



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service Occupied Palestinian Territory

November 2024 Newsletter



EOD Team Lead accompanies an interagency mission to northern Gaza for the Humanitarian Coordinator's visit on 5 November 2024

November Achievements

80 Explosive Hazard Assessment requests responded to for:

- **23** humanitarian sites (shelters, medical facilities)
- **13** sites with extensive rubble contamination
- **20** interagency missions which supported movement of humanitarian personnel, etc.
- **24** EHAs canceled, aborted or denied

40,777 boys, girls, women and men received EORE-CPP

37 UN and humanitarian workers received training of EORE facilitators

For more information:

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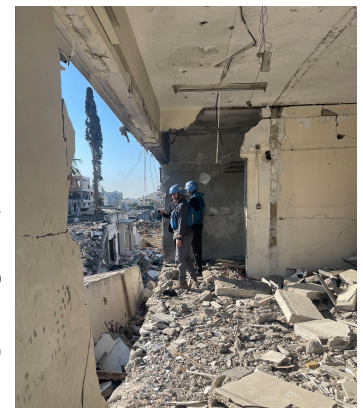
In Focus - Celebrating our In-Kind Officers

Earlier this year, UNMAS entered into a unique agreement with international organizations HI and MAG, where they deployed in-kind EOD Officers to operate under the UNMAS umbrella in Gaza. This month, MAG's in-kind Officer left the team; HI's Officer prepares to leave next month.

Due to the limitations on mine action organizations being able to operate in Gaza, this close collaboration with other mine action organizations has had a significant positive impact, increasing much-needed operational mine action capacity in Gaza. UNMAS thanks the in-kind Officers for their service and looks forward to continued collaboration with key mine action partners.

In Focus - Missions to the North

Requests for EOD support in north Gaza increased in November. UNMAS was requested to deploy EOD Officers as part of the Mission Support Team, comprising an EOD Officer, Security Officer and Medical Officer. This critical team allows humanitarian organizations to conduct their operations safely, supporting a wide range of activities that provide relief to conflict-affected civilians in the north.



UNMAS conducting a multi-day interagency mission with UNRWA to assess the conditions in UNRWA schools housing IDPs. 28 November 2024

The team must be responsive to requests from agencies for mission support and able to deploy rapidly. However, travel from the UNMAS offices in the south up to the areas in the north requiring humanitarian assistance can be lengthy and suffer significant delays. So, EOD Officers began basing themselves for several days at a time at a WFP-rented house in Gaza city.

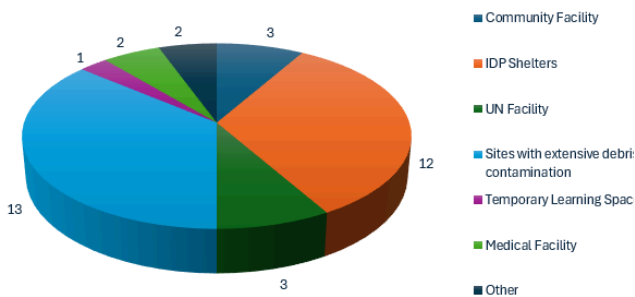
Officers spent up to 10 days in Gaza city, their EOD expertise facilitating a range of humanitarian activities with OCHA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

Explosive Hazard Assessments

To ensure the continuity of humanitarian operations and enhance safety at UN project sites and along routes, UNMAS EOD Officers continued to conduct EHAs on request of the humanitarian community.

UNMAS EOD Officers completed **36** EHAs at schools sheltering IDPs, health centres, UN facilities and sites allocated for debris clearance efforts. The EOD team also conducted route assessments for **20** interagency missions for example in support of the delivery of food and healthcare support to civilians. **Ten** EHAs had to be aborted or canceled due to security concerns or challenges related to movement and access, and **14** were denied.

Explosive Hazard Assessments



UNMAS Liaison Officer speaks to community leaders about the EHA for the Temporary Learning Space intended to serve 3,000 children in Khan Younis. 17 November 2024

On 17 November, EOD Officers received a request from local community members to carry out an EHA of a school playground that had been hit by munitions in February 2024. The community explained that they intend to use the site as a Temporary Learning Space for around 3,000 children to address the fact that there are no available or functioning schools in the area.

The EOD Officers found no EO, but recommended installing perimeters around the area to prevent the children from roaming around and entering the nearby school, which is destroyed. Officers also recommended that EORE be conducted for the population as a safety precaution.

Delivery of Risk Education for the Local Community

UNMAS continued to support the delivery of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to the local community in Gaza and awareness sessions to the humanitarian community. UNMAS implementing partners provided **1,744** EORE sessions to **40,777** at-risk civilians, while the UNMAS Risk Education team conducted two training sessions of EORE facilitators, in which 37 humanitarian workers from a range of NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies participated.

UNMAS also continued to support debris management efforts in Gaza. As well as continuing to conduct EHAs of sites with extensive debris contamination, UNMAS also began delivering EORE sessions to construction workers involved in the project. This ensures that the second step of the project - clearance efforts - can go ahead more safely, taking into account the threat posed by EO in the debris. UNMAS delivered three such sessions to **34** construction workers.

UNMAS oPt appeals to donors to continue supporting our work as we begin to enter 2025. Invitations to provide further information about UNMAS' requirements are welcome.

Thank you for your support in 2024 so far!