



# UNMAS

# Occupied Palestinian Territory

## January 2026 Newsletter: Supporting early recovery



### In Focus:

While UNMAS continued to assess routes and sites for immediate humanitarian aid to reach those in need, teams further expanded their support to early recovery efforts. This included contributions to debris management and physical damage assessments, enabling partners to plan for the reconstruction of critical infrastructure.

Explosive ordnance (EO) poses a severe risk to these efforts: if an item is encountered, it limits the amount of debris that can be cleared, or constricts the land available for debris sorting. Accidental detonation threatens life and limb to the population and rubble removal workers, and risks causing further damage where so much is already destroyed. Development actors recognize this risk and request that UNMAS response is fully integrated into recovery efforts.

In early January, UNMAS received an urgent explosive hazard assessment (EHA) request for a site in Deir al Balah where UNDP stores rubble brought from all over Gaza. The UNDP focal point explained that during debris collection operations, workers discovered an unidentified item that could be EO. UNMAS responded to this urgent request and assessed the site on the same day. Examining the area, comprising approximately 7,600m<sup>2</sup>, UNMAS identified two dangerous items in an unused part of the storage zone. They marked the items and cordoned the surrounding area off, informing workers not to approach or touch them. While this made a small part of the land inaccessible, UNMAS could confirm that the rest of the site was safe to access, enabling debris management efforts to continue safely.



UNMAS conducts an assessment of a rubble-filled site in Gaza.



PaIVision delivers EORE sessions to children in schools in the West Bank.

### Empowering communities to respond safely to explosive threats in the West Bank

In the occupied West Bank, UNMAS implementing partner Palestinian Vision Organization (PaIVision), began delivering explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions to communities across the territory. After preparations with the UNMAS team, including UNMAS delivery of a five-day training of trainer session to 40 PaIVision EORE facilitators, the facilitators began engaging communities through in-person sessions. Targeting at risk communities including IDPs, bedouin communities, farmers, children and their parents, scrap and solid waste collectors and rubble removal personnel, this intervention is crucial to ensuring communities know how to mitigate explosive risks in the West Bank.

**UNMAS** extends its sincere appreciation to the donors supporting the programme in 2026, without which the continued delivery of mine action services would not be possible. UNMAS also thanks the donors who attended the Partner Forum in Jerusalem in mid-January, and welcomes invitations for additional information from those who were not able to attend.



Chief Mine Action Programme Mr. Julius Vanderwalt  
julius.vanderwalt1@un.org



For more information:



# UNMAS

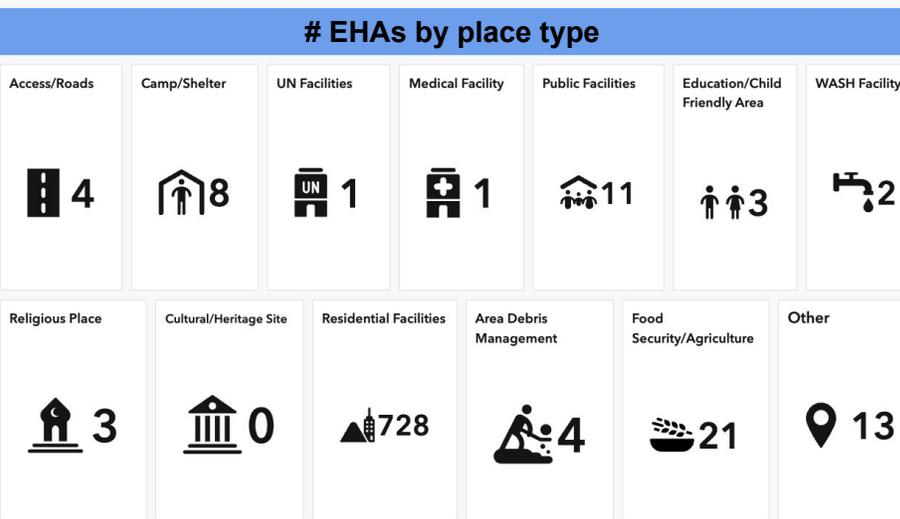
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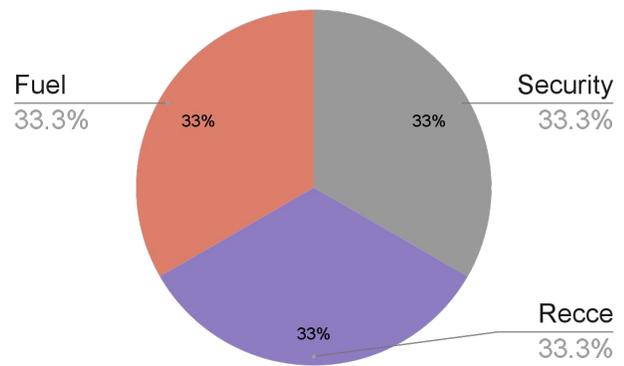


### Operational overview

In addition to sustaining its support to the ongoing humanitarian response in Gaza, UNMAS, working closely with its implementing partner, The HALO Trust, also continued to scale up its support to early recovery efforts. In mid-January, the team launched explosive hazard assessments (EHAs) as part of a UNDP-led Physical Damage Assessment project, completing a record **728 EHAs** of residential facilities in Deir al Balah, Gaza city and North Gaza. These assessments ensure that future reconstruction efforts provide for the mitigation of potential or confirmed explosive threats, preventing accidents and delays. In addition, UNMAS and HALO EOD Officers supported **27 IAMs**, including 24 days embedded with the UN Emergency Response Team. Their work enabled fuel deliveries vital to humanitarian operations and opened access for partners to reach communities in hard-to-access areas. Thanks to these combined efforts, 10 humanitarian and early recovery partners were able to sustain their response across Gaza.



### Type of IAM supported



### Direct beneficiaries of EHAs

# 52,793

During EHAs and IAMs in January, UNMAS identified **25 EO items at 10 sites** in Gaza. Although unable to move or dispose of the EO, where conditions permitted, UNMAS marked and cordoned the items off to mitigate the risk to community members and allow continued access.

	Conflict-related casualties reported in Gaza in January (WHO)	EO victims reported in Gaza in January*
Killed	498	1
Injured	250	7
Total	748	8

### Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

UNMAS local partners delivered in person EORE sessions to **56,689 people in Gaza and 7,757 people in the West Bank**, enhancing the safety of Palestinians throughout the OPT.

### Total Beneficiaries

# 64,507

### # of Sessions

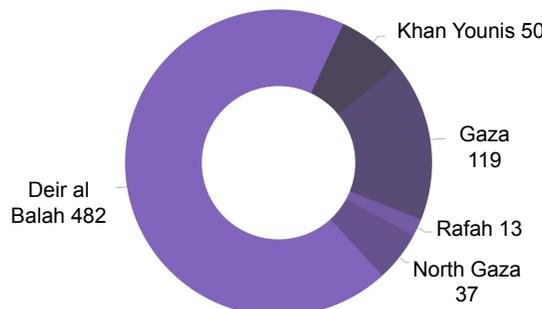
# 2,376

### Threat in Gaza since 7 Oct 2023

### # of EO per Governorates

### # EO identified

# 701



EO victims reported since Oct 2023*	
Killed	85
Injured	445
Total	530

Meanwhile, UNMAS delivered EO risk awareness sessions to **61 humanitarian personnel** from two organizations in Gaza. This allows humanitarian partners to continue lifesaving delivery in a safe manner.

\*These are only accidents that have been reported to UNMAS; these figures are likely much higher.