



**For more information:**  
 Bridget Forster  
 Programme Manager, UNMAS Palestine  
[bridgetf@unops.org](mailto:bridgetf@unops.org)

[Website](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

JULY 2021

UNMAS PALESTINE

# Programme Highlights

## SUPPORT TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GAZA



UNMAS conducting a risk assessment at the UNDP Rubble Removal project site in Khan Yunis, Gaza. Photo Credit: UNMAS.

As part of the post-escalation effort on the ground, in support of the reconstruction of Gaza, UNMAS Palestine has been partnering with UNDP to conduct the Rubble Removal project through the provision of risk assessments for 150 sites across the Gaza Strip.

36 sites have been assessed so far and recommendations provided for the required mitigation measures to keep construction staff safe. UNMAS Palestine has delivered ERW awareness training to worksite personnel with the provision of bespoke training in higher risk locations. The rubble removal project will support an estimated 900,000 Internally Displaced Persons to return to their housing units.

## RISK REDUCTION TRAINING FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

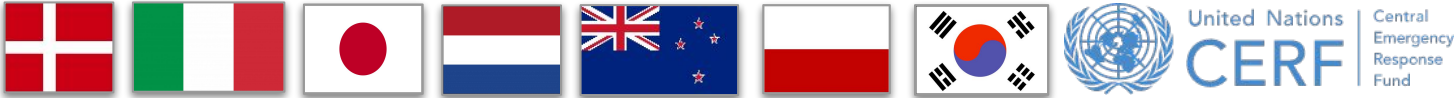
As part of their support to mitigate the risk from ERW in Gaza, UNMAS provides EORE and CPP training sessions to UN and other humanitarian actors. Recently UNMAS delivered these sessions to medical and administrative staff from multiple Doctors without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières teams across the Gaza strip. The 1-hour training included Explosive Remnants of War awareness information, risk mitigation methods and a CPP module covering safety measures to take during air strikes.



UNMAS providing EORE/ CPP training to staff from Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders. Photo Credit: UNMAS.

**Following the sessions, an MSF Supervisor expressed:**

“There are some things that we were not aware of, such as the protection movements during bombing. I taught them to my daughters, and I informed my sisters, so they could teach their children about it. My daughters, for example, when they heard the recent news about the possibility of another escalation in Gaza, they started practicing the protection movements and even teaching their friends. We also learned how to prepare an emergency bag. My little girls even prepared it so that we are always ready.”



UNMAS in Palestine is funded bilaterally through contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in Mine Action. In response to the most recent escalation in hostilities in 2021, UNMAS is seeking to surge its capacity in Gaza and resource mobilise for the additional funds to allow them to respond to the needs for emergency EOD response, emergency preparedness, and risk education to continue operations in 2021 and beyond. UNMAS continues to make consistent efforts to raise the additional funds to allow them to respond to these needs, as well as to provide support to reconstruction in Gaza and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



Thank you to all of our donors for their generous support.

## EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

Throughout June, UNMAS has continued to provide Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), including adapted street COVID-19 EORE sessions to align with the new health and safety and social distancing measures.

Overall, 1,229 EORE sessions have been delivered, reaching 4,480 beneficiaries including 827 women and 1,768 children. Further, 7 Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) sessions have been delivered, training 46 men and 26 women.



UNMAS providing an EORE street session to participants from Gaza. Photo Credit: UNMAS.

## MEDICAL TRAINING

In support of UN agencies preparedness for conflict in Gaza, UNMAS Palestine delivered emergency medical training including the Emergency Trauma Bag (ETB First Responder), the Basic First Aid Kit (BFAC) and BFAC Master Trainer Course (MTC) to 33 UN staff from UNRWA and UNSCO.

The training enables UN personnel to develop life-saving tools to provide emergency first response medical treatment in the event of casualties from a range of scenarios that might occur in Gaza.



ETB attendees watching a suturing demonstration. Photo Credit: UNRWA

## JUNE/JULY – UNMAS ACHIEVEMENTS



### EOD Support

UNMAS responded to requests for EOD clearance support to UN agencies and reconstruction partners in Gaza.



### Emergency Preparedness

UNMAS maintains emergency preparedness measures, has updated its Emergency Preparedness Plan and is an integral part of UN contingency plans.



### Survivor Assistance

UNMAS continues to provide referral and verification to the survivors of ERW accidents through its referral mechanism.

Established in 1997, the **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating United Nations mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service of the United Nations located within the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated official. UN Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) the first stand-alone text on mine action, *“Expresses grave concern over the threat that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to civilians, refugees returning to their homes, ...and stresses the need to undertake appropriate measures to mitigate this danger effectively.”*