

Higlights July 2018

RAINY SEASON



226 m²
MANUAL CLEARANCE WITHIN THE SDBZ



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

63

MINE RISK EDUCATION



1,568 IN **42** SESSIONS



Demining within the SDBZ



UNMAS Weapons and Ammunition Site in Dukra

Under-Secretary General (USG) for Field Support Mr. Atul Khare arrived in Abyei via Kadugli on 26 July. An overview of UNMAS activities in support of JBVMM was included in the JBVMM briefing in Kadugli, where the USG expressly thanked UNMAS for assisting JBVMM in achieving their goals. UNMAS PM Mr. Leon Louw participated in the welcoming ceremony and briefed Mr. Khare on UNMAS activities upon his arrival in Abyei. The USG expressed his appreciation for the good work being done by UNMAS. The USG further met with Misseriya and Ngok Dinka traditional leadership on 26 and 27 July, where the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief stated they were willing to forego revenue derived from the oil in Abyei, as long as the land remained theirs, while the Misseriya leadership called for the establishment of joint institutions in Abyei.

UNMAS JBVMM Sector 2, Kadugli received a request from Deputy Chief of JBVMM and Sudan Senior National Monitor for clearance of approximately 7 km of road leading to an oil well near the Tishwin Team Site (TS) in the SDBZ. One UNMAS Patrol Support Team (PST) started manual clearance activities on 9 July, progressing slowly due to high metal contamination and heavily compacted soil. A total of 226 sqm were cleared and on 31 July 2018, UNMAS suspended the task until the dry season.

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

One PST from the JBVMM Sector 1 was sent to Abyei to respond for any emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) requirements in absence of demobilized IRACTs. On 5 July, this PST conducted an MRE session for the Ethiopian 19th Battalion at Dokura, comprising 32 men and 2 women. Additionally, on 30 July, the UNMAS PST retrieved a 60mm mortar opposite UNISFA camp main gate in Abyei, brought by a local from Jokyom village. The item has been secured and stored for later disposal. Remaining PST from the Sector 1 was operational and on standby for GMM; however, no requests for any GMM were received.

JBVMM Sector 2 continued to undertake GMMs with two UNMAS PSTs, which are rotating on a bi-weekly basis. In July, 10 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 the 1, 3, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 22, 24 and 31 July 2018. Additionally, PSTs commenced a manual mine clearance operation requested by the Sudanese senior national monitors, and 226 sqm were cleared. The clearance task was then suspended on 31 July.

Neither weapons or ammunitions were confiscated in July, therefore no weapon and ammunition destruction was conducted at the WAM site, but maintenance of the site was carried out on a regular basis.

Two UNMAS supported teams from a local NGO, conducted MRE activities throughout Northern Abyei Area, and informed community members, nomads, and internally displaced people (IDPs) on the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war. MRE was delivered to 1,568 men, women, boys and girls through 42 sessions.

UNMAS delivered 2 landmine and ERW risk education sessions to 63 UNPOL and UNISFA military observers as part of their induction training.

Field Story: Mine Risk Education reaches more communities in Abyei through UNMAS partnership with local NGO

In order to provide Mine Risk Education (MRE) to communities in the northern part of Abyei, UNMAS works with implementing partner Global Aid Hand (GAH), a local Non-Government Organisation (NGO). With its two MRE teams and 10 members, including men and women, GAH was accredited by the Sudanese National Mine Action Centre, and it is the first ever MRE organisation and principal UNMAS partner for MRE in the northern area of Abyei. Therefore, it was imperative to reach as many communities as possible and provide them with lifesaving messages and ways to prevent and protect themselves from dangers posed by explosive remnants of war (ERW). GAH was tasked to meet and teach community leaders, talk to community members and internally displaced persons, disseminate MRE messages among teachers and children in schools, and warn traditional nomadic people in Abyei area what to do if they encounter ERWs while in the field with their cattle.

UNMAS provided approved MRE materials to GAH, which were disseminated throughout the duration of the project. The project ended successfully on 31 July 2018. In total, 14,468 beneficiaries (3,081 boys, 2,579 girls, 4,963 men and 3,845 women) have received MRE, in 40 communities. GAH has also started broadcasting MRE messages on the local Radio Baladi, a campaign which will continue until October.

One of the aims during the project's span was to strengthen the capacity of affected communities and to establish community-based MRE through training of community leaders, social workers, teachers, volunteers and members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs). This resulted in 84 trained community members.

Public information efforts have been further supported through the organisation of six public gatherings featuring sports, traditional dances, and songs in Al-Naam market, El-Dair, Diffra, Um Khier, Mekkenis, and Al-Raddaya villages in North Abyei.

In addition to this, GAH distributed UNMAS-provided equipped school bags to all schools in northern Abyei.

Although this project has now come to an end, UNMAS is dedicated to further deliver MRE in Abyei Area for all communities, especially those at the highest risk such as nomads, children and IDPs.



MRE given to a local community members



MRE through interactive games



MRE beneficiaries in Diffra

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