

CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

References

1. This document has been developed with reference to the following documents:
 - i. IMAS 08.10 General Mine Action Assessment
 - ii. IMAS 08.20 Technical Survey
 - iii. IMAS 09.10 Clearance Requirements

Scope

2. This chapter defines 'clearance', and specifies the quality system (i.e. the organisation, procedures and responsibilities) necessary to determine that land has been cleared by the demining organisation in accordance with its contractual obligations.

Objective

3. The aim of humanitarian demining is the identification and removal or destruction of all mine and UXO hazards from a specified area to a specified depth. The objective is to promote a culture where the demining community seeks to achieve this target by developing and applying appropriate management procedures, by establishing and continuously improving the skills of managers and deminers, and by procuring safe, effective and efficient equipment.

Introduction

4. The beneficiaries of humanitarian demining programmes must be confident that cleared land is safe for their use. This requires management systems and clearance procedures which are appropriate, effective, efficient and safe.

5. Due to nature of minefields in Jordan there are no Technical Survey requirements

6. The local community should receive regular briefings and explanations during the clearance operation as this acts as a very effective confidence building measure.

Specification of clearance quality

7. Land shall be accepted as 'cleared' when the demining organisation has ensured the removal and/or destruction of all mine and UXO hazards from the specified area to the specified depth.

8. The specified area to be cleared shall be determined by a technical survey or from other reliable information which establishes the extent of the mine and/or UXO hazard area.

9. The priorities for clearance shall be determined by the impact on the individual community balanced against national infrastructure priorities.

10. The area to be cleared, the clearance depth, and the requirements for monitoring and inspection will be specified by the NCDR, in the form of a Task Order (TO).

11. Specifying clearance depths will depend on the intended land use, the perceived mine or UXO threat in the area to be cleared and other environmental factors. For example:

- i. Mines and UXO may be on the surface of the ground. In this case, the specification may call for the removal and or destruction only of surface laid mine and UXO hazards.
- ii. Clearance in urban areas may require the removal or many meters of rubble as part of the clearance process. Is this applicable to Jordan
- iii. Shifting sands in desert areas or coastal areas may require clearance to a depth of 1.0m or 2.0m to locate and destroy mines which were originally laid at a depth of no more than 10cm.

13. For buried mines and UXO this depth should normally not be less than 130mm below the original surface level.

14. In most cases the TO shall state that the depth of clearance is 200mm. If this is proved to be excessive the demining organisation may request that this depth is reduced to 130mm. This decision and the reasons for this shall be documented and only come into effect once a new TO has been issued.

15. The removal and/or destruction of all mine and UXO hazards in the specified area to the specified depth shall be ensured by:

- i. using accredited demining organisation(s) with operationally accredited capabilities, such as manual clearance and mechanical systems;
- ii. using appropriate management practices, and applying safe and effective operational procedures;
- iii. monitoring the demining organisation and its sub-units;
- iv. conducting a process of post-clearance inspection of cleared land.

Manual mine clearance

16. Mine/UXO clearance techniques used during each project may differ according to vegetation, terrain, soil content and type of mine/UXO etc.

17. Currently there are 2 recognised methods of manual clearance in Jordan:

- i. the detector method of clearance.
- ii. the excavation method of clearance.

18. It will depend on the type of soil in the minefield as to whether the detector can be used to assist the demining process. In some minefields, the metallic content may be high and therefore the use of non-ground compensating detectors will not be possible or suspect. If there is any doubt as to the mine types that are present in the minefield then he must plan for the worst case and begin the task with a non-detector clearance method. Only when the mine types in each sector of the minefield has been confirmed and the threat assessment completed, can the clearance method be changed to detectors.

19. ALL PROCEDURES AND DRILLS USED IN CLEARANCE OPERATIONS ARE TO BE FULLY EXPLAINED IN STEP-BY-STEP DETAIL IN THE CLEARANCE ORGANISATIONS SOP.

High metallic areas

20. In areas where the metallic content of the soil is high, the metal detector may be ineffective. The detector procedure must then be removed from the mine clearance sequence and replaced with a complete excavation procedure to ensure that all mines are located. The minimum depth to be excavated is 130 mm. The detector should be used to regularly check the contamination level and confirm whether the complete excavation process can be replaced with the detector procedure.

Action on locating a mine

21. All mines should be destroyed on the day that they are found unless a specific safety hazard prevents this.

22. Where mines are not destroyed on the day that they are found, they are to be accurately reported in the organisations daily clearance log and destroyed as soon as possible. If they are not destroyed by the end of the working week the organisation is to ensure they are included on the weekly progress report for the task submitted to the NCDR and an explanation given.

Action on locating a UXO

23. The deminer is to stop all mine/UXO clearance activity and notify the supervisor. **The supervisor** is responsible for all actions relating to the removal or destruction of the UXO. **Only qualified EOD personnel should render safe, remove or destroy mines/UXO.**

Burning of hazardous areas

24. Uncleared areas may be burnt prior to mine/UXO clearance, at the discretion of the supervisor and in co-ordination with local authorities, to increase visibility for the deminers and safety. However, supervisors must exercise good judgement, as burning uncleared areas may cause damage to neighbouring agricultural land, or alter the stability of unexploded ordnance. A minimum wait time of one-day (24 hours) is to elapse between burning an area and manual mine/UXO clearance-taking place. In all cases, a suitable firebreak is to be constructed and /local Emergency Fire Services (if available) are to be informed of the burning operation. **Note: The NCDR must be informed prior to any burning of uncleared areas.**

Working hours

25. No deminer is to work for longer than 60 minutes before taking a break. The working time is subject to the Supervisors judgement in each situation but shall not exceed sixty minutes.

26. A normal working day for a deminer should not to exceed 9 hours on site. The working week shall not exceed 48hrs.

27. All employment contracts must comply with Jordanian Labour Law.

Mechanical assistance to clearance operations

28. Mechanical assets will require a closely monitored followed-up manual clearance and quality assurance. Mechanical assets can be used for the clearance of tripwires, vegetation and the preparation of terrain to accelerate manual clearance.

29. *As a primary means of clearance, mechanical mine clearance may not meet national standards and must be augmented by other means to ensure the cleared area is free of all mines/UXO.*

30. All procedures and drills used in mechanically assisted clearance operations are to be fully explained in step-by-step detail in the clearance organisations SOP. The SOP must include details on the recovery of disabled machines.

Responsibilities and obligations

31. NCDR'S responsibilities

The NCDR, shall:

- i. specify the area to be cleared and depth specified in the TO;
- ii. specify the standards and guidelines for QA and QC to be applied;
- iii. accredit demining organisations as fit to undertake clearance; and
- iv. monitor the demining organisation and its sub-units

- v. maintain a registry of cleared and uncleared land showing the clearance status for each mined area.

Demining organisation's responsibilities

32. The organisation undertaking clearance shall:

- i. gain (from the NCDR) accreditation to operate as a clearance organisation;
- ii. apply the NCDR clearance standard. In the absence of national standards, the clearance organisation shall apply the NS standards;
- iii. maintain and make available documentation of clearance as specified by the NCDR;
- iv. apply management practices and operational procedures which aim to clear land to the requirements specified in the TO; and
- v. ensure that the mine affected community is fully cognisant of all demining activities in the area and the implications for the community.