



## 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.**

**91% of explosive ordnance risk education beneficiaries demonstrates an increase in knowledge between safe and unsafe practices.**



Explosive Ordnance Risk Education briefing in Abyei



Route Assessment in Amom

## Stats **JANUARY 2024**

**47**

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

**222,299**

**Square meters of land made safe from explosive hazards**

**13**

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

**38**

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



# EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO CLEAR LANDMINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE WITHIN THE ABYEI AREA

Abyei, a disputed region between Sudan and South Sudan, has seen significant progress in demining efforts aimed at enhancing security and making the area safe for its inhabitants. With a history marred by conflict, the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance poses a serious threat to the local population inside the Abyei Area.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) continue with efforts to reduce the impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance in the Abyei Area. In January 2024, UNMAS redeployed one of its teams to the Makiir area. This area was impacted by the presence of landmines, which resulted in two accidents, the first of which occurred on 19 February 2022, when Misseriya herdsman reported to UNISFA in Noong on an explosive ordnance accident in the Makiir area, which resulted in the killing of 10 cattle. Following up on this report, the UNMAS team deployed to the area and conducted the preliminary investigation. Based on the evidence retrieved at the time, it was suspected that the accident was caused by an anti-tank mine (TM46). The manual mine clearance operations commenced two days after the accident, on 21 February 2022. As the clearance was progressing that same day, the team witnessed another anti-tank mine accident, where five people (nomads) travelling on a tricycle accidentally initiated a mine while they were passing by. As a result of this second accident, two men were killed, and three injured. UNMAS immediately attended the scene and provided medical support to the injured parties and transported them to the closest UNISFA clinic. Following these unfortunate events, UNMAS deployed its mechanical assets to enhance the mine clearance operations. As a result of the comprehensive and combined approach using mechanical and manual clearance techniques, two landmines, (one anti-tank and one anti-personal) were destroyed during the mechanical ground preparation. In support of the UNMAS team, the MW370 machine was deployed to conduct mechanical clearance and ground preparation activities. The MW370 is a powerful armoured heavy machine suitable to operate across large areas in challenging climatic conditions. It has an excellent track record of working with interchangeable attachments, including a tiller and flail, optimising the platform for these clearance tasks which contributes to larger areas being cleared in a shorter time frame.

These demining operations inside the Abyei Area and especially the Makiir area will create a positive change, such as economic development and particularly improving the safety of civilians. UNMAS is the United Nations' focal point on explosive hazards. UNMAS provides critical support to UNISFA to enhance safety and the Protection of Civilians (PoC), as well as its Force components inside the Abyei area.

One of the local fishermen said: **"We are glad that the clearance operations continued in the Makiir area as this will allow us and the local herdsman to move around the area freely. This river and this land is all we have. We are tired of being threatened by landmines on our land".**



Manual Mine Clearance in Makir



Mechanical Ground Preparation in Makir



Community Liaison in Makir

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