



## Highlights **APRIL 2022**

Bulk demolition of obsolete ammunition from TCC commenced on 29 April and **36** projectiles destroyed

**2** weapons' safes handed over to UNPOL

**16** Armored Personnel Carriers provided to new UNISFA military contingents



Weapons' safes handover ceremony



**26** assault weapons confiscated by UNISFA and destroyed by UNMAS



**10** explosive remnants of war destroyed



Weapons destroyed at UNMAS facility in Dukra



**49** new UNISFA military members received safety training



Safety session at UNISFA compound in Abyei



**7** ground monitoring missions supported



Preparation for ground monitoring mission at TS-21



# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION IN THE ABYEI AREA

Seventeen years ago, on 8 December 2005, the United Nations General Assembly declared that the 4th of April shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

In keeping with the 2022 theme of "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home", UNMAS celebrated International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action through various activities in the UNISFA area of operations which commenced with an event and celebratory speeches of the Acting Head of Mission & Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Olufemi Sawyerr and Chief of Mine Action Programme, Nico Bosman.

Furthermore, UNMAS announced a photo competition inviting all UNISFA and UN agencies, Funds and Programmes' local and international staff, uniformed and civilians from the Abyei Area to take part in the competition. The competition ran from 21 March to 4 April with prizes being awarded to the winners. **"Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this very important event which has allowed us to take a moment to think about our safety and for those around us through the work that UNMAS is doing"** said Emmanuelle Horvat, as she accepted her prize.

A drawing competition for children in the local community was also conducted with children taking part in the competition. The drawing competition was centered on the 2022 theme of "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home". UNMAS Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Coordinator, Rose Muhindo said, **"The competition has drawn considerable interest in the work that UNMAS is doing in Abyei with regard to explosive ordnance risk education"**.

Sports activities were conducted within the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) area of operations and its two active team sites. In Tishwin the teams arranged a football day and in Abu Qussa the teams had a volleyball match with the opposing teams promoting the mine awareness messages and the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

At the UNISFA camp a display and some practical demonstrations by UNMAS and UNMAS implementing partner, The Development Initiative (TDI) staff was conducted at the cafeteria hall. Various demining equipment, as well as dummy explosive remnants of war and mines were on display, resulting in very positive feedback and raising awareness because "seeing is believing" as stated by one uniformed UNISFA staff during the display.



Acting Head of Mission & Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Olufemi Sawyerr giving the speech



Volleyball match in Abu Qussa



Display within UNISFA compound in Abyei

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!**

**CONTACT UNMAS-UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!**

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