



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

**For more information:**

**Pehr Lodhammar**  
Senior Programme Manager  
UNMAS Iraq  
[lodhammar@un.org](mailto:lodhammar@un.org)

**Paul Heslop**  
Chief of Programme  
UNMAS New York  
[heslop@un.org](mailto:heslop@un.org)



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**March 2020**

**IRAQ**

## Programme Highlights

### Revised Version of Gender in Mine Action Guidelines Published



“Despite the progress made over the past two decades [in mine action], these weapons continue to claim a victim almost every hour of every day. While these weapons may be indiscriminate, the specific threats and impacts vary according to gender, age and other aspects of diversity.”

“It is essential that mine action actors are equipped to apply a gender lens as part of a comprehensive and inclusive approach to planning, implementing and monitoring programmes to ensure protection for all and to ensure that “no one is left behind.”

The 2010 Gender in Mine Action Guidelines have been revised as of 2019 and UNMAS Iraq has translated and published them in Arabic and Kurdish. These will serve as the practical tool, complete with case studies and checklists based on experience from the sector, for mainstreaming gender in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of mine action activities. You can read the updated version here: [https://unmas.org/sites/default/files/ma-guidelines\\_0.pdf](https://unmas.org/sites/default/files/ma-guidelines_0.pdf).

### UNMAS Iraq ‘Safe Home’ Exhibit Displayed at NDM in Geneva

The ‘Safe Home’ exhibit was displayed during the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN) in Geneva. UNMAS asked participants what they think:

“This picture can show how this devoted deminer saves lives; it’s important to see not only the result but also to see how it has been done.”

“No matter how much you are reading from the books, or hearing from statements, seeing a picture or hearing from someone who is doing the action himself is different. We are dealing not only with data, but we are dealing with human beings, with souls.”

“At the end of the day, it’s local solutions with technical advice that will end up with completion and clearance, and allowing people to go home. I find this exhibit sets that up quite well.”



Check out the video [here](#).



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2019 and 2020, UNMAS secured USD 42.4 million in funds. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for survey and clearance, technical support and training to government entities, and risk education, 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.

## Video on UNMAS Mixed-Gender Teams in Sinjar



Check out the video [here](#).

Among the problems afflicting the Yazidi community post-liberation, nothing is more dangerous than the enduring presence of explosive hazards. Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are everywhere; their presence continues to threaten the lives of Yazidis, and impede the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

These remnants of war are a significant obstacle to all rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. No humanitarian projects can begin if critical infrastructure such as hospitals, power plants, schools, bridges, and roads are littered with IEDs - often barely visible to the untrained eye.

UNMAS Iraq coordinated a gender-responsive approach that safeguards and integrates the needs of women, men, boys and girls into explosive hazard management (EHM), by forming the very first mixed team of searchers in Iraq and ensuring partners are trained and responsive to particular gender considerations in EHM. The teams comprise both Yazidi and Muslim women and men from Sinjar itself, highlighting the personal and emotional connection of the work to many of the team members.

Learn more here: <https://unmas.shorthandstories.com/sinjarmixedyaziditeamsEN/index.html>.

## Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

## UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in March 2020

0 m<sup>2</sup> of high priority areas surveyed, 8,057 m<sup>2</sup> cleared, and 22 explosive hazard items removed.

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

789 risk education sessions delivered to 7,588 beneficiaries of which 49% were female and 57% were children.

The above data are a result from the temporary halt in operations, in line with GoI national curfew and health & safety response measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



\*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."*