



MAG DRC Programme Update July 2009



Left: The Governor of Katanga, Moise Katumbi, inspects weapons stocks before they are destroyed by MAG

Right: MAG uses mobile weapons cutting shears to destroy arms stocks in situ when this is possible

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 – 31 July 2009

Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 1,966 m² of land** completed through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 13,655 hazardous items**
- **151 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **325 MRE sessions conducted** targeting **12,648 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 7,337 weapons and 16,192 kg of ammunition**

Summary of MAG activities:

The highlights of this month were the creation of a new Community Liaison team in Kasai Oriental Province operated by MAG's local partner NGO ECC MERU who are receiving a sub-grant from MAG, and a high-profile event held by MAG in Lubumbashi where a large number of weapons were destroyed this month (see *next page for more information on both*).

A new Community Liaison Manager (CLM) arrived in country and took over the coordination of Community Liaison operations in Katanga. The three-month long deployment of a Community Liaison Team (CLT) and Manual Clearance Team (MCT) to Ikela in Equateur was completed.

MAG DRC received a visit from the MAG Head of Operations for Africa, which coincided with a visit of the Director of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to DRC. Discussions were held with UNMAS regarding the expansion of the mandate of the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) to cover the safe management and destruction of ammunition stocks in DRC.

July was an exceptionally busy month for MAG DRC senior management staff travelling and providing support within the country: the Country Programme Manager and CWMD Technical Operations Manager (TOM) attended the weapons destruction event in Lubumbashi; the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) TOM provided training to the new ECC MERU Community Liaison Team in Mbuji Mayi and, together with the Partnerships Officer, completed an evaluation of all Humanitas Ubangi teams in Equateur; the CL Technical Advisor visited Pweto in Katanga to complete an induction of the new CLM; the Programme Officer attended the UNMACC coordination meeting which was exceptionally held in Goma for the benefit of the UNMAS Director; and the Finance Manager and Support Systems Manager undertook support visits to MAG bases in Katanga and Kasai Oriental respectively.

Equateur

In Equateur the Community Liaison Team (CLT) and Manual Clearance Team (MCT) financed by SIDA completed their three-month long deployments to Ikela in the far-East of the Province and returned to their base in Mbandaka. The CLT worked in Bokungu on the way back while the MCT completed Technical Surveys of a number of minefields located near Yalusaka, Opala and Ikela. Meanwhile the Gemena MCT, funded by the Dutch Government, deployed to Zongo and, following a request from the administrator of the territory, to Libenge. The Humanitas Ubangi (HU) CLT, also funded by the Dutch Government, worked in Karawa and Akula before deploying to Budjala for three weeks. The second HU CLT, funded by UNICEF, worked around Gbadolite where it is based and deployed to Kota Koli and Yakoma. The MAG DRC Partnerships Officer completed a comprehensive evaluation of both of HU's teams which was intended to assess and boost their organisational capacities.

Katanga

In Katanga the two MCTs based in Pweto (one funded by the Belgian Government and the other by DFID) deployed to Moba and Lofwashi to clear Dangerous Areas reported there. The two CLTs (also funded by DFID and the Belgian Government) deployed to Lofwashi and Pepa, before providing Mine Risk Education to over 600 returning refugees transiting through Pweto. The CL Technical Advisor visited the teams and monitored activities to support the handover to the new CLM.

Kasai Oriental

The new ECC MERU CLT, recruited last month under Dutch Government funding, became operational this month after a period of intensive training provided by the HMA TOM. Community Liaison Team leaders seconded from Pweto are also supporting this team which deployed to Kabinda at the end of the month. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) based in Mbuji Mayi destroyed an unstable arms cache in Mwende Ditu and also deployed to the heavily polluted area of Kabinda. After that the ERT moved to Kinshasa where it began a Technical Survey of a plane crash site which is contaminated by munitions that were on board the plane before it crashed on the outskirts of Kinshasa.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

MAG organized a high-profile event this month in Lubumbashi (Katanga Province – 6th Military Region) to mark the start of operations there to destroy 9,600 weapons, for which MAG DRC recently received permission to destroy them in situ. Normally weapons would be transported to the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa for destruction but, as in this case, the FARDC – Congolese Armed Forces – often lacks the logistic means for this. The event was attended by a large number of high ranking Congolese officials, including the governor of the province, the mayor of the city, and representatives of the ministry of the interior, as well as equally high-ranking military authorities.

CWMD Team 1, with US Government funding, finished its fourth Mbakana (Bas Congo Province – 2nd Military Region) deployment where it completed the destruction of ammunition stocks from Mbanza Gungu that it had started last month. After destroying a final 45,180 items of ammunition, weighing 16,192kg, in Mbakana, the team then deployed to Lubumbashi to attend to the stock of weapons mentioned above. By the end of the month 7,125 of these weapons had been destroyed. Meanwhile, after a period of leave, CWMD Team 2 redeployed to Bukavu (South Kivu – 10th Military Region) where it is preparing to recommence destruction operations next month. At the Logistics Central Base weapons destruction activities continued as normal with 417 weapons being destroyed this month.

In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed 2,061,425 items of ammunition weighing 466 tons, as well as 94,071 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

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