August 2019

Programme Highlights

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

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.

In its drive to facilitate explosive hazard management (EHM) activities in country, UNMAS, working together with DMA, has established a solid presence in contaminated areas in Iraq, particularly in areas retaken from Da’esh control. The establishment of the new DMA office will enhance liaison between UNMAS, DMA, and local authorities, thereby streamlining clearance efforts for a more coordinated response. Commenting on the event, Dr. Kamran said: “The scale of explosive hazard contamination, including those of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW), is 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.

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

Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

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

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

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.”