



## Highlights

**One Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Team (IRACT), reinforced with one Patrol Support Team (PST), continued implementation of the dry season deployment plan.**

**All recovered explosive ordnance was successfully destroyed by UNMAS.**

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



Interactive explosive ordnance risk education activity in Dungoup



PG7 recovered in Jouljok

## Stats **MARCH 2026**

**591** Community members received lifesaving explosive ordnance risk education messages within the Abyei area

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

**44** Explosive ordnance risk education sessions conducted in the Abyei area

**20** Explosive ordnance items were recovered and destroyed

## FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS

For personnel newly arriving at the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), understanding the environment they will be working in is essential. In areas affected by past conflict, explosive remnants of war can still pose risks. For this reason, awareness and preparedness remain the first line of defense for those joining the mission.

In March, newly deployed personnel took part in safety induction sessions designed to introduce them to key risks they may encounter while working in the field. These early orientations help newcomers understand the operating environment and the precautions needed to stay safe while carrying out their responsibilities. The newly deployed Pakistan Battalion (PAKBATT) personnel had a fair opportunity to participate in these trainings, ensuring they were well prepared from the very beginning of their deployment.

As part of the induction programme, participants received Landmines and Explosive Ordnance Safety Induction training.

The sessions were delivered by trainers from The Development Initiative (TDI), a contractor supporting the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). The training focused on helping personnel recognize explosive hazards and to understand what actions to take if they encounter suspicious items. The sessions resonated strongly with participants, particularly as many reports of explosive remnants of war have been recorded in areas under their responsibility.

During the sessions, participants learned about the types of explosive remnants of war (ERW) that may still be found in the area. Trainers also explained simple but important safety steps such as avoiding unfamiliar objects, keeping a safe distance, and reporting any potential hazards to the appropriate authorities. These practical measures can help prevent accidents and ensure personnel know how to respond safely.

The role of UNMAS and TDI in delivering these sessions has been important in helping equip newly deployed personnel with knowledge that can protect them and others. By providing clear and practical guidance, the trainers help ensure that participants are better prepared for the realities of working in the field.

Following the training, facilitators had the opportunity to engage with the PAKBATT Assistant Training Officer, CPT Suleman Shahzad, who expressed appreciation for the initiative. He noted, **"I am very delighted that the troops have gone through this kind of training. It is very crucial and very helpful. Everything that has been shared will be put to good use. This will not only save our lives but also the lives of the community in general. We can't thank UNMAS enough for such an insightful presentation and demonstration."**



Interview with CPT Suleman Shahzad

In addition to the Safety Induction Training sessions, trainers from UNMAS and TDI also supported the delivery of Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) training. The training brought together participants from different parts of the mission, including Military Observers, United Nations Police (UNPOL), personnel from the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), and civilian staff. The sessions focused on strengthening awareness, personal safety, and how to respond to different situations that may arise while working in the field.

These activities in March highlight the importance of early training for newly deployed personnel. By building awareness and sharing practical knowledge, the sessions help ensure that mission staff are better prepared to work safely and confidently in their new environment.



Safety Induction Training in Todach



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