



UNMAS

NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.

in support of United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

**AUGUST
2018**

Highlights August 2018

**RAINY SEASON
CONTINUED**



ASG OROLSI
MR. ALEXANDER ZOUEV
&
UN POLICE ADVISER
MR. LUIS CARRILHO
VISITED ABYEI AND DIFFRA



**LANDMINE/ERW
SAFETY TRAINING
FOR UN PERSONNEL**

12



Explosive items ready for destruction



JBVMM visiting Tishwin and experiencing harsh conditions caused by heavy rains



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ASG OROLSI, Mr. Alexander Zouev, and UN Police Adviser, Mr. Luis Carrilho, visited UNISFA from 5 to 7 August. They were welcomed in Abyei by UNISFA officials, including UNMAS PM Mr. Leon Louw. During a trip to Diffra on 6 August, ASG Zouev, accompanied by the UNMAS team, personally met and commended a local hero, Amira, who bravely saved her and her friends' lives from an exploding hand grenade, with knowledge gained through UNMAS risk education. He presented Amira with gifts from UNMAS and local NGO, Global Aid Hand.

On Wednesday, 15 August, the Diffra Oil Installation (northern Abyei area) was attacked by a group of armed men, and four RPGs and one OG7 were fired at the installation, of which only one RPG exploded. The alleged leader of this armed group, Mohammed Alegn, is sought by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) for various crimes. The Diffra Oil Installation is a sensitive issue, as it is protected by armed Sudanese Oil Police, in breach of the peace agreements and Security Council resolutions for Abyei.

The UNISFA Principal Officer, Mr. Alexander Rose, met with the UN Principal Officer for the Sudan Integrated Operations Team (IOT), Ms. Daniela Kroslik, and the AU High Level Implementation Panel in Addis Ababa to discuss the UNISFA mandate reconfiguration, after a Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) meeting related to JBVMM was postponed due to the ongoing peace negotiations in South Sudan.

With its four Patrol Support Teams (PSTs), UNMAS is dedicated to supporting all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the SDBZ.

One PST from the JBVMM Sector 1 was sent to Abyei to respond to any emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) requirements in absence of demobilized IMACTs. Subsequent to the attack on the Diffra Oil Installation in northern Abyei, UNMAS PST retrieved and destroyed 4 unexploded ordnance (UXOs) from the UNISFA base in Diffra. Additional information provided by UNISFA states that, prior to UNMAS being informed, the UXOs were brought into the Diffra base by the Ethiopian Battalion-17 demining engineers.

JBVMM Sector 2 continued to undertake GMMs with two UNMAS PSTs, which are rotating on a bi-weekly basis. In August, 6 GMMs were conducted from Tishwin TS to the North Outer Limit and to the South Outer Limit of the Higlig-Bentiu border crossing corridor on 7, 12, 14, 26, 27, and 29 August 2018.

Neither weapons or ammunitions were confiscated in August, therefore no weapon and ammunition destruction was conducted at the WAM site, but maintenance of the site was carried out on a regular basis.

MRE activities in Abyei communities and schools were not held in August, due to the UNMAS partners' stand-down period and limitations posed by the rainy season. Within UNISFA camp in Abyei, UNMAS delivered one landmine and ERW risk education session to 12 UNPOL and UNISFA military observers as part of their induction training.

Field Story:

Welcoming Guests From New York and Presenting UNMAS-UNISFA Activities & Success

Alexander Zouev, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations visited UNISFA from 5-7 August 2018. He was welcomed in Abyei by UNISFA officials, of which the UNMAS Programme Manager was part of.



Gifts given to Amira



Proud Amira with UNMAS cap received from ASG Zouev

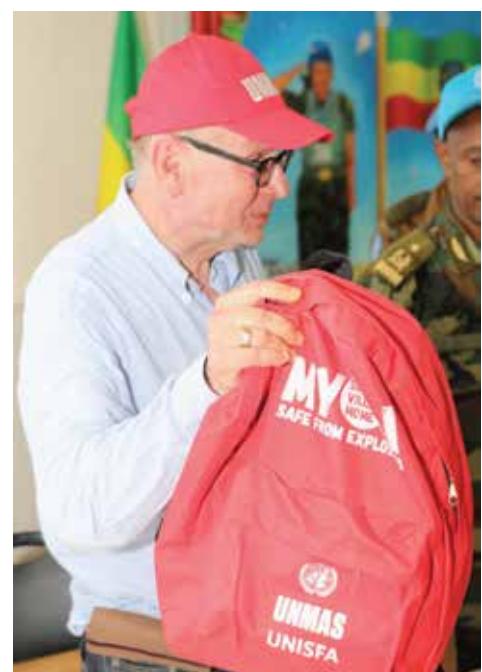


UNMAS Programme Manager with Amira and local NGO Global Aid Hand



Mr. Zouev welcomed by UNISFA officials and UNMAS PM

During his visit, ASG Zouev personally met and commend a local hero, Amira, for her bravery and her knowledge of safety guidelines that recently saved her and her friends' lives from an exploding hand grenade. He presented Amira with gifts from UNMAS and local NGO, Global Aid Hand.



Mr. Zouev with the UNMAS gift awarded to Amira



UNISFA Leadership briefing Mr. Zouev

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!
CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY!
Inter-Mission: 176-3365 or 176-3860
Sudan: +249 962 970 253, South Sudan: +211 924 268 664**

The United Nations Mine Action Service is the United Nations entity on explosive hazards and the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system. UNMAS provides critical support to the protection of civilians, peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and development, allowing UN personnel to rapidly deploy, and refugees and internally displaced persons to safely return to their homes. UNMAS is hosted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. UNMAS supports the UNISFA mandate, ensuring Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) freedom of movement as well as the identification and clearance of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ).