



## Highlights

**UNMAS responds to all requests from UNISFA.**

**The Mine Action Service continues to provide and maintain 16 mine-protected vehicles for UNISFA troops under a right-of-use agreement.**

**One Patrol Support Team returned to Team Site Abu Qussa and resumed regular activities.**

**Five weapons and 1,154 ammunition, confiscated by UNISFA were destroyed by UNMAS.**

**Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams received accreditation and demonstrated their operational readiness.**



Confiscated weapons destroyed by UNMAS



Route Assessment



Battle Area Clearance

## Stats **OCTOBER 2023**

**102,042** Square meters of land made safe from explosive hazards

**8** Ground Monitoring Missions supported by UNMAS ensured full implementation of the JBVMM mandate

**49** Explosive ordnance safety briefings sessions provided among the Abyei Area community members

**123** Newly arrived UNISFA personnel aware of safety procedures if they encounter explosive hazards

# UNMAS - ENHANCING SAFER UNISFA JBVMM OPERATIONS

In September and October, the United Mine Action Services (UNMAS) redeployed to team sites in Tishwin and Abu Qussa in support of UNISFA Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) operations. The teams had initially withdrawn from the team sites when conflict broke out in some parts of Sudan during April 2023. After their redeployment to the team sites, they started conducting Integrated Ground Patrol Training (IGPT), which is essential for the JBVMM to fulfil its mandate of verification, monitoring, and investigation in the Safe Demilitarised Buffer Zone (SDBZ) between Sudan and South Sudan.

In October 2023, UNMAS conducted three separate IGPTs involving Bangladeshi troops who recently joined the mission, new military observers and national monitors from Sudan and South Sudan.

As a result of the IGPT, participants are aware of how to safely behave if encountering landmines and ERW. This is very important as it enhances the safety of the ground patrol team. Patrol support teams can quickly respond to a situation in case of an incident because every patrol team member knows their role. It allows for a timely and effective response, ensuring a swift resolution of any issues. The presence of a patrol support team adds a deterrent factor to potential border violations. These teams' visibility and regular patrols act as a preventive measure, discouraging unauthorised activities along the border. Patrol members also know how to assist the medic in case of Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC). Increased situational awareness and strengthened collaboration are vital for successfully monitoring and verifying the border activities between Sudan and South Sudan.

Blessings Chapwanya (UNMAS TDI Patrol Support Team Leader) based in Tishwin TS-21 says: "After completing the Integrated Ground Patrol Training, we resumed our Ground Monitoring Missions. In October, we completed a total of eight patrols. We did not experience any lost time due to operational delays because the CASSPIR MPVs are well-maintained."



## OPERATIONAL ACCREDITATIONS AND READINESS

Following the UNMAS UNISFA plan of operations, two Integrated Route Assessment and Clearance Teams (IRACTs), in support of UNISFA and humanitarian actors, concluded mobilisation and refresher training after the contractual stand-down for the rainy season. After the completion of the training, UNMAS conducted the re-accreditation of the teams, ensuring their full operational readiness as of 1 November. Various processes must be accredited such as manual mine clearance, battle area clearance, mechanical ground preparation and explosive ordnance risk education.



Various accreditation photos

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

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