



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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June 2019

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Bringing Women and Men at the Frontlines of Clearance Efforts in Iraq



Photo: Mixed Yazidi teams in Sinjar (© UNMAS).

An assessment conducted in July 2018 in Sinjar underlined the heavy presence of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in residential areas, along roads and grazing land. The Mayor's office and other stakeholders advised that approximately 4,000 homes in the area, in addition to public infrastructure such as hospitals, cemeteries and schools are in need of survey – to assess contamination, and clearance – to remove threats, before safe returns are possible. This will require a significant number of operators and mechanical assets, and will be a lengthy process.

to return live in dire conditions: in ghost towns with minimal reconstruction efforts ongoing and lack of basic services such as water and electricity.

In November 2018, approximately 200,000 Yazidis were still estimated to remain displaced throughout refugee camps in Northern Iraq, with about 6,000 families having returned home. The majority of those who have decided

UNMAS Iraq has coordinated a gender-responsive approach that safeguards and integrates the needs of women, men, boys and girls into explosive hazard management, by forming its very first mixed team of searchers in Iraq and ensuring partners are trained and responsive to particular gender considerations in explosive hazard management. The teams comprise both Yazidi and Muslim women and men from Sinjar, highlighting the personal and emotional connection of the work to many of the team members. Read more about UNMAS response in Sinjar [here](#).

Workshop on Results-Based Management Approaches in Risk Education

In collaboration with the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), UNMAS recently organized a workshop for the DMA's Media and Awareness Department personnel on results-based management approaches in risk education.

A total of nine participants actively attended this interactive training, seven of whom presented various themes in their areas of expertise. Numerous topics were discussed, including risk education, gender mainstreaming, outcome measurement, monitoring and evaluation, indicator development, and results framework construction.

This workshop is part of a series of training courses delivered by UNMAS to the DMA to improve knowledge sharing and risk education standards.



Photo: DMA and UNMAS participants/instructors during the workshop (© UNMAS).

UNMAS would like to thank the DMA and its Department of Media and Awareness for their valuable contributions, participation and facilitation during the training, with a special thanks to the Government of Finland for its support in funding this workshop.



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.

Safe Home – A Travelling Exhibit

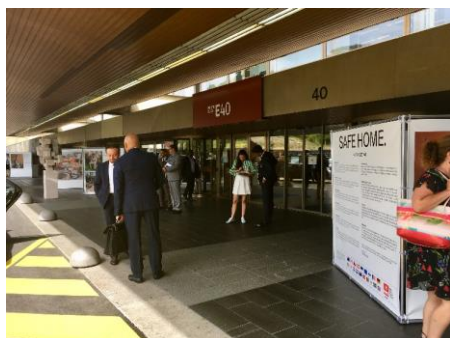


Photo: 'Safe Home' exhibit in Geneva (© UNMAS).

Following the success of the “Safe Home” exhibit organized last year in New York, UNMAS has launched a travelling “Safe Home” exhibit in Europe. The exhibit highlights explosive hazard management, risk education and capacity enhancement activities in Iraq, with a focus on Mosul. It also emphasizes the importance of clearance as a critical enabler of humanitarian and development efforts and a key step toward the safe, dignified and voluntary return of displaced communities.

“Safe Home” made its first stop at the [2019 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) from 24 to 26 June at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, a three-day event promoting action to save lives, reach affected communities and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need.

Occasionally, UNMAS in Iraq displays some of photos from the exhibit during events such as the recent UNMAS/Canada signing ceremony for the “Explosive Hazard Management Institutional Capacity Enhancement” project. Learn more [here](#).

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in June 2019

70,007,764 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 60,254 m² cleared, and 60 explosive hazard items removed.

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

1,609 risk education sessions delivered to 25,155 beneficiaries of which 42% were females and 65% 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.”