



Democratic Republic of Congo

Press Release: 17 March 2014

JAPAN DONATES 1 MILLION USD TO SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION ACTIVITIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo: Japan has contributed US\$ 1,000,000 to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to allow United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to deliver support to the Democratic Republic of Congo during 2014.

This important financial support from the Government of Japan will allow UNMAS-DRC to implement various mine action activities in the country during 2014, including the delivery of vital risk education to conflict affected communities, particularly in the East of DRC. This donation will also enable UNMAS to continue to support the national mine action center with capacity building and institutional strengthening.

Japan has been an important contributor to mine action work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 2010. In 2013, thanks to the funding from the Government of Japan of US\$ 3,600,000, UNMAS-DRC has completed a National Landmine Contamination Survey project, which provided a clear picture of the scope and extent of the landmines and cluster munitions contamination throughout the entire country. "It is realistic to declare today that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo is capable to comply - in a reasonable period of time and with reasonable budgets - with its obligation in regards to the Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention" stated Pascal Simon, Programme Manager for UNMAS-DRC.

In addition, the funding enabled UNMAS-DRC to conduct mine and UXO clearance activities, 4 Mine Risk Education and 3 Victims Assistance projects in support of 293 mine/UXO victims and other persons living with disability, mostly in conflict affected areas in East DRC.

UNMAS DRC and the national mine action authority are grateful to Japan for the continued support to mine action activities in DRC.

Over the past 10 years, UNMAS DRC has destroyed more than 3,500 landmines and 241,000 pieces of explosive ordnances. More than 3.1 million Congolese have received mine risk education including members of the EU Election Observers, Congolese Armed Forces, Congolese National Police and MONUSCO personnel.

Today UNMAS supports programmes in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, State of Palestine, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Western Sahara.

For more information please contact:

Mr. Urs Grischott, UNMAS DRC Programme Officer (New York)

Email: grischott@un.org, Tel: +1 917 367 2127

Ms. Michelle Healy, UNMAS DRC Programme Officer (Kinshasa)

Email: mhealy@macc-drc.org, Tel: +243 82 500 1825