



Progress Report (3) Arms for Development (AfD) January – April 2007



The community built this Administrative Building in Kolahun, Lofa County, in the 1970s as a self-help project. The Small Arms Programme will renovate the building at the end of the arms collection phase in this Chiefdom. To date, this chiefdom has collected 25 guns, 5172 ammunitions and 72 UXOs

**Small Arms Control Programme
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Monrovia, LIBERIA**

Arms for Development (AfD)

Reporting Period: January – April 2007

Programme Component: Arms for Development

Expected Outcome: Enhanced peace, security, stability and livelihood opportunities through reduction in small arms proliferation, increase in income generation, and improvement in local communities' capacity to deliver basic services.

Project Title: Arms for Development (AfD)

Project Number (atlas code): 00051426

Project Duration (total duration): Two Years

Execution/ Implementation Modality: DEX

Project Budget: US\$2,000,000

Report Submitted to:

The Government of Japan
Through H.E. Ambassador
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Accra, GHANA

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfD	Arms for Development
BIN	Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization
CACD	Community Arms Collection for Development
ECOSAP	ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
IP	Implementing Partner
LANSA	Liberia Action Network on Small Arms
LINCSA	Liberia National Commission on Small Arms
LNP	Liberia National Police
MRU	Mano River Union
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PMC	Project Management Committee
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNPOL	United Nations Police
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2006, the Government of Japan (GoJ) provided two million United States Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) to build the capacity of the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms (LINCSA), and carry on National Public Awareness and nation-wide Arms for Development in Liberia. The programme operates within the framework of the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP) with the aim of promoting the conditions for stability, human security and socio-economic environment in Liberia through support to grassroot communities, civil society organizations and national institutions.

To date, the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms is fully capacitated and is situated at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia, Liberia. The Commission has and continues to serve as the Government of Liberia arm responsible to propagate and formulate guidelines on issues relating to Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Commission has also represented Liberia at various international, regional and sub-regional conferences on Small Arms.

Arms for Development in Liberia is producing the desired results by the voluntary surrender of weapons in exchange for development projects for the communities. The programme continues to receive massive support from GOL, community leaders, security sectors, etc in curbing the illicit use of small arms and light weapons in Liberia. This programme adopted under a multi-faceted strategy have achieved the following during the past year:

- ◆ Communities have been sensitized and mobilized on the danger of Small Arms and Light Weapons
- ◆ Technical and material support have been provided to national security organizations, including LNP, BIN, to help fight crime and curb the illicit trade of weapons mainly around the border areas.
- ◆ Communities are receiving development project for the surrendering of weapons.

Below is a summary of weapons/UXOs collected during the period under review (January – April 2007):

Weapon Type	Bong		Lofa		G. Kru	Nimba	TOTAL
	Walapolu	Salala	Salayea	Kolahun	Grandcess	Buu-Yaw	
RIFLES	15	6	6	25	8	9	69
AMMUNITIONS	448	37	3212	5172	250	55	9174
MAGAZINE/CARTRIDGES	28	0	5	7	4	46	90
ACCESSORIES	5	4	31	72	19	8	139

INTRODUCTION

The Small Arms Control Programme is conceptually designed under the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP) and aims to promote the conditions for stability, human security and socio-economic development in Liberia. With financial assistance from the Government of Japan, the programme supports grassroots communities, civil society organizations and national institutions to create opportunities for the voluntary surrender of weapons in exchange for development projects.

The major components of the Small Arms Control Programme are:

1. Public Awareness and Education on the dangers of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)
2. Support to the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms (LiNCSA)
3. Revision of the 1956 Firearms Traffic Act
4. Community Arms Collection for Development (CACD)
5. Interventions to reduce armed violence and cross-border trafficking and trade of SALW

This is the third report for the first year of operations of the Small Arms Control Programme to the Government of Japan. Two previous reports were provided in September 2006 and January 2007. This report, from January – April 2007, reflect activities of the programme during the period under review.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

Since January 2007, the following achievements have been made within the key components of the Small Arms Control Programme:

1) *Public Awareness and Education Campaign*

- ◆ Developing national capacity for UXO awareness and education with partner, Landmine Action
- ◆ Publication of National Awareness Campaign Strategy booklet
- ◆ Publication of Armed Violence Conference Report
- ◆ Publication of Focus on Arms for Development newsletters
- ◆ One-day “Stickers-in-Taxis” campaign in Monrovia
- ◆ Distribution of T-shirts, stickers, booklets, and UXO posters
- ◆ Sponsored a short film about a community’s struggle to move from a culture of violence to a culture of peace
- ◆ Sponsored a UXO training workshop for road construction workers in Lofa County
- ◆ Newspaper public service announcements in five national newspapers
- ◆ Programmes featured in newspapers, radio and TV stations across the country

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- ◆ Support to Ministry of Information workshop for Public Relations Officers on “Effective Coordination and Communication of the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (iPRS)”
- 2) Support to LINCSEA and LANSA**
- ◆ Support to attend First ECOSAP International Consultations Conference, Accra, February 2007.
 - ◆ One Day capacity training on regional and international regulations on SALW Control, April 2007
 - ◆ Office expenditures paid for supplies and LiNCSA staff stipends.
 - ◆ Capacity-building support for LANSA.
- 3) Revision of the 1956 Firearms Traffic Act**
- ◆ Conceptual design for three-day workshop for members of the House/Senate Committees on Defense/Intelligence on the draft Fire Arms Control Act to be held on 23-25 May 2007.
- 4) Community Arms Collection for Development**
- ◆ Arms for Development Workshops and Launches in 5 new Chiefdoms
 - ◆ Commencement of development projects for communities
 - ◆ Assessment for new development projects for 2007
 - ◆ Continued arms collection activities in Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland Counties
- 5) Cross-Border Interventions**
- ◆ Support to the UNDP Country Office in Cote d’Ivoire, with awareness materials on small arms control.
 - ◆ Support to MRU on cross border activities

DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT

1) Public Awareness and Education Campaign

- **Developing national capacity for UXO awareness and education with partner, Landmine Action**

With support from UNDP, Landmine Action is building the capacity of Liberians to conduct Mine Risk Education and remove UXOs. During the initial stage of their intervention, 78 weapons were collected during training in Zorzor, Lofa County. On March 31st, in conjunction with UNDP and UNMIL, Landmine Action-trained MRE team helped facilitate a UXO workshop for road maintenance crews in Lofa County.

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- **Publication of National Awareness Campaign Strategy booklet**

“The Dangers of Small Arms in Liberia: A National Awareness Campaign Strategy” was published this quarter. The 33-page booklet outlines a plan of action for the first two years of the national public awareness campaign on the dangers of small arms and light weapons. 75 copies of the booklet were distributed at the first ECOSAP Conference in Accra in February, and were so well-received that ECOSAP will translate it into French and use it throughout the West African sub-region.

- **Publication of Armed Violence Conference Report**

Statements and selected speeches from the November 2006 Consultative Conference on Developing a National Strategy on Armed Violence were published together in a booklet with a Foreword by Hon. Conmany B. Wesseh, Chairman of the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms (LiNCSA). The booklet contains the Conference Report, statements by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Special Representative to the UN Secretary General Ambassador Alan Doss, and other speakers representing the security sector, the Liberian government, civil society, and ECOWAS.



Participants at the Arms-Violence Conference in Monrovia

- **Publication of Focus on Arms for Development newsletters**

Four issues of FOCUS on Arms for Development were published and distributed.

“Grand Kru County Begins Voluntary Arms Surrender” (Vol.3, No.1)

“UNDP-Burundi Sends Small Arms Mission to Liberia” (Vol.3, No.2)

“Grand Gedeh County Trains for Unique Development Project” (Vol.3, No.3)

“National NGOs Enhance Awareness Campaign” (Vol.3, No.4)

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- **One-day “Stickers-in-Taxis” campaign in Monrovia**

On March 16, ten members of Youth Crime Watch of Liberia worked with the Small Arms Control Programme to post stickers inside taxi cabs at five different transportation hubs in Monrovia and surrounding suburbs. The one-day campaign was advertised through a radio interview with Small Arms staff a day before the event, and on UNMIL radio on the morning of the campaign. The overall objective of the campaign was to place the stickers for the widest visibility possible, and educate the public on what the stickers mean.

- **Distribution of T-shirts, stickers, booklets, and UXO posters**

During this quarter, we distributed 2000 T-shirts, 1300 stickers, 300 booklets, and 3000 UXO posters (500 of them to Landmine Action).

- **Sponsorship of a short film**

In response to a proposal from New Breed Productions and the Inter-Religious Council, UNDP sponsored a short film about a community's struggle to move from a culture of violence to a culture of peace. With assistance and props from UNMIL, the filmmakers shot the movie in a small Careysburg village. Tentatively entitled “Never Again”, the film tells the story of E-man and his friend Siah, who resist the campaign to clear their community of weapons. It isn't until E-man is threatened with a gun and almost killed, that he decides to give up his own weapons. To the surprise of the villagers, E-man becomes a strong advocate of the campaign, and encourages Siah and other young people and ex-combatants to turn in their weapons for the sake of peace and development. “Never Again” is currently in the editing stage.

- **Support of a UXO training workshop for road construction workers in Lofa County**

On March 31, road maintenance crews operating on the highways in Lofa County benefited from a one-day workshop on how to deal with unexploded ordnances. The UXO workshop was organized by the UNDP Small Arms Control Programme, with technical support from Landmine Action. The fifty-three participants in attendance included road technicians and supervisors from Foya, Kolahun, Voinjama, and Zorzor, the Project Management Committee of the Bandi Chiefdom's Arms for Development (AfD) project, and representatives of the Lofa Youth for Progressive Action (LOYPA).

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Phillipe Assale making presentation while Landmines Action Team and other participants look on

Workshop facilitators included a Mine Risk Education (MRE) team from Landmine Action, a UXO expert from the Pakistan Battalion, UNMIL RRR officer, Mr. Omari Evans, and Mr. Phillipe Assale, RR Field Officer for UNDP.

- **Public service announcements in five national newspapers**

Beginning in March, the Small Arms Control Programme began publishing public service announcements in five national newspapers. Each paper prints the ad on a given day, so that all week long, the reading public sees a message about the dangers of small arms. The March message was designed to complement the theme of International Women's Day (March 8), which called for an end to violence against women. The April message complemented the Stickers-in Taxis campaign, and urged Liberians to "hold hands, not guns."

- **Program featured in newspapers, radio and TV stations across the country**

Several newspapers and radio stations provided coverage and published or aired stories about our programs this quarter. Arms for Development was also featured in a television interview with Communications Officer, Elma Shaw. The one-hour program aired live on Love-TV and included a 20-minute interview followed by a 40-minute video of a concert held at the launch of Arms for Development in Nimba County in February.

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- **Support to Ministry of Information workshop for Public Relations Officers**

UNDP Small Arms and the UN Communications Group (UNCG) provided support to the Ministry of Information for a workshop for Public Relations Officers from government ministries and agencies. The workshop was held in Gbarnga, Bong County from April 11-13, and had as its theme, “*Building the Capacity of PROs for Effective Coordination and Communication of the iPRS (interim Poverty Reduction Strategy)*”

The three-day workshop included speakers from various agencies, as well as from UNDP. **Col. Nathaniel Hodge**, representing the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms (LiNCSA), delivered the topic “Consolidating National Security through the Small Arms Control Programme.” He shared powerful examples of gun violence in recent, post-war Liberia, gave a detailed presentation of all the components of the Small Arms Control Programme, and answered questions from the participants.

2) Support to LiNCSA AND LANSA

- ◆ Support to attend First ECOSAP International Consultations Conference, Accra, February
- ◆ One-day capacity training on regional and international regulations on SALW Control
- ◆ Office expenditures paid for supplies and LiNCSA staff stipends
- ◆ A series of meetings were held with LANSA to assess their current capacity and find a way to strengthen and empower the network. International NGO Oxfam, as part of their Control Arms campaign, is a partner in this initiative. Accomplishments during this quarter: a streamlining of the LANSA membership, incorporation of the network, and creation of a schedule for future events such as a capacity-building workshop, an organizational conference, and activities for the Global Week of Action against Small Arms.

3) Revision of the 1956 Firearms Traffic Act

- Small Arms project officer began working with LiNCSA and members of the Legislature to plan a three-day workshop on the draft Firearms Control Act. The workshop is designed to orientate House/Senate Committee members on the draft Firearms Traffic Act published through UNDP. The workshop is scheduled for May 15-17, 2007 in Monrovia

4) Community Arms Collection for Development

Community Arms Collections for Development (CACD) is the major components of the AfD. As a way of expanding our activities in more parts of the country, five (5) more chiefdoms were selected as depicted in the table below. Chiefdoms selections were based on intelligence and strategic locations. In order to official start the AfD in these chiefdoms, training workshops geared towards sensitizing and mobilizing the communities are held in the chiefdoms. These workshops are preceded by launches, which marks the official starts of the AfD in these chiefdoms. Thousands of ammunition, and hundreds of UXOs, guns and other Explosives Remnants of War (ERW) were collected over the past one-year.



Marching band at soccer match at the Official Launch of the CACD in Southeastern Liberia

◆ Chiefdom Workshops and Launches (January – March 2007)

During the period covered in this report, teams from the UNDP Small Arms Control Programme traveled to Grand Kru, Lofa, Nimba, and Bong Counties to conduct preparatory workshops and launch AfD in six new Chiefdoms. These teams organized two-day workshops followed by a formal launching on the third day in each of the chiefdoms.

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Below is the schedule of activities:

Table 1: Schedule for AfD Training and Launches

Chiefdom/County	Workshop Dates	Launch Date
Grand Cess, Grand Kru	January 11-12	January 13
Buu-Yao, Nimba County	February 19-20	February 21
Bandi, Lofa County	February 19-20	February 21
Walapolu, Bong County	February 23-24	February 26
Kpelleh, Lofa County	February 23-24	February 26
Nyanforquelleh, Bong County	February 28-March 1	March 2

Grand Kru County

The AfD training workshop was held at the P.G. Wollor Elementary School from January 11-12. The training which brought together 100 participants included UNMIL Civil Affairs, UNMIL Military, United Nations Police, Liberia National Police, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, government and city officials, women, youth, religious leaders, among others. The theme of the training was making 'Grand Kru County Safer for Development'. The AfD concept was well received by participants who pledged their fullest support to the programme.



Some participants at the Chiefdom Workshop in Grandcess, Grand Kru County

The official launching of Arms for Development (AfD) was held on Saturday, January 13, with about 500 persons attending. The launch began with parade through the main streets of Grandcess with a marching band and cultural troops taking the lead. The indoor programme included the representative from the Superintendent of Grand Kru, Benedict Sayon, Development Superintendent, Marcon Wesseh, UNMIL Sector Commander, the Liberian National Police, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and UNPOL.

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Lofa County

Bandi Chiefdom: AfD training for Bandi Chiefdom, Lofa County was held from February 19-20 at the Government Public School in Kolahun. The workshop brought together about 150 participants that included representatives from the Liberia National Police (LNP), Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), UNMIL, UNPOL, officials of government, women's groups, youth groups, religious leaders, etc. The workshop was geared towards introducing the concepts and methodology of Arms for Development in the chiefdoms.



Participants at the official launch of the AfD in Bandi Chiefdom, Kolahun, Lofa County

Officiating the launch on behalf of the County Superintendent was Mr. Gayflor A. Wenwoi. Also in attendance were UNMIL Civil Affairs, UNMIL Sector Commander and UNDP/CBR County Coordinator. The festivities were closed with a mini Olympic among 4 schools in the District, with winners, 2nd place, and losers carrying awards of trophy, jerseys and footballs respectively.

During the launch, the citizens of Kolahun District reported 1 LAR, 1 RPG, and 1 grenade.

Kpelle Chiefdom: The citizen of the Kpelle Chiefdom, Lofa County were thankful to UNDP for the positive role played in developing the country and making his county gun free. The County Superintendent, Hon. Galakpa Kortima, did the official launch of the AfD in Salayea and encouraged the citizens with news that UNDP/Small Arms has started the development projects in Foya and Samodu. At the close of Salayea launch, 283 rounds of ammunition were reported to UNMIL.

The program ended with a football tournament among four schools in the District.

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Nimba County

The Arms for Development workshop and launch were held in Buutuo, the administrative headquarters of Buu-Yao Chiefdom and Charles Taylor's entry point for the start of the Liberian Civil War. The selection of Buutuo was key to the process because it shares common border with Cote d'Ivoire, which is experiencing its own civil conflict.

The Buu-Yao AfD Workshop began on February 21st in the Buutuo Administrative Town Hall. There were 133 participants in attendance. They included the **Acting Superintendent P. Zoyeagbander B. Gbeardeh**, **District Commissioner Hon. Daniel S. Zekpeh**, **Zoe Helena Dahn**, several town chiefs, NGO representatives, ex-combatants, and youth.

The program ended with a ceremonial handover of several magazines and some rounds of ammunition to the LNP, followed by an outdoor musical concert by Tokay Tomah and her Artists Beyond Borders.

Bong County

Walapolu Chiefdom: All events in the Walapolu Chiefdom were held at the Gbonota Elementary and Jr. High School in the Chiefdom's headquarters, Gbonota. Walapolu Chiefdom is unique in that citizens there have been turning in weapons to UNDP since August 2006 after one of Gbonota's citizens attended the Bong County AfD Workshop.

Nyanforquelleh Chiefdom: The events for the AfD training and launch in Nyanforquelleh Chiefdom, Bong County were held at the District Council Hall in Salala from February 28th to March 2nd. Participants included town chiefs, District Development Committee (DDC) members, LRRRC, and the women of WIPNET.

Speakers at the official launch included Paramount Chief **Hon. Sekou A. Sirleaf**, Chief Zoe **Hawa S. Gataway**, District Commissioner **James D. Kerkulah**, **C. Carcious B. Allen**, representative of the City Mayor, **Capt. Elias** of UNMIL BanBatt 8, and **Lt. Col. White J. Malota**, Military Officer for the Peace and Security Division of the African Union.

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◆ Ongoing Development Projects: Construction of Foya’s Town Hall and Administrative Hall in the town of Samodu, Lofa County



Proposed Development Project in Kolahun: Damaged Administrative Building during the Liberia civil unrest.

Construction work for the construction of the Tamba Taylor Town Hall as part of the development project for Kissi Chiefdom, Lofa County, has begun. YODPA, selected as implementing partner, has finished foundation of the 800-persons Town Hall.

Construction work has also begun for the building of the Samodu Administrative Building in Voinjama District. Rescue Africa, selected as IP, has begun construction work. See tables below for updates:

Table 2: Ongoing Projects

Type	Location	Cost	Partner	Contact Information
City Hall	Foya, Lofa County	\$57,000.00	YODPA	06-511780 / 077-511789
Town Hall	Samadou, Lofa County	\$45,000.00	Rescue Africa	
	TOTAL	\$102,000.00		

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Table 3: Projects for implementation (APPROVED)

Type	Location	Cost	Partner	Contact Information
Community Clinic	Beh's Town, Grand Gedeh	\$25,619.06	WAD	Women In Action For Development Cell: 06.45.61.59
Community Clinic	Toffie's Town, Grand Gedeh	\$25,251.25	KDRO	Nelson Street, By French cable Cell:06.57.10.30
Community School	Tienpo, River Gee	\$30,531.39	LUHWASA	Paynesville, Monrovia Cell: 06.57.50.39
Commissioner Office	Ganta, Nimba County	\$35,729.84	GUCCA	Hotel Africa Road Petrol One Building Cell:06.51.29.96
	TOTAL	\$117,131.54		

Table 4: Projects Assessed by Service Center

No	Projects	Location	Amount
01	Commissioner Office	Belefania, Bong County	\$48,082.06
02	Guest House	Zai, Grand Gedeh County	24,732.37
03	Clinic	Toe, Grand Gedeh County	24,985.42
04	Clinic	Freetown, River Gee County	24,732.37
05	Clinic	Pullah, Maryland County	23,625.72
06	Clinic	Gbloken, Maryland county	23,625.72
		TOTAL	\$169,783.66

- ◆ **Continued arms collection activities in Bong, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties.**

As of April 2007, weapons reported are as follows:

Table 5: Arms Collection per Counties

Weapon Type	G. River Grand								TOTAL
	Bong	Lofa	Nimba	Gedeh	Gee	Maryland	Kru	Others	
RIFLES	49	123	21	49	3	19	5	13	282
AMMUNITIONS	2871	22999	2376	1700	161	215	151	2322	32795
MAGAZINE/CARTRIDGES									
ACCESSORIES	188	127	188	203	39	12	1	27	785
BOMBS/GRENADES/UXOs	41	288	71	56	0	7	13	70	546

Arms collections are continuing in Bong, Grand Kru, Lofa and Nimba Counties. During the period under review, the PMC and Field Assistants have been working closely with the communities in turning over remaining weapons to UNMIL. In order to buttress the efforts of the PMC and Field Assistants in these areas, transportation allowances have been provided to them to help them move from place to place. Since most areas are inaccessible by vehicles, communities were also provided with two (2) motorbikes, per chiefdom, to enhance mobility in those areas. Below are table reflecting numbers of arms collected during the period under review:

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Table 6: Arms Collection – January – April 2007

Weapon Type	Bong		Lofa		G. Kru	Nimba	TOTAL
	Walapolu	Salala	Salayea	Kolahun	Grandcess	Buu-Yaw	
RIFLES	15	6	6	25	8	9	69
AMMUNITIONS	448	37	3212	5172	250	55	9174
MAGAZINE/CARTRIDGES ACCESSORIES	28	0	5	7	4	46	90
BOMBS/GRENADES/UXOs	5	4	31	72	19	8	139

5) Cross-Border Interventions

The Small Arms Control Programme provided support to the UNDP Country Office in Cote d'Ivoire in the form of awareness materials on small arms control. The purpose of the support is to help develop a similar programme in that country.



The Programme is also providing technical support to the MRU to help combat small arms proliferation. Harmonization of key firearms laws within the Mano/Cavalla River Basin are key to stabilizing the illegal trafficking of weapons. UNDP Small Arms Control Programme is also providing support to border control through the provision of basic working tools, such as motorbikes, scanners/detectors that can help reduce the illegal flow of weapons in and out of Liberia.

RECOMMENDATIONS / THE WAY FORWARD

Recommendations

1. It is recommended, UNDP seeks further financial support from the Government of Japan to extend the programme for another two years, similar to the process in Sierra Leone.
2. Develop and cooperate with the Mano River Union (MRU) Secretariat plus Cote d'Ivoire on Joint Activity on Small Arms Control in enhancing human security
3. Seek support from the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP) for technical support.
4. That UXOs removal and Mine Risk Education form a key part of the programme. This is evident by the number of UXOs shown in Table 6.
5. The need to increase the allotments for development projects for communities.

Way Forward

1. Though the need for more arms collection is paramount, emphasis should also be placed on vigorous public awareness and education on the danger of small arms proliferation in the countryside.
2. Cross-border joint activity with Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire and the ECOWAS Small Unit in Abuja.

ANNEXES

- ◆ Spread sheet
- ◆ Focus on Arms for Development
- ◆ Newspapers coverage
- ◆ Project Budget Balance
- ◆ A National Awareness Campaign Strategy
- ◆ Book on armed violence