



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

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**November 2019**

**IRAQ**

## Programme Highlights

### UNMAS Presents on Gender Mainstreaming at the Oslo Review Conference



Photo: UNMAS Iraq Senior Gender Advisor presenting on gender mainstreaming at the Oslo Review Conference (©UNMAS).

The Oslo Review Conference took place from 25 to 29 November in Oslo, Norway. It is the formal diplomatic meeting of the 164 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and this year commemorated 20 years since it entered into force.

While significant progress has been made and lives have been saved, challenges remain. The Oslo Review Conference is the chance for the international community to regroup to deal with the realities of what remains, and challenges arising at this point in time in the anti-landmines movement. Gender was a key topic discussed during the conference and UNMAS Senior Gender Advisor, Ms.

Clara Vaz was a panelist of the discussion on "Sharing Lessons Learned: Gender Mainstreaming by States Parties".

*"There is a need for an enabling environment for women and men to thrive together, which means strong policies are in place."* said Ms. Clara Vaz. *Explosive hazards do not discriminate but our programming can make a difference. Thus, we need to build environments that accommodate for diversity."* she added.

Read the gender guidelines to find out more: <http://bit.ly/2KSJpti>

### Article Published in the Counter-IED Report

*"The pace of Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD), more than any other kind of explosive hazard (EH) clearance, indirectly controls the return of Iraq's more than 1.67 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including a U.N. - estimated 500,000 still living in camps for two years or more."* wrote Mark Wilkinson in his article 'Connecting The Dots: The Pace of IED Clearance seen as Key Factor to Safe Return of 1.67 Million Displaced Iraqis'.

Based on six variables, namely access, complexity, costs, responsiveness, scale and threat, Mr. Wilkinson explains how Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a model that has proven its performance in the Iraq context, in addition to its cost-efficiency and field efficiency.



Photo: Rapid Response Team (RRT) pre-operational briefing prior to tasking (© UNMAS).

Read the full article here: <http://bit.ly/2O1nF3d>



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2019, UNMAS secured USD 26.7 million in funds. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for survey and clearance, risk education and capacity enhancement of government entities, and also to support the Recovery and Resilience Programme and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

## EU & JCMC Visit UNMAS Operations in Sinjar



Photo: A team leader of the mixed clearance teams is showing to the visitors the explosive hazards found and removed in Al Jazeera village (©UNMAS).

mixed teams were available to share their experiences and impressions with the visitors.

UNMAS organized a field mission to Sinjar, Ninewa governorate, for delegations from the Joint Coordination Monitoring Center (JCMC) and the European Union (EU).

During the visit, the two delegations received an extensive briefing on explosive hazard management activities in the Sinjar district, more precisely in Al Jazeera village where, in the past months, UNMAS implementing partner has cleared numerous critical infrastructure, including schools and clinics.

Clearance in this area is undertaken by trained and qualified women and men, both Yazidi and Muslim, from Sinjar. Present at the time of the visit, the

UNMAS Iraq would like to thank JCMC and the EU for their continuous support and contribution to clearance efforts in the country.

# Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

## UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in November 2019

1,049,054 m<sup>2</sup> of high priority areas surveyed, 138,258 m<sup>2</sup> cleared, and 94 explosive hazard items removed.

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

1,898 risk education sessions delivered to 36,685 beneficiaries of which 48% were female and 81% 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.”*