



IKMAA and GDMA Merge

Although KRG funded and managed IKMAA and GDMA, the two organizations remained separate entities until Deputy Prime Minister Imad Ahmad announced the two organizations would merge on 29 May 2012 during a commemorative ceremony at IKMAA's Erbil headquarters. The new entity retains the name IKMAA.

At the ministerial level, Siraj Barzani and Ali Hamad Wossu were appointed as head and deputy head, respectively, of IKMAA. IKMAA now has four mine action centers located in the Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk governorates, and the Garmian administration.¹ In the past, IKMAA could not verify which minefields other organizations cleared due to lack of synchronized data. The unification of IKMAA and GDMA will likely reduce such issues in the future.

A unified mine action annual budget was submitted to KRG for 2013. In addition, IKMAA formed a mine action accreditation board.

Applicants must be accredited to perform mine clearance projects in the Kurdistan region.² The IKMAA and GDMA merger combines human capital, information and resources to create efficiency in mine action. Eliminating mines will reduce the number of victims, increase individual safety and create potential for economic growth. According to Rafat Babaker Abdullah, director of implementation for IKMAA, the merger will enable IKMAA to better develop effective long-term strategies and successfully achieve its long-term goals.³ 🌐

~ Daniel Braun, CISR staff



KRG Deputy Prime Minister, Imad Ahmad, announces final merger of IKMAA and GDMA, 29 May 2012.

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Endnotes

1. "Report of Inspection: Inspection of Humanitarian Mine Action Programs in Iraq." Report Number ISP-I-10-41, June 2010. *United States Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors Office of Inspector General*. <http://oig.state.gov/documents/organization/145258.pdf>. Accessed 14 June 2012.
2. "The Final Merger of IKMAA and GDMA: Landmark Event of 2012." *Deminer Post* 14 (2012): 1. <http://www.jmu.edu/cisr/other/newsletters/The%20Deminer%20Post%2014.pdf>. Accessed 3 December 2012.
3. Abdullah, Rafat. Interview by Dan Braun. In-person. Harrisonburg, Va., 4 June 2012.

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