



The Deminer Post

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Foreword Foreword

▪ Siraj Barzani *

The socio-economic impact of minefields on surrounding communities in Erbil and Duhok governorates of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq were made abundantly apparent following the implementation of the Preliminary Technical Survey conducted by IKMAA. The PTS demonstrated that confirmed hazardous areas in IKMAA areas of responsibility are a primary blockage factor obstructing the agricultural sector in particular.

As per the PTS almost 100% of CHAs identified in IKMAA areas of responsibility block agricultural fields. The PTS broke down agricultural fields into crops and pasture and found that blocked agricultural fields are mainly composed of pasture however according to the same source 10% of all CHAs in the Governorate of Erbil and 18% of all CHAs in the Governorate of Duhok block crops as well.

Crop fields blocked in IKMAA areas of responsibility consist of irrigated and rainfed fields. 6% of the total CHA areas in the Governorate of Erbil and 3% of the total CHA areas in the Governorate of Duhok block irrigated fields while another 3% block rainfed fields in Erbil and 14% block rainfed fields in Duhok governorates.

The PTS also found that minefields block access to water in affected communities. 3% of CHA total areas in the governorate of Erbil and 4% in the Governorate of Duhok block access to water for both drinking and irrigation purposes.

Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency is currently developing its strategic plan based on the recent findings of the PTS. This survey helped release huge tracts of land suspected of being contaminated and we believe it will help mobilizing our resources in a more efficient and cost effective way towards the remaining confirmed hazardous areas.

* Head of IKMAA



Participants of the workshop

IKMAA participates in GICHD Mine Action Contracting Workshop

▪ Ali M. Miran*

Two IKMAA representatives (IKMAA Deputy Director General of Technical Affairs and IKMAA Director of Legal Affairs) participated in the Mine Action Contracting workshop organized by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) from April 4-8, 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The workshop aimed towards staff from National Mine Action Authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and commercial companies active in Mine Action contracting. Participants came from more than 14 different countries including Iraq (the Kurdistan Region), Denmark, Afghanistan, Sweden, Norway, Congo, Tajikistan, South Korea, Cambodia, Jordan, Iran, Switzerland, Israel and Western Sahara.

The course covered various aspects and topics of Contracting such as contract management, project management, insurance, liability in mine action, legal aspects of mine action contracting, examples of contracting, working with sub-contractors, gender diversity in Mine action etc.



IKMAA delegation presents a gift to Ambassador Stephan Husy

The workshop was an opportunity for IKMAA participants to broaden their knowledge on the discussed topics and meet mine action practitioners from a variety of nations. Workshop presentations were conducted by experienced professionals from different Mine Action backgrounds. At the end of the workshop participants successfully passed the tests and were awarded the workshop certificate.

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Recent Mine/UXO victims

▪ Ako Aziz

On March 11, 2011 in Fatawa village of Hareer Sub-district in Erbil Governorate, a 55 year old man named Hayder Muhammed Nabi and his daughter Mahnaz Hayder, 11 years old were injured due to the explosion of a mortar shell in their garden. Hayder was getting rid of the weed in his garden by burning it thus causing the accident. They were both immediately transferred to Erbil Emergency hospital. Unfortunately, Haydar passed away after two days at the hospital.

In another accident, on March 16, 2011 in Kora

collective town / Zawita Sub-district of Duhok governorate, a twelve year old child named Aryan Salih Qasim died while playing with an Unexploded Ordnance outside the village.

A number of minefields are as close as one kilometer to the Kora collective town plaguing the inhabitants' daily life. The Board of Inquiry formed to look into this accident has not been able to positively determine the type of the explosive item due to the huge explosion that occurred.

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IKMAA-Erbil Directorate of Implementation marks the 6th International day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action



▪ Rafat Babaker

On April 4, 2011 the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was celebrated by handing over a cleared mine field to their owners in Erbil governorate. The Mleshwanan cleared minefield is located in Barsereen village of Rawanduz district in Erbil governorate adjacent to the famous Hamilton international transit road next to the Iraq-Iran border. A total of 11,650 m² of land was cleared by IK-

MAA manual clearance teams. 167 Anti Personnel Mines of different types and 3 UXOs were found and destroyed during clearance operations removing a major threat on safety and livelihood of the people living in the nearby communities. The ceremony was attended by Mayor of Rawanduz District, representatives of government departments, mass media as well as local residents. The cleared land will be used for grazing and transporta-

tion. In another activity on the same occasion, IKMAA Erbil Directorate of implementation also destroyed 500 UXOs and 42 anti-personnel mines of different types near Darusalam village in Rawanduz District. The events were extensively covered by the media.

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April 4 Handover Ceremony in Duhok



▪ Owenan Yousif*

Under the auspices of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)-Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) and on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, IKMAA Directorate of Implementation in the governorate of Duhok and Mines Advisory

Group organized the handover ceremony of eight cleared minefields to their owners. Cleared Minefields are Located in Mangesh, Zawita, Rizgari, Bamarni, Faydia and Zumar Sub- districts. 82 anti- personnel mines and 35 various types of unexploded ordnance were destroyed in those

minefields which blocked housing, transportation, tourism and agriculture development as well as grazing. In total 298,786 m² of cleared land was released to the owners.

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