



Your Excellency Ambassador Thomas Gobel
President of the Twenty-First Meeting of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Kuwait has a long and complex history with mine action operations. The country was heavily contaminated with landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) following the 1990-1991 Gulf War and has been working to clear these hazards ever since.

The impact of landmines on human casualties in Kuwait has been significant. According to the latest statistics there have been over 1700 casualties from landmines and other ERW since the Gulf War. Of these, over 648 have been fatal.

The Kuwaiti government has taken several steps to comply with the Mine Ban Treaty, which Kuwait ratified in 1997. These steps include:

- Disposal of ALL AP mines in inventory (including the provisions for training).
- Conducting mine surveys to identify contaminated areas.
- Clearing landmines and other ERW from contaminated areas
- Providing assistance to landmine victims
- Raising awareness of the dangers of landmines through governments multi authority programs.

The Kuwaiti government has made significant progress in implementing its commitments under the Mine Ban Treaty. As of 2023, the government has declared the clearance over 90% of the land that was contaminated with landmines following the Gulf War. However, there is still a significant amount of work to be done, due to many uncontrolled challenges such as (environmental-terrain-geological and human conditions) yet the government remains committed to clearing all landmines and other ERW from Kuwaiti territory.



The Kuwait Army has played a major role in clearing landmines and other ERW from Kuwaiti territory. The army has used a variety of methods to clear these hazards, including:

- Minesweeping
- Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD)
- Hand-clearing
- Seismic Survey

The Kuwait Army EOD UNITS COMMAND has been appointed as the lead of the Mine Action operations and it was successful in that role in coordination and cooperation with other government and nongovernmental agencies to fulfill the other aspects of compliance to the treaty (the medical ,financial, legislative and social) which all is coordinated , orchestrated and overseen by the highest authorities in the country and this cause is given both serious and great attention.

The following are some statistics showing the progress made by the EOD Units in the operations of clearing landmines and other ERW in Kuwait:

- As of May 2023, Kuwait Army EOD units have accomplished the following
 - Disposal of 94,000 AP mines that were in Kuwait Army inventory in 2007.
 - Disposal of 1,127,686 AP mines planted by Iraq in Kuwait during the war.
 - Disposal of 541,816 AT mines planted by Iraq in Kuwait during the war>
 - Disposal of 10,982,093 tons of various ammunitions and ERW hazardous to population.
 - 28,863,000 SQM swept and searched for UXOs (repetitive sweeping for Quality Insurance).
 - Changing the curriculum of using and planning mine warfare to a full-scale mine clearance operations and mine awareness to the civilian population.



- Awareness campaigns targeting different audience (children-regular civilians -professionals working in contaminated areas).

The Kuwait Army EOD Units has plays a major role in clearing landmines and other ERW from Kuwaiti territory since the liberation of Kuwait until today. The army had previously contracted with 7 countries to help with the clearance operations until 1996 then took on its own to complete the mission till date. Armed with the best technologies available and newest methods and experiences, alongside with serious support of pursuit of procuring new technologies and developments of the mine clearance operations. Kuwait Army is doing its best possible to achieve the national mine action plan in its capacity within the timed plan.

In conclusion, I hope that I was successful to showcasing the State of Kuwait government's efforts to clear landmines and other ERW from its territory, and how far it has been successful in reducing the number of casualties from these hazards. Also I would like to stress that the government with all its capacity remains committed to clearing all landmines and other ERW from Kuwaiti territory with an open mentality and arms for further cooperation with the international community to make the world a safer, better and more sustainable place.

Thank you your Excellency.