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MAG SALW Global Update May 2008



Iraq - SALW found and removed in village



RoC - Global Medic training for the Brazzaville SALW Operations team

MAG and SALW - As the scale of the Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW)¹ problem has become apparent across the world, MAG has been increasingly involved in addressing the threat posed by these items. The illicit proliferation of SALW prolongs conflicts, causes instability, undermines development, and is now well established as the leading threat to human security globally. MAG is currently undertaking SALW projects in Burundi, Congo (Republic of), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq and Sudan. In addition, MAG conducted an assessment to the Central African Republic during February 2008.

Iraq

MAG continues to work to reduce the widespread threat posed by SALW in many areas of Iraq. In May 2008 **MAG removed a total of 4,180 SALW items spread out over 79 villages**, including Mashan village. This village was one of hundreds of Iraqi villages along the border with Iran that experienced fighting during the Iraq-Iran war in the 1980s, forcing villagers to move into collective towns for security. Villagers began returning to their homes in the early 1990's, despite heavy contamination in the area.

In May 2008, one of the MAG SALW teams was informed about heavy SALW contamination in the village after an accident that claimed three lives and injured three more. The MAG SALW team deployed to the task and **successfully destroyed 61 mortars, 48 rocket propelled grenades and 117 other types of SALW**. 650 villagers directly benefited through the completion of this task.

Republic of Congo

Since November 2007 MAG has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Defence in the Republic of Congo, to provide technical support to the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) to safely destroy SALW in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire.

¹ MAG uses the term *Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)* to refer to all lethal conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual or a light vehicle, and that also do not require a substantial logistical and maintenance capability (SEESAC definition). This includes military-style automatic rifles, machine guns, man-portable anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and light mortars (PM/WRA definition) and their associated ammunition.

In May 2008 the **operations team destroyed the 18th and final cluster bomb** identified for destruction in the Republic of Congo since December 2007. The bombs had previously been lying exposed to the elements in direct sunlight, and each contained between 30 and 150 sub-munitions. **In total, the operations team destroyed 22,319 items in Brazzaville in May 2008, including 20,387 items of small arms ammunition (SAA), 1,551 artillery shells (23mm-152mm), 320 mine fuses, 10 rockets and 2 ground to air rockets.** In addition, a representative from Global Medic facilitated a workshop for the Brazzaville operations team on emergency procedures in the event of casualty evacuation, and trained 7 medic candidates on trauma response.

Sudan

MAG's SALW team 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 Equatoria also, funded by MAG America and United States Department of State.

In May 2008 the team worked in Otego Payam in Yei County, Central Equatoria and completed 20 spot tasks throughout the month. The area cleared will assist in the resettlement of displaced persons returning to the area.

Summary Table	Number destroyed
SAA (up to and including 20mm)	864
Munitions (up to 100mm)	680
Munitions (101mm +)	211
MANPADS	0
Light Weapons	6
Weapons (101mm +)	0
Total items destroyed	1,761
Direct beneficiaries	150

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

MAG DRC launched a nationwide SALW programme in September 2006. In May 2007 MAG received written authorisation by the Ministry of Defence to destroy surplus military stocks in all Military Regions. Also in May 2007, a destruction centre was established by MAG at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa with funding from the United States Department of State.

In May 2008 the SALW mobile team in the 6th Military Region (Katanga) worked on large ammunition and weapon stocks from Kolwezi, transporting them to Lubumbashi for destruction, preparing the demolition and acquiring all due authorizations. **In total 33,076 items of ammunition were destroyed** in May 2008 in the following categories:

Ammunition type	Number destroyed
1-20mm	31,300
21mm - 60mm	552
61mm - 100mm	794
101+mm	73
Other (grenades, fuses etc)	357
Total	33,076

Due to difficulties experienced by the Military Regions in sending their weapons stocks to Kinshasa, destruction of weapons at the Central Logistics Base is still temporarily suspended, but is expected to resume shortly. **The initial training of the two new SALW mobile teams funded by the Royal Government of the Netherlands was completed** in Mbuji-Mayi. These teams will deploy to the 5th and 7th Military Regions (Kasai Oriental and Maniema) during the coming months.

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

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