



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

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**October 2019**

**IRAQ**

## Programme Highlights

### UNMAS Personnel Participate in the ‘Inspiring Women Leaders’ Course



As part of its efforts to mainstream gender across all of its activities, UNMAS Iraqi staff recently participated in the “Inspiring Women Leaders” course at the Geneva Center for Security Policy in Switzerland.

Sumer, Ayat, Shahad and Noor provided their insight on women in mine action, sharing their experiences on working in a predominately male-oriented field. In return, they were able to learn new methods of enhancing their self-perception, tools of effective leadership, networking strategies, and how to formulate a personal development plan.

Photo: Sumer, Ayat, Shahad and Noor with the other participants of the course (© UNMAS).

UNMAS in Iraq is committed to promoting gender parity and equal opportunities across all of its activities and in the overall mine action sector, and has taken numerous steps to develop and maintain an inclusive working environment.

### JCMC Delegation Visit UNMAS Clearance Activities in West Mosul

UNMAS recently hosted a delegation from the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) led by Mr. Naseer Al Zubaidy, Executive Director of JCMC, for a field visit to West Mosul. The programme included briefings at several locations previously cleared by UNMAS, including Al Shifa Hospital and Danedan Water Treatment Plant.



Photo: UNMAS Iraq Programme Manager briefing the JCMC delegation in West Mosul (© UNMAS).

The visit provided an opportunity to highlight the on-the-ground challenges and achievements of UNMAS clearance activities to the visitors, enabling them to see first-hand the vast improvements yielded so far in explosive hazard management (EHM) since the city’s liberation from Da’esh. The visit also provided a unique opportunity for close coordination at operational sites. Clearance activities in affected neighborhoods will go a long way in enabling the safe return of internally displaced persons back to their areas of origin, to begin to restart their normal lives.

As part of its directive to provide technical support to the Government of Iraq, UNMAS also works with JCMC to offer trainings and workshops to government employees on EHM-related matters. Recently, both entities concluded a workshop for local government stakeholders in Babel, Iraq.



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2019, UNMAS secured USD 18.1 million in funds. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for survey and clearance, risk education and capacity enhancement of government entities, and also to support the Recovery and Resilience Programme and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

## UNMAS Implementing Partner Launches the 'Risk Education Road Show'



Photo: A risk education instructor is delivering a risk education session to three young men he met on the road (© IHSCO).

UNMAS implementing partner, IHSCO, has recently launched a new initiative to deliver life-saving messages to affected communities: the 'Risk Education Road Show'. In Baiji, a city that suffers from heavy contamination and massive destruction, a scooter travels across neighbourhoods and surrounding villages to raise awareness on the dangers posed by explosive hazards.

More specifically, the motorcyclist, who is also a risk education instructor, drives with a loudspeaker broadcasting life-saving messages and stops at strategic locations to distribute risk education materials to all pedestrians along with a short awareness-raising session.

Ahmed, Abdul and Mudher, three young men from the area were particularly interested in hearing more about those messages. They explained to the risk education instructor that what they just learnt helped them to better understand the risks they are exposed to if they come across a suspicious item and they will now adopt a safer behaviour. They were willing to spread the messages further and encouraged this initiative. *"This Road Show is very effective to reach people living in rural areas."* said Ahmed.

# Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

## UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in October 2019

817,168 m<sup>2</sup> of high priority areas surveyed, 47,261 m<sup>2</sup> cleared, and 20 explosive hazard items removed.

114 assessments and surveys completed in support of stabilization and humanitarian efforts.

1,418 risk education sessions delivered to 25,736 beneficiaries of which 12% were female and 79% were children.



\*Figures for the Mine Action sector are provided by the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA). Statistics obtained from the Government databases might not fully reflect the up-to-date numbers as reports are submitted on a rolling basis. For these reasons, the figures reported have to be considered as the absolute minimum and only reflect the achievements of humanitarian actors (not the Iraqi Security Forces)



Established in 1997, the **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating United Nations mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service of the United Nations located within the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated official. UN Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) the first stand-alone text on mine action, *"Expresses grave concern over the threat that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to civilians, refugees returning to their homes, ...and stresses the need to undertake appropriate measures to mitigate this danger effectively."*