



UNMAS

Occupied Palestinian Territory

April-May 2026 Newsletter: Early recovery



In Focus:

In April, UNMAS began working with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to help them make the lives of people living in displacement sites easier. Directly benefiting an estimated 84,000 people, UNMAS did 27 explosive hazard assessments (EHAs) so that NRC could safely remove rubble, level roads, clear community areas for children, and add structural support to tents with sandbags.

The impact of the interventions is clear: these displacement sites host hundreds of families and include temporary learning spaces that also serve children from local communities. NRC's work is crucial in making life easier for these children and their families, and requesting UNMAS assessments makes their work safer and lowers the risk of future accidents.

Speaking with people at the sites, UNMAS noticed that concerns around safety are always present. However, people feel a sense of safety and relief when UNMAS is present and makes a 'low-risk' assessment. Even in areas where the risk of explosive ordnance (EO) is higher, communities and humanitarian workers now know which areas to avoid to keep themselves and their families safe.

Collaborating with NRC to support people living in displacement camps is a powerful example of working together to transform immediate danger into lasting security for displaced families.



UNMAS assesses a displacement site to enable NRC to clear debris and open access for displaced people. 29 April.



UNMAS and PalVision represent mine action at the Palestine Marathon. 8 May.



PalVision facilitators deliver risk education briefs to shop owners surrounding the Marathon. 8 May.

Mine Action at the Palestine Marathon

On 8 May, UNMAS and our local partner, PalVision, proudly represented mine action in the Palestine Marathon held in Bethlehem. Thousands of people ran, for the first time since 2023, and even more were there to support, engaging in one of the biggest events of the year for the city. More than that, it was an opportunity to raise awareness of explosive threats in the West Bank, with young PalVision representatives not only running, but also speaking to other participants, observers and even surrounding shop owners about safe behaviours, handing out 700 information brochures. The day embodied the proud commitment of PalVision and UNMAS personnel to make people safer from EO.

For more information about the mine action needs across the OPT and UNMAS response, contact Julius Vanderwalt, UNMAS Chief of Mine Action Programme in the OPT, at julius.vanderwalt1@un.org





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Data snapshot 1 April - 31 May 2026

EOD activities:

- **865,761 m2** of land assessed
- **280 km** of roads assessed
- **10** partners enabled to deliver responses
- **27** EO items marked at **10** sites

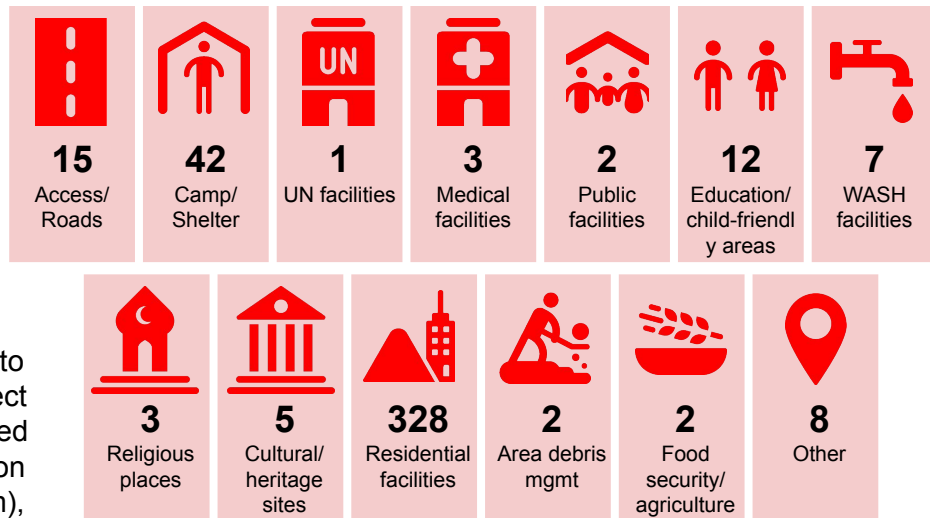
EORE activities:

- **66,624** people reached in sessions in Gaza
- **12,855** people reached in sessions in the West Bank
- **84** humanitarian personnel trained in EO risk awareness
- **41** people received Training of Trainers

UNMAS continued to mitigate explosive risks and enable humanitarian and early recovery efforts through assessments and guidance to partners in Gaza. As the only partner with EOD personnel in Gaza in April and May, UNMAS prioritized requests that met urgent needs of communities. This included the expansion of shelter services, early recovery planning, debris clearance, and rapid response to reports of suspected ordnance.

Teams completed **430 EHAs**, most contributing to a UNDP-led Physical Damage Assessment project to identify recovery needs. UNMAS also supported **77 interagency missions** (including 69 days on standby within the Emergency Response Team), enabling humanitarian and recovery partners to reach communities even in high-risk areas. Teams also assessed **six areas** of farmland through non-technical survey, enabling local communities to grow fresh produce at a time when the price of food is prohibitively high. **Five** missions were cancelled (4) or denied (1).

Number of EHAs completed by place type



Direct beneficiaries of EHAs

243,199

EO victims reported in Gaza in Apr-May*

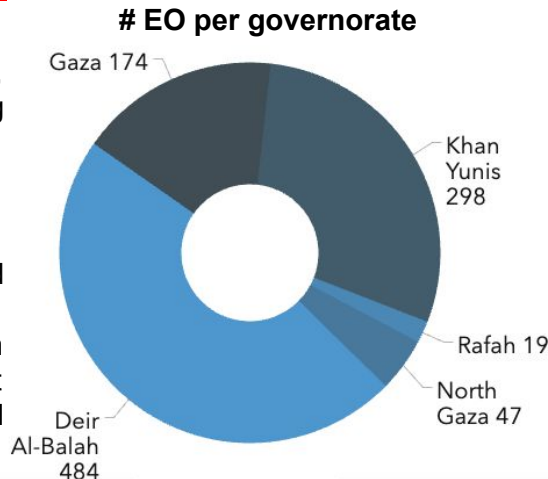
Killed	0	Victims referred to partners for assistance: 209
Injured	8	
Total	8	

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

UNMAS local partners delivered **1,281 in person EORE sessions** in Gaza and **647** in the West Bank, reaching at-risk communities with lifesaving information to enhance safety throughout the OPT.

UNMAS trained **71 Gaza-based and 13 West Bank-based humanitarian personnel** in risk awareness to ensure safe behaviours during aid delivery. UNMAS also trained **37 people through training of trainers** and **four** people in collaboration with the Palestinian Mine Action Center in the West Bank), expanding the EORE workforce and supporting localization and sustainability.

Threat in Gaza since 7 Oct 2023



EO identified

1,022

EO victims reported since Oct 2023*

Killed	244
Injured	1,036
Total	1,280

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