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## Universalization



### 8th Meeting of State Parties (8MSP) Update

Preparations for the Eighth Meeting of State Parties (8MSP) to be hosted by Jordan at the Dead Sea in November are underway. Within this framework, NCDR has signed contracts with an events management company, a tour operator and with a website developer. Furthermore, NCDR is collaborating with its government partners, namely the Ministry of Interior, Foreign Ministry and the Public Security Department, to create an online "E-Visa" form for the 8MSP website. The first of its kind in Jordan, the "E-Visa" aims to facilitate the visa process for 8MSP participants.

In January, a planning retreat was held at the Dead Sea to brainstorm initial ideas, communication messages and logistical arrangements for the 8MSP. NCDR Chairman H.R.H. Prince Mired led the session which was also attended by senior personnel engaged in planning the 8MSP. Kerry Brinkert and Sophie Delfolie from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) at the Geneva

International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in Geneva also attended the planning retreat and provided invaluable suggestions.

Visits to NCDR were made by a number of international partners during the first quarter of 2007. These included visits from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) Sponsorship Program, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and Landmine Survivors Network (LSN), the purpose of which were to make initial preparations for their role in the upcoming 8MSP.

In February, Assistant Secretary General to the 8MSP and Head of International Relations, Lina Abu-Nuwar attended the meeting of the Coordinating Committee in Geneva and presented a progress report on the 8MSP preparations.

On March 27th, NCDR hosted an 8MSP Donor Working Group meeting at its premises while generous donations were received from the Governments of Norway (US\$150,000), Canada (US\$ 162,000), Belgium (US\$32,000) and Switzerland (US\$50,000).

The 8MSP coordinating team at NCDR continues to grow. Mr. Fadi Danna joined NCDR in February. Fadi's main responsibilities include handling the logistics of the event. Meanwhile Islam Bawaneh, NCDR's Legal & Human Resources Officer came on board to act as the focal point for coordination with our partners in the Jordanian Government Institutions. A media and communications officer will also shortly be joining the team.

## International Relations

On January 18th, NCDR organized its quarterly Donor Working Group meeting at the King Hussein Club to present donors and partners with an update on its progress and activities over the last



six months and outline plans for the coming year.

NCDR received brief visits from several international missions over the last quarter, including a Japanese delegation that toured the National Amputee Center, and delegations from Belgium, Libya and a from the UK-based Defense Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL).

In March, H.R.H. Prince Mired Ra'ad Al-Hussein, NCDR Chairman traveled to Cambodia to participate in the "Mine Action and Implications for Peace and Development Conference" organized by the Canadian and Cambodian Governments. The participants of the conference; which was under the patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, were presented with a speech from H.R.H. Prince Mired on Jordan's history and progress to date in mine action and on the importance of international cooperation and of sharing expertise and resources to further global mine clearance.

Also in March, NCDR National Director Mohammad Breikat and UN Technical Advisor Olaf Juergensen attended the 10th International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors in Geneva. The meeting was organized by the UN Mine Action Team led by UNMAS with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). The meeting covered a wide range of subjects, including 'sustainable mine action' and 'capacity building and transition towards national ownership' as well as practical case studies from different mine affected countries.

NCDR Deputy Director and Head of Operations, Mohammad Abu-Dalou and Quality Management Team Leader Mousa Al-Sqour participated in the NPA Annual Mine Action Operational Meeting that was hosted by the Swedish EOD and Demining Centre (SWEDEC) in Eskjö, Sweden between the 5th and 9th of March.

A regional workshop on the "Impact of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War" was held in Syria between the 12th to the 16th of March, attended by 34 representatives of Arab and International entities. Quality Management Officer, Adnan Telfah and Legal & Human Resources Manager Islam Bawaneh represented NCDR at the workshop and made three presentations to share Jordan's experiences in mine action with the assembly. Topics covered included survivor and victim assistance, the Mine Ban Convention and the 8th Meeting of State Parties to be hosted by Jordan in November as well as Jordan's demining operations in general.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided US\$1 million to support a major mine-clearance project in the northern region of the kingdom, which is considered the last major phase in mine clearance operations in Jordan. The amount, granted to the UNDP on April 5th, will contribute to one year's worth of support for the Northern Border Clearance Project to be undertaken by the Norwegian People's Aid and it includes setting up a field office and support for two de-mining teams.

### *Mine Clearance*

The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) handed over to NCDR sixteen minefields with an overall area of 100,503m<sup>2</sup> where quality control operations were carried out by the NCDR's Quality Management team during the period of January 7th to March 17th.

With financial support from the European Union, Royal Engineering Corps (REC) clearance operations are currently progressing in five Jordanian minefields (5 manual, 3 mechanical and 2 machinery Teams) embracing an area of 50,000m<sup>2</sup>, noting that clearance operations in two minefields covering an area of 20,000m<sup>2</sup> have been completed.



Additionally, the REC conducted EU-sponsored clearance operations during January in seven Israeli minefields that cover an area of 359,848m<sup>2</sup>, following which they were handed over to the NCDR for quality control.

The QM team has expanded as two new personnel members joined the team in March bringing the total to seven. The expansion came as a response to the pressing demands emerging from the particular nature of the operations undertaken by the QM team.

### ***Wadi Araba Mine Clearance Project***

#### **Joint NCDR-NPA Project**

During January and February, operations under the joint NCDR-NPA project were temporarily put on hold while the manual demining team attended refreshment training courses that qualify them for the visual and manual verification operations to be implemented in Aqaba and later in Wadi Araba. During this period, senior project personnel conducted internal program evaluation and SOP revisions and adopted new structures and procedures for the operations team.

By the beginning of March the manual and mechanical demining teams resumed their operations in Wadi Araba. At the Ayla Real Estate Development Project in Aqaba, NPA's Minewolf team and Indian manual demining team completed demining of 24 minefields, 17 of which have been handed over to the NCDR for quality control purposes. NPA's progress report for the first quarter of 2007 indicates that a total of 17,346m<sup>2</sup> were cleared with 3,216 Anti-Personnel and 3 Anti-Tank mines recovered.

On the 19th of March, His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador to Jordan visited the operations site in Wadi Araba where he witnessed a demonstration of manual mine clearance and commended the achievements of the NPA project.

In January a number of NPA personnel and departments moved from Aqaba to their headquarters in Amman, leaving the Aqaba office as a liaison point and sub-base for logistics and operations. Additionally, new personnel were recruited to the NPA Project including five sector coordinators and a short-term technical advisor.

### ***Mine Risk Education (MRE)***

Having identified priority areas for its Mine Risk Education program, the MRE Department has embarked on the activities entailed under this program. It is currently coordinating with Mafraq's Governor and Executive Council for the launch of a comprehensive awareness campaign in the governorate. To achieve the best results anticipated from the program, MRE has approached His Excellency the Minister of Education to give instructions to all education directorates in Mafraq to support the awareness campaign which will be carried out throughout the current year.

The MRE department also garnered the support of Abu Mahjoob Creative Production Co. to this campaign. Popular local cartoonist Emad Hajjaj; creator of the Abu Mahjoob comic strip, is now committed to producing sketches and caricatures expressing relevant themes that will be part of the campaign's advocacy effort.

Additionally, in order to raise awareness on the risks of landmines among the local communities of Mafraq, the MRE department organized a special drawing competition on the landmine theme for school students. The winners of the drawing competition will be announced during the celebrations for International Mine Awareness Day on April 4th, at which time their drawings will also be hung in an exhibition as part of the event.

Additionally, MRE has liaised with its partners; the Civil Defense, the Red Crescent, the Red Cross and the Royal Engineering Corps, for the nomination of



awareness trainers to deliver the training within the awareness campaign, and is currently coordinating with the International Committee of the Red Cross to design the relevant training curriculum.

The MRE team made a visit to the Madaba governorate with the aim to inspect the minefields in the area. It was found that the area contains five minefields of which four are implanted with anti-tank mines. The MRE team met with the inhabitants of the area and highlighted the threats and hazards brought about by presence of landmines in the area. The team recommended placing more warning signs in the area close to the minefields and away from the main road.

### ***Survivor and Victim Assistance (SVA)***

On the 1st of February, NCDR hosted a meeting for its partners in survivor and victim assistance (SVA) at its premises. Representatives of the Royal Medical Services (RMS), the Hashemite Charitable Society for Soldiers with Special Needs (HCSSSN) and the Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) attended the meeting to discuss the National Register of landmine victims.

The parties present stressed the importance of maintaining a unified register of landmine victims and all relevant information, and the partners were requested to verify the available lists. The partners discussed and approved the verification mechanism and a deadline was set to finalize this process.

Furthermore, the feedback that the NCDR obtained from its partners enabled the SVA department to finalize the revision of the landmine survivors lists, of which 90 names were approved, while an additional 147 names were forwarded for further verification. Currently, the NCDR keeps a national register containing 482 confirmed names of landmine survivors.

### ***Landmine Retrofit Survey (LRS)***

The Landmine Retrofit Survey (LRS) team has finalized the Task Impact Assessment whereby 48 affected communities were visited. The team provided a map, community questionnaire, household interviews and grids for start and end of suspected hazardous areas (SHA) for each community.

Based on visits to impacted communities, preliminary recommendations were provided depending on post clearance land use, number of human accidents and threat, natural, social and capital assets available for the local community that will enable them to use their land.

In March, the LRS department also launched its Technical Assessment. The technical assessment aims to provide accurate data on minefields including terrain, minefield sketch, bearing and distance and bench marks for hazardous areas. The LRS team will also provide clearance recommendations; based on duration, assets needed, as well as developing tools for planning and monitoring processes.

### ***Mine Action Database***

The IMSMA system update was finalized in March by the Regional Coordinator, Mr. Mohammad Ahmed who has also designed a new template that would better serve the requirements of the Quality Management team. The updated system facilitated the incorporation of the lists of landmine survivors and victims to the database.

Information obtained from the LRS Department has been sent to the IMSMA developer in the United States for testing and reporting on its accessibility and how it can be utilized in the most efficient and productive manner.



## Upcoming Activities

- > In cooperation with the UNDP office in Jordan, NCDR will organize a celebration to commemorate the "International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action" in the town of Um Jimal in Mafraq, just few kilometers from one of the most pressing demining tasks in Jordan.
- > The Quality Management team to attend a training workshop in Croatia on quality control and quality assurance in April.
- > The QM Team Leader and Head of Information to attend a two-week training course in Geneva to qualify for the professional database management through IMSMA software (V4) in April.
- > Senior NCDR personnel to attend Meetings of the Intersessional Standing Committees which will take place in Geneva from 23 to 27 April.
- > NCDR to host a seminar on Partnerships for Completion: Jordan, a Case Study during the week of the Meetings of the Standing Committees in Geneva.
- > NCDR to host an 8MSP Donor Group meeting during the week of the Meetings of the Standing Committees in Geneva.
- > NCDR to co-host with Canada a meeting on Universalization of the Mine Ban Convention in the Arab world during the week of the Meetings of the Standing Committees in Geneva.
- > NPA Operations Technical Advisor to join NCDR in April for a two month duration.
- > UNICEF Mine Risk Education Technical Advisor to join NCDR in May for a three month duration.
- > NCDR to attend the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the Mine Ban Convention in Brussels on May 9th.
- > NPA to begin using a team of trained dogs in their upcoming technical surveys.

## Donors and Partners



## National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation

P.O.Box 143126 Amman, 11844 Jordan.

Tel. ++962 (6) 5859615/6/7/8

Fax: ++962 (6) 5859614.

Email: [info@ncdr.org.jo](mailto:info@ncdr.org.jo)