

IMPACT



4,661 kilometres of roads and **9.45 million square metres** of land within the Abyei Area assessed as **safe** from explosive hazards, enabling peacekeeping operations and the delivery of humanitarian aid.



4,567 items of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and **26,981 rounds of small arms ammunition** removed and destroyed, enabling safe return of people to previously abandoned communities and reducing the risk posed by ERW on the annual migration of nomadic herdsman and their livestock.

4,802 obsolete ammunition handed over by the military contingent and subsequently destroyed.



73,543 small arms ammunition, 30 weapons and **480 hand grenades** received and destroyed from departing TCCs.



420 confiscated weapons and **24,215 rounds of small arms ammunition** destroyed at the **UNISFA Weapons and Ammunition Management Facility**, contributing to peace and security in the Abyei Area.



14,682 UNISFA troops, military observers, staff officers, UNPOL, South Sudanese & Sudanese national monitors received **Landmine & ERW Awareness Induction and JBVMM Integrated Ground Patrol Training**.



261,401 men, women, boys, and girls living in the Abyei Area, including nomadic people, reached by **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education**, enhancing awareness on the dangers posed by ERW.

ABOUT

UNMAS in Support of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Since 2011, the status of the Abyei Area has remained a contentious issue between Sudan and South Sudan. Fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudan Armed Forces in the Abyei Area escalated and resulted in the total destruction of Abyei town and surrounding villages. Clashes led to the displacement of more than 100,000 people and additional contamination from landmines and ERW. Tensions in the region continue to date.

The role of UNMAS in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) originates from UN Security Council resolution 1990 (2011), which established the mission and recognised the need for demining assistance. A mine incident in August 2011, which killed four UNISFA peacekeepers and injured seven others, further affirmed the criticality of mine action as an essential mission enabler in the area of operations.

UNMAS supports UNISFA in weapons and ammunition management, to mitigate the threat to peace and security in Abyei arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

The mandate of UNMAS in UNISFA is clearly stated in the various Security Council resolutions on UNISFA [1990 (2011), 2352 and 2365 (2017) and 2416 (2018)]. The most recent, resolution 2708 (2023), extended the mandate of UNISFA until 15 November 2024.



Mural by local cartoonist in Abyei on Peacekeepers Day

In the resolution 2352 (2017), the Council demands "...that the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan continue to facilitate the deployment of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to ensure freedom of movement, as well as the identification and clearance of mines in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ).

ACTIVITIES

UNMAS enables peacekeeping operations.

UNMAS non-technical surveys, explosive ordnance disposal, area clearance and route assessment activities enable peacekeeping operations, the delivery of humanitarian aid, the return of community members to previously abandoned areas and a safe migration of nomadic herders.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

UNMAS delivers explosive ordnance risk education to UNISFA personnel, enhancing their knowledge of how to respond when they encounter items of ERW while conducting operations. Similar messages are delivered to communities within the Abyei Area.

Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

UNMAS Patrol Support Teams deploy together with the Ground Patrol Teams of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, allowing those teams to move freely and protecting them against any explosive hazards that are encountered in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone.

Weapons and Ammunition Management

UNMAS manages the disposal of weapons and ammunition confiscated by UNISFA troops, working closely with stakeholders such as UNPOL, troop-contributing countries and national monitors from Sudan and South Sudan.



Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Dukra



Safety Induction Training at UNISFA HQ

FUNDING

Funding of US\$9.59 million to cover activities from 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 has been received through UNISFA assessed budget.

For more information:

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