



UNMAS to deliver risk education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo thanks to United Nations Association of Sweden

Thanks to a generous contribution by the United Nations Association of Sweden, UNMAS will implement a risk education (RE) project in Kitshanga located in the North-Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). UNMAS will teach civilian populations about the dangers caused by explosive hazards and illegal weapons.

Ongoing conflict, complex social dynamics and chronic poverty have made Kitshanga a priority area for stabilisation efforts. Ethnic tensions, disputes between displaced and local populations, and the presence of numerous armed groups with competing political agendas all serve to exacerbate an already volatile security landscape.

With the support of the United Nations Association of Sweden, UNMAS will broadcast radio messages and send out SMS messages targeting settled communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The messages will be tailored to children and adults and will be gender-specific. This activity will raise awareness and promote safe behaviour concerning the threats of weapons safety and explosive hazardous items. An estimated 150,000 beneficiaries will be reached through this project.

Linda Nordin, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Association of Sweden, expressed the Association's desire to support the project: *"We are proud to partner with UNMAS to support mine action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We must eradicate the threat of illegal weapons and explosive hazards in order to create peace and security, as well as to ensure development and human rights for all. Together we can build hope for the future."*

UNMAS is very grateful to the United Nations Association of Sweden, and to its other donors, in particular Japan, for supporting its work in the DRC.



UNMAS staff liaising with the community in Goma (UN Photo/Abel Kavanagh)



Recording of risk education radio spots / Risk education text messages (UN Photo/Abel Kavanagh)

For more information, please contact Donor Relations Officer Kurt Chesko at chesko@un.org.

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