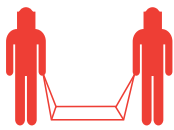


Highlights June 2019

WEAPONS DESTROYED 3

2 ERW DESTROYED 



**ASSESSED AS SAFE FROM
EXPLOSIVE HAZARD THREATS**

8,249 m²



MRE SESSIONS 29



Integrated Ground Patrol Training session



Mine Risk Education in Goli

In June, UNMAS clearance teams assessed 8,249 m² of land as free from explosive hazards, of which 864 m² was for Battle Area Clearance (BAC) of a former military trench in Abyei town and the remainder 7,385 m² was a quarry in Dukra, to be utilised by UNISFA. Two Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) were located and destroyed in the Abyei Area during the reporting period.

Due to the upcoming rainy season, the teams demobilised on 30 June and will remobilise after the rainy season, from 1 October. However, one PST remains operational within the Abyei Area, available for any emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) requirements.

With its four PSTs, UNMAS is dedicated to support all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ). In total, 16 GMMs took place and were supported by the PSTs in June.

In JBVMM Sector 1 - Gok Machar, the PSTs continued patrols at TS-11 Safahah/Kiir Adem and TS-12 at Sumayah/War Abar. Bad weather and road conditions hampered GMM activities, therefore both teams had to withdraw from their respective team site locations on 13 June 2019 and move to Gok Machar. The GMMs at TS-11 were continued from Gok Machar; however, road conditions did not allow the GMMs at TS-12 to continue. Six GMMs were conducted at TS-11, on 3, 7, 17, 20, 24 and 27 June, and one GMM at TS-12 on 3 June.

In JBVMM Sector 2 - Kadugli, one PST continued to be on standby in Kadugli and rotate with the team based in Tishwin at TS-21 on a regular basis. The PST at TS-21 Tishwin continued to support JBVMM GMMs. In June, nine GMMs were conducted from Tishwin TS on 2, 4, 9, 12, 16, 18, 23, 25, and 30 June 2019.

Three Integrated Ground Patrol Training (IGPT) sessions were organised in June, two in JBVMM Sector 2, and one in JBVMM Sector 1. In total, 62 Force Protection Unit members, 5 Military Observers, and 8 National Monitors from Sudan and South Sudan attended the sessions.

One PST from JBVMM Sector 1-Gok Machar travelled to Abyei on 27 June to serve as emergency EOD capacity during the rainy season stand-down, as of 1 July.

On 17 June, UNMAS conducted the destruction of three confiscated weapons, 13 rounds of ammunition, and three magazines. Regular maintenance of the WAM facility was also conducted on 17, 24 and 27 June 2019.

During the month of June, UNMAS conducted MRE through direct presentation and public information sessions. In total, 29 MRE sessions were conducted, reaching a total of 1,225 men, women, boys and girls in the Abyei area. Additionally, UNMAS provided 6 landmine and ERW awareness induction training sessions to 141 UNISFA staff officers and military observers (136 males and 5 females).

As part of MRE outreach activities, 136 equipped school bags were distributed to Wunrok Primary School, and children at Rummamier School were rewarded for their participation in a UNMAS-organised drawing contest focused on MRE.

Field Story: UNMAS Recognise the Need To Preserve Animals

Local and international people recognise UNMAS work through clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and destruction of confiscated weapons and ammunition. Throughout its daily work, UNMAS team members are striving to visit all the communities, talk to all their community members, women, men, boys, girls, minority members, and hear from them about potential risks posed by the explosive devices. Also, UNMAS teams collect all the other information about challenges related to their cattle, water, food, land or health. This information is not collected just to gratify them, but also to share it with the other partners and colleagues that can help, such as UNISFA, IOM, WFP, OCHA, UNICEF or FAO. The work that UNMAS teams do in general is an important part in several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and all the UNMAS team members are proud of it.

UNMAS in Abyei Area also recognise the need to preserve and protect indigenous animals of the area along with other wildlife. Very often, UNMAS deminers and demining machines encounter various snakes' species, warthog's lairs, hedgehogs or lizards. The team members do not try to hurt them; but instead, try to relocate them from the hazards posed by clearance activities. Some animals remain in the locality, and approach the demining team's camps for food etc.

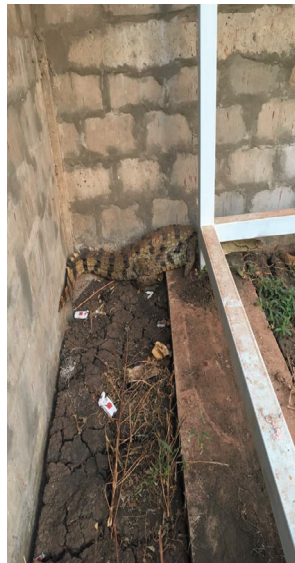
An abundance of wildlife exists within UNISFA camps and share the same habitat with the people and residents of the camps. Some of them are dangerous such as venomous snakes or crocodiles; plus many others, although harmless to humans, appear threatening to many personnel; for example, large monitor lizards.



Recently, staff members of UNMAS Implementing Partner TDI noticed a particularly large monitor lizard with an unusual object on its head, moving about on the periphery of their camp, without any specific intent. When they approached, they realised that the lizard's head was trapped in a large discarded food tin and could not see where to move and starvation would occur if it did not receive assistance. Several of TDI's staff approached the lizard and managed to remove the tin with a broom stick without harming the monitor lizard.

Usually monitors avoid humans and don't normally approach people in general.

UNISFA Security reported that a two-meter crocodile was seen moving around in close proximity to soldiers while conducting their duties at the guard towers of the UNISFA base in Abyei. Several of UNMAS Implementing Partner personnel went to the area and managed to locate the crocodile laying under one of the guard towers. The crocodile was cornered, captured and humanely restrained and transported to an area in the proximity to the village of Noong. The crocodile was released in a non-populated area known to contain a number of other crocodiles within the habitat.



These two examples above highlight that UNMAS do more than just demining activities - and play an important role in wildlife preservation & support in Abyei and hope to encourage more people to appreciate the natural habitat of the animals they encounter within the UNISFA mission.

"Animals and plants aren't just valuable for their own sake - they're also part of a wider natural environment that may provide food, shelter, water, and other functions, for other wildlife and people." (WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature)

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

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