



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

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**IRAQ**

## Programme Highlights

### Allowing residents to safely return and regain a certain level of normality



Photo: Explosive hazards found in Al Mushahada neighborhood by the search and clearance teams after one day of work (© UNMAS)

Al Mushahada neighborhood is adjacent to a previously Da'esh occupied area that had sustained predominantly airstrikes and land-warfare. Since January 2018, UNMAS search and clearance teams have assessed and cleared over 25 sites where five improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 15 suicide belts and 150 explosive remnants of war (ERWs) have been removed.

Clearance of this neighbourhood allows residents to safely return and regain a certain level of normality in their lives. It also facilitates the re-opening of small businesses, helping the economic situation to recover as trade slowly resumes. From a broader perspective, clearance of this neighbourhood eases the pressure in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and other districts they were formerly displaced to.

Since commencement of the task, significant indications of normality have already been noticed with the reopening of businesses, street cleanup and families returning. Approximately 300 families have returned so far, with more on their way.

### Using the taxi system to deliver risk education messages

UNMAS Iraq is constantly trying to find innovative initiatives to deliver risk education messages to the vulnerable communities. After having printed stickers on bottles of water and boxes of dates during Ramadan, UNMAS implementing partner, the Health and Social Care Organization in Iraq (IHSCO) is now working with taxi owners providing them with stickers with life-saving messaging to warn the communities they work in about the dangers of explosive hazards.



Photo: IHSCO giving risk education stickers to taxi drivers and explaining the messages to the communities (© UNMAS)

So far, 16 taxi owners have received stickers and are also given a basic risk education brief so they can explain to customers what the stickers are about. This initiative has been undertaken in specific locations in Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk and Anbar Governorates.

UNMAS would like to thank the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea and Portugal as well as the European Union for supporting the delivery of life-saving messages to vulnerable communities.



UNMAS has \$48M in secured and pledged funds in 2018 and is **seeking an additional \$216M** to support survey and clearance, risk education, capacity enhancement of Government as well as the Recovery and Resilience Programme and Humanitarian Response Plan.



**Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.**

## Fallujah – a family’s new hope



The Taleb family was among the 87,000 people who fled from Fallujah during the Da’esh occupation. They had no choice but to seek refuge in a camp. *“The most important thing you did was that you worked on schools and hospitals first. This gave us the incentive to come back, because it reassured us that we could send our children to school safely, and that - if anything happened - there were hospitals we could go to. We could not reach our house, until you cleared the streets from explosives,”* said Mr. Taleb. On return the family found their house completely destroyed. Since operations began in August 2016, UNMAS teams have removed 12,546 explosive hazards from Fallujah. Among the hundreds of critical sites cleared were 14 hospitals and healthcare facilities, 120 schools, 11 bridges and main roads, making them safe for rehabilitation and reuse. *“I am waiting for you to finish clearance in Al Shuhada neighborhood. That is where I want to rebuild my house, not here. It will cost the same, but it will bring new hope to my family.”*

Photo: Mr. Taleb is hopeful to rebuild his house and give his family a fresh and safe new start (© UNMAS)

## Mine Action Achievements



**Clearance**



**Survey**



**Risk Education**

## UNMAS and partners achievements in June

69,700 m<sup>2</sup> of high priority areas surveyed, 74,700 m<sup>2</sup> cleared, and 4,450 explosive hazard items removed.

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

1,175 risk education sessions delivered to 35,675 beneficiaries of which 45% were females and 80% were children.

## Overall Mine Action sector since January 2016

1,711 km<sup>2</sup> surveyed, 140 km<sup>2</sup> cleared and 132,884 hazardous items removed.

Risk education sessions delivered to 1,348,438 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)*



### UNMAS

Established in 1997, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is the recognized ‘coordinator’ of mine action within the UN system. UNMAS is an office within the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council, or at the request of the UN Secretary-General or his designated official, or an affected country. 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.”*