

UNISFA POLICE MAGAZINE

First Edition 2018



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Serving and Protecting the Community

Welcome to the 1st edition of our biannual news update UNISFA Police Magazine where we highlight our role and mandate on this critical mission. Information is key as knowledge is power. A lot of developments are happening in our community and it is key that we share this in order to prioritize areas of focus.

"Peace is not an accident. Peace is not a fight. Peace is something we must all work for, everyday, in every country "

-- Ban Ki-moon

Leadership

The Senior Police Adviser in UNISFA is Deputy Commissioner General Mary Gahonzire from Rwanda. In 1987 after attaining a university degree, she joined the police. Through hard work and dedication to serving the people in different portfolios she served as the Director of Criminal Investigations Department (D/CID), The Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of Police Operations (DIGP Opns) and the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Prior to her appointment as SPA on 14/9/2017, she was serving as the Commissioner in Charge of Community Policing and a member of the Police Council at the Police Headquarters.



DCGP Mary Gahonzire

UNISFA Senior Police Advisor

UNISFA UNPOL mandate

UN police in UNISFA is mandated by Security Council resolution number 1990 (2011) to :-

Strengthen the capacity of the Abyei Police Service (APS) by providing support, including the training of personnel;

- Coordinate with the APS on matters of law and order;
- Where necessary and in cooperation with the APS, provide security for the oil infrastructure in the Abyei Area; and
- Take necessary actions to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, without prejudice to the responsibility of the host Government.

However, as a result of the delay in the establishment of the Abyei Police Service Community Protection Committees were established and with Security Council Resolution 2205 (2015), the Security Council requested UNISFA within its existing capabilities and resources and in close coordination with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to: -

- Observe, document and report on the move-

ment of weapons into Abyei and the presence, destruction and confiscation of weapons within Abyei;

- Strengthen the capacities of CPCs in order to assist with management of law and order processes in Abyei.

The Security Council, by its resolution 1990 (2011) authorised UNISFA to have a police component comprising a maximum of fifty [50] personnel. As at 14 January 2018 there was a staff complement of thirty-nine [39] individual police officers twelve [12] of which are female. The officers are from Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe (as of 30 June 2018).

The UNPOL component also has the Reform and Restructuring Coordinator who is responsible for the coordination of the establishment of the Abyei Police Service. Having spent three years as UNISFA UNPOL Chief of Administration, Superintendent Hussein Killo Mdoe from Tanzania re-joined UNPOL on the 23rd of April 2017 as a seconded Police Reform and Restructuring Coordinator.



The SPA, DCGP M. Gahonzire, handing over a suspect to the South Sudanese national Monitors

Security situation

The general security situation in Abyei remains relatively calm and stable but unpredictable as evidenced by sporadic incidents of shootings, movements of armed groups, carjacking, cattle rustling, armed robberies, rape, stabbing incidents, domestic violence. The prevalent cases are petty crimes such as theft and fighting. The rate of crime has adversely been negatively impacted by the increase of population threshold due to the influx of people from South Sudan entering the Box fleeing fighting in their area and the return of the original inhabitants of Abyei as a result of the prevailing peace.

Amiet market has recorded the highest crime rate. The Amiet common market is a centre of exchange of goods and services whereby both Ngok Dinka and Misseriya people co-exist, Nuer community also have been welcomed and joined into the Peace Committee and become part of the communities at the Amiet common market. There are foreigners also from Nigeria, Ethiopia and Uganda who came for economic opportunities, some Ethiopian traders had settled at the Amiet common market.

In an effort to mitigate the effects of increased population and reduce crime and threat to life, UNPOL in conjunction with other UNISFA sections and UN Agencies embarked on a number of activities as summarised below. The main objective was to be more visible in the community and deter would be peace spoilers at the same time building capacity for the communities to protect themselves.

UNISFA UNPOL operational activities include the following:

- Collocating with CPCs to advise and mentor them on cardinal policing issues such as arrest, detention, investigation, human rights, gender mainstreaming, among others
- Conducting community confidence building interactive patrols
- Undertaking CPCs capacity building workshops
- Engaging community leaders into intra and inter community peace dialogue
- Conducting joint security meeting with the military and community leaders.
- confidence building interactive patrols
- Undertaking CPCs capacity building workshops
- Engaging community leaders into intra and inter community peace dialogue
- Conducting joint security meeting with the military and community leaders.

However, our operations are affected by

- The absence of the Abyei Police Services
- Complications in the handover and takeover of suspects
- Impassable roads during rainy season
- Increase in crimes at Amiet market

With guidance and leadership from Police Department and UNHQ concerted efforts are being made to ensure the full implementation of the 2011 Agreement as this will eradicate all the challenges. The current reconfiguration of UNISFA will also go a long way in ensuring that UNPOL provide sustainable peace that will guarantee development.

CREATING ALTERNATIVE POLICING IN THE ABSENCE OF ABYEI POLICE SERVICES

The establishment of the CPC stations are driven by the crime in the area as well as the accessibility of the areas especially in the rain season.

This ensures that the community has some form of protection and service almost every time.

The aim of the trainings was to try and standardize the operations of CPCs and JPC members to basic acceptable international standards of policing (community policing) and respect on human rights as well.

Pursuant to the fulfilment of its mandate, as enshrined in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2205 (2015) and the current SCR 2416 (2018) that requested UNISFA within its existing capabilities and resources and in close coordination with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to create and strengthen the capacities of Community Protection Committees (CPCs) in order to assist with management of law and order processes in Abyei in the absence of the Abyei Police Service, UNPOL Training and Development Cell embarked on a Training program for CPCs and Joint Peace Committee (JPC) members during the past five months.

Because the JPC and CPC member's work is voluntary where no remunerations are paid to them, there is a high turnover and the trainings conducted were meant to bridge the gap that was created as a result.

The unarmed and volunteer JPC members who police the business hub of Abyei, the Amiet market was the first group to be trained. This group is made up of Misseriya and Ngok Dinka community members who have come together to fight a common enemy in the area that is giving them a livelihood. CPC members from the southern side of Abyei then followed.

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This ensures that the community has some form of protection and service almost every time. The aim of the trainings was to try and standardize the operations of CPCs and JPC members to basic acceptable international standards of policing (community policing) and respect on human rights as well. Even though these members have been carrying out law and order the duties, most of them had not received any formal training resulting in a lot of mistakes and human rights violations along the way.

The training covered the following areas: -

Community Protection Committee Background and overview: This covered the purpose of the establishment of CPCs/JPC and what is expected of them.

Community Policing: Much focus was on the responsibilities of community members in the protection of their area, information gathering and dissemination as well as crime prevention methods.



Inspector Maria Katoole presenting on Community Policing.

Correction Management: Emphasis was put on the advisory role to CPCs/JPCs with regard to International Human Rights standards of detainees.

Criminal Investigation: Crime and exhibits identification, as well as arrest procedures, evidence gathering and handling of children in conflict with the law according to international standards.

Gender and child protection: Protection of vulnerable groups within the community as well as equal application of the law without any gender discrimination was covered. Gender and sexual based violence issues were also discussed.

The training is expected to go a long way in the maintenance of law and order in the Abyei Area. Evidence of the effect of the training have already been seen in the way the JPC members of Amiet, the TCCs and CPC members in Abyei coordinated and arrested three suspects and recovered a stolen truck. The suspects were arrested in Amiet market and whilst verifications were being made they escaped from custody and drove the vehicle towards the south. Information was shared between JPC, TCCs and Abyei CPC members and the suspects were re-arrested, and the vehicle recovered.

The Abyei CPC with mentorship from UNISFA UNPOL carried out investigations and confirmed that the vehicle was indeed stolen and that a Warrant of Arrest had been issued in JUBA. The Senior Police Adviser, Deputy Commissioner General of Police Mary Gahonzire, handed over the truck and three suspects to the representatives of the government of South Sudan on the 2nd of May 2018.

The trainings and establishment of CPCs are an ongoing process aimed at maintaining law and order in Abyei area in the absence of the Abyei Police Service.



Women CPC pioneers in Abyei



Tajalei CPC members pose for a group photo with their trainers



The Senior Police Adviser interacting with some of the trained CPC members in Agok

ABYEI WOMEN AS CHAMPIONS OF PEACE

Following the 2011 conflict in Abyei area, the women in Abyei cannot voice out their needs considering that there are no public institutions to cater for their concerns. The conflict reduced the community of Abyei, especially women into abject poverty. It is against this background that the idea of establishing women's associations in the four counties of Abyei (among the Ngok Dinka communities) was mooted.

Importantly this idea is anchored on the pedal of the formation of small networking groups by a few women with the assistance of UNPOL in 2016-17. In 2018 IOM, embarked on a resuscitation agenda of the women's associations and UNPOL Gender Unit was invited to partner them in setting up vibrant women's associations systems and structure as they already had a relationship with some of the target group members.

The associations are apolitical, membership is voluntary, and the aim is to improve the status of women in Abyei community across the spectrum of their lives (social, economic and political) The mobilization process commenced on the 22nd of January 2018 and covered four counties in the South and Central Sectors of Abyei.

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The main objective of the creation of the associations was to give the women a voice in peace building and at the same time have a coordinated approach to all their activities which include their roles as peace builders in the home and community as well as capacitating them in development activities.



Dr. Jeniffer Mala, IOM Conflict Mediation Specialist, Inspector Annah Chota, UNISFA UNPOL Chief of Gender and Children's Affairs, Supt. Rosemary Gete UNPOL Abyei Team site Gender Officer and W/O. Elikka Haikwiyu UNPOL Diffra Team site Gender Officer with part of the women who attended the Mijac meeting

UNPOL Gender Officers acknowledging the economic activities of women in Abyei.



The mobilization process commenced on the 22nd of January 2018 and covered four counties in the South and Central Sectors of Abyei.

After establishing the associations, a three-day capacity-building training workshop on peace building was organized by these women, IOM and supported

as the committee of the Ngok Dinka Youth Union attended.

UNPOL team comprising Chief of Training, Chief Superintendent **Dieudonne Nkubito**, Chief of Gender, Inspector **Annah Chota** and Gender Officer MHQ, Sergeant **George Amanor** facilitated on **“The role of women in Peace Building”**.

Conflict increases the vulnerability of women in gender-based violence therefore empowerment for women in post conflict environment becomes a key strategy in preventing sexual and gender-based violence. The UNPOL presentation aimed among other things to educate women on their role in post conflict recovery initiatives.

The focus was to encourage women to participate in Polycymaking, Economic development, Law making and reviewing and inclusion in leadership and parliament. All this was hinged on the fact that no one can present and address women’s challenges better than women themselves address. The women appreciated the efforts being made by UNISFA UNPOL and undertook to put all they had learnt into practice.



Chief of Gender Inspector Annah Chota presenting at the women’s conference in Abyei

by UNISFA’s UNPOL component running under the theme: **“Together for a community of equality, peace and prosperity”**.

The conference was conducted from 17 to 19 April 2018 at the Abyei Women’s Centre, Abyei Town and attended by 300 women drawn from the Southern part of Abyei including the Paramount Chief and all the nine chiefs of the Ngok Dinka chiefdoms, as well



Chief of Training Chief Superintendent Dieudonne Nkubito presenting at the women’s conference in Abyei



Abyei women in group discussion during the conference



Diffra Women's leaders addressing conference participants in Diffra

Another conference was also conducted for the Misseriya women on the 20th of June 2018 and was attended by fifty-four women and two community leaders. The Misseriya women actively engaged in discussions identifying their multiple roles and responsibilities in the society as well as factors and constraints on their efforts at educating themselves.

They were encouraged to give due importance to schooling for their children especially girls, as well as consider empowering themselves by joining illiteracy classes. Other important issues discussed included gender division of labor and women's access to and control over resources.

UNISFA PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH SPORTS IN ABYEI

Abyei has witnessed several incidents involving youths and after doing an assessment it was realized that most of the youths were just idle with no work to do and no recreational facilities where they could go and interact. It was also noted that because of their idleness, the youths had resorted to drug and alcohol abuse.

This has led them to crime, as they would now want to finance their addiction. As a result, UNISFA through the UNPOL section embarked on an interactive project to try to mitigate the problem by engaging youths in sports activities. This has resulted in the first ever UNISFA sponsored Football tournament between youths from different villages within the Abyei box. To kick-start the program, UNISFA purchased sports kits for use during the

tournament. The sports items for the first phase of the tournament were handed over to the Abyei football Association chairperson on 23 April 2018 in Abyei town.

The tournament was officially launched by UNISFA represented by Mr. Ali Zaki the OIC Principal Officer, as the Guest of Honor at Mulmul Football ground with a match between Chwey Ayak Football club playing Altherer Football club of Agok with Altherer winning 4-3

on penalty shootouts. Final match was between Abyei City Football Club and Olmarek Football Club of Agok with Abyei City winning 3: 0.

The games were played under the theme “Abyei youth promoting peace through sports”.



Chief Community Policing, Commander Haftoom Weldelessea leading Abyei Youth in a match to mark the beginning of the sports tournament

UNISFA through the UNPOL section embarked on an interactive project to try to mitigate the problem by engaging youths in sports activities.

Speaking at the final ceremony, the Senior Police Adviser, Deputy Commissioner General of Police **Mary Gahonzire** indicated that it was prudent to keep our youths committed, as they will take them away from crime and substance abuse and at the same time developing the youths who are the future generation.

She went further to highlight how much UNISFA and the community have worked so hard for the peace that now prevailed in the area and urged all those present to guard jealously that peacefulness. She reiterated the notion that football is the only game that knows no boundary, language or cultural divide but brings people together an attribute needed for the maintenance of peace.

The Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, Dr Bulabek Deng Koul, who said that football develops togetherness, love, cooperation and development, also echoed her sentiments. It also educates and is a source of income. He appreciated the role of UNISFA UNPOL in the planning and hosting of the tournament. He appreciated the sports kit that were provided by UNISFA as well as the levelling of sports grounds. He also said that youth development was a key driver for continuity of every society and thanked UNISFA UNPOL for upholding that by supporting the youth.

All the six participating teams walked away with prizes that included trophies, soccer kits, balls, volleyball nets and T-shirts and caps courtesy of UNISFA sections.



UNISFA members and community leaders before kicked-off



The Senior Police Adviser and the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief presenting awards to winners



The Tournament winning team, Abyei City, pose for a group photo with the Paramount Chief and the Senior Police Adviser

ROAD SAFETY AWARENES

After noting an increase in road traffic accidents and observing of reckless driving along the roads in Abyei box as well as traffic congestion at market places, UNISFA UNPOL embarked on a Traffic Safety Awareness campaign to try and mitigate these challenges. The campaigns were conducted on the 18th of February and 5th of March 2018 with the assistance of the Ethiopian Military Band at Amiet and Agok Market respectively.

The campaign targeted all road users inclusive of pedestrians, cyclists and push cart drivers as well as school children. The main objectives of the campaign were to raise awareness on the causes and effects of road accidents and sharing of strategies that can be employed to minimize accidents.

Among the causes noted were over speeding, reckless driving, not respecting other road users as well as bad road conditions. Drivers were urged to refrain from speeding and reckless driving and respect the sanctity of the life of their passengers and other road users.

In addresses to the people who had gathered representa-

tives of the Senior Police Advisor stated that safety on the road was a key driver of peace and development. Without a smooth flow of traffic, it will be difficult for assistance to reach all the corners of Abyei when it is needed.

UNPOL Community Policing Officer, Inspector **Maria Ka-toole** led the campaign by first highlighting the causes and effects of accidents as well as strategies to mitigate them to about one thousand people who had gathered and thereafter UNPOL members together with JPC and CPC members talked to drivers in their vehicles and distributed pamphlets that carried the messages of the day.

Many drivers were grateful for the initiative and took heed of the call to play it safe on the roads. They however appealed to UNISFA to assist by maintaining the roads throughout the year as it sometimes become very difficult to navigate through these roads in the rainy season.

As a result of the campaigns, parking slots have been created at both Amiet and Agok market clearing the main Agok-Diffra Highway. About two thousand people were reached by the awareness campaigns.



The campaigns started with a march through the market and then an address was carried out



Posters and information pamphlets were also distributed to drivers and community members

FIGHTING CRIME THROUGH AWARENESS RAISING

This is one of the major activities for UNPOL this year in its quest to bridge the gap created by the non-establishment of the Abyei Police Service. The campaign kick started with sensitization of residents on the ongoing criminal activities taking place in the community. The campaigns enlightened the community to be alert to crime issues and give them tips on

how to prevent certain situations. On the 2nd and 8th of February 2018 the campaign was taken to Tajalei and Noong respectively. These areas were chosen, as they have not yet established CPCs hence the need for all community members to participate in policing.



UNPOL officers with community members who attended the campaign in Tajalei. (above) and Noong (below).





The Chief of Gender and Child Protection, Inspector Annah Chota taking the Traditional Chiefs through the Human Rights issues using illustrations

The awareness campaigns are now being taken to schools. In schools the focus now is on practices that can be classified as child abuse especially sexual, physical and emotional abuse and are giving strategies to prevent abuses. The strategies includes avoiding secluded places, walking in groups, not entertaining strangers and reporting any abuse or even suspicion to elders. They also highlights that abuse can happen in the family hence the need to also look for help from their teachers. The students are also urged to share the information with their parents.

They are also being encouraged to work had in school stressing that it is only through education that they can improve their lives as education is a tool for a better future.

The staff members are also advised to mentor students who show signs of risk and since they are staying in the community to take it as their responsibility to safeguard their students by intervening when their students are affected. As products of the community where they are now working in, they are role models and can be good ambassadors to eliminate spaces where sexual assault/violence amongst pupils usually occurs.

A total of nine schools have been covered and the program is ongoing. It is pleasing to note that because of the campaigns, a girl at Dari Elementary school was saved from early marriage when the headmaster reported to UNPOL about the issue. UNPOL proceeded and enlighten her parents who then allowed her to continue with her education.



COMMUNITY INTERACTIVE PATROLS



UNPOL independently and together with TCC conducted a total of 1 367 security observation, law and order assessment, community interactive and confidence building patrols throughout Abyei covering a total distance of 18 424 kilometres in the first half of the year. The poor road network in Abyei and the difficulties they pose have not deterred UNPOL officers to get into the communities to fulfil their mandate.



Even though UNPOL does not have an executive mandate, they take these interactions to empower communities with crime prevention strategies and also gather information for crime detection that they then pass to CPCs and TCCs for further action.



UNPOL MHQ and Abyei team site being led by the Chief of Gender and Children's Affairs attended the Roman Catholic Church in Abyei Town in solidarity with the community. At the end of the service they had a chance to address the congregates, where they raised awareness on strategies to curb domestic violence and also good parenting. The discussions were hinged on finding amicable ways of solving conflict by building peace in the home to support peace in the community. These interactions were also done in Agok.

With the resumption of flights at the Agok Airstrip, UNPOL ensured that no illicit goods and people were transported through the airstrip that could end up destabilizing the box



Where the community gathers for celebrations and meetings, UNPOL becomes part of them to celebrate their successes as well as listening to their concerns and sharing ideas.



UPHOLDING PRISONER'S RIGHTS THROUGH CAPACITATING CPC MEMBERS

The way prisoners are managed is a key foundation of good correctional practice and presents key avenues for prisoner rehabilitation. In all essence, correctional services should control and supervise prisoners in a humane and just manner while maximizing the protection of the community. It should also provide for the personal safety of staff and prisoners through a prison environment that aims to protect the physical and emotional wellbeing of individuals, encourages prisoners to develop responsibility for their actions and to develop ethical values that reinforce law-abiding and non-violent participation in the community, and provides prisoners with opportunities for rehabilitation.

This process starts at an offender's point of entry into the prison system and extends through to the prisoner's completion of their sentence and exit from the system. However, this ideal situation is found in a place where there are systems and structures in place.

UNISFA is operating in an environment where there are no systems and structures in place and only the traditional court system is functioning and giving people custodial sentences hence the requirement for the Correctional Services. Faced with such a pre-

dicament UNISFA UNPOL section advocated for the deployment of Correctional Officers and currently have two from Jordan that have been operating for the past two years.

Tasked with the responsibility to assessing detention facilities, providing technical advice and mentoring support and supporting the development and implementation of training initiatives for Community Protection Committees to ensure that detainees are treated in a humane manner without infringement of their rights, the journey has not been an easy one.

As a result of the absence of Correctional Services the Community Protection Committees double as both the police and Correctional Services Officers, there are no separate structures for police detention cells and prison cells resulting in both suspects awaiting trial and convicted prisoners being housed in the same detention cells at the CPCs resulting in overcrowding and outbreak of diseases. Feeding and bathing facilities as well as medication are also an issue and the inmates do not get a chance to exercise or be in direct sunlight, which is a health requirement.



The UNISFA UNPOL section has been all out training the CPC members on proper management of inmates but with much emphasis on human rights issues. They visit these detention centres on a daily basis where assessments are done and corrective measures taken swiftly to avert disasters. Training is being done on a continuous basis bearing in mind the issue of turnover as the CPC members operate on voluntary basis.

They have also lobbied the traditional leaders advocating for non-custodial sentences for lighter offence and giving suspects time to pay fines when convicted to reduce the number of inmates in detention. It was through this advocacy that the traditional authorities are now providing food to the inmates even though it is not enough to meet the international standards.



Chief of Correctional Services addressing traditional leaders on the plight of inmates and CPC centres



Correctional Officers co-locating with CPC/JPC members

The UNPOL Correctional Officers have also managed to lobby UN Agencies for assistances and as a result two re-designed containers were put at Amiet market to serve as holding cells for male and female inmates as well as ablution facilities.

Noting that Abyei CPC detention center was the referral center for both Amiet and Agok, UNPOL has managed to have one of the structures there renovated through Quick Impact Projects Scheme (QIPs) in order to allow for expansion and proper classification and separation of inmates.



The structure at Abyei CPC before renovations.



The completed building will ease overcrowding of inmates and enable proper classification and separation.

Complete with offices, separate cells for women and men and a secured verandah that can be used as an exercise arena, the building will ease overcrowding of inmates and enable proper classification and separation. The completed detention center was handed over to the Paramount Chief Dr Bulabek Deng Kuol by the Senior Police Advisor DCGP Mary Gahonzire on the 26th of July 2018. Speaking at the handover ceremony the Senior Police Advisor emphasized the issue of respect for human rights reiterating that the detention center should be more reformatory than punishment. She further asserted that as a community it is our responsibility to ensure that when inmates are released, the society benefits from them. She emphasized to the community leadership to consider non-custodial sentences for young offenders and petty cases as incarceration will harden them if they are mixed with hardcore criminals like robbers and murderers.

Speaking at the same occasion the Paramount Chief applauded UNISFA Agencies for the renovations. He also thanked UNPOL for taking their plight to UN Agencies and acknowledged the advice by the SPA. He expressed his gratitude to UNISFA indicating that they had in so many ways fought for people's rights even in ways that the community itself did not know that they enhanced human rights. He stated that the trainings provided to CPCs by UNPOL and the kind gesture presented will go a long way in improving the lives of the people in Abyei.



The Senior Police Advisor handing over the keys to the Paramount Chief

ENGAGEMENT OF OPINION LEADERS IN FIGHTING CRIME AND FOSTERING PEACE

UNPOL is committed to greater mass sensitization and use different strategies to reach out to many people including engagement with Opinion Leaders that include the traditional and religious leaders to spread messages that foster peace and help prevent crime. These outreach programs have been conducted throughout the Abyei box and in acknowledging the community's efforts, UNPOL also mobilize resources to be used in the day to day lives.



Senior Police Adviser, DCGP Mary Gahonzire handing over prayer mats and on a group photo after community engagements in Diffra.



Senior Police Adviser, DCGP Mary Gahonzire handing over food stuffs and clothing items to community leaders who are taking care of orphans and displaced children in Agok.

The community engagements have yielded results as evidenced by the increase in the number of people volunteering to become CPC members as well as reduction domestic clashes.

REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING MAPPING EXERCISE

In January 2018, the UNPOL Reform and Restructuring Coordinator, SP HK Mdoe accompanied by UNPOL MHQ Team conducted a field mapping exercise to identify suitable areas for the placement of Abyei Police Stations and Prisons as the preparatory planning process for the establishment of the Abyei Police Service. The exercise assessed, among other things, the buy-in of the local leadership, availability of land, availability of other social amenities as well as the population.



The survey covered all the three sectors of Abyei taking into consideration the permanent residential areas as well as the temporary areas that are occupied by the Misseriya nomads in the dry seasons and their trekking routes. The programme was paving way for a smooth process when the AJOC resume their meetings and agree on the way forward.



The UNPOL Survey team interacting with the community (left and above photos)

On 5th August 2018, the Assistant Security General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Mr. Alexandre Zouev, United Nations Police Advisor and Director of the Police Division-Police Commissioner Luis Carrilho and the Mission Manager -Mr. Steven Mittelstaedt conducted a three-day visit to UNISFA Abyei. The delegation welcomed by the HoM/FC, DFC and the Senior Police Advisor and briefed about UNISFA Mandate by Security, Military, UNPOL and Political Administration.



The ASG and Police Adviser being received by the UNPOL Team.

On the 6th of August 2018, the ASG and the Polad visited the Amiet Market detention centre where they had a first hand experience of the operations of UNPOL and JPC/CPC members as well as seeing for themselves the challenges being experienced in police operations.

They had the chance to interact with the JPC members. The challenges raised by JPC members were also echoed by the traditional leaders of both the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka chief among them the non-availability of a regulating authority that leads to non-availability of social amenities in the box. The ASG indicated that he had taken note of the concerns and will raise them when he was going to meet with government authorities in Sudan and South Sudan, encouraging them to fully implement the 2011 Peace Agreement.



The ASG and the Police Adviser beinteracting at Amiet market.

The ASG and the Police Adviser also had a townhall meeting with UNPOL officer where knowledge and experiences were shared. However, the Police Adviser reiterated the need to remain disciplined, accountable for our actions and upholding the United Nations values of Integrity, Professionalism and Respect for Diversity in everything that we do.



The POLAD with UNPOL officers in Abyei after the townhall meeting

United Nations Heads of Police Components 3rd Intermission Retreat

UNISFA UNPOL organized and conducted the United Nations Heads of Police Components 3rd Intermission Retreat under the guidance of the POLAD and Director Police Division, in partnership with the Ethiopian Federal Police and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU). The retreat was attended by United Nations Office to the African Union IOPS, Police Standing Capacity, UNAMID, UNMISS, AMISOM and MONUSCO and was graced by Police Advisor and Director of Police Division, **Luis Miguel Ribeiro Carrilho**.

The Intermission Retreat initiative was inaugurated in Entebbe in the year 2016 by the three neighboring peacekeeping missions namely, UNAMID, UNMISS and UNISFA with a view to foster intermission corporation within the law and order trajectory.

Since its inception, the intermission retreat initiative has nurtured significant strategic partnerships through information and best practices sharing, col-



laboration in fighting transnational crimes and intermission visits. This has in turn increased standardized performance, accountability, transparency and efficiency across the peacekeeping missions.

This year's retreat provided unequivocal evidence of the impact that the retreats were making in the development of strategic partnerships evidenced by the participation of new partners namely the Ethiopian Federal Police, the African Union, The United Nations Office to the African Union, the United Nations Police Standing Capacity and the addition of MONUSCO and AMISOM to the participating missions bringing the total number of participating missions to five.

In her welcoming remarks the Senior Police Advisor for UNISFA, DCGP Mary Gahonzire said, "The aim of this year's intermission retreat is to provide a chartered prognosis of the peacekeeping service that will meet the people's security needs", and this will ensure stability and sustainable peace in the region.

The three day programme created a holistic and collaborated approach to enhancing operational readiness and accelerated response to security needs and ensured strategic partnership and information sharing among all the mission.

After all the deliberations and sharing of knowledge and experiences the missions left with a collective conviction that they should in their different missions realize an effective, efficient, responsive and accountable police services that will serve and protect all without discrimination.

With the support from, United Nations Headquarters, the retreat participants pledged to build capacity to prevent and detect crime, protect life and property and maintain public order and safety in adherence to the international guidelines to the rule of law and international human rights laws.



“A woman’s strength is unlimited” ,Insp Annah Chota 2017 UN Peacekeeper

Growing up in Harare, Zimbabwe, Inspector Chota’s awareness of the inequalities that existed between girls and boys began at an early age. The way society groomed boys for professional careers and steered girls towards domestic chores led her to start dreaming of a more equal world.

“Being a girl child, I dreamt of occupying a powerful position to influence and create change in the community. It was the segregation of women that I experienced in my childhood that gave me the strength to add my voice in everything I did”, said Inspector Chota when she was honoured as International Female Police Peacekeeper 2017 for her service and achievements with the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

“My father had originally been disappointed by having only girl children [the four daughters were later followed by sons], but then he began to appreciate us more through the discipline and tenacity to succeed displayed by myself and my sisters. At the time of his death in 2007, he had sacrificed all to ensure that we were educated and, as he used to say, we did not need to depend on a man for survival,” she said.

Inspector Chota is the first police officer from Zimbabwean and UNISFA to receive the award, which recognises the outstanding accomplishments of female police officers serving with the UN and has been bestowed annually since 2011.

“To be honest, representing my country is a dream,” she said. “When people watch athletes or world leaders representing their nations, they have this feeling that they want to also do something to raise the flag of their country high. I aspired to do that.”



Upon receiving the award, Inspector Chota said that it underscores “the value of hard work, professionalism, teamwork and discipline, which every peacekeeper must exhibit.”

Inspector Chota called on other women to join her in the fight for gender equality. “Strength within women is unlimited. As women, we already play multiple roles, which indicates that also in peacekeeping we can do it and we can do more. What’s important is to



Inspector Chota Annah, with other female peacekeepers marching in Cairns, Australia during the International Women and Law enforcement Conference in 2017.

believe in yourself, because if we advance women, everyone will succeed.”

“Peacekeeping gives unmeasurable feelings of joy when you are able to put a smile on the face of someone whose life was ravaged by war, abuse and poverty,” she added, noting that this is what keeps her going when she misses her husband and two small boys.

[Adopted from UN News with editions]



I AM A PEACEKEEPER



I am **Inspector Eino Kahuti KAMUKWANYAMA** from the Republic of Namibia, I have served in the Namibian Police Force for 17 years. I was deployed in Abyei in December 2017 after undergoing training in Moscow, Russia in 2016. I was appointed as the Operations Officer for Abyei Team Site. My duties and responsibilities amongst others includes organizing the daily Operations of the Team Site by planning and scheduling the activities, to conduct community interactive observation patrols in responsibility to ensure safety and security as well as maintain law and order. We also conduct Air Recce to patrol areas that are not easily accessible by ground transport to monitor the migration routes and movement of armed groups in the area to boost the confidence of the people in responsibility. As an UNPOL officer it is my duty to raise awareness and educate the community to refrain from crime, gender base violence and abuse, as well as substance abuse. As a team we also collocate with the Community Prevention Committees (CPC) daily to mentor and guide them to build their capacity in manning the CPC stations and monitor them to avoid the violation of Human Rights.

As a peacekeeper, my heart goes out to the community I serve not just as a Police Officer but also as a human being and a family man. I share my experiences and encouragement especially on issues of education and food production as the main pillars available to the to secure the future of their children. As an Individual Police Officer (IPO), I embrace the spirit of Harambee and really working in harmony with others by promoting the core values of the United Nations which are Integrity, Professionalism and Respect for Diversity.

I AM A PEACEKEEPER

UNISFA is my second mission after having served for 23 months in Darfur. What makes UNISFA different from other big missions is that UNPOL officers are very few and covering the whole area is not an easy task.

Doing patrols, I realized that children had trust issues to men and women in uniform. They had their fears because of the conflict that had occurred and stories of sporadic shootings that happen here and there. Looking at their innocent faces reminded me of my two children that I had left home, and I felt as a mother I had to put all my strength and expertise to make sure that trust is built between peacekeepers and the community but mostly with children as they are a very good source of information. Getting into communities and interacting with them on a continuous basis within their familiar environment has opened-up corridors of information sharing resulting in UNISFA UNPOL being able to fulfil its mandate.

I have been in UNISFA since September 2017 and served in the Rwanda National Police for 15 years, but my service in UNISFA has given me a new perspective in life as it has exposed me to different cultures and people both within the UNISFA camp and outside. I am Chief Sergeant **Prisca Kayitesi** from Rwanda National Police.



I AM A PEACEKEEPER

I am Chief Inspector **Senzeni Ireen Kapanga** from Zimbabwe. Having served in the Zimbabwe Republic Police for 25 years and being part of the Victim Friendly Unit for more than a decade my role as a peacekeeper was biased towards the welfare of women and children in the volatile Abyei area. I joined the UNISFA family in April 2017 and was appointed Diffra Gender and Child protection officer and as soon as I was on the ground I started advocating for sustainable development that was anchored on formal education for children and women's income generating projects. This involved meeting with women in their communities, at their teashops and in the fields encouraging them to save the little that they earn to expand their businesses as well as sending their children to school.

It also involved meeting with community leaders and elders who are predominantly men to seek their permission and support to allow their women to venture into other businesses besides selling tea for them to raise more income and send their children to formal schooling. During patrols children were also interacted with and encouraged to go to school and work hard if they want to break the poverty chain that had bound them and get a better life.



Having started school soon after war in my country I had a better understanding of what was happening and used this experience to encourage others. It was so encouraging to see that when schools opened in December 2017 there was an increase in enrolment in all the three schools under the Diffra policing area all thanks to the support given by the community to our cause. These are the small things that keep us going as peacekeepers knowing that I have made a difference even in just one person for his/her light will continue to shine and touch others.



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