



UNMAS

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**



SAFE GROUND. SAFE STEPS. SAFE HOME
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The UNMAS Annual Report 2022

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**SAFE GROUND.
SAFE STEPS.
SAFE HOME.**



Female deminer at an International Women's Day event, March 2022. Photo: UNITAMS

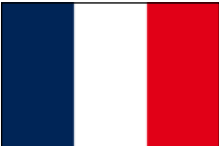
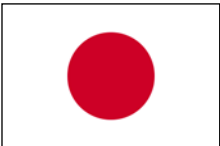
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Acronyms

A4P+	Action for Peacekeeping + Priorities for 2021-2023
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
EDD	Explosive Detection Dogs
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal - the detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and disposal of explosive ordnance.
EORE	Explosive ordnance risk education
ERW	Explosive remnants of war - unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance.
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IED	Improvised explosive device - A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract.
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NDM-UN	International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers
NMAC	National Mine Action Centre
NTS	Non-technical survey
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SAA	Small arms ammunition – smaller than 20mm in caliber
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
TCCs	Troop contributing countries
ToT	Training of Trainers
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNPOL	United Nations Police
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management

Contributors

			
Belgium	Canada	Denmark	Estonia
			
European Union	France	Germany	Italy
			
Japan	Liechtenstein	Luxembourg	Netherlands
			
New Zealand	Poland	Republic of Korea	Spain
			
Sweden	Switzerland	United Kingdom	United States
			
MPTF	UNDP	UNOPS	UNICEF

Foreword from the Secretary-General

Today, millions of people live amidst the chaos and violence of armed conflicts, often facing grinding poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to healthcare and education.

For these people, mines and other explosive ordnance represent another deadly burden to bear. Littered across rural and highly populated urban areas alike, these devices of death can make every step a danger for people simply trying to live their daily lives, and for civilians fleeing conflict zones.

But for many war-torn communities, this deadly legacy looms long after the fighting has stopped – especially when roads and fields are mined, and when children find and play with shiny objects that explode.

As this annual report demonstrates, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is a vital part of the solution. From helping schools, hospitals and businesses to re-open, to ensuring that refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) can return home safely, to protecting peacekeepers from the threat of improvised explosive devices, UNMAS is helping communities and countries heal following the trauma of conflict.

Meanwhile, the Service's sea-mine expertise has supported the design of the Black Sea Grain Initiative helping to ensure the safe export of grain and fertilizer from Ukrainian ports in the midst of conflict, and the World Food Programme's lifesaving operations in humanitarian hotspots around the world.

I call on the global community to support the Service's vital work through strengthened human and financial resources, and by ratifying and fully implementing the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Now is the time to come together to realize our vision of a world free of explosive threats, and build a safer and more secure world for all people.



UN Photo / Mark Garten

António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Message from the Director

In 2022, the 21 UNMAS programmes enabled humanitarian responses and increased the safety and security of civilians and peacekeepers. We scaled up efforts in Syria and provided expert support to address the evolving threats in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We continue to guide United Nations system-wide responses to the growing threat of IEDs.

We responded rapidly when requested by Member States and Resident Coordinators and delivered mandates in United Nations peace operations. We also welcomed the first United Nations Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Situations, Mr. Giles Duley.

UNMAS staff are experienced and committed, but our work is only possible with the financial support and political engagement of Member States. We are grateful for the support of our donors and partners.

In Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syria, UNMAS operations were solely funded through generous contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. Voluntary contributions also supplemented assessed resources to reinforce the delivery of mission mandates enabling humanitarian demining and capacity development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan and the Territory of Western Sahara.

The Security Council continued to mandate mine action in 14 peace operations to support political solutions to conflict, train peacekeepers before and after deployment and improve their safety and security on the ground, extend accountable state authority and security sector reform, and create conditions conducive to humanitarian response.

I am proud to share the 2022 UNMAS Annual Report.



Photo: UNMAS

Ilene Cohn

Director, United Nations Mine Action Service



Female deminer at an International Women's Day event, March 2022.
Photo: MONUSCO / Myriam Asmani

Message from the Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards

It is hard to comprehend that even today, in 2023, landmines still pose a physical threat to thousands upon thousands of people all over the world. A cowardly, lurking, deadly presence that maims and kills children and stops whole populations from going about their daily business.

I joined UNMAS, initially a three-year commitment, to support their gargantuan efforts to rid the planet of these invisible killers. Now, nearly a decade later as my tenure draws to a close I urge you, compel you, to continue acknowledging and supporting the essential work that the United Nations is doing. From clearing ground so children can play and walk to school without fear, to patrolling roads for peacekeeping, training local people in the skills they need to keep themselves safe, and rebuilding communities after the devastating results of war and conflict. UNMAS has a fundamental part to play in an ever-changing dangerous world. So, please do keep their essential work in the forefront of your minds.

It has been a privilege to work hand in hand with all the many incredible individuals who drive this invaluable organization towards the goal of creating a world that is free from the threat of mines and other explosive hazards.

Thank you for this opportunity, it has been an honour.

UNMAS [thanks Mr. Daniel Craig](#) for his commitment and support to the vision of the United Nations of a world free of the threat of mines and explosive hazards and mobilizing resources for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. Over the years, Mr. Craig has participated in international meetings, raised more than a million dollars for United Nations mine action work, raised the profile of mine action with the media, become a Champion of the UN Safe Ground campaign and visited deminers in the field.



Daniel Craig, the UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines And Explosive Hazards visits a minefield in Cyprus to draw attention to the UN's long expressed goal of achieving a mine-free Cyprus for all.
UN Photo



Daniel Craig, the UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines And Explosive Hazards behind the scenes during a 2017 fundraising campaign for UNMAS called "Meet Daniel Craig and Take Home an Aston Martin".
Photo: OMAZE



Daniel Craig, the UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines And Explosive Hazards and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
UN Photo

UNMAS female deminer in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
Photo: MONUSCO / Myriam Asmani



Building a Safer World: Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home

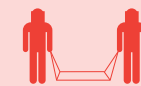
Introduction

UNMAS has repeatedly adapted to the operational, security and political constraints since it was established 25 years ago, and 2022 was no exception. Despite tumultuous developments in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, and Ukraine, and uncertainty in funding, UNMAS removed and destroyed tens of thousands of items of explosive ordnance, improved the safety of millions of people, strengthened the national capacity of partner governments, and reduced the threat and impact of explosive ordnance attacks against United Nations peace operations personnel.

The [UNMAS Strategic Plan](#) aims to maximise UNMAS contributions to the successful implementation of United Nations peace operations mandates and the delivery of humanitarian assistance consistent with the [United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023](#) and the United Nations goal of a world free of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munitions, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

1



Coherent approaches to mine action are delivered.

2



Protection from the risks and impacts of explosive ordnance is strengthened.

3



Victims of explosive ordnance have equal access to relevant social services and participate fully in social and economic life.

4



National leadership and capacities for effective mine action are strengthened.

5



Organizational accountability and effectiveness are enhanced.

Safer for Civilians

Explosive ordnance contamination continued to endanger the lives of civilians, killing and maiming indiscriminately; hampering the rehabilitation of public infrastructure, including schools and roads; constituting a major obstacle to the safe movement of civilians and return of displaced populations to their homes; undermining the safe delivery of humanitarian aid and limiting safe access to services; and worsening food insecurity.

Damage to and destruction of homes, essential infrastructure and places of worship continued to compound civilian suffering. While explosive hazards harm indiscriminately, children continued to be at exceptionally high risk of death or injury.

Displaced populations are particularly vulnerable to explosive ordnance threats because of their movement in unfamiliar areas, on highly contaminated roads, and lack of awareness of dangers hidden in the rubble of their homes when returning home. In response, UNMAS liaised with displaced persons, collected data to identify dangerous areas and provided explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to people living in contaminated communities.

UNMAS is working with the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement Robert Piper, and he has focused on 16 priority countries, 11 are where UNMAS is working.



South Sudan: In March 2022, UNMAS received a request for assistance from a remote village in Canal, Jonglei State, where IDPs had resettled on a known minefield due to displacement induced by flooding. UNMAS deployed a mechanical clearance team to the area, which located and destroyed 25 anti-personnel mines, making safe over 17,000 square meters of land for the resettlement of 1,500 people while at the same time providing sufficient space for agricultural activities, reducing reliance on aid and enhancing the resilience of the community. In another example, UNMAS delivered EORE to 15,000 (4,400 girls, 4,500 boys, 3,600 women and 2,500 men) newly arrived IDPs in Malakal, Upper Nile State.



Libya: UNMAS worked closely with the Libyan Authorities and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support the safe return of 26,500 IDPs displaced from six districts of Murzuq in southwest Libya due to armed conflict in 2019. UNMAS provided EORE to 800 people at their point of departure and arrival to help them navigate the journey safely and settle into their new environment with reduced risk from explosive ordnance.

Safer for Peacekeepers

Explosive ordnance incidents, which include IED attacks, killed 16 peacekeepers and injured 72. Compared to 2021, there was a slight rise in the number of fatalities and a small drop in the number of injured peacekeepers. Many of the explosive devices, including the one that killed three peacekeepers in the Central African Republic (CAR), were victim-activated and, therefore, indiscriminate. In Mali alone, there were 163 explosive incidents, of which 46 directly targeted personnel of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). There is clear evidence that peacekeepers are more likely to survive attacks when properly trained and equipped. In MINUSMA, certain contingents have encountered explosive incidents without suffering a single fatality, while others sustained casualties.

Against this backdrop, UNMAS contributed to the UN Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and its seven A4P+ priorities, emphasising the "capabilities and mindsets" workstream. In CAR, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Mali, UNMAS developed strategies to respond to the changing nature of the explosive ordnance threat in addition to building the national capacity in weapons and ammunition management intended to advance the political processes by supporting the extension of capable and accountable state authority.

UNMAS prioritises implementation of the Independent Strategic Review (ISR) of the United Nations Response to Explosive Ordnance Threats (S/2021/1042), which outlines over 80 cross-cutting and mission-specific recommendations to ensure peacekeepers' readiness, capacity and capability to operate within a high-threat explosive ordnance environment.

To synchronise collaboration between Member States, United Nations Headquarters and field operations in implementing the ISR recommendations and to monitor progress, the United Nations established the EO/IED Threat Mitigation Working Group, co-chaired by UNMAS and the Uniformed Capabilities Support Division of the Department of Support (DOS).

UNMAS focused on upstream and downstream measures to increase police/troop-contributing countries (P/TCC) preparedness, including by adapting and refining pre-deployment and in-mission training of P/TCCs; supporting training validation of national and regional training centres to prepare current and future TCCs in collaboration with the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) and the Integrated Training Service (ITS); and expanding in-mission training such as in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) focused on creating search and detect capability. In addition, the Service provided expertise to mission-level counter-IED working groups to develop and implement responsive and preventative measures such as expanding in-mission skills training and developing forensic exploitation capabilities.

The UNMAS IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (TMAT), in support of OMA and the DOS, addressed gaps in the capacity of peacekeepers' contingents by reviewing Statement of Unit Requirements and Contingent Owned Equipment lists to ensure adequate capabilities were available to high-risk missions. The Entebbe-based IED TMAT Mobile Training Team collaborated with OMA and ITS to support the validation of national and regional training centres preparing current and future troops.



The Egyptian contingent of MINUSMA, based in Douentza in the Mopti region of central Mali, consists of 200 peacekeepers who provide security for logistical convoys and field operations. This team is mainly composed of women who search for and detect improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during logistical convoys and long and short-range patrols. UN Photo / Harandane Dicko

Safer for Humanitarians

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) is a coordination platform led by UNMAS to ensure that the work of global, regional, and local mine action actors in humanitarian contexts is timely, coherent, and effective. In 2022, the mine action sector reached over 8 million people across 18 humanitarian emergencies with mine clearance, risk education, and victim assistance, thus saving lives, limbs and livelihoods.

As conflict surged in Ukraine, at the request of OCHA and the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), UNMAS deployed an expert to support response planning and the opening of humanitarian corridors. UNMAS expertise was called upon again, this time by the Secretary-General, to propose solutions for the [sea mines blocking the Black Sea](#), helping to facilitate the export of food and fertiliser from Ukraine and Russia to millions facing acute food insecurity, including in the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

In response to the dire humanitarian situation resulting from the conflict in Ethiopia, UNMAS conducted rapid explosive risk assessments at sites of humanitarian interventions and along humanitarian corridors in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions. In Afghanistan, UNMAS carried out technical surveys in the provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz and Uruzgan, sharing information on contamination with humanitarian responders from communities which were previously not accessible and off-limits due to conflict.

Under the MA AoR, UNMAS led efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of mine action responses in collaboration with other sectors, for example, through information exchange on integrating housing, land and property (HLP) rights in mine action. Extensive technical support was provided to new MA AoR coordinators in Myanmar and Ukraine; thirteen mine action professionals benefited from the Specialization Programme in Protection Coordination jointly run with the GPC and other AoRs (child protection, gender-based violence, and HLP); UNMAS participated in regional technical workshops in Dakar, Nairobi and Istanbul to facilitate peer to peer exchanges; and, under UNMAS leadership, the [Mine Action Area of Responsibility Strategy 2022-2024](#), was rolled out in 17 countries.



Kindergarten children participate in an EORE session which uses age-appropriate and fun teaching methods including a parachute, songs, and puppets.
Photo: UNMAS / Mohammed Al Hennaw



Secretary-General António Guterres travelled to Istanbul and oversaw the departure of two ships involved in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a UN-brokered operation to bring urgently needed hunger relief to the Horn of Africa. UNMAS supported the Black Sea Grain Initiative by providing sea mine expertise.

UN Photo / Mark Garten

Advocating for a Safer World

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

Under the theme “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home”, UNMAS promoted 4 April, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, by highlighting the achievements of the mine action community and celebrating the work of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in a year marking the thirtieth anniversary of its founding and twenty-fifth of its reception of the Nobel Peace Prize. At United Nations Headquarters in New York, UNMAS held the first-ever Mine Action Symposium in the chamber of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Speakers included: the Special Envoy for the universalization of the Mine Ban Convention HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein from Jordan; the ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth; ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech; a storyteller and photographer Mr. Giles Duley, an IED-survivor and the protagonist of the Vice series “One Armed Chef”; the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards Mr. Daniel Craig; MAG Ambassador Ms. Rosamund Pike; Executive Director of Humanity & Inclusion Mr. Jeff Meer and many more. Events commemorating the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance were held in Abyei, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.



Opening of UNMAS Exhibit “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home”.
UN Photo / Loey Felipe



Giles Duley, CEO and Founder of the Legacy of War Foundation, delivers a keynote address to the first Mine Action Symposium on theme “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home”.
UN Photo / Loey Felipe

Engaging Global Advocates

Mr. Daniel Craig, the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, addressed the 30th anniversary of demining work in Cambodia, released a statement for the 4 April celebrations and spoke to the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), where he re-emphasized the call for its universalization.

In December 2022, Mr. Giles Duley became the first United Nations Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Situations. Mr. Duley is a documentary photographer, writer and storyteller who lost three limbs in an IED accident in Afghanistan. He later established an NGO to help people with disabilities in conflict and post-conflict settings. UNMAS will work with him and United Nations, NGO and national authority partners to advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives. The Global Advocate will ensure that the voices of those disabled by explosive ordnance are heard in the larger conversations on persons with disabilities in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes. Mr. Duley will complement the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Engaging Member States

Led by UNMAS, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) engaged in the work of the disarmament treaty bodies through statements at major meetings, including the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and conferences on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, urging States to join these treaties, to prioritise resources for mine clearance, and offering continued support to affected states. In addition, UNMAS and Canada organised a side event on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee on the pertinent topic of IEDs in West Africa, which garnered significant interest among participants, including Member States, plus a lively exchange of views. UNMAS also delivered briefings in two virtual side events during the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians (PoC), focusing on implementing Security Council resolution 2475 (2019) on persons with disabilities in conflict and on urban warfare and displacement. These side events underscored UNMAS inclusive approach to PoC issues and included various co-organizers from the UN, Member States and civil society organisations.

Following successful engagement by UNMAS with Member States, the Security Council strengthened mandate language related to mine action. Resolution 2656 (2022) on Libya emphasised the need to secure and effectively manage stockpiles, which helps limit illicit access to explosive material. In Resolution 2666 (2022) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Security Council emphasised the importance of IED forensics, which will help to address the emerging and evolving threat there. In both cases, the adopted language will enable UNMAS to engage with national authorities to address explosive ordnance threats. In recognition of the impact of explosive ordnance contamination in Afghanistan, Security Council resolution 2626 (2020) mandated the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to coordinate explosive ordnance threat mitigation measures and integrate a mine action capacity into the mission.

The Mine Action Support Group (MASG), constituting over 30 donor states and established in 1998, is an important information-sharing forum. France, as the Chair of the MASG in 2022, organised two in-person meetings and one virtual meeting, where UNMAS and IACG-MA partners United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF advocated for donor attention in Armenia, Myanmar, Nagorno-Karabakh, Syria, and Ukraine.

On 18 November 2022 in Dublin, more than 80 Member States endorsed the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA). The success of these efforts was facilitated by the effective coordination among United Nations actors supporting leading Member States, in which UNMAS and other IACG-MA members played an active role. UNMAS continues to support evidence-based advocacy efforts concerning the humanitarian impact of the use of EWIPA and contribute to the follow-up, implementation and universalization of the Declaration.

Safer and Improved Operations

New and improved IMAS

As custodian of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), UNMAS chairs both the IMAS Steering Group and the Review Board. In 2022, the IMAS Steering Group and Review Board continued efforts to improve safety, efficiency and effectiveness in mine action operations. One new and six amended standards were adopted in 2022, covering various topics, including information management, training, managing human remains, marking of explosive ordnance, explosive ordnance disposal and victim assistance. Four additional protocols were developed to address animal detection systems, EOD and IED Disposal competencies and EORE for IEDs. The standards reflect a broad consensus among mine action operators, national authorities, donors, the United Nations and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

NDM-UN25

The 25th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN25) occurred at the World Intellectual Property Organization premises in Geneva from 23 to 24 June 2022. Under the overarching theme of “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home”, the meeting allowed mine action leaders to meet in person for two days of meaningful exchanges and networking to address the challenges facing the mine action sector. Over 500 participants joined the event. UNMAS, on behalf of the IACG-MA, thanks the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland for its generous contribution that made the event possible.

GICHD also provided essential support, especially in coordinating the sponsorship programme of the meeting.



Building a Stronger UNMAS

Enhanced Accountability for Mine Action Delivery

UNMAS continued to fulfil its responsibility as the service provider for mine action for all Secretariat entities, with a focus on bolstering the delivery of mine action services and oversight of programme design and performance. At the request of the General Assembly in the 2021/22 budget resolutions for nine peacekeeping operations, UNMAS facilitated an independent review of its delivery model. The General Assembly will consider the outcome of the Review at its second resumed 77th session in 2023. It will inform further measures to enhance the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of UNMAS delivery.

Gender Parity Efforts

UNMAS continued to take measures to achieve gender balance among its staff. At the end of 2022, 55 per cent of its headquarters staff in New York, Geneva and field locations were women, 39 per cent of its international team in its programmes, and 45 per cent of the programme's national staff were women. The Director and Deputy-Director of UNMAS are women.



Medical demonstration during UNMAS training in Gwaza, Borno State.
Photo: UNMAS



UNMAS 2022 SNAPSHOT >>



21 PROGRAMMES AROUND THE WORLD



UNMAS staff in UNHQ & Geneva

56 (55% women)



International staff

203 (39% women)



National staff

320 (45% women)



Locally recruited personnel

2,594

DESTROYED/RENDERED SAFE

109,976

explosive
remnants of war

5,970

landmines

397

IEDs

CONFIRMED SAFE

159

sq. km.
land

8,468

km.
roads

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED

1

RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED



To more than **2.6 million people**
impacted by explosive ordnance

VICTIMS ASSISTED

742

TRAINED



7,728 healthcare workers,
police, teachers, uniformed
peacekeepers and national
authorities

RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERVENTION

UKRAINE

UNMAS PROGRAMMES



UNMAS demining team operating in Abyei as part of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).
Photo: UNMAS / Irina Punga

ABYEI



Overview

Conflict dynamics in Abyei were characterized by tension emanating from the annual migration of the Misseriya people and their cattle, hostilities between the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka communities, resulting in loss of life and displacement from the town of Agok and other parts of southern Abyei, as well as an increase in the prevalence of explosive ordnance, weapons and ammunition.

In response, UNMAS supported humanitarian efforts by assessing potential explosive ordnance contamination in areas identified for establishing IDPs settlements.

The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) transitioned from having a single troop-contributing country (TCC) to having contingents from multiple TCCs. As a result, UNMAS prioritized the training, equipping and advising of newly arrived TCCs in UNISFA.

Flooding of land and roads following consecutive rainy seasons that have become heavier and longer have impacted clearance by shortening the dry season operational period and hampering access. As a result, UNMAS operations were hindered by extreme weather conditions in 2022.

Mandate

Since the establishment of UNISFA in Security Council resolution 1990 (2011), the Security Council has included demining assistance in the mission's mandate. The latest resolution (S/RES/2660) extended UNISFA's mandate until 15 November 2023.

Enabling Mission mobility and advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

UNMAS efforts, including threat assessments and explosive ordnance clearance, enable UNISFA mobility and the effective functioning of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. To promote the Mission's mobility, UNMAS supplied 16 mine-protected vehicles to UNISFA military contingents from Bangladesh, Ghana, India and Pakistan, pending the deployment of contingent-owned equipment.

UNMAS also destroyed weapons and ammunition collected by UNISFA as part of its Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme and provided technical advice to contingents on weapons and ammunition management (WAM), consistent with International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, thereby increasing the safety of mission personnel.

Conflicts in southern Abyei have led to a surge in internal displacement and new explosive ordnance contamination. Photo: UNMAS UNISFA / Romeo Tete

Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

UNMAS activities also facilitate the voluntary return of displaced populations to their communities and the delivery of humanitarian aid to communities in need.

Building on the success of an EORE comic book issued in English and Arabic in 2021, men and women from the UNMAS EORE teams developed drama skits targeting children, where characters from the comic books were brought to life.

UNMAS also provided explosive threat awareness training to civilian staff, the Force, United Nations Police and Military Liaison Officers, facilitating the Mission's implementation of its protection of civilians mandate. Existing materials were adapted to meet the needs of new TCCs. The Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War pocket guide was produced in six languages - Bangla, Chinese, English, Hindi, Urdu and Vietnamese. UNMAS produced a safety induction video, recorded in-country, explaining local conditions and explosive ordnance risks to increase reach and to support troop rotations and remote and on-site peacekeeper training.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the UNISFA budget.



UNMAS UNISFA destroyed 73,500 small arms ammunition, 30 weapons and 480 hand grenades received from departing UNAMID peacekeepers.
Photo: UNMAS UNISFA / Bojan Vukovic

NEW SAFETY INDUCTION MATERIALS AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Mr. Bojan Vukovic, Programme Officer at UNMAS, stated:

"It is significant to note that as a result of UNMAS EORE projects, landmines or ERW have not injured a single UNISFA staff member since 2011."



UNMAS works to ensure that movements of UNISFA, JBVMM, humanitarians and civilians within the Abyei Area, are not interrupted or canceled due to the presence of mines or explosive remnants of war.
Photo: UNMAS UNISFA / Bojan Vukovic

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MINE ACTION

The recent rainy season resulted in substantial floods in the Abyei Area, impacting the work and lives of communities and peacekeepers alike: main supply routes were inaccessible for over five months; IDPs faced challenges in locating dry locations in which to settle; pastoralists had to search for dry grazing land and clean water and UNISFA mobility, efficiency and productivity were hampered. Against this backdrop, UNMAS identified new training sites in dry locations and provided EORE in six areas not impacted by flooding.

Mr. Romeo Tete, UNMAS Contracts and Compliance Officer stated:

"Resilience is the best word to describe UNMAS and how we all work together to achieve our goals when others might think it is impossible."

AFGHANISTAN



Overview

Afghans faced unprecedented political, economic and humanitarian challenges. The political changes in the country multiplied food insecurity and unemployment, decimated health and education systems and triggered a crisis of women and girls' human rights. The 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview states that over half the population (24.4 million) require humanitarian assistance.

Following a significant decrease in conflict-related security incidents in late 2021, they climbed steadily throughout 2022. UNMAS continued to operate a United Nations-led humanitarian mine action coordination centre that was established following the political changes in August 2021 and the suspension of financial support by the international community to the de facto authority Directorate of Mine Action Coordination of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority.

Mandate

The presence of explosive hazards, including IEDs, continues to maim and kill innocent civilians, impede humanitarian response, and block Afghans' access to basic services and livelihoods. On 17 March 2022, the Security Council adopted resolution 2626 (2022), which mandated UNAMA to "...support, within its mandate, existing mechanisms to improve the overall security situation in Afghanistan, provide

assessments of the explosive ordnance threat and its impact on civilians, including children, advise and coordinate explosive ordnance threat mitigation measures in support of humanitarian and development initiatives, support the coordination of the humanitarian mine action sector..." for the first time.



A demining operation conducted in Mulla Abdul Ghani village, Dasht Archi district of Kunduz Province. Photo: UNMAS

Enabling local populations, humanitarian and development actors to safely use previously contaminated areas

IEDs and ERW are the leading cause of civilian casualties in Afghanistan. Through UNMAS support, the sector scaled up the requisite technical skills and equipment required to respond to the complexity and scope of this threat. The sector conducted survey and quick response operations in four provinces, surveyed over 3600 villages, responded to humanitarian requests and enabled United Nations agencies to operate safely. Facilitating humanitarian operations remains an essential criterion for mine action activities in Afghanistan. To this end, UNMAS ensured mine action needs were included in the 2022 One-UN Transitional Engagement Framework and the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.

UNMAS, as the lead of the Mine Action Sub-Cluster of the Afghanistan Protection Cluster, collaborated closely with other United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations. In response to earthquakes in Paktika and Khost Provinces, mine action partners deployed ambulances, quick response teams and machinery to support aid delivery. To minimise casualties and maximise access, UNMAS also shared EORE materials and a map of explosive ordnance-affected areas around the earthquake's epicentre with the humanitarian aid community.

UNMAS regularly participated in Humanitarian Access Group meetings to review Afghanistan's security and access environment, discuss ongoing humanitarian access challenges in the country, and identify where mine action could enable the operations of other entities.



After training, a deminer knows the procedures that must be followed in order to safely remove explosive ordnance. Photo: UNMAS

Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

To reduce the deadly effects of explosive ordnance on civilians, UNMAS provided face-to-face EORE to vulnerable and high-risk populations, including returnees, IDPs, women, children, and residents of contaminated areas. UNMAS retained its mixed-gender EORE teams and provided risk education to men and women of all ages. EORE materials were updated with new visuals and messaging incorporating child-friendly content and specialised flipcharts for adults, to ensure risk education drove behavioural change.

UNMAS also conducted a mass media EORE campaign with BBC Media Action. Eight TV and radio public service announcements and 56 radio magazines were produced based on formative research findings and community communication. The campaign's broadcast through various TV, radio, and social media platforms is estimated to have reached 4.2 million radio listeners, 3.2 million TV viewers and 15 million social media users. The content was also repackaged into bespoke audio clips and disseminated via ten local buses, reaching 1,200 people.

To further increase awareness of the risks associated with explosive ordnance and to bolt on to the work of other entities, UNMAS collaborated with FAO to deliver EORE messages with food distribution packages. UNMAS also delivered life-saving, hazardous environment training (HET) - developed in Dari and Pashto and included information on IEDs - to national and international humanitarian organisations working in contaminated areas to facilitate the security and safety of personnel operating in high-risk situations. The first HET training-of-trainers course occurred in June 2022; 50 participants from 26 humanitarian organisations included vulnerable population groups such as women and persons with disabilities.



A disability awareness session conducted for male beneficiaries in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan. Photo: UNMAS

A deminer carrying out clearance operations at Tange Sayidan, Chahar Asiyab, Kabul, 2021. Photo: UNMAS



Equality, diversity and inclusion

UNMAS deployed Equality and Diversity Mainstreaming Officers to work with national NGOs to improve inclusion and gender responsiveness throughout their project management processes and in their organisational policies, procedures and guidelines. UNMAS also provided English language courses for women deminers in Bamyan Province and EOD Level 3 training to three of them to expand their career options. This was the first time women deminers had achieved this level of technical competence in Afghanistan. In addition, UNMAS deployed an increased number of female community liaison officers within its mine action teams to enable maximum interaction with women and girls in support of a prioritisation process that addresses the needs of all members of the community.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details).

ASSURING SAFETY

In May 2022, in Molnar village of Kandahar Province, employees of a construction company working at a UNICEF warehouse noticed explosive ordnance while digging a ditch. Construction halted, and UNICEF called UNMAS for assistance. The next day a rapid response team arrived at the site; one anti-tank mine was safely removed and destroyed. The operation enabled UNICEF personnel to work safely in the compound and assist women and children in Kandahar.

Also in May 2022, UNMAS received an emergency request from WFP to assess explosive hazards seen on a plot of land in Kandahar, where a warehouse was to be constructed. An UNMAS mine action team carried out surface and sub-surface clearance, including using mechanical assets, before confirming to WFP that the land was safe. As a result, WFP has expanded its operations in Kandahar, scaling up food and agricultural assistance amid the deepening humanitarian crisis

In June 2022, UNMAS received an emergency call to remove two suspected explosive devices found at an IOM flood defence construction site. A quick response team was deployed the same day; a rocket and mortar were removed, and EORE was provided to 50 construction workers. UNMAS intervention enabled IOM to continue constructing the flood wall that will protect 120 families, two mosques, and 50 acres of agricultural land in two villages.

Mr. Shaheedullah disposes of explosive ordnance in response to a hotline call-out in Chaphrhar district of Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. Photo: UNMAS



BURKINA FASO



Overview

The security situation in Burkina Faso significantly deteriorated, affecting 10 of the 13 regions of the country. Massive displacement, food insecurity, and human rights violations characterised the resulting humanitarian crisis.

There was also an increase in explosive incidents – double those recorded in 2021 – particularly involving IEDs. In 2022, 9 out of 13 regions were affected by explosive threats, of which the Sahel and the Est regions were the most impacted. UNMAS recorded over 215 incidents and at least 456 victims (203 fatalities and 253 injuries). Though they are not the main target, civilians were an increasing proportion of those injured or killed compared to the previous years.

As a result of two coups d'état (one in January 2022 and the second in September 2022), the United Nations Resident Coordinator recommended that UNMAS suspend activities that benefited the defence and security forces. As a result, all activities, except EORE in local communities implemented through national NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs), were put on hold until 10 November 2022, when the Resident Coordinator authorised the resumption of UNMAS work with national authorities.

Mandate

Since 2019 and following a request from the Government of Burkina Faso and the UN Resident Coordinator, UNMAS has provided national institutions and affected populations with the knowledge, tools, and capacity to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance in high-risk areas.



A search and detect training session in Burkina Faso.
Photo: UNMAS

Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS provided almost 746 personnel, including 36 women, from the Ministry of Security and Military Engineering, with training on IED Search and Detect, Post Blast Investigation, EOD and First Aid.

UNMAS also supported the National Commission for the Control of Arms by providing training in information management, supporting the development of a national counter-IED Strategy, assisting in the coordination of the mine action sector as co-chair of the mine action area of responsibility, and developing a set of four national mine action standards, which are in the process of being endorsed.

UNMAS also launched an EORE campaign implemented by two national NGOs in the two most affected regions, Est and Sahel, which has provided risk awareness to almost 300,000 people.



Practical demonstration during an EOD course for military engineers in Burkina Faso.
Photo: UNMAS

Advancing the safety and mobility of humanitarian workers

In addition to causing casualties, the increased use of IEDs has reduced access for delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need. For example, IEDs have repeatedly destroyed bridges in the Centre-Nord, Sahel and Est regions, halting vehicle movement. UNMAS helped reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance by providing tailored training on risk awareness and reduction to the humanitarian community.

In addition, UNMAS capacity building of local actors also contributed to community safety. In 2022, 437 people were trained and equipped in First Aid, and 326 people were trained to deliver EORE, including 71 NGO trainers. UNMAS also launched an EORE campaign implemented by a national NGO, supervised by the CNCA, in the two most affected regions, Est and Sahel, which has provided EORE to almost 32,320 people to date. As a result, people trained by UNMAS share life-saving messages to at-risk humanitarian actors, IDPs and communities, including people with disabilities.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details), the UNDP Social Cohesion, Security and Rule of Law for sustainable peace programme, and the OCHA Central Emergency Relief Fund.



The closing ceremony of an EOD training course for military engineers in Burkina Faso.
Photo: UNMAS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Overview

The flow and misuse of illicit weapons and ammunition, which lack proper regulation and control, continue to constitute a risk to security, stability, peace and sustainable development in the CAR. The upsurge of explosive ordnance incidents in the country increasingly impacted civilians and humanitarian delivery, peacekeepers' safety and security, and the implementation of the MINUSCA mandate. In 2022, 50 such incidents caused the deaths of at least 12 people, including three United Nations peacekeepers, and injured 44, including one peacekeeper.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed personnel to CAR at the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in January 2014 and set up a programme following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), which established MINUSCA. Consistent with resolution 2648 (2022), UNMAS supported national authorities in the safe storage and management of small arms and light weapons (SALW), including the safe destruction of surplus stocks, and assisted them in their action plan to counter the proliferation of SALW. Security Council resolutions 2605 (2021) and 2659 (2022) strongly condemned the violence perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including through the increased use of explosive ordnance. In response, UNMAS stepped up its work on explosive ordnance threat prevention, mitigation and response while continuing to support national authorities in WAM.

Supporting the national weapons and ammunitions management architecture and governance system

UNMAS provided specialised WAM training to 50 national defence and security forces personnel. In consultation with national authorities, UNMAS conducted 200 quality assurance checks of over 50 weapons and ammunition storage facilities to ensure armouries were being managed safely and in conformity with national and international standards. UNMAS recommendations to improve the armouries' level of management, safety, and security led to 48 rehabilitation measures being undertaken in 17 facilities.

UNMAS collected and destroyed 100,000 pieces of unsafe or unserviceable ammunition, including rockets, mortar shells and grenades, in consultation with national authorities and MINUSCA.

Furthermore, UNMAS worked closely with the National Commission for the Fight Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons on the implementation of its national plan, ensuring its actions were carried out consistently with the Modular Small-Arms-Control Implementation Compendium and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.



UNMAS carries out a technical assessment as part of its quality assurance responsibility at the armory of the Forces Armées Centrafricaines (FACA) Regional Training Center in Bouar to ensure conformity with international standards.
Photo: UNMAS / Andrei Carmezan

Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers

In response to the increased threat to the safety and security of peacekeepers, MINUSCA established an EOD Working Group and followed up on the recommendations made for MINUSCA by the Independent Strategic Review on the United Nations Response to Explosive Ordnance Threats. In this context, UNMAS carried out explosive ordnance threat mitigation-related training activities to reinforce the capacity of MINUSCA to prevent, respond and mitigate the EO threat.

UNMAS provided advice and training to 1,500 MINUSCA Force personnel – including over 100 women - to reinforce and develop their Explosive Ordnance Threat Mitigation capacity. In addition, UNMAS provided specialised equipment to seven Search and Detect Teams in two of the most exposed battalions in the west of CAR.

To better monitor the threat and its trends, in consultation with UNPOL, UNMAS also designed – and provided equipment for - an IED evidence analysis and exploitation laboratory.

Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

Throughout 2022 UNMAS supported the protection of civilians, United Nations personnel and humanitarian workers through the provision of EORE, reaching 500 United Nations and NGO personnel, including 112 women. To protect civilians, UNMAS delivered 400 EORE sessions for local populations in Bambari, Bouar, Baoro, Boali, and Bossembélé areas. As a result, 18,500 people, including 3,000 women, 6,500 girls and 7,000 boys, have increased knowledge on protecting themselves from explosive ordnance-related threats and decreasing their risk of accidents.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the MINUSCA budget.



UNMAS conducts a weapons and ammunition management training course on the efficient storage and preservation of weapons in accordance with international security standards for weapons in armories for the benefit of the defense and internal security forces. Photo: UNMAS / Andrei Carmezan



UNMAS conducts planning and review of implementation of explosive risk mitigation measures at the Camp Kassai Ammunition Storage Area. Photo: UNMAS / Andrei Carmezan

COLOMBIA

Overview

As a result of more than fifty years of armed conflict, Colombia suffers from widespread contamination by landmines and explosive remnants of war. Between January 1990, when official data became available, and 31 December 2022, Colombia recorded over 12,300 victims of explosive ordnance accidents. There were 135 casualties (64 per cent of whom were civilians) across 41 municipalities in 2022, confirming the need for continued protection measures.

Under its "Total Peace" policy, the new administration, in office since August 2022, opened peace dialogues with the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) in November 2022. Five other non-state armed groups have since expressed their willingness also to participate. At the same time, INDEPAZ, a reputed national NGO that tracks the actions of non-state armed groups, identified that FARC-EP dissident groups, the ELN and the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC) all indiscriminately use explosive devices, including mines of an improvised nature.

Mandate

UNMAS was first requested to establish a programme in Colombia by the Colombian Government in 2010, to support the then Programa Presidencial para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal (PAICMA) — the presidential programme for mine action. The Programme continues to support the National Mine Action Authority, currently embedded in the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the implementation of the Peace Accord signed in 2016 between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, and the humanitarian architecture operating in the country.



1990 - 2022 IN NUMBERS



>12,350 (135 in 2022 alone)
VICTIMS OF UXO ACCIDENTS



64% civilians
IN 2022

MAP OF COLOMBIA WITH PROVINCES:



Developing national capacity and integrating mine action into regional development plans

UNMAS continued to assist the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP in Spanish) and humanitarian mine action organisations to enhance the mine action sector's capacity and develop its coordination and regulatory frameworks.

Notably, during 2022, UNMAS provided technical support to local authorities in the preparation, development and tracking of 13 regional annual mine action plans and 39 contingency plans in the departments of Arauca, Antioquia, Cauca, Caquetá, Casanare, Córdoba, Chocó, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, and Valle del Cauca. These plans include EORE, humanitarian demining and victim assistance activities. UNMAS regional coordinators provided technical assistance throughout this process, as most city halls and provincial governments are not aware of the technical and regulatory requirements of mine action. Almost 300 public officials from the most contaminated departments and municipalities benefited from mine action awareness sessions.

Across 39 municipalities, UNMAS supported all aspects of mine action; providing EORE to affected communities, organising roundtables for the formulation and approval of local mine action policies, delivering awareness sessions to public institution staff, facilitating coordination meetings with local government officials, as well as convening meetings with EO victims to provide them with advice on how to access the victim assistance referral pathway of the Colombian Government.

UNMAS also strengthened national and international NGOs and Colombian authorities by sharing good practices on land release, EOD and gender and diversity. UNMAS conducted the first EOD Level 2 workshop aligned with the new Colombian Mine Action Technical Norms and IMAS. As a result, 21 people from the operations teams of 11 mine action organisations were certified to EOD Level 2, including seven women.

In addition, UNMAS delivered five trainings to national and international armed forces, including Brazil and Paraguay, through their participation in the Inter-American Technical Advisors Group in Colombia to improve knowledge of the five pillars of mine action, international humanitarian law, mine action standards and gender and diversity in mine action.

FARC-EP ex-combatants, trained by UNMAS in humanitarian demining, demonstrate their operational capabilities during a visit by representatives of the Swiss Cooperation and the UN system in Colombia to the HUMANICEMOS DH base of operations in La Montañita, Caquetá, March 2022. Photo: HDH / UNMAS



Furthermore, chaired by UNMAS, the MA AoR organised quarterly workshops where UNMAS and NGOs HUMANICEMOS DH, SNPs/Cáritas Colombia, the HALO Trust, Fundación Barco and the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines shared best practices and lessons learned related to community liaison, locations of temporary camps of demining organizations in areas with suspected anti-personnel mine contamination, peer support as a means for victims' rehabilitation, information management, digital EORE and gender in mine action.

During 2022, UNMAS significantly improved the methodology of Post-Clearance Impact Assessment (PCIA) by incorporating new artificial intelligence models to monitor changes in land use, such as the emergence of buildings and roads, changes in vegetation cover and installation of new human settlements. To emphasise the importance of PCIA, during international mine action day events on 4 April, UNMAS, with the Universidad del Rosario, organised a symposium in Bogotá to share the results of the five PCIA's and discuss with stakeholders.

Supporting the peace process

Mine action continues to make significant contributions to implementing the Peace Accords signed in 2016 with the former FARC-EP by reintegrating ex-combatants in mine action activities and collecting information on the location of minefields and explosive ordnance. UNMAS also advocates for and supports mine action contributions to other potential peace processes in Colombia.

A FARC-EP ex-combatant and now employee of HUMANICEMOS DH, during a humanitarian demining task in the mountains of La Montañita, Caquetá.
Photo: HDH / UNMAS



UNMAS continued to provide technical assistance to HUMANICEMOS DH, a mine action organisation composed of and led by former FARC-EP combatants, pursuant to the peace agreement of 2016. Almost 120 former combatant staff, 25 per cent of whom are women, contributed to reparations for victims and cleared previously contaminated land for productive use.

Within the framework of a Tripartite Mechanism comprising the Government of Colombia, former FARC-EP combatants and the United Nations (both UNMAS and the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia), UNMAS produced over 200 reports on explosive ordnance contamination. These reports covered the number of devices installed in the area, the type of explosive, the container used, and initiation and activation methods based on information provided by former FARC-EP combatants. They were used by the OACP to inform the national demining plan.

Through its work with the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and UNDP, UNMAS helped the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP) to define individual reparatory actions based mine action. As a result, the SJP decided to include the implementation of a mine action project for the sentencing of former FARC-EP leadership and combatants.

Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

UNMAS provided EORE in some of the most affected municipalities, reaching 2,195 direct beneficiaries (951 men, 832 women, 238 boys, 174 girls), of which 34 per cent were indigenous people.

To improve access for mine action organisations, UNMAS launched the "Mine Action is Humanitarian Action" campaign on 1 December 2022, which will run for three months in 11 departments (Arauca, Antioquia, Cauca, Casanare, Caquetá, Chocó, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Putumayo) most affected by explosive devices and where the presence of armed actors impacts access. The campaign in which nine organisations are participating (HALO Trust, CCCM, H&I, HUMANICEMOS DH, Lutheran World Foundation, Fundación Barco, UNICEF, Geneva Call and UNMAS) will broadcast radio spots on more than 20 radio stations and disseminate messages on social networks.

One of the major barriers faced by victims of explosive ordnance is that they are unaware of the victim assistance procedures in place, including medical rehabilitation, psychological care, socioeconomic reintegration and monetary subsidies. In response, UNMAS Regional Coordinators provided advice on the Government's victim assistance referral pathway to 25 civilian victims (24 men and one boy) of explosive devices, 82 per cent of whom belonged to ethnic minority communities.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details), the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia and the European Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia.



Children of Afro-descendant communities in the municipality of Tumaco, Nariño, receive EORE from the CIREC Foundation, funded by Germany.
Photo: CIREC Foundation.

CYPRUS



Overview

UNMAS has been a component of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 2016, providing dedicated expertise in mine action planning and coordination, quality assurance of demining operations and management of mine action information. Since the suspension of UNFICYP demining activities in the buffer zone in October 2017, UNMAS is focused on mapping and survey of explosive threats, provision of technical advice and quality assurance on mine clearance to relevant actors in the north and the south, mine risk education, threat assessment and management, and data management of mine action information.

Mandate

UNMAS operates in accordance with Security Council resolution 2674.

Supporting peace efforts

UNMAS supported UNFICYP efforts to plan and advocate for mine action as a confidence-building measure with the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and encourage progress towards a mine-free Cyprus. UNMAS also provided technical advice and training to the Committee on Missing Persons, facilitating safe access to sites where it carries out its work and enabling the Committee's efforts to promote reconciliation between communities.

Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and action for peacekeeping "plus" (A4P+)

UNMAS delivered explosive ordnance awareness training to the police and military contingents of UNFICYP during their induction training. Consistent with the Secretary-General's A4P+ initiative, UNMAS ensured that all peacekeepers working near minefields received a safety briefing. UNMAS periodically checks the fencing around the Buffer Zone minefields and accompanies contingents during fence repairs to ensure their safety in case fences are moved from the original boundaries.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the UNFICYP budget.



Renowned actor and UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards Daniel Craig visited de-mining sites in Cyprus where both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders asked the United Nations to help removing landmines. Photo: UNMAS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Overview

The problem of landmine and ERW contamination in the DRC results from several internal armed conflicts since the country's independence in 1960. A national landmine contamination survey in 2014 showed 130 suspected hazardous areas, mainly in the eastern parts of the country, covering a total of 1.8 million square meters. As part of its obligations under the APMBC, the DRC's clearance deadline was 31 December 2020. However, in June 2021, the Congolese Mine Action Centre (CCLAM) requested an extension until 31 December 2025, which was granted in December 2021. UNMAS provided technical and financial support to the DRC in developing the 2023-2032 National Mine Action Strategy and its related National Action Plan to deal with residual contamination and reduce the associated risks posed to the population.

Since mid-2021, there has been a significant increase in the use of IEDs in North Kivu and Ituri provinces. In 2022, all IED attacks occurred in the eastern parts of the country, with four in Irumu (Ituri province), 51 in Beni (North Kivu province) and one in Goma (North Kivu). The use of IEDs is primarily attributed to the armed group known as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

Mandate

UNMAS has been a component of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) since 2002 and is present in MONUSCO offices in Beni, Bukavu, Goma and Kinshasa, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2666 (2022).

Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

The proliferation of IED attacks and the type of devices used is a significant concern for the Government of the DRC and the population. As a result, UNMAS increased its IED-mitigation efforts by deploying a team to Beni focused on IED disposal, training and awareness, and post-blast investigations, where 91 per cent of all IED incidents occurred in 2022.

In addition, as part of a community violence reduction project in the Beni region, UNMAS disseminated IED awareness messages on the United Nations Radio Okapi programmes in French, Kinande and Swahili in partnership with national mine action NGO ACOLAM. Through 42 FM transmitters, Radio Okapi covers the whole of the DRC and has 24 million weekly listeners.

UNMAS implementing partner AFRILAM prepares for a bulk demolition of unserviceable ammunition in Sake, North Kivu.
Photo: UNMAS / Tristan Chopard



Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

To ensure the security and safety of MONUSCO troops and enable their mobility, UNMAS completed 830 EOD spot tasks in response to the Mission's requests in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. UNMAS also disseminated explosive ordnance/IED awareness to UN Police (UNPOL) and military personnel and disposed of obsolete and unserviceable ammunition for MONUSCO troops and police. A total of 106,800 explosive items were destroyed, including 9,900 items of explosive ordnance and 96,900 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Supporting the national mine action capacity to address the explosive ordnance threat

UNMAS supported state institutions in developing their capacity to mitigate and dispose of explosive ordnance and IEDs. As co-chair - with the MONUSCO Police Commissioner - of the MONUSCO EO/IED Threat Mitigation Working Group, UNMAS liaised with UNPOL and the Justice Support Section of MONUSCO in the design of training materials for staff of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), national police and judicial system involved in the prevention, handling and investigation of explosive accidents. In November 2022, national standards on IED disposal were endorsed by the CCLAM during a workshop organised with the technical and financial support of UNMAS.

Supporting the national weapons and ammunitions management architecture and governance system

Through its close partnership with the National Commission for SALW Control and Reduction of Armed Violence (CNC-ALPC), UNMAS was able to continue to develop the WAM capacity of national defence and security forces.

With the CNC-ALPC, UNMAS carried out a series of assessments of weapons and ammunition storage in the eastern regions to contribute to the achievement of the National Action Plan for the control and management of SALW 2018-2022 and to orient the development of the next Plan (2023-2027). In further support of the latter, UNMAS led several coordination meetings with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNREC), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and UNDP to assist the CNC-ALPC in drafting the next Plan.

UNMAS ensured effective monitoring of the 2018-2022 Plan through several workshops, bringing together essential stakeholders such as the Group of Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP), Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, UNREC, UNODC, UNDP, UNIDIR, and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS-CEEAC).

UNMAS also provided training on explosive hazard assessment and IED threat mitigation for relevant military personnel as well as training on WAM to a total of 55 people, including 20 FARDC personnel, 19 police officers (including two women), 12 staff from the National Parks Institute and 5 CNC-ALPC staff members (including one woman). UNMAS also installed weapon safes and racks in numerous storage facilities, securing 5,300 weapons belonging to the FARDC, the Congolese National Police (PNC), the National Institute for the National Park Rangers, and the MONUSCO Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme.

At the request of MONUSCO, UNMAS relocated FARDC weapons and ammunition from the FARDC camp situated in Beni town to the FARDC camp in Mambangu, west of Beni, providing them with a new ammunition depot consistent with international standards.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the MONUSCO budget, and UNMAS DRC signed a grant agreement with the Korean International Cooperation Agency for a four-year project in support of the DRC efforts to become APMBC article 5 compliant.



UNMAS implementing partner AFRILAM demolishes unserviceable ammunition of the Indian battalion in Sake, North Kivu.
Photo: UNMAS / Tristan Chopard



ETHIOPIA

Overview

Over the last 50 years, Ethiopia has been through a series of domestic and international armed conflicts, resulting in a legacy of landmines and ERW.

UNMAS continues to mobilise resources to assist Ethiopia's Mine Action Office with the development of national standards on accreditation, quality management, data management, and operational capacity development. In Tigray, Afar, and Amhara, UNMAS is carrying out an explosive risk assessment, EORE for humanitarian workers and at-risk populations and deploying technical experts to support the operations of implementing partners. There are 3.6 million children out of school. Conflict and the climate crisis have partially or severely damaged over 8,700 schools in Ethiopia.

Since November 2020, ERW have killed 185 people in the Afar region and 270 in the Amhara region. The area of fighting covers 122 districts, 33 in Afar and 89 in Amhara. Sixty-eight per cent of these districts are food insecure, and contamination affects water sources, cropland, and roads. UXO and other ERW are being collected and sold to metal factories and to individuals.



Explosive ordnances in Bahir Dar to be hidden.
Photo: UNMAS

Mandate

Upon request by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), UNMAS deployed an assessment mission to Ethiopia in March 2020, which made recommendations for a mine action response, primarily to build the capacity of the Federal Government to collect and manage mine action data and develop a plan of action, based on humanitarian priorities. A follow-up letter by the Federal Ministry of Peace of Ethiopia to the RC/HC dated 30 October 2020 suggested scope for UNMAS interventions in other regions of the country, not only the Somali region.

With the outbreak of conflict in northern Ethiopia and following a request by the Tigray Interim Administration, the RC/HC requested UNMAS in July 2021 to undertake a mine action response in the Tigray region to mitigate the immediate impact of mines/ERW on the local population and vulnerable groups and support safe and effective humanitarian aid delivery through risk education awareness activities, assessment and threat reduction where appropriate and feasible. At the end of 2021, UNMAS launched a programme in Ethiopia to support multiple facets of mine action and has maintained a presence in the country since then.

Enabling the United Nations and humanitarian partners' response

In response to the dire humanitarian situation resulting from the conflict, UNMAS conducted rapid explosive risk assessments at the locations of humanitarian operations and along humanitarian corridors in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray. Explosive ordnance was found in residential areas – including amongst the rubble – and in IDPs settlements, posing a threat to life, hindering safe movement, preventing access to essential services, and reducing humanitarian aid delivery. The UNMAS team assessed 35 districts and developed a plan to ensure the safe use of humanitarian operations sites, including one place identified to settle 20,000 IDPs from Tigray. EO safety training was provided to 135 employees of over 30 humanitarian organisations, and awareness materials were produced for wider dissemination.

Threat assessment information was recorded in the IMSMA database, and reports and maps were shared with the Protection Cluster, the Access Working Group, the Inter-cluster Coordination Group, the Humanitarian Country Team, donors and other humanitarian organisations.

To support safe aid delivery, UNMAS provided 135 (100 men, 35 women) humanitarian workers, United Nations personnel and staff of national and international NGOs with the knowledge they needed to be more aware of, and better prepared for, explosive risks in the most affected regions of Afar, Amhar and Tigray. In addition, to increase the safety and well-being of conflict-affected people, UNMAS provided EORE to over 71,000 at-risk people - of whom 60 per cent are women – in Afar, Amhara and Tigray.

In response to the worsening contamination caused by the conflict in the north, UNMAS convened nine MA AoR meetings in Addis Ababa and ad hoc meetings with critical stakeholders in the field. Consistent with the country's protection strategy, the MA AoR developed an advocacy strategy to open humanitarian mine action space and mobilise mine action resources, including successfully for the activities of the Danish Refugee Council and Humanity and Inclusion. The MA AoR ensured contamination featured for the first time in the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), and mine action was included in Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ethiopia.

On 4 April, UNMAS marked the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa. On the same day, the AU Peace and Security Council held its first in-person meeting of 2022, deliberating on mine action issues.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details) and the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) managed by OCHA.



Female EORE Facilitator of UNMAS IP providing EORE in Jari IDPs site, Amhara Region, Ethiopia.
Photo: UNMAS

IRAQ



Overview

Successive and ongoing conflicts over the last four decades have left Iraq one of the most explosive ordnance (EO) impacted countries worldwide. According to the Government of Iraq, there are more than 2,500 square kilometres of contaminated areas across the country. Clearance of EO enables reconstruction and development activities to go forward, facilitates the return of IDPs and allows for the resumption of livelihood activities amongst impacted communities.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed in response to a request from the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA) through the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Iraq. UNMAS operates in accordance with Security Council resolution 2631 (2022).

Enabling local populations, humanitarian and development actors to safely use previously contaminated areas

UNMAS teams continued clearance activities in the governorates of Anbar, Basra and Ninewa, clearing more than five million square meters of land and rendering safe over 14,000 items of EO in agricultural and residential areas.

In western Anbar, Non-Technical Survey teams surveyed more than 22 million square meters of land from Heet, Haditha, Ana and Rawa up to the border of Syria. This contributed to a better overview of EO contamination in western Anbar and enhanced the accuracy of the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA)-owned national database to support more effective prioritisation of future clearance activities.

UNMAS operations in Ninewa focused on extensive belts of IEDs planted by ISIL east of Mosul towards the main Dohuk-Mosul road and in the Makhmour and Tel Kaif districts, using mechanical clearance assets and manual search techniques. In Sinjar, residential area clearance operations continued facilitating access to safe places for IDPs to return to their places of origin. This project adopts a modular approach to clearance, with dedicated search and clearance assets deployed across multiple sites to increase efficiency and effectiveness. The teams also utilise mechanical assets to support and facilitate the clearance of rubble and remains of war-damaged and collapsed buildings.

In southern Iraq, the teams in Basra cleared over two million square meters of land heavily contaminated with unexploded ordnance, anti-personnel, and anti-tank mines located between the Shalamcha highway and Al Salehiya main road, close to the Jasem River in the Shatt al-Arab area.

To monitor and evaluate the impact of this work, UNMAS conducted post-activity impact assessments at sites where clearance operations (for agricultural use or housing) were completed in 2021. A total of 62 community members participated in the survey, and the assessment concluded that almost 100 per cent of the tasks had restored access to roads, housing and schools, and 94 per cent of land made safe is now in productive use.



UNMAS implementing partner, Global Clearance Solutions, unexploded ordnance storage site. Artillery shells such as these have been used as IED main charges in the Tel Kaif district of Ninewa Governorate.
Photo: UNMAS.

Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS provides technical and advisory support to the Government, particularly the two national mine action authorities, to strengthen their ability to support communities impacted by EO, enable socio-economic development and welfare, and effectively lead and coordinate the mine action response.

UNMAS commenced implementation of the 24-month Technical Support Action Plan (TSAP) in January 2022, which was developed together and subsequently endorsed by the DMA in 2021. The TSAP outlines the areas of collaboration between UNMAS, the DMA and the IKMAA to improve the capacity of the two entities to lead and coordinate the mine action sector as a whole.

UNMAS continued to provide strategic and technical advice on improved coordination of the mine action sector, strengthened prioritisation systems, review and update of national mine action standards, advocacy and donor engagement. In addition, UNMAS provided mine action management training for the Ministry of Interior and police, including EOD, IED Disposal, First Responder courses and non-technical survey training supported by uncrewed aerial vehicles. Across four governorates, UNMAS also provided 255 Government officials from various local government departments with basic humanitarian mine action awareness training.

To support national mine action operators, three “partnership model grants” were awarded to increase the capacity of national NGOs through partnerships with international NGOs. As a result, two national organisations are now accredited and conducting clearance operations. The model also promotes gender mainstreaming and fosters women’s participation in the mine action sector; by the end of 2022, women represented 25 per cent of the technical and support staff amongst the implementing organisations.

Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

UNMAS conducts survey and clearance operations to release agricultural and residential areas to support durable solutions for returnees and to enable safe access to land and infrastructure for impacted communities. In addition, UNMAS delivered EORE in Anbar, Basra and Ninewa governorates, delivering 9,995 EORE sessions reaching 96,260 people (32,373 girls, 11,601 women, 43,218 boys, 9,068 men) with lifesaving messages.

In Ninewa, UNMAS continued to deliver direct and indirect EORE in prioritised areas of Mosul and Tel Afar districts and Ninewa plains. Activities, all of which were delivered in local languages, such as Arabic, Kurdish and Turkmani, according to the dialect of the population, included distributing EORE materials with tailored messages for children and adults, installing billboards adapted to the age and local context, and delivering EORE messages through loudspeakers. Capitalising on the prevalence of smartphones, UNMAS transmitted EORE SMS messages in Tel Afar, Hamdaniyah, Sheikhan, Tal Kaif and in Ba’ashiq, Mosul city centre and Sinjar districts, incorporating links to social media pages on Facebook and Twitter with life-saving messages.

UNMAS continued to train schoolteachers from the Directorate of Education in Ninewa governorate to deliver EORE sessions to students. More than 600 (338 male and 262 female) teachers received training packages and materials to support their teaching EORE in their respective schools. Additionally, community focal points from Ninewa Community Police Department were trained to deliver EORE; seven EORE training courses were convened for 100 participants (54 males and 46 females).

In Anbar, UNMAS expanded the reach of EORE messaging by training religious leaders to include short EORE sessions in Friday prayers to raise awareness and encourage affected communities to adopt safe behaviours.

UNMAS also provided EORE sessions for 933 cash-for-work workers, of which 130 were female, employed by various UN agencies in Iraq and employees of NGOs engaging in high-risk activities such as rubble removal. By targeting these individuals, UNMAS enabled a multiplier effect, reducing risk to the workers themselves and enabling them to safely contribute to the recovery of the communities in the most need of assistance.

UNMAS implementing partner, Shareteah Health Organisation, undertaking clearance activities in Makhmour district of Ninewa Governorate. Photo: SHO.

Coordination

Chaired by UNMAS, the Global Protection Cluster MA AoR brought together humanitarian mine action operators to share information and discuss operational progress and challenges. In December 2022, the Humanitarian Country Team deactivated the humanitarian cluster system as Iraq was deemed ready to transfer to the development phase. In support of this transition, UNMAS worked on a plan for the MA AoR focusing on capacity building, policy development and sustainable coordination. UNMAS engaged the DMA as the MA AoR co-chair, with the goal of transferring the functions of the MA AoR to the DMA.

Gender mainstreaming

In January 2022, 15 women completed the first all-women EOD training course in Iraq with participants from DMA, IKMAA, NGOs and UNMAS. The training aimed to enable and empower women who work as operators in mine action and, more specifically, in operational activities and quality assurance work.

Following this course, in June 2022, for the first time in its history, a woman police officer from the Ministry of Interior participated in an EOD training course at the Salman Pak EOD Training Center along with 18 men police officers. This was a milestone achievement following UNMAS lengthy advocacy efforts with senior government officials.

UNMAS conducted a first gender and diversity assessment of its implementing partners working under partnership model grants to serve as a baseline for dialogue between UNMAS and these organizations on how to strengthen their gender and diversity mainstreaming efforts further.

Gender mainstreaming has been one of the core initiatives of the Iraq programme and is considered in all activities implemented. To enhance success, a Gender Task Force was established with representatives from each UNMAS Iraq section allowing for a fully comprehensive and cohesive effort across all UNMAS actions.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action and in-kind contributions (please see pages 119-120 for details).

BRINGING SAFETY TO SINJAR

On a sunny August day, UNMAS staff visited ongoing operations in Barbarosh, Sinjar district, located in northwest Iraq, close to the Syrian border. At the site, the team met a 27-year-old Yazidi woman, Haifa, who was forced to flee from Sinjar because of the conflict with ISIL in 2014.

After years of hardship, in 2020, Haifa started working for Global Clearance Solutions (GCS), one of UNMAS national implementing partners, as an EO searcher and was assigned to a residential clearance operation in Sinjar. With teary eyes, she shared her personal story with the team.

Haifa and her family fled from Sinjar when ISIL invaded her hometown. "On our way when we fled Sinjar, ISIL was chasing us. Fortunately, one of our relatives who had a car met us on the road, and we could escape,". She continued to describe the challenges they faced during their escape to Duhok in Iraq's Kurdish Region. The family had no place to stay and slept on the streets and in half-built buildings.

"No food, no drinks, and you will ask how we could survive... right?" Haifa recalls.

Haifa and her family finally reached an IDPs camp in Duhok. At the camp, they depended entirely on humanitarian assistance from aid agencies. Day by day, they became increasingly depressed and began to lose hope. They constantly feared ISIL would find and capture them. "I lost hope and thought there was no life for us anymore," Haifa said. She recalled their harsh life in the camp, the cold winters and hot summers living inside a small, cramped tent.

Although Haifa wished to return to Sinjar after the town's liberation, but this was impossible as the threat of EO significantly damaged the city.

Returning to Sinjar was only a dream until 2020 when Haifa was offered a job with GCS. She accepted the job and returned to Sinjar with her husband to be part of the rehabilitation effort to help people like her return and rebuild their houses and community.

"It is an honour for me to clear my town from all the ERW; I work every single moment from my heart to bring back life to the town," she said.

Haifa feared that the local community would be against her work and participation because of her gender, which is historically not considered appropriate for mine action. However, Haifa soon discovered that she received extensive support from her men colleagues, sharing the same vision – rebuilding the town and bringing their lives back.

Haifa proudly stated that many women now play significant roles in the community.

A female searcher with UNMAS implementing partner Global Clearance Solutions, at work in Ain Al Talawi village in the Sinjar district of Ninewa Governorate. Photo: UNMAS.



LEBANON



Overview

Lebanon has more than 6 million square meters of confirmed hazardous area within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operations, including the “Blue Line”, which is a demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel. According to the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC), contamination along the Blue Line negatively affects more than 200,000 people. It also endangers humanitarian workers and United Nations personnel working throughout South Lebanon. The minefields that are in proximity to the Blue Line, UNIFIL bases, and patrol routes endanger peacekeepers and limit UNIFIL in its mandate delivery.

The worsening economic situation in Lebanon has resulted in people engaging in high-risk activities. In 2022, 18 civilians were injured and one killed by explosive ordnance in South Lebanon. A lack of funds for victim assistance, including medical, rehabilitative, and psycho-social care, amplifies the impact of the accidents.

Mandate

As an integral component of UNIFIL, UNMAS works with demining contingents from Cambodia and China to mark minefields and carry out clearance to enable the activities of UNIFIL, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), and humanitarian workers in accordance with Security Council resolution 2650 (2022). In 2023, the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations renewed a memorandum of understanding enabling UNIFIL to conduct humanitarian demining in the UNIFIL area of operations.



UNMAS Quality Assurance Officer, Ms. Zeina Saleh, checking to ensure clearance has been carried out to international mine action standards. Photo: CAMBMEU

Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

To contribute to the safety of peacekeepers, consistent with the Secretary-General's A4P+ initiative, UNMAS provided training to and accreditation of rotating UNIFIL demining units. To ensure the safety and quality of demining, UNMAS carried out more than 297 quality management inspections during operations. UNMAS assistance ensured UNIFIL could operate safely despite more than 1,200 hazardous areas in South Lebanon. UNIFIL deminers cleared 25,479 square meters of land and destroyed 5,571 anti-personnel mines.

UNMAS also provided EORE to soldiers rotating into the Observer Group Lebanon/UNTSO, military drivers supporting UNIFIL patrols, and assisted UNDSS with United Nations safety briefings and training. The educational sessions reached 404 military and civilian personnel, including 59 women.

UNMAS provides quality assurance of the UNIFIL contingents' demining operations to ensure they perform to national mine action standards, which is a pre-requisite to release the land by Lebanese authorities for safe civilian use. The clearance provides an immediate contribution towards the UNIFIL mandate to help achieve a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.

Supporting national mine action capacity

Through the provision of materials, collaboration, coordination and planning, UNMAS supported the LMAC in delivering EORE to local communities, encouraging increased safe behaviour. UNMAS support to the LMAC-coordinated activities reached more than 1,000 people. Using virtual reality headsets provided by UNIFIL, the LMAC, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and national and international NGOs, introduced an exciting new way of engaging children at school on the dangers of mines and ERW.

Funding



UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the UNIFIL budget.



UNMAS Quality Assurance Officer, Ms. Zeina Saleh, instructing UNIFIL demining team.
Photo: UNIFIL.



Overview

Following the 2011 revolution that overthrew Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, Libya reportedly possessed the world's largest unsecured stockpiles of arms and ammunition. This contamination added to existing ERW from World War II and successive conflicts. Intense fighting in the following years, including in 2014, 2016, and 2019-20 led to further widespread ERW contamination, including in urban areas. In addition, fuelled by the general availability of military-grade explosive material, several non-state armed groups and extremist groups have used IEDs in numerous areas throughout Libya. According to the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC), over 15 square kilometres of land have been identified as hazardous areas, of which 62 per cent is in the east of the country, 33 per cent in Tripoli and Al Jefarah, and 5 per cent in Misrata and Sirte.

The rapid disintegration of the security sector following the 2011 revolution has hindered a coherent response to the problem of explosive ordnance and uncontrolled arms and ammunition. Mercenaries, foreign fighters, and foreign forces supporting various factions remain in the country.

The use of heavy weapons in urban areas in previous years has resulted in widespread damage to homes, marketplaces, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure. It hinders the safe return of IDPs and access for humanitarian and early recovery workers. More than 27,400

different types and calibres of ERW were found and disposed of in Libya, of which 66 per cent were projectiles and rockets, and the rest were grenades, aircraft bombs, mines, and small arms ammunition. Since late May 2020, the deliberate and indiscriminate use of explosive devices, booby-traps and ERW have caused 172 accidents, resulting in 354 casualties (135 deaths and 219 injured), of which the majority were civilians.

To mitigate the threat, consolidate the gains made since the signing of the ceasefire agreement on 23 October 2020, and enable the safe return of displaced people and stabilisation activities, it is imperative to enhance Libyan mine action and WAM capacities to mitigate the problem.



Carrying out EOD tasks in Tripoli and Tawergha, Libya.
Photo: UNMAS

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Libya in March 2011 and was integrated into the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) in July 2012. UNMAS UNSMIL delivers tasks mandated in UNSC resolution 2656 (2022)², which calls for UNSMIL to, inter alia, provide support to securing uncontrolled arms and related materiel and countering their proliferation; provide advice and assistance to government-led efforts to stabilise post-conflict zones; and to provide support to the Libyan-led and Libyan-owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism and Action Plan agreed by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission.

The UNMAS programme is also contributing to UNSDCF Pillar I on Peace and Governance, Outcome 1.2, "by 2025, people in Libya participate in and benefit from a more peaceful, safe, and secure society, free from armed conflict and underpinned by unified and strengthened security, justice, rule of law, and human rights institutions that promote and protect human rights based on the principles of inclusivity, non-discrimination, and equality in accordance with international norms and standards".

Advancing the peace process

UNMAS continued to support UNSMIL in implementing the Ceasefire Agreement of 23 October 2020 and regularly provided technical expertise to the Mine Action Sub-Committee of the "5+5" Joint Military Commission (JMC), consisting of representatives of the eastern and western Libyan forces, which signed a ceasefire agreement under UNSMIL auspices in Geneva in October 2020. UNMAS also assisted in coordination and provided quality assurance support to Libyan Mine Action Centre for the clearance operations carried out along the road from Abu Grein to Al Jufra in Libya.

Ensuring the safety and security of UNSMIL personnel, humanitarians the international community and civilians

UNMAS provided technical assistance, threat assessments and risk awareness to UNSMIL personnel to enable the safe deployment of United Nations ceasefire monitors in Libya. Seven explosive ordnance risk awareness sessions during the Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments training were delivered to 116 United Nations personnel (87 men, 29 women) and the wider humanitarian community in Tripoli.

UNMAS provided EORE to 14,800 people in Tripoli, Tawergha, and Southern Libya, helping to reduce the threat posed by contamination and facilitating the safe return of internally displaced people.

Delivery of EORE for children carried out by the Free Fields Foundation, with support from UNMAS and LibMAC, in Salahaddin, Southern Tripoli, Libya.
Photo: UNMAS



Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

As MA AoR lead, UNMAS supported the LibMAC in assuming mine action coordination responsibilities. UNMAS facilitated eight (virtual) coordination meetings between the LibMAC, mine action implementing partners and donors. This enables improved coordination between partners, information sharing, harmonising technical standards and providing a platform for advocacy to LibMAC to solve technical and operational issues monthly.

UNMAS actively engaged with the international community and donors, partners, and stakeholders, including the LibMAC, the National Safety Authority, the Diplomatic Police and the Forensic Police, to discuss coordination, current projects, future partnerships and capacity-building initiatives.

UNMAS delivered EOD training to 18 National Security Agency personnel to address the immediate threat from explosive ordnance and the longer-term consequences of the current conflict. Trainees also received Emergency Trauma Bag training, and on completion of both courses, UNMAS provided the Agency with six EOD kits. UNMAS also delivered Individual First Aid Kits, Tactical First Responder and Tactical First Responder Training of Trainer courses to 22 Diplomatic Police Officers (12 men, ten women) again, providing specialised equipment upon course completion.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the UNSMIL budget and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details).



Delivery of EOD kits to Libyan National Safety Authority.
Photo: UNMAS

MALI



Overview

Following the outbreak of conflict in 2012, the use of explosive ordnance has had a wide-ranging detrimental impact on the safety and freedom of movement of civilians, state authorities and international actors. Since 2017, Mali has experienced a significant increase in the number of IEDs recorded, coinciding with a gradual expansion of the threat from the north to the centre of the country. Since 2021, IEDs have also been recorded in Mali's western and southern parts.

Civilians have increasingly become victims of the explosive threat, with IEDs frequently placed on major roads. Such incidents often lead to high casualties, as it is common for civilians to share vulnerable means of transportation. Civilians represented 43 per cent of all IED casualties, compared to 28 per cent in 2021. In addition to posing a threat to civilians, the contamination limits access to local livelihoods and essential services hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance, inhibits the population's freedom of movement, and hinders economic recovery and development.

In 2022, 218 IED incidents were recorded, a decrease compared to 2021 (245 IEDs recorded). Mopti remained the region with the highest number of IEDs (38 per cent) and the highest proportion of casualties (62 per cent). The Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) bore the second-largest share of IED casualties (40 per cent). Peacekeepers of MINUSMA were also impacted (15 per cent of all IED casualties), with 12 peacekeepers killed and 52 injured.

Mandate

UNMAS is present in Mali as a component of MINUSMA. Mandated by Security Council resolution 2640 (2022), UNMAS provides training, expertise and equipment to counter explosive devices to MDSF as well as TCCs and PCCs to ensure the safety and security of Mission personnel. In support of the Malian authorities, UNMAS helps civilians mitigate risks posed by explosive threats, particularly IEDs, notably in the north and centre of Mali.

Peacekeepers at a pre-deployment IED threat mitigation training in Togo.
Photo: UNMAS



Enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

With UNMAS support, MINUSMA has developed a comprehensive and holistic explosive threat mitigation framework of mutually reinforcing activities, both at the strategic and operational levels, including threat analysis, preparing and equipping the Mission, protecting personnel and assets, defeating devices, information sharing, and adaptation.

UNMAS pre-deployment and in-Mission training, dissemination of advice and dedicated support to planning capacities, and the provision of specialised equipment continued to enhance the capabilities of the Mission's uniformed units consistent with the Secretary General's A4P+ agenda. The sustainability of efforts was supported through training of trainers and mentoring in pre-deployment training. As a result, MINUSMA has steadily mitigated the IED threat, preventing numerous fatalities through its ability to detect and neutralise IEDs.

In line with the 2021 Independent Strategic Review on the United Nations Response to Explosive Ordnance Threats recommendations, UNMAS led a comprehensive counter-IED analysis to identify gaps and enhance the Mission's capacity to mitigate the explosive threat through appropriate measures to be implemented during 2023. The effort was led by the Counter-IED Working Group, activated by UNMAS and co-chaired with the Force, which provides analysis and support to the Mission's strategic decision body, the counter-IED steering committee.

Supporting the national mine action capacity to address the explosive ordnance threat

UNMAS continued to enhance the capacity of national authorities to mitigate the explosive threat, develop a more secure environment, and strengthen efforts to protect civilians.

UNMAS continued mentoring and training MDSF personnel in IED threat mitigation and disposal, explosive search and detection activities, and delivering training-of-trainer courses in Search and Detect. Since 2013, 37 MDSF teams have been trained in IED Disposal, enhancing capacity in explosive hazard management and enabling them to deploy to high-risk areas. Following the provision of EOD/IED Disposal specialised equipment to MDSF in preceding years, UNMAS conducted training courses on EOD/IED Disposal equipment maintenance tailored to the needs of the MDSF.

Additionally, advisory support to the Direction du Génie Militaire was provided further to the June 2022 decree laying out the Direction's structure and responsibilities, including the permanent establishment of a Centre de Coordination des Opérations and an EOD/IEDD Training centre as entities of the Direction. Both these centres were established and supported by UNMAS; in 2022, assistance focused on developing managerial and training capacities in explosive hazard management.

Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

UNMAS continued to coordinate the response of humanitarian mine action actors in the country, including by co-chairing – with Dan Church Aid - monthly Humanitarian Mine Action Working Group meetings in Bamako and other regional meetings.

UNMAS delivered EORE to more than 81,500 people in conflict-affected areas and explosive hazard risk awareness to 134 humanitarian personnel. In addition, UNMAS assisted, and referred for further assistance, more than 327 victims of explosive ordnance and small arms and light weapons incidents. UNMAS also built the capacity of 44 focal points from civil society organisations in risk education, and victim assistance and strengthened local mechanisms and community initiatives to prevent and mitigate conflict.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through MINUSMA and in-kind contributions (please see pages 119-120 for details).



Malian Defence and Security Forces participate in UNMAS IED threat mitigation training.
Photo: UNMAS



Women and children attend an EORE session at a home in a neighborhood of Timbuktu. Home visits offer a unique opportunity to reach all family members and deliver life-saving messages in a comfortable environment.
Photo: UNMAS /Serge Ouedraogo

NIGER



Overview

UNMAS established a presence in Niger in September 2021 at the request of the United Nations Resident Coordinator based on an expression of needs from the Ministry of National Defense. Priorities were formulated in a needs and threat assessment that identified an increase in the use of IEDs in Niger.

Mandate

UNMAS aims to reduce the effects of the explosive threat on civilians and Nigerien Defense and Security Forces, to build the capacity of the Defense and Security Forces and to enable the life-saving work of United Nations and humanitarian actors.

People on the road to Agadez, Niger.
Photo: UNMAS / Lorène Giorgis.

Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS works with the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Weapons (CNCCAI) to enhance its mine action capabilities and support a sustainable national capacity. UNMAS assisted the CNCCAI in establishing national standards on EORE, victim assistance, community liaison, non-technical survey and tasking, and accreditation. With the support of UNMAS, the MA AoR was re-activated, enabling better coordination of activities amongst mine action actors present in the country. Furthermore, 74 Nigerien Defense and Security Forces members were trained in IED threat mitigation.

Enabling the United Nations and humanitarian actors

UNMAS provided 1,200 humanitarian workers – United Nations personnel and staff of national and international NGOs – with the knowledge they needed to be more aware and better prepared for the IED threat. In addition, 23 EORE trainers were trained to deliver risk education to more than 20,400 members of vulnerable communities in the Diffa and Tillabéri regions.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details) and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund.

NIGERIA



Overview

The conflict stemming from the insurgency of non-state armed groups in northeast Nigeria has entered its thirteenth year. As a result, the local population and humanitarian and development actors continue to be exposed to the threats posed by explosive ordnance. According to the 2022 HNO, 8.4 million people in the northeast states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (known as the BAY states) need humanitarian assistance, with approximately 1.2 million in need of mine action interventions. The devastating impact of this conflict on the physical and mental well-being, living standards and the capacity for resilience and recovery of the affected population is compounded by the dangers posed by landmines of an improvised nature and other explosive ordnance.

Despite declaring in 2011 that it was free of all known anti-personnel mines, Nigeria reported experiencing the “tragic consequences of the production and use of antipersonnel mines of improvised nature by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), especially in the northeast” in November 2019. As a result, Nigeria requested in 2020 an extension of its obligations to Article 5 of the APMBC to clear and destroy all known anti-personnel landmines in its territory to 2025. The request was granted in 2021, and as part of its commitment, Nigeria’s Inter-Ministerial Committee on APMBC stated it would establish a National Mine Action Center for the northeast.

Due to the intense and ongoing fighting between Nigerian security forces and NSAGs, the full extent of the contamination is not known. Locally manufactured anti-personnel landmines have been deployed on roads, in agricultural lands, and in many hard-to-reach areas. UNMAS data shows that the casualty toll from EO is high and rising.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Nigeria in 2018, following a request by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator along with a letter of request from the 7th Division of the Nigerian Army.



IED training for Nigerian Police in Maiduguri.
Photo: UNMAS

Protecting civilians and humanitarians from the threat of explosive ordnance

Since its deployment in 2018, at the request of the United Nations RC/HC, UNMAS has carried out actions consistent with its principal objectives of ensuring that relevant national and local entities manage the explosive threat and address the immediate threat posed by landmines of improvised nature and other explosive ordnance to civilians and humanitarian actors.

One mitigation measure is the capacity development of national and state authorities and national security organisations to protect their citizens through the delivery of training of trainer (ToT) packages. These ToT packages are essential for the sustainability and national ownership of mine action in Nigeria. These trainings included IED disposal ToT, Advanced First Aid ToT, EORE ToT, Non-Technical Survey operator training, and training on the Information Management System for Mine Action.

As the Mine Action Sub-Sector lead under the Protection Cluster, UNMAS coordinated the delivery of EORE for 582,614 people (127,090 girls, 140,821 boys, 160,877 women, and 153,826 men) who live in areas affected by the presence of EO. In addition, UNMAS delivered explosive ordnance awareness sessions for 724 members of humanitarian organisations and national authorities’ personnel in the northeast, enabling the safe delivery of crucial humanitarian aid and services to vulnerable populations



Primary school students who received EORE from an UNMAS implementing partner in Borno State.
Photo: UNMAS

Developing national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS continued to engage with CSOs to build capacity at the local level and improve access to specialised services for survivors of explosive ordnance accidents and other persons with disabilities with similar needs. UNMAS established a victim assistance service directory and is working with CSOs and local authorities in the community to reach victims across the BAY states and to provide them with support that will help reduce the physical and psychological trauma confronting them.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details).



Humanitarian staff in Gwoza, Borno State receiving EORE.
Photo: UNMAS

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



Overview

The escalation and cyclical nature of hostilities between Israel and the State of Palestine in 2008, 2014, 2021, and in 2022 between Israel and Hamas has been the primary source of ERW contamination in the Gaza strip.

Mandate

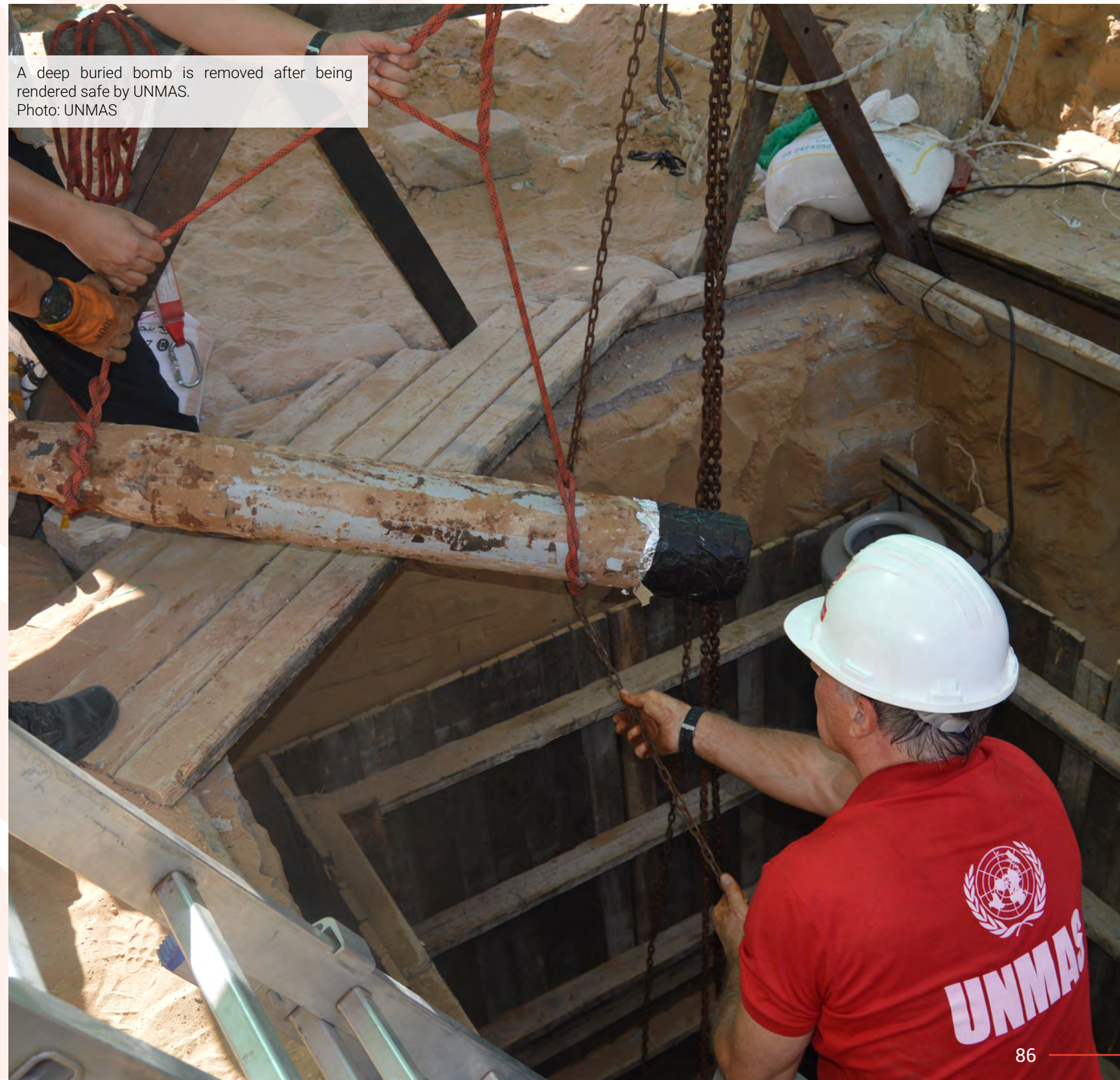
UNMAS established a presence in Gaza in January 2009 in response to the escalation of hostilities in late 2008 and the resulting contamination. In December 2010, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested UNMAS to “expand its demining project in Gaza Strip, so that it covers all areas of Palestine and the Palestinian territory (...)”. As a result, UNMAS expanded its activities to the West Bank, mapping over 90 minefields, facilitating the creation of the Palestinian Mine Action Center (PMAC) and providing it with mine action management support. UNMAS continues to be the technical adviser to the PMAC, assisting them in fulfilling the State of Palestine’s obligations to the APMBC.

In 2014, considering the extensive ERW contamination that resulted from another escalation of conflict in Gaza, the Secretary-General directed UNMAS to “immediately develop and implement an effective security plan for the safe and secure handling of any weapons discovered in UN premises” and to “immediately deploy personnel with expertise to deal with this situation.”

Enabling United Nations and humanitarian partners operations

In Gaza, UNMAS responds to the ERW problem by analysing the extent and type of contamination, risk assessments, and EOD, including deeply buried bombs.

UNMAS conducted 98 risk assessments at the project sites of UN entities and humanitarian and development partners, including for rubble removal and reconstruction. UNMAS work enabled the safe construction of houses and other civilian infrastructure projects, including the provision of clean water and electricity. After the August 2022 escalation of hostilities, UNMAS ensured that two United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) schools were clear of ERW and ready to reopen safely and that other United Nations entities could resume their delivery of acutely needed emergency and life-saving humanitarian assistance.



A deep buried bomb is removed after being rendered safe by UNMAS.
Photo: UNMAS

Protection of civilians

UNMAS continued to mitigate ERW risks for the civilians in Gaza through EORE and conflict preparedness and protection training, with specific modules tailored for different target groups, including children. UNMAS delivered EORE to 32,602 individuals, including 8,192 women, 10,824 men, 7,154 boys and 6,432 girls and CPP training for 9,178 people, including 6,218 women and 2,960 men. UNMAS also continued to provide community-based resilience training, empowering women in risk mitigation decision-making. The skills they learned proved essential when hostilities broke out in Gaza in August 2022.

During the hostilities, an UNMAS all-women national EORE team launched an emergency public campaign delivering messages through SMS, radio and social media to approximately one million Gazans to ensure affected populations were aware of safe behaviours to mitigate the risk from explosive hazards. To enhance the EORE training capacity in Gaza, UNMAS developed and implemented a ToT course, enabling other United Nations entities to carry out EORE, thereby maximising output and facilitating sustainability.

UNMAS assisted the PMAC in launching “MineSafe”, a mobile phone application game to educate audiences of all ages in Arabic, English, and French about the risks of explosive ordnance. The application was adapted for persons with hearing difficulties, so players can read scripted messages and feel vibrations to increase their engagement. UNMAS also coordinated with the PMAC to train EORE facilitators.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details).



UNRWA students holding awareness messages during an event held jointly by UNMAS and UNRWA to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, Gaza.
Photo: UNRWA



UNRWA school students participating in an event held by UNMAS and UNRWA to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, Gaza.
Photo: UNRWA

SOMALIA



Overview

In Somalia, IEDs continue to pose a grave threat to the security, safety, and freedom of movement of civilians, the Somali Security Forces (SSF) and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). A total of 542 IED incidents were recorded. IEDs along main supply routes, rural tracks and at static locations are typically placed to target security forces. However, civilians are disproportionately affected, accounting for 62 per cent of all IED-related fatalities in 2022. Aside from IEDs, decades of armed conflict have created a legacy of explosive ordnance, such as landmines, bombs, and other explosive remnants of war, along with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Explosive ordnance constitutes a severe risk to local communities and hampers efforts to promote peace and stability in Somalia.

On 15 May 2022, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud became the 10th President of Somalia, concluding months of a political crisis in a peaceful manner. However, due to stepped-up security operations against armed opposition organisations, Somalia continued to experience political unrest and related violence in 2022.

Mandate

Mine action, and particularly IED-threat mitigation initiatives, are critical to the successful implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan and the transfer of responsibilities from ATMIS to

the Somali security forces by December 2024. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and ATMIS are all called upon to support this transition in their mandates (Security Council Resolutions 2632 (2022) and 2628 (2022)). UNMAS is a substantive component of UNSOM, under the Rule of Law and Security Institutions Group (ROLSIG), providing strategic advice and technical expertise to the Government of Somalia, including on IED threat-mitigation, weapons and ammunition management and protection of civilians from explosive ordnance. UNMAS is also an integral component of the UNSOS, providing explosive ordnance threat mitigation support to ATMIS and the Somali security forces and institutions.



UNMAS-trained EOD operator undergoes IED disposal refresher training at Aljazeera-2 Forward Operating Base.
Photo: UNMAS

Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

UNMAS contributed to the safety and security of ATMIS troops and United Nations personnel by providing a complete IED threat mitigation package, including pre-deployment and in-country training, provision of specialised equipment, expert advice and mentoring. UNMAS embedded 32 advisors within ATMIS to enhance and sustain troop capabilities to detect and neutralise explosive devices and readiness to operate in a high IED-threat environment. As a result of these measures, the percentage of IEDs targeting ATMIS that were safely found and cleared increased from 40% in 2021 to 44.8% in 2022.

Supporting the national capacity to address the threat posed by explosive ordnance

UNMAS efforts increasingly focused on transitioning explosive threat-mitigation responsibilities from ATMIS to the SSF, including by providing specialised training and equipment to the Somali Police Force (SPF) and the Somali National Army (SNA). UNMAS trained and equipped 21 SNA multi-skilled and 16 SPF EOD/IED Disposal teams to provide IED threat mitigation support across Somalia. As a result, the SNA teams successfully neutralised 47 IEDs in seven regions. UNMAS also continued to develop the capability of the SPF to provide security in Mogadishu by deploying three mobile vehicle checkpoint teams to prevent the proliferation of weapons, ammunition, and explosive materials. Vehicles and individuals were searched at randomly selected key locations across the city, contributing to the disruption of the planning and execution of IEDs. UNMAS also advised security forces in the establishment of a national counter-IED framework.

The illicit arms flow and absence of armouries and ammunition storage facilities across Federal Member States remains a threat to stability, with Somali security institutions also needing more capacity and capability in WAM. However, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has shown a commitment to WAM, particularly at the policy level, by establishing a national WAM Task Force to coordinate the implementation of the ten benchmarks articulated in the WAM technical assessment SG report (S/2022/698), dated 15 September 2022. UNMAS supported the FGS at both strategic and operational levels (training courses, regional assessments, provision of ammunition storage), aligning with broader UN support to Security Sector Reform and the extension of the partial lifting of the Arms embargo under SCR 2662 (2022).



Somali Future Pilots EOD personnel monitor remotely operated vehicle operations from the Incident Control Point during practical training sessions delivered by UNMAS.
Photo: UNMAS

Protecting civilians from the impact of explosive ordnance

UNMAS contributed to the protection of civilians through coordination, management and information management support to the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA). UNMAS supported the FGS, through SEMA, in meeting its international obligations to the APMBC by supporting the development of their extension request action plan and providing technical advice on APMBC reporting obligations. UNMAS also contributed to drafting and launching the first national action plan for victims of explosive ordnance and persons with disability from other causes. These activities support the national mine action architecture and governance system in Somalia.

UNMAS implemented community-based clearance projects in four Federal Member States: Hirshabelle, Galmudug, South-West and Jubaland. These restore access to land, enable employment opportunities, and increase humanitarian access. Further, to accelerate the land release process and to define the extent of contamination, UNMAS began a non-technical survey in those four Federal Member States.

UNMAS delivered EORE to civilians, including returnees, displaced populations, and other vulnerable groups, to promote safe behaviour around explosive ordnance. UNMAS provided information on the dangers of explosive ordnance and ways to reduce risk-taking behaviour in remote locations throughout Somalia through the delivery of portable solar-powered risk education talking devices.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through UNSOM and UNSOS budgets, UNICEF, and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details).



A risk education team member and a villager explaining the dangers of explosive ordnance to children of Bula-Burte in Somalia.
Photo: UNMAS

A Somali Police Force officer undergoes demolition training provided by UNMAS.
Photo: UNMAS / Dominique Wehrli



UNMAS CONTRIBUTION TO SAFE AND SECURE ELECTIONS

In April and May 2022, in support of the FGS's efforts to hold safe and secure elections, UNMAS, through its implementing partner, The Development Initiative, strengthened the Somali Police Force in their efforts to counter the threat posed by vehicle-borne IEDs by deploying mobile vehicle checkpoints (MVCP) in various parts of Mogadishu. As well as checking vehicles and individuals - at different locations every day - the MVCP unit provided convoy escorts for members of parliament and presidential candidates using electronic countermeasures against remote-controlled IEDs. Their successful operations earned the unit positive standing with the public and senior State officials.

RETHINKING COUNTER-IED EFFORTS

On 31 March 2022, Security Council resolution 2628 (2022) was adopted, endorsing the African Union Peace and Security Council's decision to reconfigure the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) into ATMIS. The new mandate contributes to the objectives of the Somalia Transition Plan to gradually handover security responsibilities from the African Union to the Federal Government of Somalia.

In June 2022, supported by UNMAS, ATMIS held a three-day conference that brought together representatives from the Ministry of Defense, Somali National Army (SNA) and other key stakeholders to pool ideas on how to combat the IED threat, which continues to inflict significant casualties among civilians and Security Forces, particularly the SNA. UNMAS shared lessons learned from various parts of the country, highlighting concerns about the lack of control of dual-use chemical precursors used by al Shabaab in synthesising homemade explosives and the need for coordinated joint operations between SNA and ATMIS.

The conference was an example of how UNMAS is increasing its collaboration with the Somali Security Forces to develop and enhance its capacity to mitigate the threat posed by IEDs.

SOUTH SUDAN



Overview

Eleven years after the independence and four years after the signing of the Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, the people of South Sudan continue to remain in dire need of life-saving assistance due to political instability, endemic armed conflicts and inter-communal violence, and three years of unprecedented flooding as well as localised drought.

An estimated 9.4 million people require humanitarian assistance, an increase of half a million from 2021. By the end of October 2022, over a million people were reportedly impacted by floods in 36 of 79 counties across the country.

Sub-national violence recurred in seven of ten states throughout the year. Heavy fighting, which erupted in August 2022 between armed factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition in Tonga town in Upper Nile state, continued to flare and displace more than 30,000 people to neighbouring areas in Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity states, which are also the hardest hit by the floods.

The presence of mines and ERW and the circulation of small arms and ammunition across the country exacerbates insecurity and hinders humanitarian response. Land contaminated by EO was estimated to be 16 million square meters by the end of 2022, restricting the movement of civilians, IDPs, peacekeepers and humanitarian workers and preventing the voluntary and safe return and resettlement of refugees.

Mandate

Mine action sits at the heart of the 'Triple Nexus' approach of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which seeks to link humanitarian, development and peace efforts in a way that best meets the needs of girls, boys, women, and men across the country. As a Mission component, UNMAS work is fully integrated into UNMISS core objectives of protecting civilians, creating the conditions conducive to delivering humanitarian assistance, and; supporting the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and the peace process (Security Council resolution 2625 (2022)).

Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P+

The widespread upsurge in sub-national violence increased the need for peacekeeper presence across the country. In support of their safe deployment, UNMAS surveyed roads, carried out clearance and provided convoy escorts on routes prioritised by UNMISS. A total of 2,553 kilometres of road were surveyed and cleared, and 68 patrols covering 350 kilometres were escorted. UNMAS also responded to 274 UNMISS requests to confirm helicopter landing sites and airstrips were free of contamination ensuring safe air transport for UNMISS leadership and peacekeepers and enabling the Mission to carry out mandated activities in the hardest-to-reach locations of the country. Further, UNMAS continued to provide peacekeepers with landmine and ERW awareness training during induction sessions and workshops organised by the Mission. In total, 675 peacekeepers (including 74 women) attended training before their field deployment to learn about threats posed by explosive hazards and safe behaviour.

Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

UNMAS surveyed, cleared and released 7,477,362 square meters of land, securing a safer environment for civilians and the voluntary return and resettlement of IDPs and refugees. In total, 46,836 items of ERW were removed or destroyed, enabling communities to access 234 agricultural areas, 27 hospitals, 53 natural water sources and 9 schools free from the threat of explosive hazards. Additionally, 439,826 civilians (134,774 girls, 147,072 boys, 94,059 women and 63,921 men) were educated on EORE across the country. Pre and post-intervention surveys indicated that 93 per cent of beneficiaries increased their knowledge of safe behaviour.



School children receive EORE training in Bor, Jonglei State.
Photo: UNMAS / Sikulisiwe Gwara

Facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance

UNMAS continued to mitigate the threat explosive hazards pose to humanitarian access through survey and clearance of contaminated areas, removal and disposal of EO, and advocacy. Areas declared safe by UNMAS included a previously mined site in Canal, Jonglei State, where a community displaced by flooding resettled; an IDPs camp managed by UNHCR in Bentiu, Unity State; and FAO's demonstration farm where local farmers are trained in agricultural practices.

UNMAS further distributed explosive hazardous maps of the country to humanitarian actors registered on a monthly mailing list.

Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

Consistent with its obligations as a signatory to the APMBC, South Sudan aims to clear all known anti-personnel mine contamination by June 2026. After that, the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) is expected to lead on addressing residual mine threats. International support will still be required to clear other explosive hazards, such as unexploded ordnance. To that end, UNMAS continued to provide technical advice and assistance to the NMAA to enhance their capacity to coordinate and manage mine action activities. In September 2022, the NMAA and UNMAS, with mine action partners, collectively carried out the annual revision exercise of the National Technical Guidelines for Mine Action. In November, at the 20th Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC, the chairperson of the NMAA engaged in the discussion and delivered a presentation on the country's 'Individualised Approach' to achieve the 2026 goal, with the support of UNMAS.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the Department of Peace Operations budget for UNMISS and the Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action (please see pages 119-120 for details).



Crops growing and a child playing on land adjacent to a previously contaminated area in South Sudan.
Photo: UN / Christina Simons



SUDAN



Overview

After decades of civil war, Sudan suffers widespread explosive ordnance contamination. Over 33 square kilometres in 195 communities are contaminated by landmines and ERW, concentrated in three regions: Blue Nile state, South and West Kordofan states, and the Darfur region.

The Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) signed in 2020 between the transitional Government of Sudan and several armed groups allowed humanitarian access to previously inaccessible areas where UNMAS continued to clear explosive hazards throughout 2022. However, areas controlled by non-state armed groups that did not sign the JPA remain inaccessible despite UNMAS advocacy efforts for access. The coup d'état staged by the Sudanese military in 2021 derailed Sudan's democratic transition and halted the peace processes between the transitional Government and the non-signatories of the JPA, further exacerbating access constraints.

Against this backdrop, in March 2022, the Government of Sudan submitted, to the APMBC, a request to extend its clearance deadline to 2027. The request was granted in November 2022.

Mandate

UNMAS was first established in Sudan in 2002 to build the national mine action capacity and to help Sudan meet its clearance obligation under Article 5 of the APMBC. In 2013, UNMAS transferred responsibility to the National Mine Action Center (NMAC) but re-established its programme in 2015 upon request from the Government of Sudan.

In 2021, UNMAS was integrated into the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). Since then, it has supported the UNITAMS mandate by providing mine action services to enable Sudanese-led peacebuilding, protect civilians, strengthen the rule of law and support the implementation of the JPA (S/RES/2524).

Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

UNMAS raised awareness of the threats of explosive ordnance in the conflict-affected Blue Nile, South Kordofan, the Darfur region and in eastern states where Tigrayan refugees faced the risk of unexploded ordnance accidents. EORE messages reached over 256,800 people (69,400 girls, 71,850 boys, 56,740 women, and 58,850 men) through direct sessions and many more through radio programmes, public information campaigns and community-based activities, such as EO safety briefings provided by trained community volunteers. Ensuring the safety of humanitarian and development actors, UNMAS also delivered EORE briefings to UNITAMS and other United Nations personnel and NGO staff operating in EO-affected areas.



A community liaison officer conducting EORE to a community women's group in Baw Locality, Blue Nile State.
Photo: JASMAR

Enabling United Nations and local population to safely use previously contaminated areas

Through survey and clearance, UNMAS confirmed over one million square meters of land free from explosive ordnance and opened just over 64 kilometres of road, rendering more than 27,000 items of explosive ordnance safe in the process. Most land returned to communities is used for farming, grazing, and accessing water points. In addition, UNMAS-led mine action enabled other United Nations entities to deliver assistance. For example, funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, UNMAS cleared over 50,000 square meters of land in the heavily EO-contaminated localities of Dalami and Abu Kershola, which needed humanitarian assistance. Following the clearance of priority areas, FAO provided farming tools to 3,000 households for use on the land. At the same time, IOM rehabilitated water and educational facilities, improving the living conditions of the local population, including IDPs and returnees, and contributing to community development.

Supporting the national capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS continued to build the capacity of the NMAC to manage its mine action programme and mitigate the explosive threat in the country. This included the reactivation of the mine action sector-wide coordination mechanism, reviewing national mine action standards and partners' standard operating procedures, providing technical advice on quality management of field operations, and advising on reporting obligations to the APMBC. Filling the gap in national capacity to assist victims of explosive ordnance accidents, UNMAS also provided medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic, and rehabilitation support to 100 EO victims.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the UNITAMS budget, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action and in-kind contributions (please see pages 119-120 for details).

A booth at an event to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action held in Kadugli, South Kordofan state. Photo: JASMAR



OPENING HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS

People in South Kordofan have long suffered the impact of armed conflicts. The last major fighting between Government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) erupted in 2011 and continued until 2016 when a cessation of hostilities was declared. Following the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in October 2019, a peace agreement was signed between Sudan's transitional government and several non-state armed actors. However, it did not include a few key opposition actors, such as the SPLM-N led by Abdelaziz Al Hilu. Although the cessation of hostilities is still in place, the areas controlled by the Al Hilu faction are isolated from the rest of the country, and the civilian population are in dire need of humanitarian aid.

Negotiation and coordination efforts by United Nations agencies enabled humanitarian aid delivery to resume in 2021. However, many parts of the frontlines and buffer zones are suspected of containing explosive ordnance, including landmines and ERW, hindering the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and posing threats to humanitarian actors.

In February and July of 2022, UNMAS assessed two roads connecting areas held by the SPLM-N opposition group and towns in government-controlled areas of the Nuba Mountains region of South Kordofan. UNMAS confirmed which parts of the roads were safe and which were not, identifying alternate routes where contamination was found. As a result, UNDP was able to provide agricultural equipment for use by local farmers to increase agricultural outputs, and WFP delivered 360 tons of food to the region in August 2022 – a historic achievement.



A Multi-Task Team undergoing accreditation before the start of land release operations in Blue Nile state.
Photo: UNMAS

SYRIA



Overview

Explosive contamination in Syria continues to be a significant protection concern, impacting the life of civilians and hampering humanitarian aid delivery and early recovery efforts. According to OCHA's access analysis, the presence of explosive ordnance is one of the most common constraints to the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance. The 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Syria further reports that 37 per cent of households returning to areas they previously fled are concerned about EO presence in their communities, and 26 per cent of all direct EO victims recorded in the past two years are IDPs. Explosive contamination is generally prevalent in areas that have sustained or continue to experience peaks of intense hostilities and explosive incidents, such as communities in Aleppo, Idleb, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Quneitra, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Daraa governorates.

UNMAS data indicates that from 1 January 2013 to 30 September 2022, nearly 19,700 EO victims were recorded in Syria, averaging almost seven victims per day, placing Syria amongst the top countries reporting EO victims worldwide. The latest Landmine Monitor Report (2021) notes that Syria recorded the highest number of annual casualties in 2020 and accounted for more than 80 per cent of casualties globally.

Mine action in Syria remains a crucial enabler for delivering humanitarian aid, providing access to services, carrying out early recovery activities to assist people in need, and critical to safe, voluntary return. There is yet to be a country-wide survey to provide an accurate picture of the contamination, and comprehensive data collection remains challenging. Clearance operations remain geographically limited and underfunded. Both survey and clearance need sustained, dedicated funding.

Mandate

At the request of the United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator in 2015, UNMAS established the Syria Response Programme initially in Gaziantep, southern Turkey, consistent with Security Council resolution 2165 (2014). In July 2018, UNMAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Syrian Arab Republic and deployed to Syria in October 2018.

Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

The UNMAS Syria Response Programme aims to minimise the threat and the impact of explosive ordnance on communities most at risk in Syria. As the coordinator for mine action in the Syria humanitarian response, UNMAS ensures that the sector's activities are prioritised, planned, and well-integrated within the broader humanitarian response to deliver a coherent humanitarian response to at-risk communities.

UNMAS-trained EORE teams delivered awareness sessions to more than 172,000 civilians, promoting safer behaviours in communities most affected by explosive ordnance contamination.



UNMAS risk education team provide explosive ordnance awareness to humanitarian personnel.
Photo: UNMAS / Lama Albussaily

Enabling safe use of previously contaminated land

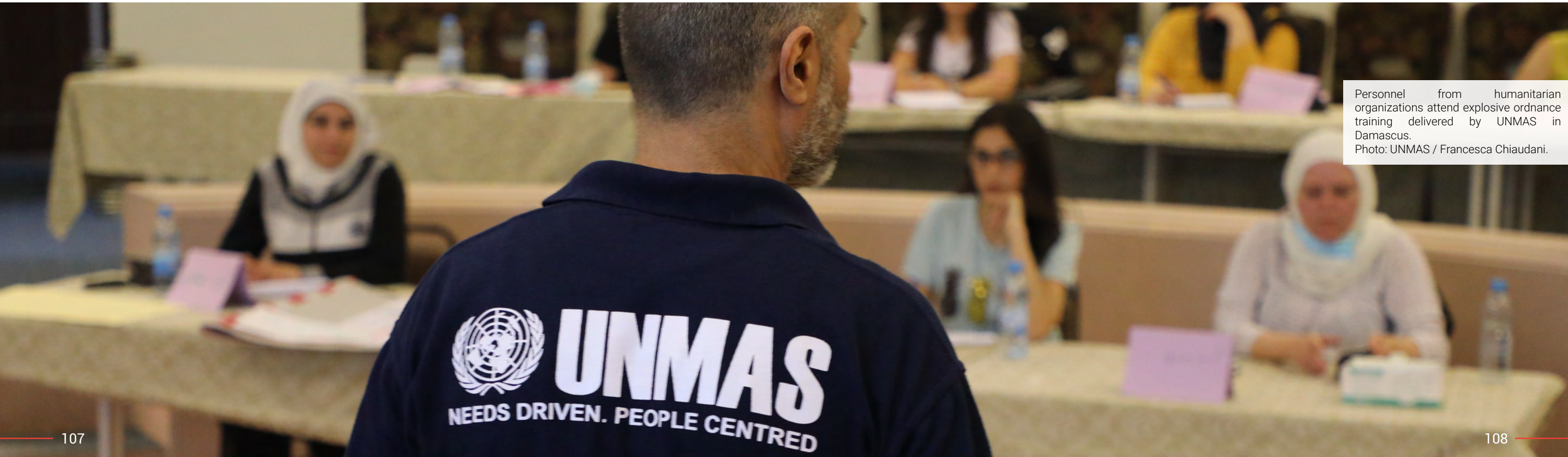
Between August 2020 and June 2022, UNMAS deployed two explosive ordnance assessment teams (EOAT) to Rural Damascus and Damascus governorates to carry out explosive ordnance assessments through non-technical and technical surveys in four communities in Damascus and Rural Damascus. Having assessed more than 4,200 residential buildings in Darayya (Rural Damascus) and Yarmouk (Damascus), UNMAS confirmed the presence of explosive ordnance in 140 buildings and identified 800 buildings suspected to be contaminated by explosives and requiring future mechanical clearance. In Darayya, Rural Damascus, the teams assessed more than 2 million square meters of agricultural land, of which 71 per cent was confirmed hazardous. Although limited in geographical scope, the work of the EOATs demonstrated the widespread presence of explosive ordnance and the need to continue carrying out surveys to verify and complement information collected through community reports and humanitarian analysis.

UNMAS continued clearance activities in Darayya, Rural Damascus, through its implementing partner, the Armenian Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (ACHDE). In April 2022, the first bulk demolition of items took place - a milestone for UNMAS and the mine action sector in Syria. By the end of 2022, 55 demolitions have been carried out, and 500 items were destroyed.

Enabling the United Nations and humanitarian workers

UNMAS provided explosive awareness training to 570 United Nations agencies and NGO personnel. For instance, in February 2022, UNMAS provided explosive awareness training to WFP and UNHCR contractors to enhance safety and security for personnel delivering humanitarian aid across lines of control. Upon completing the training, attendees are equipped with the knowledge and awareness necessary to identify explosive ordnance and know which safe behaviours to adopt to minimise the explosive threat. To further extend its reach, UNMAS trained around 200 community-based facilitators working with United Nations and NGOs to deliver EORE. Around 365,000 risk awareness handouts with lifesaving explosive ordnance awareness messages were delivered to national and international NGOs and United Nations entities to distribute to communities in need.

UNMAS in Syria continues to support efforts to assist survivors of explosive ordnance and other persons with disabilities, including emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation (including prostheses, orthoses and other assistive products), and psychological and psychosocial support. UNMAS supported the Department of Health in Hama by providing equipment to a physical rehabilitation centre covering both Hama and Homs governorates. Access to specialised services is enhanced through referrals to other organisations and coordination between responders. The Victim Assistance Working Group, led by UNMAS since 2020 and comprising more than 15 partners involved in service provision for EO survivors and other persons with disabilities, has proved an effective information sharing and planning forum. In 2022, 1,500 individuals (680 men, 610 women, 130 boys and 80 girls) benefited from more than 4,400 UNMAS-supported services. Among these, 200 people were survivors of explosive ordnance accidents.



Personnel from humanitarian organizations attend explosive ordnance training delivered by UNMAS in Damascus.
Photo: UNMAS / Francesca Chiaudani.

Assisting the most vulnerable

To maximise impact, UNMAS has adopted an integrated approach, streamlining EORE with victim assistance. At the same time as EORE teams deliver their safety messages, they identify persons with disabilities, including survivors of EO accidents, and refer them to the right facility for assistance. So far, 360 people (120 women, 170 men, 30 girls and 40 boys), including 50 victims of EO accidents, have been assisted in Rural Damascus. For instance, Hazar, an 11-year-old girl from Daraya, Rural Damascus, was five years old when she lost her right leg, just below the knee. As she grows, she needs to change the prosthesis regularly to adapt to her growing limb. As a result of the UNMAS project, Hazar has been provided with a new prosthesis to increase her functional independence.

EORE: mainstreaming awareness messages

Raising awareness of the dangers of explosive ordnance is an essential, life-saving component of the humanitarian response for vulnerable communities affected by the conflict in Syria. To maximise reach, UNMAS developed a new set of EORE materials, including videos and animated images to be shared on social media. UNMAS made the materials available to all humanitarian partners in Syria, and over the course of 2022, around 365,000 leaflets and posters were distributed by humanitarian actors. In partnership with UNICEF, UNMAS also launched a social media campaign sharing videos on popular local Facebook pages to help spread awareness of safe behaviours.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in mine action, and the United Nations Syria Humanitarian Fund (please see page 119-120 for details).



UNMAS explosive ordnance assessment team conducts survey in Darayya, Rural Damascus, Syria.
Photo: UNMAS/Asso Sabahaddin.

GIVING BACK LAND IN RURAL DAMASCUS

In December 2021, UNMAS launched a pilot clearance project in Darayya, Rural Damascus. As of the end of November 2022, demining teams from UNMAS implementing partner the ACHDE have cleared more than 2 million square meters of land, which is now being cultivated by local people who are using it to grow food and cash crops to support their families.

During clearance, teams from ACHDE met Mr Noor, a Darayya resident who had found multiple explosive ordnance items in the area. “Before you came, I was planning to sell my land, as I am 75 years old and had lost the will to start over again. But now”, - Mr Noor told the team- “I am very thankful for everyone who cleared this land. I have decided to stay to plant my crops”.



UNMAS Explosive Ordnance Assessment Team conducting a survey in Darraya, rural Damascus, Syria.
Photo: Modher Ali

TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA



Overview

The Territory of Western Sahara is impacted by the presence of landmines and EO, including cluster munitions, as a result of the conflict that took place from 1975 and 1991 between the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA), Mauritanian armed forces and the military forces of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). A 2,700-kilometre-long sand berm stretching from inside southern Morocco to the Atlantic Ocean at Guerguerat was constructed during the conflict, of which 1,465 kilometres divides the Territory into western and eastern parts. Assessments indicate that landmines heavily contaminate this 1,465 kilometres portion of the berm and the immediate surrounding areas.

Following the 1991 ceasefire, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution to establish the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), of which UNMAS is a component. The Council authorised the most recent extension of the mandate – to 31 October 2023 - in resolution 2654 (2022), emphasising the need to achieve a realistic, practicable, enduring and mutually acceptable political solution to the question of Western Sahara.

The breakdown of the 1991 ceasefire resulting in the resumption of hostilities in November 2020 and the ongoing low-intensity conflict have led to a partial suspension of mine action activities east of the berm and a renewed threat from explosive ordnance, including in areas previously deemed safe.

In August 2022, permission was granted by both the Frente POLISARIO and the RMA for UNMAS to resume the survey and clearance of mined areas east of the berm. The remobilisation of teams commenced, but one month later, the Frente POLISARIO requested that a memorandum of understanding for the resumption of mine action be signed between MINURSO and Frente POLISARIO. The next steps are being considered by the United Nations Office for Legal Affairs.

Mandate

The work of UNMAS is in accordance with Security Council resolution 2654 (2022). UNMAS activities in the Territory of Western Sahara, east of the berm, ensure the safe passage of United Nations personnel. Through route verification and convoy escorts, UNMAS increases the safety and security of MINURSO personnel travelling on the logistics routes supplying MINURSO team sites and United Nations Military Observers conducting ground patrols. UNMAS also provides expert advice to MINURSO investigations on explosive incidents and accidents east of the berm. UNMAS delivers Explosive Ordnance Risk Awareness sessions to all MINURSO personnel, enhancing their knowledge of the danger posed by such explosive hazards.

Advancing the safety and security of peacekeepers and A4P

East of the berm, UNMAS increases the safety and security of MINURSO personnel, material and equipment travelling on logistics supply routes by checking for the presence of explosive ordnance and providing convoy escorts. UNMAS also delivers EORE to all MINURSO personnel, enhancing their knowledge of the dangers of explosive hazards.

UNMAS confirmed that more than 9,336 kilometres of roads in the Territory were free from explosive hazards facilitating the safe movement of MINURSO military observers and other Mission personnel and equipment and enabling them to discharge the Mission mandate safely.

UNMAS delivered 40 EORE sessions for 175 newly arrived MINURSO military and civilian personnel (118 men and 57 women), increasing their knowledge of the dangers posed by EO.

UNMAS enabled MINURSO investigations into alleged uncrewed aerial and other air-to-ground attacks east of the berm by providing technical expertise to the investigations. UNMAS conducted eight technical investigations.



A military observer in MINURSO marking UXO in Mahbas area, Western Sahara.
Photo: MINURSO

Patrol leader training on explosive ordnance hazards.
Photo: MINURSO



Protecting civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance

Through its local partners east of the berm, UNMAS contributed to the protection of civilians, including persons displaced by the ongoing hostilities, from the danger of explosive ordnance through the delivery of EORE reaching 4,310 people.

Supporting the local capacity to prioritize and manage the mine action sector

UNMAS continued to assist in the capacity enhancement of the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Office, providing technical advice, mentoring and training. Similar support was provided to other local mine action stakeholders, namely the Sahrawi Association of Victims of Landmines and the all-female Sahrawi Mine Action Women's Team.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the MINURSO budget.



YEMEN



Overview

Yemen remains severely contaminated by landmines and ERW, including cluster munitions, IEDs, and sea mines. Governorates with significant fighting, such as Al Hudaydah, Al Bayda, Al Dhale', Hajjah, Ma'rib, Sa'ada, Shabwa and Taiz, are most impacted.

In the Hudaydah governorate, where UNMAS is present in support of the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) mandate, UNMHA recorded landmine and ERW-related incidents every week. More than 40 per cent of the 289 casualties recorded by the Mission in the Hudaydah Governorate for 2022 were women and children killed and maimed by different explosive devices.

Mandate

UNMAS continued to provide strategic and technical advice on a range of mine action issues (planning, training, mapping, lessons learned) to the senior management of UNMHA in support of its mandate. The Security Council most recently extended the mandate of UNMHA until 14 July 2023 in its [resolution 2643 \(2022\)](#).

UNMAS liaised with UNDP, the lead United Nations entity on mine action in Yemen and other mine action stakeholders in Hudaydah. UNMAS carried out risk assessments to enable the Mission to conduct patrols without any landmine or ERW-related incidents, delivered EORE for Mission staff and conducted assessments of the local ERW threat and contamination in support of other United Nations entities. UNMAS coordinated with the local mine action authorities in Sana'a and Aden to share information on the landmine and explosive remnants of war threats in the governorate on both sides of the frontlines and the Mission's advocacy strategy in support of the mine action efforts.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2022 were funded through the UNMHA budget.



UNMHA

UNMHA Head of Mission, Major General (retired) Michael Beary, visiting Hudaydah University to see the damage that occurred during the conflict. The university had over 18,000 students before the conflict started
Photo: UNMHA

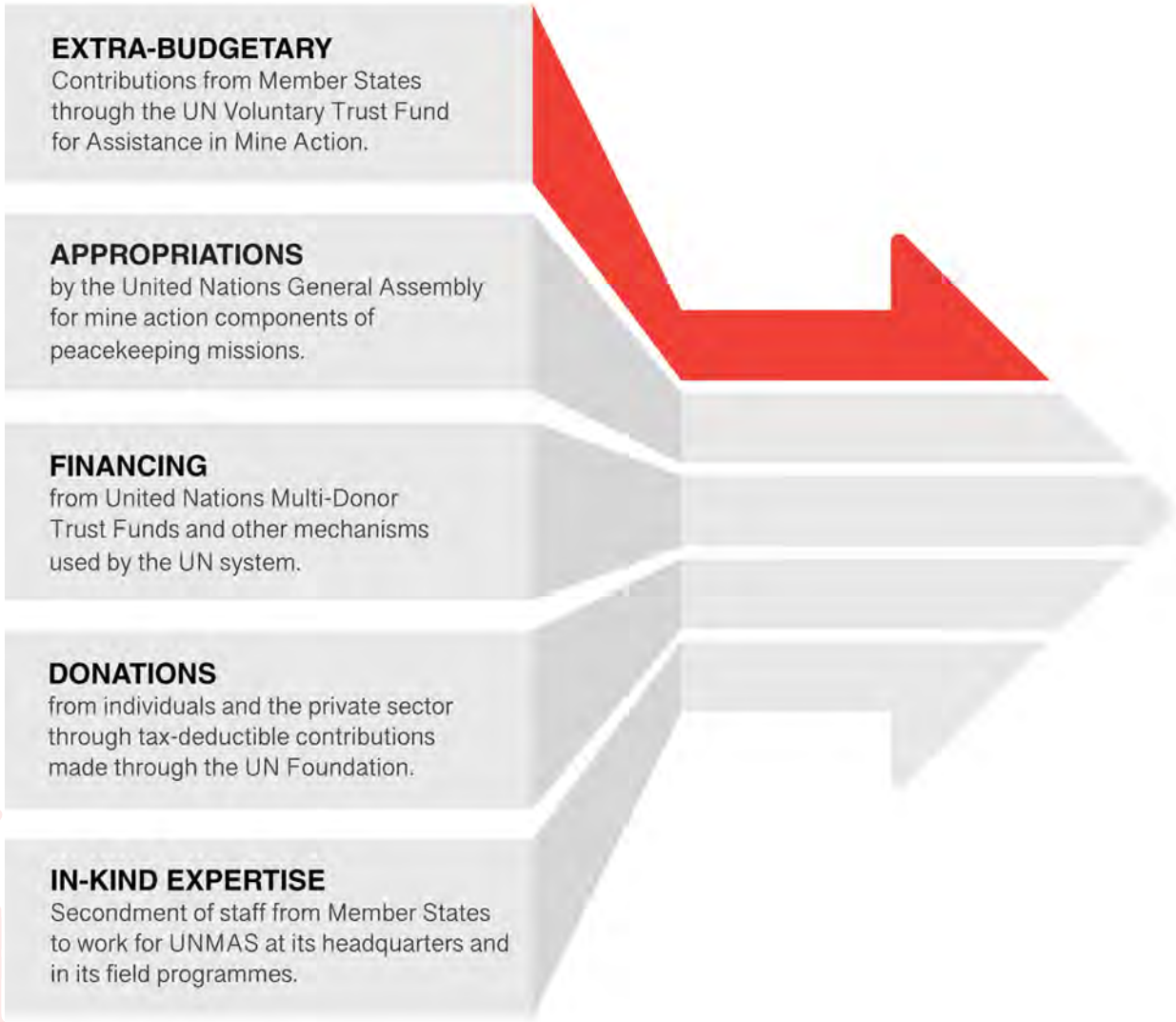
CONTRIBUTIONS 2022

UNMAS Partnerships and Funding in 2022

UNMAS is funded in several ways. When integrated into peacekeeping and special political missions, funding comes from assessed contributions through appropriations made by the General Assembly. Other activities depend on contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action.

Flexible, sustained funding is essential to UNMAS ability to manage complexity and build responsive programmes at the country level. UNMAS encourages its donors to consider multi-year contributions. Unrestricted funding provides UNMAS with the agility to allocate resources to areas of great need but limited resources. UNMAS is grateful to the donors that provide unearmarked contributions.

UNMAS thanks Germany, Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and the United States for providing in-kind personnel in 2022.



**MAKING THE WORLD FREE
OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE**

Contributors to UNMAS in 2022 (figures in USD)

Earmarked Funds Allocated Through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to UNMAS Programmes/Projects by Donor 2022																	UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED 2022
DONORS	AFGHANISTAN	BURKINA FASO	COLOMBIA	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	ETHIOPIA	IRAQ	LIBYA	NIGERIA	OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	SOMALIA	SUDAN	SYRIA	THREAT MITIGATION ADVISORY TEAM	TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA	ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES*	TOTALS	
Belgium						1,038,000						1,038,000				2,076,000	
Canada		744,032				4,000,000										4,744,032	
Denmark													259,835			259,835	2,145,002
Estonia						15,000						15,000				30,000	
European Union						286,301		711,504	3,395,700	63,187						4,456,692	
France						485,200										485,200	
Germany	842,932											1,131,900				1,974,832	
Italy						1,035,700	1,038,600		190,665		1,035,700	1,063,000			156,810	4,520,475	
Japan	900,000				200,000				1,134,203							2,234,203	57,517
Liechtenstein																	25,164
Luxembourg																	1,523,897
MPTF			144,052													144,052	
Netherlands																	3,164,100
New Zealand						859,315			449,676							1,308,991	943,050
Poland									44,434							44,434	22,217
Republic of Korea		100,000	100,000	900,000				100,000								1,200,000	
Spain							42,560							42,560		85,120	53,200
Sweden						2,324,728										2,324,728	
Switzerland			16,000													16,000	
United Kingdom	9,477,600										673,243					10,150,843	
UNDP		500,000														500,000	
UNICEF										200,000						200,000	
UNOPS					195,264											195,264	
United States	755,975						986,785			244,968	2,205,123		871,108			5,063,959	25,000
Grand Total	11,976,507	1,344,032	260,052	900,000	395,264	10,044,244	2,067,945	811,504	5,214,678	508,154	3,914,066	3,247,900	1,130,943	42,560	156,810	42,014,659	7,934,146

*Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines (ItCBL)

Background: collaborative work by Belgian artist Sibomana, Giles Duley and Legacy of War Foundation.

UNMAS Programme Strategy Core Elements (as of February 2023)

ABYEI	
Vision	UNISFA safely implements its mandate to ensure the peace and security of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone (SDBZ).
Mission	UNMAS operations enable UNISFA mission mobility, voluntary return of civilians to their communities, delivery of humanitarian aid and effective functioning of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM).
Outcomes	UNISFA mandate delivery is not impeded by explosive risk.
Outcome Indicators	Zero movements, access, and deployments by UNISFA, JBVMM, humanitarian and civilians interrupted or cancelled as a result of mines or explosive remnants of war within the Abyei Area. Full deployment of UNMAS personnel to the JBVMM headquarters, sector headquarters and team sites to ensure effective support to the JBVMM whenever required. Percentage and proportion of requests from UNISFA responded to (disaggregated by request type: WAM, training, route verification, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), ground patrols, destruction of un-exploded ordnance, etc.) Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.
AFGHANISTAN	
Vision	Afghan communities benefit from lasting peace and hope for stability and prosperity.
Mission	UNMAS provides assessments of the explosive ordnance threat and its impact on civilians, including children, advises on and coordinates explosive ordnance threat mitigation measures in support of humanitarian and development initiatives, and supports the coordination of the humanitarian mine action sector.
Outcomes	Mine action contributes to the creation of peace and stability in Afghanistan (UNAMA 2023-2024 Strategy Objective 1). Mine action contributes to economic and social conditions for self-reliance (UNAMA 2023-2024 Strategy Objective 3).
Outcome Indicators	Percentage of reduction in civilian casualties from explosive devices compared to the same time last year (UNAMA 2023-2024 Strategy indicator 1.8, 2023 HRP indicator). Number and percentage of tasks issued by the UNMAS-led HMA coordination center in response to requests made by the humanitarian and development communities (VTF, Joint Framework for International Partner Support in Afghanistan 2023–2025 indicator 1.5.f).

Background: collaborative work by Belgian artist Sibomana, Giles Duley and Legacy of War Foundation.

BURKINA FASO	
Vision	The impact of the explosive ordnance threat on affected populations, national institutions, and the aid sector is reduced.
Mission	UNMAS provides national institutions and affected populations the knowledge, tools, and capacity to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance in high-risk areas and handover responsibilities to national mine action counterparts.
Outcomes	Effective explosive risk reduction programme increasingly managed by national actors with minimal external technical input. Targeted communities are increasingly protected by capable national actors.
Outcome Indicators	Number of Regions that dispose of IOC or FOC capacity. Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. Percentage of UNMAS quality assurance tasks that show national actors are operating in compliance with national standards with a pass score above 80%. Number of teams deployed disaggregated by category (NGO or GOV) and skills (risk education and S&D).
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	
Vision	MINUSCA deploys safely and supports the ability of national authorities to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance and manage weapons, ammunition, and other explosive hazards in a responsible manner to improve the security environment and protect civilians across CAR.
Mission	UNMAS in CAR supports national capacity development in WAM and explosive ordnance threat mitigation to enable progressive extension of state authority, security sector reform and eventual transfer of responsibility from MINUSCA to relevant national authorities and enhances the capacity of MINUSCA to deploy safely.
Outcomes	Relevant national authorities coordinate Mine Action responsibilities and manage weapons and ammunition according to international standards and achieve progress on the key benchmarks for the review of the arms embargo measures. National authorities protect civilians, mitigate, and respond to the EO threat. MINUSCA mitigates EO threat to operate effectively in an increasingly complex security environment.
Outcome Indicators	Progress towards fulfilment of national WAM targets as elaborated in national planning documents concerning percentage of WA storage facilities and percentage of WAM trained personnel. Percentage of EO threats responded (discovery, removal and/or destruction) by FACA in accordance with international standards. Percentage of explosive ordnance that are identified and safely destroyed by MINUSCA. Security Council resolutions on the arms embargo in CAR take into consideration progress achieved towards the benchmarks on weapons and ammunition management established in S/PRST/2019/3. Percentage of PBI coordinated or jointly conducted with MINUSCA, by the National authorities. Number of EO incidents. Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate increased knowledge of un/safe practices.

COLOMBIA

Vision	Individuals and communities live free from the threat posed by explosive ordnance, and mine action contributes to the peace process and development in Colombia.
Mission	UNMAS Colombia provides technical assistance to the national MAC and to the mine action sector generally and supports mine action related aspects of the peace process.
Outcomes	The national MAC coordinates a prioritized, principled and effective mine action programme. Mine action related aspects of the peace process are implemented. Mine action sector performs HMA effectively.
Outcome Indicators	Mine action is integrated into plans that prioritize community needs and development priorities. The number of ex-combatants with livelihoods in the mine action sector. Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. The amount of land released based on validated information provided by former FARC. Number and percentage of high-priority mine action tasks completed by NGOs trained by UNMAS. Number of ex-combatants who perform mine action as a reparatory action as recognized by the transitional justice system.

CYPRUS

Vision	UNFICYP safely implements its mandate and maintains the ceasefire and the integrity of the United Nations buffer zone.
Mission	UNMAS in Cyprus ensures that mine action builds confidence in the peace process through technical advice and support.
Outcomes	UNFICYP enabled to carry out its mandate in a safe and effective manner.
Outcome Indicators	Percentage and number of requests of support from UNFICYP responded to.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Vision	National authorities respond adequately to explosive ordnance threats and curb the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of SALW, thereby improving security for civilians.
Mission	UNMAS supports the MONUSCO PoC mandate with EOD spot tasks and builds EO threat mitigation and SALW management and storage capacity in the national NGO, defence and security sectors.
Outcomes	DRC security sector and/or national NGOs respond to EOD tasks. MONUSCO addresses EO threats resulting from conflict in the East to ensure safety of the peacekeepers, and communities in the AoR. The capacities of DRC national security institutions deployed in the Mission AoR are upgraded to an appropriate level in accordance with international standards for Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM)
Outcome Indicators	Percentage and number of EOD tasks requested by national actors to which the national capacity responds in accordance with IMAS. Percentage and number of IEDD requests to which UNMAS responds to protect peacekeepers, and civilians across MONUSCO AoR. Number of arms marked according to international standards. Percentage and number of EOD tasks (ERW and bulk ammunition) completed by UNMAS out of the total requested by MONUSCO in the East. Percentage and number of requests for weapon storage from the national defence and security forces in the east responded to by UNMAS (disaggregated by requests from PNC, FARDC and ICCN).

ETHIOPIA

Vision	The threat of EO is minimized for communities affected by conflict.
Mission	UNMAS works to create conditions conducive to the protection of civilians from the threat of EO and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid, including through strengthening the capacity of national mine action counterparts to manage the mine action sector in Ethiopia and facilitating access for mine action operators.
Outcomes	Humanitarian partners safely deliver basic services and at-risk civilians safely access basic services and livelihood activities in areas impacted by explosive ordnance. Conflict-affected people know how to mitigate explosive risks in their vicinity. National authorities in Ethiopia efficiently manage the mine action sector in accordance with international standards.
Outcome Indicators	Number and percentage of requests for support from humanitarian organizations positively responded to. Number and percentage of interventions in response to EO incidents or reports. Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. Number of organizations that receive accreditation to conduct mine action activities.

IRAQ		
Vision	The Government of Iraq manages an efficient mine action sector that protects civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance and enables stabilization and development efforts to proceed unimpeded by explosive ordnance.	
Mission	UNMAS Iraq supports the development of a sustainable, well-coordinated national mine action sector and reduces the threat of explosive ordnance to civilians.	
Outcomes	SO1: The GoI coordinates, manages and allocates national financial resources to an efficient, well-coordinated and well prioritized MA sector. SO2: National NGOs implement MA priority tasks effectively and efficiently with funds from the GoI and international donors. SO3: Land is released for safe return of displaced persons and development activities and people are able to mitigate the risks from EO.	
Outcome Indicators	GoI describes full scope and scale of contamination in Iraq to relevant treaty forums. Number of intervention/engagement to assist Iraqi NMAS to be aligned with IMAS. Number of high-level advocacy meetings and/or workshops for the Iraqi MA sector consistently, sustainably funded through federal budget allocations supported by bilateral contributions and projects co-funded with GoI federal and international bilateral contributions. Number of workshops and engagements to assist DMA to develop transparent and timely tasking for the sector operators. Number of GoI entities or personnel who reports increased knowledge and skills for their function in mine action response as a result of UNMAS support. Number of NNGOs trained through UNMAS Iraq partnership grants to meet the standards to compete successfully for UN grants and bilateral funding.	Number of engagements to advocate for NNGOs grants and funding either provided bilaterally, by UNMAS and/or by other donors. Number of priority tasks completed by NNGOs with UN and bilateral funding. Number sqm of land made safe for development activities. Number of sites/locations where access has been enabled to restore or facilitate use. Percentage and number of the +1M displaced people from liberated areas have safely returned to their places of origin and demonstrate an increase in knowledge of safe practices. Percentage and # of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.
LEBANON		
Vision	UNIFIL safely implements its mandate and achieves a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.	
Mission	UNMAS Lebanon provides high quality operational and humanitarian mine action advice that enables UNIFIL to advance a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.	
Outcomes	The population of South Lebanon benefits from UNIFIL TCCs clearance of the ERW and landmines that pose humanitarian risks in the UNIFIL AOR. UNIFIL operates safely in the AoR.	
Outcome Indicators	Increase in the area safe from landmines and explosive remnants of war. Maintain zero incidents among UNIFIL military demining teams.	

LIBYA

Vision	Libyan institutions effectively control weapons and ammunition, prevent illicit proliferation, and respond to the threat of explosive ordnance, enabling people in Libya to live in a safe environment conducive to sustainable peace and development.	
Mission	The UNSMIL Mine Action Programme supports Libyan institutions to effectively address and respond to uncontrolled arms, ammunition, and related material, countering their proliferation to protect civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance.	
Outcomes	Libyan institutions secure, manage, and mitigate the risks of arms and ammunition stockpiles in accordance with international standards. Libyan institutions reduce the risk of explosive ordnance (EO).	
Outcome Indicators	Percentage of identified and assessed Ammunition Storage Areas (ASA) secured, managed, and/or risks mitigated by Libyan institutions. Number of guidelines, procedures or standards adopted by Libyan institutions to address arms and ammunition. Percentage of requests positively responded to secure and manage arms and ammunition associated with foreign fighters and mercenaries (FFM) in support of the Ceasefire Monitoring Component (CMC).	Number of systems, standards and processes established by Libyan institutions to reduce the risk of explosive ordnance to civilians. Percentage of trained personnel from Libyan institutions with a mine action mandate who demonstrate increased knowledge for their function in EO response. Number of UNSMIL Ceasefire Monitoring Component (CMC) plans and operations that have mine action accounted for.

MALI

Vision	The population in Mali is safer and more secure as a result of the reduced threat posed by explosive ordnance.	
Mission	UNMAS Mali enhances the capacity of MINUSMA, the Malian Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) and civil society to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.	
Outcomes	National authorities have the capacity to lead and manage the mine action response, which is implemented through civil society. The capacity of MDSF to manage the explosive threat is enhanced. MINUSMA peacekeepers deploy and patrol safely.	
Outcome Indicators	A National Mine Action Authority is operational and has the capacity to manage the response to explosive ordnance according to a strategy and operational plans. Number of national NGOs with mine action capacity. A national plan to manage the response to explosive threats is developed. Number of Malian Defence and Security Forces teams with enhanced capacity in explosive hazard management enabling them to deploy to high-risk areas and to protect the civilian population. Percentage and proportion of explosive devices detected/cleared by MINUSMA. Number of MINUSMA EOD team interventions, operating in accordance with UN standards, restoring the freedom of movement of MINUSMA.	

NIGERIA

Vision	National authorities protect civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance in northeast Nigeria.
Mission	UNMAS Nigeria supports national capacities, including the security sector and civil society, and coordinates the mine action response in northeast Nigeria.
Outcomes	Relevant national and local entities manage the explosive threat, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination. The immediate threat posed by explosive ordnance to civilians and humanitarian and development actors is mitigated.
Outcome Indicators	Number and percentage of requests for EOD/IED threat mitigation responded to by national and local entities. Number of national and local entities with capacity to conduct an IEDD/EOD response. Percentage and number of beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

Vision	The threat of explosive ordnance is minimized for vulnerable populations and the UN family in Palestine.
Mission	UNMAS Palestine helps civilians and humanitarian partners to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance and to empower the Palestinian Mine Action Centre (PMAC) to assume responsibility for mine action.
Outcomes	The United Nations, and its humanitarian partners in Gaza, maintain critical functions, uninhibited by explosive hazards. People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.
Outcome Indicators	Percentage and number of UN and humanitarian partner sites declared safe to use after request for assistance. Number of UN and humanitarian personnel with increased knowledge of explosive risk reduction to support their delivery of humanitarian and recovery programmes. Percentage and number of requests by development organisations responded to, enabling them to deliver operations at conflict affected sites. Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices (disaggregated by age, sex and region). Increased number of EORE personnel in the West Bank delivering the PMAC EORE strategy.

SOMALIA

Vision	Somalis are safer and more secure as a result of the increased ability of Somali national authorities and security services to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance, including IEDs.
Mission	UNMAS in Somalia enhances the ability of ATMIS, Somali Security Institutions towards the transition of security responsibilities, and support affected communities to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.
Outcomes	ATMIS TCCs perform their functions with reduced threat posed by IED or EO. The Federal Government of Somalia has enhanced capacity to assume responsibility for security. Communities experience reduction of the threat posed by explosive hazards.
Outcome Indicators	Number and percentage of IEDs encountered without ATMIS casualties. Number of IED threat mitigation and EOD training and mentoring teams deployed in support of ATMIS. Number and percentage of IEDs encountered without SSF casualties. Number of SSF explosive threat mitigation teams deploy to high risk areas out of the total numbers of teams trained by UNMAS, in line with the National Security Architecture and Somalia Transition Plan. Progress in the achievements of the weapons and ammunition management benchmarks are and recommendations noted in regular SG Reports. Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. Area and % of released land that is being used productively. Progress towards the implementation of the FGS national action plan on APMBC Article 5 obligation noted in the States Parties meeting’s report.

SOUTH SUDAN

Vision	South Sudan is free of known ERW contamination and can independently address residual EO contamination in all its forms, enabling communities to live safely and the peace process to be implemented responsibly.
Mission	UNMAS South Sudan supports the safety and security of peacekeepers and communities from EO and enables the NMAA to coordinate and prioritize HMA.
Outcomes	Humanitarian actors and civilians have safe access to areas previously contaminated with EO. UNMISS uniformed and civilian operations proceed unimpeded by EO. Mine action contributes to South Sudan peace process.
Outcome Indicators	Percentage and number of responses to requests from NMAA, humanitarian entities and communities for support to release land that contributes to safe and secure environments for communities and enhances IDPs return and reintegration. Maintain zero casualties among mission personnel related to EO. Number of taskings issued by NMAA that prioritize protection of civilians. Number of EORE beneficiaries and % that demonstrate increased knowledge regarding safe practices. Percentage and number of responses to requests from Mission for support.

SUDAN			
Vision	The Sudanese population lives free of the threat of explosive ordnance.		
Mission	Pursuant to the UNITAMS mandate, UNMAS Sudan enables UN mobility in areas affected by explosive ordnance and supports the Government of Sudan to effectively manage the mine action sector, achieve relevant treaty obligations and deliver peace dividends to the population.		
Outcomes	People at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance and small arms and light weapons. The United Nations and the local population safely use areas previously contaminated with explosive ordnance. National authority manages a prioritized principled and efficient mine action programme.		
Outcome Indicators	Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices (SADD). Percentage of land released used productively (disaggregated by usage type: residential, agricultural, humanitarian response, UNITAMS mobility etc). Percentage of requests to address EO contamination from UNITAMS responded to (disaggregated by request type: road assessment, support to humanitarian operations, survey of mission sites, helicopter landing sites etc). Percentage decrease in direct financial assistance provided by UNMAS to the NMAC. Number of stakeholders who provide VA services through NMAC coordination (disaggregated by service type).		
SYRIA			
Vision	The threat [and impact] of explosive ordnance is minimized for communities most at risk.		
Mission	UNMAS in Syria coordinates the mine action sector to deliver a coherent humanitarian response to at-risk communities.		
Outcomes	Mine action partners assist people in greatest need. Survivors and victims of explosive ordnance incidents obtain assistance for recovery and reintegration.		People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance. Humanitarian partners safely deliver basic services and at-risk civilians safely access basic services and livelihood activities in areas impacted by explosive ordnance.
Outcome Indicators	Percentage of mine action partners working in accordance with agreed prioritized work plan (linked to HRP protection severity risk). Percentage of EORE beneficiaries demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. Number of humanitarian partners supported by mine action services to plan and deliver operations safely (disaggregated by usage type: residential, agricultural, humanitarian response etc).		

	Percentage of released areas that are accessed and used by civilians, in line with the intended purposes (disaggregated by use).
	Percentage and number of victims and survivors assisted who report that assistance supported their recovery (disaggregated by age, gender and type of assistance).

WESTERN SAHARA

Vision	MINURSO safely implements its mandate to monitor the ceasefire.
Mission	UNMAS in Western Sahara enhances the capacity of MINURSO and local capacities to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.
Outcomes	S02: Local capacities lead and manage mine action programmes. S01: Reduced threat posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, improving security and accessibility within the Territory.
Outcome Indicators	The local mine action authority (SMACO) implements the SMACO strategic plan 2019-2023. Percentage of patrols undertaken by MINURSO military observers without explosive ordnance incidents. Additional square meters of surface and sub surface area free from known threats of landmines and ERW in order to facilitate the monitoring of the ceasefire and to ensure safe passage for UN personnel.

YEMEN

Vision	The parties to the Agreement on the City of Hudaydah and the Ports of Hudaydah, Al Saliff and Ra’s Issa implement their commitment to mine action.
Mission	UNMAS in Yemen enhances the capacity of UNMHA and local capacities to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.
Outcomes	UNMHA operates safely in its Area of Responsibility. UNMHA (as Chair of RCC) advocates for compliance with the demining commitments in the Hudaydah Agreement (support to RCC demining of ports) in its Area of Responsibility. UNMHA advocates for partnerships among donors, international operators and national and de facto authorities to address HMA in Hudaydah and across the country.
Outcome Indicators	Zero explosive ordnance related incidents among UNMHA personnel. UNMHA responds to requests from YEMAC and RCC members for technical advice on demining of the ports. Number of partnerships brokered among donors, NGOs and YEMAC to conduct mine action in the AoR.

