



UNMAS

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# The UNMAS Annual Report 2021

highlights all of the work that UNMAS carried out in 2021.

Produced by: Outreach Unit of UNMAS in New York.

With kind support from: Mr. Jose Luis Ortega Moreno and Ms. Nina Bonetti.

Design Concept: H.A.

Cover photo: AFRILAM EOD operator Mr. Matata Etale Sans-peur conducts a demolition of unserviceable ammunition in Goma, DRC, as part of an UNMAS MONUSCO operation. UNMAS Photo/Tristan David Chopard.



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# Acronyms

A4P+	Action for Peacekeeping + Priorities for 2021-2023
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
EDD	Explosive Detection Dogs
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal - the detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and disposal of explosive ordnance.
EORE	Explosive ordnance risk education
ERW	Explosive remnants of war - unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance.
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device - A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract.
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
NDM-UN	International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers
NMAC	National Mine Action Centre
NTS	Non-technical survey
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SAA	Small arms ammunition – smaller than 20mm in caliber
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
TCCs	Troop contributing countries
ToT	Training of Trainers
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPOL	United Nations Police
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management

# Contributors



# Foreword from the Secretary-General

**For** twenty-five years, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has helped reduce the impact of explosive ordnance contamination on communities worldwide.

The 2021 annual report highlights UNMAS activities, achievements, funding and expenditures. But in a larger sense, it tells the story of advancing fundamental building blocks of peace and security.

Around the globe, mine action has opened roads, ensured more children can safely attend school and provided increased access to water sources, farmland, markets and health facilities.

These efforts have also allowed more displaced civilians to return home free of the fear of explosive threats, facilitated the safe delivery of lifesaving humanitarian relief, and created a safer environment for peacekeepers. Despite this progress, needs continue to grow.

In Afghanistan, vast tracts of contaminated land have only recently been made accessible to mine action teams. In Ethiopia and Myanmar, conflict is not only adding to contamination, but forcing fleeing civilians to navigate land littered with explosive remnants of war. The war in Ukraine has seen the use of enormous amounts of ordnance, including in populated urban areas, which will require mine action for decades to come.

The increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices is also having greater impact on civilians and peacekeepers – as recognized by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

As this report makes clear, mine action makes a real difference in the lives of people and communities. I thank all partners for their support and continued commitment.

Together, let us pledge to do even more to help advance this essential work for peace, early recovery and long-term development.



UN Photo | Mark Garten

  
**Antonio Guterres**  
 Secretary-General of the United Nations  
 August 2022

# Message from the Director

**In** 2021 UNMAS strengthened its partnerships with national mine action authorities, Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), consolidated its planning processes, further digitized its reporting tools and enhanced oversight of its programmes.

We adjusted our approaches to adapt to political unrest and upheaval in several programme areas, such as Afghanistan, Burkina Faso and Sudan. We established operations in Ethiopia, Niger and Yemen in response to requests for assistance from United Nations senior leadership, bringing the total number of programmes to 21- the highest in UNMAS history.

I am deeply grateful to the Member States that have supported our work politically and financially. The Security Council continued to mandate UNMAS as a component of 10 peace operations, to support political solutions to conflict, improve peacekeeper safety and security, support the extension of accountable state authority and security sector reform and to create the conditions for humanitarian response.

In Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syria, UNMAS operations were funded through generous contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. Voluntary contributions also reinforced the delivery of mission mandates enabling humanitarian demining and capacity development in the DRC, Lebanon, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Western Sahara.

I am pleased to present the 2021 UNMAS Annual Report, which describes our activities and accomplishments and demonstrates how the Service ensures mine action supports broader efforts of the United Nations across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

UNMAS is grateful to all its donors, whose support makes these achievements possible.

Thank you.



UNMAS

  
**Ilene Cohn**  
 Director, United Nations Mine Action Service  
 August 2022



An operator with UNMAS implementing partner The Development Initiative uses a magnetic locator to conduct battle area clearance at the Malian Army camp in Timbuktu, Mali, 2018. UN Photo/Marco Dormino.

# UNMAS in 2021 Perseverance, Partnership, Progress

## Perseverance in Volatile Contexts

Demonstrating perseverance typical of the mine action sector, UNMAS programmes made progress in the removal and destruction of tens of thousands of items of explosive ordnance, improved the safety of millions of people, strengthened the national capacity of multiple governments and reduced the threat and impact of explosive ordnance attacks carried out against United Nations peace operations.

Since its establishment in 1997, UNMAS has adapted to the operational challenges of insecure and volatile environments; 2021 was no different.

### The rising threat posed by improvised explosive devices

As seen in United Nations peace operations, and according to [data from Action on Armed Violence](#), the rise in conflicts typified by asymmetric warfare and the increased use of IEDs is widespread. Explosive ordnance and IEDs affected at least 50 different countries and territories and all continents except Antarctica, resulting in over 170,000 casualties over the last decade. IEDs are predominantly used by non-state actors and usually disproportionately affect civilian populations, who account for 80% of IED-related casualties.

Through its IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (TMAT), UNMAS provides IED threat mitigation expertise to inform strategic plans and policies, advise on the development of doctrine and training materials, and monitor and track emerging trends and mitigation technologies, in close collaboration with colleagues in the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and other United Nations entities, Member States, including troop contributing countries (TCCs), bilateral partners, and NGOs.

IEDs are designed to create maximum casualties and to impede political or social processes. The design, size and methods of emplacement are varied and continue to evolve to circumvent the countermeasures adopted to locate and mitigate these insidious devices. Access to the technology and components for their construction is easily shared across borders at the speed of the internet. They are inexpensive to fabricate and simple to produce using unsecured military munitions or easily available precursors that have legitimate dual uses, such as chemicals used for agricultural purposes.

The increased use of IEDs was particularly notable in Africa. From Somalia to Mali and across the Sahel region, IEDs threatened the United Nations ability to implement its mandates and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In 2021 terrorist groups used IEDs more frequently than ever before to disrupt peace and security in the DRC and CAR. In East Africa, IED use remains the methodology of choice of violent extremist groups. There are on average over 400 attacks a year in Somalia where civilians continue to suffer the greatest casualties, though the Somali Government and African Union security forces are also regularly targeted. The IED threat is also progressively expanding in the Sahel with incidents occurring in Mali and Nigeria from 2013, spreading to Burkina Faso and Niger in 2017 and southwards to coastal countries, with the first incidents recorded in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin in December 2021.



The UNMAS TMAT integrates best practices and lessons learned from peacekeeping operations into the United Nations' training and policy documents, and guides the development of unit manuals, specialized training materials, statement of unit requirements, and contingent owned equipment documents to improve United Nations peacekeeping military and police capabilities to mitigate the threat and impact of IEDs. In 2021, UNMAS Entebbe-based Mobile Training Team (MTT) assisted TCCs to ensure that contingents are properly prepared to meet the expected standards in IED response for deployments to peacekeeping operations.

The MTT also coordinates with bilateral training providers to ensure that their instruction is aligned with United Nations standards. This year the MTT worked with the UK military Peace Support Team to enhance the capacity of the Kenyan International Peace Support Training Centre to develop appropriate and relevant training material, which resulted in nine of the Centre's IED Threat Mitigation related courses receiving accreditation from the United Nations Integrated Training Service, enabling Kenya to pledge an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) company to support peacekeeping operations.

## Coups and cycles of conflict

In Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali and Sudan, UNMAS navigated violent changes of government. The operation in Afghanistan persevered through the withdrawal of United States and coalition forces, and the fall of the Government. Demining operations coordinated by UNMAS continued in hundreds of sites across the country throughout the turbulence. In Burkina Faso activities were suspended following the military coup, but UNMAS remained in country to

ensure the roll-out of life-saving risk reduction education. In Sudan the UNMAS programme carried on its work even as mass, pro-democracy demonstrations took place and inflation reached more than 400 per cent.



## Strengthened Partnerships

UNMAS always pursues its objectives with partners. In 2021 UNMAS maintained and strengthened, by mandate and for efficiency, its

coordination role. It reached out to new partners, such as the Peacebuilding Fund, and built stronger bridges with existing partners in national authorities, the United Nations system and civil society.

## Mine action colleagues at risk

In June 2021, the mine action community was shocked by a targeted attack on humanitarian mine clearance workers in Baghlan-e-Markazi, Afghanistan. The attack, which was claimed by Islamic State in Khorasan Province, an entity affiliated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh), resulted in ten people killed and more than a dozen people wounded. The team worked for an implementing partner of UNMAS, the HALO Trust. This attack was condemned by the Secretary-General, United Nations authorities in Afghanistan, the Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards and the United Nations Security Council.

UNMAS personnel in many environments, including in Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria, worked in the shadow of terrorist attacks, or outright warfare. Symptoms of climate change, presenting drought, floods, heatwaves, sandstorms, and population displacements, took their toll on some operations, but did not stop any of them. In the DRC, staff were forced to evacuate their offices due to a volcanic eruption.

New waves of COVID-19 affected UNMAS mobility, face-to-face meetings, recruitment, and

A MINUSMA EOD search operator benefitting from in-mission UNMAS Search and Detect training in Mali. UNMAS Photo.





Mine clearance teams use flags as marking systems to identify clearance projects in Iraq. UNMAS Photo.

## Coordinating United Nations Mine Action

In its role as Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), UNMAS continued to coordinate United Nations mine action through monthly meetings at the technical level, biannual meetings of Principals and close engagement on specific issues in affected countries and territories, New York and Geneva.

UNMAS coordinated IACG-MA engagement with relevant treaty bodies, including advocating for compliance. In addition, members of the Group worked together in support of advocacy against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Cooperation among members has paved the way to achieving results on the ground; this is the case with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in UNMAS programmes in Burkina Faso, Colombia and Syria, and with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Nigeria and Somalia.

Twelve United Nations Departments and Offices of the secretariat, specialised agencies, funds and programmes, which make up the Interagency Coordination Group on mine action, play a role in mine action programmes in 30 countries and three territories.

The IACG members are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations (UNMAS/DPO), the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.

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The World

## Coordinating Task Force on a Whole-of-United Nations Response to Improvised Explosive Devices

Since January 2020, UNMAS has chaired the Coordinating Task Force on a Whole-of-United Nations Response to IEDs, as requested by the Secretary-General in his Agenda for Disarmament. The Task Force brings together humanitarian, development, political and security actors that play a role in IED response to facilitate knowledge exchange and partnerships.

In 2021 the Task Force coordinated responses across the United Nations system including establishment of a coordinating group of United Nations entities in Yemen.

UNMAS developed an interactive inventory of Task Force member resources and skills across the spectrum of IED prevention, protection, threat mitigation and law enforcement, to facilitate cross-pillar cooperation and dialogue, enhance synergies through the sharing of resources, data and expertise, and provide United Nations entities with consolidated information related to these devices.



## Coordinating mine action in support of humanitarian response

Through its Geneva office, as Coordinator of the Global Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) within the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-led Global Protection Cluster, UNMAS supported work in 17 countries and territories, engaging a wide network of partners to coordinate efforts and integrate mine action into 17 humanitarian response plans.

In December 2021, the global MA AoR launched the first MA AoR 2022-2024 Strategy - ["The Primacy of Protection: Protecting People from Explosive Hazards in Humanitarian Emergencies"](#).

In 2021, UNMAS continued to consult with NGO partners on issues of common interest, for instance through a presentation on the increasing impact of explosive ordnance in the Sahel to the Mine Action Support Group in May 2021, and through support for efforts of NGOs at the national level in advocating for support to the sector.



## Convening the mine action community to share knowledge

Under the over-arching theme of "Perseverance, Partnership, Progress" and with generous support from Germany, the IACG-MA under UNMAS leadership organized the 24th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers ([NDM-UN](#)) in May 2021.

The virtual format of NDM-UN24 allowed for the inclusive participation of stakeholders from across the sector and around the world, bringing together a record number of 1,200 people from 105 countries and territories to discuss challenges and progress in mine action. The gender and geographically balanced plenary and side event panels zoomed in on a wide range of topics featuring National Directors of mine action programmes and representatives of Mine Action Centres, United Nations entities, donors and civil society. NDM-UN24 was the result of a collaborative effort reflecting myriad voices and perspectives in the sector and received positive feedback.

## Commemorating mine action

To commemorate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April 2021, UNMAS partnered with stakeholders across the globe, from civil society to Member States and fellow United Nations entities, to advocate for assistance for mine action work and to raise awareness of the impact of contamination. As the International Day coincided

with Catholic Easter Sunday, UNMAS engaged Pope Francis to lend his voice to the millions of people impacted by explosive ordnance. In his "Urbi et Orbi" Easter Message broadcast, [Pope Francis described anti-personnel landmines](#) as "insidious and horrible devices that kill or maim many innocent people each year" further expressing his gratitude "to the United Nations personnel and to all engaged in the dangerous work of mine clearing and in assisting those who have experienced injury and death of loved ones from landmines".

On 6 April the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, Mr. Daniel Craig, delivered video statements to a special session of the Security Council organized by Viet Nam on "Mine action and sustaining peace: Stronger partnerships for better delivery" and to the United States Congressional Unexploded Ordnance / Demining Caucus at an event to mark the International Day.

UNMAS curated a digital photo and video exhibit highlighting mine action accomplishments in a dozen UNMAS programmes. The exhibition is hosted on the United Nations [website](#).



United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, Mr. Daniel Craig meets with the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres during the 20-year celebration of the establishment of UNMAS in 2018. UNMAS Photo.

A medic from UNMAS implementing partner, Global Clearance Solutions, working in Al Hamdaniya, Mosul, Iraq Feb-March 2021. UNMAS Photo.



# Progress in the Field at the United Nations

## Advocacy for victim assistance and rights of survivors

In 2021, explosive ordnance caused 12,153 casualties in countries with UN mine action presence. Civilians continue to be the most affected, with an increased percentage of civilian casualties from 61% to an alarming 81% in 2021. The highest numbers of casualties were recorded in Syria followed by Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen. The latest [Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict](#) states that: "children were disproportionately affected by explosive remnants of war, the use of improvised explosive devices and mines, with a steady increase in the number of children killed or maimed by such weapons."

In 2021, UNMAS increased its advocacy for victim assistance with different stakeholders and in a multitude of ways. As the global lead of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility, UNMAS made the case for the inclusion of victim assistance in Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs); in 2021 more than 20 victim assistance projects were included in such plans. In many countries including Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria, UNMAS promoted national laws and policies on the rights of victims. UNMAS also advocated for victim assistance with focused statements at state party meetings of the mine action-related conventions such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). UNMAS made the case for centralized databases on victim assistance at the APMBC Intersessional Meeting and organized a side event on "Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Mine Action" with the Netherlands and Humanity & Inclusion at the 24th NDM-UN meeting. UNMAS also took part in the 2021 Victim Assistance Retreat held by the Committee on Victim Assistance of the APMBC to strengthen a concerted victim assistance approach.

## UNMAS assurance system

UNMAS continued to fulfil its responsibility as the service provider for mine action for all Secretariat entities. A change management process was launched to bolster both delivery of mine action services and oversight of programme design and performance. All UNMAS field programmes are now led by Secretariat staff who, together with UNMAS Headquarters, lead the design, implementation, representation and oversight of UNMAS mine action programmes. At Headquarters a multi-disciplinary Review Committee ensures field programmes are appropriately designed to respond to the identified threat and that resources are efficiently allocated. Further refinements are expected to follow General Assembly consideration of the findings of an Independent Review of the UNMAS delivery model, which the Secretary-General will present to the 77th General Assembly.

## Gender Parity

UNMAS has taken measures to achieve gender balance among its staff. At the end of 2021, 63% of its headquarters staff in Geneva and New York were women, 39% of its international staff in its programmes, and 41% of the programme national staff were women. The new Director of the Service, like her predecessor, is also a woman.



## International Mine Action Standards

In its role as custodian of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) UNMAS chairs both the IMAS Steering Group and the Review Board.

In 2021 Steering Group membership was expanded to include the Mine Action Support Group chair to represent donors, and the National Director of mine action from Lebanon to represent national authorities. Following extensive work undertaken by the Review Board, the Steering Group adopted two essential standards in 2021; amended IMAS 01.10 which reinforces the governance of IMAS and IMAS 13.10 a new standard to guide Victim Assistance, one of the five pillars of mine action.

The Steering Group also approved an ambitious workplan for the Review Board which is overseeing 13 technical working groups focusing on the review and update of existing IMAS including, *inter alia*, on terminology, information management, training, marking, mechanical demining, safety and occupational health, the management of human remains in contaminated ground and IED risk education.



# Member State Support for Mine Action at the United Nations

## General Assembly

In December 2021 the General Assembly adopted its biennial resolution on assistance in mine action ([A/76/74](#)), which included progressive language on several issues. For instance, the explicit inclusion of mental health and psychosocial support for victims as part of the medical care requirements following an explosive ordnance incident underlines advances in the understanding of victims' needs. Other positive changes in the text pertained to the importance of including displaced populations and persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas in mine action strategies and action plans, consistent with efforts to better include affected communities in programming, regardless of their status.

The resolution also reflected trends, challenges and achievements made since the adoption of the previous General Assembly resolution (A/RES/74/80) recognizing the resilience of mine action in the face of COVID-19 and welcoming the establishment of the EORE Advisory Group, while expressing concern over the rising threat posed by IEDs to civilians, United Nations personnel and national security forces, as well as the disproportionate impact of mines and ERW on children.



## Security Council

The Security Council also recognized the significance of mine action and IED threat mitigation to the peace and security agenda by hosting an Arria formula meeting on 26 March 2021 on the impact of IEDs on the safety and security of peacekeepers and adopting PRST/2021/8 on mine action after an open debate on 8 April 2021.

The impact of IED use on peace and security led the Security Council to issue a [presidential statement](#) on the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers in May 2021 which highlighted the impact of IEDs and called for an independent strategic review (ISR) of peacekeeping operations' responses to IEDs, which was completed in December 2021. The report provides 50 cross-cutting recommendations and 38 mission-specific recommendations relating to the three missions reviewed by the ISR team (the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali - MINUSMA; the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR - MINUSCA; and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC - MONUSCO) aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of mandate delivery in high-risk environments and improving the preparedness of United Nations personnel.

The Council also continued to address mine action in the context of its review of other items on its agenda, such as resolution 2601 (2021) on children and armed conflict in which the Council expressed deep concern that many children in armed conflict, in particular girls, lack access to education owing to attacks and threats of attacks against schools, damaged or destroyed school buildings, mines and explosive remnants of war. As can be seen in the UNMAS programme profiles below the Council ensured a mine action component was integrated into missions impacted by explosive ordnance, ERW and IEDs.



# UNMAS 2021 SNAPSHOT ➤



## 21 PROGRAMMES AROUND THE WORLD



### UNMAS staff in UNHQ & Geneva

49 (63% women)



### International staff

232 (39% women)



### National staff

340 (41% women)



### Locally recruited personnel

3,758

### DESTROYED/RENDERED SAFE

**89,000** explosive remnants of war

**2,800** landmines

**1,200** IEDs

### CONFIRMED SAFE

**39** sq. km.  
land

**4,400** km.  
roads

### WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED

**41**

### RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED



To more than **1.3 million** people  
impacted by explosive ordnance

### VICTIMS ASSISTED

**850**

### TRAINED



Over **30,000** healthcare  
workers, police, teachers,  
uniformed peacekeepers  
and national authorities

### RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERVENTION

**VENEZUELA**

# UNMAS Programmes

UNMAS accomplished a great deal in 2021: 89,000 ERW were destroyed, 1,200 IEDs and 2,800 landmines. Thirty-nine square kilometres of land were confirmed safe, and 4,400 kilometres of roads were surveyed, cleared and confirmed to be safe. UNMAS provided in-person explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to more than 1.3 million people, constructed just over 40 weapons and ammunition storage facilities, and assisted more than 850 explosive ordnance victims.

Three new programmes were launched in Ethiopia, Niger and Yemen and the work of the UNMAS programme in Darfur was transitioned to the UNMAS component of the United Nations peace operation in Sudan (the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan – UNITAMS).



Ms. Endoruha F., a woman deminer trained by UNMAS implementing partner, Norwegian People's Aid, and founder of the Sahrawi Mine Action Women Team, at a Sahrawi Refugee Camp in Rabouni, Algeria. UNMAS Photo/Rosangela De Jesus Das Neves.

# ABYEI



## Overview

Several political developments impacted UNMAS activities in Abyei during 2021. Following the request of the Government of Sudan, and consistent with the strategic review of 17 September 2021, work began on the reconfiguration of United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) from a largely single troop contributing country (TCC) mission into a UN multinational peacekeeping force.

UNISFA also withdrew from the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) Sector One area of operations after continuous objections from the local community to the UNISFA presence in Gok Machar and team sites in Safahah/Kiir Adem and Sumayah/War Abar.

As in past years, the annual migration by the Misseriya and their cattle coincided with increased conflict between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya. A breakdown in the relationship between the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka over a longstanding land dispute resulted in violence in the southern part of the Abyei Area, bringing a new dimension to the conflict. UNMAS has observed an increase in the prevalence of explosive weapons with the use of hand grenades and rocket propelled grenades becoming more frequent.



## Mandate and operations

Security Council resolution 1990 (2011), which established UNISFA included demining assistance. In 2021, in resolutions 2575, 2606, and 2609, the Security Council called on Sudan and South Sudan to ensure UNMAS was provided unhindered deployment and freedom of movement to support the UNISFA mandate.

UNMAS continues to enable UNISFA force mobility, voluntary return of civilians to their communities, delivery of humanitarian aid and effective functioning of the JBVMM.

## Enabling Mission mobility and advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

UNMAS deployed integrated route assessment and clearance teams as well as patrol support teams, which responded to explosive threats within the Abyei Area and assisted the JBVMM at their headquarters, sector headquarters and team sites. UNMAS work enabled all planned JBVMM missions and force movements within the Abyei Area.

UNMAS also supported UNISFA's objective of ensuring a "weapons-free" Abyei by destroying weapons and ammunition confiscated by UNISFA peacekeepers. In addition, UNMAS provided technical support to the Mission's weapons and ammunition advisory board to ensure UNISFA contingents meet with international standards for weapons and ammunition storage and management.

UNMAS continued to support induction of mission civilian staff, UNPOL and Military Liaison Officers through the provision of explosive threat awareness.

UNMAS conducts battle area clearance in the area of Koladit/Noong, Abyei, where many cattle herders traverse.  
UNMAS Photo/Bojan Vukovic.

## Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

In January and May 2021 respectively, **two ERW accidents occurred in Agok and Diffra resulting in three fatalities and 10 injuries**. As a result, UNMAS intensified its EORE activities, especially targeting children and pastoralists who are the most at-risk groups of people. EORE was provided through short, customized messages, in comic books and on face masks to create awareness of ERW as well as to advocate for COVID-19 mitigation measures. EORE messaging was further reinforced by broadcasting a radio drama through radio Agok in three languages (Arabic, Dinka and English).

UNMAS placed Community Liaison Officers in Agok, Abyei and Diffra, to improve community interaction, specifically targeting women and children which resulted in an increase in awareness and sensitization within local communities, as evidenced by the increased number of reports UNMAS receives regarding ERW.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNISFA budget.



### AHMED ABDELGADIR UNMAS Support Services Associate

Ahmed Abdelgadir joined UNMAS in 2016 and currently serves in the capacity of a support services associate in UNISFA.

As the only Arabic speaking person in the team, he is often called upon to help with translations and interpretation.

**"In order to succeed in my work, I must understand and interpret tribal differences, disputes, and culture. UNMAS is here to assist communities, not to act in a way that could offend them. It is here that my Arabic and communication skills have really helped."**

UNMAS is committed to the gender and diversity goals of the United Nations. One of Ahmed's responsibilities is to assist in the recruitment of national CLOs and to assess their work on the ground.

**"I can see how successful female CLOs are because they have access to women and children within their communities. Conservative nomadic communities would not allow male CLOs to interact with women freely and openly. The positive impact of UNMAS gender sensitive recruitment decisions are very clear to me."**



# AFGHANISTAN



## Overview

The people of Afghanistan faced unprecedented challenges in 2021.

The Taliban expanded a military offensive amid the withdrawal of the remaining international military forces during the first half of the year, culminating in the disintegration of the Government and the Taliban takeover in August 2021. The changes in the political and security landscape enabled humanitarian partners to reach previously inaccessible areas.

The latter half of the year witnessed major challenges relating to women's rights, food insecurity, a massive humanitarian crisis and economic contraction. Over half of the population needs humanitarian assistance. ERW and IEDs continue to pose a threat to civilians and humanitarian personnel.

UNMAS and the partners of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) have adapted to the changes in the operating environment necessitated by the withdrawal of the international military forces and the Taliban takeover and responded to the crises.

## UNMAS mandate and operations

At the request of previous Governments and prior to the disintegration of the former Government, UNMAS provided financial, technical, and strategic

support to the Afghan Directorate for Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), ensuring it successfully carried out the mine action coordination functions of priority setting, planning, quality management, data collection, and information management.

With the Taliban takeover, financial support from the international community to the de facto authorities, including the DMAC, was suspended. In order to ensure the continuation of essential coordination of humanitarian mine action operations and following consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and other key stakeholders, UNMAS established a temporary United Nations humanitarian mine action coordination center.



Mr. Shaheedullah, Assistant Team Leader for UNMAS partner The Halo Trust, paints a benchmark in a surveyed area in Nangarhar, Afghanistan. UNMAS Photo.

## Enabling local populations, humanitarian and development actors to safely use previously contaminated areas

IEDs and ERW remained a leading cause of civilian casualties. UNMAS continued clearance of contaminated land and expanded its quick response capability to respond to requests for assistance from humanitarian organizations.

To the benefit of hundreds of communities, UNMAS safely removed thousands of ERW and IEDs from land and schools, confirming them safe for crop planting, pasturing, housing, and education. UNMAS support to development projects was suspended after August 2021 due to lack of resources.

In the latter half of the year, UNMAS work was especially critical in newly accessible areas where the extent and type of contamination were unknown. Given the increased threat from the use of IEDs and the presence of abandoned improvised mines, UNMAS focused on increasing the technical capacity of the sector, including that of national NGOs, to respond to these items through training, mentoring and provision of specialized equipment.



Mr. Shaheedullah disposes of explosive ordnance in response to a hotline call-out in Chapahrhar district of Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. UNMAS Photo.

## Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

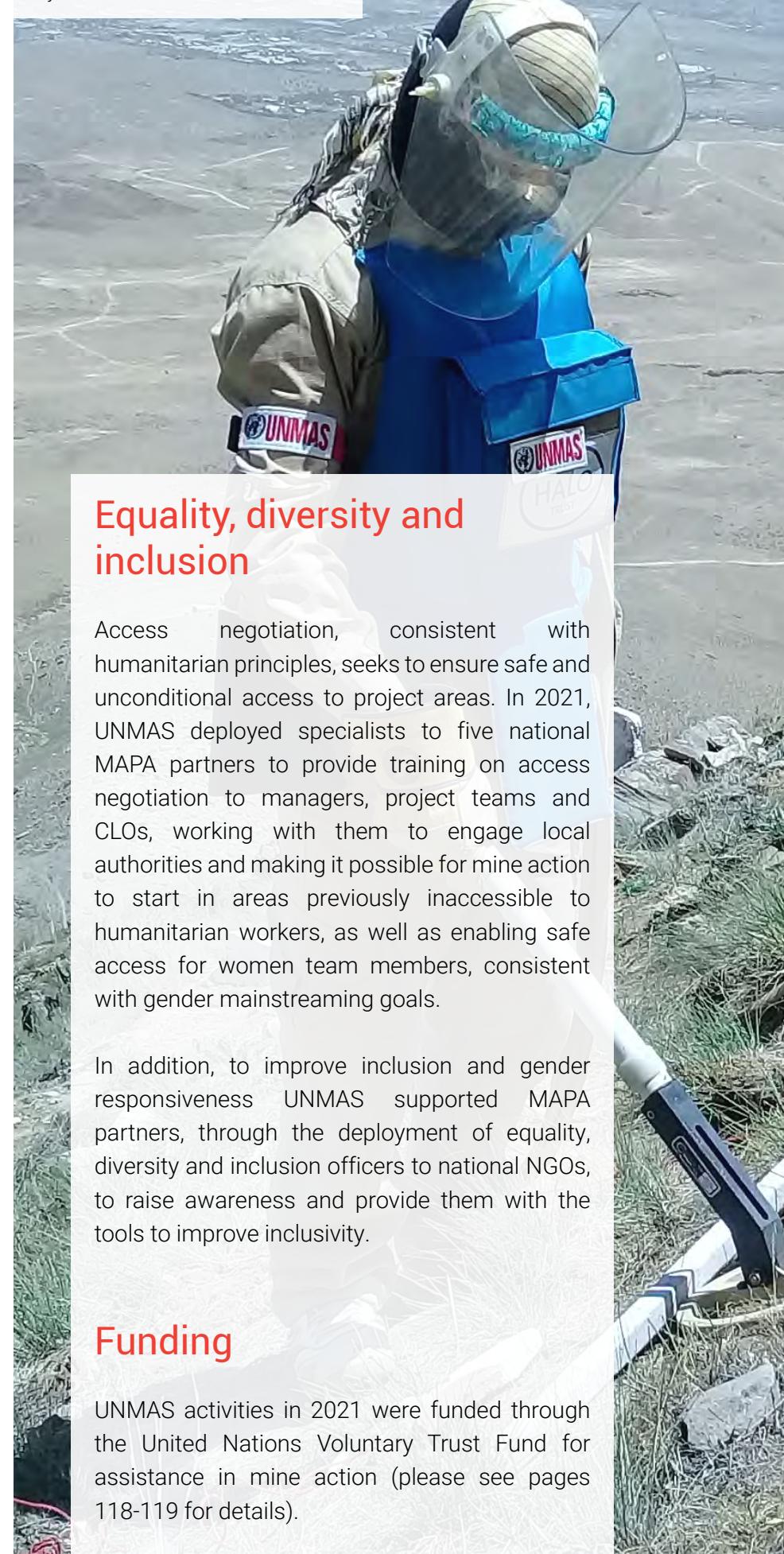
To empower the most vulnerable people and communities in Afghanistan to protect themselves, UNMAS provided EORE to at-risk populations including returnees, internally displaced persons and residents living in conflict-affected areas. After the Taliban takeover, despite the restrictions on women's rights to participate in the workplace, UNMAS was able to retain a mixed-gender structure in its EORE teams and to provide risk education to people of all ages and genders. Through its implementing partners, UNMAS deployed both men and women and delivered separate beneficiary sessions for men and women.

Consistent with best practice, UNMAS updated its risk education materials in 2021, introducing new visual messaging, and deploying new behavioural change methods to better equip people to avoid accidents. This year, all risk education sessions also included a COVID-19 awareness component.

Pre- and post-EORE surveys provided evidence of the effectiveness of the risk education sessions. **In 2021 a total of 11,290 surveys were conducted showing an average 95% increase in respondents' knowledge.**



A deminer carrying out clearance operations at Tange Sayidan, Chahar Asiyab, Kabul, 2021. UNMAS Photo.



### Equality, diversity and inclusion

Access negotiation, consistent with humanitarian principles, seeks to ensure safe and unconditional access to project areas. In 2021, UNMAS deployed specialists to five national MAPA partners to provide training on access negotiation to managers, project teams and CLOs, working with them to engage local authorities and making it possible for mine action to start in areas previously inaccessible to humanitarian workers, as well as enabling safe access for women team members, consistent with gender mainstreaming goals.

In addition, to improve inclusion and gender responsiveness UNMAS supported MAPA partners, through the deployment of equality, diversity and inclusion officers to national NGOs, to raise awareness and provide them with the tools to improve inclusivity.

### Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 118-119 for details).

## UNMAS IN AFGHANISTAN 2021

**7.44** SQ. KM.  
LAND CONFIRMED  
SAFE

**57,071**  
PEOPLE RECEIVED  
RISK EDUCATION

**2,430**  
MINES AND ERW  
DESTROYED

PROVIDED TRAINING &  
EQUIPMENT TO THE MAPA FOR  
THE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE  
OF IMPROVISED MINES

SUPPORTED HUMANITARIAN  
MINE ACTION COORDINATION



An EORE officer conducts a one-to-one assessment after a risk education session with a woman returnee in Torkham, Afghanistan. UNMAS Photo.

Demining team checks equipment before the start of clearance operations at shelter areas in Badakhshan, Afghanistan. UNMAS Photo.



## PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

In 2021, UNMAS led an initiative to improve livelihood opportunities for survivors of explosive ordnance accidents and families affected by explosive ordnance. Survivors received vocational training in beekeeping, poultry farming, fruit processing, and animal husbandry. Following their training participants were also provided with start-up resources such as beehives, cows, hens, and solar fruit drying apparatus. In addition, they and their family members were given access to marketing and business development consulting services to start small businesses. These projects provided income generating opportunities for people whose economic outlook was previously limited.

## CLEARING SHELTERS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

In November 2021, UNMAS assisted the United Nations Refugee Agency in finding appropriate shelter sites for IDPs in the North and Northeast regions of Afghanistan. UNMAS and UNHCR conducted assessments in five provinces (Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab and Takhar) where explosive contamination was not recorded in the mine action database. Over a two-month period, UNMAS conducted assessment and clearance of 300 shelter spaces across five provinces and their surrounding areas handing over a total of 240,000 square meters of safe land to UNHCR in early 2022. Three hundred shelter units will accommodate over 3,000 IDPs. While undertaking this project, UNMAS teams responded to 28 emergency requests and removed and destroyed 35 items of unexploded ordnance. EORE sessions were also delivered to 370 people (50 men, 5 women, and 315 children) in and around the project locations.

# BURKINA FASO



## Overview

Since the spread of armed conflict in Mali to Burkina Faso in 2016, there have been persistent armed attacks in the northern and eastern regions. The number of explosive ordnance-related incidents also increased significantly, spreading progressively from the north of Burkina Faso and the regions bordering Mali and Niger to the center and south of the country.

IEDs continue to be a growing and complex threat in a context already compounded by mass displacement, armed conflict, and lack of access to basic services. IEDs are hard to detect and are indiscriminate in nature; specialized equipment and knowledge are required to mitigate the threat they pose. Their presence risks exacerbating existing vulnerabilities, hindering freedom of movement, and increasing instability, as well as posing a direct threat to civilians and humanitarian operations. **An estimated 1.2 million people are living in areas impacted by IED use.**

**UNMAS data indicates there were an unprecedented 106 IED incidents in 2021.** While the Sahel and Est regions remain the most impacted, three additional southern regions Cascades, Centre-sud, and Centre-est, were also affected. **UNMAS data indicates IED incidents resulted in 206 victims - 103 killed and 103 injured. Defense and Security Forces (DFS) are the main targets, though 37% of victims are civilians.**

On 22 January 2022, several Burkinabe DFS officers mutinied in various military barracks, eventually taking control of the country. On instruction from the United Nations Resident Coordinator, on 24th January 2022 UNMAS suspended all activities, including those directly supporting the DFS. In March 2022, again under the guidance of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNMAS resumed training activities for DFS and started to provide risk education to people living in at-risk areas. During the period of suspension, UNMAS continued communication with its national partners to maintain existing relationships.



Two UNMAS trainers demonstrate the use of Schonstedt detectors at the National Police Academy in Ouagadougou. UNMAS Photo.

## UNMAS mandate and operations

UNMAS first deployed to Burkina Faso in 2019 as part of the United Nations Secretary-General's Emergency Task Force for Burkina Faso, and then established a presence following a request for assistance from the Government of Burkina Faso and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. UNMAS provides national institutions and affected populations with the knowledge, tools, and capacity to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance in high-risk areas.

### Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

In 2021, UNMAS continued to build national capacities to reduce the impact of the threat of explosive ordnance on affected populations, national institutions, and the aid sector. This included supporting the establishment of a national mine action authority - the National Commission on Arms Control (CNCA) - which leads and manages the mine action response, in partnership with civil society groups and organizations.

UNMAS assisted the CNCA in the development of national mine action standards, including those for EORE accreditation, information management and non-technical survey (NTS). As a result, the CNCA were able to establish an accreditation process and accredit five national NGOs, trained by UNMAS, to deliver EORE among affected communities. Consequently, **more than 163,000 (61,000 women, 33,000 girls, 40,000 men and 29,000 boys) at-risk people were sensitized to identify and mitigate their risk of exposure to explosive items including IEDs.**

UNMAS also continued to enhance the capacity of the DFS to manage explosive threats **providing IED threat awareness to almost 1,600 of their personnel (120 women, 1480 men)**, 225 of whom also benefitted from first-aid training which also included the provision of individual first aid kits. **Search and detect training was also provided to 29 staff (8 women, 21 men).**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Security, UNMAS developed a 40-hour "Counter-IED" training module that was integrated into the curricula for security forces in eight training facilities. UNMAS also delivered two two-week training-of-trainers (ToT) sessions on IED awareness in Bobo Dioulasso and Ouagadougou, benefitting 60 Burkinabe instructors (including six women), thereby contributing to the programme's objective of building an autonomous mine action capacity in Burkina Faso.

UNMAS IN  
BURKINA  
FASO 2021

**163,000**

AT-RISK PEOPLE  
SENSITIZED TO DANGERS  
OF EXPLOSIVE ITEMS

**1,600**

PERSONNEL TRAINED  
IN IED THREAT  
AWARNESS

**29**

PERSONNEL TRAINED  
IN SEARCH AND  
DETECT TRAINING

## Advancing the safety and mobility of humanitarian workers

UNMAS provided IED awareness training to 355 United Nations and NGO humanitarian staff who are exposed to the risk of explosive ordnance in the most affected regions.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 118-119 for details), and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund.



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



## Overview

The flow of illicit weapons and ammunition, which lack proper regulation and control, and their misuse, continues to constitute a risk to security, stability, peace and sustainable development in the CAR. Also, the upsurge of explosive ordnance incidents in the west of the country increasingly impacted civilians and humanitarian delivery, the safety and security of peacekeepers and the implementation of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) mandate. **In 2021 there were 44 such incidents that caused the death of at least 30 people, and injured 48, which included six United Nations peacekeepers.**

## Mandate

UNMAS deployed personnel to the CAR at the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in January 2014 and set up a programme following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2149 (April 2014) which established MINUSCA. Consistent with resolution 2552 (2020), UNMAS supported the national authorities to respond to the illicit transfer, accumulation, and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW), to ensure safe and effective storage and management of SALW - including the safe destruction of surplus stocks - and to assist national authorities in their action plan to counter proliferation of SALW. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2605 (2021) which strongly condemned the violence perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including through the increased use of explosive ordnance, UNMAS stepped up its work on explosive ordnance threat prevention, mitigation and response, while continuing to support the national authorities in weapons and ammunitions management (WAM).

## Supporting the national weapons and ammunitions management architecture and governance system

In 2021, **UNMAS provided specialized WAM training to 24 members** of the national defence and internal security forces. In addition, **UNMAS conducted 78 quality assurance visits to 23 storage facilities with national authorities** to ensure armouries are being managed safely and efficiently and in conformity with national and international standards, which **led to 27 rehabilitation works in 11 facilities**. The quality assurance visits were interrupted for almost one year due to COVID-19 and the security crisis, during which the level of weapon and ammunition management in the armouries significantly deteriorated. Technical support in terms of recommendations and training was provided by UNMAS to improve the level of management, safety, and security of the armouries.

In addition, **UNMAS collected 7,600 obsolete (unsafe or unserviceable)** pieces of ammunition, including rockets, mortar shells and grenades, and in coordination with national authorities destroyed many of them.

Furthermore, UNMAS worked closely with the National Commission for the fight against the Proliferation of SALW in the implementation of its national plan ensuring its actions were carried out consistently with the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.



UNMAS Operations Associate sets up rendered safe ammunition in a demolition pit for future disposal at Camp Kassai, Bangui, CAR. UNMAS Photo/Constantin Goundou.

## Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers

In 2021, in response to the increasing explosive ordnance threat, UNMAS conducted an analysis of the explosive problem in CAR and provided advice and training to the MINUSCA Force for the development of its Explosive Ordnance Threat Management capacity.

In addition, following the ISR (see pages 118-119), and consistent with recommendations made for MINUSCA, explosive ordnance threat mitigation-related activities have been implemented by UNMAS to reinforce the capacity of MINUSCA to prevent, respond and mitigate the explosive ordnance threat.

**UNMAS also provided explosive ordnance risk awareness to 917 uniformed personnel from MINUSCA, including 82 women.**

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

Throughout 2021, UNMAS supported the protection of civilians, United Nations personnel and humanitarian actors (NGOs) through the provision of EORE and explosive ordnance risk awareness sessions. **UNMAS delivered explosive ordnance-related risk awareness sessions to 1,212 United Nations and humanitarian personnel, including 230 women.** To protect civilians, **UNMAS implemented 219 EORE sessions to the population in Bouar, Baoro, Boali, and Bossembélé areas.** Through those sessions, **7,153 people, including 1,993 women, 2,333 girls and 1,926 boys have increased their knowledge** on the way to protect themselves from the explosive ordnance-related threat and decrease their risk of accidents.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the MINUSCA budget.



MINUSCA

UNMAS Operations Associate provides training on WAM and EOD at Camp Kassai in Bangui, CAR. UNMAS Photo/Andrei Camerzan.



## UNMAS IN CAR

2021

**1,212**

EORE SESSIONS DELIVERED TO UN AND HUMANITARIAN PERSONNEL

**7,153**

PEOPLE INCREASED THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON PROTECTION AND RISK MITIGATION

# COLOMBIA

## Overview

As a result of more than fifty years of armed conflict, Colombia suffers from widespread contamination from landmines and explosive remnants of war. Between January 1990, the year that official data became available, and 31 December 2021, Colombia recorded 12,150 victims of explosive ordnance accidents, 150 of which were registered in 2021 alone. As in previous years, most of these casualties were civilians (59% in 2021), emphasizing the need for increased protection measures. The discovery by security forces of new caches of landmines and explosive ordnance as well as the regular occurrence of accidents involving civilians in areas previously deemed safe underscore the ongoing use of landmines and explosive ordnance in the country.

INDEPAZ, a reputed NGO contributing to peacebuilding in Colombia, **identifies 93 active non-state armed groups engaged in conflicts fuelled by illegal economies**, largely concentrated in remote and secluded areas, and involving the use of explosive devices, affecting the poorest and most vulnerable communities. The same NGO reports that in 2021, **171 social leaders and 48 former FARC-EP combatants were assassinated, and 96 massacres accounting for 338 civilian victims occurred**. Most of these violent events are blamed on FARC-EP dissident groups, the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) and the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC), which use APM/IN. No peace talks took place in 2021.



## Developing national capacity and integrating mine action into regional development plans

UNMAS has continued to assist the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP in Spanish) and humanitarian mine action organizations in enhancing the mine action sector's capacity and developing its coordination and regulatory frameworks. UNMAS made significant progress in the implementation of the work plan agreed with the OACP in 2021. Notably, **UNMAS contributed to the development of ten regional action plans, and 46 victim referral pathways were either developed or updated**.

As a result, ten regional mine action plans in areas most affected by mines (Arauca, Bolívar, Caquetá, Cesar, Casanare, Cauca, Chocó, Córdoba, Meta, Nariño y Putumayo) were drawn up and local coordination roundtables were held in 76 municipalities. The regional action plans include explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), humanitarian demining and victim assistance activities. The work of UNMAS regional coordinators and the OACP is to ensure that these plans are developed, approved, implemented and monitored. The coordinators provide technical assistance throughout this process, as most city halls and regional governments are unaware of the technical and regulatory requirements of mine action.

In accordance with International Mine Action Standards, UNMAS also supported the revision of new national technical standards that govern the mine action sector in Colombia and drafted four technical notes on issues, such as the management of human and archaeological remains

found in contaminated areas and procedures for technical survey. UNMAS worked to strengthen national and international non-governmental organizations and Colombian authorities in the sector, sharing good practices on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and resource mobilization, as well as training on land release, gender and diversity monitoring, and explosive ordnance disposal. In addition, online training was provided to health authorities in the regions most affected by landmines, and a workshop was organized on the importance of psychosocial care for child victims of explosive devices.



With a view to demonstrating the contribution that humanitarian demining makes to sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs, UNMAS developed a process using data from mine action operators, socio-economic statistics from municipalities, and practical tools, such as aerial photographs and satellite images, to show changes in land use and the appearance of new infrastructures, such as schools and medical centers, after clearance.

Three local organizations, namely, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, HUMANICEMOS DH, and the Colombian Army Demining Brigade, tested the approach in four municipalities: Puerto Asís, Putumayo; Zambrano, Bolívar; La Montañita, Caquetá; and Algeciras, Huila. Results were positive; illicit crop planting reduced; roads were improved; requests for land restitution by farming families grew; and reforestation increased.

## Supporting the peace process

The mine action community continues to make significant contributions to the implementation of the Peace Accord signed in 2016 with the former FARC-EP, such as the reintegration of ex-combatants through mine action activities and the collection of information on the location of minefields and explosive ordnance.

UNMAS continued to provide technical assistance to Humanicemos DH, a mine action organization composed of, and led by former FARC-EP combatants, pursuant to the peace agreement of 2016. Over 90 former combatants, **including 24 women**, employed by the organization contributed to reparations for victims and cleared previously contaminated land for productive use. Furthermore, in October, with UNMAS support, OACP formally recognized the first area - an Indigenous Reservation in the municipality of La Montañita, Caquetá - cleared by HUMANICEMOS DH.

Within the framework of a Tripartite Mechanism comprising the Government of Colombia, former FARC-EP combatants and the United Nations (UNMAS and the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia), UNMAS supported the

elaboration of **over 80 reports on explosive ordnance contamination** (including the number of devices, the type of explosive, the container used, and initiation and activation methods) based on the information provided by 22 former FARC-EP ex-combatants, which was provided to the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace to inform the national demining plan.

Through its work with the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, UNMAS met with judges and other Special Jurisdiction for Peace personnel to explain how the demining work done by ex-combatants could be viewed as a reparatory action and, therefore, play an important role in the peace process.



## Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

UNMAS carried out EORE workshops **benefiting 20,000 people (7,000 men, 6,500 women, 3,500 girls and 3,000 boys)** including Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations in the most affected communities of Antioquia, Arauca, Caquetá, Cauca, Córdoba, Chocó, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Putumayo. In addition, UNMAS **provided legal advice to 265 civilians who had explosive ordnance accidents (180 men, 75 women, 5 boys and 5 girls)**.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see page 118-119 for details)



## ELÁCIDES: FROM LANDMINE VICTIM TO RISK EDUCATION FACILITATOR

Elácides López was nine years old when a landmine accident cost him both legs and injured two other people, including an eight-year-old cousin, in the municipality of Tierralta, Colombia. Elácides turned this traumatic incident into an opportunity to work as an EORE workshop leader and give talks to his classmates and neighbours about ways to avoid such accidents.

Today he collaborates with the Corporación Paz y Democracia to provide EORE in communities in Tierralta.

“

**“Many people think that mines are far away and that they will never have an accident. But when they hear my testimony, they learn that these devices, even if we don't see them, are there, waiting to harm us. Helping other people not to go through what I went through is my way of overcoming what happened.”**

With financial support from UNMAS, in 2021 Elácides delivered EORE in 18 municipalities affected by violence in Colombia.



UNMAS Director Ms. Ilene Cohn meets Elácides López, a young victim of explosive ordnance who now teaches EORE, as part of a visit to UNMAS partner Corporación Paz y Democracia, in Tierralta, Colombia.

From left to right: Chief of Mine Action Programme in Colombia, Mr. Pablo Parra; a member of Corporación Paz y Democracia; Programme Management Officer, Ms. Daniela Craciun; EORE facilitator, Mr. Elácides López, Director of UNMAS, Ms. Ilene Cohn; and two personnel from Corporación Paz y Democracia. UNMAS Photo.

# CYPRUS

## Overview

UNMAS has been a component of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 2016, providing dedicated expertise in mine action planning and coordination, quality assurance of demining operations and management of mine action information. Since the suspension of UNFICYP demining activities in the buffer zone in October 2017, UNMAS is focused on mapping and survey of explosive threats, provision of technical advice and quality assurance on mine clearance to relevant actors in the north and the south, mine risk education, threat assessment and management, and data management of mine action information.



### Supporting peace efforts

UNMAS supported UNFICYP efforts to plan and advocate for mine action as a confidence-building measure with the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and encourage progress towards a mine-free Cyprus. UNMAS also provided technical advice and training to the Committee on Missing Persons facilitating safe access to sites where it carries out its work, enabling the Committee's efforts to promote reconciliation between communities.

### Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and action for peacekeeping "plus" (A4P+)

UNMAS delivered explosive ordnance awareness training to the police and military contingents of the Mission during their induction training. Consistent with the Secretary-General's A4P+ initiative, UNMAS ensured that all peacekeepers working in the vicinity of minefields receive a safety briefing. UNMAS periodically checks the fencing around the Buffer Zone minefields and accompanies troop contributing country contingents during fence repairs to assure their safety in case fences were moved from the original boundaries.

### Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNFICYP budget.



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



## Mandate and operations

### Overview

The problem of landmine and ERW contamination in the DRC is the result of several internal armed conflicts since the country's independence in 1960. A national landmine contamination survey **in 2014 showed 130 suspected hazardous areas mostly in the Eastern parts of the country, with a total size of 1.8 million square meters**. Consistent with its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the DRC's clearance deadline was 31 December 2020. However, in June 2021, the Congolese Mine Action Centre requested an extension until 31 December 2025, which was granted in December 2021.

Since June 2021, there has been **a significant increase in the use of IEDs in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, resulting in 53 incidents**. The armed groups using IEDs continued to primarily target national armed forces (FARDC) during combat but also increased attacks against civilians in public places. **All IED attacks occurred in the Eastern parts of the country, with five in the territory of Irumu (Ituri province) and 48 in Beni (North Kivu province). Civilians constituted 85% of all recorded IED victims**. The increasing indiscriminate use of IEDs were primarily attributed to the Allied Democratic Forces. Moreover, the identification of complex IEDs through the second half of 2021 in the town of Beni, North Kivu province, indicated that IEDs are becoming more sophisticated, evolving from predominantly victim-activated devices towards more advanced radio-controlled mechanisms.

UNMAS has been present in the DRC since 2002 as a component of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and has offices in Beni, Bukavu, Goma, Kalemie and Kinshasa. UNMAS activities supported the delivery of the Mission mandate on protection of civilians, stabilization and strengthening of State institutions and key governance and security reforms, through survey, clearance and disposal of explosive ordnance, IED threat mitigation support and risk awareness, and WAM in support to the Mission and national authorities.

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

The proliferation of attacks and the type of devices used is a great concern for the Government of the DRC and the population, which is why UNMAS MONUSCO increased its IED-mitigation efforts. **UNMAS deployed two counter-IED teams to operate in the Beni region where 91% of all IED incidents took place in 2021**. In response to the intensifying IED threat, UNMAS disseminated IED awareness messages on Radio Okapi broadcast programmes in Swahili, French and Kinande. This was carried out in partnership with ACOLAM, a national mine action NGO, in a community violence reduction project in the Beni region. **UNMAS conducted 695 EOD tasks in Ituri, Nord Kivu and South Kivu**.



## Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

With a view to ensure the security and safety of MONUSCO troops and enable their mobility, in 2021, **UNMAS completed 141 EOD spot tasks upon the Mission's request in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika**. UNMAS disseminated explosive ordnance/IED-awareness to the United Nations Police (UNPOL) and military personnel and **disposed of obsolete and unserviceable ammunition for MONUSCO troop and police, totalling 199,500 items, including 11,300 items of explosive ordnance and 188,200 rounds of Small Arms Ammunition (SAA)**.

## Supporting the national mine action capacity to address the explosive ordnance threat

In 2021, UNMAS continued supporting Government institutions to develop a national capacity to mitigate and dispose of explosive ordnance and IEDs. As co-chair and Secretariat of the MONUSCO explosive ordnance/IED Threat Mitigation Working Group, UNMAS started liaising with the UNPOL and Justice Support Section in the design of training materials for sections of the FARDC, national police (PNC) and judicial system involved in prevention, handling and investigation of explosive accidents.

## Supporting the national weapons and ammunitions management architecture and governance system

UNMAS also focused on capacity development of national defence and security forces, especially related to WAM through its close partnership with the National Commission for SALW Control and Reduction of Armed Violence (CNC-ALPC). UNMAS has deployed one officer to the CNC-ALPC in Kinshasa to ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of the National Action Plan for SALW Control 2018-2022. In addition to empowering the CNC-ALPC, UNMAS also carries out joint weapons marking activities with the CNC-ALPC and assessments of the FARDC's and the PNC weapons and ammunition stores. Any lessons learnt from these processes will be used in preparation of the National Action Plan for SALW Control being developed for 2023-2027.

UNMAS installed weapon safes and racks in storage facilities, **securing a total of 5,630 weapons belonging to the FARDC; the PNC; the National Institute for the National Park Rangers; and for the MONUSCO Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration programme**. UNMAS provided training on explosive hazard assessment and IED threat mitigation in the context of jungle warfare training for relevant military personnel. In addition, **UNMAS has delivered training on WAM to a total of 136 people, including: 52 FARDC personnel; 51 police officers (including four women); 16 staff from the National Parks Institute; nine CNC-ALPC staff members (including two women); and eight MONUSCO staff**.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the MONUSCO budget.



EOD operator Ms. Joyce Furaha Ndeze, of the national NGO SYOPADY demonstrates EOD operations during 4 April awareness campaign. UNMAS Photo/Tristan Chopard.

# UNMAS IN DRC

2021

**695+**

EOD TASKS COMPLETED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF DRC

**136**

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION TRAININGS

**199,500**

OBsolete and unserviceable AMMUNITION DISPOSED

**5,630**

WEAPONS SECURED

# ETHIOPIA

## Overview

Ethiopia has experienced a series of armed conflicts over the last 50 years which have left behind landmine and ERW contamination.

Following requests for support from the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Ethiopia and the Interim President of the Somali region of Ethiopia, in March 2020 UNMAS deployed a mission to Ethiopia to assess the level of contamination in the Somali region. Subsequently, the Federal Ministry of Peace of Ethiopia requested that UNMAS expand its intervention to other regions. In February 2021, UNMAS deployed an advisory capacity within the Office of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to support the latter to develop a multi-partner approach to mine action. With the escalation of the conflict in Tigray throughout the year, at the request of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and endorsing a request of support from the Interim Administration in Tigray, in December 2021 UNMAS expanded its presence in Ethiopia to support the humanitarian response in Tigray, Afar and Amhara, and provide lifesaving EORE to communities affected by the conflict.



## Enabling the United Nations and humanitarian partners' response

Responding to the dire humanitarian needs caused by the conflict, in 2021 UNMAS carried out two assessment missions to Tigray. The missions confirmed over 70 explosive accidents with an unconfirmed number of victims had recently taken place and that explosive ordnance was littered across residential areas and in IDP sites, in communal areas and amongst the rubble, posing an immediate risk to life, inhibiting safe movement, preventing access to basic services, and reducing the delivery of humanitarian aid.

With requirements for the United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners to accelerate their emergency humanitarian aid, UNMAS carried out rapid explosive risk assessments at the various sites of humanitarian operations and along humanitarian corridors ensuring access and the safety of humanitarian workers. In August 2021, the Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team activated the MA AoR, which resulted in improved exchange of information and planning of support.

UNMAS also built an EORE capacity to teach communities, as well as IDPs, how to identify and mitigate the risks posed by the presence of explosive ordnance.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 118-119 for details).

UNMAS Ethiopia's all-women EORE team delivering awareness sessions, supported by Japan, to IDPs in Jari, Amhara Region, Ethiopia. UNMAS Photo/Abel Tesfai.



# IRAQ



## Overview

Iraq is one of the most explosive ordnance contaminated countries in the world. **It has more than 3,000 square kilometres of recorded impacted land** including extensive and complex contamination in the areas retaken from ISIL/Daesh. Continued clearance of residential and agricultural areas is an important contributor to creating the conditions for sustainable development, the return of displaced people and safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.

## Mandate and operations

In Iraq, UNMAS supports the Government of Iraq to assist those impacted by explosive ordnance and enable socio-economic development and welfare, by providing technical and advisory support to national authorities, so that they can effectively lead and coordinate the mine action response; supporting the capacity development of national operators through the partnership model described below; carrying out EORE, so that people know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance accidents; conducting survey and clearance of agricultural land and residential areas to support durable solutions for IDPs as well as to enable safe access to land and infrastructure for host communities.

## Enabling local populations, humanitarian and development actors to safely use previously contaminated areas

In 2021, UNMAS teams continued clearance activities in both Anbar and Ninewa governorates **clearing more than 5.1 million square metres of land and rendering safe almost 9,000 items of explosive ordnance**. Following the many challenges faced in 2020 due to COVID-19, UNMAS was able to work in agricultural and residential locations throughout Iraq from the start of 2021.

Alongside clearance in multiple towns and villages in these governorates - enabling residential development and agricultural activities - notable achievements included the clearance of Bab al Saray market, the hospital in Sinjar and the cemetery in west Mosul in the Ninewa governorate and completing clearance of a vast swathe of land earmarked by the Government to build "New Ramadi" in Anbar governorate. This work contributed to stabilization in communities ravaged by conflict and provided the opportunity for normal life to return.

To evaluate the success of its work UNMAS conducted post-activity impact assessments in 37 randomly selected sites to measure the impact of clearance completed during the period 2016-2020. The sample - three per cent of total clearance tasks in the period - included tasks from each of the years, a mixture of clearance and spot tasks, and a variety of humanitarian and stabilization tasks. Seventy people participated in the survey (21 women and 49 men) which found that **almost 84 per cent of tasks had restored access to roads, housing and schools and 90 per cent of land made safe is currently in use**.



UNMAS implementing partner Global Clearance Solutions conducts battle area clearance after rubble clearance. Tal Afar, Iraq. UNMAS Photo.



## Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

In June 2021, UNMAS initiated a joint planning exercise with the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) to identify areas of collaboration for technical support. As a result, UNMAS implemented training courses for IKMAA and DMA on geographic information systems, advanced quality management, results-based management, strategic planning, the cross-cutting areas of sustainable development and gender. UNMAS developed guidelines for gender-mainstreaming in mine action, as well as basic EORE training for the DMA to enhance their capacity to identify and assess explosive ordnance threats.

UNMAS also carried out a stakeholder mapping exercise to provide an overview of various mine action entities roles and interaction in and with the Iraqi mine action sector. The document was used to develop specific advocacy points in support of the DMA in their interactions with other ministries within the Government and contributed to the development of the national mine action strategy.

In addition, UNMAS provided mine action management training, which included IED disposal and explosive hazard first responder courses, to numerous Ministry of Interior officials. UNMAS also trained police officers to safely and effectively process crime scenes that may have involved the use of IEDs. In all cases UNMAS placed specific emphasis on ensuring women were included in the training sessions.

In support of the sector more broadly, UNMAS also trained three national NGOs to undertake clearance operations in Ninewa and Anbar governorates with limited supervision and provided implementing partners with the UNMAS-developed Gender and Diversity Toolkit aimed at improving diversity and gender mainstreaming in the sector.

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

In 2021, UNMAS resumed in-person EORE in the Anbar and Ninewa governorates, **delivering 13,000 EORE sessions reaching 111,000 people (41,000 boys, 35,000 girls, 17,000 women, 18,000 men) with lifesaving risk reduction information.**

**UNMAS also provided EORE to 3,000 people (500 of whom were women)** employed in cash for work programmes run by various United Nations agencies as well as employees of NGOs who are at high risk of contact with explosive ordnance as a result of their work assisting communities impacted by the conflict. By targeting these individuals UNMAS enabled a multiplier effect; not only reducing risk to the workers themselves, but also enabling them to safely contribute to the recovery of the communities most in need of assistance. **UNMAS also delivered EORE training to 33 community focal points (20 men, 13 women) in Sinjar and Tal Afar who now act as educators in their communities.**

In addition to face-to-face EORE sessions, UNMAS used a myriad of innovative techniques designed to reduce the risks posed by explosive ordnance to various members and age groups of local communities.

For example, safe spaces were constructed in Anbar and Ninewa in partnership and consultation with the local population and Government to provide children with a safe environment in which to play. The goal was to divert their attention from contaminated areas - such as rubble piles, destroyed or damaged buildings - to safe play areas, thereby reducing the risk associated with exposure to explosive ordnance. In Anbar, UNMAS built a playground for children, in West Mosul, UNMAS constructed a community park with internet access for local youth and in Sinjar, UNMAS developed space for a volleyball field. All these projects incorporated EORE and basic life-saving messages.

Capitalizing on the opportunity afforded by mobile phones, UNMAS launched the first EORE "app" in Iraq, which included games, EORE videos, and EORE messages. **UNMAS also financially supported a campaign that distributed 20,000 EORE SMS messages through Iraq's leading telecommunication company, which included 4,000 messages broadcast in the areas of Tal Afar, Hamdaniyah, Sheikhan, Tel Kaif and Ba'ashiqa and amongst the most contaminated areas in and around the Ninewa governorate, still burdened by the deadly legacy left behind by ISIL/Daesh.** UNMAS also used Iraqi TV channels, including the state educational channel, to promote three EORE film clips developed by UNMAS to target young people.

## Coordination

In Iraq the MA AoR - the coordination platform that brings together humanitarian mine action operators to share information and discuss operational progress and challenges - is chaired by UNMAS. In 2021, members collaborated on the delivery of EORE to IDPs when camps were closed and/or consolidated and worked together to define stakeholder roles in developing durable solutions for IDPs. In June 2021, UNMAS engaged the DMA as the co-chair, as part of the effort to transition responsibility to the national authority.

## Gender mainstreaming

UNMAS conducted a socio-economic, rapid impact and perception baseline survey to measure the socio-economic status of women in mine action and their potential empowerment within mixed-sex explosive hazard management and EORE teams in Ninewa Governorate. In Iraq, women and men have distinct roles and responsibilities within their families and communities that govern social behavior including the right and access to employment opportunities.

In Ninewa, a rich ethnic and cultural diversity has resulted in an environment where social and gender norms range from conservative to liberal openness to change. Given the physical dangers of mine action work and the masculine, military-style uniforms of mine action staff, it had always been viewed as a job for men though in recent years increasing numbers of women have been recruited to mine action jobs. To look more deeply into this perception and to assess women's empowerment UNMAS carried out a survey of men and women mine action staff,

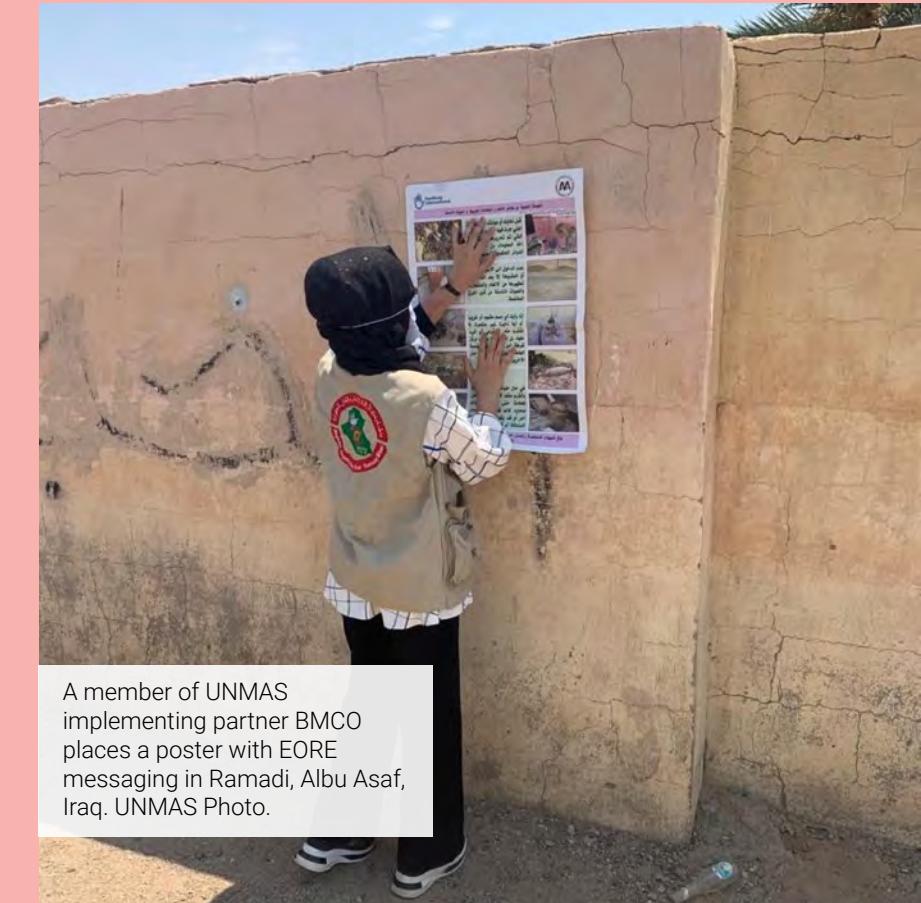
stakeholders and women's family and friends. A total of 176 participants (96 women and 80 men) took part, of which 41 participants were women employed in mine action. Results of the survey indicated that 68 per cent of families saw a significant increase in women's empowerment; 93 per cent of women believe they can work at the highest EOD certification level; and in households that had women working as deminers the financial contribution was considerable.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action and in-kind contributions (please see pages 118-119 for details).

# THE PARTNERSHIP MODEL

The partnership model was devised by UNMAS to enhance the long-term institutional capacity of local actors to independently implement mine action projects by facilitating partnerships between them and international NGOs as a means of knowledge-sharing and mentorship. In Anbar governorate, UNMAS international grantee, Humanity and Inclusion, worked with its local partner, Baghdad Mine Clearance Organization (BMCO), to develop their capacity in EORE, grant management, security, finance, human resources, and monitoring and evaluation. Building on lessons learned the project was replicated in Sinjar district and BMCO is developing into a key operator in the provision of EORE at local and national levels.



A member of UNMAS implementing partner BMCO places a poster with EORE messaging in Ramadi, Albu Asaf, Iraq. UNMAS Photo.



A member of UNMAS implementing partner BMCO conducts an EORE session in Ramadi, Kilo, Iraq. UNMAS Photo.

# LEBANON



## Overview

**Lebanon has more than 6.9 million square metres of confirmed mined area** within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operations, including the “Blue Line” which is a demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel. **According to the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC), contamination along the Blue Line negatively affects more than 200,000 people.** It also endangers humanitarian workers and United Nations personnel. Minefields in proximity to the Blue Line, UNIFIL bases, and patrol routes endanger peacekeepers and limit UNIFIL in its mandate delivery.

**The worsening economic situation has resulted in people engaging in risk-taking activities, which resulted in a 166 per cent increase in casualties in 2021.** In addition to civilian casualties, an NGO deminer was injured, and a Cambodian UNIFIL deminer was injured in July in the first United Nations clearance incident in the country since 2009.

## Mandate and operations

As an integral component of UNIFIL, UNMAS provides Mission personnel, the United Nations Observer Group Lebanon (OGL), part of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) with knowledge to safely operate in areas where the presence of landmines and ERW is known or suspected. UNMAS works with UNIFIL demining contingents to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance by marking minefields and carrying out clearance to enable the activities of UNIFIL, OGL, UNTSO, and humanitarian activities. Coordinated by UNMAS, in 2021 the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL renewed a memorandum of understanding enabling UNIFIL to conduct humanitarian demining in the UNIFIL area of operations. UNMAS provides quality assurance of the UNIFIL contingents demining works to ensure that troop contingents perform to the international and national standards for safe and efficient mine clearance. The clearance provides an immediate contribution towards the UNIFIL mandate to help achieve a stable and secure environment in Southern Lebanon.

UNMAS also supports the LMAC by helping coordinate EORE in local schools and communities, supports the implementation of the UNIFIL Protection of Civilians Strategy and engages with partners to advocate for the integration of mine action into broader humanitarian, peace, and development frameworks.



Chinese UNIFIL deminer during training and accreditation in Lebanon. UNMAS Photo.

## Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

To support the safety of peacekeepers, consistent with the Secretary-General's A4P+ initiative, UNMAS provided training to, and accreditation of, rotating UNIFIL demining units. **To ensure the safety and quality of demining, UNMAS carried out more than 200 quality management inspections during operations.** UNMAS assistance ensured UNIFIL could operate safely despite **more than 1,100 hazardous areas in South Lebanon. In total, UNIFIL deminers cleared 31,000 square meters of land and destroyed 4,075 anti-personnel mines.**

UNMAS also provided explosive ordnance awareness training to soldiers rotating into the OGL/UNTSO, military drivers supporting UNIFIL patrols, and assisted the United Nations Department of Safety and Security with United Nations safety briefings.

## Supporting national mine action capacity

Through the provision of materials, collaboration, coordination and planning, UNMAS supported the LMAC in the delivery of EORE to local communities and national and international NGOs, thereby encouraging increased safe behaviour. Using virtual reality headsets provided by UNIFIL, the LMAC, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, local municipalities and UNMAS, were able to introduce an exciting new way of engaging children at school on the dangers of mines and ERW.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNIFIL budget.



UNMAS Quality Assurance Officer trains new Chinese UNIFIL deminers prior to their deployment to live minefields. UNMAS Photo.

# LIBYA



## Overview

Years of instability have exacerbated the level of ERW contamination and ammunition management challenges in Libya. The use of heavy weapons in urban areas in previous years has resulted in widespread damage to homes, marketplaces, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure, and hinders the safe return of IDPs and access for humanitarian and early recovery workers.

The security situation in 2021 remained tense ahead of planned elections, which had been scheduled to take place on 24 December 2021 before being postponed. The heavily polarized political climate and competition among armed groups for control contributed to instability and the mobilization of factions affiliated with rival groups created tension and increased the risk of clashes. Mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces supporting various factions, remained present in the country.

Despite considerable efforts made to clear ERW in southern Tripoli and elsewhere, ERW contamination remained severe in many areas of Libya, continuing to negatively impact the daily lives of Libyans. Similarly, the use of IEDs continued to pose a threat across the country, exacerbated by the easily available and large quantities explosives derived from high explosive bombs, missile warheads or artillery shells from ammunition storage facilities that were destroyed in fighting, as well as unexploded ordnance found in conflict-affected areas.

**Since the end of major armed conflict in Tripoli in May 2020 and up to February 2022, UNMAS records show that more than 300 people (including at least 30 children) were killed or injured by explosive hazards.** Most reported accidents occurred in the greater Tripoli area, although accidents continued to be reported from locations that have not experienced large scale conflict for several years, including Benghazi, Dernah, and Tobruk in the east of the country.



## Mandate and operations

UNMAS deployed to Libya in March 2011 as the Arms and Ammunition Advisory Section of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). UNMAS supports the Mission's engagement on relevant issues, counters the proliferation of arms and ammunition, supports the ceasefire monitoring, contributes to security sector reform and coordinates the humanitarian mine action response.

## Advancing the peace process

In 2021, UNMAS continued to support UNSMIL in the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement of 23 October 2020 and the operationalization of relevant aspects of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya (known as the Berlin process) emanating from the International Conference on Libya meetings in Berlin on 19 January 2020 and 23 June 2021, as well as Paris in November 2022. UNMAS provided technical expertise to the Mine Action Sub-Committee of the "5+5" Joint Military Commission (JMC), consisting of representatives of the eastern and western Libyan forces, which signed a ceasefire agreement under UNSMIL auspices in Geneva in October 2020.

## Ensuring the safety and security of UNSMIL personnel, humanitarians and international community

UNMAS provided technical assistance, threat assessments and risk awareness to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) personnel to enable the safe deployment of United Nations ceasefire monitors in Libya. In 2021, seven explosive ordnance risk awareness sessions during the Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments training were **delivered to 82 United Nations personnel as well as the wider humanitarian community in Tripoli.**

UNMAS contributed to improving the safe mobility of the international community and Libyan civilians through capacity enhancement of more than 300 Libyan Diplomatic Police on explosive ordnance threat awareness, search procedures, mobility planning and operations, and basic first aid.



## Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

Through its role of MA AoR lead, UNMAS coordinated humanitarian mine action activities and supported the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) in assuming mine action coordination responsibilities.

UNMAS provided technical advice and coordination assistance to the LibMAC and the 5+5 JMC Mine Action Sub-Committee to guide the planning and clearance of ERW from the Coastal Road between Abu Qurayn and Sirte. The opening of this road in 2021, which strategically connects the east and west of the country, was a critical step in allowing the free movement of commerce, humanitarian assistance and people, and equally importantly, a confidence building measure between the eastern and western armed forces. Similarly, with technical support from UNMAS, clearance operations were also carried out on parts of the road connecting Abu Qurayn and Jufrah.

UNMAS provided technical advice to the LibMAC for the accreditation of survey and clearance teams deployed at the non-operational Tripoli International Airport and guided them in their Quality Assurance of NTS and EOD teams working on the road connecting Abu Qurayn with Jufrah, as well as monitoring unexploded ordnance bulk demolitions carried out by the LibMAC.

UNMAS assisted Free Fields Foundation, a Libyan NGO, to **deliver EORE training and refresher training targeting 24 community mobilizers in Tripoli, of which seven were women**. Mobilizers delivered **EORE to 15,000 direct beneficiaries (7,500 women, 7,500 men) in Tripoli/Jifara, Tawergha, Sabha and Brak Shati and distributed over 4,200 EORE information materials**. They were able to access **more than 4,300 direct beneficiaries in hard-to-reach areas**, helping to reduce the threat posed by contamination and facilitating the safe return of IDPs. **Radio campaigns in Sebha and Tripoli reached 200,000 beneficiaries**.

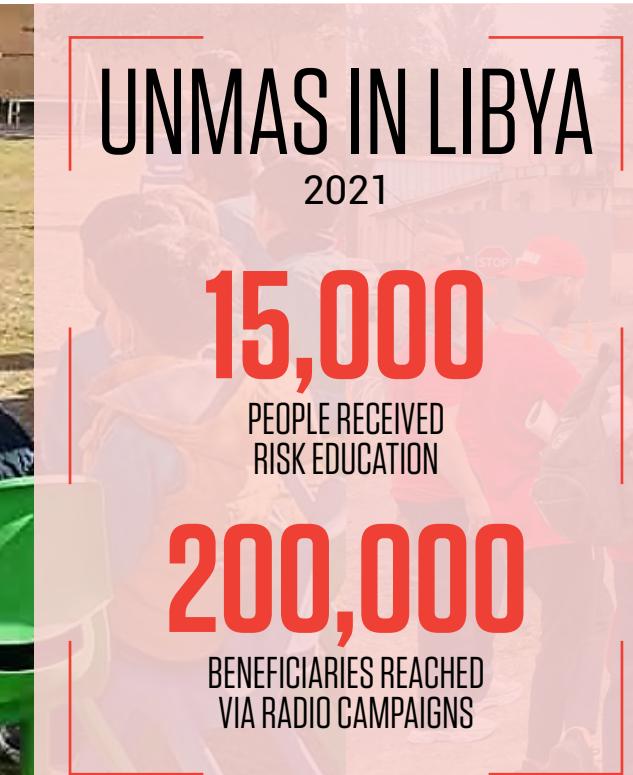
In addition, UNMAS developed the capacity of Libyan youth advocates through ToT on SALW risk awareness and mitigation measures. The training created a sustainable capacity to provide risk awareness within Libyan communities in the future.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNSMIL budget and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 118-119 for details).



Delivery of EORE for children carried out by the Free Fields Foundation, with support from UNMAS and LibMAC, in Salahaddin, Southern Tripoli, Libya. UNMAS Photo.



Carrying out EOD tasks in Tripoli and Tawergha, Libya. UNMAS Photo.

# MALI



## Overview

Since the outbreak of conflict in 2012, the wide use of explosive ordnance and IEDs has had a detrimental impact on the safety and freedom of movement of people in central and northern Mali.

In addition to posing a serious threat of accidents to civilians, the contamination limits access to local livelihoods and basic services, hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance and inhibits the freedom of movement of the population. IDPs and returnees are particularly at risk, due to their lack of familiarity with their environment. More generally, explosive hazard contamination hinders economic recovery and development.

Since 2017, Mali has experienced a significant increase in the number of IED incidents, particularly in the centre of the country, which have caused high numbers of casualties among civilians and impeded stabilization efforts. An unprecedented number of IED incidents and casualties were recorded in 2021. **Twenty-five per cent of all IED casualties were civilians, and the Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) suffered the largest share of IED fatalities (29 per cent). MINUSMA was impacted by nearly half of all reported IED incidents (42 per cent), recording 15 fatalities and 122 injured among peacekeepers.**

2021 was also marked by a political transition in Mali, following the coup d'état of August 2020 and another coup d'état in May 2021. The security and humanitarian situation in Mali worsened, due to an increase in, and expansion of, intercommunal violence and attacks by non-state armed groups against the State and against civilians in the central, southern, and western regions.

## Mandate and operations

UNMAS is present in Mali as a component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Following the continued deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian situation, and pursuant to Security Council resolution 2584 (2021), UNMAS provided training, knowledge and equipment to counter explosive devices to troop and police contributing countries, as well as to the national defence and security forces. In support of the Malian authorities, UNMAS strengthens the capacity of the civilian population to mitigate the threat posed by explosive devices, particularly IEDs.



Peacekeepers use portable Electronic Counter Measures provided by UNMAS to mitigate the threat of IEDs. UNMAS Photo.

## Enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

In 2021, UNMAS pre-deployment and in-mission training and the provision of specialized equipment continued to enhance the capacity of the mission's uniformed units to mitigate the explosive threat consistent with the Secretary-General's Action A4P+ initiative. ToT and mentoring, where UNMAS officers worked alongside contingents, contributed to enhancing the sustainability of the training delivered.

For instance, a newly generated Nepalese EOD team benefitted from UNMAS training and mentoring and received equipment, which enabled the mission to expand EOD coverage to new areas experiencing a high explosive threat. UNMAS also supported instructors/peacekeepers from Niger, Senegal and Togo through the provision of search and detect courses during pre-deployment training and assisted the Mission with procuring the equipment necessary for the safe deployment of peacekeepers to the most at-risk areas, including portable electronic counter measures equipment to prevent the initiation of radio-controlled IEDs. Despite a constant increase in the frequency and complexity of IED attacks, MINUSMA troops on convoys and patrols are detecting and neutralizing more IEDs than ever before. **Detection of devices increased from 11 per cent in 2014 to almost 50 per cent in 2021**, effectively reducing the risk and number of related fatalities among peacekeepers and demonstrating the efficacy of the comprehensive IED threat mitigation framework of MINUSMA.

## Supporting the national mine action capacity to address the explosive ordnance threat

In 2021, UNMAS continued to enhance the capacity of national authorities to mitigate the explosive threat, create a more secure environment for the peace process and protect civilians, notably by training MDSF personnel in context-specific IED threat mitigation and disposal, explosive search and detection activities, and through the delivery of ToT courses and mentoring, which contributed to building the capacity of the Malian army and law enforcement agencies to deliver explosive threat mitigation training to their personnel. UNMAS also continued to engage with national mine action counterparts, in particular the new leadership of the Commission nationale de lutte contre les armes légères et de petit calibre (National Commission for the Fight against SALW).

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

**Civilians made up 27 per cent of all IED casualties in 2021.** Since most IEDs are used along roads, where civilians on the move are most at risk. Incidents involving civilians frequently cause high numbers of casualties, as it is common for civilians to share means of transportation.

**In 2021, UNMAS conducted surveys and delivered EORE to more than 33,000 people** in conflict-affected areas, provided assistance to, and referred for assistance, **more than 120 victims of explosive hazards and SALW accidents, built the capacity of more than 160 focal points** from civil society organizations in risk education, victim assistance and conflict sensitivity, and trained school teachers in designing lessons to sensitize pupils about the explosive threat.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the MINUSMA budget and in-kind contributions (please see pages 118-119 for details).



A MINUSMA EOD search team benefitting from in-mission UNMAS Search and Detect training. UNMAS Photo.

## MINUSMA PEACEKEEPERS CAPACITY TO TRAIN THEIR OWN INSTRUCTORS

Mitigating the explosive threat is fundamental for effective mandate delivery by United Nations peace operations. Through tailored pre-deployment and in-mission training and mentoring, peacekeepers deploying to MINUSMA are equipped with critical life-saving skills and the tools to manage the explosive threat.

The training entails modules adapted to the varying skillsets of units, as well as the provision of equipment, ToT courses and mentoring. Key achievements include a steady increase in peacekeepers' capacity to mitigate the explosive threat, the growing ability of peacekeepers to carry out pre-deployment training themselves, and a reduction of in-mission training needs. Most pre-deployment packages include UNMAS mentoring of the contingents' own trainers, as well as direct training of the contingents by UNMAS, when necessary. ToT refresher courses complement ongoing UNMAS mentoring in the pre-deployment phase and ensure the sustained quality of ToT courses delivered by national counterparts. In 2021, UNMAS carried out ToT courses in search and detect for three contingents and monitored two contingents as they trained their own troops.



Training of Trainers in Search and Detect prior to their deployment in Mali, at Camp de Loumbila, Burkina Faso. UNMAS Photo.

# NIGER



## Overview

The security situation in Niger continued to deteriorate in 2021 due to the presence of non-state armed groups and the increased use of IEDs, particularly in the Lake Tchad region and the Liptako Gourma sub-region (tri-border area) comprising Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Forty-one IED incidents were reported during the year, causing 49 deaths and 38 injuries - more than 25 per cent of these were civilians. Explosive devices also limited access to humanitarian aid and increased the vulnerability of populations already affected by the volatile security environment.

## Mandate and operations

Following a request for support from the United Nations Resident Coordinator, a team from the UNMAS programme in Burkina Faso undertook a needs and threat assessment in Niger in mid-2021 that confirmed an increase in the use of IEDs. Following this assessment, UNMAS deployed a programme to Niger in September 2021 to support the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Weapons (CNCCAI) and to raise awareness of the threat in the humanitarian community.



## Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

With the support of UNMAS the Mine Action Task Force was reactivated under the authority of the CNCCAI and collective strong advocacy resulted in the explosive threat being considered for the first time in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan for 2022.

Furthermore, UNMAS assisted CNCCAI in updating the national framework for the implementation of risk education projects in Niger, and in creating an accreditation system for mine action organizations - both essential steps for the sector to conform to IMAS.

## Enabling the United Nations and humanitarian actors

**UNMAS provided 435 (374 men, 61 women) humanitarian workers – United Nations personnel and staff of national and international NGOs – with the knowledge they needed** to be more aware and better prepared for explosive risks in the most affected regions of Diffa, Niamey, Ouallam, Tahoua, and Tillabéri.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (please see pages 118-119 for details).

People on the road to Agadez, Niger. UNMAS Photo/Loréne Giorgis.

# NIGERIA



## Overview

UNMAS deployed to Nigeria in 2018, following a request by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.

Since then, UNMAS has carried out actions consistent with its main objectives of addressing the immediate threat posed by explosive ordnance to civilians and humanitarian and development actors in impacted parts of the country and developing national capacities to manage the explosive threat, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination.

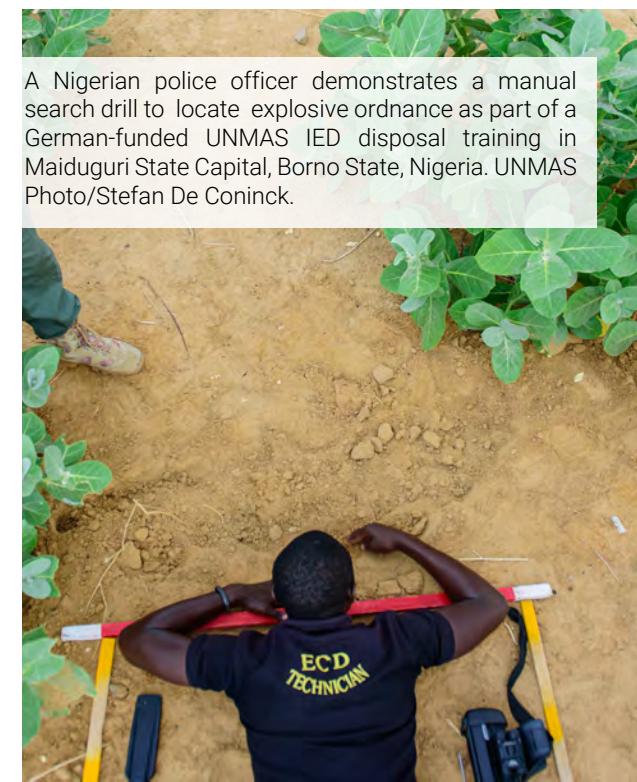
The insurgency in North-East Nigeria continues to expose hundreds of thousands of people to explosive threats. **According to the 2021(HNO) 1.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance.**

Due to the unstable security situation in the North-East, it has not been possible to conduct a comprehensive, widespread survey to fully map the contamination in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States.

**UNMAS recorded 1,532 incidents involving explosive ordnance from January 2016 to January 2022 involving more than 10,000 casualties out of which 1,356 civilians were injured and 789 killed in BAY States.**

## Landmines

Nigeria is a party to the APMBC and while it formally declared it was free of all known anti-personnel mines in 2011, in 2019 the country reported new contamination in the North-East as a result of the conflict. In 2021 Nigeria submitted a request for an extension of its obligations under Article 5 of the APMBC to clear all mines in the country by 2025, which was accepted by States Parties. Concurrently, Nigeria's Inter-Ministerial APMBC Committee announced its intention to establish a National Mine Action Center (NMAC) and requested assistance from UNMAS in building the capacity of the Centre, which included helping develop key documents for the NMAC, including Terms of Reference, a National Workplan and National Mine Action Standards. UNMAS also focuses on developing NMAC capacity to conduct coordination and quality assurance on mine action activities.



A Nigerian police officer demonstrates a manual search drill to locate explosive ordnance as part of a German-funded UNMAS IED disposal training in Maiduguri State Capital, Borno State, Nigeria. UNMAS Photo/Stefan De Coninck.

## Protecting civilians and humanitarians from the threat of explosive ordnance

**In 2021, UNMAS coordinated the delivery of EORE for some 400,000 people in Nigeria** enhancing affected populations' knowledge of the threats and risks of explosive ordnance and promoting safe behaviour. UNMAS applied various outreach strategies, including face-to-face sessions and the distribution of talking devices with pre-recorded EORE safety messages to reach as many people as possible.

To ensure EORE was tailored to age and gender-specific needs UNMAS carried out "Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, and Behaviour" surveys and impact assessments of explosive ordnance with and in affected communities.

In addition, UNMAS carried out explosive ordnance awareness sessions for 180 humanitarian workers who operate in the North-East enabling them to better protect themselves during the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In order to identify the extent of explosive ordnance contamination UNMAS carried out NTS in BAY States. Information gathered was used to assist IDPs, returnees and host communities to live and move more safely. Understanding the scope of contamination was critical when all six IDP camps in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, were closed in December 2021 and there was an urgent need to identify safe routes and areas for resettlement.



Girls display leaflets with information on how to be safe when confronted by explosive ordnance, during a Japanese-funded UNMAS EORE session in Bolibe village, Borno State, Nigeria. UNMAS Photo/Stefan De Coninck.

## Developing national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

In 2021, UNMAS continued to enhance the capacity of national authorities to protect their own citizens. The training of EOD teams in the Nigeria Police Force has given police personnel the tools and knowledge to safely remove, deactivate or detonate explosive ordnance. National Security and Civil Defense Corps members were trained to deliver emergency medical trauma treatment at the sites of explosive ordnance incidents and received courses on humanitarian mine action principles and IMAS.

Other activities to enhance national and local capacities included the delivery of ToT courses on EORE and NTS for national and state-level authorities and local civil society organizations. Such efforts are essential for the sustainability and national ownership of mine action in Nigeria.

In 2021 UNMAS worked on building local capacities to improve access to specialized victim-assistance services for survivors of explosive accidents and persons with disabilities who have similar needs. **Two civil society organizations collected victim data through community survey, interviews and focus group discussions and identified 150 victims (killed and injured) of explosive accidents in BAY States.** Mapping of services and information sharing with affected communities **enabled UNMAS local partners to provide life-changing assistance to 40 survivors and to 120 other persons with disabilities who have similar needs.** As a result of UNMAS assistance, the local partners were able to inform people on the availability of services including livelihood assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, and to refer them to existing services such as the International Committee of the Red Cross Physical Rehabilitation Center in Maiduguri, Borno State to receive prosthesis and mobility training.

Furthermore, through its leadership of the MA AoR, UNMAS continued to convene key partners to discuss humanitarian mine action coordination, including by organizing a high-level workshop in June 2021, which involved national and state-level authorities, donors, United Nations entities and international and national NGOs. The workshop led to more effective coordination and a harmonized and collaborative humanitarian mine action approach.

## Gender mainstreaming

UNMAS also conducted a gender-baseline assessment for the Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, enabling them to carry out gender-sensitive analysis of women's participation and empowerment.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action and in-kind contributions (please see pages 118-119 for details).



# OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



## Overview

The Occupied Palestinian Territory has been occupied by Israel since 1967; the Oslo Agreements (1994 and 1997) transferred security and civilian responsibility of specified areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority (PA). In 2006, Hamas won the Legislative Council elections and took control of the Gaza Strip and approaches for a unified government failed and reconciliation attempts have been stalled in recent years. In addition to the Israeli blockade of Gaza, starting in 2007, the escalation and cyclical nature of hostilities in 2008, 2014, and 2021 between the two parties has been the main source of ERW contamination. The State of Palestine is a party to the APMBC, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (Protocols I, III, V).

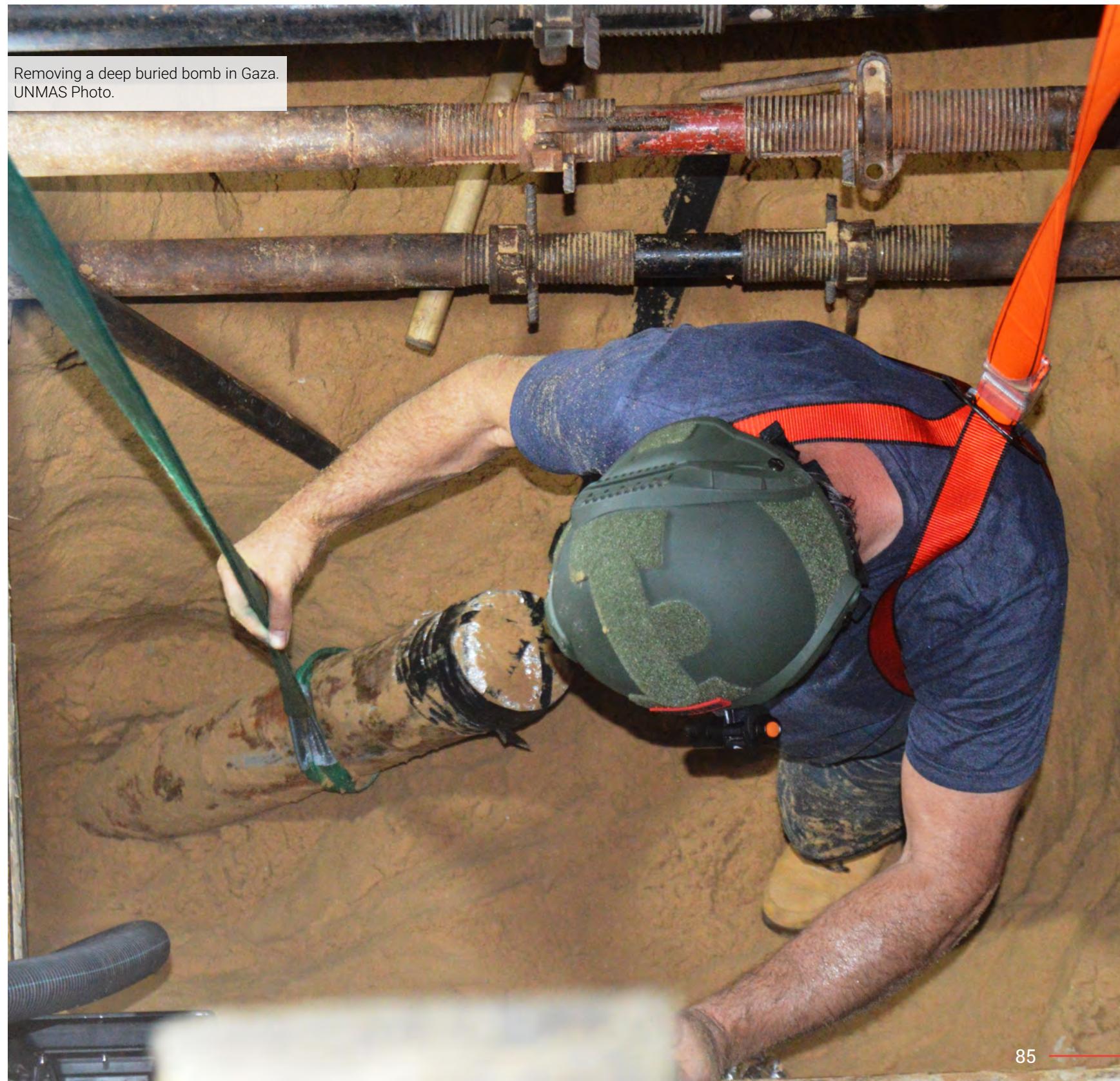
## Mandate and operations

The UNMAS programme in Gaza was initially established in January 2009 as a Rapid Response to the large escalation of hostilities in late 2008. In December 2010, the PA's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requested UNMAS to "... expand its Demining project in Gaza Strip, so that it covers all areas of Palestine and the Palestinian territory (...)" As a result, UNMAS expanded its activities to the West Bank, including mapping over 90 minefields in the West Bank, facilitation of the creation of the Palestinian Mine Action Center (PMAC) and mine action management support to the PMAC.

In 2014, in light of the extensive ERW contamination that resulted from the conflict in Gaza, the Secretary-General directed: "UNMAS to immediately develop and implement an effective security plan for the safe and secure handling of any weapons discovered in United Nations premises," and urged UNMAS to "immediately deploy personnel with expertise to deal with this situation."

Moreover, in recognizing the mandated role of UNMAS through Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) to provide assistance to clear landmines, ERW, and IEDs, UNMAS continues to be the technical adviser to the PMAC in the West Bank on mine action, assisting in fulfilling the State of Palestine's Article 5 compliance to the APMBC.

UNMAS activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory respond to requests for assistance from the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and the PA and include the capacity enhancement of the PMAC, assistance to the PA to report compliance with the APMBC, and EOD and EORE activities in Gaza for the protection of civilians and the protection of United Nations personnel and property.



Removing a deep buried bomb in Gaza.  
UNMAS Photo.

## Gaza | Enabling United Nations and humanitarian partners operations

UNMAS responded to the resultant severe contamination of ERW by carrying out ERW risk assessments and EOD to determine the extent and type of ERW contamination and remove ERW in Gaza.

The provision of emergency ERW risk assessments of United Nations and humanitarian sites was one of the key UNMAS areas of focus in the reporting period. **During the May 2021 fighting, UNMAS deployed a women-only EOD team consisting of an operator and medic to clear 30 sites including United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)-designated emergency shelters, United Nations compounds, schools, and medical centres.** This enabled all but two UNRWA schools to re-open within seven days of the cessation of hostilities that was agreed on 21 May 2021 and United Nations staff to resume operations on the ground and deliver acutely needed emergency and life-saving humanitarian assistance.

In the immediate aftermath of the hostilities, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) released USD 4 million to address the needs of the people of Gaza. UNMAS received USD 800,000 of this allocation and deployed specialist EOD operators to **remove and dispose of 16 deep buried aircraft-dropped bombs and carry out risk assessments of numerous impacted sites.** By the end of 2021, **340 risk assessments were carried out, allowing for the construction of houses and enabling other civilian infrastructure projects, including to provide clean water and electricity.**

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

UNMAS continued implementing community-based resilience training including on empowering women in risk mitigation decision-making through online and in-person sessions. In total the **training reached 1,100 individuals, including 800 women.** Skills learned proved essential when hostilities broke out in May 2021. Israeli forces carried out over 1,500 strikes from air, land and sea across Gaza, while Palestinian armed groups fired more than 4,000 rockets and projectiles towards Israel. At the height of the violence over 110,000 displaced people sought shelter and protection at UNRWA schools and in other communities. Approximately 8,500 people whose houses were destroyed or rendered inhabitable remained displaced in the immediate aftermath of the violence.

UNMAS's women-only national EORE team continued its work throughout the hostilities and, with the support of women national staff in the West Bank, was able to deliver newly tailored EORE messaging targeted to IDPs. Messages were circulated at UNRWA-designated emergency shelters, delivered remotely through SMS to **some 500,000 people, via radio to 1.4 million people**, and through social media channels to ensure affected populations were aware of safe behaviours to mitigate the risk from explosive hazards.

To enhance the EORE training capacity in Gaza, UNMAS also developed and implemented a training-of-trainer syllabus, enabling other United Nations entities to conduct EORE thereby facilitating sustainability.

As a preventive measure, UNMAS delivered Conflict Preparedness and Protection messaging and identified platforms for risk messaging in the event of future outbreaks of violence.



## Gender mainstreaming and gender parity

UNMAS strived to increase women's representation in the programme, particularly in non-traditional roles. The programme now has its first women deployed as drivers and operations assistants, fostering the increased participation of women in promoting human security in Gaza. **In 2021, women made up 67 per cent of UNMAS programme staff.**

## West Bank | Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

In the West Bank, UNMAS initiated a training programme with the PMAC to address gaps in its capacity to deliver gender sensitive EORE to at-risk populations. UNMAS also recruited and trained a team of community volunteers (**70 per cent of whom were women**) to deliver a new EORE syllabus. Upon graduation from the training, teams commenced delivering messaging to the most vulnerable populations in the West Bank.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (please see pages 118-119 for details).

## UNMAS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY 2021

**340**

POST CONFLICT RISK  
ASSESSMENT MISSIONS IN GAZA

**1,100**

PEOPLE ATTENDED COMMUNITY-BASED  
RESILIENCE TRAINING

**~1.9 MILLION**

RECEIVED EORE MESSAGING



# SOMALIA



## Overview

Over recent years IEDs have been the weapon of choice used against Somali Security Forces (SSF) and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). However, while the SSF and ATMIS continue to be the most frequently targeted by IEDs, **the IED threat disproportionately impacts civilians who made up 42% of all IED related casualties in 2021.**

Additionally, decades of armed conflict left behind a legacy of explosive ordnance, including landmines, munitions, and other types of ERW, as well as a proliferation of SALW. Both pose a significant risk to local populations and have a detrimental impact on peacebuilding and state-building activities. In 2021, Somalia faced heightened political tensions, including associated violence, over a delayed electoral process.

## Mandate

UNMAS is an integrated component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSO) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSO) providing IED threat mitigation initiatives critical to the successful transition of security responsibilities from ATMIS to the SSF. Pursuant to the UNSO mandate, UNMAS provides policy and technical advice to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS) to establish frameworks for explosive ordnance threat reduction



UNMAS-trained EOD operator undergoes IED disposal refresher training at Aljazeera-2 Forward Operating Base. UNMAS Photo.

## Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

Aligned with the Action for Peacekeeping priorities of the Secretary-General's action for peacekeeping initiative, UNMAS contributed to the mitigation of the IED threat by enhancing a sustainable EOD and IED threat mitigation capacity within ATMIS through a comprehensive support package which included training, equipment, and mentoring, as well the provision of expert advice. **UNMAS deployed 20 EOD and IED threat mitigation mentor teams contributing to the safety and security of ATMIS personnel.**

**ATMIS was able to carry out operations that significantly reduced the threat posed by IEDs including in 65% of incidents in which it remained unimpacted.** UNMAS also provided explosive detection dog teams to ATMIS contributing to the protection of personnel and strategic infrastructure.

## Supporting the national capacity to address the threat posed by explosive ordnance

UNMAS enhanced national capacities through training, mentoring, and the provision of equipment to the SSF, including the Somali Police Force (SPF) and the Somali National Army (SNA), enabling EOD and IED threat mitigation in line with the Somalia Transition Plan which calls for the gradual assumption of security responsibilities from ATMIS.

In 2021, in order to reduce the high casualty rate among SSF, **21 SNA teams were trained in EOD and IED threat mitigation and provided with mission-critical specialized equipment.**

UNMAS also enhanced the capability of the SPF to provide security in Mogadishu through the establishment of a mobile vehicle checkpoint unit preventing the proliferation of weapons, ammunition, and explosive materials. Vehicles and individuals were searched at key, yet unpredictable, locations across the city, contributing to the disruption of planning and execution of IED emplacements. These searches by SPF identified several individuals who had recently handled explosives and confiscated various illegal weapons.



Somali Future Pilots EOD personnel monitor remotely operated vehicle operations from the Incident Control Point during practical training sessions delivered by UNMAS. UNMAS Photo.

## Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

UNMAS contributed to the protection of civilians through coordination and management support to the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) including with information management resources and training on quality assurance.

UNMAS also supported the FGS, through SEMA, in meeting its international obligations relevant to the APMBC. Technical expert advice was provided on reporting obligations, and participation in international forums was facilitated with technical, logistical, and financial support. UNMAS also contributed to the drafting of the first national plan of action for victims of explosive ordnance and persons with disability from other causes. These activities support the national mine action architecture and governance system in Somalia.

UNMAS also delivered community-based clearance projects in five FMS: Puntland, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, South-West and Jubaland - restoring access to land, enabling the resumption of livelihood, employment, and enabling increased humanitarian access.

UNMAS delivered EORE in various local languages and dialects in isolated communities through its portable solar-powered Risk Education Talking Devices. These hand-held devices provide basic information on the dangers of explosive ordnance, describe ways to reduce risk-taking behavior, and promote safety to communities, nomads, IDPs, as well as young people, through specific child-friendly messaging. These activities improved safety among communities.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNSOM and UNSOS budgets and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 118-119 for details).



Schoolgirls Ikran and Fartun read a brochure provided at an UNMAS EORE session in a school in Galdogob, Somalia. UNMAS Photo.





Director-General for SEMA Mr. Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle presents the extension request to the Meeting of State Parties President, H.E. Robbert Jan Gabriëlse, and Implementation Support Officer, Mr. Gregory Cathcart, within the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC. SEMA Photo.

## ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION ARTICLE 5 EXTENSION REQUEST

In November 2021, Somalia participated in the 19th Meeting of State Parties of the APMBC where a request for an extension to its obligation under Article 5 to complete the removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines in known or suspected contaminated areas – a key step in the country's path to becoming mine-free – was granted until 1 October 2027.

This extension provides Somalia and its mine action partners with additional time for resource mobilization, a more extensive and comprehensive survey of the explosive ordnance contamination across the country, the development of a detailed road map and the expansion of operational activities to assure timely compliance with its clearance obligations. UNMAS worked together with SEMA and the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC on the required technical input during the drafting of the extension request and has since developed concepts to support Somalia's appeal for the resourcing required to finance the subsequent action plan.

## RISK EDUCATION TALKING DEVICES

Risk Education Talking Devices (RETDs) are solar-powered, hand-held devices introduced by UNMAS to provide EORE in rural locations in Somalia. In 2021 UNMAS distributed 3,500 RETDs to communities living in proximity of explosive threats in isolated locations, schools and IDP camps as well as across districts liberated from Al Shabab in South Central Somalia. Subsequently an Impact Assessment Survey was carried out by UNMAS to measure the impact of the device distribution and to acquire a better understanding of their durability and effectiveness. 98 per cent of beneficiaries reported increased knowledge of EO and 86 per cent reported that the information they received led to behaviour change. Out-of-school children were the main beneficiaries (53 per cent) followed by IDPs (22 per cent) and school children (17 per cent). On sustainability and effectiveness, the devices proved to be durable; 92 per cent of respondents noted RETD were functional four to six months after distribution.

# SOUTH SUDAN



## Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

### Overview

While the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan continued to hold in 2021, limited progress on meeting the benchmarks therein was achieved. Moreover, Government efforts to develop a roadmap to elections met with calls by other parties to the agreement for more inclusion in the process. This resulting political impasse increased tensions between Government parties and fuelled subnational and intercommunal violence across the country. The impact of this upsurge in violence was compounded by the presence of mines and ERW, with the Greater Equatoria region in the south being the worst affected. **The total contaminated area by explosive ordnance in 2021 was estimated to be 17.9 square kilometres, restricting the movement of IDPs and preventing the safe return of refugees displaced by conflict.**

### Mandate

UNMAS continued to support the safety and security of peacekeepers and communities from the threats posed by mines and ERW, with mine action sitting at the heart of United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) 'Triple Nexus' approach which seeks to link humanitarian, development and peace efforts in a way that best meets the needs of the girls, boys, women, and men across the country. As a Mission component, UNMAS was fully integrated into UNMISS' core objectives: protection of civilians; creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and; supporting the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and the peace process.

**In 2020, UNMISS documented a total of 1,197 violent incidents that affected civilians across the country.** To respond to the situation, UNMISS proactively deployed peacekeepers to conflict hotspots, established temporary operating bases for the protection of civilians, and engaged in political and community consultations. To facilitate the safe nation-wide deployment of peacekeepers, UNMAS conducted route verification/clearance and convoy escort on priority routes. **In total, 33 patrols covering 3,384 km were escorted and 1,845 km of road were surveyed and cleared.** UNMAS also provided the verification of helicopter landing sites and airstrips within 72 hours as requested by the Mission, which ensured the safe landing of aircraft that carry Mission personnel and logistics, thereby enabling mission activities. **In total, 1,713 UNMISS personnel (1,345 men and 368 women) received awareness-training on landmines and ERW.**

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

**UNMAS provided EORE to a total of 327,000 people (59,000 men, 68,000 women, 105,000 boys, and 95,000 girls) including IDPs and refugees across the country,** despite COVID-19 mitigation measures limiting the number of people permitted in each session and necessitating a door-to-door approach. **Pre and post intervention surveys indicated that 90 per cent of participants increased their knowledge of safe behaviour.** These efforts contributed to a decrease in civilian casualties reported in 2021 compared to the previous years, **with seven civilians killed (one woman, six boys) and 29 injured (five men, five women, seven boys and 12 girls) compared with 2020 which saw 15 killed (14 boys and one girl) and 42 injured (37 boys, four girls and one woman) and in 2019 eight people were killed (three men and five women) and 43 injured (12 men, nine women, 19 boys and three girls).**



## Facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance

UNMAS continued to mitigate the threat posed by explosive ordnance to facilitate humanitarian assistance, **with clearance and survey activities carried out in 13 markets, 65 educational facilities and 35 hospitals in response to requests from humanitarian actors. Concurrently, UNMAS provided awareness-training on landmines and ERW to 378 (104 women and 274 men) humanitarian personnel** to increase their knowledge of threats and expertise on how to deliver humanitarian assistance in a contaminated environment.

## Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS continued to provide technical advice and assistance to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) to strengthen its capacity to independently manage mine action activities within the sector - with a key goal for 2026 when the Government of South Sudan is expected to complete the clearance of all known anti-personnel minefields under Article 5 of the APMBC. To that end, UNMAS provided on-the-job-training and on-site mentorship throughout the year. **A total of 65 joint field visits were carried out to strengthen NMAA capacity to independently implement Quality Assurance of mine action activities.** In addition, on-the-job-training on operational coordination enhanced the NMAA's analysis, planning, tasking and monitoring capabilities. In demonstrating their skills, UNMAS trained, and first mobile NMAA EOD team, successfully responded to requests from communities in the Juba area.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNMISS budget and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see page 118-119 for details).



Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti visits UNMAS clearance teams in the field along with national partners. UNMISS Photo.



# SUDAN



## Overview

Decades of armed conflicts, civil war, and inter-communal conflicts have left the Sudan with widespread explosive ordnance contamination. **As of 2021, over 33 square kilometres of the Sudan's productive land is known to be affected by explosive ordnance including landmines and ERW**, located in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, and 5 Darfur states, **covering 32 localities, 153 communities, and numbering 347 hazardous areas**. Among the explosive ordnance affected states, **more than 87 % of the contaminated areas are located in South Kordofan state, around 6 % in the Blue Nile region, and the rest of the contamination is located in five Darfur states and in West Kordofan state, especially in the contested Abyei region** (Abyei is a contested region on the border of South Sudan and the Sudan). Mine action activities are ongoing in newly accessible areas in Blue Nile state, indicating heavy explosive ordnance contamination there yet to be surveyed and cleared.

Following the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) on 3 October 2020 between the transitional Government of Sudan and several armed movements, including the faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) led by Malik Agar in the Blue Nile region, the areas under the control of the SPLM-N Agar faction have become accessible for mine action. However, explosive ordnance contaminated areas under the control of the SPLM-N Abdelaziz Al Hilu faction (which has not signed the JPA), **which make up around 64% of the current recorded explosive ordnance contamination** in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, are still inaccessible to humanitarian assistance and mine action activities.

## Mandate and operations

Present in Sudan since 2002, UNMAS was integrated into UNITAMS in January 2021, providing a bridge between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding processes.

UNMAS works in support of UNITAMS' mandate to assist Sudan's democratic transition, with mine action making critical contributions to the mission's strategic objectives, including assisting peacebuilding, protecting civilians, strengthening the rule of law, and supporting the implementation of the JPA.

In addition, UNMAS supports the Sudan NMAC in its efforts to meet Sudan's obligation under Article 5 of the APMBC to make its territory mine-free by April 2023.

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

To mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance accidents, **in 2021 UNMAS provided EORE to 128,500 people (40,700 girls, 48,100 boys, 17,700 women, and 22,000 men)** in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and the five states in Darfur. Where possible, direct awareness-raising sessions were delivered to community members, enabling them to recognize, avoid, and report explosive threats. To reach at-risk populations in remote areas, messages raising awareness of such threats were delivered through community radio broadcasting, TV programmes and social media. UNMAS also provided explosive ordnance awareness briefings to humanitarian workers including United Nations personnel to ensure their safety when operating in contaminated areas.



## Enabling United Nations and local population to safely use previously contaminated areas

While the peace process and the signing of the JPA have made some areas controlled by non-state armed groups accessible for the first time since 2011, the presence of landmines and ERW in these areas constituted significant impediments to safe humanitarian access. Through survey and clearance, UNMAS established safe humanitarian corridors, camps, and settlement areas to allow for the safe return of refugees and IDPs and for the delivery of life-saving assistance. **In total, UNMAS confirmed 2.1 million square meters of land free from explosive ordnance and opened 136 kilometres of road.** With most of the land declared free from explosive ordnance being reused for farming, grazing, and accessing water points, mine action proved to be a critical component in the creation of conditions conducive to sustainable development.

## Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

Throughout the year UNMAS continued to strengthen national mine action capacities. UNMAS supported the construction of a Regional Mine Action Training Centre, which has already hosted several training courses for national mine action personnel and is envisioned to be a regional hub to support mine action programmes in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

To ensure that the mine action response includes victims and survivors, UNMAS conducted a comprehensive assessment of the needs of victims of explosive ordnance and gaps in service provision in Sudan. The assessment not only informed the development of a national victim assistance strategy but was shared with key stakeholders raising awareness and fostering a coordinated and integrated approach to victim assistance. In addition, **UNMAS delivered comprehensive assistance, including medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic, and rehabilitation support to over 200 victims of landmines and ERW as well as persons with disabilities.**

UNMAS played an important confidence-building role between parties to conflict by engaging with non-state armed groups (that have not joined the peace accord) to assess mine action needs in areas under their control and establishing joint crossline mine action coordination mechanisms.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNITAMS budget, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action and in-kind contributions (please see pages 118-119 for details).





## FIRST TRAINING OF WOMEN DEMINERS

In December 2021, at the newly opened Regional Mine Action Training Centre in Khartoum, 28 young Sudanese women celebrated their graduation from a month-long humanitarian demining course, organized by Sudan's NMAC and UNMAS.

The successful completion of the training was a milestone achievement for mine action in Sudan. Before these women graduated, there had only been one woman working as a deminer in the country.

The United Nations Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in Sudan, Khardiata Lo'Ndiaye, attended the graduation ceremony and congratulated the graduates:

**"As highlighted in the JPA and the UNITAMS mandate, fighting the enduring impact of landmines and ERW is an integral part of the peace process in Sudan. As deminers, your work will constitute a critical part of the peacebuilding work of your country."**

These courageous women will help pave the road to gender-inclusive peace.

## UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY'S PROGRAMME IN SUDAN

In February 2020, UNMAS launched the inter-agency programme.

**"Recovering from conflict: integrated support for most vulnerable communities in South Kordofan."**

This programme is funded by the UNTFHS and continues until January 2023. It connects efforts by six United Nations entities to address root causes of insecurity in South Kordofan while empowering the state's conflict affected Dalami and Abu Kershola communities.

UNMAS contributes by clearing explosive hazards in high-priority areas, enabling the safe access of humanitarian and development organizations. Meanwhile, the United Nations Office for Project Services supports the rehabilitation of key roads for improved access. The International Organization for Migration and the World Health Organization jointly work to provide basic healthcare facilities and equipment, while the Food and Agriculture Organization supports local communities through agricultural and livestock interventions. UNICEF provides EORE, vocational training and micro-project assistance. This multi-sectoral integrated response package was designed to meet both the communities' short-term and long-term needs, spanning the spectrum from humanitarian interventions to conflict prevention and development in South Kordofan.

# SYRIA



## Overview

The Syrian conflict is one of the most devastating humanitarian crises of modern times and the extensive use of weapons has contaminated vast swathes of land with explosive ordnance including landmines, IEDs and ERW. While the full scale of contamination is not precisely known, **in 2021, it was assessed that an estimated one in two Syrians, 10.3 million people, lived in areas suspected to be contaminated.** Areas affected include agricultural land, roads, private property, hospitals, schools and other public infrastructure. **Meanwhile, 14.6 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance. Twelve million people are food insecure and 90 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.** Infrastructure is crumbling, destroyed by years of conflict. Economic activity halved during a decade of war, regional financial crises, corruption, sanctions, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The explosive ordnance contamination throughout Syria has severe socio-economic implications for families and communities, depriving them of their livelihood and sources of income, thus increasing vulnerabilities. **Data collected shows that on average, four explosive ordnance incidents as well as four casualties per day have been recorded since 2013.** Reports indicate activities which resulted in these incidents include farming/herding, moving/traveling, collecting scrap metal and playing.

## Mandate

At the request of the United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator in 2015, UNMAS established the Syria Response Programme initially in Gaziantep, southern Turkey, consistent with Security Council resolution 2165 (2014). In July 2018, UNMAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Syrian Arab Republic and deployed to Syria in October 2018. As the focal point for mine action and in support of the United Nations-led humanitarian response, UNMAS provides coordination for the humanitarian mine action sector, technical expertise and ensures that the sector's activities are prioritized, planned, and well-integrated within the broader humanitarian response to at-risk communities.

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

UNMAS continued to promote safe behaviour in communities most affected by explosive ordnance as well as with **IDPs, 26% of whom are concerned about the potential presence of explosive ordnance in places of return.** Through the training of **216 community-based facilitators** and by using tailored and targeted EORE materials for at-risk groups, **more than 139,000 civilians (including 47,000 girls, 47,000 boys, 26,000 women, 19,000 men), participated in EORE sessions in 2021.**



UNMAS risk education team provide explosive ordnance awareness to humanitarian personnel. UNMAS Photo/Lama Albussaily.

## Enabling safe use of previously contaminated land

The first UNMAS-supported clearance team deployed to Darayya, Rural Damascus on 1 December 2021, **where the equivalent of 10 football pitches of agricultural land, was cleared and deemed safe to access for communities**. This marked the first humanitarian clearance operations in Government-controlled areas, a significant milestone for the mine action sector.

## Enabling the United Nations and humanitarian workers

In 2021, **UNMAS provided explosive awareness training to 460 personnel from United Nations agencies and NGOs and distributed 500,000 risk awareness pamphlets to communities most in need**. Following an escalation of hostilities in Dar al Balad, Daraa Governorate in Southern Syria, **UNMAS trained 30 humanitarian workers to identify explosive ordnance threats and adopt safe behaviours in the process of their work to assess damage to buildings**.

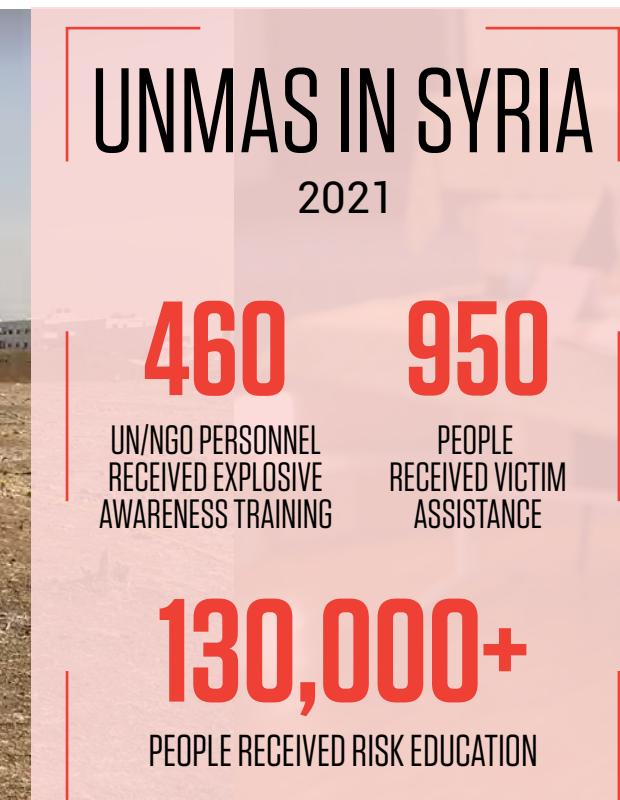
## Assisting the most vulnerable

**In 2021, 950 individuals benefited from UNMAS support to survivors of explosive ordnance incidents** through specialized services including emergency medical care, trauma surgery and pain management, physical rehabilitation, prostheses, and orthotics, as well as psychosocial support. This contributed to an increased rate of survival and a reduction in impairment. Nonetheless, the current capacity remains limited in the face of ever-increasing demand in Syria. Explosive ordnance related casualties increase the burden on the health sector, including in the longer term, with a large proportion of survivors sustaining permanent impairment and requiring long-term psychosocial and socio-economic integration support.

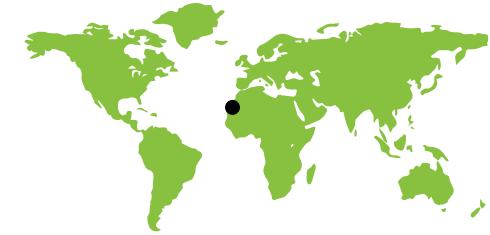
The United Nations COVID-19 impact assessment for Syria completed in 2021, identified new and deeper vulnerabilities for Syrians linked to the suspension of protection and humanitarian activities and limited access to services. Measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 further disrupted access to basic services, treatment, and rehabilitation. Areas with increased vulnerabilities linked to COVID-19 were often places also suspected to be highly contaminated with explosive ordnance. UNMAS adapted its implementation modalities, limiting the number of in-person attendees to risk education sessions, distributed protective equipment, masks, hand sanitizers during sessions, conducted sessions in open-air spaces, and included COVID-19 preventive messaging.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action, the United Nations Syria Humanitarian Fund and the United Nations Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (please see page 118-119 for details).



# TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA



## Overview

The Territory of Western Sahara is heavily contaminated with explosive ordnance as a result of the conflict that took place from 1975 to 1991 between the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA), Mauritanian armed forces, and the military forces of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). **A 2,700-kilometre-long sand berm stretching from inside southern Morocco to the Atlantic Ocean at Guerguerat, (of which 1,465 kilometres divides the Territory into western and eastern parts) is contaminated with landmines.**

In 1991, following the United Nations Security Council resolution that established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the parties agreed to a ceasefire. In November 2020, hostilities resumed between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO and continued in 2021 at low intensity. In light of the resumption of hostilities, there is a likelihood of new contamination with explosive ordnance, including in areas previously deemed safe.

## Mandate and operations

UNMAS operates in Western Sahara as the mine action component of MINURSO, mandated under 1999 Military Agreements No. 2 and No. 3 between MINURSO and Frente POLISARIO on one side and MINURSO and RMA on the other side, which call for the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Mine action contributes directly to mandate delivery, specifically the Mission's expected accomplishment "Maintenance of the ceasefire and the integrity of the United Nations buffer zone", through survey and clearance of explosive ordnance, including in areas where Mission personnel need to travel, and the provision of EORE to MINURSO personnel. In addition, UNMAS supports local capacities to lead and manage mine action.

## Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P

Survey and clearance activities that were suspended east of the berm as a result of the resumption of hostilities in November 2020, have partially resumed. UNMAS confirmed **more than 3,300 km of roads in the Territory were free from explosive hazards** facilitating the safe movement of MINURSO military observers and other mission personnel and equipment, allowing them to discharge the Mission mandate safely.

Although in September 2021, permission was given by the Frente POLISARIO and the RMA to resume clearance activities in 13 hazardous areas east of the berm, identified to be at least 30 kilometres away from the areas where fighting took place, this approval was regrettably withdrawn by the Frente POLISARIO the day before operations were due to start. The Frente POLISARIO indicated they wanted a written guarantee, from the RMA, of the safety of UNMAS personnel. Meanwhile, the RMA has requested guarantees that Frente POLISARIO will not use demining sites as staging points for attacks on RMA positions. MINURSO has been working to have regular mine action operations re-commence east of the berm by engaging with the parties. Several Security Council members have called for the resumption of MINURSO's mine action activities.

UNMAS enabled MINURSO's investigation into alleged unmanned aerial and other air-to-ground attacks east of the berm. Members of the UNMAS team also provided technical expertise contributing to the substance of the investigations.

**UNMAS delivered 37 EORE sessions for 159 newly arrived MINURSO military and civilian personnel (118 men and 41 women), ensuring their knowledge of the dangers posed by EO.**

UNMAS facilitated the movement of demining equipment as well as local personnel between MINURSO team sites and the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria, as required.





Sahrawi Mine Action Women's Team member places an ERW and COVID-19 prevention awareness poster in a Sahrawi refugee camp in Rabouni, Algeria. Photo SMAWT.

## Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

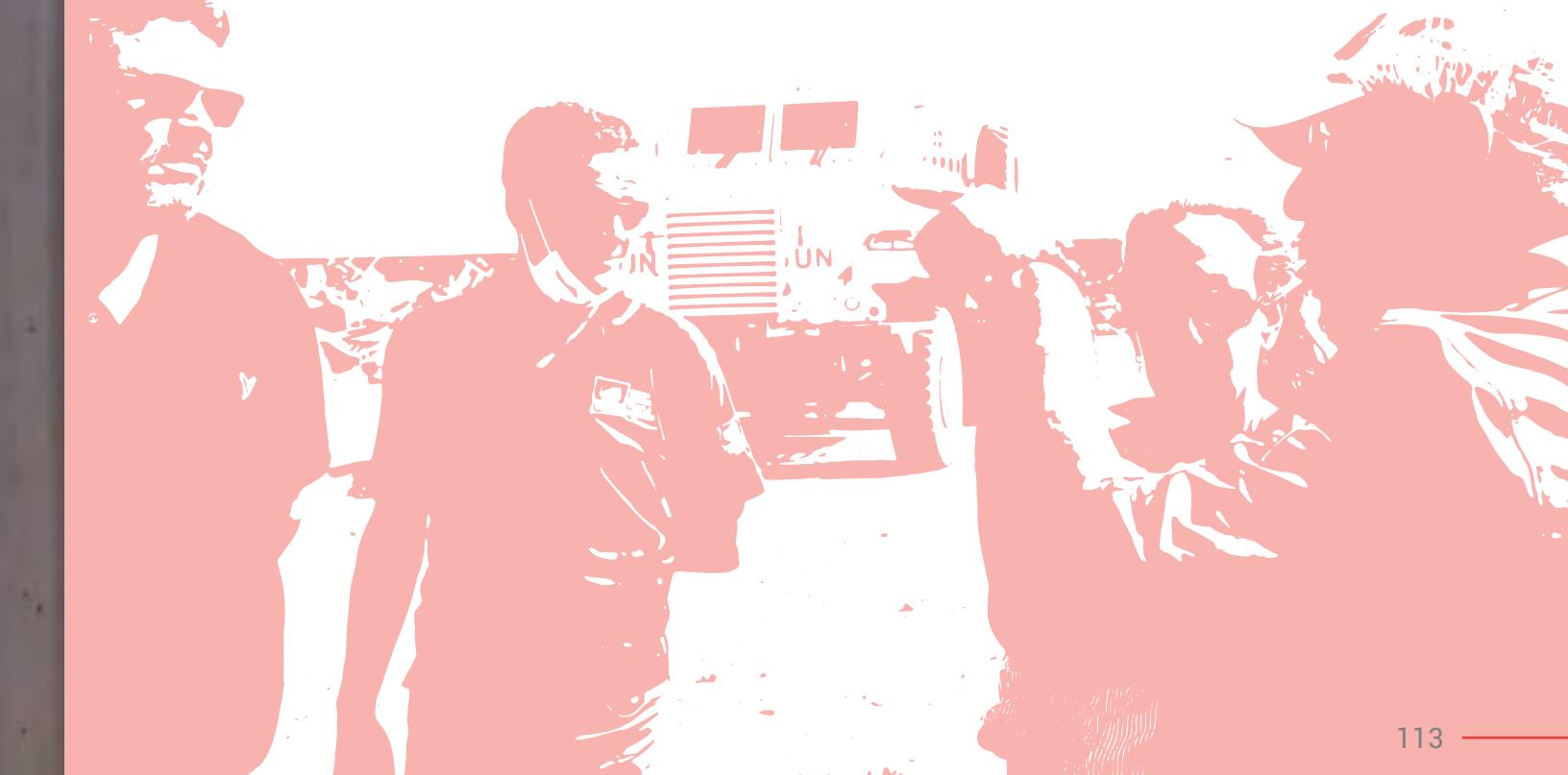
Through its local partners east of the berm, UNMAS contributed to protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance through the delivery of combined EORE and COVID-19 prevention messaging, **reaching 4,827 people (1,792 men, 1,789 women, 619 boys, and 627 girls)**.

## Supporting the local capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS continued to assist in capacity enhancement of the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Office, providing technical advice, mentoring and training. Similar support was provided to other local mine action stakeholders; the Sahrawi Association of Victims of Landmines and the all-female Sahrawi Mine Action Women's Team.

## Funding

UNMAS operations in 2021 were funded through the MINURSO budget and in-kind support (please see pages 118-119 for details).



# YEMEN



## Overview

Yemen remains severely contaminated by landmines, sea mines, IEDs and other ERW, which include cluster munitions. Governorates where there has been significant fighting, such as Al Bayda, Al Dhale', Hajjah, Ma'rib, Sa'ada, Shabwa and Taiz are the most impacted.

In the Hudaydah governorate, where UNMAS is present, the Government of Yemen Joint Forces' unilateral withdrawal from Hudaydah City in mid-November caused a significant shift of the frontline to the southern districts, which prompted the local population to return to previously vacated homes and farmland and, consequently, landmine and ERW incidents increased.

The United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) continues to record landmine and ERW incidents every week, in many cases children and women being injured or killed. **More than 100 civilians (with more than half being women and children) were killed and injured in the governorate during 2021 in incidents directly related to ERW.**



UNMHA Head of Mission General Michael Beary visits a verification patrol team in Hudaydah city with Mr. Leon Visagie Louw, Chief of Mine Action Programme in Yemen. UNMHA Photo.

## Mandate and operations

In 2021, UNMAS continued to provide strategic and technical advice on a range of mine action issues (e.g., planning, training, mapping, lessons learned etc.) to the senior management of the UNMHA, in support of its mandate "... to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire, redeployment of forces, and mine action operations" as well as to the Middle East Division of the United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and DPO.

UNMAS coordinated with UNDP, which is the lead United Nations entity on mine action in Yemen. UNMAS participated in the UNDP-led national-level IED Working Group, advised on risk assessments to enable the Mission to conduct patrols without any landmine- or ERW-related incidents, conducted EORE for Mission staff, and conducted assessments of the local ERW threat and contamination.

## Funding

UNMAS activities in 2021 were funded through the UNMHA budget.



# CONTRIBUTIONS 2021

## Introduction to financial report

UNMAS is funded in several ways. When integrated into peacekeeping and special political missions, funding comes from assessed contributions, through appropriations made by the General Assembly. Other activities depend on contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action. Predictable and sustained funding enables the most effective and responsive support to affected States; UNMAS encourages its donors to consider multi-year contributions. Unrestricted funding allows UNMAS the flexibility to focus resources on areas of great need but limited resources; UNMAS is grateful to the donors that provide unearmarked contributions.

UNMAS also wants to thank Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States for their provision of in-kind personnel in 2021.

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- EXTRA-BUDGETARY**  
Contributions from Member States through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action.
  - APPROPRIATIONS**  
by the United Nations General Assembly for mine action components of peacekeeping missions.
  - FINANCING**  
from United Nations Multi-Donor Trust Funds and other mechanisms used by the UN system.
  - DONATIONS**  
from individuals and the private sector through tax-deductible contributions made through the UN Foundation.
  - IN-KIND EXPERTISE**  
Secondment of staff from Member States to work for UNMAS at its headquarters and in its field programmes.



MAKING THE WORLD FREE  
OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

# Contributors to UNMAS in 2021 (figures in USD)

DONORS	Earmarked Funds Allocated Through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to UNMAS Programmes/Projects by Donor 2021																	UNMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED 2021
	AFGHANISTAN	BURKINA FASO	COLOMBIA	IRAQ	INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC REVIEW	LIBYA	NDM-UN	NIGERIA	OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	SYRIA	THREAT MITIGATION ADVISORY TEAM	TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA	ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES*	TOTALS	
Andorra																		11,837
Australia	697,398.38			2,300,992														2,998,391
Belgium				1,688,100									562,700					2,250,800
Canada		1,391,193																1,391,193
Czech Republic				262,021														262,021
Denmark	151,492.00			5,505,204									158,365					5,815,062 2,285,122
European Union			1,284,359	8,059,054						435,588			932,240					10,711,241
Finland													456,038					456,038
France				542,736	80,000													622,736
Germany	2,928,380		906,375	5,733,945			424,105	987,408					1,771,350	253,836				13,005,399
Italy				1,127,400					362,619			594,250	1,144,100			173,895		3,402,264
Japan	900,000							1,167,500	483,909	4,052,685	137,100	1,200,000	825,000					8,766,194 58,691
Liechtenstein																		26,764
Luxembourg																		786,517
Netherlands																		5,636,000
New Zealand				362,450														362,450 1,080,900
Poland									50,399									50,399 25,200
Republic of Korea	30,000	50,000						100,000	100,000			50,000						330,000
Slovakia				28,198														28,198
Spain						177,240										28,285		205,525 45,256
Sweden				2,759,407														2,759,407
Switzerland		144,000																144,000
United Kingdom	4,144,800			3,157,849								692,479						7,995,128
UNA Sweden																		25,000
UNDP	304,144	250,000											300,000					854,144
UNICEF								250,000										250,000
United States									500,000			1,397,012		248,770				2,145,782
Voluntary Contributor																		450
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,822,071</b>	<b>1,725,337</b>	<b>2,634,734</b>	<b>31,527,356</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>177,240</b>	<b>424,105</b>	<b>2,504,908</b>	<b>1,496,927</b>	<b>4,488,272</b>	<b>137,100</b>	<b>3,933,741</b>	<b>5,991,428</b>	<b>660,971</b>	<b>28,285</b>	<b>173,895</b>	<b>64,806,370</b>	<b>9,981,736</b>

\*Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines (ItCBL)

# UNMAS Programme Strategy Core Elements 2020-2023 (as of July 2022)

## ABYEI

<b>Vision</b>	UNISFA safely implements its mandate to ensure the peace and security of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS operations enable UNISFA mission mobility, voluntary return of civilians to their communities, delivery of humanitarian aid and effective functioning of the JBVMM.
<b>Outcomes</b>	UNMAS operations enable UNISFA mission mobility, voluntary return of civilians to their communities, delivery of humanitarian aid and effective functioning of the JBVMM.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Zero movements, access, and deployments by UNISFA, JBVMM, humanitarians and civilians interrupted or cancelled as a result of mines or explosive remnants of war within the Abyei Area.</p> <p>Full deployment of UNMAS personnel to the JBVMM headquarters, sector headquarters and team sites to ensure effective support to the JBVMM whenever required.</p> <p>Percentage and proportion of requests from UNISFA responded to (disaggregated by request type: WAM, training, route verification, risk education, ground patrols, destruction of unexploded ordnance, etc.).</p> <p>Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p>

## AFGHANISTAN

<b>Vision</b>	Afghan communities benefit from humanitarian initiatives unimpeded by explosive ordnance.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS Afghanistan supports the humanitarian community to protect the civilian population from the threat of explosive ordnance.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>The United Nations coordinates and supports implementation of the humanitarian mine action programme in a prioritized, principled, gender responsive and efficient manner.</p> <p>People at risk across Afghanistan recognize how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Percentage of land in productive use by women and men within 12 months of clearance (disaggregated by usage type).</p> <p>Number of tasks funded through the VTF align with the prioritization framework.</p> <p>Number and proportion of tasks issued by UNMAS in response to humanitarian community.</p> <p>Extent of contamination across country surveyed and reflected in the Information Management System for Mine Action.</p> <p>Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p>

## BURKINA FASO

<b>Vision</b>	The impact of the explosive ordnance threat on affected populations, national institutions, and the aid sector is reduced.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS provides national institutions and affected populations the knowledge, tools, and capacity to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance in high-risk areas and handover responsibilities to national mine action counterparts.
<b>Outcomes</b>	Effective explosive risk reduction programme increasingly managed by national actors with minimal external technical input.  Targeted communities are increasingly protected by capable national actors.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	Number of regions that dispose of initial operational capability or full operational capability capacity.  Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.  Percentage of UNMAS quality assurance tasks that show national actors are operating in compliance with national standards with a pass score above 80 percent.  Number of teams deployed disaggregated by category (NGO or government) and skills (risk education and search and detect).

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

<b>Vision</b>	MINUSCA deploys safely and supports the ability of national authorities to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance and manage weapons, ammunition, and other explosive hazards in a responsible manner to improve the security environment and protect civilians across the CAR.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS in CAR supports national capacity development in WAM and explosive ordnance threat mitigation to enable progressive extension of state authority, security sector reform and eventual transfer of responsibility from MINUSCA to relevant national authorities and enhances the capacity of MINUSCA to deploy safely.
<b>Outcomes</b>	Relevant national authorities coordinate mine action responsibilities and manage weapons and ammunition according to international standards and achieve progress on the key benchmarks for the review of the arms embargo measures.  National authorities protect civilians, mitigate, and respond to the explosive ordnance threat.  MINUSCA mitigates explosive ordnance threat to operate effectively in an increasingly complex security environment.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	Progress towards fulfilment of national WAM targets as elaborated in national planning documents concerning percentage of WAM storage facilities and percentage of WAM trained personnel.  Percentage of explosive ordnance threats responded (discovery, removal and/or destruction) by Forces Armées Centrafricaines in accordance with international standards.  Percentage of explosive ordnance that are identified and safely destroyed by MINUSCA.  Security Council resolutions on the arms embargo in the CAR take into consideration progress achieved towards the benchmarks on weapons and ammunition management established in S/PRST/2019/3.  Percentage of post blast investigation coordinated or jointly conducted with MINUSCA, by the national authorities.  Number of explosive ordnance incidents.  Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate increased knowledge of unsafe and safe practices.

## COLOMBIA

<b>Vision</b>	Individuals and communities live free from the threat posed by explosive ordnance and mine action contributes to the peace process and development in Colombia.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS Colombia provides technical assistance to the NMAC and to the mine action sector generally and supports mine action related aspects of the peace process.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>The NMAC coordinates a prioritized, principled and effective mine action programme.</p> <p>Mine action related aspects of the peace process are implemented.</p> <p>Mine action sector performs humanitarian mine action effectively.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Mine action is integrated into plans that prioritize community needs and development priorities.</p> <p>The number of ex-combatants with livelihoods in the mine action sector.</p> <p>Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p> <p>The amount of land released based on validated information provided by former FARC.</p> <p>Number and percentage of high-priority mine action tasks completed by NGOs trained by UNMAS.</p> <p>Number of ex-combatants who perform mine action as a reparatory action as recognized by the transitional justice system.</p>

## CYPRUS

<b>Vision</b>	UNFICYP safely implements its mandate and maintains the ceasefire and the integrity of the United Nations buffer zone.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS in Cyprus ensures that mine action builds confidence in the peace process through technical advice and support.
<b>Outcomes</b>	UNFICYP enabled to carry out its mandate in a safe and effective manner.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	Percentage and number of support requests that UNFICYP responded to.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

<b>Vision</b>	National capacity manages explosive ordnance threats and SALW, improving security for civilians.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS supports the MONUSCO protection of civilian's mandate with EOD spot tasks and builds capacity in the national NGO and security sector.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>DRC security sector and/or national NGOs respond appropriately to EOD tasks.</p> <p>MONUSCO addresses explosive ordnance threats resulting from conflict in the east.</p> <p>DRC national security institutions effectively manage and secure weapons and ammunition stockpiles in accordance with international standards</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Percentage of EOD tasks to which the national capacity responds efficiently and in accordance with IMAS.</p> <p>Number of EOD tasks (ERW and bulk ammunition) completed by UNMAS out of the total requested by MONUSCO in the east per year.</p> <p>Number of National Defense and Security Forces elements trained on WAM by UNMAS in the east, out of total elements deployed in the east (disaggregated by FARDC and PNC).</p> <p>Number of National Defense and Security Forces locations planned for the east that have weapons storage provided by UNMAS (disaggregated by PNC, FARDC and the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature).</p>

## ETHIOPIA

<b>Vision</b>	The threat of explosive ordnance is minimized for communities affected by conflict.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS works to create conditions conducive to the protection of civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid, including strengthening the capacity of national mine action counterparts to manage the mine action sector in Ethiopia and facilitating access for mine action operators.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Humanitarian partners safely deliver at-risk civilians with basic services and provide access to livelihood activities in areas impacted by explosive ordnance. Conflict-affected people know how to mitigate explosive risks in their vicinity.</p> <p>National authorities in Ethiopia efficiently manage the mine action sector in accordance with IMAS.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Number and percentage of requests for support from humanitarian organizations positively responded to.</p> <p>Number and percentage of interventions in response to explosive ordnance incidents or reports.</p> <p>Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p> <p>Number of organizations that receive accreditation to conduct mine action activities.</p>

**IRAQ**

<b>Vision</b>	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.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS Iraq supports the Government of Iraq to assist those impacted by explosive ordnance and enable socio-economic development and welfare.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>The Government of Iraq effectively prioritizes tasks implemented increasingly by national actors.</p> <p>People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</p> <p>Safe access to restore or facilitate use of contaminated land and infrastructure is enabled.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Number of tasks issued responding to community humanitarian, stabilization, development needs.</p> <p>Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p> <p>Number of sites where access was enabled to restore or facilitate use.</p> <p>Number of national organizations deployed in response to tasks.</p>

**LEBANON**

<b>Vision</b>	UNIFIL safely implements its mandate and achieves a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS Lebanon provides high quality operational and humanitarian mine action advice that enables UNIFIL to advance a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>The population of South Lebanon benefits from UNIFIL TCCs clearance of the ERW and landmines that pose humanitarian risks in the UNIFIL AoR.</p> <p>UNIFIL operates safely in the AoR.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Increase in the area safe from landmines and explosive remnants of war.</p> <p>Maintain zero incidents among UNIFIL military demining teams.</p>

**LIBYA**

<b>Vision</b>	Civilians, including refugees and migrants, live free from the threat of explosive ordnance and the impact of the illicit proliferation of arms and ammunition.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS Libya strengthens national capacity to manage mine action, secure uncontrolled arms and related material and counter their proliferation in order to protect civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance.
<b>Outcomes</b>	Libyan authorities contribute to the peace process through improved WAM.  The mobility of civilians, including refugees and migrants, is not threatened by explosive ordnance.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	An arms and ammunition framework is operationalized in accordance with the Berlin Process and other framework agreements.  Number of Libyan entities delivering explosive ordnance risk reduction activities in accordance with Libyan Mine Action Standards.  Number and percentage of requests for training or assessments from humanitarian and development partners fulfilled.  Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.

**MALI**

<b>Vision</b>	The population in Mali is safer and more secure as a result of the reduced threat posed by explosive ordnance.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS Mali enhances the capacity of MINUSMA, the MDSF and civil society to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.
<b>Outcomes</b>	National authorities have the capacity to lead and manage the mine action response, which is implemented through civil society.  The capacity of MDSF to manage the explosive threat is enhanced.  MINUSMA peacekeepers deploy and patrol safely.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	An NMAC is operational and has the capacity to manage the response to explosive ordnance according to a strategy and operational plans.  A national plan to manage the response to explosive threats is developed.  Percentage and proportion of explosive devices detected and cleared by MINUSMA.  Number of national NGOs with mine action capacity.  Increase in the number of MDSF teams with enhanced capacity in explosive hazard management enabling them to deploy to high-risk areas and to protect the civilian population. <sup>1</sup>  Number of MINUSMA EOD team interventions, operating in accordance with United Nations standards, restoring the freedom of movement of MINUSMA.

<sup>1</sup>Previously was "Increase in the number of Malian Defence and Security Forces teams trained and equipped to respond to explosive threats in central and northern Mali"; this was updated at the time of the 22/23 Budget Proposal RevCom and RBB submission in October 2021 to align with CPAS indicator 2.2.6 language; reflected in MINUSMA Budget Report.

## NIGERIA

<b>Vision</b>	National authorities protect civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance in northeast Nigeria.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS Nigeria supports national capacities, including the security sector and civil society, and coordinates the mine action response in northeast Nigeria.
<b>Outcomes</b>	Relevant national and local entities manage the explosive threat, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination. The immediate threat posed by explosive ordnance to civilians and humanitarian and development actors is mitigated.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	Number and percentage of requests for EOD and IED threat mitigation responded to by national and local entities. Percentage and number of beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. Number of national and local entities with capacity to conduct an IED disposal and EOD response.

## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

<b>Vision</b>	The threat of explosive ordnance is minimized for vulnerable populations and the United Nations family in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS helps civilians and humanitarian partners to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance and to empower the PMAC to assume responsibility for mine action.
<b>Outcomes</b>	The United Nations, and its humanitarian partners in Gaza, maintain critical functions, uninhibited by explosive hazards. People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	Percentage and number of United Nations and humanitarian partner sites declared safe to use after request for assistance. Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices (disaggregated by age, sex and region). Number of United Nations and humanitarian personnel with increased knowledge of explosive risk reduction to support their delivery of humanitarian and recovery programmes. Increased number of EORE personnel in the West Bank delivering the PMAC EORE strategy. Percentage and number requests by development organisations responded to, enabling them to deliver operations at conflict affected sites.

## SOMALIA

<b>Vision</b>	Somalis are safer and more secure as a result of the increased ability of Somali national authorities and security services to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance, including IEDs.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS in Somalia enhances the ability of ATMIS, SSF (SNA and the Somali National Police) and vulnerable people to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance, including IEDs.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>ATMIS TCCs perform their functions with reduced threat posed by IED or explosive ordnance.</p> <p>The Federal Government of Somalia increasingly assumes responsibility for security.</p> <p>Communities experience reduction of the threat posed by explosive hazards.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Number and percentage of IEDs encountered that have no impact on ATMIS personnel.</p> <p>Number and percentage of IEDs encountered that have no impact on SSF personnel.</p> <p>Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p> <p>Number and percentage of EOD and IED disposal teams identified in the National Security Architecture that operate in compliance with international standards.</p> <p>Area and percentage of released land that is being used productively.</p> <p>Progress in compliance with obligations under the partial lifting of the arms embargo by the Federal Government of Somalia is noted in regular Panel of Experts Reports.</p> <p>Security Council resolutions on the arms embargo in Somalia take into consideration progress achieved towards the benchmarks on weapons and ammunition management.</p>

## SOUTH SUDAN

<b>Vision</b>	South Sudan is able to independently address explosive ordnance contamination in all its forms and arms and ammunition are appropriately managed, enabling communities to live safely and the peace process to be implemented responsibly.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS South Sudan supports the safety and security of peacekeepers and communities from explosive ordnance and enables the NMAA to deliver humanitarian mine action.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>An accountable NMAA implements appropriate response to the threats posed by explosive ordnance.</p> <p>Humanitarian actors and civilians have safe access to areas previously contaminated with explosive ordnance.</p> <p>UNMISS uniformed and civilian operations proceed unimpeded by explosive ordnance.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>The number of appropriate responses by NMAA to EOD tasks.</p> <p>The percentage and number of responses to requests from humanitarian entities for support.</p> <p>Maintain zero casualties among mission personnel related to explosive ordnance.</p> <p>Proportion of responses to requests from the Mission for weapons and ammunition support in cantonment sites.</p> <p>Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p> <p>The number of cantonment sites where weapons and ammunition are managed responsibly.</p> <p>Decrease in the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance as a result of advocacy, surveys and clearance to provide a safer environment for civilians and the voluntary return and resettlement of IDPs and refugees.</p>

## SUDAN

<b>Vision</b>	The Sudanese population lives free of the threat of explosive ordnance.
<b>Mission</b>	Pursuant to the UNITAMS mandate, UNMAS Sudan enables United Nations mobility in areas affected by explosive ordnance and supports the Government of Sudan to effectively manage the mine action sector, achieve relevant treaty obligations and deliver peace dividends to the population.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>People at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.</p> <p>The United Nations and the local population safely use areas previously contaminated with explosive ordnance.</p> <p>National authority manages a prioritized principled and efficient mine action programme.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p> <p>Area and percentage of land released used productively (disaggregated by usage type: residential, agricultural, humanitarian response, UNITAMS mobility, etc.)</p> <p>Number and percentage of requests to address explosive ordnance contamination from UNITAMS responded to (disaggregated by request type: road assessment, support to humanitarian operations, survey of mission sites, helicopter landing sites, etc.).</p> <p>Number and percentage of core functions fully managed by NMAC in line with national standard and operational procedures without UNMAS technical assistance (disaggregated by function).</p> <p>Percentage decrease in direct financial assistance provided by UNMAS to the NMAC.</p> <p>Number of stakeholders who provide voluntary assistance services through NMAC coordination (disaggregated by service type).</p>

## SYRIA

<b>Vision</b>	The threat of explosive ordnance is minimized for communities most at risk.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS in Syria coordinates the mine action sector to deliver a coherent humanitarian response to at-risk communities.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Mine action partners assist people in greatest need.</p> <p>People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</p> <p>Humanitarian partners safely deliver basic services and at-risk civilians safely access basic services and livelihood activities in areas impacted by explosive ordnance.</p> <p>Survivors and victims of explosive ordnance incidents obtain assistance for recovery and reintegration.</p>

<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>Percentage of mine action partners working in accordance with agreed prioritized work plan (linked to humanitarian response plan (HRP) protection severity risk).</p> <p>Percentage of EORE beneficiaries demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</p> <p>Number of humanitarian partners supported by mine action services to plan and deliver operations safely (disaggregated by usage type: residential, agricultural, humanitarian response, etc.).</p> <p>Percentage and number of victims and survivors assisted who report that assistance supported their recovery (disaggregated by age, gender and type of assistance).</p> <p>Percentage of released areas that are accessed and used by civilians, in line with the intended purposes (disaggregated by use).</p>
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## WESTERN SAHARA

<b>Vision</b>	MINURSO safely implements its mandate to monitor the ceasefire.
<b>Mission</b>	UNMAS in Western Sahara enhances the capacity of MINURSO and local capacities to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Local capacities lead and manage mine action programmes.</p> <p>Reduced threat posed by landmines and ERW, improving security and accessibility within the Territory.</p>
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<p>The local mine action authority, the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Office, implements their 2019-2023 strategic plan.</p> <p>Percentage of patrols undertaken by MINURSO military observers without explosive ordnance incidents.</p> <p>Additional square meters of surface and sub-surface area free from known threats of landmines and ERW in order to facilitate the monitoring of the ceasefire and to ensure safe passage for United Nations personnel.</p>



**UNMAS**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021