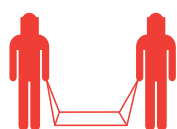


## Highlights NOVEMBER 2019

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RENEWED UNISFA AND JOINT BORDER VERIFICATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM MANDATES **S/RES 2497**

 **19.4 km** ROUTES ASSESSED AND VERIFIED  
SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARD



LAND ASSESSED BY CLEARANCE  
TEAMS AS FREE FROM EXPLOSIVES

**16,049 m<sup>2</sup>**



**231** PERSONS RECEIVED EXPLOSIVE  
ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION



**37**

UNISFA STAFF RECEIVED  
SAFETY TRAINING



**1** EXPLOSIVE DEVICE  
FOUND AND DESTROYED



PATROL SUPPORT TEAMS CONDUCTED  
**15** GROUND MONITORING MISSIONS



# Field Story: Amiet Market - The Artery for Trade



Amiet market from the air



Use of mechanical assets



Battle area clearance (BAC)



Explosive ordnance risk education session

Since 2011 and due to fighting among the Ngok Dinka and Misserya, who are the predominant tribes of the Abyei Area, not much interaction took place. In the meantime, the population of the Abyei area has grown significantly, from 100,000 in 2011 to 200,000 in 2019. Several attempts to open or establish markets for the people of Abyei ended up in unrest and clashes until 2016 when a deal was made to establish a market in the vicinity of Todach, the hidden borderline between the two tribes. UNMAS was requested to conduct clearance of the designated area and to ensure safety from explosive hazards. At that moment, three years ago, there was not a single hut or house in that area. Nowadays, Amiet market has become the main place (hub) for trade, the artery for trade between Ngok Dinka and Misseriya, but also many other tribes arriving for the same reason, to buy or sell, to meet and greet.

Amiet Market is very busy every day during the dry season which is from October to May and it expanded considerably. The growth at the market forced people to move further into the surrounding areas where clearance was not previously conducted in 2016. Approximately 4,200 people live permanently there in about 500 houses and huts. In addition to this, an estimated 450 shops opened and sell different types of goods. Of these shops, 10% are owned by the Dinka people and 90% owned by the Misseriya people. Every day, more than 2,000 people are visiting the market from Diffra and Abyei.

On 29 November 2019, UNMAS was requested to support the expansion of the market and to clear an area where patrol routes around a wider perimeter will be opened and fenced in. This will be to ensure better safety and to deter any potential attack on the market. UNMAS informed local leaders about the task to make sure that they were aware of the activities of the clearance team as well as to inform the rest of the community. Additionally, UNMAS Explosive Ordnance Risk Education teams were visiting different places where the community gathers every day and conducted safety sessions and educated the community how to react and protect themselves from explosive hazards. UNMAS teams worked every day to complete this important task. Temperatures during the days can rise up to 42C, but the clearance task did not stop integrated operations such as battle area clearance, mechanical clearance or manual mine clearance. In addition, the clearance teams did not interrupt market's routine and working hours. On Thursday, 12 December 2019, the day when UNMAS completed clearance of the expanded area of Amiet market, clearing almost 1 million square meters, a total of 578 vehicles carrying 2,068 people visited market.

This clearance did not only make safe 4,200 inhabitants of Amiet market, or the approximately 2,068 visitors and 578 vehicles on a daily basis, but it enables UNISFA to build a road and fence around the market and protect people within market from any banditry, criminals or attacks. Also, it facilitates the building of observation towers for UNISFA soldiers whom guarding the market on 24/7 basis as well as the planned installation of video surveillance system to cover entire market area. With this task, UNMAS proved that the first step prior any building or construction has to be clearance of the area and enabling all the others to thereafter safely commence their tasks.

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

**Inter-Mission: 176-3365 or 176-3860  
Sudan: +249 962 970 253, South Sudan: +211 924 268 664**