

# IRAQ PROGRAMME REPORT 2021





Swedish embassy representatives during a field visit to UNMAS activities in Mosul. © UNMAS

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# GLOSSARY

<b>AKAF</b>	Al-Khebra al-Fania	<b>IKMAA</b>	Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency
<b>BMCO</b>	Baghdad Mine Clearance Organization	<b>IMAS</b>	International Mine Action Standards
<b>CFP</b>	Community Focal Point	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>DCA</b>	DanChurchAid	<b>ISIL</b>	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Also known as “Da’esh”
<b>DMA</b>	Directorate for Mine Action	<b>KRI</b>	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
<b>DSIM</b>	Device Scene Incident Management	<b>MA AoR</b>	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
<b>EHFR</b>	Explosive Hazard First Responder	<b>MASC</b>	Mine Action Sub-Cluster
<b>EHM</b>	Explosive Hazard Management	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>EOD</b>	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>EORE</b>	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>ERW</b>	Explosive Remnants of War	<b>NMAS</b>	National Mine Action Standards
<b>FSD</b>	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action	<b>NPA</b>	Norwegian People’s Aid
<b>GICHD</b>	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	<b>NTS</b>	Non-Technical Survey
<b>GoI</b>	Government of Iraq	<b>QMS</b>	Quality Management System
<b>HCT</b>	Humanitarian Country Team	<b>RMAC</b>	Regional Mine Action Centre
<b>HI</b>	Humanity and Inclusion	<b>SHO</b>	Shareteah Humanitarian Organization
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	<b>T3</b>	Train-the-Trainer
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons/People	<b>TS</b>	Technical Support
<b>IED</b>	Improvised Explosive Device	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>IEDD</b>	Improvised Explosive Device Disposal	<b>UNAMI</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
<b>IHSCO</b>	Health and Social Care Organization in Iraq	<b>UNMAS</b>	United Nations Mine Action Service



View of West Mosul from the top of Al Shifa Hospital Complex. © UNMAS

## A message from the Chief Mine Action Programme Pehr Lodhammar

Four years ago, I accepted the position to lead the mine action programme in Iraq with a general idea of what the position entailed. The country was at the very precipice of its conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Da'esh, and the promise of liberation could not erase the heavy cost of the conflict. Thousands of lives lost, millions of civilians displaced, and Iraq's most flourishing metropolitan cities, left utterly decimated.

Three decades of mine action experience had assured me that our work was only getting started. Perhaps the Iraqi Government had been successful in subduing the militant organization, but they could not erase the Da'esh legacy. Intermixed with the harrowing sight of blood and debris, underneath all the rubble, and camouflaged in everyday items like toys, pots, and other domestic items, lurks the deadly presence of explosive ordnance, deliberately left behind by Da'esh to destabilize the country long after their defeat. This was their strategy, wittingly targeting Iraqi civilians as punishment for their perceived duplicity, ensuring that those displaced remain displaced and those who have returned live their lives under constant threat.

Until now, nearly 1.2 million Iraqis remain displaced as a result of the conflict, most living in difficult conditions in internally displaced person (IDP) camps in Iraqi Kurdistan. Most of them have nowhere else to go, having lost part or all of their homes in the war. Even those that wish to return to begin rebuilding their lives, the presence of explosive ordnance is only the first challenge, out of many, that awaits them. There is still much that needs to be done in terms of water and electricity resources, education, health, and other instrumental services. This is why we are working collectively with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and other United Nations (UN) agencies in Iraq to achieve sustainable durable solutions for displaced Iraqi civilians. This is only achieved when IDPs no longer have a specific assistance and protections needs that are linked to their displacement (IASC).

The emergence and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic further destabilized an already precarious situation. The local economy suffered. Many Iraqis lost their jobs as well as their loved ones. Many activities were temporarily paused due to government-imposed curfews and other health restrictions. Throughout it all, we continued operations while also working on an all-encompassing nationalization plan that includes a partnership model aimed at enhancing the capacity of Iraqi mine action organizations. The model was to support our efforts for a more

localized and nationalized mine action response in Iraq. While this was obviously the right path forward we were striving to reach for years, only after implementation did I realize just how much Iraqis needed such initiatives...

Just as restrictions were slightly eased by the Iraqi government, I undertook numerous missions across our operations sites to evaluate our work and speak to local community members. I have done this regularly throughout my tenure in Iraq to ensure that our work does not create any disturbance to the Iraqi communities we are serving, and to gauge the impact of our work on their lives. I cannot begin to describe just how many Iraqis noticed and appreciated our nationalization plan. How much our efforts, as modest as they may seem in the grand scheme of things, positively impacted the lives of Iraqi women and men working for us, as well as the communities they serve.

**WE WILL  
NOT REST  
UNTIL IRAQ IS  
CLEARED FROM  
EXPLOSIVE  
ORDNANCE.**



This is what sometimes gets lost in translation. As we busy ourselves with technical and strategic discussions and cost-saving implementation tools, all of which are certainly important, we sometimes forget to speak of the very people that we are all here to serve. Certainly, the primary goal for UNMAS in Iraq is to assist the Iraqi government in managing the extensive mine action response until such time we are no longer needed. However, this does not mean that we cannot achieve our objectives while simultaneously making an impact in other ways.

For Iraq, I have made it my life's mission to localize the work of UNMAS as much as possible, to bring in more Iraqi women for leadership roles in the mine action sector, to support and train Iraqi youth without a degree to work in mine action, to account for the needs of underprivileged and vulnerable communities.

In Sinjar, we hired Yazidis to clear their communities, and potentially even their own homes with the recent launch of residential area clearance. In Mosul, known for its affinity towards tradition, we hired a mixed-sex team comprising women and men from Mosul itself. We applied those same principles in Anbar and Basra as well.

The results thus far have been overwhelmingly positive: from the government, from local leaders, from the donor community, and most importantly, from the people themselves.

The subsequent report will highlight further details of our work in Iraq in 2021. Happy reading!

Pehr Lodhammar  
Chief Mine Action Programme, UNMAS Iraq

Support for UNMAS in Iraq in 2021 comes from the voluntary contributions of these countries:





## VISION

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

## MISSION

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

*Danish embassy officials visit UNMAS clearance site in Tel Kaif, Ninewa governorate. © UNMAS*

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

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The response was delivered primarily through a focused explosive hazard management (EHM) strategy allowing for effective survey and clearance in support of stabilization efforts supplemented with significant explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) efforts to ensure civilian awareness in the interim. The strategy was implemented in parallel with technical and advisory support provided to relevant GoI mine action authorities and stakeholders to enhance and increase the EHM response capacity. Four years after the declaration of victory against ISIL, Iraq has made a tentative transition into its now post-emergency status, meaning that the country is now better prepared to gradually adopt control, coordination, and implementation of most of its mine action needs. This new phase has facilitated the transition of UNMAS strategy as well. Since 2020, UNMAS Iraq has shifted its strategic priority from clearance to technical support (TS), tailoring its support to better assist the Iraqi government<sup>1</sup> in supporting civilians impacted by explosive ordnance and enabling socio-economic development and welfare while, at the same time, creating national, sustainable and autonomous capacity.

The 2020 to 2023 UNMAS Iraq strategy focuses on supporting the GoI to effectively prioritize tasks implemented increasingly by national actors through technical support to the GoI to protect civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance and enable humanitarian, stabilization and reconstruction efforts; and through promoting the development of sustainable local capacities of national non-governmental organizations and actors towards a sustainable national humanitarian mine action response. Furthermore, UNMAS continues to provide affected communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and children with EORE in the areas retaken from ISIL. This is to ensure that populations at risk recognize how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance and adopt safe behaviours. Through EHM activities, UNMAS assists in creating the conditions necessary

for safe access to restore or facilitate the productive use of contaminated land and infrastructure thus enabling the safe, dignified, and sustainable return or local integration of IDPs to areas previously occupied by ISIL.

In 2021, UNMAS enhanced its focus on technical support to GoI authorities while simultaneously expanding its operations to the South of Iraq. In response to numerous GoI requests for UNMAS to expand its operations beyond liberated areas, to clear legacy landmines dispersed throughout Southern Iraq and across the Iran-Iraq border, UNMAS Iraq successfully lobbied its donors to approve and support this new initiative. Thus far, UNMAS has received generous funding from the European Union and other donors for its operations in the Basra governorate, with additional interest from numerous donors for other areas of concern.

## UNMAS Iraq focuses on the following three pillars of activities:

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

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

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

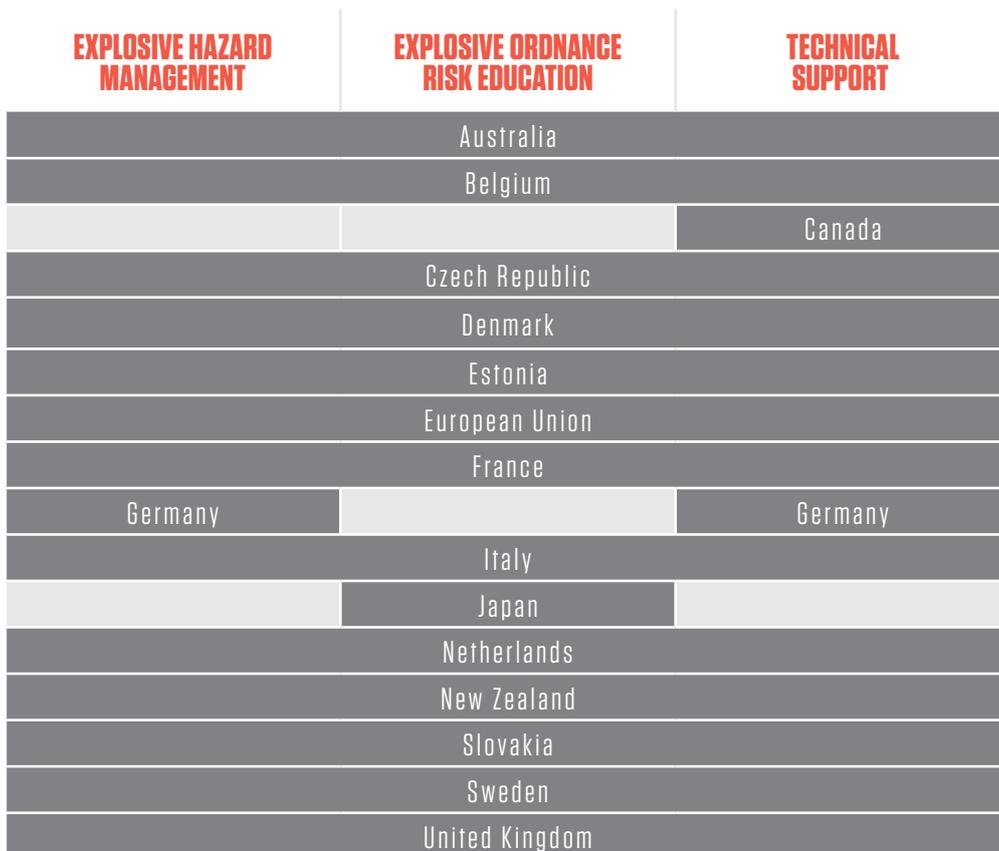
A significant mine action capacity gap still remains in Iraq, however. The unprecedented nature of explosive ordnance contamination, the sheer magnitude of dispersion, in addition to the untraditional ways in which they were planted, means that all who are in the vicinity of contaminated areas are at grave risk. Sporadic accidents due to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) has shed light on the urgent and crucial work that UNMAS, complemented by

other mine action organizations and the GoI, continue to conduct daily, and why there remains to be a heavy need for support, both advisory and on the field, to ensure that all clearance conducted abide by international mine action standards (IMAS).

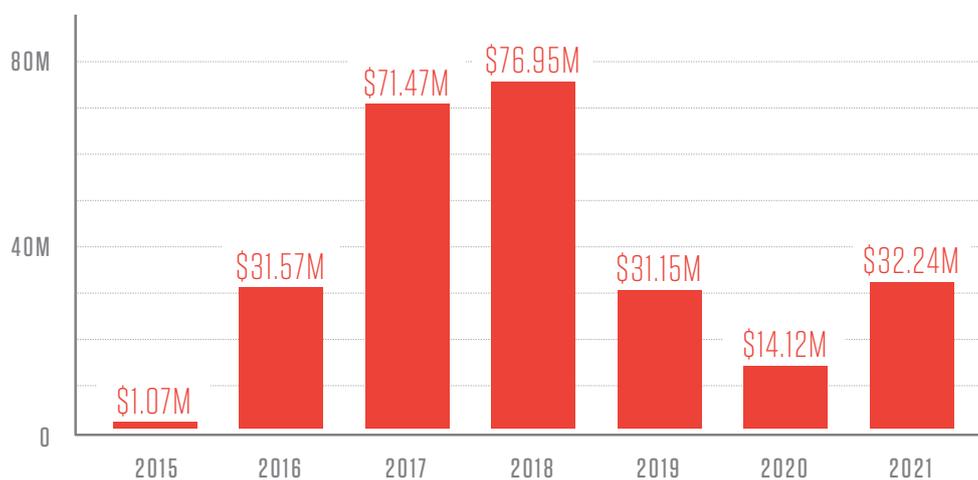
The activities undertaken by UNMAS Iraq in 2021 under the three strategic pillars are outlined in this report.

## Strategic Pillar/ Donors 2021

FIGURE 1. PILLAR SUPPORT BY DONOR



FUNDS SECURED PER YEAR SINCE INCEPTION:



# TECHNICAL SUPPORT (TS)

In 2021, UNMAS Iraq enhanced its partnership with Gol mine action authorities, reaffirming closer cooperation and collaboration in order to boost capability and coordination capacity.

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While the impact of COVID-19 continued to reverberate throughout the year, UNMAS Iraq was able to overcome those challenges to successfully conduct its activities with minimal interruptions.

## TS Figures (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021)



**15** policy documents, standards and training notes completed, reviewed and updated.



Trainings provided to Gol: Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Explosive Hazard First Responder (EHFR), Post Blast Scene Incident Management, Train-the-Trainer (T3), Basic Humanitarian Mine Action Management, and Project Management with a total of **615** attendees including **500** men and **115** women.

## Support to Mine Action Authorities

UNMAS Iraq continued to build upon the strong foundation established during previous years with the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) in federal Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

2021 saw a gradual relaxing of restrictions introduced as a result of COVID-19 during the previous year and a move away from the limitations presented by online meetings and

trainings. UNMAS Iraq continued to facilitate coordination activities with the DMA aimed at improving the coordination and support of mine action activities among stakeholders and implementing organizations. Capacity development activities continued with trainings delivered to DMA, Ministry of Interior (MoI) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across a range of subjects designed to support grassroots activities and at a managerial level. In addition to enhancing operational capacity, a number of trainings were focused on providing a sustainable capability with four T3 courses completed. This natural evolution of training will see the transition to national ownership of training previously provided by UNMAS Iraq. The T3 trainings were among the first trainings to have combined male and female courses with 29 male and 15 female attendees.



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In the KRI, UNMAS Iraq in cooperation with IKMAA conducted a joint planning activity culminating in the development of a gap analysis report aimed at identifying key shortfalls impacting IKMAA's ability to operate at full capacity. The completed report will form the basis of IKMAA's request for support in 2022. UNMAS also facilitated training activities for IKMAA staff and enhanced liaison between IKMAA and the DMA through joint trainings and coordination activities including technical working groups to review the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS). In 2021, 10 Standards and one Technical Note were finalized with four Standards identified for further review.

## Train the Trainer: Device Scene Incident Management (DSIM)

The T3 DSIM training course was conducted at the Salman Pak Training Centre as part of the ongoing capacity enhancement initiative in support of the Mol. In keeping with gender mainstreaming goals, the T3 training course was attended by 12 males and three females. The T3 course was the culmination of two previous DSIM practitioner courses.



## Project Management Training

Project Management training was delivered for DMA and IKMAA staff designed to support ongoing capacity enhancement initiatives within mine action coordination. The training was attended by 22 males and six females.



## Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)/ Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD)

The EOD3/IEDD training course for the Ministry of Interior continued in 2021 with the introduction of drone technology and subsequent provision of drones following completion of the course.



# EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION (EORE)

UNMAS Iraq continues its support in building the capacity of local NGOs by providing international partnership opportunities with international NGOs.

© UNMAS

The partnership opportunities aim to enhance the long-term institutional capacity of local actors to independently implement EORE throughout the project cycle by facilitating partnerships with international NGOs as means of knowledge-sharing and mentorship for future self-reliance. In the Anbar governorate, UNMAS pushed its international grantee, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), to provide sustained technical and skill development support to its local partner, Baghdad Organization (BMCO), through building their capacity in EORE, grant management, security, finance, human resources, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning capabilities. In addition, UNMAS facilitated the support of HI towards BMCO in the implementation of direct and indirect EORE activities in the targeted areas. Moreover, UNMAS granted another partnership grant to HI and BMCO in July 2021 for Sinjar district. Building on the lessons learned from the Anbar grant, HI and BMCO had the opportunity to share best practices, guidelines, and operational tools as to enhance the local capacity of BMCO in enforcing its role as a key operator in the provision of EORE at local and national levels.

UNMAS Iraq supported field teams to conduct direct and indirect EORE activities to minimize civilian deaths and injuries from explosive ordnance and to promote safe behaviours. Additionally, integrated EORE activities were undertaken with EHM contractors to support clearance operations.



© UNMAS

UNMAS continues to provide technical support to the national authorities and NGOs by providing technical advice, trainings, and workshops to build their capacity to lead, manage, and coordinate EORE delivery across Iraq. In 2021, UNMAS delivered a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) training to 16 people from IKMAA and DMA. The primary objectives of the training are to: improve the understanding of M&E concepts by national authorities, assist the national authorities to better understand their roles in M&E, improve the national authorities' capacity to use the M&E data for better planning, management, and implementation, and to increase national authorities' ability/capacity to deploy efficient staff to monitor and evaluate EORE activities. In addition to the M&E training, UNMAS organized an EORE "Approaches and Techniques" workshop to participants comprising national authorities and NGOs. The workshop served as a space to exchange innovative, realistic, and sustainable EORE approaches, techniques, and activities that will promote safe behaviours and decrease explosive ordnance casualties. This workshop will contribute to support both the national authorities and NGOs, national NGOs in particular, to create innovative ideas and methods in EORE in the future that will serve to encourage behaviour change.

In 2021, UNMAS delivered in Anbar and Ninewa





Furthermore, UNMAS delivered a report writing training to 14 people comprising local staff from NGOs and national authorities. The objective of the training is to develop participants' capacities in preparing and writing reports, as well as providing them with the technical skills required to collate information and data as to prepare, formulate, and produce reports efficiently and effectively.

## EORE T3 for Teachers in Ninewa

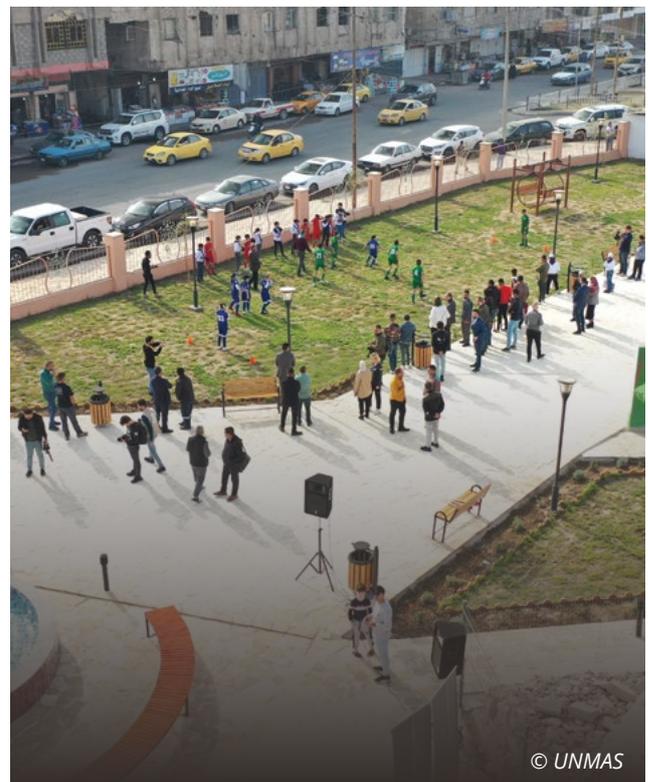
UNMAS and its implementing partner maintained their efforts to build the institutional capacity of the Ninewa Directorate of Education to ensure that life-saving EORE messages are embedded in the educational systems and to support/enable the Ministry of Education and Directorate of Education to manage and conduct EORE initiatives in the future to mitigate risks posed by explosive ordnance. As a result, UNMAS implementing partner trained 12 master trainers from the Directorate of Education to build their EORE capacity and support them to train select teachers from areas of operations. In 2021, 927 teachers received EORE trainings and they were able to target more than 10,000 students in schools. This initiative will ensure the sustainability of the EORE messages and promote safe behaviours among students.

## Community Focal Points

In order to ensure the sustainability of the EORE messages among affected communities, UNMAS implementing partners trained 53 community focal points (CFPs) in Ninewa and Anbar governorates. The purpose of the training is to equip CFPs with EORE skills, tools, and materials to deliver EORE safety messages and awareness among their communities, report the presence of explosive ordnance, and to report additional EORE needs and at-risk behaviours to ensure that hazard-reporting mechanisms are followed. As a result, the CFPs are now able to sustainably manage the threat posed by explosive ordnance in their communities.

## Green Community Park in Mosul, Ninewa

In 2021, UNMAS implementing partner, the Halo Trust, completed the rehabilitation of the Green Community Park in West Mosul. The park is considered as a sustainable, locally-based mechanism that will reverse risk taking behaviours towards explosive ordnance and/or enhance exercising of safe behaviours of at-risk individuals. This behaviour change intervention (the park) was identified in coordination with the community as they proposed it as a solution to mitigate risk and promote safer behaviours among at-risk individuals. UNMAS implementing partner conducted a baseline and endline analysis to measure the success of the behaviour change intervention. The analysis showed that the behaviour change intervention contributed to reducing the four risky behaviours: touching or moving explosive ordnance, going into areas with rubble, going into areas contaminated with explosive ordnance, and going into areas where adults don't go.



## EORE Media Strategic Campaign

In 2021, UNMAS Iraq continued its implementation of the EORE Strategic Communications Campaign “Safe Steps” in Iraq, focusing on Kirkuk, Ninewa, Anbar, Diyala, and Salah Al-Din governorates. This campaign provides measurable communication products that reduce the risk of injury/death resulting from explosive ordnance and promote safer behaviours among affected populations. This campaign utilized a learning campaign approach as it provided small pieces of information and reinforced them through repetition and other forms of learning, incentivizing behavioural change. At the end of the campaign, the quantitative analytics of Facebook showed that 6,872 people actively followed the campaign with a reach of 25,853 and engagement of 1,097. The end-line assessment of the campaign showed that the engagement with campaign content was strong, the campaign reach higher than expected, and that people who saw the campaign were able to identify and willing to abide by key EORE messages.

## Dissemination of Life-Saving EORE Messages

In 2021, UNMAS conducted two mass media campaign across Iraq with a focus on Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, and Salah Al-Din governorates. The campaign included broadcasting three EORE clips through the popular TV channels in Iraq: Dijlah, UTV Iraq, and Al Rasheed. The EORE clips are categorized for adults, youth, and children and have been broadcasted twice a week at prime times for each target group. The prime times were identified based on a survey conducted to measure TV ownership, time spent viewing TV, and time of the day with peak TV viewership to discern the most suitable hours to air the clips related to each category. UNMAS contractors selected a sample of people from the targeted areas and conducted computer-assisted face-to-face interviews to measure the reach of the EORE campaign.

At the end of campaign:

 follows  
6,872

 reach  
25,853

 engagements  
1,097

### EORE TV Campaign Reach

#### ANBAR



#### NINEWA



#### DIYALA



#### KIRKUK



#### SALAH AL-DIN



# EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT (EHM)

Clearance operations have not only continued largely unaffected by COVID-19 during this period, they have actually increased in scope, launching a new legacy mine clearance project in Southern Iraq in addition to those in the liberated areas.

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The below will provide a brief overview of key achievements/points of note relating to EHM activities for 2021.

## EHM Figures (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021)



Land cleared:  
**5,125,778** m<sup>2</sup>



Explosive ordnance rendered safe:  
**766** explosive ordnance



Tasks completed:  
**44** clearance tasks

## Southern Iraq: New Clearance Project Launches in Basra

In June of 2021, with generous funding from the European Union (EU), a new clearance contract was signed that saw the mobilization of the operational capacity for a project that would run for 18 months from March 2021. Launched directly in support of DMA Regional Mine Action Centre (RMAC) – South, this signalled the start of conventional minefield clearance for the first time for UNMAS in Iraq. It is estimated that the Basra region alone has approximately seven million landmines and only 10 per cent of those landmines have been cleared to date. This contamination is the legacy of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Some of the most intense fighting took place in the Shatt al-Arab region

where this project is focused. This work is vitally important. Nearly 66 per cent of the total recorded explosive remnants of war (ERW) hazardous areas that block access to water resources and 58 per cent of the total recorded ERW hazardous areas that block access to agricultural land in Iraq are located in Basra. By the end of 31 December, the Iraqi national company that was awarded the contract – Al-Khebra al-Fania (AKAF) – had cleared over 500,000 square metres of land and removed in excess of 5,000 items of explosive ordnance, including anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, mortars, rockets, and aircraft bombs.



*Armoured front end loader utilized during demining operations in the Shatt al-Arab region in the Basra Governate. © UNMAS*

## New Modular Clearance Capacity: Residential Area Clearance in Sinjar

On 1 May 2021, UNMAS rolled out a further iteration of its 'new model' commercial clearance contract. Supported by the Federal Republic of Germany, this project saw an innovative contracting modality bring together multiple capacities within a single project. Dedicated to the clearance of residential areas and properties in Sinjar and its environs, specialist assessment teams were coupled with high-risk search, EOD/IEDD support, mechanical assets, rubble clearance teams, as well as community liaison staff to bring a flexible, efficient, and tailored response to the multiple challenges posed by explosive ordnance that directly block the safe return of displaced people to their homes. This project has already completed significant tasks including the Old Sinjar Market as well as homes destroyed by ISIL in the Snuni area close to Sinjar Mountain. While the security situation is at times difficult in these remote areas, work continues to progress well. When this contract ends in April 2022, funding has already been secured for a further 12-month modular contract, again in Sinjar.



*An armored long-armed excavator clearing rubble in Sinjar. © UNMAS*

## Direct Support to Durable Solutions in Anbar: Non-Technical Survey Support to DMA

Over the past years, UNMAS has had extensive operations in Anbar Governorate, though those efforts had almost exclusively been centered on Fallujah and Ramadi. As multiagency plans were developed relating to 'durable solutions'<sup>2</sup>, it became clear in early 2021 that there was a vital need to provide detailed information relating to the extent of contamination in areas targeted for returnees. Anbar is a difficult area to operate. Only a single road links Fallujah to Ramadi and onwards towards Heet, Haditha, Anah, Rawa and Al-Qa'im. The security situation in certain areas in West Anbar is not always stable. As a result, UNMAS developed a grant modality to generate non-technical survey (NTS) teams comprising solely national staff to conduct these survey activities. Not only was this directly aligned with UNMAS efforts to generate sustainable national ca-

capacity, it also provided a far more effective team structure than one that might have included international staff – and circumvented potential security issues that may arise as a result. Under the direction of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and with an Iraqi national implementer, these teams have to date surveyed more than 100 million square metres of West Anbar, providing vital hazard-related data to the DMA and other agencies seeking to support returnees in those areas.

## EHM Partnership Grants Continue

Since late 2020, three EHM partnership grants have moved forward with some impressive achievements. Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO), the national partner to Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), became the first grant partner to achieve DMA accreditation for clearance activities and quickly deployed clearance teams working under national supervision on their own task orders. This achievement was followed by the Health and Social Care Organization in Iraq (IHSCO), the national partner to DanChurchAid (DCA), who are now working around Mosul clearing IEDs from blocked agricultural land. In Anbar the national partner to The HALO Trust, Al Ghad Organization, continue to work towards their own accreditation but have been routinely deploying their own clearance teams, working on sites around Al Karma, close to Fallujah. Clearance activities aside, each partnership continues to work towards the development of the other capacities required in an independent mine action sector in Iraq – leadership, management, and quality being key examples of areas where work is ongoing.



*Halo Trust demonstration of search techniques during donor visit to Fallujah. © UNMAS*

<sup>2</sup> [In support of UN Iraq efforts to achieve durable solutions, outlined extensively in the 2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons.](#)

## New Quality Management System (QMS) for EHM

In mid-2021, the EHM team began to redesign their Quality Management System (QMS), driven by a need to be more efficient with a reduced staffing structure as well as the need to assume a more partnered approach to quality, working collaboratively and cooperatively with implementing partners. By November 2021, a draft “Technical Instruction” document had been reviewed and a pilot process took place to determine its suitability for full implementation. This work was complemented by the design of a new operational management system that uses an embedded risk management process to ensure EHM resources are directed in the most appropriate and efficient way. It is likely that the redesigned QMS will be implemented in full in 2022.

## Gender Mainstreaming

As of December 2021, EHM contracts and grants employ 289 staff, of whom 17 are international (6%) and 56 are female (20%). This is a significant achievement for UNMAS Iraq, and reflects a number of targeted initiatives to bring females into a range of technical positions – a goal that has become a defining feature of both contracts and grants reflecting a genuine desire to drive gender mainstreaming in mine action activities in Iraq. The EHM team has also made extensive efforts to increase female staff involvement in the management of clearance activities – of a total staff of 11, two are international (18%) and five are female (45%).

### 289 TOTAL STAFF



6%  
international



20%  
female

### 11 EHM TEAM STAFF



18%  
international



45%  
female



An UNMAS EHM staff member provides a site briefing. © UNMAS



*Former Swedish Ambassador to Iraq, Lars Ronnås, and UNMAS EHM operations staff conduct a walk-through in Mosul's Old City. © UNMAS*

# COORDINATION – MINE ACTION SUB-CLUSTER (MASC)

## The Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) collaborated with relevant humanitarian partners to deliver EORE to IDPs after the decision of camp closures and consolidation.

In this context, Iraq MA AoR contributed to the development of the Strategic and Operational Guidance of Humanitarian Response in Informal Sites that identified the humanitarian interventions as part of the overall humanitarian response in out-of-camp locations.

With support from members in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din, and Anbar, the MA AoR in Iraq actively engaged in information sharing and addressing request for support from humanitarian actors. To this end, Iraq MA AoR developed a process map to address requests for clearance received through the humanitarian system. It demonstrated the processes and procedures to respond to requests from humanitarian actors.

An introduction about durable solutions and established coordination mechanisms was delivered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to Iraq MA AoR members in February 2021 to define the role of different stakeholders and coordination bodies and assess support from mine action actors to achieve durable solutions.

Iraq MA AoR together with the Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Sub-Cluster organized a training to mine action workers in May 2021 to raise awareness about the HLP rights and address mechanisms, compensation schemes for damaged/destroyed properties, and exercising due diligence in property ownership verification when conducting clearance in houses and other properties.

In line with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) discussions on the humanitarian/development nexus together with the durable solutions plan, the MA AoR developed a localization plan to prepare for the transition of humanitarian cluster system to nationally led sector coordination. Thus the DMA participated in the humanitarian cluster coordination system through co-chairing the coordination meeting in June.

To raise awareness of youth about the role of humanitarian mine action, Iraq MA AoR presented the impact and recorded scope of contamination and current activities to members of the human rights club of high school students from two schools in Ninewa in September 2021.

In its effort to promote gender and diversity mainstreaming, Iraq MA AoR supported the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) gender unit to present its pilot project to humanitarian actors in Iraq to participate in training needs assessment to develop an inclusive leadership training programme for 2022.

The MA AoR ran data analysis to assess the needs related to EO impact which was utilized in identifying the humanitarian needs and trends for 2022 and included in the Humanitarian Needs Overview.

Iraq MA AoR conducted a two-day workshop on humanitarian needs assessment and response planning to identify priorities of mine action interventions in 2022. This workshop provided an opportunity for the DMA and the humanitarian partners to discuss the findings of the needs analysis, gaps, challenges, and the proposed solutions. Reflecting the results from the workshop and the decisions of the HCT, the MA AoR prepared the mine action component in the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan focusing on lifesaving activities and immediate response.

Finally, the MA AoR continued its advocacy efforts to enhance the provision of victim assistance through integrated data collection and improved referral system. Iraq MA AoR facilitated the engagement of the Victim Assistance Department of the DMA with relevant humanitarian actors to support the development of the national mine action standard



*A local shephard tending his sheep nearby UNMAS operations site in Tal Kaif, Ninewa governorate. © UNMAS*

# VISIBILITY

Throughout 2021, UNMAS Iraq continued to profile and advocate for the generous contributions of its multiple donors and partners. The importance of mine action in Iraq was mainstreamed through high-level documents, briefing notes, and presentations to the GoI, other UN entities and the international community, as well as through social media advocacy.

This year witnessed the launch of several major communication products, including the UNMAS written and produced gender drama *Safe Home*, the release of a compiled narrative book from the field *My Sinjar Reflections*, as well as the premiere of Netherlands-sponsored UNMAS documentary film *Recovering from Da'esh: Women at the Front Lines*.

## Highlights of 2021

### Media Engagements (Articles/Interviews)

- » [Runners World](#)
- » [The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction](#)
- » [Al Hurra Iraq](#)

### Newsletters

- » [1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021](#)
- » [2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021](#)
- » [3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021](#)

### Videos

- » [DSRSG Visit to Tel Afar](#)
- » [CMAP Ramadan Message 2021](#)
- » [EORE Park Opening Ceremony in Mosul](#)

### Major Projects

- » [eBook "My Sinjar Reflections"](#)
- » [TV Drama Series "Safe Home"](#)

UNMAS in Iraq would like to thank all of its donors who contributed to explosive hazard management, explosive ordnance risk education, and technical support activities in 2021.



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