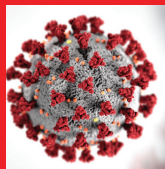


Highlights MARCH 2020



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS implemented all WHO and UNISFA recommended measures, scaling down community exposure and enforcing distancing requirements within all activities. As of 24 March, all Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Safety Trainings have been suspended.



63.5 km

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



53,008 m²

**LAND ASSESSED BY CLEARANCE TEAMS
AS SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS**



198

**UNISFA STAFF RECEIVED SAFETY TRAINING
(until 24 March)**

637

**LOCAL BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED MRE
(until 24 March)**

21

**EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
FOUND AND DESTROYED**

27

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



Field Story: Safe Environment Through Demining

Koladit is a small village near Noong, located in an area which is rich in grass and currently used by both the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities. While the Misseriya community uses the area to graze cattle, the Ngok Dinka community uses it for tree-cutting in order to make charcoal and sustain their livelihood, as attested by Mr Nur Deng: "I am cutting trees and making charcoal in this area, to sell in Amiet market and earn money for my children's school costs in Abyei town."

On 21 February 2020, UNISFA peacekeepers in the Noong camp reported an explosion in the vicinity of Koladit village. UNMAS immediately responded, tasking one of its teams to conduct emergency clearance and investigate the cause of the explosion. By means of manual mine clearance the team prepared a safe area, investigated the incident site and, through the evidence collected, concluded that an anti-tank mine had been detonated by one of the herder's cows. Manual mine clearance continues to date, as the clearance area has been expanded. During the month of March, one additional anti-tank mine and one item of abandoned explosive ordnance were located and destroyed.

Mr Abudabaker Hamid, a businessman from Amiet Market, informed the teams that the area was a conflict zone for a long time and according to his knowledge, landmines were laid to deny access to defensive positions and to water and cattle crossing points. He was very thankful to UNMAS, stating: "I own most of the cattle in this herd, and the cow that was killed belonged to my brother, Alhady Mohammed Habesh from Amiet. We have been grazing our cattle in this area for a long time. What you are doing now is very important and commendable as it removes the danger from this grazing area."

The task is currently ongoing and has already reduced the immediate danger posed by landmines and other explosive hazards, through clearance and marking of the area. The benefit will be fully reaped by many of the people in the area including farmers, charcoal makers, women collecting firewood or fetching water, and nomadic herds-men. Moreover, UNISFA's force mobility and the safety of the peacekeepers will be further enhanced through this clearance task. The completion of this task further demonstrates UNISFA's capability to deliver on its mandate for the Protection of Civilians.



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

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT US**



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).