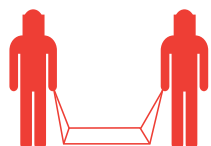




Highlights **APRIL 2021**

UNMAS celebrated UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Support to Mine Action and organised virtual 'Mine Action Week's Festival'



Land assessed by clearance teams as safe from explosive hazards

58,278 m²



2 Explosive Remnants of War destroyed



Non-technical survey in Luki



2 Anti-personnel mines destroyed



1,142 Men, women, girls and boys received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education



Manual mine clearance in Koladit



16 UNISFA military and civilian staff received safety training



Ground monitoring mission

22

Ground monitoring missions supported

UNMAS CONTINUES TO SEEK INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) according to International Mine action Standards refers to “activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines and ERW by raising awareness and promoting behavioral change, including public information dissemination, education and training, and community mine action liaison.” EORE is one of the best ways to teach people at risk, whilst also gathering data about explosive devices. There are various tried and tested approaches for the delivery of EORE, however here in Abyei, we have found an innovative method that has proved to be highly successful, since its inception and delivery.

UNMAS in Abyei came up with a storyline involving a fox that doesn't pay attention to danger, which is easily understood by anyone, especially children. The story was made into a comic story that was then published in Arabic and English language to easily be understood by all people throughout the entire Abyei Area. As COVID-19 pandemic took hold, UNMAS in Abyei designed customized face masks using the same 'EORE' graphics from the comic book, which could be disseminated during EORE sessions and provide a constant reminder of the fox story to the recipients. UNMAS is also in process of preparing radio messages in Arabic, English and Dinka languages to be broadcast on local Abyei radio which feature the comic book's message.

The last step in this innovative approach to EORE, and perhaps the most tangible, has been the organisation of local drama group plays in Abyei Area, primarily for children in schools and local communities, which feature the foxes in the comic book acting out the story. The first drama plays were organized in April in the southern part of Abyei. The plays will run up until end of June. UNMAS also decided to mainstream its gender perspectives, by ensuring equal number of male and female actors was involved into the plays.



Photos of the drama events as well as distributed comic books and leaflets

Bojan Vukovic, UNMAS Programme Officer and focal point for EORE stated, “These plays demonstrate our creativity for delivering something novel, yet effective, within the Abyei area. We are trying to limit the numbers of children to 20 per play (to observe COVID-19 mitigation measures), however we run three to four plays per session to educate as many children as possible within the various communities or schools. The children really enjoy the plays, and they receive colourful masks and comic books. For most, it's perhaps the first time they've seen such a fun and educational activity in their lives. Most rewardingly, the children seem thrilled and proud of being part of our EORE project. We will continue these plays and strive to develop more innovative ways to deliver EORE. We are also planning to run the plays throughout May/June in the northern region of Abyei in the area of Diffra, hoping to reach a target audience of 3,000 children.”