

UN Global Advocate
WHS Announcement Plenary
Monday 23 May 2016, Istanbul

- 10 to 15 % of what is fired in a conflict does not explode;
- A UN flag, a Red Cross or Red Crescent emblem is now a target and no longer a protection;
- In today's conflicts, weapons are no longer indiscriminate: they are used to target civilians, residential areas, refugee camps and health facilities;
- Roads; farm-land; collapsed buildings; schools; key infrastructure: nothing is spared;
- UNMAS estimates that it may take 40 to 50 years to clean up Syria;
- Until risk education and clearance work are carried out, protection work won't be efficient; the return of displaced populations and refugees will continue to be bloody;
- Until roads are cleared, you will continue to pay up to 15 times the price of a 20 truck convoy delivery just for one food air-drop;
- Death from mines, explosive hazards, IEDs is not an incurable disease. The solution is in your hands.
- UNMAS estimates that it will take USD150m a year for a few years to render safe places like Ramadi and other retaken areas in Iraq;
- I want you to integrate mine action into your humanitarian agenda and your budgets, and support the work that UNMAS leads.