



## MAG DRC Programme Update September 2009



*The Humanitas Ubangi Community Liaison Team supported by MAG providing Mine Risk Education sessions in villages in Northern Equateur Province*

### SUMMARY

**Reporting Period:** 01 – 30 September 2009

#### Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 152,760 m<sup>2</sup> of land** completed through a combination of hand, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 1,315 hazardous items**
- **207 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **172 MRE sessions conducted** targeting **16,601 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 2,322 weapons and 7,007 kg of ammunition**

#### Summary of MAG activities:

Starting this month, MAG DRC received a 4 week visit from the Regional Africa Community Liaison Manager, who has been working in close collaboration with MAG DRC's Community Liaison Technical Adviser. Together, they visited Community Liaison Teams based in Mbandaka (Equateur) and Pweto (Katanga). Other deployments of MAG DRC HQ staff this month included a visit by the Organisational Development Adviser with the new Humanitas Ubangi (HU) Director to the two HU teams supported by MAG in Northern Equateur. In addition the Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) Technical Operations Manager (TOM) travelled to Bukavu where one of the mobile CWMD teams is engaged in weapons and ammunition destruction operations.

MAG's Emergency Response Team continued working in Kimuanza, at the crash site of a plane that had been carrying munitions, but re-deployed briefly to Kabinda to destroy a number of dangerous items in advance of a visit by President Kabila to the area. The Southern Equateur Community Liaison and Manual Clearance Teams undertook deployments to Imesse and Buburu on the border with the Republic of Congo to clear Dangerous Areas reported by Humanitas Ubangi staff based in the area and provide Mine Risk Education sessions.

## **Equateur**

The new Community Liaison Manager (CLM), who arrived at the end of last month, joined her team in Mbandaka and was accompanied by MAG DRC's Community Liaison Technical Adviser (CLTA) and the Regional Africa CLM. These three then worked on developing standard impact assessment tools, (with a focus on Camp Ngashi where MAG has undertaken substantial clearance work in the past), which will be applied across the programme after being field tested. This Community Liaison Team (CLT), together with the Manual Clearance Team (MCT) also based in Mbandaka, (both of which are funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)), then deployed to Imesse and Buburu on the border with the Republic of Congo. Meanwhile the Dutch-funded Gemena-based MCT and Humanitas Ubangi (HU) CLT worked around Gemena, and Dongo and Libenge respectively. Finally the UNICEF-funded HU CLT based in Gbadolite was deployed to Kota-Koli. Both of the HU teams received a visit from MAG's Organisational Development Adviser this month, who accompanied the new HU Director on his first visit to meet the teams.

## **Katanga**

In Katanga both of the Pweto-based Manual Clearance Teams (MCTs) and CLTs (one of each is funded by the Belgian Government and the other by DFID) deployed to Mutoto-Moya, Pepa, Moba and Lofwashi. At the end of the month the MAG DRC CLTA and visiting Regional Africa CLM arrived in Pweto from where they will deploy with the two CLTs next month.

## **Kasai Oriental and Bas Congo**

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) and ECC MERU CLT funded by the Dutch Government based in Mbuji Mayi continued their operations. The CLT completed one deployment to Kabinda and, after providing Mine Risk Education (MRE) in schools in Mbuji Mayi, commenced another deployment on the Kabinda Lubao axis. The ERT continued to work on a Battle Area Clearance operation in Bas Congo, at the site of an old military plane crash where it cleared over 150,000m<sup>2</sup> of contaminated land this month. The team returned briefly to Kabinda to destroy a number of dangerous objects, including a landmine, in anticipation of an upcoming visit of the President to the area.

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

The first CWMD team returned from leave near the end of the month and worked on the maintenance of equipment and planning for future deployments. The second CWMD Team continued its deployment in Bukavu (8th Military Region) where it destroyed 2,105 arms and 103,417 items of ammunition weighing 7,007kg and received a visit from the CWMD Technical Operations Manager to plan future operations in the province. Both of these teams are funded by the US Department of State.

At the Logistics Central Base weapons destruction activities continued as normal, with 217 weapons being destroyed this month. Refurbishment works on the Ordnance School buildings, funded by the UK Ministry of Defence, also continued as per schedule. At the end of September MAG DRC's CWMD Technical Operations Manager left the programme. His replacement will arrive in October.

In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed 2,174,450 items of ammunition weighing 479,659 tons, as well as 99,979 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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