



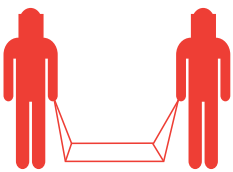
Highlights **SEPTEMBER 2021**



**Rainy season continued
Clearance teams
remobilised by 30
September 2021**



Explosive ordnance risk education continued throughout the rainy season



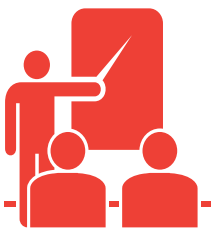
**Explosive Ordnance
Disposal Response Team
remains deployed at the
Abyei HQ**



Explosive ordnance risk education delivered by Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) in Abyei town



**27
Explosive Ordnance
Risk Education sessions**



**14
UNISFA military and
civilian staff received
safety training**



Ongoing maintenance at the Weapons and Ammunition Management facility



**5
JBVMM Ground
Monitoring Missions
supported**



UNMAS convoy relocating to JBVMM Sector 1 HQ after the forced abandonment of TS 11 Kiir Adem

UNMAS INSTALLS SAFETY MESSAGING BILLBOARDS ON MAIN ROADS THROUGHOUT ABYEI

Throughout the rainy season from July to September, UNMAS-UNISFA deployed six national Community- Liaison Officers (CLOs) who have constantly been engaging with the communities to promote safe behaviour and conduct risk education in Abyei, Agok and Diffra. The CLOs have been selected from the local communities in which they reside and have been trained by UNMAS to ensure that their communities are aware of safe practices throughout the rainy season, when operations are temporarily suspended.

In addition to relevant background information regarding population size, movements, primary livelihood, source of income and other socio-economic factors, the CLOs primarily gather information on suspected explosive hazards that could directly or indirectly impact the communities, including previous Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) related incidents, accidents, and victim details. Specific at-risk groups such as children, adolescent males, women, scrap-metal collectors, nomadic herders are identified for safety briefings. In certain situations, like in family settings, the CLOs conduct mixed group safety briefing sessions that can be more beneficial to the audience. They analyse the underlying reasons for ongoing risk-taking behaviour and provide risk education through appropriate methodologies. Thus, the population can carry on their regular activities safely.

“In Abyei, children continue to be the most at-risk group. Engaging with them to change their behaviour is often difficult. However, we are using various approaches to achieve realistic and sustainable solutions for their active participation and involvement on practicing safe behaviour. I am trying my best to highlight the importance of appropriate safe behaviour,” stated Abyei community-based CLO Agany Deng.

During September, UNMAS complemented the CLO safety briefings with the distribution of materials such as leaflets, posters, comic books, accompanied by customized face masks and T-shirts with safety messages. To enhance awareness, UNMAS is also in the process of installing customized billboards throughout northern, central, and southern Abyei along the main supply route. The first of such billboards has been installed in September at the Rumajak junction, close to Abyei town. Every day, hundreds of civilians, local tradesmen, UNISFA personnel, and other humanitarian aid workers travel across the junction to reach the Amiet market area, the prominent economic hub between the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka. The billboard features safety messaging in both written and picture form, as well as information necessary for reporting any suspicious items, including phone numbers for UNMAS and UNISFA.



Achai Kuol, a mother of three residing in the Rumajak area, has approached UNMAS teams to commend them on the safety information provided on the billboards.

Achai earns a living by cutting grass from remote regions and selling them in the nearest market, and she was unsure what to do when coming across any unknown objects that could possibly be dangerous. After seeing the billboard and attending a risk education session, Achai stated: “During the conflict, I was displaced to Agok and returned to Abyei recently. I was not sure where and to whom to report if I come across any unknown object that could be dangerous. Thank you UNMAS teams for educating us in this matter. Now I know the contact numbers to report such situation. I am going to pass this message to my family and friends”.



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