

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ


MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU YÉMEN
GENÈVE



الوفد الدائم للجمهورية اليمنية
لدى المقر الأوروبي للأمم المتحدة
جنيف

No.: 15

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and in reference to Yemen's commitment of providing a final on its investigation and follow-up actions to the breach of the convention. As recorded in the decisions of the 2013 thirteenth meeting of states parties, it is our pleasure to enclose herewith a copy of the above report on the measures taken towards the mines laid in banijarmooz.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen avails itself of this opportunity to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit renew to the the assurances of its highest consideration. 



Geneva, 15.1.2015

Republic of Yemen
The Cabinet of Ministers
National Mine Action Committee
Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre



Dear Mr. Qasim Ahmed Al-Agam
Chairman
NMAC

Subject: Preliminary Report to be Submitted the Chairman of the Thirteenth
Meeting of the State Parties to AP Mine Ban Convention

Respected Sir,

With reference to the subject mentioned above, we are presenting to you a preliminary report – on the measures taken towards the mines laid in BaniJarmooz – that would be presented to the Chairman of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties to Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Ali Mohammed Al-Qadiri
Executive Director, YEMAC

Yemeni Government Report to the Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties to AP Mine Ban Convention

First: Preamble

Yemeni Government is submitting this report in compliance with its commitment to the implementation of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties on 9-11 April 2014, and upon the deadline – set on April, 2014 – to prepare the final report by the end of December 2014. The report shall include the measures taken by the Government towards the implementation of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Meeting regarding the anti-personnel mines laid in BaniJarmooz, Sana'a governorate.

In April 2014, Yemen submitted the preliminary report regarding its commitments towards the decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties. Yemen has taken several measures, conducting meetings and correspondences as preliminary measures towards the implementation of the Resolutions. Yemen also started, at the same time, conducting the initial non-technical survey to identify the hazardous areas in BaniJarmooz.

From April to the present time, Yemen has undergone massive chaotic changes and events, leading to a political and economic setbacks in all public institutions. Such circumstances have hampered the procedures of the implementation of the Resolutions. They, however, did not deter the progress of the measures from being achieved seriously.

Second: Measures Taken to Implement the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Meeting

1- Actions taken to survey and clear anti-personnel mines in BaniJarmooz

A) Nature of the Land:

The nature of the reportedly suspect hazardous areas (SHA) is 95% rocky. The lands there are quarried for building stones. The report conducted by the Human Rights Watch states that mines can easily be seen, for they are not buried, nor even hidden.





B) Non-Technical Survey

Non-technical survey of the landmine impacts was conducted in BaniJarmooz where two villages and five areas were identified as suspect lands contaminated by mines and explosives remnants of war (ERW). Their total area is 1825000 m² as follows:

Province	District	City	Priority	Hazard Area Size
Sana'a	BaniAlharith	Al saa'id	High	950000
		Bait Dahrah	High	875000
Grand Total				1825000

C) Technical Survey

The technical survey was carried out in BaniJarmooz. 6 areas contaminated with landmines and ERW were identified based on the information provided by the local communities and in accordance with the Human Rights Watch report.

The total area of the identified/ marked lands is 1225000m². Details are as follows:

Governorate	District	Name of village	Priority level	May	June	August	September	Grand Total
Sana'a	BaniAlhareth	Alsa'a'id	High					
		Bait Dahrah	High			180000	95000	275000
		Alsa'a'id	High		950000			950000
Grand Total					950000	180000	95000	1225000



D) Implementation of Clearance:

The Yemeni Government has implemented, through YEMAC, clearance actions in the identified areas. The clearance activities were implemented by one set of mine detection dogs (MDD) and clearance units (using metal detectors). The cleared area of the identified lands was 21625m².

Governorate*	District*	Name of village	Priority level	May	June	August	September	Grand Total
Sana'a	BaniAlhareth	Alsaa'id	High					
		Bait Dahrah	High			134494	81000	215494
		Alsaa'id	High	53215	75730			128945
Grand Total				53215	75730	134494	81000	344439





Discovered Mines

According to the information and reports submitted by YEMAC, the number of the discovered mines was 5 Anti-Tank mines laid in different roads that lead to military camps. The reports did not indicate the presence of anti-personnel mines at moment. Local communities, however, confirmed that AP mines were scattered visibly over the ground; for as mentioned earlier, it is impossible to bury or hide them due to the rocky nature of the area; later on they were removed by unknowns. But there are many marked minefields not completely cleared and these minefields could be contaminated by AP mines.

2) Measures Taken survivors Assistance:

In December 2014 and in spite of the circumstances which the mine action program faced lately (mentioned below), the mine action programm has started survivors assistance program in Bani Jarmoz and Arhab districts to register and support the land mines survivors.





3) Measures Taken to Implement Mine Risk Education (MRE)

From June to September, MRE activities were carried out in 73 sites and schools in BaniJarmooz, targeting 9815 beneficiaries (of whom 6381 were children and 3434 were adults).

Month	province	District	Cities	Cities	Girls	Boys	Total Children	Women	Men	Total Adults	Grand Total
Jun-14	Sana'a	BaniAlhareth	BaniJermooz	21	72	112	184	200	562	762	946
				15	159	263	422	515	407	922	1,344
Aug-14	Sana'a	BaniAlhareth	BaniJermooz	11	91	152	243	135	617	752	995
				8	35	42	77	200	215	415	492
Sep-14	Sana'a	BaniAlhareth	BaniJermooz	10	2,402	2,456	4,858	153	241	394	5,252
				8	251	346	597	88	101	189	786
Total				73	3010	3371	6381	1291	2143	3434	9815



4) Actions Taken on the Investigation with the Perpetrators (who laid AP Mines)

Based on the previous actions mentioned in the report– submitted by the Government in the Meeting of the States Parties in April 2014 – which includes strict and clear presidential directives to implement the resolutions and arrangements; and based on the information on the AP mines provided by (Human Rights Organization), several measures and actions were taken against the perpetrators. They are as follows:

- A) Military personnel and officials mentioned in the report prepared by Human Rights Organization were called and interrogated in the headquarters of the Republican Guards;
- B) The perpetrators were referred to a military tribunal to consider and verify the evidence;
- C) During the past four months, procedures were halted from being implemented due to the reasons described below in the constraints and difficulties.

Third: Constraints and Difficulties:

1. Constraints that caused measure suspension of decisions implementation

The measures were temporarily suspended in the recent months for the following reasons:

- a) The investigation and follow-up commissions have not yet been able to carry out field visits to BaniJermooz to take witness statements from local communities. This is due to the recurring conflicts in that area between

the army, Houthi groups and tribes, on the one hand, and the so-called al-Qaeda groups, on the other. Al-Qaeda groups stationed in Arhab area, northeast of the capital Sana'a, within which BaniJermooz area is located. These conflicts have now been going on over the recent three months.

- b) You know, the Yemeni government was unable to perform its tasks in the recent three months due to the cited reasons of recurrent people revolutions, its wars against al-Qaeda and the collapse of the security situation in the capital Sana'a. Such reasons affected the completion of the measures which were duly started to carry out the decisions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the State Parties to Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

2. Difficulties of completing the clearance work and supporting landmine survivors:

For completing the clearance work and supporting the survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war as part of the Thirteenth Meeting decisions, the National Mine Action Programme has also faced difficulties in completing the clearance work and supporting the landmine survivors due to significant shortfalls in international fund for the programme, which has become very limited to barely cover processing administrative work in the programme.

The Yemeni government has also not been able to fulfill its financial commitments towards providing the National Mine Action Programme with financial support because of the total deficit in the state budget and the severe downturn of the economy, as all know. This forced the Yemeni government to suspend the financial allocations for the National Mine Action Programme.

Fourth: Yemeni Government Address to States Parties:

- In the present meeting, the Yemeni government would respectfully express its gratitude and appreciation of the ongoing international efforts to assist Yemen in fulfilling its commitments towards the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty. It extends its utmost thanks and gratitude to the States Parties, the Presidency of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, and the Third Review Meeting in Maputo (Mozambique) for granting Yemen an extension approval from March 2015 to March 2020.
- The Yemeni government still looks forward to receiving further support from the Presidency of the States Parties so Yemen could meet its commitments towards the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in the time set forth in the extension plan.
- Yemen also calls the Your Excellency to urge States to resume and continue supporting the Yemeni government to clear the remaining contaminated areas with mines and explosive remnants of war.
- Finally, the Yemeni government declares to continue exerting potential efforts in order to fulfill its commitments towards clearing the remaining contaminated areas with mines and remnants of war. It hereby declares to continue completing the implementation of the remaining decisions made at the Thirteenth Meeting.