



UNMAS

in support of United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

06. 2016

Highlights of May and June



DEEMED SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS
17,400 sqm of land



DESTROYED
03 AP landmines
52 explosive remnants of war
13 weapons
543 rounds of SAA



RISK EDUCATION
over **12,300** men, women, boys and girls in the Abyei Area as well as UN personnel

Teams conducted non-technical surveys in Abyei town, Wuthnum and Amit to gather information on mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). In the course of May and June, Integrated Clearance Teams, using information from the non-technical surveys, ensured that over 17,400 square meters of land was deemed safe. During these operations, 03 anti-personnel landmines and 52 items of ERW were removed and destroyed.

The MRE grantee, Operation Save Innocent Lives or OSIL, a South Sudanese NGO, started delivering mine risk education messages in schools. Together with UNMAS teams, mine risk education (MRE) was delivered to over 12,300 men, women, boys, and girls in Majak, Duop and Malual Aleu, among other schools and communities in the Abyei Area, to enhance their knowledge of threats posed by mines and ERW.



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Ensuring safety and quality of work delivered never stops: an UNMAS Implementing Partner tests new mine risk awareness brochures

UNMAS, UNISFA and UNPOL destroyed 13 weapons and 543 rounds of small arms ammunition, confiscated by UNISFA in the Abyei Area. The destruction took place at the weapons and ammunition management (WAM) facility in the ETH Battalion Camp in Dukra.

In support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), UNMAS continue to maintain the operational readiness of the JBVMM Patrol Support Teams in the two JBVMM operational sectors - JBVMM Sector 01 Headquarters in Gok Machar, South Sudan and Sector 02 Headquarters in Kadugli, Sudan. As the JBVMM began planning for ground patrols to the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, UNMAS deployed route verification and clearance teams from Abyei to the JBVMM sector headquarters in June, to ensure that routes to be used by ground patrols are safe from any explosive hazards.

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN,
DO NOT TOUCH IT!
CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY!**

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Field Story: AXOs and small arms ammunition in Agok

The onset of the rainy season would indicate that demining season is due for a pause. However, despite weather conditions, integrated clearance teams (ICT) still engaged in non-technical surveys (NTS) and mine risk education activities.

Such a team was tasked to respond to a UXO/ERW report in the general area of Agok town. The team was joined by a team from OSIL (an Implementing Partner delivering MRE) and headed towards the village of Manding Jesh. The village is in the south most end of the Abyei box and the road leading to it is only driveable during the dry season, which made it an extremely strenuous journey. Torrential rain had caused several vehicles to get stuck in the mud, restricting further access to the area. The team had to tow a few vehicles in order to proceed.

As the teams arrived in the village, they noticed that the suspicious objects were marked with local and official danger signs. There was a house less than 10 meters away and when interviewed, the house owner said: “We fled the village in 2011 because of the conflict, returned in 2012 and these items have been here since then. I had no option but re-occupy my home, leaving the items there. I have children and was so afraid they could get hurt. Therefore, I marked the spot by all possible means to prevent any accident. Thanks God for sending these agencies and making my family safe.”

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FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

- On the road after torrential rains
- Suspect items and markings
- The suitcase contained four AXOs and dozens of small arms ammunition



UNMAS more than mines

The United Nations Mine Action Service is the United Nations entity on explosive hazards and the focal point for “mine action” coordination. UNMAS provides critical support to the protection of civilians, peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and development, allowing UN staff to rapidly deploy, and refugees and internally displaced persons to safely return to their homes. UNMAS is hosted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. UNMAS supports the UNISFA mandate, ensuring Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) freedom of movement as well as the identification and clearance of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ).