



An MRE session at a local market in Gemena (Equateur Province) conducted by MAG's local partner Humanitas Ubangi with assistance from MAG. The MRE sessions use participative techniques to involve the community and ensure a deeper absorption of the MRE messages.

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 November 2008 – 31 December 2008

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 1,900 m² of land** through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 853 hazardous items** by the HMA teams
- **Destruction of 5,639 items of ammunition and 1,844 weapons** by the CWMD teams¹
- **23 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **155 MRE sessions conducted** targeting **41,598 beneficiaries**

Key Activities:

In November and December 2008 MAG conducted two important assessment missions. The first was to Goma, the scene of significant unrest in the late part of 2008, where MAG's assessment team identified very high levels of UXO pollution in residential areas and along routes of potential return for refugees. With a constantly moving population the need for clearance operations and Mine Risk Education (MRE) is even greater than usual and MAG is attempting to source funding to carry out both of these activities. The second evaluation mission that MAG completed was to the international N'Djili airport of Kinshasa, where a joint MAG-FARDC (Congolese Army) technical survey is expected to be developed in the coming months.

MAG also destroyed a first batch of 230 weapons belonging to the Congolese National Police (PNC) at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa. This activity followed the signing of an agreement in September 2008 between MAG and the Ministry of the Interior, which allows MAG to destroy the PNC's surplus stocks. This is very significant as, to date, MAG has been focusing on military stocks (army, navy and air force); this agreement opens up a second pillar within DRC's CWMD programme. The destruction of police stocks will significantly reinforce the impact of the CWMD programme on the safety of the civilian population and on peace-building at a national and regional level.

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 the Community Liaison Team (CLT) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) completed a month-long deployment to Djolu, passing through Bassankusu, Waka-Bokeka, and Befale on the way, in order to conduct Mine Risk Education and collect information on the location of Dangerous Areas. The SIDA-funded Manual Clearance Team (MCT) followed the CLT to Bassankusu to address Dangerous Areas found there, as well as deploying to Dongo and clearing tasks around Mbandaka, including left over UXO from the camp Ngashi explosion that were discovered while excavations for new buildings were being conducted. Meanwhile the MCT funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and based in Gemena conducted tasks around Gemena, and in Akula and Kalawa, where a suspected 16km mined road was discovered and prioritized for clearance. They were accompanied by the Dutch-funded CLT, which is composed of staff drawn from Humanitas Ubangi, (MAG's local partner), and is supervised by a MAG Community Liaison Manager (CLM). Across Equateur clearance activities resulted in improved access to 12 agricultural sites, 38 residential areas and 5 roads.

Katanga

In Katanga the two MCTs and CLTs funded by DFID and the Dutch Government (one MCT and one CLT each) completed tasks located predominantly around the area of Pweto. The MCTs deployed to Pepa in November and along the axis Pweto-Lofwashi in December. At the same time the CLTs deployed between Pweto and Mitwaba in November and in the immediate vicinity of Pweto in December to identify remaining Dangerous Areas which continue to be reported. Across Katanga, clearance activities improved access to 65 agricultural sites, 22 residential areas, 20 roads, 43 hunting grounds, 2 water access points, and 1 medical facility.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

CWMD operations continued as normal in November and December, until the close-down of the programme for the Christmas break. Over this two-month period, 1,614 weapons belonging to the FARDC were destroyed; 1,524 in the Kinshasa Central Logistics Base, 39 in Gemena (Equateur Province in north-western DRC), and 51 in Kananga (Kasai Occidental Province in central DRC), all of which were funded by the United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA). In addition, in November/December, a total of 5,639 items of ammunition were destroyed, 4,944 of which were in Kananga and Kamina funded by PM/WRA, and the remaining 695 items were destroyed in Ilebo under funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The combined total weight of all the items destroyed was 46,498 kg and included 1,927 AP mines.

In December, MAG also destroyed a total of 230 weapons belonging to the Congolese National Police (PNC) at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa, through funding from PM/WRA.

During November and December the two CWMD teams financed by the Dutch Government undertook capacity-building training courses. A full qualitative and quantitative inventory was also carried out by all four CWMD teams (2 teams funded by PM/WRA and 2 teams funded by the Dutch government) during this period.

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
- United States Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
- Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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