The Republic of Iraq is one of the countries most contaminated by explosive ordnance (EO) in the world. The combination of historical wars and the recent incursion of ISIS has created a complex situation of EO contamination, impeding on the socio-economic and environmental aspects of the country. Therefore, resulting into significant challenges for the government and humanitarian mine action responders.

The purpose of the Third Party Monitoring (TPM) project is to regularly monitor and verify activities conducted by implementing partners (IPs) while to ensure the accuracy of reports submitted as well as uphold compliance with donor regulations and project deliverables.

The overall goal of the project is to verify activities and achievements of IPs while increasing the understanding of the social and economic benefits of the program funded by PM/WRA.
Project approach

PM/WRA’s CWD IPs and Third-Party Monitoring:

PM/WRA has been one of the most significant contributors supporting the Mine Action programs in Iraq with currently six IPs actively conducting Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) programs across the country. As a part of the services provided to PM/WRA, iMMAP since March 1st, 2018, has been conducting monitoring of program activities implemented by IPs to enhance transparency and accountability while ensuring donor compliance.

Implementing Partners:

• Danish Demining Group (DDG)
• Mine Advisory Group (MAG)
• Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA)
• Spirit of Soccer (SoS)
• Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)
• Tetra Tech

Data Collection: The TPM collects data through online tools that allow for both online and offline data entry from field locations.

Data Analysis: The program uses interactive dashboards to analyze and visualize data collected by TPM teams based on indicators and requirements. The dashboard provides detailed figures, maps, and graphs to monitor TPM activities that are reported internally and externally to relevant stakeholders.

Approach and Technical Design:

The TPM uses a participatory approach in M&E combined with Real-Time Evaluations (RTEs) on the activities conducted by IPs to support timely decision making and enhance Result Based Management (RBM). The indicators are formulated using the Theory of Change (ToC) and the TPM framework. These indicators are monitored and evaluated on a quarterly basis while the data gathered from IP activities are collated, analyzed and visualized to produce analytical information.

The TPM program includes quarterly visits to task sites to closely monitor, verify and evaluate the processes and products while ensuring the quality, safety and environmental management systems of IPs. The program further ensures adherence to national and international standards of CWD programs.

Assessment: The TPM conducts regular community surveys to assess the immediate outcomes of IP activities which include; Mine Risk Education (MRE), survey and clearance of EOs from agricultural and pasture lands as well as the restoration and development of critical infrastructure.

These surveys aim to assess IP activities to measure the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, safety, quality and sustainability of the programs.

Achievements and Activities

The TPM team, throughout the project period, has strengthened the capacity of national staff to conduct monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities. Furthermore, the recently revamped TPM dash-board has shown an increase in efficiency of TPM processes and significantly reduced data entry errors.