



*Battle Area Clearance next to Murinda health center
(in the background), Bururi province*



*Member of the FDN EOD team practising rendering
weapons safe for transport during the training*

Reporting Period:

01 November 2011 – 30 November 2011

Summary of outputs:

- **Completion of 1 battle area clearance task** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Clearance of 4,230 m²** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Rapid response to 7 EOD spot tasks** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Collection of 214 explosive items** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Training in SALW collection, transport and destruction (EOD)** for the FDN SALW Destruction team.

On November 28, 2011, at the 11th Meeting of State Parties to the Mine-Ban Treaty, Burundi declared that it had met its obligations towards Article 5 of the treaty, which is the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas, ahead of its 2014 deadline. The last suspected mined areas were cleared throughout 2011 by the MAG-Civilian Defence (CD) demining team with funding from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

In November, the MAG – CD demining team conducted one last task on the project: battle area clearance (BAC) on a suspected hazardous area just next to Murinda health center in Bururi province. One mortar and five hand-grenades were found and destroyed. In addition, the MAG-CD team responded to 7 emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks in Bujumbura and Bururi province. Thanks to the training received over the last year, the Civilian Defence now has the technical capacity to respond independently to EOD tasks. However, the Civilian Defence lacks a means of transportation to ensure a quick response nationwide; international partners are invited to contribute in order to maximise the new technical capacity acquired.

Funded by the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA), the project to destroy surplus weapons and ammunition from the Force de Défense Nationale (FDN, Burundian Army) started this month. Twelve FDN staff were trained in weapons, ammunition and explosives collection, transport and destruction to form a SALW Destruction Team which will deploy starting next month.

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

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA)

For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world
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