



UNMAS

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**

**MINE ACTION
CANNOT WAIT**

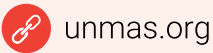


The UNMAS Annual Report 2023

Produced by: Policy, Advocacy, Donor Relations and Outreach Section of UNMAS New York.

Designed by: Emma Melin

Cover photo: UNMAS / Iraq.



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Contributors



Belgium



Canada



Denmark



Estonia



European Union



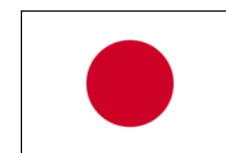
France



Germany



Italy



Japan



Liechtenstein



Luxembourg



Netherlands



New Zealand



Poland



Republic of Korea



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



United Kingdom



United States



MPTF



UNDP



UNOPS



UNICEF

School teacher providing ERW risk education to children in Beit Hanoun.
Photo: UNMAS / Ahmed Joha

Foreword from the United Nations Secretary-General

Every year, landmines, improvised explosive devices and other explosive ordnance and remnants of war claim thousands of victims.

These horrific incidents are all-too-common. Men and boys losing limbs while collecting scrap metal. Women and children killed when buses set off improvised explosive devices. Children playing near shiny objects that explode. Families fleeing conflict zones, travelling through landscapes littered with landmines. Farmers whose fields become deadly traps.

Meanwhile, humanitarian workers and peace operations are blocked from delivering their lifesaving missions when rubble conceals booby traps and explosive remnants of war.

With the increase in new and ongoing conflicts over the last year, the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is more important than ever.

As this report makes clear, 2023 found the brave women and men of UNMAS continuing to provide their highly specialized services to remove these deadly weapons, ensure that people can travel safely in their communities, and provide education and threat assessments to keep people and humanitarian workers safe.

For example, in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Nigeria, the Service's training and education programmes are helping keep civilians safe, as well as police, peacekeepers and humanitarians as they carry out their work.

This training is also helping to build peace and stability in countries transitioning from conflict, including Colombia and Somalia.

In Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, UNMAS is working with partners to address the threat of landmines, and coordinate efforts to rid landscapes of these deadly weapons.

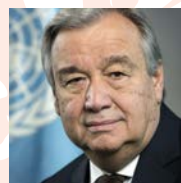
In Gaza, UNMAS teams are conducting threat assessments to safeguard UN facilities being used as shelters, humanitarian staff, and convoys delivering food, medical care and other essential supplies.

And the Service's work is supporting countries as they live up to their obligations under various treaties and conventions – including South Sudan, which acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2023, and Nigeria which ratified it.

Mine action is also a cornerstone of the New Agenda for Peace to place prevention and disarmament at the heart of all peace efforts.

Country by country, community by community, the dedicated personnel of UNMAS are ridding the world of deadly vestiges of war.

I call on the global community to continue supporting this essential work.



UN Photo | Mark Garten


Antonio Guterres
 Secretary-General of the United Nations

Message from the UNMAS Director

I am pleased to share the 2023 UNMAS Annual Report.

This report illustrates how UNMAS consistently delivers demanding mandates that range from providing humanitarian response in active conflicts, supporting peacekeepers to deploy safely and protect civilians, assisting national authorities in fulfilling their treaty commitments, bolstering the capabilities of national security services, deploying explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) teams to empower civilians to live and move safely in explosive ordnance contaminated environments.

UNMAS now delivers 20 programmes, many in places experiencing increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by non-state armed groups and terrorists, increased use of explosive weapons in populated areas, decreased respect for international humanitarian law, and the impact of climate change on food security and displacement.

In each of our programmes we seek to enable the broader humanitarian, stabilization and development agendas requested by the host country or mandated by the Security Council and coordinated across United Nations partners.

As the system-wide coordinator of United Nations mine action, UNMAS led the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) to update the United Nations Mine Action Strategy for 2024 and beyond, clarifying a coherent approach across all relevant United Nations partners. UNMAS also increased its capacity to assess IED threats, support peacekeeping and host country responses and train national security services, including troop-contributing countries, to deploy into high threat environments. As convenor of the United Nations Whole-of-System IED Threat Mitigation Task Force UNMAS continued to coordinate across United Nations partners and among peacekeeping operations components to support coherent country-specific strategies.

UNMAS implements its mandate with the financial and political support of Member States. In Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syria, UNMAS operations depend entirely on 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, Libya, Somalia and Sudan. We thank our donors and partners for their continued support and cooperation.



UNMAS


Ilene Cohn
 Director, United Nations Mine Action Service



TEAM NAME اسم الفريق	TL نود فنز T3
H.A NAME اسم المنطقة الخطرة	هشقر لولث
HA - SHO رقم المنطقة الخطرة	SHO-HA-102
DMA - HZ - CI رقم المنطقة الخطرة حسب دائرة شؤون الاقام	HZ-CI-61786
TASK ORDER NO رقم امر المهمة	CI-SHO-503/02
TASK START تاريخ بدء العمل	٢٠٢٣-٢-١٩
TOTAL AREA SQM المساحة الكلية	٢١٦٦,٨٨٩
ARE CLEARANE SQM المساحة المطهرة	٢٢٨,٧٣٩
REMAINING SQM AREA المساحة المتبقية	٢١٠٦,٨١٠
RELEASE SQM AREA المساحة المطلقة	٢٣١,٣٤٠
TS مسح التفتي	٢٣٨,٧٣٩
COMPLETION RATE نسبة الاجاز	٢٣٥,٧٩
LOST DAY الايام المفقودة	٧ ايام
ERW FOUND المخلفات التي وجدت	-
IEDs TYPES OF انواع العبوات الناسفة	
METAL PLATTER CHARGE عبوة حديدية	٢
VS500 في أس ٥٠٠	١١
PLASTIC JUG جبلكان	-
SPEED PUMP مربع حديدي	-
OTHERS انواع اخرى	-
TOTAL المجموع الكلي	١٣
H.A. TO HOSPITAL المسافة إلى المستشفى	٢٤٦٠-١٣٥٠ م
LAST CASEVAC DRILL آخر إخلاء	٢٠٢٣-٤-٢٧
QA VISIT IN تاريخ ضمان الجودة الداخلي	٢٠٢٣-٥-٢
QA VISIT External تاريخ ضمان الجودة الخارجي	٢٠٢٣-٣-١٤

Deminer in Iraq giving a team briefing.
Photo: UNMAS

UNMAS in 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait

INTRODUCTION

In its twenty-seventh year, UNMAS adapted successfully to evolving operational, security and political contexts and removed and destroyed tens of thousands of explosive ordnance items, improved the safety of millions of people, strengthened the national capacity of partner governments, and reduced the threat of explosive ordnance to United Nations and humanitarian personnel.

The UNMAS Strategic Plan aims to maximize UNMAS contributions to the successful implementation of United Nations peace operations mandates and the delivery of humanitarian assistance consistent with the new United Nations Mine Action Strategy and the United Nations vision is free from the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munitions, and IEDs.

MEMBER STATE SUPPORT FOR UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION

General Assembly consideration of mine action

On 7 December 2023, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the latest biennial resolution on assistance in mine action (A/RES/78/70), which reaffirms the coordination role of UNMAS, emphasizes the crucial role of mine action in reducing the human cost of weapons and highlights the relevance of mine action in Member State deliberations on A New Agenda for Peace. The General Assembly recognized mine action's contribution to durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, expressed concerns over IED threats to humanitarian personnel, and noted the links between mine action and food security and climate change. The General Assembly also took note of the establishment of a United Nations Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations and advocated for mental health and psychosocial support for both victims and survivors.

Member States negotiated this text with the facilitation of Poland on behalf of the European Union, based on the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action (A/78/259). The report, covering the period of August 2021 to July 2023, highlights the civilian toll from new or worsened explosive ordnance contamination, evolving IED threats and the impact of extreme weather events, and climate change on explosive ordnance contamination. The Secretary-General called for universalization of and compliance with relevant treaties, steps to address the transnational nature of IED use and technologies, tailored responses to meet the needs of communities made vulnerable by the climate crisis, the dignified reintegration of victims into society and gender parity in mine action. The impact of explosive ordnance was also reflected in a range of other reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. For instance, in his annual report to the General Assembly and Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict (A/77/895-S/2023/363), the Secretary-General notes that explosive ordnance, including ERW, IEDs and landmines, was responsible for over 25 per cent of the killing and maiming of children in 2022, and urges

all parties to undertake clearance of explosive ordnance, provide risk education and assistance to victims. He also urges Member States to become parties to and implement all conventions on landmines, ERW and cluster munitions, if they have not yet done so, and calls upon donors to provide financial and technical assistance. In his report on "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects" (A/78/126), the United Nations Secretary-General reported on UNMAS efforts to support States in the area of weapons and ammunition management, noting the provision of technical and policy support through activities such as specialized training, including in the management and marking of weapons, the installation and upgrading of weapons and ammunition storage and the safekeeping of assets, as well as infrastructure, the disposal of unserviceable ammunition, assessment of ammunition storage areas and the development of mitigation measures to reduce risk to populations and key infrastructure.

Security Council and mine action

In line with Security Council resolution 2365 (2017), UNMAS continued to advocate with Member States on how to integrate mine action considerations into mission mandates and response planning. Here are some results from these successful advocacy efforts. Resolution 2677 (2023) on South Sudan explicitly mandates UNMISS to conduct explosive ordnance risk mitigation and clearance activities to ensure the security and freedom of movement of the United Nations and associated personnel. In resolution 2705 (2023) on Somalia, the Security Council expressed deep concern at the serious threat posed by IEDs, ERW and the proliferation of weapons and ammunition to the civilian population, United Nations personnel, African Union troops, and national security forces and notes its serious and lasting negative consequences. The Security Council also revised language in resolution 2717 (2023) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, calling for enhanced support to the strengthening and consolidation of the capacities of the Congolese security forces, including on weapons and ammunitions management, counter-IED, explosive ordnance disposal as well as on basic investigation and forensics exploitation related to IEDs. This language will enable UNMAS to engage with national authorities to better manage the dynamic explosive ordnance situation in the DRC.

The Security Council also highlighted the relevance of mine action while discussing thematic agendas. In its open debate on the Protection of Civilians, Security Council members expressed concern over the use of explosive devices and the proliferation and circulation of small arms and light weapons and called upon Member States to address the impact of small arms, antipersonnel mines and ERW on civilians. In a similar vein, in its open debate on Children and Armed Conflict, Security Council members called for continued and strengthened mine action efforts, emphasizing that effective mine action contributes to preventing grave violations against children and ensuring their freedom from fear.

UNMAS in 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait

MINE ACTION AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PRIORITY AGENDAS

Our Common Agenda, A New Agenda for Peace and The Summit of the Future

Our Common Agenda is the Secretary-General's vision for the future of global cooperation. It calls for inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism to better respond and deliver for the people and planet and to get the world back on track by turbocharging action on the Sustainable Development Goals. It outlines solutions to address the gaps and risks that have emerged since 2015, calling for a Summit of the Future that will be held in 2024.

Mine action is linked to action points embedded in the policy brief, A New Agenda for Peace. For example, by boosting preventive diplomacy, transforming gendered power dynamics in peace and security, addressing the climate-peace-security nexus, strengthening peace operations and partnerships, and developing capabilities for peace enforcement. Embracing the agenda's principles, mine action serves to reduce the human cost of weapons and sustain peace. The Summit of the Future will bring world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future, and to endorse an action-oriented, ambitious, and concise outcome document called the Pact for the Future. The Summit of the Future, and Pact, will address the changing nature of conflict and are opportunities to underscore that mine action is action for peace.

Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons

UNMAS supported durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDP). Conflict, displacement and the scourge of explosive ordnance contamination are inextricably linked. Displaced populations are often unfamiliar with the explosive ordnance threats on the highly contaminated roads they move along, in the fields or the rubble of the homes they return to. UNMAS supports the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, particularly regarding the development of whole-of-government strategies with participation and accountability to displaced and local community members, pursuing development financing for solutions, and supporting better data and better protection and assistance for IDPs.

Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Settings

UNMAS has a long history of working closely with distinguished Global Advocates to raise the profile of mine action. In December 2022, Mr. Giles Duley became the first United Nations Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Situations. As Global Advocate, Mr. Duley ensures that the voices of those disabled by explosive ordnance are heard in broader discussions on persons with disabilities in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes. The Global Advocate complements the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. Amongst other activities, Mr. Duley spoke at the Mine Action Cannot Wait Symposium on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action 2023 (April), the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week at a session framing inclusion (April) and at a panel for the "Armed Conflict and Disability - From Inclusive Protection to

Peacebuilding" side event organized by United Nations member states and several civil society organizations (October). He met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Children and Armed Conflict (April), the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Development Coordination Office (April) and the European Disability Forum team (November). He contributed to the discussion paper "Towards Greater Inclusion: A Discussion Paper on the CAAC Mandate and Children with Disabilities in Armed Conflict" (May) and informed the Special Rapporteur's third report when meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (June).

“ One of the things I know from meeting so many people living with disabilities is they get tired of their injuries, their illnesses being bigger than them. That when people meet them, the first thing they talk about is those injuries, the disability they live with, and they don't get seen as people anymore. ”

- Global Advocate Giles Duley

Mine Action Support Group

The Mine Action Support Group (MASG), comprising over 30 donor States, continued to meet and discuss country situations of concern. Italy, as the MASG Chair, convened meetings in both Geneva and New York to discuss progress and funding gaps in Colombia, Ethiopia, the State of Palestine, Syria and Ukraine. UNMAS coordinated the IACG-MA partners to ensure comprehensive briefings.

Bolstering Mine Action Sector Coordination and Coherence

UNMAS is the United Nations system-wide coordinator on mine action providing expertise to United Nations Member States, affected States, and partners and leading development of system-wide policies, strategies and common positions while also providing technical support to inter-governmental processes of the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS responds to requests for assessments and assistance and deploys and implements programmes in peace operations and non-mission settings. UNMAS is also the designated mine action service provider for United Nations Secretariat entities.

UNMAS in 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait

New and Updated IMAS

The United Nations is the custodian of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and UNMAS chairs its Review Board and Steering Committee. The IMAS provides a standardised approach to mine action activities, including survey, land release, risk education and victim assistance. The standards and guidelines are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the latest best practices in mine action.

In 2023, the Principals of the IACG-MA endorsed three IMAS covering:

- Personal protective equipment (IMAS 10.30);
- Mechanical land release (IMAS 09.50);
- Amendments to terminology (IMAS 04.10).

The Review Board developed two new Technical Notes for Mine Action on Measurement and Reporting of Beneficiaries and Practical guidelines on the management of human remains in mine action on the management of human remains. A Technical Note is an advisory document to accompany or supplement an IMAS. The Review Board also developed and released one new Test and Evaluation Protocol document, which standardizes – for the first time – the competencies required for deminers, battle area clearance operators, team leaders and supervisors.

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Convened and chaired by UNMAS, the twelve members and one observer of the IACG-MA conduct monthly horizon scanning of global mine action needs; develop and share strategies; establish common United Nations mine action priorities; and analyze developments in impacted countries. In 2023 the IACG-MA delivered strategic messaging and advocacy at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Twenty-First 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. The IACG-MA statements urged States to join these treaties and prioritise resources for clearance and offered continued support to affected States. All statements delivered by UNMAS on behalf of the IACG-MA are available at mineaction.org. In its advocacy role, UNMAS works closely with relevant treaty Implementation Support Units, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the committee members of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Geneva.

Updated United Nations Mine Action Strategy

The IACG-MA endorsed an updated United Nations Mine Action Strategy (the Strategy) that came into effect on 1 January 2024. The Strategy retains the five strategic outcome areas from the previous strategy reflecting all pillars of mine action, a theory of change, and links mine action to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The updated Strategy reflects the range of initiatives comprising

United Nations mine action, highlights the importance of effective integration of mine action in country-level United Nations strategic and coordination frameworks, reflects updated terminology to align with IMAS 4.10 on information management and IMAS 13.10 on Victim Assistance. The Strategy is no longer timebound and will be subject to periodic reviews by the IACG-MA.

Advocating for a safer world

UNMAS promoted the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April) with events in Abyei, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Switzerland (Geneva), Iraq, Nigeria, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Sudan, Syria, the United States of America (New York and Washington DC), the Territory of Western Sahara and Yemen.

26th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisors

The 26th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN26) under the theme Mine Action Cannot Wait took place on 22 and 23 June 2023 in Geneva. The NDM-UN26 was co-hosted and co-organized by the IACG-MA and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and convened by the United Nations with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The 26th meeting featured a keynote address by the United Nations Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Mr. Robert Piper, who highlighted the integral role of mine action in assisting IDPs, particularly women and children. Plenary sessions featured dynamic exchanges on climate and environment, innovation, and the rights of survivors. Side events covered topics ranging from “Path to Completion for Mine Action in Sri Lanka” and “Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in Mine Action” to “Progress Towards the United Nations Mine Action Strategy and a Look at Sector-wide Initiatives in Monitoring and Evaluation.” Over 350 participants attended this seminal event, representing national mine action authorities, United Nations advisers, donor representatives, academics, and civil society from more than 100 countries and territories.

Global Protection Cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility

In accordance with the Inter Agency Standing Committee Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action, UNMAS leads the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR), one of the four Areas of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster led by UNHCR. As such, it is an integral part of the humanitarian cluster system led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator at the global level and by Humanitarian Coordinators in each country. Co-coordinated with the Danish Refugee Council, the MA AoR provides a platform where the United Nations and non-governmental organization (NGOs) with mine action expertise collaborate with other sectors such as health, education, food security, or child protection to strengthen protection from the risk of mines and other explosive ordnance.

UNMAS in 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait

The MA AoR is guided by the five goals of the 2022-2024 Global Strategy:

- **Goal 1:** Coordinate humanitarian mine action in emergencies to accelerate and deliver more impactful interventions;
- **Goal 2:** Build and strengthen strategic partnerships to address gaps;
- **Goal 3:** Enhance and transfer capacity;
- **Goal 4:** Promote equality, diversity and inclusion in operations and workforce;
- **Goal 5:** Contribute to sustainable solutions in collaboration with peace and development actors

In 2023, the MA AoR was active in 16 complex emergencies and coordinated with humanitarian actors to protect 29 million people deemed most at risk of explosive ordnance. The coordinators in each context worked with national and international organisations to assess risk and protect affected communities through a combination of risk education, clearance and victim assistance. Donors provided \$228 million against the \$342 million requested in the 16 humanitarian response plans enabling 206 MA AoR partner organizations to reach 12.4 million people with some form of mine action. When clearance was not possible for security or logistical reasons, risk education was used to alert people and reduce the risk of accidents. When access was restricted, mine action organizations used digital campaigns and social media to reach people in Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan, and Ukraine. In emergencies where UNMAS is not present, another organization leads the MA AoR (e.g. UNDP in Ukraine and UNICEF in Myanmar). NGOs are increasingly involved as co-coordinators (e.g. DanChurchAid in Mali).

IED Threat Mitigation Policy and Coordination Initiatives

The UNMAS Improvised Explosive Device Threat Mitigation and Advisory Team (IED TMAT) and the Mobile Training Team (MTT) continued to strengthen explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) capabilities in police- and troop contributing countries (P/TCCs). In 2023, the MTT assisted seven regional or national training centres (Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) to develop national training syllabi or provide training aligned to United Nations curriculum. The MTT partnered with the NATO Defense Capacity Building Initiative to great effect, drawing on expert trainers from Belgium to deliver United Nations standard training modules adapted for specific contexts. The MTT also increased IED awareness of infantry instructors by delivering training to the United Nations Infantry Battalion (UNIBAT) Training of Trainers course in Austria to 14 students (12 men and 2 women) from 11 Member States (Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Slovakia, South Africa and Tunisia). The training included UNIBAT specialized training material modules on explosive ordnance hazard awareness and IED threat mitigation for an infantry battalion. The IED TMAT in coordination with Office of

Military Affairs: (1) participated in the review of doctrine, standards, manuals and training material, culminating in an updated IED Threat Mitigation Handbook for Military and Police which was first issued in 2017; (2) conducted five pre-deployment/pre-rotation visits of P/TCCs and three assessment and advisory visits to identify challenges and enhance their capabilities to effectively operate within an explosive ordnance threat environment. In support of OMA, TMAT conducted Military Police Capability Studies in MINUSMA and MINURSO to gain understanding of the staffing, training and explosive ordnance threat facing peacekeepers. The assessment assisted OMA make recommendations on ways to improve safety and security of the peacekeepers.

UNMAS continued to convene and chair the Whole-of-System IED Threat Mitigation Task Force, in accordance with the Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda. In 2023, the Whole of System Task Force held three meetings, organized by TMAT. These sessions focused on counter-terrorism efforts and the management of threats from IEDs. Key topics included the development of strategies and international guidelines to enforce Security Council resolutions on IED prevention, standardization of terminology for clarity in operations, and the emphasis on strengthening both regional and international collaboration. The meetings also addressed enhancing the capacities of UN Member States and advocated for a comprehensive approach to manage IED threats and their precursors. As co-chair of the DPO-DOS Working Group on the implementation of the Independent Strategic Review of the United Nations Response to Explosive Ordnance Threats (S/2021/1042), UNMAS and the Uniformed Capabilities Support Division/DOS supported counterparts in MINUSMA, MONUSCO and MINUSCA to ensure peacekeeper readiness, capacity and capability to operate within a high-threat explosive ordnance environment. UNMAS also shared technical perspectives and expertise on IEDs at the Group of Experts discussions under Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

STRENGTHENING THE UNMAS DELIVERY MODEL

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 the oversight of the performance of its implementing partner.

Following recommendations from oversight bodies and the 2022 independent review of the UNMAS delivery model, UNMAS tested alternative delivery models in two of its mine action programmes in peacekeeping operations. Accordingly, starting with the financial year 2024-25, the mine action programmes in UNIFIL and UNISFA will be implemented directly by the Secretariat and the missions and no longer through an implementing partner. This approach, which resulted in cost savings and improved governance and effectiveness for these two programmes, will be extended to other programmes.



UNMAS 2023 SNAPSHOT >>



20 PROGRAMMES AROUND THE WORLD

DESTROYED

137,299

explosive
remnants of war

2,820

landmines

CONFIRMED SAFE

419

square kilometres
of land

121

kilometre
of roads

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION STORAGE

55

storage
facilities assessed

1

facility
constructed

49

storage facilities
reconstructed/rehabilitated

RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED



To more than **4.9 million people**
impacted by explosive ordnance

TRAINED



4,477 uniformed peacekeepers
and **2,111** government staff

RAPID RESPONSE/SURGE SUPPORT

GAZA

UNMAS PROGRAMMES



The UNMAS demining team operating in Abyei as part of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) took this photo to show the amount of equipment used for clearance work.
Photo: UNMAS / Irina Punga

ABYEI



WATCH VIDEO



Overview

Since 2011, the status of the Abyei Area has been a contentious issue between Sudan and South Sudan. In 2013, fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudan Armed Forces in the Abyei Area escalated and destroyed Abyei town and surrounding villages. Clashes led to the displacement of more than 100,000 people and additional contamination from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Mandate

Security Council resolution 1990 (2011) established the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and included demining assistance among its mandated tasks. In line with the UNISFA mandate, last renewed by resolution 2708 (2023), UNMAS UNISFA continued to enable UNISFA force mobility, support the safe, voluntary return of civilians to their communities, facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid, and ensure the effective functioning of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM).

Funding

UNMAS UNISFA activities in 2023 were funded through assessed contributions to the UNISFA budget.



United Nations peacekeeper working with an UNMAS officer to get equipment into the field. Photo: UNMAS / Bojan Vukovic

UNMAS supported the establishment of Vocational Training Centre

In mid-February 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported the establishment of a Vocational Training Centre in Abyei town, which required the construction of prefabricated structures. While setting up the construction site, IOM discovered small arms ammunition cases in the ground. The work was halted immediately and UNMAS UNISFA was called upon for support. UNMAS dispatched a clearance team to conduct a thorough assessment and clear the site to allow IOM to proceed with their project. Local information revealed that military units had occupied the compound in previous years.

“We at IOM are grateful for the UNMAS prompt response, who adopted an expedited approach to complete the task quickly to our utmost satisfaction. This has enabled us to implement our activities at the Vocational Training Centre. The place is now safe, and we plan to provide various vocational training courses to 100 youths this year to help improve the livelihoods and income-generating abilities of the Abyei youth. Since IOM is engaged in many infrastructure activities, we look forward to similar support and cooperation from the wonderful UNMAS team to secure our working and service delivery environment.”

- Muhammad Salahuddin, IOM Programme Officer



UNMAS Abyei deminer conducting explosive ordnance disposal. Photo: UNMAS / Romeo Tete

UNMAS Provided Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to People Fleeing Sudan's Recent Conflict

To pursue UNISFA protection of civilians' mandate, UNMAS UNISFA provided explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to displaced persons transiting through the Abyei Area, some of whom are foreign nationals living in Sudan, either as refugees or as internally displaced persons (IDPs) from previous conflicts. Children represented the most vulnerable and at-risk group among the displaced. Customized sessions for men, women, boys and girls were provided to enhance awareness of the most common explosive hazard risks, such as grenades, mortars, landmines, rockets and other projectiles. In delivering EORE to children, UNMAS UNISFA employed various teaching techniques adequate to relevant age groups, including memory card games and the distribution of EORE comic books. The EORE targeting the adult population incorporated question-and-answer techniques and leaflets. Before and after the EORE sessions, the team randomly interviewed participants to assess their level of retained knowledge, often receiving positive feedback.

“It was a long walk! We arrived at Amiet market on 18 May and plan to leave soon. We are moving towards South Sudan and then to Uganda. We don't know when we will reach our home in Eritrea. We don't know the ground situation around our next transit locations. We thank you for providing life-saving information regarding the risks posed by explosive items”

- Mr Tsegafeab Kibreab Reosu

“I came to Sudan three months ago with my family to run a little business in Khartoum. Before, I never heard about landmines and explosive remnants of war, and I never expected that we would be in this situation. Last month, we saw some of these explosive items in the streets of Khartoum, and I knew they were dangerous, but I didn't know my responsibility. Now, I learned something new; we also learned how to safely mark the explosive remnants of war and the reporting procedure. Thank you, UNISFA and UNMAS teams, for teaching us. We lost everything except our lives. Inshallah - God will help us to reach our home safely!”

- Eritrean citizen Mrs Yordanase Tesfedse

ABYEI



Peacekeepers receiving a security briefing from UNMAS.
Photo: UNMAS

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN ABYEI IN 2023



ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING “PLUS” (A4P+)

- 1,069.373 kilometres of routes assessed and verified as safe from explosive ordnance and 1,809,452 square metres areas of land released in support to UNISFA’s overall mobility and some 1,912 ground monitoring missions conducted by Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism
- Two landmines, 95 ERW, 2,131 rounds of ammunition and 49 weapons (confiscated by UNISFA) destroyed
- 1,340 newly deployed UNISFA personnel and United Nations and humanitarian workers trained to adopt safe behaviors in explosive ordnance affected areas



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 12,592 vulnerable populations (5,287 boys, 4,530 girls, 1,476 women and 1,299 men) received EORE through traditional means and drama skit sessions targeting children. According to pre- and post-EORE session surveys, 90.4 per cent of beneficiaries had increased knowledge of the risk of explosive ordnance and the required behavioural changes

AFGHANISTAN


[WATCH VIDEO](#)


Overview

Political changes in Afghanistan exacerbated food insecurity and unemployment, decimated health and education systems and triggered a crisis of women and girls' human rights. According to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, about two-thirds of Afghanistan's population - 40 million people according to the United Nations Population Fund - require urgent humanitarian assistance. Mine action is key to ensuring safe delivery of such assistance.

Mandate

UNMAS is a component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and works to advance the Mission's mandate. In line with Security Council resolution 2678 adopted in March 2023, UNMAS is mandated to 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, [and] support the coordination of the humanitarian mine action sector".

Funding

As a component of UNAMA, three mine action posts are funded from the UNAMA budget, while another 22 mine action posts and operations, including the Mine Action Technical Cell, are funded by voluntary contributions.



EORE trainer provides risk education to children and women community members.
Photo: UNMAS

AFGHANISTAN

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

1,290 square kilometres contaminated by mines

308 million people living within 1 kilometres of an active explosive ordnance hazard

274 out of 400 districts affected

Most severely impacted provinces: Uruzgan, Kunduz, Ghazni, Maidan Wardak, Kunar, Helmand, Kandahar, Faryab, Farah, Samangan, Nangarhar and Badghis

CASUALTIES

Events recorded: 280 accidents from January to December 2023

579 explosive ordnance civilian casualties (381 boys, 101 girls, 70 men and 27 women)

Technician working on a prosthetic limb in Afghanistan.
Photo: UNOCHA / Olivier Jobard



RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN AFGHANISTAN IN 2023



ENABLING THE RESPONSE OF UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

- Through its Mine Action Technical Cell, UNMAS ensured effective coordination of the humanitarian mine action sector, supported planning and prioritization of mine action interventions in line with the humanitarian principles, conducted quality assurance of mine action operators and information management
- UNMAS responded to 33 requests for mine action support from humanitarian agencies for survey and clearance of schools, health facilities and access routes to high-risk populations living in contaminated areas



VICTIM ASSISTANCE

- 9,000 survivors and persons with disabilities received victim assistance services tailored to their needs (i.e. prosthesis, orthoses, physiotherapy, psychosocial services)

BURKINA FASO

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Overview

The security situation in Burkina Faso is marked by constant attacks by non-state armed groups affecting 11 of the 13 regions of the country. This situation has led to a worsening humanitarian crisis, characterised by massive population displacements, food insecurity and increasing human rights violations.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Burkina Faso in 2019 at the request of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Government of Burkina Faso. UNMAS interventions in Burkina Faso focus on a) building national capacities to address the explosive threat by providing training and equipment to Forces de Défense et de Sécurité and supporting the Commission Nationale de Contrôle des Armes, the national authority for mine action and small arms control, and b) provision of EORE to at-risk communities and humanitarian workers.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were possible thanks to funding support from Canada, the Republic of Korea and the Central Emergency Response Fund.



EORE session for students of sector 5 in Diapaga, Est region.
Photo: UNMAS Burkina Faso

BURKINA FASO

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

1.6 million people required protection from explosive hazards

CASUALTIES

168 improvised explosive devices (IED) incidents

Number of civilian casualties resulting from IED incidents rose significantly; 61 per cent of victims, totalling 311, including 148 killed and 163 injured, were civilians

MOST AFFECTED AREAS

IED incidents were recorded in over nine regions, expanding towards the country's western regions, bordering Mali and Côte d'Ivoire (Boucle du Mouhoun, Hauts Bassins and Cascades areas)

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN BURKINA FASO IN 2023



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- 278 security sector personnel trained on IED Search and Detect, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), IED and Awareness and First Aid
- Support provided to the Commission Nationale de Controle des Armes in the development of a national counter-IED strategy, the coordination of the mine action sector, and development of national mine action standards



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 76,000 community members, 1,060 humanitarian workers and 104 community liaison officers in the Sahel, Est and Boucle du Mouhoun regions benefited from EORE sessions conducted jointly with the Commission Nationale de Controle des Armes and the two partner non-governmental organizations, AMMIE and RASALAO

EORE session, IDP site in Mansila, Sahel region.
Photo: UNMAS Burkina Faso

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



WATCH VIDEO

Overview

The flow and use of illicit weapons and ammunition due to the lack of proper regulation and control continued to constitute a risk to security and stability in the Central African Republic (CAR). The increased number of explosive ordnance incidents continued to affect civilians and delivery of humanitarian aid, while also hampering the mobility of peacekeepers and the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Mandate

UNMAS is a component of MINUSCA and delivers the Mission’s mandate defined in Security Council resolution 2709 (2023) by contributing to explosive ordnance threat mitigation and response efforts and reinforcing the capacity of national authorities in weapons and ammunition management (WAM).

Funding

UNMAS MINUSCA is fully funded through assessed contributions to the MINUSCA budget.



UNMAS staff member undergoes Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training in Bangui, Central African Republic. Photo: UNMAS / Constantin Goundou

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

77 explosive ordnance events recorded (33 exploded and 44 found), including 52 ERW events and 25 other explosive ordnance events (mines, booby-traps, IEDs)

MOST AFFECTED AREAS

Nana-Mambere, Lim-Pende, Ouham-Pende, Ouaka, Bangui

CASUALTIES

81 registered victims of explosive ordnance
51 civilians (27 men; 5 women; 19 children)
30 National Defence and Internal Security Forces, and other security partners

Stored ammunition in Bangui, Central African Republic, that was assessed by UNMAS and partners.
Photo: UN / Catianne Tijerina

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN CAR IN 2023



ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING "PLUS" (A4P+)

- 1,454 uniformed peacekeepers, including 171 women, received context specific explosive ordnance threat mitigation training



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- 32 national security sector personnel received EOD training
- As a result of UNMAS advocacy, the government appointed a national focal point for mine action as a first step towards the establishment of a National Mine Action Authority



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

- 184 national security sector personnel trained in WAM
- 70 quality assurance visits conducted at 49 storage facilities
- 20,803 items of obsolete and unsafe ammunition collected through disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration processes safely disposed of



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 29,162 members of at-risk local populations, including IDPs (5,701 women, 8,635 girls, 9,390 boys and 5,436 men) benefited from EORE, while nine humanitarian EORE practitioners were accredited
- 1,264 United Nations and humanitarian personnel, including 300 women, received explosive ordnance risk awareness training

COLOMBIA



WATCH VIDEO



Overview

As a result of more than fifty years of conflict involving various non-state armed actors, Colombia suffers from widespread landmine and ERW contamination. In 2023, territorial disputes between non-state armed groups continued along with the use of explosive ordnance. As in the previous four years, in 2023, most casualties were civilians. The indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, which constitute 13 per cent of the total population, suffered 23 per cent of explosive ordnance casualties from January 2022 to December 2023.

Mandate

UNMAS was first requested by the Colombian government to establish a programme in Colombia in 2010 to support the presidential programme for mine action. UNMAS continued to support the National Mine Action Authority within the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and the implementation of the Peace Accord signed in 2016 between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP).

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were carried out thanks to funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation, through a joint programme with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through a partnership with the Kingdom of Norway, and the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia.



A mine action team, trained by UNMAS as part of its efforts to strengthen national demining capacity in Colombia, hikes to their work stations.
Photo: UNMAS / Juan Arredondo

COLOMBIA

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CASUALTIES

(Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Peace / AICMA)

95 casualties in total

- 88 injured and 7 dead
- 57 civilians and 38 armed forces
- 85 men and 10 women
- 86 adults, 6 children, 3 unidentified
- Casualties included 14 Indigenous and 7 Afro-Colombians



UNMAS partner organization Pastoral Social Pasto provides explosive ordnance risk education sessions to communities in Pasto, Colombia. Photo: UNMAS / Juan Arredondo

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN COLOMBIA IN 2023



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- 11 workshops targeting mine action organizations, humanitarian workers and public officials to increase capacities on quality management of humanitarian demining operations, and the mainstreaming of international humanitarian law, gender and diversity in mine action programming
- Establishment of a Gender and Diversity Group under the mine action area of responsibility (MA AoR) to strengthen the inclusion of cross-cutting approaches in mine action programming



SUPPORTING THE PEACE PROCESS

- FARC-EP ex-combatants provided information on the possible location of explosive ordnance used during the armed conflict in 12 municipalities of the departments of Cesar, Bolivar, Meta, Arauca, Boyacá, Antioquia, Casanare, Norte de Santander, Tolima and Quindío
- Technical assistance to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace to facilitate the integration of mine action in the implementation of the peace process



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 30 victims of explosive ordnance, of which 30 per cent women, from the most affected departments of Cauca, Chocó, Córdoba, Nariño and Valle del Cauca assisted in accessing referral pathways and psycho-social services
- 14 workshops organized training humanitarian personnel, on EORE, disability-inclusive humanitarian action, security risk assessment, humanitarian access negotiation, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on children in armed conflict

CYPRUS



Overview

Attempts to solve the Cyprus conflict and reunify the island have so far been without result, although relations between north and south have improved over the years. The goal of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) is to prevent further fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island and bring about a return to normal conditions. In this process, mine action is seen as a confidence-building measure.

Mandate

UNMAS has been a component of UNFICYP since 2016, providing 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 has focused on mapping and surveying of explosive threats, provision of technical advice and quality assurance on mine clearance to relevant actors in the north and the south, EORE, threat assessment and management, and data management of mine action information.

Funding

UNMAS UNFICYP activities in 2023 were funded through assessed contributions to the UNFICYP budget.



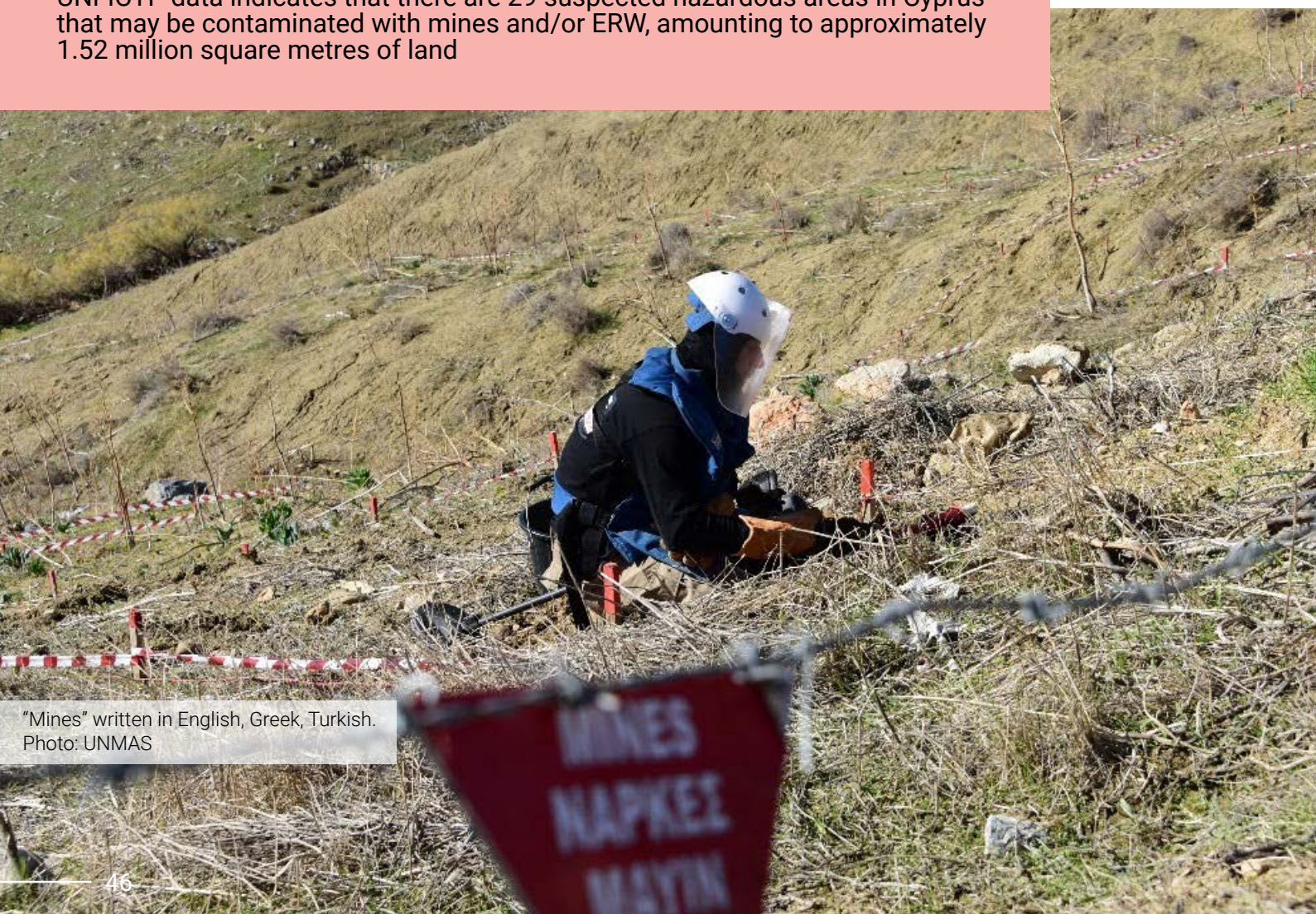
Training provided to UNFICYP peacekeepers on unexploded ordnance and landmines. Photo: UNMAS

CYPRUS

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

UNFICYP data indicates that there are 29 suspected hazardous areas in Cyprus that may be contaminated with mines and/or ERW, amounting to approximately 1.52 million square metres of land



"Mines" written in English, Greek, Turkish.
Photo: UNMAS



RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN CYPRUS IN 2023



ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING "PLUS" (A4P+)

- Ensured the safety and security of UNFICYP military and civilian personnel operating within the buffer zone through delivery of awareness training on mines and ERW as well as the maintenance of the fencing of minefields



SUPPORTING THE PEACE PROCESS

- Supported UNFICYP efforts to liaise with the parties and advocate for mine action as a confidence-building measure and encourage progress towards a mine-free Cyprus
- Provided technical advice and training to the Committee on Missing Persons, ensuring that investigations and exhumations are conducted safely in the mined areas of the buffer zone and enabling the Committee's efforts to promote reconciliation between the communities

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Overview

The problem of landmine and ERW contamination in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) resulted from several internal armed conflicts since the country's independence in 1960. The current deadline for the country to fulfill mine clearance obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) is 31 December 2025 and continued efforts are required to tackle the contamination, which affects primarily Ituri and North Kivu provinces. In 2023, landmines and ERW accounted for 32 casualties, with North Kivu and South Kivu being the most affected areas. Additionally, IEDs led to 106 casualties, most prominently in North Kivu and Ituri.

Mandate

UNMAS has been a component of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) since 2002 and operates in accordance with Security Council resolution 2717 (2023) on the MONUSCO mandate. UNMAS MONUSCO supports explosive management activities to protect civilians and contribute to the safety and security of United Nations personnel, as well as WAM to reinforce the current capacity of national security and defense institutions to safely store and manage their weapons and stockpiles, in line with international standards.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were funded through assessed contributions to MONUSCO budget and the Korean International Cooperation Agency.



Weapons retrieved from rebels by MONUSCO in coordination with UNMAS are destroyed in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo's North Kivu province. Photo: UN / Sylvain Liechti

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CASUALTIES

Landmines/ ERW

- Casualties: 32
- Injuries: 17 (4 women, 2 men, 5 girls, 6 boys)
- Fatalities: 15 (0 women, 4 men, 2 girls, 9 boys) / 32 civilians / 0 National Defence Security Forces

IEDs

- Incidents: 22
- Casualties: 106
 - Civilians: 98
 - Military (Armed Forces of the DRC): 6
 - Unknown: 2
- Injuries: 88
- Fatalities: 18

MOST AFFECTED AREAS

Landmines/ERW: North Kivu (23 casualties), South Kivu (9 casualties)

IEDs: North Kivu, Ituri

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN MONUSCO IN 2023



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 144,753 local populations (26,167 women, 24,103 men, 47,081 girls and 47,402 boys) in Ituri, South Kivu, North Kivu and Tanganyika provided with EORE
- 97 training sessions conducted on explosive ordnance awareness reaching 2,754 beneficiaries (585 women and 2,169 men) amongst the MONUSCO personnel, United Nations Country Team, and national security sector personnel
- 62 staff of four national NGOs, of which 19 women, trained to deliver EORE and EOD
- 317 non-technical surveys and 311 EOD spot tasks completed; 18,010 pieces of ERW and 45 IEDs secured and disposed of; 81,777 square metres of land cleared in support of protection of civilians and the mobility of MONUSCO troops
- 82,289 rounds of obsolete and unserviceable small arms ammunition incinerated



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

- Technical support for developing the National Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control, 2024 to 2028
- 5,142 weapons marked by the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (CNC-ALPC) in coordination with UNMAS MONUSCO
- Ten members of the CNC-ALPC trained in weapons marking and registering
- Building of 16 armories to secure 7,352 state-held weapons
- 14 national trainers qualified for the training on WAM, through the UNMAS training of trainers (ToT) programme
- 165 security sector personnel (9 women and 156 men) trained on physical security and stockpile management, including training of trainers (ToT).
- 12,296 rounds of obsolete and unserviceable small arms ammunition incinerated for National Defence Security Forces (13%)

Sensitization of the local population on the risks posed by explosive ordnance in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Photo: UNMAS

ETHIOPIA



Overview

The 2020-2022 conflict between the Ethiopian Federal Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front took a heavy toll on civilians, displaced millions of people and aggravated the already precarious situation in northern Ethiopia. The spillover of the conflict into the neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions further impeded the delivery of humanitarian aid and prevented displaced people from returning to their homes. Following the signing of the Pretoria Peace Agreement on 2 November 2022, the stabilisation of northern Ethiopia through the reconstruction of infrastructure and the improvement of living conditions emerged as a top national priority. According to both national and regional authorities, the mapping of the explosive ordnance contamination and the clearance of prioritised areas are crucial for the establishment of lasting peace and the return and resettlement of IDPs.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Ethiopia in 2020 at the request of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and made recommendations for a mine action response to address legacy minefields and to enhance the Ethiopian National Mine Action Office (EMA0)'s technical capacity. Following the outbreak of conflict in northern Ethiopia, the request for support evolved and 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. In June 2023, UNMAS was requested by the Ministry of Defence to provide broader support for capacity development and advisory on mine action activities. UNMAS activities focused on survey and assessment, explosive hazard awareness training for humanitarian partners and EORE in northern Ethiopia, while coordinating mine action partners through the MA AoR, which is currently led by UNMAS and co-led by EMA0 at the national level. Originally with presence in Addis Ababa, in 2023 UNMAS expanded to two sub-offices in Tigray (Mekelle and Shire) and one sub-office in Afar (Semera).



Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were carried out thanks to funding from Canada and Japan.

UNMAS team presneting assesment work in Jara IDP site to Humanitarian and Resilience Donor Group. Photo: UNMAS

ETHIOPIA

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

According to the latest transparency report that Ethiopia submitted under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the remaining unaddressed contamination totals 726 square kilometres.



Jara IDP site, Amhara Region - over 30,000 IDPs have been accommodated after UNMAS led verification process.
Photo: UNMAS



RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN ETHIOPIA IN 2023



ENABLING THE RESPONSE OF UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

- 272 items of explosive ordnance and 13 small arms ammunition marked during risk assessments, with other 141 items deemed safe to move handed over to relevant local authorities
- Support to EMAO with the drafting of national mine action standards for the accreditation of operators, leading to six mine action operators submitting formal accreditation requests to EMAO in August 2023
- 32 personnel (5 women and 27 men) from NGOs were trained to use information management systems and reporting



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 27,871 local populations (6,597 girls, 6,103 boys, 7,128 women and 8,043 men) and 626 humanitarian personnel (218 women and 408 men) from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as from NGOs, received EORE aiming to enhance their understanding of explosive risks and promote safe behaviour
- 94 facilitators (28 women and 66 men) from national NGOs trained to deliver EORE

IRAQ



Overview

Successive and ongoing conflicts over the last four decades have left Iraq one of the countries most impacted by explosive ordnance worldwide. Clearance of explosive ordnance enables reconstruction and development activities to go forward, facilitates the return of IDPs and allows for the resumption of livelihood activities amongst affected communities.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). Security Council resolution 2682 (2023) recognizes the impact of the explosive ordnance contamination and relevant Secretary-General reports regularly acknowledge the response provided by UNMAS.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were carried out thanks to funding from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Slovakia, and Sweden.



UNMAS partners provide risk education on explosive hazards at a school in Mosul, Iraq.
Photo: UNMAS Iraq / Cengiz Yar

IRAQ

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

Across Iraq 27 per cent of explosive ordnance contamination is found in agricultural areas, preventing the productive use of land for livelihood activities; 21 per cent of explosive ordnance is found in and around infrastructure, hampering reconstruction efforts and access to infrastructure for services and economic opportunities; and 20 per cent of explosive ordnance is found along roads challenging interconnectivity within the country

Approximately,

2,800

square kilometres of
recorded contaminated
areas



UNMAS Iraq Gender Advisors pose for a group photo with representatives from the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) Gender Unit in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo: UNMAS

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN IRAQ IN 2023



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- 316 police officers from the Government of Iraq Ministry of Interior, including 25 women officers, provided with EOD and IED disposal training. Six national mine action standards developed by the Government of Iraq with UNMAS support
- Two national mine action NGOs supported to operate autonomously through a partnership model facilitated by UNMAS, where the national NGOs received training and mentoring from international NGOs



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 24,213 local populations (3,223 women, 9,237 girls, 10,348 boys, and 1,405 men) provided with EORE
- 130 humanitarian workers, including 48 women, received risk awareness sessions
- UNMAS study "Social Behavioural Change Communication Study and Strategy" informs the transition of the EORE methodology in Iraq from raising awareness to promoting positive behaviour change when encountering explosive ordnance



ENABLING THE RESPONSE OF UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

- 2,481,934 square metres of land cleared and 5,186 explosive ordnance items removed to enable the safe use of land by the local populations and humanitarian and development initiatives

LEBANON



Overview

Legacy explosive ordnance contamination in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operations impacts more than 6.9 million square metres of land and continues to lead to civilian injuries and deaths. Following the onset of conflict in Gaza in October 2023 and subsequent exchanges of fire across the Blue Line since then, thousands of trajectories, often reflecting multiple projectiles, inter alia, artillery, anti-tank missiles, illumination shells, mortars, and rockets, as well as drone and aircraft strikes have created new areas of unexploded ordnance contamination posing a threat to civilians, United Nations staff, and humanitarian personnel. At the end of 2023, approximately 76,000 individuals (more than 50 per cent women) had been displaced from southern Lebanon and tens of thousands of people from northern Israel due to the ongoing conflict along the Blue Line. When fighting ends, communities returning to their homes to rebuild their lives and engage in livelihood activities, as well as those involved in humanitarian responses, including United Nations and humanitarian partners, will be exposed to the life-threatening risks of ERW. Mine action interventions - rapid survey, clearance and risk education - are critical to enable a safe transition.

Mandate

As a component of UNIFIL, UNMAS promoted the safety and efficiency of the demining operations conducted by UNIFIL contingents by providing quality assurance, validation, technical expertise, coordination and liaison with national mine action representatives, and civilian oversight. The main focus of UNIFIL demining teams, with UNMAS support, is the maintenance of UNIFIL access to the Blue Line to ensure it is clear of explosive ordnance to enable UNIFIL to implement its mandate safely. When the demining contingents are able to, and in agreement with Lebanese authorities, they also assist in clearing areas in the UNIFIL area of operations that pose threats to civilians. UNMAS activities are required for the land cleared of mines and ERW to be released by the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) for use by the local population. UNMAS also supported the LMAC to provide EORE in the UNIFIL area of operations.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were funded through assessed contributions to the UNIFIL budget.



Ms. Zeina Saleh, an explosive ordnance disposal expert, supports peacekeepers with training in Lebanon. Photo: UNMAS / Omar Diab

LEBANON

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

Contamination from landmines and ERW impacts more than 6.9 million square metres of land within the UNIFIL area of operations and endangers the lives of the local population and United Nations personnel

Agriculture in south Lebanon, which makes up

80 per cent
of the local GDP

Daily shelling and air strikes since **8 October 2023** created new explosive ordnance contamination in south Lebanon. UNIFIL positions, residential areas, and civilian infrastructure including hospitals, schools, and religious sites have been impacted



Children attend an explosive ordnance risk education event in Suwwana village, south Lebanon to raise awareness.
Photo: UNIFIL

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN LEBANON IN 2023



ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING "PLUS" (A4P+)

- 132 troops, including 16 women, from UNIFIL demining contingents received post-deployment training prior to conducting demining and EOD in south Lebanon
- Accreditation and quality assurance for 22,420 square metres and 3,614 anti-personnel mines cleared by the UNIFIL demining contingents
- 498 United Nations personnel, including 46 women and 63 civilian staff, received explosive ordnance awareness training during 18 training sessions to increase their knowledge and safety during their deployment in south Lebanon



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 390 children received EORE during events organized by the LMAC with UNMAS support



Overview

Following the conflict in 2011 that led to the collapse of the regime of the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, Libya possessed the world's largest unsecured stockpiles of arms and ammunition. Intense fighting in the years that followed, including in 2014, 2016, and 2019-20, led to further widespread ERW contamination, even in urban areas. In addition, aided by the availability of military-grade explosive material, non-state armed groups and extremist groups 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.

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 operates in accordance with Security Council resolution 2702 (2023), which calls on the Mission 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 (5+5 JMC).

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were funded through the UNSMIL budget and through voluntary contributions from Italy, Spain, and the United States of America.



Members of the DanChurchAid (DCA) EOD clearance team searching the land opposite a school in Tripoli to locate suspect items. Photo: DCA Libya

LIBYA

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

More than 15 million square metres as suspected hazardous areas

Some 50,000 IDPs in Libya still require support for safe returns and durable solutions

Vital infrastructure such as water and electricity supply sites, hospitals, schools, markets, and homes are believed to be affected

MOST AFFECTED AREAS

Highly contaminated areas: Tawergha, Murzuq and Derna

CASUALTIES

Since May 2020:

- 193 accidents caused by explosive devices, booby-traps and ERW,
- 390 casualties (147 deaths and 243 injured, majority were civilians)

In 2023, 14 of 17 victims were children



A member of the non-technical survey team prepares for accreditation and deployment on task.
Photo: DCA Libya

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS UNSMIL IN 2023



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- UNMAS UNSMIL and the LibMAC jointly co-chaired seven meetings with the mine action sector, involving national authorities, international and national mine action NGOs, and donors, to discuss achievements, priorities, and challenges in Libya.
- 26 forensic police staff, including four female officers, provided with advanced device scene incident management training, of which 16 officers provided with additional training of trainers sessions. 16 LibMAC staff from Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata and Sirte received operations and quality assurance training aiming to enhance humanitarian mine action oversight
- Two representatives of the 5+5 JMC, in addition to the members of its mine action and local monitors sub-committees provided with "security when handling weapons" training in support of the implementation of the Libya 2020 Ceasefire Agreement



ENABLING LOCAL POPULATIONS, HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ACTORS TO SAFELY USE PREVIOUSLY CONTAMINATED AREAS

- Over 1,380,000 square metres cleared through non-technical survey, including 15 schools, one electricity sub-station, a water supply site, and residential areas in Tripoli
- 2,108 ERW removed, benefiting approximately 9,000 residents



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 areas.

Mandate

UNMAS has been operating in Mali as a component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). In accordance with Security Council resolution 2640 (2022), UNMAS advanced the implementation of the MINUSMA mandate by providing training, expertise and equipment to the Malian Defense and Security Forces as well as to MINUSMA troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure the safety and security of the Mission personnel. In support of the Malian authorities, UNMAS helped civilians mitigate risks posed by explosive threats, particularly IEDs, notably in the north and centre of Mali. With the withdrawal of MINUSMA and cessation of substantive tasks as of 1 July 2023, UNMAS supported the Mission's drawdown and got ready to support the Mission's liquidation tasks starting 1 January 2024. Continuation of support to the Malian authorities by UNMAS beyond the drawdown of MINUSMA will depend on what assistance will be required and donor interest to fund mine action activities.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were funded through the MINUSMA budget and in-kind contributions.

Risk education materials distributed by UNMAS in northern Mali. Children are the primary victims of explosive remnants of war. Educating them to identify the risks and appropriate behaviours helps reduce casualties.
Photo: UNMAS Mali



MALI

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

Since 2017, Mali has experienced a significant increase in IEDs/mines recorded particularly in the centre of the country, which has resulted in high numbers of casualties among civilians and impeding stabilization efforts. Since 2021, there has been a gradual expansion of the explosive threat towards the south and west of the country

Mopti and Segou remained the regions with most IEDs/mines recorded and the largest share of casualties in 2023



An operator from TDI, an UNMAS implementing partner, puts on the ground a 60mm mortar, found during a Battle Area Clearance sub surface activity, at the unexploded ordnance pit at the Malian Army Camp in Timbuktu, Mali.

Photo: UN Photo / Marco Dormino

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS MINUSMA IN 2023



VICTIM ASSISTANCE

- 318 victims of explosives and small arms and light weapons incidents provided with assistance and/or referred for further assistance
- 55 members of the national authority Commission Nationale de lutte contre la Prolifération des Armes Légères et Petit Calibre trained in victim assistance and strengthened local support mechanisms to prevent and mitigate conflict



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- 244 Malian Defense and Security Forces, including four IED disposal teams, trained in explosive detection and IED threat mitigation



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- Over 5,000 people in conflict-affected areas provided with EORE

NIGERIA


[WATCH VIDEO](#)


Overview

The use of explosive ordnance, mostly IEDs planted by non-state armed groups, over fourteen years of conflict has resulted in numerous deaths and severe injuries to civilians, hindered access to essential social services and socio-economic activities and hampered the safe return of IDPs and refugees as well as the freedom of movement of host community members. The operating environment remains highly volatile.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Nigeria in 2018 following a request from the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and a request from the 7th Division of the Nigerian Army. UNMAS interventions focus on the provision of EORE to affected populations, United Nations personnel and the humanitarian community; capacity building of the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps to advance protection of civilians; and supporting survivors of explosive incidents.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were carried out thanks to funding from the European Union and the Republic of Korea.



Girls display leaflets with information on how to be safe when confronted by explosive ordnance, during a Japanese-funded UNMAS explosive ordnance risk education session in Bolibe village, Borno State, Nigeria.
Photo: UNMAS Photo / Stefan De Coninck

NIGERIA

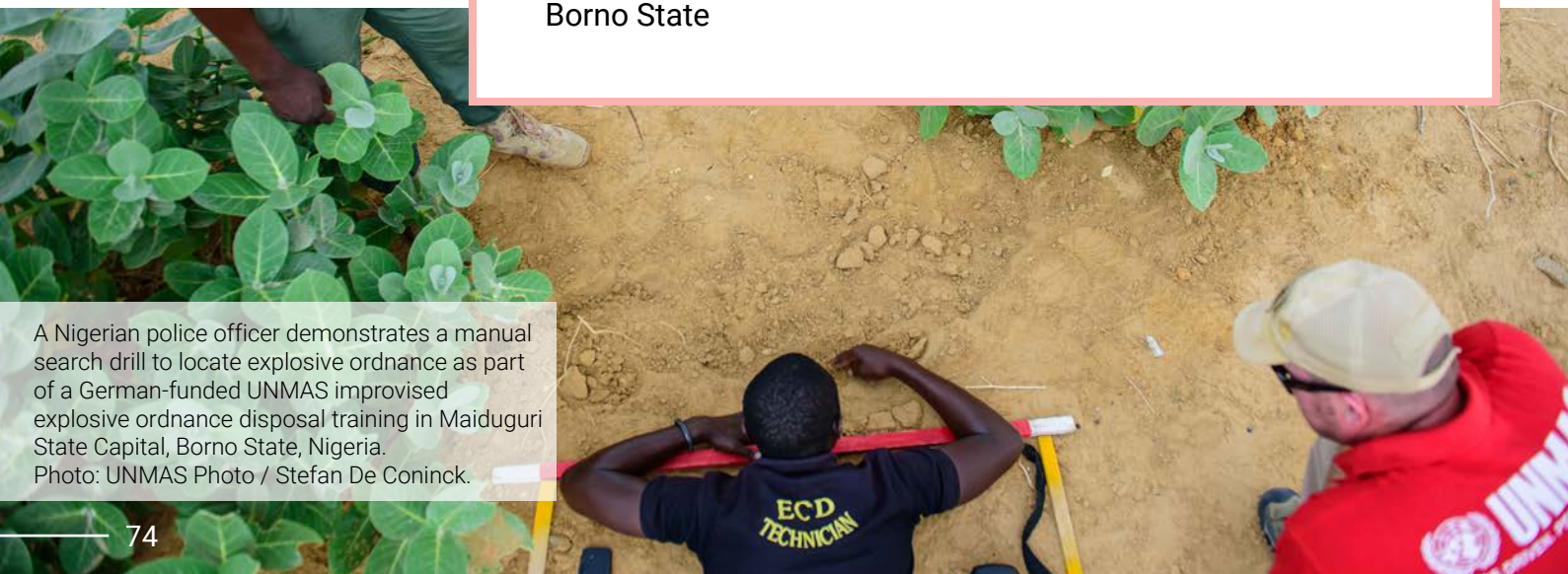
IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CASUALTIES

- 361 explosive ordnance incidents (168 IEDs, 149 potential contamination, 42 ERW, 2 unknown; comment: artillery fire and airstrike incidents are considered potential contamination)
- 352 casualties
 - 158 dead (of the dead: 2 girls, 3 boys, 11 women, 107 men, 35 unknown, more civilian casualties than security forces)
 - 194 injuries (of the injured: 6 girls, 14 boys, 8 women, 116 men, 50 unknown)
- 69% increase in child casualties in 2023 when compared to 2022
- 34% increase in civilian recorded deaths in 2023 when compared to 2022
- 41% of civilian casualties in 2023 have missing information on SADD
- Approximately one casualty per day in 2023

MOST AFFECTED AREAS

Borno State



A Nigerian police officer demonstrates a manual search drill to locate explosive ordnance as part of a German-funded UNMAS improvised explosive ordnance disposal training in Maiduguri State Capital, Borno State, Nigeria.
Photo: UNMAS Photo / Stefan De Coninck.



RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN NIGERIA IN 2023



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 333,194 persons reached with EORE, including 77,494 girls; 83,801 boys; 85,294 women; 86,605 men
- 82 victims of explosive ordnance received support from mine action actors for multi-sectoral assistance in northeast Nigeria



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- 240 aid workers, including 178 NGO and government staff as well as 62 United Nations staff, received explosive ordnance awareness training
- UNMAS facilitated the ratification by Nigeria to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



Overview

Repeated escalations and hostilities have been the primary source of ERW contamination in the Gaza Strip. The most recent conflict that started on 7 October 2023 has resulted in an unprecedented accumulation of ERW in Gaza, posing immediate and long-term threats to the population. The ERW not only threaten lives, but also restrict safe movement and hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid. Once fighting ends in Gaza, the expected increase in movements of people returning home to rebuild their lives and access agriculture, livelihood and basic social services, will expose people in Gaza including United Nations and humanitarian partners, to the life-threatening risks due to ERW contamination. Mine action will be particularly critical as no humanitarian assistance, recovery or development support, including rubble removal, reconstruction, food delivery, healthcare services, or education will be possible until the locations are clear of ERW threats. The escalating fighting in the occupied West Bank has also exacerbated the risk from ERW, albeit on a much smaller scale compared to Gaza.

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, at the request of the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 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. To date, UNMAS has continued to be the technical adviser to the PMAC, assisting them in fulfilling the State of Palestine's obligations to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.



Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were supported thanks to funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund, European Union, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Poland.

Women take part in a formal explosive ordnance risk education session.
Photo: UNMAS

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

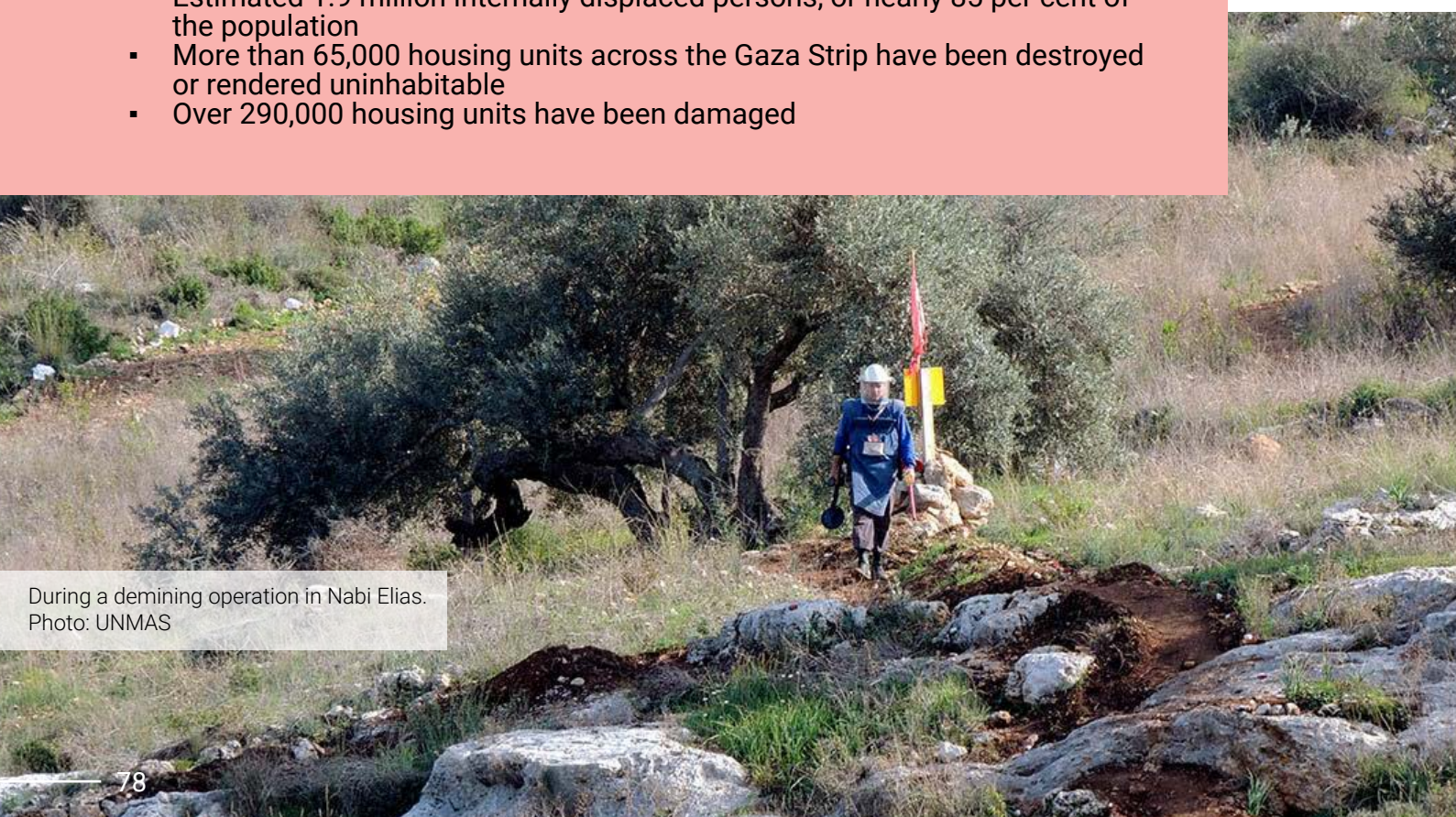
IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

ERW contamination posed an immediate risk to lives, hinders the delivery of humanitarian aid and restricts safe movement of the population

Significant humanitarian needs for almost the entire population of the Gaza Strip (numbers as of 30 December 2023, Ministry of Health in Gaza and PA Government Media Office)

- Estimated 1.9 million internally displaced persons, or nearly 85 per cent of the population
- More than 65,000 housing units across the Gaza Strip have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable
- Over 290,000 housing units have been damaged



During a demining operation in Nabi Elias.
Photo: UNMAS

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN GAZA IN 2023



ENABLING THE RESPONSE OF UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

- Prior to October 2023, seven explosive threat assessments conducted and four deep buried bombs rendered safe in support of United Nations and partner project sites for rubble removal and reconstruction
- With the escalation of hostilities since 7 October 2023, enhanced the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance through explosive threat assessments of the United Nations infrastructure, including IDP shelters, escorting humanitarian convoys for the distribution of essential fuel, food and medical supplies, and the safe evacuation of hospital patients as well as hazardous environment training to United Nations and humanitarian partners in Gaza



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 21,159 people, including 5,883 women, 6,149 men, 4,756 boys, and 4,371 girls, received EORE
- 6,845 people, including 2,504 men and 4,341 women, received conflict preparedness and protection training
- 156 school counsellors of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) (86 women and 70 men) and 50 staff members of an implementing partner of UNICEF (26 women and 24 men) and 80 shelter focal points (44 women and 36 men) trained to deliver EORE for at-risk populations in Gaza, before and after October 2023
- Some 1.2 million people in Gaza and the West Bank were reached with EORE since October 2023

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN WEST BANK IN 2023



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- Knowledge, attitude, and practice survey conducted to assess the needs of communities and support PMAC in developing tailored EORE modules and materials



Overview

In Somalia, IEDs continued 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). Most of Somalia’s landmine contamination is along the border with Ethiopia. In 2019, Somalia estimated the landmine contamination to be about 6.1 square kilometres. However, the full extent of the contamination from ERW and cluster munition remnants is unknown. Representing the majority of casualties, children are at highest risk.

Mandate

Mine action, particularly IED threat mitigation initiatives, remains critical to successfully implementing the Security Sector Development Plan and transferring responsibilities from ATMIS to the SSF 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 by Security Council resolutions 2705 (2023) and 2628 (2022). As a component of UNSOM, UNMAS provides strategic advice and technical expertise to the Government of Somalia, including on IED threat mitigation, weapons and ammunition management (WAM) and protection of civilians from explosive ordnance. UNMAS is also an integral component of UNSOS, providing explosive



Funding

UNMAS is a component of UNSOM and UNSOS and the programme is 93 per cent funded from Mission budgets. Additionally, activities in 2023 were carried out thanks to funding from Japan consisting of EORE and training the Somali national mine action institutions to ensure they have increased technical and management capabilities.

UNMAS delivering explosive ordnance risk education sessions to the internally displaced persons in Gedo region. Photo: Ukroboronservice

SOMALIA

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CASUALTIES

586 explosive ordnance incidents

570 IED incidents resulted in 1,943 casualties (609 civilian; 113 ATMIS, 61 Somali Police Forces, and 829 Somali National Army)

18 unexploded ordnance incidents led to 71 civilian casualties



Children receiving explosive ordnance risk education in Middle Shabelle region.
Photo: Ukroboronservice

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN SOMALIA IN 2023



ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING "PLUS" (A4P+)

- 11,605 ATMIS personnel received training in explosive hazard awareness, EOD, mobility planning and search capabilities
- 149 UNMAS-trained ATMIS instructors received explosive hazard awareness Training of Trainers (ToT) courses, and subsequently trained 2,217 ATMIS personnel
- 39 explosive detection dog teams were operational to ensure the security of critical infrastructure within the Aden Adde International Airport and six ATMIS sectors
- 296 main supply routes covering 3,145 square kilometres were assessed to facilitate ATMIS operational movements



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 5,613 EORE sessions were delivered to 53,494 civilians, including 15,726 girls, 22,033 boys, 9,393 women and 6,342 men
- 1,400 risk education talking devices were distributed in 19 districts across Somalia



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- 14 SSF teams, trained and equipped in improvised explosive ordnance threat mitigation to facilitate the transition of security responsibilities from ATMIS to the SSF
- 24 UNMAS-trained SSF instructors were provided explosive hazard awareness ToT courses, who subsequently trained 1,406 SSF personnel
- 1,034 explosive ordnance items were destroyed, including 238 IEDs, 18 anti-tank mines, 242 unexploded or abandoned explosive ordnance items and 536 small arms ammunition

SOUTH SUDAN


[WATCH VIDEO](#)


Overview

Twelve years after independence and four years after the signing of the Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, the operational environment in South Sudan continued to be defined by intercommunal violence, economic pressures and persisting barriers to peace and security priorities. The presence of explosive ordnance contamination, as well as the circulation of small arms and ammunition across the country, exacerbated insecurity and hindered humanitarian response. Land contaminated by explosive ordnance was estimated to be nearly 17 million square metres by the end of 2023, restricting the movement of civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian workers and preventing the voluntary and safe return and resettlement of refugees and IDPs.

Mandate

Mine action sits at the heart of the 'triple nexus' approach, which seeks to link humanitarian, development and peace efforts to meet the needs of girls, boys, women, and men across the country. As a component of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the work of UNMAS was fully integrated into the core objectives of the Mission, including the protection of civilians, creating conditions conducive to delivering humanitarian assistance, and monitoring, investigating and reporting on violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights in accordance with Security Council resolution 2677 (2023).

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were funded through the UNMISS budget.



Ms. Jennifer Sarapino takes part in International Women's Day celebrations in Bor, South Sudan.
Photo: UNMAS South Sudan / Siku Gwara

SOUTH SUDAN

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CASUALTIES

Events (accidents) recorded: 21

Registered victims: 69 (44 injured: 14 boys, 7 girls, 19 men and 4 women; 25 killed: 14 boys, 7 girls, 2 men and 2 women)



Explosive ordnance risk education session for youth in South Sudan.
Photo: UNMAS South Sudan / Genevieve Imbali

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN SOUTH SUDAN IN 2023



ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING "PLUS" (A4P+)

- 276 UNMISS requests, ensuring helicopter landing sites and airstrips were free of explosive ordnance contamination
- 3,772 peacekeepers (including 916 women) provided with landmine and ERW awareness training



ENABLING LOCAL POPULATIONS, HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ACTORS TO SAFELY USE PREVIOUSLY CONTAMINATED AREAS

- 5.68 million square metres of land, including 340 agricultural areas, 94 water sources, 34 health clinics, 22 schools, and 34 market areas cleared and released for safe use by local populations
- 12,910 square metres of land cleared at request of UNMISS and the Government of South Sudan to establish and extend camps and transit sites for IDPs
- 5,587 kilometres of roads verified and/or cleared in support of United Nations and humanitarian actors
- 6,192 items of explosive ordnance removed or destroyed



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 475,017 local populations (148,301 girls, 159,615 boys, 95,983 women and 71,118 men), including over 115,000 refugees, returnees or IDPs. Over 30,000 people displaced by the conflict in Sudan received EORE



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- Support to the Government of South Sudan's successful accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in August 2023 to be the 112th States Party
- Five-year Strategic Plan for 2024-28 developed by the Government of South Sudan with UNMAS UNMISS support

SUDAN


[WATCH VIDEO](#)


Overview

Since the start of the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces on 15 April 2023, the widespread use of conventional weapons, including field artillery, mortars, air-dropped weapons and anti-aircraft guns has resulted in large amounts of unexploded ordnance in Khartoum and other urban areas, such as El Obeid in North Kordofan, El Fasher in North Darfur, El Geneina in West Darfur and Nyala in South Darfur.

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 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In 2013, UNMAS transferred responsibility to the National Mine Action Center 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). In December 2023, the Security Council terminated the mandate of UNITAMS. The continued presence of UNMAS in Sudan and ability to respond to the request received from the Government of Sudan for UN to continue supporting the mine action sector, depends on availability of donor funding and access for mine action interventions.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 received funding through the UNITAMS budget and from Italy, Japan, the United States of America, and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security.



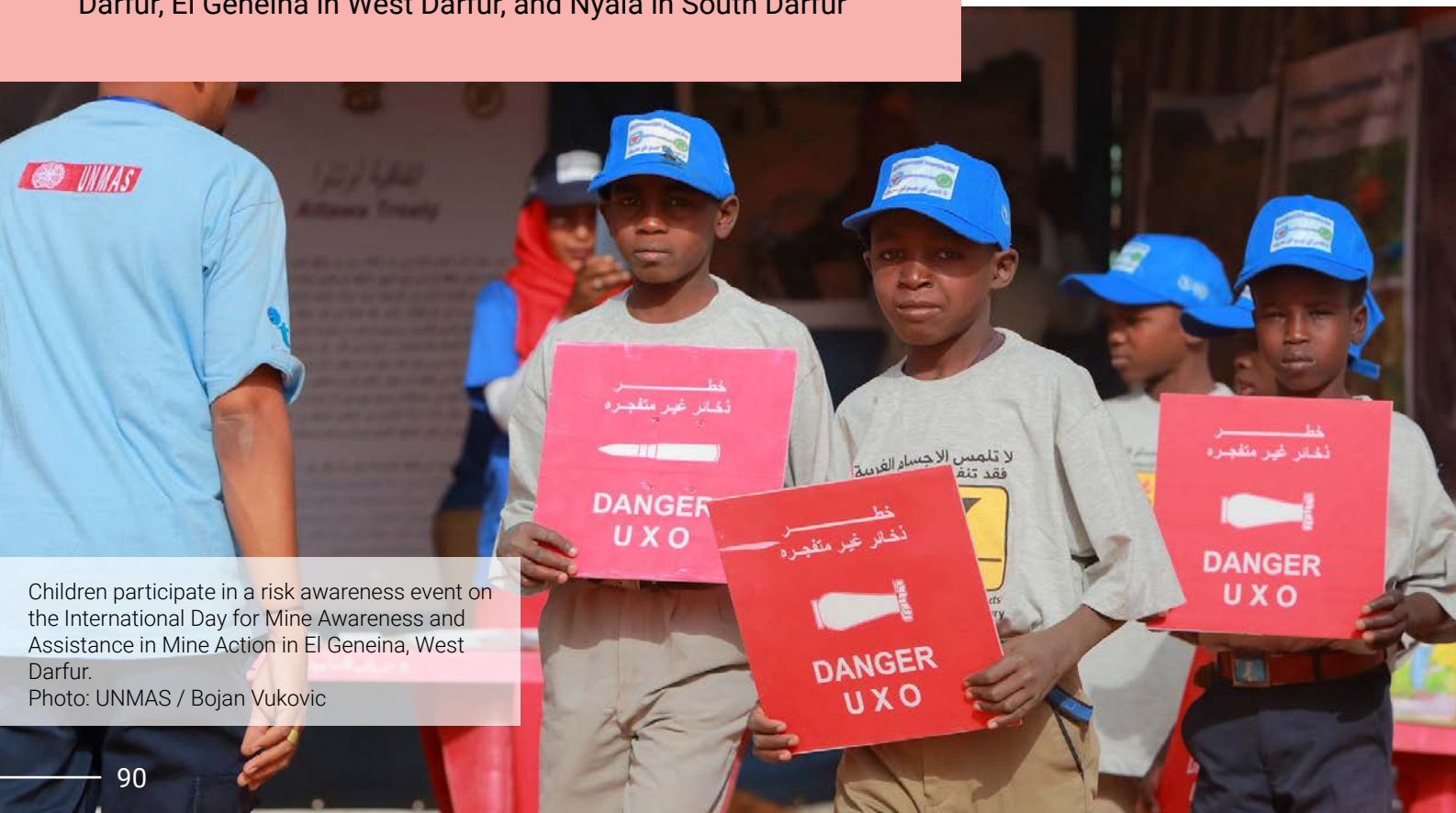
A deminer clearing land in Rassai, Kassala State, Sudan.
Photo: UNMAS / Laura Salvinelli

SUDAN

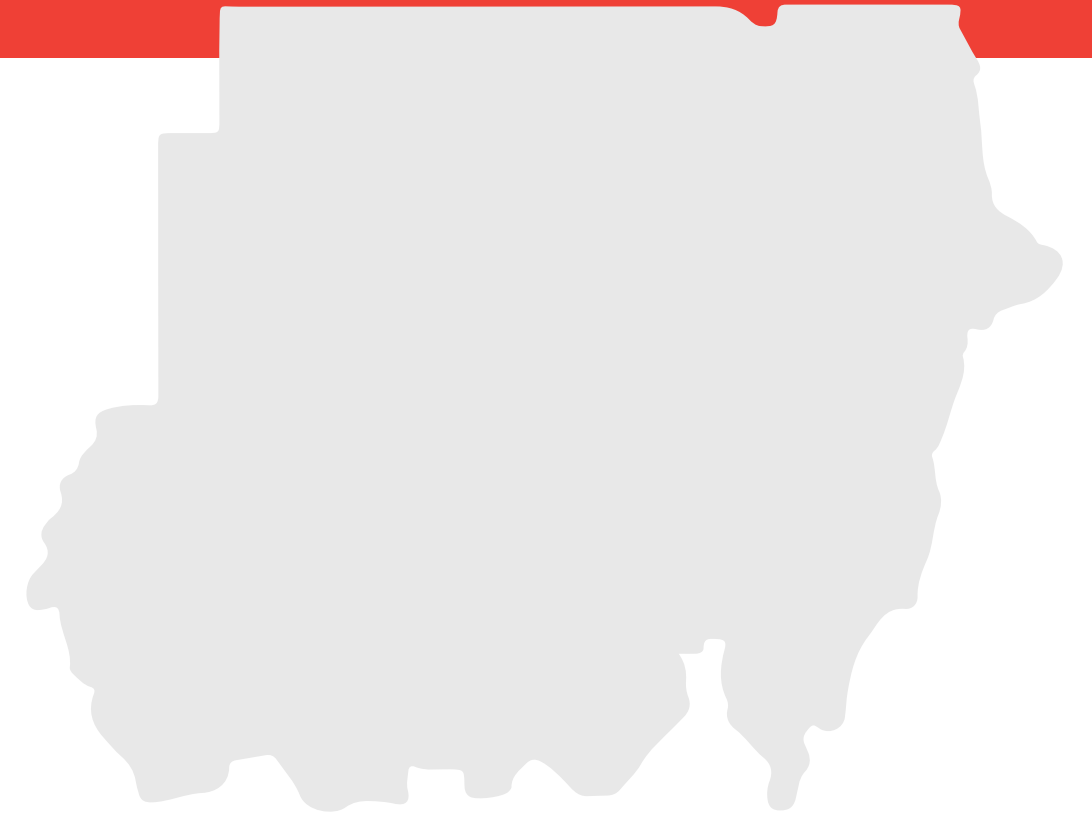
IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

MOST AFFECTED AREAS

Since the start of the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces on 15 April 2023, the widespread use of conventional weapons including field artillery, mortars, air-dropped weapons and anti-aircraft guns has left unexploded ordnance in Khartoum and other urban areas such as El Obeid in North Kordofan, El Fasher in North Darfur, El Geneina in West Darfur, and Nyala in South Darfur



Children participate in a risk awareness event on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in El Geneina, West Darfur.
Photo: UNMAS / Bojan Vukovic



RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN SUDAN IN 2023



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 56,935 at-risk local populations in Blue Nile, Sinnar, White Nile, Al Jazira, and northern states, including IDPs received EORE
- Means for communication used to expand outreach during the ongoing conflict included TV and radio programmes, social media, local theatres, and training of non-traditional actors such as a writers' association



ENABLING LOCAL POPULATIONS, HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ACTORS TO SAFELY USE PREVIOUSLY CONTAMINATED AREAS

- 540 humanitarian workers received explosive ordnance safety briefings to raise awareness and promote safe behaviour
- Ten requests for EOD and explosive ordnance advisory from the United Nations and other humanitarian partners responded to, ensuring their safety and facilitating humanitarian access



WATCH VIDEO



Overview

Explosive ordnance contamination in Syria remains a major protection concern. According to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview, more than 65 percent of the Syrian population (14.4 million people) are at risk, which is an increase of over 20 percent from 2023 (11.5 million people). OCHA access analysis identifies explosive ordnance contamination as a major impediment to the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance in 146 sub-districts (54 percent of all sub-districts); while the United Nations Common Risks Register identifies it as high residual and inherent, strategic and operational risk to United Nations operations. According to the 2023 Landmine Monitor Report, Syria recorded the highest number of annual explosive ordnance casualties for the third year in a row.

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. Since then, UNMAS operates as an enabler of the humanitarian and early recovery response, fulfilling the role as the de facto Mine Action Center, providing advisory support to the national authorities, and technical and operational support to mine action actors, including through accreditation and quality assurance. As lead of the MA AoR, UNMAS ensures the integration of mine action needs in the United Nations strategic plans and advocacy efforts, and analyses and disseminates relevant mine action data.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were carried out thanks to funding from Belgium, Estonia, Italy, Japan, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and UNDP.

UNMAS explosive ordnance assessment team conducting survey in Darayya.
Photo: UNMAS / Asso Sabahaddin

SYRIA

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CASUALTIES

Victims: According to the UNMAS information management system, from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2023, there were 18,595 explosive ordnance incidents and 21,141 victims recorded, disaggregated accordingly:

- 18,453 male; 2,687 female
- 2,207 children; 18,933 adults
- 20,944 civilians, 196 security forces (approx. 99% civilians)



Billboard displaying explosive ordnance risk education messages installed by UNMAS in Babilla, Rural Damascus.
Photo: UNMAS / Basel Awad

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN SYRIA IN 2023



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- Nine mine action actors accredited to conduct a wide range of mine action interventions



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

- 870,000 square metres of land surveyed and/or cleared in Aleppo and 24 million square metres in Rural Damascus, with 387 items of unexploded ordnance found and destroyed
- 42,126 at-risk people (15,314 girls; 7,856 women; 13,608 boys; 5,348 men) from Rural Damascus provided with EORE
- 37,838 risk education materials distributed to 11 NGOs, international NGOs and United Nations agencies for further dissemination to communities
- 104 humanitarian workers (71 women, 33 men) received training as risk education facilitators to provide sessions to communities; 62 humanitarians received training as EORE focal points (29 women, 33 men), and 269 others (91 women, 178 men) received risk awareness messaging to enhance their safety in the field



VICTIM ASSISTANCE

- 14,134 people (2,984 girls; 1,724 boys; 4,030 women; 5,396 men) including 1,342 survivors of explosive ordnance incidents received victim assistance services. Of those, 6 survivors (2 women, 4 men) were recruited as EORE facilitators and integrated into the EORE teams

TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA



Overview

The presence of landmines and other explosive ordnance, including cluster munitions, in the Territory of Western Sahara is a consequence of the conflict that occurred between 1975 and 1991 involving the Royal Moroccan Army, Mauritanian armed forces, and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). The resumption of hostilities in November 2020 resulted in possible new contamination, including in areas previously deemed safe.

Mandate

UNMAS is a component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and works to enable the Mission's mandate delivery. Through route verification and convoy escorts, UNMAS MINURSO increases the safety and security of MINURSO personnel travelling on logistics routes supplying MINURSO team sites and United Nations Military Observers conducting ground patrols. UNMAS MINURSO also advises MINURSO investigations on explosive incidents and accidents. Finally, UNMAS MINURSO delivers EORE sessions to all MINURSO personnel, enhancing their knowledge of the danger posed by explosive hazards. Thanks to UNMAS efforts, there were no explosive-related accidents affecting MINURSO personnel or assets.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2023 were funded through the MINURSO budget and thanks to a contribution by Spain for capacity enhancement of local partners.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)


Movement patterns of nomadic communities east of the berm are key for prioritization of clearance efforts.
Photo: UNMAS

TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CONTAMINATION

A 2,700-kilometre-long sand berm stretching from inside southern Morocco to the Atlantic Ocean at Guerguerat was built during the conflict, of which 1,465 kilometres divide the Territory into western and eastern parts. It is suspected that the berm and the immediate areas around it are heavily contaminated by landmines.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA IN 2023



ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING "PLUS" (A4P+)

- 13 hazardous areas totaling 444,735 square metres of land as well as 12,002 kilometres of roads declared safe in support to movements of MINURSO military observers and other mission personnel and equipment
- 148 items of explosive ordnance destroyed
- 177 newly deployed MINURSO military and civilian personnel (133 men and 44 women) increased their knowledge of the dangers posed by explosive ordnance within 43 EORE sessions
- 32 technical investigations west of the berm facilitated in support of the MINURSO military observers in their duties of monitoring and reporting on ceasefire violations



SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

- Provision of technical guidance and mentoring to enhance the capacity of the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Office (SMACO) as well as train 14 facilitators in EORE, which will be deployed to educate the community on the hazards posed by explosive ordnance



Peacekeepers with (MINURSO) consult a map as they drive through vast desert areas in Smara, Western Sahara.
Photo: UN Photo / Martine Perret



WATCH VIDEO

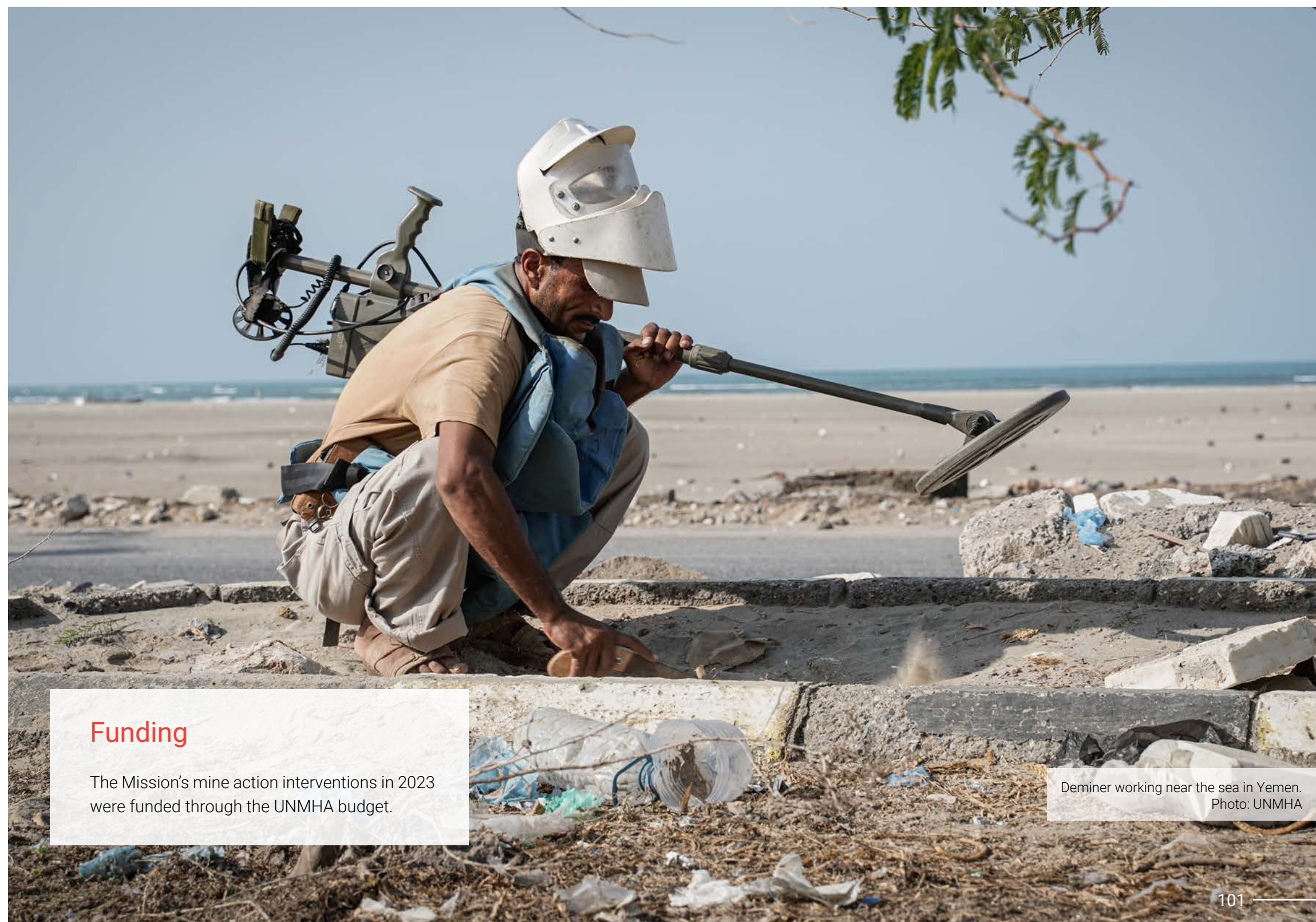


Overview

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, the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) supported stakeholders with mine action coordination, technical advice, and data gathering. In 2023, the Mission expanded coordination with local mine action authorities in Sana'a and Aden to advocate for increased international mine action donor support and international NGO interventions in the Mission's area of responsibility, as well as for broader Yemen.

Mandate

UNMHA continues to deliver on its mandate to oversee mine action operations in Hudaydah Governorate as established by the Security Council resolution 2452 (2019) and reaffirmed in resolution 2691 (2023). UNMAS continues to provide technical advice to the Mission on the conduct of these tasks. UNMHA liaised with UNDP, the lead United Nations entity on mine action in Yemen, the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, the United Nations Country Team, and other mine action stakeholders in Yemen related to the Hudaydah governorate. UNMHA carried out risk assessments to enable the Mission to conduct patrols without any explosive ordnance-related incidents, delivered EORE for Mission staff and conducted assessments of the local explosive ordnance threat and contamination in support of other United Nations entities. UNMHA coordinated with the local mine action authorities in Sana'a and Aden to share information on the landmine and ERW threats in the governorate on both sides of the frontlines and the Mission's advocacy strategy in support of mine action efforts.



Funding

The Mission's mine action interventions in 2023 were funded through the UNMHA budget.

Deminer working near the sea in Yemen.
Photo: UNMHA

YEMEN

IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

CASUALTIES

UNMHA recorded 161 landmine and ERW related casualties in Hudaydah governorate, including 5 women killed, 5 women injured, 26 children killed, and 33 children injured

Reduction of explosive ordnance incidents in the governorate, from 159 (289 civilian casualties) in 2022, to 104 (161 civilian casualties) in 2023, and currently less than one incident per week recorded



Used anti-tank mines collected in Yemen.
Photo: UNMHA



RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMHA IN YEMEN IN 2023

- 225 meetings (virtual/in-person) on mine action coordination with local authorities, United Nations partners, NGOs, and implementing partners in Sana'a, Aden, Hudaydah, Mokha, Al Khowkha, and Hays
- Maintained a database for landmine and ERW incidents in Hudaydah governorate

CONTRIBUTIONS 2023

UNMAS Partners and Donors in 2023

INTRODUCTION TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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 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 Andorra, Denmark, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Poland and Slovakia for providing unearmarked contributions. UNMAS thanks the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the Netherlands for providing in-kind personnel and Junior Professional Officers in 2023. UNMAS Improvised Explosive Device Threat Mitigation and Advisory Team activities in 2023 were conducted with generous support from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan and USA.

Gender parity efforts

UNMAS continued to take measures to achieve gender balance among its staff. By the end of the year, women represented 67 per cent of UNMAS headquarters staff in New York, Geneva and Entebbe (excluding Gratis Personnel and Junior Professional Officers), 33 per cent of our international programme teams, and 40 per cent of national staff within our programmes. Our Director and Deputy-Director are women. As of 31 December 2023, 21 per cent of the Chiefs of Mine Action Programmes in the field were women, up from one in 2022. This includes Chiefs on the staffing tables of peace operations, special political missions, and on the DPO staffing table deployed to lead non-mission programmes.



Woman, 18, poses for a portrait at a house in Kunar district, Afghanistan
Photo: UNMAS / Cengiz Yar

Contributors to UNMAS in 2023 (figures in USD)

EARMARKED FUNDS RECEIVED AND ALLOCATED THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION TO UNMAS PROGRAMMES/ PROJECTS BY DONOR 2023															
DONORS	AFGHANISTAN	BURKINA FASO	COLOMBIA	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	ETHIOPIA	IRAQ	LIBYA	NIGERIA	OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	SOMALIA	SUDAN	SYRIA	THREAT MITIGATION ADVISORY TEAM	TOTALS	UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED 2023
Andorra															\$21,275.5
Australia													\$100,000	\$100,000	
Belgium						\$802,350						\$802,350		\$1,604,700	
Canada		\$1,379,310			\$1,016,256								\$221,856	\$2,617,422	
Denmark						\$5,189,736								\$5,189,736	
Estonia						\$10,000						\$10,000		\$20,000	
European Union			\$124,505					\$261,048				\$208,177		\$593,729	
France													\$293,189	\$293,189	
Germany	\$3,284,400													\$3,284,400	
Japan					\$2,099,851					\$1,000,000	\$980,000	\$1,452,268	\$400,535	\$5,932,654	\$45,343
Liechtenstein															\$27,852.05
Luxembourg															\$768,250
New Zealand						\$513,604			\$449,676					\$963,280	\$942,803.27
OCHA												\$536,491		\$536,491	
Poland									\$45,728					\$45,728	\$22,864
Republic of Korea		\$100,000		\$2,500,000		\$100,000		\$100,000				\$300,000		\$3,100,000	
Slovakia						\$26,620								\$26,620	\$21,790
Sweden						\$898,134								\$898,134	
UNDP			\$61,119											\$61,119	
UNICEF			\$572,515											\$572,515	
UNTFHS											\$680,862			\$680,862	
United States	\$1,031,853						\$376,177				\$643,855			\$2,051,885	
Grand Total	\$4,316,253	\$1,479,310	\$758,139	\$2,500,000	\$3,116,107	\$7,540,444	\$376,177	\$361,048	\$495,404	\$1,000,000	\$2,304,717	\$4,761,554	\$1,015,580	\$28,572,464	\$1,850,178

Acronyms

A4P+	Action for Peacekeeping + Priorities for 2021-2023
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCW	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
EDD	Explosive Detection Dogs
EO	Explosive Ordnance
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal - <i>the detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and disposal of explosive ordnance.</i>
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War - unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance
EWIPA	Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
IDPs	Internally displaced person
IED	<i>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.</i>
IEDD	Improvised Explosive Device Disposal
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISR	Independent Strategic Review
ITS	Integrated Training Service
MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
MASG	Mine Action Support Group
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NDM-UN	International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

NMAC	National Mine Action Centre
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OMA	Office of Military Affairs
P/TCC	Police/Troop Contributing Country
PCCs	Police-Contributing Countries
SAA	Small Arms Ammunition – <i>smaller than 20mm in caliber</i>
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
TCCs	Troop-Contributing Countries
TMAT	Threat Mitigation Advisory Team
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNPOL	United Nations Police
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
VTF	Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management



Woman deminer in Iraq. Photo: UNMAS

UNMAS Programme Strategy Core Elements

ABYEI	
Vision	UNISFA safely implements its mandate to ensure the peace and security of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Border 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 (A/77/769, EA 1.1, 1.2 and A4P) ¹
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Zero movements, access, and deployments by UNISFA, JBVMM, humanitarians and civilians interrupted or cancelled as a result of mines or explosive remnants of war within the Abyei Area. (A/77/769, RBB Indicator 1.1.5)Full deployment of UNMAS personnel to the JBVMM headquarters, sector headquarters and team sites to ensure effective support to the JBVMM whenever required. (A/77/769, EA 1.2 and Indicator 1.2.2)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.)
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 (SC res 2626/2023 OP5(i))
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mine action contributes to the creation of peace and stability in AfghanistanMine action contributes to economic and social conditions for self-reliance
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Percentage of reduction in civilian casualties from explosive devices compared to the same time last yearNumber and percentage of tasks issued by the UNMAS-led HMA coordination center in response to requests made by the humanitarian and development communities

¹S/RES/2708 (2023) which extends mandated tasks per S/RES/2609 (2021): "27. Encourages the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to continue to facilitate the deployment of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to ensure freedom of movement, as well as the identification and clearance of mines in the Abyei Area and SDBZ,"

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 all regions and handover responsibilities to national mine action counterparts.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Target communities and humanitarian workers have increased knowledge of the threat posed by explosive hazard▪ Effective explosive risk reduction programme increasingly managed by national actors with minimal external technical inputs▪ Enhanced Information Management through inter-agency cooperation advances Victim Assistance assessment and services mapping
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1.a Number and percentage of IEDs neutralized (national and by region)▪ 1.b Number and percentage of QA tasks that show national actors are operating in compliance with national standards with a pass score above 80%▪ 2.a Number and percentage of community members that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe behaviors after EORE▪ 2.b Number and percentage of humanitarian workers that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe behaviors after EORE▪ 3.a Percentage/number of contributing actors out of total number involved in IED data collection (national authorities, UN, NNGO, INGO, CSO)▪ 3.b Number of transmitted data related to victims, for services that were mapped, by region.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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. (A/77/758, contributes to RBB output EA 2.4, 2.5)▪ National authorities protect civilians, mitigate, and respond to the EO threat. (A/77/758, contributes to RBB outputs under EA 1.1)▪ MINUSCA mitigates EO threat to operate effectively in an increasingly complex security environment. (A/77/758, contributes to RBB outputs for EA 1.1)
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Progress towards fulfilment of national WAM targets as elaborated in national planning documents concerning percentage of▪ WAM storage facilities and percentage of WAM trained personnel.▪ 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.▪ Number and percentage of EO threats responded to (discovery, removal and/or destruction) by FACA in accordance with international standards.▪ Percentage of PBI coordinated or jointly conducted with MINUSCA, by the National authorities.▪ Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate increased knowledge of un/safe practices.▪ Percentage of explosive ordnance that are identified and safely destroyed by MINUSCA.▪ Percentage of explosive ordnance that are identified and safely destroyed by MINUSCA

COLOMBIA

Vision	Individuals and communities live free from the threat posed by explosive ordnance, and mine action contributes to the peace processes, enabling the extension of State authority to address the root causes of conflict 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 processes.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The mine action sector is coordinated, prioritized, principled, and effective.▪ Mine action enables the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement▪ Mine action contributes to Total Peace in Colombia
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage and number of municipalities benefitting from MA interventions that are prioritized in the HNO and/or the national mine action plan 2020-2025▪ Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.▪ Percentage and number of MA AoR organizations adopting age, gender and diversity-sensitive practices.▪ Number of ex-combatants contributing to MA and reducing the threat posed by explosive ordnance▪ Percentage of MA-related aspects of peace processes under implementation (MA aspects: EO data collection, MA activities, reintegration, Plan Nacional Desminado, TOAR, Sanciones Propias, Reparación, Cap. étnico)▪ Number of peace processes including MA provisions in the negotiation agenda

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 (A/77/722 / EA 2.1, A4P, CPAS)
Outcome Indicators	Percentage and number of requests of support from UNFICYP responded to.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Vision	In support of the Mission Transition Plan, 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 (including IEDs) threat mitigation and SALW management and storage capacity of security entities.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The national EOD and IEDD capabilities are strengthened at operational and institutional levels. (A/77/745, EA 1.1)▪ MONUSCO addresses EO threats, including IED, resulting from conflict in the east to ensure safety of the communities in the AoR.▪ (A/77/745, RBB 23/24, EA 1.2)▪ The DRC national security institutions are effective in their capability to control and manage their weapons and ammunition, in coordination with key stakeholders (A/77/745, EA 1.2) (CPAS)
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Number and percentage of EOD and IEDD tasks requested that are addressed (RBB) (KOICA)▪ Number of National Security Services that have enhanced their knowledge on EO (RBB) (KOICA)▪ Number of draft national C-IED strategy developed under the coordination of the CNC-LT (RBB)▪ Number and percentage of IEDD requests to which UNMAS responds to protect civilians across MONUSCO AoR (RBB).▪ Number and percentage of EOD tasks (ERW) completed by UNMAS out of the total requested by MONUSCO. (RBB)(KOICA).▪ Number of arms marked and registered according to international standards▪ (CPAS).▪ Number of requests for weapon storage from the national defense and security services addressed (CPAS/RBB).▪ Number of monitoring sessions with national authorities and key stakeholders to monitor the progress of the NAP implementation▪ (CPAS)

ETHIOPIA

Vision	The threat of EO is minimized for communities affected by conflict
Mission	UNMAS works to create conditions conducive to the protection of individuals and communities from the threat of explosive ordnance and the safe delivery of humanitarian and development initiatives, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Humanitarian and development 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▪ The Ethiopia Mine Action Office (EMAO) efficiently establish and manage the mine action sector in accordance with international standards, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination.
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage of requests for support from humanitarian and development organizations positively responded to▪ Number of conflict-affected woredas surveyed▪ Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices▪ Number of NMAS drafted▪ Number of evidence-based inputs on treaty reporting▪ Number of NGOs registered and accredited [present with equipment] to conduct clearance, survey and EORE.

IRAQ

Vision	The Government of Iraq (GoI) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1.1: GoI describes full scope and scale of contamination in Iraq to relevant treaty forums.▪ 1.2: Number Federal Government of Iraq budget allocations provided towards operational mine action activities.▪ 2.1: Number of NNGOs meet the standards to compete successfully for UN grants and bilateral funding.▪ 2.2: Number of priority tasks assigned by GoI to NNGOs in liberated areas and/or in support of return.▪ 3.1: Number sqm of land made safe for development activities and productive use.▪ 3.2: Number percentage of the displaced population that has returned to the liberated areas have safely returned to their places of origin and safely can access basic services.▪ 3.3: Number percentage of the +1M displaced people and at-risk populations in liberated areas, who demonstrate an increase in knowledge of safe practices.

LEBANON

Vision	UNIFIL safely implements its mandate and achieves a stable and secure environment in south Lebanon (A/77/740, RBB 23/24 EA 1.1)
Mission	UNMAS UNIFIL provides high quality operational and humanitarian mine action advice that enables UNIFIL to advance a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase in the area safe from landmines and explosive remnants of war (A/77/740, RRB, Indicator 1.1.5)▪ 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 take steps to secure and effectively manage stockpiles to prevent proliferation and unplanned explosions, clear explosive ordnance from hazardous areas to protect civilians, including IDPs, and advance Libyan reconstruction
Outcomes	Libyan institutions secure, manage, and mitigate the risks of arms and ammunition stockpiles (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.4, Deliverable 4 Libyan institutions reduce the risk of explosive ordnance (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.4, Deliverable 4
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage of identified and assessed Ammunition Storage Areas (ASA) secured, managed, and/or risks mitigated by Libyan institutions▪ Number of guidelines, procedures and standards related to arms and ammunition put in place and adopted by Libyan institutions in line with the international standards.▪ Percentage of requests in support of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) subcommittees to ensure preparedness when handling weapons and ammunition as part of the implementation of the Ceasefire agreement.▪ Number of issued technical standards, norms and systems for mine action sector in support to the Libyan intuitions.▪ Percentage of trained personnel from Libyan institutions with a mine action mandate who demonstrate increased knowledge for their function in EO response▪ Percentage of requests in support of the 5+5 JMC Mine action subcommittee to reactivate of its engagement as part of the implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The United Nations, and its humanitarian partners in Gaza, maintain critical functions, uninhibited by explosive hazards▪ Conflict affected people know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance▪ The capacity of the national authorities to manage mine action activities in the West Bank is enhanced
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage and number of UN and humanitarian partner sites declared safe and restored to use after RA and EOD response▪ Number of UN and humanitarian personnel with increased knowledge of explosive risk reduction to support their delivery of humanitarian and recovery programmes▪ Percentage humanitarian organisations in Gaza able to deliver operations at conflict affected sites after RA and EOD response▪ Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries in West Bank and Gaza that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices (disaggregated by age, sex and region).▪ Increased number of EORE teams service providers in the West Bank delivering the PMAC EORE strategy.▪ Number of Palestinian Authority institutions supported to provide response to ERW in the West Bank.▪ Number of trainers trained by PMAC to deliver EORE in West Bank (disaggregated by age and sex)▪ Number of EOD Police staff received EORE, information management (IM) and EOD training in the West Bank

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, and Somali Security Institutions towards the transition of security responsibilities, and support affected communities to mitigate the threat of explosive
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Outcome 1: ATMIS TCCs are better prepared to operate in an explosive ordnance threat environment. [ATMIS Pillar]▪ Outcome 2: The Government of Somalia has enhanced capability to assume responsibility for mitigating the risks of explosive ordnance. [SSF Pillar and WAM Pillar]▪ Outcome 3: Communities experience reduction of the threat posed by explosive ordnance. [National Mine Action Pillar]
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1. Percentage and number of IEDs encountered without ATMIS casualties.▪ 1.b Number of IED threat mitigation and EOD training and mentoring teams deployed in support of ATMIS and in line with ATMIS drawdown and transition. (A/77/746, RBB Indicator of Achievement 1.1.13)▪ 2.a Number of SSF explosive threat mitigation teams with enhanced capacity to respond to explosive ordnance in line with the National Security Architecture and Somalia Transition Plan. [SSF Pillar]▪ 2.b Progress in the development and implementation of national counter-IED and weapons and ammunition frameworks in support of the Government of Somalia.▪ [WAM Pillar]▪ 3.a Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices▪ 3.b 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Humanitarian actors and civilians have safe access to areas previously contaminated with EO (A/77/752, RBB EA 1.2, 1.3, 3.1 A4P and CPAS Impact 3)UNMISS uniformed and civilian operations proceed unimpeded by EO (RBB EA 1.2, 3.1,3.2 and A4P).Mine action contributes to South Sudan peace process (RBB EA 4.1 and 4.5 and A4P and SCR 2677)
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 IDP return and reintegration.Number of EORE beneficiaries and percentage that demonstrate increased knowledge regarding safe practices.Maintain zero casualties among mission personnel related to EO.Percentage and number of responses to requests from Mission for support.Number of taskings issued by NMAA that prioritize protection of civilians

SUDAN

Vision	The Sudanese population lives free of the threat of explosive ordnance
Mission	UNMAS Sudan enables UN mobility, protection of civilians, and humanitarian partners to deliver free from the risk of explosive ordnance contamination and supports the effective national management of the mine action sector.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">People at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.The United Nations and the local population safely access areas contaminated with explosive ordnance.The mine action sector is managed in a prioritized principled and efficient manner.
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices (SADD)Number of assessments conducted by UNMAS and humanitarian mine action (HMA) partners in support of safe access for UN and other humanitarian actors.Percentage of requests to address EO contamination from UN and other humanitarian actors responded to.Number of HMA actors accredited to operate in the mine action sector in Sudan.Percentage of MA partners working in accordance with the agreed prioritized plan

SYRIA

Vision	The Syrian population benefits from safe access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.
Mission	UNMAS in Syria enables humanitarian and early recovery partners to deliver free from the risk of EO contamination.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Government of Syria (GoS) directs HMA actors to operate in accordance with UN early recovery and humanitarian priorities and in accordance with technical guidelines and SOPs (IMAS).People know how to mitigate the risks of explosive ordnance.Humanitarian and early recovery actors safely deliver aid and services (humanitarian and livelihood)Survivors of explosive ordnance and persons with disability have increased access to assistance.
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Percentage and number of HMA actors accredited and working to IMAS (or technical guidelines and SOPs that reflect IMAS)Number of mine action donors that support UN humanitarian and early recovery priorities.Percentage of EORE beneficiaries demonstrating increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.Number of beneficiaries of EORE across Syria (all implementers) (employ IMAS on calculating beneficiaries)Number of assessments conducted by UNMAS and by HMA partners in support of humanitarian and early recovery actors.Number of humanitarian and early recovery projects incorporating HMA (e.g., survey, clearance, spot tasks, RE, VA).Percentage and number of EO survivors and persons with disability assisted (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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">S01: Reduced threat posed by landmines and explosive ordnance (EO), improving security and accessibility within the Territory (RBB 23-24 A/77/731, EA 1.3, CPAS, and A4P).S02: Local capacities supports mine action programmes, EOB
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Percentage of patrols undertaken by MINURSO military observers without explosive ordnance incidents. (A/77/731, Indicator 1.3.1, CPAS 3.1 and 3.2.)Additional square meters of surface and subsurface area free from known threats of landmines and EO, in order to facilitate the monitoring of the ceasefire and to ensure safe passage for UN personnel (A/77/731, Indicator 1.3.2., CPAS)The local mine action authority (SMACO) implements the SMACO strategic plan 2023-2026.

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	Mine action supports UNMHA to effectively and safely monitor the ceasefire and encourage both parties to implement their mine action commitments per the Hudaydah agreement. (UNMHA Planned Result 1, A/77/6 (Sect.3)/Add.4)
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 (supports demining of the ports) and in its Area of Responsibility. UNMAHA 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. 100% requests from YEMAC/YMACC (Sana'a and Aden) and RCC members for technical advice on demining of the ports and other areas within the governorate responded to. Number of partnerships brokered among donors, NGOs, YMACC, NMAC, and YEMAC to conduct mine action in the AoR in both GoY and DFA controlled areas of the governorate.



UNMAS

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