


Highlights **NOVEMBER 2022**

 **52 km**
of routes assessed as safe
from explosive hazards



128,206
square meters cleared in
the Abyei Area



12 explosive remnants
of war destroyed



65 explosive ordnance
risk education
sessions provided



232
new UNISFA military
members received safety
training



8 ground monitoring
missions supported



Clearance operations



16 ERWs found at Fanikan village on 2 November



Destruction of 12 ERW at Khar Alei



Safety induction at Todach COB



Ground monitoring mission in Tishwin

UNMAS MECHANICAL AND BATTLE AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS SUPPORT UNISFA FORCE MOBILITY AND THE LOCAL POPULATION



Mechanical ground preparation



UNMAS mobile team

Douglas Muketiwa, works as Technical Field Manager at UNMAS implementing partner TDI and this is his story from the field:

“UNMAS Mechanical and Battle Area Clearance Operations serve to support UNISFA Force Mobility and the local population. Integrated Route Assessment & Clearance Team (IRACT) is flexible and capable of deploying at short notice when tasked by UNMAS in support of UNISFA. Whilst tasks such as locating, recovering, or destroying explosive remnants of war (ERW) from within communities takes place, the team’s primary role is to ensure that routes essential for UNISFA mission mobility are safe from such ERW. The 24-man IRACT is led by me and Team Leader, plus a number of deminers, medics, community liaison officers (CLOs), drivers, mechanics and a mechanical demining machine team – along with a whole host of supporting vehicles, including two mine protected vehicles. This team structure gives the team great flexibility and can also allow for the team to operate in two smaller teams on separate tasks safely.

In support of UNISFA, IRACT was recently tasked by UNMAS to conduct Battle Area Clearance (BAC), with the support of mechanical ground preparation (vegetation clearance in this case) using the Minewolf MW240 demining machine in the Todach area. This task was to allow a ‘borrow pit’ to be located and cleared for UNISFA integrated force mobility to extract material for much needed road construction. The team commenced this task on the MSR between Diffra and Abyei in mid-November and completed the work within eight days.

Mechanical clearance methodology within the borrow pit area was needed due to the heavily overgrown vegetation and the MW240 machine with the tiller attachment was deployed to remove vegetation so that the deminers could carry out BAC. Overall, just under 47,000 sqm was processed using the machine – which was remote controlled from one of the armoured MPVs. The machine is capable of withstanding an ERW detonation during this type of process since the machine and the operator’s vehicle are armour protected.

Due to the conflict during 2011, the area in and around Todach, and in particular the route between Abyei and Diffra, saw heavy fighting and more recently the discovery of mines dating back to those times have raised the need for UNMAS clearance in these areas, particularly when conducting engineering works.

The successful completion of this task by IRACT will facilitate and allow UNISFA Engineering Section to conduct excavation works in support of the integrated force mobility efforts. The soil from the excavation shall be used for the rehabilitation of this MSR which has been impassable with the prolonged rains and extreme flooding in the region, thus enabling free movement of UNISFA personnel and civilian vehicles. The CLOs within IRACT conducted interviews with the local populations during the task to gather information on the challenges faced by the lack of road infrastructure. They are able to explain the purpose of the IRACT’s work which can reduce tension, instill confidence and also allow explosive ordnance risk education to be given to the population in the area of the task. The efforts of UNMAS were highly appreciated and welcomed by the community, thus paving the way for business revival and promoting socio-economic recovery.”



UNMAS enabling UNISFA to rehabilitate roads



Scan for more information about UNMAS Abyei

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