

## High Standard of Clearance Operations: Safety Restored in Makhmour

UNMAS Iraq led a partnership between International NGO, Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD), and National NGO, Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO), in Makhmour. The two partners worked together to transfer knowledge and experience to national teams and to help communities affected by the explosive remnants of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) war in Makhmour.



*Farmers plowing their field, Makhmour, November 2024*

Nearly one year after the completion of the clearance operations, the UNMAS Iraq teams conducted a Post Activity Impact Assessment (PAIA). In November 2024, the teams visited the sites and met with residents in 40 hazardous areas whose lives have been directly impacted by the clearance operations conducted in 2023. They shared powerful stories that affirmed how EO clearance has created a profound and lasting difference and opportunities in this community.

Residents can now live without fear of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and send their children to school with relieved hearts, knowing they will return safely. *“Our children walk to school without fear; they come home safely. This is a blessing beyond words”* said one of beneficiaries. The UNMAS Iraq team could see first-hand that households who had lost their homes during the liberation operations can now rebuild, restoring their hope for the future.

Cleared agricultural lands have allowed farmers to return to their fields, rebuilding their lives and providing for their families. *“We can now farm our lands again, ensuring our families have food and a livelihood.”*

The residents' words paint a vivid picture of the transformation made possible by the clearance work of UNMAS Iraq in cooperation with FSD and SHO, who are proud that no single incident of explosive remnants of war has been reported in the cleared areas, confirming the high standards of the clearance operations.



*Interview with a Beneficiary of Explosive Ordnance Clearance, Makhmour, November 2024*