



MAG DRC Programme Update August 2009



MAG technical staff display demining techniques to VIPs during the International Humanitarian Day



MAG DRC Kinshasa-based donors, wearing Personal Protective Equipment, visit a Battle Area Clearance site outside Kinshasa

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 – 31 August 2009

Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 20,180 m² of land** completed through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 1,476 hazardous items**
- **210 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **470 MRE sessions conducted** targeting **21,845 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 3,590 weapons and 6,378kg of ammunition**

Summary of MAG activities:

Humanitarian Mine Action activities continued as normal in Katanga and Kasai Oriental provinces, whereas in Equateur province operations were briefly put on hold in order to allow all teams to take annual leave in a coordinated manner. On the Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal side of the programme, weapons-destruction operations in Lubumbashi (Katanga) were completed and ammunition-destruction operations in Bukavu (South Kivu) continued.

In Kinshasa MAG was well represented at the International Humanitarian Day celebrations, where it performed a technical display of demining techniques to a number of dignitaries and was invited to give an interview on national UN radio (Radio Okapi). A delegation of MAG DRC stakeholders from the Dutch, Belgian, British and Japanese governments visited MAG's operations in Kimwenza, at the site of a plane crash that has scattered large amounts of explosive material in the vicinity of the site. They witnessed Community Liaison staff providing a Mine Risk Education session to local villagers, and clearance and explosives-demolition operations performed by the Emergency Response Team.

MAG DRC welcomed a new Community Liaison Manager for Mbandaka (Equateur Province) this month, as well as a new Executive Director for its local partner NGO Humanitas Ubangi.

Equateur

In order to ensure minimal overall disruption to operations, MAG temporarily shut down its Equateur bases this month so that all Equateur-based staff, including two teams financed by SIDA and one team financed by the Dutch Government, could take their annual leave at the same time rather than causing multiple shut-downs throughout the year. The only exceptions were the two Humanitas Ubangi Community Liaison Teams (CLTs) that are supported and supervised by MAG, which continued their operations throughout the month. These teams, financed by the Dutch Government and UNICEF, deployed around Gemena and Yakoma respectively during this month. One new development for the Equateur teams at the end of this month was the arrival of a new Community Liaison Manager based in Mbandaka working with the SIDA-funded CLT.

Katanga

Operations continued as usual this month in Katanga. Both the Manual Clearance Teams (MCTs) based in Pweto (one funded by DFID and the other by the Belgian Government), were deployed in Pepa at the beginning of the month before completing a long deployment covering the areas Moba-Mpala-Kala-Kasenga during the following weeks. Both CLTs (also funded by DFID and the Belgian Government) spent the month working around Moba.

Kasai Oriental and Bas Congo

The ECC MERU CLT based in Mbuji Mayi, supervised by MAG and financed by the Dutch Government, was deployed to the heavily-contaminated area of Kabinda. During the beginning of the month the CLT received a support visit from the MAG DRC Community Liaison Technical Adviser who evaluated their progress and provided follow up training where necessary.

The Emergency Response Team, which is also normally based in Mbuji Mayi and is financed by the Dutch Government, deployed to Kimwenza in Bas Congo Province where it is completing a clearance operation at the crash site of an aeroplane that had been carrying explosive materials. The team was supported by two Community Liaison Officers seconded from Mbandaka, who provided Mine Risk Education to, (amongst other beneficiaries), the staff of a bonobo sanctuary which is located close to the crash site. At the end of the month a number of Kinshasa-based donors visited the site.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

This month CWMD Team One completed the weapons destruction operations that it started last month in Lubumbashi (6th Military Region), destroying 3,583 weapons. Two members of this team also participated in the International Humanitarian Day event organised by the UN in Kinshasa where they performed a demonstration of demining techniques to a number of dignitaries including the vice-Prime Minister, UN Humanitarian Coordinator, and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General.

The second CWMD Team continued its deployment in Bukavu in South Kivu (8th Military Region), where it destroyed 9,608 items of ammunition weighing 6,378 kg. At the Logistics Central Base, weapons destruction activities continued as normal, although only a reduced number of weapons were available for destruction purposes with 7 weapons being destroyed this month. Refurbishment works on the Ordnance School buildings also continued as per schedule.

In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed 2,071,033 items of ammunition weighing 472 tons, as well as 97,661 weapons.

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

- UK Department for International Development
- 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
- UK Ministry of Defence

**For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world
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