



A deminer ready to start vegetation cutting in a hazardous area, Cibitoke Province



A deminer removing hand-grenades found by a fence, next to a school (building in the background)

Reporting Period: 01 October 2011 – 31 October 2011

Summary of outputs:

- **Completion of 4 demining tasks** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Clearance of 2,488 m²** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Rapid response to 7 EOD spot tasks** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Collection of 38 explosive items** by the MAG-CD demining team;
- **Beginning of an EOD 3 training course** for two members of the MAG-CD demining team.

Funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the MAG – Civilian Defence (CD) demining team completed this month the last 4 tasks planned for the project. The team cleared two areas, one in Bujumbura Rural province and the other in Bubanza province, where landmines had been removed respectively in January and September 2010. No more items were discovered on those sites. The team also cleared two paths in the Kibira forest used frequently by the local population, including to access honey production sites. These areas were then officially released to the local administration and population. Basic Mine Risk Education (MRE) was given to 978 schoolchildren and their teachers in Bujumbura Rural, a province where no MRE was given during the 2010 survey.

In addition, the MAG-CD team responded to 7 emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural and Cibitoke. Responding to an immediate threat, the team removed six hand-grenades in a very bad state which were by a wire fence next to a primary school in Kanyosha, just meters from where children were playing. Grenades were also removed from the Grand Seminaire and from an industrial plant in Bujumbura.

At the end of the month, two members from the Civilian Defence started an EOD 3 training course at the CPADD training centre in Benin. Having staff trained at EOD 3 level is a prerequisite for the Civilian Defence to be able to conduct EOD operations independently.

Finally, preparation for the WRA-funded project to destroy surplus weapons and ammunition from the Force de Défense Nationale (FDN, Burundian Army) is ongoing. MAG continues to look for funding to implement the other activities of a Weapons and Ammunition Physical Security and Stockpile Management project with the FDN.

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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