
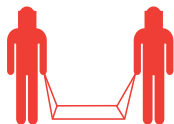




Highlights **DECEMBER 2021**

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

 **16,367 m²**
of land assessed as safe
from explosive hazards

 **2** Explosive Remnants
of War destroyed

 **3** Assault rifles
destroyed

 **148** Explosive Ordnance
Risk Education
sessions

 **9** Ground monitoring
missions supported



Battle area clearance at Rumamier TOB



Risk education through sport activities



Assault rifles prior to the destruction



Ground monitoring mission at TS-21

AHMED ABDELGADIR – UNMAS SUPPORT SERVICES ASSOCIATE

Ahmed Abdelgadir is 60 years old and he lives with his family; his wife and two children in Kadugli, South Kordofan State, Sudan. He joined UNMAS in 2016 and currently serves in the capacity of a Support Services Associate.

Ahmed says: “I’m happiest when conducting my day to day activities. Over the years my work performance has greatly improved due to the trainings, support and courses provided by UNMAS. The work environment at UNMAS is attractive and productive due to the great teamwork amongst the UNMAS colleagues making me feel like I’m part of one big family.”

Just like any work environment, it has its challenges. As the only Arabic speaking person in the team, he must be flexible and available at all times, and his speaking skills have also served as an advantage. Additionally, there are no international staff based in Kadugli and he is the only staff member at his duty station. These two factors put him in the frontline with regard to all matters that are presented to the office before they are dispatched to the headquarters.



“In order to succeed during a recent assignment to Diffra, I had to understand and interpret the tribal differences, disputes, and culture in the area and get the guidelines from the community members in order to act accordingly. This is mostly to avoid prejudice during sensitive interaction under tense and difficult circumstances. UNMAS is here to assist the communities, and not to act in a way that could offend them. It is here that my Arabic and communication skills have really helped during those interactions”

UNMAS-UNISFA fully embraces Gender & Diversity (G&D) in line with the various strategic goals of the UN, UNOPS, UNISFA and UNMAS. One of the key tasks during his ongoing assignments to Diffra is to assist in the recruitment process of national Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) and then, assess their work on the ground. From recent experience he has seen that female CLOs are more successful, because they have access to, and are able to interact with women and children within their communities. Culturally, the conservative nomadic communities do not allow male CLOs to interact with women freely and openly. As such, the impact of reaching more women and children by the employment of female CLOs cannot go unnoticed. UNMAS is supporting gender through their vacancy advertisements by stating ‘female candidates are highly encouraged to apply’. However, it is common not to find educated women in the area and UNMAS applies a flexible approach which may consider other optional requirements other than education, such as recruitment of influential and well recognized women within their respective communities.

In conclusion, the power of influence is held by local authorities, who are key to successful achievement of UNMAS goals within their own communities. Local authorities cannot be ignored or bypassed and as such, must be considered an integral part in recruitment process where flexibility must remain paramount in the way in which G&D is applied in recruitment, in order to maximise the spread of the key UNMAS safety messages.



Ahmed at work in Abyei



Ahmed in Diffra conducting community liaison

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

CONTACT UNMAS-UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!

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