



March 2016 News

Sport, Mine Action, Raising Awareness and JFK

Running, biking, swimming, playing volleyball, football (soccer), ping pong and basketball: sports are another language, a universal language. They bring people together; they give people a chance to try new things, to push their limits, to participate in common goals.

In 2016, as part of its outreach campaign for the week dedicated to International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, UNMAS is promoting sporting events to bring attention to the pain, suffering and insecurity caused by landmines and explosive hazards.

UNMAS and its partners, including national mine action authorities, civil society organizations, victim assistance groups and donors are working together to hold multiple events.



2012 race organised by UNMAS Colombia Programme / UNMAS photo

In Abyei, there will be a mini-marathon, football, basketball and volleyball matches. In the Central African Republic races, relays and football matches will be held with adults and children. In Colombia a 10 kilometre running race will be organized with the national mine action authority. In Darfur the peacekeeping mission is planning races, a tug-of-war and football matches. In Lebanon there is a "Beirut by bike" scheduled on the 3th of April where all

participants will wear mine-awareness t-shirts and caps. In the Nabatieh region in southern Lebanon, there will be different sporting activities for disabled athletes, including football matches and ping pong. In Mali, UNMAS is promoting sporting events in Bamako, Gao and Timbuktu with the Malian disabled sports federation.

UNMAS HQ in New York is also promoting an event. In partnership with the JFK Rotary Club, UNMAS has created a United Nations team to participate in the 5 kilometre “Runway Run” that will take place on Sunday 10 April 2016 at John F. Kennedy International airport in Queens, New York. All UN team members will receive the UNMAS 2016 shirt and race bib.

UNMAS calls on all permanent mission personnel, ambassadors, UN staff and concerned partners or curious individuals to join the United Nations team, learn more about mine action and run 5 kilometres at the busiest international “air passenger gateway” into the United States of America. See attached link for all of the details. There will be a raffle (which will include plane tickets, swag autographed by the UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards) and much more. Sign up. Join us.

UNMAS JFK Run: <http://bit.ly/1M5VniY>

For more information, please contact Public Information Officer Lee Woodyear at woodyear@un.org.

www.mineaction.org/news