



UNMAS

Occupied Palestinian Territory

September Newsletter: Coordinating Efforts



In Focus:

For ongoing operations and planning for an eventual ceasefire, robust coordination between humanitarian actors is crucial – particularly in the OPT which is impacted by rapid changes, access challenges and security concerns. UNMAS works closely with humanitarian partners including UN agencies, humanitarian mine action (HMA) partners, and other local and international NGOs to ensure HMA activities have the most impact where they are needed.

In Gaza, UNMAS coordinates all humanitarian mine action: Planning, prioritizing and assigning tasks and providing quality assurance for the sector. The work also includes developing and updating sector-wide Technical Standards and Guidelines, and delivering training to support sector-wide alignment and facilitate best practices.

In addition, UNMAS co-chairs the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) for the OPT alongside Humanity & Inclusion, leading biweekly meetings and thematic Technical Working Groups.

On 16-18 September, the MA AoR organized a technical workshop supported by UNMAS and GICHD. **Forty-seven people** attended from **25 organizations**, including representatives from the Palestinian Authority Mine Action Centre and Palestinian Authority EOD police (both operate in the occupied West Bank). Participants reflected on lessons learned, aligned advocacy priorities, and refined scenario-based planning looking forward. Bringing together key stakeholders in one room - a significant challenge with personnel based in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan and elsewhere - enabled partners to pool experience and plan collectively.



Funding needs for 2026

Moving to the end of 2025 and with limited funding secured for 2026, UNMAS appeals to donors to continue supporting efforts in Gaza and the West Bank.

Support is needed for the programme to maintain its current activities in 2026 and expand efforts in the event of a ceasefire and longer term peace process. Continued funding for its own activities and the wider sector will be critical.

Since October 2023, HMA has been a key precursor for the humanitarian response in Gaza. Over the past year and on a much larger scale than during past escalations in Gaza, HMA has also been embedded in early recovery efforts, with explosive hazard assessments (EHAs) being a first step in rehabilitation and for debris management. Partners frequently request assessments and risk awareness training in support of these efforts recognizing that HMA is a non-negotiable risk mitigation tool to safeguard these activities. In the event of a ceasefire or peace agreement in Gaza early recovery efforts would expand, necessitating an expansion of HMA capacity in alignment with this. The January-March 2025 ceasefire triggered a surge in demand that UNMAS was not able to respond to fully, highlighting the need for more resources and rapid and flexible funding mechanisms.

In the West Bank, robust and reliable support from donors is also critical. As explosive ordnance contamination continues to rise, more support to local partners is necessary to grow response capacity in line with these significant needs.



Thank you
for your
support
in 2025!



For more information:

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UNMAS deployed EOD Officers to support UNDP- and WFP-led **debris management efforts** in Gaza, through 32 EHAs and eight IAMs. These technical assessments enabled partners to safely open up roads in Khan Younis and Gaza city to support humanitarian access.

Despite barriers to humanitarian delivery in northern Gaza, UNMAS continued to provide resources to daily missions to Gaza city so that humanitarian response could still reach communities in need in the north. UNMAS completed **two multi-day deployment requests** as part of the Mission Support Team, comprising **34 daily missions around Gaza and in particular to the north**.

EHAs by Place Type

WASH Facility Access/Roads Medical Facility Residential Facilities



5



28



2



1

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

UNMAS implementing partner, POD, reached **43,092 people** through **1,349 sessions** in Deir al Balah, Gaza city and Khan Younis, explaining how to respond safely to explosive threats.

Total Beneficiaries

43,131

Number of Sessions

1,351

EHA beneficiaries (direct)

179,000

EO identified

5

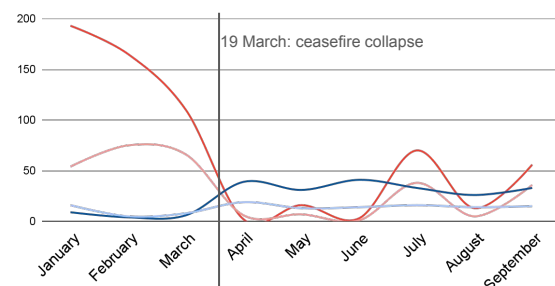
	Conflict-related casualties reported in August (WHO)	EO victims reported in September*
Killed	2,591	0
Injured	8,056	1
Total	10,647	1

UNMAS identified EO items at **five sites** in Gaza. Although unable to move or dispose of the EO, where permitted UNMAS marked and cordoned the items off to mitigate the risk to community members. Often, this allowed routes and sites to continue being used safely.

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 and access challenges continue to prevent missions from going ahead - or from being requested at all.

— EHA requests received
— EHAs completed by UNMAS and partners
— IAM requests received
— IAMs completed

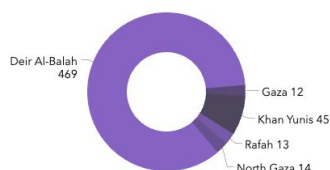


Threat since 7 Oct 2023

EO identified

553

of EO per Governorates



EO victims reported since Oct 2023*

Killed	52
Injured	267
Total	319

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