



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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December 2018

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Female police officers now trained as explosive hazard first responders



Photo: graduation ceremony of the EHFR training conducted in Baghdad (@UNMAS)

UNMAS, with support from the Women Training Institute of the Ministry of Interior, conducted its first Explosive Hazards First Responder (EHFR) training course for 20 female police officers from the liberated areas in Iraq. A graduation ceremony, attended by Ministry of Interior representatives, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) Marta Ruedas and the Ambassador of the Czech Republic was organized at the end of the course.

A few graduated police officers were identified and selected to participate in the Training of Trainers (T3) course that took place the following week. After completion of this course, graduated students are now able to conduct Explosive Hazards First Responder trainings in their respective governorates.

The training was very well received and the participants expressed interest to attend more technical trainings in the future with the hope of becoming Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)/Improvised Explosive Devices Disposal (IEDD) operators.

This initiative is part of UNMAS overarching strategy of providing capacity enhancement support for the Government of Iraq, to ensure long-term sustainability and self-reliance in the management and disposal of explosive hazards in the country, while simultaneously ensuring that equal opportunities are provided to Iraqi women and men.

Women in risk education

“I insisted on working in the field of risk education for internally displaced persons (IDPs) because I wanted to make a difference to my community and my country, and I aspire to keep on working in this field until the last explosive hazard has been removed from Iraq.”

Shaimaa Abdullah Ahmed works with UNMAS implementing partner, the Danish Demining Group (DDG), providing risk education for IDPs at the Al Salamiya Camp outside of Mosul. Her work allows her to personally experience stories of those affected by explosive hazards, evoking a sense of unparalleled passion and drive to help her city recover.

Shaimaa envisions a bright future for the women and children in her community, and hopes to represent Mosul citizens in advocating for their rights.



Photo: Shaimaa at Al Salamiya camp in the outskirts of Mosul. Watch Shaimaa's complete story [here](#) (@UNMAS)



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2018, UNMAS secured USD 76 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.

2018 overview - 60 seconds in Iraq



Photo: UNMAS clearance teams at work in Tikrit (@UNMAS)

2018 was a busy year for UNMAS in Iraq, surveying and clearing more than 1,000 sites, conducting 15 Explosive Hazard First Responder trainings for 382 police officers, including 19 females, from the Anbar, Kirkuk and Baghdad Police and delivering risk education sessions to approximately 400,000 IDPs and other affected communities.

Through its thorough response providing explosive hazard management, capacity enhancement, and risk education to the Government of Iraq and the broader Iraqi community, UNMAS ensures both direct and indirect prevention of human losses.

and Tikrit. Check out a snapshot of UNMAS activities in 2018 [here](#).

For 2019, UNMAS is expanding its search and clearance capacity in Iraq, and is set to actively begin operations in Kirkuk, Sinjar,

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and Partner Achievements in December

338,416 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 173,157 m² cleared, and 495 explosive hazard items removed.

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

2,862 risk education sessions delivered to 58,887 beneficiaries of which 11% were females and 79% were children.

Overall Mine Action sector since January 2016*

365 km² surveyed, 145 km² cleared and 149,933 hazardous items removed.

Risk education sessions delivered to 1,439,870 beneficiaries from at-risk communities.



*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.”*