


### Highlights **FEBRUARY 2023**

 **142 km**  
of routes assessed as safe  
from explosive hazards



Completion marking after clearance task in Goli



**22,139**  
square meters cleared in  
the Abyei Area



Non-technical survey in Magar



**22** explosive remnants  
of war destroyed



Explosive devices recovered in Agok



**47** explosive ordnance  
risk education  
sessions provided



Explosive ordnance risk education session in Mekenis



**10** ground monitoring  
missions supported



Integrated Ground Patrol Training in Tishwin

# CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES AT KOLADIT AND LUKI

UNMAS UNISFA teams are conducting mine clearance activities in the Koledit and Luki areas near Noong village. Noong village is situated about 16 kilometres from Abyei town in a northwestern direction and near the Nymora river. The teams deployed to Noong and set up their field camp inside the UNISFA base in Noong.

The mine clearance tasking areas at Koledit and Luki were occupied by the Sudanese and South Sudanese Forces during the conflict in 2011. Both forces unconventionally placed landmines to protect their military positions. The ruins of military barracks still exist in Koledit and Luki areas. In addition, the outlying areas have trench systems and fortified positions. Since 2011, the UNMAS teams have destroyed several ERW in the area.

As recommended by UNMAS UNISFA, two suspected hazardous areas (SHA) were identified and suspected to be part of previously cleared areas between the Koledit and Luki. There is a possibility that landmines have been laid to defend the military positions on the northern side of former South Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) barracks. Also, these landmines could have been laid to block the seasonal migration routes of nomadic cattle herders (who traverse in search of water and grass) and their cattle from the northern part of the Abyei Area (Koledit waterpoint area). The local community also suspected the landmine threat to exist in the Koledit, Luki and Maker areas, where most of the fighting took place in the past.

Two UNMAS clearance teams with mechanical elements (MW240 machines) deployed to the tasking areas and commenced with the activities. Remotely operated MW240 machines are deployed to prepare the ground, followed by the deminers using metal detectors to conduct the follow-up clearance. Both machines processed approximately 55,000 square meters of ground in February, which were overgrown with highly dense vegetation. The same area was then cleared by the deminers using metal detectors. While the clearance activities were happening, the teams conducted Non-technical Survey (NTS) activities and interviewed community members in Noong village and nomadic cattle herders in Koledit and Amiet areas.

Fishing, seasonal agriculture, charcoal production, gum collection from trees, and honey collection are the primary source of livelihood for the community members in Noong village. The nomadic cattle herders are accessing the Koledit waterpoints as well as the Nymora river in search of water and grazing land. Part of the hazardous area is located next to the Nymora River in Luki and Noong.

Unfortunately, fighting in the past has resulted in the significant internal displacement of people, many of whom fled from Luki and Koledit villages in 2011. Their houses have been destroyed or vandalised. There are no signs of houses/infrastructures within those two locations. The impact on the communities is a loss of ability to undertake livelihood activities and feeling threatened or endangered. However, the deployment of UNMAS teams can bring confidence back to people who may be living in areas with the threat of explosive contamination. The successful completion of these mine clearance tasks in Koledit and Luki will facilitate the safe movement of UNISFA and other humanitarian actors in the region. Also, the local population can now access the Koledit waterpoints and adjoining grassland. The clearance of hazardous areas will also ensure the safe return and relocation of displaced persons. Completing this task will benefit local communities, their livestock, and wildlife, as baboons and monkeys live there.

In a final comment, the deputy chief in Noong village, Mr Yai Deng, stated, **"It is a good thing that you come to our abandoned villages to clear the ground. Before we were fearing to move freely to collect wood for charcoal production and carry out fishing activities. But now we can cultivate the ground and herd our livestock. This will make our lives better and safer. Thank you, UNMAS!"**



Ground preparation at Koladit



Manual mine clearance at Koladit



Non-technical Survey at the Luki's central point



Regular inspection of the ground preparation machine



Scan for more information about UNMAS Abyei

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

**CONTACT UNMAS UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!**

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