



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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3rd Quarter 2021

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Residential Area Clearance Paves Way for Safe Return of IDPs in Sinjar



UNMAS Iraq implementing partner assesses residential task in preparation of clearance. (©GCS)

Built-in 1650, the Saray market in Sinjar bears historic architecture that displays the character and culture of the ancient city. Clearance of this site will have a psychological impact on the people of the city as it is representative of the history and civilization of Sinjar and its people.

All the native residents of the area are displaced, with most residing in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. The heavily contaminated residential and commercial areas are halting the voluntary and safe return of the people from the camps. The urgency to clear and render safe the residential areas is now more manifest, and will facilitate the conditions needed for the durable return of IDPs to their homes.

Currently, UNMAS Iraq is working with an all-Iraqi team to clear the residential areas, with most hailing from Sinjar itself. The localisation of the mine action response ensures local ownership while simultaneously enhancing community trust in the humanitarian and development sector. Hiring and training community members provides much-needed employment opportunities to unemployed youth, reinvigorating local economy.

UNMAS Iraq Supports Prospective Returnees with Life-Saving Messages

On the request of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and under its mandate to facilitate the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their areas of origin, UNMAS recently conducted explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions for close to 300 IDP households at the Al-Jada'a Camp. These sessions seek to assist targeted IDPs to identify suspicious items and respond with safe behaviors prior to their voluntary return home.

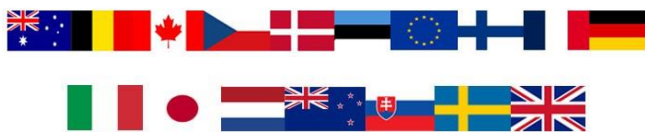
Four years after victory was formally declared against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and even as Iraq transitions out of the emergency phase, the heavy presence of explosive ordnance continues to threaten the lives of innocent civilians across retaken areas in Iraq. This poses an immense



UNMAS Iraq implementing partner are providing EORE session for camp inhabitants. (©Shareteah Humanitarian Organization)



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. For the year of 2022, there remains a shortfall of USD 12 million. 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 Humanitarian Response Plan and the UN Strategic Development Cooperation Framework.



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threat against the tentative stability established post-conflict, thus spreading fear and mistrust across affected communities.

EORE sessions ensure that vulnerable communities are provided with life-saving, risk education messages in tandem with clearance, as the country works with the UN and other mine action entities to coordinate an effective and sustainable response to the threat posed in country.

UNMAS Concludes Study of the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women in Mine Action



UNMAS Iraq recently conducted a baseline study of the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women through Mine Action in Mosul, Sinjar, and Tel Afar in the Ninewa Governorate. The study also encompassed towns in the outer districts of Mosul, including Hamdaniya and Tal Kaif.

A total of 176 participants (96 female and 80 male) took part in the study. 41 participants were women working in mine action. Aspects of empowerment were studied through the survey of male and female mine action staff, stakeholders and women’s family and friends.

The study found that family support of women inclusion in mixed-gender teams has increased over the study period from an initial reaction of 34% to 66%. It was also revealed that community acceptance of women employment in mine action was up to 88%, favoring EORE over explosive clearance work. Furthermore, a significant increase in self-perception, confidence, decision making, and economic empowerment were also reported in 93% of the women working in mine action that were surveyed.

UNMAS & Partners’ Achievements in Mine Action: July - September 2021

1,413,432 m² cleared, and 3,389 explosive ordnance items removed.

113 Iraqis (17 Female/96 Male) trained on Gender Mainstreaming, Strategic Planning, Quality Management, Results Based Management, EORE, EHFR, EOD/IED Disposal, and EORE.

3,291 explosive ordnance risk education sessions delivered to 29,736 beneficiaries of which 19% were female and 63% 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.”*