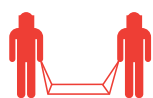


Highlights April 2019

UNSC RESOLUTION
ADOPTED ON JBVMM **2465**



18,361 m²
LAND CLEARED

5

ERW DESTROYED



DEEMED SAFE FROM
EXPLOSIVE HAZARD THREATS

14

km of roads



MRE SESSIONS

12



Mine risk education at Akcenhial village



Battle Area Clearance along the UNISFA drainage trench near Abyei town

UNMAS organised a series of events to commemorate the International Mine Awareness and Support to Mine Action Day on 4 April for both the local community and UNISFA staff.

The UN Security Council adopted a new resolution (UNSCR 2465) for UNISFA JBVMM on 12 April, extending the JBVMM until 15 October 2019.

The UNMAS Integrated Clearance Team (ICT) and one Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Team (IRACT) continued with clearance operations in the Abyei Area through-out this reporting period.

In April, UNMAS ICT and IRACT 1 assessed 18,361 m² of land as free from explosive hazards of which 13,547 m² was for mine clearance in Lopong and the remainder for Battle Area Clearance of a drainage ditch from the UNISFA compound to the Nymora river. In addition to the cleared areas, the team assessed and verified 0.861 km of roads as free from explosive hazards. Five Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) were located and destroyed in the Abyei area for the reporting period.

IRACT 2 completed with Route Assessment, Verification and Clearance (RAVC) of the eight identified patrol routes within the Tishwin area. These routes are all located within the SBDZ and will be utilised for ground patrols. During the reporting period the team conducted RAVC of 13.891 km. One ERW was found on 17 April. The team was not granted permission to destroy the item, and the item was marked and responsibility transferred to the South Sudan Police.

With its four PSTs, UNMAS is dedicated to support all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ). In total, twenty-six GMMs were organised and supported in April (nine from TS-11 Safahah/Kiir Adem, nine from TS-12 Sumayah/War Abar, and eight from TS-21 Tish-win).

Four Integrated Ground Patrol Training (IGPT) sessions were held in April.

In JBVMM Sector 2, one PST continued to be on standby in El Amira while waiting for a decision to move forward to the new TS-22 at Abu Qussa/Wunkur. The team conducted refresher training sessions throughout the period and organised one IGPT session in April.

No weapons or ammunition were received from UNISFA for destruction during this reporting period. However, routine maintenance on the WAM site was conducted.

During the month of April, UNMAS delivered MRE through direct presentation and public information sessions. In total, 12 MRE sessions were conducted, reaching a total of 499 men, women, boys and girls in the Abyei area. Additionally, UNMAS provided seven landmine and ERW awareness induction training sessions to 190 UNISFA staff officers and military observers (161 males and 29 females).

Field Story:

International Mine Awareness and Support to Mine Action Day 2019 at UNISFA

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action 2019 was celebrated by UNMAS-UNISFA under the global theme "Safe Ground". UNMAS approached communities and organised drawing competitions in two schools in the Abyei Area. Liaison activities were conducted with teachers and two schools were selected based on recent mine risk education campaigns and clearance activities conducted by UNMAS. One of the schools was in Rumamier, where the majority of the population is Ngok Dinka and where UNMAS had recently conducted clearance operations. The other school was in Diffra, where the majority of the students are Misseriya and where UNMAS implemented a successful MRE project with a local partner. In total, 880 children participated and received markers, coloured pencils, notebooks and bags. The participating students were divided based on age groups and the three winners of each group are to be awarded with a paddle ball set, a soccer ball, a solar reading lamp, and a backpack – together with the respective medals and certificates.

Moreover, a set of five short documentaries showcasing UNMAS work and life in Abyei was filmed and featured at the events in Abyei, Gok Machar and Kadugli.

The main event was organised in Abyei, at the UNISFA compound. In the event's opening speech, UNMAS Programme Manager, Nico Bosman emphasised the importance of mine action, and all the dangers related to the job. He further requested for a moment of silence, stating: "Today we pay our respects to those victims who were injured or killed because of the legacy of landmines and unexploded remnants of war. I would also like to call for a moment of silence to pay tribute to six members of our mine action fraternity who were killed this year in the line of duty; our thoughts and prayers are with their families."

At the event, Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Gebre Adhana Woldezgu, quoted António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations: "The path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be clear of landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices. All people have the right to live in security, and not fear their next step. Mine action clears paths and creates safe ground on which homes can be built or rebuilt. Mine action changes mindsets so that people know how to protect themselves. It gives people and communities new horizons and hope." The Force Commander also stated: "UNMAS was deployed to UNISFA after a mine accident in August 2011 that killed four UNISFA peacekeepers and injured seven others. I want to thank UNMAS that since its deployment, no UNISFA personnel has fallen victim to either landmines or ERW".

Following the speeches, the event continued with the screening of the videos, followed by a quiz and wrapped up with a live musical performance.



UNMAS Programme Manager calling for a minute of silence



UNISFA Acting Head of Mission/Force Commander's speech



UNMAS musical performance

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

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