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.

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.

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.

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.

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).