



Courage of UNMAS staff recognized at SG Awards Ceremony

The United Nations Secretary-General Awards recognize the outstanding work of United Nations staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty or advanced projects with great impact and innovative potential.

During the 2014 Gaza conflict, over 70,000 explosive items were deployed with an estimated 7,000 items failing to explode as intended. The UNMAS Gaza team continues to clear these deep-buried explosive remnants of war with a focus on technically challenging large aerial bombs. To safely dispose of these items, clearance experts are sometimes required to climb down deep excavation shafts to defuse unstable aerial bombs. It is difficult and dangerous work.

Mr. Mark Frankish, UNMAS Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Advisor, and Mr. George Tan, UNMAS Operations Quality Assurance Officer, from UNMAS Gaza team, were recognized for their courage by the Secretary-General at this year's awards ceremony on 25 October 2016.

UNMAS is grateful to the following donors for their recent support of clearance activities in Gaza: Japan, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Italy, Switzerland, Estonia, Poland and the United States (through the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement). To ensure the continuation of this work through 2017, UNMAS requires approximately USD 3.2 million.



Photo UNMAS Gaza

Germany commits EUR 5 million to UNMAS Iraq

The German Federal Foreign Office has announced a contribution of EUR 5 million to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to support UNMAS emergency response in Iraq. Activities funded by Germany include survey and clearance activities to ensure that prioritised locations within retaken areas are free from explosive hazards.

In 2016, Germany is one of the largest donors to UNMAS committing over EUR 6.5 million to UNMAS activities for Colombia, the Territory of Western Sahara and for Iraq. This funding is essential to saving lives, enabling humanitarian access and supporting stabilization activities in some of the most affected communities around the world.



Photo UNMAS Iraq

The full text of the press release can be found here:

http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/pr/20161024_Press%20Release_German%20Contribution.pdf

For more information, please contact Donor Relations Officer Kurt Chesko at chesko@un.org.

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