



*Left: Spanish penetrator bombs being dismantled by a CWMD team in Kamina, Katanga.  
Right: Controlled demolition of torpedoes by a CWMD team in Muanda, Bas-Congo.*

## SUMMARY

**Reporting Period:** 01 October 2008 – 31 October 2008

### Summary of outputs:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land** through a combination of hand, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 57 hazardous items** by the HMA teams
- **Destruction of 34,245 items of ammunition and 1,150 weapons** by the CWMD<sup>1</sup> teams
- **34 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **121 Mine Risk Education sessions** conducted, targeting **4,076 beneficiaries**

### Key activities:

October has been a very productive month for MAG DRC. First, large destructions took place in Katanga (Kamina), Bas-Congo (Muanda) and Kasai Oriental as part of the CWMD program. Large bombs, torpedoes and other items of ammunition were destroyed, meaning that destruction this month totals 59 tons of ammunition. This is the largest weight of ammunition destroyed in a single month since the beginning of the CWMD program in DRC.

In addition, a series of assessment missions were conducted in Bas-Congo, Katanga (Kolwezi), Equateur (Gbadolite) and the Kivus (Goma and Bukavu). MAG responded to a request made by the UNMACC to intervene in Kolwezi and to one made by local authorities in Gbadolite. The missions in Bas-Congo and the Kivus were initiated on the basis of information received about contamination in those regions.

Finally, MAG signed a partnership agreement with Eglise du Christ au Congo - Ministère de l'Eglise pour les Réfugiés et les Urgences (ECC-MERU), an association of Protestant Churches in DRC working in HMA. ECC-MERU have an extensive network reaching deep into communities and this partnership should be very effective in helping both organizations carry out sensitization of the Congolese population to the risks posed by explosive Remnants of War and Small Arms and Light Weapons (see article on MAG's website for more details).

<sup>1</sup> 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 the *Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW)* used to date

## ACTIVITIES

### Equateur

The Manual Clearance Team (MCT) and the Community Liaison Team (CLT) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency both deployed to Basankusu at the end of the month. The CLT surveyed 8 communities, reported 3 new Dangerous Areas, and conducted 6 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions, reaching a total of 416 beneficiaries. The MCT identified and destroyed in situ 2 items of UXO.

The MCT funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs cleared spot tasks in Libenge and Gemena, removing and destroying 9 items of UXO. They also conducted a reconnaissance mission in Gbadolite in the north of Equateur following a request from the local authorities. The team will undertake clearance work there later this year. The Community Liaison Manager deployed with Humanitas Ubangi's CL teams in Libenge, Kuma and Akula and focused his support on Dangerous Areas reporting.

### Katanga

This month, MAG signed a new contract with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 18-month funding of HMA in Katanga, starting in October 2008. The MCTs funded by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UK Department for International Development deployed in Kolwezi following a request from the UN Mine Action Center (UNMACC). MONUC (the UN mission in the DRC) had found the area contaminated and expressed the need for MAG to clear (1) the area around the airport and (2) the road from the airport to the town. The teams have cleared 60,000 squared meters and removed 41 UXO and 5 miscellaneous items. The road going to the airport will now be rehabilitated, thus supporting the economic recovery of Kolwezi and decreasing the threat to the life and limb of its population.

During this time, the CLTs worked in the Pweto-Shamwana-Kilwa triangle, where they identified 31 new Dangerous Areas, and conducted 115 sensitization sessions reaching 3,660 beneficiaries.

### Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

The CWMD teams funded by the United States Department of State conducted major operations this month. The first one was deployed in Muanda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Military Region (Bas-Congo) to destroy surplus ammunition from various army and navy bases in the region. They destroyed in total 24.3 tons of ammunition, including five 12-meter long torpedoes, and 72 marine grenades, including some in a highly degraded state. They were posing a severe threat of unplanned explosion which could have had major consequences in terms of human lives, infrastructure damage - a port and petroleum company are located nearby - and contamination of the sea (see article on MAG's website for more details). They also destroyed 6" artillery shells dating back from the world wars, including a stock located on the island of Boulombembé which is classified as a natural reserve. The second CWMD team worked in Kamina, 6<sup>th</sup> Military Region (Katanga), where they destroyed 24 tons of a large stock of ammunition, including 25 large Spanish penetrator bombs which they had to dismantle (see picture).

Weapons destruction at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa has continued, with a total of 1,150 weapons being destroyed over the course of the month.

The CWMD team funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued their deployment in Kasai Oriental, 5<sup>th</sup> Military Region. They worked in Lodja, Lubao, Kabinda and Tshala and destroyed over 30,000 items of ammunition weighting in total 11 tons. In addition, the Technical Operations Manager conducted an assessment mission in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Military Region (Sud-Kivu and Nord-Kivu) where he met with the regional military authorities as well as a series of local authorities, UN authorities, and partners from civil society.

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- Department for International Development (UK)
- Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission
- 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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