



Highlights

Two Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams commenced mobilization for operations for the upcoming dry season.

One Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Response Team remained responsive to explosive hazard mitigation with the Patrol Support Teams enabling ground monitoring missions in the JBVMM.

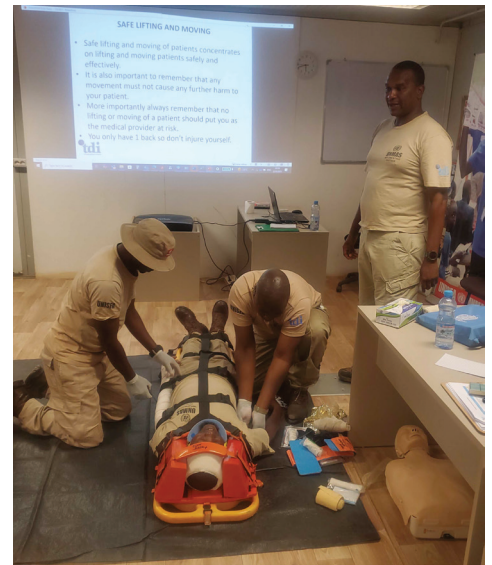
Six Community Liaison Officers, representative of the Abyei Area's demographics, raise community awareness of explosive hazards and act as focal points for reporting.



Explosive ordnance safety briefing



Ground Monitoring Mission in Tishwin



Medic refresher training

Stats **SEPTEMBER 2025**

101 Newly arrived uniformed and civilian members of UNISFA received safety induction briefing

34 Safety briefing sessions conducted by local Community Liaison Officers

17 Ground monitoring missions supported by UNMAS ensured full implementation of the JBVMM mandate



HIDDEN DANGER UNEARTHED: SWIFT ACTION PREVENTS POTENTIAL TRAGEDY AT UNISFA ABYEI

On 15 September 2025, a team from RA International (RAI) arrived to carry out their daily duties. The team was tasked with clearing out an office to prepare it for use as a storage space. This office had previously served various purposes: housing National Monitors, functioning as a COVID-19 immunization center, and later as a storage facility, before being abandoned for approximately a year.

At around 09:00 AM, while removing old boxes and long-standing debris to an awaiting pickup truck, one team member discovered a strange metallic object hidden beneath the clutter. Unaware of the danger, the RAI worker picked up what was later identified as a PG-7 HEAT rocket, an Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO) mistaking it for harmless scrap. He began walking toward the truck, carrying the device, unnoticed by others who were busy with the cleanup.

Mr. Michael Teng, an officer from the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), happened to pass by and spotted the worker. Having received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) training from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Mr. Teng immediately recognized the explosive device. Remembering the training, he acted swiftly and decisively: he ordered the worker to stop, instructed him to carefully place the item down, and ensured that no one else touched it. He then alerted his duty officer, photographed the device, and sent the images to UNMAS Abyei, which promptly dispatched an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Response Team to the scene.

Upon arrival, the EOD Response Team of UNMAS implementing partner TDI secured the site and conducted a risk assessment. They determined the device was safe to move and transported it to the Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) storage facility for later disposal. Additionally, the TDI team conducted a thorough search of the office, surrounding grounds, and the already-loaded garbage truck to ensure no other explosive devices had been overlooked. Thanks to Mr. Teng's vigilance and training, and the rapid coordination between UNDSS and UNMAS, a potentially deadly accident was successfully averted.

As a mitigation measure, UNMAS, through TDI, scheduled EORE safety sessions for all RAI international and national staff. This training ensures that every team member is equipped with the knowledge to effectively respond to hazardous remnants of war.

Mr. Teng from UNDSS said: **"The knowledge I gained from EORE sessions helped me immediately recognize the danger when I saw the RAI local labour unknowingly carrying an explosive device. By stopping him and taking prompt action, I was able to prevent what could have been a catastrophic accident."**



Photos: Cleanup, thorough check of the office, safety induction and explosive device found



**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!
CONTACT UNMAS UNISFA IMMEDIATELY!
TELEPHONE NUMBER: +211 92 422 4805 (MTN)**

