



## MAG DRC Programme Update October 2009



*A UK Government representative visits the Central Logistics Base workshop where MAG has destroyed the majority of the 100,000 weapons it has so far put out of service in DRC*



*The ECC MERU Community Liaison Team providing Risk Education in schools in Mbuji Mayi*

### SUMMARY

#### Reporting Period:

01 – 31 October 2009

#### Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 3,360m<sup>2</sup>** of land completed through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 2,815 hazardous items**
- **394 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **393 MRE sessions conducted targeting 20,815 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 150 weapons**

#### Summary of MAG activities:

This month, MAG destroyed its 100,000<sup>th</sup> weapon in DRC and a ceremony to celebrate this important milestone is planned for early 2010.

Deployments took place to Imesse, Buburu and Libenge in Equateur and all Kinshasa-based national staff visited the clearance operations taking place in Kimuanza (one hour outside Kinshasa). On the Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) side of the programme, the team deployed in South Kivu continued collecting arms and ammunition which will be destroyed next month. At the same time, the Technical Field Manager from the other team conducted a reconnaissance mission to Goma regarding 50 tons of dangerous ammunition awaiting destruction.

The MAG DRC programme received a number of support visits in October, including a member of MAG's International Development and Evaluation Team (IDET) to assess and support senior management and a member of the UK HQ finance team to improve the systems relating to financial reporting. MAG's regional Africa Community Liaison Manager also spent one month in the programme, standardising Community Liaison tools and developing impact assessment processes while visiting Equateur, Katanga and Kasai Oriental provinces together with the Community Liaison Technical Adviser. MAG DRC also welcomed a new Community Liaison Manager who will take over the supervision of the ECC MERU team based in Mbuji Mayi.

## **Equateur**

The Manual Clearance Team (MCT) and Community Liaison Team (CLT) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and based in Mbandaka received a visit at the beginning of the month from MAG's regional Community Liaison Manager (CLM) for Africa and the DRC Community Liaison Technical Adviser. These staff worked together with the CLT, focusing especially on methods for measuring impact. Subsequently, both teams deployed north to Imesse and Buburu (a four day trip up the river by pirogue), where they liaised with UNHCR and MAG's local NGO partner Humanitas Ubangi, which had collected information on the location of Dangerous Areas in the vicinity. Imesse and Buburu are located on the border with the Republic of Congo and a number of refugees who fled the DRC have returned to these areas recently, although regional instability continues to be a problem<sup>1</sup>. The CLT visited returnee villages and schools and provided Mine Risk Education there, and on the way back to Mbandaka both teams worked in Kule-Kule, Mozembo and Moboza, where remaining Dangerous Areas had been reported by Humanitas Ubangi. At the end of the month the teams returned to Camp Ngashi, where MAG has conducted long-term clearance operations following a stockpile explosion in 2007, to attend to a number of remaining Dangerous Areas, before beginning preparations for a return deployment next month to Ikela in the far east of the province.

At the Gemena base in northern Equateur, the MCT funded by the Dutch Government deployed to Libenge and completed spot tasks around Gemena where it worked in conjunction with the Dutch-Government funded CLT composed of Humanitas Ubangi (HU) staff and supervised by a MAG CLM. Meanwhile the UNICEF-funded HU CLT based in Gbadolite delivered Mine Risk Education sessions in local schools to more than 7,400 children. During this month the HU Director and MAG CLM jointly visited the Gemena and Gbadolite operations and key staff from both teams received programme management, logistical and finance training provided by MAG's Partnerships Officer over the course of one week in Gemena. At the end of October the UNICEF grant came to an end and from next month both HU teams will be financed by the Dutch Government. The two HU teams are then planning a joint deployment to Yakoma.

## **Katanga**

In Katanga the two MCTs (one funded by DFID and the other by the Belgian Government) deployed during the month of October to Moba, Pepa and Mutoto Moya to respond to Dangerous Areas identified by the two CLTs, as well as conducting a Technical Survey on a highly contaminated area in Kapulo. At the end of the month both teams travelled to Lubumbashi where next month they will destroy over a thousand items of ammunition that were identified by CWMD Team 1 as being potentially dangerous during their weapons destruction mission there in July.

Both of the Community Liaison Teams (one of each is also funded by DFID and the Belgian Government) received a visit from the Regional Africa CLM and MAG DRC's Community Liaison Technical Adviser. The visitors accompanied the teams on their deployments to Lofwashi and Pepa, while providing on-the-job training and standardising all Community Liaison tools used by the teams.

## **Kasai Oriental and Bas Congo**

The Emergency Response Team (ERT), funded by the Dutch Government, continued working in Kimuanza an hour outside Kinshasa where it is completing a Battle Area Clearance operation at the site of an old plane crash. In addition they welcomed a visit from representatives of the Canadian Embassy, as well as a half day visit from all Kinshasa-based MAG national staff in order to give them a clearer understanding of MAG's operations. UNMACC also conducted a Quality Assurance evaluation of the work of this team and reported back positively on the progress achieved and the adherence to international standards. The doctor from CWMD Team 1 spent one week with the ERT and provided training on CASEVAC and other medical procedures.

The CLT composed of MAG's local NGO partner ECC MERU, which, like the ERT is also based in Mbuji Mayi and funded by the Dutch Government, also had a busy month with the arrival of a new Community Liaison Manager. In order to assist the handover process, the regional Africa CLM and DRC Community Liaison Technical Adviser visited the Mbuji Mayi base where they completed the induction process and briefed the team. At the same time the DRC Finance Manager and the Finance Manager visiting from MAG's HQ in the UK were also in Mbuji Mayi to review finance procedures in the bases and MAG's Partnerships Officer conducted an evaluation visit of the ECC MERU CLT, as well as

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<sup>1</sup> Indeed later in the month 47 police were killed in Dongo, located not far from Imesse and Buburu, in what was reported as a tribal conflict.

assisting in the induction of the new CLM. The team itself worked in schools in Mbuji Mayi, where they provided Mine Risk Education, and along the axis towards Kananga. They also received motorcycle driving training this month from MAG's Roving Mechanical Manager, as this is the primary means of transportation for the team.

### **Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)**

During October MAG DRC destroyed its 100,000th weapon since operations began in 2006. A celebration marking this important milestone has been planned, and will take place after receipt of the necessary authorisation from DRC authorities in early 2010.

The TFM supervising the first CWMD team undertook a reconnaissance mission to Goma where 50 tons of potentially dangerous explosives in the possession of the FARDC (Congolese Army) are awaiting destruction by MAG. The team conducted refresher training and maintenance of equipment, while the doctor from the team also provided medical training to the ERT.

The second CWMD team continued its deployment in South Kivu and deployed from Bukavu to Mwenga and Kamituga in order to collect FARDC weapons. Rather than destroying weapons and ammunition as and when collected, as has been standard practice until now, it has been decided that this team will destroy all recovered items at the end of the deployment; as well as conserving explosives stocks, this will enable MAG to organise an event marking the destruction with local authorities in the provincial capital, following the success of a similar event in Lubumbashi. During this deployment MAG also received from MONUC all weapons collected through the DDR/DDRRR process and designated for destruction. This team also received a visit from MAG DRC's Roving Mechanical Manager to service vehicles in bad condition and conducted internal training on IT, English, driving skills and first aid.

At the Logistics Central Base, weapons destruction activities continued as normal, with 150 weapons being destroyed this month. Refurbishment works on the Ordnance School buildings (financed by the UK Ministry of Defence), continued largely according to schedule. MAG is planning to put in place technical training courses next year to be run from this facility.

In total MAG DRC has, to date, destroyed 2,174,450 items of ammunition weighing 479,659 tons, as well as 100,129 weapons.

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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

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