



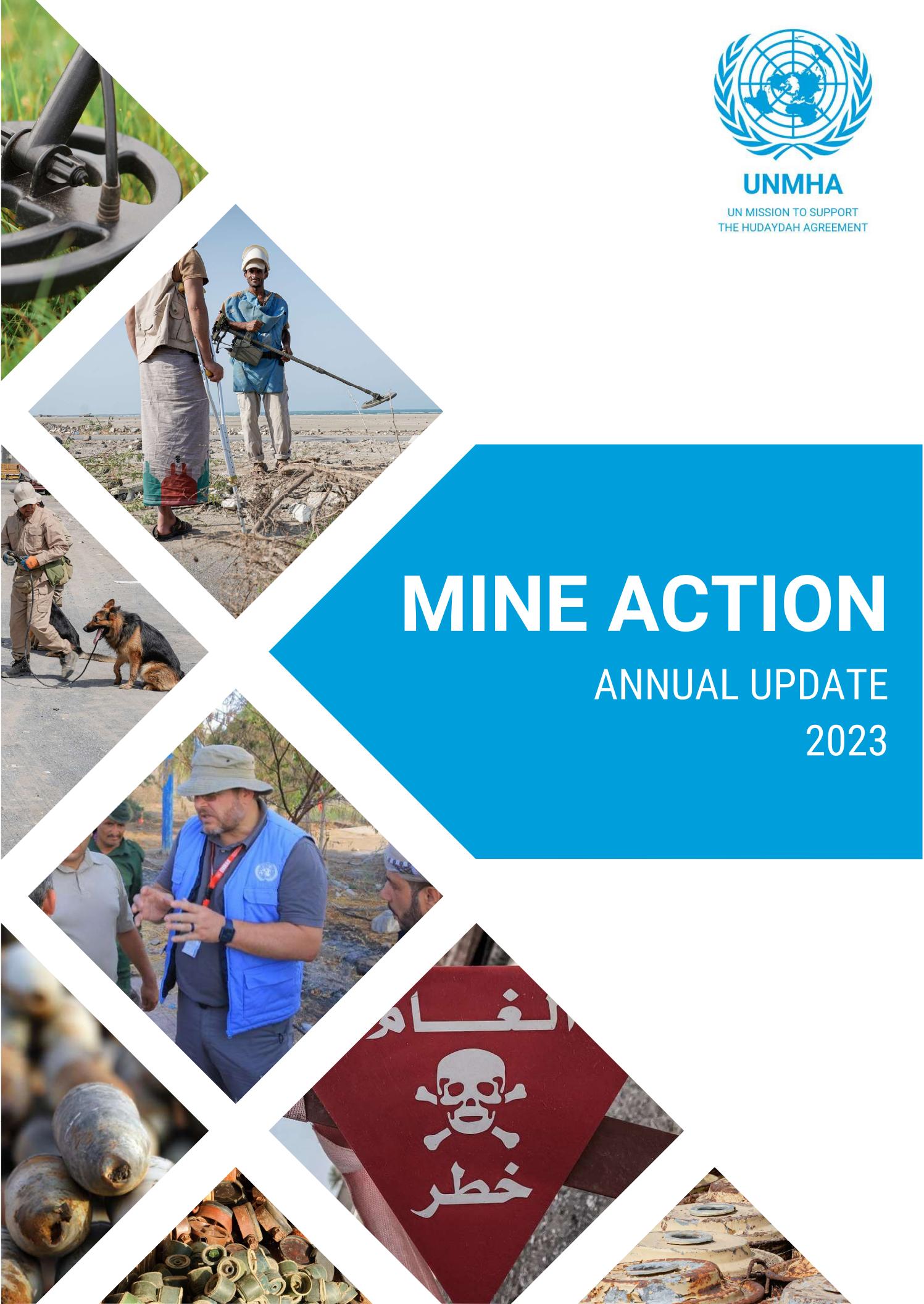
UNMHA

UN MISSION TO SUPPORT
THE HUDAYDAH AGREEMENT

MINE ACTION

ANNUAL UPDATE

2023



Mine Action Update

Hudaydah



UNMHA MAA consulting with YEMAC deminers at a demining operational site within Hudaydah city.

The removal of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) is essential to ensuring a safe and prosperous life for the civilian population in Hudaydah.

Through Security Council Resolution 2643 (2022) - UNMHA is mandated, among other priorities, to oversee mine action operations in Hudaydah governorate.

UNMHA is continually reinforcing its support to Mine Action in Hudaydah and in April 2022, following an agreement with UNDP, the Mission deployed a Mine Action Adviser to Hudaydah and has taken significant steps to coordinate mine action initiatives across the governorate.

Mine Action Portfolio



Technical advice

Regular meetings with YEMAC to support capacity building



Demining operations

Field visits and assessments to hazardous areas within the ports and city



Advocacy

For international mine action support in Hudaydah to increase donor funding



Cooperation

Meetings, liaison, and joint activities with UN partners



Reporting

Through tracking and analysis and daily monitoring and update of incidents

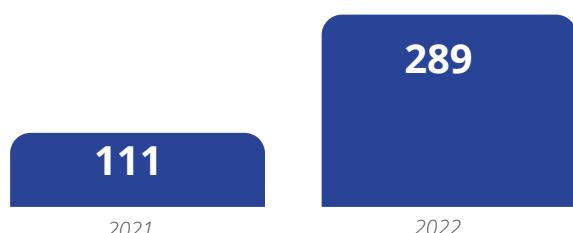


Awareness campaign

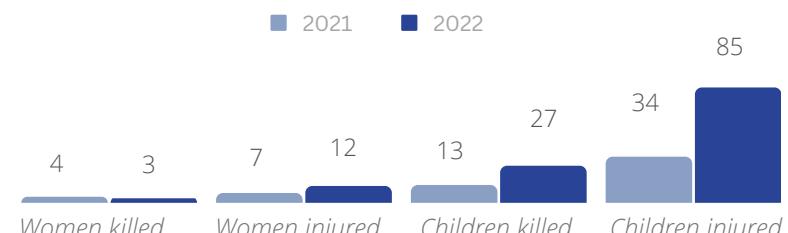
Support to landmine/ERW civilian sensitization including media training and production of mine awareness billboards and banners

Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah

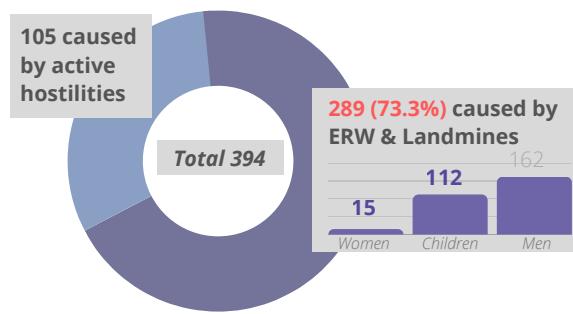
Civilian casualties caused by ERW & landmines by year



Civilian casualties caused by ERW & landmines among women & children



Civilian casualties recorded in 2022 by causes



In Hudaydah Governorate, the Mission recorded 111 landmines and ERW-related casualties in 2021 with an increase to 289 in 2022, or a **160 per cent** year-on-year increase. Similarly, the number of casualties among women and children went up. In particular, the number of children killed increased by over 100 per cent and the number of children injured increased by **150 per cent**, taking up 30 per cent of a total number of civilian injuries recorded in 2022.

In 2022, a total of **394** civilian casualties, resulting from active hostilities and landmines or ERW were recorded by the Mission in the governorate. The number of casualties attributed to landmines and ERW incidents is **289**, or **73.3 per cent** of the total. **112** of these casualties were children, while **15** were women. In the last 6 months of 2022, UNMHA recorded the majority of ERW and landmine incidents along the lower-lying coastal areas of Hudaydah Governorate. Many incidents recorded are related to farming activities, when farmers access their land for agricultural purposes or when herding sheep, goats, and cattle to grazing. During major holidays and winter months, there was a substantial increase in visitors to Hudaydah to make use of the beaches and to get away from the cold climate in the mountains. These visitors accessed areas that were inaccessible due to the conflict without knowledge of where the hazardous areas were located. **Al Hali** and **Al Hawak** districts in Hudaydah city are busy areas located near the port which explains the substantial number of incidents recorded for these two districts, relative to their size.



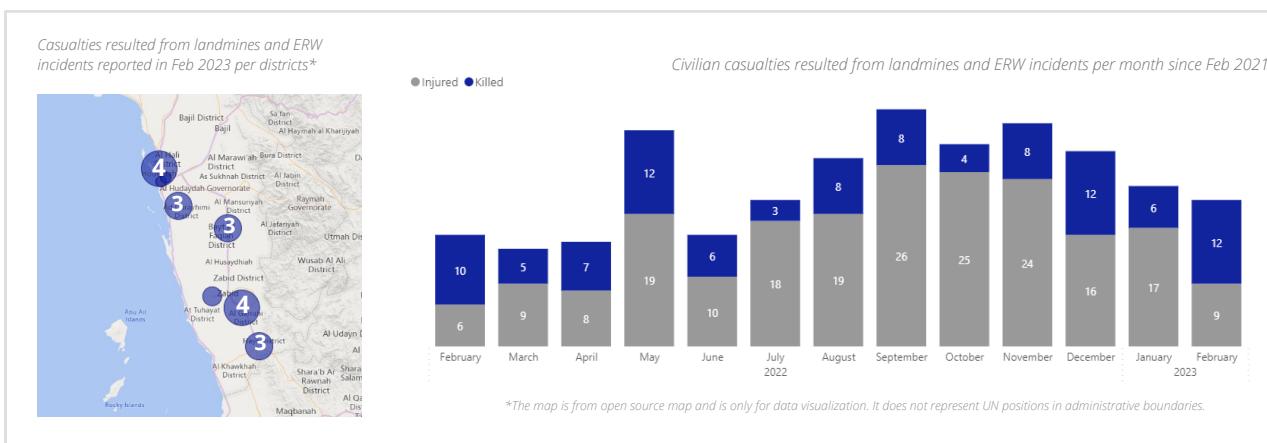
Data captured from 1 Jul - 31 Dec '22

*Numbers of civilian casualties are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

Mine Action Update

Hudaydah

In February 2023, UNMHA recorded **21** civilian casualties due to landmines and ERW incidents, a 30 per cent increase compared to February 2022 (16) and a nine per cent decrease compared to January 2023 (23). This includes **nine** civilians injured (five children) and **12** killed (one woman killed and six children killed). The casualties were distributed across the Al Garrahi, Al Hali, Ad Durayhimi, Bayt Al Faqih, At Tuhayta and Hays districts.



Mine Action Advocacy and Support

UNMHA supported several preparation meetings for the **First Mine Action Partnership Conference** organized by YEMAC, SCMCHA, OCHA and ICRC. The conference took place between 22 and 23 February in Sana'a and brought together different organizations in Yemen to discuss the **impact of landmines and ERW on civilians**.

The Mission also facilitated discussions on coordination and access with INGOs in **Aden** and **collaboration on risk education projects** with agencies working in Hudaydah.



A landmine planted in sandy soil and moved by the recent floods in southern Hudaydah. Source: UNMHA Archives

Hudaydah Governorate remains the most landmine and ERW-impacted governorate in Yemen. Freedom of movement and livelihood activities of the local population has been restricted due to the risk of landmines and ERW. UNMHA continues to advocate for urgent humanitarian mine action and international support to demining efforts in the governorate.

Note: numbers of civilian casualties in this document are as reported by multiple sources, and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

Mine Action Update

Hudaydah

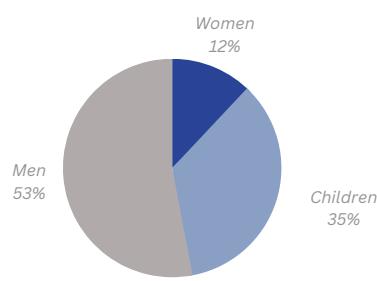
In March, UNMHA recorded **eight** landmines and ERW incidents resulting in **17** civilian casualties. This is a 21 per cent increase compared to March 2022 (14) and a 19 per cent decrease compared to February 2023 (21). It includes **nine** civilians injured (including one woman and five children) and **eight** killed (including one woman and one child). Casualties were reported in Al Hali (11) and At Tuhayta (5) districts.

*Casualties resulted from landmines and ERW incidents reported in Mar 2023 per districts**

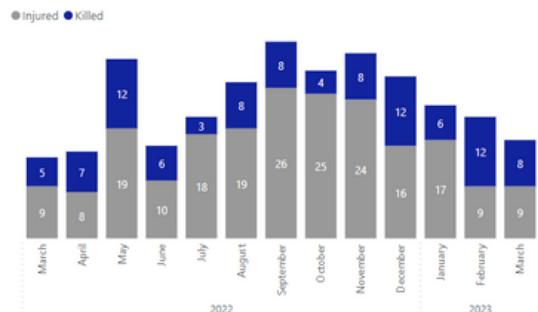


*The map is open source and is only for data visualization. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Civilian casualties resulted from landmines and ERW incidents in March disaggregated by gender and age



Civilian casualties resulted from landmines and ERW incidents per month disaggregated by injured and killed



Mine Action Advocacy and Support

UNMHA carried out outreach activities with various interlocutors including UN partners, local authorities, NGOs and INGOs, to promote access, support demining efforts and advocate for the import of demining equipment.

On 12 March, UNMHA's Head of Mission Michael Beary visited the YEMAC and Project Masam teams on the outskirts of Hays town. He met and interacted with the deminers, observed their equipment and received a briefing on the explosive ordnance contamination in the southern districts of Hudaydah.



UNMHA's Head of Mission Michael Beary and UNMHA's Mine Action Advisor Leon Louw interacting with demining teams on the outskirts of Hays town

Hudaydah Governorate remains the most landmine and ERW-impacted governorate in Yemen. Freedom of movement and livelihood activities of the local population has been restricted due to the risk of landmines and ERW. UNMHA continues to advocate for urgent humanitarian mine action and international support to demining efforts.

Note: numbers of civilian casualties are as reported by multiple sources, and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

Mine Action Update

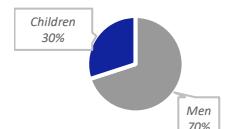
Hudaydah

In April, UNMHA recorded **six** landmine/ERW incidents resulting in **13** civilian casualties. This is a **13 per cent** decrease compared to April 2022 (15) and a **24 per cent** decrease compared to March 2023 (17).

During the month of Ramadan (22 March to 21 April 2023), **22** casualties were recorded as a result of **10** incidents, in comparison to **15** casualties caused by **nine** incidents in the last Ramadan (2 April to 1 May 2022).

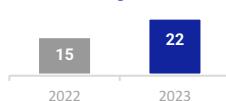
Tourism authorities in Hudaydah estimate that close to 300,000 visitors arrived in Hudaydah governorate during the Eid holiday, an unprecedentedly high number which is likely to have increased the risk to civilians unfamiliar with the area.

Casualties in April per gender and age



Note: No casualties involving women were reported in April

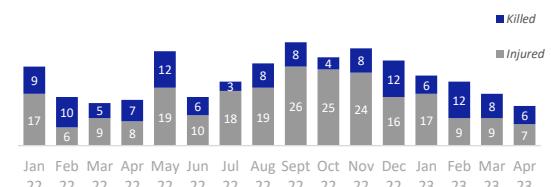
Casualties during Ramadan months



Casualties in April 2023 per districts*



Casualties per month disaggregated by injured and killed



Mine Action Advocacy and Support

On the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April 2023), UNMHA published a [video message](#) from the Head of Mission, Gen Michael Beary, reiterating UNMHA's commitment to supporting the parties, and encouraging them to urgently advance mine action to allow the people of Hudaydah to live in peace and security.

The Mission also [hosted](#) a special Iftar to remember the victims and survivors of landmines/ERW in Hudaydah and Yemen. The event was attended by UNMHA's international and local staff and their families and children as well as representatives from UN country team agencies in Hudaydah. During the Iftar, UNMHA's Deputy Head of Mission Ms Vivian van de Perre stressed the importance of providing support mine survivors and their families.

To raise awareness about the victims of landmines, the Mission produced a [video](#) that showcases stories of landmine/ERW survivors and another [video](#) underscoring the importance of mine risk education and awareness.



Special video message by UNMHA's Head of Mission



Ali, one of the landmine survivors featured in UNMHA's video

Mine Action Update

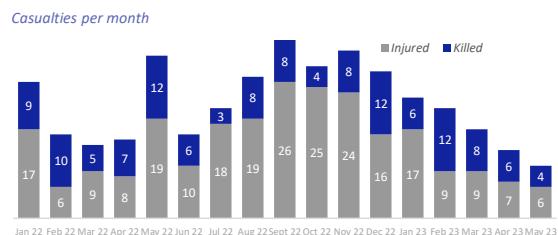
Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

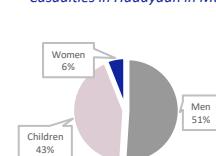
In May, UNMHA recorded **eight** landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, resulting in **ten** civilian casualties in the Hudaydah governorate. This is a 68 percent decrease compared to May 2022 and 23 percent decrease compared to the previous month. Casualties were primarily reported in Ad Durayhimi, Bayt Al Faqih and At Tuhayta districts.

Countrywide, ERW had caused 121 civilian casualties in the first quarter of 2023, which is a 13 per cent quarter-on-quarter decrease. About half of these casualties were reported in the Hudaydah governorate. Since the frontline in Hudaydah shifted to the south allowing greater freedom of movement for civilians in late 2021, Hudaydah has registered the highest ERW casualties in Yemen. (*Source OCHA*)

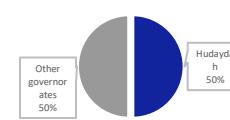
The **Yemen Mine Action Coordination Center (YMACC) in Aden** reported that it had cleared 9,725 sqm and defined almost 1.5 million sqm of new hazardous areas in May in the southern districts of the governorate. The **Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) in Sana'a** reported that it had marked 75,012 sqm as new minefields and cleared 38,215 sqm of contaminated areas, finding, collecting and destroying a total 52 landmines, 9 IEDs and 478 of other ERW in the northern districts of the governorate.



Casualties in Hudaydah in May



Casualties in Q1 in Yemen



Mine action advocacy and coordination activities

In May, UNMHA conducted 18 mine action coordination activities with UN partners, local authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders on facilitating the importation of equipment, advocacy, resource mobilization, and risk education.

On **17 May**, UNMHA supported the FSO Safer project in a field visit to Ras Issa port, providing technical advice on landmine and ERW risks in the visited area, onshore from the FSO Safer oil tanker. On **18 May**, UNMHA visited a YEMAC training for deminers in Hudaydah city to observe training standards and the use of new equipment. On **24 May**, on behalf of the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), UNMHA Mine Action Advisor travelled to Djibouti to coordinate risk mitigation and security briefings to project crew onboard the FSO Safer support vessel. On **29 May** in Sana'a, UNMHA met with the RCO and discussed the RC's strategy for mine action in Yemen. From **30 to 31 May** in Aden, the Deputy Head of Mission met and discussed mine action implementation and coordination with INGOs, including Project Masam, ICRC, Norwegian People's Aid, the Halo Trust, and the YMACC.



UNMHA Mine Action Advisor coordinated risk mitigation and security briefings to FSO Safer project crew member on a vessel in Djibouti



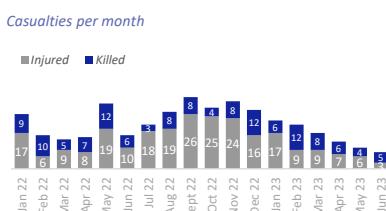
UNMHA visited the YEMAC deminer training in Hudaydah city.

Mine Action Update

Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

In June, UNMHA recorded six landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, resulting in eight civilian casualties in the Hudaydah governorate. This is a 50 per cent decrease compared to June 2022 and a 20 per cent decrease compared to the previous month. Casualties were primarily reported in Al Hali, Hays and At Tuhayta districts. There is a risk of increased landmine migration in the coming months, due to expected heavy flooding this time of year in the Hays, Al Khawkhah, and Mokha. During the previous year, seasonal flooding led to mines being moved long distances by flash floods, including anti-vehicle mines moved, further endangering civilians, livestock, and commercial traffic.



The **Yemen Mine Action Coordination Center (YMACC) in Aden** reported that in June stakeholders recorded 359,549 sqm of new hazardous areas, cleared 8,091 sqm, and destroyed 6 ERW in the Hudaydah governorate. The **Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) in Sana'a** reported that it cleared 21,478 sqm and found, collected, and destroyed 44 landmines, one improvised explosive device, two cluster munitions, and 76 other ERW in the governorate.

Mine action advocacy and coordination activities

On **4 June**, the Deputy Head of Mission met with the director of YMACC in Aden and discussed cooperation on mine action and possible Quick Impact Projects. On **6 June**, UNMHA assessed that the Hudaydah International Airport apron area was free from explosive hazards, allowing the UNMHA helicopter to land on **7 June**. Relevant information was shared with UN Country Team to facilitate humanitarian and development programming. On **13 June**, UNMHA delegation, led by the Mine Action and Civil Affairs units, visited the YEMAC office in Hudaydah and conducted a needs assessment to identify opportunities for Quick Impact Projects. Moreover, UNMHA continues to coordinate with UN Country Team on various activities including delivering demining equipment to Hudaydah.



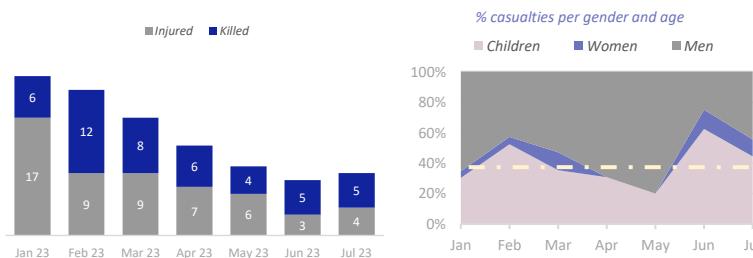
On 6 June, UNMHA assessed that the Hudaydah International Airport apron area was free from explosive hazards (L), allowing the UNMHA helicopter to land on 7 June (R).

Mine Action Fact Sheet

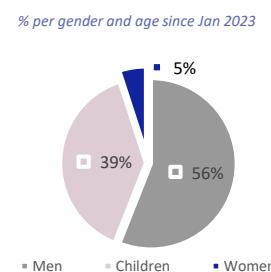
Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

In July 2023, UNMHA recorded six landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, resulting in **nine** civilian casualties in the Hudaydah governorate. This is a 57 per cent decrease compared to the same period last year and a 13 per cent increase compared to the previous month. Casualties were reported in Al Hali, Al Hawak, Ad Durayhimi, Bayt Al-Faqih and At Tuhyata districts. Despite the overall decreasing trend since January, the percentage of children among all casualties remained above 40 per cent almost every month.

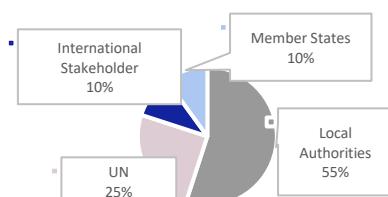


The Yemen Mine Action Coordination Center in Aden reported that in July it found and destroyed two ERW in the Hudaydah governorate while conducting Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and Non-Technical Survey (NTS) tasks. *Note: Data from the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre in Sana'a was not available.*



Mine Action Coordination Activities

In July, UNMHA conducted 21 mine action coordination activities with 16 interlocutors including UN partners, local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector on facilitating the importation of equipment, advocacy, resource mobilization, and risk assessment. More than half of these activities were participated by local authorities.



On 10 July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2691 (2023) to extend the mandate of UNMHA for 12 months until 14 July 2024. With the renewal of the mandate, UNMHA is poised to continue its vital work in supporting the parties to the Hudaydah Agreement in their efforts to achieve peace, including through mine action coordination.

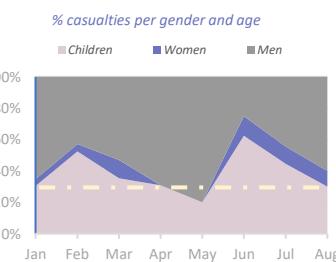
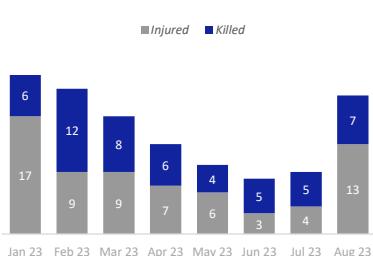


Mine Action Update

Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

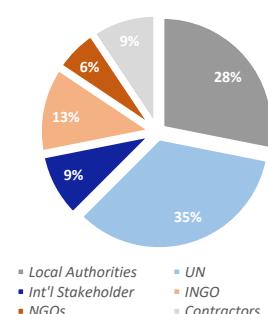
In August 2023, UNMHA recorded 13 landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, resulting in **20** civilian casualties in the Hudaydah governorate. This is a 26 per cent decrease compared to the same period last year and a 122 percent increase compared to the previous month. Casualties were reported in Ad Durayhimi (10), Al Jarrahi (4), Hays (3), Bayt Al-Faqih (2) and Al Hawak (1) districts. The August spike interrupted the declining trend in casualties observed since January. Despite the change in trend, the percentage of children among all casualties remained above 30 per cent almost every month.



The **Yemen Mine Action Coordination Center (YMACC) in Aden** reported that in August they recorded 32,092 sqm of new hazardous areas; found and destroyed one landmine and two ERW in the governorate. The **Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) in Sana'a** did not provide inputs.

Mine action advocacy and coordination activities

In August, UNMHA conducted 22 mine action coordination activities with 20 interlocutors including UN partners, local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector on facilitating the importation of equipment, advocacy, resource mobilization, and risk assessment. Almost one-third of these activities involved local authorities and 35 per cent involved UN entities. Close to half of these events were carried out in Aden.



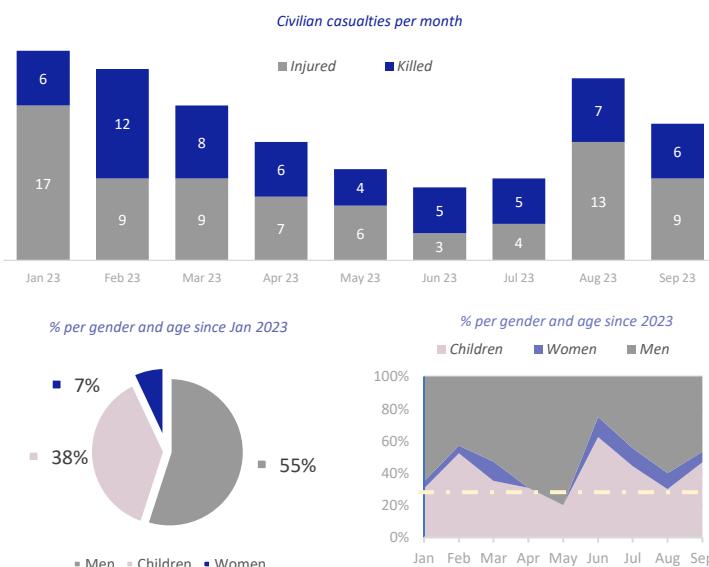
UNMHA visited Project Masam's demining teams in the Hays district to observe their operations. Photo credits – Saba net

Mine Action Update

Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

In September 2023, UNMHA recorded 9 landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, resulting in 15 civilian casualties in the Hudaydah governorate. Casualties were reported in Hays, Ad Durayhimi, Al Hali, Al Hawak, Bayt Al-Faqih and At Tuhyata districts. There was a decline after the spike in August which interrupted the decreasing trend in casualties observed since January. The percentage of children among all casualties remained above 30 percent almost every month.

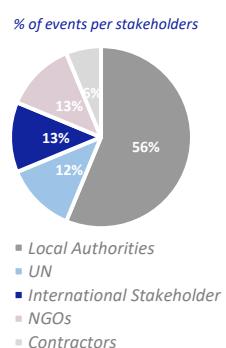


Mine action advocacy and coordination activities

In September, UNMHA conducted 16 mine action coordination activities with 16 interlocutors including UN partners, local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector on advocacy, resource mobilization, and risk assessment. Fifty-six per cent of these activities involved local authorities and 12 per cent involved UN entities.



On 10 September, UNMHA visited the YEMAC Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) training centre in Aden.

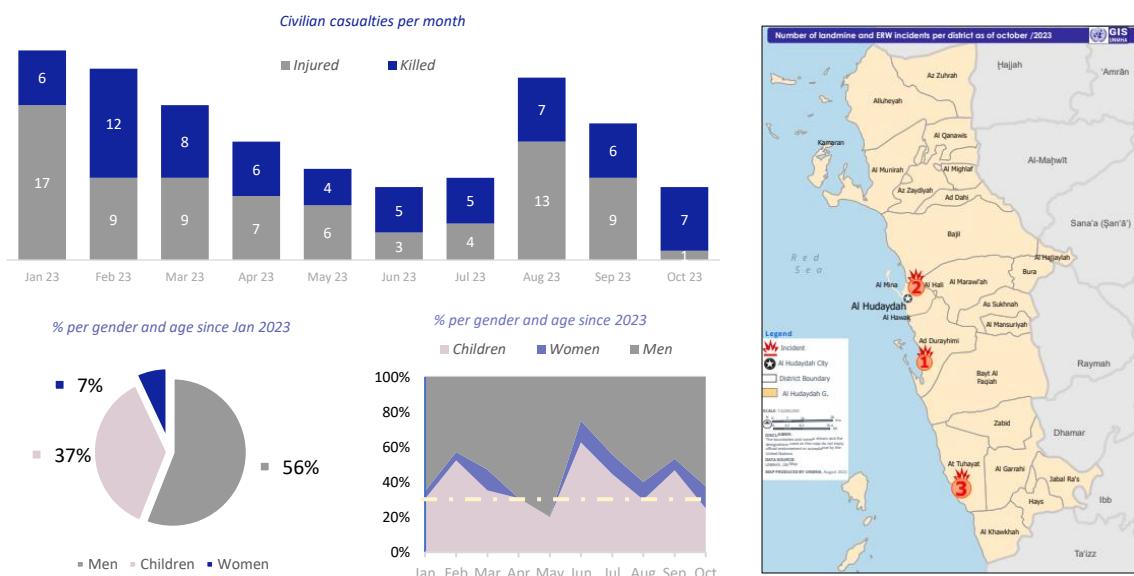


Mine Action Update

Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

In October 2023, UNMHA recorded 6 landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, resulting in 8 civilian casualties in the Hudaydah governorate. Casualties were reported in At Tuhayta, Ad Durayhimi and Al Hali districts. Although the number of casualties continue to decline after August the number of people being killed remains high. Twenty-five percent of the casualties recorded for this month were children.



Mine action advocacy and coordination activities

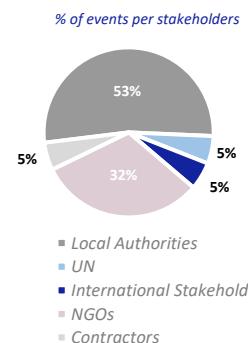
In October 2023, UNMHA conducted 19 mine action coordination activities with 15 interlocutors including UN partners, local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector on advocacy, resource mobilization, and risk assessment. UNMHA continues to advocate for increased support to the mine action sector in Yemen.



UNMHA conducted a visit to YEMAC to discuss mine action support and implementation



UNMHA attending a programme manager meeting, led by YMACC, and attended by NGO representatives in Aden

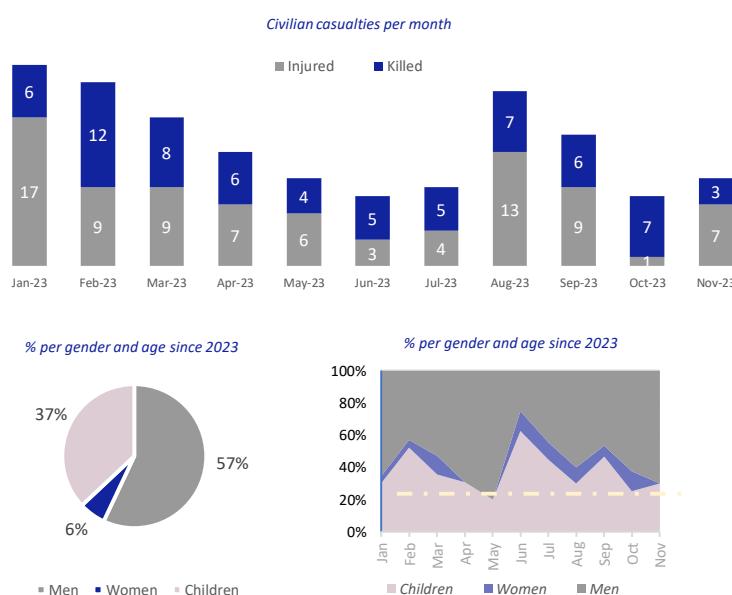


Mine Action Update

Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah Governorate

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

In November 2023, UNMHA recorded eight (8) landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) related incidents, resulting in 10 civilian casualties (incl. 1 child injured, and 2 children killed) in the Hudaydah governorate. Casualties were reported in Al-Hali, At-Tuhayta, Bayt Al-Faqih, Al-Khawkhah and Hays districts. The number of casualties continues to decline following a spike in August, which interrupted the decreasing trend observed since last January. Children made up 30 per cent of all casualties recorded during the month of November.



Mine action advocacy and coordination activities

In November 2023, UNMHA conducted 46 mine action coordination activities alongside several interlocutors; including UN partners, local authorities, NGOs as well as the private sector. These entailed advocacy, resource mobilization and risk assessment. UNMHA continued to support local authorities in Aden and Sana'a by providing key technical advice, adapted to the context of the Hudaydah governorate. As well, the Mission continued to provide support to both the Resident Coordinator's Office and the UN Country Team in the form of technical expertise and risk awareness when required.



The UNMHA Mine Action Officer met with local authorities in Al Khowha to address mine action needs in the southern districts of the Hudaydah governorate.



During a visit to Al Khowha and Hays, the Head of Mission visited one of the demining operational sites and was briefed on the demining work being done by YEMAC teams.



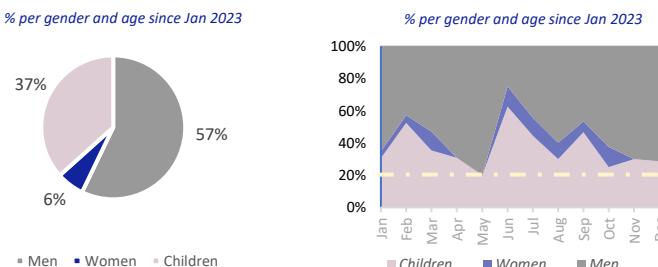
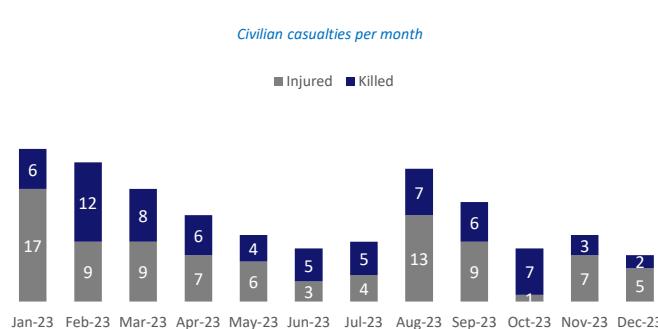
The Mine Action Adviser met with the YEMAC Sana'a Director and the Hudaydah Office Manager, to discuss technical support for YEMAC's 2024 operational plans.

Mine Action Update

Impact of Landmines and ERW on Civilians in Hudaydah Governorate

Note: numbers in this document are as reported by multiple sources and have not been independently verified by UNMHA.

In December 2023, UNMHA recorded seven (7) landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) related incidents in the Hudaydah governorate, resulting in 7 civilian casualties (incl. 2 children injured). Casualties were reported in Al-Hali, Hays and Ad-Durayhimi districts. The percentage of women and children impacted by these explosive remnants of war remains more than 40 percent of all casualties.



Mine Action Advocacy and Coordination Activities

In December 2023, UNMHA conducted 31 mine action coordination activities with interlocutors; including UN partners, local authorities, NGOs and the private sector. These addressed advocacy, resource mobilization and risk awareness. UNMHA continued to support the local authorities in Aden and Sana'a with technical advice focused on the Hudaydah governorate. As well, UNMHA provided ad hoc technical advice and risk awareness to both the Resident Coordinator's Office and the UN Country Team.



The UNMHA Mine Action Officer conducted a field visit to Hays, together with the YMACC Quality Management team, to observe the YMACC team's implementation of external quality control mechanisms. As well, she presided over the handover of the land surveyed and cleared by the YMACC teams as part of the ICRC water sources clearance project.