



*Manual clearance around an electric pylon*



*Technical survey to identify the location of an alleged underground unexploded mortar*

**Reporting Period:**

**01 April 2011 – 30 April 2011**

**Summary of outputs:**

- **Training of 9 Civilian Defence personnel in EOD and demining;**
- **Completion of 1 demining task and 1 EOD task** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Clearance of 269 m<sup>2</sup> of land** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Rapid response to 3 EOD spot tasks** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Destruction of 3 explosive items** by the MAG-CD demining team.

The clearance project, funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, continued this month. The training of 9 Civilian Defence (CD) personnel in demining and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) was successfully completed on April 15. The MAG-CD demining team then worked to clear two areas in Bubanza province.

The team first cleared 244m<sup>2</sup> of land surrounding an electric pylon where an unexploded mortar was discovered and immediately destroyed *in situ*. Fear of Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) had prevented the national electricity company, *Regideso*, from working on the pylon for several years. The suspected presence of ERWs created a sense of unease among the local population, who feared that someone, particularly a child, could get hurt. This prevented the population from accessing the land for agriculture – a vital source of income for many in Burundi.

The team then cleared 25m<sup>2</sup> of land where, according to the local population, a mortar had landed during the war. After excavation, the team confirmed that the mortar had exploded, removed the remaining shrapnel and returned the area to its owner who can now cultivate it without fear of injury.

In addition, the team responded to three emergency EOD tasks in Bujumbura: one hand-grenade found in a field near a school, another hand-grenade found in a private backyard, and one mortar found in a scrap metal yard.

MAG continues to look for funding to implement Weapons and Ammunition Physical Security and Stockpile Management projects with the Force de Défense Nationale (FDN – Burundian Army).

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to the Burundi programme:

**Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs**

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