

## Highlights FEBRUARY 2020



**41.6 km**

**ROUTES ASSESSED AND VERIFIED  
SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS**



**5 ASSAULT RIFLES  
DESTROYED**

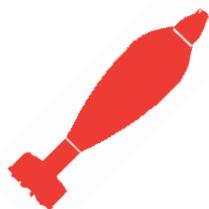


**247,50 m<sup>2</sup>**

**LAND ASSESSED BY CLEARANCE  
TEAMS AS FREE FROM EXPLOSIVES**



**66 UNISFA STAFF RECEIVED  
SAFETY TRAINING**



**3 EXPLOSIVE DEVICES  
FOUND AND DESTROYED**



**24 GROUND MONITORING MISSIONS  
CONDUCTED BY PATROL SUPPORT TEAMS**



# Field Story: Enabling Safe Environment

After the most recent conflicts in Abyei town in 2011, a battle trench line that crossed through the town had been left abandoned with an unknown threat posed by explosive hazards. Since the establishment of UNISFA mission in 2011, internally displaced people have been returning to Abyei and its surrounding areas, encouraged by the safety and security that UN troops bring to the locality.

With such a large influx of people into Abyei, the town has grown exponentially in recent years, and locations in and around the old battle trench have become more densely populated with lots of construction of huts and homesteads. In many cases, the IDP settlers backfilled the trench with soil and rubbish without giving any thought to the potential explosive hazard threat. Some dwellings were actually built directly on top of the trenches after backfilling.

In 2018, a local resident unearthed an ERW item whilst constructing his house, and subsequently UNMAS commenced with clearance of the trench in the immediate vicinity of 160 or so huts, plus a further 80 dwellings close to the trench. In February this year (2020), a significant number of IDPs who fled the nearby Kolom village some 20 km away from Abyei, following a serious attack, have also settled in the vicinity of the trench. UNMAS reacted immediately by providing them with risk education messages and explained how the IDPs can protect themselves from the danger posed by explosive devices. Also, the team continued with clearance of the area, recovering and destroying two explosive devices during the period of risk education activities. Through the clearance of the trench, UNMAS has enabled people to live in a safe environment free from explosive hazards. Also, UNMAS has enabled construction work and rehabilitation through the safe construction of homes.



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

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT US**



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

The United Nations Mine Action Service is the United Nations entity on explosive hazards and the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system. UNMAS provides critical support to the protection of civilians, peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and development, allowing UN personnel to rapidly deploy, and refugees and internally displaced persons to safely return to their homes. UNMAS is hosted by the Department of Peace Operations. UNMAS supports the UNISFA mandate, ensuring Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) freedom of movement as well as the identification and clearance of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ).