

**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2012**  
FULFILLED ARTICLE 5 OBLIGATIONS IN 2018

### KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)  
MINE CONTAMINATION:

**NO MINED AREAS REMAINING**

AP MINE  
CLEARANCE\* IN 2018

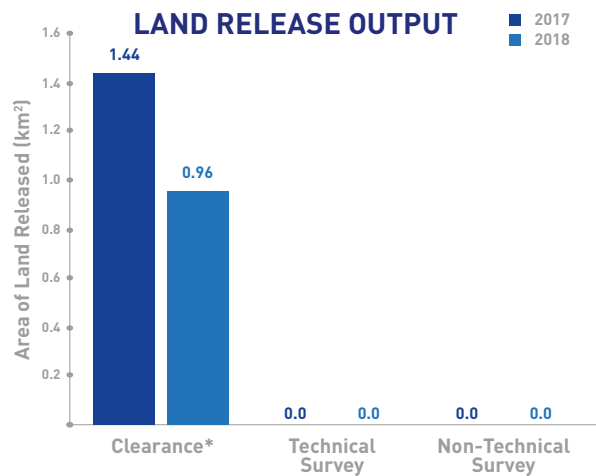
**0.96<sub>KM<sup>2</sup></sub>**

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2018

**6**

\*Sampling and verification of mined  
areas cleared previously

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2018 – six years after formally declaring it had fulfilled its Article 5 clearance obligations – Jordan finally completed the verification and sampling project of previously cleared mined areas in the Jordan Valley and checks of previously cleared mined areas on the northern borders, bringing it back into compliance with Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	9	There are no remaining mined areas suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines in Jordan. Residual contamination may yet be found from time to time.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP &amp; PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	8	The NCDR is responsible for coordinating, accrediting, regulating, and quality assuring all mine action organisations in Jordan. Jordan provided government funding to the NCDR and for verification of previously cleared mined areas.
<b>GENDER</b> (10% of overall score)	6	According to the NCDR, there is equal access to women and men in survey and clearance teams. Survey and community liaison teams in Jordan are mixed and women and children are consulted during these activities.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT &amp; REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	9	Jordan uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database and submits timely and accurate annual Article 7 reports.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	8	The NCDR has a 2015–20 National Plan which includes plans to address explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination in Jordan, and also covered the required sampling and verification in the Jordan Valley and checks on the northern border.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	5	The sampling and verification project in the Jordan Valley was conducted by manual demining teams under the NCDR, and the checks on the northern border by the Armed Forces' Royal Engineering Corps (REC).
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	9	In 2018, Jordan completed the verification and sampling project of previously cleared mined areas in the Jordan Valley and checks of previously cleared mined areas on the northern borders, bringing it into compliance with APMBC Article 5.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: GOOD</b>

## DEMINEING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

- National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) Board of Directors
- NCDR

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- NCDR
- Armed Forces' Royal Engineering Corps (REC)

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

### OTHER ACTORS

- None

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Jordan reports that it completed sampling and verification for missing mines in previously cleared areas in the Jordan Valley and checks of previously cleared mined areas on the northern borders by June 2018.<sup>1</sup> According to Jordan's most recent APMBC Article 7 report, there are no remaining areas in need of verification in either the Jordan Valley or the northern borders.<sup>2</sup>

Jordan had previously declared fulfilment of its Article 5 clearance obligations on 24 April 2012, having determined that no areas under its jurisdiction or control remained in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected.<sup>3</sup> However, in formally declaring completion of its Article 5 obligations at the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties in December 2012, Jordan noted that: "While all mined areas that Jordan had made every effort to identify were cleared by 24 April 2012, Jordan, as a responsible State Party, has proceeded with verification efforts in two parts of the country, with these verification efforts having resulted in the discovery of additional mined areas."<sup>4</sup>

This pertained first to the need for verification in the **Jordan Valley**, as earlier clearance by the Jordanian Armed Forces' Royal Engineering Corps (REC) did not comply with national and international standards and was not subject to quality control;<sup>5</sup> and second to verification needed along Jordan's **northern border with Syria**, due to a considerable discrepancy between the recorded number of emplaced mines and the number actually cleared (estimated to be more than 10,000 mines<sup>6</sup>). Some of the difference in the figures was ascribed to the movement of mines to outside identified areas, due to flooding and terrain fluctuations, detonations,<sup>7</sup> and unrecorded clearance operations by the army or by smugglers.<sup>8</sup> In February 2019, Jordan offered a further explanation for some of the difference: the failure to record some of the earlier clearance.<sup>9</sup>

With respect to the **Jordan Valley**, Jordan reported in its December 2012 declaration of Article 5 completion that 5km<sup>2</sup> remained to be verified in an effort expected to take two years.<sup>10</sup> As at the end of 2017, 1.4km<sup>2</sup> of area in need of verification remained across 36 areas in the Jordan Valley.<sup>11</sup> In September 2018, Jordan reported to Mine Action Review

that sampling and verification in the Jordan Valley, overseen by the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR), had been completed in June 2018.<sup>12</sup> Jordan subsequently announced completion of its "verification for missing mines" project in June 2018, in its Transparency Statement at the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in November 2018.<sup>13</sup>

With respect to the **northern border**, in its 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion, Jordan reported that some 6.9km<sup>2</sup> remained to be verified, and that the process being undertaken by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) had been delayed for security reasons.<sup>14</sup> NPA's verification procedure involved a mixture of visual inspection of areas adjacent to the mine belt, ground preparation with mechanical assets, and limited involvement of manual deminers, with full technical survey of areas where evidence and experience pointed to a risk of contamination.<sup>15</sup> By May 2013, the estimated area needing verification had been reduced to around 5km<sup>2</sup>, but operations by NPA were halted because of the security situation.<sup>16</sup>

In its 2015–20 National Plan, Jordan reported that 3.7km<sup>2</sup> remained to be verified and inspected by QC teams along the northern border.<sup>17</sup> Jordan reported that, as at end 2017, just over 2.8km<sup>2</sup> across 18 areas along the northern border still needed verification.<sup>18</sup> In September 2018, Jordan reported to Mine Action Review that the Jordanian military had "checked" the remaining areas on the northern border,<sup>19</sup> and in its Transparency Statement at the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties in November 2018, Jordan subsequently announced completion of quality control procedures by its armed forces, and the use of the land for military purposes.<sup>20</sup> In February 2019, Jordan reconfirmed to Mine Action Review that the required checks in this area had been completed before June 2018 and no future action was needed from the NCDR.<sup>21</sup>

Jordan remains contaminated by explosive remnants of war (ERW), primarily the result of the 1948 partition of Palestine, the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, the 1970 civil war, and the 1975 confrontation with Syria. Military training ranges and cross-border smuggling have added to the ERW problem.

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Jordan established the NCDR under a Royal Decree, which the government subsequently incorporated into law.<sup>22</sup> The NCDR's board of directors includes representatives of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), landmine survivors, and the media.<sup>23</sup> The NCDR did not, though, become fully operational until 2004, when a new administration, chaired by Prince Mired Raad Zeid al-Hussein, was appointed.<sup>24</sup> The NCDR is responsible for coordinating, accrediting, regulating, and quality-assuring all mine action organisations, as well as for fundraising.<sup>25</sup> It is also responsible for ensuring mine action is integrated into the country's wider development strategies.<sup>26</sup>

In addition, Jordan's national plan reports that the NCDR will transition from a national institution focusing largely on its own explosive ordnance clearance, to one that will concentrate on assisting other conflict-affected countries to overcome the challenges of mine action and ERW removal.<sup>27</sup>

In 2018, the Jordanian government provided 220,000 Jordanian dinars (approximately US\$310,300) towards the cost of the NCDR and 20,000 Jordanian dinars (approximately US\$28,200) for verification of areas in the Jordan Valley.<sup>28</sup>

## GENDER

All groups affected by anti-personnel mine contamination, including women and children, were consulted during survey and community liaison activities, as specified in Jordan's national standards.<sup>29</sup> Survey and community liaison teams are mixed gender and in some surveys women made up 50% of the team. Relevant mine action data are disaggregated by sex and age.<sup>30</sup>

According to the NCDR, there is equal access for women and men in survey and clearance teams, including managerial-level positions, but there is a greater proportion of women in survey teams than in clearance teams.<sup>31</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The NCDR uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.<sup>32</sup>

Jordan submits timely and accurate annual Article 7 reports under the APMBC.

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

The NCDR's 2015–20 National Plan aimed to verify, sample, and release the remaining 5.4km<sup>2</sup> in the **Jordan Valley** by the end of 2017, by deploying six manual clearance teams and one mechanical demining team at a projected cost of US\$2 million.<sup>33</sup> Jordan fell slightly behind schedule, due to not deploying the capacity assumed in the National Plan, but completed the sampling and verification in the **Jordan Valley** in June 2018.<sup>34</sup>

According to the 2015–20 National Plan, resuming verification and release of the remaining mined areas along the **northern border** with Syria was dependent on the security situation but, would require one year's work with three manual teams and one mechanical team, at an expected cost of \$1 million.<sup>35</sup> According to the National Authorities, Jordan's military reportedly "checked" the areas on the **northern borders** and that, as a result of these checks, further QC by the NCDR in that region was deemed unnecessary.<sup>36</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### OPERATORS

The verification and demining operations in Jordan were conducted by the NCDR and REC. From October 2015, the NCDR deployed four operational teams, totalling 35 deminers, for verification and clearance.<sup>37</sup> From January 2018, capacity was reduced to three operational teams.<sup>38</sup>

### OPERATIONAL TOOLS

According to the NCDR, a shortage of funds prevented it from deploying mechanical assets and mine detection dogs (MDDs) in its Jordan Valley operations.<sup>39</sup>

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## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2018

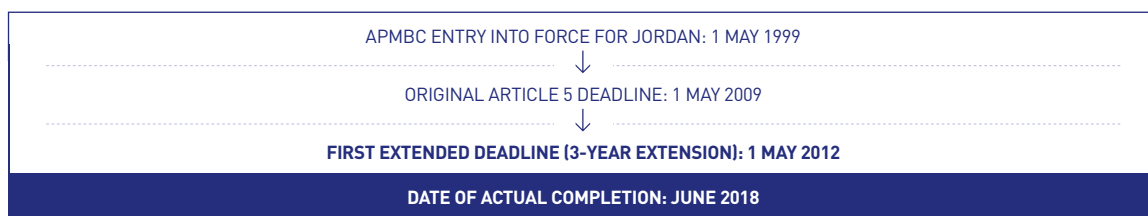
In 2018, Jordan reported finding and destroying six anti-personnel mines (five M14 mines and one M35 mine) and releasing a total of 961,860m<sup>2</sup>, during sampling and verification efforts in the Jordan Valley.<sup>40</sup>

This represents a decrease on the 1.44km<sup>2</sup> of land verified and released in 2017, when 75 anti-personnel mines (72 M14 mines and 3 M35 mines) and 2 anti-vehicle mines were destroyed.<sup>41</sup> The decrease in 2018 is due to the fact that

sampling and verification efforts in the **Jordan Valley** were completed in June 2018,<sup>42</sup> and, according to Jordan, no mined areas suspected or confirmed to contain anti-personnel mines remain.<sup>43</sup>

In addition, Jordan's military reportedly "checked" the areas on the **northern borders**,<sup>44</sup> but Jordan did not report any anti-personnel mines as having been found and destroyed in 2018, as part of that process.<sup>45</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Jordan is believed to no longer have outstanding Article 5 obligations. In its latest Article 7 transparency report, Jordan reported that, as at the end of 2018, no mined areas requiring verification or quality control (QC) remained.<sup>46</sup>

Prior to June 2018, Jordan declared fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations on 24 April 2012, just ahead of its 1 May 2012 Convention deadline, in accordance with the three-year extension request granted by states parties in 2008. When Jordan submitted its formal declaration of completion to the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties in December 2012,<sup>47</sup> it acknowledged that "a residual risk could remain in areas where landmines have been emplaced",<sup>48</sup> and noted that verification efforts had resulted in the discovery of additional mined areas.<sup>49</sup> Between declaring completion in 2012 and completion of the sampling and verification project in 2018 in the Jordan Valley and of checks of remaining areas on the northern border, Jordan had been in violation of the APMBC as it had failed to request an extension to its 2012 Article 5 deadline while it undertook the required sampling and verification.

Jordan had continued to discover and clear significant numbers of mines in areas it verified, despite having declared completion.

In the period between 2014 and 2018, Jordan verified close to 5km of mined area (see Table 1), during which a total of 463 anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-vehicle mines, and 181 other items of UXO were discovered and destroyed.<sup>50</sup>

**Table 1: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance (2014–18)**

Year	Area cleared (verified) (km <sup>2</sup> )
2018	0.96
2017	1.44
2016	1.36
2015	0.65
2014	0.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.96</b>

- 1 Emails from Mohammad Breikat, Director, NCDR, 30 September and 7 October 2018; Statement of Jordan on Transparency, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 30 November 2018; and interview, in Geneva, 7 February 2019.
- 2 Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form D.
- 3 Declaration by Jordan of completion of implementation of Article 5, APMBC 12th Meeting of States Parties, 3–7 December 2012 (hereafter, Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion).
- 4 Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
- 5 Statement of Jordan, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, December 2017.
- 6 Email from Mikael Bold, then Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 12 February 2012. NPA estimated the number of mines missing from the mine belt at between 9,345 and 10,083.
- 7 Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion; and Statement of Jordan, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, December 2017.
- 8 Email from Mikael Bold, NPA, 12 February 2012.
- 9 Interview with Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, Geneva, 7 February 2019.
- 10 Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
- 11 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
- 12 Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September 2018; and interview Geneva, 7 February 2019.
- 13 Statement of Jordan on Transparency, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 30 November 2018.
- 14 Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
- 15 Email from Jamal Odibat, Operations Reporting Officer, NCDR, 8 May 2014.
- 16 Statement of Jordan, Standing Committee on Mine Action, Geneva, 29 May 2013; Third APMBC Review Conference, Maputo, June 2014; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 10 April 2017.
- 17 NCDR, "Jordan's National Mine Action Plan 2015–20", Amman, undated.
- 18 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
- 19 Emails from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September and 7 October 2018.
- 20 Statement of Jordan on Transparency, 17th Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 30 November 2018.
- 21 Interview with Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, Geneva, 7 February 2019.
- 22 Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
- 23 NCDR, "Jordan's National Mine Action Plan 2005–2009", Amman, June 2005, pp. 1–2.
- 24 Ibid.; and Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
- 25 NCDR, "Jordan's National Mine Action Plan 2005–2009", Amman, June 2005, pp. 1–2.
- 26 Email from Muna Alalul, NCDR, 31 July 2011.
- 27 NCDR, "2015–2020 NCDR National Plan", Amman, undated.
- 28 Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form H.
- 29 National Technical Standards and Guidelines, NCDR, 1 September 2015; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 24 July 2019.
- 30 Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 24 July 2019.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
- 33 NCDR, "2015–2020 NCDR National Plan", Amman, undated.
- 34 Emails from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September and 7 October 2018.
- 35 NCDR, "2015–2020 NCDR National Plan", Amman, undated.
- 36 Interview with Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, Geneva, 7 February 2019.
- 37 Emails from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 25 August 2016, 10 April 2017, and 14 April 2018.
- 38 Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
- 39 Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September 2018.
- 40 Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form D and Appendix 1.
- 41 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
- 42 Interview with Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, in Geneva, 7 February 2019.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Emails from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR 30 September and 7 October 2018.
- 45 Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form D and Appendix 1.
- 46 Article 7 Report (for 2018), Form D.
- 47 Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
- 48 "Jordan becomes the first Middle Eastern country free of all known landmines", Press release, 24 April 2012.
- 49 Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
- 50 See Mine Action Review reports on clearance in Jordan covering 2014–17.