



WORLD WITHOUT MINES

BUILDING RISK AWARENESS



Photo: DanChurchAid

Nyuwa Buda, South Sudan: Thanks to the support of our donors, schoolchildren are being informed on the danger of mines.

„I CAN SAVE LIVES”

South Sudan may be the world’s youngest state but it is already engulfed in an extremely bloody civil war. World Without Mines is committed to informing civilians on the dangers posed by mines, duds and left-over munitions.

Anthony Ibrahim teaches at the common school in Nyuwa Buda, a small village north of the South Sudanese capital Juba. To us his story is proof that we are on the right track: World Without Mines is committed not only to demining but at the same time to increasing awareness among civilians about the lethal dangers that wars confront them with.

Until recently Ibrahim could only observe, day after day, how much the children suffered from the civil war: „They saw soldiers right in front of our schoolhouse. They were afraid and worried about what might happen.” But he also feared for the children’s lives when there were no soldiers about. The army had mined the area around

Nyuwa Buda and the savanna was strewn with live ammunition. Ibrahim knew that the children liked to play with the gleaming metal parts.

So he was very glad when we, together with our local partner organisation DanChurchAid, sent a risk education team. As Ibrahim said, „the trainers taught us how to recognise the different types or remnants of war and whom we should inform.”

Yet Ibrahim wanted to learn more about the risks associated with mines and other weapons, so he underwent training to become a community focal point for all related questions. „The specialists provided me with more technical knowledge, along with teaching materials that I can put to



Photo: DanChurchAid

In his village, teacher Anthony Ibrahim plays a key role in increasing risk awareness among children and teenagers.

Photo: Jan Møller Hansen



Children and teenagers learn to recognise mines and other war material.

Photo: DanChurchAid



The young risk facilitators share their knowledge with friends.

good use in class with the children and in conversations with grown-ups.”

Paying for school with scrap metal

The inhabitants of Nyuwa Buda are not the only people whose survival depends partly on our commitment. In the past months, in addition to many others we have sensitised Emmanuel Sebit Kenyi and Anna Mudada to the risks represented by remnants of war.

Emmanuel attends a primary school near Wadi Luri. So far, he has survived by collecting scrap metal. „It paid for my school fees as well as the books and supplies I need,” he explains. His biggest source of scrap metal has been abandoned ammunition. What Emmanuel found he took home, not realising that doing so „put my own life and that of my family in danger”.

Messenger for risk consciousness

Emmanuel only became attentive to the great danger involved when he met our team. He was horrified and exclaims, „Since

then I’ve stopped gathering unknown objects!” Thanks to World Without Mines, he now knows the dangers and is proud to be able to share this knowledge with others. „In my school, I’ve become the ambassador of mine risk education,” he beams.

Anna Mudada fled to South Sudan from Congo in 1995. She wanted to escape the war in her homeland, not knowing that she would find herself in a new conflict. During her flight a tragic accident occurred: a woman in her group unintentionally pressed the trigger of a rifle and shot another refugee. As Anna notes, „It could just as easily have been me who got killed.”

Since then Anna has lived in the vicinity of the capital, Juba, and is regularly faced with similar situations. „Many people have guns because of the civil war,” she notes. Marked by the tragedy she witnessed, she has repeatedly tried to draw others’ attention to the risks involved. „But since I didn’t know anything, I couldn’t really help,” she laments.

That changed in May 2017 when she came into contact with World Without Mines. „I received intense training and a handbook explaining everything I had to know,” she says. „Today I’m proud to be able to inform people around me competently about how to handle weapons and munitions. That way I can save lives.”

South Sudan: our success from 2015 to 2018 in figures

- **49 889 people** have received explanations on risk tailored to their profile
 - **790 adult risk facilitators** have been trained
 - **467 young risk facilitators** have been trained
 - **168 weapons finds** have been reported to the authorities and to mine-clearing teams.
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Photo: The HALO Trust

For years mines made Eneris Chaioaka's land unusable.

„OUR LAND FEEDS US”

In Zimbabwe the Chaioaka family can farm their fields again without worry – thanks to World Without Mines.

Eneris Chaioaka, on her farm in Chapasuka, looks frail at first glance. But in these early morning hours she is vigorously yanking out weeds between the peanut plants. She is not sure of her exact age but does know that she must be over 70. Taking a break, Eneris says, „This piece of land belongs to me. My son Tobias owns the one next to it. Before the mine-clearing team came, I couldn't plant a thing. The land was sown with three rows of mines.” These originated in the war of independence, in the 1970s, and were part of one of the world's densest mine belts.

Eneris' son Tobias lives nearby with his wife and five children. He grows corn, sorghum and cotton. „I suspected there were mines on a certain part of my land,” he remembers. „That's why I left that area unworked. But I made a big mistake, because there were also mines on the part of my land that I ploughed. If the mines hadn't been planted so deep, I could have paid for my recklessness very dearly.”

Actually Tobias knows how dangerous mines are and what damage they can wreak. His neighbour has been totally blind since tripping a mine. Livestock too repeat-

edly fall victim to the insidious weapons. Since his childhood Tobias has seen hundreds of cows and oxen killed by explosions.

„Now, where the mines have been cleared, I feel safe,” Tobias says. „And so does the whole village, not just me. At last we needn't be afraid to walk in our fields any more! They are everything to us: they feed us!”

Please support demining in countries like Zimbabwe today with a donation.

Thank you so much!



Photo: The HALO Trust

With your donation we can provide real, direct help to people like Tobias Chaioaka and his family.

