

# Addressing explosive hazards in Iraq



## UNMAS Iraq Programme update

---

Presentation to the Mine Action Support Group  
New York, 23 October 2017



# UNMAS Iraq

## *‘Enabling safe return, stabilization and reconstruction’*

- In 2015, UNMAS deployed to Iraq to address the complex and unprecedented IED threat in areas retaken from ISIL, to support the safe return of displaced people.
- Specifically, UNMAS:
  - Provides **Explosive Hazard Management (EHM) response** in support of humanitarian and stabilization efforts;
  - Delivers **risk education** at the community and national/regional levels; and
  - **Enhances** Government entities’ **capacity** to manage, regulate and coordinate EHM.
- Through a “blended approach”, UNMAS coordinates survey, clearance and risk education in retaken areas, in direct support of the Government/UN stabilization plan and humanitarian activities.
- UNMAS coordinates closely with UN partners:
  - As the lead of the Mine Action Sub-Cluster, under the UN Protection Cluster; and
  - In support of the UNDP-led Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) priorities and tasking.

# Outcomes in Mosul

## The High Court, West Mosul

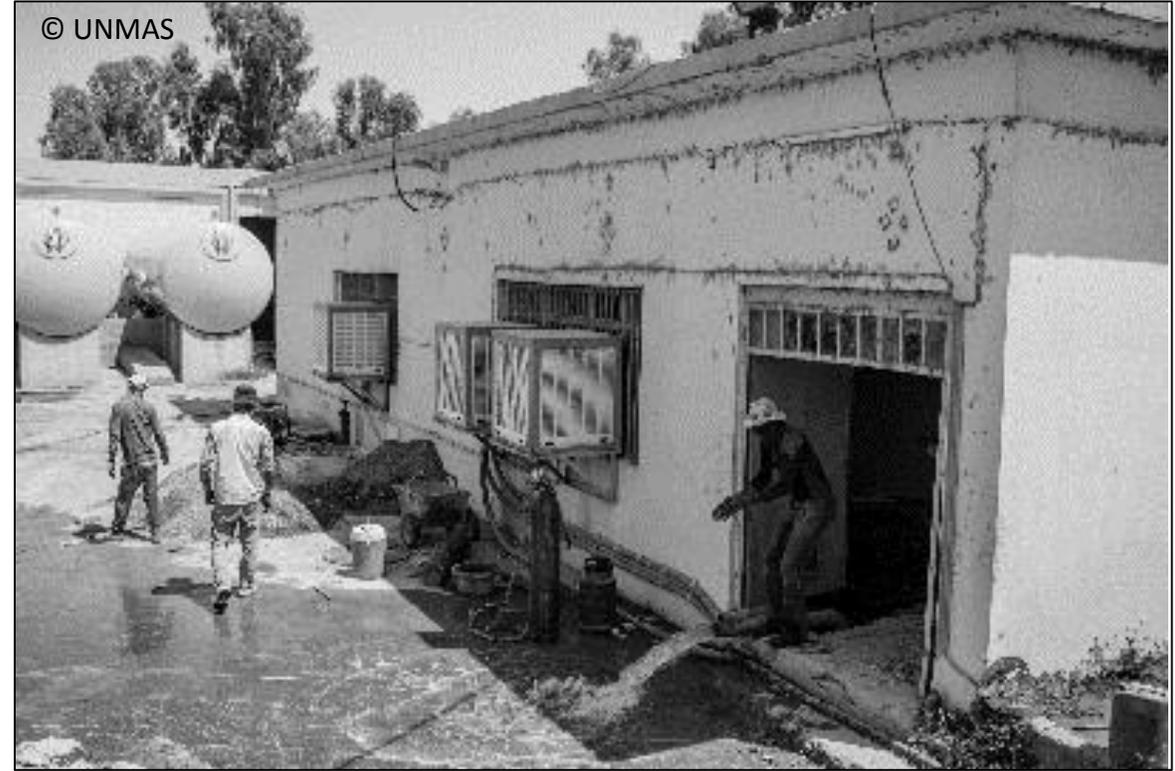
© UNMAS



UNMAS cleared explosive items, including grenades, aerial-delivered improvised munitions, IEDs and components, and over forty suicide vests from the site, enabling UNDP to rehabilitate the building. The High Court is now functioning, and is a powerful symbol of the return of justice to a city that only weeks earlier had been occupied by ISIL.

## Al Qasoor Water Treatment Plant, East Mosul

© UNMAS



Following UNMAS explosive hazard intervention, engineers were able to commence rehabilitation efforts. The water treatment plant has re-opened and provides clean and safe water to over 300,000 people, serving 34 neighbourhoods in East Mosul.

# Risk Education



**Two LED screens** showed Risk Education messages in August 2017 at Erbil International Airport, targeting people visiting retaken areas. One screen was inside the airport terminal at the arrival hall and the other outside at the airport junction. Risk Education cards are being distributed at checkpoints on the roads leading to the liberated areas.

# Capacity Enhancement

- 1. Mine Action authority capability to manage, regulate and coordinate a response:**
  - Formal training
  - Technical guidance and advice (daily)
  - Support national planning, tasking and prioritization capacity, including on victim assistance planning and programming
  - Support to attend international forums
  
- 2. Training support for Ministry of Interior local police and police elements:**
  - Explosive hazard first responder (identify, mark and report)
  - Explosive Ordnance Disposal and IED disposal
  
- 3. Cross-ministerial institutional support:**
  - Embed staff in relevant humanitarian and stabilization coordination mechanisms
  - Support national standards for Iraq
  - Strategic advocacy plan that goes across various ministries
    - Increase number of qualified operators through timely registration and accreditation
    - Allow access to explosives/energetics
    - Remove barriers to ensure timely access to operational sites and the availability of specialized equipment

# Way Forward

**For 2017 and 2018, UNMAS has received USD 35.6 million of the required USD 250 million.**

UNMAS recognizes that the explosive hazard management activities and innovative solutions in Iraq will form the blueprint for all other dynamic, complex IED threat environments. UNMAS continues to ensure challenges and lessons learned are captured in a systematic way and can be transferred to other programmes globally.

**UNMAS thanks its donors for their continued support in Iraq.**

