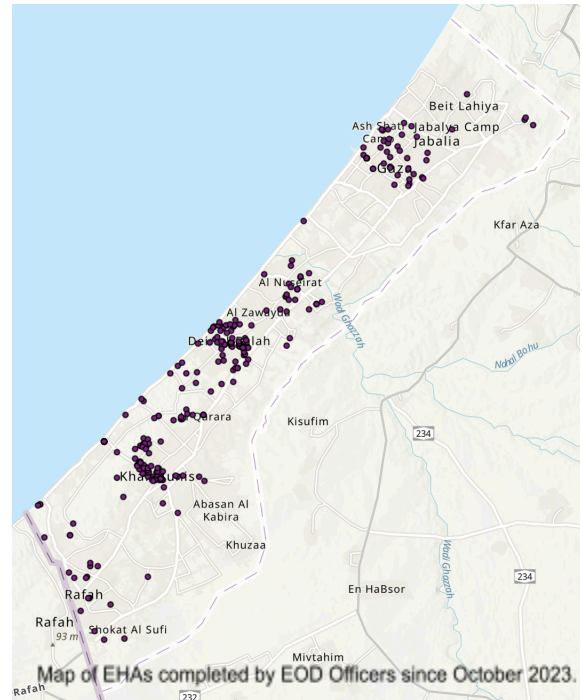


Explosive Threat in Gaza

Since 7 October 2023, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams have encountered **aerial bombs, mortars, rockets, all-caliber projectiles, grenades and improvised explosive devices**. MK 82, Mk 83, Mk 84 - which are aircraft bombs weighing from 500-2,000 lbs - have been seen regularly at the surface and along streets - it is expected many of these may be found as **Deep Buried Bombs** within infrastructures and rubble. Since re-entering Gaza in November 2023, EOD teams have come across over **460** explosive ordnance (EO) items visible on the surface in the areas that were accessible.

This puts civilians and humanitarian personnel living and operating in the Strip at risk and hinders the ability of the humanitarian community to provide aid to those who need it. As of 21 January 2025, already **92 victims**, including injuries and fatalities, have been reported into the [UNMAS public Information Management System](#). With the implementation of the ceasefire leading to more people moving around Gaza and returning to their homes, the likelihood of accidents increases as people return to unclear and potentially contaminated areas.



EO considerations during recovery efforts

In January, UNMAS coordinated an assessment of a power plant in Gaza. This was the critical first step in providing Gaza with power as part of recovery efforts. UNMAS deployed three Officers to assess the 124 thousand square-metre site, who found two dangerous items which they cordoned off. They placed marking signs to warn of danger, recommended that suspicious items are reported and that risk education is given to the workers of the power plant. This assessment enabled continued technical assessments and repair works to take place safely.

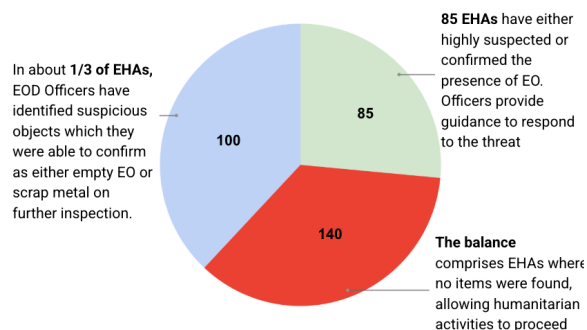
How can humanitarian mine action actors currently respond?

To respond to suspected EO threat, UNMAS prioritizes, coordinates and tasks the deployment of EOD Officers from its own UNMAS team as well as from implementing partners in Gaza (Humanity & Inclusion, Halo Trust as of January 2025) to complete Explosive Hazard Assessments (EHAs) of sites intended for humanitarian use. **EHAs are requested when an entity believes that there is the threat of EO present at a site and therefore they have halted any humanitarian activities until this can be verified.** Until an EOD Officer confirms if the risk of EO is low, activities would be on pause. Members of the public can also report suspected EO

through the [UNMAS public System](#), which UNMAS responds to by coordinating EHAs. To date, UNMAS has completed **340** EHAs.

UNMAS has also been requested by UN actors to provide EOD Officers to accompany convoys that deliver humanitarian aid throughout the Gaza Strip. To date, UNMAS EOD Officers have accompanied **304** convoys, conducting assessments along their routes. In **over 200 of these convoys**, EOD Officers have had to exit the

vehicle in order to confirm whether or not a suspected object impeding the route is an EO (with explosive threat). Most of the time, this turns out to be either an empty casing or simply scrap metal. UNMAS or any other humanitarian mine action actors are currently unable to dispose of EO due to security reasons: if EO is found, it is **marked** with a warning message.



Explosive threat in the West Bank

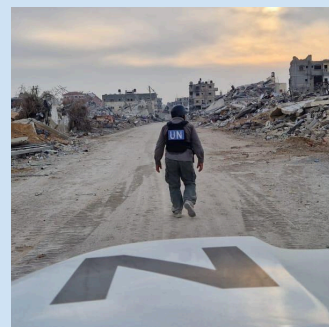
In the West Bank, all EO information is gathered by the Palestinian Authority EOD Police and the Palestinian Mine Action Centre, which they then share with UNMAS and the AoR. According to the Palestinian Mine Action Centre, who cooperate with the EOD Police, the number of missions carried out by the EOD Police in response to EO threats in the West Bank more than doubled in 2024 in comparison with 2023.

The Palestinian Mine Action Centre reported **85 casualties** resulting from EO, including eight members of the EOD Police who were injured or killed by explosive threats. This data is only for Area A; we have no comprehensive data for Areas B and C.

Humanitarian mine action actors respond to this by ensuring that people know how to act safely, targeting the most vulnerable (for example nomadic Bedouin communities and internally displaced persons). The Palestinian Authority EOD Police engages in disposal activities, however with limited capacity. Mine action actors provide training to the Palestinian Mine Action Centre, who coordinate with the EOD Police, to support the Palestinian Authority's response to EO in the West Bank.

Suspicious items on a convoy

In January 2025, WFP requested UNMAS support in assessing the safety of a route for delivery of critical aid along the Philadelphia Corridor in Gaza. The EOD Officer walked ahead of the convoy assessing the safety of the route. The Officer came across **14 suspicious items** (empty rocket launchers, shelling, cartridges) but confirmed that they posed no danger. This allowed more than 3km of route to be assessed, enabling future aid delivery.



Learn more about
UNMAS

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