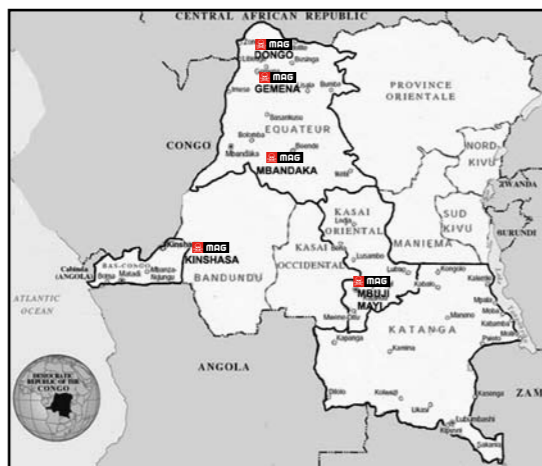
At a glance...

Between 1996 and 2003, DR Congo was the site of the most deadly conflict since World War Two. This left large concentrations of unexploded ordnance (UXO) scattered across the country and huge numbers of arms and ammunition stored in unsecure conditions.

MAG began operations in DRC in 2004. Headquarters are based in Kinshasa with operational bases in Gemena, Dongo and Mbandaka (Equateur Province) and Mbuji Mayi (Kasai Oriental Province). Mobile teams also work in North Kivu, Kasai Occidental and Bas Congo provinces.

With more than 180 staff and 18 teams operating in the field, MAG is the largest operator in the country in the fields of Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM).

The majority of teams consist of national staff, and MAG has developed successful partnerships with the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the Congolese National Police (PNC) to build capacity and destroy surplus weaponry. MAG also partners with five national and one international organisation to implement CL and post-clearance development activities.



List of abbreviations

BAC - Battle Area Clearance. **CL** - Community Liaison.
FARDC - Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo. **HMA** - Humanitarian Mine Action.
MANPADS - Man Portable Air Defense Systems.
MONUSCO - UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in DRC. **NGO** - Non-Governmental Organisation.
PNC - Congolese National Police. **PSSM** - Physical Security and Stockpile Management. **SALW** - Small Arms and Light Weapons. **UXO** - unexploded ordnance.

MAG (Mines Advisory Group) is a not-for-profit humanitarian organisation, whose global operations directly reduce the devastating effects of armed violence and remnants of conflict. For more than two decades MAG has been removing deadly obstacles to reconstruction, peace and security in some of the world's poorest communities, saving lives and paving the way for safer futures.

MAG has worked in around 35 countries since 1989 and at present has operations in Angola, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Vietnam.

Further information on MAG's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo can be found at:

www.maginternational.org/drc



Democratic Republic of Congo

MAG would like to thank the individual and institutional donors that support its work in DR Congo: the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UK Department for International Development (DFID UKAid), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SIDA, Actiefonds Mijnen Ruimen, ECHO, UNICEF, UNOPS, MAG America and the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Foundry 47 and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

MAG HQ
 68 Sackville Street
 Manchester M1 3NJ UK
 +44 161 236 43 11
info@maginternational.org

MAG DR Congo
 2 Chemin du Paradis
 Quartier GB Commune Ngaliema
 Kinshasa
 République Démocratique du Congo

Report produced thanks to funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

