

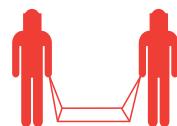


Highlights NOVEMBER 2021

The UNMAS Integrated Road Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACTs), in support of UNISFA and humanitarian actors, commenced the dry-season deployment on 1 November.



304 km
of routes assessed as safe
from explosive hazards



47,200 m²
of land assessed as safe
from explosive hazards



3 Explosive Remnants
of War destroyed



135 Explosive Ordnance
Risk Education
sessions



9 Ground monitoring
missions supported



Route assessment Hadid-Shegeg



Battle area clearance in Um Kharet



Face masks provided prior to EORE session in Diffra



Ground monitoring mission at TS-21

RESUMPTION OF UNMAS OPERATIONS IN NOVEMBER

After remobilisation of the UNMAS clearance teams following the four-month long rainy season standown, the teams have completed refresher trainings and started the Dry Season Implementation Plan activities as of 1 November. Completion of these activities is crucial to enable the mission's force mobility as well as other mission's sections such as engineering and information technology (IT) to reach, rehabilitate and operationalise temporary operating bases (TOBs) within the Abyei area. Once operational, these TOBs are sites where UN military, police and civilian staff members are positioned during the dry season, in order to support local communities and enable security within the area.

UNMAS teams conduct various activities to ensure roads and areas are safe from explosive hazards. One typical integrated route assessment and clearance team is made of technical experts in mine clearance, battle area clearance (BAC), explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and non-technical survey (NTS).

NTS is part of the assessment & verification process prior to clearance of all routes and removal of explosive remnants of war (ERW). The approach uses a 'feet-on-the-ground' physical collection of information & data, which include the verification of existing information normally through local interviews, and by utilising the knowledge of the locals whilst presenting continuous Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions. To date, as part of this season's dry season deployment, several TOB's have been cleared through Battle Area Clearance (BAC), as well as a number ERWs found and destroyed successfully through effective work and information gathered.

Part of the implementation of these operations lies within the essential provision of Force Protection Unit support.



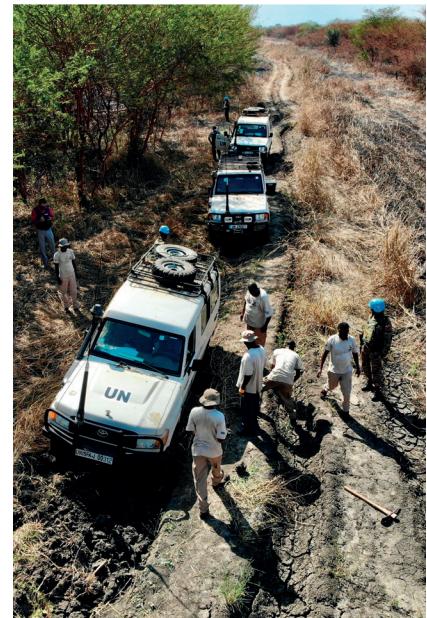
Lt. Col. Sandeep Kumar, Chief of Operations, "the success of delivering the needed force protection is staying informed with all relevant role players' input, to analyse, and a 'take no chances' approach; If uncertain, refrain from putting anybody's life in danger". He is proud to be part of UNISFA operations team currently, and he also mentioned that after the assessment, verification, and clearance conducted by UNMAS, the force mobility is enabled and force protection support given to the mission and UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. He also expressed his thanks to UNMAS, for the professional manner in which tasks are executed, trusting UNMAS service delivery in providing confidence in the dry season utility of the roads and TOB's following UNMAS operations.



Lt. Col. Negash Yami Tadesse, Deputy Chief of Operations, "it is important for the Force Protection element to be confident in the roads assessed and verified by UNMAS. Expanded route network and access within the Abyei area assures communities with a feeling of safety during TCC movements, and allow essential community activities, as well as for the mission personnel to visit these communities and provide support to them all, whilst providing a safe environment".



Nico Bosman, Chief of Mine Action Programme: "November is the busiest operational month for UNMAS and in this month 304 km were assessed and verified as safe from explosive hazard. 47,200 m² were cleared, and 135 EORE sessions organised which allowed the delivery of lifesaving safety messages to 2,165 local community members."



Challenges on the road

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

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