



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Explosive Hazard Management Tasking Process Workshop



Photo: Governmental entities together with UNDP and UNMAS are discussing tasking order processes and possibilities to improve the current systems (© UNMAS).

UNMAS hosted a tasking process workshop with representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment (MoHE), the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA), the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), Ministry of Defense, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In attendance was the Deputy Minister of MoHE, Dr. Kamran Ali, Director-General of IKMAA, Mr. Siraj Barzani, Director-General of DMA, Mr. Essa Al-Fayadh, in addition to senior leadership from all participating parties.

The workshop was convened to further enable and simplify the tasking processes for UNMAS explosive hazard management activities in Iraq, in addition to providing a platform for all relevant parties to discuss successes and challenges of clearance activities so far.

Commenting on the workshop, UNMAS Iraq Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar said: *Our primary role in Iraq is to support the Government of Iraq in explosive hazard management, and we at UNMAS recognize that our work complements and enhances existing clearance activities conducted by Iraqi Security Forces and other government entities. It is thus crucial that we regularly host such forums to ensure better coordination and information-sharing.*

UNMAS would like to thank all entities who participated in this workshop.

Clearance of Schools Prior to Rehabilitation by UNDP Continues in Mosul

UNMAS search and clearance teams were recently tasked to clear the Markaziyah School in West Mosul. Occupied by Da'esh and used as an ammunition storage facility, the two-level building was known to be a school of excellence and is now estimated to be 60% damaged. Part of the front of the building has collapsed, covering a reported Da'esh rocket storage facility. A mobile classroom and a mobile toilet block that have been temporarily installed to allow kids to continue their schooling were moved by crane to gain access to this area with mechanical assets.



Photo: The Director of the School with of the searchers during clearance operations (© UNMAS).

The task was completed in 50 days and the teams recovered grenades, rockets as well as improvised explosive devices and many explosive ordnance scrap from the fighting.

Now the school is cleared of explosive hazards, rehabilitation by UNDP can start. Students told the community liaison officers (CLO) that they 'feel safer' knowing UNMAS implementing partners have made their school safe. The community is hopeful that other parts of their neighbourhood will also see clearance operations and rebuilding giving them hope for the future.



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2018, UNMAS secured USD 76 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.

Delivering Life-Saving Messages Through Cartoon Storybooks



Photo: IHSCO is briefing TDH personnel on how to use the cartoon story book with children living in IDP camps (@ IHSCO).

UNMAS implementing partner, the Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization (IHSCO) has started to engage with other non-governmental organizations (NGO) working with children in IDP camps to deliver life-saving messages through innovative tools and methods.

As an example, IHSCO has worked with Terre Des Hommes (TDH) to develop a cartoon storybook containing life-saving messages tailored for children. The IHSCO teams then conducted a training course for 20 TDH personnel to give them the capacity to deliver risk education messages through direct sessions, using the cartoon story book and through role plays. Additionally, these life-saving messages have also been included in the TDH semi-curricular materials they currently used with displaced children. Since the beginning of this joint project, IHSCO visited TDH regularly to make sure the messages were properly delivered. Feedback received from displaced communities, especially kids and mothers were very positive. IHSCO hopes to partner with other organizations to widen the reach of their life-saving messages.

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and Partner Achievements in February

75,016 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 107,797 m² cleared, and 21 explosive hazard items removed.

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

2,585 risk education sessions delivered to 48,812 beneficiaries of which 46% were females and 48% 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)



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.”*