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SUMMARY

2017 special measure in favour of Iraq to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

1. Identification

Budget heading	BGUE-B2017-21.020400-C1-DEVCO
Total cost	<p>EUR 60 400 000 of EU contribution</p> <p>Third party contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EUR 362 955 070.65 – corresponding to approximately USD 406 444 648 (Action I) – EUR 4 555 900 (Action II)
Basic act	Development Cooperation Instrument

2. Country background

Iraq has been undergoing political, economic, and social turmoil as a result of the conflict with Da'esh. Its onslaught in the beginning of 2014 resulted in the displacement of 3.4 million Iraqis, many of whose places of origin are the target communities for stabilization initiatives. Extensive conflict involving Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), Kurdish forces and Da'esh has had profound consequences on human security in Iraq. As the conflict protracts, the extent of the crisis is deepening, challenging the response capacity of the Government of Iraq, the United Nations and international community.

3. Summary of the measure

1) Background: The Government of Iraq and its security forces have undertaken clearing operations in the governorates of Salah al-Din, Ninewah, Anbar, and Diyala, and have retaken key areas that require stabilization support. These military operations have also occurred in the context of the national reconciliation and political reform, which aim to provide inclusion for marginalized communities and devolve administrative and fiscal authority to the governorates. Military clearing operations to root out Da'esh militants must be followed by rapid, timely, and effective efforts by the Government to clear retaken areas from explosive hazards and explosive contamination as it continues to impede security and stability efforts if not appropriately addressed, and to restore essential services and livelihoods that will help facilitate the safe, voluntary and dignified return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

2) Cooperation related policy of beneficiary country: In late 2014, the Prime Minister of Iraq and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Iraq agreed to establish a joint UN trust fund to support stabilization in areas retaken from Da'esh control. UNDP developed the project document to create the Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS) which was formally established on 11 June 2015. Furthermore, the EU, in support of Germany's co-chairing of the Stabilization Working Group, has been leading, for two years, the coordination efforts on international support to civilian explosive hazard (EH) management in liberated areas in Iraq.

The EU chairs the Coalition's Explosive Hazard Management Sub-Group in support of Stabilization that brings together the donor community and UNMAS to discuss strategic concerns and resource mobilization. This forum provides an opportunity for donors to highlight priorities and for UNMAS to raise areas of strategic concern. The renewed United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/2299 (25 July 2016) for UNAMI for Iraq references the threat of hazardous explosive devices and welcomes efforts by member states to support the Government of Iraq and its partners in addressing the need to provide risk education, appropriate threat assessments, and conduct clearance of areas of such devices.

3) Coherence with the programming documents: The EU remains committed to key areas of the Agenda for Change, and is in line with the political interests of the EU, as described in the most recent European Union Council Conclusions. The Council Conclusions (22 April 2013) underline that *“the EU reiterates its continuing commitment to support Iraq’s transition towards a sustainable democratic system, including through targeted assistance advancing good governance and the rule of law”*. Moreover, in line with the recent Council Conclusions of 14 December 2015, *“It (EU) intends to maintain its focus on counter-terrorism cooperation, immediate stabilisation of retaken areas, and support to reconciliation and peacebuilding initiatives.”*

4) Identified actions: The measure includes two actions:

Action I: The overall objective of this project is to ensure that early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathway are achieved. The specific objective, implemented through the Funding Facility for Stabilisation, is to support the Iraqi Government in newly liberated areas to address immediate challenges for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of IDPs.

Action II: The overall objective is to ensure that stabilization and humanitarian interventions are enabled in areas that are newly liberated from Da'esh and the Government strategic coordination mechanisms are strengthened to ensure a common approach to clearance of explosive hazards. The specific objective is to ensure that the impact of explosive hazards in retaken areas has been reduced through emergency response, enhanced strategic coordination, and risk education activities. A “blended approach”, combining national and international commercial companies, NGOs, and Iraqi capacities will enable a comprehensive explosive hazard mitigation response, in direct support of the Government/UN stabilization plan, as well as humanitarian assistance efforts.

5) Expected results: the Programme is expected to reach the following results:

Action I:

- 1 - Government and communities' resilience to disasters (man-made and natural) are strengthened;
- 2 - Improved livelihoods opportunities for crisis-affected;

Action II:

- 1 - Emergency Response to explosive hazards (Threat Impact Assessment (TIA), explosive hazard management operations) is coordinated and conducted.
- 2 - Capacity within the relevant coordination centres/mine action authorities for increased strategic coordination is enhanced.
- 3 - Risk Education/Risk Awareness is delivered to at-risk communities.

6) Past EU assistance and lessons learnt.

- The most sensitive and difficult aspect of stabilization is security. IDPs return in large numbers only when they feel safe and see trusted forces in place.
- While programming in inaccessible area may be difficult, a timely pre-planning process may help in being better prepared and in finding creative solutions for interventions in hostile areas.
- As the Central Government deals with badly needed reforms for improved service delivery, a localized approach with strong local ownership and partnerships with local actors can foster expedient implementation of stabilization activities.
- Most geographical areas have unique triggers which will encourage or prevent IDPs from returning. Local conflict analysis is therefore essential, including an understanding of the drivers of conflict and motivations of stakeholders.
- Cash-based activities have been the best, most efficient and most effective, high-impact modalities for IDPs returning to their areas of origin.
- Stabilization efforts need to be properly sequenced with a post liberation strategy, including recovery, transitional justice, reconciliation, reconstruction and reform.
- The ongoing conflict and the continued presence of Da'esh are primary factors impacting security and access. It is therefore recognised that a comprehensive civilian explosive hazard management response is required as a first step to address the problem before any full-fledged assistance efforts can proceed.
- The scale, sophistication and complexity of the explosive contamination problem in retaken areas are substantial, unprecedented, and exceed existing and available national capacity to adequately respond. In order to provide a timely, efficient, and effective response, a 'blended approach' of diverse capacities (e.g. a combination of NGO, commercial, military and UNMAS assets) is necessary to conduct survey and clearance activities, with full support of the mine action authorities.

7) Complementary actions/donor coordination. In order to ensure a coordinated approach to Stabilization, a Stabilization Task Force was set up by the Prime Minister's Office in which all coalition partners participate. The EU is chairing the

Mines Action/IED clearance sub-group to ensure a coordinated approach in dealing with the challenges of IEDs/mines in newly retaken areas as well as a smooth coordination with stabilization activities. In addition, the FFS has a Steering Committee that endorses new areas of engagement and reviews overall progress and management of risks. Regarding explosive hazard management, the action will complement other donor contributions that are currently supporting the UNMAS programme in Iraq. Given the significant resources required to sustain and expand operations in 2017, at the strategic level UNMAS will lead and coordinate the emergency response effort and communication to the donor community; and at the operational level it will coordinate with national authorities to ensure that support and resources adequately cover the gaps and provide a response where they are most urgently needed. Most importantly, the current EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the “Madad Fund”, complements these actions and will act as a catalyst for increased coordination among all stakeholders. Good coordination will be ensured as well between these efforts and those of humanitarian partners conducting Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Non-technical Survey (NTS) in newly retaken areas, also supported by the EU, in order to avoid duplication.

4. Communication and visibility

The European Commission and the UN Agencies involved (UNDP and UNMAS) will abide by the visibility rules for European Union financing as per relevant provisions of the programme. However, it should be noted that FFS aims to indirectly increase citizen support for the Iraqi Government by showing their capacity and legitimacy to stabilize key areas and facilitate improved livelihoods of those who have returned. As such, an underlying principle of FFS is to ensure that interventions are not seen as separate from the Iraqi Government, especially local authorities such as Governors and Municipalities. Therefore, FFS will encourage donors to reduce individual donor (and UNDP) visibility for field activities and outputs, giving greater importance to the Government being seen to be delivering to its people (a core stabilization concept).

5. Cost and financing

Action I	EUR 50 400 000
Action II	EUR 10 000 000
Total EU contribution to the measure	EUR 60 400 000



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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 1

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2017 special measure in favour of Iraq

Action Document for Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS)

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Funding Facility for Stabilization - financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) CRIS number: MIDEAST/2017/040-245	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Iraq The action shall be carried out at the following location: Country-wide	
3. Programming document	EU Regional Strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as against Da'esh threats	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Stabilization/Reconstruction	DEV. Aid: Yes ¹
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 413 355 070 (corresponding approximately to USD 462 883 617) ² Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 50 400 000 (corresponding to approximately USD 56 438 969) This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by other donors (see list of donors contributions under paragraph 1.1.2)	
6. Aid modality and implementation modality	Project Modality Indirect management with UNDP Direct management (procurement of services)	
7 a) DAC code(s)	15220, 16050	

¹ Official Development Aid is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

² Based on UN Operational Rates of Exchange, 0.893, correct as of 01 June 2017.
<https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php>

b) Main Delivery Channel	41000 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	N/A		
10. SDGs	SDG 16 SDG 5			
<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>The onslaught of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) beginning in 2014 resulted in the displacement of 3.4 million Iraqis, many of whose places of origin are the target communities for stabilisation initiatives. Military clearing operations to root out ISIL militants must be followed by rapid, timely, and effective efforts by the Government of Iraq (GOI) to restore essential services and livelihoods that will help facilitate the safe voluntary and dignified return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).</p> <p>Further, the weight and success of the Government of Iraq's response to promote stabilization following liberation will be judged by the level of political effect achieved and trust gained between the Government and the people. Broader reconciliation, national dialogue and reform efforts currently led by the Prime Minister depend on strong Government responses following liberation at the local level.</p> <p>In March of 2015, the Government proposed the establishment of a UN Funding Facility dedicated to the stabilisation of retaken areas, constructed around four windows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public works and light infrastructure rehabilitation. • Livelihoods • Capacity support. • Community reconciliation. <p>Endorsed by the Prime Minister and leading members of the Stabilisation Working Group of</p>				

the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIL, co-chaired by Germany and the United Arab Emirates. Following the Working Group's endorsement in April 2015, UNDP developed the project document to create FFIS, which was formally established on 11 June 2015, to which the EU has already contributed EUR 14 million under a previous delegation agreement.³

This programme is in line with the EU Consensus for Development as it reflects one of the key themes: peace. It is also relevant for the Agenda 2030. Indeed it contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

Acronym List

CMI	Crisis Management Initiative
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
EU	European Union
FAPA	Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement
FFES	Funding Facility for Expanded Stabilization
FFIS	Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization
FFS	Funding Facility for Stabilization
GOI	Government of Iraq
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
IDP	Internally displaced persons
IED	Improvised explosive device
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
KRG	Kurdish Regional Government
KR-I	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental organisations
NOC	National Operations Centre
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRSR	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council resolution
UXO	Unexploded ordnance

³ CRIS reference: 376-561

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Country/Regional context/Thematic area

Iraq has been undergoing political, economic, and social turmoil as a result of the conflict with Da'esh. Its onslaught in the beginning of 2014 resulted in the displacement of 3.4 million Iraqis, many of whose places of origin are the target communities for stabilization initiatives.

Since then, the Government of Iraq and its security forces have undertaken clearing operations in the governorates of Salah al-Din, Ninewah, Anbar, and Diyala, and have retaken key areas that require stabilization support. These military operations have also occurred in the context of the national reconciliation and political reform, which aim to provide inclusion for marginalized communities and devolve administrative and fiscal authority to the governorates. In late 2014, the Prime Minister of Iraq and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Iraq agreed to establish a joint UN trust fund to support stabilization and reconstruction in areas retaken from Da'esh control. In March of 2015, the Government reviewed the structure of the trust fund and decided to separate stabilization, for which UNDP prepared a concept note for a stabilization funding facility. The Prime Minister and leading members of the Stabilization Working Group of the Global Coalition to counter Da'esh, co-chaired by Germany and the United Arab Emirates, endorsed the note. Following the Working Group's endorsement in April 2015, UNDP developed the project document to create the Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS) which was formally established on 11 June 2015.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

Failures in rule of law lie at the heart of the crisis in Iraq. The EU and its Member States should consider enhancing their support to the Iraqi government in the introduction of measures strengthening the rule of law and the protection of human rights in all areas of Iraqi public life. In the current crisis context, and more so in the newly retaken areas, development policy should pursue conflict-sensitive approaches across humanitarian, development, stabilisation and political dialogue, taking into account the wider root causes of conflict, chronic insecurity and the impact of these factors on the vulnerability of populations. All these dimensions are essential components of building resilience and ensuring that efforts to link relief, rehabilitation and development remain integral.

In proposing stabilization, the EU remains committed to key areas of the Agenda for Change, and is in line with the political interests of the EU, as described in the most recent European Union Council Conclusions. The Council Conclusions (22 April 2013) underline that *“the EU reiterates its continuing commitment to support Iraq’s transition towards a sustainable democratic system, including through targeted assistance advancing good governance and the rule of law”*. Moreover, in line with the recent Council Conclusions of 14 December 2015, *“It (EU) intends to maintain its focus on counter-terrorism cooperation, immediate stabilisation of retaken areas, and support to reconciliation and peacebuilding initiatives.”* Having adopted the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2014-2017, the Commission has identified 3 priorities for actions in the support to Human Rights and Rule of Law: a) Support to the democratic development of Iraq including through enhanced functioning of parliamentary democracy, b) Improve the national Rule of Law and Human Rights protection system in order to increase the performance of public institutions and strengthen monitoring capabilities of CSOs and c) Promote the principle of judicial independence and sustain the Security Sector Reform process. By intervening at the onset of “liberation”, it is critical to establish at an early stage stabilization initiatives, paving the way to a more balanced and sustained democratic governance.

Furthermore, the Joint Communication on an “*EU comprehensive regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the Da’esh threat*” adopted by the Commission on 6/2/2015 and endorsed by the Council on 16/03/2015 develops an EU comprehensive regional strategy in order to tackle in a comprehensive and coordinated manner the crises in Iraq and Syria and the threat posed by Da’esh. In this respect “*The EU supports efforts by the Global Coalition to counter ISIL/Da’esh, including military action in accordance with international law. It recalls that military action in this context is necessary but not sufficient to defeat ISIL/Da’esh. It will coordinate closely with international partners in the framework of the Global Coalition’s working groups on stabilization, strategic counter-messaging, foreign terrorist fighters, countering terrorist financing and military action*”.

On a more complementary note, this action equally builds upon Regulation (EC) No 1717/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing an Instrument for Stability, the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace – Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component was adopted by the Commission on 27 May 2015⁴. Whereby “*Ensuring a coherent response to crises is part of the EU’s wider efforts in external relations, in close cooperation with the EU Member States, to turn the ‘comprehensive approach’ into comprehensive action. Such coherence implies an effective use and sequencing of the entire range of available EU tools and instruments related to the full crisis cycle, including conflict prevention, crisis response, crisis management, stabilisation, as well as longer-term recovery, reconciliation and reconstruction but also development*”.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The FFS Project Document was signed by the Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister’s Office as the main counterpart of the project. In order to manage the stabilization challenges, the Prime Minister’s Office has set up Control Cells in each Governorate with retaken areas: Ninewah, Salah-al-Din, Diyala and Anbar. The control cells are composed of representatives of line Ministries, security actors and the Governor’s office, chaired by the provincial Governor. The control cells are the counterparts of the FFS at governorate level. In addition to Government counterparts, civil society organizations play an important role in stabilization in particular youth activists and women organizations which have developed community solidarity activities and emergency employment activities for youth. Before FFS engages, an in-depth local conflict analysis is prepared, mapping local actors and drivers of conflict. Finally, the National Operations Centre under the Prime Minister’s Office coordinates the security forces in newly retaken areas and has been an important counterpart for civil-military coordination of planned stabilization activities. Through the Stabilization Task Force meetings with the Prime Minister’s Office, Governors of retaken areas and international community, a strong coordination mechanism has been established for stabilization efforts which discusses overall political and security issues related to stabilization as well as specific challenges related to mine action/IED clearance and ongoing efforts in stabilization through the Funding Facility. The Funding Facility is currently supported by 21 countries which are part of the Global Coalition.

DONOR	CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT SIGNED	CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT SIGNED
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⁴ Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 3453.

	(CURRENCY OF AGREEMENT)	(USD)
Australia	AUD 2,000,000	1,433,692
Austria	EUR 2,000,000	2,146,401
Belgium	EUR 3,124,744	3,362,334
Canada	USD 1,200,000 + CAD 7,000,000	6,356,393
Czech Republic	CZK 10,000,000	401,597
Denmark	DKK 111,000,000	16,404,949
European Union	EUR 14,000,000	14,882,000
Finland	EUR 4,000,000	4,252,902
France	EUR 3,000,000	3,311,318
Germany MOFA	EUR 28,148,000	30,716,037
Germany KFW	EUR 40,000,000	43,888,532
Italy	EUR 7,000,000	7,763,975
Japan	USD 24,128,580	24,128,580
Korea	USD 5,000,000	5,000,000
Kuwait	USD 2,000,000	2,000,000
Netherlands	EUR 25,000,000	28,021,524
New Zealand	USD 1,000,000	1,000,000
Norway	NOK 99,000,000	11,694,536
Slovakia	EUR 50,000	56,243
Sweden	USD 4,000,000 + SEK 90,000,000	13,781,545
Turkey	USD 750,000	750,000
UAE	USD 60,000,000	60,000,000
USA	USD 115,300,000	115,300,000
UK FCO	GBP 2,500,000	3,717,089
UK DFID	GBP 4,770,000	6,075,000
Total		USD 406,444,648

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The Funding Facility's Project Document outlines four primary areas of engagement:

- **Window 1: Public works and light infrastructure rehabilitation.** This window is used to finance light repairs of key public infrastructure including clinics, police stations, water facilities, power grids, government buildings and access roads. It will also be used to finance rubble removal and waste collection. The intention is to provide short-term employment through public work schemes including cash for work.
- **Window 2: Livelihoods.** This window is be used to finance activities aimed at jump-starting the local economy and generating income for local households, particularly

families returning to their homes. The intention is to provide micro-credit grants to small businesses with high community impact including bakeries, electrical shops, agriculture, food kiosks and micro-stores. Where possible, support will also be given to women and vulnerable households.

- **Window 3:** *Capacity support.* This window will be used to finance technical support for local governments, boosting their immediate response capacity to cope with the challenges arising during stabilization. The intention is to recruit and deploy technical experts to support planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring functions. Professionals with expertise in property restitution rule of law and policing can also be deployed. The expectation is that these deployments will be short-term, until government funding comes on line to absorb these staff or transition them.
- **Window 4:**⁵ *Community reconciliation.* This window is used to finance programs that help local leaders and community groups promote social cohesion and dialogue. The intention is to provide micro-credit grants to community organizations to support reconciliation activities.

The areas of engagement are informed by a needs assessment process. UNDP provides the methodology for rapid and detailed stabilization needs assessments following a prioritization process led by the Government. The three primary objectives of the needs assessment process are:

1. Collect pre-conflict and post-conflict data on the conditions of the health, education, electricity, water, and municipality sectors;
2. Prioritize 6 and 24-month priorities, which will inform governorate stabilization plans, and resource allocations to address priority needs identified;
3. Develop the capacity of provincial governments to conduct needs assessments and use them for stabilization and reconstruction planning.

Based on the needs assessments, projects are selected through a consultative process with the Government, UNDP, and affected populations. In most areas, needs far outweigh resources available to UNDP. Therefore, UNDP and the Government (notably the Governor, the Control Cell, and the Office of the Prime Minister) deliberate and agree on which priorities will be supported through the Funding Facility. The Steering Committee of the Funding Facility provides overall guidance to the stabilization interventions and approves any areas which will be considered for stabilization support under FFS. In deciding where to activate FFS, the Steering Committee focuses on several key factors including:

- a) Strategic importance of an area;
- b) Size of the displaced population;
- c) Scale of destruction; and
- d) Area's demographic profile.

During its Steering Committee meeting on 31 March 2016, the Stabilization Funding Facility has been adapted to include a second channel for meeting "expanded" needs at the Governorate level for high impact medium-size rehabilitation projects for improved service delivery and job

⁵ This describes the intent of Window 4 in the original FFIS Project Document. Programming against Window 4 has since been developed into a full-time UNDP project given the importance and complexities of community reconciliation work. Conflict analysis, however, remain an integral aspect of FFS project design.

creation. This new channel is known as the Funding Facility for Expanded Stabilization (FFES) and complements the Immediate Stabilization channel (FFS). Both channels are managed under the guidance of the same Steering Committee and operate using fast-track modalities to ensure that progress is rapid and visible on the ground. Under FFES, priority is given to projects that generate jobs and incentivize large numbers of people to return to their communities. These types of projects include rehabilitation of large public institutions, for example universities and public hospitals, which provide work for thousands of employees and act as a magnet for returning families.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Stabilization efforts and critical decision making are marred by weak political leadership, which does not have the authority or respect of the security forces, community leaders or the general population.	H	Good offices at high political level to provide advice or recommendations. Technical level advisory support to support decision making and possibly, provide expertise or other capacity support.
Lack of Government financial resources for retaken areas and Government unable to implement priority capital investment projects in retaken areas which could reverse initial gains.	H	Raise essential requirements to the attention of the Prime Minister’s office and liaise with the Ministry of Finance. Liaising with WB on implementation of stabilization/recovery loan. Launch of Expanded Stabilization channel to address medium size investments over 2-3 year period to avoid that gains in stabilized areas are reversed.
Significant distrust between Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF – Shi’a militias) and local population prevents IDPs from returning despite stabilization efforts. Also, tensions between tribes are hindering their safe return.	M	Engage PMF and local authorities on principles of protection of returnees and raise security concerns at high level. Any intervention is informed by local conflict analysis including actor mapping and drivers of conflict/peace.
Inability to communicate the role of international community in stabilization and international community is used as scapegoat when things go wrong.	M	Strategic communications officer in FFS and joint advocacy/messaging by UN and international community. Weekly briefings to PMO (Prime Minister’s Office) and NOC (National Operations Centre) including obstacles encountered.
Poor command and control of security forces, incapacitated police forces and division of roles of PMF/police not clear. Risk of looting of (FFSFFS) assets during stabilization phase.	H	Maintain a clear understanding of relationship between UN, Governorate and security forces on the ground during the implementation of FFSFFS. Deployment of liaison officer on the ground to participate in Control Centre and raise security concerns for FFS interventions with relevant counterparts. International community to advise and monitor coordination between

		security actors and governorate, and report back to coalition.
Mass infestation of IEDs and slow removal of these will cause casualties and slow down returns and recovery work.	H	Close coordination with UNMAS as the coordinating body for IEDs/UXOs, international NGOs such as MAG and with the NOC of the PMO. Clearance activities by security forces/police or civil defence, international NGOs and/or companies follow the stabilization priorities as set by the Command Centre of the Government.
Weak capacity of the local police to take over security functions. Militias prolong their stay as long as local police is not able to take over their tasks.	H	Training of local police by international community. Maintain clear understanding of capacity and numbers of police and other security actors in stabilization areas. Build relationships with local leaders and government officials and leverage community buy-in to protect and support FFS assets.
Gender – limited effectiveness of the programme; increased gender gaps, exclusion of women from the benefits of the programme in case gender is not targeted properly in the design of the programme	H	Reformulate the programme and include a gender equality perspectives in the design, include the EU gender comprehensive approach on Women, Peace and Security, follow up on the national and regional implementation of the UNSCR 1325 to 2122) (as mentioned above); include women’s rights organisations, women’s groups and associations
Assumptions		
It is assumed that liberation of Da’esh-held territories will be gradual as fierce resistance from Da’esh fighters will continue until the last stronghold has been retaken. The Government will not be able to provide major funding to stabilization or the recovery phase and will depend on grants and loans from the international community and International Finance Institutions.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

- First, the most sensitive and difficult aspect of stabilization is security. IDPs return in large numbers only when they feel safe and see trusted forces in place. Although FFS has no direct interventions in the security sector, complementarity of efforts with for instance the police training, led by Italy, is of essence. This has allowed for the deployment of trained local police once Iraqi security forces pull out of a retaken city.
- Second, while programming in inaccessible area may be difficult, a timely pre-planning process may help in being better prepared and in finding creative solutions for interventions in hostile areas. Based on lessons learned in Tikrit, which was the test case for FFS as the first city to receive stabilization support, UNDP engaged in Ramadi well before liberation. The pre-planning included conducting preliminary needs assessments, pre-positioning of some equipment, initial efforts for tribal reconciliation and supporting the Governorate with operational stabilization planning expertise before

liberation. A similar pre-planning process is applied for the liberation of Mosul and vicinity.

- Third, as the Central Government deals with badly needed reforms for improved service delivery, a localized approach with strong local ownership and partnerships with local actors can foster expedient implementation of stabilization activities. The strong role of the provincial control cells led by the respective Governor which includes the technical directorates and the security actors has been instrumental in leading and coordinating stabilization efforts. The coordination structure between the Prime Minister's Office, Governors and international community is also seen as a successful formula. Critically, the Government of Iraq works with UNDP to select projects that exist within existing operations budgets of the line ministries. This helps ensure that rehabilitation efforts are sustained following site handover to the line directorates and that FFS efforts support the Government's long-term rehabilitation and recovery effort.
- Fourth, most geographical areas have unique triggers which will encourage or prevent IDPs from returning. Local conflict analysis is therefore essential, including an understanding of the drivers of conflict and motivations of stakeholders. After 12 months of testing conflict sensitivity models of delivery, FFS learned that community reconciliation as envisioned in the 2015 Project Document requires dedicated long-term programming that ties community interventions to national-level processes. At the request of the Government of Iraq, programming for window 4 now exists as a separate UNDP program; however, conflict analysis remains a key component of the stabilization needs assessment process. Conflict analyses inform areas of intervention and types of projects implemented, and helps UNDP open dialogue with Government of Iraq counterparts on sensitive topics regarding conflict mitigation and prevention.
- Fifth, cash-based activities have been the best, most efficient and most effective, high-impact modalities for IDPs returning to their areas of origin. Youth brigades have been involved in debris removal, upgrading of public facilities and repair of the returnees houses. These are specifically designed as cash injections during the crucial period following the return of IDPs to their communities of origin. These are not intended to be early recovery or long-term jobs programs, but designed to ensure the maximum number of vulnerable families receive cash assistance to pay for medical bills, moving families home, fix up damaged homes, etc. Small business grants similarly inject cash into the local economy to jumpstart businesses that will continue beyond the scope of the project. Hundreds of businesses have received such grants, to include women, and help boost overall local economies.
- Sixth, stabilization efforts need to be properly sequenced with a post liberation strategy, including recovery, transitional justice, reconciliation, reconstruction and reform. This is crucial to ensure that gains made are not lost. When FFS was established in June 2015, the working assumption was that enhanced stabilization projects would be undertaken by the Government, using public revenues, as soon as FFS left a city or district. This sequencing of post-liberation efforts has not materialized due to the drastic drop in oil revenue. Worried that military gains are at risk and that the progress being made during immediate stabilization might be reversed by the slower pace of reconstruction, a second stabilization channel has been added to FFS, Expanded Stabilization, to fund medium-scale projects that generate jobs, incentivize mass returns, and help to consolidate corridors between stabilized cities and districts.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

In order to ensure a coordinated approach to Stabilization, a Stabilization Task Force was set up by the Prime Minister's Office in which all coalition partners participate. The EU is chairing the Mines Action/IED clearance sub-group to ensure a coordinated approach in dealing with the challenges of IEDs/mines in newly retaken areas as well as a smooth coordination with stabilization activities. In addition, the FFS has a Steering Committee that endorses new areas of engagement and reviews overall progress and management of risks.

Most importantly, the current EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the "Madad Fund", complements the initiative and will act as a catalyst for increased coordination among all stakeholders. Such stance revolves around three types of complementarity, namely (a) Geographical (the EU TF has more a focus on the Kurdistan Region of Iraq), (b) Thematic (the EU TF remains a comprehensive tool tackling stabilization, early recovery, reconstruction and development), and (c) Political – highlighting the role of the EU as a main donor in the region.

Another area of complementarity pertains to the current EU-funded Local Area Development Program II, which aims to improve the Iraqi decentralisation and deconcentration processes, acknowledged by all stakeholders as crucial pillars of Iraq unity and stabilization.

Synergy is sought also with EU initiatives funded by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP):

- "Increase Iraqi counter-IED/UXO clearance capacities and threat assessment of retaken areas", carried out by UNMAS, which aims to aims to mitigate risks related to explosive remnants of war (ERW), including mines and improvised explosive devices (IED) in areas where the Iraqi authorities have re-established control.⁶
- "Support to conflict reduction between IDPs and host communities", implemented by IOM, which is contributing to reduce tension between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities following the steady increase of population displacement nationwide. Using a conflict-sensitive approach, the action seeks to supplement basic services in communities affected by a major influx of IDPs.⁷
- "Government-led multi-stakeholder reconciliation process", implemented by CMI, which supports Government efforts to move a national reconciliation process forward through facilitating dialogue, building capacity and providing technical expertise.⁸

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Given the sensitive nature of stabilization and the fragile conditions prevailing in many newly retaken areas, concerns relating to human rights, protection, gender and inclusion will be taken into account during the prioritization and sequencing of activities, as cross-cutting issues. In compliance with the EU Gender Action Plan, the UNDP Stabilization Funding Facility is streamlining gender programming into stabilization activities across all areas. While all windows under the Funding Facility are targeting both genders equally as beneficiaries, livelihoods support activities including small grants to support micro local business, are of

⁶ "Increase Iraqi counter-IED/ UXO clearance capacities and threat assessment of liberated areas", EU-funded project, implemented by UNMAS (Budget: EUR 4.5 million)

⁷ "Support to conflict reduction between IDPs and host communities", EU-funded project, implemented by IOM (Budget: EUR 3.5 million)

⁸ "Government-led multi-stakeholder reconciliation process", EU-funded project, implemented by CMI (Budget: EUR 1 million)

particular note. Special attention is paid to design the criteria of receiving the small grants to ensure at least 30% of the beneficiaries are females with a higher priority given to vulnerable segment such as divorced or widowed female with no sustainable income. The FFS is also recruiting a gender specialist to identify further means to ensure stabilization activities further empower women in retaken areas.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The overall objective of this project is to ensure that early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathway are achieved. The specific objective, implemented through the Funding Facility for Stabilisation, is to support the Iraqi Government in newly liberated areas to address immediate challenges for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of IDPs. At the onset of FFS in June 2015, 3.3 million Iraqis were displaced, the Government of Iraq had limited resources to undertake the mass scale rehabilitation required to encourage safe and voluntary returns, and approximately one-third of the country was under ISIL control. As of 26 July 2017, over 2 million Iraqis have returned to newly liberated areas in FFS areas of operation in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewah, and Salah al-Din.

The programme directly supports the Government of Iraq in its planning and implementation of stabilization activities. The Government of Iraq initiates planning with a series of assessments, facilitated by UNDP, that develop six- and 12-month priorities for each city that is in need of stabilization support. The process is informed by a number of stakeholders, including but not limited to governors' offices, line directorates, council members, and civil society. All FFS areas of intervention undergo stabilization assessments once areas are liberated and cleared by the National Operations Centre of hazards and other security threats. To date, 23 out of 28 assessments have been completed (some areas are under ISIL control, contaminated with explosive ordnance, or have endured, significant security threats).

Following the endorsement of the Steering Committee to work in a particular city, UNDP undertakes a conflict assessment of the area to inform FFS interventions. All Steering Committee approved areas of FFS intervention have undergone a conflict assessment (currently 28).

FFS is currently developing, procuring, implementing, or closing over 1,053 Window 1 and 68 Window 2 projects in liberated areas. By the end of 2019, UNDP expects to have completed over 2,500 projects.

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels", and SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." Further, the project directly benefits hundreds of thousands of Iraqis in retaken areas who have endured traumatic conflict and returned to their areas of origin.

This does not imply a commitment by the country benefiting from this programme.

4.2 Main activities

- **Window 1:** Public works and light infrastructure rehabilitation. This window will be used to finance light repairs of key public infrastructure clinics, police stations, water facilities, power grids, government buildings, and access roads.
- **Window 2:** Livelihoods. This window will be used to finance cash for work activities, as part of this cash injection into the local economy. In addition, it intends to provide microcredit grants to small businesses with high community impact. Where possible, support will be given to women and vulnerable households.
- **Window 3:** Capacity support. This window will be used to recruit and deploy technical experts to support planning, implementation, and monitoring functions, and possibly support to women's committees in the provincial councils. The expectation is that these deployments will be short-term, until government funding comes online to absorb these staff or transition them. Professionals with expertise in property restitution rule of law and policing can also be deployed. The expectation is that these deployments will be short-term, until government funding comes on line.
- **Window 4:** Community reconciliation. The intention is to provide microcredit grants to community organizations to support local reconciliation activities, to train community facilitators for reconciliation, with special attention to local women's groups, and to start a restorative justice process.

This project will focus on windows 1 and 2: the rehabilitation of infrastructure in newly retaken areas (Window 1) and supporting returnees through cash-generating work opportunities (Window 2). Specifically, EU funding will ensure that by June 2019:

- Returnees have access to basic services through completion of 1,000 projects in water, health, education, electricity, municipal, and sewage services;
- 3,600 work opportunities will have been generated, of which 20 percent are geared for women and 70 percent for youth (under 30); and

The project expects to undergo the following activities to achieve these results:

- Conduct stabilization needs assessments and conflict analyses for each FFS area of intervention;
- Assist the Government of Iraq in identifying six- and 12-month priorities;
- Coordinate FFS window 1 priorities as developed through the Provincial Control Cells;
- Coordinate FFS window 2 support with governors' offices, municipalities, community leaders (mukhtars, women), councilmembers, and civil society;
- Undergo fast-tracked FFS procurement procedures to select implementing agencies for windows 1 and 2;
- Begin window 1 project implementation in priority sectors of health, education, water, electricity, roads and bridges, sewage, and municipalities;
- Begin window 2 cash for work projects;
- Execute monitoring system during implementation phase, which includes onsite oversight and management, as well as regular site visits from Erbil/Baghdad-based experts;
- Complete site handovers and initiate evaluations.

UNDP decision-making on the funding of projects is guided by a set of principles:

- Legitimate security arrangements under Governorate control for civilian safety and protection will need to be in place in areas where FFS is operationalized (including Rule of Law. Exceptional security arrangements to repel counterattacks may also be present);
- Mechanisms to ensure the safe and voluntary return of IDPs will need to be in place in areas where FFS is operationalized; these include conditions specified in the UN's Guiding Principles on IDPs including marking of IEDs and UXO; freedom of return; freedom of movement; and mechanisms for resolving property and land disputes;
- Governors and Provincial Councils will need to be directly involved in deciding on priorities and project funding;
- General principles embodied in international human rights and humanitarian law (especially non-discrimination and impartiality) will need to be taken into consideration in deciding on priorities and project funding;
- Gender dimensions and minority rights will need to be taken into consideration in deciding on priorities and project funding.

4.3 Intervention logic

The intervention logic identifies the changes we want to bring about in a given context in the targeted Iraqi areas, and identifies how we think the associated change processes might happen, why and on the basis of what assumptions/evidence. The most significant assumptions developed in this part are to be included in the logical framework matrix in the appendix.

The FFS is a tool by which the Government of Iraq carries out its stabilization efforts, and the four windows outlined above are avenues to support the Government's leading role in stabilization efforts. The impact of the occupation by ISIL of large parts of Iraq has been devastating with severely destroyed infrastructure, houses and the large-scale looting of assets. This has led to the massive displacement of the Iraqi population who are incentivized to return if the Government of Iraq is able to show that it ensures Rule of Law and quickly restores basic services, provides temporary job opportunities and fosters dialogue. The rehabilitation of priority infrastructure to resume service delivery is essential to restore the confidence of the population in the Iraqi Government. Emergency job creation efforts will provide the population - which has been in protracted displacement - with much needed cash to restore their lives. The capacity building expertise to the four governorates of the retaken areas will allow for a better response to the immediate stabilization challenges. These challenges include timely planning of stabilization efforts, civil-military planning and coordination, coordination between civilian activities, interaction with international community, and communication to the Iraqi population. FFS coordinates with the sister UNDP project on reconciliation, which facilitates support to IDPs who have more difficulties returning as their communities are accused collectively of siding with ISIL. The reconciliation initiatives will also support vetting procedures for the return of IDPs.

In addition to the above, the return of IDPs is delayed by security challenges as the capacity of the local police to take over security duties in retaken areas from Iraqi Security Forces. Italy is leading the police training that will re-establish local control of security provision and professionalize the force. This training complements FFS stabilization efforts. Another

delaying factor is the presence of unexploded ordnances and improvised explosive devices which have been planted by ISIL to obstruct the return of the population.

When FFS was established, the working assumption was that at the end of the immediate stabilization period public resources will be used to continue to rehabilitate and reconstruct damaged areas. The drastic drop in oil revenues and the cost of the war effort against ISIL, however, puts this assumption at risk. Worried that military gains are at risk and progress made during the immediate stabilization might be reversed by the slower pace of reform and reconstruction, the Government and the UN expanded the Stabilization Facility with a second stabilization channel to fund medium-scale initiatives to accelerate recovery and rapidly build resilience to future shocks.

The first retaken city which was supported by FFS was Tikrit which has seen a large return of the population thanks to (i) restored confidence in the Government to deliver services and jumpstart the local economy, (ii) improved security by Iraqi Security Forces and local police, (iii) timely sequencing of stabilization interventions, and (iv) community reconciliation efforts which allowed for the return of all major tribes who were living in Tikrit before ISIL occupation. This experience has been the basis of the upscaling of the FFS to other retaken areas.

The Funding Facility is implemented through UNDP, though certain activities are implemented through trusted local partners. Ownership by and the leading role of the Iraqi Government (particularly at the governorate level) are critical and include priority setting and decision making through the Steering committee, chaired by the Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister's Office.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

As a result of the graduation of Iraq as upper-middle income country, the Commission has authorised the application of the exception clause provided for in Article 5(2)(b)(ii) of the (EU) No. 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (the DCI Regulation) to Iraq.

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Indirect management with an international organisation

This action may be implemented in indirect management with United Nations Development Programme - UNDP, in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This implementation entails the carry-out of activities foreseen under the Funding Facility for Stabilisation. This implementation is justified because of the comparative advantage UNDP enjoys in the specific Iraqi context, coupled with its pivotal role within the Global Coalition framework and its unique capacity in carrying out stabilization actions in a volatile environment. Furthermore, FFS addresses the needs of the “*EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the Da'esh threat*”, in complementarity with the EU Trust Fund “Madad”.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks:

- Launching call for tenders and for proposals;
- Definition of eligibility, selection and award criteria;
- Evaluation of tenders and proposals;
- Award of grants, contracts;
- Acting as contracting authority concluding, monitoring and managing contracts;
- Carrying out payments, and recovering moneys due.

This implementation entails the funding rehabilitation of light infrastructure in newly retaken areas (Window 1) and support livelihoods by jumpstarting the local economy and generating income (Window 2). This implementation is justified because of the unique and privileged standing and accessibility which UNDP enjoys in the specific Iraqi context.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entrusted entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management.

Both in indirect and direct management, the Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures affecting the respective countries of operation.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative Budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution⁹, in currency identified
5.3.1 Indirect management with UNDP	50 000 000	EUR 362 955 070 (corresponding to approximately USD 406 444 648)
Evaluation and Audit	400 000	0
Communication and visibility	Covered by the UNDP contract	
Total	50 400 000	EUR 362 955 070 (corresponding to approximately USD 406 444 648)

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

For the implementation of this action, the existing FFS Steering Committee will provide overall guidance to the stabilization interventions and approve any areas which will be considered for stabilization support under FFS (please refer to 1.1.3).

The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Prime Minister’s Office and the UN D/SRSG/UNDP Resident Representative. Other members include the four governors, Iraqi institutions (including Prime Minister’s Office), and major fund-contributing partners. The EU will be represented by the Head of Delegation and/or a designated representative, ensuring that objectives are adequately addressed. The EU will have a voice in the selection of activities as the Committee provides overall strategic direction to and oversight of the FFS.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

Infrastructure rehabilitation activities will be monitored by a team of engineers, contracted through a third party company to monitor quality of work and to ensure that implementation is in line with the agreed specifications of the contract. These engineers work closely with the monitoring committees which have been set up by the Government for each infrastructure site. Livelihoods activities are monitored by field staff in retaken areas and by UNDP recruited experts. Regular site visits from the UNDP M&E Team also ensure quality and timeliness of work.

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of UNDP responsibilities. To this aim, UNDP maintains a

⁹ including previous EU contribution

permanent internal, technical, and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular quarterly progress reports and a final report. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logical framework matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that this action could be potentially replicated in other countries.

UNDP will carry out an evaluation of the project after the first year of its implementation and will seek inputs from partners to the Terms of Reference.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and *inter alia* provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Indicatively, one contract for evaluation services shall be concluded in the last year of implementation of the action.

5.9 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

Indicatively, one contract for audit services shall be concluded in the last year of the implementation of the measure.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

APPENDIX - Indicative Logframe matrix (for project modality) ¹⁰

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	OO: Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathway are achieved ¹¹ .	1.1: Number of governorates with reconstruction and development plans	1.1: 0	1.1: ; Target: 4	1.1: Progress and final reports	
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	SO: Iraqi Government in newly liberated areas is supported to address immediate challenges for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of IDPs. ¹²	1.1: Number of returnees to targeted liberated areas of Salah al-Din, Ninewah, Diyala and Anbar 1.2: Percentage of host community individuals, refugees, and internally displaced persons able to	1.1: total 1.6 million returnees (as of April 2017) 1.2: 60% (weighted average calculated from the World Bank	1.1: 2,400,000 internally displaced persons have returned to their places of origin by June 2019. 1.2: 75%	1.1: Progress and final reports; Baseline, mid-point, end-line surveys; National Reports and surveys; IOM returns database; OCHA database/population tracking; Local Authority information. 1.2: Source: World Bank Household Socio-Economic Survey, REACH	Government counterparts are willing to engage; security problems will not lead to major delays in project progress; Currency fluctuations and inflation are minimal; national IDP and returnee situation remains relatively stable. Returns to areas of origin are voluntary, and returnees voluntarily remain in areas of origin.

¹⁰ Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

¹¹ Aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan and Country Programme Results and Resource Framework for Iraq 2014-2017 (Outcome 6).

¹² This is the stated output for the Funding Facility for Stabilization, including FFIS and FFES, approved in April 2016.

		consistently afford basic needs	Household Socio-Economic Survey, REACH refugee assessments, and the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment, phase II)		refugee/internally displaced persons/host community assessments	
Outputs	<p>O1: “Government and communities' resilience to disasters (man-made and natural) strengthened”¹³</p> <p>O2: “Improved livelihoods opportunities for crisis-affected communities”¹⁴</p>	<p>1.1: Number of infrastructure projects for basic services (water, health, electricity, education and municipal services) which have been rehabilitated in FFIS targeted areas</p> <p>2.1: Number of work opportunities for individuals, including women and youth, created in liberated areas of target provinces”</p> <p>2.2: Number of small business grants, including women-owned businesses, awarded in</p>	<p>1.1: 1,051 projects ongoing (as of June 2017)</p> <p>2.1: 6,981 job opportunities as of June 2017</p> <p>2.2: Small businesses have no grants.</p>	<p>1.1: 2,500 projects completed by June 2019).</p> <p>2.1: 20,000 job opportunities created by June 2019, 30% for women and 70% for youth (under 30).</p> <p>2.2: A total of 5000 small businesses receive grants in 4 target provinces by 31 December 2018</p>	<p>Progress and final reports; Baseline, mid-point, end-line surveys; Service Centre reports and ATLAS; Implementation partner reports; Local Authority Information.</p>	<p>Absorptive capacity; political willingness to engage in stabilization activities;</p> <p>Security situation allows implementation; residents are engaged in planning and implementation;</p> <p>High level of IED contamination and destruction delay IDPs from returning but concerted efforts of local and international actors to tackle these challenges will allow FFS to work in retaken areas soon after liberation.</p> <p>Adequate numbers and</p>

¹³ Aligned with UNDAF Outcome 1

¹⁴ Expected UNDP Iraq Country Programme Outcome 3

		liberated areas of target provinces		(end Q4). A total of 100 women's small businesses will receive grants		quality of personnel can be recruited and remain with Project at expected remuneration; security allows international staff presence in country.
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 2

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2017 special measure in favour of Iraq
Action Document for Assisting Stabilization, Humanitarian Efforts and Civilian Returns in Retaken Areas with Explosive Threat Mitigation

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Assisting Stabilization, Humanitarian Efforts and Civilian Returns in Retaken Areas with Explosive Threat Mitigation - financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument CRIS number: MIDEAST/2017/40635			
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Iraq The action shall be carried out at the following location: Al Anbar, Ninewah and Salah Ah Din Governorate with a focus on Mosul and surrounding areas newly liberated from ISIL control.			
3. Programming document	EU Regional Strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as against Da'esh threats			
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Stabilization/Reconstruction	DEV. Aid: Yes ¹		
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 14 555 900 (corresponding to approximately USD 16 300 000 million – <i>March 2017</i>). Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 10 000 000 (approximately USD 11 198 208) ² This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.			
6. Aid modality and implementation modality	Project Modality Indirect management with UNMAS (as part of the UN Secretariat)			
7 a) DAC code(s)	15220, 16050			
b) Main Delivery Channel	15250 - UNMAS			
8. Markers (from	General policy objective	Not	Significant	Main

¹ Official Development Aid is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

² Based on UN Operational Rates of Exchange, 0.893, correct as of 01 June 2017.
<https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php>

CRIS DAC form)		targeted	objective	objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development) ³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	N/A			
10. SDGs	SDG 16			
<p>SUMMARY:</p> <p>The presence of explosive hazards and explosive contamination in areas ‘retaken’ from Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) occupation in Iraq will continue to impede security and stability efforts if not appropriately addressed. The UNMAS programme in Iraq, or “UNMAS Iraq”, is implementing a multi-year comprehensive response to address the problem of explosive hazards, including Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). UNMAS Iraq is working closely with the UN system and the Government of Iraq as an enabler of stabilization and it must be noted that without explosive hazard survey and clearance, it is not possible for stabilization initiatives to begin, it is a precursor. In addition, UNMAS Iraq is an enabler of humanitarian assistance, particularly in Mosul surrounding area. This response includes coordination, engagement and capacity enhancement of relevant authorities, threat impact assessments, and clearance and risk education initiatives.</p> <p>Given the volatile environment, the response that is applicable in May 2017 might not be applicable in March 2018. Project scope and relevance will remain the same but the response or ‘solution’ may require adjustment based on operating environment. This is based on lessons learned to-date from Ramadi and Fallujah and the operating environment encountered recently in East and West Mosul.</p> <p>This programme reflects one of the themes of the EU Consensus for Development: peace. It is also relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".</p>				

³ Gender equality will not be a significant objective of this project however issues related to Gender in Mine Action Programming will be taken into consideration in all phases of the project and will be requested from implementing partners

Acronym List

BAC	Battle Area Clearance
CDF	Civil Defense Force
COMSEC	Council of Ministries Secretariat
CTS	Counter Terrorism Service
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DMA	Directorate for Mine Action
EH	Explosive hazard
EHM	Explosive hazard management
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
EU	European Union
FAFA	Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement
FEDPOL	Federal Police
FFIS	Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GOI	Government of Iraq
HI	Handicap International
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
IDP	Internally displaced persons
IED	Improvised explosive device
IEDD	Improvised explosive device disposal
IKMAA	Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IP	Iraqi Police
ISF	Iraqi Security Forces
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
JCC	Joint Crisis Coordination Centre
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring centre
KRG	Kurdish Regional Government
KR-I	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
KSF	Kurdish Security Forces
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MA	Mine Action
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MOE	Ministry of Health and Environment
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOP	Ministry of Peshmerga
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	non-governmental organisations

NOC	National Operations Centre
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OPPBA	Office of Programme, Planning, Budget and Accounts
PCWG	Protection Cluster Working Group
QA/QC	Quality assurance/ quality control
RMAC	Regional Mine Action Centres
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SRA	Security risk assessment
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
SSR	Security Sector Reform
TA	Technical Advisors
TIA	Threat impact assessment
UN VTF	UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council resolution

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Country/Regional context/Thematic area

Extensive conflict involving Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), Kurdish forces and ISIL has had profound consequences on human security in Iraq. As the conflict protracts, the extent of the crisis is deepening, challenging the response capacity of the Government of Iraq, the United Nations and international community. The presence of explosive hazards continues to impede stabilization and humanitarian assistance efforts.

Recent Iraqi military gains have resulted in a number of strategic towns ‘retaken’ from ISIL occupation, however many explosive hazards have been encountered, particularly IEDs, which have been used extensively by ISIL prior to their departure often hidden within residential buildings and along the main access routes into urban areas. The insecurity of sites where internally displaced persons (IDPs) are located and the presence of IEDs in areas of return is a major protection concern; civilians are returning voluntarily to find their homes and public facilities are significantly affected. In newly retaken areas, the presence of a variety of remnant explosive threats continues to negatively affect access which presents a major constraint for stabilization and humanitarian actors to enforce their operations.

The scale, sophistication and complexity of the explosive contamination problem in retaken areas are substantial, unprecedented, and exceed existing and available national capacity to adequately respond. As more areas are retaken, further extensive contamination is anticipated. The ongoing conflict and the continued presence of ISIL are primary factors impacting security

and access. It is therefore recognised that a comprehensive civilian explosive hazard management response is required as a first step to address the problem before any full-fledged assistance efforts can proceed.

The complex IED fabrication in Iraq has not been seen in many other countries, with the coalition suffering heavy losses as the result of the employment of such devices as part of various asymmetrical campaigns over recent years. However, the ongoing situation in Iraq has seen ISIL employ their IED's in vast numbers and emplaced in a similar manner to that of a regular military formation employing conventional mine warfare doctrine. It is therefore essential that any entity engaged in improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) operations (or the associated high risk search tasks) is both fully trained and appropriately equipped to undertake these inherently dangerous activities.

To add to the complexity of working in Iraq, it must be noted that in areas under administration of the Directorate for Mine Action (DMA), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) ISF are the only entities permitted to use 'energetics' (explosives) therefore all other entities must rely on the support from ISF for disposal of explosive hazards, once located and rendered safe. In other areas, mine action operators are able to use 'energetics' but may need the support of the Peshmerga or the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority (IKMAA) depending on the location. UNMAS Iraq has been working closely with the ISF to ensure that items that are found are safely removed and rendered safe within these regulations. The relationship with the ISF is critical to ensuring that items can be removed and destroyed, ensuring that UNMAS Iraq operations are completed in a way that would not be possible for other mine action actors who have not developed this process with ISF.

In April 2016, international response operations began in Ramadi, Anbar governorate. UNMAS Iraq teams began threat impact assessments in Ramadi in May 2016 and Fallujah in August 2016 to identify the level of contamination. UNMAS Iraq has also contracted a commercial company and NGOs to work in Ramadi, Fallujah and Mosul. In addition, other commercial organizations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are operating in various locations. An international commercial company, Janus, has provided survey and clearance operation in Ramadi and Mosul surrounding areas including Bashiqa, Hamdaniyah, Qaraqosh. Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is providing survey and clearance as well as risk education in Sinjar, Hamdaniyah, Bashiqa, Kirkuk, Dibis, Daquq, Tal Afar and other locations. The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) and Handicap International (HI) conduct clearance operation in Daquq. NPA operates in Hamdaniyah. Mine action partners exchange information in numerous coordination meetings held in both Baghdad and Erbil.

To date, over 1.7 million square metres of potentially hazardous areas have been surveyed and cleared in Fallujah, consisting of 175 tasks including highways, schools, water plants and health centres. 291 ERW and 303 IEDs have been removed representing 5.5 tonnes of home-made explosives. A number of districts within the city are now connected to electricity allowing households to start returning to normal as a result of these activities. Over 50,000 people were provided with life-saving risk mitigation messages.

In Mosul and the surrounding area, a comprehensive and multi-faceted explosive hazard threat mitigation response is required to protect civilians, assist IDP temporary settlement and enable their safe return home. As the UN lead of the mine action sub-cluster, UNMAS Iraq is ensuring that an appropriate mine action lens is integrated within current emergency response operations

as the military campaign progresses. As such, a multi-partner response will be coordinated in Al Anbar, Ninewah and Salah Ah Din to assess and clear explosive hazards affecting critical infrastructure and impeding access and settlement in temporary sites and urban areas. It is also necessary to ensure civilians are provided relevant life-saving risk messaging in preparation for their eventual return home. In Mosul, over 4,000 students have now returned back to schools to resume their education. Three health facilities were cleared in East Mosul allowing medical treatment for casualties from ISIL attacks. In Mosul, over 150 humanitarian personnel have been prepared with risk awareness training for high threat environments and 80 inter-agency threat impact assessments have been carried out by UNMAS Iraq technical experts enabling humanitarian actors to safely identify IDP camp sites, provide humanitarian aid and assist the Government to resume education and health services. In Qayarah, 2,000 students have now returned back to five schools following the clearance of education facilities and the clearance of Qayarah hospital has it to be fully operationalized. Furthermore, to prepare civilians to return home, more than 31,000 people have received life-saving risk education in the north eastern sub-districts of Mosul and camps south of Mosul City. The scale, scope and complexity of the explosive hazard problem in Iraq are immense. The level of destruction of buildings and infrastructures is considerable in the West part of the city where heavy fighting has taken place. Both the high level of contamination and the significant damage will undoubtedly make the clearance process even more complex.

UNWOMEN and Oxfam, in collaboration with the Afkar society, recently shared results from a study titled *Gender and Conflict Analysis in ISIS Affected Communities in Iraq* which focused on the geographic conflict areas of Ninevah (Mosul), Anbar, and Salah Al din. The recommendations from the study will be used by the humanitarian community in Iraq to inform humanitarian planning and interventions and has provided evidence based research on gender responsive programming and interventions in conflict settings. The results of the gender and conflict analysis study come about at a very important time for the country during this war on ISIL and UNMAS Iraq participated in the launch event on 14 May.

The UNMAS programme in Iraq is implementing a multi-year comprehensive response to address the problem of explosive hazards, in areas retaken from ISIL occupation. The overall objective is to assist stabilization and humanitarian efforts, and to create conditions for the sustainable return of displaced people. This Action will reduce the risk of explosive hazards in direct support of stabilization and humanitarian planning and delivery, while at the same time increase the national capacity to manage the overall threat from explosive hazards in these areas. Focusing at the strategic level, UNMAS Iraq will continue to collaborate closely with respective mine action authorities and other relevant national authorities to develop effective and sustainable systems and processes, such as the development of national standards and operational guidelines, and the coordination and management of a future survey and clearance needs within Iraq.

UNMAS was established in 1997, by the General Assembly, and as per the UN Policy on Mine Action and Effective Coordination (A/53/496, 1998) is the established coordinator of mine action within the United Nations system. UNMAS supports the UN vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and where mine survivors are fully integrated into their societies. When instructed by the Security Council or called upon by Member States, UNMAS deploys under humanitarian, peace and security mandates.

In his statement to the UN Security Council, on 16 February 2016, SRSG Jan Kubiš, declared that stabilization in retaken areas and the safe return of IDPs are of enormous political importance, stating that IEDs used by ISIL must be removed before populations can return home, and that “funding is insufficient and calls on Iraq’s regional and international partners to enhance their support to the Government of Iraq’s efforts to hold and stabilize areas retaken from ISIL.” Following this, in his 27 April 2016 report, (S/2016/296), the UN Secretary-General informed the Security Council that “the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) continued to provide strategic guidance to the Government of Iraq through the national operations centre, the Directorate of Mine Action and the Iraqi Kurdish Mine Action Authority, supporting the deployment of emergency operations and capacity-building activities.”

Further to a request from the Prime Minister of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), in 2015 UNMAS was requested by the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMI) to undertake an initial assessment mission of the explosive hazard problem in retaken areas. Findings concluded that as Government of Iraq secures and stabilizes newly recaptured areas, UNMAS would be required to play a major role in facilitating humanitarian and stabilization efforts, by addressing the problem of explosive hazards from retaken territories.

The UNMAS Iraq Programme (“UNMAS Iraq”) was formally established in June 2015, at the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Iraq, to lead the UN efforts to mitigate explosive threats in the country, as well as to support the enhancement of national and regional mine action capacities.

The renewed United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/2299 (25 July 2016) for UNAMI for Iraq references the threat of hazardous explosive devices and welcomes efforts by member states to support the Government of Iraq and its partners in addressing the need to provide risk education, appropriate threat assessments, and conduct clearance of areas of such devices. It also encourages Member States to continue such support.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The EU, in support of Germany's co-chairing of the Stabilization Working Group, has been leading⁴, for two years, the coordination efforts on international support to civilian explosive hazard (EH) management in liberated areas in Iraq. With limited investment coupled with its coordination role, the EU has leveraged significant funding (EUR 150 million in 2016). Funding shortfalls remain but international attention to this critical issue is likely to grow, especially in the context of the Mosul liberation.

Furthermore the European Union chairs the Coalition's Explosive Hazard Management Sub-Group in support of Stabilization that brings together the donor community and UNMAS Iraq to discuss strategic concerns and resource mobilization. This forum provides an opportunity for donors to highlight priorities and for UNMAS Iraq to raise areas of strategic concern. The EU has also offered support to advocate on UNMAS Iraq’s behalf to the Government, should the need arise.

⁴ EU DEL chairing the Donor Coordination Group for Explosive Hazard Management (EHM)

On 13 June, the UN Security Council held a briefing under the agenda item maintenance of international peace and security with the title “Comprehensive Approach to Mine Action and Explosive Hazard Threat Mitigation.” Bolivia is aiming to obtain agreement on a draft resolution that could be adopted later in June 2017. It would be the Council’s first stand-alone resolution on mine action. EU member states (France, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom) were in attendance and spoke to the importance of mine action as a sector and the work of UNMAS.

The EU supports cross-pollination between EU-funded partners and connects UNMAS with other partners involved in the Mine Action sector. For example, UNMAS is aware that the EU is exploring options to help the estimated 4.5 million conflict widows in Iraq. There are possibilities for UNMAS to support this initiative once the lead agency is identified and will continue to follow up for possible areas of collaboration. In addition, the EU has ensured that UNMAS is aware that MAG and HI⁵ are both funded through the Madad Fund and UNMAS should look to areas of possible collaboration. The EU supports HI also through its humanitarian assistance, including for Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) (in Kirkuk and Salah Al Din Governorate) and for Mine Risk Education (in Anbar, Baghdad, Kirkuk, Salah Al Din, Erbil and Ninewa governorate). Good coordination will have to be ensured, in order to avoid duplication.

Although not funded through the Madad fund, the UNMAS programme addresses the needs of the “*EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the Da'esh threat*”, in complementarity with the Madad fund.

The EU’s biggest contribution is probably in designing a new model to mitigate the complex and multi-layered threat that still risks jeopardizing Iraqi and international stabilization efforts. In essence, this new approach - referred to as the “blended solution” - concentrates on coordination and synchronization of cost-effective efforts by military actors, national authorities, commercial entities and NGO, across a spectrum of activity, from “harder” clearance operations at one end to “softer” victim assistance at the other. Focus on outcome instead of delivery of output is contributing coherently to the desired effect to ensure IDPs not only return home safely but remain in place. Iraqi national authorities are now much more able to set priorities, and international donors have been able to focus funding away from piecemeal, stove-piped projects, and instead into more orchestrated EH programmes.

The EU also has a comprehensive approach to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security framework – UNSCRs 1325, 1820 and subsequent resolutions. These resolutions outline that a gender perspective, encompassing both women and men, should inform EU external actions in order to achieve a comprehensive response to the threats faced by the civilian population in times of conflict and in its aftermath. The EU also has its Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2016-2020: gender equality and women’s empowerment in external relations outlines an approach to gender equality and the promotion, protection and fulfilment of women’s and girls’ human rights. UNMAS Iraq is aware that the EU is exploring options to

⁵ It should be noted that MAG and HI are not yet registered with the Central Government of Iraq and are therefore not able to operate in all areas of Iraq (such as Mosul city).

help the estimated 4.5 million conflict widows in Iraq. There are possibilities for UNMAS Iraq to support this initiative once the lead agency is identified and will continue to follow up for possible areas of collaboration. Gender and diversity influence the way in which a person is affected by explosive contamination – including their risk of becoming a victim, the ability to access medical and support services, and their long-term recovery and reintegration. In addition to this, because of the distinct patterns, roles and responsibilities of women, girls, boys and men, mine action activities need to be sensitive to gender and diversity in order to be effective and efficient.

To further contribute to the realization of UN resolution 1325, all contract processes managed by UNMAS Iraq will be mainstreamed to include gender and diversity – bidding organizations will have to demonstrate how their projects take gender and diversity into account during all phases of the planning cycle including the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data. Implementing partners and stakeholders in Iraq will be encouraged to take into account the distinct needs of different genders and groups in their operational planning. UNMAS Iraq contractors and stakeholders will be distributed the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action which contains recommendations and stipulations on how to better mainstream gender needs in operations and ensure that prioritization processes reflect them. In this programme, a gender lens will be applied to the project both internally and externally. Gender and diversity will be considered internally during recruitment processes, as a systematic discussion point in strategic planning, and senior management will encourage staff to include a gender and diversity-focused objective within their personal workplace action plans, therefore supporting some of the calls to action in UN resolution 1325.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

While Iraq continues to possess a pre-existing capacity base dealing with explosive threats, these capacities are limited among civilian entities, with the majority of available and qualified assets prioritized on the front line. A large number of national Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operators have been killed in action and this existing capacity becomes increasingly scarce in retaken areas, and in all law enforcement units. The relevant institutions and organizations are mapped below.

National Authorities

The national authority for mine action, the DMA is under the Ministry of Health and Environment (MOE). DMA regulates civilian mine action in Iraq. DMA maintains sectoral oversight of mine action nationwide, and oversees Regional Mine Action Centres (RMAC) in North and South. UNMAS Iraq coordinates and cooperates closely with all relevant national authorities and mine action implementing partners.

The Kurdistan region has a regional counterpart institution, the IKMAA based in Erbil and under the Office of the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. IKMAA is responsible for all traditional Mine Action (MA) activities in both the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) and the so called ‘grey areas’ outside of recognised boundaries. The organization maintains a consistent level of staff, who are experienced in traditional MA activities and also have access to training facilities located in both Soran (North of Erbil) and Sulimaniyah (East of Erbil).

Iraqi EOD Assets

Over time and with international assistance, the Government of Iraq (GOI) has assumed a wide range of EOD and IEDD assets designed to assist in the mitigation of the threat posed by explosive threats to varying levels of proficiency. Historically, a significant amount of training and equipment has been provided to the GOI in terms of developing a sustainable capacity, however today there is little evidence that such assets are being used to support the current stabilization efforts within the newly liberated areas, or those who have been trained have been killed or injured in action.

Government of Iraq Managed Assets

1. The National Operations Centre (NOC) provides the national focal point for all current operational tasking conducted by the ISF, Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) and the Federal Police (FEDPOL) together with the other actors involved in the ongoing offensive operations and stabilization efforts. This NOC also acts as the conduit for the passage of information relating to the clearance of affected areas. It should be clarified that a cohesive coordination mechanism does not yet exist within Iraq. The NOC reports to the Office of the Prime Minister.
2. The Joint Coordination and Monitoring centre (JCMC) is humanitarian crisis management and response responding to such concerns as the IDP situation in Iraq, identification and construction of IDP camps, implementation challenges of the UN in humanitarian response, returns, coordination, and essentially supporting all humanitarian crisis management and response issues generally. The mandate of the JCMC is to coordinate responses to humanitarian crisis, either man-made or natural. The JCMC is a separate office that reports to the Council of Ministries Secretariat (COMSEC). At the national level, there is a JCMC staff member embedded in each ministry. At the Governorate level, there is a JCMC staff member, usually technical, who focuses on coordination under the Governor's office, specifically with the Governorate-level ministry offices. The NOC and JCMC are headed by the same individual to increase information sharing between the two entities and ensure consistent messaging to the Prime Minister's office. However the NOC and JCMC have very different mandates; the first security focused and the latter humanitarian focused.
3. The MOD has the combat engineers as their primary EOD asset and who have received training in basic demolition, EOD and fundamental IEDD procedures. These units are focused on the warfighting phase of operations, and during a briefing with the NOC in February 2016 the MOD declared having three EOD teams currently active within the Ramadi area.
4. The CTS are a highly specialized force, who have received basic IED awareness training, but do not have an IEDD capability within their organization. These units are assigned to the warfighting phase of operations.
5. The FEDPOL is the national law enforcement agency consisting of approximately 2,800 officers, who retain primacy for conducting IEDD operations within Iraq. The organization is developing its current capability through recent and ongoing training programmes delivered by Italy's Carabinieri Corps and by NATO.
6. The Civil Defense Force (CDF) has the primary function of providing a fire fighting response under the control of the local Governor. However, they do have EOD teams responsible for the identification and rendering safe of conventional munitions only. The unit is not involved in warfighting, but prevented from active involvement in IEDD

activities by national (GOI) caveats. During a recent communication it was stated that the CDF had 12 personnel operating in the Anbar region conducting EOD activities.

7. The Iraqi Police (IP) is a locally recruited law enforcement entity, which retains a limited conventional EOD capability. However, the unit remains unsupported in terms of developing an IEDD capability at this time. The unit is not currently engaged in any warfighting activities, and could therefore provide a sustainable asset in the provision of specialist technical assistance during future (localized) stabilization operations.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) Managed Assets

1. Ministry of Peshmerga (MOP) is referred to as the Kurdish Security Forces (KSF) and consist of both regular and militia units. Within this structure it is the KSF combat engineers who conduct EOD/IEDD related activities during warfighting operations. Although the unit remains limited in its technical capability, it is receiving extensive training in IED awareness, high risk search and IEDD by coalition instructors.
2. Ministry of Interior KRI have ownership of all of the local law enforcement entities and well as the Kurdish CDF, but with the local Governor retaining control over the latter. Again, the CDF in the KRI are responsible for fire-fighting with an additional role for conventional EOD activities. The level of training, capabilities and scaling of specialist equipment within this unit remains unknown at this time.
3. In addition to the Government of Iraq's JCMC there is the Kurdistan Regional Government's Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC). UNDP has a Partnership Programme is to support the GOI and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in building up a strong and efficient crisis management network with both centres as the coordinating bodies. Responsible for coordinating one of the region's largest and most complex humanitarian operations, the two crises centres will cooperate to reach to millions of displaced people ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches more than three million people who have been forced to flee their homes this past year because of violence and conflict through prioritization, planning and targeting, as well as resource mobilization.

Other Actors:

1. Commercial EOD Organizations exist within Iraq, but are largely focused on the traditional MA activities in support of the oil and gas industry and other commercial clearance contracts. A recent briefing indicated that there are 11 Iraq companies and who are in possession of both the required registration and accreditation documents to legally operate within Iraq. Due to the situation in Al Anbar Governorate, a number of such organizations are now benefiting from international partnerships and evolving their IEDD capacity.
2. Tribal Fighters are males employed in heavily contaminated areas such as Ramadi and Fallujah to clear IEDs, and for which they receive payment from the local Governor.
3. Mine Martyrs or the 'Martyr Brigade' are young males used to clear IEDs in heavily contaminated areas, rather than financial reward they receive food and gain both credibility and honour for their family as a result of their actions.

Humanitarian Sphere

Humanitarian Mine Action NGOs, both international and national, have made a significant contribution to the clearance of conventional threats within Iraq. Many of the organizations

have remained within Iraq for many years and are well established with relevant national authorities. Although many do not have an integral IEDD capacity, several organizations are actively recruiting IEDD specialists to further develop their capacity in regard to the changing threat identified within Iraq. As the Mine Action sub-cluster lead, under the Protection Cluster, UNMAS works closely with identified partners to coordinate activities in the area of Humanitarian Mine Action, specifically focused on the humanitarian emergency. Currently there are nine known international mine action NGOs accredited by the DMA to work in the Central/South of Iraq and two national NGOs. It has also been noted that there are 11 registered local commercial companies working in the field of mine action.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iraq is responsible for the overall coordination of the protection response among humanitarian actors through a dedicated protection “cluster” or working group. UNMAS is the designated coordinator for mine action within the Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG); it is actively engaged with these agencies and partners, and functions as the coordinator for the Mine Action sub-cluster in Iraq. In this regard, UNMAS Iraq provides leadership coordination for UN agencies, funds, programmes, and mine action partners to exchange information, increase efficiencies, and promote overall coherence in prioritisation, resource mobilization, and operations.

From October 2016, UNMAS Iraq was asked to provide technical advice and explosive threat mitigation support on all UN inter-agency assessment missions, including OCHA, UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR and Cluster partners, to enable the identification of suitable sites for IDP camps and for aid distribution points to support civilians fleeing Mosul. As of January 2017, several partners have been implementing survey and clearance operations, risk education and victim assistance in Ninewah governorate. Under a grant from UNMAS and with direct bilateral support, MAG, has been conducting survey and clearance operations as well as risk education in Bashiqa, Rabeea and Zummar, Sinoni and Hamdaniya. NPA, conducts clearance operates in Hamdaniya and HI, provides victim assistance and risk education in Qayyarah. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delivers risk education sessions in Qayyarah, Shoara and Hammam el-Aleel.

International Community

UNMAS Iraq is funded bilaterally through contributions to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action Assistance. Current donors include: Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, and the UK. UNMAS anticipates pledged funds from UK and Germany that will end in March 2018 as well as pledged funds from Finland and Denmark for the whole of 2018. Furthermore, negotiations are underway with Germany and as well as in-kind contributions from Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand and Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency / Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (MSB/SIDA).

Civil Society

Civil society organisations and local NGOs, including women’s organisations, associations, and groups, particularly those involved in front line response are a valuable source of information. UNMAS Iraq has provided IED awareness training to local NGOs providing humanitarian interventions close to the front lines in West Mosul. Good coordination will be particularly important with NGOs also working on Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) and Mine Risk Education, in order to avoid duplication.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels), but also promotes progress towards Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). This does not imply a commitment by the country benefiting from this programme.

The presence of explosive hazards and explosive contamination in retaken areas will continue to impede security and stability efforts if not appropriately addressed. The anticipated impact of the response is to provide an enabling environment for stabilization and recovery operations to release areas for longer term recovery to take place. UNMAS is best placed and mandated to build national and regional capacities to coordinate and manage an appropriate response to support stabilization and humanitarian assistance. Focussing at the strategic level UNMAS Iraq will work directly with respective authorities to develop effective and sustainable systems and processes, such as the development of national standards and operational guidelines to support future work and the roll out of a future survey and clearance needs, as required, within Iraq and in the region.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Likelihood	Severity	Impact	Management
Security				
UN Security Management System restrictions preventing UNMAS Iraq from supporting regional counterparts or deploy assessment teams in newly retaken areas	Medium	High	Programme activities not implemented on time	With UN DSS, UNMAS Iraq will closely monitor the security situation and adapt the activities and their locations if necessary. If certain priority locations are inaccessible, alternate priority locations which are permissible will be located. UNMAS also employs the services of commercial contractors who have more flexible access to areas than a UN staff member.
Direct attacks against authorities and capacities supported through this project	Medium	High	Programme suspended	With UN DSS, UNMAS Iraq will monitor the security situation along with the national and regional authorities to try to avoid deploying regional capacities in high risk areas.
Direct attacks against UNMAS Iraq and direct implementing partners	Medium	High	Programme suspended	Alongside UNDSS, UNMAS Iraq monitors security situation along with UNDSS to ensure maximum security to its staff; technical experts also accompany DSS and other UN partners on inter-agency assessment missions and security risk assessments (SRAs).
Implementation				
Project is not fully supported by DMA/IKMAA	Medium	High	Programme delay	UNMAS Iraq is already fully engaged with DMA and IKMAA, along with UN Senior leadership and the international community; UNMAS Iraq is in the process of embedding personnel within the national authorities to provide technical assistance and ensure buy-in.
Confusion on the role of UNMAS Iraq with respect to its supported authorities/ capacities	Low	Medium	Expectation management	UNMAS Iraq meets regularly with all relevant stakeholders (regional and international) and is maintains communication on its role and activities.
Official agreement is not gained from the Ministry of Defense for appropriate entities to conduct clearance operations and destroy items found.	High	High	Operational targets not met	UNMAS Iraq has sought solutions regarding how to engage the MOD to be able to coordinate with the ISF for demolition support. One such option is to embed engineers into civilian operational teams. This has been agreed in principle with the relevant authorities and has been field tested on a small number of tasks. The relationship is currently working well.

Official approval is not gained from the National Operations Centre (NOC) for civilian entities to enter retaken areas to conduct the proposed action	Medium	Medium	Programme delay and evolution of concept of operations	Successful deployment of clearance capacities and operational implementation has required negotiations at the highest political level with the Government of Iraq; UNMAS Iraq continues to work closely with the mission to ensure that UN principals are advocating on UNMAS' behalf.
Actual costs vary outside of tolerance levels from budget	Medium	Low	Budget amendment required and possible reduction/increase in scope	UNMAS Iraq built its budget as per current market prices. Any major variance from budget would be shared with the donor with suggested adaptations.
Insufficient budget to implement the address the IED threat	Medium	High	Programme, or programme components, end	UNMAS Iraq regularly consults with relevant partners and stakeholders and will prioritize and continues investigate complementary budgetary support.
Disputes occur over territorial control in the 'grey areas'	Medium	Medium	Programme delay	A MOU has been developed between DMA, IKMAA on information management and to support prioritization and tasking.
Lack of gender awareness and sensitivity increase existing gender inequalities and women's exclusion	High	Medium	Program efficiency and sustainability	Ensure gender analysis prior to the implementation of the intervention to identify the relevant gender issues and address the appropriately

Assumptions

- Minimum required funding is met in timely manner to support operational needs, including core programme staff and administrative costs
- Cooperation of the international community, including implementing partners
- Available international and local operational capacities to implement the emergency response in retaken areas
- Non-governmental and commercial organizations are appropriately accredited from national/regional authorities to conduct project activities
- Cooperation of the Government of Iraq, Kurdistan Regional government and other national/regional authorities
- A security and political environment that appropriate entities are able to operate in to support the project implementation.
- Official approval from the National Operations Centre (NOC) for organization to gain access to retaken areas and conduct emergency interventions
- Appropriate visas obtained and the arrival/clearance of specialized equipment in Iraq in timely manner: and
- Ministry of Defence agreement for appropriate entities to conduct clearance operations and destroy items (including IEDs) found
- Stakeholders are aware of the importance of the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security framework as well as the EU comprehensive approach on Women, Peace and Security and are taking into account gender issues in the implementation of the intervention

3 LESSONS LEARNED, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learned

The risk of death and injuries from explosive hazards in newly retaken areas is anticipated to be high, particularly in the Western part of Mosul, and likely to affect access for humanitarian and stabilization actors. A lesson learned from the implementation of similar actions in 2016 is that in order to provide a timely, efficient, and effective response, UNMAS Iraq should support coordination and deploy a ‘blended approach’ of diverse capacities (e.g. a combination of NGO, commercial, military and UNMAS assets) to conduct survey and clearance activities, with full support of the mine action authorities. For the implementation of the activities described in this action, UNMAS Iraq will flexibly deploy multiple assets, including TIA, BAC, High-Risk Search and IEDD, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of explosive threat mitigation operations to enable stabilization and humanitarian interventions and the safe return of the civilians to their former homes.

Explosive hazard contamination in residential areas remains a problem as those who could intervene are cautious with legal liability concerns, the sheer volume of homes that would need to be checked, and how one home would be prioritized over another. Community assessments continue to indicate that civilians, primarily men, are practicing ‘self-help’ measures in newly retaken urban areas, such as in Ramadi and Fallujah. While targeted risk education to families in areas of high threat has been prioritised to assist with the adoption of safer behaviours, the systematic clearance of residual explosive hazards in residential areas is ultimately required.

The military remains the only entity authorised to use explosives in Iraq. This has proved challenging for UNMAS Iraq and emergency response partners as explosive hazard disposal cannot be administered by civilian entities to international standards. There is a risk of unplanned explosions if items are not stored correctly and in accordance with recognised standards while awaiting disposal.

In December 2016, a meeting was held on use of explosives and explosive accessories at the Prime Minister National Operation Cell in Baghdad. It was agreed Iraqi Security Forces EOD (engineer) operators will be embedded with the clearance teams in future so that UNMAS Iraq operations can benefit and will have access to explosive and explosive accessories to conduct disposal operations. The activities described in this action will benefit from this new agreement, and ISF EOD operators are technically able to accompany clearance operations. To-date the agreement has been made in principle but has not yet been realized.

An emerging discussion across the Mine Action sector is the significant difference between a traditional deminer working in a post-conflict environment in a large area minefield and an IED operator working in a conflict environment in an urban area. A traditional deminer can be trained and deployed in a matter of weeks. IED operators that can confidently operate in an urban environment such as Iraq require significantly longer amount of time. The international staff currently deployed in Iraq predominantly arrived from a military background, meaning not only have they received structured training with specialized equipment, but they have years’ of field experience whether in Northern Ireland or Afghanistan. An IED operator doesn’t only require the initial training, but requires years of experience in a safe learning environment, or in the field with a very experience mentor. Each theatre of operations being different, an even a highly experienced operator, often requires to be re-trained on the specific

threat found in a country. Iraq is a unique situation in comparison to other countries such as Mali or Somalia where the type and level of contamination is radically different.

UNMAS Iraq has now had the opportunity to implement various training sessions. Based on experience in Iraq, some of the students arrive with very limited knowledge, they are not coming with a military engineer background, and therefore it takes even longer to complete the training. Finally, many police officers and other civil security services in the affected locations have watched their colleagues die while trying to neutralize IEDs, thus are not very keen to be trained and to work with clearance of IEDs.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

This action would complement other donor contributions that are currently supporting the UNMAS programme in Iraq. Given the significant resources required to sustain and expand operations in 2017, at the strategic level UNMAS will lead and coordinate the emergency response effort and communication to the donor community; and at the operational level it will coordinate with national authorities to ensure that support and resources adequately cover the gaps and provide a response where they are most urgently needed.

UNMAS Iraq works through multiple entry points to implement and support explosive threat mitigation activities. Under UN senior leadership, UNMAS Iraq liaises closely with authorities at central, governorate and district levels. Flexible approaches are employed to enable a coordinated explosive hazard threat mitigation response, helping Iraq's line ministries prepare realistic contingency plans, supporting coordination mechanisms in newly retaken areas, while supporting the safe and voluntary return of IDPs and joint Government–UNMAS assessments to establish priorities. In this regard, UNMAS Iraq continues to support a coordinated civilian survey and clearance response to address explosive hazards with mine action authorities, Ministry of Interior (MOI), MOD, NGOs, and commercial partners to enable assistance in areas recently retaken ISIL and to support the safe, voluntary and dignified return of displaced people.

Coordination mechanisms exist on a multitude of levels. There are Technical Working Groups and coordination meetings led by the Government (IKMAA and DMA) that include the donor community and the Coalition as well as UN-system coordination mechanisms led by UNMAS Iraq and OCHA, in support of the Cluster system and the Humanitarian Country Team. Furthermore the European Union chairs the Coalition's Explosive Hazard Management Sub-Group in support of Stabilisation that brings together the donor community and UNMAS Iraq to discuss strategic concerns and resource mobilization. Under the UNDP-led Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS), UNMAS Iraq coordinates the tasking of assets, in coordination with DMA where needed, to respond to requests to clear critical infrastructure therefore ensuring coordination of the right assets in the right place at the right time. While on standby for stabilisation tasks, organizations may receive tasks directly from the Governorate level (Governor, Mayor, or Ministry) after which completion, a report is provided to DMA. In areas administered by KRI, prioritization and tasking is carried out by IKMAA.

The activities outlined in this action are designed to fill frontline gaps in explosive hazard response. The response proposed and described by UNMAS Iraq is designed and intended to take place in security environments where mine action NGOs are impeded by access and

capacity to operate. At present, in the proposed geographical areas, NGOs including DDG, FSD, and MAG are operating in Kurdish controlled areas in the Mosul vicinity in zones where the security situation permits. UNMAS Iraq will focus assets to zones largely outside of the Kurdistan area, and where other organizations are currently unable to operate, to complement and ensure full coverage of the overall explosive hazard response.

There is a two stage process for mine action organisations to work in Iraq. First an organisation must be registered with the Government and/or Regional authority to work in a particular location. Second the organisation must be 'accredited' for a particular scope of activities. For example, an INGO may be accredited for risk education but not for clearance activities. Similarly, an INGO could be registered to work in areas administered by IKMAA (Erbil) but not in areas administered by DMA (Baghdad). Currently there are nine known international mine action NGOs accredited by the DMA to work in DMA-administered locations and two national NGOs. It has also been noted that there are 11 registered commercial companies working in the field of mine action.

MAG and HI, both funded through the Madad Fund, are both members of the Mine Action Sub-Cluster based in Erbil which currently focuses on the response in Mosul surrounding areas (not City) that falls under the administration of IKMAA, however also supports activities in the rest of Iraq (Grey area and KRI). It should be noted that MAG and HI are not yet registered with the Central Government of Iraq and are therefore not able to implement mine decontamination activities in all areas of Iraq (such as Mosul city). On the other hand, the EU supports HI, under its humanitarian budget, throughout the country, including for Non-Technical Surveys (NTS), in Kirkuk and Salah Al Din Governorate, and for Mine Risk Education, in Anbar, Baghdad, Kirkuk, Salah Al Din, Erbil and Ninewa governorate. Good coordination will have to be ensured, in order to avoid duplication. UNMAS Iraq has received funding from the Government of Japan to carry out "First Responder" training in coordination with the multiple-partner supported Community Policing initiative. This will be rolled out in Fallujah and will include support to local police and/or civil defence force. This training could also be rolled out in Mosul when the situation allows. It should be noted that although UNMAS Iraq has identified that Mosul is area where a technical response is most needed, before such project can be implemented, a certain level of normality is required, such as the return of local policemen for example.

UNMAS Iraq has finalized a 'Training Catalogue' that will be provided to relevant ministries of the Government of Iraq so that they may request training packages. UNMAS Iraq will have four permanent trainers on staff that can be deployed as required around pre-established courses.

UNMAS Iraq is seeking funding from Germany to support the al-Anbar Police Academy and train Iraq local Police in first responder, EOD and IEDD. This will focus on police in Anbar and the full course-load is expected to take 6 months (1 week First Responder; 4-6 weeks EOD; 4-6 weeks IEDD).

Furthermore UNMAS Iraq is seeking funding from Germany to support two Technical Advisor posts that will be UNMAS' liaison into the Prime Minister Office NOC and JCMC in addition to representing and raising issues of relevance in the Security Sector Reform (SSR) working groups and supporting SSR processes as it pertains to the management, regulation and

coordination of explosive hazards. The follow on funding for these posts is requested from the EU from March 2018.

UNMAS has supported, and continues to support, both training and capacity building with the Government of Iraq. Throughout 2016 UNMAS Iraq provided technical advice and support to the committee established by the Ministry of Health and Environment, led by the Iraqi DMA, to draft the National Mine Action Strategic Plan (2017-2021). The final version of this draft has been developed in Arabic and UNMAS Iraq will provide further support to DMA with translation, printing and distribution utilizing IcSP EU visibility funds. The strategy will be pivotal to guide the mine action sector with future activities in Iraq.

Furthermore in 2016, two dedicated UNMAS Iraq teams were made available to support the Quality Assurance/ Quality Control (QA/QC) capacities of DMA, through mentoring and technical support. The same offer of support was made to IKMAA but IKMAA declined due to existing in-house technical capacity. UNMAS Iraq also has one Liaison Officer embedded in DMA and is currently looking to fill a liaison position with IKMAA.

UNMAS Iraq also supported the Government of Iraq to submit an extension request to Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. This was presented to the international community in November 2016.

In March 2016, UNMAS Iraq's IED training package was delivered to 15 IKMAA staff in the Soran training centre in KRI. The (non-lethal) training included IED-Disposal techniques and the use of basic IED equipment. In September, 13 participants (including three female participants) from Iraqi DMA senior officials completed the three-week-long risk education and victim assistance management course. On 10 November, 15 IKMAA senior management staff completed a three-week risk education management training course in Erbil. In March 2017, a 9-day training was provided to 15 IKMAA operations staff as an introduction to IEDD. In November 2016, 12 Iraqi police officers successfully completed a four-week basic IED Disposal Course at Salman Pak Police EOD training centre in Baghdad (IcSP funded). The participants were local police personnel, identified by the Ministry of Interior. A follow up training was provided in February 2017, with on-site mentorship at the Salman Pak facility. The training course included numerous practical scenario exercises with the aim of building the confidence of the students to mitigate the threat of explosive hazards including IEDs. Local police officers were selected from Al Anbar, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah Ad Din governorates. In May 2017, 15 Iraqi police officer completed a 20-day Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) Disposal course combining technical and practical EOD trainings to strengthen their skills in practical identification of ERW and IEDs.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

UNMAS Iraq will work closely with national and regional authorities to ensure that gender and diversity are taken into account and will work to ensure that women, men, boys and girls from diverse groups benefit equally from all mine action activities implemented in Iraq. Gender and diversity influence the way in which a person is affected by explosive contamination – including their risk of becoming a victim, the ability to access medical and support services, and their long-term recovery and reintegration. In addition to this, because of the distinct patterns, roles and responsibilities, action activities need to be sensitive to gender and diversity

in order to be effective and efficient. UNMAS Iraq will employ a gender and diversity-sensitive rights-based approach, which advocates for principles such as non-discrimination, equality, participation and inclusion, to avoid exacerbating existing inequalities and to provide more inclusive mine action programming.

In this project, a gender lens will be applied both internally and externally. Gender and diversity will be considered internally during recruitment processes, as a systematic discussion point in strategic planning. In addition, senior management will encourage staff to include a gender and diversity-focused objective within their personal workplace action plans and will explore options for gender sensitivity and gender mainstreaming training.

Any contracts and grant processes managed by UNMAS will be mainstreamed to include gender and diversity – bidding organizations will have to demonstrate how their projects take gender and diversity into account during all phases of the planning cycle including the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data (through the application of the recommendations outlined in the Gender and Mine Action Programme's Grants and Contracting Toolkit). For example, impact assessments projects will have to consult with all genders and diverse groups in a community and demonstrate how the needs, priorities, and capabilities of men, women, boys, and girls will be specifically considered whereas risk education projects will need to demonstrate that the pedagogical tools and materials developed will meet the gender and diversity requirements of the beneficiaries (sex, language, age, level of education, literacy, whether they are displaced, etc.).

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

Overall objective: Stabilization and humanitarian interventions are enabled in areas that are newly liberated from ISIL (Da'esh) and the Government strategic coordination mechanisms are strengthened to ensure a common approach to clearance of explosive hazards.

Sub-objective (outcomes): The impact of explosive hazards in retaken areas has been reduced through emergency response, enhanced strategic coordination, and risk education activities.

Output 1: An Emergency Response to explosive hazards (Threat Impact Assessment (TIA), explosive hazard management operations) is coordinated and delivered in retaken areas.

Output 2: Capacity within the relevant coordination centres/mine action authorities for increased strategic coordination is enhanced.

Output 3: Risk Education/Risk Awareness is delivered to internally displaced persons at-risk communities returning to affected areas.

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". This does not imply a commitment by the country benefiting from this programme.

4.2 Main activities

Given the volatile environment, the response that is applicable in May 2017 might not be applicable in March 2018. Project scope and relevance will remain the same but the response or ‘solution’ may require adjustment based on operating environment. This is based on lessons learned to-date from Ramadi and Fallujah and the operating environment encountered recently in East and West Mosul. Therefore the activities listed below outline the scope of the intervention noting that the situation in re-taken areas is vastly different ranging from post-conflict with pockets of violence to active conflict such as West Mosul. It is difficult to predict where the Iraqi security forces will be engaged at the beginning of March 2018 therefore UNMAS Iraq will maintain a range of assets in order to tailor an appropriate response.

A “blended approach”, combining national and international commercial companies, NGOs, and Iraqi capacities has enabled a comprehensive explosive hazard mitigation response in areas retaken from ISIL, in direct support of the Government/UN stabilization plan, as well as humanitarian assistance efforts. Once an area has been declared liberated, UNMAS Iraq first deploys assessment teams, followed by specialized explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and IED teams to locate, 'render safe' and remove dangerous items, and at the same time, provide risk education to nearby populations. The neutralized items are then collected by the ISF engineers for disposal depending on the location. This is the established process for all mine action organisations. Depending on the location of the work, non-military entities are not permitted to utilize 'energetics' (explosives) and therefore all disposal activities must be carried out by Government security forces (ISF or police). This necessitates a relationship with the Government to coordinate the disposal of all items that have been located and rendered safe by mine action organisations. Activities under this action will be carried out in Al Anbar, Ninewah and Salah Ah Din Governorate with a focus on Mosul and surrounding areas newly liberated from ISIL control.

Output 1: An Emergency Response to explosive hazards (TIA, explosive hazard management operations) is coordinated and delivered in retaken areas

a) Threat impact assessments (TIA): These assessments are surveys undertaken in suspected areas to gain a better picture of the scope and scale of explosive hazard contamination in priority areas. In some cases, operational staff are deployed to very specific areas identified by UN agencies or government authorities that have been prioritized for rehabilitation (i.e. a school, water plant, electrical station), and in other cases, operational staff deploy to a general area to get a better sense of the contamination. TIAs will be conducted with specialized survey capacities in priority locations identified to support stabilization and to assist humanitarian assistance efforts. As a result, agreed upon priority locations will be surveyed for follow up clearance activities, if appropriate and required. The present modalities that UNMAS Iraq is using to conduct TIAs include commercial contracts with EOD/IED companies, high-risk labour providers (i.e. third party contractor), and grants with NGOs. All contracts and grants are administered through a competitive UN bidding and selection process. *NB: Threat impact assessments to determine the scope/level of contamination and clearance assets (described in Activity 1 b)* will be deployed simultaneously. UNMAS Iraq will also support various UN missions to assess the explosive hazard risk at various priority sites, including those planned for use for IDP camps, field hospitals, and routes for IDPs. The locations of these TIAs are plotted onto a map, updated weekly, to be shared with relevant partners and to facilitate

operational planning. Where tasks arise in areas of operations that fall outside the immediate response area that are more appropriately addressed by the mine action authorities, UNMAS Iraq provides the relevant information about the tasks to the authorities.

b) Explosive hazard management operations: UNMAS Iraq will coordinate the deployment of survey and clearance activities in priority locations depending on initial TIA results. That is, depending on the scope and level of the contamination as determined through a TIA, an appropriate clearance capacity (e.g. Battle Area Clearance (BAC), High Risk Search and IED-Disposal) will be deployed. UNMAS Iraq enables emergency explosive hazard management operations through various modalities and coordinates the deployment of these assets in collaboration with relevant national/regional authorities and UN agencies. The 'blended approach' includes contracts with EOD/IED third party contractors, high-risk labour providers (i.e. third party contractor), and grants with NGOs. All contracts and grants are administered according to established UN mechanisms and rules such as competitive UN bidding and selection process. During UNMAS Iraq operations, explosive items that are located and are considered "safe to move" are moved to a designated controlled detonation site. When explosives are required, the UNMAS Iraq teams identify the location of the item, mark it to ensure that civilians are aware of the risk and report it to the ISF EOD teams to ensure they can be destroyed safely.

UNMAS has sought funding from Germany in 2017 to support the piloting of mechanical assets which, if proved successful, will continue in 2018. Where the terrain is feasible, the programme will seek to implement "a system approach" piloting the use of mechanical plant with manual clearance assets in search of an effective solution to the scale, scope and complexity of the explosive hazard problem in Iraq. The 'system approach' (also called integrated approach) is premised on the theory that all tasks require some form of manual support or clearance and by ensuring all individuals in the organization understand each asset's capabilities and limitations, a robust integrated clearance operation can be engaged.

Recent operations involving mechanical assets conducted by NGOs in Iraq revealed that the use of variety of machines in an IED environment could also be a safe and effective way to clear large open-field areas. It has also proved that mechanical assets could be used in mechanical technical survey operations to ascertain whether the land is contaminated allowing quick land release process and ensure a safe and secure return to vulnerable and conflict-affected populations.

It is important to note that organisations were able to achieve remarkable success by using "normal" plant machines locally procured and locally modified to be used in IED clearance. This avoids the lengthy and cumbersome process of importing equipment which frequently results in project delay. Based on various techniques and procedures that have been already tried and tested in open areas under administration of the KRI, UNMAS Iraq will seek to pilot various types of mechanical equipment not previously tested, in other areas of Iraq.

Output 2: Capacity within the relevant coordination centres/mine action authorities for increased strategic coordination is enhanced

Capacity Enhancement:

Capacity enhancement activities will expand into 2017 and 2018 utilizing funding from multiple donors to include three key areas of intervention: 1) capacity enhancement of national mine action authorities; 2) training for Ministry of Interior (local police and civil defence force); and 3) institutional coordination through the JCMC/JCC and other coordination centres. UNMAS Iraq has supported, and continues to support, both capacity enhancement and training with the Government of Iraq. Concurrently with the emergency response, the UNMAS programme will implement a training programme for selected security sector forces. This will build on existing capacities to conduct longer term ERW/IED clearance and build first responder capabilities in support of the emergency response. UNMAS Iraq seeks support from the EU specifically for key areas 1 and 3. Additional donors are also supporting key area 1, and Germany and Japan are currently supporting key area 2.

UNMAS Iraq strives to support a nationally-led and nationally-implemented response. To this effect, UNMAS Iraq will work in close partnership with the Government of Iraq, DMA, IKMAA, the NOC, and Iraq's JCMC, JCC in Kurdistan, as required, and UNDP-Stabilization and Security SSR programmes to aid the operational lines of effort. These efforts have been appreciated, proven through the good collaboration between UNMAS and Iraqi counterparts through the first twelve months of programme and this has assisted to ensure that blended solutions and approaches are employed to enable a coordinated IED threat mitigation response.

Throughout 2016, UNMAS Iraq provided technical advice and support to the committee established by the Ministry of Health and Environment, led by the Iraqi DMA, to draft the National Mine Action Strategic Plan (2017-2021). The final version of this draft has been developed in Arabic and UNMAS Iraq will provide further support to DMA with translation, printing and distribution, utilizing EU visibility funds. The strategy will be pivotal to guide the mine action sector with future activities in Iraq. Furthermore in 2016, two dedicated UNMAS Iraq teams were made available to support the Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) capacities of DMA, through mentoring and technical support. The same offer of QA/QC support was made to IKMAA but IKMAA declined due to existing in-house technical capacity. UNMAS Iraq also has one Liaison Officer embedded in DMA and has identified a candidate to fill a liaison position with IKMAA, through support from the United Kingdom.

UNMAS Iraq has provided several trainings to the mine action authorities to increase their capacity to coordinate the response to the explosive hazard threat in Iraq. During the EU project period, supported by multiple donors, the intention is to continue to work to build the capacity of the mine action authorities through the provision of specialized management trainings, continued provision of quality assurance and control capacity as well as other support. Along with the programme senior management, the liaison officers who will be co-located with the DMA and IKMAA, as noted above, will facilitate these requests between DMA and IKMAA. One area identified by UNMAS Iraq that continues to be a challenge is information management. This includes how the mine action systems are adapted to capture the operational realities of IED clearance.

Through support from the United Kingdom, an initial comprehensive study on victim assistance will be conducted in coordination with the Government in 2017 to determine needs, advice on existing national mine action victim assistance structures and activities, and provide recommendations for planning and programming. UNMAS Iraq will shape this assessment in a way that it provides relevant information to national mine action capacities. UNMAS Iraq is also engaging the Government of Croatia and the Red Cross with a short term intervention to

support psychological support/rehabilitation for 22 Iraqi children who are survivors of explosive hazards. At present, there are no widespread data or casualty figures for the regions of intended intervention. Data received from iMMAP's security database identified 751 injured and 1,184 killed by explosive hazards from January to March 2017. UNMAS Iraq is working closely with iMMAP to develop systems and processes to better capture this information. This will involve collecting this type of data, disaggregated by sex and age, to inform future interventions (survey, clearance, and risk education) so that they can be tailored and targeted to the most vulnerable. Additionally, this data in the future can be used as an indicator of the scale and impact of explosive threats, and the need for intervention.

UNMAS Iraq also supported the Government of Iraq to submit an extension request to Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. This was presented to the international community in November 2016.

UNMAS has demonstrated that it has the required expertise and experience to enable an emergency IEDD response in retaken areas, while simultaneously provide the required technical advice and support to national capacities to enhance capacities to deal with the explosive threat. As a result, UNMAS Iraq has strong stakeholder support to occupy a distinct coordination role and ensure appropriate linkages and identify operational gaps. Through this, UNMAS is in a good position to influence and enhance national/regional authorities and their capacities.

The National Operations Centre (NOC) under the Office of the Prime Minister provides the national focal point for all current operational tasking conducted by Iraq security forces together with the other actors involved in the ongoing offensive operations and stabilization efforts. This NOC also acts as the conduit for the passage of information relating to the clearance of affected areas. UNMAS Iraq liaises closely with the NOC and Iraq's JCMC. The role of the JCMC is humanitarian crisis management and response responding to such concerns as the IDP situation in Iraq, identification and construction of IDP camps, implementation challenges of the UN in humanitarian response, returns, coordination and essentially supporting all humanitarian crisis management and response issues generally. The mandate of the JCMC is to coordinate responses to humanitarian crisis, either man-made or natural. At the Governorate level, the Mayor and the Governor are currently responsible for prioritization of critical infrastructure under the UNDP led Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization.

UNMAS Iraq has been exploring options for post-Stabilization Fund Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFiS) coordination mechanisms and is aware that GIZ is looking to similar support into the NOC and/or JCMC structures. This includes looking towards DMA role in the prioritization and tasking process for IED response in newly re-taken areas which is outside of their traditional mandate coordinating responses in legacy minefields. UNMAS Iraq has met with UNDP Rule of Law Programme Manager facilitating SSR processes, GIZ and the UNDP Humanitarian Affairs Officer embedded in JCMC (on behalf of the UN system), and will continue to coordinate to avoid duplication and maximize impact of resources.

UNMAS Iraq has the intention to recruit two Technical Advisors (TAs), initially with German funding in 2017, to work closely with the JCMC and JCMC representatives in the MOHE, MOI and MOD, to provide technical guidance and enhance Government oversight of entities working in the field of explosive hazard clearance. These TAs will also look at the potential

linkages between DMA and JCMC. The UNMAS Iraq Technical Advisors will build trust and rapport within the offices in order to identify potential areas of support and design plans of action to deliver strategic and technical advice and assistance. This could include reporting, prioritization, tasking, communications, mine action policies and standards, strategic oversight of MA organizations in the country. These posts will also represent UNMAS into SSR processes. The aim will be to enhance the strategic level coordination and support a common approach to clearance activities. At the same time, UNMAS Iraq will continue to provide requisite technical advice to DMA and IKMAA and support coordination among Government entities.

UNMAS will seek permission from the Government to embed the TAs within Government coordination structures. This may result in one person embedded in the JCMC office and the other working at the Governorate level or across Ministries. The location of the posts will be determined throughout 2017 in coordination with relevant Government entities once the posts are recruited, however negotiations with the head of the NOC and JCMC have already started. The TAs will report to the UNMAS Chief of Operations to ensure that UNMAS mandates are being respected and that information is being shared back into the organization.

Output 3: Risk Education/Risk Awareness is delivered to internally displaced persons and at-risk communities returning to affected areas

Risk Education/Awareness: Coordinated with the mine action sub-cluster under Protection, risk education will be provided to IDPs, returnees and host communities alike; directly addressing the threat of ERW/IEDs. These efforts will specifically target communities either living in, or returning to retaken areas known to have an IED threat. Risk education delivery is cyclic and may take place prior to, during or following emergency response efforts to support both those fleeing conflict as well as to assist people returning. These interventions will specifically target communities either living in or returning to retaken areas known to have an ERW/IED threat. Community-based gender sensitive approaches will ensure that women and children, and the most vulnerable, participate in the process and that their needs are identified and prioritised. Where possible, best practices and lessons learned from successful interventions in Syria will be drawn upon to support the response in Iraq, and vice versa. Shorter “risk awareness” sessions, that provide a quick overall view of the risks/threats posed by explosive hazards, will be systematically provided by UNMAS Iraq clearance assets while they are conducting explosive hazard management operations. Following the sessions, risk education materials are provided to the participants as well as in visible parts of contaminated areas (i.e. posters and billboards in IDP camps) and where possible risk education training of trainers are deployed to build a residual capacity for delivering risk education in prioritized areas.

UNMAS Iraq is seeking funding in 2017 from the UK and/or Denmark for a Strategic Communications & Media Advisor to work closely with the Risk Education teams to amplify messages across Iraq and possibly regionally as applicable.

4.3 Intervention logic

As noted above, the contamination left behind in areas liberated from Da’esh is significant, and prevents safe post-conflict reconstruction and returns of civilians. While the contamination is extensive, the UNMAS Iraq interventions initially focus on prioritized locations, in most cases identified by other UN actors or local government officials, to search, clear where needed, and

declare safe key locations needed for stabilization, humanitarian response and, by extension, enabling the safe return of IDPs.

If UNMAS Iraq deploys to high priority areas that have already been identified by other UN and government agencies for rehabilitation, the work of UNMAS Iraq will be directly supporting stabilization and humanitarian interventions. These stabilization interventions are a critical first step to enabling returns, linking the work of UNMAS Iraq to interventions that enable returns in liberated areas in Iraq.

The beneficiaries, primarily civilian populations in retaken areas with an explosive hazard threat, will then be able to return, and safely access critical services once they return home.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

As a result of the graduation of Iraq as upper-middle income country, the Commission has authorised the application of the exception clause provided for in Article 5(2)(b)(ii) of the (EU) No. 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (the DCI Regulation) to Iraq.

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement. Should additional donors contribute to this multi-donor action, the length of the project could be extended as per the paragraph below.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Indirect management with an international organization

This action may be implemented in indirect management with UNMAS, in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This implementation entails the emergency response and risk education activities, including core funding (personnel, travel and operating expenses) and indirect costs for project support costs. This implementation is justified because of the comparative advantage UNMAS enjoys in the specific Iraqi context, coupled with its pivotal role within the Global Coalition framework and its unique capacity in carrying out stabilization actions in a volatile environment. Furthermore, the project addresses

the needs of the “*EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the Da'esh threat*”, in complementarity with the Madad fund.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks:

- Launching call for tenders and for proposals;
- Definition of eligibility, selection and award criteria;
- Evaluation of tenders and proposals;
- Award of grants, contracts;
- Acting as contracting authority concluding, monitoring and managing contracts;
- Carrying out payments, and recovering moneys due.

This implementation entails the funding of Threat Impact Assessments, Explosive Hazards Management and Coordination among stakeholders in the field. This implementation is justified because of the role and function UNMAS is mandated with in the specific Iraqi context.

The entrusted international organisation is currently undergoing the ex-ante assessment in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the Commission’s authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the compliance with the ex-ante assessment based on Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and long-lasting problem-free cooperation, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to UNMAS, as part of the UN Secretariat.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entrusted entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management.

Both in indirect and direct management, the Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures affecting the respective countries of operation.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in EUR
5.3.1 Indirect management with UNMAS - Emergency response and risk education activities, including core funding (personnel, travel and operating expenses) and indirect costs for project support costs.	EUR 10 000 000 (approximately USD 11 198 208)	EUR 4 555 900 (corresponding to approximately USD 5 101 792 million – <i>March 2017</i>)
Communication and visibility	Covered by the contract with UNMAS	
Audit and evaluation	Covered by the contract with UNMAS	
Total	EUR 10 000 000 (approximately USD 11 198 208)	EUR 4 555 900 (corresponding to approximately USD 5 101 792 million – <i>March 2017</i>)

5.6 Organizational set-up and responsibilities

For the implementation of this action, UNMAS Programme Manager will provide overall guidance for the implementation of this project. This will be complemented by administrative, logistical, and overall support from UNMAS HQ.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The UNMAS programme in Iraq falls under the overall direction of UNMAS HQ in New York. This action will be delivered with support from an implementing partner who will engage third party organizations and necessary personnel in accordance with its regulatory framework to implement this project, on behalf of UNMAS.

Financial risk management: Donor contributions are formalised through agreements signed by the United Nations Secretariat Controller and recorded in the United Nations Integrated Management Information System. Income and expenditures are subject to United Nations financial reports, certified by the United Nations Office of Programme, Planning, Budget and Accounts (OPPBA) and sent to donors. Starting in 2014, OPPBA publishes annually, instead of biennially, audited financial statements of UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN VTF) income and expenditures. This information is also reflected in UNMAS Annual Reports together with programmatic achievements. Interim reports as well as additional reports may be submitted as specified in contribution agreements. UNMAS is a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative through the United Nations Office for Project Services. The UN VTF is subject to United Nations internal and external audit and oversight mechanisms through the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and the United Nations Board of External Auditors elected by Member States.

Monitoring: All project components will be monitored internally by implementing partners and externally by UNMAS. UNMAS internal monitoring system tracks progress in terms of expenditures, resource use, implementation of activities and delivery of results and compliance.

A quarterly review of progress against the project work plan will be carried out with UNMAS New York HQ staff. Weekly, monthly, and quarterly reporting will be completed by the programme to monitor progress toward project objectives. Age and gender disaggregation is systematically included in all reporting and data capture. The project will be monitored for gender sensitivity and gender sensitive indicators, such as number of women reached through risk education, will be monitored.

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action. All reports shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log frame matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. As per the contractual agreement, the final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control: UNMAS Iraq will conduct regular site visits (as and when security permits) and conduct quality control/ quality assurance of all activities on a regular basis. The proposed action will be implemented in compliance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and draft national standards and procedures relevant to explosive threat mitigation, where they exist. UNMAS Iraq will carry out the QA/QC of this project using its own secured assets (funded by other UNMAS donors).

Reporting:

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log frame matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via the implementing partner.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the nature of the action.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

5.9 Audit

The project will be implemented in line with the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Community and the United Nations (FAFA) which was signed on 29 April 2003. The FAFA outlines auditing, controlling, accounting and procurement procedures of the UN-EU projects. http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/procedures-beneficiary-countries-and-partners/fafa-united-nations_en.

This engagement will include audit component in the project work plan, alongside with corresponding budget. UNMAS will request its main Implementing Partner (if any) to conduct a project audit to be funded by the relevant project's budget.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) ⁶

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the log frame matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative log frame matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Stabilization and humanitarian interventions are enabled in areas that are newly liberated from ISIL (Da'esh) and the Government strategic coordination mechanisms are strengthened to ensure a common approach to clearance of explosive hazards.	1. # of development, humanitarian, stabilization actions enabled 2. # of IDPs returning to affected cities (desegregated by sex and age) (* ** EU RF L1 # 7; L2 #5)	Baseline to be established at start of project / inception phase	TBD following baseline	- IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA reports - UN, MOI UN Funding Facility for Stabilisation action no MIDEAST/2017/040-245	
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	The impact of explosive hazards in retaken areas has been reduced through emergency response, enhanced strategic coordination, and risk education activities	1. # of key installations/ infrastructure opened 2. # of casualties (death/injury) related to explosive hazards (desegregated by sex and age)	Baseline to be established at start of project / inception phase	TBD following baseline	- IOM, UNHCR - UN, MOI - Weekly update from implementing partners - information	Security and access for operations to deploy in newly liberated areas.

⁶ Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

					from hospitals/health facilities and/or local / national authority	
Outputs	1. Emergency Response to explosive hazards (TIA, explosive hazard management operations) is coordinated and conducted	1.1. # of TIA reports produced 1.2. # of tasks prioritized by UNDP, other UN agencies and government authorities responded to 1.3. # of sqm cleared 1.4. # of explosive hazards (and components) found 1.5. # of assessments to support UN missions 1.6. # of deployments of high risk search teams	1.1. Zero TIA reports produced by the EU action (2017) 1.2. Zero tasks prioritized by UNDP, other UN agencies and government authorities responded by the EU action (2017) 1.3 Zero sqm cleared under the EU action (2017) 1.4. Zero explosive hazards (and components) found by the EU action (2017) 1.5. Zero assessments to support UN missions initiated by the EU action (2017)	Targets to be identified during the inception phase	1.1. TIA reports 1.2. Weekly update from implementing partners 1.3. Operational reports 1.4. Maps of areas where operations have taken place 1.5. Assessments reports 1.6. Operational reports	Security and access for operations to deploy in newly liberated areas.

			1.6. Zero deployments of high risk search teams by the EU action (2017)			
	2. Capacity within the relevant coordination centres/mine action authorities for increased strategic coordination is enhanced	2.1 # of coordination meetings with the government 2.2 # of TA-s recruited for the government	2.1 Zero coordination mechanisms with the government organised under the EU action (2017) 2.2 Zero TA-s recruited for the government under the EU action (2017)	2.1 Target to be identified during the inception phase 2.2 Two technical advisors recruited and working within and across Government structures (2019)	2.1 Internal reports and minutes of the meetings 2.2 TA contracts	UNMAS can recruit qualified Arabic speakers into these roles with experience in Mine Action Relevant Government entities accept the presence of UNMAS TAs in coordination centres.
	3. Risk Education/Risk Awareness is delivered to at-risk communities	3.1. # of beneficiaries received risk education disaggregated by sex, age and location, ensuring that at least 30% of the total beneficiaries are boys (most at-risk group) 3.2. # of humanitarian	3.1. Baseline: 124,035 returnees/IDPs received life-saving risk messages. 3.2. UNMAS	3.1. Target to be identified during the inception phase 3.2. Target to	3.1. Weekly/monthly updates from teams delivering the awareness sessions; Photos of the sessions, where permissible 3.2. Requests	Security and access for operations to deploy in newly liberated areas.

		<p>personnel provided with risk awareness training</p> <p>3.3. # of RE materials (including leaflets and posters) produced by UNMAS</p>	<p>Iraq delivered risk awareness trainings to 152 humanitarian personnel in 2016 and 48 so far in 2017</p> <p>3.3 To date, materials have been provided primarily by partners as new materials are accredited</p>	<p>be identified during the inception phase</p> <p>3.3 Target to be identified during the inception phase</p>	<p>from humanitarian personnel for RE awareness ; Attendance sheets/photos from the sessions</p> <p>3.3 Internal reports</p>	
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