

Highlights December - January



DEEMED SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARD THREATS
6,639 sqm of land



DESTROYED
16 explosive remnants of war
1,361 weapons & small arms ammunition



RISK EDUCATION
over **6,700** people from mine and ERW affected communities, besides UN personnel

Integrated Ground Patrol Support Training Certificates awarded by senior national monitors from Sudan, South Sudan and OIC Chief JBVM in Kadugli 26 January.

©2017, Lt Col Arnaldo Manuel, JBVM



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

Inter-Mission: 176-3365 176-3860

Sudan: +249 962 970 253 South Sudan: +211 924 268 664

UNMAS completed re-assessing various routes within the Abyei Area as well as various UNISFA company operating bases for explosive hazards. With the onset of the dry season and intensified activities of armed individuals and groups, additional patrolling routes were needed. UNMAS was therefore tasked with route assessment, survey, verification and clearance of two alternative routes, from Kolom to Dukra and from Nainai to Dokura.

Integrated Clearance Teams ensured that all UNISFA dry season company operating bases were deemed safe. Over 6,000 square meters of land were released through battle area clearance in the course of December. Teams also conducted non-technical surveys in Abyei and the 16 ERW found and destroyed include one unfused F1-hand grenade reported by community members in Abyei Town and three RPG-7 heat rockets found in Banton Bridge.

Mine risk education (MRE) was delivered by UNMAS Teams to over 6,700 men, women, boys, and girls, to enhance their knowledge of threats posed by mines and explosive remnants of war. UNMAS new grantee for MRE in the southern Abyei, South Sudanese NGO South Sudan Integrated Mine Action Service (SIMAS), deployed to Abyei in January and completed accreditation.

In cooperation with UNISFA, UNPOL and national monitors from Sudan and South Sudan, UNMAS destroyed 16 rifles and over 1,300 rounds of small arms ammunition at the UNISFA WAM facility in Dukra in December.

UNMAS continue to maintain the operational readiness of the JBVM Patrol Support Teams in the two JBVM operational sectors - JBVM Sector 01 Headquarters in Gok Machar, South Sudan and Sector 02 Headquarters in Kadugli, Sudan. Integrated Ground Patrol Support training (practical ground patrol) was provided by UNMAS at JBVM HQ in Kadugli 22-25 January, with the participation of 28 military observers, ETHBATT force protection troops and national monitors from Sudan and South Sudan.

Field Story: Grenade in Abyei Town

In the morning of 9th December a UNMAS survey team parked their vehicles in Zone 6 of Abyei Town, prior to setting off on foot to conduct a door to door safety brief.

An elderly man approached the vehicles and told he had seen a suspicious item not far from where the UNMAS team had parked - which was also close to where he lived - and asked them to investigate.

The team split up. The Team Leader and half of his team went to investigate the item while the others remained with the vehicles. The team cautiously approached the area and the suspected item was spotted from about 10 meters away, directly on their path. The Team Leader approached and after a closer examination, it was found to be scrap metal. However, it was easy to see why the informant suspected it could have been a mine. The resident reporting the scrap metal had done the right thing: it is better to have the item checked-out than be in doubt or too scared to report.

While this team was still busy with the initial investigation, the team members waiting with the vehicles were approached by a local boy, who said he had seen a suspect item in some bushes only a few hundred meters away from where the vehicles were parked.

Looking around the bushes and then taking time to inspect deeper inside, the returned Team Leader could spot the item – a hand grenade, partially buried.

The UNMAS Team was very pleased by the confidence of the residents doing the reporting. They had heard the team was in the area and had approached them even before being asked if they had seen anything suspicious.



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

CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY!

Inter-Mission: 176-3365 176-3860

Sudan: +249 962 970 253 South Sudan: +211 924 268 664