

IRAQ PROGRAMME REPORT 2019





Table of Contents

Glossary	4
Message from the Senior Programme Manager	6
Background Information	10
Explosive Hazard Management (EHM)	13
Risk Education (RE)	18
Training and Technical Support	22
Coordination	27
Gender	28
Visibility	32

GLOSSARY

CMMAI	Coordination Mechanism for Mine Action in Iraq	ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Also known as “Da’esh”
DCA	Dan Church Aid	JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center
DDG	Danish Demining Group	KRG	Kurdish Regional Government
DMA	Directorate of Mine Action	MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
EHFR	Explosive Hazards First Responder	MAG	Mines Advisory Group
EHM	Explosive Hazard Management	MIR	Mine and UXO Impact Relief
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	MoD	Ministry of Defense
ERWs	Explosive Remnants of War	MoI	Ministry of Interior
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action	NAP	National Action Plan
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
GMAP	Gender and Mine Action Programme	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
GOI	Government of Iraq	NMAS	National Mine Action Standards
HI	Humanity and Inclusion, Previously Handicap International	NPA	Norwegian People’s Aid
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview	NTS	Non-Technical Survey
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan	OACPE	Orchard Association for Child Protection and Education
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	SWP	Standard Working Procedures
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons/People	RE	Risk Education
IED	Improvised Explosive Devices	RTAP	Real-Time Accountability Partnership
IEDD	Improvised Explosive Device Defeat	T3	Training of the Trainer
IHF	Iraqi Humanitarian Pooled Fund	TS	Technical Survey
IHSCO	Health and Social Care Organization in Iraq	UN	United Nations
IKMAA	Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
iMMAP	Information Management and Mine Action Programs	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
IMO	Information Management Officer	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action	VR	Virtual Reality





Message from the Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar

For much of the world, Iraq is a distant place struggling to recover from nearly two decades of conflict. As many as 1.5 million of its people remain displaced, most of whom want little more than a return to a normal life perhaps best defined by a job for those who want one, an education for those who need one, and a safe home for all.

For those of us engaged in mine action in Iraq, a critical first step towards recovery, we see this struggle every day and close up, as we have since 2016 when we began explosive hazard clearance operations supportive of the Government of Iraq and our direct counterparts at the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA).

Contamination: Simple logic says that only after threats posed by explosive hazards of all types have been removed and areas safely cleared according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) can recovery begin: infrastructure restored, fields ploughed, homes rebuilt. Yet, despite our progress¹, Iraq continues to rank first among the world's contaminated countries based on its over 3,000 square kilometres² of still contaminated land³. The true extent of contamination is likely much greater⁴, not least because an estimated 130,000 homes in liberated areas are reported as damaged or destroyed⁵ and many of these are assessed as likely to contain explosive remnants of war (ERW) or improvised explosive devices (IEDs)⁶.

Challenges: The overall impact of the level of explosive hazard contamination across all economic sectors has yet to be measured. For example, in Ninewa Governorate alone, of a total of 100 confirmed and suspected hazardous areas

identified in Al-Hamdaniya, Baashiqah and Tilkaif districts, most or all were located in agricultural areas⁷. As of 2019, agricultural capacity, the second most important sector of the Iraqi economy after oil, remains down 40 percent from pre-Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) levels.⁸ Arguably, a stable, prosperous Iraq, secure in its own sovereignty, has much to contribute to the world, and particularly to the Middle East as recognized by our donors.

"UK aid is disarming thousands of devices which could kill and maim without warning, in a second war to remove the legacy of Da'esh's terror from Iraq. This is a win for Iraq, and a win for the UK which can only benefit from prosperity, stability and security in the region."

Penny Mordaunt,
International Development Secretary
United Kingdom

Transition: In 2019, UNMAS Iraq, along with its implementing partners and in collaboration with other United Nations (UN) organizations, continued to contribute to that end despite continuing security threats where we work, political uncertainty, social unrest, and reduced funding for our clearance work, risk education programmes, and technical assistance provided to our Iraqi counterparts. In response, UNMAS Iraq:

» **Clearance:** Introduced a new business model with a reduced "international footprint". By gradually reducing international staff and re-deploying the remainder from "hands on" clearance tasks to exclusively supervisory,

consultative and quality assurance roles in support of an increased, fully qualified local staff. UNMAS Iraq maintained standards and reduced costs while employing an increased number of highly trained national staff and others. (See Training, below)

» **Risk Education:** Enhanced continuing "face-to-face" risk education programs with a major new multi-media campaign, including mass-, social-, and interactive media to expand reach – more impressions at a reduced "per impression" cost. At the conclusion of the campaign in 2020, an independent research firm will conduct an opinion survey to evaluate responses for cost-effectiveness as a guide for fine-tuning continued risk education programmes.

» **Training:** Continued to conduct Explosive Hazard First Response (EHFR) and Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environment (SSAFE) courses among others for DMA and IKMAA staff as well as local authorities and police. Nearly one-third of the 1,433 graduates of both courses were women. UNMAS Iraq views the training of women police officers, for example, as important evidence of follow through consistent with women's empowerment goals by positioning them for advancement within their peer group. UNMAS Iraq trained another 49 police officers in three, rigorous 16-week long EOD/IEDD sessions. Altogether, more than 2,800 persons attended UNMAS Iraq training of all types.

» **Technical Assistance:** Positioned advisors within Iraq's Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) and co-chaired the Coordination Mechanism for Mine Action in Iraq (CMMAI), and Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings, with the aim of coordination of mine action activities among all mine action partners including NGOs, commercial companies, NATO, and others. Midway through 2019, UNMAS Iraq launched a new consultative initiative with DMA, a stronger emphasis on a collaborative, needs-based issue management and problem-solving, knowledge-transfer conducive to long term skill retention important for sustainability in the sector.

Sinjar: At the same time, at the request of DMA, UNMAS Iraq took on a major new clearance mission in Sinjar District, Ninewa Governorate, near the Iraqi-Syrian border. The Sinjar District is home to many of the Yazidi members of our "mixed teams" but to many of Yazidi members of our "mixed teams" of young men and women, recruited and trained to conduct clearance operations, working side-by-side under the direction of UNMAS Iraq's implementing partner. Team members, when asked why they would consider a job in such a demanding, technical, dangerous setting, virtually all said the same thing: as ISIL survivors, they simply wanted to reclaim their identity and their communities, often clearing not just neighborhoods but their very own homes in the process even while they earned a living to support their families.

Trust: Much the same as in Sinjar, UNMAS Iraq continued to engage with local communities, routinely meeting with local government officials related to their clearance concerns but also with individuals through community liaison officers and risk education programmes. In 2019, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNMAS Iraq trained 6,833 cash-for-work employees and trained another 1,214 government employees to recognize and behave safely in the presence of explosive hazards then to be cleared by competent UNMAS Iraq implementing partners or Iraqi authorities. Anecdotal evidence suggests these initiatives build trust within local communities – that "UNMAS Iraq is here to help" – important to productive, day-to-day contact and interaction when UNMAS Iraq teams conduct their non-technical surveys and clearance work, particularly when the security situation can change by the day or hour.

Returns: As of January 2019, the Government of Iraq was on record saying that key areas where UNMAS Iraq conducts clearance and risk education programmes, including the cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Ramadi and Fallujah, will take an estimated \$80 to \$100 billion to rebuild. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, return movements in 2019 exceeded new displacements for the third year in a row. The Center estimates 104,000 new displacements and 462,000 returns, while 1.5 million remain displaced and questions the sustainability of returns given the extent of damage to homes, basic infrastructure and the widespread presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO), further evidence of the need for continued and fast-paced clearance proceeding in 2020.

Accountability: As important as our work itself, documenting results, and interpreting change in the conduct of clearance is also important not only for accountability to our stakeholders, including donors, but to advancing mine action in relevant, contemporary terms: arguably, Iraq has changed what we do and how based on the clearance environment itself. In 2019, UNMAS Iraq contributed to mine action literature through its "think pieces" published in professional journals which focused IEDs, how these are used in conflict and post-conflict environments, along with other factors contributing to "time-on-task" and associated costs, as well as related UNMAS Iraq innovations – for example, our stronger reliance on local staff and "light teams" focused on spot tasks – to address same. Similar articles already in the drafting stage at the close of 2019 promise to take these ideas further in the direction of standards appropriate for measuring costs and cost-effectiveness using Iraq field experience and data as a baseline.

Outcomes: We remain aware that explosive hazard clearance, risk education, training, and technical assistance ultimately matter only insofar as Iraqis displaced by conflict can return of their own free will to a safe home of their choosing, and the Iraqi government is well equipped to manage explosive hazard contamination independently. We continue to work to these ends every day.

Pehr Lodhammar
Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS Iraq

Support for UNMAS in Iraq in 2019 comes from the voluntary contributions of these countries:



1 From the start of operations in August 2016 through December 2019, UNMAS Iraq teams alone cleared more than 39,800 explosive remnants of war, including more than 3,900 IEDs including suicide vests and IED main charges from Iraq's liberated areas.
2 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2019 Report.
3 Landmine Monitor 2019 Report; <http://www.the-monitor.org/media/3074086/Landmine-Monitor-2019-Report-Final.pdf>. This p. 29. [Accessed 15 May 2020]
4 Mine Action Review, 2017 "Clearing the Mines 2018 Report". [online] Mine Action Review. Available at: <http://www.mineactionreview.org/country/iraq/anti-personnel-mines>. [Accessed 24 March 2019].
5 World Bank, 2018. Iraq Reconstruction & Investment: Damage and Needs Assessment of Affected Governorates. [pdf] World Bank. Retrieved from: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/600181520000498420/pdf/123631-REVISED-Iraq-Reconstruction-and-Investment-Part-2-Damage-and-Needs-Assessment-of-Affected-Governorates.pdf> [Accessed November 2018]
6 National Iraqi News Agency (NINA), 13th April 2020 – Story quotes police sources investigating deaths of two young Yazidi men killed and four others wounded by an unspecified ISIL explosive device hidden in an abandoned house in Al-Qahtaniyah district, west Mosul.
7 Of 111 confirmed and suspected areas in Ninewa governorate contaminated with IEDs, 75 percent were in agricultural land in Al-Hamdaniya, 85 percent in Baashiqah, and 100 percent in Takaif. Norwegian People's Aid Non-Technical Survey Results, 2018 and 2019.
8 "Rural Areas in Ninewa: Legacies of Conflict on Rural Economies and Communities in Sinjar and Ninewa plains," a report, International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2019, p.5.



© UNMAS – Cengiz Yar

“

Collapsed buildings and piles of rubble line the mostly vacant streets. Debris crunches underfoot. The scene resembles cities destroyed in the two great wars of the last century but with a difference. The enemy, now silent, is still here, by virtue of thousands of explosive hazards scattered and hidden everywhere.

The threats are no longer ‘just’ passive, remnants of war awaiting clearance. Improvised explosive devices (IED) triggered by tripwires, pressure plates, or even worse, passive infrared movements sensors,

actively target anyone who attempts to rebuild a school or return to a home. Suspicion of an IED works the same as the real thing to stall reconstruction and recovery.

Clearance of these hazards –our mission– is a critical first step toward stabilization and the safe return home of 1.9⁹ million people, still displaced, many still living in camps. Consider what stabilization might mean not only for Iraq but for those donor countries both here and at home.

9 1.4 million IDPs as of 29 February 2020. Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix for Iraq.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The UNMAS Iraq programme focuses on enabling humanitarian and stabilization interventions to support the safe and dignified return of IDPs to areas previously under the control of the ISIL. This specifically includes the following priority areas:

© UNMAS – Cengiz Yar

Priority Areas of Intervention

- 1

Provide **explosive hazard management (EHM)** response in support of humanitarian and stabilization efforts.
- 2

Deliver **risk education** at the community level and national/ regional level.
- 3

Support government entities with managing, regulating, and coordinating an explosive hazard management response through **technical support** and **training**.

Due to the nature of threats posed by explosive hazards, UNMAS teams are among the first responders allowing the humanitarian community and local authorities to intervene quickly and efficiently to help civilians.

The unprecedented nature of explosive hazard contamination, the sheer magnitude of dispersion, in addition to the unorthodox and innovative ways in which they were planted means that all who are in the near vicinity are at grave risk. Sporadic accidents due to IEDs has shed light on the urgent and crucial work that UNMAS, complemented by other mine action organizations and the Government of Iraq (GoI), continue to conduct on a daily basis.

As vital as UNMAS work to create a safe environment for IDPs to return to, is UNMAS efforts in ensuring that returnees are aware and cautious of potentially contaminated sites, suspicious objects, and ways of contacting the government so that such locations can be surveyed and cleared.

The activities undertaken by UNMAS in Iraq in 2019 under the aforementioned three strategic pillars are outlined in this report.

So long as explosive hazards contaminate areas retaken from ISIL, their legacy will continue to plague Iraq and threaten stabilization and rehabilitation efforts.

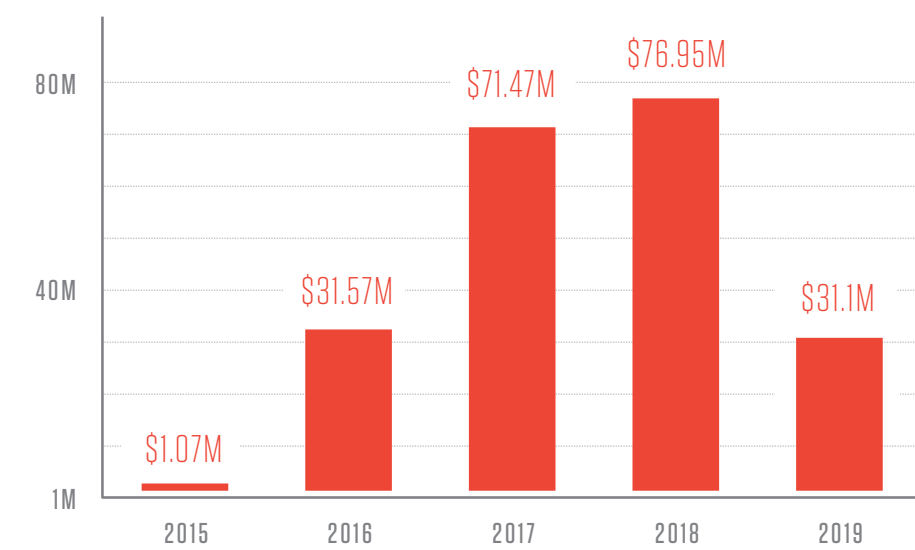


Strategic Pillar/Donors 2015-2019

FIGURE 1. PILLAR SUPPORT BY DONOR

EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT	RISK EDUCATION	TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT
	Australia	
	Canada	
		Czech Republic
	Denmark	
	Estonia	
	European Union	
	Finland	
France		France
	Germany	
	Italy	
	Japan	
Luxembourg		
	Netherlands	
New Zealand		
Norway		Norway
	Portugal	
	Republic of Korea	
	Sweden	
	United Kingdom	

FIGURE 2. FUNDS SECURED PER YEAR SINCE INCEPTION





EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT (EHM)

To support humanitarian and stabilization efforts in areas retaken from ISIL, EHM utilizes a blended approach to respond to extensive explosive hazard contamination. This includes commissioning national/ international companies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) alike to survey and clear affected areas, in support of and complementing stabilization and humanitarian efforts undertaken by the GoI and the UN.

Once requested from the UN and GoI, UNMAS deploys assessment teams, followed by specialized teams to conduct: technical and non-technical survey, high-risk search, battle area clearance, mechanical assets, and/or debris management in the suspected area.

In 2019, UNMAS had EHM operational capacity across the following areas: Fallujah, Kirkuk, Mosul, Sinjar, and Tikrit; and continued operations for 2020 in Kirkuk, Mosul, and Sinjar, and also deployed clearance teams to Ramadi and Tel Afar.

While the brunt of the work conducted by the EHM unit lies mostly in routine tasks, specifically those which relate to the oversight of safety and quality standards on day-to-day clearance activities, there have been numerous examples throughout the year of unique and notable work which deserve to be considered 'key achievements'.

Clearance Operations in Sinjar

The knowledge of the impact of explosive hazard contamination on Iraqi communities is critical for UNMAS to confirm that the task prioritization of its clearance assets in the ISIL-liberated areas is relevant. Therefore, through a non-technical survey grant, UNMAS Iraq requested its implementing partner to deploy teams in the five liberated areas and collect the necessary information. The information gathered during the survey operations improves the current understanding of explosive hazard contamination and allows for the improvement of the prioritization system.



UNMAS searcher conducts a systematic room entrance procedure in Sinjar.



UNMAS implementing partner (G4S) using armored excavator in removing rubble from the police compound in Sinjar.



© UNMAS – Cengiz Yar

Kirkuk – Hawija Power Line Clearance

The area between Kirkuk and Hawija has historically been unsafe for clearance operations, though the needs of people living in those areas have been well recognized. Following several reconnaissance missions, the team was assigned to a key infrastructure clearance project in early 2019. The mission was to clear explosive hazards to allow the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) engineers to rebuild and reconnect the power line. This was a monumental task that saw daily supervision by EHM staff to drive through a successful conclusion.

Throughout the year, 1,195,247 square metres were cleared and approximately 100 explosive hazards were found and removed, including 16 IEDs and 18 IED main charges.



IED main charges found on site, prepared to be disposed by ISF.



UNMAS implementing partner using both mechanical and manual assets to clear target area in Kirkuk – Hawija Power Line.

This task was of vital importance to UNMAS and reached thousands of direct beneficiaries. Furthermore, it saw EHM actively manage a complex clearance operation where mechanical and manual search assets were integrated and worked in a complementary manner.

Return to Old City, Mosul

UNMAS returned to the Al Maedan district in October 2019. The Old City of Mosul, and the Al Maedan neighborhood in particular, epitomizes the threats posed by explosive hazards with a mix of destruction, rubble, and debris that has defined the area since its liberation from ISIL. The Al Maedan neighborhood, with a history of human inhabitation of more than two millennia, is the most damaged part of Mosul's Old City. In the last quarter of the

year, 141 explosive hazards were found and removed throughout clearance and the subsequent removal of rubble. In close collaboration with Iraqi Civil Defence and other stakeholders, UNMAS is now able to better address issues during clearance operations, such as handling human remains.



UNMAS implementing partner clearing searched rubble in preparation for further clearance operations in Al Maedan neighborhood.



UNMAS EHM team liaising with central government officials to facilitate operations in Mosul.

Rethinking Mechanical Clearance: Ramadi

Previous clearance operations in Ramadi had been hindered by large numbers of partially-demolished buildings which were outside UNMAS jurisdiction. This had often meant that within cleared areas, isolated buildings would remain as suspected hazardous areas that could not be cleared or declared safe.

Working closely with UNMAS implementing partner, The HALO Trust, EHM pioneered the use of mechanical equipment for limited demolition and rubble clearance. The specially-procured equipment allowed UNMAS to further

broaden the range of clearance activities, and to conduct useful research for future residential area clearance.

The main task conducted in Ramadi in 2019 was the grain storage facility. Grain and rice are centrally stored in the facility for subsequent distribution within Ramadi and wider Anbar, as well as Baghdad Governorate if required. The site had been occupied by ISIL, as it gave the best vantage point in the area over the south where they believed ISF would attack from.

Clearance was first conducted by another mine action organization, but two

parts of the original polygon had been left due to a search limitation, as the use of mechanical assets was necessary.

- » The first unit (south-west) was a small area comprising of loose grain piles and a collapsed seven-story building. This part was sown with IEDs to stop the advance of ISF.
- » The second unit (north-east) comprised of collapsed single story buildings that were used as barracks by ISIL. It is believed that there were explosive hazards and/or ammunition stored by ISIL buried under the buildings.

In 2019, 10,790 square metres were cleared and five explosive hazards found and removed, including one IED and four IED main charges.



Mechanical clearance utilising raking with the excavator.

Cooperation with National Mine Action Authorities

Throughout the year, UNMAS has enhanced its effort to further develop its working relationship with the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA). Notable successes have been the agreement of a joint DMA/UNMAS directive relating to the issue of task orders, along with the transfer to DMA as the central authority for task management. In direct support of this, UNMAS opened a joint office in Mosul to support the activities of DMA under the Regional Mine Action Center — North (RMAC-N), providing a vital mechanism to directly support all elements of the tasking processes related to clearance. Finally, after significantly increasing coordinated efforts with DMA to advocate for residential area clearance, the GoI has issued a letter authorizing such clearance activities to commence in Sinjar, meeting the needs of the local people who seek to safely return home from IDP camps.

Information Management

The bulk of 2019 was spent developing the System for Mine Action Reporting and Tasking (SMART), a new information management system to manage the data requirements of clearance operations. The new system brings together all data management, tasking, quality and reporting requirements under a single interface. This platform will revolutionize the ability of EHM to analyze and evaluate operations, as well as drive efficiencies and effectiveness. The system debuted on 1 January 2020.



UNMAS Senior Programme Manager and EHM Team Lead meeting with government officials for briefings on Residential Area Clearance operations

Medical Support

Throughout 2019, EHM employed a medical quality assurance officer. This specialist has taken responsibility for both training and quality management, with key achievements including:

- » Trained 41 men and 2 women police officers in Baghdad on Emergency Trauma Bag (ETB) use.
- » Trained the first ever -mixed-gender course in Kirkuk (15 people in total).
- » Completed operations review for The HALO Trust and Optima.
- » Conducted external quality assurance site visits for implementing partners.
- » Introduced a Continuing Professional Development model for implementing partners to keep medics afresh and prevent skill fade.

These achievements have helped EHM to maintain focus on medical training and standards as key components of clearance activities.



UNMAS Medical Ops/QA Officer conducting ETB training.

Rapid Response Teams in Fallujah

The rapid response teams marked an attempt to apply an already proven humanitarian mine action clearance concept within an IED environment. With minimal international supervision, the teams gradually became more independent in their work, ultimately planning, deploying and completing clearance tasks. In the course of nine months of operations, the teams delivered significant results, including:

- » Surveyed 708,254 square metres
- » Removed 146 explosive hazards, including 66 explosive remnants of war (ERW), 58 IED main charges, 20 IED components, 20 VOIEDs and two IEDs

This project showed the rapid response team approach to be both cost and operationally efficient and proved that within the correct management framework, entirely local national teams could be deployed on complex clearance activities in Iraq. This work has been developed through various concept notes of a 'new model' for UNMAS Iraq EHM clearance activities.



RRT team operator clearing out IED buried underneath road surface.

Learning and Development: Innovation in EHM

During the year, EHM held operational reviews identifying lessons learnt. As a result, EHM has published a number of articles in international journals which reflect the process of analysis and its subsequent driving of development and innovation within working practices. This work has included definitions and models to better understand the complexity of clearance environments, concepts relating to tailored clearance teams, as well as ongoing work to better understand how to select, train and equip teams that are tailored to Iraq's explosive hazard-contaminated environment.



The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction and other EHM publications featured UNMAS Iraq technical articles in 2019.

Totals:

From 1 January to 31 December 2019 UNMAS EHM teams:

- Conducted **1,353 surveys** of explosive hazards in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Ninewa Governorates in support of high priority stabilization and humanitarian interventions.
- Removed **862 ERW, 423 IEDs, 135 IED main charges, and 40 suicide belts** in retaken areas.
- Conducted **136 clearance tasks** enabling UNDP and the GoI to begin the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and bridges, and humanitarian actors to move forward with urgent life-saving interventions.
- Coordinated and completed **5 joint assessment missions** enabling the UN and humanitarian partners to deliver humanitarian aid as soon as retaken areas became accessible.

RISK EDUCATION (RE)

During 2019, UNMAS Iraq risk education activities continued to support populations affected by explosive hazards, focusing on IDPs, returnees and residents of contaminated areas.

UNMAS Iraq grants funded on-the-ground teams to deliver RE sessions to at-risk groups via house-to-house, tent-to-tent, at schools and within their community in Ninewa, Anbar, Salah Al Din, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. During 2019, the grant-funded teams reached a total of 446,247 people. The grants were implemented by international and national organizations. In addition to grants, integrated RE activities were undertaken with contractors to support clearance operations.

Support to Cash-for-Work Employees

UNMAS RE continues to support stabilization and reconstruction activities by providing RE for Cash-for-Work projects in collaboration with various UN agencies and NGOs. In 2019, 6,833 Cash-for-Work employees from different stabilization and humanitarian projects received RE through UNMAS coordination. Special RE material was designed for Cash-for-Work employees this year –gloves with RE messaging in two different sizes for women and men workers– that were distributed to Cash-for-Work employees after each session.



Direct Implementation

RE RADIO MESSAGING AND INTERVIEWS WITH RADIO ONE FM IN MOSUL

In collaboration with the radio station Radio One FM in Mosul, UNMAS delivered RE radio messages three times a day during peak listening hours. The messages focused on safety precautions to mitigate against explosive hazard-related accidents and what to do if encountering an explosive hazard. In addition, Radio One interviewed UNMAS RE Officers to discuss UNMAS activities in Iraq and repeat basic safety messages. The interview was broadcast live on the station, and re-broadcast via UNMAS social media platforms, receiving more than 800 views. The radio station reaches the entire city of Mosul which continues to experience a high rate of IDP returns. Radio One is the first station established in Mosul following the defeat of ISIL, who forbade radio with the exception of channels used for propaganda purposes under their control.



SCHOOL MURALS

School murals designed in 2018 were painted by UNDP in 2019 in more than 100 rehabilitated schools in and around East and West Mosul. Apart from broadcasting RE messages at these schools, the age-sensitive materials were designed

to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. In many of the pictures, young girls and boys are shown playing and learning together, and women are also depicted in leadership and guidance roles.



PROPOSAL WRITING TRAINING FOR NATIONAL RISK EDUCATION ACTORS

UNMAS organized a proposal writing training in September 2019 for national RE actors to develop high-quality proposals. Topics included writing techniques, project planning, log-frame development and gender mainstreaming. In total, 24 participants (eight women, 16 men) from nine NGOs and DMA attended.



RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP FOR THE DMA

In 2019, UNMAS supported the DMA RE department with a workshop to support their ability to develop and implement results-focused RE activities. The five-day workshop covered topics such as results framework, monitoring and evaluation, indicator development and gender mainstreaming in RE activities. A total of nine participants, of whom five were women, attended this workshop.



GENDER-RESPONSIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION WORKSHOP FOR THE DMA

UNMAS organized a Gender-Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the DMA RE department. The workshop built off the results-based management workshop, and focused on how to monitor and evaluate RE activities in a gender-responsive manner. A total of 12 participants attended, including seven women.



TRAINING FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

UNMAS continued its RE training for humanitarian actors with the virtual reality goggles. In 2019, 701 humanitarian actors from UN agencies and NGOs participated.



GENDER AND DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IN RE

UNMAS RE activities are adapted to the distinct needs of women, men, boys and girls. Women participation and empowerment is always encouraged and illustrated where possible as demonstrated through women RE community focal points, targeted RE sessions for children, inclusion of women and people with disabilities in RE designs and participation of women in RE trainings.



Children are among the primary victims of IEDs. These girls participated in an UNMAS awareness session on the threat of explosive hazards. © UNMAS

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

In 2019, UNMAS increased its work with Iraqi government authorities to enhance mine action capacity within the country.

© UNMAS – Cengiz Yar

The main activities with the Iraqi government have been training, technical support, and assistance on: quality assurance, resource mobilization, and facilitating EHM trainings. All trainings and workshops underwent enhanced incorporation of gender aspects in mine action. UNMAS has worked closely with the GoI counterparts involved in supporting mine action to enhance their capacity in EHM operations and response.

Support to Mine Action Authorities

UNMAS works with two governmental authorities responsible for mine action in Iraq: DMA within federal Iraq and IKMAA within the Kurdistan Region. UNMAS Mine Action Technical Advisors have co-chaired the Coordination Mechanism for Mine Action in Iraq (CMMAI) and Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings, ensuring an efficient and open

forum for mine action matters. The CMMAI and TWG each held two meetings in 2019, with the second TWG meeting held at the DMA office in Mosul, each time with UNMAS support to ensure cross-ministerial information sharing and enhanced cooperation. The purpose of the meetings is to coordinate the technical and strategic coordination of mine action activities among all mine action partners (NGOs, commercial companies, NATO, the Coalition).

IKMAA Liaison Officers continued to assist UNMAS to better understand IKMAA needs and priorities and, in turn, have facilitated UNMAS staff movement in the liberated areas. The IKMAA Liaison Officers also were involved in the development of training courses for IKMAA staff on various subjects including risk education and proposal writing, among others. Toward the end of 2019, UNMAS delivered introductory training for drafting of an IKMAA Resource Mobilization Strategy.



© UNMAS



© UNMAS – Cengiz Yar

Explosive Hazard First Responder (EHFR) and EHFR Training of the Trainer (T3)

The UNMAS Iraq Training Unit delivered Explosive Hazard First Responder (EHFR) courses at the Police academy in Kirkuk. The training was designed to prepare and drill police officers to identify, mark and report different explosives hazards when encountered. The training included confirmation, cordon and clearing of the area, command, control and reporting standards.

Throughout 2019, UNMAS Iraq delivered more than 20 one-week, mostly mixed training sessions attended by 435 police officers, including 64 women. The EHFR training was followed by a four-week T3 course, with the purpose to ensure a residual explosive hazards training capacity within the Iraqi police force. T3 training sessions qualified 30 EHFR/T3 police officers in Kirkuk, of which 14 were women.



© UNMAS

Training Women

UNMAS conducted EHFR training for women police officers at the Women Training Institute, Baghdad, with two aims: (1) to provide a more inclusive explosive hazard response to affected populations and (2) to contribute to promotion of equal opportunities for women within the Iraqi mine action sector.

UNMAS Iraq and the MoI worked together to identify and select participants serving in explosive hazard-contaminated areas where there is significant need of such life-saving skills. In 2019, of 46 women police officers who participated in two UNMAS-conducted one-week EHFR training sessions, 26 qualified in EHFR methods and another 20 received their medic training.



© UNMAS

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and IED Disposal (IEDD) Training

To enhance the Iraqi police’s capacity to deal with the complex explosive hazard threat, UNMAS Iraq is committed to provide training to select Iraqi police personnel to qualify as EOD and IEDD operators. This highly specialized and demanding course provides students with the knowledge and skills to deal with the variety of explosive threats encountered in Iraq. This training is delivered jointly with the Iraqi police in the Police EOD Training Facility in Salman Pak, Baghdad. While the police already train EOD and IEDD personnel, the additional support provided by UNMAS leverages the knowledge and experience of internationally accredited professionals. During 2019, three 16-week long training sessions were conducted, resulting in total of 49 police officers trained, all EOD qualified and 21 also IEDD qualified.

In addition to the provision of instructors, UNMAS support also includes a training package consisting of specialized training aids and equipment.



VIDEO: IRAQ, DRONE TRAINING



Right click to view video fullscreen. If the video does not play, please view it on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/jg8iRSga8gA>

Institutional Technical Assistance

UNMAS embedded two Mine Action Technical Advisors (TA) within the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC), responsible for movement and coordination between UNMAS, the government, and relevant NGOs, which made possible routine direct support and advice to Iraqi authorities on mine action-related matters.

The TAs also conducted management training during the year for JCMC members at national and governorate levels which included IEDD response and information management; in addition the TAs provided to day-to-day operational support, including the introduction of gender-related topics, to support government authorities to better manage, regulate and coordinate their own and partners’ mine action activities. In

practical terms, these efforts led directly to the DMA decision for UNMAS to begin residential area clearance in Sinjar and follow-up discussions “streamlining” processes for resource allocation and management requiring DMA approval.

The UNMAS Mine Action Technical Advisors held seven trainings for JCMC offices, with two training sessions in Baghdad, and one training session each in Kirkuk, Mosul, Najaf, Al-kut and Babil. In each case, the head of the respective JCMC office attended the training, as well as representatives from multiple ministries and governmental departments, all of whom acknowledging the value of the courses regarding their responsibilities in conducting explosive hazard response.



Statistics:



- » **426 police officers** including **85 women** trained in Explosive Hazard First Response to identify, mark and report explosive hazards,
- » **456 UN security staff** including **154 women** trained in Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE), and



- » **551 students** including **178 women** trained in IED awareness.
- » **6,833 UNDP cash-for-work employees**
- » **1,214 governmental staff** trained to recognize and behave safely in the presence of explosive hazards while working in high-risk environments such as Mosul.



COORDINATION

Iraq Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR):

In its efforts to support effective and efficient coordination of humanitarian mine action, the Iraq MA AoR continued to bring together 19 members including national and international humanitarian mine action organizations, ICRC and UN agencies.

F The Iraq MA AoR also supported and coordinated with the national mine action authorities DMA and IKMAA on issues of concern to the humanitarian mine action sector in country. Through the UN Cluster System, Iraq MA AoR continued to advocate for the following:

- » Increasing the number of operators in Federal Iraq to address the shortage of registered and accredited humanitarian mine action partners in liberated areas;
- » Increasing the availability of specialized equipment to render items safe in Federal Iraq. UNMAS continues to engage with the Ministry of Defense (MoD) on the issue and works towards establishing and maintaining strong liaison relationships;
- » Reducing restrictions on movement and access to sites, including visa issues for international staff, access through check points and movement requirements which continue to pose critical obstacles and obstruction of humanitarian activities; and
- » Increasing availability of quality equipment so as to reduce high risk to operators.

In addition, the MA AoR facilitated the requests from local authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and development actors for mine action support in various locations in Iraq through providing mapping of the partners and guidance regarding applicable procedures and mechanisms.

The Iraq MA AoR supported effective and inclusive needs-based planning and strategic development of activities. To

this end, it participated in the development of Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) providing an overview on the current status of Explosive Ordnance problem in Iraq and identifying the most affected areas and people in need. In addition, the MA AoR response activities in priority districts to focus humanitarian mine action operations in 2020 were reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2020. MA AoR also supported the members in managing the Iraq Humanitarian Fund projects for 2019.

The Iraq MA AoR holds monthly meetings to discuss needs, issues and challenges, solutions and advocacy strategies. In these meetings, members discussed various technical issues such as reporting, tasking orders process, and responding to camp closures to ensure provide life-saving messages to IDPs prior to their departure in coordination with Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and National Protection Clusters.

Throughout the year, the Iraq MA AoR hosted presentations from HI on Victim Assistance data management in Iraq; UNMAS on Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action in Iraq and UNICEF on child victim data.

Iraq MA AoR in collaboration with Housing, Land and Property AoR published the “Mine Action And Housing Land And Property Guidance Note Iraq” to ensure actors comply with the HLP Due Diligence prior to engaging in any survey and clearance activities. All UNMAS staff were trained on Protection in Practice, particularly the HLP and MA issues.

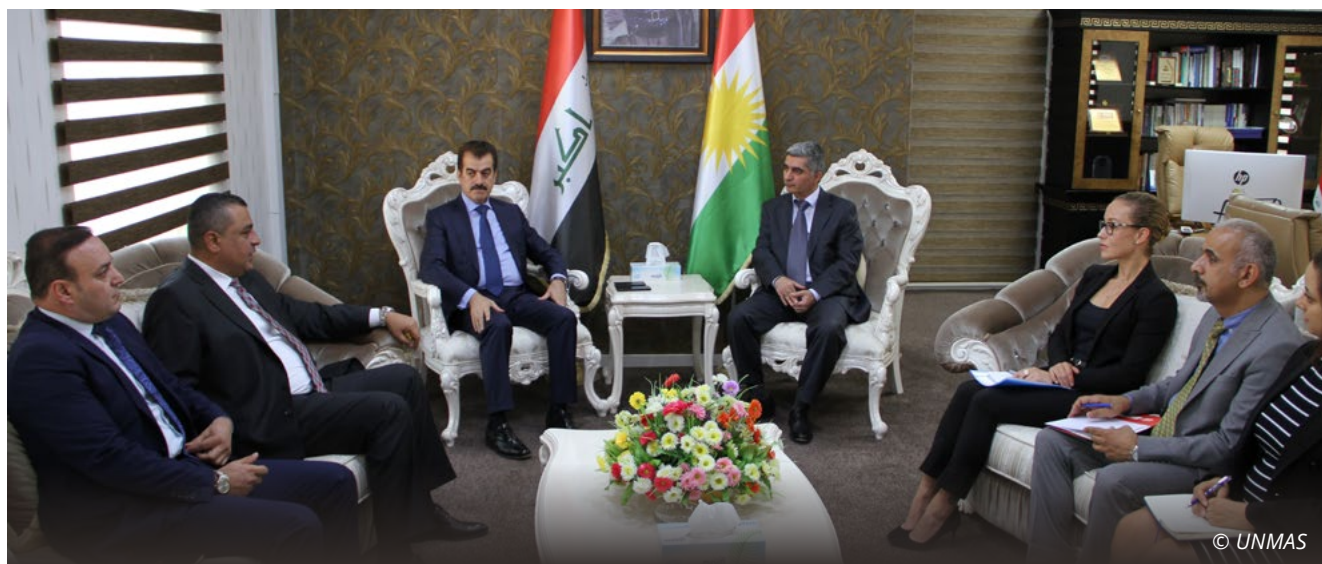
UNMAS Iraq is the first programme to have a Senior Gender Advisor work in coordination with the programme on mainstreaming gender and women's empowerment into mine action activities, as well as a recently hired National Gender Associate. As a core component of mine action, this work was integrated into programming and projects in several ways.

© UNMAS – Cengiz Yar

Technical Support for a Gender Mainstreamed EHM Response by the DMA and IKMAA

In a new venture and to situate UNMAS Iraq under the UN-SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security Agenda, UNMAS Iraq supports the National Mine Action Authorities using a gender mainstreamed approach targeting Gol mine action entities, as well as gender-responsive technical support on mine action activities, to promote women's empowerment within the respective organization and its activities. The approach is both at strategic and policy level, alongside trainings and design of standard working procedures, motivating shifts in mind sets and behaviours. Under this initiative, UNMAS Iraq facilitated two workshops on gender mainstreaming in planning, M&E and project design in RE and has designed further technical trainings using a gender responsive approach for Gol mine action entities.

UNMAS Iraq has also completed a gender baseline assessment of DMA with recommendations for the design of an Action and Advocacy Plan for 2020, and has conducted a broader capacity assessment of the coordination, systems and processes of DMA and its partners. UNMAS Iraq also facilitated the first meeting at senior levels of both IKMAA and DMA where both national mine action authorities agreed on the need for a common vision on EHM response in Iraq. Within this venture, IKMAA established its first Gender Committee, and Terms of Reference development as well as appointment of Gender Focal Points.



© UNMAS

Training of Women Police Officers in EHFR

One of the core pillars of UNMAS Iraq is its work within the Ministry of Interior. Following up on the training of women police officers in 2018, a training plan for women police officers was confirmed with MoI for 2019, followed by an effectiveness study of the first cohort now complete. This is a key focus area for UNMAS Iraq moving forward, effectively ensuring women with different skillsets that they can return to environments where they can utilize their skills.



© UNMAS

Women's Empowerment within Clearance Operations

UNMAS is committed to its nationalization strategy, employing talented Iraqi men and women with the right skills. However, without skills there are no opportunities, and therein lies the gender challenge for mine action: how solve for this problem? UNMAS Iraq actively promotes both job creation and women's empowerment in these non-traditional fields of work by training women who subsequently become not only fully capable in their technical roles but also and expert role models not only for women aspiring, like them, to employment within the sector but outside as well. Beginning from procurement and working closely with contractors, UNMAS has ensured a gender-responsive approach in clearance operations, from safety equipment suited for women and flexible working arrangements, to clean and separate facilities for women in training and operations and their dedicated inclusion within the recruitment process.



© Embassy of Germany

Two Yazidi searchers from Sinjar presented their work to a delegation from the German Ministry of Defense, providing small insights into their family and the hopes they have for the future of their communities.

Working Toward Parity

UNMAS Iraq is also working on ensuring a gender-responsive approach to its internal commitments to gender and diversity, through its Work Plan based on the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Gender and Diversity Strategy. Accordingly, UNMAS began work on a gender-responsive toolkit is under design with Support Services to support the hiring and retention of talented women employees. Importantly, UNMAS put a tracking mechanism in place to monitor applicants and recruits, and to supplement current UNMAS data collection on gender and diversity consistent with the goal that decision-making positions are gender balanced and that women are also employed in more non-traditional roles, such as in EHM. Ensuring a strong enabling environment is equally important for staff to deliver their best work. With this in mind, a Code of Conduct was contextualized to the Iraqi working environment, and published in UNMAS offices. Senior Leadership regularly reminds staff of the availability and use of workplace policies on sexual harassment, as well as flexible working arrangements, and mentoring and training opportunities for national women and men are prioritized

Raising UNMAS Iraq's Voice on Women's Roles in Mine Action

UNMAS Iraq positions itself squarely within the UNSCR 1325 mandate and advocates for the inclusion of women in the peace and security sector, and for the wider empowerment of women in Iraq. Gender responsive mine action messaging was included in key UN and international reports such as the Universal Periodic Report, and highlighted in UNAMI processes such as the Common Country Assessment and Cooperation Framework, and in the UN Gender Task Force and the International Gender Group. UNMAS Iraq continued to showcase the importance in breaking gender barriers, raising awareness among different audiences through videos, news releases, social media messaging and large-scale events such as the photo exhibit and panel discussion hosted by UNMAS Iraq for International Women's Day attended more than 300 mostly Iraqi guests.



Building Capacity within UNMAS Programmes Globally

The Senior Gender Advisor worked with UNMAS HQ to mainstream gender considerations in the UNMAS Global Strategy, UNMAS Iraq Country Strategy and log-frame during their development in 2019. During the Oslo Review Conference on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention November 25-29, the Senior Gender Advisor delivered training on gender mainstreaming to a global UNMAS audience on the programme and project cycle, and discussed the sustainable technical support to national mine action authorities using a gender responsive approach during a side-event panel titled **Sharing Lessons Learned: Gender Mainstreaming by States Parties.**



VISIBILITY

Throughout 2019, UNMAS Iraq continued to profile and advocate for the generous contributions of its multiple donors and partners. The importance of EHM, Risk Education, and Technical Support in Iraq was mainstreamed through high-level documents, briefing notes, and presentations to the GoI, other UN entities and the international community, as well as through social media advocacy.

The UNMAS Iraq programme ensured mine action was regularly briefed to Member States including Australia, Denmark, Germany, Jordan, Norway and Switzerland in addition to briefing national representatives in Erbil and Baghdad every two months.

UNMAS in Iraq hosted multiple in-country events highlighting donor contributions including: Safe Run, International Women's Day, and International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. As well, the UNMAS Iraq programme displayed its "Safe Home" exhibit in Berlin, Geneva, and Sydney, with photos highlighting mine action clearance operations, behind-the-scenes challenges, and the impact of UNMAS clearance activities to the local community.

In addition, UNMAS Senior Programme Manager, Pehr Lodhammar, published op-eds in leading newspapers languages and conducted numerous prime time interviews on UNMAS mine action activities in Iraq, and the extensive contamination in the retaken areas, including: Agence France Presse (AFP), Al Hurra, Arte, BBC, Corriere delle Sera, Ezidi 24 Media Foundation, France 3, France 24, Le Figaro, Los Angeles Times, Wired, Nippon Hōsō Kyōkai (NHK), Radio Television Suisse (RTS), Sveriges Television (SvT), The Media Line, Vice News, Wiener Zeitung and Xinhua, among others.

In 2019, UNMAS Iraq continued its series of digital stories for the public, a unique audio-visual platform of storytelling that seeks to both engage the reader and simultaneously convey the complex environment of EHM in Iraq.

Totals for 2019:



39 media engagements

(This figure includes press events, press conferences, and interviews)



638 social media posts

(This figure highlights all UNMAS Iraq activities, including events, donor field visits, etc.)



10 news releases in English, Arabic, Japanese and French, as applicable

(This figure includes new donor agreements and important milestones reached)



11 donor field visits*

(Note that some of the visits were multi-donor visits)



14 press field visits

(On average, UNMAS conducts two press visits per month)



3 technical articles

Highlights of 2019

Media Engagements (Articles/Interviews):

- » [Los Angeles Times](#)
- » [Süddeutsche Zeitung](#)
- » [The Japan News](#)

Technical Articles:

- » "IED Threat Consistency and Predictability in Fallujah: A 'Simple' Model for Clearance," The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, July 2019
- » "IEDs and Urban Variables in Mosul: Defining Complex Environments," The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, July 2019
- » "Connecting the Dots: The Pace of IED Clearance Seen as Key Factor to Safe Return of 1.67 Million Displaced Iraqis," Counter-IED Report, Autumn, 2019

Monthly Newsletters:

- » [January 2019](#)
- » [February 2019](#)
- » [March 2019](#)
- » [April 2019](#)
- » [May 2019](#)
- » [June 2019](#)
- » [July 2019](#)
- » [August 2019](#)
- » [September 2019](#)

- » [October 2019](#)
- » [November 2019](#)
- » [December 2019](#)

Digital Stories:

- » UNMAS Breaks Gender Barriers in Iraq ([English](#) & [Arabic](#))
- » Mixed Yazidi Teams in Sinjar – Bringing Women and Men at the Frontlines of Clearance Efforts in Iraq ([English](#) & [Arabic](#))
- » Risk Education in Iraq – Delivering Life-Saving Message to Vulnerable Communities ([English](#) & [Arabic](#))

Videos:

- » [Safe Run](#)
- » [Mosul: The Road to Recovery](#)
- » [Safe Home Exhibit in Berlin](#)

Donor Visits:

- » [France to Mosul and Fallujah](#)
- » [Denmark, EU and Sweden to Sinjar](#)
- » [Netherlands to Ramadi](#)



UNMAS in Iraq would like to thank all its donors who contributed
to explosive hazard management, risk education, and
training and technical support activities in 2019.



www.unmas.org