

Highlights December 2018



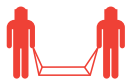
11 Mine Risk Education Sessions
534 participants



3 Landmine/ERW Safety Training sessions for UN personnel



42.4 km of roads
deemed safe from explosives



203,446 m²
deemed as safe from explosives

During the month of December, UNMAS Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) conducted battle area clearance (BAC) and road assessment tasks at locations and on roads set as priority by the mission, and also assisted the Patrol Support Teams (PSTs) in JBVMM Sectors 1 and 2 towards the establishment of new team sites.

UNMAS teams assessed as safe from explosive hazards a total of 42.4 kilometres of roads, including the Abyei-Nyanchor-Madington route leading to the UNISFA dry season temporary operating base in Madington and the El Amira-Abu Qussa route in JBVMM Sector 2. During the reporting period, 203,446 square meters of land were cleared through BAC activities and deemed safe from explosive hazards, out of which 64,912 at the UNISFA dry season temporary operating base in Dungoup and 138,534 at new Team Sites (TS) in JBVMM Sectors 1 and 2.

In JBVMM Sector 1 Gok Machar, during the month of December, UNMAS PSTs completed clearance operations at the identified location for TS 11 at Safahah/Kiir Adem, with additional support from the IRACT mechanical clearance team.

The local government of Gok Machar, in coordination with UNISFA, allocated the land for the establishment of the TS 12 at As Sumayah/War Abar. UNMAS proceeded with clearance of the newly identified location of TS 12. UNISFA Acting Head of Mission/Force Commander (Ag HOM/FC) Maj. Gen Gebre Adhana Woldezgu visited this location on 31 December with UNMAS Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Mr. Bojan Vukovic, Chief JBVMM (CJBVMM) Brig Gen Yimer Mekonnen, and the Mission Leadership Team.

In JBVMM Sector 2, one UNMAS PST with elements of IRACT, travelled in advance to El Amira to prepare the ground for the UNISFA, UNMAS and JBVMM reconnaissance mission of the new TS at Abu Qussa/Wunkur, which took place on 21 December. The team cleared 2,500 sqm, set up an emergency helicopter landing site, and is currently on standby pending the identification of the new team site location within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ).

The UNMAS PST at the Tishwin TS 21 continued to support JBVMM Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs). In December, 6 GMMs were conducted from Tishwin TS to the North Outer Limit and to the South Outer Limit of the Higlig-Bentiu border crossing corridor on 9, 11, 16, 18, 23 and 30 December 2018.

On 30 December, UNMAS conducted destruction of 13 confiscated weapons, 292 rounds of ammunition, and 17 magazines in the presence of UNISFA Ag HoM/FC Maj. Gen Gebre Adhana Woldezgu, and Deputy FC Brig Gen Deriba Mekonnen. Regular maintenance on the Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) site was also conducted.

During the month of December, UNMAS delivered 11 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions, reaching a total of 534 men, women, boys and girls in the Abyei area. Additionally, UNMAS provided landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) awareness induction training to 46 UNISFA staff officers and military observers, 28 males and 18 females.

On 6 December, UNMAS also participated in the UNPOL community handover of a new school in northern Abyei, by providing MRE and equipped school bags for the children.



UNMAS delivering equipped backpacks at new UNPOL school in northern Abyei



Weapons and Ammunition destruction on 30 December

Field Story: Contributing to the Quick Establishment of New JBVMM Team Sites

In support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), UNMAS Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Team (IRACT) was tasked to assist the Patrol Support Teams (PSTs) and provide mechanical assistance for the establishment of new team sites in Sector 1 Gok Machar, namely Team Site (TS) 11 in Safahah/Kiir Adem and TS 12 in As Sumayah/War-Abar areas.

UNMAS provided assistance to JBVMM through mechanical vegetation clearance with Minewolf (MW240) machine in support of the PSTs who were simultaneously tasked to conduct Battle Area Clearance visual search activities. The area was highly vegetated with bushes and shrubs. Due to the nature of task, the mechanical assistance was important for completing the task efficiently.

Each UNMAS IRACT team has a MW240 machine as a mechanical component. The MW240 is a medium class remote-controlled machine which can be equipped with either a flail or a tiller for mine clearance; a robotic arm for the remote manipulation of suspected explosive devices; a runway clearance attachment for collecting and dispensing cluster munitions; and a range of multi-purpose attachments for other EOD and general engineering tasks.

The MW240 can be easily transported. It is highly effective against dense vegetation and various terrains including hard, rocky, soft, sandy areas. The machine is comparatively lightweight for its output and class and its rugged design is based on mature technology, proven in challenging terrain. In order to respond to the given task in JBVMM Sector 1, a flail unit was attached as this was effective against vegetation up to 15 cm diameter. The flail attachment has 26 chains with hammers, which were mounted on an open-basket drum which rotates in the driving direction with a speed of 500-800 revolutions per minute (RPM).

As tasked by the UNMAS Gok Machar office, the Minewolf mechanical team travelled about 510 km from Abyei to Gok Machar and co-located with the PST teams during the execution of the tasks. TS 11 is situated approximately 68 km North of the Gok Machar area and TS 12 is situated about 180 km North-East of Gok Machar within the SDBZ. During the month of December 2018, mechanical ground preparation was conducted for a total of 114,894 square meters.



UNMAS staff preparing the Minewolf machine at JBVMM TS 11



Minewolf operator remotely tracking the machine to the task site at JBVMM TS 11



Minewolf mechanical vegetation clearance at TS 12 As Sumayah/War Abar

**IF YOU SEE AN ITEM OF CONCERN,
DO NOT TOUCH IT!
CONTACT UNMAS IMMEDIATELY!**
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**NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.**

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).