



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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IRAQ

Programme Highlights

Preparations of the 'Gender in Mine Action' Workshop



The Gender Unit of the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) gathered at the UNMAS office in Baghdad for a mini workshop. During the workshop, UNMAS Gender Specialists, Ms. Vaz and Ms. Almalaki, delivered a training on International Legal Instruments on Women's Rights and Gender in Mine Action. A presentation by the DMA Head of Gender Unit, Ms. Muntaha, on the role of her team as well as a participatory group discussion on designing a first Action Plan for the Gender Unit were also part of the agenda.

The Action Plan will serve as the vehicle for mainstreaming gender through DMA departments, raising awareness, and developing the capacity of technical teams. It will also support the implementation of the Gender in Mine Action Guidelines 2019 that are translated and being published in Arabic.

Photo: A member of the DMA Gender Unit participating in the group discussion (©UNMAS).

Next steps will be the finalization of the Action Plan, and the development of the 'Gender in Mine Action' Workshop scheduled for the end of February in Baghdad.

Life-Saving Messages Delivered to Wood Collectors

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) living in camps suffer from the socio-economic consequences of their displacement. The lack of financial resources forced some IDP women to become the bread-winner of their families because their men (husband, brother, father or siblings) were killed or are still reported missing.

In Jada'a IDP camp, UNMAS implementing partner, IHSCO, noticed that a group of women is leaving the camp every day to collect wood and that the area where these women are going to is suspected to be contaminated with explosive hazards due to the recent conflict. The Risk Education teams immediately took action and explained to the women the dangers they face and how to avoid accidents. They also referred them to a safe area where they can collect wood.



Photo: UNMAS Iraq implementing partner, IHSCO, is raising awareness on the dangers posed by explosive hazards (©UNMAS).

"We were not aware of such threats. We will follow your instructions and adopt a safe behaviour. We do not want to lose our lives after we lost our men" said one of the women who received risk education.



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.

Continuation of Coordination Meetings with the Government of Iraq



Photo: UNMAS and DMA posing for a group photo at the end of a fruitful meeting in Baghdad (©UNMAS).

UNMAS Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar, met with the Iraqi Minister of Health and Environment (MoHE), Dr. Jaafar Allawi, the Deputy Minister of MoHE, Dr. Jassim Al-Falahi, and the Director-General of the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), Dr. Khalid Rashad to discuss tasking and coordination mechanisms between the Government of Iraq and UNMAS.

During the meeting, Mr. Lodhammar provided updates on the current status of UNMAS activities in country, as well as future projects. In addition, Mr. Lodhammar provided an overview of the funding landscape in Iraq as of the new year, and discussed a possible contribution from the Iraqi government to the mine action sector in the near future.

These regular meetings with the Government of Iraq are key to identify priorities for action and to ensure that the coordination between UNMAS and the mine action authorities is smooth and effective.

UNMAS Iraq would like to thank the MoHE and DMA for their commitment to creating an environment free from explosive hazards and enabling the safe, dignified and voluntary return of displaced communities.

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in January 2020

51,005 square meters cleared and 62 explosive hazards removed, including 17 IEDs and 3 suicide belts.

553 risk education sessions delivered to 9,519 beneficiaries of which 43% were female and 72% 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.”*