

MAG Burundi Programme Update March 2009



In a police station in Cibitoke province, various weapons and ammunition are earmarked for destruction and made safe before being removed.



The MAG-PNB mobile team prepares hand-grenades for transport. In March only, some 3800 of these grenades have been destroyed.

SUMMARY

Reporting Period: 01 March 2009 – 31 March 2009

Summary of outputs:

- **Destruction of 379 weapons and 3,160 magazines** at the Weapons Destruction Workshop;
- **Collection of 24 weapons, 3,108 magazines, 1,239 ammunition and 3,203 items of explosives and pyrotechnics** by the PNB mobile team;
- **Destruction of 4,530 ammunition and 4,050 items of explosives and pyrotechnics** by the PNB mobile team;
- **Basic training in IT** given to the PNB liaison officers and team leaders.

The mixed MAG-Police Nationale Burundaise (PNB) mobile team, funded by the Dutch Government, focused this month on collecting and destroying ammunition and items of explosives and pyrotechnics. In March only, 3,825 hand-grenades were destroyed, a further contribution to reducing the number of grenade attacks which harm the Burundians on a daily basis: 22% of armed violence acts registered by the UNDP in 2008 involved grenades (SAS–Ligue Iteka Report, Pezard et de Tessieres, 2009). Moreover, the destruction of 127 kg of explosives and 1,254 detonators in a dangerous state has prevented potential unplanned explosion in armouries.

Operations at the Weapons Destruction Workshop, funded by the UK Conflict Prevention Pool, have continued with the destruction of 379 obsolete weapons from the Force de Defense Nationale (FDN) stocks and 3,160 magazines collected in police stations.

Finally, the improvements to the physical security of the FDN Logistics Base, funded by the United States Department of States – PM/WRA, were completed and the works officially handed-over to the FDN.

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

- Conflict Prevention Pool, UK
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swiss Government
- United States Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

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