



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

UNMAS Celebrates Mine Action Day in Iraq

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Iraq, and with more people vaccinated and aware of protective measures to stay safe, UNMAS was able to organize an event to commemorate the 4th April (International Mine Awareness Day) with the Directorate of Mine Action. Social distancing and other preventative measures were maintained. Events like these are important to highlight not only the importance of mine action, but also for the members of the sector to be made available and approachable for media in one location as well as from guests from other humanitarian, diplomatic and commercial stakeholders.



Photo: UNMAS Iraq virtual reality goggles, often used by EORE team as means of disseminating key life-saving messages to vulnerable communities. (@UNMAS)

Mine Action Awareness day sheds light on the importance of advocating for this field of work that not only actively saves lives, but also enable all forms of rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery of livelihoods in those parts of the country that were heavily impacted by the latest conflict and Dae'sh occupation, giving a new hope and a chance for affected communities and people to start over and rebuild their lives safely.

UNMAS co-hosted the event with DMA and showcased innovative techniques and equipment used by the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) team that are actively spreading the word on how to stay safe when living near an affected area. The Virtual Reality goggles put the wearer in a life-like scenario where they see and identify explosive ordnance and hopefully will be able to recognize them if they encounter them in real life.

UNMAS New Partnership Model Provides Opportunity for Increased National Ownership

It has been more than three years since the Government of Iraq declared victory over the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), yet their presence lingers through the thousands of explosive ordnance left behind, particularly improvised explosive devices intended to have a destabilizing effect by causing civilian casualties in residential and urban areas after ISIL withdrawal.



Photo: UNMAS supervises the implementation of the partnership model between HI and BMCO. (@UNMAS)

Since 2020, UNMAS has adapted its strategy to ensure optimum and sustainable support to the Government of Iraq, particularly through the focus of its assistance to sustainable national capacity inclusive of national authorities and national



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. For 2021/2022 programmatic activities, UNMAS secured USD XX,X million in funds. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional resources to respond to the needs for technical support to government entities, explosive ordnance risk education, and explosive hazard management including survey and clearance, as well as to support the Recovery and Resilience Programme and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

operators. As part of this strategy, UNMAS rolled out a new partnership model bringing together international mine action organizations with local NGOs, paving the way for national ownership of the mine action response in Iraq.

Talented Iraqi women and men are prioritized for recruitment following intensive technical training to qualify as certified operators. The outcome has proved vastly successful, resulting in an increase in community trust as well as enhancement in the individual and familial standard-of-living amongst national staff.



Photo: BMCO teams conduct surveys in the field. (©UNMAS)

UNMAS Senior Programme Manager Wishes Iraqis a Blessed Holy Month of Ramadan

Every year, Ramadan serves a stark reminder on the key importance of serving vulnerable and underprivileged communities. For UNMAS, it is especially critical to commemorate the month and those serving in the mine action sector for the test of endurance that it poses, particularly while fasting in stifling heat, conducting dangerous work in unforgiving terrains. This all epitomizes the core spirit of Ramadan, and the courage of the brave female and male deminers alike.

This year, the UNMAS Iraq Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar, sent a personal message to Iraqis on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. You can watch Pehr's video [here](#).



Pehr Lodhammar wishes Iraqis a joyous Ramadan.

UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in Mine Action: April - June 2021

729,610 m² cleared, and 1,243 explosive ordnance items removed.

144 Iraqis (31 Female/113 Male) trained on Gender Mainstreaming, Strategic Planning, Quality Management, Results Based Management, EORE, EHFR, EOD/IED Disposal, and EORE.

2,610 risk education sessions delivered to 24,297 beneficiaries of which 48% were female and 69% 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.”*