



UNMAS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



CONTENTS

ACRONYMS..... 2

CONTRIBUTORS 3

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL..... 4

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR 5

THE UNITED NATIONS COORDINATOR FOR MINE ACTION 6

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ON MINE ACTION 2013-201812

 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE: Risks to individuals and the
 socio-economic impacts of mines and explosive remnants of war,
 including cluster munitions, are reduced12

 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO: Comprehensive support is provided by
 national and international actors to mine and explosive remnants of
 war victims within broader responses to injury and disability18

 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE: The transfer of mine action functions
 to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil
 mine action responsibilities increased 20

 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR: Mine action is promoted and
 integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as
 national plans and legislation 23

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DONOR RELATIONS..... 27

UNMAS 2018 SNAPSHOT 33

ACRONYMS

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
AU	African Union
CPP	Conflict Preparedness and Protection
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device
IEDDS	Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Standards
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
MASG	Mine Action Support Group
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
RRTSC	Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMACO	Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Organization
UN VTF	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
WHO	World Health Organization
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management

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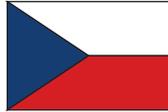
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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) works in 18 countries and territories on four continents, helping affected communities, Member States, United Nations entities and partners to reduce the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war, improvised explosive devices and unplanned explosions or looting of conventional weapons and ammunition stockpiles.

This annual report provides an overview of the achievements of UNMAS in 2018. Its impact continues to be critical, concrete and broad. In post-conflict situations, mine action is an essential foundation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Mine action makes it possible for displaced persons and refugees to return home safely. It enables markets and essential infrastructure to reopen. And it means young people can return to school and families can reoccupy homes and revive livelihoods.

In 2018, UNMAS coordinated with 12 United Nations entities to develop the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019–2023. The Strategy is practical, needs-driven, people-centred and resource-efficient. It establishes a shared vision and mission, provides an accountability framework and outlines a rigorous monitoring and evaluation approach for reviewing and reporting on progress. It is an important guide to United Nations mine action in the coming years.

I commend this report to all relevant stakeholders, and I take this opportunity to thank donors for their unwavering support. I also express my appreciation to UNMAS colleagues who continue to demonstrate commitment in the face of challenging and at times dangerous work. Peace can only be sustained once explosive hazards and unexploded munitions are disposed of or secured.

**António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General**



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share with you the 2018 UNMAS Annual Report, which gives a brief overview of some of the accomplishments from the past year along with a snapshot of statistics and a summary of resources raised and spent.

UNMAS coordinated the elaboration of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023 and strengthened its accountability framework through a UN system wide monitoring and evaluation mechanism for mine action. Through management of 18 mine action programmes on three continents, UNMAS cleared large swaths of highly contaminated land, thousands of kilometers of roads, destroyed more than 105,000 Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), thousands of landmines and IEDs to ensure a better life for individuals and communities. UNMAS administered risk education sessions for 2.1 million people living in mine or ERW affected areas thereby promoting safe behavior to further protect people from threats. UNMAS facilitated assistance to more than 19,000 victims/survivors and provided explosive hazard training to 4,100 healthcare workers, teachers, police and military personnel to help empower survivors and others to address these threats. UNMAS also responded to requests for rapid technical support in Papua New Guinea and Haiti.

Other highlights include:

- ▶ UNMAS completed the elaboration of the United Nations IED Disposal Standards (IEDDS). Published in May 2018, these provide guidance to those who, under United Nations responsibility, undertake IED disposal activities. In parallel, UNMAS initiated the update of relevant International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) to reflect the complexities of today's IED threat, including related to IED Disposal, Building Clearance and new guidance on threat assessments.
- ▶ UNMAS updated the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes to be published in 2019. These are an important contribution to the Secretary-General's agenda on the empowerment of women.
- ▶ UNMAS revived the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) under the Global Protection Cluster, ensuring coherence with UN system partners and integration of mine action in all relevant Humanitarian Response Plans and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.
- ▶ UNMAS continued to effectively bring coherence to the United Nations approach to mine action. Based on findings from a mapping of the Organization's responses to the threat posed by IEDs, UNMAS will take forward the call to action by the Secretary-General in his Agenda for Disarmament for the development of a "whole of system" response to IEDs.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the supporters of UNMAS, including Member States, foundations, individuals as well as our partners in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action.

**Ms. Agnès Marcaillou,
Director of UNMAS**

THE UNITED NATIONS COORDINATOR FOR MINE ACTION

The criticality of mine action and UNMAS role in sustaining peace, increasing protection for civilians caught up in conflict and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been widely and repeatedly recognized, including by the Secretary-General in his *"Agenda for Disarmament; Securing a Common Future"*, by the General Assembly in its High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and by academics and civil society in *"The Missing Peace"*, an independent study on youth, peace and security. UNMAS leadership of the sector has continued to ensure a properly coordinated and effective response through, inter-alia, chairing the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), leading the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AOR) of the Global Protection Cluster, regularly convening the United Nations/NGO Forum, and discharging its duties as custodian of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

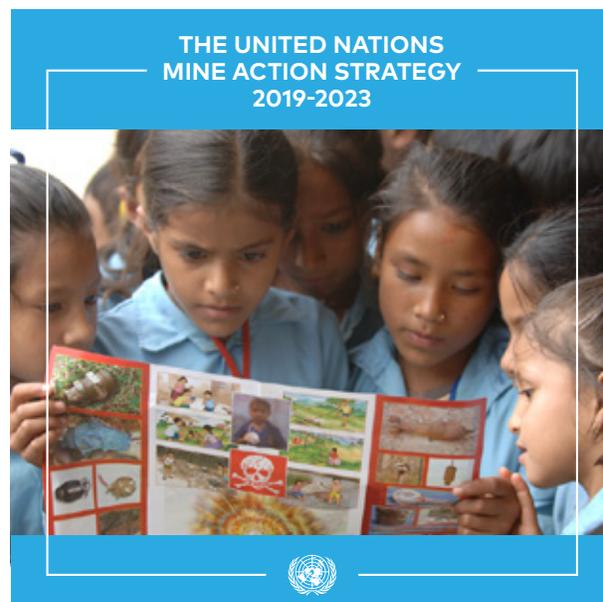
INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP ON MINE ACTION

Over the course of six months, UNMAS coordinated and led the development of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019 - 2023. Committed engagement from all IACG-MA partners resulted in a Strategy that is both ambitious and achievable, reflective of realities on the ground and emphasizes the linkage of mine action as an enabler for a wide range of United Nations responses and mandates. Broad and inclusive consultations with over 300 stakeholders, including Member States (donors and affected countries), relevant United Nations entities, civil society and the private sector, resulted in a practical, needs-driven, people-centred, and cost-efficient Strategy. The Strategy orients United Nations activities in mine action at both global and national levels towards responding to context-specific needs and priorities. An accountability framework for the United Nations system, the Strategy introduces a

Theory of Change, which articulates the change that the United Nations seeks to make in five priority areas (see Strategic Outcomes on page 7) and articulates clear outputs and indicators. The reinforced Monitoring & Evaluation mechanism for the Strategy will gather qualitative as well as quantitative data to build a body of evidence to report on contributions for which the United Nations is mandated and responsible, both at headquarters and country level. Having approved the overall approach in June 2018, Principals of the IACG-MA endorsed the Strategy at their meeting in December 2018.

At the request of Principals, UNMAS also led a consultative drafting process to complete the update to the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes, which will be published in 2019. Along with incorporating a more user-friendly approach, the revised Guidelines will serve as a practical tool that articulates how gender considerations can be included at every stage of the project management cycle.

The value of operationalizing a gendered approach was also stressed at disarmament meetings when the IACG-MA urged for



PRIORITY OUTCOME AREAS OF UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION STRATEGY 2019-2023

- ▶ **Reducing mine/ERW/IED related risks.** Address contamination from new and protracted conflicts and increased use of IEDs, while not losing focus on pre-existing contamination. Also address risks posed by unsecured weapons and ammunition stockpiles.
- ▶ **Assisting victims.** Focus on advocating for and supporting referral pathways, so that survivors (victims and their families) benefit not only from emergency health care, but also from other assistance including psycho-social treatment and rehabilitation.
- ▶ **Strengthening national ownership.** More systematic approach to strengthening capacities and managing transitions with a view to integrate, in line with SDG framework, sustainability and linkages to longer-term development goals as part of all mine action responses.
- ▶ **Maintaining momentum on mine action (cross-cutting strategic objective).** Building on progress achieved, strengthened United Nations role in multilateral efforts, including at global, regional and local levels.
- ▶ **Mainstreaming gender, age and diversity (cross-cutting strategic objective).** Explicit focus to mainstreaming gender, age, and diversity considerations across all mine action activities to better respond to needs and priorities.

universalization of, and compliance with, relevant international humanitarian law critical to protect civilians, and called for increased support to meet the emergency and long-term needs of survivors, their families and communities.

UNMAS continued to implement the Monitoring & Evaluation mechanism to monitor progress made under the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018. Using data provided by United Nations focal points at country level, combined with global data on the evolving mine, ERW and IED threat, analysis was regularly presented to the IACG-MA and reports published on E-MINE website (www.mineaction.org). An internal evaluation of the 2013-2018 Strategy also provided key lessons learned and best practices to inform the development of the next Strategy and its accompanying monitoring and evaluation framework.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As requested in the landmark Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) on mine action, UNMAS coordinated and drafted the first report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on mine action¹. Assistant Secretary-General Zouev

presented the report at a briefing on 28 June. During the ensuing debate, Security Council members reaffirmed the centrality of mine action to peace and security and the leading role of UNMAS. Although not adopted at the time, UNMAS had provided technical advice to Council members seeking a second, strengthened resolution. It is hoped ongoing discussions will bear fruit in 2019. A follow-on resolution would retain mine action high on the agenda of the Council and be an important tool with which UNMAS could ensure that mine action is considered in the earliest planning stages of United Nations interventions mandated by the Security Council.

UNMAS also reported on the impact of its IED threat mitigation work in the biennial report of the Secretary-General on *Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices*². UNMAS trainings and technical advice to increase the capacity of peacekeepers to carry out effective IED threat mitigation were highlighted as well as the extensive work in doctrine and policy development. In the subsequent resolution on *Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices* adopted in December³, Member States noted the completion of the

¹ S/2018/623

² A/73/156

³ A/RES/73/67

United Nations IED Disposal Standards (IEDDS) (see below) and UNMAS role to mitigate the threat posed by IEDs to civilians, United Nations uniformed and civilian staff, and humanitarian personnel as well as to build national capacity for safer and more secure management of weapons and ammunition stockpiles.

IED THREAT MITIGATION AND COORDINATION

UNMAS completed the development of the United Nations IED Disposal Standards (IEDDS) following extensive technical inputs from Member States and broad sector-wide consultations. Published in May 2018, the IEDDS provide guidance to all United Nations

operators who undertake IED disposal activities in complex non-humanitarian contexts. Subsequently, again in collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders, most notably the Office of Military Affairs and the integrated training service, UNMAS initiated the development of training materials to implement the Standards. In parallel, with the concurrence of the IACG-MA Principals and technical assistance of the IMAS Review Board that it chairs, UNMAS initiated the update of relevant International Mine Action Standards to incorporate a response to IEDs and related challenges posed in humanitarian settings. The elaboration of these comprehensive and complementary set of IED-related standards will ensure increased safety, efficiency and cost

UNDERSTANDING IEDs

Early December, UNMAS advocacy and awareness raising undertakings specific to IED threat mitigation benefitted from the diplomatic and financial support and technical contribution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Two one-day workshops entitled “UNderstanding IEDs” held in New York, at United Nations Headquarters, promoted a better understanding of the threat posed by IEDs and the measures taken by the United Nations to mitigate that threat. Opened jointly by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations and the Director of UNMAS, these “hands on” interactive workshops enabled participants to use multi-media technologies and IED threat mitigation equipment to showcase actual field situations and encourage extensive exchanges between participants and experts. UNMAS technical IED specialists from Iraq, Somalia and Mali shared their personal experience and knowledge with United Nations staff and United Nations member states representatives. The great interest and very positive feedback of participants led UNMAS to replicate the workshops at its February 2019 gathering of the mine action sector in Geneva.



IED threat mitigation equipment is introduced to participants at the UNderstanding IED workshop held in New York for Permanent Missions to the United Nations and UN staff. UNMAS/Lee Woodyear

effectiveness of IED threat mitigation across all contexts.

UNMAS continued, and expanded, mapping the impact of IEDs on the United Nations and its ability to respond. During the year, UNMAS conducted interviews with nearly 40 entities across the Organization, which highlighted the impact of IEDs in key areas such as staff safety and security, strategic planning, security assessments, policy development, humanitarian and protection responses, and implementation of operational mandates. There was a consensus that an effective response required partnerships, standardized data collection, and a preventative approach. UNMAS was consistently cited as the “go-to” in the system for guidance and expertise. In May, the Secretary-General launched his “*Agenda for Disarmament; Securing a Common Future*” calling for United Nations entities, under the leadership of UNMAS, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other relevant entities, to promote strengthened and coherent United Nations inter-agency coordination on IEDs to ensure a whole-of-system approach. The mapping conducted by UNMAS has been instrumental in identifying relevant United Nations entities to be involved in meeting this call for action by the Secretary-General as well as to outline essential elements for a whole-of-system approach.

MINE ACTION AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER

UNMAS continued to co-lead the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) in collaboration with the non-governmental organization Humanity and Inclusion. Working closely with the UNHCR Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and other coordinators for Areas of Responsibility, the MA AoR co-organised a Protection Conference that gathered 220 protection specialists and coordinators to identify and agree on ways to strengthen cooperation with other Areas of Responsibility such as Child Protection and Housing, Land and Property. As a result, actions on the ground will be better integrated, more coherent and increasingly effective. Also, with a view of improving operations in the field, the AoR developed the first induction package for

field coordinators, hereby increasing their ability to integrate mine action into humanitarian planning. In addition, the MA AoR and the Child Protection AoR commenced joint work to reduce the mortality rate and the number of children involved in accidents caused by explosive hazards by utilizing broader child protection networks to deliver risk education and improve the identification and referral of child survivors.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF MINE ACTION NATIONAL DIRECTORS AND UNITED NATIONS ADVISERS

The 2018 annual International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN) was convened by UNMAS, in February, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva under the theme of “*Advancing Protection, Peace and Development*”. Continuing to create a space for mine action practitioners to reflect and exchange views on trends and developments, the 2018 annual meeting gave special attention to incorporating geographical, gender and linguistic diversity into agenda topics as well as panel compositions. The enriched “mine action debate” included a diverse range of perspectives and experiences, such as those of national directors from Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Colombia. Representatives of the United Nations IACG-UN, including OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO, joined UNMAS to share expert technical advice and highlight the relevance of mine action to the full range of United Nations mandates and responses.

During a busy four-days, over 400 participants discussed lessons learned and best practice on topics including clearance of explosive hazards in urban contexts, prioritization in support of internally displaced people, methods to align mine action with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ways to incorporate women as active contributors and mine action agents in peace and reconciliation efforts.

UNMAS also used the occasion to launch the 2018 Portfolio for Mine Action Projects, a unique reference tool supporting the matching of donor funding to priority needs. The Portfolio is a compilation of projects coordinated at



The 2018 annual International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM) takes place in the Palais des Nations at the United Nations Office at Geneva. UNMAS/ Milana Vladimirova

country-level that reflect national strategic priorities and critical needs. Thoroughly vetted by UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF before publication, the online Portfolio appeal shows the most urgent needs for humanitarian mine action funding worldwide. Compared to 2017, the required amount in 2018 increased by 29 per cent to \$661 million. With only 27 per cent of the needs covered by financial contributions, a funding gap of \$483 million severely impacted achievement of a number of activities including clearance of explosive hazards, risk education, and support to victims and their communities; the latter of which, in particular, remains critically underfunded. The online Portfolio can be found on the E-MINE website (<https://www.mineaction.org/en>) under the heading Portfolio of Mine Action Projects.

4TH APRIL - INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION

In line with the theme of the NDM “*Advancing Protection, Peace and Development*”, UNMAS led and coordinated multiple public information, outreach and advocacy activities, worldwide, to advance this theme on the occasion of the 2018 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

At United Nations Headquarters, UNMAS launched its first ever Facebook Live event where war photographers and virtual reality experts discussed how to capture mine action imagery in conflict zones. The event generated a global conversation and was proven to be a cost-effective way for UNMAS to engage a larger audience. A multimedia exhibition, including 360-degree film footage from Afghanistan and Iraq, was opened by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations. The exhibition entitled “*Mine Action Advances Protection, Peace and Development*,” showed how mine action exemplified the vision of the Secretary-General and his reform of the peace and security architecture along the continuum of humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and sustainable development. Over 30,000 people visited the exhibition during the month it was on display, before being transported to the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in Geneva for awareness raising in the Conference on Disarmament.

In addition, UNMAS organized a panel discussion making the case for contributions of mine action to protection, peacebuilding and the SDGs. The panel, co-chaired by the Chair of the IACG-MA, Under-Secretary-General Lacroix,

and the Permanent Representative of Germany, also presented the perspectives of the Director of UNMAS and senior representatives of UNDP, UNHCR as well as of the Peacebuilding Support Office, which joined the United Nations celebration of the International Day for the first time. On that occasion, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) stressed how “mine action cuts across the United Nations work in conflict prevention, supporting peace and security, development, human rights, and humanitarian action.”

The week of worldwide activities concluded, at United Nations Headquarters, with a panel discussion devoted to the technical aspects and impact of IEDs.

Once again, UNMAS conducted its successful information campaign in partnership with the Geneva Public Transport Service and the International Airport. Estimated to have reached 500,000 people, powerful gender-balanced images showing clearance, risk education and assistance to survivors reinforced the simple

message “*together we can defeat deadly devices*”. From charity fun-runs in Abyei, Somalia and South Sudan, to the screening of a docudrama based on a true story of a Kurdish deminer in Iraq, all seventeen programmes marked the Day. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a caravan travelled 15 km through the town of Goma, raising awareness of the dangers of explosive hazards. In Sudan, a high-level event attended by Government officials, including the State Ministers of both Defense and International Cooperation, senior diplomats including ambassadors from Japan, Italy and the United States and local people celebrated the Eastern states of Sudan being declared “mine free” after 12 years of clearance efforts.

Thanks to the combined efforts of UNMAS and its worldwide network, UNMAS social media engaged over 19 million users for the Day, a record to date, and proving to constitute a valuable advocacy and outreach resource to raise awareness and communicate the needs of affected communities globally.



To celebrate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, at UNHQ, a multimedia exhibition, including 360-degree film footage from Afghanistan and Iraq, is opened by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations. UNMAS/Alice Whitehouse

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON MINE ACTION 2013-2018

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

Risks to individuals and the socio-economic impacts of mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, are reduced

UNMAS programmes and interventions continued to be driven by the needs of affected people and communities, and tailored to the specificities of gender, age and cultural norms. In partnership with United Nations entities, national authorities, civil society and affected communities and drawing on decades of experience, UNMAS approach is also specific to the type of threat, socio-political-security context, topography, and operational capacity.

Ensuring gender mainstreaming throughout, and consistent with the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action, UNMAS carried out,

and/or provided funds for, survey and clearance of explosive hazard contamination and risk education in **Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and the Territory of Western Sahara.**

Surveying the extent of explosive contamination and its human and socio-economic impact as well as providing immediate and life-saving risk education are critical first steps in responding to the urgent needs of people caught up in conflict. **In Syria**, the steadily growing explosive



UNMAS implementing partner provides a risk education session to local children in Syria. HALO Trust



UNMAS provides Mine Risk Education for women and children in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan. G4S

hazard contamination continues to threaten vulnerable communities and people on the move. Approximately 6.2 million people have been displaced by the conflict and 10.2 million people currently live in areas affected by explosive hazards⁴. In response, UNMAS implemented risk education tailored to different ages, genders and activity patterns of vulnerable groups. In addition, UNMAS conducted contamination impact surveys to prioritize future mine action activities and provide immediate benefit to affected communities. Survey teams identified hazardous areas, cordoned them off, and informed local communities of the danger, explaining how to reduce the likelihood of accidents. Displaced people are particularly vulnerable due to their lack of knowledge on the nature and extent of the localized contamination as they move into potentially contaminated areas. **In Afghanistan**, UNMAS provided risk education at UNHCR and IOM returnee centres to support safe and dignified homecoming. This year, Afghan risk education materials were updated to specifically target children, who constitute more than 90% of all ERW casualties

and over a third of casualties from victim operated IEDs. Similarly, **in South Sudan** where 75% of all survivors of explosive hazard accidents were children, UNMAS strategically targeted risk education in schools.

Equipped with as an accurate picture as possible of the extent and type of contamination, UNMAS worked with partners to determine the most efficient and cost-effective response. The principle of partnership and multi-stakeholder engagement is a key component of UNMAS business model. **In Iraq**, exemplifying the vision of the Secretary-General for integrated United Nations interventions, UNMAS carried out survey and clearance to enable the work of multiple entities including UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, UNHabitat, UNHCR, and OCHA. UNMAS carried out explosive hazard assessments in power and water treatment plants, schools, medical facilities, buildings of cultural, religious and historical significance, low-cost housing sites, IDP camps and secondary displacement areas. In one case, the Iron Bridge in Fallujah, an UNMAS underwater survey and clearance team

⁴ 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (Draft)



UNMAS conducts clearance operations at Al-Hadba School, West Mosul, Iraq. UNMAS/Cengiz Yar

removed two IEDs allowing for UNDP to safely carry out rehabilitation of the bridge, which is now crossed by hundreds of vehicles a day.

Likewise, **in Gaza** UNMAS provided risk awareness, risk assessments and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) to reconstruction

projects for roads, public facilities, public parks, schools, and water wells also enabling safe access to Gazan communities. In one school, clearance of unexploded ordnance enabled the safe return of 2,400 children, helping to recover a sense of normalcy in their lives. UNMAS also surveyed and cleared a desalination plant which

UNMAS OPENS A NEW PROJECT IN NORTH-EAST NIGERIA

Nine years of violent conflict across north-east Nigeria has resulted in one of the most severe humanitarian and protection crisis in the world. In July, UNMAS deployed to Maiduguri, north-east Nigeria, at the request of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator. The small UNMAS team started assessing the level and impact of the explosive hazard and planning for the response once access is secured. UNMAS presence has promoted and improved the integration of mine action in the relevant humanitarian plans and key strategies. UNMAS has also established an information management database, which is crucial to determine the level and extent of the contamination to help prioritization of other activities of the Humanitarian Country Team. The response in Nigeria is part of UNMAS approach to reduce the risk posed by explosive hazards linked to the Boko Haram insurgency; UNMAS is a member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Boko-Haram.



The first female demining team in Bamiyan, Afghanistan. UNMAS

will provide safe drinking water to 250,000 people in southern Gaza, hence playing a vital role in alleviating the dire water crisis in that place.

In Syria, as the MA AoR coordinator, UNMAS lead 27 international and local NGOs and United Nations partners to ensure that mine action activities are tailored to respond to needs, that areas most impacted are reached, and that mine action is integrated and implemented in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan. Following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Syrian Arab Republic in July, UNMAS established an office in Damascus to expand humanitarian mine action operations to reach communities in need.

In many cases, UNMAS operates in kinetic conflict environments where immediate and rapid response is required. **In Afghanistan**, mine action entities funded by UNMAS delivered emergency mine action in the immediate aftermath of clashes between Afghan security forces and anti-government elements in Ghazni

Province. Over a hundred ERW were disposed of and 8,000 Afghans provided with risk education



A National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) Officer conducting quality assurance during accreditation of a mine action implementing partner in Juba, Central Equatoria, South Sudan. UNMAS/Nico Bosman

POST CLEARANCE ASSESSMENT IN SOUTH SUDAN

In Tindilo, Central Equatoria, the explosive hazard legacy of civil war between Sudan and South Sudan remains a life-threatening issue for civilians while simultaneously hindering their ability to cultivate land or raise livestock, the core livelihoods in South Sudan. This year UNMAS conducted surveys and focus-group interviews with over 100 community leaders, women, youths, and young adults, in Tindilo, to understand how explosive hazard clearance had impacted their daily lives. Over 25 returnee families had resettled on land made safe by UNMAS and have resumed planting crops and constructing tukuls. Rejina Yadi, a 45-year-old female returnee, told the UNMAS team that in the past, her family members found animals killed by ERW several times, and she was terrified to return to the area, particularly after her brother Jeremano was killed by an explosion of an unknown item in the village. After receiving practical risk information from UNMAS, she felt safe enough to collect firewood, charcoal, and fruits again.

reducing their risk of injury once the fighting ceased. **In South Sudan**, ongoing fighting and resultant large-scale displacement increased the threats posed by ERW with an average of more than five new hazards reported to UNMAS every day. UNMAS located, removed, and destroyed hundreds of ERW, small arms ammunitions and cluster munitions through survey of areas that witnessed fighting or were used for defensive positions by parties to the conflict.

As well as responding in-the-midst of conflict, UNMAS piloted a project developed with UNMAS implementing partner Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) **in Gaza** to better prepare civilians for future conflict scenarios. Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) projects empowered people with the knowledge they need to mitigate risks associated with explosive hazards. Identifying the immense opportunity Gazan women have to influence their family members, UNMAS trained thousands of women who can now pass the knowledge they have received to their families enabling them to be more resilient in the face of renewed conflict, an ever-present threat in the region.

UNMAS also addressed dangers posed to civilians through weapons and ammunition



A billboard with message "Education is my weapon" in Libya. Photo: UNMAS

management (WAM) projects, which include stockpile destruction. **In the Territory of Western Sahara**⁵, efforts to eliminate the threat posed by mines progressed in May when, with technical advice from UNMAS, the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Office destroyed 2,500 stockpiled anti-personnel mines of the Polisario Front. All remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be destroyed in January 2019. **In Libya**, in response to the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons, UNMAS provided technical advice to a network of Libyan women to implement a public information campaign to raise awareness of the threat. The campaign featured brochures, billboards, and posters with messages such as “Education is my weapon” and explanations of how Libyan communities can better protect themselves against the threat posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

RAPID RESPONSE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT CAPACITY

Through its Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity (RRTSC), UNMAS is uniquely positioned to deploy experts and specialized equipment in a timely manner in response to threats posed by explosive hazards. Upon request by senior United Nations officials, it also supports countries through the provision of needs assessments, training and advice. Skills of UNMAS experts range from mine action programme management and coordination to explosive hazard clearance, quality management, risk education and weapons and ammunition management.

In March, at the request of the Resident Coordinator, the RRTSC deployed to Papua New Guinea to assess the prevalence of weapons and ammunition contamination in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, in support of the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. UNMAS provided recommendations on how to make the Autonomous Region of Bougainville “weapons free” as required by provisions in the peace agreement.



A National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) Officer and UNMAS jointly conducting quality assurance activities in Pariang, Unity, South Sudan. Photo/G4S

At the request of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), in June, the RRTSC carried out destruction of unserviceable ammunition and provided advice and recommendations to improve the safety of ammunition stored by police components of the mission.

In support of UNMAS programmes, RRTSC experts also deployed to **Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan** to provide expert support on programme management, operational coordination, security assessment and WAM, to enhance programme delivery and coordination with key partners and stakeholders.

⁵ UNMAS operates exclusively on the eastern side of the berm of the Territory of Western Sahara, while the Royal Moroccan Army manages the western side.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

Comprehensive support is provided by national and international actors to mine and explosive remnants of war victims within broader responses to injury and disability

In recent years, there has been a reversal in the previously downward trend of casualties due to mines and ERW. While casualties due to anti-personnel mines have decreased, the overall increase is driven by casualties due to IEDs, anti-vehicle mines and ERW. In response, UNMAS has placed special emphasis on victim assistance. In some contexts, UNMAS acts as one of the first responders, in others it focuses efforts on developing national capacities, including civil society, to ensure a sustainable solution to this long-term endeavor. Consistent with the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action, in 2018 UNMAS carried out activities in support of survivors in **Afghanistan, Colombia, Mali, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria and the Territory of Western Sahara.**

In Afghanistan, UNMAS continued to implement an Emergency Victim Assistance project by providing emergency assistance to civilians

impacted by the on-going conflict, including survivors of mines, ERW and IEDs accidents; over 10,000 Afghans benefited from emergency care and provision. **In Colombia,** where the number of new casualties tripled in 2018, UNMAS provided a national adviser on victim assistance to the Government to strengthen their capacity to care for survivors through the National Victim Assistance System. The adviser enhanced coordination to improve survivors' access to health services and the national land restitution programme, and provided technical expertise to develop and launch an online survivor's information management system which will improve the delivery of comprehensive support in years to come. **In the State of Palestine,** UNMAS continued to support survivors through a mechanism of referral pathways; starting with information made available immediately after an incident, followed by referral to specialist organizations and tracking of support provided,



Doctor Kaminah examines Shazia at a physical rehabilitation center funded by UNMAS in Kunar district, Afghanistan. Shazia lost her right leg below the knee four years ago due to a pressure plate mine. She now walks with a prosthetic. UNMAS/Cengiz Yar



Survivors of mine accidents living in the Tindouf refugee camps (Algeria) face social exclusion and poverty. UNMAS provides socio-economic reintegration opportunities to survivors and their dependents. UNMAS/ASAVIM

UNMAS ensured that survivors received the care they needed while establishing a sustainable support system. With UNMAS guidance, the model has been replicated in the West Bank, where the national authority now maintains

an injury surveillance system and survivor database. **In Sudan**, UNMAS provided multiple types of assistance to almost 100 people with disabilities, including provisions of prostheses and counselling for survivors of explosive hazard accidents. Practical steps to assist survivors in re-establishing their livelihoods is also a critical pillar of victim assistance, and **in the Territory of Western Sahara**, UNMAS provided guidance to the Sahrawi Association of Victims of Landmines in operationalizing a sustainable socio-economic reintegration project that enables survivors to generate income through livestock rearing. **In Syria**, UNMAS continued projects which provide physical rehabilitation, assistive products, medical support, psycho-social support, caregiver education and referrals and started two new initiatives in close collaboration with the Physical Rehabilitation and Disability Working Group, in which UNMAS is an active member, to meet ever increasing needs. In addition, UNMAS is promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian response, in particular through the integration of disability data disaggregation in monitoring tools.

THE MINE ACTION AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (MA AOR) COMES TO THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

At the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention held in Geneva in November, for the first time the MA AOR of the GPC, led by UNMAS, organized a "video corner" for people to tell personal stories of survivors and demonstrate the many aspects of short and long-term victim assistance. Some 200 people came to discover through videos how people cope with the loss of loved ones, physical, emotional or psycho-social injury, economic loss, and/or denial of their fundamental rights.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:

The transfer of mine action functions to national actors is accelerated, with national capacity to fulfil mine action responsibilities increased.

Consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNMAS is committed to developing national capacity across all its programmes. This year UNMAS worked with a range of partners, national and local, to strengthen mine action capacity **in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and the Territory of Western Sahara** with notable results.

On 1 June **in Afghanistan**, UNMAS formally handed over all coordination functions for mine action to the Government's Directorate of Mine Action Coordination. Progress towards national ownership has been a key priority for the Government and UNMAS; the handover is a significant milestone in the almost 30-

year history of the programme. **In Somalia**, the Somali Explosive Management Authority assumed chair of the explosive hazard sub-cluster, an important step towards transitioning protection and coordination responsibilities to the Government. These achievements result from UNMAS steadfast and consistent support to national mine action authorities. From **Sudan** where this year UNMAS mentored National Mine Action Center staff as they established a quality management system and updated national technical guidelines, to **Libya** where UNMAS assisted the Libyan Mine Action Centre to coordinate the activities of implementing partners, to **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, where UNMAS helped the National Mine Action Authority to reactivate the MA AOR of the GPC and to **Colombia** where



UNMAS trains Somali EOD Police on demolition techniques in Somalia. UNMAS/ Erik Bergstrom

A mine action team, trained by UNMAS as part of its efforts to strengthen national demining capacity in Colombia, hikes to their work stations. UNMAS/Juan Arredondo



national advisers funded by UNMAS have assisted Dirección Descontamina Colombia, UNMAS worked towards the goal of nationally-owned sustainable mine action programmes. In addition, UNMAS helped countries in their compliance with international humanitarian law relevant to mine action. **In Sudan**, UNMAS assisted the Government in submitting its Article 5 extension request under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), **in the State of Palestine**, which acceded to the Convention this year, UNMAS provided support to delegates presenting their first annual report at the meeting of States Parties in Geneva in November. **In Somalia**, UNMAS advocacy contributed to that country acceding to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disability.

As well as working with mine action authorities, UNMAS has also extended assistance to other Government entities. **In Colombia**, to enable the Colombian army's humanitarian demining brigade to fulfil its responsibility to deliver gender-sensitive humanitarian demining, UNMAS trained over 50 officers on how to take

UNMAS RECEIVES UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL AWARD FOR MENTORING

This year three UNMAS projects were shortlisted for Secretary-General awards, in various categories. At the award ceremony, which took place in October in New York, UNMAS Programme Manager for Iraq was honored to be presented with an award for mentoring. Leading a team of almost 100 people, of which over half are national staff, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar advised, trained and mentored in administration, reporting, donor relations, resource mobilization and operational deployment. Section chiefs and project managers have benefited from his willingness to invest time and effort into building and developing their capacity. The team that works for UNMAS in Iraq is more skilled and better prepared to deliver outstanding results because of his investment in them - a legacy that will last a lifetime.



UNMAS Operations & Training Officer Lina Castillo provides technical advice to deminers of NGO Perigeo in Leiva, Nariño, Colombia. UNMAS/Francisco Moreno

a gendered approach to quality assurance. **In the Central African Republic**, supported by UNMAS and consistent with priorities laid out in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the National Commission for the Fight against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons organized a Regional Small Arms and Light Weapons Conference and drafted a National Strategy and Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons. **In Somalia**, UNMAS enhanced the capacity of the Somali Police by providing technical advice and tailored training to EOD personnel and by supporting the inclusion of IED awareness, reconnaissance, response and scene management into the Somali Police curriculum. Similarly, **in Iraq** UNMAS expanded the existing capability of the Ministry of Interior by providing EOD, IED disposal and explosive hazard first responder training to local police in Al-Anbar and Kirkuk

governorates, including a specialized course for female police officers.

UNMAS also strengthened the capacity of civil society. **In Colombia**, UNMAS launched a capacity development project with Colombian NGO Humanicemos DH, an organization staffed by ex-combatants from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army thereby also contributing to peace building and sustainment efforts, and **in Sudan** UNMAS provided project management, operations and information management training to 11 national NGOs. **In the State of Palestine**, UNMAS trained local NGOs to deliver risk education and **in Libya** UNMAS strengthened local capacity by providing technical equipment and coordinating distribution of in-kind contributions, including several ambulances.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR:

Mine action is promoted and integrated in multilateral instruments and frameworks as well as national plans and legislation

PROMOTING MINE ACTION

UNMAS continued to ensure that mine action remained high on the agenda of decision-makers in government and the United Nations, as well as with civil society. Using digital conduits including websites and social media channels, UNMAS advocated to constantly draw attention to the impact of mines, ERW and IEDs on civilians and United Nations personnel. In 2018 UNMAS launched new UNMAS (unmas.org) and E-MINE (mineaction.org) websites, increasing the flexibility of the sites and strengthening their interactive content. The new UNMAS website is easier to navigate and is more accessible; the E-MINE website, managed by UNMAS on behalf of the United Nations mine action community, compiles all available information related to United Nations engagement on mine action and hosts the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) website. Posts on the UNMAS Facebook page

(@UnitedNationsMineActionService) were seen by more than 2.8 million people, tweets shared on UNMAS Twitter account (@UNMAS) reached more than 1.2 million people, and UNMAS Instagram account (@un_mineaction) continued to garner an increasing number of followers.

Beyond weekly media campaigns on issues related to mitigating the threat of explosive hazards, in 2018 UNMAS organized a photo exhibition entitled "Safe Home." at Photoville festival, the largest outdoor photographic event in New York City. The exhibit brought home the reality of post-conflict Iraq, where thousands of explosive hazards continue to threaten over two million internally displaced people and three and a half million returnees. More than 330,000 people saw the exhibit, which was opened by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations.



Photographer Cengiz Yar speaks to UNTV correspondent Nathan Beriro in front of the "Safe Home" exhibit in Brooklyn, New York. UNMAS/ Larisa Khiryanova

WOMEN AND YOUTH IN MINE ACTION: BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

In the margins of the Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Geneva in November, UNMAS organized a panel discussion on “Women and Youth in Mine Action: Building Stronger Communities” to show how addressing the needs of women and youth is essential for mine action programmes to contribute to building safer and more resilient communities. Canada, a strong advocate of gender equality, delivered the keynote address. The panel elaborated on the first all-female demining team in Afghanistan, the empowerment of youth and women through employment and skills development in marginalized communities in Somalia, and the engagement of women as Community Liaison Officers in Iraq.



Content developed by UNMAS was broadcast by radio, television, and through print outlets, in scores of countries. UNMAS also contributed material to a number of documentaries and produced its own films to promote specific issues such as underwater clearance in Iraq and victim assistance in Somalia.

As is the case every year, UNMAS capitalized on high-level meetings, such as those of the First Committee of the General Assembly and meetings of States Parties to the various mine action treaties, to display exhibitions and host panel discussions which raised awareness, promoted best practice and shared learning for the better implementation of

mine action programmes globally, as well as to raise awareness. For example, in June, in the margins of the Third Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, UNMAS organized a panel discussion “*Building National Capacity in Weapons and Ammunition Management to Sustain Peace and Prevent Conflict*” where practical examples were shared by UNMAS, UNIDIR and the National Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Reduction of Armed Violence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

INTEGRATION IN MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS

On 18 January, the Secretary-General launched his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace with the aim of forging a common vision across the United Nations to support Member States to sustain peace and build resilient and prosperous nations consistent with their commitment to “leave no one behind.” UNMAS advocacy resulted in mine action being incorporated into the report as a crucial component of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and recognized as an accelerator towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Though mine action does not feature specifically within the framework of the SDGs, UNMAS continued to advocate mine action as an enabler of many of the goals - Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on food security, Goal 8 on inclusive economic growth, Goal 10 on reducing inequalities, and Goal 16 on peace, justice and strengthened institutions. This year **in Afghanistan**, as a result of UNMAS advocacy and engagement, five mine action indicators have been integrated into Afghanistan’s SDG targets.

In May the Secretary-General launched his *Agenda for Disarmament: Securing our Common*

Future which called for, under the chapter on “disarmament that saves lives”, integrated approaches to weapons and ammunition management (Action Point 22), as well as for UNMAS to lead coordination of United Nations entities for the development of a whole-of-system approach to IEDs (Action Point 18). Later in the year, at the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the Economic and Social Council, UNMAS promoted again the need for mine action in the context of protection and humanitarian planning and programming.

The success of mainstreaming mine action into multilateral frameworks and building on existing momentum over the last five years were some of the considerations leading to the decision by the IACG-MA to pursue this through a cross-cutting strategy outcome in the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023.

NATIONAL PLANS AND LEGISLATION

As part of the United Nations system response, UNMAS ensured that the critical contribution of mine action to humanitarian action and development planning was incorporated into relevant plans and frameworks. As a result, mine action is integrated into the Humanitarian Response Plans for **Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic**

STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Consistent with the MoU entered into in 2017, UNMAS and the African Union (AU) continued collaboration on mine action issues. In Abyei, UNMAS provided information on contamination to the technical team of the AU Border Programme to support their efforts to improve border management. As well as assisting the AU to update their Strategic Framework 2014-2017, in advance of development of the next one, UNMAS also provided advice to an AU-led workshop in Addis Ababa, aiming at the development of an Africa-wide counter-IED Policy and advised on technical specifications for demining equipment.

UNMAS and NATO also continued to cooperate in several areas of mutual interest. Related to IED threat mitigation, representatives from the NATO Counter-IED Center of Excellence provided input to the United Nations IEDD standards approved in May. Further, UNMAS and NATO started work together to harmonize IED training curricula for EOD and IED Awareness. Building on this productive relationship, the sub-working group on IED Threat Mitigation, which met as part of the 2018 UN-NATO staff talks, identified other areas for future cooperation such as identification of new technology and equipment to address the IED threat. NATO also drew on UNMAS experience in gender mainstreaming; UNMAS shared lessons learnt and good practices during a NATO-led workshop in November.

Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria.

Similarly, UNMAS has contributed to the Common Country Assessment in **Iraq, Libya and Mali** and **mine action is incorporated into the UNDAFs of Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine and Sudan.**

In Iraq, UNMAS successfully advocated for the inclusion of mine action, an essential prerequisite for reconstruction in conflict affected areas, in the Government's Recovery and Development Framework as well as the United Nations Recovery and Resilience Programme. In addition, UNMAS ensured explosive hazard management was incorporated into the Government's action plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women peace and security, not only as an intervention that is necessary to respond to the needs of women in Iraq, but also in recognition of the active, contributor role women play in mine action. **In Afghanistan**, UNMAS supported national authorities in strengthening existing legislation to facilitate the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The new legislation bans the use, acquisition, and stockpiling of weapons, ammunition, and explosive items and formally designate the Directorate of Mine Action as the Government body in charge of coordinating mine action in Afghanistan. Also on legislation, **in Somalia**, UNMAS worked with national and international partners to support the processing of mine action legislation through the Parliament and the development of a Somali-led mine action strategy. The Government of Somalia, with support from UNMAS, launched the "Badbaado Plan" for 2018-2022 which outlines its plans and financial requirements to manage and reduce the impact of explosive hazards throughout the country. Similarly, **in South Sudan**, the National Mine Action Strategy for 2018-2021, developed with assistance from UNMAS, was launched, as was a National Development Strategy for 2019-2021, in which mine action is featured as a key issue for governance and security. **In Colombia**, UNMAS advisors to Dirección Descontamina Colombia supported the inclusion of mine action in the National Development Plan and the integration of mine action within other national priority programmes such as those related to land restitution and the voluntary substitution of illicit crops.



Due to the continuing risk from explosive remnants of war, accidents are reported too often, UNMAS prioritizes risk education in Gaza. Photo: UNMAS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DONOR RELATIONS

The ability of UNMAS to respond to the threat posed by explosive devices in diverse and increasingly challenging contexts requires strong partnership with Member States and other actors. To meet the increasing demands of the international community to conduct clearance, carry out surveys, provide risk education, support survivors, and advance advocacy and effective coordination, UNMAS requires sustained multi-year, unrestricted financial and in-kind contributions from Member States.

In 2018, UNMAS received \$121 million through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for mine action (UN VTF). This a significant figure, but none-the-less far below the \$660 million required for the sector, as identified in the 2018 Portfolio for the Mine Action Projects⁶. 2018 was the fourth consecutive year that the Fund has achieved growth, underscoring the trust that donors have

placed in UNMAS. In addition, at the country level several UNMAS programmes received financial support from both global and country-based pooled funds. UNMAS also benefits from in-kind support from several Member States.

UNMAS recognizes the need to diversify its donor base and continues to seek cash and in-kind contributions from non-traditional funding sources. Through a fiduciary agreement with the UN Foundation, UNMAS can accept tax-deductible contributions (within the United States), positioning itself to explore innovative financing opportunities and mobilize resources from individuals, the business community and charitable organizations.

The trend towards increasingly restricted contributions continues to impact the ability of UNMAS to deliver all aspects of its mandate,



Mine clearance operations continue throughout the harsh winter to release the remaining 1,505 communities affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war. UNMAS/Cengiz Yar

⁶ See page 9 (in coordination section)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNMAS IN 2018* (FIGURES IN USD)								
Donor	Afghanistan	Central African Republic	Colombia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	State of Palestine	Iraq	Libya	Nigeria
Andorra								
Australia						2,227,474		
Belgium	57,515							
Benin								
Canada	2,253,064							
Cyprus				5,700				
Czech Republic						219,751		
Denmark						7,100,637		
Estonia						30,000		
European Union		2,679,724			34,943	21,949,844		
Finland	290,825					613,600		
France					232,558	581,395		
Germany			611,800			7,956,900	520,929	
Italy			340,800		375,917	664,385	681,420	
Japan	1,000,000			500,000		4,500,000		
Liechtenstein								
Luxembourg								
Netherlands	3,400,500							
New Zealand						163,225		
Norway						1,753,053		
Poland					48,438			
Republic of Korea				1,350,000 ¹	125,000			125,000
Spain							11,280	
Sweden						8,332,083		
Switzerland			200,242		50,000			
UNA Sweden				58,608				
United Kingdom	15,397,720 ³				132,300 ²	11,431,454 ⁴		
United States of America								
OCHA/CERF	668,179			549,995			800,000	
Colombia Post-Conflict UNMPTF			4,755,852					
Grand Total	23,067,803	2,679,724	5,908,694	2,464,303	999,156	67,523,802	2,013,629	125,000

* The Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2018 for the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (MNA) will be published by the UN upon completion UN Board of Auditor's audit in mid-2019.

South Sudan	Sudan	Syria	Territory of Western Sahara	Outreach and Advocacy	IED Threat Mitigation (HO)	Unearmarked Funding	In-Kind Support ⁶
						17,735	
		2,976,374				226,744	
							✓
						2,266,477	
							✓
		1,828,050	1,192,182				✓
	340,800			170,355			
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,300,000				91,205	✓
						26,853	
						786,870	
						3,417,900	✓
						1,078,604	✓
						48,438	
					50,000		
			67,661				
							✓
							✓
	2,680,160 ³						
	525,122 ⁵						✓
1,000,000	4,546,082	6,104,424	1,259,843	170,355	50,000	7,960,825	

³ Department for International Development (DFID)

⁴ USD 1,353,800 contributed by FCO and USD 10,077,654 contributed by DFID

⁵ United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

⁶ Includes Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) and technically specialized personnel

PROGRAMME/ACTIVITY	2018 EXPENDITURE*
Iraq	58,373,446.14
Afghanistan	21,654,844.24
Syria	7,418,772.53
UNMAS coordination	4,251,433.04
Sudan	3,000,616.55
Colombia	1,688,364.19
Libya	1,404,834.11
South Sudan	1,341,453.12
The Territory of Western Sahara	1,246,381.80
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	980,216.94
The State of Palestine	759,315.56
Nigeria	516,666.67
The Central African Republic	392,323.00
Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity	309,087.45
Outreach and advocacy	193,826.21
Total	103,531,581.55

* Data provided above is provisional. Accrued expenses as required under IPSAS reporting are not included. These expenses will be reflected in the UN audited financial statements which will be available in the coming months.

to respond to the requests of Member States and United Nations senior management and to backstop its programmes at headquarters. Over 90 per cent of UNMAS funding is earmarked for specific UNMAS field programmes, contradicting donor commitments made in the Grand Bargain and impacting on the operational flexibility, efficiency and effectiveness of entities such as UNMAS.

UNMAS fundraising is guided by its resource mobilization strategy, which has resulted in the implementation of robust processes and best practices. Benefiting from the implementation of the United Nations ERP (Umoja) and the Business Intelligence it provides, UNMAS in 2018 played an instrumental role in the design and testing of the fundraising and donor relations management module, resulting in a product which is fit for UNMAS purposes, and is expected to enhance the management of donor relationships and appeals for voluntary contributions.

Reflecting the Secretary-General's reform agenda, UNMAS is committed to transparency and accountability. The United Nations Board of Auditors financial review of the UN VTF is available online and is shared with all donors; UNMAS has an excellent track record of on-time delivery of project-specific narrative and financial reports. UNMAS also has participated in several successful evaluations and due diligence exercises conducted by Member States to thoroughly assess the UNMAS capabilities and performance.

UNMAS interacts closely with its donors, including key decision-makers in permanent missions, ministries and parliaments, to determine shared priorities, discuss results and ensure mine action is considered as a matter of priority in relevant legislative and national budget processes. In 2018, UNMAS hosted several WebEx meetings with partners to strengthen understanding of and access to

real-time information on UNMAS programmes. These initiatives, which enabled UNMAS to get closer to its constituency in a time-saving and cost-effective manner, allowed for interactive discussions with field-based Programme Managers and supported collaboration on the development of the next United Nations Strategy.

UNMAS, as Chair of the IACG-MA, coordinates with its United Nation partners and liaises with Member States to recommend agenda

items and arrange high-level speakers for the biannual MASG meeting which remains the only platform for the United Nations and the donor community to come together to identify resource requirements and share experiences and knowledge towards addressing the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war.

To learn more about how you or your organization can support UNMAS, visit www.unmas.org/donate.

NEEDS DRIVEN. PEOPLE CENTRED.
UNMAS

Support The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

By making a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Mine Action Service, you participate in helping support UNMAS to achieve the UN's vision of "a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies."

Your donations will help to clear post-conflict countries of unexploded ordnance and landmines allowing children to return to school and their playgrounds, farmers return to their farms, and goods to reach markets. It will help UNMAS secure weapons and ammunition stockpiles so they do not fall into the wrong hands to further spread the scourge of conflict.

If you would prefer to donate by check, [click here](#) for more information.

Take future action with a single click.
Log in or Sign up for **FastAction**.

fastAction

Contribution Information

\$10	\$25	\$50	\$100
\$500	\$1,000	\$ 0.00	

Make this contribution: Monthly

Contact Information

MINE ACTION PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



10 WORLD LEADERSHIP

ENSURE DIGNITY



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

WELL-BEING



5 GENDER EQUALITY

BREAK BARRIERS



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SAFE GROUND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SAFEGUARD PEACE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SAFE CITIES



1 NO POVERTY

SAFE MARKETS



2 ZERO HUNGER

SAFE ROADS



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SAFE SCHOOLS



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SAFE ACCESS



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

JOB CREATION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

ONE GOAL



UNMAS 2018 SNAP SHOT

18 PROGRAMMES
around the world



30 UNMAS STAFF
(77% FEMALE) in
UNHQ & Geneva

240 INTERNATIONAL STAFF
(30% FEMALE)

711 NATIONAL STAFF
(17% FEMALE)

+ 3,958 NATIONAL STAFF EMPLOYED
THROUGH UNMAS FUNDING

Aggregates



DESTROYED

- ▶ **105,036** explosive remnants of war
- ▶ **2,471** landmines
- ▶ **1,846** IEDs



CLEARED

- ▶ **144 sq km** land
- ▶ **3,000 km** roads



WEAPONS & AMMUNITION STORAGE CONSTRUCTED

- ▶ **25**



RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED

- ▶ Over **2,090,000** people impacted by explosive hazards



VICTIMS ASSISTED

- ▶ Over **19,000**



TRAINED

- ▶ Over **4,100** healthcare workers, police, teachers, military personnel



RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

- ▶ Papua New Guinea, Haiti

The UNMAS Annual Report 2018 describes the organization's activities and achievements resulting from contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action.

Please see reverse for an overview of UNMAS work in United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions in 2018.



To learn more, download the UNMAS Landmine + ERW Safety app and visit us online at:



unmas.org



[@UNMAS](https://twitter.com/UNMAS)



[UNMAS](https://www.facebook.com/UNMAS)



[un_mineaction](https://www.instagram.com/un_mineaction)



[UNMAS United Nations](https://www.youtube.com/UNMAS)

Cover photo:

Children attend a risk education session in a classroom, West Mosul, Iraq. Both girls and boys need to know what to do and who to speak to when faced with dangers in their community. UNMAS clears explosive hazards from schools and works with national authorities to integrate risk education into school curriculum. UNMAS/Cengiz Yar



UNMAS

**IN PEACE
OPERATIONS
2018**



CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	2
MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS.....	3
UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO).....	4
UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA).....	4
UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA).....	4
UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (MONUSCO).....	5
UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP).....	5
UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI).....	5
AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID).....	6
UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL).....	6
UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA).....	6
UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS).....	6
UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL).....	7
UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT OFFICE IN SOMALIA (UNSOS) AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM).....	7

* Information provided in alphabetical order of mission acronym.

ACRONYMS

AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
COE	Contingent Owned Equipment
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
IED	Improvised explosive device
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PoC	Protection of civilians
SSR	Security Sector Reform
TCC	Troop-contributing countries
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
WAM	Weapon and Ammunition Management

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARIES-GENERAL FOR PEACE OPERATIONS AND POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS

Keeping and building peace is difficult and often dangerous. In addition, consolidating political solutions and strengthening national institutions requires a multi-stakeholder response. The Security Council, in its resolution 2365 (2017), emphasised the linkages between mine action and peace and security, peacebuilding, and stabilisation. In 2018, the Secretary-General has launched his Action for Peacekeeping initiative (A4P), which is of critical strategic importance to garner the commitments that are needed to make peacekeeping more effective and efficient and to build sustainable peace and security. The work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) strongly supports and facilitates the implementation of the A4P goals, centred on the five themes of peace building, performance, people, partnerships and politics.

In 12 United Nations Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions, UNMAS works on the clearance of deadly explosive remnants of war in extremely difficult environments such as Iraq and Somalia, which is crucial for enabling the conditions for peacebuilding to develop. UNMAS provision of expertise in Mali and other countries, particularly in improvised explosive device threat mitigation through pre-and post-deployment training, enhanced the performance of United Nations personnel in the field and civilians, saving countless lives. Its people-centred approach has proven effective in responding to the needs of local communities in South Sudan, Libya, Western Sahara and beyond. The strong partnerships developed with Member States, other United Nations entities and communities affected by explosive hazards allowed for collective and innovative interventions in the field. Finally, the role of mine action in advancing political solutions through confidence-building initiatives, further demonstrate UNMAS contribution to conflict resolution.

For many years UNMAS has provided support across political and peacekeeping missions. In the future, we will continue to rely on their important contribution to conflict prevention and stabilization efforts. We commend UNMAS for their innovation, expertise and efficiency and for their dedication to lasting peace and security.



UN Photo

Rosemary A. DiCarlo,
Under-Secretary-General,
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UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

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UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO)

Pursuant to the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2440 (2018), UNMAS played a critical role in facilitating MINURSO efforts to monitor the ceasefire along the eastern side of the 1,465 km berm dividing the Territory of Western Sahara. By clearing minefields and cluster munition strike areas, as well as verifying routes to be used by MINURSO were clear of explosive hazards, UNMAS successfully enabled safe passage for MINURSO military observers and civilian logistical support. UNMAS also delivered landmine safety training to MINURSO military and civilian personnel, thereby contributing to a safer environment for peacekeeping operations. Pertinent mine action information is recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and shared with MINURSO personnel and other local partners to enable a better understanding of the threat posed by mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) by all relevant stakeholders, thereby allowing for safer movement.

UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2448 (2018), UNMAS supported the implementation of MINUSCA protection of civilians mandate by conducting explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and by participating in national Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation initiatives through the provision of weapons and ammunition management (WAM) expertise in the first half of 2018. UNMAS work helped mitigate the risks posed to civilians by explosive hazards and contributed to a reduction in the circulation of weapons and ammunition.

Furthermore, to enable the restoration and extension of state authority, also part of MINUSCA mandate, UNMAS provided WAM support to national authorities, coordinating in line with deployment plans for the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and Internal Security Forces (ISF). In coordination with the national authorities and the European Union Training Mission in CAR (EUTM), by rehabilitating and constructing weapons storage facilities and providing training to international standards, UNMAS supported the implementation of the National Security Sector Reform (SSR) Strategy as well as the National Defence Plan.

UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2423 (2018), UNMAS prioritized protection of civilians and stabilization efforts in Mali. In response to the growing threat for the civilian population and humanitarian actors, UNMAS delivered risk education sessions on explosive hazards, developed an IED risk awareness course for NGO personnel and jointly organized with OCHA a workshop with NGO representatives from all affected regions of Mali to improve awareness and coordination. In order to reduce casualties among peacekeepers in line with the Santos Cruz report recommendations, UNMAS continued to implement its IED threat mitigation framework and delivered technical advice and tailored trainings ranging from highly-specialized IED disposal to basic explosive hazard awareness to MINUSMA personnel. Despite the increasing frequency and expansion of

IED attacks, with more effective emplacements and larger explosive charges throughout the centre and north of the country, the ability of MINUSMA troops to detect IEDs targeting them before they could detonate has been steadily increasing from 11% in 2014 to risen to 51% in 2018.

As part of UNMAS efforts to enhance national capacity in explosive ordnance disposal and weapons and ammunition management and sustainability, this year, for the first time, Malian instructors taught explosive ordnance disposal courses to their own troops in Bamako, marking a milestone in the development of national capacities and the restoration of State authority.

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (MONUSCO)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2409 (2018), UNMAS contributed to the protection of civilians by carrying out explosive ordnance disposal activities before, during and after MONUSCO operations against armed groups. In support of mission troops, UNMAS assisted in the assessment, planning and implementation of mitigation measures against potential threats from improper or poor storage of contingents' weapons and ammunition. In addition, United Nations Personnel and Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) received awareness trainings on the threat posed by ERWs and IEDs. UNMAS has also supported the government to improve their capacity in weapons and ammunitions management. This year commissariats and sub-commissariats of the Congolese National Police were assessed, and weapons safes were installed in the eastern provinces of the country. An increased number of weapons surrendered by national security forces were destroyed by UNMAS in support of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2398 (2018), UNMAS mitigated the threat posed by mines and ERW to local communities and peacekeepers by conducting mine action planning and coordination, undertaking demining activities, and providing quality assurance of UNFICYP-funded mine action activities. Through these actions, UNMAS ensured freedom of movement for UNFICYP and helped achieve this mission objective to contribute to a return to normal conditions in Cyprus. As a confidence building measure between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, UNMAS cleared minefields, agreed to be a priority by both parties, and contributed to reconciliation efforts by providing training on explosive hazard identification to increase the safety of Committee on Missing Persons staff active along the Green Line.

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2421 (2018), through explosive hazard detection and removal UNMAS supported the overarching effort of the United Nations in Iraq to create the conditions necessary to support the return of displaced persons to areas previously occupied by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), given explosive hazards are cited by civilians as a primary concern preventing return. As well as acting as a critical enabler for stabilization efforts and humanitarian activities undertaken by the United Nations and the Government of Iraq, UNMAS also provided technical advice and expertise to national entities increasing their capacity to manage the explosive hazard threat.

AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2429 (2018), in support of protection of civilians UNMAS conducted ERW survey and clearance activities, as well as ERW risk education throughout Darfur, with a focus on Jebel Marra which has recently become more accessible and areas where displaced Darfuris are beginning to return. As the level of the conflict has declined, this year UNMAS has been able to access an increased number of contaminated areas. As a result, Kereinik and Kulbus in west Darfur and El Kuma and Um Kaddada in north Darfur were declared free of known ERW, leading to increased socio-economic activity in the region. In support of UNAMID plans to draw down, UNMAS confirmed ten mission sites free of explosive ordnance prior to them being handed over to the government of Sudan. In addition, UNMAS contributed technical advice to the UNAMID – Sudan UNCT transition plan; ensuring the need for ERW clearance is included in the transition and factored into the planning of humanitarian assistance and recovery operations.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2433 (2018), UNMAS provided quality assurance monitoring and training of UNIFIL demining teams, which resulted in safe and efficient demining operations in compliance with International Mine Action Standards. To reduce the risk of mine/ ERW related incidents to peacekeepers operating in the UNIFIL area of operation, UNMAS delivered mine/ERW safety briefings to United Nations civilian and military personnel, along with humanitarian actors, teaching them safe behaviour and enabling them to take appropriate action if encountering an explosive hazard. UNMAS also conducted mine risk education activities in support of the Lebanon Mine Action Center, promoting safe behaviour amongst local populations in the areas where the presence of mines and other ERW is known or suspected.

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2438 (2018) and UNSCR 2445 (2018), UNMAS ensured the freedom of movement of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and identified and cleared mines in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. Through the provision of explosive hazard clearance in the Abyei Area and the delivery of risk education, UNMAS contributed to a safe and secure environment that facilitated safe voluntary returns and safe passage for local and transiting populations, including cattle herders. UNMAS work also enhanced UNISFA freedom of movement and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid. In addition, UNMAS continued to support UNISFA in weapons and ammunition management activities in line with UNISFA mandate to enforce a “weapons-free” Abyei affirmed in the Security Council resolution 2205 (2015).

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2406 (2018), UNMAS surveyed and cleared mines and ERW across the country, including in areas designated for returnee resettlement, and/or civilian facilities, such as schools, water points, markets, or in the proximity of UNMISS Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites. UNMAS enabled the delivery of life-saving aid through clearance of roads, airstrips, food-drop zones and helicopter landing sites. In addition, UNMAS provided risk education to communities to raise

awareness of the dangers posed by explosive hazards. UNMAS also bolstered entry control and security measures at UNMISS bases, United Nations aviation terminals, and PoC sites by providing explosive detection dog services.

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2434 (2018), UNMAS supported UNSMIL and Libyan authorities in securing uncontrolled arms and related materiel to counter weapons proliferation in Libya. UNMAS provided expertise and technical guidance to assist the authorities on institution building for weapons and ammunition management, arms control, and mine action. UNMAS assistance included training on EOD and medical response; risk education; coordination of the international mine action response; and support to resource mobilization. UNMAS actions resulted in improved protection from explosive hazards for an increased number of civilians.

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT OFFICE IN SOMALIA (UNSO) AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM)

Pursuant to UNSCR 2408 (2018) and 2444 (2018), UNMAS supported the work of UNSOM through a whole-of-government approach that aims to establish an enduring explosive threat mitigation capacity at Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member State levels. This included the support to the Somali Explosive Management Authority, the development of the Somali security forces explosive threat mitigation capabilities, and the establishment of a comprehensive weapons and ammunition management system in compliance with the partial lifting of the arms embargo.

Pursuant to UNSCR 2431 (2018), UNMAS facilitated the work of UNSOS by providing explosive threat mitigation assistance to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as part of a larger logistical support package provided by the United Nations. UNMAS provided analysis, training, specialized equipment, explosive detection dogs, multi-tasking teams and community liaison officers, which enabled AMISOM to carry out and improve its mobility, protection of key infrastructure, and explosive threat mitigation, including the threat posed by improvised explosive devices. As a result, AMISOM was able to protect its personnel and assets and to operate and remain mobile despite the threat of IEDs. UNMAS also supported AMISOM to mentor, assist and train Somali security forces on joint operations with AMISOM, consistent with the Somali Transition Plan.

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Destruction of unserviceable ammunition and improved storage of all UNMISS ammunition holdings, consistent with international standards
- Management of the drawdown of the UNAMID Ordnance Disposal Office, consistent with UNAMID closure, and transfer of relevant responsibilities to the UNMAS programme in Sudan
- Provision of technical support to the Office of Military Affairs to update manuals for Contingent Owned Equipment (COE), Liquidation, Ammunition Management and Engineering.
- Finalizing training standards and syllabus for explosive ordnance destruction levels 1, 2 and 3

Overview of UNMAS work
in United Nations peacekeeping and
special political missions in 2018.

Please see reverse
for UNMAS Annual Report 2018.



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Cover photo:
A deminer at work in South Sudan.
UNMAS/Martine Perret