



MAG DRC Programme Update June 2009



Left: The Gemena-based Manual Clearance Team wades through a river to reach a Dangerous Area

Right: The Mbandaka-based Community Liaison Team explains the significance of the signs they have put in place to mark the presence of minefields or dangerous items

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 – 30 June 2009

Outputs Summary:

- **Search and clearance of a total of 4,600 m² of land** completed through a combination of manual, electronic, and visual techniques
- **Removal and destruction of a total of 4,088 hazardous items**
- **96 Dangerous Areas identified**
- **182 MRE sessions conducted** targeting **9,547 beneficiaries**
- **Destruction of 205 weapons and 9,917.92 kg of ammunition**

Summary of MAG activities:

In Equateur province MAG established a temporary base in Ikela to support the long-term deployment in this heavily-mined area, while operations continued in the North of the province from bases in Gemena and Gbadolite. In Katanga MAG provided Mine Risk Education to large numbers of returning refugees, assisting their re-adaption to living in DRC.

On the Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) side of the programme, the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) announced its interest in playing a greater role in coordinating activities related to the management of stockpiles in DRC while recognizing MAG's leading role in the CWMD sector. MAG undertook an assessment mission in Lubumbashi to prepare the deployment there next month, while the CWMD teams continued to operate in South Kivu, and in Bas Congo to destroy Kinshasa Defense Zone ammunition stocks.

MAG DRC welcomed a new Support Services Manager, who takes over responsibility for all support services, and a Partnerships Officer, who will work, together with the Organisational Development Adviser, with MAG's local partners. MAG DRC has recently taken on a new local partner NGO and recruitment took place this month for a new Community Liaison Team (CLT) composed of staff of ECC MERU, a local faith-based NGO based in Kasai Occidental. The CLT will be supervised by MAG and will become operational next month under a sub-grant from the Dutch Government.

Equateur

Within Equateur the Manual Clearance Team (MCT) and Community Liaison Team (CLT) based in Mbandaka and funded by SIDA continued their three-month long deployment to the heavily-mined area around Ikela in the far East of the Province and set up a temporary base there for the long-term activities. While the MCT undertook technical surveys on minefields (around 10 have so far been identified), the CLT began its long return to Mbandaka, working in Yalusaka and Bokungu on the way. In Gemena the CLT (composed of staff from MAG's local NGO partner Humanitas Ubangi - HU) and MCT funded by the Dutch Government worked at the beginning of the month around Gemena, before the CLT deployed to Zongo and the MCT undertook clearance operations around Businga and Karawa. The HU CLT that was created in May, under a sub grant from UNICEF, spent this month working in the vicinity of Gbadolite where it is based.

Katanga

The two MCTs, one funded by DFID and the other by the Belgian Government, deployed around Pweto before moving to Moba where, among other operations, they responded to a request from OCHA to destroy two Anti-Tank mines found a few kilometers from the town. Meanwhile the CLTs (also one of each funded by DFID and the Belgian Government) provided Mine Risk Education for over 2,000 returning refugees in transit camps in Pweto, as well as conducting normal operations. All teams based in Pweto received a visit this month from the Roving Mechanical Manager to put in place vehicle maintenance procedures suitable for the punishing terrain in which the teams operate.

Kasai Oriental

The Emergency Response Team, funded by the Dutch Government, based in Mbuji Mayi began clearing unexploded ordnance in the vicinity of Mbuji Mayi. Meanwhile recruitment was completed for a new CLT, composed of staff from MAG's new local NGO partner ECC MERU, which will become operational next month, also under Dutch Government funding.

Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)

With funding from the US Government, CWMD Team 1 completed the third Mbakana deployment (Bas Congo province), destroying ammunition from the Kibomengo stores, and towards the end of the month commenced the fourth Mbakana deployment, this time dealing with stocks from Mbanza Gungu. In total 5,333 items weighing 28,560 kg were destroyed by the team this month. In between the two deployments the Technical Field Manager (TFM) and the CWMD Technical Operations Manager (TOM) visited Lubumbashi to prepare the team's next deployment scheduled for July 2009.

Meanwhile the second CWMD Team, also funded by the US Government, continued the first phase of destruction operations in South Kivu which are planned to last until November 2009. The team has been working in Bukavu where it identified a demolition site, coordinated with all relevant Congolese and UN authorities, and destroyed 4,793 items weighing 5,396.84 kg.

At the Logistics Central Base in Kinshasa weapons destruction activities continued as normal with 205 weapons being destroyed this month. In total MAG DRC has to date destroyed 2,016,256 items of ammunition weighing 450 tons, as well as 86,734 weapons.

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
- UNICEF

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