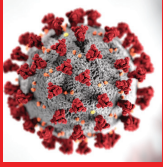


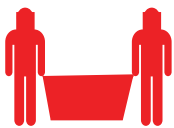
Highlights MAY 2020



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS implemented all WHO and UNISFA recommended measures, scaling down community exposure and enforcing distancing requirements within all activities.

As of 26 March, all mine risk education activities have been suspended.

As of 4 May, all operations have been suspended due to the unavailability of UNISFA MEDEVAC flights to a Level 3 facility.



**LAND ASSESSED BY CLEARANCE
TEAMS AS SAFE FROM EXPLOSIVE
HAZARDS**

2,500 m²



2

**EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
FOUND**



One of the explosive devices found in May

NO

CASES OF COVID-19 WITHIN UNMAS-UNISFA TEAM IN ABYEI

4

**PATROL SUPPORT TEAMS OPERATIONAL,
ON STANDBY FOR GROUND MONITORING
MISSIONS (GMM) AT FOUR TEAM SITES**



*Regular maintenance of Casspir
(mine protected vehicle)*

Field Story: UNMAS teams are prepared to mitigate COVID-19 in Abyei area



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered virus since late 2019. The virus is mainly spreading through droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. People can be infected through close contact with another by breathing, touching a contaminated surface and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. The COVID-19 pandemic is a global challenge and requires a global response. The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) COVID-19 Task Force is keeping the situation under control and taking all necessary steps to prevent the spread of the virus.

UNMAS has implemented a business continuity plan which includes relevant risk mitigation measures to support the operational capability in theatre. All reasonable efforts are in place to ensure the safety of our team members and those with whom the teams interact while maintaining operational continuity. Contingency plans have been set in place to mitigate any emergency. All concerns regarding COVID-19 are being addressed through UNISFA virtual town-hall meetings and UNMAS regular coordination meetings in support of personnel, logistical, operational and other concerns.

UNMAS teams have been fully briefed on COVID-19 protocols and are rigidly enforcing these across all elements within the project. Advisories on 'Prevention measures of COVID-19 outbreak (pandemic)' and camp hygiene tips are presented to the team members on a daily basis. Regular health education is being conducted by the medical team and senior members at all team locations, to ensure that an acceptable level of cleanliness and hygiene is maintained throughout the camps at all times. All staff members are required to wash their hands regularly or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. It is mandatory to wear a surgical face mask, if a two meter distance cannot be maintained between team members.

"Prevention is better than the cure and safety is paramount in the demining industry. It is the responsibility of every individual to adapt their lifestyle with preventive measures to overcome the global challenge. We are prepared and operationally ready to conduct any emergency tasks."

"Every situation brings with it an opportunity, and this situation has brought an opportunity to prove the capability of humanitarian mine action personnel. We are dedicated team players and passionate about our profession. With the guidance of UNMAS management, we can easily adjust our work plans, adapt and overcome any challenges while providing our best outputs without compromising safety"

TDI - Technical Field Manager, Moyana Midzi, to his team members in Abyei.

Team medics conduct health checks and record them on a daily basis. Every team member has been issued with adequate cleaning equipment such as hand sanitizer, liquid soap, individual brooms, mop, bucket, disinfection materials to ensure self-sustainability. While adopting the COVID-19 mitigation measures, the teams continue to maintain their operational readiness to deploy on any upcoming emergency tasks. UNMAS teams further undergo periodic inspection on serviceability of tools, equipment and vehicles; continuous refresher trainings; and physical and mental wellbeing assessments of individuals.



UNMAS team conducting refresher training

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

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT US**

