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MAG CWMD Global Update May 2009



BURUNDI - Members of the MAG-PNB mobile team prepare ammunition and magazines for shipment Bururi province, Police region South.



REPUBLIC of CONGO - FAC personnel arranging 122mm rockets for demolition

MAG and CWMD – MAG uses the term **Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD)** to more accurately reflect the range of munitions it encounters in support of stockpile management, as in many of its projects items outside of the SALW definition are dealt with, such as aircraft bombs, large calibre artillery, mortar ammunition and rockets.

MAG is currently undertaking CWMD projects in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Republic of Congo (RoC), Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan. Also MAG is providing CWMD technical support to the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region.

Burundi

MAG Burundi started in 2007 with a programme to support the government of Burundi in **reducing the threat of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and unsecured stockpiles**. MAG is currently offering technical support to the **Weapons Destruction Workshop** and supporting the Burundian Government in implementing the Nairobi Protocol, Articles 6, 7 and 8.

In May the mixed MAG-Police Nationale Burundaise (PNB) mobile team, funded by the Dutch Government to collect and destroy SALW seized by the PNB or voluntarily handed-over, worked in the **Police Regions North and South**. The removal and destruction of hand-grenades continued with **1,177 dangerous grenades destroyed** this month. Moreover, **20,000 SAA** and **1,282 munitions** were **destroyed** through burning. Overall, the PNB mobile team collected 173 weapons, 678 magazines, 1,321 munitions, 7,499 SAA and items of explosives and pyrotechnics. With funds from the Swiss Government, the Physical Security team started working in the Police Region South to **improve the security of PNB armouries**. This launches the start of **Phase 2** – a comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project to improve the management of PNB-owned SALW and especially limit the diversion of SALW into civilian and/or criminal hands, in time for the 2010 elections.

During May, **300 magazines** and **175 weapons** were **destroyed** at the Weapons Destruction Workshop. This includes 71 weapons originating from the disarmament of the FNL rebel group and **89 mugobore** (home-made weapons) collected in police stations.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

MAG DRC launched a **nationwide CWMD programme** in September 2006 and received written authorisation from the Ministry of Defence in May 2007 to destroy surplus military stocks in all Military Regions. Also in **May 2007**, MAG established a **weapons destruction workshop** at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa. In September 2008 MAG received authorisation from the Ministry of the Interior to extend the SALW programme to also cover the Congolese National Police. MAG DRC is currently operating two **mobile CWMD teams** and the **destruction team** based at the Logistics Central Base.

Discussions were held in May with the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (**UNMACC**) regarding the expansion of their current mandate to include the **management of arms and ammunition stockpiles** within DRC. MAG is assisting them in this process and has created a briefing document on its CWMD activities which was submitted to UNMACC last month. In order to prepare for upcoming deployments of the mobile CWMD teams, the CWMD Technical Operations Manager undertook a **preliminary visit to Lubumbashi and Bukavu**, where he met with local civil and military authorities. The first **mobile CWMD team** completed its **deployment in Mbakana** (Bas Congo - 2nd Military Region) at the beginning of the month, **destroying 110 items of ammunition** weighing 1,897 kg. The second team also completed the deployment it had started the month before, this time in Kamina, in the 6th Military Region, where it dealt with Air Force ammunition stocks, **destroying** the remaining **100 items** weighing 2,682 kg. Following this it deployed to Bukavu, where it completed preparatory work in order to be ready to begin demolitions next month. Weapons destruction at the Central Logistics Base continued as normal and **543 weapons were destroyed** there this month.

In total MAG DRC has to date **destroyed 2,006,130 items of ammunition** weighing 416 tons, as well as **86,529 weapons**.

Iraq

Iraq has been subjected to protracted and intense conflict for over 25 years and is one of the countries most affected by explosive conventional weapons (CW). The conflict in 2003 led to further, extensive CW contamination and resulted in **large numbers of unsecured and abandoned stockpiles and caches of SALW**. **MAG Iraq** has **eight SALW teams** that deploy from the programme's 4 operational bases to **conduct small arms and light weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates.

During May, 6 SALW teams were merged with the Conventional Weapons Destruction project. Teams deployed **116 times** from the programme's 4 operation bases to complete **397 emergency small arms and light weapons destruction tasks** in **Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates**. During this month **12,191 SALW** were safely destroyed. Items included different types of projectiles, mortars, bullets, RPGs and fuses. The teams completed 5 tasks destroying **7 stockpiles of hazardous items** in Horen village in Diyala. These items were posing a significant threat to the villagers. Teams in Chamchamal deployed in Kirkuk governorate to safely remove and **destroy 514 items of SALW**, completing 8 tasks in Qara Hanjir village. The SALW awareness program, delivered by the dedicated CL teams, continued during May. The program aims to warn children and other vulnerable groups about the dangers of SALW. A children's activity book, as well as posters and leaflets, were specially designed to support the project. Teams conducted **17 awareness sessions**, distributing **924 booklets and stickers** in support of their activities.

RECSA (Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa)

The **Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA)** is an institutional framework to coordinate efforts by member states to prevent, combat and eradicate stockpiling and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa. RECSA member states include: Burundi, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. **MAG is providing technical support to RECSA and its member states** through the deployment of a

Technical Support Manager (TSM). The main goal is to share best practice and lessons learned from existing MAG CWMD projects in Africa with interested RECSA member states, thereby accelerating the implementation of SALW destruction activities in the region. MAG and RECSA signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in July 2008.

In late April 2009, an **explosion** at an explosive depot in **Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania**, located in a highly populated area with houses as close as 90m to the main storage warehouse, destroyed and damaged thousands of homes and **killed forty civilians** (many of whom tried to cross a swollen river to escape the blast and drowned). MAG deployed a small technical team **offering technical assistance** and support, arriving in Dar Es Salaam the following day. However, the initial request of assistance was declined by the Tanzanian Peoples Defence (TPDF). MAG's TSM deployed to Tanzania at the request of the TPDF to discuss possible future **training and technical support** in **Physical Security and Stockpile Management** (PSSM). Further follow up meetings are planned for the coming months.

Republic of Congo (RoC)

MAG resumed its formal partnership with the Ministry of Defence in the Republic of Congo in September 2008, following confirmation of funding from the UK Government Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) and the US Department of State. MAG is providing **technical support to the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) to safely manage and dispose of conventional weapons**. Activities have also started in the port city Pointe Noire through meetings with regional military structure, a rapid assessment and **EOD1 training** of 7 Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) personnel, consisting of theoretical & practical modules, first aid and Medevac/Casevac procedures.

In May, MAG continued its CWMD activities, supporting the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) in the **destruction of weapons and ammunition** from storage depots in urban areas. MAG carried out the controlled demolition (detonation and burning) of **1,998** items, weighing **15,853.755** kg from various FAC military units in Brazzaville. First aid refresher training was provided for 7 FAC personnel

Items destroyed included

- 1,102 x rounds of ammunition = 45.37 kg
- 182 x rockets (PG7, 107mm, 122mm) = 11,176.2 kg
- 409 artillery shells (75 RR, 82 RR, 76, 85, 100 mm) = 4,432.06 kg
- 226 x miscellaneous (fuses, detonator, smoke pot) = 16.04kg
- 4 x AT mines (TM 57) = 38 kg
- 24 x mortars (60, 82 mm) = 63.11 kg
- 44 x hand grenades (F1, CS, type 67, RG42) =19.25 kg
- 7 x rifle grenades (CS) = 3.72kg
- Propellant in bulk = 60kg

Rwanda

MAG started its CWMD activities in Rwanda in November 2008 with funding received from the UK Government Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). MAG is providing **technical assistance and training** to the Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) in **basic stockpile management and the destruction** of surplus SALW and munitions. MAG established a central weapons destruction workshop at Kanombe near Kigali and **trained two RDF teams** in weapons recognition and weapons cutting. A central demolition for the destruction of munitions has been identified at Gabiro in north-east Rwanda.

MAG support to the Rwandan Defence Forces during May 2009 concentrated on conducting a full **national inventory** of remaining surplus small arms and light weapons. **168 assault rifles** were **destroyed** prior to the inventory. Once a national inventory is complete cutting activities will resume. Three members of RDF Weapons Destruction Team 1 successfully passed examinations and have gained their **Level 1 Weapon Cutting Competency Qualification**. As more team members gain this qualification MAG will move towards more of a quality assurance role. Bulk demolition operations resumed at the Gabiro School of Infantry on 25 May 2009. **2266 kg of munitions**, mostly HE mortars, projectiles and HEAT rockets were **destroyed** before the end of May. MAG continues to support the RDF in the long term development of **Explosive Storage and Transportation SOPs**.

Somalia

MAG commenced its CWMD activities in the Puntland region of Somalia in May 2008 with funding from the US Department of State WRA. **MAG has trained an EOD team** consisting of **7 Puntland Police staff** and MAG now supervises the team performing conventional weapons management & disposal (CWMD) activities throughout Puntland. Activities are carried out through close coordination with the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC).

During May, the MAG / Puntland Police EOD team travelled to villages along the Garowe-Galkayo road and conducted **14 village EOD assessments**. These assessments have now been handed over to PMAC to be included in the tasking process. The team **destroyed 53 items of UXO** identified during the assessments. An assessment of a Darawish (Puntland Army) stockpile in Galkayo resulted in a total amount of 9.5 tonnes UXO found - the largest stockpile found by MAG in Puntland to date. On-the-job and classroom **EOD training continued** for the Puntland Police as they work towards their next formal assessment of their skills scheduled for August 2009.

Sudan

MAG's SALW team (funded by the US Department of State) has been **operational in South Sudan** since 2005. It currently operates out of MAG's base in Yei, Central Equatoria, but performs clearance activities in neighbouring Western and Eastern Equatoria also. The team tends to go out for 2-3 weeks at a time, camping in different areas before returning to base to rest and refuel. Sudan provides **challenging terrain and difficult conditions** to work in, particularly during the rainy season when many areas become impassable.

In May, the team worked in Lainya, Yei and Morobo County, completing **22 spot tasks** and 920sqm of BAC. **7 anti-personnel mines, 11 sub-munitions, and 47 items of UXO** were removed and destroyed. The clearance undertaken directly benefitted **1,780 people**.

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to our CWMD projects around the globe:

- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
- Royal Government of the Netherlands
- Conflict Prevention Pool (UK Government)
- Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
- Swiss Government