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PALESTINE

### April 2020

# Programme Highlights

## **EORE/COVID-19 Integration**

الأجسام الخطيرة بتكون أحياناً غير مرئية متل الكورونا وأحياناً مخادعة ومختفيّة متل مخلفات الحرب لكن الخطر واحد، لهيك:





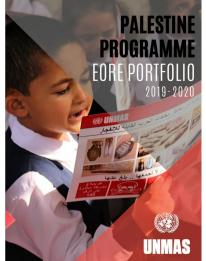
UNMAS EORE/COVID-19 integrated awareness poster, and UNMAS implementing partner MAAN in Gaza providing risk awareness sessions

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic UNMAS developed risk awareness material integrating and highlighting the risks of both ERW and COVID-19, in accordance with WHO and UNICEF guidelines on COVID-19. UNMAS has been able to distribute the messaging both in Gaza and the West Bank.The material will be further distributed by International NGOs in the West Bank win the second quarter of 2020.

### **Palestine Programme EORE Portfolio**

Alongside the other vital services provided by UNMAS Palestine, the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) programme has arguably been one of the most beneficial for the citizens of Gaza. During the first quarter of 2020, UNMAS published the UNMAS Palestine EORE Portfolio. The document highlighted the impact of EORE for Gaza beneficiaries, including how the EORE curriculum is supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda and the fight for gender parity. The EORE portfolio can be found here:

https://unmas.org/sites/default/files/palestine\_programme\_eore\_portfolio\_ 2019-2020.pdf



Front cover of UNMAS Palestine Programme EORE Portfolio





UNMAS in Palestine is funded bilaterally through contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in Mine Action. UNMAS secured funding to cover its operations in Palestine at reduced capacity through to October 2020. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for clearance, emergency preparedness, risk education, as well as to support to reconstruction and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



Thank you to all of our donors for their generous support.

## Focus on the West Bank

In the first quarter of 2020 and going forward, UNMAS hopes to generate greater awareness within the West Bank on the dangers of ERW and incapacitating agents such as tear gas. Despite some refugee camps in the West Bank being exposed to tear gas on a daily basis, there is a gap in knowledge about the appropriate actions that would help mitigate the effects of tear gas in the domestic environment. UNMAS aims to address this issue in 2020 using a CPP programme that is specialized to the conditions of the refugee camps and the impact of tear gas. Further, a community survey will be implemented to assess the MHPSS impact of ERW and incapacitating agent presence on the community, allowing to plan out needs-based responses.

UNMAS also partnered with War Child Holland and MMDM France to disseminate integrated EORE and COVID-19 awareness material in the northern Jordan Valley.



UNMAS visit to the Shaufat Refugee Camp, as part of the East Jerusalem TaskForce. Photo Credit:@UNMAS

### Q1 2020 – UNMAS Achievements



UNMAS remained on standby for EOD clearance support to UN agencies and reconstruction partners in Gaza.



#### Survivor Assistance

UNMAS continues to provide referral and verification to the survivors of ERW accidents through its referral mechanism.



UNMAS conducted 7 ERW risk assessments for projects in Gaza, allowing safe delivery of projects including water wells, pumps and roads.



#### **Emergency Preparedness**

UNMAS maintains emergency preparedness measures and has updated its Emergency Preparedness Plan. UNMAS is also an integral part of UN contingency plans.



146 risk education sessions delivered to 4,181 beneficiaries of which 526 were females and 2,067 were children.



#### Safe Ground Campaign

As part of UNMAS Global Campaign Safe Ground to turn minefields into playing fields, UNMAS continues to work with UNDP to allocate cleared land in the West Bank to create a sports field.

Established in 1997, the **United Nations Mine Action Service** (UNMAS) works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating United Nations mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service of the United Nations located within the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated official. UN Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) the first stand-alone text on mine action, *"Expresses grave concern over the threat that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to civilians, refugees returning to their homes, …and stresses the need to undertake appropriate measures to mitigate this danger effectively."*