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2020

## UNMAS Annual Report 2020

United Nations Mine Action Service

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**UNMAS**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



The UNMAS Annual Report 2020 describes the organization’s activities and achievements. The report highlights all of the work that UNMAS carried out in 2020 using funding from donors and the assessed budget of the United Nations.



The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched the five-year Safe Ground campaign (2019 – 2023) in 2019. The purpose of the Campaign is to raise awareness and resources for the victims and survivors of armed conflict through the development of new partnerships and the promotion of sport. Learn more [here](#).

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\*Cover photo: Najiba Qasem who is part of the first female demining team in Afghanistan clears landmines in Bamyán Province. UNMAS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

A4P	Action for Peacekeeping
APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
IACG-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised explosive device
IED TMAT	IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PoC	Protection of civilians
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
TCCs	Troop Contributing Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNPOL	United Nations Police
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN VTF	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action

## CONTRIBUTORS



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is an efficient and effective undertaking that coordinates the United Nations response to explosive ordnance, and deploys teams to survey, clear and dispose of these deadly devices.

In any year, that work poses tremendous challenges. But 2020 was a year like no other. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS quickly adapted its work to tackle dramatically changed circumstances. Despite the impacts of lockdowns, social distancing and overall societal upheaval, UNMAS delivered.

Thousands of explosives were found and destroyed; hundreds of thousands of square meters of land were made safe and put to productive use, and millions of people living in, or returning to, contaminated areas, were provided with explosive ordnance risk education, incorporating, in many cases, lifesaving World Health Organization COVID-19 prevention guidance.

This annual report provides a snapshot of the perseverance demonstrated across the United Nations system. Through its work in 2020, UNMAS continued to advance the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and support Member States in meeting their obligations under relevant international humanitarian, disarmament and human rights law. As an integral component of many peace operations, UNMAS also continued to protect host communities as well as peacekeepers.

This report is ultimately a testament of lives made safer and communities made more secure despite daunting and unprecedented challenges. I thank all our partners for helping to make this possible and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the success of this crucial work.



UN Photo/Mark Garten

**António Guterres,**  
United Nations Secretary-General

## JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR PEACE OPERATIONS AND THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS

Explosive ordnance threatens populations during active conflict and continues to do so long after hostilities have ceased. With the rate of civil wars nearly tripling in the past decade, sharp increases in civilian casualties make the mine action response even more crucial. Keeping the peace is not enough, and in many contexts, there is no peace to keep. Efforts must be made to sustain peace, including through peacebuilding and prevention, in all phases of conflict. The work of UNMAS is a vital tool to that end.

In 2020, in view of the significant impact that COVID-19 had on operations, UNMAS realigned activities to enable mandate delivery despite the pandemic, and continued to advance the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping commitments by protecting civilians, improving the safety and security of peacekeepers and enabling efforts to sustain peace in ten peacekeeping and two special political mission settings.



UN Photo

**Jean-Pierre Lacroix,**  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Peace Operations

Chair, United Nations  
Inter-Agency Coordination  
Group on Mine Action

UNMAS protected civilians from physical harm – the very essence of many mission mandates – through clearance of explosive ordnance and risk education delivery in Abyei, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan.

Improvements in the safety and security of peacekeepers, mission mobility and humanitarian access were achieved through survey and clearance of areas contaminated by explosive ordnance, combined with improvised explosive device (IED) threat mitigation training in Mali and Somalia.

In addition, to increase the effectiveness of IED threat mitigation, UNMAS provided training, mentoring and equipment to AMISOM troops in Somalia, strengthened

**Rosemary A. DiCarlo,**  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Political and  
Peacebuilding Affairs



UN Photo

ties to the African Union and supported the African Union Silencing the Guns campaign.

Peace operation performance benefitted from UNMAS train-the-trainer courses, which strengthened the capacity of police- and troop-contributing countries (P/TCCs) to deliver IED awareness training and ensure troop preparedness for deployment in high-threat peacekeeping environments. Other activities to enhance performance were carried out in Darfur and South Sudan, where UNMAS supported contingents in the destruction of shelf-life expired or unsafe ammunition and other weapons and ammunition management measures.

In efforts to achieve and sustain peace, mine action interventions in Cyprus and Darfur helped build confidence in peace negotiations, bringing communities closer together, while in Libya, UNMAS supported UNSMIL in the operationalization of the Berlin process, which included the integration of mine action into the 5+5 Joint Military Committee agreements related to the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement signed in October 2020.

Moreover, UNMAS' work in developing the capacity of national security services in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Somalia contributed to the extension of effective, accountable state authority and served as a valuable element of security sector reform efforts.

As we look back on 2020, we commend UNMAS staff for their efforts, flexibility, expertise and efficiency, and for their dedication to lasting peace and security. In 2021, we will continue to rely on the Service for its work – which remains at the heart of the peace, security and development nexus.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, UNMAS



**Ilene Cohn,**  
Deputy Director and  
Officer-in-Charge, UNMAS

The UNMAS IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team established a mobile training team in Entebbe, which will support regional training centers and bilateral partners to conduct pre-deployment training for United Nations troop contributing countries consistent with United Nations standards.

UNMAS embarked on a change management process to increase organizational accountability and effectiveness, addressing the recommendations of a 2019 Office of Internal Oversight Services audit, and will continue to strengthen our delivery model in 2021.

Perhaps the most singular accomplishment of 2020 has been the extent to which UNMAS programmes contributed to the protection of civilians from physical harm in the face of ongoing instability and protracted conflict.

I am pleased to present the 2020 UNMAS Annual Report, which describes our activities and accomplishments.

After many years of dedicated service and commitment to the mine action sector, disarmament and humanitarian affairs, Ms. Agnes Marcaillou retired from the United Nations in mid-2020. It has been my privilege to lead a dedicated team of United Nations mine action professionals through the remainder of a challenging year.

UNMAS colleagues in the field and at Headquarters drew on their reserves of resilience and empathy to deliver life-saving programmes with innovative approaches - such as the early inclusion of COVID messaging in risk education campaigns. We relied on and deepened our partnerships. Working closely with national authorities, donors and implementing partners we managed to maintain and eventually resume operations and serve communities that live with the constant threat of explosive ordnance.

Allow me to highlight some of our accomplishments of 2020:

UNMAS responded to a request from the Ethiopian government to assess the threat in parts of that country, and deployed to Armenia and Azerbaijan as part of a joint United Nations mine action assessment to support humanitarian responses in conflict-affected areas following hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

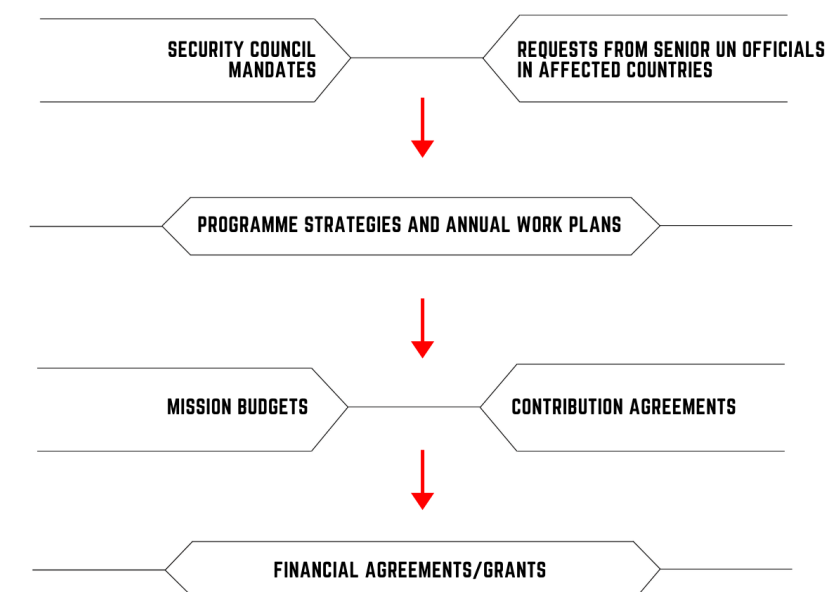
Consistent with the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, UNMAS established and led a coordinating task force on a whole-of-system approach to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

## INTRODUCTION

UNMAS is mandated by the General Assembly to coordinate United Nations mine action. The Service also responds to requests for assistance from senior United Nations officials and Member States and implements Security Council mandates for peace operations.

In addition to UNMAS components in peace operations that are funded by the assessed and regular budgets, UNMAS implements programmes using contributions

to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF) in settings that do not host peace operations. UNMAS also administers extra-budgetary resources to advance mandate delivery in peace operation settings. This report serves to expand upon reports provided by UNMAS to individual donors to the VTF and information contained in reports of the Secretary-General on relevant peace operations.



## UNMAS STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

The **United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023** is a whole-of-system response to the threats posed by landmines, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). UNMAS coordinates its implementation and monitoring as Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/75. The outcomes, indicators and targets of the Strategy have been endorsed by the IACG-MA Principals, representing the 12 United Nations member entities that implement the Strategy. The **UNMAS multi-year Strategic Plan 2019-2023** guides UNMAS headquarters annual work planning

and the design of **UNMAS programme strategies**, which are summarised in Annex 1. These programme strategies define the UNMAS vision, mission, strategic outcomes, strategic outcome indicators and exit strategies for each programme. UNMAS operationalizes these strategies through **annual work plans**.

Mine action programmes and projects are implemented by UNMAS through its implementing partner, UNOPS, and/or through grants to mine action organisations.

## UNMAS ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

UNMAS achievements for 2020 are reported upon below, against the strategic outcomes of the multi-year UNMAS Strategic Plan 2019-2023, and consistent with the vision, mission statement and expected outcomes of the programme strategies in countries of operations.

### STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1: COHERENT APPROACHES TO MINE ACTION ARE DELIVERED

Landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) create a major humanitarian challenge. They can also decimate nascent socio-economic development while undermining fragile peace. United Nations mine action cuts through traditional silos and spurs collaboration across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts. UNMAS integrates mine action systematically into relevant strategic and policy frameworks, inter-governmental processes, mandates, plans and resourcing requests. UNMAS ensures a coherent approach to mine action through a number of global coordination mechanisms, as well as efforts at the country or regional level, and through the development of strategic partnerships with United Nations entities, NGOs, regional bodies and other stakeholders from across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding spectrum.

#### UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP ON MINE ACTION (IACG-MA)

In 2020, UNMAS continued to coordinate the activities of the **United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)** through monthly meetings at the technical level, biannual Meetings of Principals and ad-hoc meetings. The Group worked together to maximise the advocacy impact of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, as well as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, World Children's Day and World Humanitarian Day. Advocacy and coordination aimed to mobilize support for the implementation and universalisation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Convention on Certain

Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). UNMAS facilitated the preparation of 'one UN' statements for international conferences – most of which took place online due to COVID-19. UNMAS experts delivered online presentations at CCW Amended Protocol II and Protocol V expert meetings, and statements were delivered on behalf of the IACG-MA at the virtual APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties and the first part of the CCM Second Review Conference.

The IACG-MA also engaged as an observer to the newly established Environmental Issues and Mine Action (EIMA) working group, which was set up following a panel discussion at the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers (NDM-UN23) in February 2020. The EIMA is co-chaired by Norwegian People's Aid, the HALO Trust and the Conflict and Environment Observatory and works to promote a coherent response to environmental considerations in mine action. Similarly, the IACG-MA took note of the work of the Advisory Group on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, specifically with respect to NGO-led discussions on beneficiary definitions, trends and developments related to weapons and ammunition management (WAM), including increased inter-agency coordination spearheaded by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and progress on advocacy related to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA), led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION STRATEGY 2019-2023

As Chair of the IACG-MA, UNMAS coordinates the monitoring and evaluation of the **United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023**. In July 2020, the IACG-MA launched an online, dynamic dashboard, allowing stakeholders to easily access and analyse data collected from 30 countries and territories with a United Nations mine action presence through a country- or territory- level survey instrument, consistent with the Strategy's Theory of Change and Results Framework. A baseline Progress Report and dashboard drawing from 2018 data and a Progress Report and dashboard using 2019 data were developed and published online in 2020. Full



UNMAS delivers explosive ordnance risk education in Amee, Eastern Equatoria, South Sudan. UNMISS

### STRADDLING THE HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT PEACEBUILDING NEXUS IN SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan continues to face humanitarian, development and security challenges. UNMAS activities in the country seek to provide a comprehensive response. In March, clearance of explosive ordnance from 28,000 square meters of land (the equivalent of four football pitches) facilitated the construction of a new humanitarian hub in Kodok, Upper Nile, which will provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities in the area, while, in November, UNMAS survey and clearance activities allowed a former battlefield to be used for World Food Programme (WFP) airdrops to civilians at risk of starvation in Jonglei State. In Central Equatoria,

former battlefields were cleared to enable local farmers to start cultivating crops. Clearance efforts also enabled the construction of a highway to the capital city, Juba, which will benefit trade and access generally. In parallel, UNMAS work, as a component of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), assists the implementation of the Mission's mandate in support of the peace process. These are just some of the many activities undertaken by UNMAS which demonstrate the role that mine action plays in supporting humanitarian responses, advancing sustaining development and promoting peace in South Sudan.

details are available [here](#). This new tool, developed with voluntary contributions, is intended to support data-driven decision-making for the United Nations in mine action.

### MINE ACTION AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (MA AOR)

Through its Office in Geneva, UNMAS coordinated the **Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AOR)** – also known as the Mine Action Sub-Cluster (MASC) – which is a United Nations-NGO partnership established to promote predictable and effective mine action responses in humanitarian emergencies. In 2020, the Danish Demining Group (DDG) – the mine action unit within the Danish Refugee Council – took on the rotating role of co-Chair, succeeding Humanity & Inclusion.

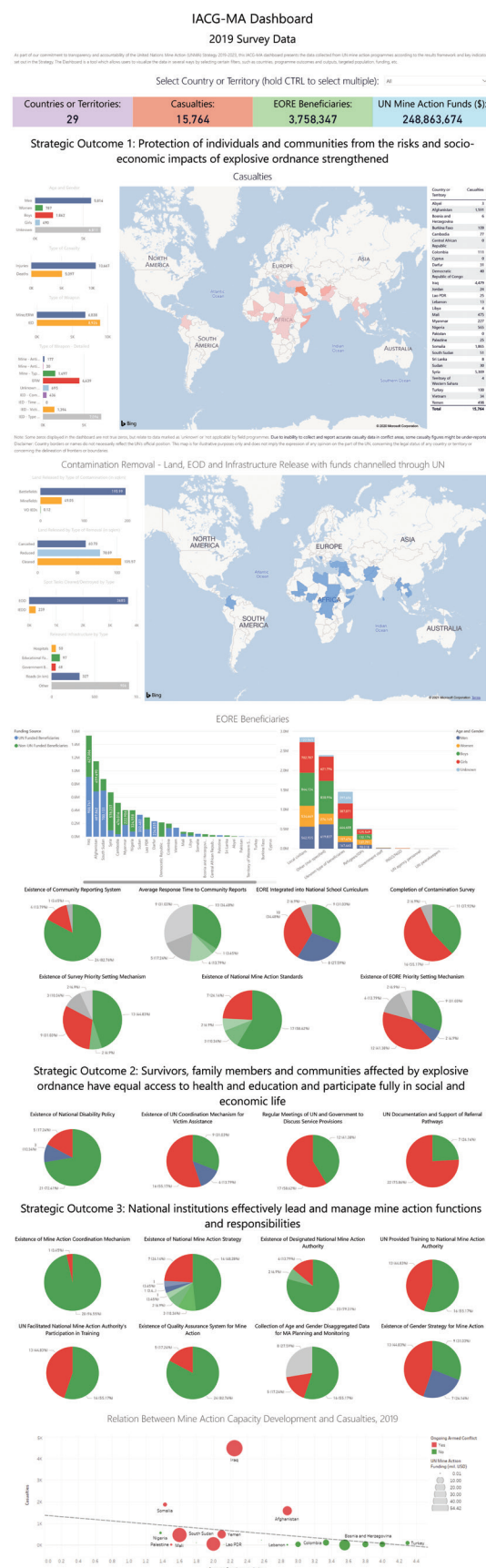
### COORDINATED MINE ACTION IN 16 EMERGENCY/HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

In 2020, the UNMAS Geneva office supported 16 in-country coordinators where the MA AOR is active: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

During the year these coordinators, often with the help of a local co-coordinator, worked with some 140 local and international organizations to propose a coordinated mine action strategy as part of the Humanitarian Response Plan in each relevant country or territory. Together, these organizations appealed for USD 212 million to assist **some 23 million people** in need<sup>1</sup> of mine action assistance. This represents a large-scale, multi-layered effort to coordinate planning not only within the mine action sector but also with other humanitarian and United Nations partners focused on protection, health, education and food security.

Despite a funding shortfall (**almost half** of the financial requirements were **unmet**) and restrictions linked to COVID-19, which constrained operations greatly, **five million people** benefitted from clearance, risk education or victim assistance interventions through this collaboration in 2020.

Data collated by UNMAS in 2020 through the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023 monitoring



Source: Interactive dashboard of the UN Mine Action Strategy as of December 2020

and evaluation (M&E) mechanism demonstrated an upward trend of mine action integration in humanitarian response planning, from 12 countries or territories in 2018 to 16 in 2020, indicating a growing demand for mine action coordination and requiring significant investments. In-country MA AOR presences continued to expand in 2020, with UNMAS establishing the MA AOR in **Burkina Faso** to facilitate coordination efforts on behalf of national authorities and to promote the prioritization of humanitarian mine action within national priorities and strategies. It is likely that demands for such coordination mechanisms will continue to grow.

### STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE MA AOR

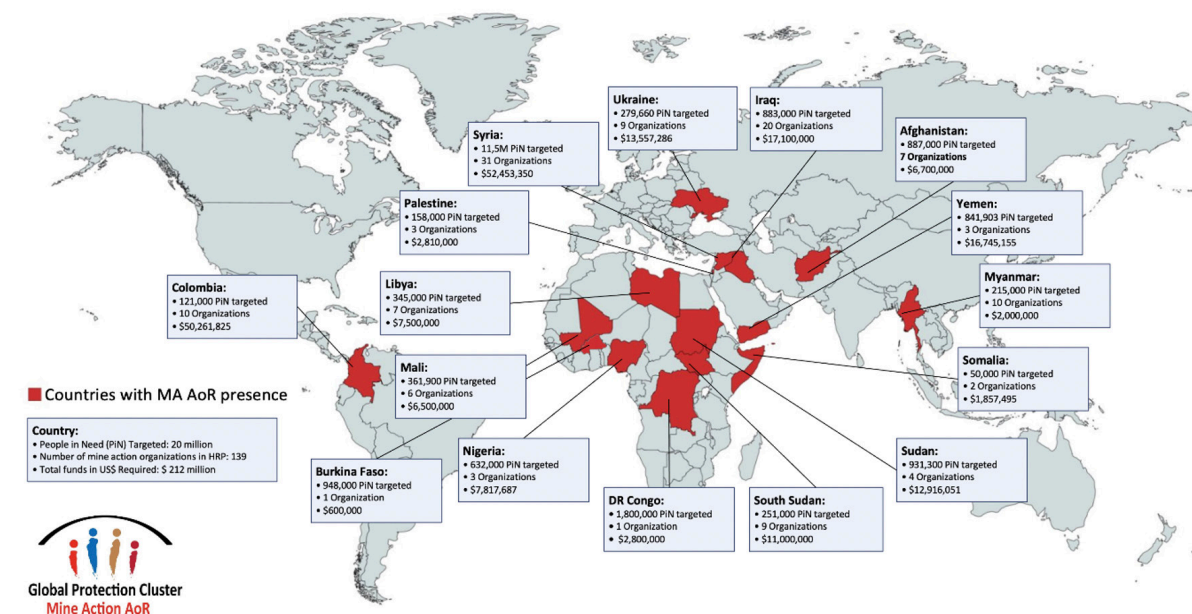
The UNMAS Geneva office organised monthly events with various stakeholders, including the 16 in-country coordinators, MA AOR members, a broad audience of United Nations entities, as well as Member State and NGO actors, to discuss emerging challenges, introduce new tools (for example, a workshop on access to Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funding) and create linkages among mine action organizations and with other humanitarian partners. Consultations hosted by UNMAS and DDG as MA AOR Coordinators, alongside Germany as Chair of the Mine Action Support Group, resulted in broad consensus

for the development of a global MA AoR strategy to strengthen partnerships, in particular with local actors; incorporate innovations; and develop the capacity of the MA AoR to support service delivery, inform strategic decision-making by Humanitarian Country Teams, implement mine action strategies and monitor performance. The [MA AoR website](#) was upgraded in 2020 and now provides information on membership, the workplan, resources, partnerships and relevant achievements.

### SHAPING THE PROTECTION AGENDA

In 2020, the MA AoR contributed actively to several initiatives led by the Global Protection Cluster, such as the development of a new Strategic Framework (2020-2024) for protection launched in February 2020 and a Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework to sharpen needs assessments as part of the Grand Bargain, as well as through participation in the annual Global Protection Forum and support to the curriculum design of a specialised training for AoR coordinators with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy. In addition, the MA AoR engaged with the broader Global Protection Cluster in its advocacy to support the universalisation of the CCM, including through coordination on a statement delivered during the first part of its Second Review Conference.

### Mine action in 2020 Humanitarian Response Plans





UNMAS implementing partner provides an explosive ordnance risk education session to adolescent girls in Homs, Syria. UNMAS/Francesca Chiaudani



## COORDINATING TASK FORCE ON A WHOLE-OF-SYSTEM APPROACH TO IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

In his Agenda for Disarmament, released in May 2018, the Secretary-General underscored the need for revitalized disarmament and arms control efforts in a deteriorating international security environment. He emphasised the need for focused efforts to mitigate the humanitarian impact of conventional weapons, including IEDs.

Subsequently, UNMAS convened a **Coordinating Task Force on a Whole-of-System Approach to IEDs**, which met on a regular basis during 2020, including once at the level of Principals. Bringing together representatives of United Nations security, political, humanitarian, development and counter-terrorism entities and chaired by UNMAS, the Task Force is increasing IED response coherence by facilitating a common understanding of the threat and enhancing consistency in the use of related terminology. The Task Force constitutes a dedicated forum for sharing internal data, as well as for discussions on issues such as doctrinal developments, operational principles, technical knowledge and best practices.

Throughout the year, the Task Force elaborated an inventory of United Nations resources and skills across the spectrum of IED prevention, protection, threat mitigation and law enforcement. UNMAS will continue to make the toolbox available to United Nations entities to facilitate cooperation and dialogue, and to enhance synergies through the sharing of resources, data and expertise. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Yemen is engaging with the Task Force and has reported positive results of capacity development efforts based on the assessment methodology available in the toolbox.

## INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS (IMAS)

In its role as custodian of the **International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)**, UNMAS during 2020 led the implementation of revisions to the IMAS governance structure.

In December, Principals of the IACG-MA endorsed amendments that had been discussed with the IMAS Review Board and adopted by the IMAS Steering

Group, including amendments to IMAS 01.10, the Standard outlining the governance system of IMAS. The updated Standard sets out clear roles and responsibilities for the Steering Group, and its Chair, secretary and members. The composition of the Group has also been revised, providing for two additional seats rotating every two years to include representation from an affected Member State and a donor Member State. The Standard also sets forth a neutral secretariat function – to be fulfilled by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and elucidates the role of the Steering Group in providing executive direction to the Review Board, ensuring that IMAS are developed consistent with rules of procedure and that the composition of the Review Board is appropriate and representative. Alongside the adoption of this Standard, IACG-MA Principals also endorsed five new and amended IMAS related to animal detection systems, medical support, accident investigations and risk education.

In 2021, the Steering Group will consider amendments that directly affect the Review Board and associated Technical Working Groups.

## COVID-19 COORDINATION

The convening role played by UNMAS helped ensure a **coherent response to the COVID-19** pandemic among mine action and humanitarian partners. In many programmes, UNMAS adapted to the crisis by establishing or strengthening coordination mechanisms that brought together national authorities dealing with mine action and health responses; United Nations humanitarian, development and security partners; donors and civil society. These efforts helped to ensure that explosive ordnance did not hinder necessary health responses, for example by clearing routes needed for the delivery of humanitarian assistance or new health installations and supported the wide dissemination of COVID-19 guidance by incorporating messages into explosive ordnance risk education campaigns. From the onset of the pandemic, UNMAS coordinated information provided by UNDP and UNICEF on the status of United Nations mine action programmes, sharing up-to-date status reports of programme implementation amid COVID-19. In addition, UNMAS facilitated the prioritisation and gradual resumption of activities by mine action implementing partners as national and United Nations restrictions eased.

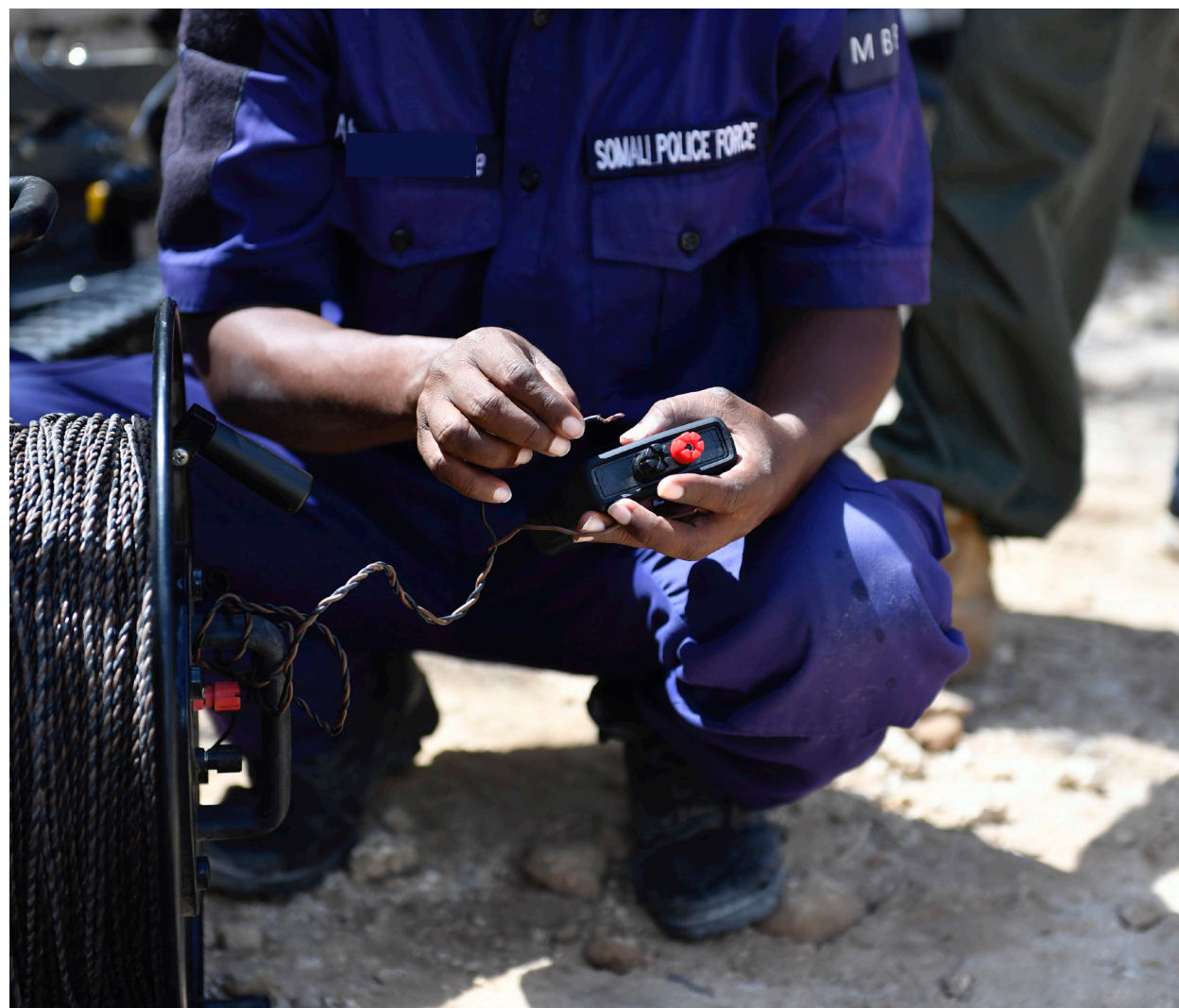
## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: PROTECTION FROM THE RISK AND IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE IS STRENGTHENED

Civilians continue to bear the biggest burden of suffering caused by explosive violence. Tragically, the threat seems to be increasing, with United Nations data indicating an uptick in casualties driven by a surge of injuries and deaths in countries with ongoing conflicts such as **Somalia** and **Syria**, as well as sustained high numbers in countries in which stabilization and peacebuilding processes are ongoing, for example, **Iraq**. Data collected in 2020 through the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023 M&E mechanism indicated an increase in explosive ordnance casualties in at least 15 locations with United Nations mine action programmes,<sup>2</sup> with the overall figure rising from 13,574 in 2018 to 15,764 in 2019.

### EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION (EORE)

In light of this persistent threat to civilians, explosive ordnance risk education remains a lifesaving activity. Throughout 2020, UNMAS continued to improve and hone its outreach and messaging on the risks of explosive ordnance to change behaviours in a way that can save lives. In **Libya**, where small arms and light weapons are increasingly prevalent, youth advocates trained by UNMAS launched a social media campaign, accompanied by a video, to raise

awareness about the risks and safety measures related to small arms and light weapons. Years of risk education data collection in **Afghanistan** allowed UNMAS to target specific audiences, namely women, men, boys, girls and travellers, that use contaminated roads and tracks, through positive, compelling and relatable messages for the greatest impact. Explosive ordnance risk education in **Iraq** continued to be delivered throughout the year using innovative platforms, including billboard messaging, television ads and social media campaigns. A targeted social media campaign called "Safe Steps" was also launched, comprising games, quizzes and participation from social media influencers to ensure engagement with a young audience. This year UNMAS worked closely with the Palestinian Mine Action Centre to develop a risk education strategy for the **State of Palestine**, while, in Gaza, Conflict Preparedness and Protection training equipped civilians with the information and skills to mitigate damage and casualties in the event of a future conflict. Of the over 1,000 people trained prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, 73 per cent were women. In **Syria**, UNMAS trained community-based risk educators to deliver awareness sessions to prevent casualties, while producing explosive ordnance awareness materials for distribution among United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners.



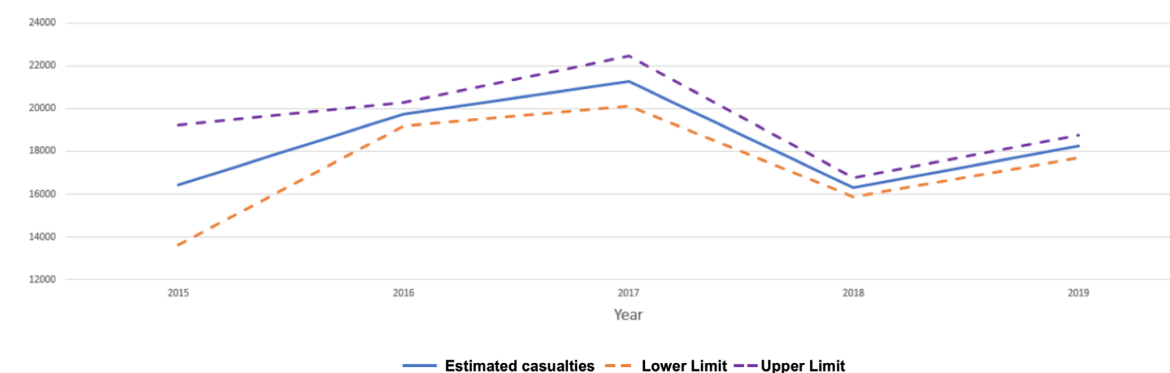
A Somalia Police Force officer undergoes demolition training provided by UNMAS. UNMAS/ Dominique Wehrli

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic partnerships play a key role in ensuring a coherent approach to the delivery of mine action. In New York headquarters, Geneva and each country and territory of operation, UNMAS has a vast network of partners from across the United Nations system, most notably the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), as well as others from outside the United Nations system, such as the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and NGO networks.

Close working partnerships with national authorities – from officials of national mine action centres to representatives of government ministries and security sectors – ensure that UNMAS activities support national mine action goals and priorities, or align with broader humanitarian, development or peacebuilding objectives. At the regional level, UNMAS continues to strengthen its partnership with the African Union, in particular by scaling up cooperation on IED threat mitigation and coordinating tailored assistance to Member States. NATO-UNMAS engagement on IEDs has also increased and offers exciting opportunities for knowledge and expertise sharing, including in technology and innovation.

Estimated Mine Action Global Casualty Trend 2015-2019



Data pertains to countries with a United Nations mine action presence and was collected through the monitoring and reporting of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy. Countries/territories included (34): Abyei, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen.

An UNMAS-trained educator provides risk education on IEDs to a community in the East Region of Burkina Faso. UNMAS



**RISK EDUCATION ADAPTATION TO COVID-19**

In 2020, UNMAS risk education and behavioural change activities quickly adapted to the restrictions precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and, in many cases, played a critical role in supporting national responses to the virus. For example, in **Afghanistan**, UNMAS collaborated with the National Directorate of Mine Action Coordination to develop explosive ordnance risk education materials with integrated messages on COVID-19 prevention measures in support of the national response to COVID-19. Similarly, in **Sudan**, UNMAS explosive ordnance risk education activities were adapted to support the country's COVID-19 response in coordination with donors, the Sudanese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).

regulations in **Colombia**, UNMAS personnel delivered online explosive ordnance risk education sessions to affected populations, including indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. In **Syria**, UNMAS focused heavily on leveraging indirect risk education in response to pandemic-related restrictions, including through the use of mobile messaging, social media, news websites, radio and television segments and billboards to ensure broad distribution of behavioural change messages. In the **State of Palestine** and **Somalia**, explosive ordnance risk education was merged with information on the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 transmission to furnish civilians with the information needed to combat these dual threats.

Building upon its access to and knowledge of remote communities, UNMAS supported teams to disseminate COVID-19 awareness information alongside explosive ordnance risk education using loudspeakers mounted on the back of vehicles. Adapting to COVID-19 safety



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS disseminates safety messages incorporating both COVID-19 and explosive ordnance risk reduction in the State of Palestine. UNMAS

## CLEARANCE AND SURVEY IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY THREATS

When civilians are educated to identify explosive ordnance, they are better equipped to raise the alarm about the need to survey and/or clear sites of possible contamination. As a result, UNMAS often responds to civilian sightings of contamination and explosive ordnance, while at the same time developing the capacities of local or national actors to clear contaminated areas and rapidly respond to new reports. For example, in **South Sudan**, UNMAS responded to reports of explosive ordnance sightings in Eastern Equatoria by conducting explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), spot clearance tasks and risk education to mitigate the threat posed to civilians. In **Libya**, UNMAS supported national partners to carry out disposal exercises in former conflict areas of southern Tripoli and Tawergha, as well as battle-area clearance in Misrata. UNMAS worked with **Colombia's** Ombudsperson's Office in responding to possible warnings of explosive ordnance contamination in isolated communities. In **Syria**, UNMAS, for the first time, deployed a team to assess and survey explosive ordnance contamination in Rural Damascus, laying the groundwork for clearance activities in 2021.

## RAPID RESPONSES TO THREATS AND REQUESTS

Given the urgent nature of explosive threats, UNMAS maintains the capacity to rapidly respond to requests for technical or operational support from governments and other partners. At the local level, data collected in 2020 for the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023 indicated United Nations-wide progress in this area. The majority of countries or territories with a United Nations mine action presence in 2019 had a system for community reporting on explosive ordnance contamination and data showed that, in cases where the United Nations responded directly, the majority of responses were rolled out in less than 48 hours.

In response to an urgent request from a Troop-Contributing Country (TCC), UNMAS coordinated the rapid mobilization of trainers and materials to contribute to IED "search and detect" and threat mitigation training delivery to a contingent set to deploy to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in early 2021. In support of the Juba Peace Agreement signed between the Government of **Sudan** and the

Sudanese Revolutionary Front, UNMAS deployed a rapid assessment team to Blue Nile State to facilitate the establishment of a safe humanitarian corridor between areas not under state control. As a result, United Nations crossline humanitarian assistance was delivered to civilians in the area of Ullu for the first time since 2011, ensuring dividends of the peace agreement were felt by local populations.

In response to a request from the Interim President of the Somali Region of Ethiopia, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia requested UNMAS to carry out an explosive ordnance assessment in the **Somali Region of Ethiopia** to determine the scope of contamination, followed by the provision of technical assistance and safety advice to the Humanitarian Country Team, as well as to the national authority and local population. The assessment is informing the development of a proposal for United Nations support to the wider security sector in Ethiopia.

Following the hostilities in and around **Nagorno-Karabakh** in 2020, UNMAS deployed technical expertise to both Armenia and Azerbaijan to support OCHA and other relevant agencies in their preparations for an initial inter-agency scoping assessment of conflict-affected areas. Concurrently, UNMAS conducted preliminary mapping exercises of mine action capacities and liaised with key interlocutors. In Azerbaijan, the UNMAS team participated in a joint mine action assessment, led by UNDP, and with the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action, to regain districts in order to assess mine action assistance needs. At headquarters, a joint Working Group was established (UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF) to ensure coordinated mine action engagement and response planning.

## FACILITATING SAFE, VOLUNTARY RETURNS

Mine action is, in many cases, critical to the safe, voluntary return of refugees and/or internally displaced people (IDPs), as well as to the safety of IDP and protection of civilian (PoC) sites. In **Libya**, UNMAS supported efforts to detect and respond to the worst contaminated areas of Tripoli, which allowed families to return to their homes in former front-line areas. In **Iraq**, the rendering safe and restoration of civilian infrastructure facilitated the return of refugees and IDPs, including to areas previously occupied by ISIL. UNMAS delivered explosive ordnance risk education to IDPs, returnees and host communities

in northeast **Nigeria**, while holding training-of-trainer sessions to ensure that national and local authorities could continue to deliver risk education to IDPs and communities in hard-to-reach areas. Towards the aim of providing a safer environment for civilians and enabling the voluntary return and resettlement of IDPs and refugees, as outlined in its Programme Strategy for **South Sudan**, UNMAS surveyed and cleared the main route used by refugees returning from Uganda, facilitating safe passage and access to essential infrastructure and humanitarian services. Many people are returning to their homes in **Syria** even though the conditions for a safe and dignified return have not yet been met. UNMAS provided support to humanitarian programmes assisting these populations by delivering risk education to humanitarian workers and facilitating the integration of risk education messages into the humanitarian response in Syria.

## MINE ACTION IN PEACE PROCESSES

Threats to civilians often remain after the signing of a peace agreement. Mine action can play a confidence-building role in political and peace processes by spurring reintegration, including, for example, through the training of ex-combatants to remove the very instruments of war that they may have emplaced, while bringing rapid peace dividends to the communities that have suffered from violence. Embedding mine action into peace processes can also boost coherence, ensuring that efforts to prevent and mitigate explosive violence are sustained throughout

peacebuilding, reconciliation, reconstruction and development processes.

In **Colombia**, UNMAS continues to support the mine action components of the 2016 peace agreement. In 2020, the Government of Colombia designated UNMAS as the provider of quality assurance to Humanicemos Desminado Humanitario (HDH) – a civilian demining organization composed of, and led by, former combatants – solidifying the role of UNMAS in the country's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process. UNMAS also formed part of a tripartite working group – including the Government, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the United Nations – established to develop an information-sharing system between the Government and FARC with the aim of mapping the location of explosive ordnance emplaced during the conflict, so that FARC can comply with this critical obligation under the peace agreement.

The UNMAS Programme Strategy for **Sudan** seeks, in the context of advancing the peace process, to promote mine action initiatives in opposition-controlled areas that will establish solid ground for confidence-building measures and an environment conducive to peace. In **Afghanistan**, UNMAS is collaborating with the Afghan Directorate of Mine Action to strengthen joint advocacy efforts aimed at integrating mine action into the peace process in that country.



Seventeen members of Humanicemos DH pose for a group photo after completing training on Non-Technical Survey organized by UNMAS in Colombia. UNMAS



Banki IDP formal settlement, in northeast Nigeria where IEDs are increasingly prevalent. UNMAS/Alice Whitehouse

## MINE ACTION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contamination poses threats to lives and livelihoods. Countries and areas contaminated by explosive ordnance often suffer from a lack of investment and socio-economic activity. By employing a coherent response, mine action can be a catalyst for socio-economic development and can contribute to the achievement of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In **Somalia**, clearance of explosive ordnance in 2020 allowed land in border regions to be released for socio-economic activities and infrastructure development. In **Colombia**, UNMAS worked with regional and local authorities throughout the year to integrate mine action into plans and policies that aim to respond to the development needs of communities. After the discovery of a new sub-munitions contaminated area in Tanganyika Province in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNMAS clearance activities not only contributed to the protection of civilians living in a nearby IDP camp, but also facilitated the restart and development of agricultural activities; access to water points, schools and healthcare units; and the transport of construction materials for infrastructure development. In **South Sudan**, UNMAS provided mine action information and data through reporting against the United Nations Cooperation Framework, which feeds into the country's National Development Strategy. Further demonstrating the

role of mine action in enabling development, UNMAS conducted risk assessments in the **State of Palestine** to facilitate UNICEF projects aimed at improving municipal wastewater infrastructure and erecting solar panels in support of water supply infrastructure, while also clearing explosive remnants of war to facilitate the resumption of humanitarian activities by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The training of local risk educators and community liaison officers can open pathways to employment in affected communities. Such training has been seen to boost the economic agency of women by equipping them with skills applicable to mine action roles with national and international NGOs, while serving to dismantle patriarchal norms and barriers in support of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality. In 2020, women were trained as risk educators and community liaison officers in **Colombia, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, Syria** and the **State of Palestine**. Moreover, in **Iraq**, the deployment of mixed-gender demining teams created equal employment opportunities, while breaking stereotypes with respect to the role of women in development, reconstruction and peacebuilding processes.

In sum, UNMAS, through its programmes across 19 countries and territories, seeks to leverage mine action as a critical element of coherent humanitarian assistance, a prerequisite to peace and stability and an enabler of sustainable development.

## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: VICTIMS OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO RELEVANT SOCIAL SERVICES AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE

When protection and prevention efforts fail, the tragic and persistent effects of explosive violence must be addressed. Survivors of explosive ordnance accidents are often left with disabilities or debilitating injuries, facing hurdles to reintegration in their communities and economies that affect their quality of life and their livelihoods, as well as those of their families and wider communities. UNMAS continues to support victim assistance as a core pillar of mine action by advocating for the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities at the global level, while working with national entities to create and strengthen policies, open referral pathways to essential services and, in some cases, act as a last-resort provider of support to survivors of explosive violence and their families and communities.

### PROVISION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE

In northwest **Syria**, in response to a lack of healthcare services and as a provider of last resort within the framework of the Global Protection Cluster, UNMAS supported first response and rehabilitation services to assist survivors of explosive ordnance accidents, contributing to an increased rate of survival, while supporting the provision of trauma surgery and pain management, physical rehabilitation, prostheses and orthotics to reduce the rate of impairment. These efforts were continued during the pandemic in compliance with COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures, which proved to be particularly crucial given that densely populated areas were found to face heightened vulnerability to COVID-19 alongside exposure to explosive ordnance contamination. In October 2020, UNMAS established a Victim Assistance Working Group under the Mine Action Sub-Sector umbrella in Damascus with the main objective of bringing together mine action actors and other multi-sectoral actors (including those working in protection, health, livelihoods and education) in order to enhance access to services and social protection for survivors and indirect victims of explosive ordnance.

In response to the high number of casualties from explosive ordnance registered in **Colombia** in 2020, UNMAS provided guidance and support to survivors and indirect victims to guarantee their access

to the victim assistance referral pathways of the Colombian State. UNMAS also delivered training to local ombudsperson offices to strengthen access for survivors and their families and communities to services at the local level in Colombia. In **Sudan**, UNMAS assisted survivors of explosive ordnance and their families and communities by providing comprehensive support packages ranging from prostheses to psychological and financial support, while building the capacity of national actors to provide such support.

### NATIONAL CAPACITY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In 2020, UNMAS supported national authorities in **Afghanistan** with the review and finalization of a National Disability Strategy for 2020-2030 as part of its efforts within the framework of the UNMAS Programme Strategy to ensure that the rights of survivors, victim families and persons with disabilities in Afghanistan are respected. The new National Disability Strategy – which was submitted to the President's Office in 2020 – is aligned to the CRPD and the victim assistance articles of the APMBC and the CCM, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while incorporating cross-cutting issues, such as gender and social inclusivity. Through its engagement with the Government of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNMAS successfully advocated for the integration of the rights of people affected by explosive ordnance accidents into efforts to negotiate and adopt a national law on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities.

Data and information collection play a major role in enhancing victim assistance responses. In the **State of Palestine**, UNMAS provided support to survivors of explosive accidents, as well as to their families and communities, through an outreach and monitoring process. This involved the collection of information on survivors in the aftermaths of blasts in Gaza, followed by referrals to specialist organizations through the UNMAS-led MA AOR. Following these initial referrals, efforts were made to track and follow up on the support provided. Through its partnership with the

Pen Narin is a Cambodian landmine survivor who was injured while serving in the army. He later worked as a mine detector technician for mine action NGO the Halo Trust. © Marco Grob



These photos taken by renowned photographers Mr. Marco Grob (to the left) and Mr. Giles Duley (to the right) were featured in the UNMAS digital photo exhibit "Together for Mine Action: Give Life Back" on the occasion of the 2020 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action highlighting the criticality of victim assistance.

In 2003 Baraq Qahtan Dharee's parents stepped on a landmine in Kirkuk, Iraq. Her father was carrying her. Both of her parents died, and she lost both of her legs. She is now a teenager and has prostheses. Assistance to survivors must be for the long-term. A mine can be cleared and destroyed once, but a survivor must be cared for over a lifetime. © Giles Duley



**Somalia** Explosive Management Authority, UNMAS supported assessments of IED blast sites and efforts to record the impact of these incidents on survivors and their families. UNMAS ensured that accident and victim data was shared with protection stakeholders, connecting survivors with relevant service providers.

The information collected was also integrated into UNMAS support to Somali authorities drawn from in the development of a National Action Plan to address the needs and rights of explosive ordnance accident survivors and persons with disabilities.

## 4 APRIL - INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION 2020

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to organize in-person events to celebrate the International Day. Instead, under the theme "Together for Mine Action: Give Life Back," UNMAS developed a virtual exhibit in collaboration with two renowned photographers Mr. Giles Duley and Mr. Marco Grob to highlight stories of survivors of explosive ordnance accidents in different countries. The exhibit drew attention to the specific needs and requirements of persons with disabilities exposed to conflicts, as well as addressing challenges that survivors face in countries around the world.

### ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Through its Office in **Geneva**, UNMAS engaged with the CRPD and the Chair of the APMBC Committee on Victim Assistance to highlight linkages between the CRPD and humanitarian disarmament treaties, and to report on its efforts to support survivors of explosive ordnance and their families and communities, and persons with disabilities. In addition, as a result of targeted advocacy, the MA AoR succeeded in including victim assistance in the CERF's new life-saving criteria policy document while ensuring victim assistance projects were included in humanitarian response planning. These efforts resulted in the promotion of the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disability in Humanitarian Action](#).

Concerned by the high number of child casualties over the past five years, the MA AoR stepped up collaboration in 2020 with the **Child Protection AoR and Global Education Cluster** with the aim of reducing the number of accidents involving children. Guidance was developed to promote joint analysis and responses among child protection and education actors. Several advocacy events sought to mobilise support from donors and mine action operators, with a particular focus on Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

As part of the OCHA-led **Protection of Civilians Week** in May 2020, UNMAS co-hosted a virtual side event on

the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict alongside the Governments of Poland and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union. The event brought together representatives of governments, regional organizations, United Nations entities and civil society to discuss the opportunities created by the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2475 (2019) almost one year earlier, which explicitly expanded the PoC agenda to persons with disabilities for the first time, as well as to address the ongoing challenges and heightened vulnerabilities facing persons with disabilities in humanitarian emergencies and conflict and post-conflict settings. This event was the first United Nations virtual event to include two concurrent accessibility features (closed captions and international sign interpretation), which served as a best practice for United Nations virtual events in the future.

## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4: NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE MINE ACTION ARE STRENGTHENED

The protracted and complex nature of today's conflicts and the growing use of IEDs by non-state armed groups may affect communities for years – even generations. The case for strengthened national mine action capacity is therefore clear. UNMAS works in close collaboration with national mine action partners, including national mine action centres, and ministries of interior, defence, security and others, to develop capacities to prevent future and mitigate current threats posed by explosive ordnance while contributing to Security Sector Reform (SSR). UNMAS also pursues these goals in peace operations with mandates to support the extension of state authority and in transition settings, such as **Darfur**.

### SUPPORT TO NATIONAL MINE ACTION AUTHORITIES

With voluntary funds mobilized to reinforce the mandate for the peace operation in **South Sudan** (UNMISS), in 2020 UNMAS continued to provide on-the-job training to officials of South Sudan's National Mine Action Authority to analyse explosive threats and undertake safe and effective field operations.

UNMAS also carried out joint exercises, for example post-clearance inspection, to ensure adherence to international and South Sudanese mine action standards. In **Colombia**, UNMAS worked with national authorities to support the review and approval of national mine action standards, while continuing capacity development efforts with the National Mine Action Centre through a jointly developed workplan. In response to COVID-19, UNMAS enhanced the information management capacities of Colombian authorities through webinars, training and technical advice on available tools. UNMAS also supported the **Somalia** Explosive Management Authority by providing technical advice on activities and priorities, as well as through the construction of an office. In 2020, UNMAS continued its partnership with the National Mine Action Center in **Sudan**, including by revising national mine action standards, updating operational procedures, and assisting with the establishment of a quality management system and a hotline call centre to report sightings of explosive ordnance.

Alongside technical mine action assistance to



In collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MoI), UNMAS trains police officers in explosive ordnance disposal/improvised explosive device disposal at the MoI base in Salman Pak, located on the outskirts of Baghdad. UNMAS/Cengiz Yar

Ms. Ekram Abakar Juma, the first female Sudanese deminer, clears landmines as part of a road clearance operation in South Kordofan State, Sudan. NUMAD Organization



national authorities in **Libya**, UNMAS supported the establishment of an information management system to allow for the logging, investigation, verification and geolocation of hundreds of conflict incidents and explosive ordnance contamination in Tripoli since 2019 – information that will inform the mine action efforts of both national and international stakeholders. These activities advanced the goal of the UNMAS Programme Strategy to ensure that Libyan entities can deliver explosive ordnance risk mitigation activities to lessen the threat of explosive ordnance to the mobility of civilians, including refugees and migrants. During a lull in operational activities in **Iraq** caused by COVID-19, UNMAS developed standard operating procedures on explosive ordnance clearance, integrating best practices and lessons learned from its years of operating in the country, which will act as a cornerstone in increasing further the national capabilities within UNMAS operations and activities in support of the Iraqi mine action response. As part of its long-standing partnership with **Afghanistan's** Directorate of Mine Action Coordination, UNMAS continued to support the management of the national mine action programme, ranging from developing capacity in the clearance of improvised mines to resource mobilization and budget management support.

### SUPPORT TO SECURITY SECTORS

In **Burkina Faso**, as part of its technical and advisory support to the Ministry of Security, UNMAS provided guidance to the development of the country's mine action strategy. Tailored IED threat mitigation training was also provided to Burkinabé national police and gendarmes, allowing them to deploy safely to high-risk areas across the country. UNMAS

delivered training to the Defence and Security Forces in **Mali**, while the construction and rehabilitation of armouries in Gao and Menaka helped to boost national capacity to safely and securely manage weapons and ammunition. In response to the ongoing threat posed by IEDs in **Nigeria** to civilians and security forces alike, UNMAS provided IED disposal training to the national police.

In the **Central African Republic**, UNMAS supported the operationalization of national armed forces and contributed to stabilization efforts in the country by providing specialized storage infrastructure for weapons and ammunition used by the national security sector and delivering training on safe management and storage to security personnel according to international standards. The proper storage of weapons and ammunition prevents them from falling into the hands of spoilers, further protecting communities. Alongside its activities to develop the weapons and ammunition capacity of the national security sector in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** through the United Nations Mission, MONUSCO, UNMAS in 2020 also provided training to the country's National Commission for the Control of Small Arms on the integration of gender-responsive measures in activities for the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

### SUPPORT TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL NGOS

Civil society organizations may support the eventual transfer of mine action responsibilities to national authorities, given that governments often rely on international and national NGOs to conduct mine action activities. In **Iraq**, UNMAS developed a new partnership grant model, incentivizing international



An UNMAS handler conducts explosive detection dog training in Somalia. UNMAS



implementing partners to provide mentoring and training to national mine action organizations, which is intended to boost capacity at the local level. In **Libya**, UNMAS technical advice supported national NGOs, as well as national entities, to tackle new and emerging devices and threats, such as booby traps and other sophisticated devices, more safely. A local mine action training centre in **Sudan**, established by the National Mine Action Center with UNMAS support, provided basic operational and technical training to local mine action operators. Local mine action NGOs in **Somalia** also benefitted from UNMAS capacity development training, while in **Afghanistan** a core tenet of national capacity development support involved training and equipping humanitarian mine action NGOs to survey and clear improvised mines.

### ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW INSTRUMENTS

Globally, UNMAS supports affected states to engage with relevant treaty bodies and processes. These efforts continued throughout 2020. For example, UNMAS supported the Government of **Sudan** in its role as the President of the 18th Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC by solidifying regional initiatives, such as a new joint border clearance project with Chad; providing logistical and technical support to advocacy events; and continuing to support fulfilment of

obligations under Article 5 on the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas through assistance to the coordination and implementation of mine action activities. UNMAS assisted the Government of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** to submit its extension request to Article 5 of the APMBC and advocated for continued support from international, regional and national actors to ensure the achievement of the country's goal to be declared mine-free by July 2022. UNMAS also supported **South Sudan** in its Article 5 extension request, the approval of which allows the country an additional five years in which to complete the clearance of all its known anti-personnel minefields. In **Nigeria**, UNMAS continued to support the development of the country's extension request, while also providing support to Nigerian authorities to meet other APMBC commitments, including through related to the establishment of a mine action centre. UNMAS continued to work closely with the **Palestinian Mine Action Centre**, providing guidance on compliance with the APMBC, including support to the coordination and delivery of gender-responsive explosive ordnance risk education in areas impacted by mines and ERW in the West Bank.

### CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

UNMAS has an important network of NGO and civil society partners. In 2020, its 19 programmes continued to work in close partnership with local mine action organizations, many of which have access to, and knowledge of, vulnerable communities living in contaminated areas.

At the global level, UNMAS works closely with established NGO partners in advocacy, policy development and information-exchange. UNMAS coordinates the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) alongside an NGO partner – a role the Danish Demining Group (DDG) took over from Humanity & Inclusion (HI) – ensuring that efforts of the MA AoR integrate the perspectives and needs of United Nations and civil society mine action community members. In 2020, these efforts included the development of a Mine Action Analysis Framework, which was produced in close consultation with NGOs and maps out the different types of information that can help to plan and implement effective mine action interventions. In addition, UNMAS collaborated with NGOs on the use of cash and voucher assistance in humanitarian mine action and the definition of mine action beneficiaries. Alongside NGO partners, UNMAS supported the development of an advocacy strategy for the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and arranged consultations with NGO partners to ensure coordinated outreach to mine action donors, including in advance of meetings of the Mine Action Support Group – a group of countries that support mine action throughout the world.

Mr. Khairaddin Jalali, a risk educator at a border crossing in the western province of Herat, Afghanistan, conducts an explosive risk education session to returnees. DDG



## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5: ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS ARE ENHANCED

### ONGOING ENHANCEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

In 2020, the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO), and by delegation UNMAS, was assigned the role of **service provider to Secretariat entities for the purposes of mine action**. UNMAS HQ engaged with secretariat entities in the field, specifically with the leadership of peace operations and Resident Coordinators in non-mission countries where UNMAS delivers programmes to exchange information and potential areas for UNMAS support.

In 2020, UNMAS embarked on both an **internal re-engineering of work processes** and a revision of aspects of the **partnership with its principal implementing partner**, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). By the end of 2020, adjustments were underway that respond to **recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)** in its 2019 report, "Audit

of the monitoring and evaluation mechanism in the United Nations Mine Action Service<sup>39</sup> – the majority of which have been closed.

### COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT

In 2020, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to conduct a **comparative assessment of the mine action services provided by various entities in 11 peace operations**.<sup>4</sup> UNMAS led the assessment, which will be reflected in the Secretary-General's Overview Report and 11 budget reports, in close consultation with the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) and the Police Division within DPO, the Department of Operational Support (DOS) and colleagues from the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and all concerned missions.

Security Council mandates calling for mine action refer to a broad set of specialized initiatives that

reduce the impact of landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including explosive ordnance risk education, survey, demining and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), victim assistance, advocacy to stigmatise the use of landmines, national capacity development, support for relevant international humanitarian and disarmament law, national stockpile destruction, and weapons and ammunition management.

Providers in peacekeeping operations include UNOPS, the implementing partner for UNMAS, troop contingents and United Nations Police (UNPOL) elements. While UNOPS provides comprehensive mine action services for multiple beneficiaries, contingents focus on force protection and mobility. Consequently, this assessment reviewed the rationale for the assignment of responsibilities for survey, demining/clearance and EOD, which comprise the subset of mine action activities that may be performed by both UNOPS and contingents. UNOPS and UNPOL may both provide support to national weapons and ammunition management.

The assessment revealed that UNOPS, contingents and UNPOL perform distinct sets of tasks in most of the settings and therefore it was not possible to compare costs. In many missions, activities performed by UNOPS enable the contingents/UNPOL to perform their activities, while in others, they act in complementarity to deliver the relevant mission's mandate.

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING

UNMAS aims to approach all activities through a gender lens. This not only fulfils the mainstreaming goals of the UNMAS Strategic Plan 2019-2013, the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2019-2023, and the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes, but it also responds to United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 2365 (2017), and General Assembly resolution 74/80 in which the United Nations Security Council call for gender considerations to be mainstreamed in mine action activities.

Gender considerations continue to be integrated into all stages of UNMAS programme implementation. In the **State of Palestine**, UNMAS ensured that its training on preparedness for future conflicts reached women in Gaza by tailoring training times to schedules that suited stay-at-home mothers, or by organizing sessions to be delivered in locations with available childcare. In **Burkina Faso**, UNMAS leveraged explosive ordnance risk education and disposal training to promote gender equality by incorporating messages that challenged social norms about women and perceived 'limitations' with respect to their role in the security sector. Support to national and local mine action organizations in **Afghanistan** included a strong focus on gender mainstreaming, with UNMAS

## ENGAGEMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND PROCESSES

UNMAS continued throughout 2020 to engage with various Member State-driven entities and legislative bodies within the United Nations system. In May 2020, UNMAS briefed the United Nations Security Council during a meeting on the situation in Somalia, outlining the latest trends and developments regarding the use of IEDs by Al-Shabaab and the impact of these weapons on civilians, troops deployed with the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), and Somali security forces. Throughout the year, UNMAS supported Security Council-mandated sanctions regimes related to the DRC, Mali and Somalia, providing briefings to sanction committees and their chairs, as well as technical support and advice to panels of experts. Under OCHA's coordination, UNMAS contributed to the Informal Expert Group on the Protection of Civilians – an informal body made up of Security Council members to ensure coordinated and informed responses to emerging protection of civilian challenges.

UNMAS also engaged with Member States during the 2020 substantive session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (C34), a body operating under the auspices of the General Assembly's Fourth Committee. In November and December 2020, UNMAS briefed Member States in advance of the commencement of the C34 2021 substantive session, including through an UNMAS-specific briefing on the threat posed by IEDs to peacekeeping missions, as well as substantive contributions and briefings on many of the eight main themes of the Secretary-General's A4P initiative, notably, Protection, Performance, Safety and Security, Sustaining Peace, and Partnerships.



The Saharawi Mine Action Women's Team raises awareness to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance and is working with UNMAS to establish an all-female demining team. UNMAS/Edwin Faigmane

supporting dedicated gender mainstreaming officers to work with national partners to review their strategic documents, proposals and training materials with a gender perspective and to ensure the incorporation of gender-inclusive approaches at the operational level. Gender is also mainstreamed through UNMAS national capacity development activities in **Iraq**, for example by incorporating a gender-responsive approach in the review of the country's National Mine Action Standards.

UNMAS programmes disaggregate data related to risk education by sex and age. In many settings, this data is collected by mixed-gender teams to promote engagement with and feedback from all members of the community. Casualty data is also increasingly disaggregated by sex and age. Some UNMAS programmes, for example **Somalia** and **Syria**, disaggregate data based on information regarding disabilities, better enabling the tailoring of programmes to the needs of persons with disabilities. These efforts allow UNMAS to monitor the reach of its activities while taking into account the specific needs of men, women, girls, boys, and other population groups, such as persons with disabilities.

Throughout 2020, UNMAS continued to translate the latest revision of the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes, which are now available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish, widening the reach of this valuable tool that aims to mainstream gender through the planning, implementing and monitoring of United Nations mine action programmes.

## GENDER PARITY

Great strides have been made to improve gender parity in UNMAS programmes. Gender-responsive recruitment guidelines were developed by UNMAS in **Iraq** to boost the recruitment of women and make the workplace more enabling and inclusive. In **Colombia**,

similar efforts have resulted in the team comprising 56 per cent women and 44 percent men, with women holding 75 per cent of the leadership positions. Female representation rose among staff of UNMAS in **Somalia** – a complex programme under female leadership – from 17 per cent in December 2018 to 31 per cent by December 2020, while efforts to increase diversity in recruitment processes have also led to over 29 nationalities represented. In October 2020, the efforts of an UNMAS employee in Damascus, **Syria**, to create a safe working environment for female security guards – including, for example, by offering daytime-only shifts – was recognized by an award from UN Women. In addition, efforts to promote inclusive working conditions have resulted in an increase of women engaged in technical positions in Syria from 33 per cent in 2019 to 50 per cent in 2020.

## EFFECTIVENESS AND COORDINATION: IED THREAT MITIGATION

The UNMAS **IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (IED TMAT)** was established in UNMAS HQ in 2016. Supported by international, military explosive ordnance disposal-qualified, in-kind officers with IED expertise, IED TMAT increases the operational effectiveness of UNMAS, and that of the United Nations system and wider mine action community, by producing the policy, training modules, and partnerships necessary to reduce the threat of IEDs to United Nations personnel and populations in settings where IEDs limit mobility and are increasingly used to target civilians and peacekeepers. IED TMAT provides advisory expertise at the strategic and policy levels, enabling UNMAS to perform the functions assigned by the General Assembly and reflected in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, including by improving information sharing on current IED-related technologies and mitigation measures through a wide network of partners.

In 2020, activities by IED TMAT contributed to the

## ALL-WOMEN DEMINING TEAM IN MOSUL, IRAQ

In October 2020, an all-female demining team commenced clearance operations in Mosul supported by UNMAS. The female deminers began to clear an area that reportedly had been used as a defensive berm that ran around the city during ISIL occupation but which, prior to the occupation, had been an open pasture. The female demining team worked alongside male counterparts; both teams delivered similar outputs while challenging gender norms. Mine action provides a stable income, which also boosts the economic agency of women deminers.

## UNMAS RESPONDS TO THE GROWING IED THREAT IN BURKINA FASO

The prevalence of IEDs in Burkina Faso is continuing to rise. Most IEDs used are victim-operated, which, much like landmines, lead to indiscriminate injuries or death for those unaware of the risk they pose. More than 1.2 million men, women, boys, and girls are estimated to be living in areas that expose them to explosive ordnance risks. While security forces were the primary targets of attacks in 2020, the number of civilians impacted by explosive violence reached 50 per cent, up from 36 per cent in 2019, demonstrating the need for a scale-up in mine action support. Since deploying as part of the Secretary-General's Emergency Task Force for the Sahel in 2019, UNMAS has worked to increase humanitarian mine action support in Burkina Faso. In 2020, a risk education campaign – the first of its kind in the country – targeted civilians living in the most at-risk areas for explosive ordnance, while strengthening the capacities of local civil society organizations to ensure sustainable, locally-driven solutions to the threat of explosive ordnance. In close partnership with national authorities, UNMAS has also worked to integrate humanitarian mine action into national priorities and frameworks.

safety and security of peacekeepers, consistent with Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) priorities, including through engagement in the update of several United Nations manuals under the leadership of DPO. These efforts included the revision of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit Manual to outline the capabilities needed in peacekeeping operations to effectively address prevailing explosive risks, including those posed by IEDs, and an update of the Contingent Owned Equipment Manual to ensure TCCs deploy with equipment that is appropriate for the explosive threats their contingents will face. The IED TMAT also contributed to the development of the United Nations Manual on Ammunition Management, which provides missions with standardized comprehensive control measures for the management of ammunition to improve their safety and security, and to the implementation of standardized training materials on IED disposal as a much-needed step towards the interoperability of explosive ordnance disposal operators in United Nations operations.

UNMAS in 2020 initiated the establishment of a Mobile Training Team (MTT) in Entebbe, Uganda, to support the integration of standardized training materials in TCC national training centres and regional training centres and to respond to urgent training requests from Member States. The MTT seeks to bolster the capacities of contingents deploying to environments of high explosive risks, while, through training-of-trainer courses, ensuring that TCCs have sustainable capacity to maintain safe deployments. By the end of 2020, UNMAS had inducted the Team Leader for the MTT. The IED TMAT also supported many of the capacity

development activities UNMAS undertook in partnership with national authorities, including national small arms and light weapons commissions, security sectors and mine action authorities, including by offering technical expertise, mentoring, training and technical equipment in efforts to develop national technical capacity to safely manage IEDs, coordinate mitigation responses and comply with international standards.

SMIT  
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SMART  
IED Threat  
Mitigation  
Technology  
Roadmap

Information  
Exchange Platform

## UNMAS SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS PEACE OPERATIONS

(in alphabetical order by acronym)

### UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO)

In support of MINURSO's efforts to monitor the ceasefire along the eastern side of the berm dividing the Territory of Western Sahara, and consistent with the safety and security priority of the Secretary-General's A4P initiative, in 2020 UNMAS continued to ensure safe passage of MINURSO patrols and personnel by rendering minefields and cluster munition strike areas safe and verifying the safety of routes used by the mission.<sup>5</sup>

Explosive ordnance risk education sessions were delivered to all newly arrived MINURSO personnel, as well as to civilians in the Territory east of the berm, enhancing awareness of local communities to the dangers posed by landmines and other ERW. Crucial information related to explosive ordnance

threats and clearance continued to be recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action and shared with MINURSO personnel and other local partners to promote a better understanding of the threat posed by mines and ERW, thereby facilitating safer movement.

The state of health emergency declared in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 by local authorities in the Territory east of the berm, as well as by the Governments of Morocco and Algeria led to a partial suspension of operations. However, UNMAS maintained an explosive ordnance disposal response team in the Territory east of the berm and responded to all MINURSO requests to investigate and mitigate explosive threats. UNMAS continued to coordinate virtually and provide technical support to local mine action authorities, further enhancing their capacity to eventually lead and manage the mine action programme.



Endoruh Fraikin Elcori is a former deminer and one of the founding members of the Sahrawi Mine Action Women Team in the Territory of Western Sahara. UNMAS/ Rosangela de Jesus das Neves

### UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)

UNMAS activities in 2020 were carried out as part of the wider efforts of MINUSCA to support the peace agreement in the Central African Republic and develop the capacity of national authorities. Efforts focused particularly on protecting civilians and mitigating illicit flows of small arms and light weapons.<sup>6</sup>

To ensure that the weapons of the national police and defence forces could be stored properly when not in official use, UNMAS completed the remodelling of containers to be installed as specialised storage facilities for weapons and ammunition in two defence zones. UNMAS trained 52 defence and internal security officers in weapons and ammunition management and explosive ordnance disposal to support the internal security and national defence forces to safely and accountably extend their authority beyond Bangui to improve community security. In addition, in alignment with the Accord for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, UNMAS provided two temporary specialized weapons and ammunition storage facilities to the Unite Speciale Mixte de Securite in Bouar and Paoua.

To support the development of sustained national capacity in the area of weapons and ammunition management, UNMAS continued to provide technical assistance and mentoring to the National Commission for the Fight against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NATCOM-SALW). A notable achievement of 2020 was the National Assembly's adoption of legislation on the general regime of conventional weapons, parts, components and ammunition. Building on many of the efforts UNMAS has undertaken in the Central African Republic, the law authorises the NATCOM-SALW to coordinate civilian and State weapons and ammunition responsibilities and will support the achievement of benchmarks related to the arms embargo established in the statement of the Security Council President on 9 April 2019.<sup>7</sup>

The United Nations Security Council reviews annually an arms embargo limiting the sale of weapons to the Government of the Central African Republic.



A regional ammunition depot in Bouar, Central African Republic, built by UNMAS, with thanks to the European Union for their financial support, was handed over to the Government of the Central African Republic on 21 November 2020. UNMAS

Their decision is based on reports of a Panel of Experts to the Sanctions Committee,<sup>8</sup> which tracks the Government's progress towards a series of benchmarks that include the management of weapons and ammunition. In 2020, UNMAS was requested by the Security Council<sup>9</sup> to support the Secretary-General, alongside MINUSCA and the Panel of Experts, in conducting an assessment on the progress achieved by national authorities on key benchmarks set by the Council<sup>10</sup>. The resulting assessment pointed to enhanced capacity of national authorities in benchmarks related to weapons and ammunition, including progress in the operationalisation of the NATCOM-SALW and the development of a draft protocol for the collection, destruction and transfer of surplus, unregistered or illicitly held weapons and ammunition. This assessment provided a basis for the Security Council's renewal of the embargo for a year until July 2021 (rather than the previous six-month period), with amended provisions.<sup>11</sup>

After the unprecedented use of anti-vehicle mines in June/July 2020 in the west of the country – an attack which appeared to be directed at United Nations peacekeepers – UNMAS provided risk awareness sessions on landmines, IEDs and ERW to members of the MINUSCA Force, United Nations entities operating in the country and humanitarian actors. Course content sought to prevent incidents while ensuring mobility along main supply routes. Following the attack, UNMAS scaled up coordination among MINUSCA, the United Nations Country Team and other partners in response to this emerging threat.

A MINUSMA convoy supplies remote UN bases in northern Mali. The roads are the most dangerous in the country due to frequent encounters with landmines and IEDs. MINUSMA/Sylvain Liecht

## UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)

In response to the persistent and evolving explosive threat in Mali, UNMAS continued to strengthen the capacity of MINUSMA, the Malian Defence and Security Forces and civil society to mitigate the threat posed by IEDs and other explosive ordnance,<sup>12</sup> consistent with the UNMAS Programme Strategy vision of a safer and more secure population.

The central regions of Mali remain the most affected by IED incidents, accounting for 53 per cent of the 169 IED incidents recorded in 2020, while the explosive threat also remains significant in the north, with 46 per cent of incidents recorded in the Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu regions. Despite a continuing reduction in civilian casualties from IEDs in recent years (from 233 in 2018 to 178 in 2020), civilians remain the most vulnerable and highly impacted population group, representing 49 per cent of total casualties. In response, and in order to provide a sustainable solution, UNMAS continued to build national capacities, notably supporting the establishment of a national mine action authority, with a view to transitioning the leadership and management of mine action to national authorities. In parallel, UNMAS developed the capacity of national NGOs, while carrying out contamination surveys and delivery of explosive ordnance risk education to populations at risk. UNMAS also provided assistance to victims of explosive incidents, as well as incidents arising from the use of small arms and light weapons – which, despite complementary efforts by UNMAS and others the to stymie the use of, are still in high circulation in Mali. This entailed connecting victims to national and international service providers in the country.

In addition, UNMAS enabled freedom of movement for MINUSMA and contributed to reducing peacekeeping casualties in a high threat environment, consistent with the A4P initiative. Since 2013, UNMAS training and technical support has made operations safer, contributing to a reduction in fatalities among peacekeepers from 24 in 2016 to four in 2020.<sup>13</sup> MINUSMA troops on convoys and patrols are detecting and neutralizing more IEDs than before; in 2014 only 11 per cent of devices (4 out of 35) were detected before explosion, though this figure increased to nearly 50 per cent (36 out of 74) in 2020.

UNMAS also continued to provide pre-deployment and in-mission training and mentoring to the Mission's uniformed units. Five years of Training-of-Trainer (ToT) courses to national trainers of all nine infantry TCCs have resulted in two infantry TCCs (Benin and Niger) developing the capacity to successfully deliver IED threat mitigation training prior to deployment, autonomously, without UNMAS mentoring.

At the national level, in 2020, UNMAS continued to enhance the capacity of Malian Defence and Security Forces to manage explosive threats, notably through training in explosive search and detection activities. Malian instructors who had previously been trained through UNMAS ToT programmes delivered over 60 trainings on explosive ordnance disposal to their own personnel, demonstrating a steady increase in the national training capacity. UNMAS also provided advisory support to the operationalisation of an explosive ordnance/IED disposal training centre and a centre for coordination and operations, while contributing to the development of a national plan to manage Mali's response to explosive threats.

## UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (MONUSCO)

In the context of the gradual drawdown of MONUSCO and its efforts to protect civilians and develop the capacity of national authorities to sustain peace, UNMAS worked to ensure the Mission could implement its activities safely, despite explosive threats, and to develop national capacity in the area of weapons and ammunition management.<sup>14</sup>

UNMAS worked in close cooperation with the National Commission for SALW Control and Reduction of Armed Violence (CNC-APLC) to implement the National Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), which was developed with UNMAS support in 2017. The design and implementation of joint weapons marking teams composed of CNC-ALPC, Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and Congolese National Police (PNC) personnel for the marking and registration of state-held weapons has not only supported MONUSCO's efforts to tackle the illicit circulation of SALW, but has also developed national capacity in



UNMAS provides training on safe handling and storage of weapons for National Police officers in Bihambwe, North-Kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNMAS/ Edison Pineda

this area, thereby ensuring that the fight against illicit weapons can continue after MONUSCO's withdrawal. Moreover, the installation of weapons safes and other weapons storage solutions, and the delivery of training to military and police forces on weapons and ammunition storage has contributed to broader security sector capacity and has helped to expand the presence of effective and accountable military and police forces in remote areas. These efforts also contributed to preventing State-owned weapons and ammunition falling into the hands of non-state armed groups and potentially being used as IED precursors. Moreover, in support of the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, UNMAS helped to destroy confiscated weapons.

By mid-November 2020, UNMAS had successfully transitioned explosive ordnance disposal operations to its national NGO partner, further enabling MONUSCO to undertake operations in areas with explosive threats, including patrols and activities related to the Mission's protection of civilians mandate. Further international expertise may be required to address the suspected emerging IED threat in North Kivu and Ituri (Beni). In response to this threat, UNMAS in 2020 began to deliver IED awareness training to MONUSCO personnel, alongside explosive ordnance risk awareness training. UNMAS facilitated a thorough survey of the IED threat, furnishing Mission leaders with up-to-date information and recommendations.

By working to improve weapons and ammunition management capacities among the MONUSCO Force contingents, UNMAS also mitigated risks to Mission personnel caused by inadequate storage of the weapons and ammunition of contingents.

## AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)

In the context of the ongoing drawdown of UNAMID, UNMAS continued to facilitate the implementation of the Mission's mandate, particularly with respect PoC, through clearance, survey, and risk education activities aimed at mitigating the threat of ERW to local communities across Darfur.<sup>15</sup> The de-escalation of violence and the signing of the peace agreement between the Sudan transitional government and non-state armed groups in Darfur and Blue Nile State allowed UNMAS to begin clearing previously inaccessible areas of ERW, which will enable the safe return of many displaced communities.<sup>16</sup>

In the run up to the 31 December 2020 conclusion of the mandate, UNMAS facilitated the work of Mission and humanitarian partners through the provision of explosive hazard assessments in 743 villages across Darfur and cleared 247 reported hazardous areas.

During the operation, the clearance teams safely destroyed almost 16,000 items of explosive ordnance and almost 400,000 small arms ammunition.

Given the remaining contamination, UNMAS will continue to support the Government of Sudan to effectively manage the mine action sector as a component of the newly established United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS).

## UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP)

Although the conflict on the island of Cyprus has ended, explosive ordnance remains a threat to civilian populations and to UNFICYP peacekeepers. UNMAS supports the Mission to safely maintain the ceasefire and the integrity of the United Nations Buffer Zone. In 2020, UNMAS supported mine action planning and coordination, maintained and monitored minefield fencing in the Buffer Zone<sup>17</sup> areas, and provided technical guidance and advice on explosive ordnance and safe ammunition management, as well as mine/ERW risk awareness training to military, civilian and police personnel to support force protection and facilitate mandate delivery in support of lasting peace on the island.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS

transitioned to online awareness training, providing over 800 mission personnel with information to mitigate the risks posed by mines and ERW.

During the year, UNMAS continued to work on the launch of the United Nations Safe Ground campaign in Cyprus, which is part of the global United Nations campaign to turn minefields into playing fields and to bring communities together while raising awareness and resources for survivors of conflict, their families and communities. Land for this project has been identified adjacent to the Buffer Zone, and it is hoped that the initiative will increase confidence in the peace and reunification process in 2021.

Additionally, UNMAS technical expertise continued to support other reconciliation efforts, including by guaranteeing the safety of excavation work carried out by the Committee on Missing Persons and by providing technical guidance to inform UNFICYP dialogue facilitation efforts.



UNMAS provides explosive hazard awareness training to UNFICYP Mobile Force Reserve troops. UNFICYP

## UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

Minefields in proximity to the Blue Line and some UNIFIL military bases, observation posts and patrol routes are a danger to peacekeepers and can canalise operations or stop an action. UNIFIL demining engineers alongside Lebanese Armed Forces partners routinely seek to manage the threat through the maintenance of minefield marking and prioritised clearance specifically either for operational or humanitarian outcomes. The clearance of minefields in Lebanon would significantly benefit the safety and security of the country and its people. UNIFIL, when tasked by the Government to undertake humanitarian demining, complements and enhances the work carried out by the civilian NGO humanitarian sector in the Area of Operations – promoting a stable and secure environment in South Lebanon.

In 2020, UNMAS supported UNIFIL demining units through the provision of confirmatory training and validation/ accreditation assessments to align operations to Lebanese mine action standards and International Standards. UNMAS also conducted routine quality assurance and control inspections to ensure the safety of operations and the quality of the output. Quality assurance and control is carried out in coordination with UNIFIL operations and on humanitarian tasks with the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) as observers. UNMAS delivered safety briefings to Observer Group Lebanon personnel working in the UNIFIL Area of Operations, and routinely assisted the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) with wider United Nations safety briefings.

In January 2020, the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL signed a memorandum to enable UNIFIL demining assets to be tasked by the Force Commander to contribute to humanitarian demining in the UNIFIL area of operations.

Through the provision of materials and direct engagement in coordination and planning efforts, UNMAS also supported the LMAC in its delivery of explosive ordnance risk education to local communities, and outreach undertaken by LMAC in partnership with UNIFIL, international and local NGOs, and other partners.

## UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA)

By addressing explosive ordnance contamination in Abyei, UNMAS operations enable UNISFA mission mobility, the safe and voluntary return of civilians to their communities, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the effective functioning of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM). The UNMAS Programme Strategy for Abyei<sup>18</sup> ensures UNISFA safely implements its mandate to bring peace and security to Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ). As a result of UNMAS activities, no movements, access or deployments carried out by UNISFA, JBVMM, or humanitarian actors were interrupted or cancelled as a result of mines or ERW within the Abyei area and the SDBZ in 2020. UNMAS personnel and Patrol Support Teams were deployed to the JBVMM headquarters, sector headquarters and team sites to ensure proper support; over 100 JBVMM Ground Monitoring Missions into the SDBZ were facilitated by UNMAS in 2020. The remote delivery of safety training sessions to UNISFA personnel also supported the safety and security of peacekeepers operating in the area. UNMAS further supported UNISFA's role in ensuring a "weapons-free" Abyei by destroying weapons and ammunition confiscated by the Mission and building the technical capacities and physical infrastructure of UNISFA to safely store weapons and ammunition.

In 2020, UNMAS responded to 100 per cent of UNISFA requests for support, ranging from providing expertise for the establishment of weapons and ammunition storage facilities to enabling the safe movement of delegates of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between Sudan and South Sudan, as well as traditional leaders in the SDBZ and Abyei. UNMAS clearance activities led to 560 km of roads and almost 700,000 sq m of land in the Abyei area being declared safe from explosive ordnance. UNMAS risk education and outreach activities reached just under 3,000 men, women, boys and girls, including nomadic people and returning IDPs and refugees. Evaluation of activities demonstrated a 90 per cent increase in knowledge regarding the differentiation between safe and unsafe practices.



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION TO SUPPORT THE HUDAYDAH AGREEMENT (UNMHA)

In Yemen, UNMAS supported the UNMHA Special Political Mission by providing technical assistance to Mission leadership, including training to allow mission observers to operate effectively in very high-risk security environments. Technical and coordination support also enabled the Mission to ensure the clear identification of confirmed hazardous areas inside Hudaydah port, protecting lives and preventing disruption to the import of humanitarian assistance and other vital goods. UNMAS technical advice and support further facilitated the development of a database to record explosive incidents – involving landmines, sea mines, ERW and IEDs – across the whole of Hudaydah governorate. UNMAS is an active participant in the IED Task Force for Yemen, which brings together various United Nations entities working to mitigate and combat the IED threat in Yemen.

## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Following years of conflict with its northern neighbour Sudan, and the internal conflict that broke out in 2013, South Sudan continues to suffer from the effects of ERW. In 2020, UNMAS survey and clearance activities continued to mitigate the threat posed by explosive ordnance, while promoting the safety and security of uniformed and civilian Mission personnel, humanitarian actors and communities throughout the country and supporting UNMISS to implement its mandate.<sup>19</sup>

UNMAS survey and clearance activities facilitated UNMISS support to post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction, while providing vital humanitarian assistance. UNMAS clearance of roads and land enabled humanitarian actors and civilians to access areas previously contaminated with explosive ordnance, and facilitated freedom of movement and the safe and voluntary resettlement of returnees, as well as the construction of civilian infrastructure, such as schools, water points and markets – resulting in the rendering safe of almost one million sq m of land to support safe and voluntary return and resettlement, and safe access to nine clinics, five schools and 75 water points. UNMAS responded to 100

per cent of requests from humanitarian organizations for support, enabling the delivery of humanitarian assistance through the clearance of roads, airstrips, food-drop zones and helicopter landing sites. In 2020, UNMAS removed and destroyed over 35,000 ERW, including landmines, and surveyed and/or cleared almost 2,000 hazardous areas contaminated by landmines and unexploded ordnance in and around UNMISS protection of civilian sites and areas where there was an identified threat to civilians.

UNMAS continued to provide convoy escorts to UNMISS, participating in 99 patrols that covered just under 11,000 km in areas in which the explosive threat was high, including long- and short-duration patrols, as well as air patrols, and integrated mission and river patrols, contributing to improved security and the protection of civilians in hard-to-reach communities. In addition, UNMAS surveyed and cleared just over 730 km of road on routes and in locations prioritized by UNMISS to mitigate threats from explosive ordnance and facilitating freedom of movement for the United Nations.

UNMAS delivery of explosive ordnance risk education to 125,000 South Sudanese people in 2020 raised awareness of the dangers posed by explosive ordnance and promoted behaviour change tailored to specific communities, such as IDPs, following which, 81 per cent of people demonstrated an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. Awareness training on landmines and ERW delivered to United Nations and humanitarian personnel supported both peace operations and humanitarian initiatives by increasing the knowledge of threats and methods of operation in contaminated environments among individuals. UNMAS continued to support force protection measures by enhancing entry control and increasing security measures for UNMISS bases using explosive detection dog services. UNMAS also supported the Mission through the provision of training and policy guidance on ammunition management, as well as by disposing of unserviceable ammunition, contributing to the safety of UNMISS troop and police contingent ammunition storage areas in order to prevent and to mitigate any effects that could result from unplanned explosions. There were no casualties or incidents among humanitarian or peacekeeping personnel caused by explosive ordnance accidents in 2020.



The Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) and other partners work for a Libya free from the threat of mines and ERW, where communities and individuals live in safe and productive environments, where victims' rights of rehabilitation and reintegration into their societies are met. LibMAC

## UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Successive conflicts in Libya have resulted in significant ERW contamination in numerous cities, impacting public infrastructure such as schools and universities. Meanwhile, the illicit flow of weapons and ammunition continues to fuel violence and poses grave protection threats. UNMAS in 2020 provided technical guidance and expertise in weapons and ammunition management to the Special Political Mission in Libya, UNSMIL, and its partners to help secure and destroy explosive ordnance and related material.<sup>20</sup> In support of national capacity development, UNMAS also provided technical guidance, specialized training and expertise in mine action and ammunition management to Libyan authorities, including on physical stockpile management, and measures to deprive non-state armed groups of access to IED precursors. UNMAS provided technical support to the clearance operations undertaken by national and local mine action NGOs, including guidance on new or

emerging threats such as anti-lift devices and anti-personnel mines.

After the renewed outbreak of hostilities in 2019, UNMAS contributed to the protection of civilians, humanitarian workers and clearance operators through the provision of technical advice and explosive ordnance risk education. More than 166,000 people have been reached with risk education since 2016. In 2020, UNMAS continued to provide explosive ordnance disposal response and non-technical surveys in various locations, including Tripoli, Misrata and Tawergha, to facilitate humanitarian activities, early recovery and early-stage preparations for the safe return of displaced people. UNMAS also supported the Libyan Mine Action Centre to coordinate humanitarian mine action organizations operating in the country.

Consistent with the Libya Programme Strategy, UNMAS provided advice and assistance to UNSMIL leadership on the integration of mine action into the 5+5 Joint Military Committee (JMC) agreements



Attacks against MINUSMA supply convoys remain a serious threat in Mali. This MINUSMA vehicle was damaged as a result of an IED incident. MINUSMA



that support the Ceasefire Agreement and contribute to the Berlin process. It is hoped that the implementation of the 23 October 2020 Ceasefire Agreement, negotiated and signed by the JMC, will increase access to contaminated areas, allowing for the clearance of explosive ordnance, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and risk education, and the restoration of basic services.

## UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT OFFICE IN SOMALIA (UNSO) AND UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNMOS)

Somalia is one of the world's most protracted, complex and constantly evolving conflict situations. As an integrated component of UNSOM and UNSO, UNMAS is supporting the operations of AMISOM and key Somali security sector institutions.<sup>21</sup>

In 2020, consistent with the Secretary-General's A4P initiative, UNMAS continued to provide explosive threat mitigation assistance to AMISOM which contributed to enhanced safety and security of AMISOM troops while also supporting efforts to develop the capacities of the Somali Security Forces and the Somali Explosive Management Authority in the area of IED threat mitigation. UNMAS work in Somalia also plays a key role in strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

The explosive ordnance clearance capacity provided by UNMAS to AMISOM in 2020 enhanced the protection of key Mission infrastructure from the IED threat. UNMAS survey, detection and clearance activities also facilitated the construction of AMISOM forward-operating bases and strategic government infrastructure that enable access by local communities to government services. The provision of explosive detection dogs and support to responses to security threats (especially mortar attacks) within the United Nations compound improved the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

UNMAS delivered specialized training to 4,500 AMISOM troops on subjects ranging from IED threat awareness to search, detection and deployment of IED defeat techniques. The training and mentoring of AMISOM Mission Enabling Units has increased troop

confidence in the use of main supply routes and has led to vastly increased consignment movements on main supply routes from Mogadishu to all military sectors. In addition to providing in-country training packages, UNMAS delivered pre-deployment training to 650 AMISOM troops prior to their deployment to Somalia – a key factor in fostering operational readiness in theatre. A gradual increase in the percentage of IED incidents with reduced impact on AMISOM personnel was reported, from 71 per cent of all incidents in 2018 (139 out of 196 incidents) and 73 percent in 2019 (140 out of 191 incidents) to 85 per cent in December 2020 (128 out of 150 incidents).

However, while AMISOM observed a decrease in casualties per IED incident, casualties among national forces – predominately the Somalia National Army (SNA) – have considerably increased. The SNA recorded a total of 206 fatalities and 321 injuries in 130 IED incidents this year. These high fatalities and casualties correlated with the SNA assuming greater responsibility for national security and increasing their operational footprint into areas most impacted by IEDs. Following the request from the Security Council to expand United Nations support to Somali security forces to include training, equipment and mentorship to counter the threat of IEDs, UNMAS, with the support of UNSO, trained and equipped five route search and IED threat-mitigation teams for the SNA to enable safe operations in the high-threat environment of Lower Shabelle. UNMAS also provided mission-critical equipment to 14 explosive ordnance and IED disposal teams from the Somali Police and delivered refresher training to support their operations.

In 2020, UNMAS continued to provide strategic advisory services to AMISOM and relevant stakeholders on IED threat assessment and analysis, ensuring evidence-based strategic decision making. Throughout 2020, UNMAS supported the United Nations sanctions committee Panel of Experts on Somalia, Member States and the Federal Government of Somalia by providing in-depth analysis of the IED threat. In addition, advocacy efforts led by UNMAS resulted in preventative efforts to address the IED threat through the extension of the arms embargo to encompass IED components in UNSCR 2551 (2020), which seeks to prevent and sanction the direct or indirect sale, supply or transfer to Somalia of items comprising explosive materials.

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION

COVID-19 changed the political, social, economic, security, stability and humanitarian landscape dramatically in 2020, and significantly impacted UNMAS resource mobilisation efforts. Many Member States understandably reprioritised their budgets in support of the COVID-19 response, negatively affecting some UNMAS programmes that rely on voluntary contributions. The pandemic also highlighted the critical need for unearmarked and multiyear, financial support. Predictable and sustainable funding enables the most effective and responsive support to affected States, while unrestricted funding allows UNMAS the flexibility to focus resources on areas of great need but limited resources.

Restrictions put in place to fight the virus also severely impacted UNMAS programme delivery, triggering widescale adaptation. Nonetheless, donors have shown immense flexibility in terms of budget realignments, no-cost extensions and amendment of expected outputs. UNMAS is deeply grateful to our donors for their continued support, especially in this unprecedented year.

In 2020, 14 programmes received a total of USD 69.2 million from 24 donors to the VTF. In addition, USD 2 million was received through pooled funding mechanisms: the Syria Humanitarian Response fund,

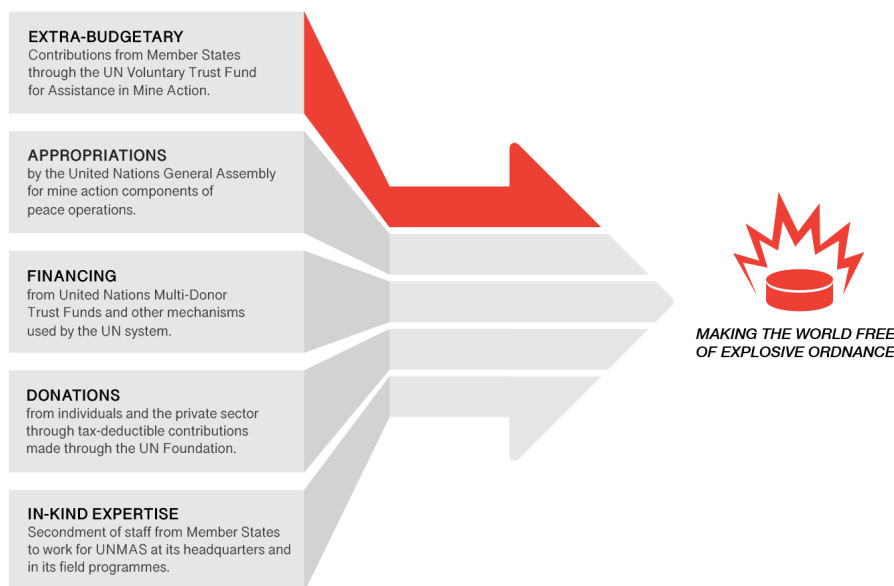
the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, which were critical in Burkina Faso, Sudan and Syria, respectively. Financial and in-kind personnel support also allowed for the continuation of activities and the expansion of the UNMAS IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (IED TMAT).

Furthermore, UNMAS benefited from generous in-kind contributions of highly qualified personnel in its headquarters and field programmes – support contributed to UNMAS ability to deliver effectively.

Reflecting the Secretary-General's reform agenda, UNMAS is committed to transparency and accountability. Throughout 2020, UNMAS participated in several successful evaluations and due diligence exercises conducted by Member States to thoroughly assess UNMAS capabilities and performance, including in Iraq and Syria.

This challenging year has resulted in stronger partnerships with more frequent and transparent communications, enhancing flexibility and understanding among UNMAS and its donors. These relationships are essential for progress towards the United Nations goal of a world free from the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

To learn more about how you or your organization can support UNMAS, visit [www.unmas.org](http://www.unmas.org).



**19** PROGRAMMES  
around the world



**35** UNMAS STAFF  
(69% FEMALE) in UNHQ & Geneva

**303** INTERNATIONAL STAFF  
(28% FEMALE)

**367** NATIONAL STAFF  
(32% FEMALE)

**+ 4,639** LOCALLY RECRUITED PERSONNEL

### Aggregates



### DESTROYED/RENDERED SAFE

- ▶ **71,000** explosive remnants of war
- ▶ **900** landmines
- ▶ **400** IEDs



### MADE SAFE

- ▶ **60 sq km** land
- ▶ **1,900 km** roads



### WEAPONS & AMMUNITION STORAGE CONSTRUCTED

- ▶ **111**



### RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED

- ▶ Just over **1.7 million** people impacted by explosive hazards



### VICTIMS ASSISTED

- ▶ Almost **3,000**



### TRAINED

- ▶ Over **24,000** healthcare workers, police, teachers, uniformed peacekeepers and national authorities



### RAPID RESPONSE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

- ▶ Ethiopia, South Caucasus

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNMAS IN 2020 (FIGURES IN USD)

Donor	Afghanistan	Burkina Faso	Central African Republic	Colombia	Darfur	Iraq	Libya	Nigeria	Somalia	South Sudan
Andorra										
Australia	254,838					2,513,978				
Belgium						1,792,115				
Canada		732,197				2,106,473				
Czech Republic						288,332				
Denmark	147,000					2,143,269				
Estonia						15,000				
European Union			632,531	3,068,254					1,495,446	
France						617,262				
Germany				858,300		6,224,099		810,364		
Italy <sup>a</sup>						717,000	682,698			
Japan	293,154					345,454		236,363	229,909	209,090
Liechtenstein										
Luxembourg <sup>b</sup>										
Netherlands						2,268,880				
New Zealand						649,900				
Poland										
Republic of Korea	60,000			\$54,450				100,000		
Slovakia						30,730				
Spain										
Switzerland				199,975						
United Kingdom <sup>c</sup>	6,336,600					3,521,640				
United States <sup>d</sup>			700,000		358,849		1,600,000		4,692,032	
Syria Humanitarian Fund										
UNICEF									175,000	
United Nations CERF		405,350								
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security										
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,091,592</b>	<b>1,137,547</b>	<b>1,332,531</b>	<b>4,180,979</b>	<b>358,849</b>	<b>23,234,131</b>	<b>2,282,698</b>	<b>1,146,727</b>	<b>6,592,388</b>	<b>209,090</b>

State of Palestine	Sudan	Syria	Territory of Western Sahara	IED threat mitigation advisory team	Advocacy activities <sup>f</sup>	Unearmarked funding	In-kind support <sup>g</sup>	Totals
						16,807		16,807
		1,911,281						4,680,097
		597,372						2,389,486
				730,852				3,569,521
								288,332
				163,765		2,473,003		4,927,037
		15,000						30,000
		175,305						5,371,536
					59,095			676,357
		1,775,550					✓	9,668,313
149,750	549,750	597,500						2,696,698
163,636	227,272	354,545				60,195		2,119,618
						25,412		25,412
						848,540		848,540
						3,640,200	✓	5,909,080
445,409						951,900	✓	2,047,209
52,944						26,472		79,416
100,000	50,000							364,450
								61,415
								29,475
								30,685
								29,475
							✓	199,975
								12,946,433
							✓	10,125,343
								1,235,374
								175,000
								405,350
								420,661
<b>911,738</b>	<b>5,230,145</b>	<b>8,161,927</b>	<b>29,475</b>	<b>1,305,495</b>	<b>59,095</b>	<b>8,042,528</b>		<b>71,306,934</b>

<sup>a</sup> Contributions from Italy are estimates based on the EUR amount expected.<sup>b</sup> Contributions from Luxembourg were received in 2021 for 2020 programme activities.<sup>c</sup> Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).<sup>d</sup> Bureau of Political-Military Affairs/Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Bureau of Counter-terrorism (CT).<sup>e</sup> Earmarked contribution for AoAV.<sup>f</sup> Includes Junior Professional Officers and technically specialized personnel.

PROGRAMME/ACTIVITY	2020 EXPENDITURE*
Afghanistan	7,759,215
Burkina Faso	1,170,638
Central African Republic	1,527,003
Colombia	2,287,019
Iraq	20,832,830
Libya	714,199
Mali	199,439
Nigeria	1,047,574
Somalia	1,609,994
South Sudan	1,108,128
State of Palestine	1,453,046
Sudan	3,006,475
Syria	9,202,390
Territory of Western Sahara	64,927
Rapid Response and Technical Support Capacity	554,661
UNMAS Global Operation	2,729,354
UNMAS HQ Coordination	4,726,913
UNMAS Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (TMAT)	277,606
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,071,970</b>

\*Data provided above is provisional. Accrued expenses as required under IPSAS reporting are not included. These expenses will be reflected in the audited financial statements of the United Nations, which will be available in the coming months.

## ANNEX 1

### UNMAS PROGRAMME STRATEGY CORE ELEMENTS 2020-2023 (AS OF 21 JANUARY 2021)

ABYEI	
Vision	UNISFA safely implements its mandate to ensure the peace and security of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Buffer Zone (SDBZ).
Mission	UNMAS operations enable UNISFA mission mobility, voluntary return of civilians to their communities, delivery of humanitarian aid and effective functioning of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM).
Outcomes	UNISFA mandate delivery is not impeded by explosive risk.
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Full deployment of UNMAS personnel to the JBVMM headquarters, sector headquarters and team sites to ensure effective support to the JBVMM whenever required.</li> <li>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 unexploded ordnance (UXO), etc.).</li> </ul>
AFGHANISTAN	
Vision	Afghan communities benefit from humanitarian and development initiatives unimpeded by explosive ordnance.
Mission	UNMAS Afghanistan supports the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) and Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) to protect the civilian population from the threat of explosive ordnance and contributes to peacemaking and the protection of civilians in hard-to-reach areas through political and humanitarian dialogue.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DMAC manages a prioritized, principled, gender responsive and efficient mine action programme.</li> <li>Armed Non-State Actors (ANSA) do not impede delivery of humanitarian mine action.</li> <li>People at risk across Afghanistan recognize how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</li> <li>Rights of survivors, victim families and broader persons with disabilities are respected.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and proportion of tasks issued by DMAC according to the Annual MAPA Workplan and prioritization model.</li> <li>Number of tasks impeded by ANSA.</li> <li>Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>Number of service providers using Disability Services database to record service delivery.</li> <li>Percentage of land in licit and productive use by women and men within 12 months of clearance.</li> <li>Number of incidents involving deminers.</li> <li>Percentage and amount of funding directly managed by DMAC (on-budget).</li> </ul>

<b>BURKINA FASO</b>	
Vision	The threat posed by explosive ordnance to communities and national authorities in Burkina Faso is reduced.
Mission	UNMAS helps reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance to Burkinabe law enforcement, communities and the humanitarian community in high-risk environments.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</li> <li>• Burkinabe law enforcement remain deployed in high-risk areas and are able to mitigate the improvised explosive device (IED) threat.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>• Number of NGOs with EORE capacity.</li> <li>• A national IED threat mitigation plan is developed and implemented.</li> <li>• Number of police trained in IED threat mitigation deployed in high-risk locations.</li> <li>• Number of Law Enforcement Security Agency (LESA) victims of IEDs.</li> <li>• Number of IED items identified and secured by LESA personnel.</li> </ul>
<b>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</b>	
Vision	Accountable national authorities manage weapons, ammunition and other explosive hazards in a responsible manner to improve the security environment and protect civilians across the Central African Republic (CAR).
Mission	UNMAS in CAR supports national capacity development in weapons and ammunition management (WAM) and other explosive risk reduction measures to enable progressive extension of state authority, security sector reform and eventual transfer of responsibility from MINUSCA to relevant national authorities.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant national authorities coordinate mine action responsibilities and manage weapons and ammunition according to international standards.</li> <li>• Relevant national authorities protect civilians and themselves from explosive ordnance (EO) threats.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion and number of Forces Armées Centrafricaines (FACA) and ISF (Forces de sécurité intérieure)(police and gendarmerie) deployment locations that are staffed with elements trained in WAM.</li> <li>• Progress towards fulfillment of national WAM targets as elaborated in national planning documents concerning number of weapons and ammunition storage facilities and number of WAM trained personnel.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Number and percentage of EO threats responded to by FACA or ISF in accordance with international standards.</li> <li>• Number and percentage of obsolete (unsafe or unserviceable) ammunition collected and destroyed by FACA or ISF.</li> </ul>

<b>COLOMBIA</b>	
Vision	Individuals and communities live free from the threat posed by explosive ordnance and mine action contributes to the peace process and development in Colombia.
Mission	UNMAS Colombia provides technical assistance to the national mine action centre (MAC) and to the mine action sector generally and supports mine action related aspects of the peace process.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national MAC coordinates a prioritized, principled and effective mine action programme.</li> <li>• Mine action-related aspects of the peace process are implemented.</li> <li>• Mine action sector performs humanitarian mine action effectively.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine action is integrated into plans that prioritize community needs and development priorities.</li> <li>• The number of ex-combatants with livelihoods in the mine action sector.</li> <li>• The amount of land released based on validated information provided by former FARC.</li> <li>• Number of ex-combatants who perform mine action as a reparatory action as recognized by the transitional justice system.</li> <li>• Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>• Number and percentage of high-priority mine action tasks completed by NGOs trained by UNMAS.</li> </ul>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	
Vision	UNFICYP safely implements its mandate and maintains the ceasefire and the integrity of the United Nations Buffer Zone.
Mission	UNMAS in Cyprus ensures that mine action builds confidence in the peace process through technical advice and support.
Outcomes	UNFICYP enabled to carry out its mandate in a safe and effective manner.
Outcome Indicators	Percentage and number of requests of support from UNFICYP responded to.
<b>DARFUR</b>	
Vision	UNAMID safely implements its mandate and responsibility for mine action in Darfur transitions to National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) with support from UNMAS Sudan.
Mission	UNMAS supports UNAMID to draw down responsibly and ensures the appropriate transfer of assets, information and residual explosive risk reduction responsibilities to NMAC, with support from UNMAS Sudan.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNAMID mandate delivery continues unimpeded during draw down and liquidation.</li> <li>• UNMAS Darfur programme closed successfully.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and percentage of requests from the mission responded to.</li> <li>• A plan for liquidation and transfer of information, assets and residual explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance responsibilities in Darfur is developed and implemented.</li> </ul>

<b>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO</b>	
Vision	National capacity manages explosive ordnance threats and small arms and light weapons (SALW), improving security for civilians.
Mission	UNMAS supports the MONUSCO Protection of Civilians (POC) mandate with explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks and builds capacity in the national NGO and security sector.
Outcomes	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) security sector and/or national NGOs responds appropriately to EOD tasks. MONUSCO addresses EO threats resulting from conflict in the east. DRC national security institutions effectively manage and secure weapons and ammunition stockpiles in accordance with international standards.
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of EOD tasks to which the national capacity responds efficiently and in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).</li> <li>Number of EOD tasks (ERW and bulk ammunition) completed by UNMAS out of the total requested by MONUSCO in the east per year.</li> <li>Number of National Defense and Security Forces elements trained on WAM by UNMAS in the east, out of total elements deployed in the east.</li> <li>Number of National Defense and Security Forces locations planned for the east that have weapons storage provided by UNMAS.</li> </ul>
<b>IRAQ</b>	
Vision	The Government of Iraq protects civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance and enables humanitarian, stabilization and reconstruction efforts to proceed unimpeded by explosive ordnance.
Mission	UNMAS Iraq supports the Government of Iraq to assist those impacted by explosive ordnance and enable socio-economic development and welfare.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Iraq effectively prioritizes tasks implemented increasingly by national actors.</li> <li>People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</li> <li>Safe access to restore or facilitate use of contaminated land and infrastructure is enabled.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of tasks issued responding to community humanitarian, stabilization, development needs.</li> <li>Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>Number of sites where access was enabled to restore or facilitate use.</li> <li>Number of national organizations deployed in response to tasks.</li> </ul>
<b>LEBANON</b>	
Vision	UNIFIL safely implements its mandate and achieves a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.
Mission	UNMAS Lebanon provides high quality operational and humanitarian mine action advice that enables UNIFIL to advance a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNIFIL operates safely in the Area of Responsibility (AoR).</li> <li>The population of South Lebanon benefits from UNIFIL TCCs clearance of the ERW and landmines that pose humanitarian risks in the UNIFIL AoR.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain zero incidents among UNIFIL military demining teams.</li> <li>Increase in the area safe from landmines and ERW.</li> </ul>

<b>LIBYA</b>	
Vision	Civilians, including refugees and migrants, live free from the threat of explosive ordnance and the impact of the illicit proliferation of arms and ammunition.
Mission	UNMAS Libya strengthens national capacity to manage mine action, secure uncontrolled arms and related materiel and counter their proliferation in order to protect civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Libyan authorities contribute to the peace process through improved weapons and ammunition management.</li> <li>The mobility of civilians, including refugees and migrants, is not threatened by explosive ordnance.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An arms and ammunition framework is operationalized in accordance with the Berlin Process and other framework agreements.</li> <li>Number of Libyan entities delivering explosive ordnance risk reduction activities in accordance with Libyan Mine Action Standards.</li> <li>Number and percentage of requests for training or assessments from humanitarian and development partners fulfilled.</li> <li>Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> </ul>
<b>MALI</b>	
Vision	The population in Mali is safer and more secure as a result of the reduced threat posed by explosive ordnance.
Mission	UNMAS Mali enhances the capacity of MINUSMA, the Malian Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) and civil society to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.
Outcomes	National authorities have the capacity to lead and manage the mine action response, which is implemented through civil society. The capacity of MDSF to manage the explosive threat is enhanced. MINUSMA peacekeepers deploy and patrol safely.
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A National Mine Action Authority is operational and has the capacity to manage the response to explosive ordnance according to a strategy and operational plans.</li> <li>A national plan to manage the response to explosive threats is developed.</li> <li>Percentage and proportion of explosive devices detected/neutralized by MINUSMA.</li> <li>Number of national NGOs with mine action capacity.</li> <li>Increase in the number of Malian Defence and Security Forces teams trained and equipped to respond to explosive threats in central and northern Mali.</li> <li>Number of MINUSMA EOD team interventions, operating in accordance with UN standards, restoring the freedom of movement of MINUSMA.</li> </ul>

<b>NIGERIA</b>	
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"> <li>Relevant national and local entities manage the explosive threat, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination.</li> <li>The immediate threat posed by explosive ordnance to civilians and humanitarian and development actors is mitigated.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and percentage of requests for EOD/IED threat mitigation responded to by national and local entities.</li> <li>Percentage and number of beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>Number of national and local entities with capacity to conduct an IED disposal (IEDD)/EOD response.</li> </ul>
<b>PALESTINE</b>	
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 works to empower the Palestinian Mine Action Centre (PMAC) to assume responsibility for mine action.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</li> <li>The United Nations, and its humanitarian partners in Gaza, maintain critical functions uninhibited by explosive hazards.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>Percentage and number of UN and humanitarian partner sites declared safe and restored to use after request for assistance.</li> <li>Increased number of EORE personnel in the West Bank delivering the PMAC EORE strategy.</li> <li>Number of UN and humanitarian personnel with increased knowledge of explosive risk reduction to support their delivery of humanitarian and recovery programmes.</li> <li>Percentage and number of requests by development organizations responded to, enabling them to deliver operations at conflict-affected sites.</li> </ul>

<b>SOMALIA</b>	
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 AMISOM, Somali Security Forces (SSF)(both the Somalia National Army (SNA) and Somali National Police (SNP)) and vulnerable people to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance, including IEDs.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMISOM troop-contributing countries (TCCs) perform their functions with reduced threat posed by IED or EO.</li> <li>The Federal Government of Somalia increasingly assumes responsibility for security.</li> <li>Communities experience reduction of the threat posed by explosive hazards.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and percentage of IEDs encountered that have no impact on AMISOM personnel.</li> <li>Number and percentage of IEDs encountered that have no impact on SSF personnel.</li> <li>Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>Number and percentage of EOD/IEDD teams identified in the National Security Architecture that operate in compliance with international standards.</li> <li>Area and percentage of released land that is being used productively.</li> <li>Progress in compliance with obligations under the partial lifting of the arms embargo by the Federal Government of Somalia is noted in regular Panel of Experts Reports.</li> <li>Security Council resolutions on the arms embargo in Somalia take into consideration progress achieved towards the benchmarks on weapons and ammunition management.</li> </ul>

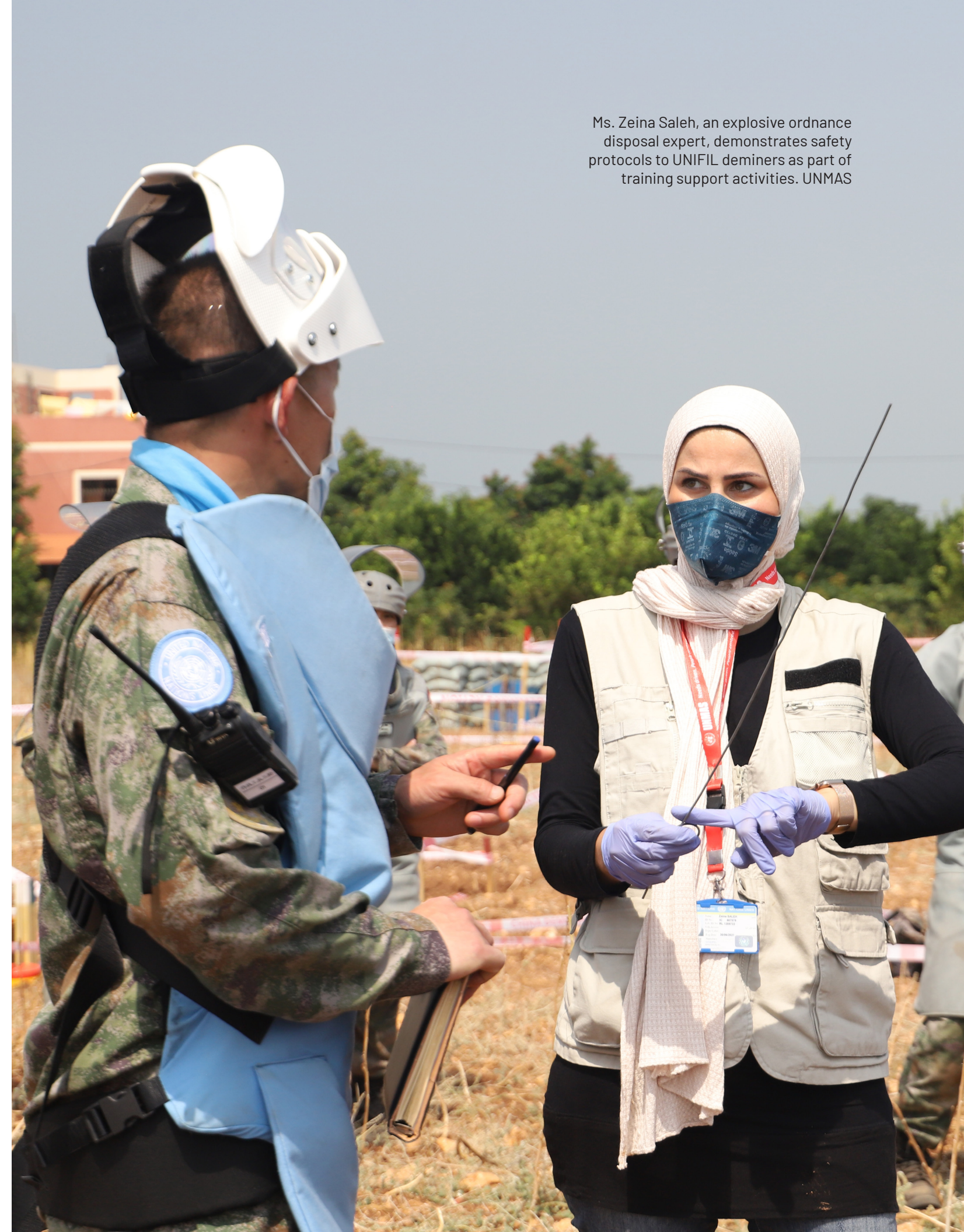
<b>SOUTH SUDAN</b>	
Vision	South Sudan is able to independently address EO contamination in all its forms and arms and ammunition are appropriately managed, enabling communities to live safely and the peace process to be implemented responsibly.
Mission	UNMAS South Sudan supports the safety and security of peacekeepers and communities from EO and enables the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) to deliver humanitarian mine action.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An accountable NMAA implements appropriate response to the threats posed by EO.</li> <li>• Humanitarian actors and civilians have safe access to areas previously contaminated with EO.</li> <li>• UNMISS uniformed and civilian operations proceed unimpeded by EO.</li> <li>• Mine action contributes to South Sudan's peace process.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of appropriate responses by NMAA to EOD tasks.</li> <li>• The percentage and number of responses to requests from humanitarian entities for support.</li> <li>• Maintain zero casualties among mission personnel related to EO.</li> <li>• Proportion of responses to requests from the Mission for weapons and ammunition support in cantonment sites.</li> <li>• Number and percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>• The number of cantonment sites where weapons and ammunition are managed responsibly.</li> <li>• Decrease in the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance as a result of advocacy, surveys and clearance to provide a safer environment for civilians and the voluntary return and resettlement of IDPs and refugees.</li> </ul>
<b>SUDAN</b>	
Vision	The Sudanese population lives free of the threat of explosive ordnance.
Mission	Pursuant to the UNITAMS mandate, UNMAS Sudan enables UN mobility in areas affected by explosive ordnance and supports the Government of Sudan to effectively manage the mine action sector, achieve relevant treaty obligations and deliver peace dividends to the population.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.</li> <li>• The United Nations and the local population safely use areas previously contaminated with explosive ordnance.</li> <li>• National authority manages a prioritized principled and efficient mine action programme.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage and number of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>• Percentage of land released used productively.</li> <li>• Percentage and number of core functions fully managed by National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) in line with national standard and operational procedures without UNMAS technical assistance.</li> <li>• Number and percentage of requests to address EO contamination from UNITAMS responded to.</li> <li>• Percentage decrease in direct financial assistance provided by UNMAS to the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC).</li> <li>• Number of stakeholders who provide VA services through National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) coordination.</li> </ul>

<b>SYRIA</b>	
Vision	The threat of explosive ordnance is minimized for communities most at risk.
Mission	UNMAS in Syria coordinates the mine action sector to deliver a coherent humanitarian response to at-risk communities.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine action partners assist people in greatest need.</li> <li>• People know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance.</li> <li>• Humanitarian partners safely deliver basic services and at-risk civilians safely access basic services and livelihood activities in areas impacted by explosive ordnance.</li> <li>• Survivors and victims of explosive ordnance incidents obtain assistance for recovery and reintegration.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of mine action partners working in accordance with agreed prioritized work plan.</li> <li>• Percentage of EORE beneficiaries demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.</li> <li>• Number of humanitarian partners supported by mine action services to plan and deliver operations safely.</li> <li>• Percentage and number of victims and survivors assisted who report that assistance supported their recovery.</li> <li>• Percentage of released areas that are accessed and used by civilians, in line with the intended purposes.</li> </ul>
<b>TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA</b>	
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"> <li>• Local capacities lead and manage mine action programmes.</li> <li>• Increased safety and security of MINURSO military observers as a result of reduced risk from explosive ordnance during ceasefire monitoring.</li> </ul>
Outcome Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local mine action authority (SMACO) implements the SMACO strategic plan 2019-2023.</li> <li>• Percentage of patrols undertaken by MINURSO military observers without explosive ordnance incidents.</li> <li>• Additional square meters of surface and sub surface area free from known threats of landmines and ERW in order to facilitate the monitoring of the ceasefire and to ensure safe passage for UN personnel.</li> </ul>



## ENDNOTES

- 1 This figure represents the cumulative number of people deemed to be in need of mine action assistance in 2020 by Humanitarian Response Plans; for further details on the number of people targeted with assistance and interventions, please see the HRP of a respective country or territory.
- 2 Abyei, Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya Myanmar, State of Palestine, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Vietnam and Yemen.
- 3 Report 2019/152, 31 December 2019.
- 4 A/RES/74/261; A/RES/74/283; A/RES/74/284; A/RES/74/285; A/RES/74/286; A/RES/74/290 A/RES/74/291; A/RES/74/292; A/RES/74/293; A/RES/74/294; A/RES/74/295.
- 5 Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2548 (2020).
- 6 Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2552 (2020).
- 7 S/PRST/2019/3.
- 8 Established in UNSCR 2127 (2013).
- 9 UNSCR 2507 (2020).
- 10 Established by S/PRST/2019/3.
- 11 Based on UNSCR 2536 (2020).
- 12 Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2531 (2020).
- 13 UNMAS data.
- 14 Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2502 (2020).
- 15 Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2495 (2019) and 2525 (2020).
- 16 This improved access does not include parts of the greater Jebel Marra where incidents of armed violence are still reported.
- 17 Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2537 (2020).
- 18 Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2550 (2020).
- 19 Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2514 (2020).
- 20 Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2542 (2020).
- 21 Pursuant to UNSCR 2540 (2020) and UNSCR 2520 (2020).



Ms. Zeina Saleh, an explosive ordnance disposal expert, demonstrates safety protocols to UNIFIL deminers as part of training support activities. UNMAS

