



Press Release

The People of Japan Contribute \$ 450,000 USD to support United Nations Mine Action Activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The project will focus on Human Security and Stabilization in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through mitigation of threats posed by Explosive Hazards, Small Arms and Light Weapons

(Kinshasa, 22 March 2017) The People of Japan have donated USD 450,000 to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) for humanitarian mine action work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Aimed at creating safer environments and more secure communities, this contribution will enable UNMAS to strengthen small arms and light weapons and ammunition management capacity within national security institutions as well as reduce the impact from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) as part of overall efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the DRC and Great Lakes region.

“This generous and very important contribution from the Government of Japan enables the United Nations to continue building on previous efforts to improve the control of small arms and light weapons in eastern DRC. It also allows us to continue to support the national mine action authority in its commitments towards a DRC free from known landmines by 2021.” stated Mr. Pehr Lodhammar, the UNMAS Programme Manager in the DRC.

The donation will allow UNMAS to assist the Congolese National Police (PNC) and the National Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (CNC-ALPC) in the adequate management of weapons and ammunition in order to secure state owned stockpiles to reduce instability posed by potential weapons proliferation towards armed groups. In addition, it aims to assist the Congolese National Mine Action Authority (CCLAM) in progressing towards completion of its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention through the update of the DRC National Mine Action Strategy, thus contributing to overall human security and access to land.

The Embassy of Japan attaches great importance to the consolidation of peace and security as one of the pillars of the Japanese economic cooperation in the DRC. Japan strongly supports humanitarian mine action work so that the DRC Government can meet its commitments to declare a mine-free DRC before 2021, and make the country safer and more productive. Japan shares the vision of the United Nations to achieve a world free from the threat of landmines and other explosive hazards, by supporting the activities of UNMAS and other governmental and non-governmental partners.

Thanks to the Government of Japan’s generous contributions, since 2014 UNMAS in the DRC and its partners have cleared/released 380,331 square meters of land and destroyed 42 landmines, 5,297 items of ERW and 18,262 items of small arms ammunition (SAA). Over 450,000 people living in contaminated and conflict-affected areas were also reached by direct risk education and more than 34.5 million people were reached through awareness raising initiatives through radio messages and SMS campaigns in local languages.

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