

**REPORT ON AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF  
THE COMMUNITY IN ACTIONS AGAINST ILLICIT SALW**

**MWILI SECTOR, FEB 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

**INTRODUCTION:**

On February 12<sup>th</sup> 2010, SaferRwanda carried out a one day Awareness raising Workshop intended for ex-combatants (composed of former FDLR, Ex-FAR and Ex-RDF) from Mwili Sector. The target group was chosen because this category of people has the skills and knowledge on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and may contribute in monitoring and reporting illicit trade and proliferation of small firearms from the porous border between Rwanda and Tanzania through Akagera River and National Parks on both sides.

**WORKSHOP THEME:** The theme of this Awareness raising workshop carried out in Mwili sector was to *"enhance the role of the community in fighting against the problem of Illicit SALW and advocating for voluntary surrender of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons"*.

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:**

The workshop had the following specific objectives:

- To raise awareness of Ex-combatants and the community at large on the nature and dangers of the problem of illicit firearms;
- To encourage Ex-combatants to equally participate in strategies aimed at curbing down the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW;
- To raise awareness of Ex-combatants and the community on the impacts of illicit SALW in the community;
- To encourage and support participation of local authorities in awareness campaigns on the problem of illicit small arms in the community;
- To enhance efforts aimed at advocacy for voluntary surrender of illicit small arms and light weapons in the community; and
- To promote the culture of peace and security in the community

## **WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS:**

### **PRAYER FOR THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop started with a word of prayer by one of the participants who prayed for the success of the workshop and for sustainable peace and development in the community.

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

The workshop which was attended by 27 participants whose majority were Ex-combatants (Ex-RDF and EX-FAR), opened at 9h00' A.M in the meeting room of Mwili Sector Office. Before the opening remarks by the Executive Secretary of Mwili sector, Madame Nyiramugwera Josée, SaferRwanda Staff, gave a warm welcome to the participants and thanked them for their availability in this workshop. She introduced SaferRwanda Coordinator and Team and requested participants to introduce themselves.

Kwizera Sam, the Executive Secretary of Mwili Sector, who came a bit late because of other security programs as he told the participants, officiated the opening of this workshop intended for Ex-combatants in Mwili Sector.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Secretary began by thanking the participants for having put aside their daily activities and urged them to follow the presentations he termed as very important with more interest.

He requested the participants to voluntary surrender small firearms if there are some of them who may be living with those weapons and urged all the ex-combatants to spread the information to other fellow ex-combatants and the whole community.

The Executive Secretary of Mwili Sector further acknowledged SaferRwanda's actions in helping the community get skills on how to fight against illicit small firearms proliferation and misuse.

He reminded the participants that those who thought civil society organizations do not have the right to enter the field of firearms because this falls under Police and

Army responsibilities were wrong. He went on saying that the problem of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons is every one's concern.

Executive Secretary of Mwili Sector had then encouraged participants to support and fully participate in all approaches aimed at strengthening efforts for combating the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW that threaten Peace and Safety in the community.

**WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS:** By the Coordinator SaferRwanda

**BACKGROUND ON LEGAL INITIATIVES AND MEASURES ON ILLICIT SALW**

SaferRwanda Coordinator started by telling participants that actions against illicit SALW have roots and legal bindings in International, Regional and Sub Regional declarations and protocols.

As regards Rwanda, She told participants that at international level, the legal binding measure is the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all aspects (A/Conf: 192/15) that contains a set of minimum standards and commitments which all states should adopt in addressing the problem of Small Arms.

At regional and sub-regional levels, there are the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000) which recommends to the member states to adopt the necessary legislative and other measures to combat illicit Small firearms; and the sub-regional legal binding is the Nairobi Declaration, Coordinated Agenda for Action and Implementation Plan on the Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (SAEM/GLR.HOA/1 and 2 Nov 2000).

At National level, SaferRwanda Coordinator reminded participants the achievements of Rwanda in all efforts aimed at combating illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons such as the establishment of the National Coordination for Small Arms Management

(NCSAM)-former Rwanda National Focal Point (RNFP) - and the new Revised Law concerning firearms and their ammunitions that has been published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda N° 52 bis of 28 December 2009.

### **NATURE AND IMPACT OF ILLICIT SALW**

Madame the Coordinator of SaferRwanda continued with her presentations describing Small Arms as firearms that can be used and carried by one person and Light Weapons as firearms that can be used and carried by more than one person, machine or pulled by animals.

Apart from death due to the misuse of Small arms, SaferRwanda Coordinator explored some of the direct and indirect impacts of illicit SALW on the community and the development of the country and called all the participants to be part and parcel of those in actions against the problem of the proliferation of illicit SALW.

### **DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF ILLICIT SALW**

SaferRwanda Coordinator also talked about the trends of demand and supply of Small Arms. Her presentation described causes of demand for Small Arms and the common actors in the firearms market.

### **Ex-Combatants Group Discussion**

Group discussion were aimed at engaging participants in a moment of brain storming on possible strategies of curbing down the problem of SALW in the community.

### ***Group discussion results***

<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>
<b>What can the Community do to curb down the problem of illicit SALW?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Advocating for voluntary surrender of illicit SALW;</li><li>▪ Timely reporting possible existence of illicit SALW in the community;</li></ul>
<b>As an Ex-Combatant, what is your role in the actions against Illicit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Information sharing with different stakeholders;</li></ul>

<p><b>SALW?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Joining the existing anti SALW Clubs;</li> <li>▪ Regular monitoring of possible proliferation of illicit SALW in border communities and illegal traders and hunters;</li> <li>▪ Informing the community that there are no legal pursuits after voluntary surrendering firearms to the authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What are the strategies to be adopted at the Sector level and/or home area to fight Illicit proliferation and misuse of SALW?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuous sensitization of members of the community on the problem of illicit SALW through community meetings; family meetings, etc.</li> <li>▪ Seriously dealing with illicit gaming in Akagera National Park;</li> <li>▪ Advocating for voluntary surrender of illegal firearms owned by illegal hunters;</li> <li>▪ Enhancing security on porous borders;</li> <li>▪ Working hand in hand with all stakeholders in actions against Illicit SALW.</li> </ul>

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Although the ex-combatants from Mwili Sector showed their willingness to join all actions against illicit proliferation of SALW, they raised the following recommendations:

- The collaboration between two or more bordering countries especially in information sharing and monitoring of illegal trade and movements of persons on porous borders;

- Quick reporting and quick response from the police to intervene before the blast especially when there is a reported grenade or other explosives in a given area;
- Ex-combatants requested to be part and parcel of the existing anti SALW Clubs;
- Victims of Illicit SALW should be assisted since if there are not dead they remain with psychological trauma and other physical handicaps;

## **CONCLUSION**

Awareness raising campaigns on illicit proliferation of SALW in some category of members of the community such as this category of ex-combatants, enable participants to quickly get the message. There are also fruitful in sharing experiences since the group seems to be homogeneous. From the new acquired knowledge concerning illicit SALW and their impacts, participants have understood that illicit SALW are not only a threat to the development of the country but also to the lives of owners' families, friends, neighbours and the surrounding communities. Participants have got to know that the problem of Illicit SALW is everybody's concern. They realized that if we fail as individuals to act against illicit SALW, we are failing our lives and those of our communities. The motto to remember for every participant goes: "Removing one firearm in illegal hands is as very important as saving the lives of millions".

## Appendix

### List of Ex-combatants participants in awareness raising workshop to enhance the role of the community in actions against illicit SALW

Mwili sector, 12/2/2010

N°	Names	Organization/ Institution	Title	Tel
01	NTAWIHEBA Théoneste	-	-	0783677123
02	BYAGATONDA Joas	-	-	0783800355
03	BWANAKWELI Frodouard	-	-	-
04	NZABANDORA Silvère	-	-	-
05	KARASIRA Gilbert			0785392447
06	MAJYAMBERE Gad			0783728888
07	BARAYAGWIZA Laurent			
08	MAKUZA Anastase			0783148040
09	KANUMA John			0783591240
10	NAYIGIZIKI Jonas			0783625402
11	GAKURU Athanase			
12	GARUKA			0785252879
13	HAKIZIMANA			0783512736
14	SIBOMANA Théogène			0783420909
15	MUZATSINDA Sumayile			
16	ZANINKA Donatha			0783356714
17	KANTARAMA Léocadie			0788638452
18	INGABIRE Philomène			0783879666
19	RUTABAYIRU Charles			0783393110

20	MUNYEMANA Vincent			
21	NSABIMANA Siméon			
22	NDABAMENYE Samson			
23	RWAKAYIGAMBA Ferdinand			0788495155
24	KANYEMERA James			0722245828
25	UMURERWA Solange	Mwili Sector	S/Comptable	0788277288
26	SEMVARA J. Pierre	LDF Commander Mwili Sector		0788571083

**REPORT ON AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF  
THE COMMUNITY IN ACTIONS AGAINST ILLICIT SALW**

**RWERU SECTOR, FEB 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**INTRODUCTION:**

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, SaferRwanda carried out a one day Awareness raising Workshop intended for ex-combatants (composed of former Ex-FDLR, Ex-FAR and Ex-RDF) from Rweru Sector. This Awareness raising workshop had as the main theme to *"enhance the role of the community in fighting against the problem of Illicit SALW and advocating for voluntary surrender of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons"*.

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:**

The workshop had the following specific objectives:

- To raise awareness of Ex-combatants and the community at large on the nature and dangers of the problem of illicit firearms;
- To encourage Ex-combatants to equally participate in strategies aimed at curbing down the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW;
- To raise awareness of Ex-combatants and the community on the impacts of illicit SALW in the community;
- To encourage and support participation of local authorities in awareness campaigns on the problem of illicit small arms in the community;
- To enhance efforts aimed at advocacy for voluntary surrender of illicit small arms and light weapons in the community; and
- To promote the culture of peace and security in the community

## **WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS:**

### **PRAYER FOR THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop started with word of prayer by one of the participants who prayed for the success of the workshop and for sustainable peace and development in the community.

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

The workshop which started at 10h 00' AM was attended by 32 Ex-combatants (mainly Ex-RDF and EX-FAR).

In his opening remarks, Rugema Jean Luc, "Agronome" of Rweru sector, on behalf of the Executive Secretary and on his own behalf, he warmly welcomed participants and thanked them for having decided to take part in this awareness raising workshop intended to "enhancing the role of the community in fighting against the problem of Illicit SALW and advocating for voluntary surrender of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons".

He reminded participants the threat of illicit proliferation of SALW posed by the movements of neighbouring Burundians especially at market days at Batima Cell, Rweru Sector. He deplored the affordability of those firearms inside bordering Kirundo in Burundi, where a grenade can easily found at between 1000 FRW and 2000 FRW and a Kalashnikov (AK 47 and the likes) could be bought at only 15 000 FRW.

He also warned participants of illegal distribution of firearms in the community by FDD and FNL political military parties in Burundi, especially in Kirundo Province.

The delegate of the Executive Secretary went on saying that this workshop is an important occasion to get informed and invited them to actively participate and be the "eye" of other fellow community members.

He lastly urged participants to use the knowledge acquired from this workshop to support and fully participate in all approaches aimed at strengthening efforts for

combating the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW that threaten Peace, Safety and Development in the community.

#### **WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS:**

##### **BACKGROUND ON LEGAL INITIATIVES AND MEASURES ON ILLICIT SALW**

SaferRwanda Coordinator started by informing participants that actions against illicit SALW have roots and legal bindings in International, Regional and Sub Regional declarations and protocols.

As regards Rwanda, She told participants that at international level, the legal binding measure is the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all aspects (A/Conf: 192/15) that contains a set of minimum standards and commitments which all states should adopt in addressing the problem of Small Arms.

At regional and sub-regional levels, there are the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000) which recommends to the member states to adopt the necessary legislative and other measures to combat illicit Small firearms; and the sub-regional legal binding is the Nairobi Declaration, Coordinated Agenda for Action and Implementation Plan on the Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (SAEM/GLR.HOA/1 and 2 Nov 2000).

At National level, SaferRwanda Coordinator reminded participants the achievements of Rwanda in all efforts aimed at combating illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons such as the establishment of the National Coordination for Small Arms Management (NCSAM)-former Rwanda National Focal Point (RNFP) - and the new Revised Law concerning firearms and their ammunitions that has been published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda N° 52 bis of 28 December 2009.

## **DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF ILLICIT SALW**

SaferRwanda Coordinator also talked about the trends of demand and supply of Small Arms. Her presentation described causes of demand for Small Arms and the common actors in the firearms market.

## **NATURE AND IMPACT OF ILLICIT SALW**

In his presentation, Jean NDAYISABA, SaferRwanda Staff, made an overview on the nature and impacts of small firearms. He described Small Arms as firearms that can be used and carried by one person and Light Weapons as firearms that can be used and carried by more than one person, machine or pulled by animals.

He continued the presentation explaining some of the direct and indirect impacts of illicit SALW on the community and the development of the country and called all the participants to take part in actions against the problem of the proliferation of illicit SALW.

**PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT:** By Musafiri from "Urugo rw'amahoro" organization.

Mr. Musafiri, the expert in Peace building from "Urugo rw'amahoro" began his warmly animated session by defining what peace is. He said that peace is calmness and tranquility, serenity in the heart, humility with another or a group and even with God, free from panic and turbulence in the country. Peace is absence of conflicts and chaos among the members of the community, in family or in other social groupings. Peace is characterized by development, health, safety and security, freedoms and liberties and mutual collaboration of a given group of people or a society at large.

Musafiri told participants that to build peace is like building a house. Peace is attained through Truth and reconciliation.

He further talked about what conflicts are. He explained that conflicts mean absence of peace and security and are characterized by chaos, upheavals and turbulence.

The expert told participants that conflicts Prevention and Management undergo three steps:

1. To look for the root causes of conflicts;
2. Research and collection of enough and reliable information from both sides in the conflicts;
3. Different stakeholders in Peace building and Conflict Prevention and Management have to work hand in hand to achieve sustainable peace.

The expert concluded the session urging Ex-combatants to do whatever possible in pioneering for lasting peace and development in their communities.

### **Ex-Combatants Group Discussion**

Group discussion were aimed at engaging participants in a moment of brain storming on possible strategies of curbing down the problem of SALW in the community.

<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>
<b>What can the Community do to curb down the problem of illicit SALW?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information sharing and promoting a culture of peace in the community and in the country as a whole;</li> <li>▪ Timely reporting possible existence of illicit SALW in the community;</li> </ul>
<b>As an Ex-Combatant, what is your role in the actions against Illicit SALW?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revealing all possible information on illegal possession of SALW;</li> <li>▪ Advocating for poverty reduction by engaging in income generating activities;</li> <li>▪ Sharing the acquired knowledge on the problem of illicit SALW with the community.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the strategies to be</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuous sensitization of</li> </ul>

<p><b>adopted at the Sector level and/or home area to fight Illicit proliferation and misuse of SALW?</b></p>	<p>members of the community on the problem of illicit SALW through community meetings by local leaders ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Club members should be given time in the local meetings to sensitize the communities on the problem of illicit proliferation of SALW;</li> <li>▪ Regular and tough control on movements on borders;</li> <li>▪ Close collaboration of different stakeholders and the community;</li> <li>▪ Those who voluntary surrendered illicit SALW should testify to show to the community there is no punishment to voluntary giving illicit firearms.</li> </ul>
---	---

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Although the ex-combatants from Rweru Sector showed their willingness to join all actions against illicit proliferation of SALW, they raised the following recommendations:

- The collaboration between two or more bordering countries especially in information sharing and monitoring of illegal trade and movements of persons on porous borders;
- To extend these workshops on the youth and schools since young people are fond of action movies into which, in most cases, the use of violence and misuse of SALW are highlighted.

- Drug trafficking is usually accompanied by illicit proliferation of SALW. There should be more vigilance and monitoring of movements of some members of the community who are involved in that illegal trade.

## **CONCLUSION**

Awareness raising campaigns on illicit proliferation of SALW in some category of members of the community such as this category of ex-combatants, enable participants to quickly get the message. There are also fruitful in sharing experiences since the group seems to be homogeneous. From the new acquired knowledge concerning illicit SALW and their impacts, participants have understood that illicit SALW are not only a threat to the development of the country but also to the lives of owners' families, friends, neighbours and the surrounding communities. Participants have got to know that the problem of Illicit SALW is everybody's concern. They realized that if we fail as individuals to act against illicit SALW, we are failing our lives and those of our communities. The motto to remember for every participant goes: "Removing one firearm in illegal hands is as very important as saving the lives of millions".

## Appendix

### List of Ex-combatants participants in awareness raising workshop to enhance the role of the community in actions against illicit SALW

Rweru sector, 19/2/2010

N°	Names	Organization/ Institution	Title	Tel
01	MUHIRE Alexis			0788290647
02	SHIRIMPAKA J. Bosco			0785244256
03	NYIRIMANZI Philippe			
04	GIRANEZA Jean			0785140378
05	NSENGIYUMVA MUSEMAKWELI			0785101504
06	MUTOKAMBERE J. Claude			0788267732
07	HITIMANA Emmanuel			0788621224
08	DUSENGE François			
09	MUSONI J. Bosco			0788377581
10	NSABIMANA Félicien			
11	NTEZIRYAYO Nicodème			0785398315
12	RUTAGENGWA Alexis			-
13	BENEZO Michel			-
14	BIZABARANDE Etienne			0785714076
15	MUREKEZI Dieu Donné			0785039165
16	HABYARIMANA Benoît			0788212771
17	RUTAYOMBA Anastase			-
18	SEBANANI Innocent			-

19	MUKAMUGENZI Betty		Teacher	0788615749
20	YAMFASHIJE Aboubakar		Teacher	0788231664
21	HATEGEKIMANA Charles			0783160999
22	BIKORIMANA Emmanuel			0788623731
23	MURANGWA J.M.Vianney			0785001932
24	MUSERUKA Herménegilde			0788543251
25	RWANGAMPUHWE Jean		Intersec	0783154692
26	NZARAMBA Léonidas			0788860249
27	NSEGIMANA Ildephonse			0785630756
28	MIRASANO J. Baptiste			0788813834
29	NSANZIMFURA Augustin			0788593398
30	SEZIRAHIGA Celestin			0785495829
31	NIZEYIMANA D.			0785281989
32	MUHOZI Etienne			-

**REPORT ON AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF  
THE COMMUNITY IN ACTIONS AGAINST ILLICIT SALW**

**BYUMBA SECTOR, FEB 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

**INTRODUCTION:**

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, SaferRwanda carried out a one day Awareness raising Workshop intended for ex-combatants (composed of former FDLR, Ex-FAR and Ex-RDF) from Byumba Sector. This Awareness raising workshop had as the main theme to *"enhance the role of the community in fighting against the problem of Illicit SALW and advocating for voluntary surrender of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons"*.

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:**

The workshop had the following specific objectives:

- To raise awareness of Ex-combatants and the community at large on the nature and dangers of the problem of illicit firearms;
- To encourage Ex-combatants to equally participate in strategies aimed at curbing down the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW;
- To raise awareness of Ex-combatants and the community on the impacts of illicit SALW in the community;
- To encourage and support participation of local authorities in awareness campaigns on the problem of illicit small arms in the community;
- To enhance efforts aimed at advocacy for voluntary surrender of illicit small arms and light weapons in the community; and
- To promote the culture of peace and security in the community

## **WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS:**

### **PRAYER FOR THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop started with a word of prayer by one of the participants who prayed for the success of the workshop and for sustainable peace and development in the community.

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

The workshop which started at 12h 00 A.M. due to another Security and Community Policing Meeting that took place in the same meeting hall of Byumba Sector was attended by 33 Ex-combatants (Ex-FDLR, Ex-RDF and EX-FAR).

In his opening remarks, Mr. Gahano J.M.V., the Executive Secretary of Byumba Sector, began by thanking the participants for coming in a considerable number to attend this workshop on “enhancing the role of the community in fighting against the problem of Illicit SALW and advocating for voluntary surrender of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons”.

He requested participants that after this workshop, to be the first to help in actions against illicit proliferation of SALW in Byumba Sector in particular and in the whole country in general. He urged the ex-combatants to remain exemplary and be the “vigilant eye” of their communities by quickly sharing information on where possible may be found grenades, ammunitions and other SALW.

The Executive Secretary of Byumba Sector further acknowledged SaferRwanda’s actions in helping the community get skills on how to fight against illicit small firearms proliferation and misuse and in other developmental activities for many years now.

He reminded them to communicate proactively and give information before grenades blasts. The Executive Secretary of Byumba Sector had then encouraged Ex-combatants to help in mobilizing other fellow members of the community to voluntary surrender illicit firearms since there is no punishment to whoever voluntarily disarms and sends the gun to where it is legally handled.

## **WORKSHOP PRESENTATION:**

### **NATURE AND IMPACT OF ILLICIT SALW**

The sole workshop presentation by Jean NDAYISABA, SaferRwanda staff, had been meticulously explained in details after a short overview of the background on legal initiatives and measures on illicit SALW at the International, Regional and Sub-regional levels.

Concerning the nature and impact of illicit SALW, SaferRwanda Staff proceeded by describing Small Arms as firearms that can be used and carried by one person and Light Weapons as firearms that can be used and carried by more than one person, machine or pulled by animals.

He continued with his presentation by explaining some of the direct and indirect impacts of illicit SALW on the community and the development of the country and called all the participants to join the actions against illicit proliferation of SALW.

After this session, participants formed a new anti SALW Club and were committed to take part in all peace and security programs to achieve sustainable development in their communities. This anti SALW Club headed by three Ex-Combatants elected by their fellow participants and those are:

1. NSHIMIYE Steven
2. HATEGEKIMANA Simon
3. TWAGIRAYEZU Donat

Participants were agreed to officially launch this Club on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 during their monthly ordinary meeting with local authorities.

## Ex-Combatants Group Discussion

Group discussion were aimed at engaging participants in a moment of brain storming on possible strategies of curbing down the problem of SALW in the community.

TOPICS	RESULTS
<p><b>What can the Community do to curb down the problem of illicit SALW?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocating for voluntary surrender of illicit SALW;</li> <li>▪ To sensitize the community about the negative impacts of SALW;</li> <li>▪ To sensitize opinion leaders about the problem of illicit proliferation of SALW;</li> <li>▪ Mediatization of the problem of illicit SALW using posters, T-shirts, fliers, etc;</li> <li>▪ Using traditional media (art, songs, poems) in passing the messages about the problem of illicit proliferation and impacts of SALW;</li> </ul>
<p><b>As an Ex-Combatant, what is your role in the actions against Illicit SALW?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To understand that the problem of illicit SALW is every one's concern;</li> <li>▪ To mark the area where bullets, grenades and landmines were found with a stone cycle or a red ribbon for security reasons and inform every member of the community at the surroundings;</li> <li>▪ Timely reporting to the authorities for quick intervention;</li> </ul>
<p><b>What are the strategies to be adopted at the Sector level and/or home area to fight Illicit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Forming anti SALW Club;</li> <li>▪ Close collaboration between authorities and the community;</li> </ul>

<p><b>proliferation and misuse of SALW?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuous sensitization of members of the community on the problem of illicit SALW through community meetings;</li> <li>▪ To choose a volunteer advocate at every Village level who continuously sensitize the community to report and fight against illicit proliferation of SALW;</li> <li>▪ Engaging local authorities in sensitizing the population about the problem of illicit arms and light weapons;</li> </ul>
---	---

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Although the ex-combatants from Byumba Sector showed their willingness to join all actions against illicit proliferation of SALW, they raised the following recommendations:

- To extend these kind of workshops to schools in order to take on board the youth in actions against illicit proliferation of SALW;
- The police must rapidly intervene when there is information about grenades and other explosives threatening the lives of members of the community;

**CONCLUSION**

Awareness raising campaigns on illicit proliferation of SALW in some category of members of the community such as this category of ex-combatants, enable participants to quickly get the message. There are also fruitful in sharing experiences since the group seems to be homogeneous. From the new acquired knowledge concerning illicit SALW and their impacts, participants have understood that illicit SALW are not only a threat to the development of the country but also to

the lives of owners' families, friends, neighbours and the surrounding communities. Participants have got to know that the problem of Illicit SALW is everybody's concern. They realized that if we fail as individuals to act against illicit SALW, we are failing our lives and those of our communities. The motto to remember for every participant goes: "Removing one firearm in illegal hands is as very important as saving the lives of millions".

## Appendix

### List of Ex-combatants participants in awareness raising workshop to enhance the role of the community in actions against illicit SALW

Byumba sector, 23/2/2010

N°	Names	Organization/Institution	Title	Tel
01	NSHIMIYE Steven			0788408081
02	TWAGIRAYEZU Donat	Cell Leader		0788510895
03	FAYIDA Théoneste	Community Policing		0788781466
04	NDAGIJIMANA Evariste	-	-	0783814910
05	MUSAFILI Callixte	Cell Leader		-
06	SANZABANDI Ildephonse			-
07	KANYANKORE Cléophas			0788579267
08	MUNYABARENZI J. Baptiste			0783235452
09	HATEGEKIMANA Simon			0788420202
10	HABANABAKIZE Vianney		Driver	0783235418
11	HAKIZIMANA J. Claude		-	-
12	GASHABUKA François			0783796778
13	HAKIZUWERA Fidèle		-	0782354069
14	NIYONZIMA VINCENT			0785622291
15	SHUMBUSHO J. Claude			-
16	NSENGIYUMVA Celestin			-
17	NZABANDORA Blaise			-
18	NIZEYIMANA Filmin			0785234797

19	TWIZEYIMANA J.M.V.			-
20	MUTANGANA Vianney			0788699329
21	MUVALA Noel			0783607078
22	HABANABAKIZE Théophile			0783153324
23	NDUMVIRIYE Désiré			0783190302
24	HIRWA Faustin			0783607087
25	KAYITSINGA Munyampeta			0785524262
26	MINANI Ildephonse			0785542579
27	KAREBYA Faustin			-
28	AHIMANA Dieu Donné			0785618210
29	KIMENYI Eric			0785067564
30	GAFISHI Innocent			0785918765
31	NIYOMUGABA Innocent			0783622855
32	NDIZIHIWE J. Bosco			0788783852
33	MUNYENTWALI Alphonse			0785122185