



Protecting Lives Building Peace

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024


UNMAS

UNMAS ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Designed by: Isabella Diaz

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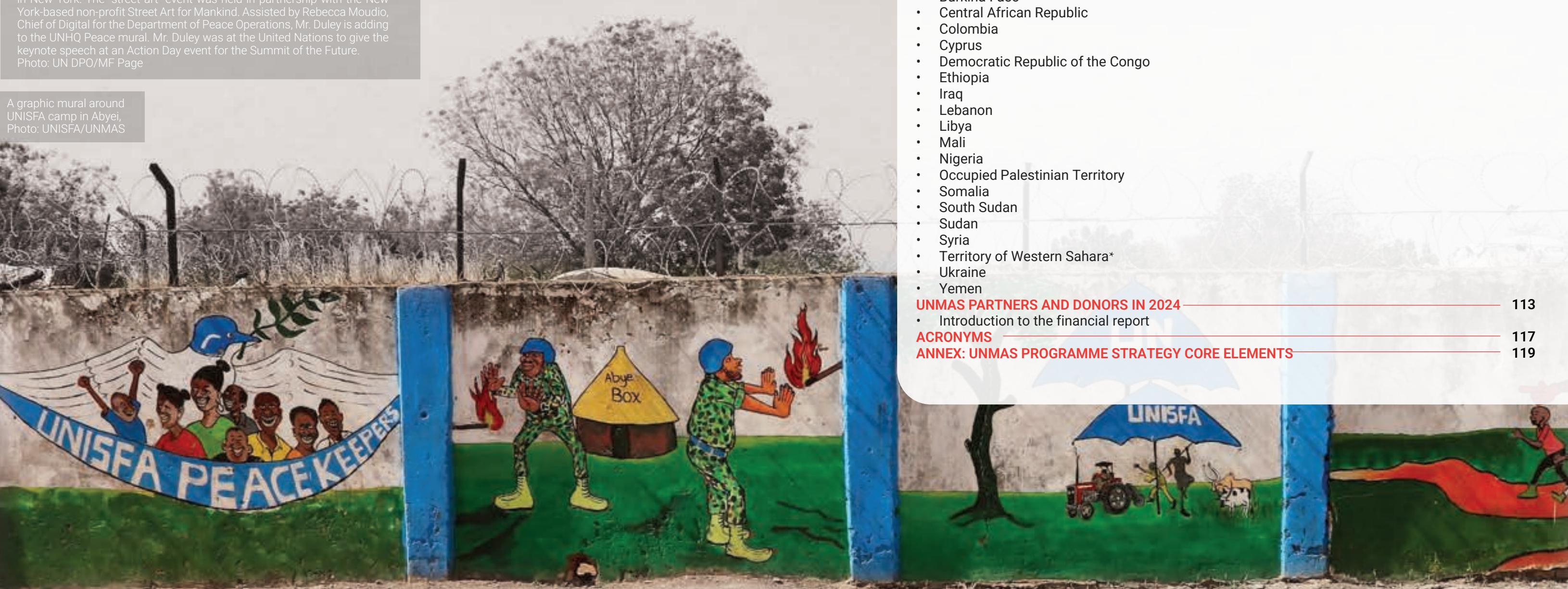
[in](#) United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

COVER PHOTO

The United Nations Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Situations, Mr. Giles Duley, participated in the commemoration of the International Day of Peace at the UN Headquarters in New York. The "street art" event was held in partnership with the New York-based non-profit Street Art for Mankind. Assisted by Rebecca Moudio, Chief of Digital for the Department of Peace Operations, Mr. Duley is adding to the UNHQ Peace mural. Mr. Duley was at the United Nations to give the keynote speech at an Action Day event for the Summit of the Future.

Photo: UN DPO/MF Page

A graphic mural around
UNISFA camp in Abyei,
Photo: UNISFA/UNMAS



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- Central African Republic
- Colombia
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- Democratic Republic of the Congo
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- Lebanon
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ANNEX: UNMAS PROGRAMME STRATEGY CORE ELEMENTS

4

5

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9

23

27

113

117

119

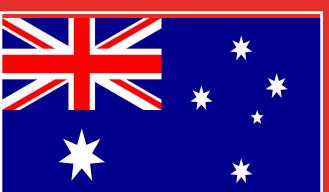


A mural painted by UNMAS and UNICEF as part of an international mine awareness day (4 April 2024) commemoration. Photo: UNMAS

CONTRIBUTORS



ANDORRA



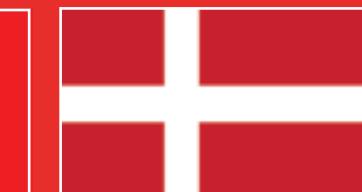
AUSTRALIA



BELGIUM



CANADA



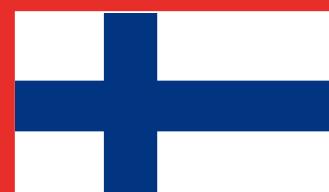
DENMARK



ESTONIA



EUROPEAN UNION



FINLAND



FRANCE



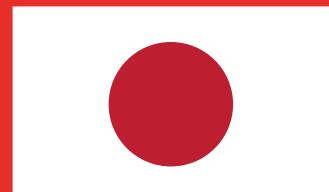
GERMANY



IRELAND



ITALY



JAPAN



LIECHTENSTEIN



LUXEMBOURG



NEW ZEALAND



POLAND



PORTUGAL



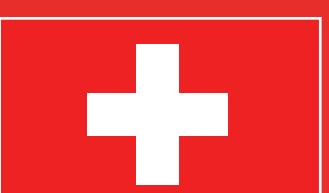
REPUBLIC OF KOREA



SPAIN



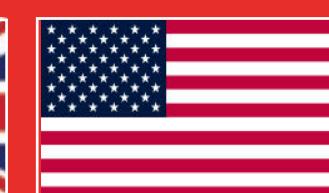
SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



UNITED KINGDOM



UNITED STATES



MPTF



OCHA



UNDP



UNICEF



UNOPS

UNITED NATIONS
TRUST FUND FOR
HUMAN SECURITY

FOREWORD FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Across the globe, the need for mine action is tragically surging. Landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IED) continue to threaten lives, hinder humanitarian aid and peacekeeping, and block rebuilding.

As this report illustrates, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) offers expert solutions to these threats – advancing peace, humanitarian efforts and sustainable development. It implements United Nations Security Council mandates, assisting governments and communities. Peacekeeping operations rely on UNMAS to help ensure safe movement, provide training on addressing mine threats and support weapons and ammunition management.

In Gaza, where UNMAS has operated for a decade, it provides risk education, removes deeply buried bombs and enhances the safety of humanitarian convoys. In Ukraine, it collaborates with UN partners and civil society to coordinate mine action and clear land vital for global food security. In Syria, UNMAS has piloted clearance operations enabling the safe return of displaced families. In Lebanon, UNMAS supports the safe redeployment of peacekeepers and strengthens national mine action capacities. From the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, from South Sudan to the Central African Republic and beyond, UNMAS mitigates explosive threats and secures critical infrastructure, helping communities rebuild and recover.

The Pact for the Future reaffirms mine action as a vital element of disarmament, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. UNMAS plays a central role in assisting States in fulfilling their obligations under international humanitarian disarmament treaties, as well as commitments to refrain from using explosive weapons in populated areas.

Sustained and flexible funding is essential to this mission. I urge full support for the lifesaving work of UNMAS as it seeks to lay the foundations for peace and sustainable development.




António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

MESSAGE FROM THE UNMAS DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share the 2024 UNMAS Annual Report, which highlights how UNMAS worked globally and in 21 countries and territories to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance. Civilians, humanitarian personnel, security forces and peacekeepers continue to bear the brunt of this threat.

Our mission remains needs driven and people centered, guided by humanitarian principles. In numerous field operations, we implement Security Council mandates to protect civilians, ensure the safety and security of UN personnel, and reinforce national and local mine action capacities.

Yet, several trends challenged our progress: new, extensive contamination in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine; increased use of IEDs by non-state armed groups in the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Somalia; and funding constraints affecting programmes in Afghanistan, Colombia, Ethiopia and Mali.

We continue to strengthen our delivery model to ensure cost-effectiveness, efficiency and accountability while focusing on our comparative advantage and mandate within the mine action sector. Our programmes in Mali and Sudan transitioned from peace operations to voluntary-funded UNMAS programmes at the request of the respective governments. We deployed our Standing Capacity to respond to Member State requests and backstop emergency responses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, and Sudan.

UNMAS convened the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, represented the mine action area of responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster and chaired the Whole-of-System Task Force on IEDs. Our contributions were recognized by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and we remain engaged in discussions on the future of peacekeeping, and implementation of the Pact for the Future and the reform of the humanitarian system. The global mine action community convened in Siem Reap to assess progress and agree on a plan of action to implement the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Mine action is both a humanitarian imperative and integral to stabilization, peacebuilding, and security. As we confront increasing challenges, sustained funding for UNMAS is essential to meeting the growing demand for mine action and ensuring communities can rebuild safely. I thank all our partners and staff for their dedication. There has never been a greater need for our work in the mine action sector.



Ilene Cohn
Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service





Peace Day 2024 UNHQ. Photo: UN DPO/
MF Page

UNMAS IN 2024: PROTECTING LIVES. BUILDING PEACE.

Introduction

UNMAS delivers mandates assigned by the United Nations Security Council to peace operations and responds to requests for assistance from United Nations Resident Coordinators and national authorities in states affected by explosive ordnance. UNMAS responses are aligned to the objectives of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy and the United Nations vision of a world free from the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

A surge in conflict across the globe led to increasingly complex demands on the mine action sector. Nevertheless, UNMAS has remained agile and responsive to evolving operational, security and political contexts. The Service activated its Standing Capacity, expanded its partnerships with Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGO) and expanded its training efforts to mitigate the threat of IEDs. UNMAS removed and destroyed tens of thousands of explosive ordnance items, improved the safety of millions of people, strengthened the national capacity of partner governments and reduced the threat of explosive ordnance to civilians—including children—as well as United Nations and humanitarian personnel.

MEMBER STATE SUPPORT FOR UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION

United Nations General Assembly

UNMAS continued to strongly and effectively advocate for the inclusion of mine action activities and concerns in intergovernmental processes and reports. With the complexity, expansion and intensification of armed conflict, including the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA), the impact of explosive ordnance featured prominently in Secretary-General's reports and General Assembly resolutions, including those on children and armed conflict, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition management. The annual Secretary-General's report on Children and Armed Conflict ([A/78/842](#)) highlighted the devastating effects of explosive ordnance on children in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen, urging the international community to prioritize explosive ordnance clearance, victim assistance and risk education. Similarly, the Secretary-General's report on SALW ([A/79/77](#)) underscored the critical role of UNMAS in building weapons and ammunition management capacities in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. The Resolution on through-life conventional ammunition management ([A/RES/79/54](#)) also expressed grave concern over the diversion of conventional ammunition to unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, and its trafficking into illicit markets, which can lead to the manufacturing of IEDs. It highlighted how these devices contribute to the ferocity and duration of conflicts and pose significant threats to peace, security, stability and sustainable development globally.

UNMAS photo

Additionally, the biennial resolution on countering the threat of IEDs ([A/RES/79/53](#)) recognized the influence of emerging technologies in IED production, encouraging regional strategies and capacity-building efforts. The Secretary-General's report on Countering the threat posed by IEDs ([A/79/211](#)) highlighted significant trends and developments in IED incidents, the evolving nature of these threats and the broader humanitarian impacts. It highlighted the role of UNMAS in threat mitigation, capacity-building and leading a unified response among UN entities as chair of the Whole-of-System Task Force on IEDs. Lastly, UNMAS work enabling the conduct of peace operations was reiterated by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in relevant sections of their 2024 report.

United Nations Security Council and Mine Action

In line with Security Council [resolution 2365 \(2017\)](#), UNMAS continued to advocate with Member States on integrating mine action into mission mandates and response planning. This resulted in strengthened Security Council mandates on mine action in several United Nations field operations. For example, Security Council [resolution 2759 \(2024\)](#) on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) highlights the importance of protecting civilians through the establishment of the national mine action authority. Security Council [resolution 2753 \(2024\)](#) on the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) includes mine action in the first phase of its transition to the Federal Government of Somalia, the UNCT and other stakeholders.

Mine action data from field programmes informed Security Council deliberations, which over the course of the year underscored the critical role of mine action in both thematic and country-specific contexts. The Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict drew attention to the severe impact of explosive devices, including IEDs, landmines and ERW, on children in countries such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq and Somalia. It also discussed the role of transnational trafficking networks in funding armed groups, particularly in the Central African Republic, where the escalating use of explosive ordnance caused significant civilian casualties, destroyed property, and obstructed humanitarian operations.

On 12 December 2024, Japan convened the Security Council for an Arria Formula meeting. Recalling the landmark [resolution 2365 \(2017\)](#) on mine action, the discussion considered the critical role of mine action in peace operations, humanitarian responses and socio-economic recovery. Interventions from Member States highlighted the need for collaboration between the Security Council, Peacebuilding Commission and United Nations Secretariat to integrate mine action into all phases of mission planning, from start-up to withdrawal. Member States also acknowledged the vital role of UNMAS. For example, the United States described its work as "heroic" and "nothing short of transformative". China acknowledged the coordination efforts of UNMAS, Russia noted its support for UNMAS and France, Japan, Korea, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the United States highlighted their financial and in-kind contributions to the Service.





Wars destroy. Peace builds.



In today's troubled world, building peace is a conscious, bold and even radical act. It is humanity's greatest responsibility.

— António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General



Mine Action and the Secretary-General's Priority Agendas

UNMAS actively contributed to shaping United Nations priorities, including by emphasizing the urgent need to address the humanitarian impact of explosive ordnance during the Summit of the Future and as part of The Pact for the Future, which underscored the devastating effects of armed conflict on civilians, especially women, children, and persons with disabilities. The Pact reinforces the call for practical measures to reduce harm from EWIPA, details the changing nature of conflict and reaffirms Member State commitments to protect civilians, limit the use of EWIPA, and ensure humanitarian access. The importance of mine action is highlighted in Action 26 on "upholding disarmament obligations and commitments". UNMAS will also be involved in the ongoing discussions on the future of peacekeeping and the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review process.



The heroic work undertaken by the United Nations Mine Action Service and its implementing partners is nothing short of transformative.

— Ambassador *Linda Thomas-Greenfield*, United States Representative to the United Nations, from Arria-formula meeting 12/2024



Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Settings

In 2024, UNMAS worked with Mr. Giles Duley, in his role as the first United Nations Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Situations, to amplify the voices of survivors and complement the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. Mr. Duley's high-level engagements included remarks at the opening of the exhibition "Witnessing a Way Forward: Protecting Lives. Building Peace" on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, addressing the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and delivering a keynote speech at the Ukrainian Mine Action Conference in Switzerland.

In advance of the Summit of the Future, Mr. Duley moderated a high-level side event on the protection of civilians in urban settings, organized by UNMAS, and which aimed to increase awareness of the long-term humanitarian impact of war and ERW.

Mine Action Support Group

With engagement from UNMAS, the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), comprising over 30 donor States, convened meetings in Geneva and New York to discuss programmatic and funding priorities. To enhance the Group's ability to integrate mine action into political initiatives held at the United Nations Secretariat, Italy, as Chair of the MASG, relocated their 'chairmanship' from Rome to New York. The Group considered the efforts of UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF in Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Ukraine, as well as regional challenges in the Middle East. Additionally, the Group addressed thematic issues such as explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and innovative financing. UNMAS coordinated with MASG partners to ensure comprehensive briefings, urging stronger partnerships, compliance with international legal instruments and greater financial support to address the growing challenges in mine-affected areas.

Bolstering Mine Action Sector Coordination and Coherence

UNMAS executed its system-wide coordination mandate by chairing the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), which consists of twelve United Nations entities and one observer. The IACG-MA conducts horizon scanning of global mine action needs to promote coherent responses, develops strategies and advocacy initiatives, shares good practices and technical expertise, and analyses developments in countries impacted by explosive ordnance. When convened at the Principals level, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the group takes decisions on issues of strategic importance requiring Principal level attention. They are informed by monthly IACG-MA meetings at the working level. UNMAS also provides expertise to United Nations Member States and partners, leading development of system-wide policies, strategies and common positions, while providing technical support to inter-governmental processes in the General Assembly and the Security Council.

New and Updated Mine Action Standards

UNMAS chairs the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board and Steering Committee and is the United Nations depositary of these industry standards. The IMAS provide a standardized approach to mine action activities, including surveys, land release, risk education and victim assistance. The standards and guidelines are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the latest best practices in mine action. In 2024, in addition to multiple new translations in French (8) and Spanish (24), updates included a significant revision to the IMAS on storage, handling and transportation of explosives (10.50), a guide for the application and development of IMAS (Edition 2, Amendment 11), an update to the IMAS on environmental management and climate change in mine action (07.13) and the Guide to occupational health and general animal detection systems care (Edition 2).

Overview of Activities of the United Nations Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Situations

2024

In 2024 Mr. Giles Duley*, the United Nations Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict and Peacebuilding Situations, advocated on behalf of persons with disabilities in many fora, including meeting with Government officials in Ukraine, speaking at global meetings to raise awareness and resources in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States and at the 17th Conference of States Parties of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He was a keynote speaker at the Summit of the Future Action Days and addressed the need to do more to protect civilians and persons with disabilities during conflict. He advocated for the more purposeful implementation of Security Council resolution 2475, as 2024 was the five-year commemoration of this resolution (June 2019).



*Mr. Giles Duley is a documentary photographer, writer and storyteller. His work focuses on the long-term humanitarian impact of conflict. He captures the strength of those who fight adversity rather than succumb to it and his photographs draw the viewer to the subject, creating intimacy and empathy for lives different from ours only in circumstance.



Support for International Humanitarian Law and Disarmament Treaty Regimes

In 2024, UNMAS, as the coordinator of the IACG-MA, ensured the Group's representation at the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), advocating for strengthened State adherence to international humanitarian law and disarmament treaties, enhanced United Nations support to national authorities in delivering immediate and long-term victim assistance and accelerating clearance operations in the face of growing explosive ordnance contamination. UNMAS also supported the organization of two side events on behalf of the IACG-MA, one focused on South-South cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Cambodian Mine Action Center in supporting the development of effective national coordination and integration of mine action strategies into national policies in Nigeria, Ethiopia or Sudan. Another event focused on the threat of IEDs in conflict zones, stressing the need for comprehensive multi-stakeholder responses that integrate prevention, education, victim assistance and capacity-building.

Additionally, on behalf of the IACG-MA, UNMAS attended the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Meeting of Experts on Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, advocating for adequate mine action responses. UNMAS statements, made on behalf of the members of the IACG-MA, are available at mineaction.org. UNMAS represented IACG-MA and shared technical perspectives and expertise on IEDs at the Group of Experts discussions under Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Updated United Nations Mine Action Strategy

UNMAS led successful consultations culminating in the IACG-MA endorsing at Principals level an updated United Nations Mine Action Strategy (the Strategy) that came into effect on 1 January 2025. The Strategy retains the five strategic outcome areas from the previous iteration reflecting the five pillars of mine action, a theory of change and links mine action to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The updated Strategy demonstrates the range of initiatives comprising United Nations mine action, highlights the importance of effective integration of mine action in country-level United Nations strategic and coordination frameworks and acknowledges the relevance of mine action not only in humanitarian settings but also in stabilization, peacebuilding and security contexts. The Strategy also reflects updated terminology to align with IMAS 4.10 on information management and IMAS 13.10 on victim assistance. Additionally, the new Strategy strengthens references to international humanitarian law (IHL) and the need to have an adaptable approach, ensuring that mine action activities are tailored to the specific mandates and circumstances of each situation.

Advocating For A Safer World

UNMAS commemorated the annual International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April 2024 under the theme "Protecting Lives. Building Peace." Events were held in UNMAS programmes worldwide, and multiple events were held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, including a multimedia exhibit and a high-level opening ceremony at the Visitor's Centre of the United Nations General Assembly. The exhibition, curated by Global Advocate Giles Duley, seen by over 45,000 visitors and was featured during the State Parties meeting of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 11-13 June.

27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisors

In cooperation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, UNMAS organized the 27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN27), the annual flagship event for mine action practitioners and operators. The event took place from 29 April to 1 May 2024 in Geneva under the theme Protecting Lives. Building Peace.

Over 600 participants joined from 69 countries and territories, including National Directors of mine action programmes, United Nations advisers, donor representatives, academics, private sector, and civil society. Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix's keynote emphasized the crucial role of mine action in protecting lives and peacebuilding by mitigating risks, enabling humanitarian access and supporting socio-economic recovery.

Discussions across five plenaries, featuring 25 gender-balanced and geographically diverse panelists, explored topics including the relationship between mine action and food security, risk education in conflict settings and the role of mine action in reducing the human cost of weapons and building peace. The plenaries ensured broad stakeholder representation, giving voice to national authorities, civil society, NGOs and subject matter experts across 22 side events over three days. A full day was dedicated to peer-to-peer exchange between mine action national directors, with breakout groups organized in Arabic, French and English. Overall, participants rated the plenary sessions and side events highly.

Global Protection Cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR)

In line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action, UNMAS leads the MA AoR, one of four Areas of Responsibility within the GPC, which is led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A key part of the humanitarian cluster system—coordinated globally by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and at the country level by Humanitarian Coordinators—the MA AoR plays a crucial role in strengthening protection against the risks posed by mines and other explosive ordnance. Co-coordinated currently with the Danish Refugee Council, it serves as a platform for collaboration between the United Nations, NGOs with mine action expertise and other sectors, including health, education, food security and child protection.

As noted in the GPC Annual Report, in 2024, the MA AoR was active in 16 complex emergencies and coordinated with humanitarian actors to protect 41 million people most at risk of explosive ordnance. The coordinator in each country context worked with national and international organisations to assess risks and protect affected communities through activities such as risk education, clearance and victim assistance. UNMAS served as the United Nations MA AoR co-coordinator in 12 out of 16 country contexts. In emergencies where UNMAS does not have an operational presence, an alternative organisation leads the MA AoR (e.g. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, UNICEF in Myanmar). NGOs which are increasingly involved as co-coordinators (e.g. DanChurchAid in Mali, Humanity & Inclusion in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syria) also benefited from technical support and policy guidance from the Global Coordinator.

Throughout 2024, the MA AoR actively participated in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)-led group of Global Cluster Coordinators, who each coordinate a network of humanitarian partners specialized in health, shelter, food security, education or protection. The Group supports country-level cluster and inter-cluster coordination, at both the operational level through rapid response, and at the global level with tools and guidance. In addition, the UNMAS participated in consultations led by UNHCR to simplify the architecture of the Protection Cluster and its Areas of Responsibility (Child Protection, Gender-based Violence, Mine Action and Housing, Land and Property) leading to the adoption of a set of recommendations agreed by the Cluster Lead Entities.

IED Threat Mitigation Policy and Capacity Building Initiatives

Through its Improvised Explosive Device Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (TMAT) and the Mobile Training Team (MTT), based in Entebbe, UNMAS continued to lead IED threat mitigation initiatives benefiting United Nations and Member States.

In 2024, UNMAS convened four meetings of the Whole-of-System IED Threat Mitigation Task Force, which discussed the development of strategies and international guidelines to enforce Security Council resolutions on IED prevention, standardization of terminology for clarity in operations and the emphasis on strengthening regional and international collaboration. UNMAS engaged bilateral partners, such as the United States Global Peace Operations Initiative, the United Kingdom Peace Support Team, the German Armed Forces Technical Advisory Group and the United States South European Task Force-Africa in discussions on how to build Member State capacities to mitigate the IED threat, including at quarterly TMAT Ted Talk webinars. UNMAS appreciates the generous Belgian contribution of expert trainers, provided through the NATO Defence Capability Building (DCB) initiative, which enabled UNMAS to strengthen explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) capabilities in police/troop-contributing countries (P/TCCs).

As co-chair of the DPO-DOS Working Group on the implementation of the Independent Strategic Review of the United Nations Response to Explosive Ordnance Threats ([S/2021/1042](#)), UNMAS supported counterparts in MONUSCO and MINUSCA to ensure peacekeeper readiness, capacity and capability to operate within a high-threat explosive ordnance environment.

As result of UNMAS efforts, in 2024, 133 peacekeepers, including 67 instructors, were trained in essential Counter-IED skills, helping to improve preparedness and reduce in-mission training from eight weeks in 2023 to three weeks by the end of 2024. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Office of Military Affairs and United Nations Integrated Training Service, planning for IED response was integrated into various peacekeeping training packages, with the aim to equip peacekeepers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively address IED threats and mitigate associated risks. These training resources are now available on the [United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub](#).

Organisational Accountability and Effectiveness

UNMAS Delivery Model

UNMAS continued to fulfil its responsibility as the service provider for mine action for all Secretariat entities, with a focus on bolstering the delivery of mine action services and the oversight of the performance of its implementing partners. In line with recommendations from auditors and the independent review of the UNMAS delivery model, the Secretariat reviewed and redesigned mine action programme delivery in UNIFIL and UNISFA for 2024/25 and UNAMA and UNSMIL for 2025. With the endorsement of the General Assembly, these four programmes have transitioned from implementation in partnership with UNOPS to Secretariat direct delivery. This transition generated cost efficiencies associated with streamlined personnel structures and the absence of UNOPS fees, improved governance and accountability by ensuring a direct reporting line from mine action personnel to the Chief Mine Action Programme. Additionally, UNMAS reviewed the delivery in programmes that continue to be implemented through UNOPS, which resulted in significant cost-efficiencies in UNSOS and UNMISS associated with reconfiguring staffing numbers and streamlining arrangements for delivery by third party contractors.

Programme Oversight

In partnership with the United Nations Advisory Alliance, UNMAS established a Performance Monitoring Framework that has been rolled out to half of its programmes in 2024 and is expected to enhance UNMAS oversight and performance of mine action programmes, particularly those implemented by UNOPS.

Standing Capacity

The UNMAS Standing Capacity was established in Brindisi and immediately achieved an 80% deployment rate, responding to requests to conduct explosive ordnance threat assessments, lead the start-up of mine action programmes, and support strategic and operational planning, quality assurance and technical support in field programmes. In 2024, UNMAS Standing Capacity deployed to UNMAS mission and non-mission programmes requiring enhanced support, including MINUSMA, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ethiopia and UNTMIS/UNOS. In places where the UNMAS Chief of Programme post was vacant, the Standing Capacity was instrumental in ensuring Secretariat leadership of the programme.



UNMAS 2024 SNAPSHOT



**21 PROGRAMMES
AROUND THE WORLD**

DESTROYED

58,874

explosive remnants of war
removed and destroyed

591 landmines removed
and destroyed

CONFIRMED SAFE

31.7

sq. km. land

3,954

km. roads

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

1 storage facility

constructed

1 storage facility

reconstructed/rehabilitated

1.8 million

rounds of small arms
ammunition destroyed

RISK EDUCATION PROVIDED



To more than **937,000**
people impacted by
explosive ordnance

TRAINED



132 UN staff
133 Government staff

RAPID RESPONSE / SURGE SUPPORT

Democratic Republic of the Congo,
Mali, Occupied Palestinian Territory,
Somalia, Sudan



We have unlocked the door to **Our Common Future**. Now, it's our common responsibility to walk through it. That demands not just agreement, but action.

— António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General



UNMAS PROGRAMMES



Photo: UNMAS Libya

ABYEI



Photo: UNMAS Abyei/Bojan Vukovic

Overview

The status of the Abyei area remained a contentious issue between Sudan and South Sudan. The region continues to grapple with the legacy of past hostilities, which have left behind a significant presence of ERW.

The situation in the region has been further exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in Sudan and localized inter-tribal clashes, which have contributed to a rise in the number of displaced persons in the Abyei area whose safety and security are threatened by these explosive devices.

Mandate

Security Council resolution 1990 (2011) established the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and included demining assistance among its mandated tasks. In line with the UNISFA mandate, last renewed by resolution 2760 (2024), UNMAS UNISFA continued to enable UNISFA force mobility, support the safe, voluntary return of civilians to their communities, facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid and ensure the effective functioning of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM).

Funding

UNMAS UNISFA is funded through assessed contributions to the UNISFA budget.



WATCH VIDEO

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS UNISFA 2024

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS IN LINE WITH A4P+

UNMAS UNISFA has delivered on its key strategic outcome of ensuring explosive ordnance does not impede mandate implementation. Through the clearance of 383 kilometres of roads and patrol routes and more than 2.6 million square metres of land, UNMAS UNISFA supported safe UNISFA mobility, safe patrols, as well as the successful deployment of 121 Ground Monitoring Missions by the JBVMM. Additionally, to reinforce the safety and preparedness of the Interim Security Force, 1,912 newly arrived UNISFA uniformed and civilian personnel were trained in safety procedures to follow when encountering explosive ordnance.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Over 9,500 people, including nearly 4,750 children, received lifesaving EORE through interactive sessions and skits, with 93.3 per cent demonstrating increased knowledge, significantly improving community awareness in line with a key strategic outcome indicator related to EORE. The destruction of 56 explosive items and 23 weapons with 949 rounds of ammunition, confiscated by UNISFA troops during patrols, further contributed to securing a safe environment both for the daily civilian life and for safe movement in the region.



Photo: UNMAS Abyei

AFGHANISTAN



Photo: UNMAS Afghanistan



WATCH VIDEO

Overview

After four decades of war, Afghanistan is one of the most heavily contaminated places in the world with explosive ordnance. Landmines, ERW, and IEDs continue to kill and maim vulnerable Afghans, particularly children. Of the 549 reported civilian casualties in 2024, 432 were children, accounting for 8 out of every 10 casualties, with the majority being boys engaged in scrap metal collection or playing. Access to previously inaccessible areas increases exposure to the explosive ordnance threat by civilian populations unfamiliar with contaminated terrain. In 2024, approximately 4.2 million people—more than half of Afghanistan's population—were in need of mine action. Afghan returnees are particularly vulnerable.

Mandate

UNMAS is a component of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and implements UN Security Council Resolution 2626 (2022), last renewed by resolution 2727 (2024). This resolution mandates UNAMA to support existing mechanisms to improve the overall security situation in Afghanistan, provide assessments of the explosive ordnance threat and its impact on civilians, including children, advise and coordinate explosive ordnance threat mitigation measures in support of humanitarian and development initiatives, and support the coordination of the humanitarian mine action sector.

Funding

The UNAMA budget funds salary and travel costs for three mine action positions. In 2024, UNMAS UNAMA received funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund, Germany, the United States of America, and the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA).

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN AFGHANISTAN 2024

With extrabudgetary funding from Germany and the United States, and in support of the UNAMA mandate, UNMAS continued to lead the Mine Action Technical Cell (MATC), which plays a vital role in ensuring the coordination, planning and prioritization of the sector, tasking of operators, quality assurance, and information management. Operating across multiple regions, the MATC has contributed to safeguarding deminers and ensured that cleared land was released to local communities for productive use.

MINE ACTION COORDINATION

In such a complex operating environment, mine action coordination is a priority strategic outcome for UNMAS UNAMA. In the reporting period, the UNMAS-led MATC significantly strengthened mine action coordination, enhancing the sector's effectiveness through prioritization and quality management of humanitarian mine action. MATC responded to over 2,500 urgent requests for mine action support, including 66 requests from humanitarian agencies. This coordination effort facilitated the delivery of aid and services in a prioritized and principled manner.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Pursuant to the programme strategic outcome on the mitigation of the threat of explosive ordnance, UNMAS cleared 46 hazardous areas and destroyed 4,127 ERWs in Kunduz, Baghlan, Balkh, and Faryab provinces. Additionally, 4.4 square kilometres of land, including areas near 28 schools, were returned to productive use, with 3.21 square kilometres resurveyed. These initiatives have allowed local population to safely use areas previously contaminated by explosive ordnance, facilitate agricultural production, support food security, and enable resettlement.

With operational funding through the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UNMAS reached 15,192 people with EORE, including 11,269 children (6,297 boys, 4,972 girls) and 3,923 adults (1,676 men, 2,247 women), enhancing their knowledge on how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance and protect themselves from injury.



Photo: Clearance operation in Sangarkhil village, Puli Khumri district. Photo: UNMAS Afghanistan
(explosives): Clearance worksite Naseri village, Kunduz district. Photo: UNMAS/DAFA

BURKINA FASO



CENTRE NATIONAL DE DEMINAGE



Group photo training Burkina Faso. Photo: UNMAS

Overview

The security situation in Burkina Faso continued to deteriorate through 2024, marked by ongoing attacks by non-state armed groups affecting 12 of the 13 regions. This deterioration exacerbated a severe humanitarian crisis characterized by widespread displacement, food insecurity and human rights violations. By 2024, over 2.4 million people were internally displaced, with 6.3 million in need of humanitarian assistance, including three million facing severe food insecurity. The use of IEDs by armed groups further intensified these challenges.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Burkina Faso in 2019 as part of the UN Secretary General's Emergency Task Force for Burkina Faso and following the request of the Government of Burkina Faso to support national capacities, specifically defence and security forces to address the increasing explosive threat. Additionally, at the request of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNMAS provided a comprehensive explosive ordnance risk education response for at-risk communities and humanitarian workers.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2024 were made possible thanks to funding support from Canada, and the Republic of Korea. The UNMAS programme in Burkina Faso was discontinued due to a lack of funding on 31 July 2024.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN BURKINA FASO 2024

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE THREAT

UNMAS trained and mentored national security forces in IED threat mitigation and supported national defense and security institutions with the development of a national counter-IED strategy (2023–2027), which, pending final adoption by the Council of Ministers, laid the groundwork for a localized, comprehensive approach to addressing the increasing improvised explosive device threat across the country. To ensure that national actors are operating in compliance with international practices, UNMAS facilitated the development and adoption of eight National Mine Action Standards that are aligned with the International Mine Action Standards.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

In line with its strategic outcome related to EORE, UNMAS delivered a successful national EORE campaign and established a national accreditation system, which certified over 175 EORE providers. These initiatives enhanced the national capacity to conduct effective EORE programmes, building the knowledge of target local communities and humanitarian workers about the threat of explosive ordnance and safe behaviours.



UNMAS staff with EOD Officer in Burkina Faso. Photo: UNMAS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Since the emergence of the explosive ordnance threat in June 2020, the security landscape in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains complex. In 2024, explosive ordnance contamination continued to jeopardize civilian safety, hinder humanitarian assistance, and obstruct peacekeeping and development efforts. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) exacerbates the situation. Despite ongoing challenges, steady progress has been made in strengthening national capacities, promoting risk awareness and supporting the safe disposal of explosive ordnance and obsolete ammunition. These efforts, while significant, require sustained commitment to achieve long-term peace, security and stability in CAR.

Mandate

UNMAS is a component of MINUSCA, operating in line with Security Council resolution 2759 (2024), which mandates the Mission to protect civilians, support the extension of state authority, facilitate safe humanitarian access, and create conditions for sustainable peace. UNMAS MINUSCA works to mitigate explosive ordnance threats, enhance national capacities, and provide support for weapons and ammunition management (WAM).

Funding

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

Explosive ordnance risk education Central African Republic. Photo: UNMAS

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN CAR 2024

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS IN LINE WITH A4P+

UNMAS MINUSCA enabled the Mission to operate safely in a complex security environment. UNMAS MINUSCA responded to 44 explosive ordnance incidents (60 per cent of total) and delivered 51 explosive ordnance threat mitigation courses for 1,144 peacekeepers (including 128 women). Additionally, UNMAS MINUSCA conducted 37 explosive ordnance risk awareness sessions for 897 United Nations Police and military observers (including 253 women), and provided pre-deployment training for the Tanzanian infantry battalion, which further enhanced peacekeepers preparedness.

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

UNMAS MINUSCA supported the enhancement of national ownership and the development of national capacity. More specifically, UNMAS MINUSCA supported the development of a National Mine Action Authority and trained 12 national trainers, 34 Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and 34 Internal Security Forces (ISF) personnel in explosive ordnance management.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS empowered local communities to better mitigate the risks posed by explosive ordnance by delivering targeted EORE to 20,652 civilians (3,629 women, 6,898 girls, 6,812 boys, 3,313 men). Additionally, it accredited 22 humanitarian EORE providers and improved explosive ordnance incident reporting mechanisms, thereby expanding the reach of EORE programmes, increasing the awareness of safe practices and delivering on the enhanced risk mitigation strategic outcome.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL WAM* GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

UNMAS MINUSCA enhanced the national capacity to manage weapons and ammunition safely. This included the safe destruction of 48,742 obsolete ammunition items, maintenance or rehabilitation of 17 weapons and ammunition storage facilities, and training of 141 defense and security personnel (including 15 women). UNMAS MINUSCA also supported the marking and registration of 748 weapons and conducted workshops to facilitate the decentralization of the National Commission for SALW. These initiatives helped to promote security sector reform and enable the gradual restoration and extension of state authority.

*Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM)



Explosive ordnance risk education
Central African Republic.
Photo: UNMAS

COLOMBIA



UNMAS staff promoting SDG 5. Photo: UNMAS Colombia

Overview

Colombia has made significant strides in addressing the explosive ordnance contamination following the 2016 Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia People's Army (FARC-EP). Despite such efforts, territorial disputes between non-state armed groups persist, and the use of explosive devices as a strategy to control territory and restrict mobility continues, particularly affecting indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and broader rural communities. In 2024, the number of reported explosive ordnance victims increased to 105 compared to 95 in 2023, with a notable rise in child casualties from 6 in 2023 to 24 in 2024, according to the official government data.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Colombia in 2010 at the request of the Resident Coordinator and the Government to support the presidential programme for mine action. UNMAS provides technical assistance to the national Mine Action Center within the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and the Colombian mine action sector. UNMAS also supports mine action-related aspects of the Peace Accord signed in 2016 between the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2024 were carried out thanks to funding from the European Union, through a joint programme with UNICEF, and the Central Emergency Response Fund.



WATCH VIDEO

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN COLOMBIA 2024

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE THREAT

To support a mine action sector that is coordinated, prioritized, principled, and effective, UNMAS continued to strengthen the national mine action capacity through technical assistance and capacity-building. This included training mine action organizations on quality management, gender, and humanitarian law, and training 16 Colombian Army engineers on humanitarian demining. By facilitating the inclusion of mine action in 74 local development plans and in the Humanitarian Response Plan for Community Priorities, which is an integrated strategy developed jointly by the Government of Colombia and the Humanitarian Country Team, UNMAS contributed to developing a more targeted and victim-centred national response to assist the needs of the most vulnerable communities affected by explosive ordnance.



SUPPORTING THE PEACE PROCESS

UNMAS supported peacebuilding efforts and the peace process in Colombia by contributing to the tripartite mechanism, which comprises Government, former FARC-EP representatives, and the United Nations, to gather information on types and locations of explosive ordnance. Additionally, UNMAS provided technical assistance to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and reintegration programmes of former combatants. These initiatives contributed to the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement as well as the broader Total Peace strategy.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

With thanks to the generous contribution by the European Union through a joint project with UNICEF, UNMAS undertook victim assistance and EORE interventions, reaching 198 victims and 13,874 vulnerable communities, while safety campaigns reached 432,900 people with life-saving messages.

UNMAS organized International Mine Action Awareness Day Forum at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota. The forum addressed the Contributions of Mine Action to Peacebuilding in Colombia. Photo: UNMAS Colombia

CYPRUS



UNFICYP peacekeeper participating in anti-landmine campaign in Cyprus. Photo: UNMAS/UNFICYP

Overview

Despite efforts to resolve the Cyprus conflict, a long-lasting solution is yet to be achieved. However, relations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities have improved over time. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continues to focus on preventing further conflict between the two communities and working towards a return to normalcy. In this process, mine actions serves as a confidence-building measure.

Mandate

UNMAS has been a component of UNFICYP since 2016, providing expertise in mine action planning, coordination, quality assurance of demining operations, and management of mine action information. Security Council resolution 2771 (2025) extended the Force's mandate by one year and urges stakeholders to work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus.

Funding

UNMAS UNFICYP activities in 2024 were funded through assessed contributions to the UNFICYP budget.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN CYPRUS 2024

Following the suspension of UNFICYP demining activities in the buffer zone in October 2017, in line with UNFICYP mandate, UNMAS UNFICYP has focused on mapping and surveying explosive threats, providing technical advice, offering quality assurance on mine clearance to relevant actors in both the north and south, EORE, threat assessment and management, and overseeing the data management of mine action information.

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS IN LINE WITH A4P+

UNMAS UNFICYP enabled the Mission to carry out its mandate in a safe and effective manner by equipping both police and military contingents with knowledge on mine and ERW awareness. This included training, emergency protocols, and guidance on marking procedures, ensuring that peacekeepers operated safely in the buffer zone. UNMAS UNFICYP also maintained minefield fencing in the buffer zone, further strengthening the security of peacekeeping operations.

SUPPORTING PEACE PROCESS

UNMAS UNFICYP provided technical advice supporting UNFICYP efforts to liaise with both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, advocating for mine action as a confidence-building measure as part of the peace process. Additionally, UNMAS UNFICYP supported the Committee on Missing Persons by facilitating safe investigations and exhumations in mine-contaminated areas, aiding community reconciliation.



Chief of Mine Action (UNMAS) Cyprus trains peacekeepers on landmines and unexploded ordnance found in the buffer zone in Cyprus. Photo: UNMAS/UNFICYP

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



UNMAS officers in MONUSCO prepare pits to destroy ammunition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Photo:UNMAS/MONUSCO

Overview

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) faces a legacy of armed conflict, including widespread contamination by ERW and landmines, SALW proliferation, and growing IED threat. Armed groups are increasingly using tactics like vehicle-borne IEDs and drone-delivered devices, targeting military camps and IDP camps in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu in eastern DRC.

Mandate

Since 2002, UNMAS has been an integral part of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). UNMAS operates in accordance with the MONUSCO mandate in Security Council resolution 2765 (2024), which prioritizes the protection of civilians in its area of deployment; and supports the stabilization and strengthening of State institutions, key governance, and security reforms.

Funding

UNMAS activities in the DRC in 2024 were funded through assessed contributions to the MONUSCO budget, voluntary contributions from the Republic of Korea, and in-kind contributions from Switzerland.



WATCH VIDEO

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS MONUSCO 2024

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND A4P+

UNMAS MONUSCO played a key role in enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers by providing explosive ordnance awareness to 429 MONUSCO personnel (74 women, 355 men) and destroying 1,547,303 rounds of obsolete small arms ammunition for the MONUSCO troops.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS MONUSCO contributed to ensuring that the explosive ordnance threat is minimized for communities at risk. UNMAS MONUSCO provided EORE to 124,973 people (25,388 women, 23,737 men, 37,398 girls and 38,450 boys) in Ituri, South Kivu, and North Kivu as well as 454 leaders of IDP camps. Additionally, UNMAS MONUSCO cleared 838,342 square metres of land, completed 351 non-technical survey tasks and 370 EOD spot tasks, and destroyed 44,023 items of ERW and 18 IEDs.

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

UNMAS MONUSCO enabled the United Nations and humanitarian partners to respond effectively to explosive threats by training 1,461 United Nations personnel (368 women, 1,093 men) in explosive ordnance awareness.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT AND THE WAM ARCHITECTURE AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

UNMAS MONUSCO provided assistance to the National Coordination Committee for Counterterrorism in developing a national counter-IED strategy and supported the Congolese Mine Action Center to develop and validate an implementation plan for mine action, while also training 448 NDSF personnel in explosive ordnance awareness.

Additionally, UNMAS MONUSCO supported the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (CNC-ALPC) to develop the National Action Plan for 2024–2028. UNMAS MONUSCO also supported the marking of 3,440 weapons and the safe storage of 5,720 state-held weapons; the training of five personnel from national defense and security forces on Training of Trainers (ToT) and 52 security personnel (seven women, 45 men) on physical security and stockpile management and the destruction of 119,625 rounds of obsolete small arms ammunition. All these initiatives are significant steps towards enhancing national ownership in effective weapons and ammunition management.



AFRILAM staff search for ammunition on the Plaine de la Ruzizi in Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo: UNMAS/MONUSCO

Ammunition incinerator. Photo: UNMAS/MONUSCO

ETHIOPIA



UNMAS established a hotline in Ethiopia for people to report unexploded ordnance. An UNMAS Operations team visits the Adar woreda to provide education and to carry out an assessment. Photo: UNMAS

Overview

Internal and international armed conflicts scattered landmines and ERW across Ethiopia. The outbreak of conflict in November 2020 in the Tigray region, which spilt over into the neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions in 2021 and remains ongoing in Amhara, has added new layers of explosive ordnance contamination that poses an immediate threat to life and livelihoods. According to both national and regional authorities, mapping of the explosive ordnance contamination and clearance remain crucial for the establishment of lasting peace and the return and resettlement of IDPs.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Ethiopia in 2021 upon request from the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, who endorsed a request from the Ethiopian government to support the mapping of legacy contamination and support a broader mine action response following the 2020 outbreak of the conflict in Tigray. In correspondence dated 23 October 2024, the Ethiopian Ministry of Defense requested UNMAS to support the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) with: accrediting mine action NGOs to ensure compliance with international and national standards; enhancing EMAO's quality management system; and supporting EMAO's information management system, including by temporarily hosting mine action data.

Additionally, the NGOs look to UNMAS to coordinate MA AoR and strengthen the MA AoR communications and outreach to ensure widespread awareness of the scale and nature of the problem.

Funding

Canada, Denmark and Japan generously supported UNMAS activities in Ethiopia in 2024.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN ETHIOPIA 2024

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE THREAT

Through close partnership with the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), six international NGOs were accredited to implement mine action activities, formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated November 2024. UNMAS supported EMAO in strengthening its ability to manage and coordinate the national mine action sector, including through the development of Ethiopia's first National Mine Action Standards. A total of twelve technical standards and two Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were finalized and handed over to EMAO in December 2024, covering key areas such as land release, information management, EORE, EOD, and the safe handling of explosives.

UNMAS also supported EMAO in building the systems and skills needed to operationalize these standards. In line with the Government's request, this included training EMAO staff on quality assurance, information management, and operational oversight; supporting improvements to the national contamination database. To improve the accuracy and coordination of contamination reporting across the humanitarian sector, UNMAS also trained 147 personnel (19 women and 128 men) from United Nations agencies, local and national government entities, and NGOs on information management systems, reporting and data validation requirements.

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

UNMAS contributed to enhancing the understanding of explosive risks by United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes and partners by delivering EORE to 1,042 humanitarian personnel (231 women and 811 men). These efforts supported the delivery of basic services to at-risk civilians in accordance with the programme's strategic outcomes. Additionally, 377 casual labourers (84 women and 93 men) from UNDP and UNOPS involved in the refurbishment of damaged infrastructure were provided with explosive hazard awareness training, ensuring their safety while working in potentially contaminated areas.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Minimizing the threat of explosive ordnance to conflict-affected people was another key focus and programme strategic outcome for UNMAS. During risk assessments, 1,169 items of explosive ordnance and 18 small arms ammunition were marked, with 381 items deemed safe to move and handed over to relevant local authorities. By training 81 personnel (25 women and 56 men) from local administration, women's associations, youth associations, schools, and local NGOs to deliver EORE, UNMAS ensured that risk awareness was expanded at the community level. As a result, 56,659 people (16,090 girls, 18,836 boys, 11,617 women and 10,116 men) were reached with EORE during 2,284 sessions, contributing to developing safe behaviours and reducing risk-taking.



Explosive ordnance risk education session in Tahtay Mayechew, Tigray, Ethiopia. Photo: UNMAS

An UNMAS explosive ordnance assessment team collected 147 mortars from the Geriro-Chifra woreda in Afar region of Ethiopia. Photo: UNMAS

IRAQ



An UNMAS woman deminer setting out to work in Iraq. Photo: UNMAS/Cengiz Yar



WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Explosive ordnance contamination continues to be one of the main impediments to implementing durable solutions for conflict displacement in Iraq. As of March 2024, 2,723 square kilometres of land were reported to be contaminated across Iraq, posing significant dangers to displaced populations, obstructing safe resettlement and recovery efforts. Explosive ordnance casualties in 2024 included 36 children: four girls and 17 boys killed, with 15 others (three girls and 12 boys) injured. As of 31 December 2024, approximately 1.03 million IDPs in Iraq had not returned to their areas of origin. Mine action is crucial for enabling reconstruction and development efforts, facilitating the return of IDPs and supporting the resumption of livelihood activities across the country.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Iraq in 2015 upon the request for support from the Government of Iraq to: provide advisory and technical support to the Iraqi national authorities and national operators to implement the national mine action response; deliver risk education to protect the local population from the dangers posed by IEDs and ERW; and provide explosive hazard management, inclusive of survey and clearance, in high priority areas to restore safe access and use of land and infrastructure.

Funding

Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and Sweden generously supported UNMAS activities in Iraq in 2024.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN IRAQ 2024

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

UNMAS assisted the Government of Iraq in managing and prioritizing mine action efforts effectively. Specifically, UNMAS delivered 17 specialized training courses on mine action management targeting 218 police officers (including 30 women) from the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, and by facilitating six roundtable discussions for the Directorate for Mine Action and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency to review and update the National Mine Action Standards. Workshops on quality management and women's empowerment were organized for the National Mine Action Authorities and national implementing partners. UNMAS enhanced mine action coordination by facilitating the third Local Mine Action Support Group meeting and the Coordination Meeting for Mine Action in Iraq, which brought together relevant government entities, donor countries and mine action operators to discuss challenges, strategic issues, and funding. Moreover, 244 capacity-building training sessions in management, finance and operations were delivered to national NGOs, strengthening their capability to effectively implement mine action priority tasks.



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS activities directly contributed to the safe return of displaced people, improved livelihoods and safer communities as well as long-term development activities. A total of 1,442,810 square metres of land were cleared, removing 3,592 explosive ordnance items. EORE was provided to 16,112 Iraqis (including 4,319 women and 5,198 girls), making them able to mitigate the risks from explosive ordnance. The impact of clearance was also assessed, which showed that 2,606,987 square meters of land released in 2023 in Ninawa and Basra contributed to the return of IDPs and the use of land for agriculture, housing and infrastructure development.

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

UNMAS contributed to creating a safer operational environment for humanitarian actors by providing explosive ordnance awareness training to 47 humanitarian workers, including 15 women.

UNMAS Chief of UNMAS Iraq taking questions from Iraqi military officers.
Photo: UNMAS

LEBANON



A Chinese peacekeeper (UNIFIL - deminer) in Lebanon briefs his contingent on safety markers. Photo: UNMAS/UNIFIL

Overview

Legacy explosive ordnance contamination in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operations affects over 6.9 million square metres of land, posing a persistent threat to civilians, United Nations staff, and humanitarian personnel. During 2024, UNIFIL recorded over 39,000 trajectories of projectiles fired from south of the Blue Line, adding to existing unexploded ordnance contamination in southern Lebanon. The trajectories often reflect multiple projectiles from a range of weapons. The increase in contamination poses a grave threat to communities and UNIFIL operations and negatively impacts urgently needed humanitarian, stabilization, and development activities. By late 2024, nearly 900,000 people were displaced from their locations in Lebanon. Following the cessation of hostilities in November 2024, an estimated 650,000 displaced people returned to their homes. Many of the displaced faced significant obstacles upon returning home due to extensive damage or destruction to housing units and civilian infrastructure, and the presence of explosive ordnance.

Mine action efforts are essential to ensure the safe return of communities and the protection of civilians and humanitarian and United Nations personnel.

Mandate

As a component of UNIFIL, UNMAS operates in accordance with mandates outlined in relevant Security Council resolutions. Accordingly, UNMAS UNIFIL promotes the safety and efficiency of demining operations conducted by UNIFIL contingents by providing civilian oversight, quality assurance, validation, technical expertise, as well as coordination and liaison with national mine action authorities. The primary focus of UNIFIL demining contingents, with UNMAS UNIFIL support, is to ensure freedom of movement for the peacekeepers throughout the area of operations, including access to the Blue Line. When possible, and in coordination with Lebanese authorities, demining contingents also assist in clearing areas within the UNIFIL area of operations that pose threats to civilians. UNMAS oversight of the demining undertaken by contingents is a condition for the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) to release the cleared land for civilian use.

Funding

UNMAS UNIFIL activities in 2024 were funded through assessed contributions to the UNIFIL budget.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS UNIFIL **2024**

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS IN LINE WITH A4P+

UNMAS UNIFIL delivered on their programme strategic outcomes of enhancing the safety and operational effectiveness of UNIFIL through 18 explosive ordnance awareness training sessions targeting 203 United Nations personnel, including 48 women. Additionally, training, assessments, and accreditation were provided to 13 uniformed personnel from the demining teams and medics of the UNIFIL Cambodian and Chinese contingents, enabling the implementation of clearance activities in the region and leading to better protection for the population in southern Lebanon. UNMAS UNIFIL also advised the Mission on contingency planning on weapons and ammunition management and post-conflict operational planning and response.

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

UNMAS UNIFIL also played a crucial role in supporting humanitarian mine action organizations during hostilities through critical contingency planning. Liaison with the LMAC and mine action stakeholders ensured effective information-sharing and effective operations coordination.



The Director of UNMAS on a visit to UNIFIL, with UNMAS and Chinese deminers. Photo: UNMAS/UNIFIL

LIBYA



Standing together making strides towards informed communities. Chief of UNMAS Programme Libya with some of her staff, and the representative of the Spanish embassy, after an explosive ordnance disposal training in Libya.

Photo: UNMAS Libya

Overview

Following the 2011 revolution in Libya that led to the collapse of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime, Libya possessed the world's largest unsecured stockpiles of arms and ammunition. Subsequent periods of intense fighting led to widespread ERW contamination, including in urban areas. More than 678 square kilometers have been identified as hazardous areas, with the most highly contaminated areas in Tawergha (middle), Murzuq (southwest) and Derna (east). There were 19 explosive ordnance accidents in 2024 causing 17 deaths and 26 injuries (20 of 43 victims were children).

In addition, fueled by the general availability of military-grade explosive material, several armed groups have used IEDs. ERW contamination poses a significant threat to civilians, particularly children, hinders the return of IDPs and obstructs efforts towards long-term stabilization, rehabilitation, and development in all parts of Libya. Vital infrastructure, such as water and electricity services, hospitals, schools, markets, and homes continue to be affected.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Libya in March 2011 and was integrated into the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) in July 2012. In Security Council resolutions 2755 (2024), 2570 (2021) and 2542 (2020), UNSMIL is mandated to, *inter alia*, "provide support in securing uncontrolled arms and related materiel and countering their proliferation", coordinate assistance and advice to "efforts to stabilize post-conflict zones", and to "provide support to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the Libyan-led and Libyan-owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism".

Funding

UNMAS UNSMIL activities in 2024 were funded through assessed contributions to the UNSMIL budget and through voluntary contributions from Spain and the United States of America that were provided to UNMAS prior to 2024.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN LIBYA 2024

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

UNMAS UNSMIL activities increased the national capacity to reduce the risk of explosive ordnance by providing standardizing mine action training materials to the Mediterranean 5+5 Humanitarian Demining Training Centre in Tripoli and supporting its trainingcourse on the role of Non-Technical Survey in the Land Release Process in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards.

Thanks to the contribution received from the United States of America, UNMAS trained 56 forensic police officers (including five women) and mentored another 16 forensic police officers on advanced device scene incident management training.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Thanks to generous funding from Spain, UNMAS collaborated with the Libya Mine Action Centre and NGO Libyan Peace Organization to deliver EORE to 784 Sudanese refugee students (413 boys and 371 girls) at Al-Ukhwa School in Tripoli, equipping them with the knowledge to recognize and avoid explosive hazards.



Student participating in a risk education session lead by UNMAS.
Photo: UNMAS Libya

MALI



UNMAS, DanChurchAid (DCA) and AVENIR (two non-governmental organizations) personnel at an explosive ordnance risk education training of trainers opening ceremony in Segou, Mali. Photo: UNMAS Mali

Overview

In 2024, the explosive threat posed mainly by IEDs continued to escalate, spreading beyond northern and central Mali to the southern and western regions and increasingly targeting major roadways, creating significant challenges to civilian safety. In 2024, the number of explosive ordnance incidents reached 333, resulting in 351 civilian casualties, affecting primarily the Mopti and Ségou regions. These hazards not only endanger civilians but also disrupt humanitarian efforts, undermine development and stabilization initiatives, and intensify the psychological and socio-economic burdens on affected communities.

Mandate

Following the closure of MINUSMA in 2023, UNMAS redeployed to Mali in October 2024 at the request of the Government of Mali to support the Permanent Secretariat Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SP-CNLP) and the national humanitarian mine action response.

Funding

The United States of America (USAID) supported UNMAS activities in Mali in 2024.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN MALI 2024

NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND MINE ACTION COORDINATION

UNMAS supported national mine action coordination by strengthening the institutional capacity of the SP-CNLP and progressing toward the establishment of a National Mine Action Centre (NMAC). The MA AoR and Mine Action Working Group (GT-LAMH) was re-established, and in collaboration with the SP-CNLP, UNMAS coordinated humanitarian mine action amongst 19 NGOs and INGOs and stakeholder information management system was established and UNMAS strengthened data collection in the sector and provided information products and regular updates on explosive ordnance incidents and civilian casualties to the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the United Nations country team (UNCT) and national authorities. As MA AoR lead, UNMAS ensured that the mine action interventions were prioritized in line with the humanitarian principles, which led to increased support for vulnerable communities, better humanitarian access, and a more efficient national response to explosive ordnance. Mine Action needs were reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2025 along with the sector gaps and requirements.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

To minimize the explosive ordnance threat to civilian population, UNMAS partnered with DanChurchAid (DCA) trained 16 national NGO personnel and delivered EORE to over 7,000 at-risk individuals in the Segou and Bandiagara regions. This initiative strengthened local organizations' capacity to ensure that all civilian communities at risk are better informed about how to avoid the dangers of explosive ordnance.



Community Liaison Officers from AVENIR participating in the explosive ordnance risk education training of trainers in Segou, Mali.
Photo: UNMAS Mali

NIGERIA



Explosive ordnance risk education training for women and girls at Bayan Tasah Jummuat Mosque Biu Liga, Borno State, Nigeria.
Photo: UNMAS/CENSCOPE

Overview

Explosive ordnance in northeast Nigeria, primarily IEDs used by non-state armed groups, has resulted in numerous deaths and severe injuries to civilians, hampers the safe return of IDPs and restricts their freedom of movement. In 2024, there were 267 explosive ordnance incidents, including 197 IED incidents, resulted in 670 casualties. Civilians accounted for 62 per cent of these casualties, including 70 children. With 418 civilian casualties from explosive ordnance accidents recorded in 2024, this number of civilian casualties is the highest recorded since 2019.

Borno state accounted for 92 per cent of the explosive ordnance contamination in 2024.

Mandate

UNMAS deployed to Nigeria in 2018 following a request from the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. In September 2024, the newly established National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) requested UNMAS to continue providing technical support, including coordination of the MA AoR, advocacy, conducting quality assurance, accreditation, information management, and deploying mine action teams until NMAC becomes fully operational.

Funding

The European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, United States of America and partnerships with UNICEF and Leaving No One Behind - The Internal Displacement Solution Funds, generously supported UNMAS activities in Nigeria in 2024.

RESULTS OF UNMAS WORK IN NIGERIA 2024

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS reached 324,805 individuals (including 87,640 girls, 93,777 boys, 80,889 women and 62,499 men) with direct EORE sessions, and an additional estimated audience of 450,000 with risk education messages over the radio. UNMAS also provided multi-sectoral assistance to 46 explosive ordnance victims in northeast Nigeria.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE THREAT

UNMAS cooperated with the British Military Advisory and Training Team to train 46 Nigerian military instructors (including 44 men and two women) on explosive ordnance awareness. Additionally, 75 Nigerian security officers received EORE TOT, with 50 officers certified to deliver EORE (including seven women), further extending the reach of risk education to local populations and security personnel. The certified officers provided EORE to 1,936 local populations (1,067 men, 227 women, 474 boys, 168 girls) and 86 security officers (81 men, five women). EORE was integrated into the internal training curriculum of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, which ensures that these efforts remain sustainable.

MINE ACTION COORDINATION

As result of UNMAS's advocacy efforts, the Government of Nigeria established the NMAC in 2024. Additionally, UNMAS facilitated the integration of mine action gaps and requirements into durable solution strategies and state action plans of Borno and Yobe State governments. These initiatives ensure that relevant national and local entities manage the explosive threat effectively, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination – a key strategic outcome for the programme.



A cross section of Nigerian National Security forces and National Police who participated in a training of trainer course in Maiduguri Borno State Nigeria.

Photo: UNMAS oPt

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



WATCH VIDEO

Overview

The Occupied Palestinian Territory remains heavily impacted by explosive ordnance contamination. Since 7 October 2023, Gaza has experienced the most significant escalation of hostilities in decades. The widespread use of weapons and ammunition has contaminated numerous residential areas, civilian infrastructure, and humanitarian sites. In the West Bank, increased clashes have exacerbated contamination, including through the use of IEDs in refugee camps. Explosive ordnance contamination poses immediate threats to lives and hinders the delivery of humanitarian aid, rubble removal, and the safe mobility of 1.9 million IDPs (85 per cent of the population). Large-scale mine action is crucial to protecting civilians, enabling humanitarian operations and supporting recovery efforts.

Mandate

UNMAS established its presence in Gaza in January 2009 in response to the escalation of hostilities in late 2008 and the resulting contamination. In 2010, at the request of the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNMAS activities expanded to the West Bank, mapping minefields, facilitating the establishment of the Palestinian Mine Action Center (PMAC) and providing technical advice. Since October 2023, UNMAS has expanded its role and in 2024 UNMAS was designated by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator to lead the coordination of mine action. UNMAS continued to assist PMAC in fulfilling the obligations of the State of Palestine under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

Funding

Canada, the European Union, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, CERF, and the oPt Humanitarian Fund generously funded UNMAS activities in 2024.

A Palestinian Organization for Development (POD)/UNMAS Risk Education Officer teaches children about explosive hazards in Khan Younis (Gaza Strip).
Photo: UNMAS/POD

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN GAZA AND WEST BANK **2024**

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

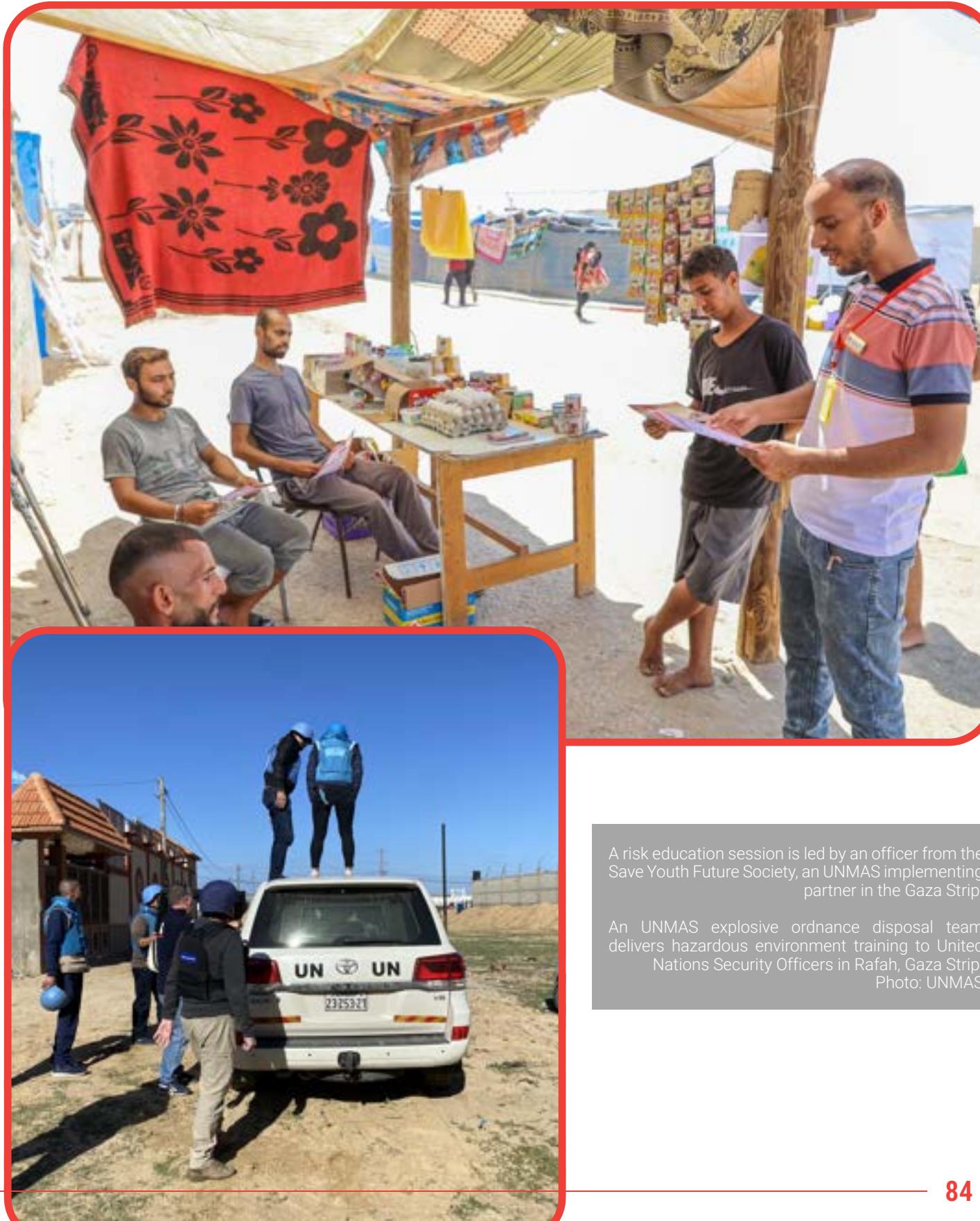
UNMAS enabled the United Nations and other humanitarian partners to safely deliver crucial humanitarian aid and basic services to the population by supporting 239 humanitarian convoys that delivered food, fuel and medical supplies; training 783 humanitarian workers on safe behaviours in explosive ordnance contaminated environments; supporting debris clearance at 116 sites, in a joint early recovery and reconstruction effort with UNDP; and conducting 289 explosive hazard assessments of critical infrastructure, including IDP shelters and hospitals.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS delivered EORE and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) training to 256,894 people in Gaza (including 80,350 women, 95,808 men, 37,605 boys and 43,131 girls), and 1,548 people in the West Bank (605 women, 519 men, 261 boys and 163 girls). The training equipped beneficiaries with knowledge of safe behaviours to adopt when faced with explosive ordnance risks. Moreover, 325 humanitarian workers were trained to deliver EORE in Gaza and 1.4 million people were reached with safety messaging through mass media campaigns in Gaza and the West Bank. The establishment of a 60-member youth committee to deliver EORE in West Bank refugee camps further contributed to strengthening community-based protection.

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

UNMAS supported the development of a West Bank strategy to assist explosive ordnance victims and the establishment of coordination protocols between PMAC and the Palestinian Authority's EOD Police in the West Bank. Additionally, 11 PMAC personnel were trained on gender-sensitive EORE development, enhancing the outreach of EORE efforts.



An risk education session is led by an officer from the Save Youth Future Society, an UNMAS implementing partner in the Gaza Strip.

An UNMAS explosive ordnance disposal team delivers hazardous environment training to United Nations Security Officers in Rafah, Gaza Strip. Photo: UNMAS

SOMALIA



An explosive ordnance disposal operator from UNMAS Somalia's implementing partner, Demineco Human Services (DHS), conducting clearance operations in Hirshabelle State, Somalia.

Photo: UNMAS Somalia.

Overview

In 2024, Somalia recorded 510 IED incidents, which posed a grave threat to the security, safety and freedom of movement of the civilian population, the Somali security forces (SSF) and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), which as of January 2025 transitioned to the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). IEDs, placed along main supply routes, rural tracks, and static locations, were indiscriminate, with civilians accounting for 54.2 per cent of the 767 IED-related casualties. Meanwhile, landmine contamination along the Ethiopia-Somalia border continued to be a critical issue, with 136 landmine-contaminated locations, covering 30.2 square kilometres. In 2024, there were 13 landmine and ERW accidents, with children representing 85 per cent of the 34 casualties.

Mandate

Mine action, particularly IED threat mitigation initiatives, remain critical to effective implementation of the Somalia Security Sector Development Plan and the transfer of security responsibilities to the SSF. UNMAS, which is an integral component of UNTMIS and UNSOS, supports the efforts of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS), the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSO) and the African Union to support the security transition as mandated by Security Council resolutions 2748 (2024) and 2753 (2024).

Funding

In 2024, UNMAS was primarily funded from UNSOS and UNTMIS budgets. Japan and the United Kingdom funded additional mine action activities in Somalia in 2024.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN SOMALIA 2024

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND A4P+

UNMAS strengthened the safety and security of peacekeepers by training 6,135 ATMIS personnel in explosive hazard awareness, EOD, mobility planning, and search capabilities. To sustain this capacity, 44 UNMAS-trained ATMIS instructors received explosive hazard awareness ToT courses and subsequently trained a further 1,465 ATMIS personnel, significantly expanding knowledge transfer. Operational mobility was bolstered through the assessment of 18 ATMIS forward operating bases, the provision of 42 explosive detection dog teams across Aden Adde International Airport and five ATMIS sectors, and the assessment of 186 main supply routes covering 1,810 kilometres. Collectively, these activities delivered on the programme strategic outcome of ensuring that African Union troop-contributing countries were better prepared to operate in an explosive hazard threat environment.



PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS contributed to reducing the risk of explosive ordnance to civilians by delivering 2,733 EORE sessions to 31,093 civilians (including 8,559 girls, 12,827 boys, 5,632 women, and 4,075 men) and distributing 2,708 risk education talking devices across 16 districts in the country, increasing access to safety messages in remote areas.

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

UNMAS strengthened the capacity of the Somali security sector to assume responsibility for security by training and equipping of 17 SSF teams in IED threat mitigation. Moreover, 2,725 SSF personnel received explosive hazard awareness from the UNMAS-trained SSF instructors. Additionally, UNMAS destroyed 951 explosive ordnance items (including 195 IEDs, one anti-personnel mine, eight anti-tank mines, 650 unexploded or abandoned explosive ordnance items, and 97 small arms ammunition) and conducted non-technical surveys in 42 locations covering 63.7 square kilometres.

With funding from Japan, UNMAS supported the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) to maintain operational capacity and advanced the implementation of the Federal Government of Somalia's action plan on APMBC Article 5 obligations.

A newly qualified trainer of trainers delivering explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training to Somali National Army personnel as part of UNMAS Somalia's explosive ordnance disposal and route search initiative.
Photo credit: UNMAS Somalia.

SOUTH SUDAN



WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Thirteen years after independence and six years after signing the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, the country continues to grapple with violence, economic hardships and barriers to peace, humanitarian and development priorities. Political and inter-communal violence, cross-border clashes, flooding, cholera and displacement from the Sudan conflict have strained the already fragile humanitarian response. In 2024, explosive ordnance contamination and widespread small-arms proliferation further endangered civilian safety and hindered humanitarian efforts. By the end of the year, over 22 million square meters of land were contaminated, obstructing the movement of civilians, IDPs, peacekeepers and aid workers. Immediate action is needed to ensure safety and facilitate the country's recovery.

Mandate

As an integral component of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the work of UNMAS is aligned with the Mission's core mandate objectives under Security Council resolution 2729 (2024). These include protection of civilians, creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, supporting the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and Peace Process, and monitoring, investigating, and reporting on violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights.

Funding

UNMAS UNMISS activities in 2024 were funded through assessed contributions to the UNMISS budget.

A meeting of UNMAS and G4S programme officers in Hai Masna, South Sudan. Photo: UNMAS South Sudan:

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS UNMISS **2024**

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND A4P+

To ensure that UNMISS operations proceed unimpeded by explosive ordnance, 1,013 kilometres of roads were surveyed and cleared, enabling 134 UNMISS patrols, covering 6,174 kilometres. Additionally, 274 helicopter landing sites and airstrips were surveyed for potential explosive ordnance contamination and 3,553 peacekeepers, including 681 women, were reached with landmine and ERW awareness training, which strengthened their preparedness and ability to operate safely in hazardous environments.

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

UNMAS UNMISS ensured safe access for humanitarian and United Nations actors to areas previously contaminated with explosive ordnance, by clearing 6,174 kilometres of roads and ensuring safe passage for aid delivery. Displacement camps in Malakal and Wedweil were surveyed and cleared in support of UNHCR, International Organization for Migration, and FAO projects, while assisting OCHA-led flood response efforts.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS UNMISS reduced risks to civilians by releasing 6.06 million square metres of land and removing 5,269 explosive ordnance items. These efforts rendered 376 agricultural areas, 31 clinics, 74 water sources, and 17 schools safe for use. Additionally, 389,245 civilians were reached with EORE, of which 89 per cent demonstrated enhanced knowledge on safe practices. Over 50,000 refugees were reached with emergency EORE, equipping them with critical skills to avoid incidents.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

To strengthen South Sudan's institutional capacity to lead and manage national mine action activities, UNMAS UNMISS assisted the National Mine Action Authority in the development of the South Sudan Mine Action Strategy (2024-2028) and the update of the 2024 National Technical Standards and Guidelines. These initiatives strengthened the ability of national institutions to coordinate and prioritize nationally owned humanitarian mine action activities.



The UNMAS South Sudan (UNMISS) programme team.
Photo: UNMAS South Sudan

SUDAN



An UNMAS officer participates in a level 4 explosive ordnance disposal refresher course.
Photo: UNMAS South Sudan

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

The armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, which began in April 2023 and spread to 14 states by 2024, has severely exacerbated an already critical humanitarian crisis. The indiscriminate use of explosive weapons has left ERW scattered across residential areas, infrastructure and essential services, endangering lives and hindering humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts. Over 6,700 explosive weapon events have been recorded since April 2023, with more than 13 million displaced persons at risk, especially children and IDPs. Returnees are often unaware of the dangers, while the ongoing violence has severely affected Sudan's mine action capabilities. Sixty-seven casualties were reported (23 killed, 44 injured), including two girls, 23 boys, five women and 24 men). Due to limited reporting mechanisms, actual figures are expected to be significantly higher.

Mandate

UNMAS was first established in Sudan in 2002 to build the national mine action capacity and to help Sudan meet its obligations under Article 5 of the APMBC. In 2021, UNMAS was integrated into the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). After UNITAMS mandate ended in December 2023, UNMAS continued operations in Sudan at the government's request, focusing on mine action interventions in support to humanitarian response.

Funding

Italy, Japan, Switzerland, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, CERF, the Sudan Financing Platform and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security generously supported UNMAS activities in Sudan in 2024.



RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN SUDAN 2024

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

UNMAS mitigated the threat of explosive ordnance and enabled safe access by reaching 190,436 civilians (52,846 girls, 43,060 boys, 50,341 women, 44,189 men), including 100 individuals with disabilities, with EORE sessions. As a result, 98 per cent of participants demonstrated improved knowledge of safe behaviours and 99 per cent reported safer mobility. Additionally, more than 5.2 million people were reached with safety messaging via radio broadcasts, community volunteers and other methods, increasing public awareness and safer practices.

Additionally, UNMAS surveyed priority areas, including roads, infrastructure, and residential zones with high returnee populations, including Omdurman, a heavily contaminated urban area. These efforts reduced civilian exposure to explosive threats and facilitated

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

UNMAS enhanced the safety of humanitarian partners and their ability to operate in contaminated environments by training 1,231 humanitarian personnel (299 women, 932 men) in explosive ordnance awareness, improving their ability to safely deliver aid in high-risk areas. UNMAS responded to 57 requests from humanitarian partners for explosive ordnance threat assessments, route verification and safety briefings, thereby supporting the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

In line with its strategic outcome to support the management of the mine action sector in a prioritized, principled and efficient manner, UNMAS reestablished the MA AoR and accredited six national partners to deliver mine action services. Additionally, UNMAS participated in 12 joint quality assurance visits with national authorities, ensuring that mine action operations by partners met operational standards. These initiatives supported the delivery of the strategic outcome to facilitate effective national management of the mine action sector.



Chief of UNMAS Sudan (left) standing next to colleagues and students who completed a training of trainers' course in Sudan.
Photo: UNMAS

SYRIA



A Syrian child with risk education material from UNMAS. Photo: UNMAS Syria

WATCH VIDEO

Overview

Explosive ordnance contamination remains one of Syria's most critical protection concerns, affecting 14.4 million people (over 65 per cent of the population), a 25 per cent increase from 2023. Explosive ordnance contamination restricts access to agricultural fields, roads, homes and essential services, and has impacted on the return of Syrian from neighbouring countries as well as humanitarian aid delivery and early recovery efforts.

The collapse of the regime in December 2024 has exacerbated contamination, particularly in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, Hama and Latakia, as retreating forces abandoned ammunition along major highways. As displaced populations begin to return, the number of explosive ordnance-related casualties has risen.

Mandate

At the request of the United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator in 2015, UNMAS established a programme, initially in Gaziantep, Turkey, under Security Council resolution 2165 (2014). In July 2018, UNMAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Syrian Arab Republic and deployed to Syria in October 2018. Since then, UNMAS has operated as an enabler of humanitarian and early recovery responses, fulfilling the role of the de facto Mine Action Center and providing advisory support to United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

Funding

Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Syria Humanitarian Fund and UNDP generously supported UNMAS activities in Syria in 2024.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN SYRIA 2024

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

UNMAS enhanced the national mine action capacity by accrediting five mine action operators. These efforts ensure that humanitarian mine action operations are carried out in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards, pending the formal adoption of National Mine Action Standards.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

To protect civilians from explosive ordnance and to enable humanitarian and early recovery access 59,230,494 square metres of land were surveyed and 642,301 square meters cleared, resulting in the removal of 810 unexploded ordnance and the destruction of 1,121.

Furthermore, UNMAS reached 21,726 people with EORE in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hama and Latakia, including 580 students and 402 returnees, allowing individuals and communities to adapt their behaviour to protect themselves from the risks posed by explosive ordnance. Some 189,768 risk education materials were distributed to 33 organizations, and 108 EORE facilitators were trained to deliver risk education to affected communities more effectively. Additionally, 439 refugees fleeing the conflict in Lebanon were provided with EORE at the Herjaleh Hosting Centre in Rural Damascus, with a total of 13,200 EORE kits distributed at border crossing points.

ENABLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS' RESPONSE

UNMAS deployed EOD experts to Aleppo's Old City, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, to support UNDP rubble removal efforts. During operations, 181 items of unexploded ordnance were removed, allowing the UNDP teams to operate safely.



Training a woman deminer in Syria. Photo: UNMAS Syria

A mural painted by UNMAS and UNICEF as part of an international mine awareness day (4 April 2024) commemoration. Photo: UNMAS

TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA



WATCH VIDEO

UNMAS officers seeking buried explosive ordnance in the Guelta Zemmur region of the Territory of Western Sahar.
Photo: UNMAS/MINURSO

Overview

The 1975–1991 conflict involving the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA), Mauritanian armed forces and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Sagüia el-Hamra y Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) resulted in extensive explosive ordnance contamination in the Territory of Western Sahara, including landmines and cluster munitions. In particular, the 1,465-kilometre sand berm dividing Western Sahara into eastern and western regions was heavily contaminated. The resumption of hostilities in 2020 created additional contamination. Clearance operations, which had been suspended with the start of hostilities in 2020, resumed in 2023 after extensive negotiations, enhancing safety for the movement of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) personnel and logistics east of the berm.

Mandate

UNMAS, a component of MINURSO, enables the safe implementation of the Mission's mandate east of the berm by reducing the threat of explosive ordnance in accordance with Security Council resolution 2756 (2024).

Funding

UNMAS MINURSO activities in 2024 were funded through the MINURSO assessed budget and a contribution from Spain for capacity enhancement of local partners.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS MINURSO **2024** (TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA)

ADVANCING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PEACEKEEPERS AND A4P+

UNMAS conducted clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance and ensured freedom of movement for MINURSO personnel through route verification, convoy escort, and provision of EORE. Additionally, UNMAS supported investigations of explosive incidents. UNMAS MINURSO cleared 31 hazardous areas (3 minefields, 28 battle/cluster strike areas) and released more than 3.8 million square metres of land. This led to the location and destruction of four anti-tank mines, 22 anti-personnel mines, 354 cluster munitions, and 27 explosive ordnance items.

Additionally, 14,161 square kilometres of roads were surveyed and deemed safe for the movement of MINURSO personnel and equipment. UNMAS delivered 45 EORE sessions to 187 newly arrived MINURSO personnel (144 men, 43 women), ensuring that they are well prepared to operate in a hazardous environment. Thanks to UNMAS achievements, no explosive-related incident affecting MINURSO personnel or equipment took place in 2024.

SUPPORTING LOCAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT

UNMAS provided technical guidance and mentoring to SMACO and the Sahrawi Mine Action Women's Team. Additionally, 14 facilitators were trained in provision of EORE to communities, and SMACO personnel received training on IMSMA reporting.



UNMAS implementing partners provide explosive ordnance risk education to transient populations in the Territory of Western Sahara.
Photo: UNMAS

UKRAINE



Overview

Ukraine is now one of the most heavily explosive ordnance-contaminated countries in the world. Landmines and ERW pose a grave threat to civilians, hinder agricultural development, and make reconstruction efforts more dangerous.

Mandate

UNMAS provides a Senior Advisor to the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, which coordinates the efforts of the United Nations Country Team to assist Ukraine's progress toward social and economic development, the observance of democratic standards, and its integration into the global community. The RCO is responsible for coordinating a multidisciplinary response to national needs and priorities, ensuring the implementation and monitoring of assistance strategies and programmes, which includes supporting the national mine action strategy and related efforts.

Funding

UNMAS activities in 2024 were supported through contributions to the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund.

A Ukrainian mine action specialist presents technology in humanitarian mine action in Zhytomyr Oblast, Ukraine.
Photo: UNMAS/Ministry of Economy of Ukraine

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMAS IN UKRAINE 2024

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION CAPACITY TO ADDRESS EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREATS

The Senior Mine Action Advisor served as the Secretariat to the Sector Working Group, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Resident Coordinator, and the Ambassador of Japan, and as Secretariat for the local Mine Action Support Group and the United Nations inter-agency coordination group for mine action in Ukraine. Additionally, the Senior Mine Action Advisor chaired several coordination mechanisms, including the Mine Action Working Group, international mine action NGO working group, and co-chairs the MA AoR.

The Senior Mine Action Advisor supported the development of a national mine action strategy, ensured that mine action efforts follow a structured and strategic approach, provided technical advice on the adoption of new technologies and methods to improve resource utilization, information management and data integration for resource allocation, prioritization, impact measurement and resource mobilization for the mine action sector.



Exhibition of explosive items prepared by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.
Credit: UNDP Ukraine

From left to right: a developer of innovative technology in humanitarian mine action, national media journalist, UNDP Mine Action Programme Manager, UNMAS Advisor, UNDP Mine Action Programme

YEMEN



Overview

Yemen remains severely contaminated by explosive ordnance, including landmines, ERW, cluster munitions, IEDs, and sea mines. Governorates that have experienced significant fighting, such as Al Hudaydah, Al Bayda, Al Dhale', Hajjah, Ma'rib, Sa'ada, Shabwa and Taiz, are most impacted. In the Hudaydah Governorate, the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) has regularly recorded landmine and ERW-related incidents. While there was a substantial reduction in casualties in 2023, more than 40 per cent of the 93 casualties recorded by UNMHA in Hudaydah for 2024 were women and children, killed and maimed by various explosive devices. In 2024, UNMHA continued its coordination role with local mine action authorities in Sana'a and Aden to increase advocacy for international mine action support through donor funding and international NGO interventions.

Mandate

UNMHA is mandated by Security Council resolution 2643 (2022), last renewed by resolution 2742 (2024), to "lead, and support the functioning of, the Redeployment Coordination Committee, assisted by a secretariat staffed by United Nations personnel, to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire, redeployment of forces, and mine action operations" Through its mine action advisor, UNMHA provides coordination support and technical advice on a range of mine action issues and liaises regularly with local mine action authorities in Sana'a, Aden and Hudaydah to share information on landmine and ERW threats in the governorate, including threats on both sides of the frontlines.

Funding

The Mission's mine action interventions in 2024 were funded through the UNMHA budget.

An event organised by UNMHA and UNMAS for Mine awareness Day in Yemen, 4 April 2024.
Photo: UNMAS/UNMHA

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF UNMHA IN YEMEN 2024

MINE ACTION COORDINATION

By conducting 227 mine action coordination meetings with local authorities, United Nations partners, NGOs and implementing partners in Sana'a, Aden, Hudaydah, Mokha, Al Khawkhah and Hays, UNMHA delivered on its strategic outcome of ensuring effective partnership, collaboration and strategic planning in mine action.

Additionally, UNMHA supported the safe operation of UNMHA in its Area of Responsibility by undertaking explosive ordnance risks assessments, providing EORE to Mission personnel, maintaining a database for landmine and ERW incidents in the Hudaydah governorate, and providing critical information for monitoring and response efforts.



UNMAS photos

CONTRIBUTIONS 2024

Introduction to the financial report

When UNMAS is integrated into peacekeeping and special political missions, funding comes from assessed contributions through appropriations made by the General Assembly. To fund other activities, including emergency responses, the Service depends on voluntary donor contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for Assistance in Mine Action.

As persistent and devastating conflicts plague various regions worldwide, flexible, sustained funding is essential to UNMAS's ability to manage complexity and build responsive programmes at the country level. UNMAS encourages its donors to consider multi-year contributions. Flexible unearmarked funding allows UNMAS to allocate resources to areas of great need but limited resources.

UNMAS is grateful to Andorra, Denmark, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Poland for providing unearmarked contributions.

UNMAS thanks Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States for providing in-kind personnel and Junior Professional Officers in 2024. UNMAS TMAT activities in 2024 were conducted with generous support from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan and the United States.

Gender parity efforts

UNMAS continued to take measures to achieve gender balance among its staff. In 2024, of the 53 posts at headquarters (including NY, Geneva, Brindisi and Entebbe), 30 were women (57 per cent). In the field, five of 21 Chiefs of Programmes were women.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNMAS 2024

| DONORS | AFGHANISTAN | BURKINA FASO | COLOMBIA | DRC | ETHIOPIA | MALI | IRAQ | NIGERIA | OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY | SOMALIA | SUDAN | SYRIA | UKRAINE | THREAT MITIGATION ADVISORY TEAM | EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED 2024 | UNEARMED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED 2024 | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| ANDORRA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$10,736 | | |
| BELGIUM | | | | | | | \$813,075 | | | | | \$813,075 | | | | \$1,626,150 | | |
| CANADA | | \$168,338 | | | | | | | \$726,805 | | | | | | | \$894,924 | | |
| DENMARK | | | | | \$2,001,340 | | \$3,165,264 | | | | | | | | | \$5,166,604 | \$4,384,913 | |
| ESTONIA | | | | | | | \$5,000 | | | | | \$5,000 | | | | \$10,000 | | |
| EUROPEAN UNION | | | | | | | | \$607,805 | \$2,894,400 | | | | | | | \$3,502,205 | | |
| FINLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | \$403,388 | | | | \$403,388 | | |
| FRANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$201,641 | | |
| GERMANY | \$1,116,610 | | | \$201,641 | | | | | | | | | | \$1,563,750 | \$2,680,360 | | | |
| ITALY | | | | | | | \$1,103,700 | | \$535,650 | | | | | | | \$1,575,350 | | |
| JAPAN | | | | | \$1,190,145 | | | \$650,000 | \$1,258,861 | \$240,000 | | | | | | \$3,339,006 | \$31,280 | |
| LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: The Internal Displacement Solutions Fund | | | | | | | | \$36,000 | | | | | | | | \$36,000 | | |
| LIECHTENSTEIN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$29,512 | |
| LUXEMBOURG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$753,340 | |
| NEW ZEALAND | | | | | | | \$474,926 | | | | | | | | | \$474,926 | \$907,800 | |
| OCHA* | \$1,000,000 | | | | | | | | \$300,000 | | \$800,000 | \$850,000 | | | | | \$2,950,000 | |
| POLAND | | | | | | | | | \$51,640 | | | | | | | | \$51,640 | \$51,640 |
| PORTUGAL | | | | | | | | | \$41,556 | | | | | | | | \$41,556 | |
| REPUBLIC OF KOREA | | \$50,000 | \$2,600,000 | \$50,000 | | | | | \$100,000 | | | | | | | | \$2,800,000 | |
| SPECIAL TRUST FUND FOR AFGHANISTAN | \$500,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$500,000 | |
| SUDAN FINANCING PLATFORM | | | | | | | | | | | \$649,566 | | | | | | \$649,566 | |
| SWEDEN | | | | | | | \$952,561 | | | | | | | | | | \$952,561 | |
| UKRAINE COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$325,815 | | | | \$325,815 | |
| UNDP | | | | | | | | | | | | \$252,159 | | | | | \$252,139 | |
| UNICEF | | | | | | | | \$220,000 | | | | | | | | | \$220,000 | |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | | | | | | \$859,193 | | \$513,994 | \$1,002,422 | | | | | | \$2,375,609 | |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | \$893,147 | | | | | | \$700,000 | | \$243,000 | | | \$1,256,145 | | | | \$1,727,512 | \$4,819,834 | |
| GRAND TOTAL (\$) | \$3,509,757 | \$168,338 | \$50,000 | \$2,801,641 | \$3,241,485 | \$700,000 | \$6,450,526 | \$2,616,028 | \$5,908,693 | \$753,994 | \$3,708,133 | \$2,323,602 | \$325,815 | \$3,291,262 | \$35,849,274 | \$6,169,221 | | |

*includes Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund; Syria Humanitarian Fund

ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| A4P+ | Action for Peacekeeping + Priorities for 2021-2023 |
| APMBC | Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention |
| CCM | Convention on Cluster Munitions |
| CCW | Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons |
| CLO | Community Liaison Officer |
| EDD | Explosive Detection Dogs |
| EO | Explosive Ordnance |
| EOD | Explosive Ordnance Disposal - the detection, identification, evaluation, render safe, recovery and disposal of explosive ordnance. |
| EORE | Explosive Ordnance Risk Education |
| ERW | Explosive Remnants of War - unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance |
| EWIPA | Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas |
| GPC | Global Protection Cluster |
| IACG-MA | Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action |
| IDPs | Internally Displaced Persons |
| IED | Improvised Explosive Device - A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract. |
| IEDD | Improvised Explosive Device Disposal |
| IMAS | International Mine Action Standards |
| MA AoR | Mine Action Area of Responsibility |
| MASG | Mine Action Support Group |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| MPTF | Multi-Partner Trust Fund |
| NDM-UN | International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NMAC | National Mine Action Centre |
| NTS | Non-Technical Survey |
| OCHA | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| OMA | Office of Military Affairs |
| SAA | Small Arms Ammunition – smaller than 20mm in caliber |
| SALW | Small Arms and Light Weapons |
| TMAT | Threat Mitigation Advisory Team |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| VTF | Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action |
| WAM | Weapons and Ammunition Management |



UNMAS PROGRAMME STRATEGY CORE ELEMENTS

ABYEI

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| VISION | UNISFA safely implements its mandate to ensure the peace and security of Abyei and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. |
| 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. |
| OUTCOMES | UNISFA mandate delivery is not impeded by explosive risk. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Zero movements, access, and deployments by UNISFA, JBVMM, humanitarians and civilians interrupted or cancelled as a result of mines or explosive remnants of war within the Abyei Area.Full deployment of UNMAS personnel to the JBVMM headquarters, sector headquarters and team sites to ensure effective support to the JBVMM whenever required.% and proportion of requests from UNISFA responded to (disaggregated by request type: WAM, training, route verification, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), ground patrols, destruction of un-exploded ordnance, etc.)Percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. |

AFGHANISTAN

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|---------------------------|--|
| VISION | A country free from the scourge of decades of explosive ordnance contamination, where the Afghan people can consolidate peace through the safe restoration of their livelihoods, unhindered by the remnants of war. |
| MISSION | Support existing mechanisms to improve the overall security situation in Afghanistan, in order to facilitate humanitarian and development initiatives. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanitarians and the local population safely use areas previously contaminated with explosive ordnance People at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance The mine action sector is coordinated, prioritized, principled, gender responsive and effective |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage reduction in civilian casualties from explosive devices compared to the same time in previous years Percentage and number of beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between safe and unsafe practices Number of tasks issued to IPs in response to requests made by the community and humanitarian organisations Percentage of responses to Mission requests on the assessment of explosive ordnance threats Number of men, women, girls and boys receiving in person explosive ordnance risk education Number of Community Impact Evaluation reports Number of IM products provided Number of in person EORE sessions delivered for returnees, host communities and IDPs Number of coordination meetings attended by MATC and UNMAS with MAPA IPs and humanitarian stakeholders at Kabul and regional level, including Mine Action Sub Cluster Meetings |

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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| VISION | MINUSCA operates safely and enhances the capacity of national authorities to mitigate the risks posed by explosive ordnance, as well as to manage weapons and ammunition safely and responsibly, thereby contributing to an improved security environment and protecting civilians. |
| MISSION | UNMAS supports the mitigation of explosive ordnance threats and the development of national capacity in weapons and ammunition management with an aim to facilitate the gradual restoration and extension of state authority, promote security sector reform, ultimately ensuring the transfer of responsibility from MINUSCA to the relevant national authorities, while also strengthening MINUSCA's capacity to operate safely. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAR authorities have enhanced capacity to manage weapons and ammunition safely and responsibly. • CAR authorities and communities have enhanced capacity to mitigate the risks posed by EO. • MINUSCA, UN agencies and humanitarian organizations are better prepared to operate safely in a complex security environment. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the implementation of the NATCOM-SALW national action plan • # of operational national sites dedicated to WAM with enhanced safety, security and/or management capacity • # and % of the number of EO incidents safely responded to by FACA with UNMAS support • # and % of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate increased knowledge between unsafe and safe practices • Progress made in the operationalization of the national mine action authority • # of UN personnel, and humanitarians with increased knowledge of explosive ordnance risk mitigation • % of the identified MINUSCA units trained in context-specific EOTM • # and % of the number of EO incidents safely responded to by MINUSCA |

COLOMBIA

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| VISION | Individuals and communities live free from the threat posed by explosive ordnance, and mine action contributes to the peace processes, enabling the extension of State authority to address the root causes of conflict in Colombia. |
| MISSION | UNMAS Colombia provides technical assistance to the national MAC and to the mine action sector generally and supports mine action related aspects of the peace processes. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mine Action sector is coordinated, prioritized, principled, and effective• Mine action enables the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement• Mine action contributes to Total Peace in Colombia |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % and # of municipalities benefitting from MA interventions that are prioritized in the HNO and/or the national mine action plan 2020-2025• % and # of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices• % and # of MA AoR organizations adopting age, gender and diversity-sensitive practices• # of ex-combatants contributing to MA and reducing the threat posed by explosive ordnance• % of MA-related aspects of peace processes under implementation• # of peace processes including MA provisions in the negotiation agenda |

CYPRUS

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|---------------------------|---|
| 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 | % and # of requests of support from UNFICYP responded to. |

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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|---------------------------|---|
| VISION | <p>State institutions in the DRC have enhanced capacity to address threats posed by EO, including IEDs and to manage weapons and ammunition securely.</p> |
| MISSION | <p>UNMAS in DRC enhances the ability of State institutions, with a focus on national defense and security forces, to fulfill their security responsibilities, and support affected communities to mitigate EO threats.</p> |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civilians and humanitarian actors in North Kivu and Ituri are less impacted by EO, including IEDs• State institutions demonstrate ownership to respond to EO• The Government of DRC's ability is strengthened to manage, secure and dispose of weapons and ammunition, in accordance with international guidelines, treaties and conventions• Safety of MONUSCO's personnel is enhanced |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• # and % of civilian casualties by EO reduced• # of actions identified in the national C-IED strategy and plan implemented• # of EO responses undertaken by State institutions• # of national initiatives implemented by the national commission with UNMAS support for the control of small arms and light weapons (CNC-ALPC) as per its national action plan (NAP)• # of national defense and security forces armories with adequate weapons storage• % of weapons seized and surrendered at the Mission's request registered and documented according to international standards• Maintain zero EO-related casualties among Mission personnel |

ETHIOPIA

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| VISION | The threat of EO is minimized for communities affected by conflict |
| MISSION | UNMAS assists national authorities to manage the sector to protect communities from the threat of explosive ordnance and ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian and development initiatives |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanitarian and development partners safely deliver basic services and at-risk civilians safely access basic services and livelihood activities in areas impacted by explosive ordnance. Conflict-affected people know how to mitigate explosive risks in their vicinity The Ethiopia Mine Action Office (EMAO) efficiently manage the humanitarian mine action sector in accordance with national standards and priorities, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % and # of requests for EHAT or technical support from humanitarian and development organizations positively responded to # and % of verified hotline calls addressed effectively by IP % of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices # of evidence-based inputs on treaty reporting # of accredited N/INGOs conducting EOD # of corrective actions verified after finding of non-compliance EMAO efficiently manages IMSMA |

IRAQ

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| VISION | <p>The Government of Iraq manages an efficient mine action sector that protects civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance and enables stabilization and development efforts to proceed unimpeded by explosive ordnance.</p> |
| MISSION | <p>UNMAS Iraq supports the development of a sustainable, well-coordinated national mine action sector and reduces the threat of explosive ordnance to civilians.</p> |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GoI coordinates, manages and allocates national financial resources to an efficient, well-coordinated and well prioritized MA sector.• National NGOs implement MA priority tasks effectively and efficiently with funds from the GoI and international donors.• Land is released for safe return of displaced persons and development activities and people are able to mitigate the risks from EO. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GoI describes full scope and scale of contamination in Iraq to relevant treaty forums.• # Federal Government of Iraq budget allocations provided towards operational mine action activities• # of NGOs meet the standards to compete successfully for UN grants and bilateral funding.• # of priority tasks assigned by GoI to NGOs in liberated areas and/or in support of return.• # sqm of land made safe for development activities and productive use.• # percentage of the displaced population that has returned to the liberated areas have safely returned to their places of origin and safely can access basic services.• # percentage of the +1M displaced people and at-risk populations in liberated areas, who demonstrate an increase in knowledge of safe practices. |

LEBANON

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|---------------------------|---|
| VISION | UNIFIL safely implements its mandate and achieves a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon |
| MISSION | UNMAS UNIFIL provides high quality operational and humanitarian mine action advice that enables UNIFIL to advance a stable and secure environment in southern Lebanon. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The population of southern Lebanon benefits from UNIFIL TCCs clearance of landmines and ERW that pose humanitarian risks in the UNIFIL area of operations.• UNIFIL operates safely in the area of operations |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the area safe from landmines and explosive remnants of war• Maintain zero incidents among UNIFIL military demining teams |

LIBYA

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| VISION | Libyan institutions effectively control weapons and ammunition, prevent illicit proliferation, and respond to the threat of explosive ordnance, enabling people in Libya to live in a safe environment conducive to sustainable peace and development. |
| MISSION | The UNSMIL Mine Action Programme supports Libyan institutions to take steps to secure and effectively manage stockpiles to prevent proliferation and unplanned explosions, clear explosive ordnance from hazardous areas to protect civilians, including IDPs, and advance Libyan reconstruction |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libyan institutions secure, manage, and mitigate the risks of arms and ammunition stockpiles • Libyan institutions reduce the risk of explosive ordnance • Support humanitarian activities and protection of UN and humanitarian personnel |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of identified and assessed Ammunition Storage Areas (ASA) secured, managed, and/or risks mitigated by Libyan institutions • Number of guidelines, procedures and standards related to arms and ammunition put in place and adopted by Libyan institutions in line with the international standards. • Percentage of requests in support of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) subcommittees to ensure preparedness when handling weapons and ammunition as part of the implementation of the Ceasefire agreement. • Number of issued technical standards, norms and systems for mine action sector in support to the Libyan institutions. • Percentage of trained personnel from Libyan institutions with a mine action mandate who demonstrate increased knowledge for their function in EO response • Percentage of requests in support of the 5+5 JMC Mine action subcommittee to reactivate of its engagement as part of the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. • Number of interagency plans with integrated mine action language and/or analysis. |

NIGERIA

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| VISION | National authorities protect civilians from the threat of explosive ordnance in northeast Nigeria. |
| MISSION | UNMAS Nigeria supports national capacities, including the security sector and civil society, and coordinates the mine action response in northeast Nigeria. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Relevant national and local entities manage the explosive threat, based on an accurate understanding of the scale and scope of explosive ordnance contamination.The immediate threat posed by explosive ordnance to civilians and humanitarian and development actors is mitigated. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Number and percentage of requests for EOD/IED threat mitigation responded to by national and local entities.Number of national and local entities with capacity to conduct an IEDD/EOD response.Percentage and number of beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices. |

MALI

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|---------------------------|---|
| VISION | <p>Safe, empowered Malian communities, free from explosive threats and supported by a strong, nationally led mine action capacity.</p> |
| MISSION | <p>To reduce the impact of explosive ordnance on Malian communities and facilitate safer humanitarian access through risk awareness, leading coordinated efforts with national and international partners to build Malians comprehensive mine action capacity, fostering sustainable national ownership over time.</p> |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MA AoR effectively coordinates mine action efforts to support vulnerable communities, enhancing humanitarian access and ensuring a more efficient response to explosive hazards.• People at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance• Enhanced National Ownership of the mine action activities in Mali• Identifications of EO victims, referral and victim care is provided to victims in need |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MA AoR is operational and enables mine action actors to coordinate needs assessments, share analysis, and coordinate their operations• Percentage and number of people at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance, demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices• Mine Action Coordination Centre is in place and national mine action strategy/plan is drafted• Number of explosive ordnance victims receive proper assistance and care |

PALESTINE

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|---------------------------|---|
| VISION | An Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) where the threat of explosive ordnance is minimized, enabling civilians, UN, and humanitarian partners to live and operate in a safe and secure environment |
| MISSION | To protect lives and support reconstruction efforts in the oPt by mitigating explosive ordnance threats, strengthening local (PA) institutions, and enhancing the safety and resilience of communities. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN and other humanitarian and/or reconstruction actors maintain or initiate critical functions to support the populations in the oPt, uninhibited by explosive hazards (Gaza) Conflict-affected people know how to mitigate the risk of explosive ordnance in oPt (Gaza and West Bank) Mine action authorities deliver in accordance with humanitarian/reconstruction priorities and safety standards (West Bank) |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of UN AFPs and other humanitarian actors that safely deliver aid and basic services to conflict affected populations, enabled by UNMAS. % and # of UN and humanitarian personnel with increased knowledge of explosive risk reduction to support their delivery of humanitarian programmes # of mine action actors with staff and equipment operating under MA AoR coordination, in accordance with humanitarian priorities and agreed standards (sector-wide SOPs) in Gaza # of critical infrastructure sites benefitting from UNMAS EO hazard assessments and risk mitigation measures. # of situational awareness reports, contamination maps provided to humanitarian/reconstruction partners to inform their safe movement and planning or to inform the tasking of operations % and # of people in oPt who demonstrate increased knowledge in risk reduction behaviours (gender and age disaggregated) % of NGO, commercial and/or UN operators delivering EORE in line with agreed standards and humanitarian or reconstruction priorities # of UN partner entities delivering tailored EORE products to their beneficiaries # of mine action civil society and humanitarian actors implementing the PMAC (WB) Mine Action Strategies (disaggregated by organization type) # of entities delivering mine action in WB that are accredited and quality assured by the PMAC Pending further assessment and planning of engagement with EOD Police: # of analysis, products and appropriate support interventions to EOD police in WB to mitigate EO threats. PMAC manages information on the EO threat in the WB effectively |

SOMALIA

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|---------------------------|--|
| VISION | Somalis are safer and more secure as a result of the increased ability of Somali national authorities and security services to reduce the threat posed by explosive ordnance, including IEDs. |
| MISSION | UNMAS in Somalia enhances the ability of ATMIS, and Somali Security Institutions towards the transition of security responsibilities, and support affected communities to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome 1: ATMIS TCCs are better prepared to operate in an explosive ordnance threat environment.• Outcome 2: The Government of Somalia has enhanced capability to assume responsibility for mitigating the risks of explosive ordnance.• Outcome 3: Communities experience reduction of the threat posed by explosive ordnance. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.# and % of IEDs encountered without ATMIS casualties.• 1.b # of IED threat mitigation and EOD training and mentoring teams deployed in support of ATMIS and in line with ATMIS drawdown and transition.• 2.a # of SSF explosive threat mitigation teams with enhanced capacity to respond to explosive ordnance in line with the National Security Architecture and Somalia Transition Plan.• 2.b Progress in the development and implementation of national counter-IED and weapons and ammunition frameworks in support of the Government of Somalia.• 3.a # and % percentage of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices.• 3.b Progress towards the implementation of the FGS national action plan on APMBC Article 5 obligation noted in the States Parties meeting's report. |

SOUTH SUDAN

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|---------------------------|--|
| VISION | South Sudan is free of known ERW contamination and can independently address residual EO contamination in all its forms, enabling communities to live safely and the peace process to be implemented responsibly. |
| MISSION | UNMAS South Sudan supports the safety and security of peacekeepers and communities from EO and enables the NMAA to coordinate and prioritize HMA. |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Humanitarian actors and civilians have safe access to areas previously contaminated with EO.UNMISS uniformed and civilian operations proceed unimpeded by EO.Mine action contributes to South Sudan peace process. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">% and # of responses to requests from NMAA, humanitarian entities and communities for support to release land that contributes to safe and secure environments for communities and enhances IDP return and reintegration.# of EORE beneficiaries and % that demonstrate increased knowledge regarding safe practices.Maintain zero casualties among mission personnel related to EO.% and # of responses to requests from Mission for support.# of taskings issued by NMAA that prioritize protection of civilians |

SUDAN

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|---------------------------|---|
| VISION | <p>The Sudanese population lives free of the threat of explosive ordnance</p> |
| MISSION | <p>UNMAS Sudan enables the mobility of UN and humanitarian partners to deliver free from the risk of explosive ordnance contamination and supports protection of civilians and the effective national management of the mine action sector.</p> |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People at risk know how to mitigate the threat of explosive ordnance.• The United Nations and the local population safely access areas contaminated with explosive ordnance.• The Mine Action sector is managed in a prioritized principled and efficient manner.• Victim Assistance is supported within the MA sector |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of EORE beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices (SADD)• % of local populations surveyed who report that they feel safer as a result of mine action interventions delivered• % of released land and infrastructure that are safely used by affected population and/or humanitarian actors• % of requests to address EO contamination from UN and other humanitarian actors responded to.• # % of operational HMA actors reporting achievements to IMSMA and MA AoR• # of MA actors actively delivering VA to EO victims in line with the new VA strategy. |

SYRIA

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|---------------------------|---|
| VISION | <p>The Syrian population benefits from safe access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.</p> |
| MISSION | <p>UNMAS in Syria enables humanitarian and early recovery partners to deliver free from the risk of EO contamination.</p> |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coherent approaches to Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) are implemented, and HMA actors are operating with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) until National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) are officially adopted.• Individuals, communities, and UN personnel adapt behavior to protect themselves from the risks posed by explosive ordnance• Humanitarian and early recovery actors safely deliver aid and services (humanitarian and livelihood) |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• % and # of HMA actors accredited and operating with SOPs in line with NMAS or IMAS until NMAS are officially adopted• # of National Mine Action Standards developed with the assistance of UNMAS• % of risk education beneficiaries that demonstrate an increase in knowledge between unsafe and safe practices, disaggregated by demographics.• # of surveys/ assessments conducted by UNMAS and its HMA partners in support of humanitarian and early recovery activities. |

WESTERN SAHARA

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|---------------------------|---|
| 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">Reduced threat posed by landmines and explosive ordnance (EO), improving security and accessibility within the Territory.Local capacities support mine action programme. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Percentage of patrols undertaken by MINURSO military observers without explosive ordnance incidents.Additional square meters of surface and subsurface area free from known threats of landmines and EO, in order to facilitate the monitoring of the ceasefire and to ensure safe passage for UN personnel. |

YEMEN

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| VISION | <p>The parties to the Agreement on the City of Hudaydah and the Ports of Hudaydah, Al Saliff and Ra's Issa implement their commitment to mine action.</p> |
| MISSION | <p>Mine Action supports UNMHA to effectively and safely monitor the ceasefire and encourage both parties to implement their mine action commitments per the Hudaydah agreement.</p> |
| OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">UNMHA operates safely in its Area of Responsibility.UNMHA advocates for compliance with the demining commitments in the Hudaydah Agreement (supports demining of the ports) and in its Area of Responsibility.UNMAHA advocates for partnerships among donors, international operators and national and de facto authorities to address in Hudaydah and across the country. |
| OUTCOME INDICATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Zero explosive ordnance related incidents among UNMHA personnel.100% requests from YEMAC/YMACC (Sana'a and Aden) and RCC members for technical advice on demining of the ports and other areas within the governorate responded to. |



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