



Left: MAG was chosen to represent International HMA NGOs at the 4th April national Landmines Day event. Right: A Mine Risk Education session in a school in Kileba, Katanga Province

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 1 – 30 April 2009

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 84,320m²** of land through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 1,318 hazardous items** by the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) teams (including 8 Anti-Personnel and 5 Anti-Tank mines)
- **92 Dangerous Areas** identified
- **134 MRE sessions conducted** targeting **7,450 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 254 weapons** and **34.538 kg of ammunition**

Impact Summary:

On 4th April, which is the international landmine awareness day, MAG was chosen to represent all international HMA NGOs operating in DRC for a nationally-televised event organised by the National Anti-Mine Focal Point in Kinshasa. Later in the month MAG attended a seminar highlighting the landmine issue in DRC organised for over 200 people in Mbuji Mayi (Kasai Oriental) by local NGO ECC MERU which had been funded by a Dutch Government sub-grant channeled through MAG. Both events were deemed to be very successful and demonstrated a strong commitment by DRC authorities to address the landmine issue. Another major development this month was the receipt of an agreement on 10th April from the Ministry of the Interior expanding the scope of CWMD activities MAG is authorized to carry out with the Congolese National Police. Whereas previous agreements only covered the sorting and destruction of excess arms and ammunition this new agreement authorizes MAG to conduct training and stockpile rehabilitation activities as well.

In Equateur Province, clearance of Gemena airport took place this month ahead of a planned visit by President Kabila. The HMA Technical Operations Manager travelled to Gemena to participate in the official Land Release ceremony following the clearance. Also this month, staff recruited to fill several new support positions joined the programme including a new Finance Manager and the newly-created positions of Community Liaison Technical Adviser and Roving Mechanical Manager. Financing was also confirmed this month from UNICEF for a new sub-grant to MAG DRC's local partner Humanitas Ubangi to conduct Community Liaison operations from a new base in Gbadolite, Equateur.

Equateur

Of the two Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)-funded teams based in Mbandaka, the Manual Clearance Team (MCT) was deployed this month in the area around Imesse-Buburu, while the Community Liaison Team (CLT) took annual leave, completed refresher training and equipment maintenance, and prepared for its upcoming three month-long deployment to Ikela. In Gemena, the MCT funded by the Dutch Government conducted clearance on Gemena airport ahead of a visit by President Kabila and the HMA TOM travelled to Gemena to participate in the Land Release ceremony with local authorities. Meanwhile, the CLT funded by the Dutch Government deployed in Businga and the Budjala zone (south of Gemena), and then moved on quickly to Gbadolite, following reports of landmines near the airport there.

Katanga

In Katanga both the MCT funded by the Belgian Government and the MCT funded by DFID completed their joint deployments in the Moliro-Moba and Pepa areas, and then deployed to Lubumbashi to undertake a clearance operation on a site identified for development in Kipushi. Meanwhile the two CLTs (one financed by the Belgian Government and one by DFID) also worked in the Moliro-Moba area at the beginning of the month alongside the MCTs, and then deployed to Moba-Mpala-Lofwashi for the second half of the month.

Emergency Response Team (based in Kasai Oriental)

The Emergency Response Team conducted refresher training and several newly-trained deminers received their Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) level one certificates, which were awarded by MAG in Kinshasa. Following this, the team deployed directly to Kenge in Bandundu province to undertake Battle Area Clearance in UXO-contaminated areas.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

The main achievement for the CWMD project this month, currently funded by the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, was the awarding on 10th April of an agreement from the Ministry of the Interior extending the list of possible activities MAG DRC is permitted to carry out with the Congolese National Police.

The first mobile CWMD team spent the month deployed in Mbakana in Bas Congo Province, destroying 9,693 items of ammunition with a total weight of 29.356 kg, originally from Kibomengo. Meanwhile the second CWMD team deployed to Kamina in Katanga Province, following a week's leave at the beginning of the month, where they destroyed 150 items of ammunition weighing 5.182 kg. At the Central Logistics Base destruction activities carried on as usual and a total of 254 weapons were destroyed this month.

In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed 2,005,920 items of ammunition weighing 411.55 tons, as well as 85,986 weapons.

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
- UNICEF

**For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world
please visit www.maginternational.org, or contact:**

Leen Noltes (Regional Desk Officer)
MAG, 68 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3NJ, UK

e-mail: Leen.Noltes@maginternational.org
Tel: +44 161 236 4311 Fax: +44 161 236 6244