

IMPACT

From 1 January to 31 December 2021,



Removed 3,693 explosive remnants of war (ERW), **4,790** improvised explosive devices (IED) including **1,646** victim operated improvised explosive devices (VOIED) in retaken areas. Conducted **44** clearance tasks enabling rehabilitation and resumption of livelihood activities, and humanitarian actors to move forward with urgent lifesaving interventions.



296 police officers, including **51 women** trained as First Response to be able to identify, mark and report explosive ordnance, **132 Government, NGO, and UN security personnel**, including **43 women** trained in Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE), **57 police officers** trained in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and **200** government officials including **27 women** trained in humanitarian mine action management.

2,913 cash-for-work employees and **814 governmental personnel** trained to recognize and behave safely in the presence of explosive ordnance while working in high-risk environments.



121,448 people received **explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and risk awareness** training in schools, internally displaced person (IDP) camps, and other high priority areas.

Iraq is one of the most explosive ordnance-contaminated countries in the world. It has approximately **2,850** square kilometers of recorded contaminated areas, including extensive and complex contamination in areas retaken from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Across Iraq, 27 percent of explosive ordnance contamination is found in agricultural areas - preventing productive use of the land for livelihood activities; another 21 percent is found in infrastructure - hampering reconstruction efforts and access to infrastructure for services and economic opportunities; with an additional 20 percent found in roads - challenging interconnectivity in the country.

Continued clearance of residential and agricultural areas is an important contributor to the conditions for sustainable returns and development and supports broader humanitarian objectives.

The UNMAS Iraq Programme takes a programmatic approach to the assistance provided to the Government of Iraq in leading and coordinating a national mine action response supported by multi-donor contributions. As per its programme strategy 2020-2023, UNMAS Iraq provides support in an advisory and technical capacity to the Iraqi national authorities and national operators to lead, manage and implement the national mine action response. Until the end of 2022, UNMAS Iraq will carry out limited clearance and risk reduction activities in line with priorities determined with the Government of Iraq to assist those impacted by explosive ordnance and thus enable socio-economic development. The UNMAS Iraq strategy is guided by the principles of partnership, sustainability, nationalization, and gender mainstreaming.



ACTIVITIES

UNMAS supports the Government of Iraq to protect civilians impacted by explosive ordnance and to enable humanitarian action and socio-economic development through three pillars of work:

1. Technical Support

The Government of Iraq effectively prioritizes tasks implemented increasingly by national actors: UNMAS supports a nationally led and implemented mine action response. Building on existing capacities, UNMAS provides technical advice to the Government of Iraq in various ministries, mine action authorities, Ministry of Interior (police and civil defense), and government operations coordination centers to support the management, regulation, and coordination of response to explosive ordnance. Furthermore, UNMAS promotes the development of sustainable capacity for national operators towards fully nationalizing humanitarian mine action activities in Iraq.



2. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

People at risk recognize how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance: The provision of EORE to IDPs returning home, returnees, and affected communities will enable populations to recognize how to mitigate the explosive threat and adopt safer behaviors. This, in turn, will assist people in feeling safer when the number of explosive ordnance incidents is reduced.



3. Explosive Hazard Management

Safe access to restore or facilitate use of contaminated land and infrastructure is enabled: The delivery and management of explosive hazard management, inclusive of survey and clearance, in areas of high priorities will enable the restoration of safe access and use of land and infrastructure. This will, in turn, support the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of IDPs to their areas of origin as well facilitate socio-economic development activities.



FUNDING

UNMAS in Iraq is solely funded through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund. **For the year 2022, UNMAS has thus far secured USD 16 million with a remaining shortfall of USD 34 million.** To date, UNMAS in Iraq has received contributions from Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand (including in-kind support), the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden (including in-kind support), and the United Kingdom.

UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for technical support, explosive ordnance risk education, and survey and clearance, to better support the humanitarian response.



For more information:

Pehr Lodhammar, Chief Mine Action Programme, UNMAS Iraq, lodhammar@un.org

Stephen Pritchard, Chief of Programmes, UNMAS New York, stephen.pritchard@un.org

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