



UNMAS

JULY 2015

UNMAS NEWS

UNITED NATIONS DESTROYS 290 TONS OF OBSOLETE AMMUNITION IN MALI

At the request of the Malian Defence Forces, in June 2015, UNMAS completed a six-month project to dispose of 160 tons of obsolete and unserviceable ammunition, consisting of 32,500 items stored in unsafe conditions. Since 2014, UNMAS has destroyed over 290 tons of ammunition similar to this in Mali, ranging from surface-to-air missiles, rockets, mortar bombs, artillery shells and small arms ammunition. A recent request by the Ministry of Defense for the destruction of an additional 130 tons of heavy ammunition will be addressed with the launch of further disposal activities in August 2015.

The UNMAS programme in Mali is an integral part of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), which is mandated to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of national stockpiles and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons. Under this mandate, UNMAS works with national authorities to improve safety and storage at weapon and ammunition depots countrywide. UNMAS experts examine storage site security, the condition of ammunition and explosives and requirements to strengthen national capacity in safety management and explosive ordnance disposal. This vital work decreases the risk of accidental explosions and limits the proliferation of explosive items.



UNMAS/Marc Vaillant

more than mines

UNMAS SURVEY UNCOVERS AMMUNITION AND SAVES LIVES IN ABYEI

UNMAS conducts Non-Technical Survey (NTS), the collection and analysis of new and existing information about potentially hazardous areas. Through liaison with local communities, NTS identifies locations that may be impacted by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

In Agok, a territory in the disputed Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, an UNMAS NTS team received information concerning ammunition near an abandoned military barracks. Upon investigation, the team verified the presence of a large stockpile of ammunition scattered around a collapsed storage facility. UNMAS reported more than 2,400 dangerous explosive items including projectiles, rockets and mortars, and 139 boxes of small arms ammunition. Because these items had been exposed so long, the local community no longer perceived them as a threat.

Under the guidance of UNMAS experts, the abandoned munitions were safely disposed of and are no longer a threat to the community of Abyei.



UNMAS Abyei

UPDATE ON THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM

When the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA) adopted the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018, Principals emphasized the importance for United Nations entities to monitor delivery of the Strategy to demonstrate accountability and transparency, and to advance evidence-based policymaking and results-based management. As a result, the IACG-MA developed a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism and UNMAS was designated by the IACG-MA to lead its development and management. The data collected by the M&E Mechanism will inform program evaluation, show trends in the mine action sector and demonstrate progress towards the goals and objectives outlined in the Strategy.

Two rounds of data collection have been completed since the M&E mechanism launched in 2014, and findings will be published later this summer in the 2015 Report of the Secretary General on Assistance in Mine Action. Almost half of the countries and territories with a United Nations mine action presence are now providing data for the M&E mechanism, including all UNMAS programmes. Participation is set to increase with the third round of data collection in August 2015.

Funding for the development, pilot and launch phases of the Mechanism was provided by Denmark, the Netherlands and Australia.

