



**NEEDS  
DRIVEN.  
PEOPLE  
CENTRED.**

**NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2018**

**in support of UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR ABYEI (UNISFA)**

## **HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER 2018**

**End of rainy season**



**Remobilisation and reaccreditation of  
the Integrated Road Assessment and  
Clearance Teams (IRACTs)**

**UN Day: 24 October**



**Landmine/ERW Training  
78 UN Personnel**



*UN Day: UNMAS conducting Mine Risk Education*



*UN Day: UNMAS Community Liaison explaining UNMAS activities*

The UNMAS Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACTs) have remobilised after the rainy season stand down period. After conducting refresher training and preparing for re-accreditation, UNMAS IRACTs have completed and passed their operational accreditation. The teams will commence activities on 1 November.

With its four Patrol Support Teams (PSTs), UNMAS is dedicated to supporting all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ). During October, the re-accreditation process of the PSTs commenced, which will ensure licenced operations for another year.

One PST from the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) Sector 1 returned to Gok Machar, after being temporarily deployed to Abyei for emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) during the rainy season. Both PSTs from the Sector 1 were thus operational and on standby for GMMs during the month of October; however, no requests for any GMM were received.

JBVMM Sector 2 continued to undertake GMMs with two UNMAS PSTs, which are rotating on a bi-weekly basis. In October, 8 GMMs were conducted from Tishwin Team Site (TS) to the North Outer Limit and to the South Outer Limit of the Higlig-Bentiu border crossing corridor on 2, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30 October 2018.

A Joint Reconnaissance Assessment Team from Kadugli visited Alerie on 3 October to obtain information on the security situation in the proposed JBVMM team site at Abu Qussa. As per the information received, the area of Abu Qussa is under control of two rebel groups, one from the SPLM-N and another from South Sudan; thus, the security of the recce team beyond Almera (18km to Abu Qussa) could not be guaranteed.

On Sunday, 7 October UNMAS Chief of Operations accompanied UNISFA on a reconnaissance mission to the current UNAMID base in Buram, where the new JBVMM Sector 3 headquarters is to be established.

UNMAS PSTs are on stand-by for new developments towards the full operationalization of JBVMM as per the Joint Peace and Security Mechanism (JPSM) decisions.

Within the UNISFA camp in Abyei, UNMAS delivered four landmine and ERW risk education sessions to 78 UNPOL and UNISFA military observers and civilians as part of their induction training, out of which 2 women and 76 men.



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# OCTOBER 2018 HIGHLIGHT



## REACCREDITATION

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### INTEGRATED ROAD ASSESSMENT AND CLEARANCE TEAMS

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The first step in the reaccreditation process is organisational training, for which a Training Management Package is submitted to UNMAS for approval and acceptance. During training, UNMAS performs external quality assurance. At the end of the training period, the organisation submits a Training Declaration, stating that their teams are ready for accreditation. During the accreditation process, UNMAS checks if the teams adhere to the International Mine Action Standards, National Technical Standards and Guidelines, as well as UNMAS-approved and accredited Standard Operating Procedures. 100% of all equipment is also checked for functionality and serviceability.



In order to be reaccredited, teams have to successfully pass the UNMAS external quality assurance evaluation and prove their skills in all areas:

- Non-Technical Surveys (NTS)
- Technical Surveys (TS)
- Mine Risk Education (MRE)
- Route Assessment, Verification & Clearance (RAVC)
- Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) Clearance
- Integrated Mechanical Operations
- Battle Area Clearance (BAC) - surface and sub-surface
- Manual Mine Clearance (MMC)
- Emergency Ordnance Disposal (EOD) & Demolitions
- Medical Support



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

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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 Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ).