Urban ERW Clearance
Gaza, Palestine
2019

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UNMAS Palestine
2014 Conflict in Gaza

- 113,000 homes affected
- 22,000 housing units destroyed or rendered uninhabitable
- 17 of 32 hospitals affected
- 46 of 97 Clinics impacted
- 2,251 civilians killed
- 11,231 civilians injured
- 500,000 IDPs during height of conflict.
- 20% of population estimated
- 7,000 ERW created
Widespread ERW contamination impacting:
Freedom of movement - Civilians, humanitarian and emergency response workers, IDPs, children etc.)
Contamination of critical infrastructure schools, hospitals, shelters, IDP camps etc.
“Unsafe” safe havens
Cyclic Nature of Conflict

3 phase response

Phase 1 - Emergency
- Preliminary Assessments
- Immediate threat mitigation
- Clearing Access to humanitarian services
- Protection of UN Installations
- Emergency Risk Education

Phase 2 - Early Recovery
- Survey and clearance of ERW and other explosive hazards
- Risk Education for at-risk populations

Phase 3 - Recovery
- Reconstruction Projects Support (DBB and Rubble Removal)
- ERW RE and VA
- Emergency Preparedness in cyclic conflict

Cyclic Nature of Conflict
3 phase response
Rubble Removal

- Management
- Method
- Personnel
- Machine
- Means
Do No Harm

• Integrate risk assessments into wider humanitarian planning
• Understand where clearance fits in the grand scheme of things
• Communicate!
• Security risk
• Grievances and expectations
• Biological and Chemical contamination
• Unstable structures and rubble
What is the ERW most likely to be?
Where is it most likely to have landed/ been placed?
What could potentially be lost if the ERW functioned?
How has the normal routine of the area changed because of the ERW?”
• Minimal dependence on eyewitness accounts
• Only the inherent characteristics of weapon systems were considered
• All possible forms of attack are considered first, before elimination
• Inference made from physical evidence recovered and technical information collected
• Levels of risk are assigned based on protection & mitigation measures that can be realistically implemented
THANK YOU

Check out the articles in July’s issue of the Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction by Dr Mark Wilkinson

THANK YOU