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United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

AUGUST — SEPTEMBER 2013 UPDATE: UNISFA



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UNMAS training session (August 2013)



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Explosive remnants of war (Abyei)

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is mandated by UN Security Council resolutions 2075 and 2104 to ensure freedom of movement for the Joint Border Verification & Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), as well as the identification and clearance of mines in the Abyei Area and Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) and to contribute to supporting the protection of civilians.

During the rainy season, field operations are curtailed due to mobility limitations; therefore, UNMAS uses this time to provide capacity development training and prepare for upcoming operations. In August and September, UNMAS activities included:

- Assisting the African Union Border Programme Technical Team (AUBPTT) to develop action plans for marking the “zero line” in the SDBZ. The plans outline responsibilities for ensuring routes and demarcation points are free of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).
- Providing mine awareness training to the AUBPTT; and sharing cartographic data/maps of hazardous areas near border demarcation points.
- Conducting induction briefings and awareness training on mines and ERW for approximately 60 new UNISFA Military Observers (MILOBs).
- Providing mine/ERW awareness training for civilian staff from UNISFA and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

If you see an item of concern, do not touch it. Contact UNMAS immediately.

JOINT BORDER VERIFICATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM

JBVMM monitoring teams are comprised of five elements: National Monitors from Sudan and South Sudan, UNISFA MILOBs, Force Protection and UNMAS. UNMAS will supply Patrol Support Teams (PST) consisting of CASSPIR mine-protected vehicles and trained crews with limited explosive ordnance disposal capability. The JBVMM teams will function within the SDBZ, with sector headquarters in Kadugli, Buram, Gok Machar and Malakal.

UNMAS activities during August and September included:

- Providing training on explosive hazards to 24 JBVMM officers, including an introduction to Land Service Ammunition identification, mines and ERW, and Improvised Explosives Devices; and training to 21 officers on health and safety in the field, and hostage survival.
- Operations Managers and Team Leaders from UNMAS’ implementing partner, The Development Initiative (TDI), provided field-based training and re-training for JBVMM PST members in the Sector 1 and Sector 2 team sites at Gok Machar and Kadugli.
- The UNMAS PSTs in Gok Machar and Kadugli remained on stand-by for emergency mine action tasks in their areas of responsibility.
- Once UNMAS technical personnel and assets are fully established in the sector headquarters, additional training will be carried out with all JBVMM monitoring team personnel and equipment to increase the safety and security of the JBVMM teams.



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TDI field training (above) and JBVMM training (below)



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