



Highlights **OCTOBER 2022**

UNMAS clearance teams have remobilised, completed refresher training and received operational accreditation in accordance with contractual requirements. The teams are ready for dry season deployment as of 1 November in support of the UNISFA dry season deployment plan.

17,132 square meters
cleared in the
Abyei Area



Refresher training in Abyei

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



Weapons destruction in Abyei

 **48** explosive ordnance
risk education
sessions provided



Safety induction for Vietnamese Engineers

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

 **9** ground monitoring
missions supported



Ground monitoring mission in Tishwin

ENVIRONMENT CONDITIONS IMPACTING UNMAS ACTIVITIES

The most recent rainy season brought massive water to the Abyei Area. UNISFA mission and local communities experienced effects of the climate change and environmental conditions impacting the work and lives of all. Being already vulnerable and hit by poverty, the Abyei Area and its community members have been degraded even more. Such climate events lead to a reduction in mobility and subsequently limited efficiency and work productivity.

UNMAS is a first responder in the field after the rainy season and first to assess and verify routes and areas from the explosive hazards to enhance force mobility and mobility of all people living, trading, and passing by the area. The most important groups of people impacted by environmental conditions are internally displaced persons and seasonal pastoralists. The first group faces challenges related to the shortage of unflooded locations to settle in, while the latter group faces challenges related to grazing lands and clean water sources for their cattle. This season is extremely challenging for the environment due to the floods and extensive damage caused by the water in the area. The main supply routes are still blocked and inaccessible after more than five months.

UNMAS teams have been remobilised in October and completed refresher training as per standard operating procedures. As per UNMAS's contractual requirement with its Implementing partner, all the teams and their members had to be assessed and accredited which is the main condition for full operationalisation. During the training, the constant rise in the water level at the training site limited access to the area and impacted the practical work and use of mechanical clearance equipment. This led UNMAS and the clearance teams to identify an alternative training location, providing for teams to be accredited and fully operational by 31 October. Despite these challenges, UNMAS Community Liaisons Officers continuously provide Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in six different locations within the Abyei Area. UNMAS also managed to fulfil all the planned training activities with its implementing partner, organise accreditation of all and ensure that all the teams and individuals are ready to support the mission's dry season mobility and deployment plan as of 1 November.



Main route from Abyei to Agok being under water for the last five months



Mobility of UNMAS teams has been limited

Romeo Tete, UNMAS Compliance and Coordination Officer stated: **"Resilience is the best word to describe UNMAS and how we all at UNMAS work and achieve when others think it is impossible to achieve. We also work toward the lowest impact of the environmental conditions on our clearance and risk education efforts."**



Flooded training area



EORE activities are ongoing despite the challenges - CLO on his way to Goli

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

CONTACT UNMAS-UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!

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