



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service

Occupied Palestinian Territory

August 2024 Newsletter



[UNMAS EOD team escorting an interagency mission to rescue people trapped under rubble in Hamad City, Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, August, 2024 © UNMAS]

August Achievements

35 Explosive Hazard Assessments conducted;

- **18** routes/itineraries in support of interagency missions delivered food and fuel, supported the assessment of humanitarian activities, access routes, and humanitarian personnel movement, etc.
- **17** humanitarian sites (IDP shelters and camps, medical facilities, humanitarian staff accommodations, etc.)

11,162 boys, girls, women and men received EORE-CPP

33 UN and humanitarian workers received EORE training of trainer (TOT)

62 UN and humanitarian workers received EORE.

For more information:

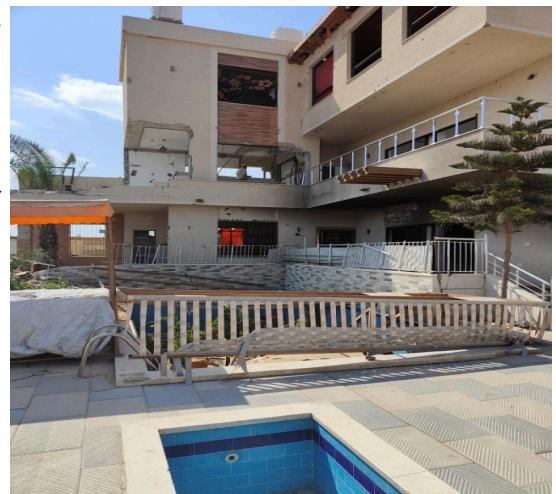
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In Focus - Explosive Hazard Assessments

To ensure the continuity of humanitarian operations and enhance safety at UN project sites and along routes, UNMAS EOD Officers conduct Explosive Hazard Assessments (EHAs) to mitigate the threat of Explosive Ordnance (EO).

In August 2024, our EOD Officers conducted 17 EHAs across the Gaza Strip, covering 12 UN Accommodation/Facility, 1 medical facility, 1 IDP camp, and 3 other civilian facilities. At the request of Save the Children International (SCI), the UNMAS Operations Team visited the site on 24 August and conducted a comprehensive visual assessment of a building designated for establishing a charity clinic and the surrounding area, which sustained multiple airstrikes during the ongoing conflict.. UNMAS detected fragmentation and direct



[UNMAS EOD team conducting EHA for a building that will be transformed into a clinic by Save the Children International in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, August 2024 © UNMAS]

fire from SAA, and a large crater from probably air-dropped weapons (ADW) outside the compound. No unexploded ordnance was found. The assessed building and surrounding areas (approximately 500 square meters) are free of explosive hazards. Staff and the local population including the renovation/construction workers in the area were recommended to be provided with explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). As a result the SCI will be able to begin transforming the building into a charity clinic to serve nearly 30,000 vulnerable civilians, at least 60% of whom are females.

Delivery of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) for the local community



[Fathiya Jarad, an EORE beneficiary shared her experience with an EO incident, Gaza Strip, Khan Younis, Khan Younis Prep. Boys "A", August 2024

Continuing the delivery of EORE life-saving messages, during August, UNMAS implementing partner delivered 510 community EORE sessions for a total of 11,162 beneficiaries in the southern and middle areas of the Gaza Strip. During one of the sessions, Fathiya Jarad, a 57 years old woman shared her experience with the EO before and during the conflict saying:

"Back in 2019, my twelve years old son tempered with a suspicious object he found near our house as we returned back home after a few days of an armed conflict. The object unfortunately exploded, cutting his finger and severely impacting his vision. During this conflict, as we were evacuating because of the intense fighting, I saw an innocuous car with a doll in the front seat which was discovered to be booby-trapped. I suddenly shouted at people not to approach the area until the local authorities came and naturalized the threat. The price I paid to learn this message was too high! And that's why I believe in EORE messaging all the time."

Support for humanitarian convoys

To increase the flow of humanitarian assistance, our EOD Officers support interagency missions by conducting route EHAs along roads that help actors deliver humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities. In August, the team supported 18 interagency missions that delivered 4 food trucks consisting of 104 pallets, 1 fuel truck delivered 20,000 liters of fuel and supported the collection of 8 armored vehicles for humanitarian operations. UNMAS also supported the rotation of humanitarian personnel from and into Gaza, assessment of security facilities, and assessment of civilians' access to humanitarian activities. Without the assistance of UNMAS EOD Officers, these UN convoys would not be able to move through these very high risk areas.



[UNMAS EOD team conducting EHA for an UNRWA convoy route towards Gaza and North Area for the delivery of fuel at UN building and UNRWA Gaza Field Office, August, 2024 © UNMAS]

UNMAS oPt again appeals to donors to continue supporting our work as UNMAS reaches a critical stage in emergency response and preparedness for ceasefire and postwar recovery efforts. To enhance donor community awareness of humanitarian mine action needs in Palestine, UNMAS is organizing a Donors Forum on 13 September 2024. The forum will provide brief information about UNMAS work in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, achieved milestones and support needs, and will open the room for questions from the audience. For more information, please see the [invitation](#) that was issued.

