



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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May 2020

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

UNMAS Activities in Iraq Seek to Establish “Safe Home” for IDPs



Photo: The Old City of Mosul (©UNMAS/Cengiz Yar).

“Everything we do at UNMAS, we do in support of the Government of Iraq and with the Iraqi women and men in mind and also the safety of future generations. They are our motivation, and the reason why we are here. They deserve homes that are safe from explosive hazards to return to. They deserve safe streets, safe schools, safe places of worship and safe public infrastructure before they can begin rebuilding their lives.” – Pehr Lodhammar, UNMAS Iraq Senior Programme Manager.

More than three years post-liberation from Da’esh, thousands of Iraqis remain displaced in IDP camps across the country, unable to return to their communities. The presence of explosive hazards continues to hinder rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the retaken areas, thereby impeding economic and livelihood activities, even in areas where there are returnees.

While present safety and curfew measures in the country have temporarily halted some operations, UNMAS is working constantly with the Government of Iraq to provide its support, albeit remotely for now, to ensure that once the situation permits, operations are able to resume immediately.



Photo: IDP camp located in the Kurdish region of Iraq (©UNMAS/Cengiz Yar).



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.

UNMAS Exhibits Highlight Extent of Explosive Hazard Contamination in Iraq



Years of debilitating conflict, economic instability, and social strife has made Iraq vulnerable to destabilization from the ongoing fight against terrorism and Da'esh, resulting in the displacement and migration of thousands of civilians, in search of a 'Safe Home'.

To this day, the presence of explosive hazards left behind by Da'esh continues to hinder the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of displaced communities, disrupt livelihood activities, and pose a threat to returnees in contaminated areas.

Since the commencement of its on-ground operations post-liberation, UNMAS has documented the devastating impact of the latest humanitarian crisis in the country in its 'Safe Home' exhibit, a photo-story about its work in Iraq.

You can watch highlights of the exhibits here:

1. New York City: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbwwyOAxBOM>
2. Berlin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeNKWW1obr8>
3. Geneva: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvWEhQjfrWQ>

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS & Partners' Achievements in May 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."