

### Victim Assistance in Jordan: then and now

Jordan	1	2	3	4	5	6
According to original study						
According to LM 2002						
According to LM 2003		•				•

#### **Key Developments (LM 2002):**

Jordan destroyed another 10,000 stockpiled antipersonnel mines in April 2002. Since the national demining program began in 1993, 116 minefields containing 84,157 mines and covering 8 million square meters of land have been cleared.

#### **Indicator 1: The extent to which information on mine victims' demographics and needs is available.**

##### **According to original study:**

The June 2000 UN Portfolio of Mine-related Projects reports that there is no mechanism in place for the systematic monitoring of information on mine victims. LM 1999 provides information from the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) records that over 400 civilians have been killed and several thousands injured by mines. The frequency of landmine incidents is much higher in the northern region of Jordan than in the south.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

In 2001, three mine/UXO incidents were reported in which four people were killed and four injured; two incidents were caused by landmines. All the casualties were male civilians. The incidents occurred in the South governorate in Aqaba, the Mafraq governorate, and north of Irbid governorate. In 2002, up to mid-June, another four landmine incidents and one UXO incident were recorded: three people were killed and five injured. All the casualties were male, and the injured included a deminer, a military officer, and an Iraqi civilian.<sup>21</sup>

In October 2001, a military official reported there have been 505 landmine casualties in Jordan since the end of the 1967 war, including 311 military personnel and 194 civilians, of which 106 were killed (58 military and 48 civilians).<sup>22</sup> However, a U.S. Department of State publication cites the Jordanian Armed Forces Medical Services as reporting 636 mine casualties, including 370 civilians. The report states that in 2000, nine military personnel and three civilians were injured by mines.<sup>23</sup>

In 2001, nationals were also injured by landmines outside of Jordanian territory. On 18 August, eight Jordanian peacekeepers were injured after their vehicle hit a mine in the Temporary Security Zone in Eritrea.<sup>24</sup>

#### **Indicator 2: The extent to which a national disability coordination mechanism exists and recognizes mine victims.**

##### **According to original study:**

The National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons was established as required under the 1993 Law for the Welfare of Disabled Persons. The Council is made up of representatives from the government ministries, the NGO sector, the Jordanian Armed Forces, and representatives of the disabled. The goal of the Council is to draft general policy for the welfare, rehabilitation and education of disabled persons, prepare a national plan for prevention and alleviation of disability and its effects, and lay down internal executive and organizational instructions for the administrative, educational and rehabilitation projects and programs as required for the implementation of the Law.

##### **According to LM 2002:**

The 1993 law for the "Welfare of Disabled Persons" remains unchanged.<sup>30</sup>

#### **Indicator 3: The extent to which programs and services for the medical care and rehabilitation of mine victims are available.**

##### **According to original study:**

LSN reports that access to medical care in Jordan is quite good, but that services outside major cities are ill-equipped to assist landmine victims. According to LM 1999, there are two major government health care systems which provide assistance for landmine victims in Jordan: the Royal Medical Services and the Ministry of Health hospitals. The Royal Medical Services is the main health care provider for all acting and retired

military personnel, including landmine survivors and deminers injured while in action. It has three centers located in the cities of Amman, Eidon, and Karak. All three centers provide surgical care, prosthetics and orthotics services. The Ministry of Health has two centers located in Amman and Irbid that provide both surgical, prosthetic and orthotics services to civil servants. There are other medical clinics and smaller first aid facilities located across the country, however, surgical help is available only in the major city hospitals. Social Development runs one center for rehabilitation in Amman. This facility provides services to all handicapped and persons with special needs, including landmine victims.

The two biggest institutions for prosthetic care and rehabilitation are Al-Bashir Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Center both located in Amman. A 1999 UNMAS-led Assessment Mission reports that Al-Bashir Hospital's Rehabilitation Unit, with its prosthetic center attached to the hospital, is the main provider of rehabilitation services to the civilian population. The Rehabilitation Unit provides physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and prosthetic services to affected persons. LSN reports that the prosthetic centre often has waiting lists. The Farah Rehabilitation Center, which is attached to King Hussein Medical Center for military personnel and their dependents, is the most modern facility that provides rehabilitation and prosthetic care. The Hashimi Charity Society for Soldiers with Special Needs has initiated a number of projects, including specialized sports centers, distribution of donated equipment to disabled people, and community-based rehabilitation program for southern governorates. The Al-Hussein Society for the Habilitation/Rehabilitation of the Physically Challenged runs one of the largest centers with an outreach program for physically disabled children and young adults in Jordan. The Center has four main specializations: education, medical rehabilitation, vocational training/shelter workshops and the outreach programme.

**According to LM 2002:**

Landmine survivors are entitled to medical care and rehabilitation under the standard health care system in Jordan.<sup>26</sup> However, there is limited local outreach for physiotherapy and rehabilitation services for mine survivors. Smaller physiotherapy centers do exist at several of the regional hospitals, including the Princess Basma Hospital and Ramtha Hospital in the north, at the Mafrak Hospital in the east, and at Salt Hospital in midwest. Other hospitals report irregular access to physiotherapists.

In practice, more complex cases of mine injuries are transferred to the national institutions in Amman for prosthetics and rehabilitation services. The main institutions are the public al-Bashir Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Center, under the Royal Medical Services. Al-Bashir's rehabilitation unit and prosthetic center is the primary provider of such services to civilians in the country. There are 11 rehabilitation specialists working at the center, including physiotherapists and occupational therapists, however, the center does not offer facilities for social workers or psychologists. As a referral hospital for all of Jordan, with a very high number of patients, al-Bashir operates on the margins of its capacity. There is a waiting list to receive treatment, and its facilities and equipment are run-down.

The second main institution for rehabilitation and prosthetic care in Jordan is the military King Hussein Medical Center (KHMC), with the attached Farah Rehabilitation Center. The hospital is primarily for Jordanians with military insurance.

**Indicator 4: The extent to which programs and services for the social and economic reintegration of mine victims are available**

**According to original study:**

LSN has established an amputee support network based in Amman. LSN Rehabilitation Database provides the following information: The Ministry of Social Development runs two centers in Jordan that offer vocational training to persons with disabilities in Ruseifa and Irbid. Both of these centers provide vocational training for sewing, carpentry and cushion making. Under the Ministry of Labour, there is a Vocational Training Corporation with offices throughout Jordan that have recently been made available to persons with disabilities. The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program and the Al-Hussein Society for the Physically Challenged offer employment opportunities and courses in television and radio repair to the disabled. The Noor Al-Hussein Foundation also involves itself in vocational training for the disabled.

The Ministry of Social Development provides assistance to the disabled through the National Aid Fund; local NGOs such as the Al Nahda Society for the Physically Challenged, play an active role in providing financial aid to the disabled by providing meals and donating wheelchairs and crutches; soldiers injured while on active duty are provided a salary by the Hashemite Society for Soldiers with Special Needs.

**According to LM 2002:**

The Al-Hussein Society for the Habilitation/Rehabilitation of the Physically Challenged, affiliated with the Jordan University, provides practical training for orthotic/prosthetic technicians.<sup>27</sup> The Society also offers medical and physical rehabilitation, psycho-social support and vocational training for all persons with disabilities, with particular emphasis on children. It also operates a mobile clinic in its community-based rehabilitation/outreach program.<sup>28</sup>

The Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) program engages community-based outreach workers, who are also amputees, to work with individual survivors to assess their needs, offer psychological and social support, and educate families about the effects of limb loss. In 2001, LSN conducted home and hospital visits to 392 people, and helped more than 320 people access services that provide mobility devices, health services, or exemptions from school fees or uniform expenses. If no such services exist, LSN intervenes to ensure the needs of survivors are met, and in 2001 provided direct assistance to 156 survivors, including the provision of 16 prostheses, 3 wheelchairs and 34 crutches, and adapting home environments. It provided vocational training and support to small business and existing projects to approximately nine survivors, and held a training workshop on small business skills in July 2001. Mine survivors account for about 50% of people benefiting from these services. LSN also maintains a Rehabilitation Services Directory with information on 122 service providers in Jordan.<sup>29</sup>

**Indicator 5: The extent to which mine victims are protected and supported by effective laws and policies.****According to original study:**

The Law for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (1993) stresses the empowerment of disabled persons and entitles the disabled to health care, education, vocational training and rehabilitation, employment, sports and recreation, and participation in decision-making. Other entitlements include caretaker support for poor families with disabled members, free health insurance for the needy and their dependants, tax exemption on various equipment, quotas (2%) of disabled among employees in both private and public sectors, and special facilities for disabled persons in all new public buildings.

The National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons is responsible for the implementation of the Law for the Welfare of Disabled Persons. The Council is made up of representatives from the government ministries, the NGO sector, the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the disabled. The goal of the Council is to draft general policy for the welfare, rehabilitation and education of disabled persons, prepare a national plan for prevention and alleviation of disability and its effects, and lay down internal executive and organizational instructions for the administrative, educational and rehabilitation projects and programs as required for the implementation of the Law.

**According to LM 2002:**

The 1993 law for the "Welfare of Disabled Persons" remains unchanged.<sup>30</sup>

**Indicator 6: The extent to which there is a disability community advocacy network.****According to original study:**

Representatives of the disabled community participate as members of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons which is responsible for the implementation of the Law for the Welfare of Disabled Persons.

**According to LM 2002:**

LSN works alongside local associations to increase awareness about disability rights.

**Endnotes:**

<sup>21</sup> Email to Landmine Monitor (HRW) from Landmine Survivors Network (Jordan), 10 July 2002.

<sup>22</sup> Presentation by Major Yasin Al Majali, NATO Partnership for Peace Workshop, Athens, 19 October 2001.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, "To Walk the Earth in Safety: The United States Commitment to Humanitarian Demining," November 2001, p. 41.

<sup>24</sup> "Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea," New York, 5 September 2001.

<sup>26</sup> For details see *Landmine Monitor Report 1999*, p. 854.

<sup>27</sup> Meeting Society Director, Amman, 15 January 2002.

<sup>28</sup> For more details see website at <http://www.alhusseinrehab.org.jo>.

<sup>29</sup> Email to Landmine Monitor (HRW) from Landmine Survivors Network (Jordan), 19 February 2002; and Adnan Al-Aboudi, Director, Landmine Survivors Network, Amman, response to Landmine Monitor Survivor Assistance Questionnaire, 11 March 2002.

<sup>30</sup> For details see *Landmine Monitor Report 2000*, p. 900.