

MAG Burundi Programme Update July - August 2011



Accessing remote areas is part of MAG-CD demining team's routine.



Corridor progression in Rugazi commune, Bubanza Province

Reporting Period:

01 July 2011 – 31 August 2011

Summary of outputs:

- **Completion of 2 demining tasks and 2 EOD tasks** by the MAG-CD demining team,
- **Clearance of 3,035 m²** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Rapid response to 8 EOD spot tasks** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Collection of 23 explosive items** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Refresher medical training/practice for the medics** of the MAG-CD demining team.

Funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the clearance project continued for the last two months. The MAG – Civilian Defence (CD) demining team completed clearance of three abandoned military positions in Bubanza, where 4 hand grenades and over 1,100 small arms ammunitions were found. Located at the border with the Kibira national park, a one and a half hour walk uphill was required just to reach two of those former camps. The team also investigated three suspected underground unexploded ordnance scattered in fields but found only shrapnel, meaning the mortars had exploded.

In August, the land surrounding eight power pylons which has been cleared by the team since April was officially released by DAHMi (National Mine Action Authority) to the local authorities, free of any explosive ordnance. The local population will finally be able to cultivate this land or use it for the grazing of animal after over a decade of being unable to do so because of explosive ordnance contamination.

In addition, the team responded to eight emergency EOD tasks in Bujumbura and Bubanza. It is worth noting the intervention of the team on an unexploded grenade which had been thrown on a church in Bujumbura. During July and August, 23 explosive items were neutralized, including hand and rifle grenades, artillery and mortar shells, and landmines. The MAG-CD demining team responded immediately to the threats and neutralized these items.

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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Katie Allen (Desk Officer)
e-mail: Katie.allen@maginternational.org
Tel: +44 161 236 4311 Fax: +44 161 236 6244

Julie Claveau (Country Director)
e-mail: Julie.claveau@magburundi.org
Tel : +257 22 259 382