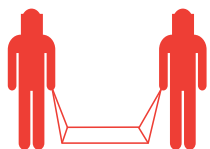




Highlights **MARCH 2021**



**Land assessed by
clearance teams as
safe from explosive**

29,060 m²



**2 Explosive
Remnants of War
destroyed**



**4 Assault rifles
destroyed**



453
**men, women, girls and
boys received
Explosive Ordnance
Risk Education**



190
**UNISFA military and
civilian staff received
safety training**

26

**Ground monitoring
missions supported**



Preparation for the mechanical clearance using MW240 in Tajalei



Manual mine clearance in Koladit



Ground monitoring mission

UNMAS CONTINUE TO MITIGATE THE THREAT FROM EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR IN ABYEI COMMUNITIES

Contamination by explosive remnants of war (ERW) resulting from the prolonged armed conflicts in the Abyei area remains a significant threat to the local population. They behave like very patient soldiers who stay alert and wait for decades to kill, maim or destroy anyone or anything coming into contact with them and as well as causing damage to the infrastructural development. It could be a child playing, a cattle herder grazing his cattle, a vehicle moving on the road or anybody going about their daily activities.

Therefore, UNMAS under as part of the UNIFSA mission, strive to make the environment safe and secure from the threat posed by ERWs to enable free mobility, household activities, voluntary internal returns and displacements, as well as humanitarian aid delivery to the populations in the area by other actors.

To achieve UNISFA's mandate of peace and protection of civilians in Abyei, UNMAS teams ensure sufficient and correct data gathering of the level of contamination in the Abyei area through surveys. Coupled with this, UNMAS is doing clearance, route assessment and delivery of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to the local populations.



Community liaison with local population



Explosive ordnance risk education

The information is collected from different gender age groups to make sure that they are all catered for and addressed. The teams conduct village to village and house to house field visits ascertaining information on the level of known ERW contamination and providing EORE safety messages targeting different age groups and the most at-risk groups regarding their level of mobility and social gender norm roles. UNMAS also continues to conduct EORE induction training for the Community Protection Committee (CPC) members to strengthen the reporting system on ERW contamination within the communities and ensure sustainability through community ownership. Two phone numbers have been provided to the CPC members as a hotline to call UNMAS in case they get any information relating to any explosive ordnances for UNMAS to respond as soon as possible.

During the induction training in Banton, CPC leader Mr Ajak Biols Jauch said: **"We are very happy with the work UNMAS and UNPOL are doing in our community; this makes us feel secure and gives us hope that we are not alone, especially when we see you coming to our villages to help us out."**

To check knowledge improvement and attitude amongst the EORE beneficiaries, UNMAS is implementing the Pre & Post EORE comprehensive surveys with some of the participants attending any of the EORE presentation sessions.

To further ensure that EORE safety messages are delivered in a more realistic and entertaining way, especially to the children, UNMAS is planning to roll out more activities through a drama playgroup in Abyei schools as soon as they reopen. UNMAS is working hand in hand with the Director-General of Education in the Abyei local administration, Mr John Ajang, who welcomed this idea and appreciated the work being undertaken by the UNMAS team. He said: **"We, as Local Authorities, feel obliged to have you in Abyei since you have been working towards the common good of our communities. We shall always pledge our support to facilitate your smooth working here in delivering service to our people any time you come to us".**

To conclude, UNMAS is working very hard to ensure that the mission's mandate to protect the civilians from any harm posed by the ERW has realised and infrastructural development is enhanced.