

## Highlights February - April



**DEEMED SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARD THREATS**  
**6,745** sqm of land & **119** km of roads



**DESTROYED**  
**135** explosive remnants of war  
**281** weapons & small arms ammunition



**RISK EDUCATION**  
 over **31,543** people from mine and ERW affected communities, besides UN personnel

Demand for scrap metal and related trading activities is still on the rise amongst the local population in Abyei. UNMAS Integrated Clearance Teams are conducting continuous risk awareness education through various activities, in order to change the behaviour of locals involved in the collection of scrap metal in post-conflict Abyei town and surroundings. Among the items found and destroyed are one grenade, a 82 mm mortar and a RPG 7 rocket head, all very accurately described and reported by residents of Agany Alei. Teams also conducted mechanical and manual mine clearance operations over 6,745 square metres in the Noong/Koladet area.

UNMAS was tasked with assessment and clearance of the Tajelei-Um-Khariet, Diffra-AsSaat (oil road) and Al Shamam – Oil Police Check Point routes, all deemed safe. These routes in the northern Abyei Area remain priorities set by the mission for effective patrols, particularly in light of increased attacks on aid workers and assets.

UNISFA Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander Gen. Ataklti Berhe Gebremariam, wearing personal protection for a closer look at the weapons shear.



UNISFA Acting HoM and Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Tesfay Gidey Hailemichael, and Deputy Force Commander, Brig. Gen. Ataklti Berhe Gebremariam, visited the WAM facility managed by UNMAS on 03 April, alongside seven senior UNISFA military officers and UNMAS staff members. The FC interacted closely with the operators of the weapon shears and ammunition incinerator, showing a keen interest in the weapons and ammunition destruction techniques.

UNMAS JBVMM Patrol Support Teams maintained their readiness in the two JBVMM operational sectors - JBVMM Sector 01 Headquarters in Gok Machar, South Sudan and Sector 02 Headquarters in Kadugli, Sudan. Integrated Ground Patrol Support training was provided by UNMAS to 27 military observers, ETHBATT force protection troops and national monitors from Sudan and South Sudan, with 27 participants in the training held in Gok Machar in February and 29 participants in Kadugli in March.

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN,  
 DO NOT TOUCH IT!  
 CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY!**

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## Field Story: 4th April - International Day For Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

On 8 December 2005, the UN General Assembly declared 4 April of each year as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Mine Action Day events and runs were organized by UNMAS with the support of UNISFA in Abyei, Kadugli and Gok Machar.

In Abyei, Mine Action Day began before dawn, setting-up contractors' static displays, hundreds of bottles of water, controllers, medics and all that is needed for UNMAS 3rd Mine Action Day mini-marathon.

Close to 30 female runners started the Abyei run, followed 10 minutes later by an estimate 250 male contestants.

Motivation, enthusiasm, comradery, determination. Most participants went all the way and took the two laps of the track, completing the 8 km race, despite the rough, stony track.

Participants and supporters gathered at the event's finish line, where silver medals were distributed to all who completed the 4km and the 8km route.

Corporal Harnet Kalayu Redai won gold in the female category and Sergeant Adisu Abebawu Tasew was the male gold winner. Second and third in each category were awarded with gold medals as well and all six top runners come from Ethiopia.

Brig. Gen. Ataklti Berhe Gebremariam, OIC UNISFA Force Commander in Abyei, attended the event on a UNMAS Mini-Marathon T-shirt worn over his uniform. He gave a speech derived from the global UN Secretary General Mine Action Day statement.

After the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Gebremariam, led by UNMAS OIC Johan Maree, visited the static stands of UNMAS contractors' set-up in the venue site. The Deputy Force Commander showed particular interest in the route verification and clearance techniques demonstrated and was given a throughout presentation, while seated in the interior of a mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle.

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### ABYEI

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### GOK MACHAR

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### KADUGLI

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The United Nations Mine Action Service is the United Nations entity on explosive hazards and the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system. UNMAS provides critical support to the protection of civilians, peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and development, allowing UN personnel to rapidly deploy, and refugees and internally displaced persons to safely return to their homes. UNMAS is hosted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. UNMAS supports the UNISFA mandate, ensuring Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) freedom of movement as well as the identification and clearance of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ).