



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 recovered and destroyed in Majbong



Mechanical ground preparation in Nyinkuac



Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in Abyei

Stats **DECEMBER 2023**

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

616,139 Square meters of land made safe from explosive hazards

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

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

UNMAS JOINTLY WITH UNPOL PROVIDES SAFETY TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN THE ABYEI AREA

The Abyei Area is strategically important, and it is home to oilfields, farmland, and pasture. Inter-communal violence involving different tribes accounts for most of the violence in the area, which is commonly triggered by territorial and resource-sharing disputes. All these conflicts have left a trail of explosive ordnance lying around in the communities. The Explosive Ordnance littering the communities and endangering the people to continue their everyday lives. As part of the mitigation measures, UNMAS and UNPOL have joined hands to support the communities in the Abyei Area in preserving lives. In December 2023, the UNMAS teams delivered a series of explosive hazard awareness induction training sessions to equip Community Protection Committee (CPC) members to enhance their knowledge on staying safe in their respective areas despite places littering with explosive ordnance.

These induction sessions are carefully designed to provide education on how to protect lives and stay safe in their communities while continuing their everyday life. They will allow the participants as CPC members to enhance their knowledge of explosive hazards. The CPC members are the face of UNPOL in strengthening the rule of law in the community. UNMAS teaches participants how to identify explosive ordnance such as landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) within their respective areas. They are also taught about the possible places that are likely contaminated with explosive hazards and familiarisation with marking such areas with warning signs. The training will also continue to educate the CPC members to disseminate safety messages among the community that they belong to.

It's saddening to hear some of the participants narrate how they lost their loved ones and even their livestock due to explosive hazards in the past. Such sad stories are listened to during the lesson on the effects of explosive ordnance. Another critical lesson of the Safety Induction training is sharing the knowledge on the best practices, especially in a situation: 'What to do when someone encounters a known or suspected explosive ordnance while they are on foot?' The scenarios were extended further, and the best practices were shared with the participants.

All necessary procedures of what to do when one finds a landmine or ERW are presented to the participants. Another critical topic given to the training participants is about risky behaviours. Participants lament why some people practise unsafe and risky behaviours during the lessons. The facilitators ask random scenario-based confirmatory questions to ensure participants have grasped the training objectives.

In addition, role plays are also used so that they will remember what they have been taught. At every stage of the training, key messages are constantly repeated so that they will be embedded in the back of their minds. After one of the training sessions in Noong, Mr Peter Palek, the CPC leader in Noong, was short of words as he tried to thank the training facilitators for sharing with them such invaluable information which will help them to stay safe and preserve life, not only for themselves but even for the entire community as they vowed to go and teach the rest of the community members. Hearing such words shows how grateful the community is for the work being done by UNMAS in partnership with UNPOL. The partnership will go a long way in helping the communities stay safe.



Training for the CPC members facilitated by UNMAS EORE Coordinator

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