



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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July 2018

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Letter of Commendation for Exceptional Courage



Photo: from left to right - Mark Warburton, Chief of Operations, Pebr Lodhammar, UNMAS Senior Programme Manager in Iraq and DSRSG/RC/HC Marta Ruedas during the handover ceremony (© UNAMI)

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Marta Ruedas handed over a letter of commendation from the UN Secretary General António Guterres to UNMAS Chief of Operations, Mr. Mark Warburton for exceptional courage.

“Your mindset and selflessness reflect the finest traditions of the United Nations. Indeed, over an extended period, while leading a team of experts in the field of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), you have played a vital role in high-risk search and IED clearance operations, day after day, under the most difficult circumstances. You often, voluntarily, took the initiative to personally render safe highly dangerous and unstable IEDs found on human remains, in order to allow the Government of Iraq to recover those remains for proper investigation and burial”, UN Secretary General António Guterres.

UNMAS Iraq has cleared over 800 suicide belts. More than 700 of these were cleared in 2018.

A ceremony was also organised in honour of Mr. Warburton, a British national, at the British Consulate General in Erbil and attended by the Consul General as well as representatives from UNMAS and its partners.

Clearance of the Technical University of Mosul

Founded in 1967, the Technical University of Mosul is a major complex located in East Mosul, approximately 4 kilometers from the Old City. The university sustained severe damage and many of its faculty buildings were completely destroyed. Before the Da'esh occupation in July 2014, the university hosted approximately 30,000 students and comprised 23 colleges, six consultancy offices, five medical centers, six museums and over 6,800 staff and professors.



Photo: a damaged building of the Technical University of Mosul (© UNMAS)

Following several assessments, it was confirmed that some workshops and laboratories had been used by Da'esh for the manufacture of IEDs, ammunition and toxic chemicals. UNMAS clearance is running in tandem with UNDP rubble removal, repair and rehabilitation operations.

So far, more than 25 explosive hazards have been safely removed, along with 130 kg of explosive hazards related scrap materials.

By rapidly ensuring that UNDP personnel can safely commence work, the strain on the university education system will soon be alleviated when damaged buildings are rebuilt. This will not only attract displaced families back to the area, but also aid economic and social recovery of the area post Da'esh.



UNMAS has \$49M in secured and pledged funds in 2018 and **is seeking an additional \$216M** to support survey and clearance, risk education, capacity enhancement of the Government as well as the Recovery and Resilience Programme and Humanitarian Response Plan. UNMAS Iraq mainstreams gender in Mine Action projects.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

Installation of Risk Education Billboards



Photo: risk education billboard installed in a busy street in Ramadi (© UNMAS)

There are approximately 1.9 million people who remain displaced in Iraq. It is a priority to enable a safe environment for people on the move and promote safe behaviour to avoid accidents.

In collaboration with the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), 40 billboards with life-saving messages are currently being placed in strategic points. The first ones have been installed in Anbar and Salah Al-Din Governorates during the month of July. This initiative complements direct risk education sessions, radio messages and leaflets amongst other methods.

Please remind partners and beneficiaries: if you encounter a suspected dangerous, do not touch it, and report immediately to the local authority or via the hotline number 182.

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and partners achievements in July

100,402 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 2,636 m² cleared, and 736 explosive hazard items removed.

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

1,608 risk education sessions delivered to 24,342 beneficiaries of which 47% were females and 67% 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)



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."