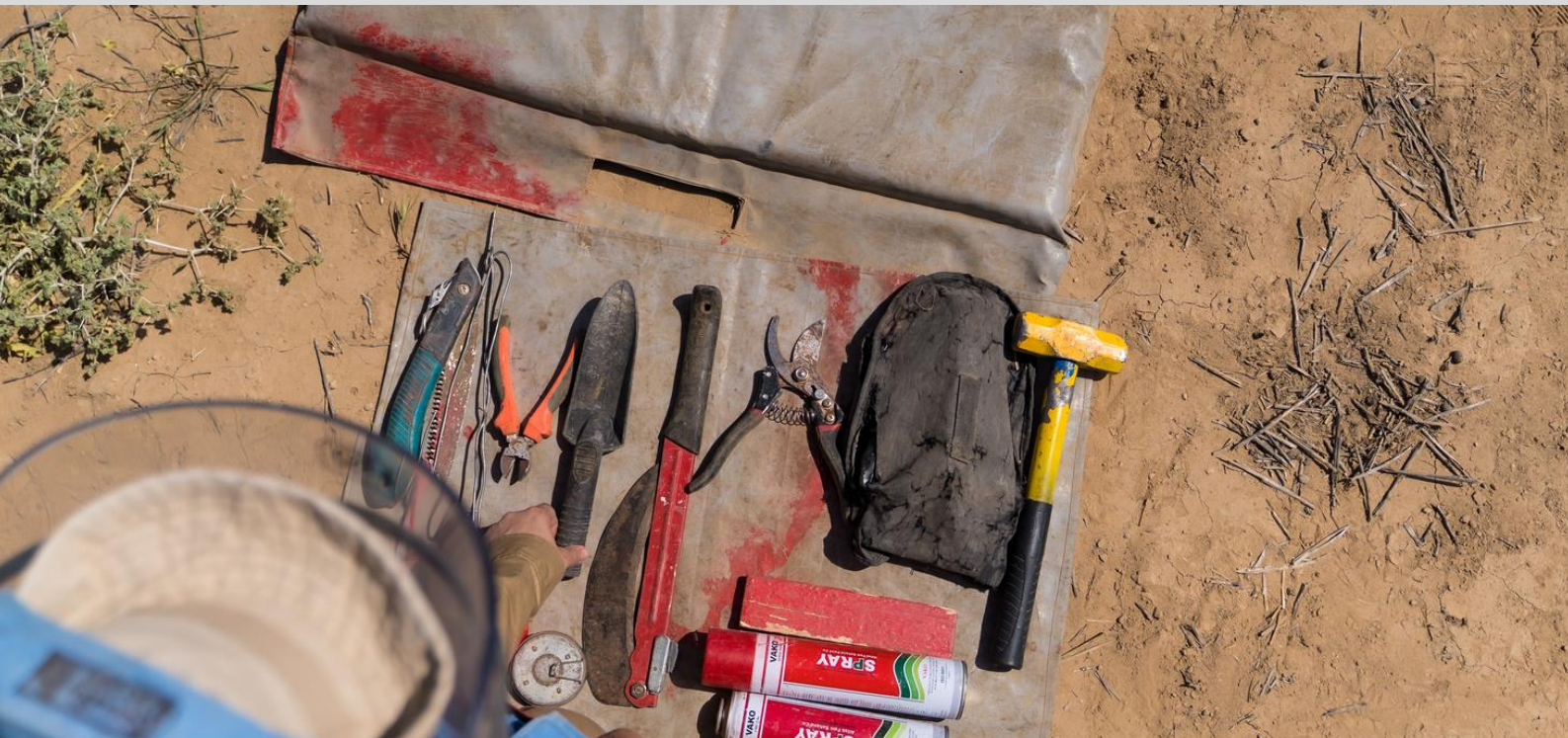


UNMAS Insight



Programme update

During the second quarter of 2023, UNMAS Iraq conducted **one** workshop and **six** training sessions for Government of Iraq (GoI) mine action entities, namely the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA)s and Ministry of Interior (MoI). Courses included and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Level-3 training and a train-the-trainers (T3) course for Explosive Hazard First Responders (T3/EHFR).

A Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) study was conducted by UNMAS Iraq between March and May 2023. **Twelve** national and international NGOs were consulted. Numerous individuals were interviewed and multiple focus group discussions were conducted to identify key SBCC principles in Iraq. This study was to help inform improved EORE messaging with an emphasis on those delivery practices that motivate positive behaviour change in men, women, boys, girls.

In terms of clearance, the two partnership grants continued with DanChurchAid (DCA) partnered with Health and Social Care Organization in Iraq (IHSCO); and The Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD) partnered with Shareteah Humanitarian Organisation (SHO). Under the two partnership grants, a total of **24,006** square meters of land was released through technical survey, and **249,577** square meters of land were cleared.

The UNMAS Iraq Gender Task Force (GTF) team developed a Gender and Diversity toolkit, which provides resources to assist UNMAS Iraq implementing partners in facilitating gender and diversity mainstreaming as part of their mine action projects. The toolkit also provides useful resources for establishing IPs' own internal gender and diversity policies and practices.

In May 2023, the first Local Mine Action Support Group (LMSG) meeting was held in Baghdad, a new engagement mechanism established by UNMAS Iraq to ensure sustainable mine action response in the country through continued international donor engagement and support. A total of **18** diplomats from **12** countries attended the meeting. It was agreed to organize the second LMSG meeting during the third quarter of 2023 - UNMAS Iraq intends to invite the DMA Director General and possibly other senior officials from GoI mine action entities to be present during the second meeting of the LMSG in September.

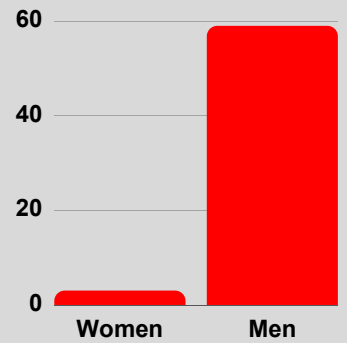
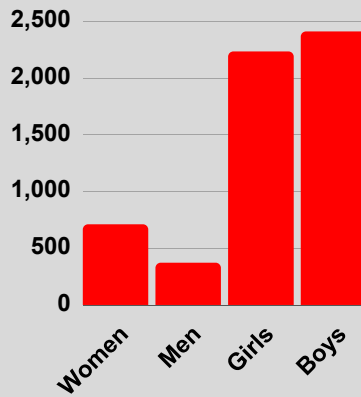
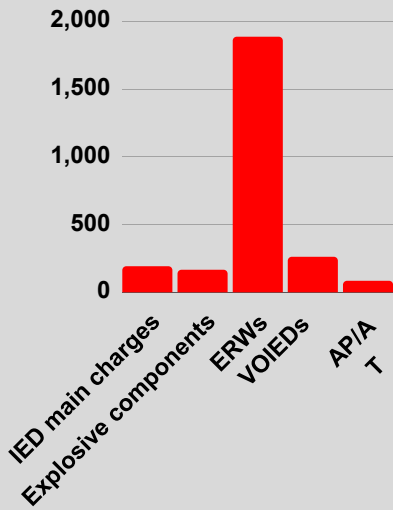
UNMAS Achievements

771,780 sqm
Land cleared

2,586 EO
Rendered safe

710 direct EORE sessions

Six training session for the MoI



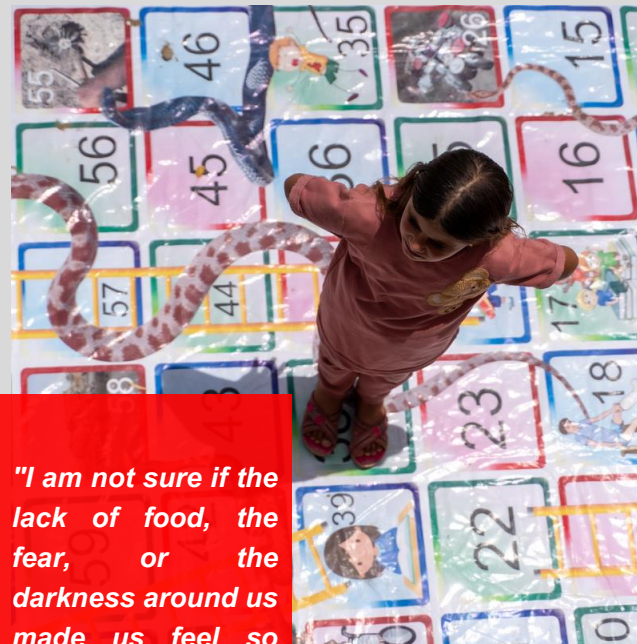
A story from Iraq

Nisreen, a 26-year-old woman, was born and had lived in Sinjar for her entire life; however, in 2014, she was forced to escape to the Sinjar Mountains with her family when the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) arrived and occupied Sinjar.

After spending five days on the mountain, Nisreen and her family fled and reached the Syrian border. They stayed in a camp for a week, and then decided to return to Iraq and live in a camp in Duhok. A year after the liberation of Sinjar, Nisreen and her family returned to their hometown. *"There were tons of explosive ordnance. It was like a nightmarish experience. Children were the first to fall victim."* she says.

To support her community and recover her city, Nisreen and her sister decided to participate in voluntary Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities and shared the information they received with their community.

Nisreen is a very capable woman who provided direct and indirect EORE activities, including distributing EORE materials and assisting with the installation of billboards adapted to the age and local context, which assisted in preventing her community members from unsafe actions, while practicing their normal life. Her job has also encouraged children to return to school without fear and has taught them what to do if they see a suspicious object.



"I am not sure if the lack of food, the fear, or the darkness around us made us feel so weak, our feet could barely carry us."

Nisreen recalls.

FUNDING

UNMAS in Iraq is solely funded through UN Voluntary Trust Fund contributions. For 2023, UNMAS Iraq has secured USD **12** million with a remaining shortfall of USD **nine** million.



For more information:

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