PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	For 2015	For 2014
Problem understood	5	5
Target date for completion of mine clearance	4	4
Targeted clearance	6	6
Efficient clearance	5	5
National funding of programme	6	6
Timely clearance	5	4
Land release system in place	8	5
National mine action standards	8	5
Reporting on progress	6	5
Improving performance	6	5
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	5.9	5.0

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Israel's mine action programme performance strengthened in 2015. Application of non-technical survey (NTS) resulted in efficient land release, and the cancellation of more than 35% of the suspected mined area, which was found not to be contaminated. Israel secured increased funding for mine clearance from local infrastructure companies and authorities. In addition, the Israeli National Mine Action Authority (INMAA) is conducting a survey of the social and economic impacts of land released, which will also inform prioritisation of future tasks.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Israel should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.**
- **Israel should report the extent of mine contamination nationwide, not merely the areas considered not essential for Israel's security.**

CONTAMINATION

The exact extent of mine contamination in Israel is not known. Israel has reported 51km^2 of confirmed mined area and a further 41km^2 of suspected mined area, as set out in Table 1. But the combined 92km^2 represents only the area affected by mines that are not deemed essential to Israel's security. The size of other mined areas is not made public.

Table 1: Mine contamination as at November 2015[1]

Type of contamination	CHAs	Area (km^2)	SHAs	Area (km^2)
AP mines only	215	21	3	41
AV mines only	29	17	0	0
AP and AV mines	18	13	0	0
Totals	**262**	**51**	**3**	**41**

AP = anti-personnel AV = anti-vehicle

Israel's mine problem dates back to World War II. Subsequently, Israel laid significant numbers of mines along its borders, near military camps and training areas, and near civilian infrastructure. In August 2011, Israel's military reported planting new mines to reinforce minefields and other defences along its de facto border with Syria in the Golan Heights.[2]

The 2015 estimate of 92km^2 for mined areas that are not considered essential for Israel's security is a marked reduction on the 2014 estimate of 126km^2.[3] This is due to a large area of land being cancelled by NTS in 2015.

Mine contamination in Israel impacts progress in regional development, and poses a risk to local communities.[4]

1 Email from Michael Heiman, Director of Technology and Knowledge Management, INMAA, 19 September 2016.

2 "Israel army plants new mines along Syria border", *Associated Press*, 13 August 2011, at: http://news.yahoo.com/israel-army-plants-mines- along-syria-border-085636592.html.

3 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 13 April 2015.

4 Ibid., 19 September 2016.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

A March 2011 law on minefield clearance established the INMAA to undertake a "comprehensive programme of mine clearing projects inside Israel."[5] The law's aim was "to create a normative infrastructure for the clearance of minefields that are not essential to national security, and to declare them as free from landmines with the highest degree of safety to civilians, in accordance with the international obligations of the State of Israel, and within the shortest period of time possible."[6]

INMAA was established in the Ministry of Defence, with ministry staff responsible for planning mine action. INMAA is comprised of nine employees, and there are no plans for expansion.[7] INMAA manages a "minefield information bank" that is open for public queries concerning demining plans and programmes.[8]

Strategic Planning

Israel reports that INMAA has a multi-year clearance plan for 2014–17 that calls for clearance of areas in northern Israel (Galilee and the Golan Heights) in the summer, and in southern Israel (the Jordan Valley and Arava Plain) in the winter.[9] In addition, INMAA will continue to manage projects in the West Bank, funded by the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.[10]

In addition, a number of development projects funded by local electricity, water, and infrastructure companies and authorities pay for mine clearance.[11]

Clearance tasks are assigned according to a classification formula laid down by INMAA: prioritisation is set nationally every three years. The criteria used for the formula are largely based on the risk level and development potential of the affected areas.[12] INMAA has been conducting a study on the social and economic impacts of land released in the last four years, as well as on the potential impact for future clearance sites.[13]

Legislation and Standards

The 2011 law on minefield clearance was noted above. INMAA sets national standards "taking into consideration the procedures of the Israel Defense Forces that will be as compatible as possible with the International Mine Action Standards."[14]

Operators

Commercial companies are contracted to conduct clearance as well as quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC). In 2015, clearance was contracted to two national companies: Eitan Lidor Projects (ELP) and the Israeli Mine Action Group (IMAG).[15]

Machines have been deployed since INMAA's first project in 2012, and mechanical assets include various systems for screening and crushing, and use of flails for ground preparation and survey, but not for clearance.[16]

In 2015, 92 explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel, 21 mechanical operators, and 19 machines were deployed for clearance operations.[17] Capacity was expected to rise in 2016, due to an increase in funding.[18]

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) also conduct mine clearance according to their own mine action plans "that are executed by their military methods and techniques", and implement an annual programme that includes maintenance of mined area protections.[19] During wintertime, the IDF give special attention to minefields that are close to farms, residential areas, or hiker routes, as mines may be carried into these areas by floods.[20]

Quality Management

Every mine clearance project in Israel has an INMAA supervisor, a QA/QC contractor, and a clearance operator. Four QA/QC contractors were formally registered, as at the end of 2015.[21] Zeev Levanon Projects and 4CI Security were contracted to conduct QA and QC of clearance operations in 2015.[22]

LAND RELEASE

In 2015, almost 0.7km^2 was released by clearance, compared to 1.2km^2 in 2014.[23] A further 34km^2 was cancelled by NTS.

Survey in 2015

In 2015, 34km2 was cancelled through NTS. This was the result of a geomorphological survey conducted in flooded areas, which showed that the water that ran through the minefields did not necessarily reach all areas in the river basin. The survey was conducted as part of INMAA's secondary NTS and information improvements.[24]

5 Minefield Clearance Law 5771-2011 of March 2011, unofficial translation at: http://www.scribd.com/doc/133780125/Israel-s-Minefield-Clearance-Act-of-2011-English-Translation-by-Dhyan-Or. See Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2010), Form A. Form A refers to details provided in Form D, but information in Form D has been deleted.

6 Minefield Clearance Law 2011 (MCL 5771-2011).

7 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 19 September 2016.

8 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2015), Form A.

9 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 19 September 2016.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 Emails from Michael Heiman, INMAA, and Eran Yuvan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 6 May 2012.

15 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 19 September 2016.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.

19 Email from Eran Yuvan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 29 April 2014; and CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2015), Form B.

20 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2015), Form B.

21 Ibid., Form G.

22 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 19 September 2016.

23 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 13 April 2015.

24 Ibid., 19 September 2016.

Clearance in 2015

According to INMAA, almost 0.7km² of land was released by clearance in 2015 (excluding the West Bank).[25]

Table 2: Mine clearance in 2015[26]

Operator	Areas released	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
IMAG	6	204,000	164	107	31
ELP	16	492,000	6,340	0	1
Totals	**22**	**696,000**	**6,504**	**107**	**32**

UXO = unexploded ordnance

Clearance in 2015 was split between northern and southern Israel. ELP carried out clearance tasks in the Valley of Springs in the north and Ein Yahav in the south. NARSHA was contracted from October 2015 to also conduct clearance in Ein Yahav, working through manual deminers on the main mine belt.[27] IMAG carried out clearance in Snir, in the north. In addition, HALO Trust cleared land in a-Nabi Elyas and Husan in the West Bank (see the report on Palestine).[28]

IDF demining is implemented independently of INMAA, using military methods and techniques.[29] The area cleared or released by the IDF is unknown. According to Israel's Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 transparency report for 2015, the IDF has made significant progress in clearing minefields and releasing areas of land for civilian use.[30]

Progress in 2016

In 2016–17, INMAA was planning for mine clearance at a targeted rate of 1.5km² per year.[31] INMAA was planning to implement the use of mine detection dogs in 2016.[32]

Clearance operations are concentrated on areas for agricultural development in the south (the Jordan Valley and Arava Plain), together with clearance in the north (Galilee and the Golan Heights) to improve access to water, to clear hiking trails, and to expand cattle grazing areas.[33]

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Israel is not a party or signatory to the APMBC but nonetheless has obligations under international human rights law to protect life, which requires clearance of mines as soon as possible.[34]

In 2015, INMAA had an annual mine action budget of NIS27 million (approx. US$7 million).[35] However, as a result of additional external funding by various infrastructure development companies and authorities, expected total expenditure for 2016 was NIS42 million (approx. US$11 million).[36] Israel has stated that achieving clearance goals depends on the allocation of pledged budgets.[37]

Based on the clearance rates of the last few years, and INMAA's forecasted clearance rate of 1.5km² per year, it will take many years to clear remaining contamination. INMAA is seeking additional funding and assistance in order to speed up operations.[38]

Table 3: Mine clearance in 2011–15[39]

Year	Area cleared (m²)
2015	696,000
2014	1,200,000
2013	2,197,000
2012	Not reported
2011	Not reported
Total	**4,093,000**

25 Ibid.

26 Ibid. According to Israel's CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2015), Form B, 21,322 mines were destroyed in 2015. This higher figure includes the result of clearance by NARSHA.

27 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 30 October 2016.

28 Ibid., 19 September 2016.

29 Ibid., 13 April 2015; and email from Eran Yuvan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 29 April 2014.

30 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2015), Form B.

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.

33 Ibid.

34 Israel is a state party to the 1996 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 6 of which requires that states parties respect and protect the right to life.

35 Email from Michael Heiman, INMAA, 19 September 2016.

36 Ibid.

37 Ibid.

38 Ibid.

39 See Landmine Monitor and Mine Action Review reports on clearance in Israel covering 2011–14.