

Press Release

Republic of Korea reinforces its commitment to protect civilians from dangerous explosive devices in the Democratic Republic of Congo

(Kinshasa, 8 May 2018) Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has announced a financial contribution of USD 125,000 to UNMAS activities for the year 2018-2019. The funds will be used as a complement to the People of Japan's funds to support the coordination of Mine Action activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project will also contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable socio-economic development through explosive threat mitigation activities such as risk education, for communities of Tanganyika, South Kivu, North Kivu, Kasai-Central and Kasai.

The overall goal of UNMAS is to create safer environments and more secure communities by tackling the threats posed by explosive hazards. UNMAS DRC supports the Congolese Government in achieving the objectives set in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, the Stabilization and Reconstruction Plan for Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (STAREC) and the revised International Security and Stabilisation Support Strategy (I4S), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the DRC Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018 (HRP), the Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018.

In line with the national and international frameworks mentioned above, through this project, and in collaboration with mine action operators, UNMAS DRC will continue to support the Congolese Centre for Mine Action (CCLAM) in this critical period towards the DRC's compliance with Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

The presence of landmines, cluster-munitions and other explosive remnants of war remain a threat to the safety of civilians in DRC. The unrest experienced by tDRC since the 1960s and the recent resurgence of armed conflicts seriously degraded living conditions throughout the country. The presence of explosive hazards poses a constant and significant risk to civilians and continue to restrict social development and hamper economic recovery.

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