



Highlights **AUGUST 2022**



Rainy season continued



1

explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) emergency response team is deployed at the UNISFA HQ in Abyei to conduct EOD activities



6

community liaison officers continue explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions in the Abyei Area



44

explosive ordnance risk education sessions provided



Explosive ordnance risk education in Abyei



24

new UNISFA military members received safety training



Safety induction training in Abyei



6

ground monitoring missions supported



Ground monitoring mission in Tishwin

MEET GABRIEL OHIDE, ONE OF OUR GENDER CHAMPIONS

Can you please introduce yourself?

I'm 45 years old from Torit, Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan. My spouse and family still live there, while I work in the Abyei Area, and I visit them every three months in average. Communicating frequently makes the distance less hard and I appreciate new technologies in helping us with that.

How long have you been working with UNMAS?

I joined UNMAS as a Support Services Assistant in January 2018, based in Gok Machar. In September 2021 I was relocated to the UNMAS office in Abyei, at the UNISFA Headquarters.



Gabriel Ohide, Support Services Assistant in Abyei

What made you to work for UNMAS?



Gabriel at work

I saw the advert and noticed a substantial match between my work experience and the requirements for the position. Previous experience with UNOPS HR department in Juba, and at a South Sudanese Cooperative Society, where I held a HR and Administrative role helped me a lot.

UNMAS is in my view an organisation that cares for their staff, providing access to training and personal development.

UNMAS is very cooperative, and the team stretches a hand whenever one is 'stuck in the mud', both literally, given the challenging road conditions in Abyei during the rainy season, and figuratively, when assistance is needed to complete a task or solve a problem.

What does gender equality mean to you?

For me, gender is the reverse of the rights and responsibilities of both men and women, in the sense that both can do the same things and should have the same access to resources. For instance, this year explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) was the best example, in which women and children were in particular focus. I contributed to developing awareness material and I drove teams to locations where beneficiaries could be found. Since I was translating the sessions to the local dialect, the local beneficiaries were more attracted and interested in the sessions.

What does the community think about the work that you do?

UNMAS activities allow communities to regain access to land and resources in Abyei, and this is something the community here is very grateful for. After all the learning I have absorbed working for UNMAS, when I go home, I explain to family and friends, not aware of the danger of explosive hazards, the risks they pose to adults and children alike. I feel I am contributing to teach many, who did not know how dangerous these items can be, and ultimately save lives.

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

CONTACT UNMAS-UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!

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