

Intercessional Meetings 2013 Jordan's Article 5 update

In the declaration of completion on the 24th April 2012, Jordan recalled that the States Parties have always been realistic in accepting that a residual risk remains in areas where anti-personnel mine have been emplaced. Therefore, in declaring completion, Jordan is committed, in the event that previously unknown anti-personnel mines or mined areas are discovered after completion was declared, to: (a) report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means such as the Intercessional Work Programme; (b) ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5; and, (c) destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

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.~~

- a. Demining in Jordan Valley was declared complete in 2008. However, the clearance work by the REC was not compliant with national standards and was not subject to quality management. In response, the NCDR began a verification exercise in 2009. Between the start of this exercise and 30 October 2012, 10,516,291 square metres had been verified and released, and a total of 823 anti-personnel mines, 253 anti-vehicle mines and 826 UXO have been found and destroyed.

As of 30 Oct 2012 till 30th April 2013 153 APs, 40 ATs and 9 UXOs had been found and 666,500 square metres had been verified, Jordan will continue verification of an additional 4,374,846 square metres with this effort with priorities expected to last for 2 years. In the event that additional previously unknown anti-personnel mines or mined areas are discovered as a result of this verification effort, Jordan will respond in the manner agreed to by the states parties.

- b. As noted, demining along Jordan's northern border was declared complete in April 2012 with respect to all mined areas that Jordan had made every effort to identify. After clearance, there was some discrepancy between the reported emplaced mines and the mines that had been found. The probable causes included migration of mines outside of identified mined areas because of flooding and terrain fluctuations, and self-detonations. Jordan aims to secure the safety of its population with respect to areas adjacent to these now formerly mined areas. As of 24 April 2012, Jordan sought to still verify approximately 7 million square metres of land along its northern border. Based on experience from addressing the north-west and north-east portions of the northern border, NPA employed a more streamlined land release approach was applied in the eastern portion than in the two first areas. This involves a technical survey methodology that identifies all wrongly recorded mined areas and the application of a "fadeout" from all mines that were found to accommodate potential washouts of mines.
- c. As of 26 November 2012, verification of the northern border had been completed with respect to five areas totalling 888,413 square metres. A total of 196 anti-personnel mines, 3 anti-tank

mines and 13 UXO have been found and destroyed. During the period 26 Nov 2012 till Feb 2013 more 350,000 square metres were verified, and a total of 20 anti-personnel mines, 1 anti-tank mine have been found and destroyed. Verification was intended to be complete by the end of June 2013. However, the security situation along the border has caused a delay and by Feb 2013 it was completely halted. From the 7 million square metres to be verified since 24 April 2012, we still need to verify around 5 million, most of them verified by one asset and need a second asset, at any time the operations could be resumed there it's expected that NPA will need six months and the NCDR 3 months more for quality control.

NPA /Jordan Program was deployed on ground on the 7 of May 2013 in Jordan valley, the initial task for NPA/Jordan is to verify 5 tasks as to speed up of the verification process running there, depending on fund availability, NCDR may task the NPA with more Tasks .

- d. Despite the discrepancy between reported emplaced mines and mines which have been found and destroyed, NPA has only found a comparatively small number of them during its activities. This implies that there is a mismatch between the numbers of reported unaccounted mines and the real numbers of mines that may have been relocated due to migration of mines and self-detonations. The numbers of mines that cannot be accounted for may not be used as an indicator of the actual number of mines that could be found in washout areas. In the event that additional previously unknown anti-personnel mines or mined areas are discovered as a result of verification along its northern border, Jordan will respond in the manner agreed to by the states parties.

Thank you.