



UNMAS

Improvised Explosive Devices Threat Mitigation: Looking Back to Move Forward

SIDE EVENT AT THE CCW 6TH REVIEW CONFERENCE

GENEVA, 16 DECEMBER 2021



Somalia Police IED Defeat Officer. UN photo



Moderator: Christelle Loupforest, Programme Officer, UNMAS Geneva and Deputy Global Coordinator, MA AoR

Opening remarks: Ilene Cohn, Acting Director, UNMAS

1. Political, technical, and financial support provided by States Parties to the UN IED threat mitigation approach and to the UN Mine Action Strategy

- Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro, Coordinator of the IED Group of Experts of the Amended Protocol II to CCW, Colombia
- Colonel Pascal Levant, Coordinator of the IED Group of Experts of the Amended Protocol II to CCW, France

2. Main achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in countries where the UN is supporting or leading IED threat mitigation

- Mr. Pablo Parra, Acting Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS Colombia
- Mr. Jean-Guy Lavoie, Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS Mali
- Mr. Justin Orin Smith, Head of Policy & Analysis, UNMAS Somalia
- Mr. Mark Wilkinson, Senior Operations Manager, UNMAS Iraq

3. Progress made at the strategic level with the adoption of a UN whole-of-system approach to IED

- Ms. Maria Vardis, Team Leader, UNMAS Policy

4. Relevant international mine action standards developed in the past five years

- Mr. Raymond Kemei, Programme Officer, UNMAS Mobile Training Team
- Mr. Hugues Laurence, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF

5. Q&A and concluding remarks



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Cooking pot IEDs found in 2021 in Beni, DRC



Definition of IED according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) (2019).

3.138. Improvised Explosive Device (IED) (2013) a device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating explosive material, destructive, lethal, noxious, incendiary, pyrotechnic materials or chemicals designed to destroy, disfigure, distract or harass. They may incorporate military stores, but are normally devised from non-military components [IATG 01.40:2011].

Note: An IED may meet the definition of a mine, booby trap, and/or other type of explosive ordnance depending on its construction. These devices may also be referred to as improvised, artisanal, or locally manufactured mines, booby traps, or other types of explosive ordnance.

Source: [Microsoft Word - Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations.docx \(mineactionstandards.org\)](https://mineactionstandards.org/microsoft-word-glossary-of-mine-action-terms-definitions-and-abbreviations.docx)



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Speakers:

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- Ms. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro, Coordinator of the IED Group of Experts of the Amended Protocol II to CCW, Colombia

Risk Education session in Candelillas, Colombia along Luz Dary Landazury, a prominent advocate for EO survivors, Pablo Parra, UNMAS Acting Chief of Mine Action Programme in Colombia, Christelle Loupforest, Deputy Global MA AoR Coordinator, colleagues from CIREC and community members. October 2021. UN Photo.

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In collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MoI), UNMAS trains police officers in explosive ordnance disposal/improvised explosive device disposal at the MoI base in Salman Pak, located on the outskirts of Baghdad. UN Photo/Cengiz Yar

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Association AMMIE conducts Risk Education session with a local community in Korsimoro, Burkina Faso. October 2021. UN Photo

5. Q&A

SPF operator in a bomb suit deploying to the IED.

UN Photo

**IMPROVISED
EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
THREAT MITIGATION:
LOOKING BACK TO
MOVE FORWARD**

UN Photo

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GENEVA, 16 DECEMBER 2021 (1:15 PM-3:00 PM CEST)
VIRTUAL FORMAT ON WEBEX





Concluding remarks:

Christelle Loupforest, Programme Officer, UNMAS Geneva and Deputy Global Coordinator, MA AoR

- The threat posed by IEDs is growing (epidemic) and civilians remain the first and main victims. IED Risk education is key to protect people.
- High Contracting Parties to CCW AP II agreed to work towards the development and consolidation of coherent and coordinated national, sub-regional and regional responses as appropriate, to counter the threat posed by IED. In particular, we need a regional and multidisciplinary response for the Sahel.
- UNMAS plays a central role to mitigate the IED threat and to help States to build a coordinated approach to the fight against IEDs.
- Role of coordination and partnerships with international and national NGOs. Role of ICRC in opening channel of discussion with NSAG and negotiating humanitarian agreements.
- Support the UN whole-of-system approach to information-sharing and identification of effective IED threat responses.
- Policies are good but capacity does not appear magically. Building capacity for IED disposal takes time and money.
- Importance of technical and tactical analysis as well as conflict sensitivity for prevention (control of precursors, regional cooperation and information sharing, diversion of explosive...).
- Remember and honour all deminers who passed away in 2021 including our HALO Trust colleagues killed in Afghanistan.

A deminer searches for IEDs in the centre of Hadira village – during the visit we saw children, adults and livestock moving through this area. One of the IEDs we found was 25 metres from this home.

