



# UNMAS

# Occupied Palestinian Territory

## November Newsletter: Winterization and early recovery



### In Focus:

Since the ceasefire on 10 October, at least **12 explosive ordnance (EO)-related accidents** have injured **32** and killed **six** in **Gaza**. This tragic figure is likely underreported and what is worse, these accidents could have been prevented. Still facing restrictions on bringing in key disposal equipment, UNMAS remains unable to dispose of items encountered. With the necessary equipment, we could eliminate these threats altogether.

Through tailored risk education and victim assistance, the humanitarian mine action (HMA) sector minimizes the risk of accidents and ensures comprehensive support to those who are affected. Partners reach out to survivors whose injuries have been reported to UNMAS, referring people to medical care and providing cash for medical supplies and other necessities, despite ongoing critical gaps in specialized treatment and other humanitarian supplies. In a recently published [article](#), UNMAS outlined the critical need for disability-inclusive HMA approaches in the OPT.

Through five explosive hazard assessments (EHAs) of ambulance stations, health centres and clinics in northern Gaza, UNMAS also supported partners to expand primary health care services for people affected by conflict, including EO accidents.



### Winterization efforts

Winter brings compounding and life-threatening challenges to the people of Gaza. Adverse weather and flooding push communities into restricted and high-risk areas, as people find shelter in damaged and structurally unsound buildings or flooding threatens the health and wellbeing of people residing in camps.

As the weather turned, UNMAS supported key winterization efforts including assessing open areas to allow IDPs to relocate inland from camps along the shoreline, so that they are not directly exposed to the sea conditions over the winter. With no EO identified at one site, this will enable OCHA to construct at least 50 tents to shelter thousands of displaced persons throughout the winter. Teams also assessed 83 sites with extensive debris contamination, allowing UNDP to turn tonnes of debris into sand for use as flood barriers at camps, shelters and key humanitarian infrastructure.

In North Gaza, UNMAS identified EO in four damaged buildings in which families had sought refuge. Providing awareness sessions and marking and cordoning off dangerous items mitigated the severe risk to 2,000 people trying to keep warm among the rubble.

*UNMAS is expanding its EOD capacity, increasing the number of EOD Officers deployed and initiating new agreements with HMA partners to deploy survey and rapid response teams to meet the demand. Flexible and sustained funding is needed to maintain capacity. 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!



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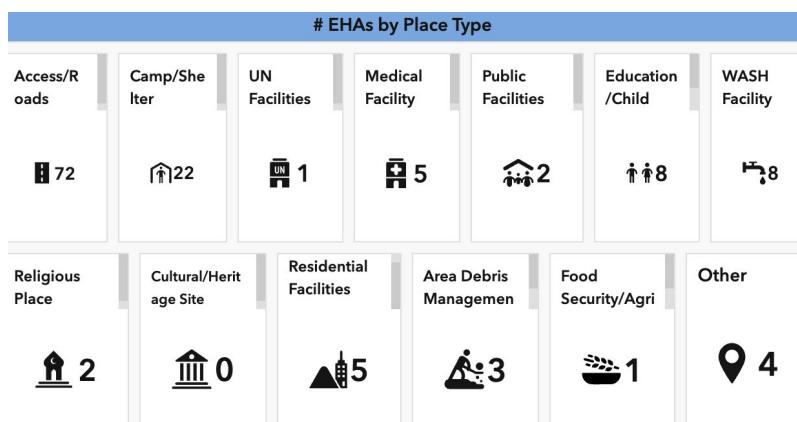
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After months with UNMAS being the only organization able to conduct EOD operations in Gaza, two international NGOs redeployed critical EOD capacity into Gaza in November. UNMAS conducted and coordinated **133 EHAs** and supported **55 IAMs**. The sector conducted more EHAs than any other month since October 2023, highlighting the critical need for humanitarian mine action expertise at this pivotal moment. Almost half of all tasks were in support of debris management efforts, which are key to early recovery. UNMAS also enabled humanitarian partners to reach communities in less accessible areas, expand medical response and build shelters for displaced persons throughout Gaza. The roads, shelters, medical facilities, schools and other sites assessed – totalling **over 2.4 million square meters** of land – will directly benefit **over one million people**.



### Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

UNMAS implementing partner delivered EOORE to **17,054 conflict-affected people** in Gaza. This contributed to the sector-wide results highlighted to the right.



Meanwhile, UNMAS delivered EO risk awareness sessions to **123 humanitarian personnel** from six different organizations in Gaza. This allows humanitarian partners to continue lifesaving delivery in a safe manner.

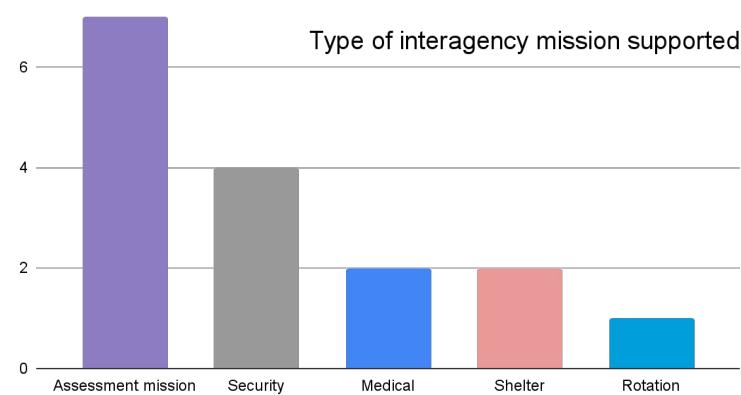
### Threat since 7 Oct 2023

# EO identified

**667**

# of EO per Governorates

EO victims reported since Oct 2023*	
Killed	67
Injured	369
Total	436



### Direct beneficiaries of EHAs

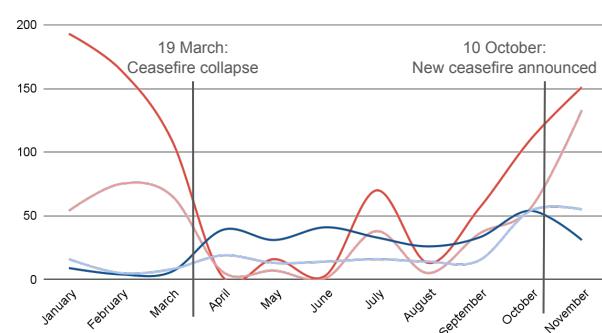
**1 million**

Conflict-related casualties reported in October (WHO)		EO victims reported in November*
Killed	2,710	6
Injured	1,948	11
Total	4,658	17

UNMAS identified **90 EO items at 21 sites** in Gaza. Although unable to move or dispose of the EO, where conditions permit, UNMAS marked and cordoned the items off to mitigate the risk to community members and allow continued access.

### Response in 2025 to date

Requests for UNMAS support have surged again since the ceasefire announcement, and the more permissible operational environment has enabled the sector to respond more comprehensively to requests including working through a backlog of requests. Although UNMAS responds to all requests received, 18 missions were still cancelled or denied.



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