



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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April 2020

IRAQ

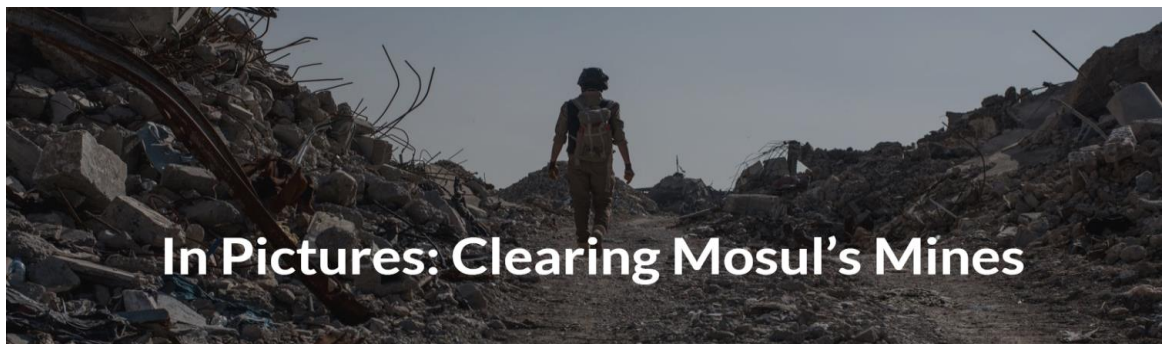
Programme Highlights

UNMAS Commemorates Mine Action Day with Tribute to Healthcare Workers

Even as the world battles a global pandemic, the threat of explosive ordnance – improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in particular, remains omnipresent.

In Mosul city, the Al Shifa Hospital Complex, which served as Da'esh headquarters through the years-long battle to retake the city, had been brimmed with deadly IEDs – homemade lethal weapons camouflaged in everyday items. Their presence had curtailed rehabilitation and reconstruction works to the hospital.

Now – more than a year after UNMAS Iraq completed its clearance, the hospital is on the top of UNDP and Government of Iraq's list of priorities, with a temporary makeshift hospital set up nearby. This hospital, albeit provisional, serves thousands of people in West Mosul, and remains the epicenter of emergency care in the area.



In Pictures: Clearing Mosul's Mines

As the virus continues to spread throughout the world, shutting down many cities, and overflowing hospitals with sick patients, cities like Mosul that are contaminated with explosive ordnance are most at risk. That is why UNMAS, in collaboration with UNDP and the Government of Iraq, have prioritized clearance and reconstruction works for healthcare facilities and access routes, to ensure that local citizens are afforded quality, safe healthcare in vulnerable areas.

To commemorate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April, UNMAS expresses its gratitude to all of the front-line personnel who risk their lives on a daily basis to clear critical infrastructure in contaminated areas, with a special thanks to all the healthcare personnel – doctors, nurses, and all those behind the scenes – who provide the necessary care for our workers to conduct their jobs effectively. As the world struggles to cope with containing COVID-19, their work has proved crucial to saving thousands of lives today – and every day.

Read more about how the United Nations Agencies work together and in synergy, to remove explosive ordnance and other hazardous objects remaining from the conflict, enabling the restoration of critical community services and infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads, water systems, and electricity networks, here: <https://unmas.shorthandstories.com/clearing-mosul-mines-EN/index.html>.

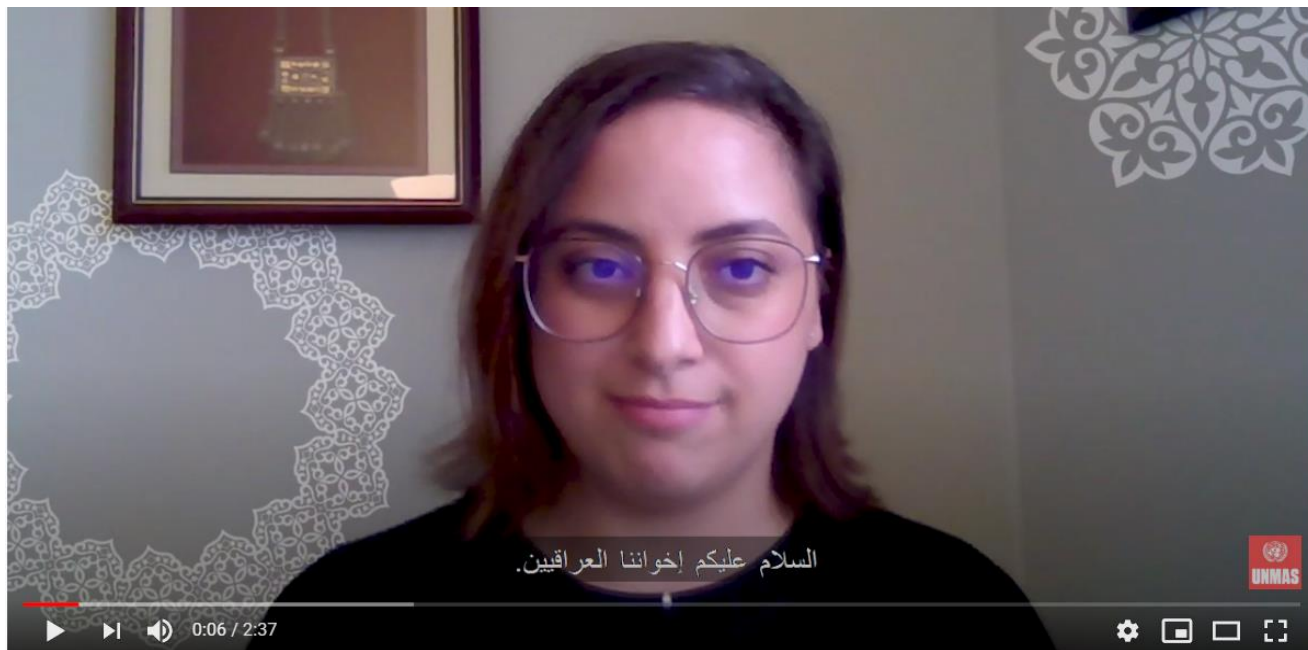


UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2019 and 2020, UNMAS secured USD 42.4 million in funds. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for survey and clearance, technical support and training to government entities, and risk education, as well as to support the Recovery and Resilience Programme and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

Message from UNMAS to the People of Iraq on the Occasion of Ramadan



UNMAS Iraq sends its best wishes to the people of Iraq on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, cognizant of the tough times the country is undergoing, especially in regards to the special circumstances brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch the video [here](#).

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in April 2020

0 m² of high priority areas surveyed, 0 m² cleared, and 0 explosive hazard items removed.

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

0 risk education sessions delivered to 0 beneficiaries of which 0% were female and 0% were children.

The above data are a result from the temporary halt in operations, in line with Gol national curfew and health & safety response measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



*Figures for the Mine Action sector are provided by the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA). Statistics obtained from the Government databases might not fully reflect the up-to-date numbers as reports are submitted on a rolling basis. For these reasons, the figures reported have to be considered as the absolute minimum and only reflect the achievements of humanitarian actors (not the Iraqi Security Forces).

Established in 1997, the **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating United Nations mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service of the United Nations located within the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated official. UN Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) the first stand-alone text on mine action, *“Expresses grave concern over the threat that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to civilians, refugees returning to their homes, ...and stresses the need to undertake appropriate measures to mitigate this danger effectively.”*