



UNMAS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	2
CONTRIBUTORS	3
MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	4
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR	4
THE UNITED NATIONS COORDINATOR FOR MINE ACTION	5
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON MINE ACTION 2013-2018	10
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE: Risks to individuals and the socio-economic impacts of mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, are reduced	10
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO: Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and explosive remnants of war victims within broader responses to injury and disability	14
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE: The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased	16
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR: Mine action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation.....	18
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DONOR RELATIONS	21
UNMAS 2017 SNAPSHOT	25

ACRONYMS

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
AU	African Union
CCCM	Campaña Colombiana Contra las Minas (Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines)
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
FARC-EP	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército Popular (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device
IEDDS	Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Standards
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
PoC	Protection of civilians
RRTSC	Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity
SMACO	Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Organization
UN VTF	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management

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the Netherlands



Switzerland



Benin



France



New Zealand



United Kingdom



Canada



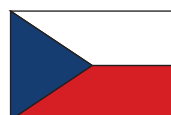
Germany



Poland



United States



Czech Republic



Italy



Portugal



UNA - Sweden

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The United Nations stands for a world free of landmines and the explosive remnants of war, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment and where the needs of victims are met. Peace without mine action is incomplete. Mine action protects lives and enables durable development by helping to prevent relapse into conflict. It is a strong example of cooperation across the broad range of United Nations work — peace and security, development, human rights and humanitarian response — which enables us to support peacebuilding and sustain peace. This annual report is a testament to the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Leading, coordinating and implementing, through partnerships with States, regional bodies and civil society, UNMAS ensures an effective and efficient mine action response under the most challenging of circumstances.

The past year was special. Marking its 20th anniversary in 2017, UNMAS was awarded the United Nations Foundation Award for Global Leadership. In addition, I recognized the service with my own award for innovation and creativity, inspired by projects in Darfur, Mali, and South Sudan and the guidance of UNMAS Headquarters in New York. Member States also welcomed the leadership and coordination role of UNMAS in the first comprehensive resolution on mine action adopted by the Security Council in June 2017 as well as in a number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

I congratulate all UNMAS staff for their impressive achievements in contributing to a safer world. As we pursue our collective objectives of peace and sustainable development for all, mine action will continue to play a vital role.

António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year, UNMAS marks two decades of needs-driven, people-centred work. I consider it a great honour to direct an organisation that received the 2017 United Nations Foundation award for Global Leadership; a fitting accolade to my colleagues working across continents to bring the United Nations vision of a world free from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war to fruition. This annual report provides an insight into the courageous work carried out by my colleagues for the millions of people for whom the UN is, so often, their only means of survival. The UNMAS team works frequently in dangerous conditions, defusing improvised explosive devices and unexploded bombs on a daily basis. We wake up every morning believing we can make the world a little less dangerous - a world free from the threat of landmines and explosive hazards.

UNMAS supports the entire UN system with a very small 30-person team at headquarters and some 5,000 women and men in the field. UNMAS is a formidable, specialized organization, which delivers concrete results. It is fast moving and dynamic, constantly adapting to new devices and new risks. UNMAS shows how big an impact a small UN entity can make.

Twenty years ago, landmines were killing en masse and hampering the humanitarian, peacekeeping and development work of the UN. That is why, also 20 years ago, in a visionary resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the creation of a specialized UN service: UNMAS. The threat of mines and explosive hazards is not an incurable disease. This report demonstrates that if we stay united and work together, much can and will be done.

Ms. Agnès Marcaillou,
Director of UNMAS

THE UNITED NATIONS COORDINATOR FOR MINE ACTION

UNMAS leadership and coordination has been called upon and strengthened throughout the year. Consistent with the agenda set forth by the Secretary-General for the United Nations, UNMAS has demonstrated its crucial role in sustaining peace and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda. From the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, from the Security Council to civil society, UNMAS leadership has been recognized and commended.



**Mine action is critical
to peace and security,
humanitarian response and
development efforts**

António Guterres,
Secretary-General

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP ON MINE ACTION

UNMAS ensures coherence of the United Nations mine action response through chairing the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA). This year the Group monitored reports of new contamination in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lake Chad Basin, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria and Syria, undertaking several assessment missions to Boko Haram-affected countries to provide advice and strengthen national capacity. At international conferences relating to mine action, the Group called for universalization and full implementation of relevant disarmament conventions, advocating for the needs and rights of victims and urging for sustained financial support for mine action. Under

UNMAS leadership, the Group also initiated an update of the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes to ensure continued and improved attention to gender cross all facets of mine action, and an evaluation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, in advance of development of the next Strategy.

Together with the IACG-MA, UNMAS continued to monitor progress towards the current Strategy, using the purposely designed Monitoring & Evaluation mechanism. Two rounds of data collection and reporting took place during the year identifying an increase in mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualties, confirming reports of the growing number of improvised explosive device (IED) victims and highlighting the need for a coherent approach to IED threat mitigation across the United Nations system.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Security Council resolution 2365, the first standalone resolution on mine action, was adopted on 30 June, providing an opportunity for UNMAS to advocate from a strengthened position for the inclusion of mine action when peace operations mandates are formulated and reviewed. Combined with this year's General Assembly resolutions on "Assistance in mine action" and "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices", the Security Council resolution reaffirms UNMAS coordinating role and its functions as the lead United Nations entity on mine action, including IEDs.

IED THREAT MITIGATION

Cognizant of the increasing number of victims of IEDs, including civilians, humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and consistent with Member States' request for a holistic United Nations response, UNMAS substantive efforts focused on identifying the extent to which the United Nations is affected by IEDs and determining whether, and where gaps

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION AWARD FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

This year, the United Nations Foundation recognized UNMAS for its leadership and commitment to the vital work of the United Nations with an award for Global Leadership. The award ceremony was opened by the Secretary-General and attended by almost five hundred ambassadors, business leaders, philanthropists and celebrities.

The UN Global Advocate, Mr. Daniel Craig, presented UNMAS Director Ms. Agnès Marcaillou with the award. “UNMAS efforts make sure mines can’t haunt humanity the way they have in the past,” said Mr. Craig, praising Ms. Marcaillou’s “tireless work to make the world a safer place.” “This very special award is not just recognition of my own life and work at the United Nations” said Ms. Marcaillou. “It is, most importantly, an acknowledgement of the incredible work carried out daily by my colleagues.”

Other awardees included His Highness the Aga Khan, US Senator Bob Corker, singer Ellie Goulding, and the CEO and President of Mars, Incorporated, Grant F. Reid. The event provided an excellent opportunity for UNMAS to advocate for the needs of conflict-affected communities globally, and it generated support from a new constituency.



UNMAS Director Ms. Marcaillou receives a Global Leadership Award in recognition of UNMAS leadership of the mine action sector.
Photo: UN Foundation/Stuart Ramson

exist. UNMAS coordinated an extensive mapping and analysis exercise, interviewing and gathering information from over 40 United Nations entities. Findings confirmed the need for a single focal point and for a whole-of-system strategy on IEDs; UNMAS will be taking up these issues in 2018.

In parallel, UNMAS advanced work, in partnership with Member States and other stakeholders, to elaborate United Nations IED Disposal Standards (IEDDS) to establish the minimum required competencies, training and equipment for IEDD operators. When completed, the IEDDS, which

are being widely consulted, will complement International Mine Action Standards, which, also under the leadership of UNMAS, are being revised to guide IED clearance in humanitarian contexts.

MINE ACTION AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER

As the designated lead agency, UNMAS continued to coordinate the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) through its humanitarian hub in Geneva. Members of the group agreed a common approach and

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION (A/72/226)

Drafted by UNMAS following extensive consultations with stakeholders, the report of the Secretary-General on Assistance in Mine Action notes that, over the last two years, the global casualty rate due to landmines, ERW and IEDs has risen, reflecting the increased impact of conflict on civilians across the world. At the same time, humanitarian mine action has generated positive outcomes. The report highlights how mine action is critical for protecting civilians, enabling humanitarian assistance, stabilization, peace sustainment and the Sustainable Development Goals.

developed a plan of action for 2018/19, focusing on risk education and emergency victim assistance. UNMAS MA AoR coordinators from Iraq, Mali, South Sudan and Syria shared lessons learned in mainstreaming mine action into broader protection initiatives at the annual GPC retreat, which gathers field coordinators from all AoRs. UNMAS also co-hosted a webinar with the Housing, Land and Property AoR to identify actions practitioners can take to ensure land rights are considered when setting mine action priorities. In addition, UNMAS conducted an analysis of 2017 Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) to identify ways to strengthen the incorporation of mine action in future HRPs. Best practices identified included integration of mine action into other AoRs, provision of accurate casualty data, and incorporating the views of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) on explosive hazard threats and impact.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL MINE ACTION PROGRAMME DIRECTORS AND UNITED NATIONS ADVISERS

In February, UNMAS convened the International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers. Practitioners, donors, affected states, United Nations entities and civil society came together in Geneva to identify how mine action can contribute to the implementation of international humanitarian law, peace and ceasefire negotiations and agreements, stabilization, and the Sustainable Development Goals. The record number of 550 participants also examined ways to improve mine action operations' impact and effectiveness through innovative approaches, new technology and an increased focus on community-led programming.



The 20th Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN20) takes place in the Palais des Nations at the United Nations Office at Geneva. Photo: UNMAS

At the meeting, UNMAS launched the 2017 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, coordinated through the IACG-MA, which presents a consolidated picture of the needs and strategies of twenty-two countries and territories. The 2017 Portfolio presented over 200 projects with an overall financial requirement of US\$ 511 million, a 50 per cent increase compared to 2016, primarily driven by increasing needs in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

4TH APRIL - INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION

As is the case every year, UNMAS implemented a series of unique events during the week of 4th April to raise the significance of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

At UN Headquarters, UNMAS launched an international fundraising campaign in partnership with the UN Global Advocate Mr. Daniel Craig, car manufacturer Aston Martin, and Omaze, an online fundraising platform. The campaign, which won

the United Nations Secretary-General's award for innovation, reached almost 11 million people in just 42 days, garnered donations from 64,000 individuals in 155 countries, and raised over US\$ 1,000,000 for UNMAS and mine action globally. The winner received a brand new Aston Martin Vantage GT Roadster donated by Aston Martin.

In addition, a multi-media exhibition installed at UN Headquarters highlighted UNMAS achievements since its establishment in 1997. The display demonstrated how mine action has evolved from locating and destroying anti-personnel landmines, to eliminating the risks posed by an increasing array of weaponry, including cluster munitions and IEDs, and incorporating victim assistance and risk education into a fully comprehensive response. Over 150,000 visitors saw the exhibition during its eight-week run. Subsequently, the exhibition has been displayed at the UN Office in Vienna and is now in the UN Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa.

In Geneva, UNMAS brokered a partnership with transport authorities to show UNMAS media



Children from an UNRWA school watch the Palestinian paralympic basketball team in an event organized by UNMAS to mark the 2017 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. Photo: UNMAS

clips on all trams and buses as well as throughout Geneva international airport for the 4th April. It is estimated that around one million people saw the campaign.

Across continents, from Sudan to Colombia, from Iraq to Gaza, UNMAS worked with local

communities and national authorities to raise awareness of landmines and ERW, organizing a vast array of events from mini-marathons to photo exhibitions, from wheelchair basketball games to singing competitions, all promoting the message that mine action is “needs driven and people centred”.

“We are particularly touched by the continued dedication and support from UN Global Advocate Daniel Craig,” said Agnès Marcaillou, UNMAS Director. “Aston Martin’s unprecedented engagement together with Omaze’s tremendous contribution has lifted mine action to a level of popular support that is overwhelming.”



UN Global Advocate Mr. Daniel Craig during filming for the UNMAS OMAZE campaign. Photo: OMAZE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON MINE ACTION 2013-2018

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

Risks to individuals and the socio-economic impacts of mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, are reduced

Working with national authorities, civil society and affected communities in war-torn countries around the globe, UNMAS employs a needs-driven, people-centred approach to reduce the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war and create conditions for sustainable peace. The approach varies depending on context; UNMAS considers a wide range of factors including the type of explosive threat, socio-political context, gender, geography and operational capacities. Core activities include survey and clearance of explosive hazards and provision of risk education, tailored to the age, gender and cultural norms of at-risk populations. Across all activities and throughout the planning cycle, UNMAS ensures attention

to **gender mainstreaming**, consistent with the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes.

Survey and clearance were core components of UNMAS work in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, South Sudan and the Territory of Western Sahara.

In Iraq, as major cities are liberated from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), extensive ERW and IED contamination continued to impede humanitarian access and civilians' ability to safely return home. This year, UNMAS programme in



UNMAS implementing partner DDG provides survey and battle area clearance capacity in Mosul, Iraq. Photo: UNMAS/Cengiz Yar

UNMAS AWARDED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S AWARD FOR CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

On 24 October 2017, United Nations Day, Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed presented the 2017 United Nations Secretary-General's Awards. The awards recognize United Nations staff that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to further the goals of the Organization. In a highly competitive field, UNMAS was awarded the Secretary-General's award in the category of Creativity and Innovation, for four separate projects in Darfur, South Sudan, Mali and New York where innovative and creative solutions were identified for risk education, advocacy, IED threat training and fundraising.

Mr. Jeff McMurdo, the UNMAS Programme Manager in Darfur, said: "The SG Award affirms our persistence in solving problems. When the usual approaches don't work, we need to be innovative and creative in finding new ways of working."

Iraq became its largest, with over 70 per cent of funds received or pledged to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN VTF) being dedicated to the response in that country.

Exemplifying the vision of the Secretary-General for integrated UN interventions, UNMAS carried out survey and clearance enabling multiple UN entities to assist Iraqis to resume life safely and quickly in the aftermath of conflict. Working in close collaboration with UNDP, and within the framework of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan

and the Government of Iraq's stabilization plan, UNMAS carried out explosive hazard assessments in schools and at water points in partnership with UNICEF, at health facilities for the World Health Organization, and on agricultural land for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. UNMAS removed 44 IEDs from the New Bridge in Fallujah, opening up the only connection between Baghdad and Al-Anbar province. Now more than 1,800 private and commercial vehicles cross the bridge every hour. After UNMAS surveyed and removed IEDs and ERW contaminating critical infrastructure and public services in Al-Anbar,



UNMAS-funded HALO Trust personnel engage in risk education along the Somali border with Ethiopia. Photo: HALO Trust

Ninewa and Salah Ah Din governorates, IDPs started to return to their homes, re-establishing their lives and businesses.

In Afghanistan, where the number of explosive hazard casualties continued to rise, mine action partners coordinated by the national Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) declared 123 communities mine-free, which resulted in increased land available for agriculture and enabled 327,745 individuals to move freely within, and between, their towns and villages, providing increased access to markets and economic opportunities.

A Post-Demining Impact Assessment completed this year revealed that within one year of clearance, newly planted crops such as wheat, fruit, and pistachio contributed over US\$ 218,000 to the local economy. As the area of the study was only one fifth of the total land cleared the previous year, extrapolation indicates clearance contributed over US\$ 1,000,000 to the economies of affected communities in one year alone.

In the State of Palestine, UNMAS completed the Deep-Buried Bomb project where all accessible large aerial bombs buried underground in Gaza were removed and destroyed. Since the project began in 2014, 29 tonnes of explosives have been removed and destroyed, enabling reconstruction efforts, rebuilding homes and businesses as well as reducing the risk of their re-use in the construction of improvised rockets and other devices.

As well as carrying out survey and clearance, UNMAS also employed a range of innovative

POST CLEARANCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN KANDAHAR

“Before demining”, Anwar* explained, “my village could not use the land because of contamination. Now we are making a living growing vegetables, wheat, corn, and other crops.”

*name changed to protect identity

techniques for reducing risk through education. Methods included distributing solar-powered audio players with pre-recorded educational messaging in **Darfur**, broadcasting messages at airport arrivals in **Iraq** and showing risk education flashcards at checkpoints for those entering Mosul. In **Libya**, UNMAS expanded its programme of training women in small arms and light weapons risk awareness, with previous trainees now acting as mentors for a new group of women. In **Syria**, where access for clearance is limited, risk education is the most effective way to protect civilians and humanitarian workers from the widespread threat of ERW. UNMAS developed education campaigns with its partners and, by integrating risk awareness into the work of other UN agencies, for example by including informative leaflets in food packages, has been able to access vulnerable groups to provide them with the knowledge they need to avoid harm.

In **South Sudan**, heightened insecurity and the resulting large-scale displacement of people increased the threats posed by ERW, especially for children. The first half of 2017 saw a spike in

UNMAS PARTNERSHIP WITH UNICEF FOR CHILDREN IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Since the beginning of the conflict in the Kasai region, an estimated 400 schools and 170 health centres have been targeted by armed groups. To ensure Kasai children would be able to start the academic year safely, UNMAS trained over 100 people working with UNICEF in child protection and education on risk awareness techniques.

They are now sensitizing communities in their areas of responsibility to ensure that children can identify potential threats on their way to, or at, school. This initiative complements and strengthens other activities already being carried out in the region, such as broadcasting risk education messages on the radio and distributing written materials in affected communities.

the number of explosive hazard accidents involving children; 15 accidents killed 12 and injured a further 22. Most accidents happened when children were playing with, or trying to touch, ERW.

In Juba, after children in a UN Protection of Civilians (POC) site were found with explosive fuzes they were hoping to exchange for food, UNMAS immediately rolled out an extensive risk education

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S AWARD-WINNING COMPETITION IN SOUTH SUDAN - "RISK FACTOR"

To address the rise in child casualties from explosive hazards, UNMAS combined peer-to-peer and mass-media awareness raising by adapting "The X-Factor", a hugely popular British television talent competition, to the South Sudan context in an effort to inform children about the dangers of explosive hazards.

UNMAS and implementing partners worked with nine primary schools in Juba to write and perform songs about the impact of mines and ERW on their own lives and within their communities. Then, in partnership with the National Mine Action Authority and with funding from the Government of Japan, UNMAS hosted "Risk Factor" in which each school performed live before a panel of judges. The competition generated national radio and print media coverage as well as multiple followers of an associated UNMAS social media campaign.

The winning school, the Giada Girls Primary School, recorded their song professionally with the prominent South Sudanese rap group Jay Family. Their song and music video, entitled "Beware", premiered on 4th April and continues to be played on radio stations throughout South Sudan, as well as being performed by Jay Family in concerts in South Sudanese refugee camps in Uganda.

In recognition of this extraordinary effort, the UNMAS team was awarded the United Nations Secretary-General Award for Innovation and Creativity.



Children in South Sudan perform in the "Risk Factor" talent competition hosted by UNMAS in collaboration with the National Mine Action Authority in South Sudan. Photo: UNMAS/Martine Perret

campaign specifically targeting children but also including Community Watch Groups from the PoC site, to encourage the facilitation of sessions for the wider community.

RAPID RESPONSE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT CAPACITY

UNMAS Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC) is uniquely positioned to rapidly deploy experts and specialized equipment in response to threats posed by explosive hazards. Upon request, it also supports national counterparts through the provision of needs assessments, training and advice. UNMAS technical experts' skills range from mine action programme management to explosive hazard clearance, quality management, risk education and Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM).

At the invitation of the Humanitarian Coordinator, in January the RRTSC returned to **Cameroon** for three months to conduct risk education training and to gather and analyse more data on the explosive threats that are affecting humanitarian

actions in areas affected by Boko Haram. In April, at the request of senior officials, RRTSC experts deployed to **Nigeria** to conduct a threat assessment in north-eastern areas of the country where explosive hazards are hampering population movements and the return of IDPs. In November, the Humanitarian Coordinator in **Burkina Faso** requested UNMAS to deploy the RRTSC to conduct an assessment of explosive hazards, also resulting from the Boko Haram insurgency in the north of that country. Recommendations on how to reduce the risks posed, including though educating local communities, will be implemented in 2018, pending allocation of adequate resources.

In support of UNMAS programmes, RRTSC experts also deployed to **Afghanistan, the State of Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan and the Territory of Western Sahara** to provide expert advice, especially on programme management, operational coordination, and WAM, to support programme delivery and enhance coordination with, and the capacity of, key partners and national authorities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and explosive remnants of war victims within broader responses to injury and disability

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of civilians killed and injured due to landmines and other explosive hazards. In response, UNMAS has expanded its support to victims and their families. The type of intervention varies according to context and need, but UNMAS always employs a rights-based, gender-sensitive approach, coherent with the Secretary-General's priorities and with the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action. As victims of explosive hazards tend to require long-term support, sustainability is key. Therefore, to achieve the United Nations vision that the human rights and needs of victims are met and survivors are fully integrated as equal members of their societies, UNMAS places emphasis on partnerships with civil society and strengthening of national capacity.

In 2017, UNMAS provided and/or supported victim assistance in Afghanistan, Colombia, Darfur, Mali, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria and the Territory of Western Sahara.

In Afghanistan, UNMAS delivered emergency assistance to victims of landmines, ERW, and IEDs including in the immediate aftermath of explosions affecting large numbers of civilians. **In Colombia**, UNMAS has deployed a victim assistance expert to strengthen the coordination between the relevant national governmental and civil society actors. **In the Territory of Western Sahara and Sudan**, UNMAS provided rehabilitation and socio-economic support to victims. Finally, in **Syria**, where half of all medical facilities have been damaged or destroyed during the conflict, UNMAS funded mobile teams to provide at-home training in self-care and to

VICTIM ASSISTANCE IN AFGHANISTAN

On 31 May 2017, a large bomb detonated during the morning rush hour in a busy area of Kabul, killing an estimated 150 people and injuring another 400, mostly civilians. Following the attack, the deadliest since 2001, UNMAS established a team and resources to quickly identify and assess victims and to provide immediate services. To reach the large number of people injured, UNMAS made public announcements through TV, radio, and posters in hospitals, mosques and other public places, encouraging victims to call the dedicated victim assistance hotline to register for help.

In this incident alone, UNMAS provided assistance and relief packages to over 500 families, totalling over 3,700 people. More than 1,100 victims were provided with psycho-social counseling, and around 180 people were assisted with physical therapy. In addition, 32 families were provided with income generation assistance, such as replacement merchandise for a stall destroyed in the blast.

“Your staff assisted us, visited our homes in person and provided us with food. We are thankful for your assistance and for the way you shared our sorrow” said Fátimā*, a mother who lost her son in the incident.

*name changed to protect identity

arrange referrals for victims of explosive incidents with the aim of increasing their self-reliance and providing services to house-bound victims.

Recognizing the growing need for victim assistance in **Libya**, UNMAS, in partnership with Handicap

International and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), convened a two-day strategic planning workshop in July 2017 to explore and consult on the development of a victim assistance strategy for the country. The workshop, a first on victim assistance in



A double amputee in Afghanistan is provided with prostheses after losing both of his hands when a rocket propelled grenade detonated in his yard. He became one of the first Afghans to have electric prostheses. Photo: UNMAS/Forozan Rasooli

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS IN THE TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA

When Maghlaha Mohamed was just a child, she was playing with a friend when she was injured by ERW. The accident left her partially paralyzed and confined to a wheel chair. As a result of an UNMAS socio-economic reintegration project implemented by local partner Asociacion Saharaui De Victimas De Minas, Maghlaha is now owner of a flock of sheep, from which she and her family of eight can earn a living.

Libya, was attended by government officials as well as representatives of Member States and national and international implementing partners. Presentations by survivors highlighted an urgent need for the coordination of referral and medical services. The workshop provided

the first opportunity for communication and networking and some initial mapping of actors and responsibilities. As a result, the Libyan Mine Action Centre has committed to facilitating the development of a Libyan-owned strategy for victim assistance.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:

The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased.

Reflective of the principles of partnership and capacity development laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reiterated by the Secretary-General in his vision for the Organization, UNMAS is committed to building national and local capacity across all its programmes; long-term sustainability and national ownership are UNMAS ultimate goals.

In 2017, UNMAS worked in partnership with a range of national and local actors to strengthen

mine action capacity in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Somalia and the Territory of Western Sahara.

The impact of UNMAS efforts is reflected in increased attention to the instruments of international humanitarian law relating to mine action, including the development of implementation strategies, by national and local authorities in countries where UNMAS is present.



UNMAS supports capacity building efforts of the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination (SMACO). Photo: SMACO

UNMAS BUILDS CAPACITY OF LIBYAN MILITARY ENGINEERS IN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

“Learning about standard precautions and safety rules is really important – when I started work, I had no idea about them,” said Hamid*, one of the participants in an UNMAS training course for Libyan EOD operators. The month-long exercise provided students with advanced knowledge of conventional munition disposal techniques, tailored to the Libyan context. The syllabus also included emergency medical trauma care, to ensure clearance teams are equipped to respond to life-threatening injuries that may occur in the line of duty. As a part of the initiative, trainees were provided with EOD kits and trauma response equipment.

*name changed to protect identity

On the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance, the Vice-President of **Sudan** delivered a statement in support of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). In August, **Afghanistan** acceded to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its five optional protocols. UNMAS supported **the State of Palestine** to accede to humanitarian disarmament treaties and continued to assist the Palestinian authority to meet its international obligations. In that regard, a presidential decree has been issued prohibiting the use or management of explosives and in December, the State of Palestine became the 164th State Party to the APMBC.

DEVELOPING CIVILIAN CAPACITY IN COLOMBIA

With financial and technical support from UNMAS, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) deployed its first survey and clearance teams in the highly-impacted municipality of Algeciras, located in the department of Huila. By the end of the year CCCM had completed surveys in 32 per cent of the communities in Algeciras, identifying 38 areas which pose a danger to the civilian population. These have been marked, and risk education has been provided to affected communities. The successful deployment of CCCM teams is the result of several years of investment by UNMAS, supporting the Government's goal of increasing Colombia's capacity for humanitarian demining through the establishment of civilian organizations to complement the existing military capacity.



UNMAS provides explosive threat mitigation training to African Union peacekeepers. Photo: UNMAS/Adam Newsome

In **Colombia, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, Sudan** and the **Territory of Western Sahara**, UNMAS provided expertise to increase the capacity of ministries and other national or local authorities to coordinate mine action. This included training and mentoring in strategic planning, operational planning, information management, quality assurance and resource mobilisation for national mine action centres. In **Afghanistan**, where UNMAS has been supporting the development of national capacity for over 15 years, an external

MINE ACTION FOR PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN MALI

In response to the steady intensification in criminal activity, armed violence, inter- and intra-community conflict and youth recruitment for violent extremist groups in Mali, UNMAS initiated a Mine Action for Preventing Violent Extremism project, which integrates stabilization programming, community violence reduction principles and mine action.

The UNMAS project focuses on strengthening community resilience and creating opportunities for livelihood development, with the aim to reduce the vulnerability of marginalized groups most often targeted by insurgent groups. Community committees received training and mentoring in preventing violent extremism in explosive hazard and small arms and light weapons risk education, conflict mitigation, community violence reduction and psychosocial support. Equipped with new skills committee members are able to develop conflict mitigation plans to address factors favouring violent extremism in their own communities.

assessment of the DMAC concluded that it was capable to independently sustain the management of the mine action programme, enabling the transfer of more than 100 UNMAS staff previously assisting the DMAC under UNMAS direction, to the management control of the DMAC.

In **Somalia**, UNMAS provided specialized training and mentoring to establish and enhance Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units within the national police forces, thereby developing a national capacity and supporting the extension of State authority in these countries. In Iraq, UNMAS enhanced existing

mine action capacities by providing EOD, IED and explosive hazard first responder training to local police in Al-Anbar governorate.

In August 2017, the **Government of Libya** approved National Mine Action Standards for Libya, which were drafted with UNMAS assistance. In the **Territory of Western Sahara**, UNMAS and the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Organization (SMACO) worked together to develop local mine action standards and develop the capacity of the SMACO to coordinate and manage mine action in the area east of the berm that divides the territory.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR:

Mine Action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation

PROMOTING AND MAINSTREAMING MINE ACTION

Through a wide range of media tools, including websites and social media channels, UNMAS on behalf of those without a voice, drew global public attention to the impact of mines, ERW and IEDs, as well as to the contribution that mine action makes to the Secretary-General's priorities for sustaining peace, delivering humanitarian assistance, and facilitating sustainable development. UNMAS increased its digital outreach audience, as evidenced by a notable rise in the number of visits to the UN Mine Action Gateway website, administered by UNMAS. Posts on the UNMAS Facebook page

(@United Nations Mine Action Service) were seen by more than 2.6 million people, tweets shared on UNMAS Twitter account (@UNMAS) reached more than 1.5 million people, and UNMAS Instagram account (@un_mineaction) continued to garner an increasing number of followers. Notably, Omaze campaign videos featuring UN Global Advocate Daniel Craig and Aston Martin, which were shared to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, gathered over 8.8 million aggregate views.

To further increase the visibility of mine action and its beneficiaries, capitalizing on high-level meetings, such as those of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference of States

UNMAS REACHING OUT TO YOUTH IN INTERNATIONAL GENEVA

“Mine action protects civilians and contributes to peace and stabilization” was the message UNMAS promoted to the public in Geneva throughout the year. In May, as part of the UN’s Perception Change Project, UNMAS informed a group of “Young Reporters of the UN”, aged 14-16, about UNMAS work in Mali in a press conference mock-up, resulting in a radio broadcast and two articles about UNMAS work. In July, UNMAS hosted and mentored ten students of the UN Office in Geneva’s Graduate Study Programme who carried out a research project on preventing violent extremism in Malian youth. Finally, at the UN Open Day in Geneva in October, UNMAS contributed to the “Disarmament 2030” information hub, providing a reproduction of a minefield and a display of model IEDs; over 14,000 visitors learned about the dangers of explosive hazards and the role of UNMAS in disarmament and humanitarian response.

Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNMAS organized a range of briefings to Member States and civil society to gather support of international humanitarian law and the rights of persons with disabilities. In the margins of the intersessional meeting of the APMBC, for example, UNMAS and the Permanent Representative of Italy organised a panel discussion on victim assistance where panellists from Handicap International, International Committee of the Red Cross and UNMAS representatives from Afghanistan discussed trends in victim assistance policies and programmes, how to ensure their effective implementation, and their importance

both in humanitarian mine action and sustainable development. This and other initiatives serve to call attention to the needs and rights of survivors and communities endangered by landmines and explosive remnants of war and garner political and financial support for mine action.

INTEGRATION IN MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS

On 30 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2365. This first stand-alone resolution on mine action affirms the importance of mine action in peace and security as well as



Demining demonstration raises awareness of UNMAS work in the United Nations Office at Geneva. Photo: UNMAS Geneva

UNMAS DEEPENS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFRICAN UNION (AU)

UNMAS and the AU continued to work together on technical assessments to several affected Member States and on the development of a safety handbook for landmines, ERW, and IEDs. In June, strengthening and formalizing this effective partnership, the AU Commission and UNMAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration in mine action. The agreement provides increased opportunity to work more closely with the AU, its Member States and its peace support operations in addressing the threat posed by explosive hazards, including improvised explosive devices.

humanitarian emergencies and socio-economic development, and acknowledges the contribution of mine action to peace sustainment and stabilization.

On 7 December, the General Assembly adopted its biennial resolution on “Assistance in mine action”. Member States emphasized the benefits of mainstreaming and integrating mine action into humanitarian response planning, peace and ceasefire agreements and sustainable development initiatives.

At the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the Economic and Social Council, UNMAS promoted the need for mine action in the context of protection and humanitarian planning and programming. UNMAS also contributed to the development of the UNHCR Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework action plan, ensuring that the plan includes humanitarian mine action response in the earliest stages of planning and programming assistance for voluntary refugee returns.

On behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS advocated for universalisation of, and adherence to, international

humanitarian and human rights law relating to mine action at the Meeting of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

NATIONAL PLANS AND LEGISLATION

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNMAS assisted in the development of a new National Action Plan for Mine Action to support the country meeting its APMBC obligations, including clearing all known landmine contamination by 2021.

Similarly, in **South Sudan** UNMAS worked with national authorities to develop the National Mine Action Strategy 2018 – 2021. In **Colombia**, including through UNMAS assistance, mine action was incorporated into the National Development Plan and integrated into other national priority programmes on land restitution and the substitution of illicit crops to ensure the risks and constraints posed by explosive hazard are addressed. Furthermore, as a result of UNMAS advocacy efforts, mine action was included in the Humanitarian Response Plans for **Afghanistan, Libya, South Sudan and Syria** as well as the United Nations Development Plans for **Mali, Nigeria and Sudan**.

UNMAS SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLOMBIAN PEACE ACCORD

In Colombia, UNMAS has supported the government in the implementation of the mine action aspects of the 2016 peace accord between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). Specifically, the accord stipulates that ex-combatants are trained as deminers as part of their socio-economic reintegration and share information on the location of mines laid during the conflict as part of victim reparations. The restitution of land through demining also constitutes a key component of efforts to stimulate post-conflict rural development and build conditions for a sustainable peace. Primarily, UNMAS has supported the Government and former FARC-EP members on plans to reintegrate ex-combatants through humanitarian demining, including through the establishment of a humanitarian demining organization made up of ex-combatants.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DONOR RELATIONS

The success of UNMAS depends on the continued commitment of Member States raising their collective voice to keep mine action at the top of the international agenda when advancing peace, protecting civilians in conflict, deploying emergency humanitarian assistance and implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. To meet the increasing demands of the international community to conduct clearance, carry out surveys, provide risk education and victim assistance, and to advance advocacy and effective coordination, UNMAS requires sustained multi-year and unearmarked financial and in-kind contributions from Member States.

In 2017, US\$ 100 million was donated to UNMAS through the UN VTF. This is the third consecutive

year that the fund has achieved growth, underscoring the trust that the donors have placed in UNMAS and the UN VTF. In addition to contributions from donor governments, at the country level, several UNMAS programmes also received direct support for the implementation of emergency response activities from both global and country-based pooled funds.

The shift from predictable, sustainable, flexible and multi-year funding to earmarked contributions continues to impact the ability of UNMAS to deliver all aspects of its mandate, to respond to the requests of Member States and United Nations senior management and to backstop its programmes in headquarters. To reverse this trend and strengthen its fundraising and



A risk education theatre performance for children in Gaza organized by UNMAS. Photo: UNMAS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNMAS IN 2017 (FIGURES IN USD)							
Donor	Afghanistan	Colombia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	State of Palestine	Iraq	Libya	Mali
Andorra							
Australia	311,057	303,470					
Austria						533,950	
Belgium	120,510						
Benin							
Canada	6,008,726						
Czech Republic					225,530		
Denmark					4,936,310		
OMEGA/EON Productions							
Estonia					40,000		
EU					2,113,560		
Finland	553,718				536,500		
France						508,974	
Germany		596,750			46,294,010		
Italy					592,250	554,100	
Japan	2,000,000		450,000	905,650	4,347,100		455,000
Republic of Korea			125,000 ³	125,000 ³			
Liechtenstein							
Luxembourg					558,900		
Netherlands							
New Zealand	500,000						
Omaze Campaign							
Poland				49,364			
Portugal					176,430		
Sudan Humanitarian Fund							
Spain						12,041 ³	
Sweden							
Switzerland		203,004		50,000		93,211	
United Kingdom					10,700,050	599,503	
UNA Sweden			70,306				
United States of America							
OCHA / CERF						297,570	133,868
Grand Total	9,494,011	1,103,225	645,306	1,130,014	70,520,640	2,599,349	588,868

Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Syria	Territory of Western Sahara	IED Threat Mitigation (HQ)	Unearmarked Funding	Gratis Personnel ¹
						16,711	
						227,603	
							✓
			137,665				
						2,389,258	✓
						45,575	
			20,000				
							✓
			177,645	2,005,846			
906,000	906,000	906,000	905,650			93,990	✓
					50,000 ³		
						24,796	
						4,639,100	✓
						1,062,450	
						1,104,778	
						49,364	
		247,200					
				54,185 ³			
							✓
							✓
		375,048 ²					✓
			1,200,000				
906,000	906,000	1,528,248	2,440,960	2,060,031	50,000	9,653,625	

¹ Includes Junior Professional Officers and in-kind personnel. ² USAID. ³ Income credited in January 2018.

PROGRAMME/ACTIVITY	2017 EXPENDITURE*
UNMAS Global Operation	4,144,991
Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity	467,449
Afghanistan	8,941,116
Colombia	3,710,630
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	450,000
Iraq	43,720,242
Libya	1,705,532
Mali	455,000
The State of Palestine	1,233,827
Somalia	906,000
South Sudan	932,623
Sudan	1,709,369
Syria	1,483,295
The Territory of Western Sahara	50,449
Total	69,910,523

* Data provided above is provisional. Accrued expenses as required under IPSAS reporting are not included. These expenses will be reflected in the UN audited financial statements which will be available in the coming months.

donor management processes, in August 2017 UNMAS launched a new resource mobilisation strategy. The strategy aims to strengthen and rebalance sustainable core funding in line with UNMAS mandated functions and programme requirements. In addition, it guides UNMAS work towards deepened partnerships with both current and emerging donors and towards a broadened resource base through new and innovative funding streams.

Reflecting the Secretary-General's reform agenda, UNMAS is committed to transparency and accountability. Benefiting from the implementation of Umoja throughout the Secretariat and the business Intelligence it provides, UNMAS is participating in the development and roll-out of a Secretariat Programmatic and Donor Reporting dashboard that will enable donors to track and monitor in real-time how their voluntary contributions to various UN entities, including UNMAS, are being used to benefit the citizens of the world.

Furthermore, UNMAS has embraced the Secretary-General's call to pursue innovative financing to support its global activities. As well as the Global Advocate/Aston Martin/Omaze fundraising campaign described on page 9, UNMAS also benefited from the auction of a number of limited-edition Omega watches in collaboration with Christie's auction house and Eon Productions, and received funds from civil society through the grassroots fundraising efforts of the United Nations Association - Sweden.

UNMAS recognizes the need to diversify its donor base and will continue to seek support from non-traditional funding sources. Through a fiduciary agreement with the UN Foundation, UNMAS can accept tax-deductible contributions (within the United States), positioning itself to explore new opportunities for private fundraising in the future.

To learn more about how you or your organisation can support UNMAS, visit www.unmas.org/donate.



UNMAS 2017 SNAP SHOT

17 PROGRAMMES
around the world



35 UNMAS
STAFF in
UNHQ &
Geneva
(74% FEMALE)

237 INTERNATIONAL STAFF
(28% FEMALE)

271 NATIONAL STAFF
(20% FEMALE)

+ 2,946 NATIONAL STAFF EMPLOYED
THROUGH UNMAS FUNDING

Aggregates



DESTROYED

- ▶ **117,067** explosive remnants of war
- ▶ **1,881** landmines
- ▶ **972** IEDs



CLEARED

- ▶ **98 sq km** land = **9,670** football pitches
- ▶ **8,800 km** roads = Kabul to Cape Town



WEAPONS & AMMUNITION STORAGE CONSTRUCTED

- ▶ **23**



RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED

- ▶ Over **2,018,000** people impacted by explosive hazards
Women 352,000 • Girls 541,000 • Men 445,000 • Boys 680,000



VICTIMS ASSISTED

- ▶ Over **5,800**



TRAINED

- ▶ Over **3,900** healthcare workers, police, teachers, military personnel



RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

- ▶ Cameroon, Haiti, Niger, Nigeria

The UNMAS Annual Report 2017
describes the organization's activities and
achievements resulting from contributions to the
United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for
Assistance in Mine Action.

Please see reverse for an overview of
UNMAS work in United Nations peacekeeping and
special political missions in 2017.



To learn more, download the
UNMAS Landmine + ERW Safety app
and visit us online at:



unmas.org



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[un_mineaction](https://www.instagram.com/un_mineaction)



[UNMAS United Nations](https://www.youtube.com/UNMASUnitedNations)

Cover photo:
An UNMAS-funded Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM)
deminer trains for clearance operations in Colombia.
Photo: CCCM



UNMAS

IN PEACE OPERATIONS 2017



CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	2
MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS	3
UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO)	4
UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)	4
UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)	4
UNITED NATIONS STABILIZATION MISSION IN HAITI (MINUSTAH)	5
UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (MONUSCO)	5
UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)	5
AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)	5
UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP)	6
UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)	6
UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA)	6
UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)	6
UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (UNOCI)	7
UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)	7
UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT OFFICE IN SOMALIA (UNSOS) ¹ AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM)	7

* Information provided in alphabetical order of mission acronym.

ACRONYMS

AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DFS	Department of Field Support
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
IED	Improvised explosive device
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
PoC	Protection of civilians
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Every day, peace operations create conditions for lasting peace. Mine action has proven to be vital at all stages of the mission cycle. In the planning stage, the United Nations Mine Action Service advises on how to protect civilians and peacekeeping personnel from the threat of explosive hazards. As missions close, UNMAS ensures explosive hazards do not become a legacy.

Throughout mandate delivery, UNMAS enables mobility, builds capacity and helps to advance mandate implementation. In 2017, UNMAS was an integrated component of 13 peacekeeping and special political missions.

UNMAS not only enables freedom of movement and delivery of mission mandates – it also saves the lives of peacekeepers. In Mali, the number of improvised explosive device incidents has doubled since 2013. Thanks to UNMAS investment in mentoring, training and equipping troops in explosive hazard threat mitigation, the first half of 2017 witnessed a 45 per cent decrease in the number of MINUSMA casualties, compared to the same period in 2016.

Mine action is also a critical factor in sustaining peace acting as a confidence building measure and delivering rapid and tangible peace dividends. We witness this in Colombia, where ex-combatants will be trained as deminers as part of their reintegration and where cleared land will enable post-conflict rural development, building conditions for a sustainable peace.

To meet the ever-increasing challenges and evolving threats faced in the field, we look to specialized entities such as UNMAS to ensure that we are fit for purpose to implement complex mandates in high risk situations.

We rely on UNMAS for its innovation, expertise and efficiency and commend it for its service as a reliable, professional partner for peace.



UN Photo

Jeffrey Feltman,
Under-Secretary-General
for Political Affairs



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Jean-Pierre Lacroix,
Under-Secretary-General
for Peacekeeping Operations

UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO)

Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2351 (2017), UNMAS continued to play a critical role in facilitating MINURSO's efforts to monitor the ceasefire along the eastern side of the 1,600 kilometre berm dividing the Territory of Western Sahara. By checking patrol and logistical supply routes for explosive hazards, surveying and clearing areas contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), and providing mine/ERW safety training, UNMAS reduced the risks posed to MINURSO civilian and military personnel. UNMAS also strengthened local mine action capacity by providing advice and technical assistance to the Saharawi Mine Action Coordination Office in the areas of coordination, support services, programming, and the Information Management System for Mine Action.

UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2301 (2016), UNMAS contributed to the implementation of MINUSCA's protection of civilians mandate through ERW and small arms and light weapons risk education activities and by conducting explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). UNMAS destruction of collected weapons and ammunition was carried out within the framework, and in support of the national Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation programme. In addition, UNMAS rehabilitated and constructed weapons storage facilities and provided weapons and ammunition management training to the country's security forces, contributing to strengthened State authority across the country.

UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2364 (2017), UNMAS contributed to stabilization efforts by mitigating the threat posed by explosive hazards to civilians, national security forces and peacekeepers. UNMAS advised, trained and mentored peacekeeping troops as well as the Malian Defence and Security Forces on how to operate in an asymmetric threat environment, enhancing freedom of movement and facilitating the implementation of the mandate. In June 2017, Malian forces completed the first explosive Search and Detect Course, provided by UNMAS to enable participants to identify vulnerable situations and to plan and execute improvised explosive device (IED) search and detection operations. In addition, by training Malian security forces in safe and secure weapons and ammunition storage and inspections, UNMAS reduced the risk of accidental explosions and diversion of stockpiles while strengthening national capacity. UNMAS also built the capacity of Malian mine action actors through training in risk education and non-technical survey, thereby contributing to increased protection of civilians.

UNITED NATIONS STABILIZATION MISSION IN HAITI (MINUSTAH)

At the request of MINUSTAH and in advance of the closure of the mission in October 2017 pursuant to UNSCR 2350 (2017), UNMAS supported the liquidation process by destroying expired and unserviceable ammunition of repatriating military and police units and carrying out clearance of a site which had been used for ammunition demolitions during the lifetime of the Mission. These activities were essential for handing safe land back to the Government of Haiti and ensuring the civilian population is protected from explosive hazards. Lessons learned during the project have informed Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support liquidation manuals and camp closure procedures for all missions.

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (MONUSCO)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2348 (2017), UNMAS contributed to the protection of civilians through EOD operations and the destruction of explosive hazards before and after Force Intervention Brigade operations against armed groups. These activities facilitated freedom of movement for MONUSCO and humanitarian personnel, thereby enabling stabilization as well as aid delivery. UNMAS further contributed to Security Sector Reform efforts by assisting national security institutions with weapons and ammunition management, providing the Congolese National Police with storage facilities and training for safely managing their weapons and ammunition.

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2367 (2017), UNMAS supported stabilization efforts as well as humanitarian activities undertaken by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, facilitating the return of displaced people to areas previously occupied by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. UNMAS implemented risk education activities and provided technical advice and training support to enhance the capacity of Government entities to manage, regulate and coordinate the response to the threat of explosive hazards.

AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2363 (2017), UNMAS provided clearance of reported ERW, surveying priority areas including for communities of return, and supporting ERW victims. UNMAS also provided advisory and institutional support on mine action and ERW clearance to the National Mine Action Centre with a view to transferring responsibility for mine action to local authorities in areas where the Mission had withdrawn. This year, the Foro Baranga and Kereinik localities of West Darfur were declared free of known ERW, leading to increased socio-economic activity in the region. Furthermore, UNMAS confirmed eleven UNAMID sites were free of explosive ordnance prior to the sites being handed over to the Government of Sudan.

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2369 (2017), UNMAS mitigated the threat posed by landmines and ERW to local communities and peacekeepers by conducting mine action planning and coordination, undertaking demining activities, training UNFICYP personnel in risk awareness, and conducting quality assurance of UNFICYP-funded mine action activities. Through these actions, UNMAS ensured freedom of movement for UNFICYP and helped achieve its objective to “contribute to a return to normal conditions” in Cyprus. As a confidence building measure between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, UNMAS cleared priority minefields agreed by the leaders of both sides and enabled the reconciliation activities of the Committee on Missing Persons by providing training on explosive hazard identification, technical advice on mined areas, and assistance in metal detection to increase their safety and searching efficiency at field sites.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2373 (2017), UNMAS provided quality assurance monitoring and training of UNIFIL demining teams, resulting in safe and efficient demining operations in compliance with International Mine Action Standards. Mine risk education activities conducted in close coordination with UNIFIL and in support of the Lebanon Mine Action Center served to promote safe behaviour amongst local populations in the areas where the presence of landmines and other ERW was known or suspected.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2386 (2017), UNMAS contributed to freedom of movement for UNISFA troops, humanitarian aid and civilians, through identification and clearance of mines and ERW and provision of risk education in the Abyei Administrative Area. Through deployment of Patrol Support Teams, UNMAS also ensured the freedom of movement of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, clearing mines and ERW in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone, once UNISFA operations commenced in this area. In addition, UNMAS destroyed weapons and ammunition confiscated by UNISFA in support of the “weapons-free Abyei” initiative.

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2327 (2016), UNMAS surveyed and cleared mines and ERW in and around UNMISS protection of civilians (PoC) sites, as well as in areas designated for returnee resettlement and other locations used by civilians including schools, water points, and markets. Risk education campaigns raised awareness of the dangers posed by explosive hazards, and UNMAS enabled the delivery of life-saving aid through the clearance of roads as well as helicopter landing and food-drop sites. Furthermore, UNMAS bolstered entry control and security measures at UNMISS bases, UN aviation terminals, and PoC sites by providing explosives detection dogs and handlers.

UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (UNOCI)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2284 (2016) and ahead of the June 2017 liquidation of UNOCI, UNMAS focused efforts on reinforcing the capacity of national defence and security forces to manage explosive threats and ammunition depots independently through training and mentoring. Following UNOCI troop departures, UNMAS systematically checked mission camps for explosive hazards to ensure the mission did not leave items behind that could injure or kill civilians.

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2376 (2017), UNMAS supported UNSMIL in securing uncontrolled arms and related materiel to counter weapons proliferation in Libya. UNMAS also assisted the Libyan authorities on institution building for weapons and ammunition management, arms control, and humanitarian mine action. UNMAS assistance included resource mobilization, training on EOD and medical response, risk education, and coordination of the international mine action response resulting in increased and improved safety of operations, and, in turn, better protection of an increased number of civilians from explosive hazards. UNMAS also supported the Libyan Mine Action Centre with the coordination of humanitarian mine action organizations operating in Libya. Activities are currently conducted remotely from Tunisia, with periodic visits to Libya.

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT OFFICE IN SOMALIA (UNSO) AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2358 (2017) and 2385 (2017), UNMAS supported the work of UNSOM through the establishment of a functional and accountable Somali Explosive Management Authority, the development of a national police explosive threat mitigation capacity, and the formation of a comprehensive weapons and ammunition management system in line with sanctions obligations.

Pursuant to UNSCR 2372 (2017), UNMAS facilitated the work of UNSOS by providing explosive threat mitigation support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as part of the non-lethal support package provided by the United Nations. The support package includes analysis, training, specialized equipment, explosives detection dogs and community liaison officers, to enable AMISOM planning and mobility of operations. The explosive threat mitigation capability enables AMISOM to protect its personnel and assets, and to remain mobile despite the threat of IEDs.

Overview of UNMAS work
in United Nations peacekeeping and
special political missions in 2017.

Please see reverse
for UNMAS Annual Report 2017.



To learn more, download the
UNMAS Landmine + ERW Safety app
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[UNMAS United Nations](https://www.youtube.com/UNMASUnitedNations)

Cover photo:
Tesfa and his mine detection dog take a break
during route clearance in South Sudan.
Photo: UNMAS/Martine Perret