

Highlights November 2017 - January 2018



**DEEMED SAFE FROM
EXPLOSIVE HAZARD THREATS**

330 km of roads

2 ERW DESTROYED



**LANDMINE/ERW
SAFETY TRAINING
FOR UN PERSONNEL**

400

MINE RISK EDUCATION

4,429



Mine action operations in support of UNISFA resumed in November, with two Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) conducting battle area clearance and road assessment tasks set as priority by the mission. In addition to this, one Integrated Clearance Team (ICT) based in Abyei Area and four Patrol Support Teams (PST) in Kadugli and Gok Machar maintained readiness for the given tasks. Also, SSAFE training was conducted in Kadugli from 27-29 November to twenty-eight members of the teams.

Two UNMAS Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) assessed 330 kilometres of roads to access UNISFA dry season Company Operating Bases (COB) as safe from explosive hazards. Two UNISFA dry season COBs in Um Khariet and Doungap were verified by UNMAS IRACT and found safe from explosive hazards through battle area clearance of 258,841 m².

During this reporting period, the IRACT teams removed and destroyed one abandoned OG-7 HE rocket, and one F1 hand-grenade fuse reported by villagers in Abyei Town.

PST in Kadugli, were tasked with manual mine clearance of the former Mine Detection Dog (MDD) training area at the JBVMM HQ and 1,615 m² had been cleared.

UNMAS PST in support of JBVMM Sectors 1 and 2 HQ deployed from Kadugli and Gok Machar to conduct a Ground Monitoring Mission (GMM) and to establish Team Sites in Tishwin and Safaha on 31 December 2017. This was the first of such activities undertaken after both government of Sudan and South Sudan gave approvals for this GMM to take place. Unfortunately, these attempts failed due to the fact that they were stopped by armed individuals within the SDBZ and returned back to Kadugli and Gok Machar. The second attempts were successful on 25 January 2018, and the teams comprising of JBVMM and UNMAS, managed to establish and occupy temporary team sites as well as emergency helicopter landing sites within geographical areas of Tishwin and Safaha, after assessments and verifications of UNMAS teams.

UNMAS Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams conducting Non-Technical Survey (NTS) and MRE activities, and informing community members on the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war within Abyei Area. MRE was delivered in Abathok, Agok, Akcenhial, Awolnhom, Ayak, Diffra, Manyang, Namiang, Setak, Thony, and Wunpeth reaching 4,429 men, women, boys and girls.

UNMAS delivered landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) awareness induction to 400 UNPOL and UNISFA military observers.



Recce visit into the SDBZ



Mine Risk Education within Abyei Administratibve Area

Field Story: Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Team facilitates the safe establishment of JBVMM team site in Safaha

In January 2018, The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) launched the ground reconnaissance to initiate the process of establishing the team site at Safaha area in order to commence ground monitoring and verification of Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ).

In order to establish the safe JBVMM team site, UNMAS implementing partner The Development Initiative (TDI) - Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Team (IRACT), provided mine/ERW clearance support to the mission. To ensure the route and the designated areas are safe from landmine/ ERW, mine action related priorities were set by UNMAS accordingly with the coordination of stakeholders. UNMAS operations and quality assurance officers provided constant coordination and monitoring of clearance teams; clearance approaches and methodologies were set and accepted through the written implementation plans.

IRACTs are self-sustainable; initially they established the forward camp site as indicated by the mission and continue the day to day operations, from the forward camp site. Prior to transporting the JBVMM team, the selected route was assessed and verified by IRACT; Information were gathered from various sources including the local community. Off road suspected landmine locations which were reported by the local community were demarcated with official marking system/warning signs for later investigation. Remotely operating armoured flail/tiller machines, metal detectors, Ground Penetrating Radars (GPR) of IRACT teams were kept on stand-by for any action accordingly. Highly trained IRACT team members have conducted 21 km of route assessment including 6 km of route verification as per the required standards. UNMAS - TDI Patrol support teams provided safe transportation of JBVMM team members which including International Military Observers, National Monitors from Government of Sudan and South Sudan, UNISFA Force Protection Unit.

TDI IRACT teams have verified approximately 139,141 m² of land and ensured that the designated areas such as Forward and Final team sites and associated areas including Helicopter Landing Sites (HLS), are free from landmines, and also free from explosive remnants of war on surface. Required documentation was submitted in an expeditious manner.

The establishment of team site at Safahah will facilitate JBVMM's missions such as patrols, monitoring security situation, verifications, investigations, arbitrations, liaison/coordination, reporting, and information exchange within the SDBZ. UNMAS operations reduce the threat of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) that enables freedom of movement for UNISFA, the JBVMM, civilians, and providers of humanitarian aid within the UNISFA area of responsibility through the implementing partner TDI.



Route Verification carried out by TDI IRACT team along the suspected locations in Safahah area, CASSPIR MPV (Mine protected Vehicle) with Advance Roller System



IRACT team member Clearing the selected route with Ground Penetrating Radar



IRACT team members conducting Battle Area Clearance activities at the proposed JBVMM team site at Safahah area.

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