



Highlights

One Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Team (IRACT) continued implementation of the dry season deployment plan.

One Patrol Support Team (PST) withdrew from TS-21 Tishwin and supported the withdrawal of personnel and assets from Abu Qussa's TS-22 to Abyei

National Community Liaison Officers are actively communicating within their communities, providing safety messages and collecting information on any explosive hazards found.



Safety Induction Training



Ammunition demolition in Makir

Stats **FEBRUARY 2026**

49 Kilometers of routes in the Abyei Area assessed and verified as safe from explosives enabling mobility of the mission and safe patrols

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

48 Explosive ordnance risk education sessions conducted in the Abyei area

20 Explosive ordnance items were recovered and destroyed

*** HIGHLIGHTS ***



INTEGRATED MINE ACTION SUPPORT TO THE WITHDRAWAL AND CLOSURE OF ABU QUSSA TEAM SITE

In February 2026, UNMAS/TDI was tasked to deploy a technical capacity to Abu Qussa to enable the withdrawal of personnel and assets from Team Site 22 to Abyei following the drone attack in Kadugli, which prompted precautionary operational adjustments and redeployment measures within the mission area. The road that was selected for this withdrawal was suspected to contain explosives hazards based on a Hazard report generated in 2019.

Considering that the selected withdrawal route was suspected to contain explosive hazards, the objective was to assess this route first and thereafter, verify and clear the route if necessary. This activity was conducted as per the best practices, processes and procedures as described and in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), UNISFA Technical Standards and Guidelines (TSG) and TDI Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Interactions with the local authorities during the subsequent Non-technical Survey (NTS) activities, initially in the village of Wunkur and later in the village of Alel, revealed that the road, including the 6 km stretch that could not be assessed previously, is being used regularly by various vehicles (including trucks) and serves as the main supply route between Jamjang and Wunkur. It was also established that no explosive ordnance was encountered and no related accidents occurred since the one in 2017 involving the military truck.

Based on the obtained and substantiated information, team was confident to commence the physical assessment of the road. The assessment was conducted over two working days, and included systematic inspection of drainage systems, road shoulders and verges. No evidence of explosive hazard presence on the road was identified, and as such the road was classified as free from explosive hazard.

Road deemed as safe from explosive hazard opened way for the UNISFA Vietnam Engineering Team to commence the road reparation activities. Considering that there could be a potential explosive hazard (although not validated) outside the road, the team committed to support the engineering team and provide the explosive threat mitigation support throughout the reparation activities. This support entails ensuring that the engineering team remained on well identified safe areas throughout the reparation work and ensuring that areas requiring road expansion/widening are assessed/verified/cleared by UNMAS team beforehand.

Before the final closure of the Abu Qussa Team Site, the team conducted a comprehensive Battle Area Clearance (BAC) within the compound to confirm the absence of explosive hazards. This activity involved a systematic inspection of all containers and storage facilities, verification beneath structures, and checks throughout previously utilized operational areas.

This proactive clearance ensured that no residual explosive contamination remained prior to the site's handover and subsequent departure, contributing to a safe, responsible, and compliant operational closure.

The UNMAS team conducted a controlled demolition of explosive ordnance in Wunkur, addressing both previously recorded and newly identified items. Several ERW items had been documented in 2023, and during the current deployment, additional explosive hazards were located through NTS activities. Some items that had been previously marked in earlier assessments were found to have been removed from their original positions, necessitating renewed verification and disposal. In total, 15 explosive ordnance devices were destroyed included PG-7 HEAT rockets, 120 mm high-explosive mortar rounds, 60 mm high-explosive mortar rounds, Type 69 anti-personnel bounding fragmentation rockets, and point-detonating fuzes. The safe destruction of these explosive items significantly reduced the risk of accidental detonation, unauthorized handling, or unsafe storage within the Wunkur area, contributing to improved safety for both UNISFA personnel and nearby communities.

Conclusion

The integrated activities carried out in February 2026 delivered significant strategic and humanitarian outcomes. These efforts enabled the safe and orderly withdrawal of the Abu Qussa Team Site, ensured the protection of UNISFA personnel and engineering assets during the movement, and mitigated explosive hazards along the withdrawal route. In addition, improving safety and strengthening community confidence in the surrounding areas. Overall, the mission illustrates the essential role of mine action as both an operational enabler and a critical civilian protection mechanism in complex security environments.



Items destroyed in Wunkur

During a period of heightened local instability, the proactive and coordinated approach of UNMAS TDI ensured that the withdrawal and closure of the Abu Qussa Team Site were executed responsibly and securely. Through comprehensive route assessment, verification, clearance activities, proactive mine action support, NTS, BAC, and the controlled demolition of explosive threats, the team delivered tangible safety benefits for both UNISFA personnel and local civilian populations. This underscores the vital importance of integrated mine action in facilitating operational transitions while enhancing stability, security, and civilian protection across the Abyei Administrative Area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) between Sudan and South Sudan.

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