



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



ReviveTheSpiritOfMosul

ACROSS THE UNITED NATIONS: CHALLENGES & RESPONSES TO IED's UNESCO's Engagement in Iraq and other Post-conflict Environments



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UNESCO's Engagement in Iraq and other Post-conflict Environments

- UNESCO currently engaged extensively in Iraq, Ninewah Governorate predominantly.
- UNESCO has undertaken Explosive Hazard affected heritage projects in Afghanistan (Yemen, Syria, Libya in the future ?)
- Presentation concentrates on Iraq, but relevant elsewhere.
- ED's / Explosive Hazards a daily issue with UNESCO's programme implementation.





UNESCO Past Experience:

Heritage Protection in Explosive Hazard Contaminated Post-Conflict Environments

- Past Inter-agency cooperation (UNMAS, UNMACA and UNOPS)
- World Heritage Sites
- Bamyán Valley, Afghanistan (multiple sites)
- Historic landscapes, archaeological monuments, built heritage



UNESCO Past Experience:

Heritage Protection and Explosive Hazard Clearance in Post-Conflict Environments

Shar-e Zohak – Hill top citadel, Bamyan Valley, Afghanistan, 2006.





UNESCO Past Experience:

Heritage Protection and Explosive Hazard Clearance in Post-Conflict Environments

Shar-e Gholgola, World Heritage Site, Bamyan Valley, Afghanistan.

UNESCO / UNMACA / UNOPS

Cooperation on multiple programmes as part of wider area clearance of ERW in 2006 and as part of conservation and restoration activities in 2013 – 2014.



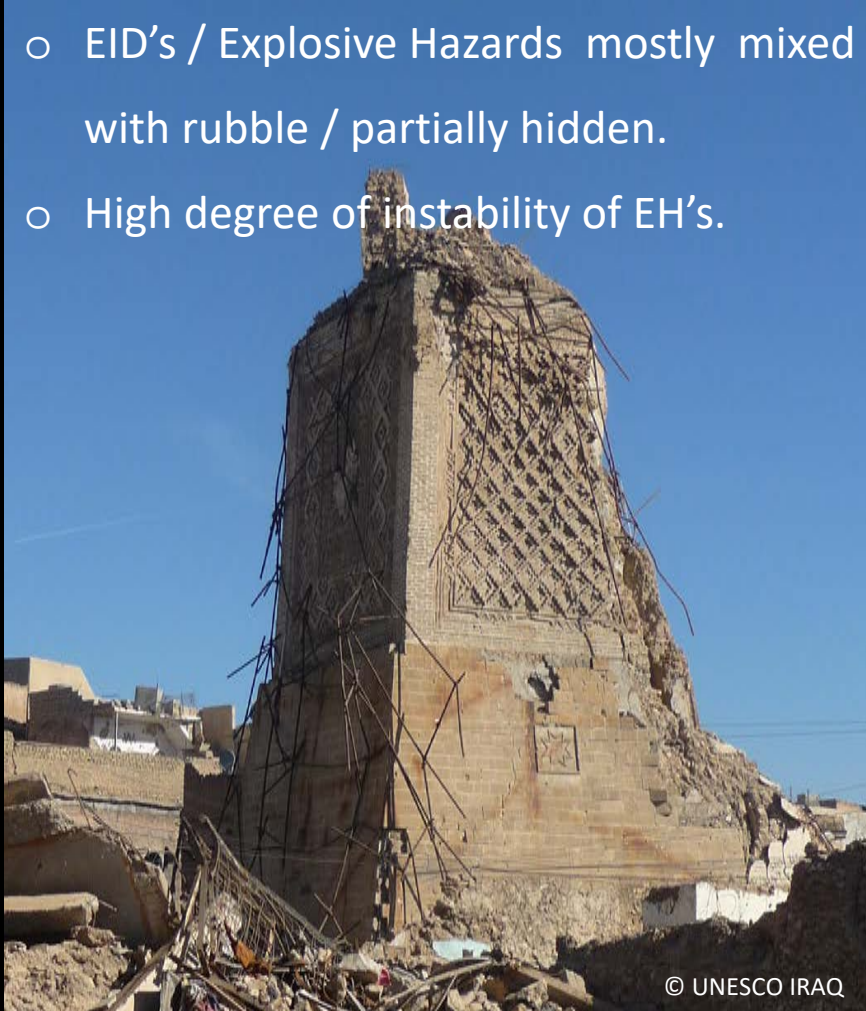
Challenges of Project Implementation, I : Overall Challenges.

- Practical Programme Implementation on the Ground.
- Security - Ongoing ISIS / Daesh Presence.
- Government and Stakeholder Liaison. Politically High Profile.
- Technical Nature of IED's. / Local Clearance Providers.
- Permission and Access., Property / Land Rights.
- Risk Education, Community Liaison, Public Safety.
- Acquiring funding for 'non-humanitarian' IED /EH clearance.



Challenges of Project Implementation, II : Al Nouri Mosque, Old City, Mosul.

- Internationally high profile project
- Complex and unstable landscape with extensive rubble, metal debris.
- EID's / Explosive Hazards mostly mixed with rubble / partially hidden.
- High degree of instability of EH's.



Challenges of Project Implementation, III: Wider Old City, Mosul.

- Technical complexity - presence of wide variety of 'standard ordnance' and home-made IED's, and BBIED's.
- Old Mosul a living city – large returning population, contaminated heritage sites & historic buildings often easily accessible.
- People, particularly children, are inherently inquisitive ...



Explosive Hazard Clearance: Old City, Mosul, Iraq.

- Detailed Phasing & Planning Ensuring:
 - i. Community safety,
 - ii. Ease of project implementation
 - iii. Minimal local disruption
 - iv. Heritage sensitive approach
- UNESCO heritage specialists will work in coordination with UNMAS and other clearance providers.



Community Safety and Education I:

- Importance of community engagement. Children, of primary concern.
- Education programmes in schools and within local community centres.
- Importance of visual campaigns (provided via partners) at Al Nuri Mosque & other Old City project sites.



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Community Safety and Education II:

- UNESCO / UNMAS provide dedicated hazard education teams.
- Full inclusion & discussion with local community leaders, school teachers and parents.
- ERW / IED risk management a priority for UNESCO in Mosul & across Iraq.



UNESCO' s FUTURE CHALLENGES IN IRAQ:

World Heritage Sites and other Cultural Property – Nimrud, South of Mosul



- Globally renowned Assyrian capital. A source of great national pride.
- UNESCO Tentative List status.
- Occupied by ISIS / Daesh 2014 – 2016.
- Systematically looted.
- Bulldozed and methodically blown apart.
- 60 – 70% site destroyed above surface, surviving EH hazard unquantified

UNESCO'S FUTURE CHALLENGES IN IRAQ:

World Heritage Sites and other Cultural Property – Nimrud, South of Mosul

- Stabilization & restoration desirable.
- Challenging terrain, modern and 'heritage' rubble scattered across site.
- Level of EH / IED contamination unknown.
- Coordinated approach required for clearance and rehabilitation.
- Previously a source of tourist income.



UNESCO' s FUTURE CHALLENGES IN IRAQ:

Rehabilitation and Vocational Training in Mosul Historic Quarters , April 2019 (European Union)



- Restoration & Rehabilitation of extensive area of the Old City towards historic riverbank.
- Heavily destroyed, heavily contaminated.
- Many actors - ongoing local government clearance / demolition.
- Many owner occupied properties
- Increasing number of returnees.



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ACROSS THE UNITED NATIONS: CHALLENGES & RESPONSES TO IED's UNESCO's Engagement in Iraq and other Post-conflict Environments



MOVING FORWARD, A WIDER & INTEGRATED RESPONSE:

- Detailed pre-planning & coordinated response at heritage sites with ERW / IED risk.
- Close on-site implementation by UNESCO & clearance providers.
- Integrated Risk Education Programmes
- Open liaison with stakeholders from early stages, particularly local and national government bodies.
- Sharing of relevant experience, data, technology.
- Permissions and right of access.
- Draw upon the experiences & approaches of other UN agencies (and other EID clearance providers) in Iraq , Syria , Yemen .

ACROSS THE UNITED NATIONS: CHALLENGES & RESPONSES TO IED's

UNESCO's Engagement in Iraq and other Post-conflict Environments

MOVING FORWARD : Coordinated & Focused Approaches to Managing IED's and ERW in Heritage Contexts.

- Ongoing Initiatives (2018 /2019) in Iraq by UNESCO and UNMAS seek to further address IED / EH issues in heritage contexts.
- UNESCO are developing a Best Practice methodology for 'heritage sensitive' architectural fragment removal from EH contaminated sites.
- UNMAS , in their updated Standard Working Practices are coordinating with UNESCO to specifically develop a chapter *"Clearance of Sites with Historical, Religious, Cultural & Archaeological (HRCA) Interest"*

