



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service

Occupied Palestinian Territory

February 2025 Newsletter



UNMAS EOD Officers conduct an explosive hazard assessment of a facility housing IDPs in Rafah.
February 2025

February Achievements

77 Explosive Hazard Assessment responded to

- At **48** humanitarian sites (shelters, medical facilities, educational centres)
- For **24** interagency missions (delivering food and fuel, humanitarian assessments)
- **5** EHAs were still canceled, aborted or denied

5 EO items identified

30,053 boys, girls, women and men received EORE-CPP

213 UN and humanitarian workers received EORE and EORE facilitators training

For more information:

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[Website](#)



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In Focus - Mission Support Team

The ceasefire in Gaza has widened humanitarian access in particular in the northern areas of the Strip, much of which experienced a high concentration of kinetic activity. Due to access limitations before the ceasefire, UNMAS has not been able to assess many of the routes and sites for explosive ordnance (EO) risks. To minimize the impact of this risk on humanitarian delivery, UNMAS has maintained a constant rapid response capacity in northern Gaza since the ceasefire, as part of the Mission Support Team (MST).

The MST comprises one UNMAS EOD Officer, one Medical Officer, and one Security Officer, based in Gaza city. When humanitarian organizations go on their daily missions in support of conflict-affected people, they can call on the MST at any moment. In February, UNMAS Officer, John, was called upon frequently, including by World Food Programme to accompany their visits to bakeries, by UNFPA who were assessing the feasibility of establishing the first specific women's and children's health clinic post-ceasefire, and by OCHA when assessing emergency needs of displaced returnees. John guided the organizations along the safest roads and assessed spaces for possible EO threats before personnel would enter.

About halfway through John's deployment in the north, Médecins Sans Frontières requested emergency support when they found a suspected EO near their accommodation. Within 20 minutes, John had arrived to examine the item, which he was able to confirm as non-explosive. This helped alleviate concerns of personnel and local residents, allowing both to restart their daily activities confidently and safely.

Explosive Hazard Assessments and Convoy Support

UNMAS conducted 48 EHAs and tasked other implementing partners to conduct 26 EHAs. EOD Officers assessed shelters, educational centres, public spaces and UN facilities, enabling organizations and civilians to begin using them safely. UNMAS also supported 24 humanitarian missions, enabling food and basic items to be delivered, shelters to be assessed, and hospitals to be stocked with medical equipment.

Risk Education

UNMAS continued to work with humanitarian organizations, enabling them to share risk education messaging with their beneficiaries. The integration of EORE into humanitarian delivery ensures that lifesaving messaging is disseminated more widely throughout Gaza. The EORE team trained 128 people (64 women and 64 men) from a range of organizations to deliver EORE themselves.



UNMAS Risk Education Officer is conducting training session for Norwegian Refugee Council in February 2025. Deir Al Balah, Gaza.

UNMAS implementing partner, Palestinian Organization for Development (POD) delivered 1,229 EORE sessions, reaching over 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza including 17,827 men, 10,213 women, 983 boys and 1,030 girls. These interventions give at-risk individuals - such as those returning to their homes the practical skills to recognize and avoid explosive hazards, providing immediate protection and laying the groundwork for long-term community resilience.

Coordination and Capacity Building

As the designated Mine Action Coordinator in Gaza, UNMAS worked to ensure an impactful sector-wide response. UNMAS supported HALO Trust to reenter Gaza by providing housing, training and security guidance to HALO Officers. UNMAS welcomes this increase in capacity to respond to EO in Gaza.

The Mine Action Area of Responsibility, co-chaired by UNMAS, successfully expanded beyond Gaza to cover the West Bank. UNMAS also designed and launched an AoR [website](#) with key information contained in one location.

In the West Bank, the team continued to work closely with the Palestinian Mine Action Centre in support of the national mine action response. This is particularly important as partners are observing a concerning increase in the risk posed by EO in the West Bank.

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.

Early Recovery Efforts: Supporting Education

The completion of an EHA was compulsory for Qattan Foundation's donors, so this news meant that they could immediately release funds needed to reopen the centre. The centre will now be able to support 30,000 children to develop key skills and access materials that will help them to grow academically and professionally.



**Thank you
for your
support
in 2025!**

