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UNMAS PALESTINE

Programme Highlights

UNMAS Provides Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to Children in Gaza



Kindergarten students playing with puppets during a child-friendly explosive ordnance risk reduction (EORE) session in Jabalia, Gaza Strip.
 Photo credit: UNMAS/Mohammad Al-hinnawy

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) is necessary for saving lives, avoiding injuries, and reducing psychological trauma resulting from exposure to explosive hazards.

UNMAS Palestine implements child-friendly approaches for risk education utilizing customised games, and interactive activities and materials to deliver safe and age-appropriate EORE to children across Gaza.

On 24 October 2022, UNMAS delivered EORE to students at the Al Aikholofaa kindergarten in Jabalia, in northern Gaza. During the event, children enjoyed puppet shows, fun games, child-tailored EORE songs, and other activities, while learning how to avoid suspicious objects and protect their lives.

UNMAS Initiates EORE Sessions for Fisherpeople in Gaza

During escalations, the marine area bordering Gaza was contaminated by explosive ordnance which can pose risks to the lives of men and women who rely on fishing as their livelihood. UNMAS Palestine provides customised EORE sessions to increase awareness amongst the fisherpeople on how to respond to any suspicious objects they may encounter as well as general first aid training.

On 12 October, UNMAS delivered EORE sessions using visual presentations, interactive discussions, and printed materials to 46 fisherpeople, including one female, to support a capacity building project implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP).



An UNMAS EORE Associate delivering EORE to fisherpeople in Gaza.
 Photo credit: UNMAS Palestine



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 of hostilities in 2021, UNMAS surged its capacity in Gaza and resource mobilisation for additional funds to allow them to respond to the needs for emergency EOD response, emergency preparedness, and risk education to continue their operations in 2022 and beyond. UNMAS continues to make consistent efforts to raise the additional funds to allow them to respond to these needs, to provide support to reconstruction in Gaza and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



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

UNMAS' Cinema Bus Delivers Child-Friendly EORE

UNMAS Palestine's cinema bus displays digital EORE materials for children during the mid-term school break in Gaza. The cinema bus travelled across the Strip, targeting remote areas, presenting multimedia EORE messaging through animated films, illustrations, and songs. The cinema bus design is adapted to suit children with disabilities so they feel acknowledged and receive EORE messaging alongside their peers.



An EORE Officer leads a cinema bus EORE show for children in Gaza City
Photo credit: UNMAS Palestine.

Removing Explosive Threats in Gaza

After conflicts, UNMAS conducts risk assessments in areas suspected to be contaminated with explosive ordnance. These assessments are a systematic and investigative process to identify threats, the probability of an ERW accident, the impact of hazards on the local community, and the mitigation measures that can be implemented.

In September 2022, UNMAS Palestine excavated, rendered safe, and removed a deep buried bomb (DBB) in Rafah, a densely populated area in southern Gaza. People living in the area felt secure to resume their daily life.



A DBB is removed after being rendered safe by UNMAS and ready for destruction. Photo credit: UNMAS Palestine.



EOD Support

UNMAS responds to requests for EOD clearance and risk assessment from UN agencies and reconstruction partners in Gaza.



Emergency Preparedness

UNMAS maintains an emergency EOD response which forms an integral part of UN contingency plans for Gaza.



Survivor Assistance

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

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."