



# UNMAS

## United Nations Mine Action Service

### Occupied Palestinian Territory

July 2024 Newsletter



[Save Youth Future Society (SYF), UNMAS implementing partner, delivering risk education for adults in an internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp, Deir Al Balah, Gaza Strip, July 2024

### July Achievements

#### 50 Explosive Hazard

Assessments conducted;

- **25** routes/itineraries in support of interagency missions delivering food/non-food items, medical supplies and fuel.
- **25** humanitarian sites (IDP shelters and camps, medical and WASH facilities, UN offices etc.)

**22,462** boys, girls, women and men received EORE-CPP

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

**7** 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, UNMAS EOD Officers conduct Explosive Hazard Assessments (EHAs) to mitigate the threat posed by Explosive Ordnance (EO).

In July, our EOD Officers conducted 25 Explosive Hazard Assessments (EHAs) across the Gaza Strip, covering one WASH facility, two civilian facilities, 13 IDP shelters, seven medical facilities, and two UN staff accommodation buildings. On 28 July, UNMAS conducted an EHA for an UNRWA health centre located in Khan Younis, one of its most densely visited healthcare centers in the Gaza Strip, which was impacted by nearby bombardments during the ongoing armed conflict. UNMAS Operations Team conducted a comprehensive visual EHA of the 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> building and the surrounding area. Following the assessment, the UNMAS Team confirmed the Health Centre and surrounding IDP tents were free of EO, allowing UNRWA to resume services for nearly 900,000 people, 65% of whom are female. UNRWA will also be able to accommodate the Joint Humanitarian Operations Center (JHOC), which will host the joint humanitarian planning, discussion and coordination in response to the ongoing emergency situation.



[UNRWA's Japanese Health Center while UNMAS Operations Team are conducting an EHA to the

Since 7 October, UNMAS has conducted 102 EHAs, supporting various partners, including UNRWA, Health and WASH Cluster actors, OCHA, and others, in continuing their humanitarian work.

**Delivery of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) for the bedouin communities in the West Bank**



[A community volunteer, Dania Ghunaim, delivering a child-friendly EORE session to a group of children living in one of

As part of UNMAS ongoing efforts and support, PalVision has been contracted to deliver EORE to vulnerable Bedouin communities in at-risk areas of the West Bank, and to maximize outreach, they have conducted EORE TOT sessions for community volunteers, equipping them with the skills to provide gender- and age-tailored EORE to the Bedouin population.

Dania, a volunteer who received the EORE TOT with PalVision, shared her experience, saying: "The training I received has expanded my understanding of the threat of EO, which the community seems less aware of, and provided me with the necessary skills to deliver EORE messages to the community, particularly children." Dania described her first experience delivering EORE to a group of children: "The children actively

engaged with and enjoyed the child-friendly EORE messaging. Throughout the session, I addressed their misconceptions about the threat of EO and safe and unsafe practices. Through child-friendly EORE messaging, the children learned to recognize, avoid, and report EO. When asked why, their response was: 'To protect ourselves!'"

### Support for humanitarian convoys

To increase the flow of humanitarian assistance, our EOD Officers support interagency missions that assess the needs and deliver humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable communities across the Gaza Strip. In July, the team supported 25 interagency missions that transported 30 trucks of food commodities, flour, medical supplies and other non-food items, 67 fuel trucks for hospitals, water wells, and bakeries. In this way, due to the efforts of the UNMAS team, the UN and humanitarian sector were able to be responsive to an evolving context and ensure the safe, continued flow of goods and movement of humanitarian actors.



UNMAS supporting a humanitarian assistance delivery convoy

**UNMAS oPt** again appeals to donors from the third quarter of 2024 to continue supporting our work as it 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.

