

MAG Burundi Programme Update September 2009



Weapons about to be destroyed, Weapons Destruction Workshop (picture: Martina Bacigalupo)



The MAG-PNB Team and CDCPA in Bubanza collect various SALW handed over by the population within the disarmament campaign

Reporting Period:

01 September 2009 – 30 September 2009

Summary of outputs:

- **Destruction of 41 weapons** at the Weapons Destruction Workshop;
- **Collection of 67 weapons, 160 magazines, 631 ammunition and 45,184 SAA** from the PNB stocks by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- **Collection of 61 weapons, 171 magazines, 621 ammunition and 6,058 SAA** handed-over by the population to the CDCPA by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- **Destruction of 1,189 ammunition and 30,000 SAA** by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- **Improvement to the physical security of 11 PNB armouries** by the MAG physical security team.

The Dutch-funded MAG-Police Nationale Burundaise (PNB) mobile team continued to collect surplus and obsolete PNB-owned Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The team also conducted the first destruction of grenades in a good state, a strong signal that the PNB is wishing to get rid of these arms which are inappropriate for a police force. The complete destruction of grenades ensures that they will never feed in the civilian market and be used to commit crimes as is happening daily in Burundi.

The mobile team also intervened in Bubanza Province in support of the National Commission on Civilian Disarmament and SALW (CDCPA) to collect and later destroy SALW that had been received from the population. Some were in an extremely dangerous state and posed an immediate threat to the policemen but also the surrounding population. The team also participated to the official ceremony for the International Day of Peace on 25 September in Bubanza by conducting the symbolic destruction of two hand-grenades.

The Physical Security team, funded by the Swiss Government, improved security in 11 PNB armouries. Work remains to be done in only one armoury of the province of Rutana for the Region South to be completed.

Finally, at the beginning of the month, MAG attended the Security Sector Group coordination meeting which focused on the security of the upcoming elections. MAG promoted the building of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) capacity within the Civilian Protection (whose responsibility it is), which Burundi needs on the long term but especially in the potentially tensed period around the elections in the context of the widespread availability of grenades and other explosives. MAG and the Civilian Protection are looking for a donor to support this project, as well as a survey of suspected mined areas in the Kibira area.

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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