



Highlights **MAY 2022**

1,268 projectiles were destroyed during continued bulk demolitions of TCC obsolete ammunition during May

16 Armored Personnel Carriers provided to new UNISFA military contingents with the basic training



Training in use of armoured vehicles and accessories

70 explosive ordnance risk education sessions provided

24 explosive ordnance risk education drama sessions provided in the Abyei Area



Interaction with children through drama plays

 **109** new UNISFA military members received safety training

 **21** explosive remnants of war destroyed



Assessment prior destruction of an unexploded item in Agok

 **7** ground monitoring missions supported

UNMAS provided sport kits to UNISFA participants at the UN Inter-Agency Games



UNMAS sport kits handover

BULK DEMOLITION OF TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

OBSOLETE AMMUNITION IN THE ABYEI AREA

Ethiopia was the first Troop Contributing Country (TCC) to the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) since the missions' inception in 2011. During their tenure in UNISFA for 11 years the contingent was successful in ensuring the UN mandate of establishing peace and security in the Abyei Area was achieved by retaliating to numerous attacks by different tribal groups as well as confiscating weapons and ammunition from armed tribal groups causing instability within Abyei while maintaining peace and security for the people of Abyei.

The Ethiopian contingent completed their mission with UNISFA and returned to Ethiopia in April 2022 and were replaced by a multinational TCC. All the Ethiopian heavy artillery and tank ammunition had been classified as obsolete and it was agreed between the Ethiopian Permanent Mission at the UN HQ, Ethiopian contingent and the mission that this ammunition is to be destroyed in Abyei. UNMAS was requested by UNISFA to conduct the disposal of this ammunition as per international standards for demolitions.

UNMAS and its implementing partner, The Development Initiative (TDI) prepared a bulk demolition plan and established a Temporary Central Demolition Site (TCDS) in Nyanchour, an unpopulated area 5 kilometers west from the UNISFA HQ in Abyei. The obsolete ammunition consisted of 2,160 (122mm Type 54 HE Projectiles), 2,150 (100mm HEAT and HE Projectiles), 1 (F1 Hand Grenade), 4 RGD5 Hand Grenades, 4 fuzes and 7,521 (7.6 2mm small arms ammunition).

UNMAS and TDI teams commenced the bulk demolition on 29 April 2022. To expedite the task and complete it safely, TDI combined four teams; 2 from Abyei and 2 UNMAS Patrol Support Teams (PSTs) brought from Kadugli to support the task. The teams conducted the demolitions on UNISFA non-flying days and prepared for demolition in the days between actual demolition days. The demolitions were conducted through a series of well-coordinated key tasks which included the teams collecting the ammunition from Dukra or Banton UNISFA camps and loading them onto low-bed trailers. The following day the teams transported the ammunition to the TCDS in Nyanchuor where they offloaded the ammunition into the demolition pits. After close monitoring and supervision, the ammunition was destroyed by means of controlled demolition. All these mentioned activities are also monitored by UNISFA COE and Ethiopian military staff to ensure transparency. A total of 1,268 (122mm Type 54 HE Projectiles), 1,132 (100mm HE Projectiles), 5 Hand Grenades and 4 fuzes have been destroyed to date. To organize this task as smooth and safe as possible, it was essential to coordinate with UNISFA such as the Aviation Section, Force Protection Units, as well as local authorities such as the Abyei Paramount Chief, Administrative Office, Chief Administrator and Community Protection Committee.

The TCDS was visited by various UNISFA senior mission leaders including the Acting Head of Mission/Force Commander, Maj Gen Benjamin Olufemi Sawyerr, the Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General Abu Syed Mohammoud Bakir and the Chief of Mission Support Mr. Robert Kirkwood who are happy with the work that UNMAS is doing.

"During the demolition task, the TDI teams conducted well-planned demolitions in a timely manner. The desired results have been met and the bulk demolition has been conducted without any accidents or incidents. As soon as we complete the work, we will rehabilitate the land, level it and clear it from all the metal content" said Najith Karunarathne of TDI.



Preparation prior to demolition



Demolition at Nyanchuor site



Acting Head of Mission/Force Commander, Maj Gen Benjamin Olufemi Sawyerr at the ceremony after the demolition

IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!

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