



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service

Occupied Palestinian Territory

May 2024 Newsletter



[Photo caption: EOD Officer carrying out an EHA at Al Qarara Elem & Prep Coed School in Khan Yunis ©UNMAS]

May Achievements

26 Explosive Hazard Assessments conducted

33 Interagency Missions Supported

1 Training of Trainer EORE Session provided

2 EORE Sessions provided



Scan here and engage with the UNMAS oPt Mapping Tool

For more information:

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In Focus - Explosive Hazard Assessments

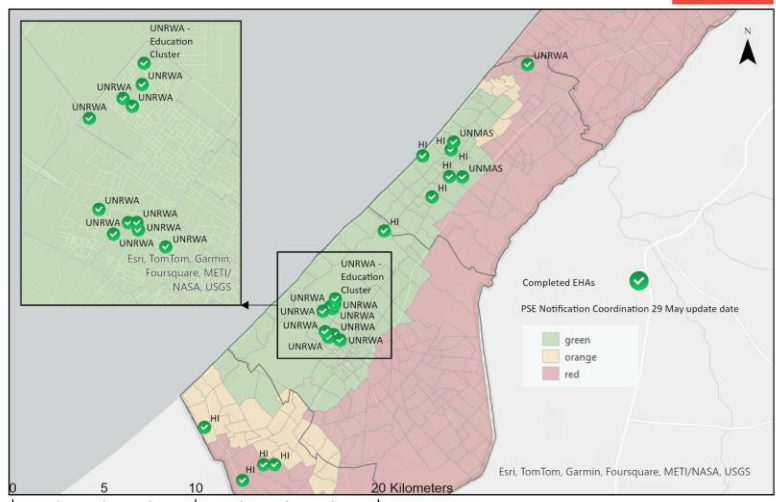
To mitigate the threat of explosives at key UN and humanitarian project sites, UNMAS EOD Officers carry out explosive hazard assessments (EHAs). This enables humanitarian personnel to work more safely, enabling the continuity of humanitarian operations.

In May, our EOD Officers conducted 26 EHAs (see map below). In response to a request of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Maghazi and Nuseirat Health Centres and the Nuseirat Prep Girls School in the Middle Area of the Gaza Strip were assessed. The buildings had sustained damage of varying severity during the ongoing conflict.

The lead UNMAS EOD Officer explained the process and outcome: *"We checked the buildings floor by floor for the presence of any unexploded ordnance. The team confirmed the three sites as clear of Explosive Ordnance (EO) at the time of the assessment. UNRWA will now be able to make use of these installations for the provision of humanitarian assistance, such as healthcare services and shelter to internally displaced persons."*

In total, the team conducted 81 EHAs since 7 October, supporting various partners to continue their humanitarian work, including UNRWA, Health and WASH Cluster actors, OCHA and others.

Explosive Hazardous Assessments (EHAs) completed in May 2024



Training of Trainers in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)



In an effort to widen the provision of life-saving messages to at-risk populations, UNMAS provided a week-long Training of Trainers (ToT) course to 22 personnel of the new national implementing partner Safe Youth Future Society (SYF). The ToT included theoretical and practical portions, and training on the use of the UNMAS information management systems. UNMAS engagement with national partners is centered on a capacity enhancement approach, providing training and mentoring to organizations to continually improve and expand the effectiveness of their response in EORE. By the end of May, SYF was able to commence its provision of emergency EORE in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al Balah.

(Photo credit: EORE training provided by UNMAS EORE Officer to SYF team @SYF)

Route assessments for humanitarian convoys

To increase the flow of humanitarian assistance, four EOD Officers provided route assessment and EHA of routes used by humanitarian convoys. Notably, the team supported the change of entry of humanitarian personnel and goods by conducting nine route assessments of the roads being used at the Kerem Shalom crossing alone, after the Rafah crossing was closed on 7 May. In this way, due to the efforts of the UNMAS team, the UN and humanitarian sector was able to be responsive to an evolving context and ensure the safe, continued flow of goods and movement of humanitarian actors.



(Photo credit: UNMAS assessing a route used for humanitarian convoys @UNMAS)

UNMAS oPt is committed to staying and delivering in this increasingly difficult context and has adapted its operations to ensure its presence as the war continues. UNMAS is making appeals to donors again from the third quarter of 2024 to continue supporting its work as it reaches a critical stage in continued emergency response and preparedness for ceasefire and postwar recovery efforts. Invitations to provide further information about its work and needs in the form of concept notes or proposals to donors are welcome.

