

# Latest Timelines: UNMAS in Gaza



**13 October**

Relocation from Gaza City to Rafah by the UNMAS Palestine Programme Team

**1 November**

UNMAS Palestine Programme deploys its first EOD Officer back into Gaza via the Rafah border

**2 November**

Request from the **HC/RC for UNMAS to provide additional EOD Officers** to support on **explosive hazard assessments** of humanitarian shelters and sites

**4 January**

The **Mine Action Area of Responsibility** under the Protection Cluster is re-initiated, co-chaired by UNMAS and Humanity & Inclusion

**January**

Department of Security Services Chief Security Advisor requests that **all humanitarian aid convoys are accompanied by an EOD Officer.**

**9 April**

RC circulates a letter **identifying UNMAS as the official mine action coordination and tasking body** inside Gaza in the absence of a functioning national authority

30 May 2024

Emergency

30 Nov 2024

Response

Q3/ Q4 2024

Post Ceasefire

Rebuild

EHA, RE, security support, coordination

Some team expansion, creation of EOD teams, continuation of other activities

Assessment, survey, EOD removal; major expansion

HMA integration into debris management, largescale clearance, capacity building of NMA

# Anticipated Scale of Contamination



- Gaza is 87% urbanised
- As of 15 April, there are an estimated 37 million tonnes of debris in Gaza (UNEP figures)
- Following a ceasefire, efforts to clear debris shall reveal hidden explosive threats
- Deep-buried bombs will also pose a persistent threat, requiring meticulous detection and disposal strategies amidst the future process of urban renewal

# Contamination & Needed Response

**Hundreds of millions**  
needed for longer term  
clearance and rebuild  
efforts

**40 million USD**  
potentially needed for initial  
response, incl clearance

**5 million  
USD**  
secured



Photo: UN



Photo: UN



Photo: UN

# UNMAS Palestine Programme Activities

## Pillar One: Support to Humanitarian Security

- Deploying EOD Officers on interagency humanitarian aid missions
- Provision of Hazardous Environment Training to Security Officers of UN and INGOs

## Pillar Two: Explosive Hazard Response

- Explosive Hazard Assessments
- Post Blast Assessments
- Marking of explosive hazards
- Eventual survey and clearance (dependent upon equipment & access)

## Pillar Three: Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

- EORE sessions and Explosive Hazard Awareness Training to humanitarian workers
- Training of Trainers
- Via implementing partners, EORE for local populations, integrated with other humanitarian responses

## Pillar Four: Coordination

- Serving as Mine Action Coordination Center in absence of national authorities
- Co-coordinating Mine Action Area of Responsibilities under the Protection Cluster
- Providing IM and cross sectoral information sharing

## West Bank

- Capacity building for the Palestinian Mine Action Center and capacity support for the EOD Police
- Risk Education, specifically targeting Bedouin communities



# Achievements 7 October 2023 - 15 April 2024

## Pillar One: Support to Security

**97** interagency convoys supported

**5** missions to assess damage in northern areas of Gaza

**3** Hazardous Environment Training sessions, **25** participants



# Achievements Since 7 October 2023

## Pillar Two: Explosive Hazard Response

**48** explosive hazard assessments conducted

Identification of **4** confirmed hazardous areas

**5** EOD Officers deployed

**9** Post blast assessments conducted for humanitarian actors



# Achievements Since 7 October 2023

## Pillar Three: Risk Education

**41,200** items of printed RE materials distributed

Provision of **5** Training of Trainer EORE sessions (118 beneficiaries)

**2** EORE emergency sessions to humanitarian workers (18 beneficiaries)



# Achievements Since 7 October 2023

## Pillar Four: Coordination

The MA AoR established three Technical Working Groups (TWG):

- 1 - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
- 2 - Geographic Information System/IM
- 3 - Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)
- 4 - for Victim Assistance (VA) will be established in the coming weeks

### HC Letter to the Humanitarian Community on Mine Action Coordination in Gaza

9 April 2024

Dear Heads of Agencies, dear Partners,

As we have experienced the sad reality of a number of accidents with Explosive Ordnance (EO) occurring in Gaza throughout the past weeks, it is clear that humanitarian actors will continue operating in an environment with expected severe explosive contamination levels. In order to safely deliver humanitarian assistance and mitigate the threat to the civilian population, I would like to remind that humanitarian mine action acts as an enabler in fulfilling our mandates and as a prerequisite to long-term recovery. The integration of humanitarian mine action activities - including survey, clearance, risk education, victim assistance, information management and coordination - into all humanitarian sectors is key.

In the absence of previously functioning local authority coordination mechanisms related to the Explosive Ordnance (EO) response within Gaza, new appropriate systems of coordination and tasking need to be established in both the medium and long term. Until such time, I have asked UNMAS to coordinate the humanitarian response pertaining to the EO threat, in terms of prioritization, task distribution and related coordination mechanisms, as well as pertaining to information management, in close coordination with the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR) under the Protection Cluster.

This is anchored in the Secretary-General's designation of UNMAS as the focal point for mine action within the United Nations system in 1997 - a decision that was welcomed by the General Assembly

# Upcoming & Ongoing Needs

**40 million USD for  
UNMAS in the coming  
12 months**





NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.



## NDM-UN Side Event

### Gaza Cross-Sectoral Coordination. Mine Action as an Enabler

Mine Action actors are essential resources for humanitarian actors in Gaza and will continue to be core contributors to any debris management and reconstruction activities following a ceasefire. Currently, mine action partners support interagency aid convoys. Risk education is also integrated across multiple clusters and in emergency aid delivery contexts. Mine Action actors are directly responding to Explosive Hazard Assessment requests from Food, Health, and WASH, among other sectors. This extensive coordination is reinforced by innovative information management tools which have been specifically created to support data sharing and encourage cross-sectoral dialogue.

**Tuesday 30 April from 13.15 to 14.30**

Palais des Nations, Genève, Room B



**Thank  
You  
&  
Join us!**