



For more information:

Bridget Forster  
Programme Manager  
UNMAS Palestine  
[bridgetf@unops.org](mailto:bridgetf@unops.org)



NOVEMBER 2020

PALESTINE

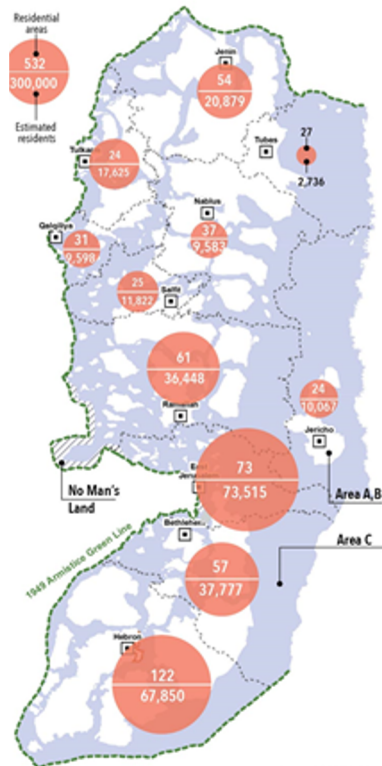
## Programme Highlights

### New Zealand funds UNMAS activities the West Bank

In Q3 UNMAS launched its New Zealand funded Explosive Ordnance risk education (EORE) project in the West Bank to enhance the capacity of the Palestinian Mine Action Center (PMAC) to coordinate and deliver gender mainstreamed EORE in areas impacted by mines and explosives remnants of war (ERW). The project aims to train women on the delivery of EORE to vulnerable communities in the West Bank which have been identified through an ERW impact survey that is being carried out to help prioritise areas in need of EORE. As part of the West Bank Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) network, UNMAS ensures that all its implementing partners are trained on PSEA and all beneficiaries are aware of the complaints mechanism. These activities are being generously funded by the Government of New Zealand.



During EORE day in Tubas, West Bank, children received ERW awareness leaflets.



Map of the West Bank.

### Japanese Funded CPP in Gaza

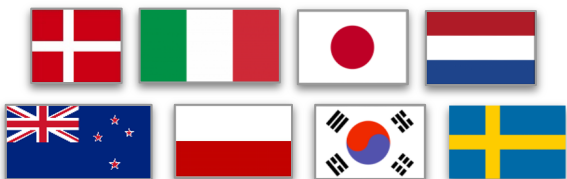
In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic UNMAS, with generous funding from the Government of Japan, is focusing on updating its Gaza based Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) project. With modules aimed at resilience building the vulnerable communities in Gaza and a focus on women as agents of change, additional modules include COVID-19 threat mitigation, modules targeting PWD and the ability to deliver modules remotely.



A CPP slide illustrating safety positions to adopt during an escalation.



UNMAS in Palestine is funded bilaterally through contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in Mine Action. In response to a shortfall in funding UNMAS has reduced its personnel and capacity in order to raise the additional funds to allow them to respond to the needs for emergency EOD response, emergency preparedness, risker to continue operations into 2021. UNMAS continues to make consistent efforts to raise the additional funds to allow them to respond to the needs for emergency EOD response, emergency preparedness, risk education as well as to provide support to reconstruction in Gaza and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



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

## OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin Publishes UNMAS Article

Alongside the other vital services provided by UNMAS Palestine the emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response provided by UNMAS has been crucial to clear UN premises that have suspected or confirmed Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination after airstrikes or other military engagements. The EOD response provided by UNMAS also facilitates the delivery of humanitarian assistance and access to emergency shelters.

During the third quarter of 2020, UNMAS published an article in the Humanitarian Bulletin by OCHA. The article highlights the importance of the work conducted by UNMAS in Gaza with a case-study on the EOD response to Al-Bahrain elementary school. The school-principal commended the service provided by UNMAS: "I believe that the professional and quick action taken by the UNRWA and UNMAS teams was effective to keep the school safe and keep it opened. Students could attend the school as usual on Saturday as if nothing happened. We were very attentive to keep them away from this issue and continue as the problem was solved smoothly and effectively."

The article can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4b8bb4n>



Children back at school at All Bahrain elementary school following Risk Assessment by UNMAS



Students at Al Bahrain elementary school return to school after UNMAS clearance, photo by UNRWA.

## Q2 - Q3 2020 – UNMAS Achievements



### Emergency Preparedness

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



### Reconstruction Support

UNMAS remains on standby to conduct ERW risk assessments for projects in Gaza, allowing safe delivery of projects including water wells, pumps and roads.



### Survivor Assistance

UNMAS continues to provide referral and verification to the survivors of ERW accidents through its referral mechanism. From Q2-Q3, 4 accidents occurred, injuring 5 males (3 children).



### EOD Support

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



### Risk Education

3,393 ERW, COVID-19 mixed messaging sessions delivered to 9,569 beneficiaries of which 2,034 were women and 3,842 were children.



### Safe Ground Campaign

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."