

Highlights **DECEMBER 2022**

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



Manual Mine Clearance

 **65,338**
square meters cleared in
the Abyei Area



Mechanical clearance at Tajalei

 **3** explosive remnants
of war destroyed



EORE session in Joljok

 **98** explosive ordnance
risk education
sessions provided

 **49**
new UNISFA military
members received safety
training



Safety induction at the Abyei HQ

 **8** ground monitoring
missions supported



Ground monitoring mission in Tishwin

NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION AT BANTON VILLAGE



Banton Bridge Area where IDPs resettled

Inter-ethnic clashes between Twic Dinka and Ngok Dinka communities close to the southern border, between Abyei and Twic County, have unfortunately resulted in numerous internally displaced persons (IDPs). Many have fled and resettled on the northern side of Banton Bridge, close to the UNISFA Banton Base, in search of safety for themselves and their families. Households were established in makeshift shelters constructed from poles and groundsheets provided by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), while the World Food Programme (WFP) provided basic food supplies. These communities are deeply impacted, not only by the fear of violence but also by the loss of their ability to maintain their livelihoods.

In the course of December, UNMAS teams conducted Non-Technical Survey activities - a structured interview method - within the village of Banton, where the IDPs are settled. The purpose was to gather detailed information from the community, to establish the presence of any explosive ordnance contamination, and also investigate socio-economic activities and the impact the displacement had on the population. This allows a record to be generated, in support of the prioritisation of clearance in coordination with UNISFA and humanitarian actors, including sites such as schools, grazing lands and fields in the areas from which the population has fled.

While conducting house-to-house NTS activities, during the interview and information-gathering phase, the teams are conscious to be as unbiased as possible, liaising equally with boys, girls, men and women. NTS activities in Banton led to the location of one PG7 rocket on 19 December and one 82mm HE mortar on 22 December.

The UNMAS teams deployed to Banton also conducted Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions for the IDPs. Lasting an average of 40 minutes, the presentations can be adapted to target all ages and genders, explaining how to live under known threats and how to behave safely, such as by staying away from suspicious items that could be explosive devices, and what to do if explosive ordnance is discovered.

The UNMAS teams count on community liaison officers (CLOs), trained in EORE, with deep insight into local behaviour, and skills to encourage and engage community members throughout their presentations. The CLOs use an array of visual aid materials to convey their instructions, giving a realistic representation of the threats, and the messages are reinforced by the distribution of leaflets and comic books designed with the particular characteristics of communities in the southern (Dinka) and northern (Misseriya) Abyei. Empowered by this knowledge, communities are enabled to conduct daily activities such as farming, fishing, and charcoal production safely. The UNMAS teams presented EORE sessions to IDPs who settled in the area of Banton village, and they were grateful for the dedicated time spent within the community and the removal of the explosive hazard.



82mm mortar recovered on 22 December



PG7 rocket mortar recovered on 19 December



EORE session at Banton



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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