



United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

JULY 2013 UPDATE—UNISFA



©2013, TDI

TDI Risk Awareness session (April 2013) and marking sign.



©2013, Indra Bhat

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is mandated by UN Security Council resolutions 2075 (November 2012) and 2104 (May 2013) to ensure the Joint Border Verification & Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) freedom of movement, 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, UNISFA mine action activities are curtailed due to movement limitations throughout the Abyei area. UNMAS makes use of this time to review and update its mine action procedures, prepare for upcoming operations, and to integrate new staff into the programme.

In 2013, UNMAS and its mine action partners identified and destroyed more than 750 explosive items in the Abyei area from six of the seven different categories of explosive munitions including: mortars of various calibre, projectiles, anti-personnel landmines, rocket motors, fuses, hand grenades, and small arms ammunition. Given the wide range of residual threats to communities, humanitarian personnel and UNISFA, UNMAS will continue its work in the coming season to promote awareness and address the threats.

**If you see an item of concern, do not touch it.
Please contact UNMAS immediately.**

JOINT BORDER VERIFICATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM

The JBVMM monitoring teams are comprised of five elements: National monitors from Sudan and South Sudan, UN Military Observers, 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.

Mine action activities during the month included:

- UNMAS conducting patrol skills training for 26 national monitors and international military observers in coordination with the JBVMM's Training Unit.
- Operations Managers and Team Leaders from UNMAS' implementing partner, The Development Initiative (TDI), provided field-based training and re-training for all 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.



©2013, UNMAS
JBVMM training (above) and TDI field training (below).



©2013, TDI