



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service

Occupied Palestinian Territory

January 2025 Newsletter



EOD Officers conduct EHA of a logistics base in Rafah. Explosive ordnance found was marked with warning signs. 25 January 2025. Photo: UNMAS

January Achievements

91 Explosive Hazard Assessment conducted

- At **41** humanitarian sites (shelters, medical facilities)
- For **50** interagency missions (delivering food and fuel, medical evacuations)

35 EHAs were still canceled, aborted or denied

28,978 boys, girls, women and men received EORE-CPP

307 UN and humanitarian workers received EORE facilitators training

29,000 printed EORE materials distributed

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In Focus - Ceasefire Response

UNMAS welcomes the advent of the ceasefire agreement on 19 January, but stresses that the movement now seen throughout the Gaza Strip may result in an increase in incidents and victims to the likely widespread explosive ordnance (EO) resulting from the last 15 months of conflict.

While the humanitarian mine action sector still does not have an agreed approach to safely dispose of EO, advocacy efforts and negotiations are underway to address this with various authorities. In the meantime, UNMAS continues to stress risk mitigation measures through the completion of explosive hazard assessments (EHAs) at critical sites and along routes used by humanitarian and the expansion of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) initiatives. Five EOD Officers are currently deployed to respond to the more than 250 requests for assessments in January. Resources will be strengthened in the coming weeks and months.

For more information about the ceasefire response, see our [Factsheet](#).

Explosive Hazard Assessments

UNMAS conducted **41** EHAs including at medical facilities, mosques, educational facilities and areas prioritized for debris management efforts primarily in Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah. UNMAS also supported **50** humanitarian convoys delivering food and fuel, supporting medical evacuations and assessing unused routes for future humanitarian delivery. **35** operations were denied, aborted or cancelled. Many convoys took place in the previously inaccessible northern areas of Gaza. On many humanitarian convoys, UNMAS presence is a compulsory safety measure regulated by the United Nations to ensure safer operations in the face of the continued EO threat. UNMAS responded to **49 per cent** of 255 requests for EOD support, highlighting the challenge posed by current limited capacity in the face of extremely high demand.

Risk Education in oPt

UNMAS introduced a specialized ceasefire package for mine action and humanitarian partners, ensuring that vital safety messages reach every household threatened by explosive hazards. UNMAS Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Officers led an online session **to train 286 humanitarian staff** and service providers on integrating EORE into their essential work.

To further expand this mission, UNMAS conducted a **Training of Trainers session for 30 staff** from our implementing partner, Palestinian Organization for Development (POD). This empowers POD to **train up to 25 humanitarian organizations per week in EORE awareness, messaging and mainstreaming** and creating a powerful multiplier effect that delivers life-saving information to countless more individuals.

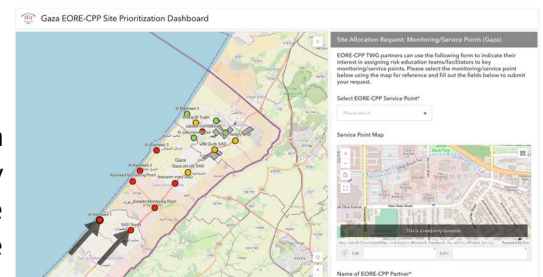
POD provided **1,243 EORE sessions, reaching nearly 29,000 people** including **14,611 men, 9,724 women, 1,942 boys** and **2,701 girls**. Many of these sessions took place along critical monitoring points on the northern migration route, addressing communities especially vulnerable to explosive threats. These interventions give at-risk individuals the practical skills to recognize and avoid explosive hazards, providing immediate protection and laying the groundwork for long-term community resilience.

To support coordination, UNMAS partnered with NPA to design and launch the Gaza [EORE-CPP service prioritization Dashboard and Map](#). By consolidating critical information in one platform, partners can more effectively target and deliver lifesaving services to vulnerable communities.

In the West Bank, UNMAS co-hosted a strategic planning workshop for the EORE and Conflict Preparedness and Protection Technical Working Group. In partnership with the Palestinian Mine Action Center (PMAC) and co-chaired with the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, the session convened 30 key mine action stakeholders to align priorities and develop a joint workplan. This strengthens coordination, maximizes resources, and ensures a more effective response for communities affected by explosive hazards.



On 22 January, UNMAS received a request for an urgent EHA of a power plant in Deir al Balah, as the critical first step in providing Gaza with power as part of recovery efforts. UNMAS deployed three EOD Officers to assess the 124,000 square-metre site, a feat which took hours. During the assessment, they found a large amount of scrap metal which they could confirm was not dangerous, as well as two dangerous explosive items which they cordoned off and marked. The Officers recommended that protective items be placed around the marking, that suspicious items are reported, and that risk education is given to the workers of the power plant. This assessment enabled repair works to begin safely and reactivation of the site to proceed.



POD facilitators preparing to go into the streets to share lifesaving messaging on the EO threat to people returning to their homes in northern Gaza. 27 January 2025.

Thank you
for your
support
in 2025!



Through collaboration with partners and donors, UNMAS remains committed to safeguarding civilian lives and securing a safer, brighter future for all children, families and communities in oPt. **UNMAS oPt** appeals to donors to continue supporting our work as we enter a new phase of response. Invitations to provide further information about UNMAS requirements are welcome.