

2.9 Tons of Obsolete Ammunition of the PNC Destroyed in Kinshasa

From 18th to 21st April, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) successfully conducted the disposal of approximately 3 tons of obsolete ammunition belonging to the Congolese National Police (PNC). The activity took place at Mbakana demolition site, in the municipality of Nsele, Kinshasa. The ammunition, intended mostly for crowd and riot control, consisted of tear gas dispensers, smoke grenades, caliber munitions and explosive grenades, among many others. The disposal of the stockpile allowed for the mitigation of potential accidental explosion that would have affected communities surrounding the camp.



Obsolete warheads belonging to the PNC

Following a site reconnaissance and assessment by UNMAS' Ammunition Technical Officer, it was decided that most of the ammunition would need to be burned while certain bursting tear gas grenades and warheads would have to be disposed by detonation. UNMAS' Multi Task Team (MTT) started the disposal on 18th April and were supported on site by the PNC officers who guarded the area to ensure civilians were at a safe distance from the site. The PNC also provided transport facilities, protective equipment and accommodation facilities for the MTT.

Over the course of four days, the MTT proceeded to stock and pile the ammunition into the demolition pits. The ammunition disposed was obsolete, making it more sensitive to external influences that could have led to possible explosive accidents and could cause enormous damage to local population around the camp, as well as PNC personnel and infrastructure.

This operation is part of the third pillar of the Mine action mandate which includes the destruction of obsolete ammunition stockpiles as they represent a potential threat to local populations.



UNMAS conducting ammunition disposal on site

Since 2015, UNMAS and its partners conducted several operations across DRC to neutralise, remove and destroy explosive devices resulting in the destruction of nearly 102,744 explosive remnants of war, 352 landmines and 2,811,088 small arms ammunition,