



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service Occupied Palestinian Territory

October 2024 Newsletter



EOD Officer and Liaison Officer conduct an EHA of two schools in Khan Younis, Gaza, hosting 1,300 IDPs. 25 October 2024.

October Achievements

152 Explosive Hazard

Assessment requests responded to for:

- **15** humanitarian sites (shelters, medical facilities, etc.)
- **89** sites with extensive rubble contamination
- **10** interagency missions which supported movement of humanitarian personnel, etc.
- **38** EHAs canceled, aborted or denied

42,538 boys, girls, women and men received EORE-CPP

77 UN and humanitarian workers received EORE TOT

For more information:

Chief Mine Action Programme
Officer-in-Charge Mr. Takuto Kubo
kubo@un.org

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In Focus - Thank You to Our Donors

This month saw the conclusion of two UNMAS projects in oPt, in collaboration with Japan and OCHA Humanitarian Fund (HF). The projects began in early 2024, at a critical time in the humanitarian response to the war in Gaza. The contributions enabled UNMAS to respond effectively to requests for explosive hazard assessments (EHAs) and escorts to humanitarian convoys, and provide lifesaving explosive ordnance risk education and conflict preparedness and protection (EORE-CPP) to at-risk communities and training and awareness sessions to humanitarian personnel in the Strip.

UNMAS takes this opportunity to thank all of its donors for their invaluable contributions to humanitarian mine action, without which UNMAS would not be able to continue its lifesaving activities in oPt.



EHA as part of UNDP Debris Management Pilot Project, conducted on 26 October 2024 in Dair Al Balah

Support to Debris Management Efforts

UNMAS continued its support to emergency debris management efforts in October, focused on the UNDP Debris Management Pilot Project in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, Gaza. UNMAS EOD Officers completed EHAs of 89 sites with extensive rubble contamination. This constitutes the first step in safe debris removal from critical roads and sites to facilitate humanitarian access. At sites where explosive ordnance (EO) were identified, the debris management response is

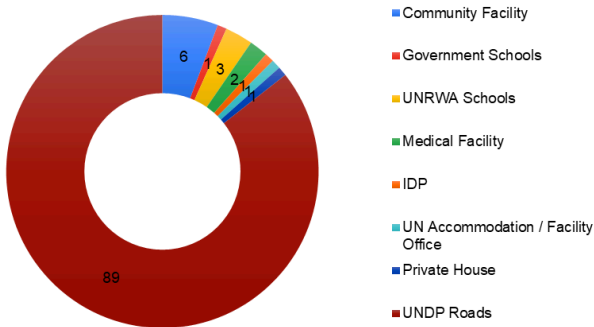
halted, as the humanitarian destruction of EO at this time is still not possible due to security reasons. This pilot project is an important trial to build on for future Early Recovery Efforts.

Explosive Hazard Assessments

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

UNMAS EOD Officers completed **15** EHAs in October 2024 at schools, health centres, UN facilities and IDP shelters. The EOD team also conducted route assessments for **10** interagency missions this month. In October, **9** EHAs had to be aborted or canceled due to security concerns or challenges related to movement and access, and **29** were denied.

Explosive Hazards Assessment



UNMAS EOD Officer provides support to IAM delivering fuel and medical supplies to Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza on 24 October 2024

In late October, UNMAS facilitated an interagency mission with UN and humanitarian partners to evacuate critically ill patients from Kamal Adwan hospital to Al Shifaa hospital in Gaza City and to supply Kamal Adwan hospital with fuel, blood, medical supplies and dry food.

The mission went ahead successfully with supplies delivered and 21 patients evacuated, including several in critical condition for whom the evacuation was vital. Kamal Adwan hospital had not been refueled for a long time; if the mission had not been able to deliver the fuel, there was a serious risk that the medical equipment for patients would have stopped working.

Delivery of Risk Education for the Local Community

UNMAS continued to support the delivery of EORE to the local community in Gaza, as well as awareness sessions to the humanitarian community. UNMAS implementing partners provided **1,815** EORE sessions to **42,538** at-risk civilians, while the UNMAS Risk Education team conducted four emergency humanitarian training of trainer (ToT) sessions, in which 77 humanitarian workers from a range of NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies participated.

UNMAS is also expanding information gathering efforts focusing on victims of EO in Gaza to facilitate the development of effective referral pathways for victims of EO to get the assistance they need. UNMAS will continue to encourage sector-wide reporting of information on EO victims, including retrospectively, and facilitate data collection and sharing.

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!

