

For more information:

Tess B. Bresnan
Head of Project Unit, Palestine
tessb@unops.org

February 2023

UNMAS PALESTINE

Programme Highlights

UNMAS Provides Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Training of Trainers (TOT) to UNRWA Staff in Gaza



EORE TOT participants attempting stress release techniques led by UNMAS EORE Officer, January 2023, Gaza, Palestine. Photo credit: UNRWA/Mohammed Al-Hinnawi

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) is necessary for saving lives, avoiding injuries, and reducing psychological trauma resulting from exposure to explosive hazards.

In January 2023, UNMAS collaborated with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza to deliver EORE training of trainers (ToT) to its frontline staff. UNMAS trained approximately 150 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Counsellors on the delivery of age-appropriate and child-friendly EORE, in line with the protection standards. The trained Counsellors will pilot incorporating EORE delivery into activities at 50 UNRWA schools targeting 53,000 students.

UNMAS Conducts Risk Assessments for Gas for Gaza (G4G) Pipeline Project

For more than a decade the Gaza has been suffered from a severe shortage in power which continues to adversely impact the socioeconomic life of more than two million people.

In January, UNMAS Palestine conducted a risk assessment of the projected route for the Gas for Gaza (G4G) pipeline, which is under construction and will supply natural gas to Gaza to increase the power generation.

UNMAS Palestine plays a vital role in facilitating humanitarian and development projects by providing risk assessments, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE).



UNMAS Operations personnel conducting a risk assessment with G4G project staff in Gaza, January 2023. Photo credit: UNMAS



UNMAS in Palestine is funded bilaterally through contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for assistance in Mine Action. In response to the most recent escalation of hostilities in 2021, UNMAS surged its capacity in Gaza and resource mobilisation for additional funds to allow them to respond to the needs for emergency EOD response, emergency preparedness, and risk education to continue their operations in 2022 and beyond. UNMAS continues to make consistent efforts to raise the additional funds to allow them to respond to these needs, to provide support to reconstruction in Gaza and the Humanitarian Response Plan.



Thank you to all of our donors for their generous support.

Representative Office of Japan to Palestine Delegation Visits a DBB Site in Gaza

On 7 February 2023, a delegation from the Representative Office of Japan to Palestine visited the UNMAS deep buried bomb (DBB) removal operation site located in a densely populated area in Rafah, in southern Gaza.

UNMAS explained the impact of explosive remnants of war on civilian lives, the scale of the problem, and the technical processes for removing these types of explosive ordnance as well as the current and future needs and priorities of UNMAS.

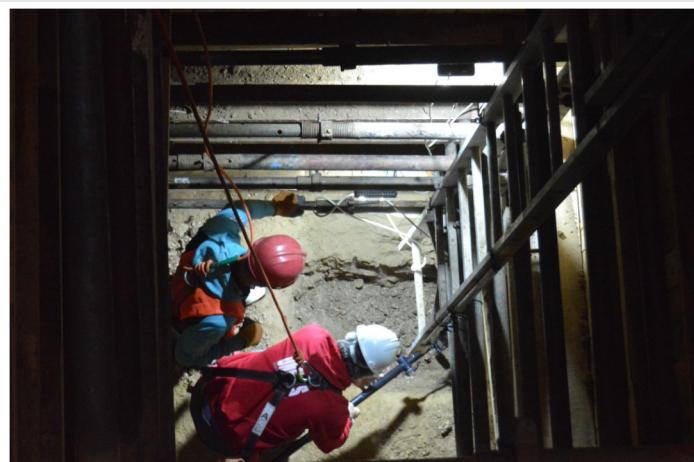


UNMAS Head of Projects Unit briefing the Japan delegation on UNMAS operations in Gaza. Photo credit: UNMAS

UNMAS Clears and Renders Safe a Poultry Farm in Rafah, Gaza, Palestine

UNMAS operations in Gaza are vital to restoring a safe and secure environment for civilian communities after escalations.

In January 2023, UNMAS worked diligently to excavate a DBB in a poultry farm located in a densely populated area in Rafah, in southern Gaza. After UNMAS declared the site safe and confirmed it was clear from any known explosive hazards, the poultry farm owner restored his land, resumed his business, and re-employed the workers.



UNMAS Chief of Operations checking the ground for metallic contamination during excavation, in Rafah, Gaza, Palestine, January 2023. Photo credit: UNMAS



EOD Support

UNMAS responds to requests for EOD clearance and risk assessment from UN agencies and reconstruction partners in Gaza.



Emergency Preparedness

UNMAS maintains an emergency EOD response which forms an integral part of UN contingency plans for Gaza.



Survivor Assistance

UNMAS continues to provide referral and verification of the survivors of ERW accidents.

Established in 1997, the **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating United Nations mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service of the United Nations located within the Department of Peace Operations, UNMAS operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated official. UN Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) the first stand-alone text on mine action, "Expresses grave concern over the threat that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to civilians, refugees returning to their homes, ...and stresses the need to undertake appropriate measures to mitigate this danger effectively."