



Highlights

UNMAS responds to all requests from UNISFA.

Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams conduct the route assessment activities and enable the Force mobility and safe access to the Temporary Operating Bases (TOB).

The Mine Action Service continues to provide and maintain 16 mine-protected vehicles for UNISFA troops under a right-of-use agreement.



Non-Technical Survey in Agok



Route Assessment in Magar



Battle Area Clearance at Diffra COB

Stats NOVEMBER 2023

311 Kilometers of routes in the Abeyi Area assessed and verified as safe from explosives enabling mobility of the mission and safe patrols

252,843 Square meters of land made safe from explosive hazards

12 Ground Monitoring Missions supported by UNMAS ensured full implementation of the JBVMM mandate

55 Explosive ordnance safety briefings sessions provided among the Abyei Area community members

123 Newly arrived UNISFA personnel aware of safety procedures if they encounter explosive hazards

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS DISSEMINATE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION MESSAGES

Since April 2023 and the start of the conflict in Sudan, many people have been subjected to the adverse effects of this war. In the quest for survival, many people have fled Sudan to areas they deemed safe for them, and one such place that has seen an influx of people coming to reside within its borders is the Abyei Area. Internally displaced people (IDPs) come from different areas of Sudan and seek a haven to stay with their families. The conflict has eroded the capacities of many families, with detrimental impacts on food security and forced displacement as they strive to find safe places to live. The school system has been seriously crippled, as many schools were forced to shut down due to the conflict.

As if it is not enough, their destination of choice, Abyei, is also facing its challenges, with conflicts between the Dinka Ngok and Dinka Twic having escalated to serious confrontations which left many homeless, some injured and some unfortunate to lose their lives. As a result of the conflicts, much explosive ordnance may be found in the communities of the Abyei area, in Jouljok, Agok, Awal, Athon and Malual Aleu. Some of these explosive items are abandoned, some are unexploded, and both categories are hazardous to the inhabitants of these communities. Sadly, these conflicts have deprived thousands of children from attending school for some time.

The number of children who have lost access to school due to increased violence and insecurity is continuously rising due to schools now being closed in conflict-affected areas, especially in the Southern part of the Abyei Area. When children and youth are no longer going to school, they will spend most of their time playing and finding something to keep themselves busy. During such times and moments, they are more vulnerable to the dangers posed by the explosive remnants of war. Taking aware of the issues mentioned earlier, United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS) took it upon themselves to help the community youth and children stay safe and aware of the dangers they face in the areas they are now residing in. UNMAS has secured the services of International and National Community Liaison Officers, who are conducting Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and safety briefing activities. Through EORE and safety briefings, the youth and children are taught on the risks and dangers of explosive ordnance and the safe behaviours they shall practice, preventing accidents until the UNMAS teams clear the explosive ordnance.

To educate the community youth and children, the CLOs use their communication skills to deliver appropriate EORE activities, including safety briefing sessions, to ensure that the messages are spread to everyone. They sometimes use games to interact with the children. The CLOs also use posters and banners with pictures of the explosive ordnance and safety messages inscribed. They also distribute customised comic books for children and leaflets for adults to disseminate safety messages to other community members. CLOs are traversing all the corners of Abyei communities.

Clayton Mavhumba, UNMAS EORE Coordinator says: **"The CLOs ensure the youth and the children are well equipped with knowledge of how to identify explosive ordnances. The sessions do not end there; they also share with them the measures to take when encountering such explosive items. These sessions will greatly emphasise critical messages repeated often during the safety briefing sessions. These key messages include not touching explosive ordnance, not going to dangerous areas, and always reporting any hazardous items; even when they suspect what they have encountered could be problematic, they should immediately note. Most participants in their first EORE sessions and even in safety briefing sessions have confessed that these sessions are lifesaving lessons as they did not know how they would handle such situations when faced with potential dangers of explosive ordnance."**



Community Liaison Activities conducted by UNMAS implementing partner in the Abyei Area

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!
CONTACT UNMAS UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!
TELEPHONE NUMBER: +211 92 422 4805 (MTN)**



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