



UNMAS

Occupied Palestinian Territory

May Newsletter: Navigating Explosive Threats

In Focus:

The potential threat of explosive ordnance (EO) has a significant impact on humanitarian provision in Gaza. UNMAS can mitigate this impact by assessing routes and infrastructure and confirming that there is a low risk of EO, thereby freeing the land for use.

But what if UNMAS confirms the opposite: *that there is an EO threat posing a danger to civilians?*

On 6 May, UNMAS was informed of potential EO at a hospital in Gaza city that was undergoing urgent refurbishment to accommodate the influx of injured civilians in need of lifesaving care.

UNMAS deployed an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer who identified EO in one of the hospital rooms and in the ambulance station, and confirmed that these posed an immediate threat to construction workers, hospital personnel and vulnerable civilians.

As the Officer could not move, dispose of or render safe the threat, he designed and constructed protective works around the items and briefed hospital representatives and construction personnel about critical measures to mitigate the risk posed by EO. These measures enabled reconstruction works to continue safely around the EO threats, directly contributing to the enhancement of medical response capacity in Gaza.

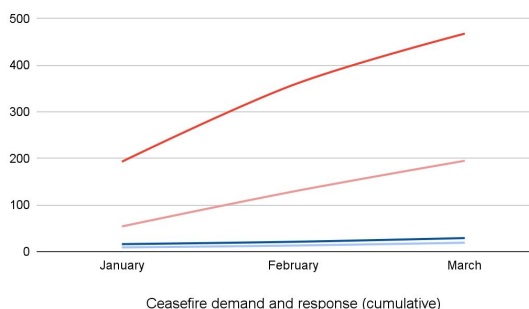


Coordination and Standards Setting:

As the Mine Action Coordinator in Gaza and Mine Action Area of Responsibility Co-Chair with Humanity & Inclusion, a key focus is coordinating humanitarian mine action response in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The team is developing Technical Standards and Guidelines and Standard Working Processes for mine action organizations to follow when they enter Gaza, including for marking, disposal, medical support and EO risk education. **Six** such documents have been finalized and shared with the sector for inputs.

The team continued to collect, monitor and present data relating to EO threats and response in OPT and trained **19 personnel from six organizations** in the use of sector-wide reporting tools and dashboards.

— EHA requests received — EHAs completed by UNMAS and partners
— IAM requests received — IAM requests responded to



While responding to the current situation, UNMAS is also preparing for a huge surge in demand in the event of a ceasefire in Gaza. As this graph shows, current capacity is insufficient for the sector to meet humanitarian mine action needs in ceasefire times. **UNMAS** appeals to donors to continue supporting our work in the OPT and welcomes invitations to provide further information about our requirements.

Thank you
for your
support
in 2025!



For more information:

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Website



YouTube



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UNMAS

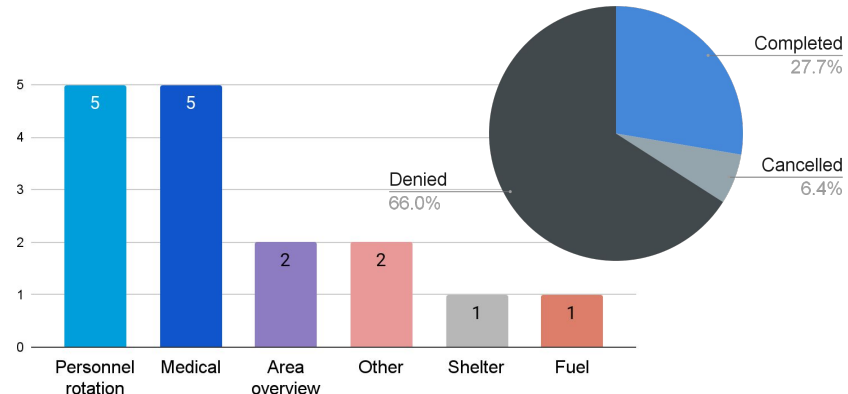
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In May, Gaza experienced a full blockade on the entry of aid and other supplies, which was partially lifted on 21 May. Due to the resulting challenges to humanitarian response, ensuring existing key infrastructure could continue running was critical. In May UNMAS assessed **11,000m² of land** as low-risk from EO through explosive hazard assessments (EHAs), enabling lifesaving medical facilities and shelters to operate.

Assessments of medical facilities benefited **10,000 people**, while an EHA of a camp in Al Nuseirat gave **500 people** in need of shelter access to the camp.



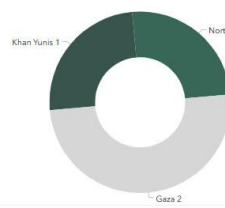
Type of interagency mission supported

Despite 31 missions being denied by Israeli Forces, UNMAS facilitated 47 key missions in response to 13 interagency mission (IAM) requests from OCHA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, UNDSS and WFP. This included 31 days providing on-call EOD support to organizations operating in northern Gaza; the 16 other missions supported are broken down above.

Reported Confirmed EOs

4

of EO per Governorates

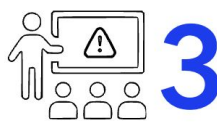


	Conflict-related casualties reported in May (WHO)	EO victims reported in May*
Killed	2,000	0
Injured	6,099	4
Total	8,099	4

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

UNMAS provided risk education sessions to **112 humanitarians**, enabling them to navigate explosive threats in the OPT.

Number of Sessions



Due to the security situation in Gaza, UNMAS halted in-person risk education activities. However, the sector reached **85,000 community members** through **6,226 sessions**. UNMAS continued to support sector-wide risk education delivery through coordination and information management.

UNMAS identified explosive ordnance during four IAMs, cordoning off items and providing awareness briefings to mitigate the risk. Other times, UNMAS enabled partners to navigate potential threats along routes and at sites by confirming areas and any suspicious items found as non-dangerous.

Response in 2025 to date

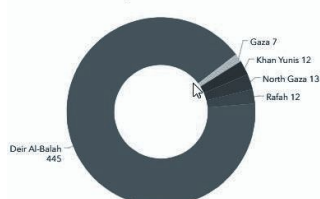
While requests remain lower than during the January-March ceasefire, UNMAS expertise is still frequently requested for lifesaving missions and critical humanitarian activities. Frequent mission denials continue to impede UNMAS ability to respond to all requests received.

Threat in Gaza since 7 Oct 2023

Reported Confirmed EOs

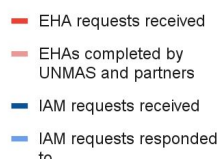
489

of EO per Governorates



EO victims reported since Oct 2023*

Killed	33
Injured	190
Total	223



19 March: ceasefire collapse

Operational response in 2025

*These are only incidents that have been reported into UNMAS system; these figures are likely much higher.