



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

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**February 2020**

**IRAQ**

# Programme Highlights

## Snow Fall Across Iraq



Photo: The Old City of Mosul from the other side of the Tigris river after the snow fell on 10 February (©UNMAS).

What an unusual landscape in Iraq! Snow fell across the country, including Mosul and Baghdad. As beautiful as it can be, it also reminds us how difficult it is for the 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in camps as well as for those who have returned home but still live in precarious conditions.

Over the past two years, UNMAS teams have found and removed over 62,000 explosive hazards in Mosul and the surrounding areas. Clearance is an essential step before the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure can take place. The restoration of basic services such as health and education remains a necessary pre-requisite for the return of IDPs.

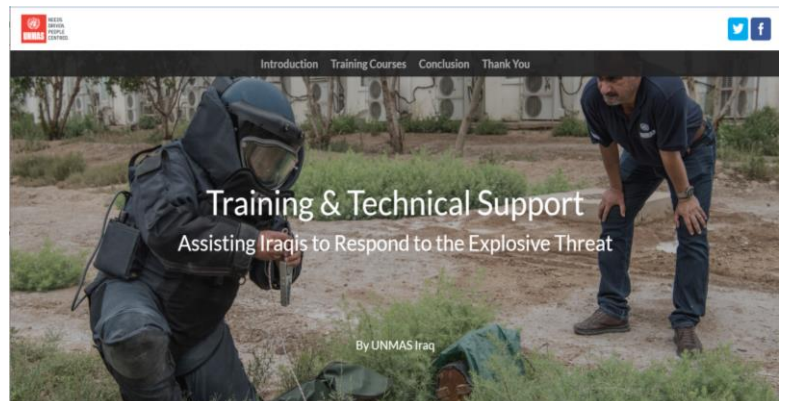
UNMAS Iraq would like to thank the international community for its support and also emphasize that continued funding is needed to enable the safe, dignified and voluntary return of displaced communities.

## Training and Technical Support

One of the key pillars of UNMAS work in country is to provide training and technical support to the Government of Iraq. However, this support is not exclusive to federal, provincial, and local government stakeholders, but also Iraqi citizens, who are then better equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to undertake the jobs themselves.

The provision of technical trainings to national authorities is crucial to UNMAS advisory and capacity building roles. UNMAS supports the Iraqi government with technical expertise through multiple workshops, training courses, and practical sessions.

Explosive hazard management and capacity building activities not only facilitate the creation of a safe environment, but also contribute in catalyzing livelihood and economic recovery as a collateral effect.



Check out UNMAS Iraq last digital story and learn more about training and technical support activities [here](#).



UNMAS in Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. In 2019 and 2020, UNMAS secured USD 33.3 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.

## Workshop on Gender in Mine Action



Photo: One of the participants is sharing her views on one of the topic discussed during the workshop (©UNMAS).

UNMAS in collaboration with the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) organized a workshop on Gender in Mine Action in Baghdad. More than 50 representatives from governmental entities including the Iraqi Ministry of Health & Environment, the Prime Minister Office, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense and the Swedish Embassy as well as from UNICEF and non-governmental organizations such as Handicap International, Danish Church Aid, Baghdad Organization, the Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization and Norwegian People's Aid participated in the workshop.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness and engage participants in presentations and discussions on the importance of considering the particular needs, experiences, voices and the necessary participation of both women and men in mine action activities, toward effective explosive hazard management in Iraq.

UNMAS Iraq would like to thank the government of Canada for its support to gender mainstreaming activities in country.

# Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

## UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in February 2020

684,123 m<sup>2</sup> of high priority areas surveyed, 18,267 m<sup>2</sup> cleared, and 16 explosive hazard items removed.

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

136 risk education sessions delivered to 2,155 beneficiaries of which 34% were female and 71% were children.



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

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