



UNMAS

MARCH 2015

UNMAS NEWS

UNMAS ACTIVITIES BENEFIT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

The UNMAS DRC programme supports the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and carries out humanitarian mine action in support of the Congolese Government.

Support for Humanitarian Activities and the UN Country Team

Humanitarian Mine Clearance: In April 2015, UNMAS will deploy five Multi-Tasking Teams (MTTs) in eastern DRC to safely remove and destroy mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) across North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema. MTTs provide a comprehensive mixed capability to conduct survey and clearance tasks, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and manual clearance, along with community liaison and risk education. The teams will survey and clear 30 suspected hazardous areas, a total of nearly 190,000 m2, enabling North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema to be declared free from the known impact of mines and cluster munitions.



A blue beret at an UNMAS weapons cutting ceremony in Goma. This project was funded by Japan. (UN Photo)

more than mines



Governor of Kisangani speaking at the land release ceremony in the province. This land release was made possible, in part, from funds given to UNMAS by the Government of Japan. (UN Photo)

National Capacity Development: By 31 March 2016, UNMAS will complete the transition and hand over of mine action coordination to the national mine action authority, Centre Congolais de Lutte Antimines (CCLAM). The capacity building work of UNMAS will result in a government institution that can more effectively and efficiently coordinate humanitarian mine action activities in DRC. To achieve this target, UNMAS is providing training on project management, management of operations (including risk education, victim assistance and planning), quality assurance and information management. UNMAS will also support CCLAM as it finalises a national strategy and fulfils its reporting requirements under the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

Risk Education and Victim Assistance: As risk education remains a priority, UNMAS targets conflict-affected communities, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and returnees, and civilians in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Province Orientale and Katanga (North). UNMAS will deliver mine risk education (MRE) through direct presentations, national and local radio campaigns, leaflet drops, text messaging and social media platforms. UNMAS will also establish a reporting mechanism whereby civilians can report suspected hazardous items. UNMAS aims to reach 750,000 civilians. Special attention is given to students by training teachers to deliver MRE and distribute materials in class.

Humanitarian activities are funded through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. We thank the following donors for their financial and in-kind support: Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, and Switzerland.



Enabling the MONUSCO Mandate

MONUSCO funds two MTTs to support implementation of the MONUSCO mandate:

Protection of Civilians (PoC): Ongoing fighting in Eastern DRC between national security forces and various armed groups has resulted in widespread ERW contamination. UNMAS mitigates ERW threats to civilians before, during and after combat operations; *before* by providing MRE to the conflict-affected communities; *during*, by remaining on standby for any emergency PoC task required by the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB); and *after*, by rapidly assessing, clearing and destroying identified ERW items.

Stabilization of Conflict Affected Areas: UNMAS strengthens the concept of “Islands of Stability” through the training and mentoring of Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) weapons cache search teams, Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC), as well as through the establishment of PNC armories to safely store small arms and light weapons.

Supporting Implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework: UNMAS supports Security Sector Reform (SSR) under the umbrella of the PSC Framework by training FARDC and the PNC in weapons and ammunition management, and through implementation of ammunition depot and armory rehabilitation projects.