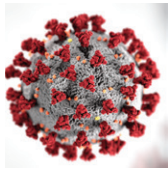


## Highlights AUGUST 2020

Following the UNMAS-UNISFA plan of operations, two Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) and one Integrated Clearance Team (ICT) are on stand down for the duration of the wet season. During this period, one emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response team is operating from the UNISFA HQ in Abyei.



UNMAS continues to implement and comply with all UNISFA measures for mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the wellbeing of staff and implementing partner personnel.

**4** PATROL SUPPORT TEAMS OPERATIONAL AT FOUR JBVMM TEAM SITES



**7** GROUND MONITORING MISSIONS (GMMS) CONDUCTED IN JBVMM SECTOR 1



**H&S PLAN SUBMITTED**  
OFFICE HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN SUBMITTED IN LINE WITH GLOBAL REQUIREMENTS

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US**





# Ground Monitoring Missions in COVID times

As an integral part of UNISFA's support to the JBVMM, UNMAS deploys Patrol Support Teams (PSTs) equipped with Mine-Protected Vehicles (MPVs) and manual demining capacity in all active JBVMM Team Sites (TS). Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS continues its support of UNISFA by enabling JBVMM Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) to be safely conducted while following all WHO-recommended safety protocols. Together with the Ethiopian Force Protection Unit, UN Military Observers and National Monitors from Sudan and South Sudan, UNMAS ensures the safety of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), overcoming all of the challenges faced, as attested by the UNMAS PST Team Leader, George Nyamasoka: "As the rainy season is in full swing the team had to negotiate difficult road and wet conditions to assure that the Ground Monitoring Missions continue."



Road conditions during the rainy season poses a major challenge to conducting GMMs

GMMs at TS 11 in Kiir Adem, JBVMM Sector 1 resumed on 27 July 2020 after a three months suspension due to the outbreak of the pandemic. During the month of August 2020, the team conducted seven GMMs. The rain was not the only challenge presented to the team, as the COVID-19 outbreak has seen new measures being implemented to limit the spread of the disease to the patrol team members. The patrol strength has been reduced to accommodate less members in response to WHO requirements, such as social distancing. Additionally, the CASSPIR MPVs are also disinfected before and after each patrol outing.



UNMAS team medic checking temperature of each patrol member prior to embarking on a patrol

Each morning before embarking on the patrol, all members have their temperature checked by the UNMAS PST medic, as a means of containing the spread of the virus. If any patrol team members show a high temperature or flu-like symptoms, they are not allowed to go on the patrol. All members have their hands sanitized when boarding the vehicles, not only at the start of the patrol, but also whenever the team stops during the patrol. It is also mandatory that all members wear face masks at all times during the patrol. Before each patrol, the UNMAS PST medic briefs the patrol members on the COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures and necessary actions for reducing the spread of the virus.



Social distancing imposed by UNMAS teams during briefings

Despite the challenges being encountered, all UNMAS PST team members are committed to seeing the successful implementation of the JBVMM mandate and assisting the Mission in bringing peace and stability to the border region.

