



# JORDAN

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2012**  
(IN VIOLATION OF THE DEADLINE)

## PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

	2017	2016
Problem understood	7	7
Target date for completion of mine clearance	5	5
Targeted clearance	6	6
Efficient clearance	6	6
National funding of programme	5	5
Timely clearance	7	6
Land-release system in place	6	6
National mine action standards	7	7
Reporting on progress	6	6
Improving performance	7	7
<b>PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>

## PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Jordan again made solid progress in its verification and release of land in 2017, deploying four teams and halving the total contaminated area in the Jordan Valley during the course of the year. Furthermore, Jordan subsequently reported that the sampling and verification project in the Jordan Valley had been completed in June 2018.

In addition, Jordan's military have reportedly conducted checks in areas on the northern borders, and as such, further quality control (QC) by the National Committee

for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) may not be required. However, due to the Syrian crisis, the NCDR has not been able to check the work of the army or determine if any follow-up is needed by NCDR.

Until all areas in need of verification or QC on the northern borders are safely released, Jordan has an obligation under Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- As soon as conditions permit Jordan should verify the "checks" conducted by the Jordanian army on the northern borders and determine whether or not QC is required by NCDR to safely release mined areas.
- Jordan should publish a revised strategic work plan to reflect progress to date and its plans for completion.

## CONTAMINATION

Jordan is contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Contamination is 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.

Jordan declared that it had fulfilled 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>1</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>2</sup> This pertains 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>3</sup> and second to verification that is needed along Jordan's northern border with Syria, due to a considerable discrepancy [estimated to be more than 10,000 mines<sup>4</sup>] between the recorded number of emplaced mines and the number actually cleared. Most of the difference in the figures is thought to be due to the migration of mines outside identified areas due to flooding and terrain fluctuations, detonations,<sup>5</sup> and unrecorded clearance operations by the army or by smugglers.<sup>6</sup>

As at the end of 2017, the total area in need of verification for missing mines was just under 4.25km<sup>2</sup>, across a total of 56 areas. This comprised 1.4km<sup>2</sup> across 36 areas in the Jordan Valley and 2.8km<sup>2</sup> across 18 areas in the northern borders.<sup>7</sup> In September 2018, Jordan reported to Mine Action Review that the sampling and verification project in the Jordan Valley had been completed in June 2018. Furthermore, the Jordanian military had reportedly "checked" the areas in the northern borders for military use and further QC by NCDR may not be required in this region. However, NCDR will only be able to check the work of the army and confirm if any further action is required, once security conditions allow.<sup>8</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>9</sup> As at May 2013, the estimated area requiring verification had fallen to 4.4km<sup>2</sup>,<sup>10</sup> before rising to 4.85km<sup>2</sup> as at the end of 2014.<sup>11</sup> In its 2015–20 National Plan, Jordan reported that 5.4km<sup>2</sup> remained to be sampled, verified, and released according to national standards.<sup>12</sup> Jordan reported that as at end-2017, 1.4km<sup>2</sup> across 38 areas still needed verification in the Jordan Valley.<sup>13</sup> Most recently, in September 2018, Jordan reported to Mine Action Review that sampling and verification in the Jordan Valley had been completed in June 2018, as noted above.<sup>14</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>15</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>16</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>17</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>18</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>19</sup> This is the same area reported for 2016<sup>20</sup> and 2015.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, as already mentioned, it was reported to Mine Action Review that the Jordanian military had searched the remaining area required for QC and further action may not be required by NCDR. Once the situation on the Syrian border has calmed down, NCDR planned to check the work of the Jordanian military and determine if any further action is required. NCDR's operations in the north remained suspended as at October 2018, due to the ongoing Syrian crisis.<sup>22</sup>

## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Jordan established the NCDR under a Royal Decree, which the government subsequently incorporated into law.<sup>23</sup> NCDR's board of directors includes representatives of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), landmine survivors, and the media.<sup>24</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>25</sup> The NCDR is responsible for coordinating, accrediting, regulating, and quality-assuring all mine action organisations, as well as for fundraising.<sup>26</sup> It is also responsible for ensuring mine action is integrated into the country's wider development strategies.<sup>27</sup>

### Strategic Planning

The NCDR's 2010–15 National Plan, published in June 2010, aimed to complete clearance of all known mines, including 65,000 mines from the northern border, by May 2012, and to clear all ERW by December 2012.<sup>28</sup> Jordan had planned to complete verification and clearance in the Jordan Valley by the end of 2015, but later said the date of completion would depend on available resources.<sup>29</sup>

The NCDR's current 2015–20 National Plan aimed to verify, sample, and release the remaining 5.4km<sup>2</sup> in the Jordan Valley within 36 months (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>30</sup> In April 2017, the NCDR reported that it was not on target to complete verification of the Jordan Valley by the end of the year, and that it would update its work plan in 2018.<sup>31</sup> In April 2018, the NCDR reported that it planned to finish verification of the Jordan Valley in 2018.<sup>32</sup> Resuming verification and release of the remaining mined areas along the northern border with Syria will depend on the security situation but, according to the 2015–20 National Plan, would require one year's work with three manual teams and one mechanical team, at an expected cost of \$1 million.<sup>33</sup> The plan also aimed to eliminate all ERW contamination by 2017.<sup>34</sup> As at September 2018, ERW clearance had not yet started, due to a lack of funding.<sup>35</sup> The NCDR prioritises areas in need of development for verification.<sup>36</sup>

In addition, Jordan's national plan reports that the NCDR will transition from a national institution focusing largely on its own mine clearance, to one that will concentrate on assisting other conflict-affected countries to overcome the challenges of mine action and ERW removal.<sup>37</sup>

### Legislation and Standards

Jordan does not have national mine action legislation in place, based on available information.

### Information Management

The NCDR uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.<sup>38</sup>

### Quality Management

Quality assurance (QA) and QC is conducted in all projects by the NCDR quality management team.<sup>39</sup>

### Operators

The verification and demining operations in Jordan are conducted by the NCDR and REC. Since October 2015, Jordan has deployed four operational teams, totalling 35 deminers. This represents a doubling of capacity compared to the two operational teams, totalling 17 deminers, deployed previously.<sup>40</sup> From January 2018, capacity was reduced to three operational teams.<sup>41</sup> According to the NCDR, a shortage of funds prevents it from deploying mechanical assets and mine detection dogs (MDDs) in its Jordan Valley operations.<sup>42</sup>

# LAND RELEASE

## Survey and Clearance in 2017

In 2017, Jordan verified and released just under 1.44km<sup>2</sup> of land, across 38 areas in the Jordan Valley, during which 75 anti-personnel mines (72 M14 mines and 3 M35 mines) and 2 anti-vehicle mines were destroyed.<sup>43</sup> This represents a slight increase on the 1.36km<sup>2</sup> verified and released in 2016.<sup>44</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Jordan does not currently have an extension request granted by states parties. Jordan reported to Mine Action Review that it has now completed its sampling and verification project in the Jordan Valley and that its military had conducted “checks” on its northern borders. As soon as conditions permit, the national authorities plan to confirm if any quality control of earlier clearance is still needed on the northern borders. Only at this stage will become clear if Jordan has fulfilled its obligations under Article 5.

Jordan declared completion 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. It submitted its formal declaration of completion to the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties in December 2012.<sup>45</sup> On announcing completion, however, Prince Mired acknowledged that “a residual risk could remain in areas where landmines have been emplaced”,<sup>46</sup> and noted that verification efforts had resulted in the discovery of additional mined areas.<sup>47</sup> The verification efforts, which are ongoing in the Jordan Valley, and which are currently suspended along the northern border due to insecurity, continue to result in the discovery and clearance of mined areas.<sup>48</sup>

In August 2016, Jordan informed Mine Action Review that its Article 5 issue would be discussed during the next APMBC Meeting of States Parties”,<sup>49</sup> which was held in Santiago, Chile, from 28 November to 2 December 2016. This did not occur, however, and most recently in April 2018, Jordan reported that it was not planning to submit an Article 5 extension request.<sup>50</sup>

In the last five years Jordan has verified and released just over 5km<sup>2</sup> of mined area (see Table 1).

According to its 2015–20 National Plan, Jordan would need three years to finish the verification process, aiming for completion by December 2017.<sup>51</sup> However, the head of the NCDR has reported that Jordan is not on target to meet this completion date, given that the National Plan assumed a capacity of six national teams from 1 January 2015, which is less than current capacity.<sup>52</sup> The doubling of operational capacity in October 2015, from two teams to four, was a welcome development, and resulted in a doubling of the area of land verified and released in 2016, compared to 2015.<sup>53</sup> However, Jordan reported that capacity in 2018 was being reduced to three teams,<sup>54</sup> which is well short of the six teams specified in Jordan’s 2015–2020 National Mine Action Plan.<sup>55</sup>

In April 2018, the NCDR confirmed that a work schedule existed for the remaining areas of the Jordan Valley, and that it expected to complete verification of this region in 2018.<sup>56</sup> In September 2018, Jordan reported to Mine Action Review that the sampling and verification project in the Jordan Valley had been completed in June 2018.<sup>57</sup>

Furthermore, Jordan’s military reportedly “checked” the areas on the northern borders for military use and as a result further QC by NCDR may not be required in this region. However, verification of the army’s work and determination by NCDR on whether or not any further action is required, is contingent on an improvement in the security situation. As at October 2018 NCDR verification activities remained suspended.<sup>58</sup>

In 2017, the Jordanian government provided US\$311,000 Jordanian Dollars towards the cost of the NCDR and US\$70,000 for verification of areas.<sup>59</sup> The NCDR expected funding to remain constant in 2018.<sup>60</sup>

Table 1: Mine clearance in 2013–17

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2017	1.44
2016	1.36
2015	0.65
2014	0.55
2013	1.10
Total	5.1

1	Declaration by Jordan of completion of implementation of Article 5, 12th Meeting of States Parties, 3–7 December 2012 [hereafter, Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion].	28	NCDR, “2010–2015 NCDR National Plan”, undated but June 2010, p. 3.
2	Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.	29	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 22 March 2015.
3	Statement of Jordan, 16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, December 2017.	30	NCDR, “2015–2020 NCDR National Plan”, Amman, undated.
4	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.	31	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 10 April 2017.
5	Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion; and Statement of Jordan, 16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, December 2017.	32	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
6	Email from Mikael Bold, NPA, 12 February 2012.	33	NCDR, “2015–2020 NCDR National Plan”, Amman, undated.
7	Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, National Director, NCDR, 14 April 2018.	34	Ibid.
8	Emails from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September and 7 October 2018.	35	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September 2018.
9	Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.	36	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
10	Statement of Jordan, Standing Committee on Mine Action, Geneva, 29 May 2013.	37	NCDR, “2015–2020 NCDR National Plan”, Amman, undated.
11	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 22 March 2015.	38	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
12	NCDR, “2015–2020 NCDR National Plan”, Amman, undated.	39	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September 2018.
13	Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.	40	Emails from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 25 August 2016, 10 April 2017, and 14 April 2018.
14	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September 2018.	41	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
15	Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.	42	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September 2018.
16	Email from Jamal Odibat, Operations Reporting Officer, NCDR, 8 May 2014.	43	Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
17	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.	44	Article 7 Report (for 2016), p. 4; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 10 April 2017.
18	NCDR, “Jordan's National Mine Action Plan 2015–20”, Amman, undated.	45	Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
19	Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.	46	“Jordan becomes the first Middle Eastern country free of all known landmines”, Press release, 24 April 2012.
20	Article 7 Report (for 2016), p. 4; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 10 April 2017.	47	Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.
21	Article 7 Report (for 2015).	48	Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form D; and email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
22	Emails from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September and 7 October 2018.	49	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 25 August 2016.
23	Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.	50	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
24	NCDR, “Jordan's National Mine Action Plan 2005–2009”, Amman, June 2005, pp. 1–2.	51	NCDR, “2015–2020 NCDR National Plan”, Amman, undated.
25	Ibid.; and Jordan 2012 Article 5 Declaration of Completion.	52	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 10 April 2017.
26	NCDR, “Jordan's National Mine Action Plan 2005–2009”, Amman, June 2005, pp. 1–2.	53	Ibid.
27	Email from Muna Alalul, NCDR, 31 July 2011.	54	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018; and NCDR, “2015–2020 NCDR National Plan”, Amman, undated, p. 13.
		55	NCDR, “2015–2020 NCDR National Plan”, Amman, undated, p. 13.
		56	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.
		57	Ibid., 30 September and 7 October 2018.
		58	Ibid.
		59	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 30 September 2018.
		60	Email from Mohammad Breikat, NCDR, 14 April 2018.