



# The BEACON

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) Newsletter



## Ngok Dinka traditional leaders applaud United Nations

The traditional leaders of the nine Ngok Dinka chiefdoms of Abyei have commended the United Nations for the proposed reconfiguration of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and for once again bringing the Abyei issue to the front burner.

The traditional leaders led over 500 people, amongst them school children, in a solidarity march to the Headquarters of UNISFA to deliver a solidarity message to the Secretary General and to pledge their support for the proposed reconfiguration and prayed that it would deliver more value for the enormous costs incurred by the UN mission in Abyei.

The traditional leaders said they are particularly happy that the proposal has identified the need of the local communities for mechanisms that would provide them essential social services including rule of law, adding that putting timeline for the overall outcomes of the proposal will make the vision clearer to all actors and the hope stronger for all beneficiaries.



**155,437 kms**  
were covered by  
**7,725 day patrols**  
between July and  
September 2018



**41,699 kms**  
were covered by 3105  
**night patrols**  
between July and  
September 2018



**547 community  
interactive  
patrols**  
were conducted by  
UNPOL between July  
and September 2018

They said they welcome any measure that will establish an “arm free environment, conducive to safe return of Ngok Dinka and unhindered seasonal migration of nomadic cattle herders within the Abyei box stressing that such measures will speed up healing and reconciliation.

They regretted that very little of the resources used so far benefit the people of Abyei directly but expressed optimism that refocusing the resources of UNISFA and the mission on settlement of borders and the final status of Abyei would be a win-win situation for all in the region.

The leaders applauded the role of UNISFA in maintaining peace and security within the Abyei box, adding that the mission has practically averted further confrontation between Sudan and South Sudan, particularly over Abyei. They further said they believe the proposed adjustments to UNISFA's mandate would add more dimensions to a sustainable peace across borders and between communities interacting within the Abyei box.

Mr. Ali Zaki from Office of the Principal Officer, who received the letter on behalf of the OIC Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Gebre Adana Woldezu, assured them that their goodwill message would be conveyed to the Secretary General accordingly.

## UNISFA Force Commander inspects projects in Abyei Town



United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Gebre Wolzdegu, visited on 24 September 2018 the Abyei Referral Hospital.

Briefing the OIC Head of Mission/Force Commander, the acting head of IOM Abyei Sub-Office, Mr. Muhammad Waseem, stated that the renovation of the hospital was at the request of the local community to improve health delivery system in the area through the renovation of health infrastructures. He maintained that while IOM is the implementer of the project, MSF and other

stakeholders are discussing on how to run the hospital and ensure its sustainability.

In his response, General Wolzdegu, said he was impressed with the project and promised that UNISFA would be glad to support the hospital project with doctors and other paramedical personnel when the hospital will be operational as part of the missions' commitment to improving, not only the health delivery system in the area, but also the general wellbeing of the community. He advised that the renovation exercise should primarily target critical areas such as schools which delivers direct benefits to the community.

He said, giving the size and magnitude of the hospital, it would be appropriate for stakeholders to come together to maximize the use of the facility to the benefit of the Abyei community. He called on the local community to take ownership of the hospital and contribute towards its sustainability.



The Abyei Hospital which is renovated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with funds from the USAID. The 200-bed hospital which costs an estimated \$500,000 comprises an operation theater, a pharmacy, Admin block and several wards including women's ward as well as Doctors' offices. The hospital is also equipped with a 150 kva generator, hand pumps while the fencing of the entire premises is underway.

General Wolzdegu also visited a town-hall building constructed under the mission's Quick Impact Projects (QIP). The building was equipped with chairs. He advised the community to make judicious use of the hall for their meetings in search for peace and co-existence.

The aim of the visit was to assess available health and social facilities in the area for the people with the view to identifying and addressing areas of gaps in a coordinated manner with other stakeholders like the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

## SSAFE training held in Abyei

A total of 24 participants completed the three-day Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) Training conducted in Abyei from 09 to 12 Sep 2018.

Eight standard training modules were covered during the first two days; namely, United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS); History, Background and Culture; Radio Communications; Personal Security; Weapons Awareness; Travel, Convoy and Vehicle Security; Hostage Survival and Incident Management and Basic Life Support.

The training also comprised practical exercise involving Illegal Checkpoint, ERW/Landmine, Car Jacking and abduction with each group going through all the three scenarios. The level of participation from the trainees and the role players was very high which resulted in some very important practical lessons being highlighted that all UN personnel need to keep in mind while operating in field environment.

The training participants were UNISFA international and national staff, military staff officers, UNPOL officers as well as staff members of UN Agencies Funds and Programmes and international contractors.



## Call Centre 3030: Improving services to UNISFA personnel

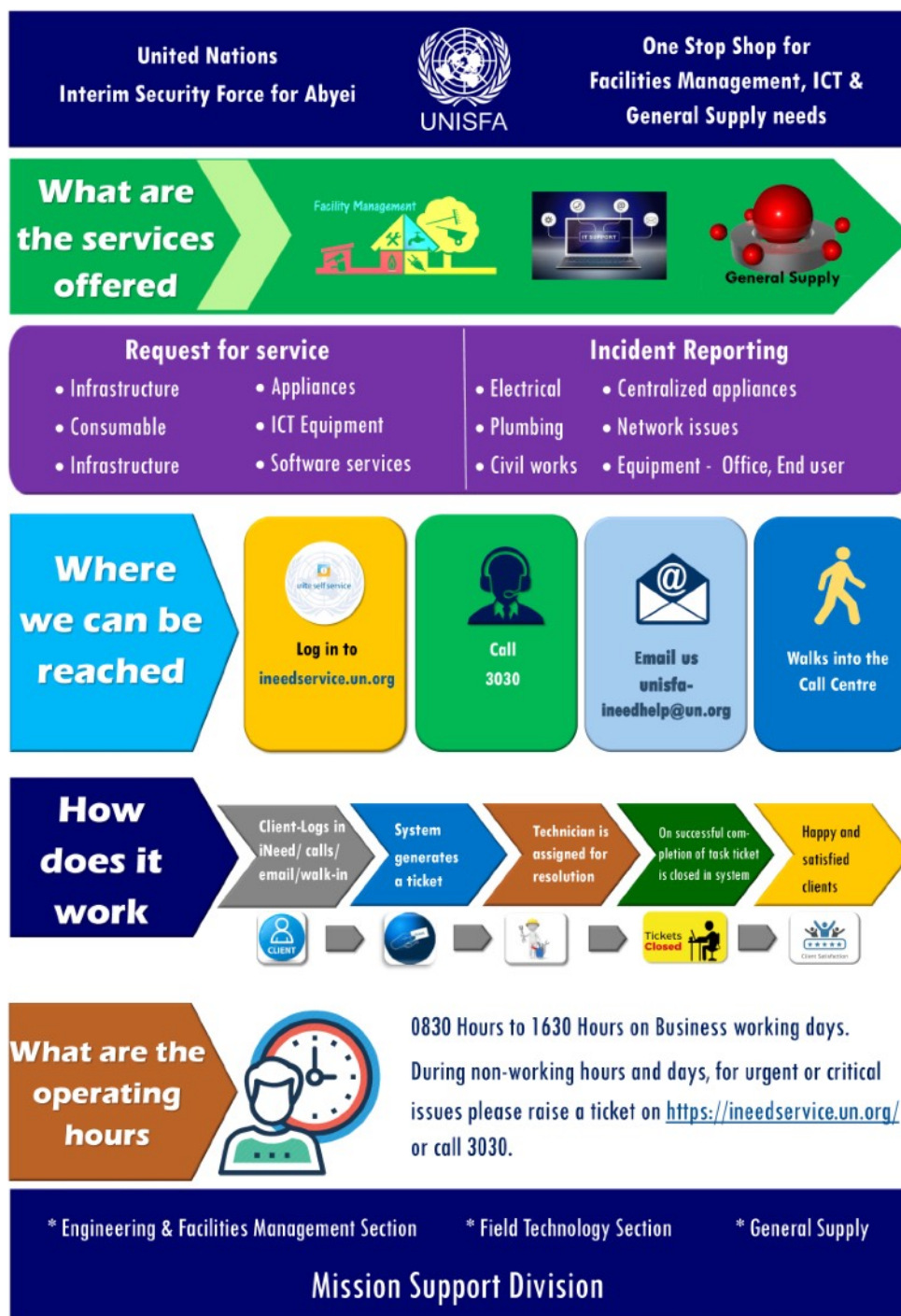
The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) through its Mission Support Division (MSD) will launch a centralized call center on 1 October 2018 to receive service requests and incident reports from UNISFA uniformed and civilian personnel. The process will also support MSD's efforts to enhance services provided to troops and staff.

The Call Centre will be a one-stop shop responsible for the day to day needs of personnel concerning accommodation, facilities maintenance, information and communication technology, and general supply items. It aims to improve services with faster and higher quality support.

Currently, the staff must go physically or call different sections/units to request for various services related to Field Technology Section, minor maintenance requests (i.e., HVAC, electrical, plumbing, cleaning), as well as general supplies. Requests are given to the section/units either by filling a form or via calls/emails.

Due to lack of service request recording system, most of the requests are not being logged or recorded, making it difficult for tracking and getting feedback on the status of requests. The process does not allow proper recording of requests, follow-ups, as well as resolutions. There is no data available to analyze the volume of requests as well as services provided on a daily/weekly/monthly basis.

The new centralized call center will receive requests from uniformed and civilian personnel, record them in a system (iNEED) and assign it to respective teams for the resolution and successful closure of the requests; which would enhance the client experience and satisfaction.



## Rehabilitation of prisoners through counseling commences in Abyei

The UN Police officers of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei have taken up the significant role in rehabilitation for inmates in Abyei by providing guidance throughout the duration of their sentence. Commencing on 17 July 2018, the UNPol Corrections and Gender Units have been talking regularly to inmates at the Abyei Community Protection Committee (CPC) center. Abyei CPC is the only center for convicted prisoners.

The primary goal of the rehabilitation program is to help inmates consider new skills and new insight into their goals and motivations in life after prison.

This encourages the prisoners to take stock of the life experiences that have propelled them into criminal activities, take responsibility for their criminal behavior, change lifelong patterns of violence and addiction, and build productive lives. Issues of depression, stress or substance abuse are also tackled during the visits.

Providing rehabilitation offers countless benefits to the individual inmates as well as the community that the inmates will re-enter upon their release. The options for rehabilitation for inmates vary by facility,



offense, and sentence length. Just like the cause of incarceration varies by inmate, the type of rehabilitation an inmate might respond to can also vary.

With the increase in the number of inmates returning to prison after release makes counseling sessions very critical. To ensure that the inmates realize their value in the society, UNPOL has been mobilizing resources from UN agencies to support the efforts to improve the physical and emotional condition of the inmates.



## UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION

**“WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN ABYEI”**

Community Events in Abyei and Diffra - Programme and Exhibition  
Children's Drawing Contests in Abyei and Diffra - “The UN in my Community”  
Cultural Evening

## JBVMM *Photo Story*



The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) is operating under the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and has been tasked to support the joint mechanism between two countries – Sudan and South Sudan – to monitor, verify and investigate any movement by armed forces and armed civilians in the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ).

The SDBZ is Sudan and South Sudan's common Safe Demilitarized Border Zone extending to a length of approximately 2100 kilometers.

Since its creation in 2011, JBVMM has met and overcome several challenges in the implementation of its mandate. Due to initial distrust between the parties involved, progress had been slow. However, a major thrust was received during the May 2017 Joint Political Security (JPSM) Meeting when the parties gave clear benchmarks including clearance for all UNISFA air and ground patrols, agreement to operationalize the SDBZ and establishment of the four UNISFA/JBVMM team sites in Safaha/Kiir Adiem and As-Sumayah/Majak Kwui for Sector 1 and Tishwin/Takshwin and Abu Qussa/Wunkur for Sector 2.

The establishment of team sites is essential to carry out JBVMM's mandate which includes patrols and security, verifications, investigations, monitoring, arbitrations, coordination, reporting and information exchange within the SDBZ. Photo shows the UNISFA/JBVMM personnel at work in Tishwin team site, the first team site established under Sector 2.

JBVMM is tasked to create a safe and stable environment by conducting air and ground patrols within SDBZ, encouraging both Sudan and South Sudan to resolve border issues.

Though JBVMM's task is far from over, the recent months have seen some progress towards the fulfillment of its mandate.



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