



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

UNMAS and JCMC Host Training on Humanitarian Mine Action Management



Photo: Participants of the joint JCMC and UNMAS training on “Basic Humanitarian Mine Action Management” in Mosul (© UNMAS).

In cooperation with the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC), UNMAS held a two-day training course on “Basic Humanitarian Mine Action Management” for local government stakeholders in Mosul, Iraq. The training is part of a series of capacity enhancement initiatives undertaken by UNMAS 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 comprised 26 individuals representing 12 key departments, ministries, and municipalities across the public sector in the Ninewa governorate. 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, as well as quality management, among other topics.

Hareth Ismail, participant in the training, said: *“I would like to see more such trainings, especially for those who work on the outskirts of the city. Often times, government employees who work in small towns and villages do not have access to these trainings, and it is important to reach them. The towns surrounding Mosul are some of the most contaminated areas, and it is crucial for federal employees to learn basic humanitarian mine action management.”*

UNMAS Hosts Risk Education “Safe Run” for Displaced Children

UNMAS held a “Safe Run” for 12-year-old children at the Debaga camp for internally displaced people (IDP) in the Kurdish Region of Iraq.

Sponsored by the Government of Japan, attendees included the Consul of Japan in Erbil, Mr. Katsumi Moriyasu, the Risk Education Director of the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA), Mr. Karwan Zrar as well as senior management of UNMAS Iraq and the Debaga IDP Camp.

The event encompassed a three-kilometer race, the screening of risk education TV clips, a Q&A session, in addition to several speeches. Speaking at the event, Fran O’Grady, UNMAS Head of Projects in Iraq, said: *“For decades, the Government of Japan has been a staunch supporter of humanitarian initiatives in Iraq, epitomizing a long-standing partnership between the two countries. We, at UNMAS, are grateful for their support in helping us fulfill our mandate to create a safe environment and therefore facilitate the return of displaced communities.”*



Photo: Kick off of the ‘Safe Run’ (© UNMAS).

All participants received school items, t-shirts, and shoes customized with risk education messages. The first three winners were also awarded bikes as their prize.



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.

UNMAS and IOM Commemorate International Women's Day



Photo: A member of the audience asks a question to one of the panelists (© UNMAS).

In celebration of the 2019 International Women's Day, UNMAS, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), hosted a panel session and a photo exhibition for approximately 300 attendees at The Station in Baghdad. In attendance was the Ambassador of Australia to Iraq, Dr. Joanne Loundes, in addition to senior officials from both IOM and UNMAS. Bringing together six women from different background across Iraq, the panel session included a fruitful discussion on women in the field, and how each woman was able to overcome socio-cultural expectations to reach where she is today.

Speaking at the event, Pehr Lodhammar, UNMAS Iraq Senior Programme Manager said: *"Ensuring diversity and the inclusion of the different needs of all independent of gender, is key to UNMAS success, whether with its senior leadership, programme staff, or in field-based operations. For us, this isn't something we only think about or talk about on International Women's Day. It's every day and it is part of what we do and how we think. It is about breaking barriers and daring to do things out of the ordinary."*

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and Partner Achievements in March

2,373,787 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 333,663 m² cleared, and 43 explosive hazard items removed.

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

2,771 risk education sessions delivered to 52,387 beneficiaries of which 9% were females and 80% 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."*