

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT IN GAZA

OCTOBER 2023 - MAY 2026



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.

Note: The data in this document have been collected from areas where humanitarian partners were able to deploy teams between 7 October 2023 and 31 May 2026. 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.



1,019
Items identified



1,316
Victims reported
(actual figure likely higher)

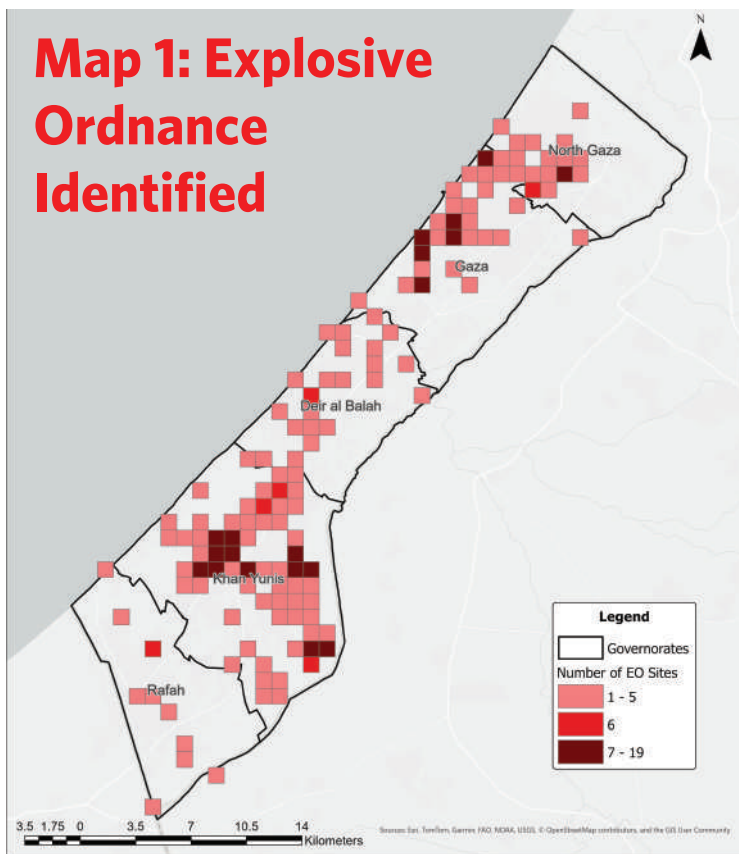


54%
of area assessed labelled
as medium or high risk



1,069 injured
247 killed

Children are disproportionately
represented within these casualties



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



Teams have encountered a number of EO caches or stocks, with several sites containing multiple items, accounting for more than 450 abandoned EO items.

Data presented on Map 1 include items encountered during 2,887 Explosive Hazard Assessments and 1,030 Interagency Missions conducted across the Gaza Strip between 7 October 2023 and 31 May 2026, 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.

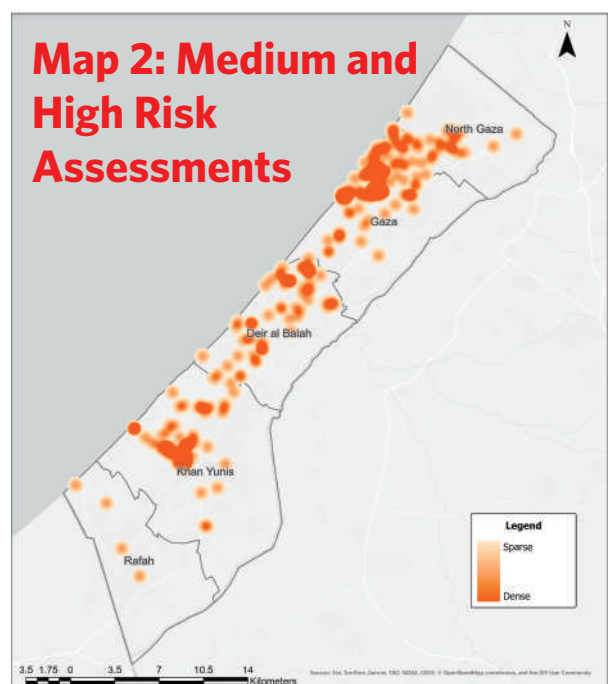


During assessment operations, teams have come across different components of improvised explosive devices, although none set up to be operational and thus no evidence of targeting humanitarian actors.

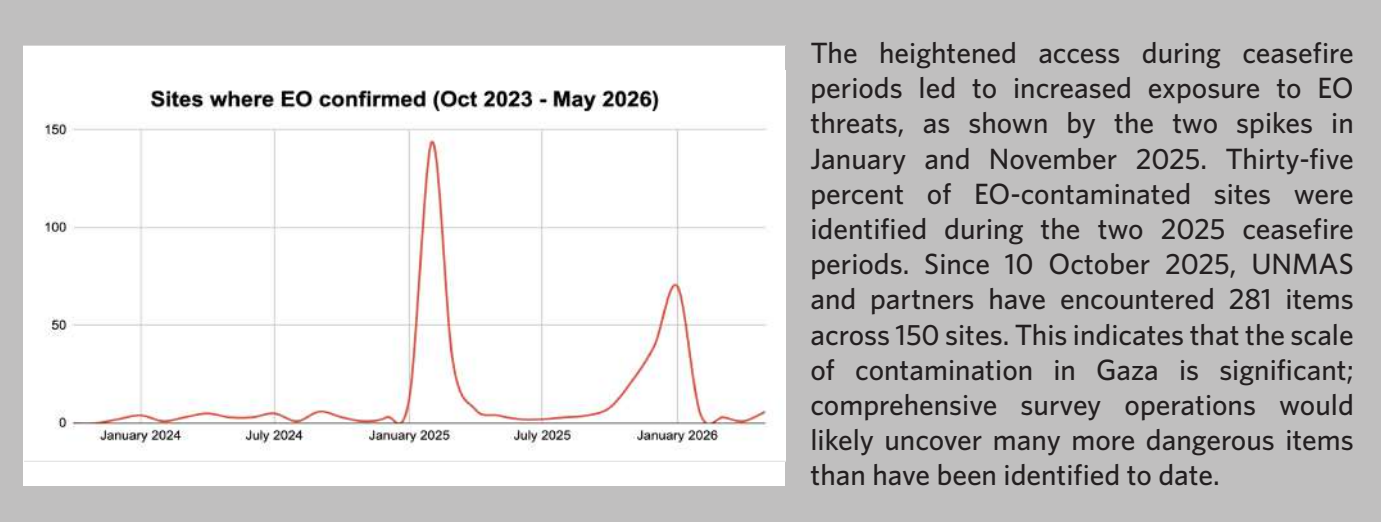
Map 2 shows areas assessed as Medium and High Risk based on data collected from 2,887 Explosive Hazard Assessments conducted between 7 October 2023 and 31 May 2026. Of the total area assessed, 47% was assessed as Low or No Significant Risk and are not shown on the map.

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. 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.



Explosive Hazard Assessments are critical enablers of humanitarian and early recovery activities. Requested by humanitarian partners or conducted when an EO report is received, they allow mine action partners to assess the threat level at a site and advise partners on how to mitigate risks. Thirty-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.



EHAs Conducted by Place Type

 309 Access/Roads	 81 Public Facility	 30 Religious Place	 22 Cultural/Heritage Site
 12 Area Debris Management	 81 Educational/Child Friendly Area	 85 Medical Facility	 1,776 Residential Facility
 251 Camp/Shelter	 36 WASH Facility	 82 UN Facility	 58 Food/Agriculture
			 64 Other

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The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

2026 GAZA RAPID DAMAGE AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MINE ACTION NEEDS

Released in April 2026, the Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment highlights the threat of EO as a critical, cross-sectoral barrier to recovery. Mine action will remain a key enabler of community safety and safe recovery and reconstruction now and in the long-term. Mine action is also a key activity in resuming basic services such as health, WASH and telecom and rubble removal which are the key priority. Below is a summary of the risks and the specific needs identified for mine action in the Assessment.



The Explosive Ordnance Threat

- **Scale and Contamination:** The conflict has left an unprecedented debris burden of 68.1 million metric tons, much of which likely is contaminated with EO.
- **Safety Risks:** Thousands of EO items are estimated to be on the surface, under rubble, or deeply buried in the ground, with munitions having a projected 10-15 percent failure rate. Families are at risk of injury or death from EO as they navigate informal displacement sites or attempt to return to damaged homes.
- **Barrier to Recovery:** EO contamination imposes economy-wide constraints by delaying safe access for humanitarian aid, damage assessments, and the repair of critical infrastructure. EO hinders the reopening of schools, hospitals, and transport corridors.

Mine Action and Recovery Needs

- **Short and Medium-Term Actions:** Rapid EO hazard assessments to identify danger hotspots are key. Mine action partners should deploy alongside environmental and housing recovery teams, and facilitate humanitarian and community access.
- **Prioritization for Reconstruction:** Clearing EO is a critical precondition for housing reconstruction and the restoration of the road network.
- **Financial Requirement:** Once partners are able to begin disposal, the cost associated with the removal and disposal of EO is estimated at US\$541.2 million.
- **Coordinated Management:** Mine action is and will remain embedded in the Debris Management Framework, which outlines a risk-managed approach to debris clearance, prioritizing EO survey and disposal.
- **Long-Term Integration:** Mine action is a long-term challenge that must be integrated into sustainable debris recycling and environmental governance.

For more information on the sector's need and response in Gaza, please reach out to:

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