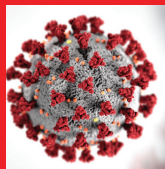


Highlights APRIL 2020



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS implemented all WHO and UNISFA recommended measures, scaling down community exposure and enforcing distancing requirements within all activities. All Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities have been suspended.



18.26 km

**ROUTES ASSESSED AND VERIFIED
SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS**



27,406 m²

**LAND ASSESSED BY CLEARANCE TEAMS
AS SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS**



5

**ASSAULT RIFLES
DESTROYED**


8

**EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
FOUND AND DESTROYED**

5

**GROUND MONITORING MISSIONS
CONDUCTED BY PATROL SUPPORT TEAMS**


Field Story: Ensuring a Safer Relocation of the IDPs



The contested area of Abyei has faced occasional armed attacks throughout the last years, mostly linked to criminal activities and the periodic alleged presence of armed elements. Due to increased number of security incidents and recent armed attacks, people from Kolom, Noong, Dukra and Amiet area were displaced towards the Abyei town area, even though the town did not have enough facilities to accommodate all the IDPs within a short period of time.

Whilst half of the IDPs are gathered at specific locations within Abyei town such as school compounds and community centres, the other half remains scattered throughout the town staying amongst the host community. Some of them have left Abyei town for Agok to seek shelter with their relatives. With available resources, humanitarian organizations are assisting an estimated 4,800 (about 800 families) newly internally displaced people. The assistance includes food, health, WASH and distribution of non-food items.

The Abyei Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and the Abyei Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Public Utilities (MPIPU) designated a location in the Nyinkwac area (Zone 4) near the Abyei market, to serve as the new IDP site for those arriving from Kolom and neighbouring villages. Prior to establish the IDP relocation centre, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) requested UNMAS to conduct mine action survey and clearance activities on the proposed land and UNMAS proceeded with tasking one of its teams to commence activities at the earliest.

The location was an abandoned market area where a number of explosive remnants of war (ERW) were located and destroyed in the past, as a result of the 2011 conflict. In February, UNMAS teams conducted Battle Area Clearance (BAC) and threat assessment activities, clearing a total of 159,458 m².

"All families that are currently staying in this camp have come from Kolom area. In January 2020, my village was attacked by an armed group and we have lost many relatives and friends. Abyei administration and Abyei-RRC have relocated us here with the support of **UNISFA** and other humanitarian agencies." (Ngor Deng Bol)

"We have lost everything and came here to protect our lives. We feel safe here regarding explosive items. We thank **UNMAS** for making this ground safe. My children can play around safely" (Aluel Matong, a mother of five children)

This allowed the immediate establishment of a borehole (hand-pump) and the construction of approximately 126 temporary shelters with communal toilets. Families have since moved into the new shelters and started to slowly have their basic needs met before the start of the rainy season. UNMAS works to save lives, to facilitate deployment of UNISFA and to support agencies, funds and programmes to deliver humanitarian assistance and protect civilians in the Abyei area.



UNMAS team conducting visual search to ensure that the land is safe from explosive ordnance

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

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT US**

