



UNMAS Explosive Ordnance Threat in Gaza | October 2023 - December 2025



The explosive ordnance (EO) threat in Gaza since October 2023 is varied and extensive, putting communities at risk and limiting humanitarian delivery. While there is no comprehensive overview of contamination, findings to date suggest that EO can be found throughout Gaza, including in densely populated areas.

The data in this document have been collected from areas where humanitarian mine action partners were able to deploy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams between 7 October 2023 and 8 December 2025. Therefore this document does not constitute a holistic depiction of the EO threat in Gaza, but only noting where items were identified during humanitarian EOD operations. All findings are also limited to surface-level visual assessments. Accordingly, the data should be interpreted with caution, as they do not indicate the absence of contamination elsewhere. Furthermore, as some items were identified many months ago, there is the potential that the items are no longer there.



676

items identified



438

victims reported (*actual figure likely higher*)



28%

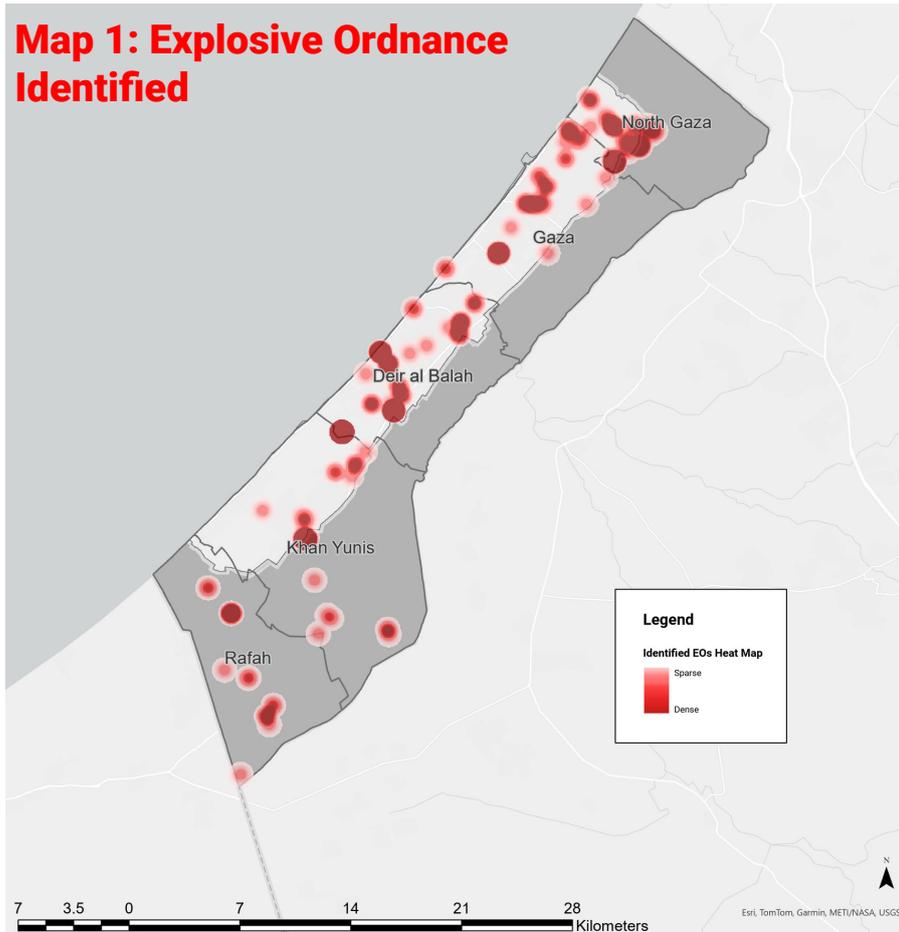
of assessed sites labelled medium or high risk



45%

of contaminated sites identified during the two 2025 ceasefire periods

Map 1: Explosive Ordnance Identified



Data presented on Map 1 are derived from 819 Explosive Hazard Assessments (EHAs) and 815 Interagency Missions conducted across the Gaza Strip between 7 October 2023 and 8 December 2025, within accessible areas and where operations were requested.

The heat map uses a weighted factor based on the number of identified EO items found at each location. This approach reflects the estimated concentration of ordnance where multiple discoveries were made.



Single items of unexploded ordnance such as projectiles, mortars and aircraft bombs comprise the majority of items encountered.



Teams have encountered EO caches or stocks, with several sites containing multiple items, comprising more than 450 abandoned EO items.



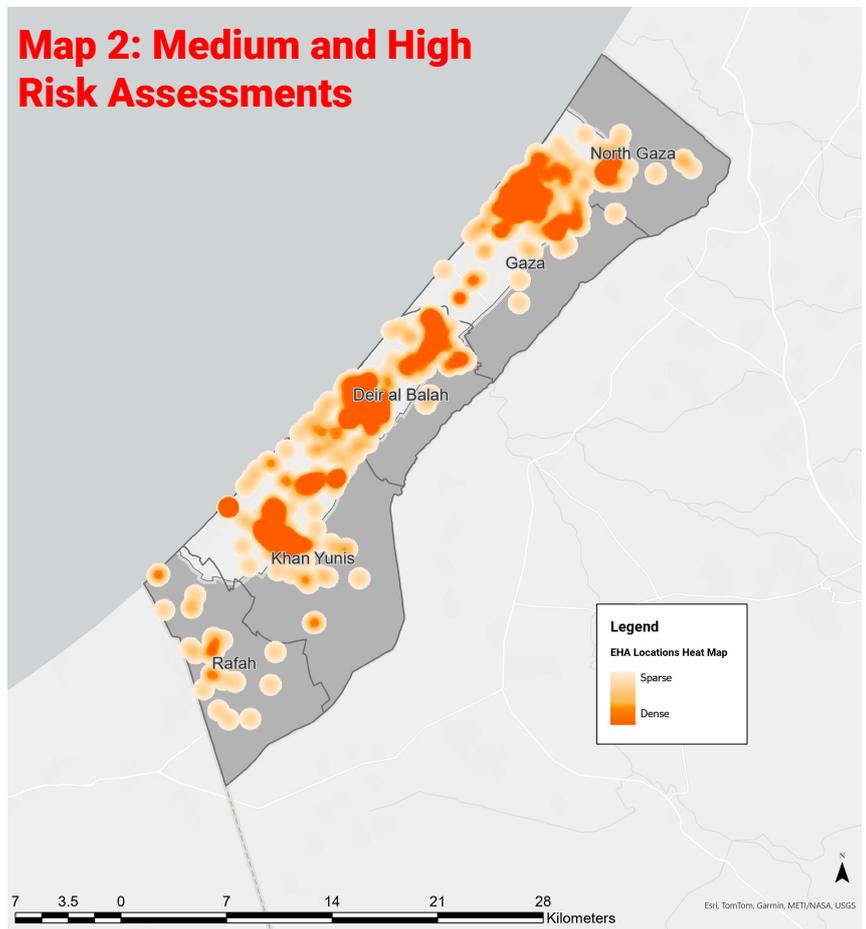
During assessment operations, UNMAS teams have come across different components of improvised explosive devices, although none set up to be operational and thus no evidence of targeting humanitarian actors.

Map 2 shows areas assessed as Medium and High Risk based on data collected from 819 EHAs conducted between 7 October 2023 and 8 December 2025. Of the total sites assessed, 72% of sites were assessed as Low Risk and are not shown on the map.

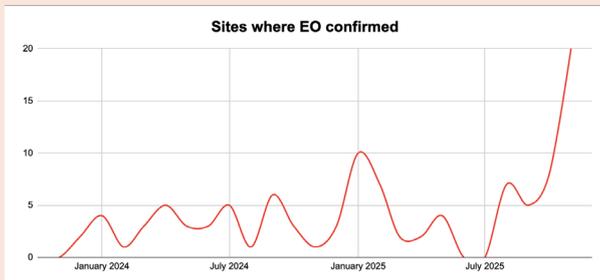
Medium Risk areas indicate a probability of multiple ordnance of the same type. Hazards are known, predictable, and consistent in nature, allowing for the implementation of specific explosive hazard preparation, training, and mitigation measures.

High Risk areas indicate a high probability of multiple ordnance of various types and quantities. Hazards are unknown, unpredictable, and potentially severe. Activities require strict supervision and extreme caution. In some cases, suspected buried weapons or ammunition caches may create additional security risks, including potential armed attempts to recover materials.

Map 2: Medium and High Risk Assessments



EHAs are requested by humanitarian partners or conducted when an explosive ordnance report is received. Eighty-nine percent of assessments were of critical infrastructure, including access roads, camps and shelters, UN facilities, medical facilities, public buildings, education and child-friendly spaces, and WASH facilities.



The heightened access during ceasefire periods led to increased exposure to EO threats, as shown by the two spikes in January and November 2025. Forty-five percent of EO-contaminated sites were identified during the two 2025 ceasefire periods. Since 10 October alone, UNMAS has encountered 121 items across 30 sites. This indicates that the scale of contamination in Gaza is significant; comprehensive survey operations would likely uncover many more dangerous items than have been identified to date.

EHAs Conducted by Place Type

Camp/Shelter 177	UN Facility 80	Medical Facility 76
Public Facility 52	Access/road 263	WASH Facility 26
Religious Place 16	Cultural/Heritage Site 10	Residential Facility 28
Educational/Child Friendly Facility 58	Food/Agriculture 4	Other 29

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For more information, contact Julius Vanderwalt, Chief of Mine Action Programme: julius.vanderwalt1@un.org



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