

IMPACT 2026/27

- An **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Response Team**, supported by a **Patrol Support Team (PST)**, is implementing activities in the Abyei Area during the wet season until 30 September 2026.
-  **3,989 sqm** of land released through battle area and manual mine clearance operations.
-  **3 items of explosive remnants of war (ERW)** removed and destroyed, enabling safe return of people to previously abandoned communities and reducing the risk posed by ERW on the annual migration of nomadic herdsman and their livestock.
-  **3 weapons** and **28 rounds of ammunition** confiscated by UNISFA TCC personnel and destroyed at the Weapons and Ammunition Management Facility, contributing to peace and security in the Abyei Area.
-  **230 UNISFA** troops, military observers, staff officers, UNPOL, South Sudanese & Sudanese national monitors received **Landmine & ERW awareness induction training**.
-  **245 people** men, women, boys, and girls received **explosive ordnance risk education (EORE)**.
-  **531 people** (men, women, boys, and girls) living in the Abyei Area, including nomadic people, reached by **safety briefings** conducted by local Community Liaison Officers, enhancing awareness on the dangers posed by ERW.

ABOUT

UNMAS in Support of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Since 2011, the status of the Abyei Area has remained a contentious issue between Sudan and South Sudan. Fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudan Armed Forces in the Abyei Area escalated and resulted in the total destruction of Abyei town and surrounding villages. Clashes led to the displacement of more than 100,000 people and additional contamination from landmines and ERW. Tensions in the region continue to date.

The role of UNMAS in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) originates from UN Security Council resolution 1990 (2011), which established the mission and recognised the need for demining assistance. A mine incident in August 2011, which killed four UNISFA peacekeepers and injured seven others, further affirmed the criticality of mine action as an essential mission enabler in the area of operations.



Weapons and Ammunition destruction in Dukra

UNMAS supports UNISFA in weapons and ammunition management, to mitigate the threat to peace and security in Abyei arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. The mandate of UNMAS in UNISFA is clearly stated in the various Security Council resolutions on UNISFA [1990 (2011), 2352 and 2365 (2017) and 2416 (2018)]. The most recent, resolution 2802 (2025), extended the mandate of UNISFA until 15 November 2026.

In resolution 2352 (2017), the Council demands "...that the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan continue to facilitate the deployment of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to ensure freedom of

movement, as well as the identification and clearance of mines in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ).

Following the General Assembly's endorsement of the UNISFA 2024/25 budget, the UNISFA mine action programme is now implemented directly by the Secretariat. As the designated centralized service provider for mine action services, UNMAS will continue to work within UNISFA to ensure that the programme design is adequate to deliver the mandate.

ACTIVITIES

UNMAS enables peacekeeping operations.

UNMAS non-technical surveys, explosive ordnance disposal, area clearance and route assessment activities enable peacekeeping operations, the delivery of humanitarian aid, the return of community members to previously abandoned areas and a safe migration of nomadic herders.

Explosive ordnance risk education

UNMAS delivers explosive ordnance risk education to UNISFA personnel, enhancing their knowledge of how to respond when they encounter items of ERW while conducting operations. Similar messages are delivered to communities within the Abyei Area.

Weapons and Ammunition Management

UNMAS manages the disposal of weapons and ammunition confiscated by UNISFA troops, working closely with stakeholders such as UNPOL, troop-contributing countries and national monitors from Sudan and South Sudan.

Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

Following the cessation of Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) operations after the forced abandonment of the JBVMM Headquarters in Kadugli in December 2025, and the subsequent withdrawals from Tishwin and Abu Qussa team sites in February and March 2026, UNMAS patrol support teams are no longer operational within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ). While the JBVMM mandate remains active, UNMAS maintains its readiness to support a timely response should JBVMM activities resume.



Safety Induction session for Ghanmed officers



Safety briefing in Amiet North

FUNDING

Funding of \$4.39 million to cover activities from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 has been allocated from the UNISFA.

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