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PALESTINE

# Programme Highlights

## Emergency Clearance at UNRWA School



After a suspicious object was found by security staff at the Al Bahrain Elementary Boys School in Gaza City, UNMAS was requested by UNRWA to perform a risk assessment and clearance. The school which caters to 990 boys between the ages of 8 and 12, in addition 32 UNRWA staff had been immediately evacuated.



Al Bahrain Boys School Photo Credit:@UNMAS

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Emergency arrangements were made to bring in UNMAS Programme Manager from Jerusalem over the weekend to provide a risk assessment and coordinate with the EOD Police in render safe procedures and removal of the explosive from the school. UNMAS were able to deploy within 24 hours of notification. The item, which was discovered to be a mortar fuse, was removed to the temporary explosive storage site, and the school was declared safe to reopen.

## Safety Renovations at Temporary Explosive Storage Facility



Temporary Explosive Storage Facility before and after renovations. Photo Credit:@UNMAS

In 2018 UNMAS constructed a temporary explosive storage facility in Gaza for the protection of civilians from the risk from ERW. Prior to the building of this temporary storage facility, ERW were kept in the middle of the city prior to destruction, adjacent to schools and residential building posing a threat to all in the surrounding areas. Recently UNMAS implemented physical safety and access improvements, reducing the risks to both civilians and UNRWA staff working at the nearby UNRWA logistics base in Rafah. These measures included the refurbishment of the blast mitigation walls and the laying of an interlock roadway to improve access to the site.

## UNMAS Participates in Walk for UNICEF CRC@30

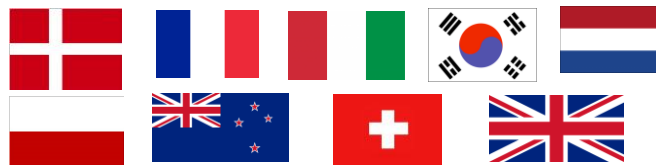


UNMAS and Palestinian Mine Action Center (PMAC) participated in a walk in the Massar Ibrahim trail in the West Bank, organized by UNICEF highlighting children's Right to Play, as part of a month long celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention of the Right of the Child.

UNMAS and PMAC at a walk in the West Bank for UNICEF CRC@30. Photo Credit:@UNMAS



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 at reduced capacity through to mid 2020. UNMAS is making consistent efforts to raise additional funds to respond to the needs for clearance, emergency preparedness, risk education support to reconstruction and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



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

UNMAS is working with MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) to develop and deliver risk education sessions aimed at helping residents of refugee camps to identify ways to reduce the risks from the use of chemical irritants (CI), such as tear gas, in the West Bank. The risk education sessions will be divided into identifying chemical and explosive risks, coping mechanisms and emergency first aid training.



UNMAS at site visit to Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, West Bank. Photo Credit: @UNMAS

## Q3 2019 – UNMAS Achievements



### EOD Support

UNMAS provided explosive ordnance disposal EOD clearance support to UNRWA school following discovery of ERW on the school grounds .



### Survivor Assistance

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



### Reconstruction Support

UNMAS conducted 2 ERW risk assessments for reconstruction 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.



### Risk Education

146 risk education sessions delivered to 3,968 beneficiaries of which 1,397 were females and 1,042 were children.



### Safe Ground Campaign

As part of UNMAS Global Campaign Safe Ground to turn minefields into playing fields, UNMAS held meetings with UNDP to further develop the concept and allocate 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.”*