Mine Action for Syria
Mine Action Support Group
9 February 2017
Context

1). On-going conflict: Mine Action perspective

a. Use of indiscriminate weapons in populated and residential areas;
b. Targeting of infrastructure protected by international law;
c. 6.3 million people living in highly contaminated areas, with more than 2 million children exposed.
d. Explosive hazards as the number two protection concern for the population

2). Explosive Hazard contamination affects:
   a. Protection of civilians
   b. Effective delivery of humanitarian assistance
   d. Lives and livelihoods
d. Social development and economic recovery
e. Stabilization efforts
The UNMAS Syria Response programme was established in August 2015, at the request of the UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC) in response to the humanitarian emergency in Syria, opening office in Gaziantep, Turkey the same month.

UNMAS Syria Response coordinates, trains, advises, assists, and advocates on behalf of the mine action sector.

UNMAS is fully integrated in the UN Whole of Syria (WoS) response and leads the Mine Action Sub-Cluster (MASC)

As of end of January 2017, USD 5,343,333 secured.
• OCHA (USD 3,174,352)
• Japan (USD 1,000,000)
• Denmark (USD 900,000)
• Italy (USD 778,542)
UNMAS Syria Response Mine Action Activities

UNMAS together with UNICEF and partners continue risk education (RE). To date, 2,051,280 people received RE, the vast majority children.

Coordinating, planning and prioritising mine action sector activities

Workshops; Information Management, RE, IED Threat Mitigation

Contamination Impact Survey, northern and north eastern Syria

9,621 people received risk education sessions. 13,050 risk education items printed out and being distributed

Contamination Impact Survey, southern Syria

Contamination Impact Survey, north eastern Syria

Acquisition of equipment for mine action activities.
Challenges

- Access issues for UN staff and humanitarian actors and equipment
- Regional Security and Political situation
- Sensitivity of operations
- Collecting data/statistics
Way Forward

Coordination and strengthening of mine action within the Whole of Syria response

Continue to promote, develop and expand mine action activities, building upon the core pillars of Clearance, Risk Education, Victim Assistance, Advocacy and Stockpile Destruction through the mine action sector

Mine action sector still requires USD 23.3 million in 2017 for a rapid and effective humanitarian mine action response
Context

- Explosive hazards in areas liberated from ISIL (Da’esh) impede security, stabilization and humanitarian efforts

- Conflict is protracting and crisis is deepening – challenging the response capacity of the Government of Iraq, UN, and international community

- Explosive hazards have been used/hidden in residential buildings, along roads and key infrastructure sites (e.g. power plants)

- Impact of contamination:
  - Impedes stabilization and humanitarian assistance
  - Accidents and loss of life
  - Forced displacement/inability to return
  - Hinders recovery and reconstruction

- Legacy contamination/mine fields still exist
UNMAMAS in Iraq

**UNMAMAS is leading and coordinating explosive hazard threat mitigation management, specifically in the following areas:**

1. **Emergency response**
   Combining national and international commercial companies and NGOs, enabling survey and clearance response in areas retaken from ISIL, in direct support of the Government/UN stabilization and humanitarian plans.

2. **Capacity development**
   UNMAMAS implements training and mentoring programme for selected security forces and mine action authorities. This builds on existing EOD capacities to conduct longer term clearance operations in the support of the emergency response. Capacity development activities will expand into 2017 and 2018 to include long term residential systematic clearance and risk education.

3. **Risk Education**
   Coordinated with the United Nations Protection Cluster/mine action sub-cluster, risk education is provided to IDPs, returnees and host communities alike; directly addressing the threat of IEDs.

4. **Victim Assistance**
   UNMAMAS assists the Government enhance its support to victims of explosive hazard incidents and accidents.
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<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mosul Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missions</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fallujah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clearance tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area cleared</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasks include Stabilization Tasks (Electricity, Education, Health, Water, Sewage, Transport, Municipality, Residential, Agriculture)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramadi</td>
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<td>Area surveyed</td>
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<td>Entire Iraq</td>
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<td>Capac. Dev.</td>
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Achievements - Risk Education/Awareness

- **Risk Education/Awareness**

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<tr>
<th>NGO</th>
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<td>DDG</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHSCO</td>
<td>Anbar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bustan</td>
<td>Anbar - Mosul</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAG</td>
<td>Mosul</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTIMA</td>
<td>Falluja</td>
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**Photo:** RE Ninewah – Mosul Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29,637</td>
<td>26,450</td>
<td>10,616</td>
<td>13,028</td>
<td>79,731</td>
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Way Forward

1. Expand emergency response operations within high priority areas, in newly retaken areas:
   • Threat Impact Assessments, Survey and Clearance and Risk Education in Ninewah, Salah ah Din and Al Anbar

2. Continued capacity development with mine action authorities and local security sector services
   • Basic IED threat mitigation training and mentoring, as well as first responder training with local police/civil defence

3. Continued risk education, coordinated with the United Nations Protection Cluster/mine action sub-cluster
   • Intensify risk education campaigns in high priority, newly retaken areas with a focus on urban areas and IED contamination to support IDP returns

4. Initiate victim assistance support to national authorities
   • Conduct comprehensive study to identify needs and strengthen the Government’s victim assistance planning and programming

It is anticipated that USD 112 million will be required for continued and expanded mine action operations in 2017. So far, USD 16.3 million of this amount has been secured.