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Extant of Contamination

The distribution of landmines is largely con-
centrated along the northern border with Syria, the western border with Israel, and within the Jordan Valley. Although these contaminated areas are now controlled by the Jordanian mili-
tary and are essentially blocked from the pub-
lic, their presence still has a significant impact on the economic and environmental resources of local communities.1

According to the Royal Corps of Engineers, Jordan’s primary demining authority, when humanitarian demining started in 1995, there were an estimated 60 million square meters (25 square miles) of suspected hazardous areas contaminated with approximately 354,653 landmines and 100,000公众号items of ordnance. If all mines and 10,000公众号items of UXO were removed and destroyed, resulting in the reduction of more than 25 million square meters (9 square miles). The remaining 35 million square meters (13.5 square miles) of SAs are believed to affect the lives of as many as 500,000 people, or roughly 8 percent of Jordan’s total popula-
tion.2

In response to decreasing clearance rates and in an effort to blame for restricting access to some of the country’s most valuable agricultural lands, as well as a result of the pervasive and widespread occurrence of much needed economic infrastructure in the form of irrigation and hydroelectric power projects, the country’s construction and cultural heritage tourism sites.3

National Mine-action Program

Jordan signed the Ottawa Convention on 31 August 1998, and on 13 November 1998, and officially became a State Party with the treaty’s entry into force on 1 March 1999. In 1999, the government halted the importation of its landmines, consisting of 92,342 anti-
personnel mines.1 In accordance with Article 5, Jordan is required to destroy all mines located within its jurisdic-
tion no later than 1 May 2009. If provided proper funding to allow the expansion of its demining capacity, the Jordanian government believes that it will be able to comply with its international mandates.2

The establishment of the National Commit-
tee for Demining and Resettlement in 2000 first marked national implementation of the Ottawa Convention. As Jordan’s primary national-action authority, the NCDC is respon-
sible for the organization and implementation of integrated mine-action goals, strategies, and programs, including mine clearance, mine-risk education, survivor and victim assistance, and policy-universalization activities.3 In 2005, the NCDC published its first National Mine Action Plan. This five-year plan functions as a stra-
gic planning framework designed to cultivate an integrated national approach to mine action, primarily through capacity development.

Casualties and Survivor Assistance

From 1982 to 2004, 530 landmine/UXO casualties were reported with 111 killed, 418 injured and four circumstances unknown.4 These casualties included 212 civilians, 152 military personnel, 172ensored, and 13 peacekeepers. Although static and reliable figures are difficult to obtain prior to 1993, the government has estimated that the actual number of total casualties dating back to 1982 could be as high as 800.5

Landmine survivors and victims have had access to basic health and rehabilitation ser-
dvices since the 1960s. There has been a need, however, for more specialized rehabilitative services. The National Rehabilitation Center for Amputees was designed to fill that void, which, however, it never fulfilled because the NCRA does not have the funding or equipment needed to perform its role.6 Despite this drawback, the Jordanian gov-
ernment has been active in support of various survivor/victim assistance initiatives, including the development of national, long-term 10-year rehabilitation and policies and other programs that address dis-
bility policy and law, health and social welfare programs, research and data collection, first aid and pri-
maries healthcare, hospital-medicare, care, rehabilita-
tion, and socioeconomic reintegration.

Outlook for the Future

In the absence of the so-called ‘humanitarian exemptions’ and the latter, the General Assembly of the UN voted to extend a three-year deadline to the country’s 2009 legal deadline for the destruction of its landmines. The new law follows much the same rhetoric as the mine prohibitions under the Ottawa Convention. The law forbids the han-
dling of landmines, whether or not they are armed, and with those with a special written order from the Minister of Defense have to handle these weapons.6

In response to decreasing clearance rates and a looming 2009 Ottawa Convention deadline, Jordan has elected to expand its clearance activities to include civilian demining organizations. Furthermore, during the International Mine Action Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, Jordan outlined a new three-step approach for reaching its 2009 deadline. Although encour-
ging, such a plan seems too optimistic, recent trends show a steady decline in funding that threatens the country’s ability to sustain and increase its clearance rates. Therefore, a new timeframe is expected to result from 2011 Jordan has been determined to uphold its comm-
mitment, and it hosted the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention in November 2007. With all this, the interna-
tional attention that accompanied the meeting will result in increased donations.

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Anthony Morin has worked as a Stu-
dent Research Assistant for the MACC since April 2006. He is a senior at James Madison University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in communication studies and a Bachelor of Science in international humanitarian affairs. He plans to graduate in May 2008. He can be contacted by email at amorin005@jmu.edu.

Anthony Morin
Student Research Assistant
MacC, James Madison University
E-mail: amorin005@jmu.edu
Web site: http://mcic.jmu.edu/