

IRAQ PROGRAMME REPORT 2020





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GLOSSARY

CMMAI	Coordination Mechanism for Mine Action in Iraq
DCA	DanChurchAid
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DMA	Directorate of Mine Action
EHFR	Explosive Hazards First Responder
EHM	Explosive Hazard Management
EO	Explosive Ordnance
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GMAP	Gender and Mine Action Programme
Gol	Government of Iraq
HI	Humanity and Inclusion, Previously Handicap International
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person/People
IED	Improvised Explosive Devices
IEDD	Improvised Explosive Device Disposal
IHF	Iraqi Humanitarian Pooled Fund
IHSCO	Health and Social Care Organization in Iraq
IKMAA	Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency
iMMAP	Information Management and Mine Action Programs
IMO	Information Management Officer

IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Also known as “Da’esh”
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center
KRG	Kurdish Regional Government
MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MIR	Mine and UXO Impact Relief
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoI	Ministry of Interior
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMAS	National Mine Action Standards
NPA	Norwegian People’s Aid
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OACPE	Orchard Association for Child Protection and Education
SWP	Standard Working Procedures
RTAP	Real-Time Accountability Partnership
T3	Training of the Trainer
TS	Technical Survey
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VR	Virtual Reality



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Message from the Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Pehr Lodhammar

What a tumultuous yet transformative and rewarding year it has been! When I look back at 2020, the challenges brought forth with the emergence and swift transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic seem almost surreal, albeit the resulting disruption to our operations was very much real, bringing with it a myriad of problems that we had to solve together.

Undoubtedly, 2020 was a lesson to all of us, everywhere in the world, about what is important in our lives: health, safety, security, livelihood, and family. We should never take anything for granted so long as we have all of these life essentials. Anything else is just added luxury.

Certainly, these realizations, more manifested in the last year than ever, have enhanced my self-reflection and prompted me to reevaluate my work in the Iraqi context once again. More than three decades of war, destruction, and socio-political strife have devastated the country, both physically and psychologically. Indeed, what does it say when items of war become a part of people’s daily reality? In schools, in hospitals, and in roads, particularly in areas retaken from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other forms of explosive ordnance continue to threaten the lives of civilians, haunting Iraqis, and children in particular, across the country. This is unacceptable. Iraqis, and no one anywhere, should have to grow accustomed to these weapons of destruction as part of their daily routine.

Parents should be able to let their children play in playgrounds and football fields without fearing for their children’s lives. Farmers should be able to utilize their land without fear of IEDs. Workers should be able to practice their livelihoods without fear of unexploded ordnance. These are essential rights which we all should have, and that we should never take for granted.

As such, I spent the time during the lockdown in Iraq vehemently lobbying and preparing for the earliest and most effective resumption of our activities, with the obvious consideration for the health and safety measures recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Iraq.

When the Iraqi government eased the lockdown restrictions three months later, UNMAS was prepared to immediately mobilize its implementing partners, facilitating training and quality assurance of the teams for speedy resumption. This does not account for the months of remote training and technical support provided during the lockdown to ensure that teams were ready and up to date on humanitarian clearance when in-person support was not feasible. Our work is simply too important to stop. Even one day makes a difference.

As I look back at this year, I cannot help but feel great pride at what UNMAS Iraq and our staff, and in particular our national staff, have achieved – remotely and on-the-ground, working non-stop to compensate for lost time and overcome daily challenges. Beyond the hardships we face routinely in mine action, the additional challenges brought forth by COVID-19 were as difficult as they were unprecedented, and yet, UNMAS Iraq remained resolute.

I am thus pleased to share with you the report for 2020, highlighting UNMAS Iraq key activities and achievements in country, with thanks to our donors for their generous support during this extraordinary year.

Pehr Lodhammar
Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS Iraq

Support for UNMAS in Iraq in 2020 comes from the voluntary contributions of these countries:





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VISION

The Government of Iraq protects civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance and enables humanitarian, stabilization and reconstruction efforts to proceed unimpeded by explosive ordnance.

MISSION

UNMAS Iraq supports the Government of Iraq to assist those impacted by explosive ordnance and enable socio-economic development and welfare.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Iraq programme was launched in 2015 to assist the Government of Iraq (GoI) in managing the emergency response to the then-ongoing conflict against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

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The response was delivered primarily through a focused explosive hazard management (EHM) strategy allowing for effective clearance in support of stabilization efforts and supported significant explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) efforts to encourage civilian awareness of the explosive threat. The EHM strategy was implemented in parallel with technical and advisory support provided to relevant GoI mine action authorities and stakeholders to enhance and increase the EHM response capacity. Five years later, UNMAS has altered its strategy in response to the evolving humanitarian needs of Iraq and to support the GoI¹ to assist civilians impacted by explosive ordnance (EO) and enable socio-economic development and welfare while, at the same time, creating sustainable national capacities. The UNMAS Iraq strategy in 2020 focused on supporting the GoI to effectively prioritize tasks implemented increasingly by national actors through providing technical support to the national mine action entities and promoting the capacity development of national mine action actors towards a sustainable and localized humanitarian mine action response. Furthermore, UNMAS continued to provide affected communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees with EORE in the areas retaken from ISIL to ensure that populations at risk recognized how to mitigate the threat of EO and could adopt safe behaviours. Through EHM activities, UNMAS assisted in creating the conditions necessary for safe access to restore or facilitate the productive use of contaminated land and infrastructure enabling thus the safe, dignified, and sustainable return of IDPs to areas previously occupied by ISIL.

In 2020, UNMAS Iraq prioritised the following areas of support:

- » Support government and national mine action entities with managing, regulating, and coordinating a mine action response through **Technical Support (TS)** initiatives;
- » Deliver **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)** at the community and national level; and
- » Provide **Explosive Hazard Management (EHM)** response in support of humanitarian and stabilization efforts.

Due to the nature of threats posed by EO, UNMAS and its implementing partners are among the first responders allowing the humanitarian community and local authorities to intervene quickly and efficiently to help civilians.

A significant mine action capacity gap remains in Iraq. The unprecedented nature of EO contamination, the sheer magnitude of dispersion, in addition to the untraditional ways in which they were planted, means that all who are in the vicinity of contaminated areas are at grave risk. Sporadic accidents due to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) have shed light on the crucial work that UNMAS together with other mine action organizations and the GoI, continue to conduct daily, and why a need for support remains, both advisory and on the field, to ensure that all clearance conducted abide by the international mine action standards (IMAS).

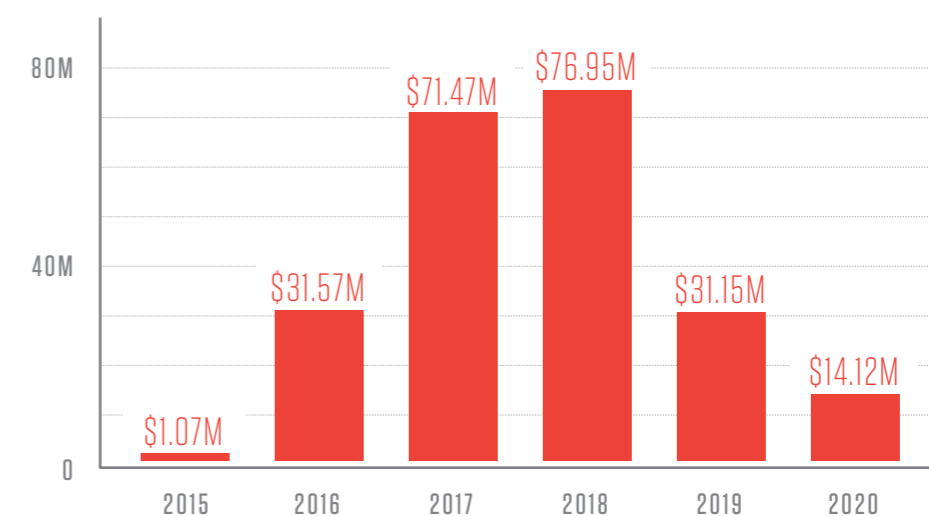
In March 2020, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the GoI to adopt swift measures including strict curfew and movement restrictions, applying also to mine action stakeholders. In this context, UNMAS Iraq observed all United Nations (UN) measures, as well as national and local government regulations and restrictions such as curfews, social distancing, wearing face masks, limiting staffing levels, work from home instructions, and movement restrictions in an attempt to contain, or slow down, the spread of COVID-19. UNMAS prepared business continuity plans and a "Safe Working Place" document to inform, prepare personnel, and mitigate against the spread of the Corona virus during travel, office, and field work. UNMAS Iraq also responded through a "Protect, Plan, and Resume" approach aiming to protect key relationships and processes and maintain a mine action capacity ready to resume activities gradually when restrictions were lifted, which occurred in late June/early July. Throughout, UNMAS was able to maintain communication and technical support to the national authorities.

Strategic Pillars/Donors 2020

FIGURE 1. PILLAR SUPPORT BY DONOR

EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION	TECHNICAL SUPPORT
	Australia	
	Belgium	
		Canada
	Czech Republic	
	Denmark	
	Estonia	
European Union		European Union
	Finland	
	France	
Germany		Germany
	Italy	
	Japan	
	Luxembourg	
	Netherlands	
	New Zealand	
	Slovakia	
	Sweden	
	United Kingdom	

FIGURE 2. FUNDS SECURED PER YEAR SINCE INCEPTION



* The above graph depicts UNMAS Iraq funding status during and following ISIL occupation. The steep rise in funding from 2016 - 2019 was due to the emergent post-conflict situation on-ground, as well as the significant number of displaced people fleeing their communities. Due to the return of most IDPs to their areas of origin, and as the country moves from its "emergency" post-conflict phase, Iraq has seen a decline in humanitarian funding from the international community, albeit the need remains the same. Explosive ordnance continues to threaten the lives of civilians, and until removed, will continue to threaten all rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in country. The rebuilding of Iraq must first commence with the removal of explosive ordnance.

¹ Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2522 (2020), United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).



NEW PARTNERSHIP MODEL FOR CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT FOR 2020 AND BEYOND

UNMAS Iraq is committed to supporting local actors to increasingly localize humanitarian activities and further align with the Grand Bargain's commitment.

To this end, UNMAS Iraq works to enhance the long-term institutional capacity of local actors, remove obstacles to opportunities for partnerships, and training and mentoring of national implementing partners.

to facilitate partnerships between international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)...required by

national NGOs...to generate and sustain capacities...as Humanitarian Mine Action actors. This partnership model will be a standard of UNMAS Iraq programming going forward.

In 2020, UNMAS Iraq successfully launched three EHM partnership grants for two years and one EORE capacity enhancement grant for one year.



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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

In 2020, building on existing capacities, UNMAS provided technical support to the GoI for various institutions to support the management, regulation, and coordination of the response to EO.

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In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, while all in-person and practical training courses were suspended, UNMAS Iraq moved to digital platforms, conducting most of its training sessions, technical support, and coordination meetings online.

TS Figures (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020)



13 policy documents, standards, strategies and processes completed and/or updated.



SSAGE trainings: **198 individuals** attended SSAGE training (including both national and international UN staff).



Trainings provided to GoI: Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Explosive Hazards First Responder (EHFR), Training of the Trainer (T3), Drone training, Humanitarian Mine Action Basic Management (**127 attendees**).

In 2020, the GoI mine action authorities, with the technical and advisory support of UNMAS, held the first donor conference for mine action with over 150 attendees from the donor community, the United Nations, and international and national NGOs. The DMA and IKMAA respectively presented on the contamination situation, mine action priorities, progress and needs for international assistance.

In addition, UNMAS Iraq supported the Coordination Mechanism for Mine Action in Iraq (CMMAI) and Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings, fostering cross-ministerial information sharing and enhanced cooperation to discuss issues or challenges faced by mine action entities, including NGOs. UNMAS Iraq also delivered various training courses such as 'Core Mine Action Skills', 'Introduction on Humanitarian Mine Action' and 'Quality Management'. All training courses and workshops underwent enhanced incorporation of gender aspects in mine action. UNMAS submitted a 'Recommendations Report' to the DMA identifying areas for further support in coordination with mine action stakeholders.



Support to Mine Action Authorities

UNMAS Iraq works with two governmental authorities responsible for mine action in Iraq: the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) within federal Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

Within the KRI, UNMAS Iraq supported IKMAA in providing fuel for mine action operations along with two vehicles as a right of use for IKMAA teams. UNMAS supported IKMAA in the translation of its internal documents and other materials from English into Kurdish and vice versa. Additionally, UNMAS facilitated the liaison between IKMAA and other Iraqi mine action stakeholders, including the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA).



Review of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS)

As part of technical support to national authorities, UNMAS Iraq contributed to the review of 12 NMAS, ensuring the integration of a gender-responsive approach in all the documents.



Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) / Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) Training for Police

EOD/IEDD training course for police was halted throughout 2020 due to its technical and practical nature. The EOD/IEDD in-person training course for the Ministry of Interior local police resumed in December 2020 inclusive of social distancing measures.



EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT (EHM)

To support humanitarian and stabilization efforts in areas retaken from ISIL, EHM utilizes a blended approach to respond to extensive EO contamination. This includes commissioning national/international companies and NGOs alike to survey and clear affected areas.

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

In March 2020, with the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS Iraq clearance operations were halted for three months. During the pause in operational activities, UNMAS Iraq focused on maintaining skills and knowledge of clearance teams and preparing for the resumption of operations through refresher sessions, followed by an operational review to authorize teams to recommence clearance with adoption of COVID-19 health and safety measures. The EHM team leaders and national staff used the stand-down to design, produce and conduct recommended training courses. As a result, 27 standard working procedure documents were completed, reflecting learning and experiences across the spectrum of EO clearance management and delivery activities shifting towards nationalization processes and training.

UNMAS Iraq steadily resumed its clearance operations in July 2020 until reaching full operational capacity in September. Throughout the year, UNMAS Iraq carried out clearance operations in **Fallujah, Ramadi, Mosul, and Sinjar/Tal Afar**, including the deployment of three mixed-gender search and clearance teams.

EHM Figures (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020)



Land cleared:
1,017,333 m²



EO rendered safe:
766 EO (688 IEDs and 78 ERW)



Tasks completed: **12** clearance tasks,
2 joint assessments with the DMA and
4 assessments to support UN missions



Documents: **27** standard working
procedure documents on EO
clearance management



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All-Female Deminer Team in Mosul – Promoting Gender and Diversity, Women’s Empowerment

UNMAS Iraq is committed to promoting women participation in peace and security, encouraging the recruitment and training of female deminers for its clearance operations. Women in mine action challenge mine action norms in Iraq, usually considered male army or police officers’ tasks: training and deploying mixed-gender or all female deminer teams aims to encourage better gender equality in Iraq in the context of employment opportunities in mine action. Furthermore, a sustainable income enables women to improve their own and respective families’ lives and contribute to their communities’ socio-economic recovery.



© UNMAS, prior to March 2020

In October 2020, the all-female deminer team commenced clearance operations outside of Mosul, Ninewa. Mosul is the second biggest city in Iraq and has paid a heavy toll under ISIL occupation. The female deminers are clearing an area that reportedly was used as a defensive berm line around the city. Prior to ISIL occupation, it was a large open pasture; after clearance, the hope is that the area will be released to allow for continued livelihood activities such as farming crops and grazing cattle. The female team works alongside a male team, both working on the same hazard site delivering similar outputs and challenging traditional mine action norms.

Clearance Operations in Al-Ayadiyah, Tal Afar

In October 2020, UNMAS Iraq, with its implementing partner, started clearance activities of farmlands south of the village of Al-Ayadiyah, Tal Afar, in northern Iraq. Since Al-Ayadiyah was liberated, there was limited clearance in the area, which unfortunately resulted in explosive events killing and maiming returning residents and their livestock.

The scale of clearance and reconstruction needed is immense. Continued EORE is essential to reduce the effect and impact of IEDs and ERW. UNMAS Iraq’s implementing partner has completed the clearance in the south of Al-Ayadiyah, but the village is in need of further clearance.

UNMAS Iraq teams visited the local population to provide EORE sessions, erect notice boards, and place warning posters to raise awareness on the dangers of EO. They also interviewed several families regarding their experiences after their return, to gather further information on explosive threats.



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Clearance of IED Belt Removes Threat to Local Community in Ramadi, Anbar

Al-Tash district is located on the southern outskirts of Ramadi. Before the occupation of ISIL, Al-Tash was a residential area with only one school and shepherds used the land for their livestock to graze and children played. Whilst the local government began clearing IEDs and ERW following the conflict with ISIL, their efforts were focused on clearing roads due to their strategic importance. Some residential areas were yet to be cleared, including Tash 2 where the presence of the IED belt prevented the area from being safely and productively used; limiting agricultural activities of the residents and minimizing the size of sheep and goat flocks, thereby suppressing livelihood opportunities of the community.

UNMAS, through its implementing partner, have cleared Tash 2 removing the threat of IEDs posed to the community, and enabling the neighbourhood to work towards resuming normality.

Information Management

Early in 2020, UNMAS Iraq was running its own custom-designed Information Management System (IMS), SMART, that was built on the same information technology infrastructure as Global Information Management System. In May 2020, UNMAS Iraq started creating system features and tools (i.e., surveys, and dashboards) ensuring that the database captures global minimum data requirements, the Country Programme Strategy indicators, and the GoI data reporting requirements. Although UNMAS Iraq has yet to fully transition to the Global IMS, most of the system features have been deployed and rolled out since operations resumed.



EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

UNMAS Iraq adapted to stay and continue delivering life saving messages to IDPs, returnees, and affected communities exposed to explosive threats.

UNMAS delivered EORE sessions to at-risk populations going door-to-door in affected communities, at schools, and neighbourhoods in the Anbar and Ninewa governorates until the outbreak of COVID-19.

As of March 2020, UNMAS had to adapt EORE activities by developing digital and no-contact methodologies to ensure the continuation of this life-saving support. This included billboards, TV advertisements, social media campaign "Safe Steps", in addition to others.

It was in December 2020 that the GoI authorized the direct provision of EORE to vulnerable communities, but with restrictions including limited number of participants in an open-space area.

EORE Figures (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020)



Beneficiaries: **20,508** (7,686 boys, 5,447 girls, 3,890 men and 3,485 women)



Humanitarian actors: **131**



Cash-for-Work employees: **1,112**



© UNMAS, prior to March 2020

New EORE Materials in 3D

Finalised in 2020, new three-dimensional (3D) EORE materials were tailored to the needs and perceptions of beneficiaries with specific messages ensuring inclusivity of various groups (children, women, men, EO survivors, IDPs, returnees, and Cash-for-Work workers). Gender and disability have been mainstreamed throughout the set of designs with incorporated messages on women and youth empowerment and people with disabilities protection. The 3D materials, which depict the consequences of EO, safe and unsafe behaviour, identification of EO, warning signs, dangerous areas, and reporting procedures, have been developed in close collaboration with the DMA for the use of UNMAS Iraq and its implementing partners as well as broader EORE actors in Iraq.

Facebook Campaign “Safe Steps” – Delivering Life-Saving Messages Throughout COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in Iraq, in its efforts to reach as many people with life-saving messages and awareness about explosive contamination, UNMAS Iraq launched a Facebook campaign to reach a large audience in a short space of time. The “Safe Steps” campaign spreads EORE messages to the Iraqi population in a creative fashion with a mix of designs, photos, and short videos. The campaign also incorporates prominent Iraqi figures and activists to ensure the targeted audience relates-with and listens to their advisory.



© UNMAS, prior to March 2020

EO Awareness Sessions to Cash-for-Work and Humanitarian Workers

The UNMAS EORE team continues to support stabilization and reconstruction activities by providing EORE for Cash-for-Work projects in collaboration with various UN agencies and NGOs. During 2020, 81 EO information sessions (45 remote sessions and 36 direct sessions) were held for 131 (85 males and 46 females) humanitarian workers and 1,112 (1,030 males and 82 females) Cash-for-Work workers (CFWs) from UNDP in Iraq. EORE materials (gloves and masks), with different sizes to include gender diversity, were distributed after the sessions.



© UNMAS

EORE Training-of-the-Trainers for Teachers in Ninewa

UNMAS Iraq, with one of its implementing partners, conducted EORE Training of Trainers (ToT) for school teachers in Ninewa. Teachers are now able to deliver EORE messaging to their students for a more sustainable reach at community level. In November 2020, an EORE session was conducted for 16 master trainers (8 males and 8 females) from the Directorate of Education in Ninewa who will train 1,200 teachers in the governorate. In December 2020, 24 EORE ToT sessions were conducted to 402 teachers (240 males and 162 females) in Ninewa. More ToT sessions will be conducted in 2021 to reach all 1,200 teachers.

EORE in Support to Clearance

The EORE teams provide critical protection service and complements also the work of the clearance teams by liaising with communities and sharing vital information about possible EO contamination.



© UNMAS, prior to March 2020



COORDINATION – MINE ACTION SUB-CLUSTER (THE MASC)

UNMAS Iraq continues to lead the coordination platform for humanitarian mine action organizations, to exchange information, avoid duplication of efforts, combine resources and technical expertise, and inform the needs of at-risk populations to the national authorities.



The MASC – The Advocate

In light of durable solutions and the sudden closure of IDP camps in October 2020, risks increased to face return of IDPs in areas still contaminated and endangering people's lives. The MASC closely coordinated with the Camp Management and Camp Coordination Cluster to identify needs and prioritize EORE for IDPs in camps and areas of return, including 3,837 beneficiaries in Salamiya Camp. The MASC contributed to the development of three mine action indicators included in the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). The MASC also advocated to address the risk of EO and ensured mine action mainstreaming in the response plans of other clusters resulting in the prioritization of children affected by EO in the Child Protection Sub-Cluster plan for 2021.

In its efforts to support effective and efficient coordination of humanitarian mine action, and within the context of restrictions applying to mine action, UNMAS, Iraq under its mandate as coordinator for the MASC, advocated on behalf of humanitarian mine action (HMA) members to the national authorities and organized discussions between the MASC members and the DMA to outline the implications of operations restrictions and discuss challenges and adjustments to deliver humanitarian assistance in the context.



The MASC in Needs Assessment Localization

In 2020, the MASC reached 23 members with the establishment of the MASC focal points in four governorates (Kirkuk, Anbar, Salah Al- Din and Ninewa); contributing to a more localized analysis of needs and response, and strengthened coordination and information sharing with non-mine action actors.

Mapping of Humanitarian Mine Action Operations

The MASC provided mapping of mine action partners and other information to its members to support a needs assessment, planning of activities and to avoid duplication of service.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, UNMAS Iraq further enhanced its gender-responsive approach in 2020 throughout all mine action activities.

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UNMAS Iraq designed a capacity development toolkit for gender and diversity mainstreaming in the work and processes of its implementing partners. It is important not only to hire and train women, but also to create enabling and inclusive workplaces that are contextualized to their needs so that they, and the wider teams, can thrive. In addition, UNMAS Iraq designed gender responsive recruitment guidelines, gender mainstreaming guidelines under COVID-19 and a gender strategy for 2020-2022.



© UNMAS, prior to March 2020

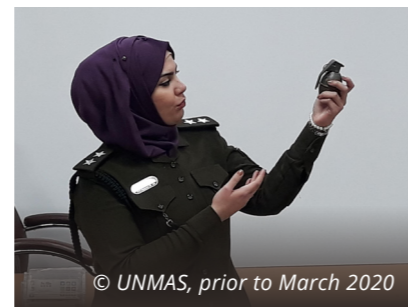
Technical Support to National Authorities for a Gender Mainstreamed Mine Action Response

UNMAS Iraq supports the national mine action authorities with a gender mainstreamed approach to mine action activities, and to promote women's empowerment within the GoI and as part of its activities. The approach, at the strategic level, alongside training courses and the design of standard working procedures, motivates shifts in mindsets and behaviours. UNMAS Iraq facilitated two workshops on gender mainstreaming in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Project Design in EORE and has designed further technical training courses using a gender responsive approach for GoI EHM entities.

UNMAS Iraq completed a gender baseline assessment of the DMA with recommendations for the design of an Action and Advocacy Plan for 2020, and has conducted a broader assessment of the coordination, systems.

Training of Women Police Officers in EHFR

Following up on the success of the previous training courses for women police officers, a new training plan was confirmed with the MoI, which will be implemented in 2021. Implementation was set for 2020, but due to the health and safety restrictions imposed by the GoI to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the training courses were postponed to 2021.



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© UNMAS, prior to March 2020

Women's Empowerment within Clearance Operations

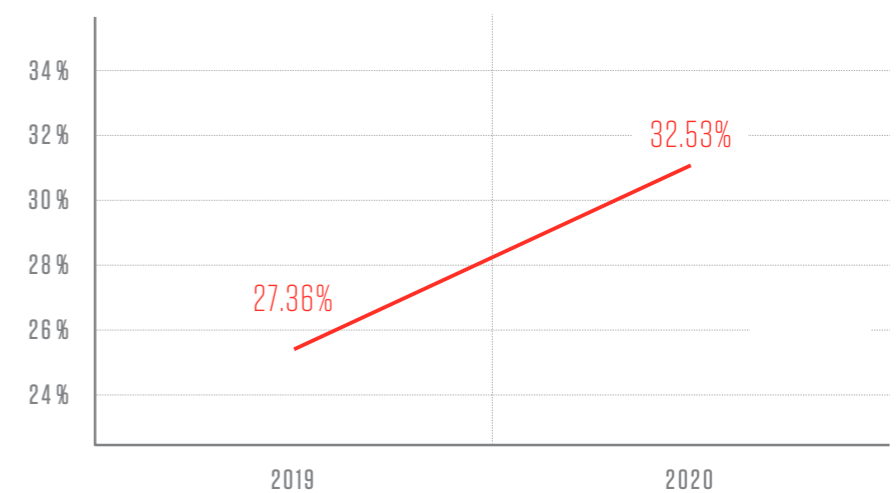
The protracted conflict in Iraq has resulted in a significant EO problem but it has also led to employment opportunities, including for women. UNMAS Iraq actively promotes both job creation and empowerment for women in a non-traditional field of work by providing training enabling women to be recruited in technical mine action roles and become role models within the sector and within their own communities. From procurement type roles to working closely in operational roles with contractors, UNMAS ensured a gender-responsive approach in clearance operations throughout 2020 and also provided safety equipment suited for women and flexible working arrangements. These included clean and separate facilities for women in training and operations and their inclusion and participation within the recruitment process.

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 UNOPS Gender and Diversity Strategy. Accordingly, UNMAS Iraq began work on a gender-responsive toolkit which is under development with Support Services to support the hiring and retention of talented women employees. Importantly, UNMAS Iraq 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. With an equally strong enabling environment in mind, a Code of Conduct was contextualized and posted in all UNMAS Iraq 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.

FIGURE 3. UNMAS IRAQ FEMALE PARITY





VISIBILITY

Throughout 2020, UNMAS Iraq continued to profile and advocate for the generous contributions of its multiple donors and partners. The importance of mine action 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 emergence and spread of the coronavirus pandemic heavily impacted activities, and means of delivery, including communications. Nevertheless, UNMAS Iraq adapted to the changing landscape, finding new, unique methods to deliver its message that both comply with health and safety measures as well as prove efficient.

Digital Stories:

- » [In Pictures - Clearing Mosul's Mines \(English & Arabic\)](#)
- » [Training & Technical Support - Assisting Iraqis to Respond to the Explosive Threat \(English & Arabic\)](#)

Videos:

- » ['Safe Home' Exhibit - Geneva 2 \(NDM\)](#)
- » [Mixed Yazidi Teams Video - IMAD 2020](#)
- » [UNMAS Senior Management Team Ramadan Message](#)
- » [UNMAS Gender in Mine Action Video](#)
- » [DSRSG Visit to UNMAS Operations in Tal Afar](#)

Donor Visits*:

- » [Finnish Visit to UNMAS Operations in Mosul](#)

Highlights of 2020

Media Engagements (Articles/Interviews)*:

- » [Why explosive hazard clearance in Iraq matters in New Zealand](#)

Technical Articles:

- » [The Lethality Index: Re-Conceptualizing IED Clearance Planning and Delivery in Iraq](#)
- » [Evidence-based warfare: Dr Mark Wilkinson on ISIL CW capability in Mosul](#)

Monthly Newsletters:

- » [January 2020](#)
- » [February 2020](#)
- » [March 2020](#)
- » [April 2020](#)
- » [May 2020](#)



* Emergence of COVID-19 and resulting health and safety measures to mitigate and contain the spread of the virus heavily impacted items which require in-person contact, such as donor visits, media engagements, etc.



UNMAS in Iraq would like to thank all of its donors who contributed to explosive hazard management, explosive ordnance risk education, and technical support activities in 2020.



www.unmas.org