



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

UNMAS Hosts First Donor Field Visit Since COVID-19 Outbreak

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure the safety of its staff members and the Iraqi population, UNMAS temporarily put media and donor visits on hold for nearly one year. In February 2021, UNMAS coordinated its first donor field visit since the lockdown, a multi-donor mission was conducted to Ninewa Governorate for the Ambassadors of Denmark, France and Germany. The delegation visited Al-Shifa hospital in West Mosul, one of the largest critical infrastructure sites cleared by UNMAS. The hospital was once a command post for militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and has sustained heavy damage during the final days of the conflict. UNMAS has cleared thousands of explosive ordnance and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from the hospital, paving the way for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other actors to rehabilitate. The delegation also visited a clearance site at Tal Kaif village, nearby Mosul city, a prime land for farming and herding/shepherding activities. However, the heavy presence of explosive ordnance left behind by ISIL has curtailed such activities. UNMAS, through its implementing partner Global Clearance Solutions (GCS), is clearing the large open land to make it safely accessible, which will contribute to enhancing the livelihood of nearby communities, as well as improve the local economy. These visits are crucial, assisting the international community in identifying the needs on the ground and to witness first-hand the impact of their support for the safe, sustainable, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced persons (IDP) to their areas of origin.



Photo: Ambassadors of Denmark, France and Germany with the UNMAS Iraq Senior Programme Manager at Tal Kaif clearance site. (©UNMAS).

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in IDP Camps and at Schools

Since March 2020, due to the restrictions adopted by the Government of Iraq to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, it was no longer possible for UNMAS to deliver face-to-face explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions to affected communities living in, or nearby contaminated areas. It was only in January 2021 that UNMAS resumed in-person EORE sessions. UNMAS prioritized the provision of EORE in IDP camps, working with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster in the Amiryat Al-Fallujah IDP camp in Anbar.



UNMAS Iraq implementing partner delivering an EORE session to children at Amiryat Al-Fallujah IDP Camp. (©HI).

In February, 1,377 IDPs including 1,051 children received critical knowledge of what to do should they encounter explosive ordnance when they will return home or settle in a new community. Strict preventative measures were adhered to in order to ensure the safety of beneficiaries and the EORE teams.



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. For 2021/2022 programmatic activities, UNMAS secured USD 27,9 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.

While schools partially reopen, UNMAS used this opportunity to launch an EORE “Training of Trainers” for Iraqi teachers in the northern governorate of Ninewa.

To reduce casualties and encourage safe behavior, teachers who completed this training will disseminate life-saving EORE messages to their students and members of their communities. The training course for teachers was implemented by a national partner, the Health and Social Care Organization in Iraq (IHSCO), with support from the Directorate of Education in Ninewa. By the end of the project, 1,200 female and male teachers from several locations in Ninewa had received and benefitted from the training.



Photo: A teacher delivering explosive ordnance risk education message to school children. (©UNMAS).

UNMAS Resumes its First Responder Training for Mol Local Police

In 2021, UNMAS Iraq resumed its collaboration with the Ministry of Interior’s (Mol) Police Department with the provision of a training course on Explosive Hazard First Responder (EHFR).

The policemen and policewomen hail from different governorates in federal Iraq. They received theoretical and practical training on the identification of explosive ordnance and on the procedures to follow as a first responder to incidents involving explosive ordnance. The Mol greatly welcomed UNMAS collaboration in providing this training that will help save lives and promote safe behavior. Between January and March 2021, 19 police women and seven police men became certified in EHFR.



UNMAS staff train local police officers in EHFR course. (©UNMAS).

UNMAS & Partners’ Achievements in Mine Action: January - March 2021

777,462 m² cleared, and **629** explosive ordnance items removed.

194 Iraqis (**76** Female/**118** Male) trained on Gender Mainstreaming, Strategic Planning, Quality Management, Results Based Management, EORE, EHFR, EOD/IED Disposal, and EORE.

3848 risk education sessions delivered to **31484** beneficiaries of which **46%** were female and **68%** 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.”