



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

UNMAS and EU Celebrate Graduation of Police Officers from EOD/IEDD Training



Photo: Police graduates of the EOD/IEDD training (© UNMAS).

UNMAS Iraq, funded by the European Union and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, recently celebrated the graduation of 16 police officers from its Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training course and 10 police officers from its Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) training course at Salman Pak.

The trainings were administered to cross-unit police officers representing the Anbar, Kirkuk, and Ninewa Governorates, providing EOD/IEDD training to novice-level police officers.

Commenting on the event, Mr. Tomas Reyes Ortega, Deputy Head of Mission for the European Union, said: *“Clearance of explosive hazards is a precondition for stabilization activities in the liberated areas in Iraq. It allows the safe*

return of women, men and children to their places of origin. I commend the police officers who decided to acquire new competences in such a relevant area for Iraq and who today receive their diplomas.”

“This course is crucial because it trains police officers from the most affected and contaminated areas post-Da’esh, and allows them to correctly identify and undertake proper procedures when in contact with explosive hazards. For this particular training course, we’ve incorporated a new medical element with simple yet life-saving measures to take, an important skill to have especially when your job places you at the front lines of contact with civilians,” said Mr. Fran O’Grady, UNMAS Iraq Head of Projects.

UNMAS Coordinates with Iraqi Government to Facilitate EHM Activities in Sinjar

UNMAS recently hosted Mr. Mohammed Al Tamimi, Director-General of NGOs in the General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers, and Major-General Mohammed Al Shammari, Head of the National Operations Center, for a joint meeting and a visit to an active clearance site in Sinjar, Iraq.

Attendees included representatives from the Ninewa provincial council, Iraqi Security Forces, in addition to UNMAS and representatives from the Government of Iraq.

This visit was an opportunity to highlight the challenges on the ground and opportunities of UNMAS clearance activities in Sinjar, enabling visitors to discuss further measures that need to be taken to facilitate mine action activities in the district and its surrounding areas, paving the way for stabilization and rehabilitation projects.

Commenting on the visit, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar, Senior Programme Manager for UNMAS in Iraq, said: *“Extensive damage has been inflicted upon during the fight against Da’esh, especially to private houses; some houses are still standing and others have been turned into rubble. Rehabilitation and stabilization projects cannot commence when an area is potentially contaminated. This meeting was crucial to ensure a synchronized effort among all relevant authorities, and will go a long way in enabling the safe return of IDPs back to their areas of origin.”*



Photo: UNMAS Senior Programme Manager with the Yazidi mixed teams (© UNMAS).



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 Works with UNDP to Distribute Gloves Imprinted with RE Messages



Photo: UNMAS RE instructors explaining the gloves for UNDP cash-for-work workers (© UNMAS).

As part of its risk education initiatives, UNMAS, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and in support of stabilization, recently distributed risk education gloves to complement risk education sessions for UNDP cash-for-work workers in Western Mosul and to serve as a reminder of risk messages.

UNDP cash-for-work workers serve as a front-line for contact with explosive hazards, clearing the rubble of houses damaged during the war to retake areas previously under Da'esh control. These gloves serve as a constant reminder to the users of the constant and underlying threat from explosive hazards, and equip them with simple safety precautions and contact information to reach relevant authorities and are potentially life-saving.

"I found the sessions and accompanying risk education gloves to be extremely fruitful, in particular as they are as crucial safety gear that we need to wear. This way, so long the gloves are worn, the safety messages we learned will always be imprinted in our minds," said Mr. Mahmoud Ibrahim, one of UNDP's cash-for-work workers.

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and Partner Achievements in May 2019

24,072,548 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 602,852 m² cleared, and 96 explosive hazard items removed.

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

2,116 risk education sessions delivered to 37,112 beneficiaries of which 43% were females and 66% 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."*