



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service
Occupied Palestinian Territory



[Photo caption: UNMAS EOD Officer and Operations Assistant conducting explosive hazard assessment of UNICEF site in Khan Younis] ©UNMAS

Achievements

Oct 2023 - 15 Apr 2024

41,200 EORE materials distributed

97 Interagency Missions Supported

48 Explosive Hazard Assessments (EHA) conducted

5 Training of Trainer EORE sessions provided

3 Hazardous Environment Training sessions provided

UNMAS has long been supporting mine action activities in Palestine, both in Gaza and in the West Bank. However, since the resumption of hostilities on 7 October 2023, UNMAS operations **have considerably evolved to adapt to the emerging needs** of local populations and humanitarian partners amidst the ongoing conflict. The UNMAS Palestine programme is in a **phase of extraordinary transformation to meet the needs of an unprecedented situation**.

UNMAS Activities

The UNMAS Palestine programme has reinforced its resources and **repositioned itself to be responsive to the current context**. In doing so, it is now working in Gaza through the below pillars and activities. In the West Bank, it continues to support explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and capacity building of the Palestinian Mine Action Center (PMAC). Humanitarian Mine Action in Gaza has already been uniquely integrated into the delivery of humanitarian assistance, in recognition of the high levels of threat faced by the population and humanitarian actors. **UNMAS work serves as an integral enabler of humanitarian activity** and its centrality in any subsequent **early recovery and efforts to rebuild in support of stabilizing measures** following a ceasefire cannot be understated.

Learn More!

unmas/palestine.org



Scan here and engage with the UNMAS Palestine Mapping Tool

Gaza

Pillar One: Support to Humanitarian Security

- Deploying EOD Officers on interagency humanitarian aid missions
- Provision of Hazardous Environment Training to Security Officers of UN and INGOs

Pillar Two: Explosive Hazard Response

- Explosive Hazard Assessments
- Marking of explosive hazards
- Eventual survey and clearance (dependent upon equipment & access)

Pillar Three: Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

- EORE sessions and Explosive Hazard Awareness Training to humanitarian workers
- Training of Trainers
- EORE for local populations, integrated with other humanitarian responses

Pillar Four: Coordination

- Coordination of mine action operations for UN and humanitarian partners
- Co-chairing Mine Action Area of Responsibilities under the Protection Cluster
- Providing IM and cross sectoral information sharing

West Bank

- Capacity building for the Palestinian Mine Action Center and capacity support for the EOD Police
- Risk Education, specifically targeting Bedouin communities

About UNMAS Palestine

Since 2009, UNMAS has provided EOD support at UN and humanitarian partner sites, has delivered EORE to the civilian community and humanitarian workers, and co-coordinates the MA AoR in Gaza. In the West Bank, UNMAS supported the establishment of the PMAC in 2012, with ongoing capacity enhancement activities.

UNMAS as a Coordinating Body in Gaza

UNMAS has worked with Humanity & Inclusion to **restart the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR)** under the Protection Cluster which meets bi-weekly and has Technical Working Groups which actively support specialized projects in the sector to enhance collaboration.

Already, immense resources have been put into establishing appropriate **information management systems** to support coordination efforts of the UNMAS Palestine programme. Online tools such as maps layered with data from OCHA, UNOSAT, ACLED and UNMAS and openly accessible, as well as online request forms for EORE and EHA activities have been created to enhance outreach by UNMAS and cross-sectoral collaboration.



[Photo caption: Gaza City, UNMAS EOD Officer supports interagency mission assessing route accessibility for humanitarian activities] ©UNMAS

Continuing Challenges

Right now, all humanitarian organizations are operating in a very challenging context. As conflict is ongoing, the kinetic environment **continues to be extremely dangerous** for humanitarian actors who serve the population in need. UNMAS is a key risk mitigation actor within this environment, directly serving humanitarian actors to assess explosive hazard threats in areas where they plan to provide humanitarian assistance.

With Gaza being **87% urbanized** and experiencing immense levels of debris and rubble accumulation (37 million tons estimated as of 15 April 2024), access to those in need is an enormous challenge. The Mine Action sector faces tough challenges for importation of its specialized

equipment, because of the logistical and operational constraints. Before operations can commence, a sizable pre-positioning phase will need to be planned into any operational activities to bring in required items. Financial support for this pre-planning work is needed now.

Funding

UNMAS currently has **secured \$5 million** to support its ongoing work, which includes a limited EOD response (without clearance efforts), risk education and coordination needs in this emergency phase. This covers a minimal team engagement until **30 November 2024**. To respond adequately to the immense coordination and eventual clearance needs in Gaza, **UNMAS seeks an additional \$40 million for the coming 12 months**. Following a ceasefire, mine action must be integrated with all debris management work and UNMAS collaborates with UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO and other rubble removal actors; the funding challenge for efforts to rebuild will be enormous.

Thank you
for your
support
in 2024
so far!

