



Highlights **SEPTEMBER 2022**



Rainy season continued

39,200 square meters
cleared in the
Abyei Area



Battle Area Clearance



9

**assault rifles
confiscated by the
mission and destroyed
by UNMAS**



Weapons destruction in Abyei



32

**explosive ordnance
risk education
sessions provided**



Explosive Ordnance Risk Education



23

**new UNISFA
military members
received safety
training**



9

**ground monitoring
missions supported**



Ground monitoring mission in Tishwin

NEW MATERIALS AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES BY UNMAS

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) became an integral part of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and deployed to Abyei in November 2011 following a mine accident that occurred in August 2011, which left 11 casualties to Ethiopian Forces (four killed and seven injured).

UNMAS clearance resources are primarily utilised within Abyei to enable UNISFA force mobility and provide capabilities for required operational activities and clearance of main access routes and secondary patrol routes. UNMAS further supports troop mobility and safety within the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ) by providing transport and an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) capability in support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) while conducting patrols from established team sites. UNMAS resources are also utilised for the destruction of weapons and ammunition confiscated by UNISFA in accordance with its mandate.

UNMAS is mandated to conduct various tasks such as provision of demining assistance and technical advice, facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian aid and free movement of humanitarian personnel in coordination with relevant Abyei bodies. These activities ensure the safe freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, humanitarian actors and members of the Joint Military Observers Committee and Joint Military Observer Teams, supporting the operational activities of the JBVMM. UNMAS assists and advises the JBVMM in its overall coordination of planning, monitoring and verification of the implementation activities, provision of clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the Abyei Area, and supporting the mission in the destruction of confiscated weapons and ammunition.

One of the core activities implemented by UNMAS is explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) provided to those community members at risk from ERW, as well as to all new humanitarian staff members, including both civilian and uniformed personnel of UNISFA. Since the transition from a single Ethiopian Force to a multinational force within the Abyei Area, UNMAS initiated the development of educational materials for all the newly arrived forces in six different languages: (1) English, (2) Bangla, (3) Chinese, (4) Hindi, (5) Urdu and (6) Vietnamese. The pocket-sized nature of the guidebooks and pamphlets are attractive to all; as they can be carried easily by all staff when conducting field activities.

One uniformed recipient of such pocket guides commented: **"This is such a great guide; I am carrying it with my first-aid kit and whenever I am wearing my uniform. Also, I do not need any other souvenir from Abyei as my name is written in the booklet and this will be a great reminder on my mission in Abyei for some years ahead."**

In addition to this, a high quality educational video, demonstrating correct behaviour when encountering various explosive hazards, has been developed in English language. Most of the work on the video was produced by UNMAS staff members which gives more importance and credibility with the finished product. The video is 16 minutes long and it covers all the important safety messages from within the pocket guides.



Safety guidelines in six languages



Safety induction video screened to UNISFA newly arrived staff



The Chinese Helicopter Unit reading the safety guide

Bojan Vukovic, Programme Officer at UNMAS stated: **"As a result of UNMAS successful work, it is significant to mention that not a single civilian or military UNISFA staff member was injured by landmines or ERW since 2011. This is mostly related to our hard work in educating all at risk and presenting them the right behaviour."**

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

CONTACT UNMAS-UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!

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