



Highlights

UNMAS responds to all requests from UNISFA.

UNMAS resumed explosive ordnance risk education skits to children in the northern Abyei to spread lifesaving messages.

92% of explosive ordnance risk education beneficiaries demonstrates an increase in knowledge between safe and unsafe practices.

The Mine Action Service continues to provide and maintain 16 mine-protected vehicles for UNISFA troops under a right-of-use agreement.



Explosive ordnance risk education skit in Diffra



Integrated ground patrol training in Tishwin



Ground preparation in Luki

Stats **FEBRUARY 2024**

7 Kilometers of routes in the Abyei Area assessed and verified as safe from explosives enabling mobility of the mission and safe patrols

32,397 Square meters of land made safe from explosive hazards

12 Ground Monitoring Missions supported by UNMAS ensured full implementation of the JBVMM mandate

50 Explosive ordnance safety briefings sessions provided among the Abyei Area community members

UNMAS EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TEAM ENHANCES A SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR UNISFA PEACEKEEPERS AND SUPPORTS THE UNISFA MANDATE IN THE ABYEI AREA

The Abyei Area is strategically important, being the home of oil fields, farmland, and pastures. The area straddles the border between Sudan and South Sudan and is claimed by both countries. Since April 2022, hundreds of thousands of people in the central and southern parts of the Abyei Area have been displaced due to inter-communal clashes over disputes focused on problems with the proposed border, the local administration, and economic challenges in southern areas of Abyei.

The recent outbreak of fighting in the southern sector has resulted in an increased number of explosive remnants of war (ERW), such as hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms ammunition, found lying in and around affected villages. These ERWs hamper the safety of movement and endanger people's lives. They can be extremely unstable and volatile. Injuries can occur (sometimes fatal), when people are farming or undertaking construction work and come into contact with ERW.

In February 2024, an UNMAS team responded to multiple reports of ERW in Agach, Sitak, Abathok, Majbong, Banton, Khadian and Akcenial villages in the southern part of the Abyei Area. Explosive ordnance disposal was conducted to eliminate the items reported.

By removing ERW from the patrol routes and community engagement areas, UNISFA peacekeepers mobility is enhanced, in a much safer environment. It also facilitates the safe delivery by humanitarian agencies of much needed aid and relief. Furthermore, it allows the citizens on and around Abyei to live an everyday life, without the fear of ERW. On 26 February 2024, a UNISFA patrol in the Agach area, sector south, reported two ERW to UNMAS along the route between Majbong and Athon. An EOD team immediately responded, investigated the items, and identified them as RPG-7 rockets, which were recently fired and failed to detonate. Additionally, on 27 February, another munition was reported near the Banton bridge (found later by UNMAS to be an extremely dangerous Type-69 bounding fragmentation high explosive rocket). The EOD team successfully destroyed all of these ERW in a controlled and safe manner. Such a swift response by UNMAS allows UNISFA to implement its mandate more effectively by providing safe mobility for the force. Since these interventions by UNMAS, following the recent inter-communal violence in the southern part of the Abyei Area, one of the Community Protection Committee (CPC) officers from the Majbong area, Mr Deng Wein, (who had reported on several ERWs) stated: "Thank you to the UNMAS teams for your quick response to destroy these deadly explosive items. With your quick response, we can also assist UNISFA in implementing their activities safely".

UNISFA remains fully committed to mandate delivery, particularly with the Protection of Civilians. UNMAS affirmed the criticality of mine action, as an essential mission enabler in force mobility, through the rapid response to, identification of, and destruction of ERW throughout the entire Abyei.



Route and area assessments



RPG-7 found and destroyed on 26 February



Type-69 found and destroyed on 27 February



Safety briefing in Banton

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!
CONTACT UNMAS UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!
TELEPHONE NUMBER: +211 92 422 4805 (MTN)**