

# MAG Burundi Programme Update Feb & March 2011



*Practical exercises during the training of Civilian Defence personnel in demining*



*Former combatants are trained in smelting by a student from ENSAM at the newly-installed experimental foundry in Bujumbura*

**Reporting Period:** 01 February 2011 – 31 March 2011

**Summary of outputs:**

- **Assessment of 42 FDN SALW depots** by the FDN SALW Survey Team;
- **Training of 12 Civilian Defence personnel in EOD and demining.**

The survey of Army Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), funded by the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, continued in 25 depots of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Military Regions in February, and 17 depots of the 1<sup>st</sup> Military Region in March. The survey of stocks nationwide is now completed. From the survey data, the FDN has already compiled a list of SALW in a bad state to be destroyed and identified priorities for armoury and ammunition depots rehabilitation/construction. The training of armourers has also been set as a priority. MAG and the FDN are looking for funding to implement these solutions.

Moreover, with funds from the Swiss Government, a team from the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Métiers* (ENSAM) from Lille, France, visited Burundi from February 13-27 for the experimentation phase of the foundry project. Started in 2009, this project aimed to develop a technology adapted to the local resources and using neither electricity nor charcoal in order to recycle the metal pieces remaining after the destruction of weapons by cutting, while creating employment for former combatants. At the end of February, two ovens were installed and tested. A team of ex-combatants successfully transformed pieces of weapon magazines into hoes and art pieces. It is important to note that it will be possible to smelt almost any type of metal with these ovens, therefore scrap metal such as old vehicles or kitchen tools will also be recycled. The technology needs further improvements and the team further training before launching the larger-scale production.

Finally, the demining project, funded by the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, started this month with the training of 12 Civilian Defence personnel in demining and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). Clearance operations are expected to start mid-April.

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

**Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs**

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