

MAG Burundi Programme Update October 2009



During a one-day training to prepare the policemen for the civilian disarmament campaign, a MAG technician showing head of police stations how to put weapons to safety.



The PNB liaison officer supervises an armorer while he puts the weapons on the gun racks newly installed by MAG, Kayanza, Police Region North

Reporting Period:

01 October 2009 – 31 October 2009

Summary of outputs:

- **Destruction of 284 weapons** at the Weapons Destruction Workshop;
- **Collection of 349 weapons, 224 magazines, 532 ammunition and 7,548 SAA** from the PNB stocks by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- **Collection of 17 weapons, 16 magazines, 411 ammunition and 1,239 SAA** handed-over by the population to the CDCPA by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- **Destruction of 1,048 ammunition and 20,000 SAA** by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- **Improvement to the physical security of 10 PNB armouries** by the MAG physical security team.

The Dutch-funded MAG-Police Nationale du Burundi (PNB) mobile team worked to collect and destroy surplus and obsolete PNB-owned Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as well as some handed-over by the population during the civilian disarmament campaign. The team destroyed this month the 10,000th hand-grenade since the beginning of the year, a significant achievement in regards of the frequent grenade attacks in Burundi. The Physical Security team, now also funded by the Dutch Government, started to work in the Police Region North where they improved security in 10 PNB armouries.

At the weapons destruction workshop, 284 weapons from the PNB were destroyed. It is important to note that the weapons were in a good state, meaning it is the first time that surplus weapons are destroyed in Burundi. In the past, obsolete, seized and handed-over weapons have been destroyed, but no strictly speaking "surplus" weapons.

Upon request from the National Commission on SALW and Civilian Disarmament (CDCPA), the MAG technicians offered a one-day training to 48 heads of police stations in areas where the collects from the population were estimated to yield the most significant results. The policemen learned how to distinguish very dangerous ammunition, how to receive weapons in safety, and how to deal with them awaiting MAG's intervention.

Finally, MAG would like to thank the Swiss Government for the confirmation of a grant to conduct the survey of Force de Defense Nationale (FDN) SALW, the phase 1 of a comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project with the FDN in the framework of the Nairobi Protocol. The survey will capitalize on the methodology developed during the survey of PNB SALW which took place in 2008. Starting in 2010, donor contributions will be required for the implementation of solutions derived from the survey conclusions.

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

- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swiss Government

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