



UNMAS

Occupied Palestinian Territory

July Newsletter: Mitigating Explosive Risks



In Focus:

As explosive ordnance (EO) continues to injure civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is a critical risk mitigation measure that equips civilians with the knowledge to navigate these threats.

In July UNMAS partner, Palestinian Organization for Development (POD), restarted in-person EORE sessions in Gaza after a three-month pause due to security concerns. Operating from medical centres and key access routes to shelters, 30 facilitators delivered **598 sessions to 18,526 conflict-affected men, women and children**, explaining how to stay safer from EO.

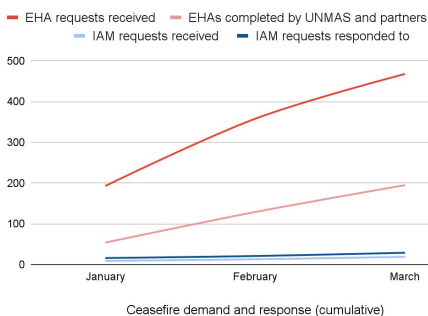
Participants told of incidents they had experienced. When Mohammed returned home during the January-March ceasefire, a child in his family found a piece of rusty metal. He picked it up intending to sell it as scrap. The object exploded, causing third-degree burns on his left leg and tendon lacerations. *"Today, my family and I strive to deliver this message with urgency: Caution can save lives. We work to raise awareness in our community, hoping to reduce the number of victims and protect our children and society from the pain we endured"*.

These in-person sessions, integrated into wider humanitarian response such as in medical centres, are critical to show more people, particularly curious children, that explosive threats take many forms and can be highly dangerous if disturbed.

Facilitating humanitarian response

As well as posing a direct threat to civilians, the **potential** threat of EO can effectively shut down infrastructure such as hospitals, shelters, and WASH facilities, constraining humanitarian delivery even further than it already is. In response, UNMAS deploys Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officers to conduct technical assessments and advise whether these sites are safe to function.

UNDP requested UNMAS assessment of a water desalination plant at Al Shifa Hospital. The plant had sustained damage and was surrounded by rubble, and its reconstruction was vital to the hospital's operation. On 28 July, an EOD Officer conducted the assessment, finding no suspicious items and identifying the site as 'low risk' from EO. This allowed UNDP to proceed with reconstruction of the plant, which will provide clean water to the entire hospital as well as approximately 300,000 people in Gaza city.



*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 and welcomes invitations to provide further information about our needs.*

Thank you
for your
support
in 2025!



For more information:

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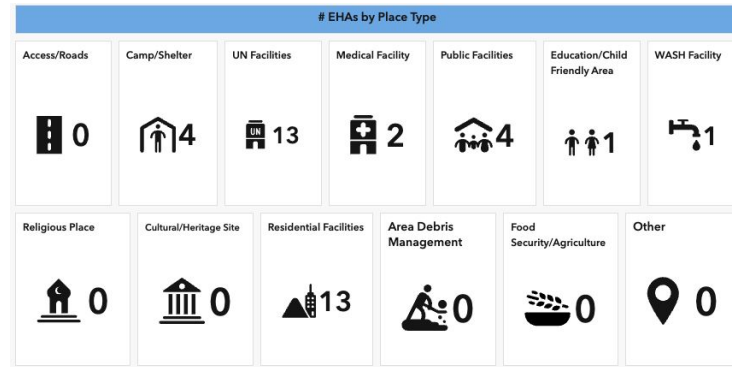
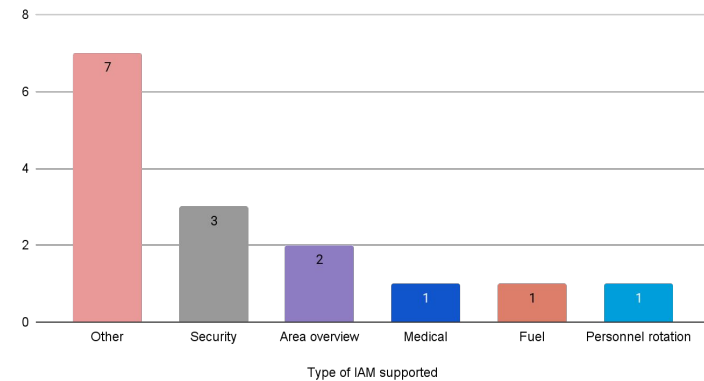
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UNMAS completed **16 inter-agency mission (IAM) requests**, corresponding to **38 daily missions**. This included **23 days** in Gaza city as part of the Mission Support Team, providing on-call support to humanitarian agencies. UNMAS conducted **38 EHAs**, confirming low EO threat at **all sites** and thereby releasing almost **50,000m²** for humanitarian use.

24 missions were denied by Israeli Forces or cancelled due to security concerns or delays in receiving movement permissions. This significantly hindered humanitarian response.



When Israeli Forces initiated a military operation in Deir al Balah on 21 July, many humanitarian partners' guesthouses were issued with displacement orders. UNMAS supported the safe movement of these personnel to areas outside of displacement orders.

Once orders were lifted, UNMAS conducted **26 emergency EHAs** of guesthouses to permit partners to return safely to their guesthouses and continue serving civilians in Gaza.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

UNMAS delivered risk education to **124 humanitarians** in Gaza and the West Bank, enabling them to navigate explosive threats in support of their delivery.

Total Beneficiaries

18,650

Number of Sessions

601

POD delivered in-person sessions to **18,526** conflict affected civilians, teaching people how to respond safely to the explosive threat in Gaza.

The sector continued to coordinate risk education delivery, collectively reaching **85,721** people.

Conflict-related casualties in Gaza reported in July (WHO)		EO victims reported in Gaza in July*
Killed	3,685	0
Injured	15,538	4
Total	19,223	4

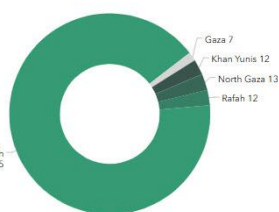
UNMAS identified no EO in July. This means that any suspicious items found during EHAs and IAMs were identified by UNMAS Officers as non-dangerous, giving humanitarian partners the green light to more safely use sites and routes to provide critical humanitarian response to civilians.

Threat since 7 Oct 2023

Reported Confirmed EOs

489

of EO per Governorates

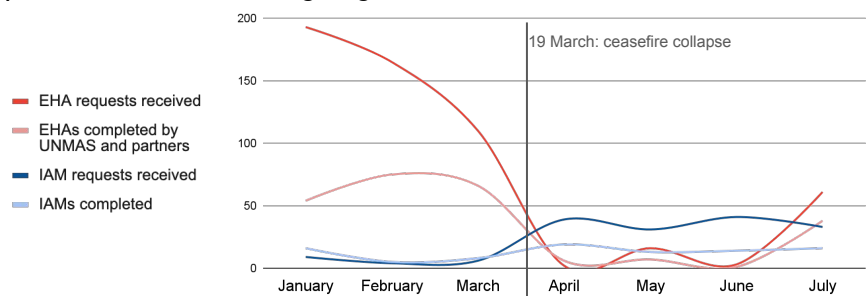


EO victims reported since Oct 2023*

Killed	42
Injured	219
Total	261

Response in 2025 to date

During this emergency period, UNMAS expertise is requested for lifesaving missions and humanitarian activities. Although UNMAS responds to all requests received, frequent denials continue to prevent missions from going ahead.



Operational response in 2025

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