

Highlights FEBRUARY 2019



**DEEMED SAFE FROM
EXPLOSIVE HAZARD THREATS**

7.81 km of roads

5

**EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS
OF WAR DESTROYED**

22

**GROUND MONITORING
MISSIONS**



**LANDMINE/ERW
SAFETY TRAINING
FOR UN PERSONNEL**

64



Battle Area Clearance of a former military trench in Abyei



Quality Control using LLMD within the verified Route in Tishwin area

UNMAS Integrated Clearance Team (ICT) and Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Team (IRACT) continued with clearance operations in the Abyei area throughout the reporting period.

UNMAS ICT continued clearance of a former military trench in Abyei town. On 13 February, one UNMAS IRACT completed clearance of a reported minefield in the area of Rupjaba, in southern Abyei. No evidence of landmines was found. The team proceeded with clearance activities at an additional suspected minefield in southern Abyei, in the Lopong area. In February, UNMAS ICT and IRACT assessed as safe from explosive hazards a total of 4.96 kilometres of roads and 18,088 sqm of land in the Abyei area. Additionally, five Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) were recovered and subsequently destroyed in five separate controlled demolitions.

One UNMAS IRACT previously deployed to the temporary Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) site at El Amira returned to Sector 2 HQ in Kadugli on 7 February and redeployed to Tishwin TS 21 on 19 February. In support of the JBVMM, the team commenced Road Assessment, Verification and Clearance (RAVC) of the eight newly identified patrol routes within the Tishwin area inside the SDBZ. During the reporting period, the team conducted RAVC of a total of 2.85 km. No evidence of landmines and ERW was found on the route assessed. One ERW was located approximately 25 meters away from the assessed route and handed over to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) for disposal.

With its four PSTs, UNMAS is dedicated to supporting all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ).

In JBVMM Sector 1 Gok Machar, UNMAS PSTs commenced patrols from the newly established team sites, TS 11 Safahah/Kiir Adem and TS 12 As Sumayah/War Abar. Seven GMMs were conducted from TS 11 and an additional seven from TS 12 - on 4, 7, 14, 18, 21, 25, and 28 February.

In JBVMM Sector 2, one PST continued to be on standby in El Amira while waiting for a decision to move forward to the new TS 22 at Abu Qussa/Wunkur. The team conducted refresher training sessions throughout the period.

The PST at TS 21 Tishwin continued to support JBVMM GMMs. In February, eight GMMs were conducted from Tishwin TS to the North Outer Limit and to the South Outer Limit of the Higlig-Bentiu border crossing corridor on 3, 5, 12, 14, 17, 19, 24, and 26 February.

No weapons or ammunition were received from UNISFA for destruction during this reporting period. Regular maintenance on the WAM site was conducted.

During the month of February, UNMAS delivered two MRE sessions, reaching a total of 71 men, women, boys and girls in the Abyei area.

Additionally, UNMAS provided six landmine and ERW awareness induction training sessions to 64 UNISFA staff officers and military observers, 53 males and 11 females.

Field Story: UNMAS TEAMS ARE CONDUCTING SWIFT RESPONSE TO ELIMINATE THE LANDMINE/ ERW THREATS IN ABYEI AREA

On 12 February 2019, TDI ICT (Integrated Clearance Team) received a task from UNMAS in order to investigate a reported unexploded device in Marial Achak area. This information was originally received by the UNISFA peace-keeping troops in Marial Achak.

In order to respond to this task, the ICT travelled approximately 35 kilometres East of Abyei town with the support of force protection unit (FPU) and reached Marial Achak area. UNMAS team located the reported item and identified it as an unexploded hand grenade. The device was destroyed in situ. The safe disposal of the dangerous item was enabled due to a well-coordinated effort between UNISFA, UNMAS, TDI and FPU.

It has been noted that children who were playing in the area, found this unexploded ordnance and reported it to one of the elders in order to notify the nearest UNISFA camp. But, no one was sure who had wedged the item in to the tree. This proved the success of previously conducted Mine Risk Education (MRE) session in the village.

One of the elders in Marial Achak expressed his gratitude to the team as well as UNISFA soldiers for the efforts made to destroy the explosive ordnance. He said: "Most of us know how to mark and report the explosive items. We have been taught in the past through the MRE sessions from UNMAS teams. On behalf of the community I thank UNISFA and UNMAS teams for their support".

UNMAS and its implementing partners are operating in Abyei area since 2011, thousands of explosive remnants of war have been destroyed to ensure the safety of the Mission as well as the local communities.



F1 Hand Grenade wedged into a tree Marial Achak area



Essential security brief for all the present personnel of UNMAS, UNISFA and FPU prior any demolition



Mine Risk Education activity

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

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