



Empowering Survivors: Education and Hope Amid Explosive Hazard Threats in South Kordofan

Before the current conflict erupted, South Kordofan state was already grappling with a hidden but deadly threat—approximately 85% of all known explosive ordnance (EO) contamination in Sudan. This pervasive danger cast a long shadow over the daily lives of its residents, limiting safe access to land, livelihood, and essential services. As conflict intensified, the situation worsened. More areas became contaminated, displacing thousands of families and forcing communities to host those fleeing violence. With security deteriorating, access to healthcare, education, and basic necessities grew increasingly challenging, deepening local vulnerability.

Amidst this fragile landscape, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), supported by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), launched an EO risk awareness training initiative focused on communities in and around Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan. Through these sessions, local people learned vital skills—how to recognize and avoid explosive devices, and how to keep their families safe from these invisible dangers.

One of the many lives touched by this program is that of Fadlalla Fadiel Mohamed. Four years ago, while herding sheep in the village of Hejerat, Fadlalla's world changed in an instant. A grenade hidden in the pasture exploded, severely injuring him.

Through the EO risk awareness training, Fadlalla found not only knowledge but also a renewed sense of purpose. The program empowered survivors like him to become active agents of change within their communities. In Kadugli, a training-of-trainers session equipped volunteers with the skills to educate others, creating a ripple effect of awareness and precaution beyond the classroom.

Today, Fadlalla is a symbol of resilience, sharing his story and knowledge to protect others from dangers he endured. His journey shows how education and community-driven action can reclaim safety amid turmoil. In a region scarred by conflict and contamination, initiatives like EO awareness training are not just saving lives—they are restoring dignity, hope, and the possibility of a safer future for generations to come.



This project was generously funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, delivered jointly by IOM and UNMAS in coordination with local implementing partners and national and local authorities to support vulnerable and crisis-affected communities in South Kordofan through an integrated human security approach and community-based programming that promotes resilience, social cohesion.