

Improvised Explosive Devices

ABOUT UNMAS AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES



Improvised explosive devices threaten public safety and pose a significant security risk to States. Mine action actors, to include the UN and implementing partners, are increasingly requested to respond to the security and humanitarian hazards posed by various explosive devices, including improvised explosive devices or IEDs. UNMAS has capitalized on its in-house expertise of technical specialists with experience in detection, removal and destruction of

improvised explosive devices, as well as, post blast analyses.

As one of the UN mine action agencies and explosive hazards reduction specialists, UNMAS can provide efficient and safety-focussed solutions for countries interested in developing national improvised explosive device awareness and disposal training, and can provide emergency response when improvised explosive devices threaten public safety and State security forces.

CURRENT PROJECTS

UNMAS Improvised Explosive Device Disposal support has expanded to become an integral part of existing Mine Action programmes in a number of countries:



- Cleared over 590 remnant IEDs in programmes
- Trained 812 humanitarian / NGO personnel on IED awareness, recognition, and reporting
- Trained more than 1,466 Peacekeeping forces in IED awareness, recognition and reporting
- Coordinated IED risk awareness to 155k at-risk civilians
- Supported AU capacity building efforts - 14 AMISOM IED Disposal teams

CHALLENGES

Improvised explosive devices are a uniquely dangerous weapon system due to their versatility, adaptability and method of employment. IED incidents often result in large numbers of civilian casualties, widespread destruction of infrastructure, and the economic disruption of entire communities.

However, acquisition of funding for improvised explosive device projects is generally more difficult than for humanitarian demining. Nevertheless, the scope and effect of improvised explosive device disposal training, and subsequent equipping of staff, provides immediate tangible benefits to the safety and security of affected States. It is vital that countries are able to effectively counter improvised explosive devices to ensure public and government security, thus enabling the progression of political, social, and economic stability. UNMAS' improvised explosive device disposal expertise is ideally placed to assist States in the development and training of an inherent capability designed to mitigate the threat of improvised explosive devices. UNMAS' capacity building efforts have directly contributed to nations taking ownership of the safety and security of their civilian populations against the threat of IEDs.



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