

ETHIOPIA ARMS DESTRUCTION



A team comprising Federal Police of Ethiopia and two RECSA officials undertook an small arms assessment mission to three sites, namely Federal Police armoury in Addis; Kolfe (Crime Prevention Department); and Akaki main Prison between 23rd and 28th August, 2010. The main objective of the mission was to determine the stockpile destruction requirements and options and the general infrastructure required for the exercise.

The assessment revealed that the Government has quite a number of SALW, ammunition and explosives earmarked for destruction in different locations. Some of the explosives date back to the 1930s during World War II and have become obsolete and need to be destroyed to guard against associated risks. In

addition, in routine government operations, arms are captured from criminals. In line with the Nairobi Protocol, the Federal Government is committed to destroying such items. As at May, 2010, the Government had destroyed firearms totaling 24,000 and about 100,000 ammunitions of different calibres.

With support from a regional project funded by the Japan Government, RECSA supported additional destruction of 358,411 ammunition, 3,220 firearms, 7,639 grenades and UXOs and one MANPAD between 19th and 26th September.

The firearms (short guns and rifles) and ammunitions were destroyed at Abyssinia Steel factory in Debrezeit (40 Miles south of Addis Ababa) using the open burning method. The ammunitions were destroyed in a locally manufactured incinerator. The remains after the burning and roasting were smelted at the Abyssinia Steel Factory furnace. The explosives, grenades, UXOs and MANPAD were destroyed at Sanderf (50 miles north of Addis Ababa). Technical expertise during the destruction exercise was provided by officials from the Federal Police.

On 25th September, 2010 a street procession was held in Addis Abba involving Federal Police, the Ethiopia Military Band, members of the public and school children.