

MAG Burundi Programme Update June 2011



Explosive items collected at the scrap metal yard are being prepared for transport to a safe location awaiting their destruction



After completing a challenging clearance task, the team stops to enjoy the fruits of their labour – uncontaminated land that can now be returned to the local population!

Reporting Period: 01 June 2011 – 30 June 2011

Summary of outputs:

- **Clearance of 6 power pylons in Bubanza province** by the MAG-CD demining team **thus completing 1 large demining task**;
- **Clearance of 1,450m²** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Rapid response to 1 EOD spot task** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Collection of 19 explosive items** by the MAG-CD demining team.

In June, the MAG-Civilian Defence (CD) demining team completed clearance of contaminated land surrounding power pylons in Bubanza province. The team, which is being funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, cleared 1,450m² of contaminated land this month. Since the land surrounding these pylons had been abandoned for several years, due to the local population's fear of contamination, it took the team over 193 hours to complete the clearance of six power pylons. Since June is one of Burundi's hottest months, this was a considerable feat.

During clearance operations, the demining team found, neutralized, and destroyed one hand-grenade that was hidden in a pylon. The team also responded to one Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) task in this period. On June 21, 18 explosive items, including hand grenades, artillery and mortar shells, were discovered by workers in a scrap metal yard in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital city. The MAG-CD demining team responded immediately, neutralizing and removing these items.

The MAG-CD demining team will proceed with clearance operations in Bubanza province in July.

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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