



Left: A MAG vehicle stuck in the mud in Katanga Province. An almost complete lack of road infrastructure combined with heavy rains poses obstacles that MAG teams face daily while on deployment. Right: Defective rockets are handed over by authorities in Katanga to MAG for destruction

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 – 28 February 2009

Activities & Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 20,100m²** of land through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 2,306 hazardous items** by the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) teams
- **39 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **189 MRE sessions conducted targeting 12,660 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 1,380 weapons and 8.568 kg of ammunition** by the CWMD¹ teams

Key Activities

All teams continued working this month in their normal operational areas. In addition, on request from UNMACC, one CWMD team deployed to Bunia to destroy weapons collected through the disarmament process and an HMA technical survey was conducted in Itebero, near Bukavu, in a suspected contaminated area of a national park following a request from the German Development Agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). MAG also moved the location of its base in Gemena to a nearby compound with office space available for local partner Humanitas Ubangi.

This month a seminar involving all in-country medical staff, both CWMD and HMA, took place in Kinshasa. A film crew financed by the United States Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) also accompanied MAG's CWMD teams in order to create a documentary about CWMD programmes in DRC and at the end of the month a photographer, also financed by PM/WRA, arrived in country to record MAG activities. MAG also received support visits from its UK-based HQ focusing on optimizing finance and logistics procedures in country.

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 Manual Clearance Team (MCT) and Community Liaison Team (CLT) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and based in Mbandaka conducted a long deployment to Bassankusu in February, working in Befale on the way. The MCT and CLT based in Gemena and funded by the Dutch Government attended to tasks in the vicinity of Gemena before deploying to Libenge later in the month. Also this month the MAG base at Gemena was moved to an adjoining compound, as the existing compound was proving to be too limited in terms of space. The new MAG base also includes more office space for MAG's local NGO partner in Equateur, Humanitas Ubangi. The medics from all teams attended a medical workshop which took place in Kinshasa.

Katanga

In Katanga the two MCTs based in Pweto (one of which is funded by DFID and the other by the Dutch Government) attended to Dangerous Areas identified in the area between Moba and Moliro, while the two CLTs, (also funded by DFID and the Dutch Government) provided Mine Risk Education (MRE) and collected information on the location of Dangerous Areas in the area between Pweto and Kilwa. A team composed of the Katanga CLM and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) qualified national staff also completed an assessment mission to an area suspected to be contaminated by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in a national park in Itebero near Bukavu, following a request from GTZ. The medical staff attended the medical seminar in Kinshasa.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

Destruction activities continued this month at both the Central Logistics Base (LCB) and for the three mobile CWMD teams. A documentary film crew, Spin Films, funded by PM/WRA followed MAG's CWMD activities this month, interviewing the CWMD Technical Operations Manager and filming activities in Mbakana and Bunia. The Dutch grant supporting CWMD activities came to an end at the end of this month leading to the discontinuation of the third CWMD team. MAG is currently in the process of seeking new funding in order to resume activities.

The CWMD Team financed by the Dutch Government worked this month in Kasai Oriental Province (5th Military Region) deploying to both Ilebo and Lusembo. From March onwards this team will operate as an HMA Emergency Response Team funded under the Dutch Government grant for HMA activities. One of the CWMD Teams, funded by WRA, deployed to Kahembe and Kenge in Bandundu Province (1st Military Region), Mbakana in Bas Congo Province (2nd Military Region) and Bunia in Orientale Province (9th Military Region). The deployment to Bunia was carried out at the request of the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) to destroy 309 weapons collected during the process of integration of rebel CNDP forces into the FARDC. The second CWMD team funded by PM/WRA meanwhile deployed to Kananga and Tshikapa in Kasai Occidental Province in the 4th Military Region.

In total this month the three mobile teams and the LCB team destroyed 1,380 weapons, bringing the overall number of weapons destroyed by MAG DRC to 83,039. In addition 11,180 items of ammunition were destroyed weighing 8,568 kg. The total amount of ammunition so far destroyed now equals 1,247,476 items with a combined weight of over 345 tons.

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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