



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Eighteen Months In - A Snapshot of Clearance in Mosul



Photo: Mr. Thaker fled during the battle for Mosul and is now back to his neighborhood, which was cleared from explosive hazards (©UNMAS)

In 18 months, over 9.6 million m² have been surveyed, 1.1 million m² cleared, and 910 spot tasks completed in over 40 neighbourhoods of the city of Mosul. In addition, about 38,200 explosive hazard items were removed and neutralized.

Mrs. Hanaa, Headmaster Assistant at the Flasteen Primary School for Boys and Girls, West Mosul: *“You have efficiently helped us to reopen our school and save it from becoming a garbage dump”.*

Mr. Aboosh, Headmaster at the Ahmed Ben Hambel Primary School for Boys, West Mosul: *“You helped us to offer 315 children the opportunity of education. This is not an insignificant number. You also gave the educational staff and parents the chance to come back to our homes and our jobs”.*

Mr. Thaker, resident of Al Khazraj neighbourhood, West Mosul: *“If the clearance teams didn’t help us by clearing the area, we would not have been able to come back”.*

Increasing clearance capacity through mechanical assets

Since February 2018, UNMAS teams have been using armoured front end loaders and armoured excavators in Mosul. Two dump trucks are also used on an ad-hoc basis to lighten the load and make more space, when required.

The Electricity Directorate and Al Shifa Hospital were the two first sites where mechanical assets have been utilized. Machines are currently working on the Ibn Sena Hospital and will be working in the Al Shifa District, which includes multiple hospitals/clinics and a Police station, in the coming weeks. The Forest Unit Building and the Electrical Warehouse in Eastern Mosul as well as Al Maedam area have also been identified as priorities.



Photo: Mechanical assets at work at the Al-Shifa Hospital Complex, western Mosul (© UNMAS)

In the past, only visual search for explosive hazards was conducted. Now with the inclusion of mechanical assets as part of clearance process, the teams can entirely clear sites without having to leave ‘restrictions’ or ‘suspensions’ in place due to the presence of potentially contaminated debris.



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.

New UNMAS footprint in Kirkuk



Photo: UNMAS visit to the Police Academy in Kirkuk (©UNMAS)

UNMAS started assessments in Kirkuk and Hawija in 2017 to gain a better understanding of the potential explosive threat and the situation faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs). These assessments have been instrumental in planning a coordinated approach with the local authorities, UNAMI, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors present in the area.

UNMAS has recently opened an office in Kirkuk and intends to deploy survey and clearance assets during the first half of 2018. Explosive Hazard First Responder trainings will be also delivered to the Police in the coming months. Supported through the Mine Action Sub-Cluster, Danish Demining Group (DDG), is deployed to Yaychi Qarat (approximately 9km

West of Kirkuk) to conduct non-technical survey, risk education and battle-area clearance funded by the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) 2017 Hawiga Reserve Allocation.

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and partners achievements in March

2,146,795 m² of high priority areas surveyed/cleared and 3,225 items of explosive hazards removed.

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

1,821 risk education sessions delivered to 40,421 beneficiaries of which 48% were females and 82% were children.

Overall Mine Action sector since January 2016

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) 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."*