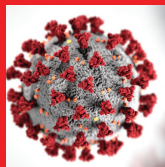




Highlights JUNE 2020



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMAS implemented and complied with all UNISFA preventive measures to ensure the wellbeing of staff and implementing partner personnel.

All high risk operations were suspended due to the uncertainty of obtaining flight clearances for MEDEVAC flights to a Level 3 medical facility.

**9 UNISFA STAFF
RECEIVED SAFETY
TRAINING**



**77 PERSONS
RECEIVED MINE
RISK EDUCATION**

**39 TCC MEMBERS INTERVIEWED TO
TAILOR SAFETY PRESENTATIONS**



MRE session at Abathok for Community Police

**9 OFFICERS PARTICIPATED AT THE GPS
TRAINING ORGANISED BY UNMAS**



GPS training



**4 EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
FOUND IN JUNE**

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



*Regular inspections of Casspir
(mine protected vehicle)*

Field Story:

UNMAS TEAM IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 THOUGHTS AND QUOTES



Some of the UNMAS team members

"When we entered 2020, we had no idea how the world would change and the impact this would have on our individual lives. Initially COVID-19 was viewed as a problem in a distant land and how quickly it consumed us. None of us were prepared for what this entailed and how quickly we adapted to abnormality. The consequences of the pandemic will be with us for years to come and I am very grateful to remain employed considering the fate of others. My sincere thanks to the Abyei team for maintaining and delivering to the highest standard through a very challenging time. My sincere gratitude to those individuals remaining in Mission and enduring with a smile without any hope of escape. COVID-19 will be with us forever and demand for freedom and liberty should not become a fatal weapon by ridiculing preventative measures and behaving irresponsible. Please continue to utilize recommended preventative measures and set an example for others."

Nico Bosman, Programme Manager, UNMAS Abyei

"With the COVID-19 situation significantly affected flights and movement around Gok Machar. It was hard time but as always UNMAS team stepped in and did its best to support. In uncertain times like that you understand that life is about simple things and supporting each other, all together we can make it continue normal." Artur Snitkovskyi

"The past 4 months in Abyei have been quite strange since the announcement of the pandemic, and as travel started to dry up and movement became more and more restrictive the team in Abyei have had to adapt to a new way of life in the mission... The work load, despite half of the team being away, actually became easier - it sounds crazy - but life became 'less' hectic and more focused on the immediate challenges of the pandemic, as new requirements became the 'norm' especially with a lot of global meetings, plus new software platforms to conduct business, and a good level of common sense and pragmatism applied to peoples own flexibility with work/life balance... I'm looking forward to getting home very soon but I also think that my colleagues outside the mission are really looking forward to returning here to Abyei... we have learned to be a lot more resilient in times like these... That's Life - it's what we do and what we signed up for by joining the UN. What an adventure."

Leslie Levick

"... I put all my efforts to continue UNMAS operations as usual. Finally, I move out of Abyei on 1 July for home. I never imagined in my life that I will have to wait 3 weeks to see my family even though I am 14 km apart from them." Indra Bhat

"In Kadugli, my Duty Station, it was decided to have a complete lockdown for the UNISFA camp. No more shopping trips to town and none of the national staff living in Kadugli town were allowed back in... After a fairly difficult time I have managed to get to my family on 13 June for some R&R and AL. Currently I am on WFH module, something completely new to me and the family, specifically the grandchildren. They still can't understand why Grandpa can't come and play with them as usual." Hannes de Jager

"The COVID 19 crisis has affected the operations of the programme ... The COVID-19 interests me in a way that I work from home which enables me to be with the family members as I am working from home." Gabriel Ohide Kurado

"I came to Abyei to cover for two and a half weeks and stayed for months, no problem with that. We have had operational challenges from the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the host governments but these are being overcome and the new working modalities are becoming familiar and processes are being adapted to accommodate the changes. I like to think we are the most resilient of people and will find a way." Julian Harvey

"In the beginning it was quite challenging trying to schedule my work hours and support the kids who are studying from home but it got better with time. Although I have been able to stick to my work schedule and get work done remotely, I miss the normal office schedule and interaction with colleagues which is more pleasing than the interaction on the various platforms we have had to adapt to." Laura Bosa

"COVID-19 came upon us at a great speed and for the last 3 months I am working from home. Although I am with my family, the uncertainty played a big role in our lives. I do not know when I can return to work, my children had to adapt to online education and the list is never ending. During this past few months, the phrase "Prepare for the worst, hope for the best" was heard a lot and it still remains difficult to live that way. We can only hope some normality can return." Johan Maree

"Working from home for the past few months has been both a challenge and a blessing. As an Associate Programme Officer, a big part of my job is based on constantly communicating with the rest of the team and always having my finger on the pulse of all ongoing activities and new developments. Once the job shifted to working from home, this initially became a challenge as communication itself became more difficult. Nevertheless, as a team we have proven ourselves yet again, and despite the new challenges presented, we have managed to find new ways to collaborate across continents and deliver the same high-quality results as always. And more so, we managed to keep up the good humoured camaraderie which sets UNMAS apart. In the face of this new challenge, we have connected more, we have communicated more, we have learned new things and I believe we have grown together into an even more cohesive unit. This has all helped me tremendously not only with being able to perform my duties efficiently, but also with coping with the COVID-related anxiety and stress." Irina Punga

"This period has been stressful in so many ways, one in particular is the uncertainty of when I'll be able to see my family. I missed celebrating 3 birthdays with the most painful one being my son's 1st birthday and ran out of excuses to the other two, why I can't come home soon." Charles Jada

"I am working from home since March. My son Viktor keeps telling me that we are finally a 'normal family' as he can play with me after 1600 hours like all his friends do with their fathers. I agree with him, but on the other side I miss my field work, my colleagues and contemplating what 'normal' way of life is for me." Bojan Vukovic