



**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER 2018

Rainy season winding down



Remobilization of the Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT)

Reaccreditation of the Patrol Support Teams (PSTs) for JBVMM



**Landmine/ERW Training
66 UN Personnel**



PST deminer during reaccreditation of the PST in Abyei



UNMAS Casspir vehicle coming to the rescue of a UN ambulance

The UNMAS Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) remobilized by the end of September, after the rainy season stand down period.

With its four PSTs, UNMAS is dedicated to supporting all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the SDBZ. During September, the reaccreditation process of the PSTs commenced, which will ensure licenced operations for another year.

One PST from the JBVMM Sector 1 remained in Abyei to respond to any emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) requirements in absence of demobilized IRACTs. The remaining PST from the Sector 1 was operational and on standby for GMM.

JBVMM Sector 2 continued to undertake GMMs with two UNMAS PSTs, which are rotating on a bi-weekly basis. In September, 7 GMMs were conducted from the Tishwin team site.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir signed a final peace deal with main rebel leader Riek Machar on 12 September, formally ending a five-year war. The deal was mediated by Sudan and signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Abyei community organized a peaceful demonstration in front of the UNISFA camp on 20 September. The purpose of the demonstration was to show support for UNISFA in light of the Security Council discussion of the Letter dated 20 August 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/778).

The Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) of Sudan and South Sudan extraordinary meeting called by the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) was held in Addis Ababa on 24 September. The outcome document addressed the 6 benchmarks of Security Council (SC) Resolutions 2412 and 2386.

Based on the JPSM outcome document, the Government of South Sudan will establish a team tasked to sensitize communities to enable UNISFA ground movement from Gok Machar to SDBZ and the re-establishment of Team Sites (TS) Safahah/Kiir Adem and As Sumayah/Wierayen in JBVMM Sector 1. In JBVMM Sector 2, the Abu Qussa/Wunkur TS must be established in October. Together with the currently operational Tishwin TS, the aforementioned team sites would address the SC's requirement of 4 team sites.

The two governments agreed to redeploy forces out of the SDBZ in 4 locations by mid-November and confirmed that all 10 border crossings are open and safe, for which each country will establish custom and migration offices. Two additional border crossings were identified, Kosti-Renk-Nile crossing and Talodi-Tonja. The opening of the Timsahah-Buram corridor should be facilitated by UNISFA.



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UNMAS in Abyei and the Sustainable Development Goals



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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 (ERWs) in the Abyei area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ).