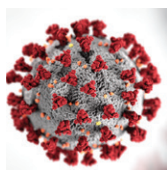


Highlights SEPTEMBER 2020

Following the UNMAS-UNISFA plan of operations, two Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACT) and one Integrated Clearance Team (ICT) are on stand down for the duration of the wet season. During this period, one emergency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response team is operating from the UNISFA HQ in Abyei.



UNMAS continues to implement and comply with all UNISFA measures for mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the wellbeing of staff and implementing partner personnel.

4 PATROL SUPPORT TEAMS
OPERATIONAL AT FOUR
JBVMM TEAM SITES



7 GROUND MONITORING
MISSIONS (GMMS) CONDUCTED
IN JBVMM SECTOR 1



4 VIDEO & IN-PERSON
LANDMINE & ERW SAFETY
TRAINING SESSIONS
DELIVERED

597 UNISFA HUMANITARIAN
AND MILITARY STAFF
RECEIVED ERW SAFETY
TRAINING

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

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT US



Supporting the 'Action for Peacekeeping' Initiative

Peacekeeping is one of the most effective tools available to the United Nations to promote and maintain peace and security. The Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative aims to strengthen peacekeeping by encouraging collective action by all peacekeeping stakeholders. UNMAS, in addition to its four Patrol Support Teams co-located with UNISFA JBVMM at its four team sites, is further supporting the A4P initiative by ensuring the peacekeepers' safety and security in the Abyei area and providing the Mission with mine-protected vehicles (MPVs) and demining personnel.

In September, UNISFA Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander (Ag. HoM/FC), Major General Kefyalew Amde Tessema, accompanied by UNISFA's Deputy Force Commander (DFC) and several other senior staff members, undertook a familiarization tour of the Battalion Headquarters and Team Site locations within the UNISFA area of responsibility (AOR). In order for the tour to be conducted safely, UNMAS provided the delegation with transportation in mine-protected vehicles (MPVs), also known as CASSPIRs, from Diffra to Farouk.

"On the 26th of August, my team provided safe transportation to a group of UNISFA delegations from Diffra to Farouk area with the support of two mine-protected vehicles. The UNISFA force commander, the deputy force commander, the chief of JBVMM (Joint Border Verification Monitoring Mission), and other high-rank officials were transported in MPVs during their field visit with the escort of UNISFA force protection units. The route conditions were terrible due to heavy raining, but my team members, especially the well-experienced drivers, managed to overcome the obstacles and safely transported the officials to their destination. When we accomplished the task, the delegation expressed their appreciation for our effort and support to UNISFA. There is no doubt that these little collective actions are strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations," said Team Leader Abraham Meles.

The CASSPIRs are landmine-resistant and ambush-protected vehicles. It can hold a crew of two, plus eight additional passengers and their associated equipment. The high raised armored steel body and the V-Shape cross-section of the hull are especially designed to protect the occupants from landmine explosion and small arms fire. "There are no proper roads available in the Abyei area. Our drivers are highly trained and well experienced. They are confident to operate these vehicles in a challenging environment to enhance the safety and security of UNISFA peacekeepers to carry out their duties. I am glad that I am part of this successful team," stated Chief Mechanic Simon Doyle.

Mine action entails more than removing landmines from the ground. In addition to the regular mine action activities, UNMAS teams enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers through a variety of additional actions, including the disposal of weapons and ammunition confiscated by UNISFA troops, delivering risk education to UNISFA personnel to enhance their knowledge of safety practices, and deployment with the JBVMM teams to conduct safer ground patrols in the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.



UNISFA delegation & UNMAS team members after disembarking the CASSPIR MPV near Diffra



Difficult road conditions throughout the Abyei area require extended driving skills for CASSPIR drivers

