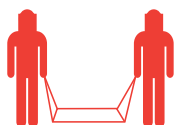


Highlights July 2019



**START OF
RAINY SEASON**



**EMERGENCY EXPLOSIVE
ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
TEAM ON STANDBY
IN ABYEI**



161

**SMALL ARMS
AMMUNITION
RETRIEVED**



55

**UNISFA STAFF
RECEIVED RISK
EDUCATION**



PST conducting refresher training



PST and mine-protected vehicle on a Ground Monitoring Mission

UNMAS Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) demobilised at the end of June and will remobilise in October, at the end of the rainy season.

With its four Patrol Support Teams (PSTs), UNMAS continued to support all the Ground Monitoring Missions (GMMs) in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ). In total, 16 GMMs took place and were all supported by the PSTs in July 2019. In JBVMM Sector 1 - Gok Machar, the PST continued to support patrols from Gok Machar at the location of TS-11 Safahah/Kiir Adem and SDBZ. In total, 9 GMMs were conducted on 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 and 29 July 2019. Inaccessible road conditions did not permit GMMs at TS-12.

One PST from the JBVMM Sector 1 is on stand by in Abyei to respond to any emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) requirements in the absence of demobilised IRACTs. On 15 July, the UNMAS PST retrieved and moved 161 x 7.62mm rounds of small arms ammunition (SAA) to a safe storage facility for later disposal.

JBVMM Sector 2 continued to undertake GMMs from TS 21 at Tishwin with two UNMAS PSTs, which are rotating on a bi-weekly basis. In July, 7 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 the 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21 and 23 July 2019. Freedom of movement remains a problem in this corridor due to restrictions by SSPDF.

No weapons or ammunition were received from UNISFA for destruction during July. Regular maintenance on the Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) site was conducted on the 4, 8, 12, 18, 22 and 25 July 2019.

UNMAS did not conduct any MRE activity to local population in July 2019 due to weather and road conditions; however, UNMAS delivered four landmine and ERW risk education sessions to 55 (47 males and 8 females) UNPOL and UNISFA military observers as part of their induction training.

In July, the UNMAS Programme Section met with representatives of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) South Sudan in Abyei, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), as part of an initiative to increase cooperation and coordination between UNMAS and UN agencies in the upcoming dry season.

UNMAS Operations and Quality Assurance Officers (OPS/QA) from Abyei, Kadugli and Gok Machar met in Abyei from 21 to 25 July. The aim of the meeting was to review past operational activities, future contracting needs and commence with operational planning for the upcoming dry season. The operations team also provided inputs towards the ongoing development of the 2020-2023 programme strategy.

Field Story: Abyei Operational Environment in the Rainy Season



Condition of road from Abyei town to the northern town of Diffra

The operational environment in the Abyei area changes dramatically each year, with the onset of the rainy season at the end of May. Lasting until the end of September and at times well into October, the wet season brings the whole of Abyei back to life: lush vegetation, flowing rivers, insects and wild animals roaming about. But at the same time, it brings an increase in malaria, displacement of populations and their habitats, and inaccessible roads.

Yearly, at the end of June, UNMAS Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACTs) demobilise, as it becomes nearly impossible to travel throughout the Abyei area and conduct any regular operations. The teams return to Abyei at the end of September and are remobilised after conducting additional refresher training and going through a reaccreditation process.

In the absence of the IRACTs from July to September, one of UNMAS' Patrol Support Teams (PSTs) from JBVMM Sector 1 is stationed in Abyei for any emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) activities. While the PST is a smaller team than IRACT, it is also trained and accredited to conduct EOD, Manual Mine Clearance, Battle Area Clearance, and has accredited medics.



Lush vegetation surrounding the UNISFA Abyei Camp



UNISFA Abyei Camp on a rainy day

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

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