



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

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**IRAQ**

## Programme Highlights

### Police officers now trained in explosive hazards disposal



Photo: EOD/IEDD training conducted at Salman Pak (@UNMAS)

In collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, and funded by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, UNMAS recently celebrated the graduation of 21 police officers from its four-month Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)/Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) training course at Salman Pak.

The training was administered to cross-unit police officers working in the Kirkuk, Anbar, and Ninewa Governorates, and was the first of its kind as such to provide EOD/IEDD training to novice-level police officers.

“While 21 police officers might not seem like many, the potential impact cannot be understated. The training has now enabled the participants to return to their units as highly trained personnel in explosive hazards

disposal. They will be able to provide significant value to their teams, applying their newly-engrained skills and advanced equipment to further streamline the process,” said Francis O’Grady, UNMAS Head of Projects in Iraq.

UNMAS in Iraq would like to thank the Federal Republic of Germany for its contribution to capacity enhancement initiatives and the organization of this training.

### How one grandmother protected her family and village

UNMAS implementing partner, the Danish Demining Group (DDG) met with Fawziya Nawaf Ali, a 55 year old grandmother living in Albo Buty village. Fawziya and her family previously lived in one of the Amiriya Al-Fallujah camps during the intense period of displacement and conflict where she received risk education.

Fawziya and her family are currently rebuilding their house that was heavily damaged, but luckily not contaminated, by explosive hazards. However, one day, while Fawziya was taking the few sheep her family owns grazing on a nearby field, she noticed a strange object which looked similar to one of the explosive hazards she learnt to identify during the risk education session she participated in. Fawziya left the field immediately, trying to return on the exact same path she took before. As soon as she got back to her village, she informed everyone and the Civil Defense Unit, which later came to remove the suspicious item. The latter was connected with more than other 45 explosive charges through an intricate collection of wires and was particularly sensitive. The item could have cause serious damage if activated.



Photo: Fawziya sharing her story (@DDG)

Thanks to the risk education session that was delivered at the camp, Fawziya is aware of the dangers posed by explosive hazards and has adopted a safe behavior to avoid any accidents. She was able to protect not only her life and her sheep but also the lives of her family and of the other villagers who use this field for sheep grazing.



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2018, UNMAS has USD 63 million in secured and pledged funds. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for survey and clearance, risk education and capacity enhancement of government entities, and also to support the Recovery and Resilience Programme and the Humanitarian Response Plan. UNMAS is also coordinating a UN-to-UN agreement with UNESCO for the implementation of a United Arab Emirates funded project and a European Union funded project.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

## Bringing music and risk education together



Photo: IHSCO, UNMAS implementing partner, setting up a booth and delivering risk education to the audience (@UNMAS)

Under the backdrop of eviscerated buildings and utter destruction, Maestro Karim Wasfi penetrates the silence with his music. His Peace Through Arts Initiative, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), recently took place in the Western and most damaged part of Mosul city, performing openly to the public in a street once dominated by warfare.

The legacy of Da'esh continues to live on in Mosul, disturbing the tentative peace through its many explosive hazards that are still lurking around the city. UNMAS took this opportunity to provide risk education to the audience at the sidelines of the concert, informing people about the tremendous risks posed by explosive hazards.

UNMAS in Iraq and Maestro Karim Wasfi have planned to duplicate this initiative in the near future. Watch Maestro Karim Wasfi playing cello at the Al Shifa Hospital Complex in West Mosul [here](#).

# Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

## UNMAS and Partner Achievements in November

118,064 m<sup>2</sup> of high priority areas surveyed, 167,097 m<sup>2</sup> cleared, and 154 explosive hazard items removed.

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

2,991 risk education sessions delivered to 58,087 beneficiaries of which 48% were females and 55% were children.

## Overall Mine Action sector since January 2016\*

365 km<sup>2</sup> surveyed, 145 km<sup>2</sup> 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)



Established in 1997, the **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating United Nations mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service of the United Nations located within the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated official. 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.”*