



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

**For more information:**

**Pehr Lodhammar**  
Senior Programme Manager  
UNMAS Iraq  
[lodhammar@un.org](mailto:lodhammar@un.org)

**Paul Heslop**  
Chief of Programme  
UNMAS New York  
[heslop@un.org](mailto:heslop@un.org)



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**IRAQ**

## Programme Highlights

### UNMAS Hosts “Basic Humanitarian Mine Action Management” Training in Wassit



Photo: Participants at the training (© UNMAS).

In cooperation with the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC), UNMAS recently held a two-day training course on “Basic Humanitarian Mine Action Management” for national government stakeholders in Wassit, Iraq. The training is part of a series of capacity enhancement initiatives undertaken by UNMAS and tailored for the Government of Iraq to generate a new cohort of skilled Iraqis well-positioned to tackle mine action challenges faced by the country today.

The training was delivered for 31 staff representing several key departments, ministries, and municipalities across the public sector. The course provided participants with an overview of UNMAS activities in explosive hazard management, risk education, explosive ordnance disposal/improvised explosive

device disposal, gender mainstreaming, integration and equal opportunities, quality management as well as other topics.

Rasha Hassan Ahmed, a participant in the training, said: *“The workshop was of great importance considering that the Wassit Governorate is one of the most contaminated governorates in Iraq in terms of legacy landmines. I have been to those border areas and was forced to restrict my movement as they remain uncleared. In addition, UNMAS instructors used innovative teaching methods that enhanced my understanding of mine action in the country.”*

### UNMAS Publishes Two Articles in Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction

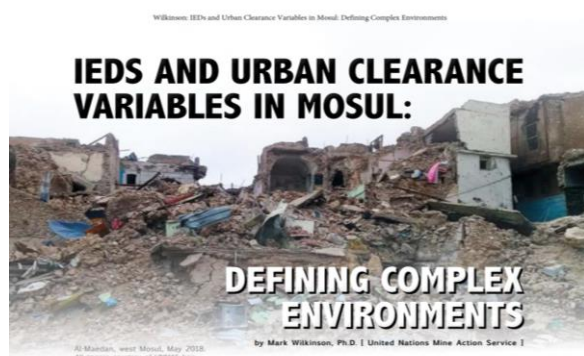
What makes explosive hazard contamination in Iraq complex? In a word, context. This influences render-safe procedures (RSPs) as determined by pre-event, event, and post-event phases, along with their respective physical and political factors.

Why post-event and not-post conflict? Because the conflict continues. Even as UNMAS Iraq operators and others undertake ostensibly humanitarian clearance tasks, they remain under Da’esh threat, subject to last-minute mission changes based on daily intelligence reports.

When viewed from an outcome perspective, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are less explosive remnants of war (ERW) and more “passive attack” weapons, part of a strategy that is both defensive and offensive at the same time. So long as IEDs remain in place, and thereby stall repair of infrastructure and important cultural assets, they ultimately lead to a political outcome.

Two articles on EHM in Mosul and Fallujah written by UNMAS Iraq have just been published in the Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction. Check them out! IEDs and Urban Clearance Variables in Mosul: Defining Complex Environments - <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2866&context=cisr-journal>

IED Threat Consistency and Predictability in Fallujah: A 'Simple' Model for Clearance - <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2865&context=cisr-journal>



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.

## UNMAS Hosts EHFR Training Course for Female Police Officers in Baghdad



Photo: UNMAS instructors providing EHFR basics to participants (© UNAMI).

UNMAS recently completed another round of Explosive Hazard First Responder (EHFR) training courses for female police officers in Baghdad.

The EHFR course trains enrollees to become first responders in the case of explosive hazard-related incidents. After two weeks, a total of 26 female police officers participated in the training and are now able to safely respond to possible explosive threat while on duty. Another ten police officers are expected to participate in the train-the-trainers upcoming course.

Commenting on the training, Ms Halima Kazem Haddawi, a Commissioner at the Directorate of Facilities Protection in Baghdad and a participant of the training, said: *“I believe in my line of work there might be a situation where I face something related to explosives [...].*

*With the information received from this course, I will be able to safely respond to this threat and protect my community.”*

## Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

### UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in July 2019

6,399,511 m<sup>2</sup> of high priority areas surveyed, 330,448 m<sup>2</sup> cleared, and 259 explosive hazard items removed.

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

1966 risk education sessions delivered to 32,996 beneficiaries of which 46% were female and 70% were children.

### Overall Mine Action sector since January 2016\*

490 km<sup>2</sup> surveyed, 56 km<sup>2</sup> 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.”*