



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service

Occupied Palestinian Territory

June 2024 Newsletter



[Save Youth Future Society (SYF), UNMAS' local implementing partner, delivering an EORE formal session for children in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Deir Al Balah, Middle Area, Gaza Strip, June 2024 ©UNMAS]

June Achievements

7 Explosive Hazard Assessments conducted

29 Interagency Missions Supported the delivery of **692** trucks containing food and non-food items, flour, medical supplies, and **71** fuel trucks for hospitals, water wells, and bakeries.

1 Training of Trainer EORE Session provided

1,431 EORE Sessions provided

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In Focus - Explosive Hazard Assessments

To mitigate the Explosive Ordnance (EO) at UN and humanitarian and civil project sites, UNMAS EOD Officers carry out explosive hazard assessments (EHAs). This enables humanitarian personnel to work more safely, enabling the continuity of humanitarian operations.

In June, our EOD Officers conducted seven EHAs across the Gaza Strip for five internally displaced persons (IDPs) shelters, one health center and one historical site. The EHAs allowed humanitarian operations and civil activities to continue safely, free from the explosive hazards. One of the EHAs was done for a 500 square meter area occupied by two IDP families that had been previously hit by the Israeli Air Forces (IAF), leaving an unexploded bomb. The UNMAS EOD team confirmed the bomb was non-functional, marked the area with visible warning signs to alert civilians to the explosive threat, and recommended the bomb be removed and destroyed safely as soon as possible.



[Unexploded ADW discovered during an EHA conducted by UNMAS in Deir Al Balah (Middle area / Gaza Strip), 20 June 2024. © UNMAS]

The EOD team extended their assessment of the area, confirmed it was free from any other explosive ordnance except for fragments of previously detonated bombs, and tasked its explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) implementing partner to visit the area to deliver in-person EORE to the

surrounding community and distribute EORE printed materials. On the importance of such an activity, the lead Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer said: *"EHA is a significant and integral part of our humanitarian mine action response to the ongoing armed conflict. Ensuring that humanitarian and civil facilities are free from EO contamination spares the lives of humanitarian workers and their beneficiaries, and vitally contributes to the delivery of humanitarian assistance"*

Since 7 October, the team has conducted 88 EHAs in total, supporting various partners, including UNRWA, Health and WASH Cluster actors, OCHA, and others, in continuing their humanitarian work.

Delivery of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) for the local community



[Save Youth Future Society (SYF), UNMAS' local implementing partner, delivering an EORE formal session for women in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Deir Al Balah, Middle Area, Gaza Strip, June 2024 ©SYF]

UNMAS continues its efforts to enhance community awareness on the threat of explosive ordnance to spare lives and support security. UNMAS contracted a local implementing partner, Save Youth Future Society (SYF), to deliver EORE to the local communities, with focus on the internally displaced persons (IDPs). To ensure as wide, fast and effective messaging as possible, SYF teams conduct formal EORE sessions in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al Balah at UNRWA's designated emergency shelters (DEs), IDP camps, random sheltering places, and others. The SYF also carries out street visits across different areas to share risk messages with pedestrians and civilians' gatherings. During June, the SYF delivered EORE awareness messages to a total of 48,122 civilians including 12,685 men, 13,113 women, 10,778 boys and 11,546 girls.

UNMAS applies proper monitoring measures to ensure the delivery of gender- and context-sensitive messaging, and also strengthens the national capacity to deliver EORE.

Support for humanitarian convoys

To increase the flow of humanitarian assistance, our EOD Officers provide support to interagency missions that assess the needs and deliver humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable communities across the Gaza Strip. In June, the team supported 29 interagency missions that transported fuel, food, medicines, and other humanitarian supplies to UN and partner organizations' warehouses, distribution centers and beneficiaries destinations. In this way, due to the efforts of the UNMAS team, the UN and humanitarian sector was able to be responsive to an evolving context and ensure the safe, continued flow of goods and movement of humanitarian actors.



[UNMAS supporting a humanitarian assistance delivery convoy ©UNMAS]

UNMAS oPt is again appealing to donors from the third quarter of 2024 to continue supporting its work as it reaches a critical stage in emergency response and preparedness for ceasefire and postwar recovery efforts. Invitations to provide further information about its work and needs in the form of concept notes or proposals to donors are welcome.

Thank you for your support in 2024 so far!

United Nations | Central Emergency Response Fund
CERF

oPt HF | occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund