



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

For more information:

Pehr Lodhammar
Senior Programme Manager
UNMAS Iraq
lodhammar@un.org

Paul Heslop
Chief of Programme
UNMAS New York
heslop@un.org

[Website](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Shorthand](#)

September 2018

IRAQ

Programme Highlights

The Right to Peace - Playing Cello in Mosul



Photo: Maestro Karim Wasfi playing his cello in the destroyed buildings of Al-Shifa Hospital Complex (© UNMAS)

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” (Universal Declaration, Article 3). These elements build the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. What does “The Right to Peace” mean to you?

To UNMAS, peace is achieved by creating a safe environment for people to live in, without the threat posed by explosive hazards.

Arts, especially in the form of music, is another way of promoting Peace. Maestro Karim Wasfi and UNMAS in Iraq are promoting peace and reconstruction, which begins with the clearance of explosive hazards. Maestro is playing the cello in the destroyed buildings of Al Shifa Hospital Complex, which was

the second most modern hospital in Iraq before being used as a Da’esh hospital and later as a headquarter for Da’esh during the battle for Mosul.

The complex was littered with explosive hazards including improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Approximately 2,000 explosive hazards have been removed by UNMAS. Started in late November 2017, the clearance of this critical infrastructure was one of the first stabilization tasks of UNMAS in Western Mosul. The hospital is now ready to be rehabilitated for the benefit of Mosul.

This musical piece is dedicated for the work carried out and the people of Mosul. In case you missed it, check out the video in [English](#) and [Arabic](#) !

Risk Education Saves Lives

Um Ismael and her family attended a risk education session in an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp near Fallujah, facilitated by the Danish Demining Group (DDG), one of UNMAS implementing partners.

Um Ismael and her son Mohammed went to check on the family home before the family left the camp. They immediately noticed some strange toys lying around the house and wires attached to the TV screen.

Based on the session they received, she suspected that the house was booby-trapped. Um Ismael contacted the local security forces who removed a number of IEDs inside the house and in the garden.

When Um Ismael told her story to DDG, she said she was happy that her son Mohammed attended the risk education lesson in the camp so they knew what to do when they realized the house was booby-trapped.



Photo: risk education delivered to returning families (©DDG)



UNMAS has \$55M in secured and pledged funds in 2018 and **is seeking an additional \$161M** to support survey and clearance, risk education, capacity enhancement of the Government as well as the Recovery and Resilience Programme and Humanitarian Response Plan. UNMAS Iraq mainstreams gender in Mine Action projects.



Thank you to all our donors for their generous support.

Photoville Exhibition - A Glimpse of Iraq in New York



Photo: 'Safe Home' exhibition in New York (© UNMAS)

UNMAS in Iraq together with the documentary photographer [Cengiz Yar](#) participated in Photoville, an annual photo festival which welcomed about 95,000 visitors this year. Part of the 92 exhibitions, 'Safe Home' was guiding the visitors through Iraq's survival journey.

In Iraq today, an area the size of New York State now liberated from Da'esh remains contaminated by explosive hazards, including explosive remnants of war and IEDs, from conflicts, both past and recent. These hazards contaminate urban and rural environments, water treatment plants and village wells, factories and farmers' fields, schools and hospitals, roads and bridges. Until cleared of the suspicion of hazards, areas must be presumed 'unsafe'. It may take a decade or more to clear West Mosul of explosive hazards and the rest of the liberated area has yet to be surveyed and a time estimate established. Meanwhile, clearance and rehabilitation work proceeds, building-by-building, street-by-street, field-by-field. The people of Iraq, like people everywhere, deserve a safe home. Learn more about the exhibit and Cengiz Yar's experience in Iraq [here!](#)

Mine Action Achievements



Clearance



Survey



Risk Education

UNMAS and Partner Achievements in September

4,126,365 m² of high priority areas surveyed and 314 explosive hazard items removed.

20 assessments and surveys completed in support of stabilization and humanitarian efforts.

2,308 risk education sessions delivered to 32,356 beneficiaries of which 47% were females and 47% were children.

Overall Mine Action sector since January 2016*

365 km² surveyed, 145 km² cleared and 149,933 hazardous items removed.

Risk education sessions delivered to 1,439,870 beneficiaries from at-risk communities.



*Figures for the Mine Action sector are provided by the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA). Statistics obtained from the Government databases might not fully reflect the up-to-date numbers as reports are submitted on a rolling basis. For these reasons, the figures reported have to be considered as the absolute minimum and only reflect the achievements of humanitarian actors (not the Iraqi Security Forces)



Established in 1997, the **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating United Nations mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service of the United Nations located within the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated official. UN Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) the first stand-alone text on mine action, *"Expresses grave concern over the threat that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to civilians, refugees returning to their homes, ...and stresses the need to undertake appropriate measures to mitigate this danger effectively."*