

# Humanitarian Mine Action in Syria

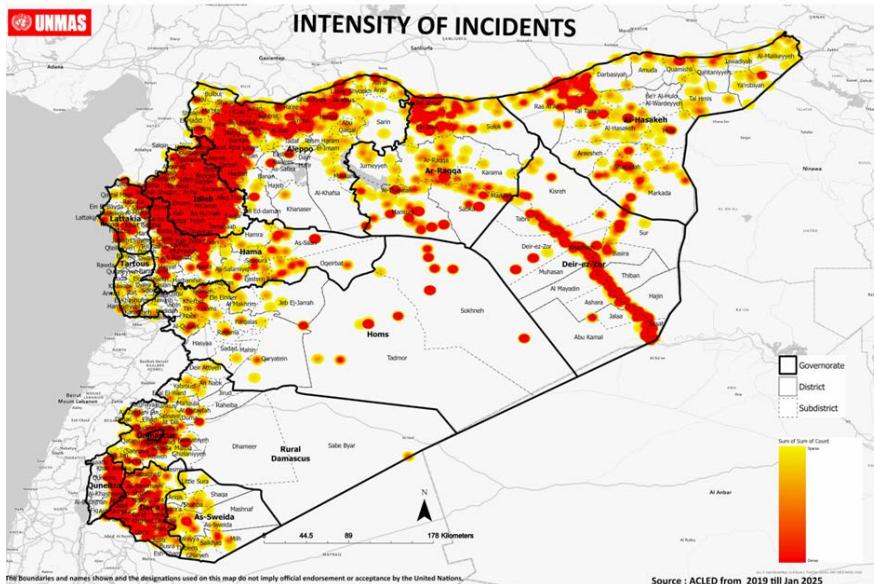


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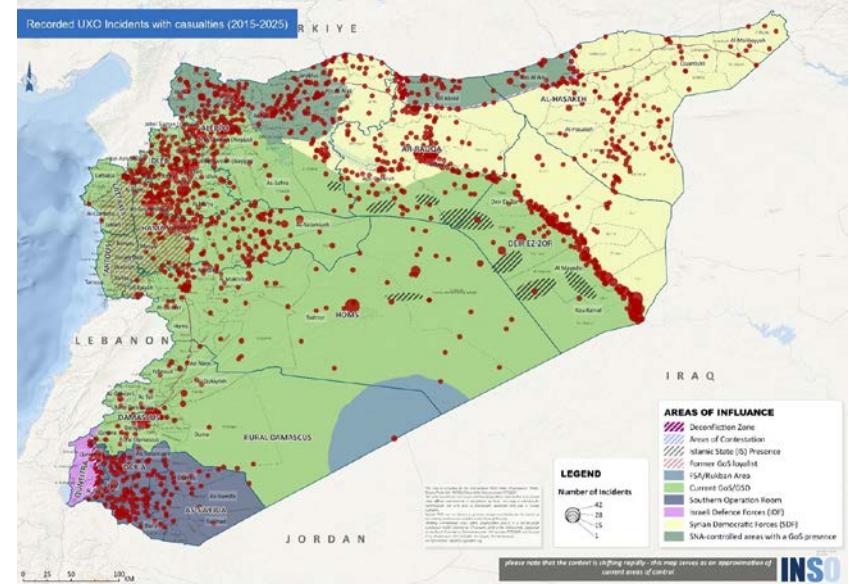


# Explosive Ordnance Contamination

- For over a decade of conflict, ~ **1 million uses of explosive munitions** have occurred in Syria. With average failure rate of 10–30%, **between 100,000 and 300,000** unexploded ordnance still concealed in rubble, farmlands, access roads, and water sources across the country.
- Syria recorded the **highest number of EO-related casualties** globally for 3 consecutive years, and ranked **second-highest in 2023**. These incidents result in fatalities and/or life-altering injuries often requiring **lifelong care**, affecting victims, their families, and their communities.



\*Intensity of EO incidents - source: ACLED from 2019 until January 2024



\*Recorded incidents with casualties - source: INSO 2015 - 2025

# Impact

The full scale and extent of contamination remain unknown, as no comprehensive nationwide survey has been conducted.

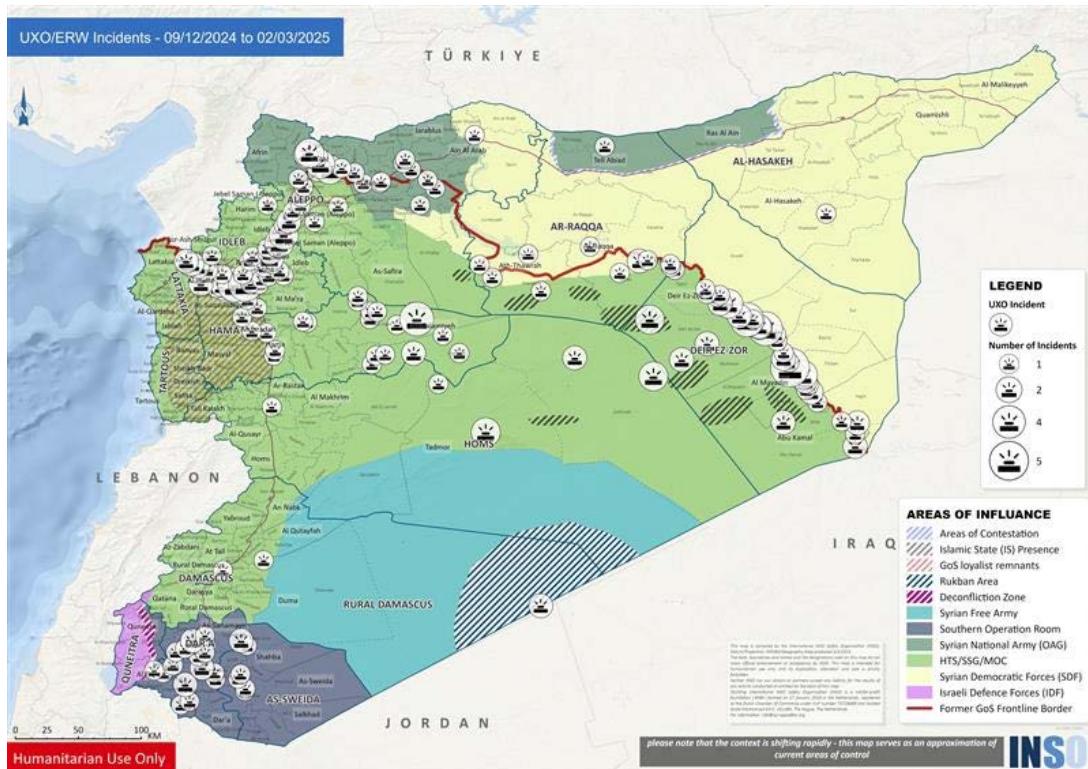
## Humanitarian Response Plan 2025:

- **15.4 million** people -over **65%** of population- living at risk of death/injury from explosive ordnance (EO) - i.e. **2 out of every 3** Syrians.
- **87%** of recorded EO victims are **male** - men and boys are more directly at risk from **immediate** threat of explosive hazards.
- **Children** are almost **25 %** of direct victims - **61 %** of whom killed or maimed while playing in a housing yard, building, school or in the vicinity of residential areas.
- **26%** of all direct EO victims are **IDPs**.
- EO contamination **impedes access** to services and livelihood opportunities and **prevents safe delivery** of humanitarian aid and early recovery efforts.



# Update

- Since December 2024, **373 EO accidents** were recorded, with a total of 782 casualties (326 killed and 456 injured).
- As of today, partners are picking up their survey and clearance activities: 2 partners active in NW, 4 in NES and 3 in central & south Syria.
- **EORE sessions** are ongoing both for aid workers and general public.
- MA AoR issued a **safety guidance** for aid workers.



\*UQO/ERW Incidents - 09/12/2024 to 02/03/2025 - source: INSO

# Humanitarian Mine Action Coordination

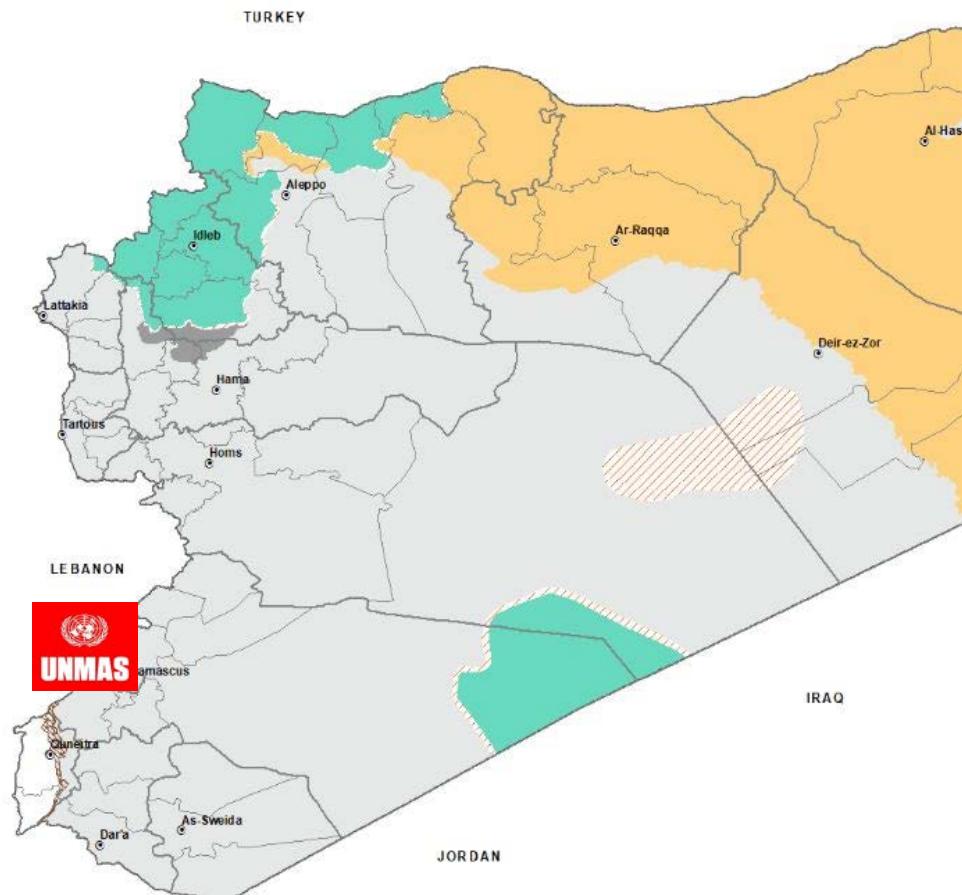
Fmr NWS - MAWG (led by the WH and HI) in GZT

NES – N/A – funding lost

## Partners:

The White Helmets  
Halo  
HI  
UNICEF  
TAS  
HIHFAD  
Ihsan  
Bahar  
Shafak  
NAS...

Partners:  
HI  
MAG  
DCA  
ITF  
RMCO



Fmr. GoS - MASS (UNMAS-led) in Damascus

## WoS MA:

- Led by UNMAS
- Co-led by HI

Partners:  
UNMAS  
NPA  
DRC  
UNICEF  
UNRWA  
INTERSOS  
Coopi  
Al Nada...

# Humanitarian Mine Action Coordination

- The Whole of Syria approach, dividing the UN response between Amman, Damascus, and Gaziantep is moving towards **centralized response** from Damascus.
- Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) stakeholders have requested that **UNMAS maintain its leadership** of the HMA Area of Responsibility (HMA AoR) at the national level.
- As **Coordinator**, UNMAS is responsible for representing the HMA AoR, managing the national mine action database, promoting standardized operational practices, offering technical advice and guidance, overseeing quality assurance, and advocating for the Transitional Government to acknowledge UNMAS as the **de facto MAC** until a formal National Mine Action Authority is established.
- All HMA actors operate under a unified **Syria HMA AoR**, led by UNMAS and co-led by Humanity & Inclusion (HI), with coordination meetings held twice a month.
- **Technical Working Groups** for key pillars of mine action: Survey and Clearance, Victim Assistance, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), and Information Management.

# Opportunities and Challenges

- Political developments **opened the HMA operational space** and increased interest from MA organizations - including international/ national NGOs and commercial entities.
- HMA is **prerequisite and key enabler for other sectors/interventions**, however it's often overlooked and remains critically underfunded.
- Challenges in obtaining relevant **access and equipment permissions** from neighbouring countries.
- Recovery efforts in **urban centers** are particularly challenging as explosive hazards can lie hidden under rubble of damaged/destroyed buildings for years.
- **EORE is undervalued and de-prioritised** by many donors, despite being an immediate risk-mitigating measures.
- Chronic **shortage of physical rehabilitation, psychosocial services, and livelihood opportunities** leaves EO survivors and persons with disabilities marginalized.
- **Funding! As of December, MA only funded 13% of its HRP ask**



# Victim Assistance in Syria

- The most **underfunded pillar** of MA.
- VA goes beyond initial medical interventions – it encompasses **lifelong protection** services for the survivor, his family and the community.
- Beyond funding, challenges in VA include **following IMAS, data collection** on victims – each pillar obliged to collect data on survivors.
- No comprehensive **service mapping** available.
- Unclear **referral pathways**, especially since December.
- **Expensive** – unaffordable for survivors, dependent on availability of services provided by VA partners.
- As per 2024 HRP, persons with disabilities encompass about **1/4 of Syria's population**, yet remain the most underserved.





# Thank You