



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Fallujah's Asphalt Factory: A Necessary Service For Road Reconstruction



Photo: in total, 44 IEDs were neutralized, 51 main charges, 3 UXOs and 343 IED component parts were removed, and 37,995 m² were cleared (©UNMAS)

The Asphalt Factory has been considered by UNDP as one of the vital public services to be cleared from explosive hazards and rehabilitated. Shut for four years due to the ISIL occupation of Fallujah and cleared in October and November 2017, the Asphalt Factory started operating end of February 2018. The first batch of its asphalt covered a street in Fallujah a few days later. 500 to 700 tons of asphalt are expected to be produced daily. That translates into a minimum of 4,000 m² of road constructed and maintained on a daily basis.

The supervising engineer of the factory was enthusiastic in saying *“re-opening the factory is not only good for the people who will be working in it, but will also benefit the 350,000 residents of Fallujah, Garma (Al Karma), Naeemiya and Saqlawiya. We are planning to work in shifts, 24/7, to ensure full production capacity.”*

The re-opened factory will start with 25 workers, engineers and administrative staff, and plans to increase manpower (up to 65 employees) to be able to run at full capacity. 120 to 390 individuals will benefit from this source of income.

21st International Meeting of National MA Programme Directors & UN Advisers

The 21st Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and United Nations Advisers took place from 12-16 February 2018 in the Palais des Nations at the United Nations Office at Geneva. This annual meeting provided an opportunity for delegates to network and exchange on the ways in which mine action has evolved over the past two decades and the new challenges the sector is currently facing.

The new Director General of the Iraqi Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), Mr. Essa Al-Fayaadh, UNMAS Iraq Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar and representatives of UNMAS Syria and Afghanistan programmes discussed and addressed issues related to the ‘Urbanization of Conflict’ as well as ‘Housing, Land and Property Rights’ during side events.



Photo: new Director General of DMA, Mr. Essa Al-Fayaadh participating in the discussions at one of the side events for which he was invited as guest speaker (© UNMAS).

A photo exhibition under the theme ‘Scenes of Recovery’ with photos from the DMA, Iraqi Kurdish Mine Action Agency (IKMAA), UNMAS and other mine action operators in Iraq was also organized for the event.



UNMAS has \$42.8M 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.

Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq



The Kuwait Conference held from 12 to 14 February mobilized renewed international support for Iraq's reconstruction and development plans and enhanced collaboration between bilateral donors, multi-lateral development institutions and private sector investors as part of this process.

In recent months, UNMAS Iraq has been directly involved in advocating that explosive hazard management be included in the Iraq Reconstruction and Development Framework and the 2-year Iraq Recovery and Resilience Programme. Both frameworks, launched at the Kuwait Conference, include the cross-cutting requirement for mine action activities as a 'first step' or an enabler to stabilization, recovery and development, and highlight the need to integrate explosive hazard management into all aspects of associated planning. Mine Action featured significantly within the Kuwait Conference presentations, and was further amplified by UNMAS during side discussions.

Photo: UNMAS booth at the Kuwait Conference (©UNMAS)

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and partners achievements in February

20,764,555 m² of high priority areas surveyed/cleared and 1,146 items of explosive hazards removed.

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

1,764 risk education sessions delivered to 31,852 beneficiaries of which 51% were females and 76% were children.

Overall Mine Action sector since January 2018

1,711 km² surveyed, 140 km² 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), 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."*