

# the Beaco

UNISFA Quarterly News Magazine

2ND QUARTER 2020

## A Tribute to WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING

A KEY TO PEACE

International Day of  
**UNITED NATIONS  
PEACEKEEPERS**

#TOGETHER4PEACE



United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei  
© April 2020



**ACTION  
FOR PEACEKEEPING**



**EDITORIAL** | Daniel Adekera

## Women in Peacekeeping: A key to peace

*Women in Peacekeeping: A key to peace* is the theme for this year's International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The theme is carefully chosen to help mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and reflects the critical role women have played in collective security and an opportunity to thankfully accord them that recognition. As noted by the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, when diverse women participate in peace negotiations, the quality and durability of peace agreements increases, and when women are signatories of peace agreements, they are more likely to be implemented.

A clear instance of this is the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET), an NGO with headquarters in Freetown, Sierra Leone, that promotes peace and development in the Mano River region (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea). MARWOPNET was not only vocal in condemning Sierra Leone government's handling of Sierra Leone's decade old war, but actually pressurised the government to negotiate with the rebel group and end the conflict. They actively participated in the Lome peace negotiations which resulted in the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement on 7 July 1997 that ended the war in Sierra Leone.

In the field of peacekeeping, women peacekeepers have greater access to communities, especially women, who, in most cases, are the most vulnerable in any conflict theatre. It is easier for them to understand the feelings and experiences of their women folks and proffer appropriate means of protection that would help restore their confidence and dignity.

Here in UNISFA, we have women peacekeepers who are shaping policies that help bring to the fore the vital role women can play and are really playing in ensuring a gender balanced peacekeeping architecture which has given peacekeeping a new face. As members of the missions Senior Management Group, their voices which carry gender sensitivity are a vital asset to the mission.

The Beacon join the UN Secretary General in applauding the excellent contributions of our women colleagues in this complex and challenging job of peacekeeping which is exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. They indeed are "a Key to Peace," extremely essential for promoting sustainable peace and help in improving overall peacekeeping performance.

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UNISFA

#### Strategic Communications and Public Information Section



Daniel Adekera  
Chief Editor  
SCPIIS  
adekera@un.org



Mwila Kamwela  
Contributor  
CLO - COS  
kamwela@un.org



Rose Mutayiza  
Contributor  
Gender Advisory  
mutayiza@un.org



Brenda Mbungu  
Contributor  
UNPOL PIO  
unisfa-aby-unpol-  
pio@un.org



Arvin Fajardo  
Design, Lay-out,  
Graphics Editing  
ORM / FTS - ITU  
fajardo@un.org

With the support of  
UNISFA Mission Support Division (MSD),  
Operations Resources Management (ORM)  
and  
Field Technology Services (FTS)

For inquiries, contact:  
unisfa-publicinformation@un.org



unisfa.unmissions.org



unisfa



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# International Day of UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS

#TOGETHER4PEACE

## Women in Peacekeeping A Key to Peace

**29** May every year is observed globally as International Day of UN Peacekeepers. The Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly vide Resolution 57/129 which coincided with the first UN peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, (UNTSO). UNTSO was founded on May 29, 1948 and mandated to assist peacekeepers to observe and maintain a cease-fire that marked the end of the hostilities between Israel and the Arab League forces consequent upon the end of the British Mandate of Palestine on May 14, 1948. On December 11, 2002, the UN General assembly designated May 29 as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The day was first observed on May 29, 2003.

The Day is set aside to recognize and honour all men and women who have served or are still serving as military, police or civilians in UN peacekeeping operations as well as pay tribute to the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

The theme for this year's Peacekeepers Day is "Women in Peacekeeping – A Key to Peace." The theme is chosen to

coincide with the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and women peacekeepers have been playing in ensuring global peace and stability.

The Security Council has done well by paying attention to this great resource that has most of the times been neglected but which has proved very critical in the service of humanity. The central role women are playing in peacekeeping puts them in high demand. According the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, women always have greater access in the communities we serve, enabling us to improve the protection of civilians, promote human rights and enhance overall performance.

The complex nature of modern conflicts exacerbated by the outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has only succeeded in increasing the central role of women in peacekeeping. As poignantly observed by UNSG Guterres, female peacekeepers are on the front lines in supporting the response to COVID-19 in already fragile contexts using every means available, stressing that achieving women equal representation in all areas of peace and security is imperative. As a matter of fact, greater women representation should as a matter of urgency, be prompted at the decision making level when mission are being





planned. In this way, peculiar needs and interests of women which form the bulk of victims we serve as peacekeepers will be factored in while planning peacekeeping missions. It is common sense to know that being the most vulnerable, women peacekeepers know better where the vulnerability of their womenfolk lies and how best to deal with same. I do remember sometimes back in 2007 to 2009 when we used to visit Zam Zama and Abushok IDP camps in Darfur Sudan, only our female colleague peacekeepers were allowed to interact with women and children who were the majority in all the camps. The women felt very comfortable sharing their experiences with the female peacekeepers as they trusted that they would understand better their feelings and fears.

It is in recognition of the very critical role and the level of confidence they attract that we are calling for more women participation in peacekeeping.

times would be the people volunteering to keep peace and bring comfort to not only their womenfolk but to humanity in general. But it is good to know that being the most vulnerable, they know better where the vulnerability of their womenfolk lie and by extension how best to deal with same.



The key to world peace and security If the importance of peace is to be discussed, then women are a crucial factor. Thus, women should be involved at every stage of peace making.



# A Tribute to WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING

## Recognizing UNISFA women in senior position

**D**CGP Mary Gahonzire is from Rwanda, and presently serves as the UN Deputy Police Commissioner (UNPOL) for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) with effect from July 2019. Prior to her current appointment she was the Senior Police Adviser (SPA).

### For UNISFA

Before joining the UNISFA team DCGP Mary had been working with the Rwanda National Police Headquarters and held many key appointments including the topmost job of Inspector General of Rwanda National Police (IGP), Deputy Inspector General of Rwanda National Police in charge of Police Operations, and Director, Criminal Investigations among others.

DCGP Mary Gahonzire, had the very challenging task of leading the efforts of building the new police in the post genocide Rwanda which required transformational and developmental agenda on the bedrock of peace and security in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The police was extremely critical in the early nation building years and Mary was privileged to lead the efforts in building the police including policies and strategies. She was also entrusted by the Government of Rwanda to head the just emerged National Prisons Service and the Community Service between 2010 and 2015 before returning to Police Headquarters to head the commission on policy reform and restructuring.

DCGP Mary joined the Rwandan Police as a Cadet Trainee after her bachelor's degree in economics and Sociology from Makerere University, Uganda where she also holds a Post Graduate degree. She has also attended many senior professional courses including UNITAR Regional Training Program on Peace, Security and Conflict Resolution, Senior Police Commander's Course, Heads of Police Component Course on improving performance, safety and security of UN peacekeepers, FPU Course for Heads of Police Components, among several others.

Mary is a strong advocate for increased women participation in peacekeeping as this leads to protection responses that are more credible and meet the needs of the local communities leading to efficient mandate implementation.

### DCGP Mary Gahonzire



**UN Deputy Police Commissioner  
(UNPOL)**

“  
Full participation of  
women in  
Peace-Keeping  
is a full  
representation of us  
all, making us safer  
and more secure.”

Mary Gahonzire



## Lt. Col. Sylvia Gurure



**Chief Military Personnel Officer  
(CMPO)**

Lt. Col. Sylvia Gurure from the Zimbabwean Army, is the Chief Military Personnel Officer (CMPO) for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) with responsibilities for implementing all UN Headquarters policies for military personnel serving in UNISFA including ensuring that all officers and troops understand what is expected of them as Peacekeepers.

With the outbreak of corona virus (COVID-19), Lt. Col. Gurure has additional responsibility of ensuring that both Force Headquarters military personnel and Contingents adjust to the new demands of their tasks and responsibilities as required by the situation on the ground. “To guarantee that all military personnel still perform their mandated duties, I make sure that I balance health and safety for all peacekeepers”, said Col Gurure, stressing that the role of military personnel is very critical for the missions to fulfil its mandate since protection of civilian is the core mandate of the mission.

Lt. Col Sylvia holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and a Higher National Diploma in Human Resource Management. In addition, he has attended many professional courses and acquired several certificates in the areas of human resource and security.

She also holds several awards both at the national and international levels. Some the Awards include Zimbabwe Independence Medal, Mozambique Campaign Medal, DRC Campaign Medal, Long and Exemplary Service Medal and Officer of Zimbabwe Order of Merit (OZM).

Lt Col Sylvia GURURE has distinguished herself as a dedicated, professional, and disciplined officer and continues to play a critical role in the Mission, says Brigadier General Mulu Girmay Gebrehiwot, UNISFA’s Deputy Force Commander.

Before joining UNISFA, which is her second UN peacekeeping assignment, Lt. Col. Gurure held several appointments in the Zimbabwean Army. Her last appointment was SO1 (CRS) ORS Army HQ.

**M**s. Aine Joyce currently serves as the Chief Conduct and Discipline in UNISFA, and is the most senior civilian female in the Mission. Aine is from Ireland and holds a bachelors and master’s degrees from Ireland and Switzerland. She is passionate about her work and shares that from an early age that she knew she would serve the world in a humanitarian capacity. Aine speaks French, Spanish and English and Gaelic as a native of Ireland.

Aine has a long and distinguished career with the United Nations. She joined the Organization in 2000 and has served with distinction in the following Missions: UNTAET, UNOCHA DRC, ONUB, UNMIL, UNOCI, MINURCAT, MONUSCO, UNDOF and MINURSO.

Throughout her career Ms. Joyce has served various advisory roles such as Senior Protection Advisor in MONUSCO and Chief Joint Mission Analysis in Western Sahara, as well as Humanitarian Advisor in MINURCAT.

Aine brings a wealth of experience to the Mission and not only contributes to the Conduct and Discipline mandate but also serves on the COVID19 Taskforce and in other advisory matters to the Acting Head of Mission / Force Commander.

## Ms. Aine Joyce



**Chief Conduct and Discipline Unit**



## UNISFA

# Local Conflict Analysis and Planning (LCAP) training

Abyei is a contested area between Sudan and South Sudan which has led to events and trends that have had devastating consequences on the Abyei community. Several factors such as grazing land, unresolved blood money compensation, trading, lack of rule of law and institutions, carrying of firearms by herders, failure by governments to reach a consensus on the status of Abyei among others, continue to be the source of conflict in Abyei. As means of having an in-depth understanding of the conflict, UNISFA staff comprising of Mission Gender Advisor, CLO, AFPs, JOC, UNPOL, MILITARY and a NY team, held a virtual training on local conflict analysis and planning. This training was aimed at reaching a shared understanding of the conflict dynamics as well as the priority areas of intervention in Abyei.

A presentation on the brief overview on root cause of Abyei's conflict, type of conflicts, migration conflict trends, impact of the conflict, UNISFA's mandated task, provisions put in place to have a lasting solution in Abyei (JPC), AFPs role and key stakeholders such as traditional leaders and de facto institution. They also explained the impact of the conflict on women and youth. Due to the absence of formal institutions and the dominant traditional and cultural perceptions hinder women to participate in the political processes.

Thereafter, a discussion on the Conflict Context Mapping which is the first step to be taken when conducting the Local Conflict Analysis and Planning (LCAP). Participants went through the cheat sheet and discussed the following:

### CONTEXT MAPPING

Here participants were supposed to analyze the events and trends that have triggered the conflict. Several examples relating to Abyei's cause of conflict were identified for instance, one of the events was the assassination of the Paramount Chief in 2013 which has resulted in mistrust between the two communities. Similarly, the inability to organize and agree on modality for a referendum contained in the CPA 2005 to decide whether Abyei will join either Sudan and South Sudan has heightened the tension between the two communities resulting in continued conflicts.

### EXAMINING RELATIVE INFLUENCE

participants analyzed the links between the various

trends and events, for instance, in retaliatory conflict if one community attacks the other, this influences or triggers the other community to also retaliate and this because a trend that each time an event like this occurs, they must be a revenge.

### IDENTIFYING DRIVERS OF CHANGE

Here participants were to determine events and trends that have the most influence over the conflicts dynamics that you are analyzing. Considering the events and trends in Abyei's conflict, and recurring incidents of armed attacks especially during pre-migration and post migration, UNISFA introduced the imaginary line/migration corridor were the military escorts the Misseriya during this period as means of curbing these incidents. On the other hand, a JPC meeting is held prior to the pre and post migration period to ensure a safe environment during this period. Another example is the initiative by the AFPs of influencing the community to resettle in the box since most of the Ngok Dinkas moved South wards due to the conflict, settling of Internally Displaced persons.

### DETERMINING WHICH DRIVERS OF CHANGE YOU WILL ACT ON

On this note, participants had to identify which drivers could be realistically tackled given its mandate and comparative advantage. As means of tackling armed attacks, UNISFA facilitates the peace process through JPC meetings, proliferation of firearms and demilitarization. Additionally, as means of containing trends like cattle rustling, sexual violence, abductions, shooting among others, UNISFA engages the CPCs, local community to provide information.

It was also noted that, it was of significance to integrate a gender analysis as this gender-responsive context mapping allows to consider how roles, values and expectations of women and men drive or perpetuate a positive or negative event/phenomenon. However, at this stage it was difficult to integrate gender perspective issues of gender, but participants were given a task to see how gender perspectives could be included in step 1 of the Conflict Context Mapping.

Participants were encouraged to continue working on Step 1: Conflict Context Mapping and identify other aspects that might have been left out.







# UNPOL at work



## UNPOL Female Peacekeepers Activities

Female peacekeepers continue to bring a lot on the table in UNISFA through women empowerment programs such as Women Unions, recruitment of female CPCs, introduction of English and Arabic classes, establishment of small businesses like baking which help sustain themselves and their families. UNISFA UNPOL female officers have been proactive in enlightening women of their rights and how they can contribute towards resolving the disputes in Abyei.

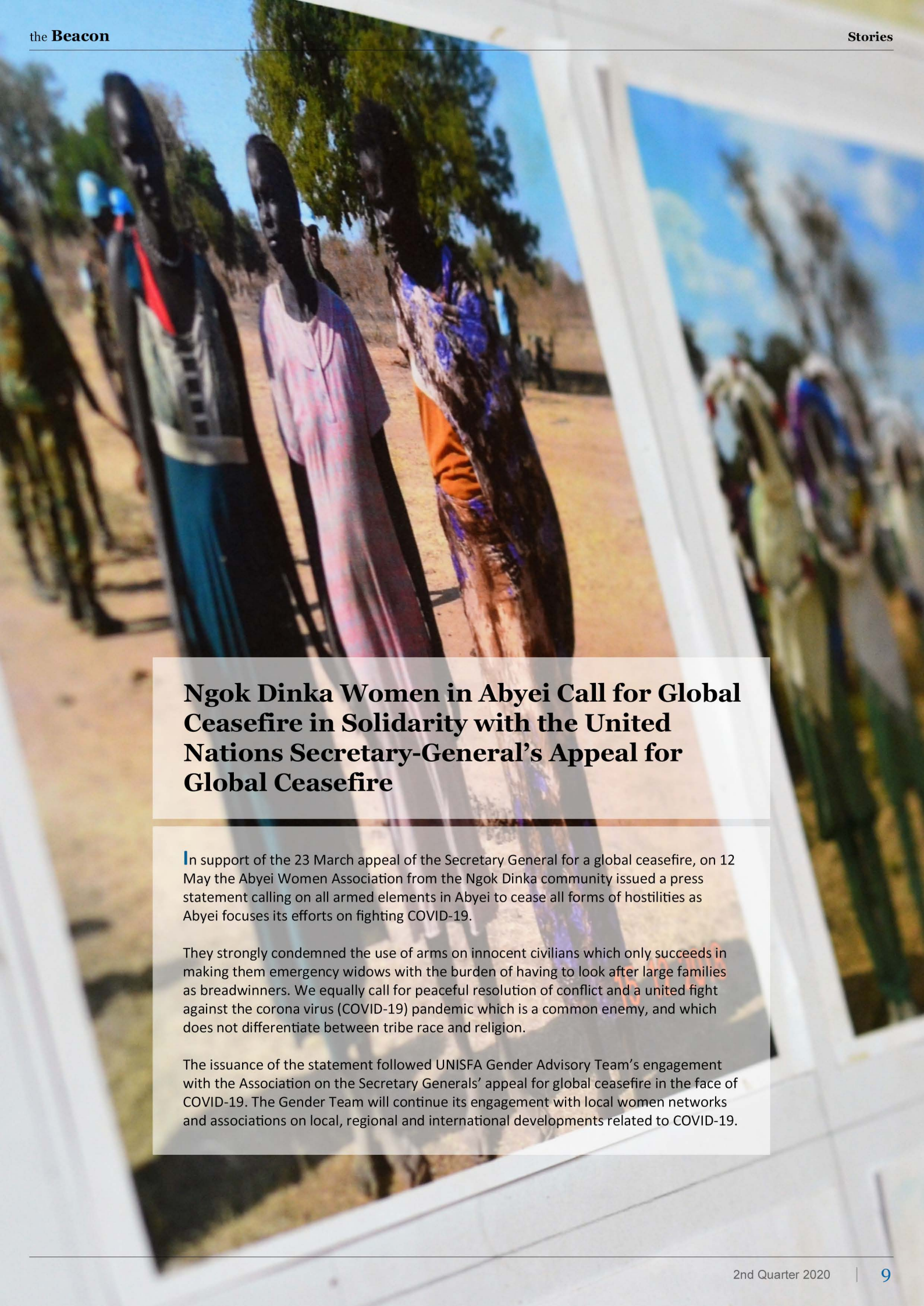
As means of empowering women, considering that they are the most disadvantage in the society, UNPOL female officers who mainly deal with female CPCs, whom they mentor and advise on how to handle SGBV cases, investigate, handle female detainees, how to mediate and resolve disputes. They are also train CPC/JPCs on different aspects of law and order i.e community policing, criminal investigations, human rights, gender, investigations, and correctional services among other topics. Through an extensive recruitment drive for female CPCs, this resulted in the increase of female CPCs especially in the Central and Southern Sector of Abyei and female officers inspire them to reach greater heights and to challenge themselves to be exemplary in the community and also advocate for more female CPCs.

During interactive patrols, female officers also visit IDP camps to hear the concerns of women and children, they also identify widows and orphans who are in critical need of food supplies and provide the information to AFPs to assist in this regard. Surely, the presence of female officers has seen women reporting rape cases and becoming more open to discuss their concerns and needs. Despite the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, female officers have devised a way of communicating with female CPCs and women leaders via phone to get information on the security situation, law and order issues, SGBV cases and number of female detainees.

Additionally, female officers also visit schools and reach out to children educating them on the importance of education, their rights and drug abuse. They also encourage children to report cases of abuse to their teachers, parents or guardians and CPCs.







## Ngok Dinka Women in Abyei Call for Global Ceasefire in Solidarity with the United Nations Secretary-General's Appeal for Global Ceasefire

In support of the 23 March appeal of the Secretary General for a global ceasefire, on 12 May the Abyei Women Association from the Ngok Dinka community issued a press statement calling on all armed elements in Abyei to cease all forms of hostilities as Abyei focuses its efforts on fighting COVID-19.

They strongly condemned the use of arms on innocent civilians which only succeeds in making them emergency widows with the burden of having to look after large families as breadwinners. We equally call for peaceful resolution of conflict and a united fight against the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic which is a common enemy, and which does not differentiate between tribe race and religion.

The issuance of the statement followed UNISFA Gender Advisory Team's engagement with the Association on the Secretary Generals' appeal for global ceasefire in the face of COVID-19. The Gender Team will continue its engagement with local women networks and associations on local, regional and international developments related to COVID-19.



# Air Travel Challenges and UNISFA's Operational Survival Mechanism

Story by:  
Edward Lutta  
Air Operations



Air travel is one of the hardest hit industries by the COVID-19 pandemic and UNISFA aviation has not been spared. About 98% of UNISFA personnel depend on air travel to get to their duty stations or leave the mission for their entitlement or official travel out of Abyei. The outbreak of the virus ensured suspension of all international and domestic flights, effectively locking the UNISFA personnel either in or out of the mission area as countries and governments imposed movement restrictions and closed airports. UNISFA Aviation unit was in dilemma as pressure mounted and uncertainties remained on a number of what if questions regarding travel. UNISFA aviation's main task is to provide uninterrupted efficient, safe, and reliable travel for its passengers and cargo, and this was still expected even under the circumstances and the new restrictions.

Apart from the special flights which may be requested occasionally to fulfil certain tasks in support of the mandate, the mission has always operated and tasked its aircraft according to a weekly published flight schedule to different destinations including Wau- Entebbe and Kadugli-Khartoum which are the only two gateways linking Abyei to the outside world. The COVID19 pandemic disrupted the weekly flights schedule as flights were no longer guaranteed. New regulations and travel requirements were introduced. All UNISFA flight destinations only allowed cargo and emergency flights with prior approvals on a case by case basis as compared to before COVID where UNISFA was guaranteed diplomatic exit, overflight, and landing clearances of all flights by most countries. Many countries further added additional players including COVID task forces that were required to approve flights. These new procedures have not only delayed flights but most of the time flights have been cancelled for lack of clearances.

The new approval processes in most countries meant that flight request had to be done earlier to be able to meet the approval deadlines, this limited flexibility in aviation operations, as once a request is submitted, there is no room for amendments or changes. In mission area most of the time, personnel operate in difficult situations and having aircraft that are ready to take off at short notice provides a lot of confidence to the personnel who give their all knowing that should there be an accident or emergency, they would be guaranteed a flight out to safety or where they may receive treatment. The inability for the aircraft to launch as required is likely to erode confidence to the personnel on the ground.

Aviation staff found themselves with a lot of extra duties and new ways of doing almost everything as their operational terrain changed. Aircrew were equally affected as the rotations were halted, and some could not fly as their licenses and certificates expired or are about to expire. It took some time before most of the Civil Aviation Authorities provided waivers or extension to enable the aircrew to continue flying. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that there was and still are no clarity or ability to meet some of the requirements for flights as directed by some countries. For instance, some countries have relaxed travel requirements and opened the air skies giving special consideration to UN staff, however they demand COVID free certificates which are not being issued by many countries and definitely cannot be issued in Abyei. There are ongoing discussions on what processes the passengers and crew should undergo upon arrivals and departures. While many recommendations and practices have been floated, there have been variation from airport to airport depending on the resources available and countries requirements. Seating in the aircraft during flights to allow social distancing is also being considered.

UNISFA Aviation has tried to live to its expectation of ensuring continuous flights despite the restrictions and all odds brought about by COVID. Thanks to the mission management who have without fail continued to engage the governments and local authorities to allow limited flights for UNISFA in order to undertake emergency flights. The aviation unit has successfully performed two repatriation of human remains to Ethiopia and two medical Evacuations flights to Uganda and Ethiopia. Behind the scenes, for these flights to be performed, the amount and level of coordination was unprecedented with a number of meetings running at times late in the night to ensure that all documents, clearances and arrangements were in place at the launch and destinations.

The biggest challenge that remained was how to fly out UNISFA staff who had self-identified as having underlying issues, yet all destination did not allow passengers. It was a relief when WFP introduced the weekly flights to fly UN staff to specific destinations that countries allowed passengers. UNISFA managed piggyback on this with a maiden flight on 04 June flying 13 passengers. From Abyei to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia through Kadugli, Sudan. The aviation units hope that it will be able to fly its outgoing passengers every Thursday subject to clearances from Sudan and Ethiopia. Perhaps when Uganda allows incoming passengers, UNISFA will be able to fly its passengers to Uganda again which remain the Rest and Recuperation destination for UNISFA.

There are a lot of changes that have come up affecting travel during Corona, and it's expected that the hangovers of COVID 19 will linger long after we declare that COVID is not a threat and we can travel again. As we yearn to travel again either to see our families for those in the mission area or back to mission area for those at homes. Just know that it's not going to be the same and a lot of restrictions will not go away overnight. But whatever the case, UNISFA aviation is and will continue working and ensuring that when you travel back or out of the mission, your travel is in an efficient and safe way.

So, let's all remain safe but mostly, let's be patient.



# MovCon Services

## During and Post Covid-19 pandemic

The breakout of the covid-19 pandemic has brought the world to a standstill and completely changed the travel industry. In an attempt to curb the spread and contain the virus, many countries have introduced and are imposing restrictive measures i.e. complete or partial closure of borders, total or partial suspension of flights ; requirements for medical certificates or forced quarantine; and requirements for additional flight clearances.

These changes and requirements in a trickle effect have greatly impacted the way we do business in UNISFA MOVCON. We have had to adjust our operations to suit and adhere to the new international movement regulations that were not in place pre COVID-19. Some of these adjustments include but are not limited to:

### Submission of Mops and CMRs

Although 48 hours before the flight is the recommended time for Mops /CMR to be received in MOVCON, we unfortunately no longer have this luxury. For now, MOPS and CMRS must be submitted as early as possible or as per guidelines below.

Mops for travel to Entebbe Uganda must be submitted and received in MOVCON at least 1 week (7 days) before travel

Mops for travel to all other routes must now be submitted and received in MOVCON at least 72 hours (not including weekends). This to enable compilation of passenger load lists and cargo manifests, which must be submitted with the flight clearance request

### Flight clearances + International Travel Requirements

Whilst flight clearances were previously obtained in advance and were valid for months, we now must obtain clearances for each flight requirement regardless of whether it's a Special or Regular, Cargo or Passenger flight. With some Government authorities requiring several levels of approval, obtaining these clearances on time is never guaranteed, resulting in the cancellation of flights.

In addition, all flight clearance requests must now include passenger or cargo manifests, hence the requirement for early submission of Mops and CMRs. Although 48 hours is the recommended submission time for Mops and CMRs, it is now recommended that this is done earlier. This will enable timely



submission of flight clearance requests and responses from relevant Government authorities. For information below are the required submission times for obtaining flight clearances.

**Sudan** - 72 hours before flight for all (outbound) International and domestic flights (including team sites). Inbound international flights suspended until 28 June 2020. Uganda - 7 days before flight for outbound flights, covid-19 free certificate. 7 days before flight for inbound to Uganda flights

**South Sudan** - Current flight clearances valid until 31 July 2020. All flight in/out must fly through Juba and passengers must hold a Covid-19 free certificate.

**Ethiopia** - Flight clearances are granted 1x monthly and all nonresident passengers are required to have (within 72 hours) connecting tickets out of Addis Ababa

*\* Currently the only outbound route from Abyei for international connections is through Addis Ababa Ethiopia (via Kadugli/Khartoum). There are no inbound international flights.*

**NB: No changes/amendments can be made to approved flight clearances.**

### Partial Suspension of Regular passenger / Cargo Flights

Due the closure of international borders and the reduced

to be continued in next page

Story by:  
Mariam Ambo  
Movement Control





continued from previous page

demand, regular flights are operating as per requirement, with most if not all the movements being for official or operational reasons. These movements as well require clearances from relevant government authorities.

### CMR Entitlement and Personal Cargo

To enable the movement of consumables/ personal cargo, all staff usually have an entitlement to CMR 20kg of personnel effects per month. However due to COVID-19 restrictions, reduction of number of flights and difficulty in obtaining clearances, MOVCON is not able to guarantee this service currently. With priority being given to Mission essential cargo, personal cargo can only be moved on space available basis.

### Cold Storage Facilities in Entebbe and Wau

In these uncertain times and with no guarantee of flight clearances, we advise all passengers to avoid transporting fresh fruit, meat and vegetables on cargo flights. As UNISFA does not have cold storage facilities we are unable to ensure suitable conditions are maintained for temperature sensitive shipments.

### Support to UNISFA PX

One of our top priorities currently is to support the transportation of fresh fruit and vegetables for the mission PX. As the FFV is delivered directly from the market to the airport on the day of the flight, we don't have to worry about storage facilities. In addition, stocking the PX enables all staff to avail the products.

### Number of Passengers on UNISFA aircrafts

As the number of passengers travelling on UNISFA flights has greatly reduced, with no requirements for some routes, we are not restricting the number of passengers travelling on our flights. Post Covid-19 this will change.

“ Customer Service is our Attitude! ”

### Current Covid-19 Preventive Measures

As everyone is aware MOVCON staff interacts with different kinds of people, from all over every day. We meet with vendors, passengers, transporters etc. This puts us on the frontline and at a higher risk of contracting and spreading the virus. In order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and keeping passengers and all clients safe, MOVCON has ensured preventive and health measures are practiced at all times.

**Face Masks/gloves:** This is a requirement for all MOVCON personnel whether at the check in counters, cargo and baggage handling areas, meeting or dispatching flights. In addition, staff that require the services of MOVCON must wear face masks.

Staff should not agree to be served by anyone not wearing a face mask and MOVCON will not serve anyone not wearing a mask. **Help us to keep you safe.**

**Hand sanitizers:** Available at counters. Passenger highly encouraged to carry their own hand sanitizers (1 bottle 100 ml permitted in hand luggage).

**Physical Distancing:** Must always be enforced.







On 09 July 2020 at about 10:20 hours, UNISFA undertook its first helicopter sling operation and the helicopter flew at about 50 Knots instead of the expected 100Knots, maintaining 3500 ft above ground Level (AGL), clear of populated areas. The operation was for the delivery of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) weighing about 2.2 tonnes from Abyei HQ to Abu Qussa.

### Changes Expected Post-Covid 19

Several countries are now slowly easing travel restrictions that were imposed due to the covid-19 pandemic. With, Easy jet commencing operations on some domestic and inter- continental Europe routes, British Airways looking to commence operations in July and Kenya Airways in September we are positive that countries will soon start opening their borders.

As we await further guidance from UNHQ MOVCON, IATA (International Air Travel Association) and ICAO on the way forward for the travel and cargo industry Post Covid-19, some things stand out for sure and UNISFA MOVCON clients should expect the following new normal.

**Face Masks:** All the time every time even on flights

Physical Distancing: During check in, queuing; and in transit areas

**Extended check in times:** Passengers are advised to check in online where they can.

MOVCON will provide this facility for passengers flying Entebbe/Abyei

**Reduction in number of passengers per flight:** To enforce physical distancing

**Long Ques at the airport:** Longer times spent at airports

**Baggage restrictions:** Either less or no hand luggage (everything checked in). May be allowed a small inflight bag. (international flights).

As we continue to consult with UNHQ MOVCON and await guidance on the way forward from IATA, ICAO and relevant Civil Aviation Authorities, we ask for cooperation and understanding from all our clients as we operate in these abnormal times.



## International Day of UN Peacekeepers: UNISFA to distribute solar powered radios to grassroots women in Abyei

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) plans to procure solar powered radios worth over twenty-four thousand dollars for distribution to women at grassroots level in both the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities. The radios are meant to empower the grassroots women by increasing their access to information and media and to make them active participants in the peace process in the Area.

The gesture is in support of the Women Peace and Security (WPS) project and in line with the theme for this year's International Day of UN Peacekeepers which is Women in Peacekeeping: A key to peace. It is also a testimony of the important role the mission is playing in the implementation of the WPS agenda.

This year, the UN Peacekeepers day focuses on promoting visibility of the contributions of female peacekeepers in the communities in which they serve and within the mission. To mark the day, a digital awareness campaign will be launched within the mission to promote visibility of UNISFA female's contributions towards implementation of the mission's mandate including the broader WPS mandate.

Provision of radios for the women will not only provide an opportunity for women to access information including on C19, but also significantly allow them to mobilize and challenge the culturally disempowering gender norms and promote their voices – thus contributing to the implementation of the WPS agenda. The launching of the Abyei Information and Radio Service (AIRS) this March 2020 presents an unmissable opportunity to bring information on COVID 19 pandemic to the local communities through the local radio service and the solar powered radios is very critical.

Further, this year specific attention has been given to the important role peacekeepers generally and women peacekeepers in particular play in the prevention and response to C-19. UNISFA personnel have remained committed to the implementation of the Mission's mandate despite C19. UNISFA has paid specific attention to the unprecedented impact of C19 on vulnerable groups particularly women, that has called for scaled up protection of the most vulnerable. This can be done by promoting their access to information particularly given that the majority of illiterates in Abyei are women and their gender roles might not accord them equal access to information as compared to men. In a place like Abyei without alternative media tools, radio is a fundamental tool to reach large audiences of the most vulnerable at low cost.

The International Day of UN Peacekeepers was established by the UN GA to pay tribute to the professionalism, dedication, sacrifices and courage of all military, police and civilian personnel, serving in UN peacekeeping operations. To mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS) this year, the theme for the Peacekeeper's Day 2020 is "Women in Peacekeeping." The aim is to highlight the important role female peacekeepers play in promoting sustainable peace while highlighting their role in the implementation of the broader WPS agenda. Importance is also attached to the role of UN peacekeepers in supporting local communities in the context of COVID-19 (C19).



## Stories from Women Peacekeepers

### How we contribute to UNISFA mandate implementation

#### Maj. Catherine Mazombwe



**Military Observer**

**M**y name is Major Catherine Mazombwe from Malawi. I am tasked with the responsibility of monitoring military staff officers' monthly attendance and their leaves in order to ensure proper leave records are kept. I also advise the Chief Military Personnel Officer (CMPO) on military officers' strength in the mission by monitoring daily strength return. I provide guidance and answers concerning leave issues to military officers if need arises.

“ Being far from home is not a punishment but a passion to serve others. ”

**M**y name is Major Haregewoin Dersso from Ethiopia. I am the Force Gender Adviser. My duties include conducting induction training on gender and women, peace and security for new arrivals to the mission. I am also engaged in community outreach on COVID-19 as part of the mission's gender advisory team to create awareness on the pandemic and its gender related impacts on the local communities. In addition, I provide advice to the military on gender issues and how to ensure that gender is an integral part of the mission military operations. My tasks help contribute towards the implementation of the women, peace and security mandate.

#### Maj. Haregewoin Dersso



**Force Gender Advisor**

#### Maj. Alice Ngenzebuhoro



**Staff Officer - U1 Cell**

**M**y name is Major Alice Ngenzebuhoro from Burundi. I am a Staff Officer in U1 Cell. I am in charge of the Pay and allowance for all uniformed personnel. As a female staff officer, I'm contributing to implementation of UNISFA's mandate by administering and controlling the monthly payroll by ensuring that payment deadlines are met. As pay officer, I do make sure that all uniformed personnel are paid on time and also make ensure accurate and complete accounting is maintained.



**M**y name is Lt. Colonel Hanan Marzouk from the Egyptian Police. I arrived UNISFA on 10 February 2020 to work as UNPOL Deputy Chief Gender Officer in MHQ. UNISFA is my second UN mission. My first UN was in UNAMID, where I served as Team Leader for Gender at the Mission Headquarters in Fasher.

As a female IPO, I understand the needs of local female clients. And as a native Arabic Language speaker, the local women feel more confident interacting with me since there is no language barrier and no third-party translator is involved. “Speaking the same language allows us to understand each other quite easily without any communication barriers or misinterpretation,” Speaking face to face helps to gain time and there is more confidence. This plays a vital role in confidence building with the local community that we serve.

“ Arabic speaking female IPOs making a difference. ”

### Lt. Col. Hanan Marzouk



UNPOL Deputy Chief Gender Officer

### Supt. Nyalani Nyoni



UNPOL Diffra Teamsite Leader

**U**NISFA is my first mission, I have learnt a lot regarding the culture and traditions of the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka communities. Sexual Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse cases are not easy to talk about or detect due to traditional values of the community in the policing areas. I enjoyed outreach to the community members, especially targeting the school children. I have also realized that the daily community visits provide information not pertaining to threats only but also on challenges that communities face in post- conflict areas. My advice to anyone wishing to join UNISFA is that the experience of working in the mission field is very rich and unique. One learns not only from ones colleagues but also from the people in the community. All lesson learnt through experience in all areas of policing is now the knowledge base for planning purposes today and the future.

“ An educated woman is strong and a perfect peacekeeper. ”



## Ms. Debra Brown



**Alternate Focal Point for Women**

**M**other's Day is a day in which we honor some of the most important people in the world—our mothers. Celebrating this year certainly presented challenges but also opportunities to be creative. Whether you were in quarantine, affected by travel restrictions, or simply thinking about keeping mom safe, most of us were not able to celebrate with our mothers and our children in person on Mother's Day this year. This was especially true for the women of UNISFA, who are contributing to the mission's mandate of peace and security. It's a delicate balancing act in maintaining the mission's commitment to the continuation of operational activities while still being concerned about our families during this pandemic. The women of UNISFA took the opportunity to have a luncheon and celebrated all mothers (life-givers, caretakers, and nurturers) and to acknowledge the work that we do towards peacekeeping.

## Ms. Mwila Kamwela



**CLO Project Coordinator**

**M**wila is a Community Liaison Officer (CLO), under the Office of the Principal Officer, responsible for articulating, packaging, and coordinating CLO programmatic activities in alignment with the RBB requirement. She is a solid team player of CLO, richly blessed with mountainous gifts and uncommon attributes of intelligence, diligence, hard work, loyalty to friends and worthy causes. A well dedicated and committed staff member who is constantly striving to improve herself and tirelessly working for global peace.

## Ms. Daphne Roy-George



**Transport Assistant**

**I** am currently working with UNISFA in the Carlog office of Transport Unit at Abyei. I am responsible for installing the Carlog system, prepare and issue the magnetic driving permit, maintain the driving permit database, monitoring the speed and vehicle usage in the entire United Nations Owned Equipment's (UNOE) fleets of UNISFA.

As a woman, I am proud to be a Technician. I have gone through a lot of challenging times in working in the male-dominated field but it has been fun, interesting, challenging, and fulfilling and I am proud to say all through I have maintained a high sense of professionalism, above-board work ethics and integrity.

“As I carry out my work, I always remember the precious words of Mariela, which states ‘Male-dominated industries and occupations are particularly vulnerable to reinforcing masculine stereotypes that make it even more difficult for women to excel.’”

Mariela V. Campuzano (2019)



Save Lives

Clean your hands



# How to use Hand Sanitizer

كيف تستعمل معقم اليدين

Ye-kada bien ye-ciin a toch a tooch ciin

ሳኒታይዘር እንደት መጠቀም አለብን



Apply hand sanitizer in a cupped hand, covering all surfaces

استخدم الكميه المناسبه من مطهر اليدين، تأكد من تغطية السطح الكامل لكلتا اليدين

Taau a tooch ye-ciin bi ciin thong-yiic

ሳኒታይዘሩን በመዳፋችን ላይ ማፍሰስ



Rub hands palm to palm and palm to palm with fingers interlaced

افرك راحة اليدين جيذا، مع تشابك الاصابع

Toch ciin cielic kek ciin cielic ku cien Kau ku riop kauth

የውስጥ እጃችንን መዳፋችንን እንዲሁም ጣቶቻችንን በደንብ ማሸት



Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa

راحة اليد اليمنى فوق ظهر اليد اليسرى مع تشابك الاصابع، وبالعكس

Ciin cuec cielic e ciin caam kau ku riop kauth

በቀኝ እጃችን መዳፍ የግራ እጃችንን ጀርባ (አይበሉባ) ጣቶቻችን ጭምር ማሸት እንዲሁም በግራ እጃችን መዳፍ የቀኝ እጃችን ጀርባ ማሸት



Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa

افرك راحة اليد اليمنى باصابع اليد اليسرى بطريقه دائريه وبالعكس

La ke ye wiec ciin cielic kek ciin kau, riop nhien ku ciin yau

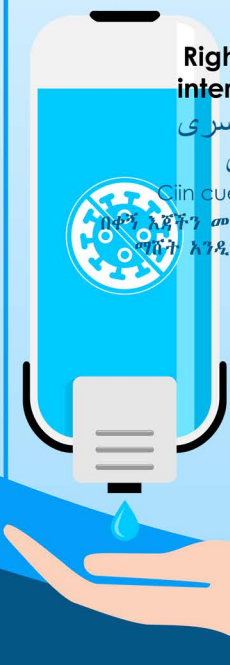
የቀኝ እጃችንን ጣቶች በግራ እጃችን መዳፍ ላይ ማሸት እንዲሁም የግራ እጃችንን ጣቶች በቀኝ እጃችን መዳፍ ላይ ማሸት

Once dry, your hands are safe.

ستحصل على يدين امنيتين بعد ان تجف

Ta ci yien kuth, ka ciin do aci diek

እጅዎን ያድርቁ፤ አሁን እጅዎቻዎ ጤናማ ናቸው



UNISFA

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei



UNISFA COVID-19 Task Force