



## Building Safety: Muna's Explosive Ordnance Preparedness

When Muna, a Senior Programme Associate with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), took part in the UNMAS-IOM Training of Trainers (ToT) on Explosive Ordnance (EO) Risk Awareness in late 2024, it marked her first in-depth exposure to the dangers of explosive hazards – a knowledge that has since become vital for her, her family, and the communities she serves.

*"It was my first time learning about this. Now, the knowledge is with me, in my bag, ready to be used whenever needed – for myself, for my family, and for the people we serve."*

Muna emphasized the importance of being prepared, especially with more displaced families now returning to areas like Khartoum, Bahri, and Omdurman. As returns increase, so does the risk of encountering unexploded ordnance (UXO).



She noted that the training enhanced not only her technical understanding but also her communication skills, particularly how to share EO-related risks in a way that resonates with vulnerable populations.

"What made the difference were the pictures. It's easier for people, to remember images than words. A photo of a warning sign can stay with you, it's what helps you stay safe."



Muna remains closely connected to events on the ground in Sudan. Friends and colleagues returning to their communities often share images of suspected explosive remnants, many resembling those shown during the training.

*"When they showed us photos from the ground, it was just like what we saw during the training. That's when I realized how real it is."*

Muna looks forward to expanding her contribution with more direct awareness raising activities. She praised the collaboration between UNMAS, the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), and IOM in delivering life-saving messages across Sudan, including in hard-to-reach areas like South Kordofan.

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.