



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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August 2019

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

DMA Hosts a Ceremony for the Opening of its New Office in Mosul



Photo: Ribbon cutting at the entrance of DMA's new office in Mosul (© UNMAS)

In collaboration with UNMAS, the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) hosted a ceremony celebrating the launch of its new office in Mosul. In attendance was the Deputy Minister of Health and Environment, Dr. Kamran Ali, in addition to senior officials representing the Government of Iraq and UNMAS.

particularly significant in the Ninewa Governorate. The DMA, working together with international and national authorities, and under the guidance of the Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Environment, has opened this office in Mosul in order to perform our duties more rapidly and thus free Ninewa from explosive hazards as soon as possible."

UNMAS would like to thank the DMA, the Ministry of Health and Environment, in addition to key Iraqi government entities for their crucial role in facilitating EHM activities in country, with a particular thanks to the Federal Republic of Germany for its contribution to UNMAS activities in Iraq, and its support for the opening of this new office.

UNMAS Presents its activities to German Officials

UNMAS presented its activities in Iraq to a delegation comprising HE Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany and Dr. Ole Diehl, German Ambassador to Iraq, in addition to senior officials representing multiple international organizations.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Clara Vaz, Senior Gender Advisor at UNMAS Iraq, said: *"Our objective at UNMAS is to assist humanitarian and stabilization activities and support reconstruction efforts. This enables the safe return of the 1.6 million internally displaced persons still living in camps."*

As the largest donor of UNMAS EHM activities in Iraq, Germany is a crucial enabler for clearance operations as the gateway to development, and for UNMAS technical and strategic support to the Government of Iraq and their response to the widespread contamination.



Photo: UNMAS Yazidi female searchers sharing their experience with German Officials (© Jana Neumann)

UNMAS Iraq uses a gender-mainstreaming approach in all its activities, and promotes both job creation and women's empowerment within mine action.

UNMAS would like to thank the Government of Germany for its generous invitation to present UNMAS work, and for its continuous support to UNMAS EHM activities in Iraq.



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2018 and 2019, UNMAS secured USD 95 million in 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.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

Second Meeting of the Explosive Hazard Management Sub-Working Group in 2019



Photo: UNMAS Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar thanking Mr. Tomas Reyes Ortega for his continuous support (© UNMAS)

The European Union Delegation to Iraq represented by Mr. Tomas Reyes Ortega recently chaired the second meeting in 2019 of the EHM sub-working group under the Stabilization Task Force in Baghdad. The meeting builds on the continuing cooperation between UNMAS and the DMA and enables collaboration and dialogue between the UN and the diplomatic community to enhance EHM clearance operations.

In attendance were representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment, DMA along with a delegation of government officials, the donor community, the Coalition, and UNMAS senior management.

This was the last meeting chaired by Mr. Tomas Reyes Ortega and UNMAS Iraq would like to take this opportunity to thank the European Union, and especially Mr. Ortega for his role in supporting and facilitating EHM in Iraq over the past two years.

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in August 2019

104,927 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 50,125 m² cleared, and 189 explosive hazard items removed.

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

1,354 risk education sessions delivered to 20,450 beneficiaries of which 50% were female and 59% were children.

Overall Mine Action sector since January 2016*

490 km² surveyed, 56 km² cleared and 115,906 hazardous items removed.

Risk education sessions delivered to 2,073,005 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.”*