General Scope

This NATO PfP Trust Fund project in Jordan was the first one in a Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) partner nation. This project was significant in terms of its fundamental security implications and the clear humanitarian dimension. At the same time it represented an important step in further enhancing the relations of the NATO Euro Atlantic Partnership Council with the MD nations, both practically and politically.

The project supported three initiatives on explosive’s safety in Jordan:

- Assisting the adaptation of a successful Humanitarian Mine Action programme to identify and eliminate Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) across Jordanian provinces. Through survey methods ERW affected communities were identified for priority action, increasing safety and security allowing improved land use.

- Modernising and increasing the capacity of Jordanian Armed Forces’ to safely demilitarise declared surplus, unserviceable and obsolete stockpiled ammunition. The design and construction of a new Demilitarisation Facility in a remote location, distanced from the local population, with modern layout and work practices for the staff.

- Support for the technical; testing and analysis work on the explosive materials helping identify ammunition as Safe and Suitable for Service (S3). This will underpin operational efficiency and identify ammunition requiring management, repair and eventual disposal.

The project final cost was EUR 3,089,256 over 39 months.
Achievements

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Survey

From September 2008 to September 2011, a national survey was conducted by the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) to identify ERW impacted communities. From the 300 identified suspected impacted communities, 169 were positively identified as having ERW impact upon their daily lives and routine. This is almost 3 times the Mine affected communities and 1 out 5 communities in Jordan. Through community survey, 711 new ERW victims were identified and more than 4300 UXO found by NCDR were destroyed by JAF EOD teams.

To enable the survey and enhance the capability of JAF EOD teams, two EOD vehicles, mine detectors and other EOD equipment and tools were procured and donated to JAF.

Ammunition Demilitarization Facility

In 2005 Jordan declared a stockpile of 4,100 tonnes of ammunition for destruction. The former JAF ammunition demilitarization facility was constructed more than 50 years ago. This no longer complied with current standards for health & safety, the foreseen workload, and due to encroachment from civil building developments had site safety and security concerns.

A new ammunition demilitarization facility was designed to NATO building standards and constructed in a remote location within the Zarqa military district. Construction was finished in September 2010 providing a disassembly workshop, explosives melt station, ammunition storage, administration and security buildings, roadways and fencing.

Ammunition Safe and Suitable for Service (S3)

A building was refurbished and special test equipment was installed to provide a Propellant Surveillance Laboratory. Replacing a visual test, chemical analytical and accelerated aging tests are performed on explosive samples extracted from various ammunition stocks. Training and expertise provided by Armasuisse allowed JAF to build a data reference library and to make future projections.

This testing is largely conducted on propellants with artillery and tank ammunition. The data is used to identify that explosives are safe and suitable for continued military service and to project the date for repair, replacement and eventual disposal. In support the Trust Fund fostered an experience sharing cooperation in demilitarisation between Albania and Jordan.