




Highlights **JANUARY 2022**

 **63 km**
of routes assessed as safe
from explosive hazards



Route assessment convoy returning from Hedid

 **1,741 m²**
of land assessed as safe
from explosive hazards



Quality assurance visit to Koladit minefield

 **1** Explosive Remnant of
War destroyed



Non-technical survey in Um Khariet

 **127** Explosive
Ordnance Risk
Education
sessions

 **9** Ground monitoring
missions supported



Ground monitoring mission at TS-21

ENABLING AND PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS

On 29 January, United Nations Police Operations Officer, Mr Solomon Ademassie was conducting regular patrol within Abyei town and its outskirts. While patrolling the area of Nynchour, situated west of Abyei town and in the vicinity of the Nymora River, he was approached by two local residents. They informed him that they had spotted a suspicious metal device and showed him the exact location. Having previously attended the UNMAS safety briefing, he immediately informed his colleagues and advised the two local residents to also inform other members of the community about the suspected metal device. He reported the suspected device to UNMAS Abyei office whilst ensuring that no further disturbance was caused to the device.

Upon receiving information from Mr Solomon, the UNMAS Abyei office instructed its team to respond immediately. The team was mobilized with the necessary equipment and travelled to the Nyalchour area to investigate the location. The team recovered one explosive hazard; an 82 mm mortar that was partially buried in the ground, and the tail unit was exposed above the ground level. After careful assessment, the team found out that the device was fired but had not exploded. Therefore it was not safe to move and had to be destroyed in situ in a controlled environment. The team made reasonable efforts to minimize damage to the environment and natural resources. The mission air operation centre was notified about the demolition prior to and after the demolition. The team also commenced community liaison and announced the demolition to the local authorities and the nearby community members.



Explosive hazard reported by the local community members



Excavation of the hazard



An example of 82 mm mortar

The two informants who live in the area where the explosive device was found, expressed their gratitude to UNMAS and UN police for their prompt response. Once the demolition task was completed, the team informed Mr Bol Deng, one of the informants, that the threat had now been eliminated.

Mr. Bol Deng thanked the UNMAS team and said, **"I was worried about using the foot-path near the mortar. Now I feel safe since the danger has been eliminated. Children from our neighborhood play in the area almost every day, our mothers and sisters cut grass, we make charcoal and hunt as well, and nomads access the area in search of grazing for the cattle and water. This is a huge relief for all of us here. Thank you very much for your hard work that makes our lives safe from explosives."**

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

CONTACT UNMAS-UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!

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