



January 2016 News

## UNMAS Continues to Deliver Mine Action in Libya

The ongoing conflict in Libya has resulted in significant explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination across the entire country, impacting public infrastructure such as schools, universities and hospitals.

In the context of a volatile political and security situation UNMAS, like other UN entities, has operated from Tunisia since November 2014. UNMAS is remotely delivering risk-education, explosive ordnance disposal and technical advice to mine action stakeholders. In addition, UNMAS, as part of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), coordinates and funds international efforts to manage insecure arms and ammunition that fuel instability in the country and broader region. Achievement highlights in 2015 include the implementation of a train-the-trainer initiative that delivered community-based risk education to 14,600 beneficiaries and the creation of a database to log unsecured ammunition storage areas. While UNMAS has successfully continued its operations, the Programme has seen a precipitous drop in contributions. At present, the programme has no voluntary funding beyond 31 March 2016.



UNMAS delivers mine-risk education in partnership with Handicap International / Photo: Handicap International

To raise awareness of accomplishments and challenges, as well as to provide a forum for Member States and the United Nations to discuss solutions to mitigate the ERW threat, H. E. Ambassador Inigo Lambertini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy, hosted a luncheon brief at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations. UNMAS Programme Manager Lance Malin discussed the remaining challenges in Libya, proposed initiatives to address these, and highlighted current funding gaps. Mr. Malin also showcased recent UNMAS projects, including a gender-focused risk education initiative and explosive ordnance training work, which have had notable success. Also in

attendance was H.E. Mr. Ibrahim O. A. Dabbashi, Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations, who acknowledged the good work of UNMAS in a complex operating environment.

UNMAS is grateful for the support of the Italian Government in Libya and welcomes its role as Chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) in 2016 and 2017. Other key donors for Libya include the United Kingdom and Japan. UNMAS requires an estimated \$10 million in 2016 to carry out weapons and ammunition management, risk education, the establishment of an operations centre for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) response and, once security permits, clearance operations.

For more information, or to request proposals, please contact Donor Relations Officer, Kurt Chesko, at [chesko@un.org](mailto:chesko@un.org).

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