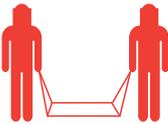


Highlights August 2019



**RAINY SEASON
CONTINUES**



**EMERGENCY EXPLOSIVE
ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TEAM
ON STANDBY IN ABYEI**



**UNISFA STAFF
RECEIVED RISK
EDUCATION **35****

The rainy season continued in the region, limiting movement and activities in the Abyei area.

UNMAS Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) are on stand down for the duration of the rainy season and will remobilise at the end of the rainy season in October.

With its four PSTs, UNMAS is dedicated to support all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ). In total, eight GMMs took place and were all supported by the PSTs in August 2019.

In JBVMM Sector 1 - Gok Machar, the PST continued to support patrols from Gok Machar at the location of TS-11 Safahah/Kiir Adem and SDBZ. PSTs supported GMMs conducted on 1, 5, 9, 13, 15, 19, 27, and 30 August 2019. Inaccessible road conditions did not permit GMMs at TS-12.

In JBVMM Sector 2, one UNMAS PST at TS 21 in Tishwin was on standby, as GMMs could not be conducted due to South Sudan National Police Forces preventing access into the SDBZ impeding freedom of movement. One UNMAS PST in Kadugli conducted Integrated Ground Patrol Training (IGPT) for 28 JBVMM staff from 25 to 27 August. The PSTs in Sector 2 are rotating on a bi-weekly basis.

One PST from the JBVMM Sector 1 is on standby in Abyei to respond to any emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) requirements.

UNMAS delivered two landmine and ERW risk education sessions to 35 (33 males and 2 females) UNPOL and UNISFA military observers as part of their induction training. Due to weather and road conditions, MRE activities were not delivered in local communities.

A high-level delegation from NY visited Abyei, Kadugli and Gok Machar from 25 to 30 August in order to assess operational readiness and military and police capabilities within UNISFA and JBVMM. UNMAS briefed the delegation on UNMAS activities.



Training session conducted by UNMAS



Regular inspection of the UNMAS fleet



UNMAS team during OPS Planning Workshop in Abyei

Field Story: The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and UNMAS Patrol Support Teams



UNMAS Patrol Support Team

UNMAS has fully deployed four Patrol Support Teams (PSTs) in support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) to JBVMM headquarters and the two Sector Headquarters in Gok Machar and Kadugli. The PSTs are equipped with Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs), and crewed by a demining team, to safely transport the JBVMM ground patrols in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ). Each PST consists of six demining team members who are trained to conduct any immediate mine & explosive remnant of war (ERW) clearance in order to ensure that all routes used for a Ground Monitoring Mission (GMM) are safe and accessible. Also, any landmines and ERW found or reported within the SDBZ are removed and destroyed, in accordance with UNMAS-UNISFA accredited procedures. Each PST supports the JBVMM Ground Patrols which consist of a Force Protection Unit (FPU), International Military Observers (MILOBS) and National Monitors from both Sudan and South Sudan.

Prior to any GMM, all new members of the patrol (FPU, MILOBS and National Monitors) complete an introductory training conducted by UNMAS; Integrated Ground Patrol Training (IGPT). This training is crucial to all patrol team members, as it provides mission critical information covering all the aspects of the upcoming GMMs such as: overview of the JBVMM; role and responsibilities; actions if stopped by unknown and armed elements; road block; loss of communication; ambush and hostile crowd; action on traffic accident; MPV breakdown; all landmine & ERW safety and actions during any related incident; medical evacuation drills; emergency Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) procedures; and basic field living procedures within or away from Team Sites (TS).

In cases where landmine & ERW clearance requirement exceed the capacity of the PSTs, UNMAS deploys Integrated Route Assessment & Clearance Teams (IRACTs) equipped with more advanced clearance equipment, including ground preparation machines (GPMs) and advanced ground penetration landmine detectors. To maximise clearance efficiency during TS construction, GPMs were used to speed up the process (where manual detection can be slow in dense vegetated areas), in particular at TS-11 in Kiir Adem and TS-12 War Abar.



CASEVAC exercise during a Ground Monitoring Mission



Ground Monitoring Mission - Inside the Mine Protected Vehicle



Manual Mine Clearance



Using ground preparation machine in clearance process



Battle Area Clearance of one of the routes within SDBZ

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, DO NOT TOUCH IT!
CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY!**

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Sudan: +249 962 970 253, South Sudan: +211 924 268 664**



The United Nations Mine Action Service is the United Nations entity on explosive hazards and the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system. UNMAS provides critical support to the protection of civilians, peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and development, allowing UN personnel to rapidly deploy, and refugees and internally displaced persons to safely return to their homes. UNMAS is hosted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. UNMAS supports the UNISFA mandate, ensuring Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) freedom of movement as well as the identification and clearance of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ).