Technical Support and National Capacity Building for Humanitarian Mine Action Program

Context

Following decades of armed conflicts, the Republic of Iraq is one of the countries most contaminated by Explosive Ordnance (EOs) in the world. The contamination threatens the safety of citizens while hindering the socioeconomic development of the country.

To work toward the complete clearance of EOs from the country, the Iraqi Government in 2003 created, a National Mine Action Authority made of two main bodies: the Department for Mine Action (DMA) at the Federal level and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) in the areas under the administration of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

As international donor funding to support humanitarian efforts in Iraq continued to decline, effective prioritization, planning and coordination of Mine Action-related activities have never been more critical, considering the extent of the remaining contamination and its impact on affected communities. In that frame, data and information are key components of the national program. Information is vital for the effective management of a mine action program. Comprehensive and accurate data leads to more effective and efficient operations saving lives and supporting the country’s reconstruction and development.

iMMAP Iraq

In this project, iMMAP continued to provide IM technical support to DMA and IKMAA to maintain a common operating picture of the Mine Action landscape in Iraq. Beyond the support provided for the establishment of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), iMMAP works with the Iraqi National Mine Action Authorities (NMAA) toward the continuous improvement of IM tools and processes to effectively leverage the Mine Action information for improved strategic and operational decision-making.

The ongoing project focuses on improving the IM procedures of NMAA’s through the development and implementation of digital solutions - IMSMA Core and OSDBMA. In parallel iMMAP aims at strengthening DMA and IKMAA staff capacities to ensure full appropriation of the technology and sustainability of its impact.

Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Outcomes
**IMSMA**: The Information Management System for Mine Action is a globally used and internationally accepted database and software system that allows Mine Action programs to efficiently process data and information into actionable information products (statistics, maps). During the previous project phases, iMMAP supported the implementation of IMSMA NG in Iraq and is now supporting National Mine Action Authorities in deploying more powerful digital solutions: IMSMA Core for DMA and the customized Open Source Database for Mine Action (OSDBMA) for IKMAA.

**IMSMA NG Add-on Tools**: To support Iraqi NMAA to make the most of the information at their disposal, iMMAP developed and implemented a series of add-on tools:

- **iMAAT**: The iMMAP Mine Action Analysis Toolkit (iMAAT) improves data analysis by standardizing and simplifying activity and data reporting, avoiding data discrepancies, and facilitating informed decision-making. The iMAAT reports provide up-to-date information in a consistent manner to meet partners’ data collection, analysis, reporting, and visualization needs.

- **OTMS**: The Online Task Management System was built based on the National Authorities’ requirement to monitor task orders issued to Mine Action operators, avoiding overlaps and duplication, allowing NMAA to track activity progress against task orders on a map display.

- **OPS DASHBOARD**: The tool provides all Mine Action actors operating in Iraq access to the last figures available on recorded EO contamination and related activities in the country.

**Capacity Building**: iMMAP provides technical support to build the DMA and IKMAA staff capacity through ad-hoc formal training, workshops and on-the-job coaching in the field of IM and geographic information system (GIS).