

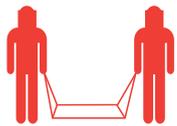


Highlights **AUGUST 2021**



Rainy season continued and clearance teams demobilised until 30 September 2021

Patrol Support Teams withdrew from team sites Kiir Adem and War Abar



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Response Team remains deployed at the Abyei HQ



Refresher training in Abyei



48 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions



Explosive ordnance risk education in Abyei



10 UNISFA military and civilian staff received safety training



Ground monitoring mission at TS-21

8

Ground monitoring missions supported

UNMAS PROMOTES GENDER & DIVERSITY AT UNISFA

UNMAS-UNISFA fully embraces Gender & Diversity (G&D) in line with the various strategic goals of the UN, UNOPS, UNISFA and UNMAS. As such UNMAS-UNISFA has its own G&D plan specifically for Abyei which focuses on five strategic objectives. One objective is that UNMAS continues to invest in a diverse, empowered and engaged workforce here in Abyei, however because the staff numbers are relatively small, it is not straight forward to create a fully balanced gender figure due to the nature of current individual posts and the length of contracts in place. Considering this, more emphasis is placed on improving the retention of the female workforce (UNMAS-UNISFA has two female and six male staff), and this is being achieved by implementing various activities such as: utilising career planning through access to various trainings, or exposure and insight into other programmes through efficient use of surge capacity to create a more rewarding work experience. UNMAS also places a lot of focus on creating a more harmonious and positive working environment.

Ms Irina Punga is the Associate Programme Officer for UNMAS in Abyei and is also the focal point for G&D. In the past 18 months, Irina has taken many initiatives of her own to fulfill the G&D strategic goals through various activities, which promote all the objectives set out in the G&D workplan. Irina took a keen interest in media production to enhance UNMAS visibility and through use of her own drone, created a spectacular aerial photograph of demining team equipment which won 3rd prize in the UN 75th photograph competition. More recently, Irina has led an UNMAS team building event, as one of the outputs required in the Abyei strategy, which was very well executed and very well received by the team.

Amongst her day-to-day work, Irina has also been involved in knowledge transfer and directional assistance to other programmes who benefitted from her wide-ranging skills, experience and her positive energy.



UNMAS - Team building event awards



Irina regularly interacts with the local population, especially women and children



Ms Irina Punga said: "Gender & Diversity is often seen as just numbers on a graph, but at UNMAS we have seen a real positive change and direction which fully embraces the culture of

inclusion, empowerment, and positive engagement."

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

CONTACT UNMAS-UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!

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