

National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) Roundtable

The National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) are derived from the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), which ensure that mine action programs are conducted consistently and professionally. The standards enhance safety, efficiency, and effectiveness in mine action operations, promoting a harmonized approach tailored to the specific local context, operating environment, and explosive ordnance threat.

UNMAS Iraq plays an important role in providing technical and advisory support to the national mine action authorities (NMAAs), assisting the Government of Iraq in coordinating explosive ordnance responses. This work is aligned with international disarmament conventions, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

On 9–10 October 2024, UNMAS Iraq hosted a roundtable discussion in Erbil focusing on the NMAS. The Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA), the two NMAAs in Iraq, participated in technical discussions to align and update the NMAS. These efforts are guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in May 2024, which outlines the commitment to revise the NMAS to meet the distinct requirements of each authority, considering structural and geographical differences in their mine action programmes. During the last roundtable discussion, six key standards were reviewed and discussed:



- **NMAS 01.10:** Guide for the application and development of national mine action standards
- **NMAS 08.10:** Non-Technical Survey
- **NMAS 08.20:** Technical Survey
- **NMAS 09.10.1:** Manual Clearance
- **NMAS 09.11:** Battle Area Clearance (BAC)
- **NMAS 07.30:** Accreditation of Mine Action Organizations

This collaborative effort underscores the commitment of both NMAAs to standardize and enhance mine action operations across Iraq, ensuring compliance with international standards while addressing local needs and challenges.

UNMAS would like to thank the DMA and IKMAA for their collaborative and constructive work on the Iraqi NMAS.