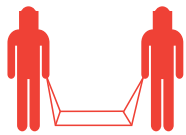


## Highlights December 2019



**189 km**

of routes assessed and verified as safe from explosive hazards



**1,022,834 m<sup>2</sup>**

of land assessed by clearance teams as safe from explosive hazards



**1 ERW**

found and destroyed in Abyei town



**1650**

men, women, girls and boys in Abyei area received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)



**71**

UNISFA military and civilian staff received safety training



**26**

Ground Monitoring Missions conducted by UNMAS Patrol Support Teams





# UNMAS-UNISFA: KEEPING THE MISSION MOVING

At the start of each dry season, UNMAS prioritizes its activities for supporting the UNISFA Dry Season Deployment Plan and ensuring that force mobility is enabled throughout the Abyei area in order for UNISFA to best fulfill its mandate. As part of the deployment plan, new Temporary Operating Bases (TOBs) are earmarked by UNISFA each year, and UNMAS is requested to verify that the locations and adjacent patrol routes are safe from explosive hazards.

“Noong – Alal – Shegei,” located in the Abyei area towards the North-West border with Sudan, was one of the routes prioritized due to its geographical importance of linking the outlying villages to the Amiet market, currently the main economic hub of Abyei. Noong is predominantly inhabited by the Ngok-Dinka tribal community while the Alal and Shegei areas are inhabited by Misseriya nomadic cattle herders. A number of explosive ordnances were recovered and destroyed close to the route near Noong in previous demining seasons. With the reported presence of armed groups in the area, the road has thus been designated as a priority for supporting the dry season deployment plan, enabling UNISFA to establish a TOB in Shegei and dominate the Abyei area towards the northwestern border with Sudan. Since the beginning of the rainy season, the road had not been used by UNISFA peacekeeping troops due to impassible conditions and wet terrain and its assessment was part of the UNMAS due diligence process to ensure roads remain free from explosive hazards.

Through non-technical surveys, numerous interviews were conducted with cattle herders, fishermen, travelers, traders, community leaders, religious leaders, adults and children. The information gathered by UNMAS teams was carefully analyzed. In total, 89.2 kilometres of route was assessed and released, as the teams concluded that there was no known threat of explosive ordnances presence. As a result, the UNISFA peacekeeping troops could safely deploy along roads previously assessed by UNMAS, instauring confidence in their capacity to implement their operations. The local communities now feel protected by the presence of UNISFA troops and conflict between the two tribal communities is averted.



Community Liaison Officer conducting interviews with the local population in Shegei area



UNMAS employs all of its assets to enable deployment of UNISFA troops and enhance force mobility



Community Liaison Officer conducting interviews with the local population in Noong area

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!  
CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY!**

**Inter-Mission: 176-3365 or 176-3860  
Sudan: +249 962 970 253  
South Sudan: +211 924 268 664**