

# PALESTINE PROGRAMME CORE PORTFOLIO 2019-2020



**UNMAS**

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## CREDITS

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The United Nations Mine Action Service (**UNMAS**) was created to help attain a vision of a world that is free from the threat of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). This goal became especially important with the evidence of the impact of mines and ERW on the economic, social and general health of the communities living in the contaminated areas.

## Under the banner of Mine Action we conduct:

Clearance activities which include mine and ERW surveying, land release, mapping, marking and clearance of contaminated land.



Risk Education activities with the purpose of educating the vulnerable public on the risk of ERW & how to behave when encountering ERW.



Victim assistance which includes rehabilitation and reintegration of those injured due to mines or ERW.



Stockpile destruction in the safest manner possible.



Advocacy for policies or practices that help reduce the threat of mines and ERW.



# PALESTINE: SCOPE OF THE CONFLICT

The persistent conflict faced by the Palestinian population has resulted in large areas of the Palestine being contaminated by various ERW. The key threats differ regionally between Gaza and the West Bank Areas A, B and C. Whereas Gaza has been continually exposed to ERW including Israeli Aerial Bombs; the West Bank is contaminated with a mixture of mines, ERW and Riot Control Agents such as tear gas.

The exact extent of ERW contamination is not known, however there are 16 confirmed minefields located within the West Bank Areas A & B, with an additional 86 minefields located on the border with Jordan.

On the other hand, Gaza does not have minefields but is extensively contaminated with various ERW due to the continuous escalations and conflicts the region has faced.

Reflecting the pattern of the protracted crisis in Gaza and the pattern of military escalations, the number of ERW incidents resulting in injury and death has not declined. The incidents continue to occur despite the unremitting work of UNMAS in raising awareness and educating the population about the dangers of ERW, with a common cause behind ERW accidents being civilians tampering with discovered ERW.

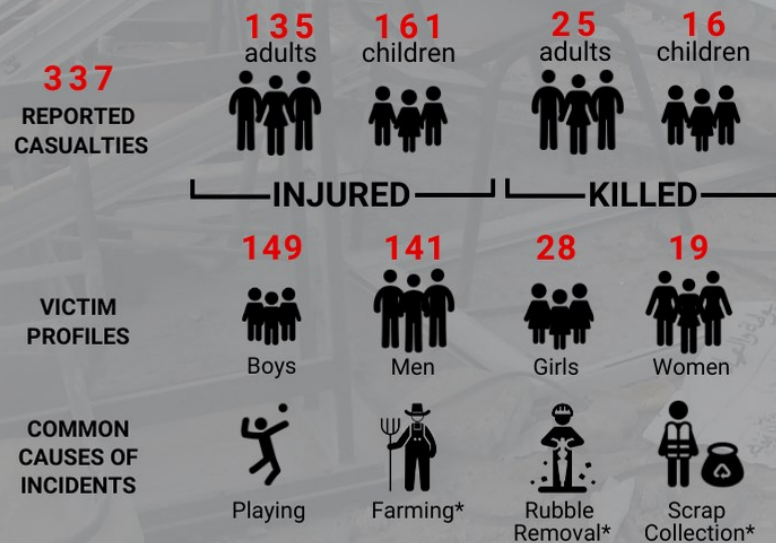
The impact of ERW in Gaza is two-fold: the physical impact caused by the actual incidents themselves and the psycho-social impact on the Gaza population through the mere existence of ERW in their communities. Often overlooked, but not any less important, is the social and mental health impact of those who have been affected by ERW and those who witness or hear of the incidences. ERW not only threaten the community with physical harm, but they also impede public structures used regularly by the community; for example the countless roads, schools and farms, resulting in an environment where everything is a source of danger.

has remained fragile and with a serious escalation in November, approximately 1.9 million Gazans are at a further increased risk of exposure to ERW. The growing existence of ERW in the Palestinian community explain why the continued efforts of UNMAS are vital for Palestine. The various mine action interventions that UNMAS offers have been and will continue to be determined by the needs of the Palestinians; with the overarching aim of continuing to mitigate the many threats and impacts posed by the existence of ERW in Palestine.

An intervention deemed most necessary to highlight in this paper is the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) programme offered by UNMAS. Encompassing both traditional risk education and the relatively new concept of Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP), EORE serves to fulfil the varying needs of the community, whilst also empowering the locals by ensuring they have the skill-sets to deal with the on-going conflict.

The UNMAS Palestine programme has worked hard to mitigate the impact of the Palestine-Israel conflict in Gaza. Unfortunately, the presence of ERW is indiscriminate in Gaza and there is a possibility of contamination throughout the strip, meaning the work of UNMAS is as vital today as it was in 2009. The security situation

## ERW CASUALTIES 2009 - 2020



\*livelihood activities



# 07 EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION STANDARDS

In line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), UNMAS provides EORE with the primary aim of reducing the risk of injury from ERW, by educating Palestinians about the risks posed by abandoned munitions and encouraging behavioural change. The EORE sessions implemented by UNMAS have illustrated that Palestinians feel empowered by the knowledge they gain on the dangers of abandoned munitions, further motivating them to practice safe behaviours when encountering ERW. The EORE programme implemented in Gaza involves the use of different tailored-made sessions intended to target the varying needs and commitments of the Gaza population; further subscribing to the IMAS notion that mine risk education is a dynamic process. For example, UNMAS adapted its EORE materials to include home-made fuzes based on an analysis of the incidents, which suggested that the majority of ERW accidents were caused by home-made fuzes. The adaptability of EORE was again evident during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, as the EORE sessions were easily altered to include COVID-19 awareness and safety messaging alongside traditional EORE.



"CORONA-VIRUS IS NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM ERW ITEMS, BOTH ARE THREATENING OUR LIVES. I AM A FARMER... WE ARE WORKING IN THE LAND THE WHOLE DAY AND WE DO NOT FOLLOW THE NEWS BECAUSE OF THE ELECTRICITY CUT. WE APPRECIATE THIS AWARENESS AS THIS ALL HELPS US PROTECT OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN."

EORE BENEFICIARY

## ماهي مخلفات الحرب القابلة للانفجار؟



علينا أن نبعد عن الأماكن الخطيرة حتى لا نتعرض للأذى



لينا أن نبعد عن الأجسام الخطيرة حتى لا نتعرض للأذى



ماذا نفعل ان وجدنا جسم خطير؟



[www.mineaction.org](http://www.mineaction.org)



# UNMAS EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

Alongside the other vital services provided by UNMAS Palestine, the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) programme has arguably been one of the most beneficial for the citizens of Gaza. The UNMAS team in Gaza have facilitated and managed the EORE programme to help mitigate the risks from ERW, as well as support the capacity enhancement of local organizations. UNMAS have offered a combination of EORE, ensuring everyone is able to benefit from the life-saving messages

incorporated into our risk education. The term EORE involves all risk education activities undertaken, including: Reconstruction Support Sessions, Community Sessions, Street Sessions, Training for Professionals and Conflict Preparedness and Protection. From the beginning of 2019 to date, UNMAS has provided 1616 EORE sessions to the at-risk population across Gaza, reaching a total of 26,416 beneficiaries.

## RECONSTRUCTION SUPPORT SESSIONS

**2**  
SESSIONS  
**46**  
MALES



- After a Risk Assessment by UNMAS has cleared the area for activities, it is recommended that workers receive EORE before the commencement of any works.
- Reconstruction Support Sessions are provided free to all workers involved in reconstruction and building projects around Gaza.
- UNMAS implements the sessions at the sites, ensuring all beneficiaries can receive the risk education in an environment familiar to them, regardless of their situation.

## COMMUNITY SESSIONS

**227** **6332**  
SESSIONS BENEFICIARIES

- Community Sessions are conducted systematically in areas across Gaza where UNMAS can directly coordinate with community-based organizations or community centres to recruit at-risk participants.
- Sessions are provided for 30-45 minutes and reach approximately 20-30 targeted participants per session.
- Community sessions have allowed UNMAS to target both children and women with relative ease, as they take place in common socialising hubs i.e. community centres.



 1228  
WOMEN  
 851  
MEN  
 2713  
GIRLS  
 1540  
BOYS

## TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS

- UNMAS further offers Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to interested partners and UN Agencies, to facilitate safety training and programmes.
- Examples include Explosive Ordnance Risk Education provided for UNRWA Summer Camps and UN onboarding safety training.

**123**  
SESSIONS  
**4713**  
BENEFICIARIES



## STREET SESSIONS

**1000**  
SESSIONS  
**8631**  
BENEFICIARIES



 4563  
MEN

 1997  
BOYS

 1353  
GIRLS

 718  
WOMEN

- Street Sessions have been specifically designed to reach a target group most at risk of encountering and being injured by ERW: men. However, there are no limitations in women, girls and boys receiving this form of EORE.
- The sessions are provided using only basic risk education resources with the aim of disseminating the main risk and mitigation information without overwhelming the time of those we target.

## CONFLICT PREPAREDNESS & PROTECTION

**264** **6694**  
SESSIONS BENEFICIARIES

 5198  
WOMEN

 1496  
MEN



- Our flagship programme that aims to empower civilians to be better prepared in the face of conflict by providing ERW safety messaging and resilience training.
- Aimed mostly at women, wider target groups include: Emergency Shelter staff, INGO's, Local CBO's and Family Centers.
- The sessions, can be adapted to various settings, from classrooms to community centers and are designed to last for 1-2 hours.
- CPP sessions involve 6 main, interchangeable protection components:

1. Preparation Before Conflict
2. Safety During Conflict
3. Recovering After Conflict
4. ERW Risk Awareness
5. Life Saving Tips - First Aid
6. Basic Fire Safety



"I AM REALLY HAPPY TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE ORGANIZATIONS [THAT] CARE ABOUT THESE TOPICS BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT WE REALLY NEED, TO LEARN HOW TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES."

EORE BENEFICIARY



# 11 EOORE & THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

"So, let us make the 2020s the Decade of Action and let us make 2020 the year of urgency. And, as we do, let us spare no effort to rebuild trust."

**SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES.**

In January 2020, Secretary-General António Guterres briefed the world on the official Launch of the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Initially adopted in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development presented 17 SDGs to address global issues, including climate change, inequality and peace and justice. The 2020 renewed commitment to delivering the development goals by 2030 coincides with the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, increasing the momentum for all UN agencies.

With the renewed commitment of 2020, UNMAS Palestine too has revived its enthusiasm for achieving the SDGs. Taking inspiration from the 'Four Horsemen' speech by Secretary-General António Guterres, UNMAS Palestine will spend the upcoming decade working towards mitigating the geostrategic tension present within the region. Our work will support Palestinian communities to become better prepared in the face of conflict and empowered to steer their mindsets away from helplessness.







## SDG 4 | QUALITY EDUCATION

*"By 2030, ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all... ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality..."*

UNMAS Palestine directly contributes to SDG 4 in Gaza through an EORE programme that is modular and adaptable. The various types of EORE sessions allow UNMAS to reach the different demographic groups within Gaza; for example, sessions can take place on the streets,

in schools or in community centres, maximising the target groups we reach. The different sessions can be contextualised to the needs of each target group and risk education modules expanded or simplified, depending on the precise needs and interests of the session participants.



*"By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations."*

The CPP sessions provided by UNMAS Palestine specifically fulfil the condition of SDG 4 that education is inclusive of "gender, disabilities and ages". Embedded within the CPP modules is a focus that all information is delivered in an inclusive, needs-driven manner, allowing UNMAS to ensure that the all participants feel included. Depending on the feedback of the community,

the sessions are altered to include requested details, for example, through feedback CPP sessions now include information on the movement and evacuation of disabled persons during an escalation. Further, as the CPP sessions target women, practical advice on how to navigate an escalation and daily life safely as a woman is emphasised.



## SDG 5 | GENDER EQUALITY

*"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."*

The empowerment of women and girls is well-recognised as fundamental to the achievement of all of the sustainable development goals. In line with SDG 5, UNMAS recognises that the advancement of gender equality is vital for all aspects of inclusive and sustainable development. Further, per UNSCR1325 on Women, Peace and Security, UNMAS understands that for women and girls to truly benefit from Mine Action, it is critical that they can fully participate in all activities and their needs are considered when planning mine action activities. The CPP programme offered by

UNMAS Palestine under the umbrella of EORE provides gender sensitive training to women to empower them in the face of impending conflict.

The sessions focus on providing women with practical and needs-driven knowledge on how best to improvise in their surroundings, knowledge which they can transfer to their families resulting in the further empowerment of women as leaders of their society. This effect is further amplified as the CPP trainers are themselves women, resulting in a situation where women feel truly enthusiastic during the sessions and are able to actively participate.



## SDG 17 | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

*"Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development... encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships."*

For the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be achieved, it is vital that sustainable partnerships between UN agencies, NGOs and local organizations exist. As such, cooperative partnerships are an important element in the successful daily functioning of UNMAS and in allowing UNMAS Palestine to meet the needs of the Palestinian people. For example, UNMAS regularly partners up with UNRWA, UNICEF, NPAID and MA'AN Development Centre, to deliver EORE across Gaza. The partnerships UNMAS has incorporated

into EORE programmes help to guarantee that we make a vital, well-informed contribution to Palestine. Our regular partnership with MA'AN Development Centre, a local community-based organization, allows us to work closely with Palestinians, offering them relevant training and conducting quality assurance of their work. Throughout 2019, this partnership has visibly contributed to the empowerment of local workers, especially the female trainers taking charge of the CPP sessions.



# 14 UNMAS & VISIBILITY

The profile of UNMAS and its donors has continued to grow in 2019. Our efforts in Palestine have ensured that the overall work of UNMAS and the dangers of ERW were regularly highlighted in the various in-country events UNMAS hosted. Notable examples include Mine Action day in April 2019, where two 5 aside football games were played: one between UNRWA schoolgirls and another between amputees, including ERW survivors. Further, UNMAS attended the Girl Child celebration in Ramallah hosted by UN Women, UNICEF and



"In the 2014 war, we were expelled from our homes and our experience was very bad. **We did not know how to protect ourselves** and what the rules of safety and security are. It was very difficult and full of mistakes. But now after I attended the CPP session, I have benefited a lot, become more aware and learned a lot of new things that neither my children nor I knew for example, how to prepare ourselves before

PACES. The day allowed UNMAS staff to join in the sports games, advocate for mine action and educate children about the dangers of ERW through a customised snakes and ladders game. The UNMAS red coloured the bleachers and sports field as the children and adults sported official UNMAS merchandise gleefully. The importance of visibility cannot be understated, it is the route through which UNMAS reaches its audiences and the route with which UNMAS can advocate behavioural change towards ERW.

conflict. I think that if we try to apply [this knowledge] in the future, we will reduce the losses and control our fears. **This workshop is very useful and wonderful** for every responsible person. I recommend it for everyone in Gaza. Today, after I attended it, I felt more responsible and **I will definitely return home and tell my grandchildren everything I learned."**

CPP Participant, Gaza City

# LOOKING FORWARD 15

Facing the new decade, with the Call to Action for the SDGs fresh in our minds, UNMAS Palestine is enthusiastic about providing practical needs-based EORE for the people of Palestine. In Gaza, we will continue our efforts in providing the variety of EORE sessions we have developed to date, with a focus on aiming to reach more people and increasing the number of Gaza citizens who feel empowered in the face of conflict. The EORE sessions will continue to develop and transform according to the changing needs of the community, ensuring the Gaza community feels included in the important conversation surrounding how best to mitigate the impact of ERW.

The outlook for the West Bank entails the introduction of CPP into refugee camps most vulnerable to tear gas. From this, UNMAS hopes to

generate greater awareness within the West Bank on the dangers of ERW and Riot Control Agents such as tear gas. Despite some refugee camps in the West Bank being exposed to tear gas on a daily basis, there is a gap in knowledge about the appropriate actions that help mitigate the effects of tear gas in the domestic environment. UNMAS aims to address this in 2020 using a CPP programme that is specialised to the conditions of the refugee camps and the impact of tear gas. Further, first aid modules will be added to train community members as first responders.

UNMAS will use the platform of EORE to expand the capacity of Palestinian communities and empower individuals to deal with the realities of the conflict they deal with daily.

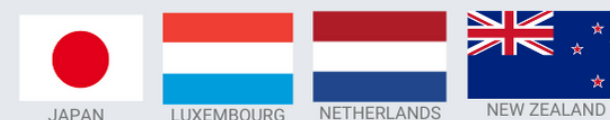




## GLOSSARY

<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organization
<b>CPP</b>	Conflict Preparedness and Protection
<b>EORE</b>	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
<b>ERW</b>	Explosive Remnants of War
<b>IMAS</b>	International Mine Action Standards
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organization
<b>MA'AN</b>	MA'AN Development Centre, National NGO
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NPAID</b>	Norwegian People's Aid, INGO
<b>PACES</b>	Palestinian Association for Children's Encouragement of Sports
<b>RCA</b>	Riot Control Agents
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNICEF</b>	UN International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UNMAS</b>	UN Mine Action Service
<b>UNRWA</b>	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East
<b>UNSCR1325</b>	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace & Security
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	UN Entity for Gender Equality & the Empowerment of Women

The UNMAS Palestine programme would like to express our gratitude to all our donors. Your support has contributed to our EORE activities from 2019 to date, ensuring Palestinians are empowered with vital risk mitigation knowledge.







**UNMAS**

