



Left: Destruction of arms at MAG's workshop at the Logistics Central Base

Right: A pile of destroyed weapons after having been broken down by the destruction team

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 – 31 January 2009

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- **Removal and destruction of a total of 225 hazardous items** by the HMA teams
- **Destruction of 410 weapons** by the CWMD teams¹
- **39 Dangerous Areas identified**

Key Activities:

Following the return from the Christmas break, the first half of January was largely dedicated to refresher training and inventory of equipment with all teams deployed and fully operational for the second half of the month. Operations continued around Gemena and Mbandaka in Equateur and in the region of Moliro, Mutoto and Moya in Katanga, while mobile CWMD teams were deployed in Bas Congo, Kasai Oriental and Kasai Occidentale.

In January, a regional MAG Community Liaison (CL) meeting took place in Nairobi, attended by all DRC Community Liaison Managers (CLMs), with the goal of exchanging best practice and lessons learned. Before leaving for Nairobi DRC's CLMs conducted a number of workshops in Kinshasa to compare experiences across DRC. In addition, the CLM based in Equateur attended an UNMACC coordination meeting in Kinshasa, in order to further elaborate DRC's Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) strategy over the coming year.

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 *Small Arms Light Weapons* (SALW)

Equateur

In Equateur in January, both the Manual Clearance Teams (MCT) and the Community Liaison Teams (CLTs) undertook refresher training to ensure the continued safety of operations following the Christmas break. The MCT and CLT financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) then deployed around Mbandaka, while the MCT and CLT financed by the Dutch Government deployed to Kalawa and around Gemena. During January MAG DRC's Country Programme Manager (CPM) conducted a visit of operations in Equateur, meeting the teams based in Gemena and Mbandaka. A new Technical Field Manager (TFM) took over the running of the SIDA-financed MCT in Mbandaka, and towards the end of the month both of the Equateur CLMs attended MAG's CL workshop in Nairobi.

Katanga

In Katanga, all teams also carried out refresher training following the winter break. The MCT funded by DFID and the one funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs then deployed to Moliro, Mutoto and Moya, and received a number of munitions handed over by the Congolese Army (FARDC) in Molio, before returning to Pweto at the end of the month. Both CLTs initially deployed around Pweto. Whilst the CLT funded by DFID continued working in this area throughout the month, the CLT funded by the Dutch Government joined the MCTs in Moliro, Mutoto and Moya. The Katanga CLM also attended the Nairobi workshop and, additionally, an UNMACC coordination meeting which took place in Kinshasa.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

Destruction activities continued this month at both the Central Logistics Base and for the three mobile CWMD teams which were deployed in the first (Bas Congo), fourth (Kasai Occidental) and fifth (Kasai Oriental) Military Regions. The joint MAG-FARDC team working at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa through funding from United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) destroyed 300 weapons on behalf of the FARDC, whilst in Bandundu in the first Military Region 110 weapons belonging to the Congolese National Police (CNP) were destroyed with funding provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Activities with the CNP are relatively new, following the awarding of an agreement in September 2008 from the Ministry of the Interior, and MAG is currently expanding its activities in this area.

Destruction of 986kg of surplus or unsafe ammunition took place in Bandundu town in the first Military Region, through funding provided by PM/WRA, and the team funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs destroyed 259kg of ammunition in Tshala in the fifth Military Region. In total this month 1,245kg of potentially dangerous ammunition was destroyed.

In addition this month one Technical Field Manager (TFM) completed a reconnaissance trip with MONUC (United Nations Mission in DRC) to Lusembo in Kasai Oriental to assess an ammunition storage site and all three teams completed refresher technical training and MEDEVAC exercises.

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

- Department for International Development (UK)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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