



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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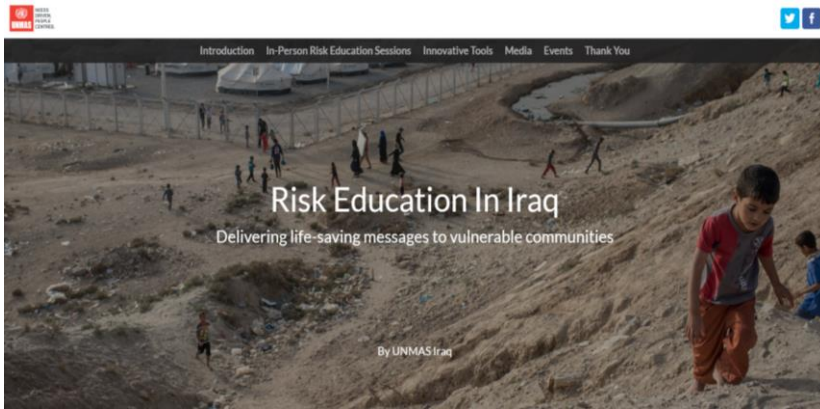


September 2019

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

UNMAS Delivers Life-Saving Messages to Vulnerable Communities in Iraq



“UNMAS, in tandem with other mine action organizations, and working with the Government of Iraq, are clearing [these] areas from explosive hazards. However, in spite of the intensive work being conducted, it is estimated to take years before full clearance of the retaken areas can be achieved.

So how does UNMAS and other mine action organizations keep people safe in the interim?

Simply, through risk education. The complexity and innovativeness of explosive devices manufactured during Da’esh control are unique. All objects were

fair game, including common civilian items like cooking utensils, furniture, and children’s toys. Such innovation and sophistication in explosive device-making requires similar innovative and sophisticated risk education methods as a positive counter-effect.”

Check out UNMAS Iraq’s new digital story [here](#).

UNMAS Organizes First Mixed-Gender First Responder Training in Iraq

UNMAS, in collaboration with the Kirkuk Police Academy, recently organized the first mixed-gender Emergency First Responder Training for female and male police officers in Iraq.

Approximately 22 participants representing ranks from Lieutenant to Captain attended the session. The course provided attendees with knowledge on basic life support, conducting scene surveys, breathing assessments and treatment of chest injuries, in addition to other elementary first aid exercises. All participants passed the training, with the majority scoring 100%.

Ms. Yusra Jalil, a participant in the training, said: “The training was very useful as it provided us with basic life-saving skills that will enable us to potentially save lives of civilians and our fellow colleagues. As police officers, our job often entails significant risk as well as contact with injuries, such that these mitigating skills will surely be needed in the future. I encourage all police officers who receive the opportunity to enroll in this course.”



Photo: Participants practice emergency first aid measures on medical simulators (© UNMAS)

UNMAS Iraq would like to thank the Federal Republic of Germany for its contribution to technical support initiatives and the organization of this training.



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 and Finnish Rep. Attend Ceremony Marking Clearance of Three Villages



Photo: UNMAS implementing partner provides briefing to Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative (© UNMAS)

UNMAS, accompanied by Mr. Mikko Autti, Desk Officer at the Unit for Arms Control under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, recently attended a ceremony celebrating the clearance of three villages in the Sinjar region by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF).

As part of its directive to assist the Government of Iraq in explosive hazard management (EHM), and working in tandem with the ISF, UNMAS has contributed to the clearance of the three villages. In his speech to attendees comprising senior Iraqi government officials, Mr. Fran O’Grady, UNMAS Head of Projects, emphasized the pivotal role of clearance to Iraq’s future recovery.

Following the event, UNMAS provided a brief to Mr. Mikko on its activities in Sinjar, along with a general outline of future projects planned to assist humanitarian and stabilization efforts. Mr. Mikko also spoke to the Yezidi searchers for their input on clearing villages they once inhabited.

The Government of Finland has contributed significantly to humanitarian and stabilization efforts in Iraq, particularly in the area of risk education, and has been a key supporter of UN efforts to facilitate and catalyze the overall recovery of the country.

UNMAS would like to thank the Republic of Finland for its support to risk education activities in Iraq over the past three years.

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

1,189,330 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 6,406 m² cleared, and 188 explosive hazard items removed.

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

1,824 risk education sessions delivered to 27,262 beneficiaries of which 55% were female and 59% were children.



*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.”*