

## Press Release

### **CERF: Reducing the risks caused by the explosive remnants of wars for the affected populations of Ituri, South Kivu and Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

*Contributing to the protection of civilians in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by reducing the explosive threat caused by mines and explosive remnants of war is one of the objectives of a UNMAS project funded this year by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).*

**(Kinshasa, 08 May 2018)** The CERF contribution to UNMAS activities for 2018 will enable assistance to underfunded emergencies where the need for humanitarian relief is critical. The financial allocation of USD 550,000 will allow UNMAS to survey suspected hazardous areas; to deliver awareness to internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and host populations on the risks posed by explosive hazards; and to clear contaminated areas which will facilitate the safe and voluntary return of displaced people and refugees and the free movement of people. This project will also facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, promoting a safe environment for the deployment and movement of humanitarian personnel.

Following the many clashes between the armed groups and regular armed forces, as well as between ethnic groups, the provinces of Ituri, South Kivu and Tanganyika have been particularly affected by massive displacements of populations, degradation of basic infrastructure, attacks on schools and contamination by explosive hazards. These three provinces together have more than 1,671,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) who are often uninformed about security risks posed by explosive devices during their displacement or temporary relocation. From January 2016 to December 2017, the Government of the DRC has registered 218 hazardous areas contaminated by explosive items in Ituri, South Kivu, and the province of Tanganyika.

This project is aligned with the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, the Strategic Plan for Mine Action in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2017-2019) and the Humanitarian Response Plan 2018, contributing to the strategic objective (SO2.1) by implementing preventive measures to reduce the risks of violations against men and women and promoting a protective environment.

Approximately 170,000 people (women, girls, men and boys) living in the territories of Ituri provinces (Irumu territory), Tanganyika (Kalehe territory) and South Kivu (Kalemie and Kongolo territories) are affected by ongoing conflicts, and will benefit directly from this project through radio awareness messages, text messages, and/or through direct sessions of education on the risks posed by explosive hazards.

CERF was introduced as the UN global emergency response fund to deliver funding quickly to humanitarian responders and bring greater balance to emergency assistance. Twelve years on, CERF has earned its place in the current humanitarian ecosystem as one of the most effective ways to provide time-critical assistance, including supplies, basic services and protection to millions of people in need. It is also a lifeline for those caught up in the world's most neglected, underfunded and long-lasting crises.

*For more information, please contact:*

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