Highlights

UNMAS responds to all requests from UNISFA.

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

89.4% of explosive ordnance risk education beneficiaries demonstrates an increase in knowledge between safe and unsafe practices.

Six communities in the Abyei Area have a presence of Community Liaison Officers who make their community members aware of explosive hazards.

Stats JULY 2023

89 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education skits provided

2,544 Children received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education messages through skits

75 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions provided

163 Newly arrived UNISFA personnel aware of safety procedures if they encounter explosive hazards
Back in 2021, UNMAS introduced a novel way of putting its Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) message across to school children, by acting out the story in the EORE comic books UNMAS commissioned - by way of drama skits themed around the bad ‘fox’. This initiative was very well received at the time. UNMAS has since published a new story line in the new 2023 comic book with the dangerous ‘grenade’ as the central theme. As such, UNISFA approved funding to support a recent new drama skits project which included suitable costume production for the delivery. At the beginning of June this year, training of the actors was conducted, and a series of ‘fox’ skits took place whilst awaiting delivery of the new costume. Then a further round of ‘grenade’ themed skits took place in the Abyei Area. In total, 59 fox skits were delivered to 1,831 kids and then a further 145 new skits played out to another 4,428 children. Totalling 204 skits for 6,259 school children (in approximately 40 different schools or communities). During one of the new drama skits with the actors playing out the grenade story, the kids were joined by Acting Head of Mission/Force Commander Maj General Benjamin Olufemi Sawyer, who witnessed the positive impact of the skit on the children watching. After the skit he spoke to the children to re-assert the message from the play and praised UNMAS for its innovation and proactive approach to EORE in the Abyei Area. The recent drama skits took place from 5 June until the last delivery on 17 July 2023.