



UNMAS



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UNMAS DONOR UPDATE

UNMAS Wins UN 21 Award for Innovation

This year’s UN 21 Award recognising outstanding performance in the area of innovation was awarded to UNMAS. The award was presented by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at a ceremony on UN Day (24 October) at UN Headquarters. UNMAS was nominated for four awards this year, in the categories of “Efficiency”, “Outstanding Vision”, “Service beyond the Call of Duty” and “Innovation”. UNMAS won the “Innovation” award for the “Development of Mobile Weapon Cutting Shears” project.



UNMAS Staff with the Secretary-General at the UN 21 Award Reception. (UNMAS Photo/LW)

In his opening remarks at the ceremony the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to the many nominees and called on all members of the UN family to continue “showing the UN at its best” and “keep on innovating” to make the UN dynamic and efficient.

The award winning project “Development of Mobile Weapon Cutting Shears” involved a long-term collaboration between UNMAS and NGO partners to develop a reliable mobile weapons cutting capacity. UNMAS personnel conceived the design and oversaw the fabrication process. The final product is a trailer mounted weapons shear with a built-in power supply that can be towed by a standard 4x4 vehicle, shipped by air, attached beneath a helicopter or transported in a standard shipping container.

more than mines



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The new design allows disposal teams to take the shears to the very place where people are disarming and destroy the firearms in full view of communities. This approach builds trust and confidence through transparency in the disarmament process. The shears also cut weapons in such a way that no part can ever be re-used, making it an important contribution to sustaining peace and enabling development.



A weapon cutting shear used in Central African Republic in 2014.
UN Photo/Catianne Tijerina

UNMAS has used the mobile shears in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali and Somalia and has a standby-set at the United Nations Regional Service Center in Uganda, ready for rapid deployment as required.

Agnès Marcaillou, the Director of UNMAS, described this innovative project as an important contribution to peace and security. "Destroying weapons is more than a symbolic gesture in the peacebuilding process, it is instrumental to national recovery and the healing of wounds, and as such the capacity to implement weapons cutting on a nationwide basis, enables communities to participate in a meaningful way in the recovery and peacebuilding process."

The UN 21 Awards honour individual staff members or teams who promote innovation, efficiency and excellence in the way the Organization delivers its programmes and services.

"The achievements of UNMAS are inextricably linked to the support of its donors. Member States recognise the value and effectiveness of UNMAS life-saving work throughout the world. Without their generosity and commitment, it would not have been possible to carry out this important project," stated Ms. Marcaillou.