



UNMAS

Occupied Palestinian Territory

October Newsletter: Ceasefire response



In Focus:

In early October, at the request of OCHA, UNMAS conducted an Explosive Hazard Assessment (EHA) of the European Gaza Hospital, Gaza's second largest medical facility located in Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city. The facility had sustained significant damage during the May 2025 hostilities, resulting in its closure and the loss of essential medical services such as neurosurgery, cardiac care, and oncology, services not available elsewhere in Gaza.

During a prior visit, explosive ordnance (EO) had been identified on-site, and UNMAS assessed that further contamination could be present within the debris. By mapping potential high-risk areas, the assessment enabled humanitarian partners to safely access previously restricted zones. This critical step allowed for the identification and recovery of vital medical equipment, which could then be relocated to operational facilities.

On 12 and 19 October, UNMAS joined interagency missions (IAMS) led by the World Health Organization to the hospital, facilitating safe access through areas of known risk. As a result, WHO successfully relocated 12 truckloads of life-saving supplies, including ICU equipment, mechanical ventilators, incubators, and anti-cancer medications, to the nearby Nasser Medical Complex. This facility has since become a vital hub again, serving hundreds of patients daily during the ceasefire.

Opening humanitarian access during the ceasefire

October's ceasefire has offered respite for the people of Gaza and is enabling increased humanitarian reach. However, as communities seek to return home, partners deliver aid to previously inaccessible areas, and recovery and reconstruction efforts begin, the threat of encountering EO – particularly in areas that were cut off by heavy fighting - only increases.

In this new phase, humanitarian mine action (HMA) will remain a key enabler of humanitarian activities and a critical catalyst for early recovery and response efforts.



UNMAS continues to work closely with partners such as UNDP and WFP to clear debris and repair key roadways, enabling expanded humanitarian access across Gaza. These efforts have focused on critical routes near major aid crossings, including Zikim and Erez in the north, and the Philadelphi corridor in the south, which serve as vital entry points for essential supplies like food and medical aid. Although no explosive ordnance was found near the crossings, the risk of hidden hazards remained high due to the potential for buried items to detonate during clearance and repair operations. UNMAS ongoing assessments and technical oversight were essential in mitigating these risks and ensuring safe access for humanitarian actors.

*UNMAS is expanding its EOD capacity, increasing the number of EOD Officers deployed and initiating new agreements with HMA partners to deploy survey and rapid response teams to meet the demand. Flexible and sustained funding is needed to maintain capacity. **UNMAS** appeals to donors to continue supporting our work and welcomes invitations to provide further information about our needs.*



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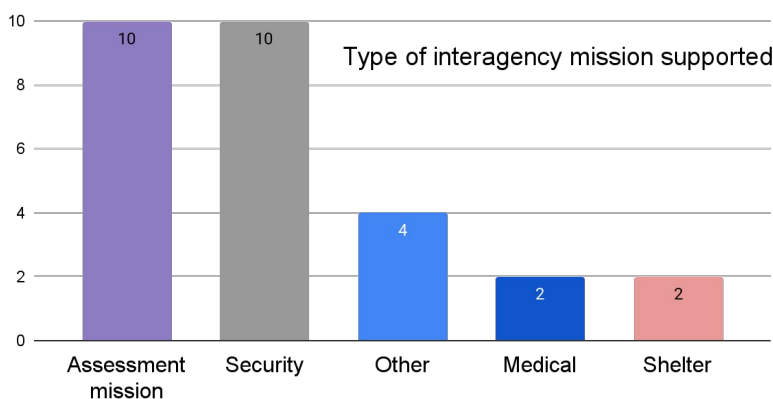
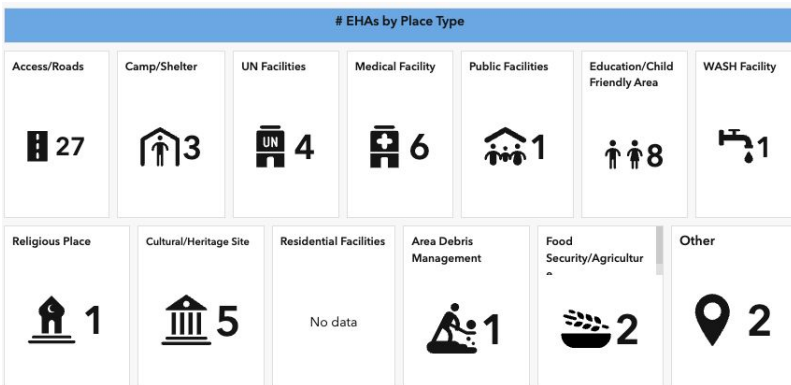
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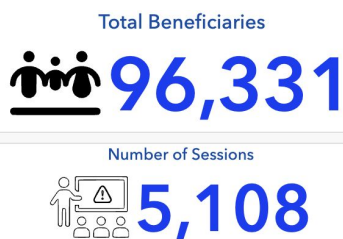
UNMAS conducted **56 EHAs**, supported **28 IAMs**, and deployed EOD Officers for **26 days** as part of the mission support activities conducted by OCHA and DSS' Mission Support Team. This technical expertise enabled partners to safely navigate EO threats to reach communities in all five Gaza governorates. The roads, shelters, medical facilities, schools and other humanitarian sites assessed as 'low risk' from EO – totalling **over 1 square kilometer** of land – will benefit **half a million people** in Gaza.

Despite the ceasefire, UNMAS access constraints and security challenges continued to impact delivery. **Four EHAs and 10 IAMs were cancelled**, while **17 IAMs were denied** by Israeli authorities.



Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

As a sector, partners reached communities in Deir al Balah, Gaza city, Khan Younis and Rafah, disseminating lifesaving information about explosive threats.



Area assessed through EHAs

1km²

EO identified: 24

	Conflict-related casualties reported in October (WHO)	EO victims reported in October*
Killed	2,710	0
Injured	1,948	11
Total	4,658	11

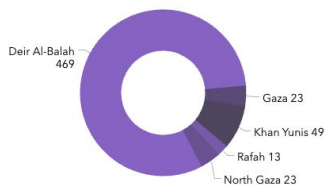
Meanwhile, UNMAS delivered EORE training sessions training in the delivery of EORE to **46 humanitarian personnel** from two different organizations in Gaza. This enables more partners to deliver lifesaving messaging to their beneficiaries.

UNMAS identified EO items at **eight sites** in Gaza, primarily along roads in Gaza city and North Gaza. Although unable to move or dispose of the EO, where permitted UNMAS marked and cordoned the items off to mitigate the risk to community members and allow continued access.

Threat since 7 Oct 2023

EO identified: 577

of EO per Governorates

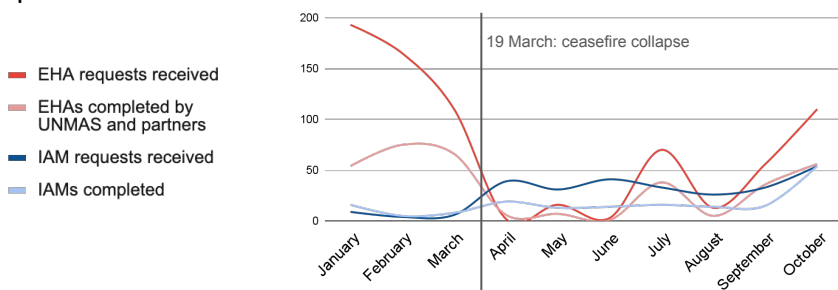


EO victims reported since Oct 2023*

Killed	61
Injured	338
Total	399

Response in 2025 to date

Requests for UNMAS support have surged again since the ceasefire announcement. Although UNMAS responds to all requests received, frequent denials and access challenges continue to prevent missions from going ahead - or from being requested at all.



Operational response in 2025

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