Overview of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War in Iraq

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Foreword

On behalf of the Government of Iraq, it gives me great pleasure to present this important publication “Overview of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War in Iraq,” which has been prepared by UNDP and UNICEF in consultation with the Ministry of Environment.

Iraq is one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world with landmines and Explosive Remnants of War, as a consequence of the numerous conflicts that have been fought within its borders, the shear magnitude of the problem is enormous, to which we have still to grasp its full extent due to the limitations of reliable resources and national capacity.

The impact has had its toll on the people of Iraq, both socially and economically, the hardships that many families have had to endure is overwhelming, development is being hindered as many agricultural lands, oil fields, lands ripe for investment are so heavily contaminated.

At the onset of Iraq’s ratification of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, we have been engaged in the very difficult task of seeing Iraq’s obligations to the convention fulfilled, this overview, even though not presenting the complete picture, it gives one a very clear indication of the enormity of the task ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank UNDP and UNICEF not only for preparing this overview, but for the greatly appreciated assistance in this very important issue.

Also, I would like to thank the Donor Countries for their aid and support in this cause, hoping that the information acquired from this overview will present an opportunity to extend their support even further and lead other Countries, Donors and NGOs to come on board and join the fight for a world free of mines.

Narmin Othman Hassan
Minister of Environment
Republic of Iraq
Executive Summary

Outline of the Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Situation in Iraq

In 2008, Iraq became State Party to the Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Under the terms of the Convention, Iraq must clear all areas containing, or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines before February 2018.

By joining the community of nations in this critical humanitarian covenant, the Government of Iraq has proved its firm commitment to Mine Action. However, the challenges to achieve the Convention’s goals in Iraq are substantial.

Available data on the number of mines and explosive remnants of war in Iraq suggest that it is amongst the world’s most contaminated countries. The partially-completed Landmine Impact Survey indicates that around 4,000 suspected hazard areas totalling 1,730 million square meters of land is contaminated, affecting the daily lives of 1.6 million Iraqis.

The humanitarian toll, particularly on children’s lives, health and education, from mine and explosive remnants of war-related deaths and injuries is matched by the economic cost as mined oilfields and farmlands lie un-developed, communications and electricity lines are disrupted and the fundamental work of recovery is undermined. Iraq cannot afford to bear this cost in the future, if it wishes to restore its full socio-economic potential after years of conflict.

Iraq’s Mine Action programme has been active for several years. However, it is hampered by:

- A lack of reliable data on the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war, which can disguise the scale of the problem,
- Insecurity, which has limited the scale of Mine Action operations,
- The absence of a legalized oversight authority and regulatory framework for Mine Action in Iraq, which has affected Mine Action operations and hampered political cooperation between relevant ministries to achieve Mine Action goals, and
- The current suspension of civilian demining operations by the Iraqi Ministry of Defence, which will make it even harder for the Government of Iraq to meet its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Moving forward quickly on Mine Action in Iraq is essential - to prevent further loss of life and liberate the country’s economic resources. This will require a multi-dimensional approach with full support across the entire spectrum of government.

The Way Forward

In order for the Government of Iraq to counter the threats of the mine and explosive remnants of war situation in a structured and coordinated way, a wider and deeper involvement of all stakeholders in a nation-wide Mine Action program is required.
First, a legalized national Mine Action framework, policy and strategy is needed in Iraq as a matter of urgency. National Mine Action standards and an accreditation system for Mine Action operators are vital to achieve success. Providing the people of Iraq with education on the risks and threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war and implementing measures to mark, fence, and protect hazardous areas in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention should also be a high priority, including the provision of support to mine and explosive remnants of war victims. Finally, given the wide-ranging impact of mines and explosive remnants of war, it would be critical to account for this in the upcoming National Development Plan.

Regarding Iraq’s internal discussion on whether its Mine Action programme should be under a civilian or military lead, it is clear that both civilian and military authorities should have a clear role, a civilian lead on regulation and implementation is a feasible and workable method for Iraq. This system is already functioning very well in the Kurdistan Region under the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (Erbil and Dahuk) and the General Directorate for Mine Action in Sulaymaniyah. On the contrary, the Directorate for Mine Action under the Ministry of Environment is in a weaker position without a clear legal authority. We very much welcome the initiative by the Ministry of Environment to re-structure and re-organize the Directorate.

The task at hand is difficult, hazardous and on a unique scale. Success will come slowly and at a cost. However, Iraq has the resources and capacity to make remarkable progress over the years ahead, if it resolves some of its key political and operational issues around Mine Action. Support from the international community will be essential to help Iraq resolve these issues and fund a major Mine Action effort. Donors will also expect the Government of Iraq to begin co-financing this programme in the very near future.

The ultimate goal of all stakeholders is to bring Iraq to a state “free from the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war”. This is the only way to ensure a safe environment for socio-economic revival, security and human development for all.
UNICEF and UNDP prepared this report, in consultation with the Minister of Environment, to highlight the little recognized problems of landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Iraq, and how they negatively impact on the daily lives of Iraqis and impede the reconstruction and development of the country.

Mine Action is a collective term used internationally to refer to mine and explosive remnants of war clearance, Mine Risk Education, Mine Victim Assistance, destruction of mine stockpiles, and advocacy against the use of mines.

The report’s intention is to be read by Iraqi policy makers at the national, provincial and local levels, in order for them to take problems of landmines and explosive remnants of war into account when making policies and development plans. This document is also targeting Iraqis in general, to increase the public awareness of the extent of the problem, as well as their rights and responsibilities.

Another key audience are the international community, non-governmental organisations, aid agencies and national governments supporting the reconstruction and development of Iraq. This country needs their assistance, as provided for in Article 6 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention¹, until such time as it has the abilities and capacities to fully implement a comprehensive and nation-wide Mine Action Programme, fully funded through the Iraqi national budget.

In Chapter 1, an analysis of the current situation is presented, including the scope of the problem as currently known and a brief history of Mine Action operations in Iraq. The issue of mines and unexploded ordnance is a multi-faceted one, and includes the high level of contamination, the difficult situation of landmine victims, its impact on the Iraqi economy, the country’s clearly insufficient capacity to handle the matter, and the general low level of public awareness of its extent.

¹ The Republic of Iraq acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on 15 August 2007 and became its 155th State Party. The Treaty entered into force on 1 February 2008. Details of the Convention are discussed in Section 1.5
In Chapter 2, some of the responses and achievements in the past five years by UNICEF and UNDP are highlighted. Several stories and voices from the people of Iraq themselves are presented throughout the report, such as national NGOs conducting unexploded ordnance clearance, children who received Mine Risk Education, and a landmine victim highlighting the importance of physical, economic and mental assistance.

In Chapter 3, the enormous challenges faced by Iraq to provide its citizens with a mine-free living environment are presented. As the existing capacity and number of actors are far too small compared with the sheer scale of the tasks at hand, the chapter discusses these challenges and the many internal and external factors bearing on the problem.

In Chapter 4, the roles of the Government of Iraq, citizens, international communities and the United Nations are presented. While UNICEF and UNDP remain fully committed to support Mine Action activities in Iraq, a wider and deeper involvement of the government and other stakeholders is needed in order to reduce the threats posed by mines and explosive remnants of war.

Stronger and more comprehensive support from the international community is also called for, in accordance with Article 6 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, to create a safe environment in Iraq conducive to development, and where the needs of victims are met and they are fully re-integrated into their societies.

It is the hope of UNICEF and UNDP, on behalf of the UN Mine Action Team, that the report will spur more concrete actions solving the hazards posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war in Iraq.
Chapter 1: Problems and current situation

1.1 Scope of the issue

Iraq is among the world’s most contaminated countries with landmines and other explosive remnants of war, but the full extent of the problem is not known, due to the lack of information. At the time of writing this report, there are only a handful of reliable sources, but together these indicate a contamination constituting one of Iraq’s largest public safety concerns and impediments to its development.

Despite the size of the challenges faced by Iraq on this front, little attention has been given to unexploded ordnance and mines within and outside the country. Consequently, a very limited national capacity exists to tackle the issue and the large number of injuries caused by it.

Following the recent fall in oil prices, coinciding with a general improvement in the overall security situation of the country, there is an impetus for Iraq to step up the exploration of its natural resources, as well as diversify its economy beyond a large state-controlled sector heavily reliant on oil and gas exports.

With large areas of agricultural land, numerous oil and gas fields, and hundreds of infrastructure and public facilities sown with mines, riddled with cluster bomblets or unexploded mortar and bomb shells, these would first need to be cleared before sustainable economic development and diversification could take place on a large nationwide scale.

‘... at least 20 million anti-personnel landmines are reported as sown, mainly on the borders and around the oil fields in the south...”

Adding to the burden is also a lack of detailed information on the extent and exact location of the contaminated areas. The following, while being far from as comprehensive and detailed as one would have wished, is the best available data at the time of writing. UNICEF and UNDP recommend, therefore, that a stepped-up information-gathering effort takes place, in order to gain the complete picture of Iraq’s landmine and unexploded ordnance problems, as well as the economic and societal impact of these.

1) Level of contamination

The Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, numerous skirmishes between rival ethnic and political parties, large-scale military actions of the 1991 Gulf War and widespread violence since 2003, have left Iraq littered with explosive remnants of war and mines.

While there is no reliable estimate available for their total number, the first report of the Government of Iraq submitted on 31 July 2008 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention indicated that at least 20 million anti-personnel landmines are reported as being laid, mainly on the borders and around the oil fields in the south. This figure does, however, only include those laid by the Iraqi armed forces.

According to the Iraq Landmine Impact Survey (2004-2006), conducted by the Information

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*The report is usually called the Article 7 Transparency Report, as it is obligatory under Article 7 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.*
It should be noted, however, that the iMMAP survey was conducted in only 13 out of a total of 18 governorates. Just as important is the fact that this was a community-based assessment, thus where there are no towns or villages near contaminated sites, these were not included.

Landmines are only a part - and a minor one at that - of Iraq's total explosive remnants of war problems, however. Far larger are the dangers posed by the millions of cluster bombs (also called cluster munitions) used, as well as unexploded ordnance and abandoned munitions.

The cluster bomb is a container carrying hundreds of bomblets, which are smaller explosive devices, also called submunitions. According to the Handicap International Report of May 2007, 50 million cluster submunitions were used in Iraq between 1991 and 2006.

During the 1991 Gulf War, for example, the highway from Al-Jahra in Kuwait to Basrah in Southern Iraq was one of the most targeted areas for this type of ammunition, but detailed figures on the number of drops and quantity of ordnance are not available.

2) Number of victims

Regarding the number of victims from landmines and explosive remnants of war, and the injuries sustained from these, there are again no reliable nation-wide figures. The first Article 7 Transparency Report estimated the total number of victims (both injury and death) during the 1991-2008 period to be 8,174 in the Kurdistan region alone.

Prosthetic limb centres suggest that currently there are more than 3,000 landmine and unexploded ordnance survivors in the Kurdistan region, mainly from poor and vulnerable groups.

According to the Handicap International Report of 2007, the number of casualties (both injury and death) from failed cluster submunitions between 1991 and 2007 is estimated to be from 5,500 to 8,000.
These figures are only indicative, however, as no complete casualty data is available due to poor overall security and lack of capacity to collect and process the required information. UNICEF and UNDP believe, therefore, that there is a rather large number of victims that remain uncounted.

Inadequate statistics aside, there is little doubt that a considerable number of victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war suffer from severe disabilities, poverty, unemployment, discrimination and stigmatisation, negligence and deprivation of their basic rights across Iraq.

According to the earlier cited Landmine Impact Survey, which assessed communities in 13 governorates, a total of 577 recent victims were recorded. Of these, 99 percent was civilian, with 43.9 percent being the breadwinners of their families, 45.7 percent between 15 and 29 years of age, and 23.9 percent children under the age of 14 years.

The Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey of 2007 indicated that 8.7 percent of Iraqi children and adolescents aged between 10 and 19 years, as well as 5.8 percent of the children below four years, suffer some war-sustained disability. The same report also indicated that the northern governorates have the highest disability rates caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Furthermore, due to the worsening economic situation, drastic rise in unemployment, and the fact that parts of the population are displaced and searching for a safe place to reside and make a living, many expose themselves to injuries and casualties because they have no other choice.

The latest Mine Risk Education Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey (2008) - conducted in the three northern governorates with support from UNICEF - indicated that compared with the knowledge of the risks and threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, the conduct of a safe behaviour when it comes to these remains low. Among the most-commonly cited causes for the risk-taking practices were the economic situation and need of a livelihood.

In total 1,094 people from 162 affected communities were interviewed for the survey, including 867 children. Among the most-affected groups were those between 7 to 18 years of age, and are ranked second. Adult males from 19 to 49 years are in the first category. The key reasons given for the risk-taking behaviour were economic

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motives such as clearance of farms, agricultural land and homes, in addition to the extraction of metals to be sold as scrap.

As children often have domestic duties such as herding sheep, collecting water and firewood, and harvesting vegetables and fruits, they are particularly prone to incidents, injuries and deaths from landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Almost 93 percent of the persons surveyed believe that Mine Risk Education would help them to stay safe from injuries and death caused by unexploded ordnance and landmines. The needs assessment also recorded 656 victims since 2003, out of whom 93 percent were injured and 7 percent killed. It also found that only 12 percent of the surviving victims had received any form of assistance following their accidents.

A recently completed needs assessment in the four central governorates of Anbar, Salah Al-Din, Baghdad and Babylon revealed that explosive remnants of war are the main type of contamination. It also suggested, however, that public awareness of the hazards posed by these is still low.

UNICEF and UNDP believe that in order to limit the impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance on the lives of the Iraqi population, a wider mine risk awareness effort has to be implemented by the government. This should be coupled with a support programme spurring alternative economic activities in rural areas where the contamination prevents farmers to access their land and use it for productive purposes.

“... a wider mine risk awareness effort has to be implemented by the government...”

3) Economic impact
Iraq’s contamination of mines and explosive remnants of war impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance and basic services, hampers development projects as well as negatively affects the country’s environment. Furthermore, unexploded ordnance and landmines deny access to agricultural land, prevent the return of internally displaced people and refugees to their communities, and deprive whole families of income when their breadwinners are maimed or killed. The problem hinders reconstruction, endangers the safety of the general public, and prevents the use of roads, water resources and residential areas.

At an economic conference held in February 2009, both Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Planning Minister Ali Baban stressed the urgent need for Iraq to diversify its revenues and economy to replace the dwindling oil and gas income. According to the government, it would like to prioritise the development of the country’s religious tourism as well as agricultural and industrial sectors to make up for funding shortfalls caused by lower oil prices.

Landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination is a large obstacle for such development plans, however. According to the Landmine Impact Survey (2004-2006), in the southern governorates (Basrah, Missan, Thi-Qar and Muthana), 88 percent of the affected

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* UNICEF supported two Mine Risk Education Needs Assessments in 2007 and 2008, covering three (Wasit, Kerbala and Qadisiyya) and four governorates (Baghdad, Babylon, Anbar and Salah Al-Din), respectively.
communities reported blocked access to areas that could be used for irrigated crops, while 81 percent reported blocked access to areas that could be used as pasture land. The situation is similar in the south-central governorates (Babylon, Kerbala, Najaf, Qadissiya and Wasit), where 86 percent of the affected communities reported that access to pasture land and irrigated crops were blocked.

For example, approximately 26 kilometres of the Basrah railway network is contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance, rendering it unsafe for use. To be able to run trains on the railway line again, 100 metres of land need to be cleared on each side of the track over the affected distance. The Ministry of Transportation has requested the Regional Mine Action Centre - South to clear the railway lines in order to transport freight and passengers on them again.

A water treatment plant project in Basrah is also currently halted due to landmines and unexploded ordnance, and approximately 21 square kilometres of contaminated land need to be cleared. Once done, it will not only enable the construction of the plant by the Ministry of Water Resources, but also
permit the local communities to return to this area and start using it as farmland again.

The situation is similar at the fishing port of Fao in Basrah, where unexploded ordnance hinders the development of the Iraqi fisheries sector. Many poor fishermen and local communities would also benefit from the clearance of the port, which would improve incomes and reduce poverty.

The examples above are only a handful of the many thousands of communities, public facilities, infrastructure projects and areas that are affected by Iraq’s mine and explosive remnants of war contamination.

As it clear that oil and gas revenues will remain the single largest income for Iraq for many years to come, the contamination of landmines and explosive remnants of war around key national resources has a severe impact on its future national economy.

The map on the right displays oil and gas fields, as well as known mine and explosive remnants of war contamination.
Mr. Hakim Salih Hakim is the head of his family, and he has three children. Hakim was born in 1983 in Soran municipality, Erbil Governorate. Earlier he was working as a guard at a government office, and his salary was the family’s only income.

“Life was not too bad then, we had our own place, and I had a steady income from my job with the government,” Hakim remembers.

His life and the situation of Hakim’s family changed unexpectedly on a winter day in 2008, however. As his work was far from home, he could only see his family during weekends and holidays. On the 10th of February, 2008, Hakim arrived at his home for a few days of leave. The father of three particularly looked forward to playing with his youngest son, which he did every time he could, Hakim recalls.

During his home visit, Hakim and his father wanted to make some small improvements to their house and the piece of land surrounding it. They got their shovels and other tools out and started making a new ditch to reroute a small stream nearby their house.

While digging the ditch, some 40 meters from the house, Hakim’s father struck a mine with his spade. The mine went off with a big explosion, killing his father. Hakim himself had his legs injured, and was forced to have them amputated. In an instant, his life and the situation of his family were changed forever. His son, who witnessed the fatal accident, got severely traumatized, and has had nightmares and psychological problems ever since.

Being a double amputee, life suddenly became quite difficult for Hakim and his family. Their home was in a rather dilapidated state prior to his accident, and with his handicap it has also become hard for him to repair it, as well as live there.

Thankfully, the Diana Orthopaedic Limbs Centre (DPLC), with funding from the Government of Japan through UNDP, was able to help the now severely handicapped family head by both improving the house for him as well as modifying it so he can more easily move around in it. The centre also provided him with prostheses and in addition helped him set up a small shop close to the home. Through his small business, the father of three now provides for his family, and the shop is their only income.

“After the accident, the whole family’s life was turned upside down, and we believed that was the end to all our happiness,” Hakim’s wife noted. “Through the kind support of the DPLC, things changed and the smiles returned to our faces, as some of our worst problems were solved,” she added.

Today Hakim is still suffering from unhealed wounds and fractures in both of his thighs, and needs continued medical treatment and more surgery. Despite all his suffering and painful experiences, Hakim’s face nevertheless carries a smile and his expression and outlook remain hopeful.
contamination within a 20-kilometre radius. As one can see, this is a major impediment to the exploration and development of new oil and gas fields.

In one instance, the Southern Oil Company informed UNDP that a contractor hired to explore a potential oil field discovered unexploded ordnance in the area, with the result that the firm had to suspend its activities until the area is cleared.

The threats of mines and explosive remnants of war not only pose a hazard to people and farm animals, but also endanger the overall state of Iraq’s national economy. UNICEF and UNDP believe, therefore, that the landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination should not be handled as an isolated local problem, but as an issue of national importance in order to ensure the long-term economic wellbeing of Iraq.

4) Existing capacities

Iraq, being a signatory to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, has an obligation to clear all anti-personnel landmines in contaminated areas by February 2018. Currently, there are an estimated 300 deminers active in the central and southern parts of Iraq. In order to meet that deadline, UNDP believes Iraq would require more than 19,000 deminers working for the next 10 years, or more than sixty times the current capacity.

“...it is clear that the current demining capacities in Iraq are far from meeting the requirements...”

At the current slow pace of demining operations, it is clear the goal of an “Iraq free of the impact of mines and unexploded ordnance” will not be reached by the 2018 Mine Ban Convention deadline.

It should be stressed that these figures are the roughest of estimates, made by UNDP’s most experienced mine experts using the currently best available information. A number of factors also bear on the effectiveness and productivity of demining programmes. For example, one should also keep in mind that new technology and techniques are continuously being developed to speed up decontamination operations.

Whatever timeframe one imposes, though, it is clear that the current demining capacities in Iraq are far from meeting the requirements of the Mine Ban Convention, and UNICEF and UNDP call for the urgent development of a nation-wide Mine Action Programme. This much-needed capacity increase can only be met by inviting international demining organisations to work in Iraq, as well as developing national Iraqi organisations and/or allocating and training more military resources for this purpose.

Due to the devastated social and health services, as well as limited national abilities, the capacity for victim surveillance and victim assistance is also underdeveloped. As highlighted by this report, there is a dire lack of reliable data and information about the victims and survivors of landmine and unexploded ordnance accidents, as well as their needs.

While some providers of victim assistance services exist in the northern Kurdistan region, the number
and capacities of such organisations in the centre and south of Iraq are unknown.

Under the UN Oil for Food programme (Security Council Resolution 986), the UN Mine Action Team developed a comprehensive victim assistance programme for the Kurdistan region. UN support was withdrawn following the closure of the programme at the start of the 2003 conflict. Following the halt of support from another bilateral source, the centres of ortho-prosthetic production and socio-economic reintegration of persons with disabilities faced severe difficulties to continue their operations.

UNDP started funding the centres from late 2007, and currently four centres in the Kurdistan region are operating as normal, receiving some patients from the neighbouring central governorates as well.

Until late 2007, security remained a major constraint, causing some Mine Risk Education partners to pull out from the country, with the result that many capacity building efforts were discontinued. There has also been a high turnover of trained Mine Risk Education instructors, which has also negatively impacted mine awareness programmes.

5) Inadequate awareness

UNICEF and UNDP are concerned that Mine Action activities in Iraq have not been given the necessary attention and priority by the government. Consequently, the issue of landmines and unexploded ordnance is not fully integrated into and supported by key government strategic documents and policies. This lack of attention has resulted in limited support for a long-term and comprehensive approach to the issue.

For example, Mine Action was mentioned only once, and then only with the phrase “accelerating demining actions” in the 2007-2010 National Development Strategy. It was not included at all, despite UNDP supporting such a move, in the International Compact with Iraq⁴. It is not surprising, therefore, that some international donors overlooked Mine Action activities altogether when making their decisions on how to best support the development of Iraq, as they based them on a document that completely omitted the issue.

As Mine Action is a cross-sector concern, it requires inter-ministerial coordination and support. For instance, victim assistance requires not only physical rehabilitation, but also socio-economic reintegration. While emergency response to and physical rehabilitation of victims fall under the responsibilities of the Ministry of Health, socio-economic reintegration of people with disabilities is part of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs’ portfolio.

Similarly, the Ministry of Oil may have been aware of a contamination problem around a southern oil field, but the Ministry of Displacement and Migration might not have thought about the same issue when supporting returnees going home to their farms near the same oil field.

Therefore, UNDP supports the establishment of a cross-ministerial committee for Mine Action activities and coordination, which is currently under discussion.

⁴ Launched in May 2007, the International Compact is an initiative of the Government of Iraq for a new partnership with the international community. The document can be found at the following link: http://www.iraqcompact.org/
1.2 Mine Action

Many consider the issue of landmines and explosive remnants of war to only concern demining and clearance of unexploded ordnance. As highlighted above, though, the scope of the issue and its related problems are far broader than this. The term Mine Action has therefore been coined to cover the whole spectrum of associated activities, which can be divided into five pillars:

(1) Demining
(2) Mine Risk Education
(3) Victim Assistance
(4) Advocacy
(5) Stockpile Destruction

Regarding demining and clearance, this action is well known, and there is little dispute about its importance. It includes surveying, marking, removing and destroying landmines and explosive remnants of war. It is a labour intensive, time consuming, dangerous and expensive activity executed in accordance with a set of international standards.

The second pillar focuses on increasing public awareness and knowledge of the dangers posed by mines and unexploded ordnance, and promoting safe behaviour when faced with a contaminated area. Key here is also to prevent and reduce injuries and casualties, often by targeting the most vulnerable and at risk sectors of the population, including children and communities within or near contaminated areas. This is normally the first and longest lasting support that can be rendered to communities living in, or in close proximity to hazardous areas.

The next area of activities is Victim Assistance, which covers support for medical assistance, social rehabilitation and economic reintegration of victims. As mentioned earlier, victims are facing not only physical and psychological challenges, but also loss of their income and possible stigmatisation after suffering from a landmine or unexploded ordnance accident. Consequently, they are often re-victimised by their surroundings after being severely maimed in such incidents, at a time when they need the support of their communities more than ever. UNICEF and UNDP call for a comprehensive approach to tackle these issues in Iraq, as currently there is a lack of adequate attention given to this area.

The fourth pillar consists of advocating for a world free from the threats posed by landmines and encouraging countries to participate in and adhere to all relevant international treaties or conventions on the subject.

These are:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (commonly known as Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention or Ottawa Convention),
- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Protocols II and V,
- Convention on Cluster Munitions,
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The final field of Mine Action is to help countries destroy their stockpiles of mines, as required by international agreements, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

It should be noted that many of the activities included in the five pillars are regulated by a set of international standards and best practices, named “International Mine Action Standards”. These are followed by all UN Mine Action operations, are normally a condition for donors to provide financial and other support to a country, and were put into force by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action in 2001.
Mr. Sadiq Hassan Jasim, Field Manager of the Intersos Mine Risk Education Project, contributed the following story. Intersos is an independent non-profit humanitarian organization and an implementing partner of UNICEF on Mine Risk Education projects.

Saffaa is just 11 years old, and despite her young age, she has already experienced things that would be hard to handle, even for adults.

She goes to school and she has many friends there, and it might look like she has a normal life like most other children around the world, but that is just half of the story.

Born and raised in Iraq, Saffa has lived most of her short life in a nation stricken by a conflict where children often were the first victims.

After large military operations had finished in the area where she lives, people tried to return to normal life, with children starting to play on the streets again and Saffaa spending time outside with her friends, she explained.

Among her friends was a boy named Zaid. One day, when playing football next to his house, the ball went far outside their improvised pitch and Zaid and two of his friends had to go and retrieve it. Saffaa, meanwhile, was enjoying herself and playing with other young girls on the sidelines of the soccer game.

Their peace and fun were not to last, though, as they soon heard a huge explosion very close by. When Saffa and others ran to the place where the explosion happened, they found Zaid's dead body and his two friends, Mohammed and Ahmed, seriously injured. Ahmed was later found to have lost eyesight in both eyes, Saffa said.

The two surviving boys told that Zaid had accidentally stepped on a hidden mine while they were going to retrieve the lost soccer ball.

It is unlikely that Saffaa will ever forget this tragic incident, she tells. Her thoughts often return to the terrible images she saw when running to the scene of the explosion, giving her a feeling of pain and fear.

Safaa is only one of many children that have attended Mine Risk Education activities carried out by Intersos in Thi-Qar with UNICEF support. Thanks to this awareness raising on the dangers posed by the many explosive remnants of war scattered around her area, as well as where they are most likely located, Saffa's life has changed.

Now she is aware of where the remnants of war are most likely to be found and what areas are dangerous, and where it is safe to play. As a consequence, the 11-year-old girl is starting to feel secure again and has rejoined her friends in playing outdoors. Saffa would, however, never forget what happened to Zaid, she explained.
1.3 Outline of Iraqi Mine Action efforts

Prior to 2003, Iraqi Mine Action efforts were largely concentrated in the three northern governorates of Dahuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniya in the Kurdistan region, as a part of the UN Oil for Food programme (Security Council Resolution 986). Following the occupation in 2003, these activities were incorporated into the National Mine Action Authority, set up in July 2003 by the Coalition Provisional Authority.

During 2004, however, Mine Action activities in the Kurdistan region were separated from the National Mine Action Authority, and consequently the Kurdistan Mine Action Agency for Erbil and Dahuk and General Directorate for Mine Action for Sulaymaniya were formed. Given that the Mine Action situation in the Kurdistan region is very different from the rest of the country, it will be discussed separately in section 1.4.

Since its founding in July 2003, the National Mine Action Authority - under the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation - was responsible for all strategic planning, budgeting, project coordination and donor relations, as well as establishing national standards and a database for Mine Action activities. This authority was never a success mainly due to three successive changes of government, a lack of understanding within government as to the role and functions of this important authority, and the deteriorating security situation at that time.

As a part of the new national authority, a Regional Mine Action Centre - South was also established in Basra, covering the governorates of Basrah, Muthanna, Thi-Qar and Missan.

In October 2004, the National Mine Action Authority launched its “Vision 2020 - Strategic Plan of the Iraq National Mine Action Authority”, setting out a number of goals and objectives to be achieved between 2004 and 2008 in six key areas. According to the plan, the total required funding to achieve the goals within the four-year period was 355 million US dollars. The Government nevertheless allocated only between 15 and 20 million US dollars annually for Mine Action, and in reality only a fraction of that was spent on service delivery.

Due to several reasons, such as frequent changes of leadership, low level of political support, and a worsening security situation, the National Mine Action Authority was never able to make progress as expected. Its Inter-Ministerial Coordination and Cooperation Committee never met and only existed on paper. By mid-2007, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki decided to disengage the Mine Action Authority within the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, as it became clear that Mine Action did not fall naturally within its responsibilities.

Through the persistent and continued intervention by the UN and international community, the government’s efforts on Mine Action did not completely come to halt. On 15 August 2007, Iraq acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and became its 155th State Party. The Convention entered into force in the country on 1 February 2008.

After several rounds of discussions, a decision was made in late 2007 to transfer the responsibility of Mine Action from the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation to the Ministry of Environment, with the latter assuming its new duties in April 2008.

The move reinvigorated Mine Action activities, and the area was given strong support by the leadership of the Ministry of Environment. It called on the Mine Action teams of UNICEF and UNDP, as well as other partners, to continue supporting the Government of Iraq, and in particular the Ministry of Environment, on this front. Key here was the restructuring of the government institutions and regulatory framework for Mine Action.

Despite being given just a few months for its preparation, the Ministry of Environment was able to submit, with the support of UNDP, its first Article 7 Transparency Report by a 31 July 2008 deadline the same year. It thus completed Iraq’s first obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The report on progress made regarding the obligations
under the Convention is an annual obligation for States Parties.

At the time of writing, a new national Mine Action regulatory and coordinating structure is under establishment by the Ministry of Environment. The ministry is also in the process, through its Directorate for Mine Action (formerly the National Mine Action Authority), of developing a new - and more realistic - national Mine Action strategy involving all relevant ministries.

1.4 Situation in the Kurdistan Region

It should be noted that the outline presented above does not cover the northern Kurdistan region. There, the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency based in Erbil and General Directorate for Mine Action in Sulaymaniyah (both civilian bodies) regulate all international, national and commercial demining actors operating in the region.

In these three northern governorates, currently more than 30 mechanical mine-cleaning machines are being used, together with mine detection dogs and manual clearance methods. All of these operations are supported by the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), which helps authorities in prioritising what areas to clear, as well as monitoring the demining progress.

The Mine Action activities in the Kurdistan region were initiated in 1993, when the Mines Advisory Group first started its Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Programme. These were followed later with operations by Norwegian People Aid and UNOPS. Collectively there is more than 15 years of experience in the management and provision of Mine Risk Education, demining and clearance of unexploded ordnance.

Given the long experience of the Kurdistan regional authorities in these fields, a number of Mine Action exchanges took place there in 2008, where officials from the Ministry of Environment, National Mine Action Authority, and Regional Mine Action Centre - South participated.

Since the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency and General Directorate of Mine Action are functioning, this fact sometimes projects the image that Mine Action activities in the rest of Iraq are working as well too. It is important to stress, therefore, that this is not the case at all and UNICEF and UNDP see a huge and urgent need in the rest of the country when it comes to both a Mine Action institutional framework and an increase and development of operational capacity.
1.5 The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

As mentioned earlier in this report, Iraq became the 155th State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, when the accession was signed on 15 August 2007 and the Convention entered into force for Iraq on 1 February 2008. Although the Kurdistan Region functions independently, this Convention, inclusive of Mine Action in all of Iraq, also applies to Kurdistan as a part of Iraq.

The aim of this Convention is to legalize internationally the “determination by States Parties to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, that kill or maim thousands of people, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians, especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement”. Furthermore, it aims to “do the utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims”.

As a State Party, Iraq undertook to “never under any circumstances use anti-personnel mines; to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti-personnel mines; to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention; to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in accordance with the provisions of this Convention”.

The destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines within 5 years of the entry into force of the Convention is dealt with under Article 4 of the Convention. According to the Iraq Article 7 Transparency Report, no stockpiles of anti-personnel mines were reported.

In Box 1, a summary of the obligations under this Convention is shown. On the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas, Article 5 of the Convention states clearly that States Parties should, “destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under their jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of the Convention”. Furthermore, and of equal importance, Article 5 states that, “Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed”. Up to now, excluding the Kurdistan Region, Iraq has made no progress at all regarding this obligation.

Box 1:

Obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty

State Parties agree to:

- **never use** antipersonnel mines nor to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer them;

- **destroy mines in their stockpiles** within 4 years of the treaty becoming binding;

- **clear mines** in their territory, or support efforts to clear mines in mined countries, within 10 years;

- in mine-affected countries, conduct mine awareness and **ensure that mine victims are cared for**, rehabilitated and reintegrated into their communities;

- **offer assistance** to other States Parties, for example in providing for survivors or in clearance programmes;

- adopt **national implementation measures** (such as national legislation) in order to ensure that the terms of the treaty are upheld in their territory.
Under Article 6 of the Convention, provision is made for international support, mainly for clearance and victim assistance. It states furthermore that “the States Parties shall not impose undue restrictions on the provision of mine clearance equipment and related technological information for humanitarian purposes”. The current halting of all humanitarian mine clearance activities in Iraq by the Ministry of Defence, and the difficulties that local Mine Action NGOs experience to register and to be accredited, is an indication that this aspect needs urgent attention from the Government of Iraq. It is of extreme importance that donors should be attracted to invest in Mine Action in Iraq by creating a favourable situation to do so.

In Article 7 of the Convention, provision is made for transparency and progress reporting of States Parties Mine Action programs. The first report should be submitted as soon as possible, but not later than 180 days after the Convention entered into force for a country. The information provided in accordance with this Article shall be updated by States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year. The Article 7 Report must be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations not later than 30 April of each year.

In Article 8 of the Convention, provision is made for cooperation between States Parties and clarification of compliance to the Convention when one or more States Parties wish to clarify and seek to resolve questions relating to compliance with the provisions of the Convention by another State Party.

Article 9 of the Convention states as follows “each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control”. Legislation that will legalize Mine Action and the institution of Government responsible for the control of Mine Action in Iraq and clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the relevant ministries are urgently needed.

In Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention, the obligation of State Parties to take part in the annual States Parties Meeting and the Review Conferences every fifth year. The cost for all meetings and conferences related to this Convention will be borne by the States Parties as indicated in Article 14. The participation of an Iraqi delegation the past two years lacked coordination, and the delegation should use the opportunity more effectively to promote a strong case for international support to Mine Action in Iraq.
Chapter 2: Responses and Achievements

2.1 Responses and achievements by UNICEF

While a considerable amount of Mine Action work still remains, some progress has been achieved in the area of Mine Risk Education, resulting in increased awareness of at-risk populations, leading to gradual behavioural changes and less injuries. This is not the least due to UNICEF’s efforts over the past eleven years on this front, where the agency has supported Mine Risk Education in 15 out of Iraq’s 18 governorates.

UNICEF’s work in Mine Risk Education primarily focuses on reducing the impact on at-risk populations of mines and explosive remnants of war. Key here are strengthening the national capacity to plan and manage Mine Risk Education activities and promoting safe behaviour among at-risk populations. Through these efforts, one prevents and reduces injuries and casualties.

There are still tens of millions of mines and unexploded ordnance in Iraq, and accidents involving these still happen far too frequently. The agency is therefore supporting a mechanism for systematic victim surveillance led by World Health Organization (WHO), leading towards comprehensive assistance to victims. This aims to lessen as much as possible the impact of an accident with a mine or explosive remnant of war for the victim and his/her family.

Furthermore, UNICEF has been advocating for and promoting the victims’ rights to adequate standards of living, health services, non-discrimination and access to basic services. It has also undertaken a comprehensive review of Mine Risk Education materials used in Iraq, to assess whether they are appropriate and effective in promoting safe behaviour and preventing incidents.

These activities have been carried out by UNICEF in collaboration and partnership with national and regional Mine Action authorities, several national and international NGOs and other UN agencies. Key implementing partners on the government side include the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Environment, National Mine Action Authority, Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency, General Directorate of Mine Action, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

UNICEF support to Mine Risk Education in Iraq has been made possible with funding from the following key donors: a) Governments of Australia, Germany, and Netherlands, b) US National Committee for UNICEF and German National Committee for UNICEF, and c) UNICEF Thematic Funds.

1) Public Awareness

UNICEF has supported an extensive Mine Risk Education programme in Iraq, where 2,850 teachers, 300 community volunteers, 150 health and 500 social workers, as well as 300 local NGO and government officials have been trained between 2006 and 2008.

This has led to the education of 800 children as peer trainers, while in total two million persons from at-risk
populations have received Mine Risk Education. All-in-all, more than 1,500 schools and 1,000 communities in contaminated areas have been targeted by educational programmes and public awareness campaigns.

UNICEF has also directed efforts to aid national NGOs in promoting the rights of victims and survivors, as well as advocating for a ban on cluster munitions. Through UNICEF’s support, some 200,000 copies of various information, education and communication materials on Mine Risk Education have been distributed to key target groups by the end of 2008. Posters, leaflets, children magazines, colouring books with awareness-raising messages, board games, TV spots, and various cartoons are just some of the major types of materials that have been developed and disseminated throughout Iraq.

2) Policy Development

During the period from 2004 to 2006, UNICEF contributed to developing and reviewing the following key documents: Provisional Standards and Curriculum for Mine Risk Education, Teachers Training Manual on Mine Risk Education, Action Plan for Communicating Mine Risk Education, and a standardised victim data collection form. This victim data collection form is used for a joint pilot project implemented by the WHO, and is highlighted in section 4 below. UNICEF also supported the government in drafting the first Article 7 Transparency Report through contributing on Mine Risk Education. Review and amendment of these strategies is planned in 2009.

Between 2006 and 2008, UNICEF supported many coordination meetings and Mine Risk Education-related workshops, such as a Mine Risk Education Coordination Meeting in February 2006, Communicating Mine Risk Education training workshop in March 2006, a Workshop on Strategy Development on Victim Surveillance and Assistance in Iraq in August 2006, a Mine Risk Education Material Review workshop in January 2007, a Mine Risk Education Coordination Meeting in Erbil in April 2008, and a Mine Risk Education Knowledge Attitude and Practice workshop in October 2008, to mention a few. These gatherings led to a number of key policy decisions, such as developing a generic package of Mine Risk Education materials, piloting a mechanism for victim surveillance and sharing of information and lessons learned among partners from the north, centre and south of Iraq.

In September 2008, UNICEF also organized a study tour to Cambodia for 12 participants from the Iraqi government and several non-governmental organisations. During the trip, the delegation witnessed the highly successful Mine Action programme in Cambodia, including the clear roles and responsibilities of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority, strong ownership and participation by the affected communities in Mine Action (including clearance, Mine Risk Education and victim assistance), good coordination among different levels of officials and first-rate assistance to people maimed by landmines.

As a result of the visit, the Iraqi delegates were able to identify gaps as well as opportunities to strengthen their country’s own Mine Action efforts. Consequently, an action plan, detailing both short- and long-term interventions, was developed with focus on developing strategic policies, and institutional capacities development and coordination, in addition to promoting community participation and mobilizing decision makers for increased support from the Iraqi government.

3) Needs Assessment, and Knowledge Attitude and Practice Survey

A number of Mine Risk Education needs assessments for at-risk populations were carried out by UNICEF in 2007 and 2008 across seven governorates in central and southern Iraq (Baghdad, Anbar, Salhdeen, Babil, Kerbala, Wasit, and Qadissiya). These surveys were very useful in identifying the most-affected communities and for planning a Mine Risk Education campaign targeting at-risk populations.
In 2008, in partnership with Handicap International (France), UNICEF completed a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey in the three northern Kurdistan governorates. Its key findings revealed that compared to the level of awareness and knowledge of mine and unexploded ordnance problems, the practice of safe behaviour was still low. No less than 65 percent of children in the surveyed areas was living nearby or had to pass by contaminated areas on a more or less daily basis.

The assessment also concluded that schools, community meetings and the mass media are some of the best channels of communication for Mine Risk Education. Finally, it found that it would be best if the strategy for bringing change towards safer behaviour is linked with economic activities in the contaminated areas, such as establishing income-generation opportunities for population groups exposed to mine and unexploded ordnance-related risks out of economic necessity.

4) Support to Victim Surveillance

In collaboration with WHO and UNDP, UNICEF is supporting a pilot project to set up a National Injury Surveillance mechanism, including injuries caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war. It is piloted in three governorates for systematic victim data collection, planning and programming for victim assistance, and to support Mine Action authorities in their work.

The project is led by WHO and implemented by the Ministry of Health. So far, the surveillance protocol, research tools, and training of survey teams have been completed. The test phase for data collection started in January 2008, when the mechanism was tested in 26 emergency rooms across the governorates of Rasafa, Basra and Erbil. Following this, data analysis was initiated in late 2008, and its conclusions will guide the further expansion of the surveillance mechanism throughout the country.

2.2 Responses and achievements by UNDP

Since 2004, UNDP has been supporting the Government of Iraq and its Mine Action authorities primarily by focusing on two areas namely: Institutional development of a regulatory coordination framework and operational capacity development.

A landmine and explosive remnants of war problem cannot be solved in a short time span, and it will take between 10 and 20 years or even much longer. In fact, some European countries are still suffering from explosive remnants of war and landmines dating from World War I and II.

It is imperative therefore, to develop national governmental institutions to enable them to implement a national Mine Action Programme with its own budget. Institutional development, including legal framework, policy, strategy, human resources and national standards and accreditation systems, will certainly take time. Until the Government of Iraq can fully take over the programme, UNDP considers it important to increase its operational capacity on the ground. This especially concerns the national capacity in clearance and victim assistance, with projects to establish and support national humanitarian Mine Action organizations.

UNDP’s support to Iraqi Mine Action was made possible by funding from the following donors: Australia, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, United States and the European Union. Through the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, the European Union, South Korea and Greece also supported UNDP in setting up a national humanitarian Mine Action organization in southern Iraq.

In general, the largest donor for Mine Action activities in Iraq is the Department of State of the United States of
Abdulla Shahab Saady is a Kurdish farmer, born in 1956 at Bane village in Erbil Governorate. He is the breadwinner for his family of a wife and seven children, and his only source of income is a small piece of land where he grows vegetables such as cucumbers and tomatoes.

In the early 1980s, during the Iraq-Iran war (1980-1988), the land was turned into a mine field. The family lost its livelihood and Abdulla and his family were forced to flee. When he returned to his village in 1991, he had no other choice than to clear his field for mines by himself, as there were no authorities at the time that could help him with this dangerous work.

Soon, other villagers turned to Abdulla asking him to help them clear their land as well for mines, and since then he has cleared about eighteen minefields around his village and three other nearby villages (Barchikha, Mawatawa and Gird Khiwat).

“I did this because I wanted to help my neighbours get their land back so they could start to grow food on it again,” he explained, adding:

“There was no one else in our area at that time that had the experience in clearing minefields and could do it for them.”

In total, Abdulla removed more than 1,000 Anti-Personnel mines such as V69, VS50, TS50, M14, Type 72, as well as a large number of different types of Anti-Tank mines.

In 1999, when Abdulla was removing mines from a field, he stepped on a Type 72 Anti-Personnel mine that injured him seriously and blew off his right leg. He is now disabled and wears prosthetic limb.

As a result of the accident, he is no longer clearing minefields. His expertise is however still in demand, and since then he has many times evacuated dead and injured villagers from inside minefields after they have been involved in mine accidents.

Authorities have now been set up to clear the minefields for the villagers, and Abdulla and his family have returned to fend for themselves through cultivating their small plot of land.
America. In the 2008 financial year, the State Department’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) invested over 21 million US dollars in humanitarian Mine Action and conventional weapons destruction projects in Iraq. Apart from funding UNDP for providing institutional development support to Iraq Mine Action, this funding from the Department of State supported an Iraqi national Mine Action NGO called Iraq Mine/UXO Clearance Organization (IMCO), Mines Advisory Group, the Basra-Iraq Prosthetics Project, a pilot Victims Assistance project in northern Iraq, the re-establishment of an indigenous mine-detection dog programme in northern Iraq, and a Mine Risk Education project in Baghdad. In addition, Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMP) is also funded to complete its assessment of the five outstanding governorates of the Iraq Landmine Impact Survey.

1) Institutional Development Support
In response to the fact that there is no legal framework governing Mine Action in Iraq, UNDP supported a draft Mine Action Decree, which was developed as an interim solution until legislation can be initiated and completed. The draft decree has been revised by the legal department of the Ministry of Environment, and it will be reviewed by the Council of Ministers in the near future. Legalising Mine Action is an obligation for States Parties under Article 9 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

UNDP also provided the Iraqi authorities with a proposed national regulatory structure for Mine Action. At the top of the structure, the Iraqi Higher Committee for Mine Action will be chaired by the Ministry of Environment, with other members consisting of 20 Deputy Ministers from the concerned Ministries. The committee will act as a policy-making and inter-ministerial coordination body.

Under the Committee, the Directorate of Mine Action will function as its implementing arm, carrying out nation-wide planning and budgeting, project coordination, donor relations, establishing national Mine Action standards and maintaining a Mine Action database. The next level will consist of regional Mine Action centres, dealing with more operational issues such as monitoring, quality management, local clearance prioritization, coordination and information management.

As seen in section 1.3, the current strategy called Vision 2020 has not been utilized. Since 2008, therefore, UNDP has been assisting the Government of Iraq in reviewing and revising the national Mine Action strategy. As part of this effort, a series of workshops on strategic planning training was held from September to November 2008.

As mentioned earlier, the Government of Iraq had an obligation to submit its first annual transparency report under Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention, by the deadline of 180 days after the entry into force of the Convention, which was 31 July 2008. For this report, UNDP provided technical support to the Ministry of Environment, which together with inputs from other Ministries and national Mine Action institutions such as National Mine Action Authority, Regional Mine Action Centre - South, Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency, and General Directorate of Mine Action, UNICEF and other Mine Action organizations enabled them to meet this obligation.

The establishment of national Mine Action standards, an accreditation system, and information management policy, is important for the Directorate of Mine Action and its Regional Mine Action Centres in order to regulate and monitor Mine Action operators. In this regard, UNDP assisted the Ministry of Environment in drafting 12 National Mine Action Standards and developing an accreditation process. A draft Mine Action Information Management Policy has also been developed together with UNDP’s E-Governance Advisor. It is ready to be incorporated into the overall revised National Mine Action Strategy, following a discussion with the Directorate of Mine Action.

UNDP also continued to support the Government of Iraq and national Mine Action institutions to establish a
strong linkage for them to a global network for up-to-date information, technology and lessons learned. Therefore, UNDP has been introducing Iraq Mine Action to a number of international forums and supporting their participation in conferences such as the First Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Nairobi in 2004, annual meetings of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and the annual National Directors and UN Chief Technical Advisors’ meetings.

2) Operational Capacity Building

Clearance:
In accordance with Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control “as soon as possible but not later than 10 years after the entry into force of this Convention”.

UNDP - working together with the Danish Demining Group - has spent considerable financial and human resources since 2004 in establishing a national humanitarian Mine Action organization in Basra. It was registered as a non-governmental organisation in May 2007 under the name of the Rafidain Demining Organization (RDO).

From October 2007 it has been operating almost as an independent organization, with direct funding from UNDP, and is now capable of conducting clearance activities with minimal guidance and support from international monitoring partners.

In 2008, Rafidain Demining Organization, together with Danish Demining Group, cleared 15 million square metres of land. This helped approximately 1,500 farmers and their families to return to their farms, and get 2,400 pupils back to school, by removing explosive remnants of war on the farmlands, at schools and other prioritized areas.

Currently, UNDP is funding 100 percent of the Rafidain Demining Organization’s expenses, and provides capacity building support to its senior management in strategic planning, resources mobilization, financial management, and donor relations.

Victim Assistance:
Providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims, is a high priority of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Through a UNDP project started in October 2007, three centres for orthopaedic, rehabilitation, and vocational training, which provide comprehensive victim assistance services, were restored to their full capacity. Those are the Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation of the Disabled
(KORD) in Sulaymaniya, Diana Orthopaedic Limbs Centre (DPLC) in Soran District of Erbil governorate, and Prosthetic Limbs Centre, in Dahuk (PLCD).

As a result, 96 persons with disabilities benefited from income generation projects, while 34 persons received vocational training in carpentry, as blacksmiths, using computers, tailoring, and leather preparation. In addition, 34 home adaptations were done, benefitting the victims' use and access to their houses. All efforts were carried out to ensure the socio-economic reintegration of landmine victims and unexploded ordnance victims.

By the end of February 2009, the ongoing project has also enabled these three centres in providing mine victims with 8,563 physiotherapy sessions, 3,341 mobility aids, and 3,509 ortho-prosthetic devices.

UNDP has also provided capacity building in resources mobilisation and donor relations for senior managers from the implementing partners, enabling them to sustain their programmes by raising funds themselves. UNDP has furthermore organized several Victim Assistance coordination meetings, inviting all concerned parties, such as the three non-governmental organisations, Iraq Kurdistan Ministry of Health, Iraq Kurdistan Mine Action Agency, General Directorate of Mine Action and WHO.

3) Advocacy and Coordination

A media visit to northern Iraq took place in November 2008, following an initiative of the UN Mine Action Service (known as UNMAS, part of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York) and was supported by UNDP. The participating journalists were from Al Jazeera TV, Reuters, NRC Handelsblad of the Netherlands, and German public broadcaster ARD. They visited minefields, income-generation projects and ortho-prosthetic, rehabilitation and vocational training centres for landmine victims.

Following the visit, articles on these issues were published by Reuters and NRC Handelsblad, while Al Jazeera and ARD broadcasted similar programmes.

From late 2008 to early 2009, UNDP developed a draft Communications Strategy for the Ministry of Environment to increase the general awareness of mines and explosive remnants of war, and to serve as a guide for ministry officials and all Mine Action authorities in pursuing outreach and advocacy efforts. Its key role is to encourage the Government of Iraq to fulfil its mandate when it comes to Mine Action and clear the mines and explosive remnants of war. The draft has been reviewed by Public Relations or Communications Officers from Ministry of Environment / Directorate of Mine Action, Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency and General Directorate for Mine Action, with their feedback being taken into account and incorporated into the strategy.

The Portfolio of Mine Action Projects is published jointly every year by the UN Mine Action Service in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in cooperation with UNICEF and UNDP, and is a product of the entire Mine Action community in 33 countries and territories. It is a collection of Mine Action project proposals and a resource and reference book for donors, policy-makers, advocates, and national and international Mine Action implementers. In the 2009 Portfolio, seventeen projects from 13 agencies are listed in the section on Iraq.

While the hope is that the Director General of the Directorate of Mine Action will soon assume the duties of Country Mine Action Portfolio Coordinator in Iraq, UNDP has during this period acted in this capacity.

UNDP also ensured that the coordination and cooperation links between Mine Action authorities of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the national Iraqi government were strengthened. As part of this, two Mine Action exchange programmes were conducted in Kurdistan in 2008, inviting staff from the National Mine Action Authority in Baghdad and Regional Mine Action Centre – South in Basrah.
The farmer Haji Jeheel was a respected old man from a well-known family, and lived in the town of Jabal Senam in Safwan municipality in Basrah Governorate. He supported his children and extended family through farming and keeping livestock on his farm.

The farm was, however, situated in an area contaminated with explosive remnants of war, mainly cluster bombs. One day, while he was preparing for harvesting, he came across an unexploded bomb, which turned out to be a BLU-63 cluster bomblet, a type that was used during the war, lying on his farmland.

As he was not aware of the risk associated with moving the bomb, he tried to lift it up and move it off his land. It exploded, however, killing him and seriously injuring his son.

With the death of Haji Jeheel, the extended family lost its breadwinner, and their farming stopped too. Moreover, the fear and suspicions of possibly more explosive remnants of war in the area spread among other farmers. As a result, many stopped using the land, and eventually some of them even moved away.

Things only returned to normal after Rafidain Demining Organization was contacted and asked to clear the area. Soon those who left returned, and they started using the land for farming and sheep grazing again. This included Haji Jeheel’s family, who began to use their farm land again too.

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**THE HIDDEN DANGER**

*Clearance by Humanitarian Demining Organization (Basrah), Son of Haji Jeheel story*

*The Rafidain Demining Organization (RDO) was established in Basrah in 2007 with support from Danish Demining Group and UNDP, and is funded by the Iraq Trust Fund (in particular Greece, South Korea and the European Union) and Australia, U.K. and Denmark.*
Chapter 3: Opportunities and Challenges

3.1 Opportunities

1) Government’s commitment

Following the transfer of responsibility for Mine Action to the Ministry of Environment, both its Minister, Narmin Othman Hassan, and Deputy Minister, Kamal Hussein Latif, have repeatedly demonstrated strong commitment to strengthening Iraq's own capacity to counter threats from landmines and explosive remnants of war. Their focus on reviewing and developing a regulatory framework, institutions and strategies for Mine Action, as well as meeting their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, are a few of the many clear indicators of the ministry's strong commitment to improving the situation in this area. UNICEF and UNDP welcome these changes, and will support any Mine Action initiative by the Government of Iraq.

2) Obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

At the 9th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, held in November 2008 in Geneva, the spokesperson for the Iraqi delegation, Mr. Siraj Barzani, shared his country's vision and political will to achieve better results in eradicating anti-personnel landmines. When recognizing Iraq's seemingly impossible obligation to clear all mines by 2018 - a task made even more difficult due to the security concerns slowing its clearance work - the Iraqi delegation at the same time expressed their need for continuing support and assistance from the international community, including donors, non-governmental organisations and UN agencies. This request is in line with Article 6 of the Convention.

In his closing remark, Mr. Barzani stated that “it is our intention to end this suffering and to provide the country and its people with a prosperous future of peace, stability and a safe livelihood, in order that the full development potential of the country can be realized”. While it is a challenge for Iraq to meet its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, it can also be considered an opportunity to have a concrete deadline in order to make the government mobilise the necessary resources.

UNICEF and UNDP will continue to support Iraq on this front, but due to the scale of the problem, the Iraqi authorities themselves have to be enabled, empowered and given the financial resources necessary to clear the country of mines and explosive remnants of war ensuring the safety of people and reintegration of victims into the society, as well as allowing reconstruction and development to take place in a safe environment.

3) Iraqi Kurdistan experience

As seen in section 1.4, Iraqi national Mine Action authorities have the advantage to learn from the lessons and experience of Mine Action organizations in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The civilian Mine Action authorities Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (Erbil) and General Directorate for Mine Action (Sulaymaniyah) coordinate and regulate all international, national and commercial demining actors operating in the region. A functional Mine Action programme with technical expertise has been established since 1993, and the rest of Iraq can benefit from this experience. UNICEF and UNDP strongly encourage Iraqi national Mine Action authorities to utilise these resources and knowledge base to the fullest extent.
Mariam and Narjis were good friends in the fifth class of primary school. One day, while they were going to the market, they saw a strange object.

Narjis wanted to pick it up, but Mariam warned her, saying, “Be careful! Don’t pick it up! Remember what our teacher told us! We should never pick up strange objects, they may explode!”

Then Narjis said, “Yes, I remember! We should not pick anything up!”

They went to the police and told them what they saw. The policemen then went to the site where the strange object was found and saved the lives of innocent children.

“After this story we want to tell every Iraqi child to be aware of anything they see on their way to school or market or street or any other place, because these objects are dangerous and will hurt us!”

“Be careful! Be careful! Innocent children!”

“I am Hibah from Baghdad, and I send you my regards and advise you not to touch these items, which are a threat and will cause you to lose your eyes or your limbs, because they exist near schools or markets.”

“These items attract attention and may explode at any time. So children, if you see anything strange, don’t touch it. It may be explosive and I advise you not to collect unexploded ordnance or remnants of war, they may explode and pose a threat to you.”

“My name is Noor Dhyah from Baghdad. I send you my greetings and ask you not to play with strange objects and the remnants of war, such as explosives, and not to touch them because it will endanger your life. Do not touch unexploded ordnance and the objects explained in my drawings below. Be away of the places where unexploded ordnances exist for your safety...”
3.1 Challenges

1) Lack of awareness among politicians and authorities

Some five years after the National Mine Action Authority was established under the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Government of Iraq begins to recognize the impact from landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination on the people, communities and development. The earlier lack of attention to the issue has caused a situation where several critical reconstruction projects are on hold due to the fact that the available demining resources are only a fraction of what is needed. At the same time, there is no regulatory framework for the possible contracting of commercial demining operators in the country. As a result of not having a regulatory authority for Mine Action, Iraq is not meeting the obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

2) Absence of regulatory framework

The National Mine Action Authority was established in 2003 but it was not followed up with legislation on Mine Action. Thus, the political situation has negatively affected the functioning of the National Mine Action Authority. Consequently, the implementation of International Mine Action Standards and development of Iraqi National Mine Action Standards have not been carried out.

Similarly, the absence of a regulatory framework negatively affected the implementation of Mine Action strategies, plans and programmes, as well as efforts to integrate Mine Action into the national development agenda. It has also impacted on the status and decision-making capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and created an uncertain operating environment for it.

As a result, the capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and its regional Mine Action centres remain underdeveloped. These entities were unable to coordinate, plan and strategize Mine Action at the national level. They could not advocate for a prioritisation of Mine Action in the development strategies and plans of the country. UNICEF and UNDP believe that now that the National Mine Action Authority is being reorganized, its capacity and effectiveness are the most important factors to ensure a successful implementation of Mine Action projects in Iraq.

3) Lack of information

The magnitude of the mine and explosive remnants of war situation in Iraq is not known. The Landmine Impact Survey only covered 13 of the 18 governorates and the areas covered by this survey is limited to populated areas, thus excluding the unpopulated areas of which some is unpopulated due to the mine and explosive remnants of war contamination. Furthermore, no functional national Mine Action database reflecting all the available information exists. Without the full picture of the situation, it is not possible to do proper and realistic strategic and operational planning.

4) Security

Until late 2007, security remained a major constraint in Mine Action programme implementation, causing international partners to pull out of the country and limiting access to local partners and at-risk populations in need of Mine Risk Education.

In some areas, staff of the Mine Risk Education implementing NGOs were even temporarily detained, while some local partners ceased their operations in some areas due to constant threats to their safety. While the security situation has improved in 2008, it is still fragile. For this reason, UN international staff members still have limited freedom of movement in Iraq, which makes technical support to Iraqi authorities and local implementing partners difficult.

5) Intervention by Ministry of Defence

In addition to above-mentioned challenges, the Iraqi Ministry of Defence issued an order to stop all civilian humanitarian demining operations in Iraq, with the exception of the Iraqi Kurdistan region, as of 23 December 2008. This has put all ongoing efforts by the
The following are some examples of the consequences due to the ban on non-military humanitarian Mine Action efforts, reported by the advisor of the Iraq Mine / UXO Clearance Organization (IMCO).

Makaseb:
This is an agricultural area south of Baghdad International Airport. Utilized as an anti-aircraft battery site during the war in 2003, it is highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance, particularly sub-munitions. There have been more than a dozen accidents in this area affecting locals, and it puts a break on the economic development on the nearby communities as farmers are not able to cultivate the land.

Al Jaysh Qanat (Army Canal):
This project is in the heart of Baghdad, on the banks of a drainage canal named the Army Canal. It is to be utilized as a children’s recreation centre and a public garden. The clearance of this area was requested by the Baghdad mayor’s office, due to the many unexploded ordnance scattered throughout the site.

Hillah:
This is another agricultural area, in the Babylon governorate, approximately 60 km south of Baghdad. This area was heavily bombed during the 2003 campaign, and is littered with unexploded ordnance, mostly cluster bomblets, as well as weapon dumps. There have been many accidents here, but no impact survey has been completed due to the security situation and lack of proper intelligence reports. Again, the ban of the clearance activities is affecting farmers and community of Hillah.

Zurbatiyah (Al Ta’an District):
A region on the border of Iran, this is a very heavily contaminated landmine area with no markings to indicate safe or dangerous sites. This situation is in contradiction to Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention that stipulates that State Parties should mark, fence and protect mined and suspected mined areas to prevent civilian casualties.

Once again, there have been several accidents but no proper survey has been completed to assess the full impact. A letter was received by the Iraq Mine / UXO Clearance Organization from a local tribal elder, requesting a survey and possible clearance or marking of the mine field, to give the locals an idea where the exact danger areas and their boundaries are.

A survey team and Mine Risk Education team were deployed to the area, but were sent back by the local Iraqi army forces due to the restrictions placed by the Ministry of Defence on such activities by non-governmental organisations.


4.1 Role of the Government of Iraq

As Iraq is one of the world’s most heavily contaminated countries in terms of landmines and explosive remnants of war, it is important to recognize that this problem and related issues cannot be solved just over a few years, but that these tasks might take decades to complete.

The responsibility for solving this situation lies squarely on the shoulders of the Government of Iraq. A wider and deeper involvement of the government and other stakeholders is needed in order to counter the threats posed by mines and explosive remnants of war. Furthermore, as a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the government of Iraq will not be able to meet its obligations under this Convention without a legalized Mine Action structure to take responsibility on behalf of the government.

An urgent requirement for the development of a nationwide Mine Action Programme exists. This much-needed capacity increase can only be met by inviting international de-mining organisations to work in Iraq, as well as developing and assisting national Iraqi organisations and/or allocating and training more military resources for this purpose. This would be vital to enable Iraq to meet its obligation under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

It is essential that the capacity of Iraqi authorities be developed and adequately funded to implement such a national Mine Action Programme. Measures should also be implemented to ensure that Mine Action budget allocations are expended annually. Until then, UNDP considers it important to increase operational Mine Action capacity, such as clearance and victim assistance, in the country.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war pose a threat not only to people, farms and animals, but also endanger the overall state of Iraq’s national economy. Thus the landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination should not be handled as an isolated local problem, but as an issue of national importance in order to ensure the long-term economic wellbeing of Iraq.

Since many hazardous areas and victims remain uncounted, an urgent increased effort to gather information regarding the extent of landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination, as well as its implications and impact on the daily lives of the Iraqis and the country’s development, should be launched. This should include both the location of the contaminated areas and surveying the victims and their needs.

Given the magnitude of the problem and time needed to resolve it, the Iraqi people should continue to receive education on the risks and threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war on a national level and utilizing all the available national communication methods. This also concerns how to behave in a safe and secure manner around these hazardous areas, in order to minimise the human costs of the Iraqi population pending demining and clearance.

The Government of Iraq should implement a programme for alternative economic development in rural areas where farmland is sown with landmines or riddled with explosive remnants of war. Such support would prevent destitute people from endangering themselves by clearing the farmland on their own.

Up to now it is a concern that Mine Action activities in Iraq have not been given the necessary attention and priority by the government. Consequently, the issue of landmines and explosive remnants of war is not fully integrated into and supported by key government strategic documents and policies. This lack of attention has resulted in limited support for a long-term and comprehensive approach to the issues. Since a new National Development Strategy is currently being developed, it is recommended to integrate the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war on reconstruction and development in the new National Development Strategy.

A final decision on where the responsibilities for Mine Action within the government will be vested should now be taken in order that Mine Action in Iraq can be
properly structured and that all international, civilian and commercial demining operations will be well regulated and supported by Iraqi authorities.

Iraq already has considerable knowledge and capacity when it comes to demining and clearance in the Kurdistan region. The transfer of information and experiences from there to the rest of the country can speed up the implementation of a full-scale Mine Action program in Iraq. It is strongly recommended that the Iraqi national Mine Action authorities utilise these resources and knowledge base to the fullest extent.

A comprehensive national government approach to tackle the issue of Victim Assistance in Iraq is considered to be vital, as currently there is inadequate attention given to this important matter. Victims are facing not only physical and psychological challenges, but also loss of their income and possible stigmatisation after suffering from a landmine or unexploded ordnance accident. Consequently, they are often re-victimised by their surroundings after being severely maimed in such incidents, at a time when they need the support of their communities more than ever.

In summary, the Government of Iraq should take the following immediate actions regarding Mine Action:

- Establish a regulatory framework with strong monitoring capacity, or approve the proposed legal and regulatory framework for Mine Action, including the establishment of a cross-ministerial committee for Mine Action activities and coordination to ensure also that the obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention will be met,

- Legalize the regulatory authority,

- Launch a national survey on landmines and explosive remnants of war so as to obtain the full picture of the humanitarian as well as the socio-economic impact of the situation,

- Develop and adopt a new all-inclusive Mine Action strategy with the purpose of clarifying governmental priorities, contributing ministries mandates, and required budget allocations,

- Develop a national Mine Action policy,

- Mainstream Mine Action in the National Development Strategy and the International Compact with Iraq,

- Develop and approve national Mine Action standards as well as a central accreditation body for Mine Action operators,

- Encourage and support the development of national Mine Action capacities,

- Continue to provide Iraqi people with education on the risks and threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war on a national basis as well as implementing measures to mark, fence, and protect hazardous areas in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention,

- Consider a comprehensive national approach to tackle the issue of Victim Assistance in Iraq, and

- Coordinate and monitor all Mine Action activities in Iraq.
4.2 Role of the People of Iraq

The people of Iraq should understand that the needs for Mine Action operations are enormous in Iraq compared with the available clearance and demining capacities. It can take several years, if not decades, before assistance could reach all contaminated areas.

In the mean time, affected communities should clearly mark all suspected hazard areas to the best of their ability, and inform residents and visitors to the areas about these in order to prevent casualties.

The markings of dangerous areas should be respected and the instructions from the Mine Risk Education teams followed. It is irresponsible and criminal to remove dangerous area markings. Communities should also support and protect clearance and demining operators working in their communities to clear up dangerous areas.

The areas contaminated by landmines are in general old, and most of them have been unused for many years. As a result, it is recommended to try to develop other alternative areas to be used as farmland, in order to support local economic development until such time that dangerous areas can be cleared.

Whenever landmines or explosive remnants of war are found, these should be reported immediately to the local authorities, such as the police.

4.3 Role of the International Community

The role played by the international community to assist Iraq to deal with the mine and explosive remnants of war situation is recognized and greatly appreciated. It is hoped that, in accordance with Article 6 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, this cooperation and assistance will continue, as the existing demining and clearance capacities in Iraq remain inadequate to solve this problem. The Government of Iraq also requires technical support in order to develop the authorities and regulatory framework required for these operations to take place.

Stronger and more comprehensive support from the international community is also required in order to create a safe environment in Iraq conducive to development and to assist the government of Iraq to meet its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
4.4 Role of the United Nations

The United Nations Mine Action Team with UNDP as the lead agency and supported by UNICEF, WHO, UNOPS and other agencies are ready to provide the Government of Iraq with all institutional development and operational capacity building support required. The UN Mine Action Team has access to institutional and technical knowledge gained over many years from Mine Action programmes all over the world. This includes access to all international Mine Action forums and research facilities like the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

The UN Mine Action Team can provide any of the following services:

- Institutional development and technical advisors.
- Preparation of Mine Action legislation.
- Development of a complete Mine Action programme including the development of the required structures.
- Facilitation for the development of a national Mine Action policy and strategy.
- Assistance with the development and implementation of national Mine Action standards.

- Assistance with the development and implementation of a national accreditation system for all Mine Action operators working in Iraq.
- Management and technical training including all Mine Action disciplines.
- Utilizing allocated Mine Action budgets.
- Resource mobilization.
- Mine Action advisory support to Iraqi delegations to international meetings and workshops.

4.5 Conclusion

From this report it is clear that Iraq has a serious problem with mine and explosive remnants of war that cuts across the functions of many ministries. In order to address this problem, the magnitude of the problem together with the socio-economic impact should be determined as a matter of urgency. This will enable the Government of Iraq to put realistic legislation and government institutions in place to address the problem in a strategic and structured way and to meet their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

To deal with the mine and explosive remnants of war situation in Iraq requires a multi-dimensional approach with all role players, from government as well as donors, the United Nations, and humanitarian Mine Action organizations, working together to end the suffering of the Iraqi people that have to live in the contaminated areas with their lives and livelihood being threatened daily.

The United Nations Mine Action Team is prepared and ready, with the support from the international donor community, to provide full support to the Government of Iraq in their endeavour to end the suffering of its people, to reconstruct and develop the country to its full potential, and to meet their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
Annex 1

UN MineAction Projects

Produced by London Blooper, MMAP
## Annex 2

### List of organizations working on humanitarian Mine Action in Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Pillars</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
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<tbody>
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