

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



CLEARING THE MINES 2020

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2021
EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 MARCH 2027

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP)
MINE CONTAMINATION:

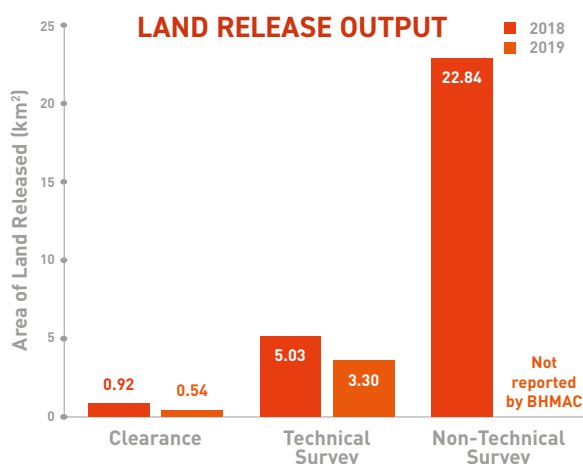
HEAVY, 50 KM²
(MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE)

AP MINE
CLEARANCE IN 2019

0.54 KM²

AP MINES
DESTROYED IN 2019

963



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)'s new national mine action strategy for 2018–25 was adopted by the Council of Ministers in January 2019.

The European Union (EU)-funded country assessment project, which took place from July 2018 to May 2020, consisted of non-technical survey of all remaining areas suspected to be mined. The aim of the project was to improve BiH's baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination and to group together suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) into logical units/polygons based on economic, cultural, geographical, or other reasons, encompassing one or more impacted communities, in what the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) terms "Mine Suspected Areas" (MSAs). The MSAs will then be assigned as single organisational tasks to clearance operators for land release. BHMAC has used the results of the country assessment to inform mid-term planning and elaboration of its 2020 request to extend its Article 5 deadline by six years to 1 March 2027.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- BiH should adopt, without further delay, the amended demining law drafted in 2017.
- BiH should implement the recommendations of both the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment, and the 2016 performance audit report of the Audit Office of the Institutions of BiH,¹ which remain valid. In particular, BiH should continue reforming and strengthening the governance and management of the mine action programme.
- BHMAC should fully adopt international best practice in land release and ensure that all implementing partners, in all parts of BiH, are conducting evidence-based survey to more accurately identify and delineate areas of actual contamination prior to clearance, releasing areas found not to be contaminated.
- As part of efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of land release operations, BHMAC should review relevant national mine action standards, in collaboration between demining organisations and other implementing partners. To facilitate this process, BHMAC should consider re-establishing technical working groups (TWGs).

- BHMAC should develop a detailed, costed, and multi-year Article 5 work plan, informed by the results of the country assessment project, and update its national mine action strategy for 2018–25 accordingly.
- BiH should fully embrace the “Country Coalition” approach, in partnership with Germany, which can provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders to strengthen coordination and identify and overcome challenges.
- BHMAC should report more accurately and consistently on the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination, including using the classification of SHA and CHA in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- BHMAC should strive to improve gender balance in the sector, at the least by meeting the target of 40% female staff set by the 2003 Law on Gender Equality.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	5	5	The EU-funded “country assessment” project, which was completed in May 2020, groups SHAs and CHAs together into logical units/polygons known as “MSAs”, which are then each tasked for land release. However, while the results of the country assessment were expected to facilitate planning and tasking, the understanding and accuracy of BiH’s baseline of remaining anti-personnel mine contamination have not markedly improved. It is expected that many of the SHAs contained within the MSAs are still inflated and will be further reduced, in particular through technical survey (see also, criterion on Land release system below).
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	National ownership of mine action in BiH falls under the responsibility of the Demining Commission and BHMAC. BiH’s National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 was adopted in January 2019. BiH’s Article 5 deadline extension request was submitted in June 2020 and then a revised submission in August 2020. Governance of the national mine action programme needs to be strengthened and Article 5 implementation better coordinated. As at June 2020, the amended demining law (2017) was still awaiting parliamentary adoption.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	5	The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 supports the 2003 Law on Gender Equality. BHMAC has stated that, under its leadership, relevant actors will include gender in all phases of all mine action activities. Two of the three members of the newly appointed Demining Commission are women. However, within BHMAC’s own programme, and those of clearance operators too, women make up only a small proportion of the total number of staff, and an even smaller proportion of operations staff in the field.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	6	6	BHMAC is in the process of migrating from its own information management system, to a new web-based system, IMSMA Core, with the support of UNDP and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). BHMAC does not report accurately and consistently on the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination and survey and clearance output.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	6	The EU-funded “country assessment” project resulted in the creation of 488 “MSAs” (plus another 10 in progress) which will be tasked as single units for land release. The results of the project will inform the planning, prioritisation, and realisation of the Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 and of BiH’s future Article 5 implementation, as outlined in its 2020 extension request.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	8	8	BiH has land release standards in place, but planned to review them in 2020 to help ensure the efficiency of survey operations and in particular the use of technical survey to confirm and better delineate mined areas prior to clearance. There is also strong national and international demining capacity, and the full demining toolbox is deployed. It is now essential that all implementing partners, in all parts of the country, routinely apply evidence-based land release survey in accordance with IMAS.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	6	BiH is requesting a six-year extension to its Article 5 deadline to 1 March 2027. This target is achievable, with existing capacity, if efficient land release methodology is applied routinely by all clearance operators and annual targets are met. However, in 2019, BiH cleared under 0.54km ² of mined area, less than the 0.92km ² cleared the previous year and considerably below the 1km ² planned for clearance in 2019. Furthermore, the 3.3km ² reduced through technical survey in 2019 was also significantly less than the 13km ² planned. BiH did not report its annual cancellation output for 2019.
Average Score	5.9	6.0	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The Demining Commission (representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Security, and Defence) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs))
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Armed Forces of BiH
- BHMIC
- Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska
- Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP)
- Non-governmental organisations:
 - Association UEM
 - DEMIRA
 - Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC)
 - Pro Vita
 - Stop Mines
 - Udruga "Pazi Mine Vitez"
 - WBE

- Commercial demining companies:

- Detektor
- N&N Ivsa
- In Demining N.H.O

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

OTHER ACTORS

- European Union Force Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

BiH is heavily contaminated with mines, primarily as a result of the 1992–95 conflict related to the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. All warring factions in BiH laid mines, primarily between confrontation lines.² Twenty-five years after the end of the conflict, BiH is still one of the most heavily mined countries in Europe. BiH is also contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munition remnants (CMR) (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2019* report on BiH for further information).

Minefields in BiH generally contain relatively small numbers of mines, which are typically either "in groups or randomly laid". The quality of approximately 30% of minefield records was not sufficiently accurate for the identification of the precise minefield location and shape. Furthermore, approximately 40% of minefield records were reportedly never made or handed over, and records were often destroyed or lost for several reasons, such as the death or emigration of the persons who created the minefield records.³ Physical changes to mined areas (such as in vegetation), and a lack of witnesses to the laying of the mines, pose additional challenges.⁴

As at end of 2019, BiH reported that the total mined area at the end of 2019 was 965km². It also reported that 488 "locations" (assumed to be synonymous with mine suspected areas "MSAs"), totalled an estimated 95km².⁵ While not clear from BiH's Article 7 report, Mine Action assumes that the 95km² refers to an estimate of actual confirmed mined area within the 965km² total. The 965km² of mined area as at the end of 2019 represents a decrease compared to the 1,018km² of mined area as at the end of 2018.⁶

In its revised Article 5 extension request submitted in August 2020, BiH provided a more detailed breakdown of remaining mined area which totalled a slightly higher 967km² of mined area (see Table 1).⁷

A 2016 national audit office report on the efficiency of the demining system in BiH concluded that: "Twenty years after the war ended, the Mine Action Centre still does not have complete information on the locations of landmines in BiH, which is to say it does not know the total suspected hazardous area."⁸ Similarly, a 2015 UNDP evaluation reported that BHMIC is aware that not all of the SHA is actually mined, but "without more efficient non-technical survey and technical survey procedures the exact extent of the problem cannot be quantified."⁹

During 2017, plans were formalised between BHMIC, clearance operators, and the EU for a country assessment to establish a more accurate baseline of mine contamination and improve the efficiency of clearance operations.¹⁰ The resultant "Country assessment of mine-suspected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018–2019" project (hereafter, the "country assessment" project), was conducted between July 2018 and May 2020, and involved nationwide non-technical survey of mined areas conducted by BHMIC (9 non-technical survey teams), the Armed Forces of BiH (2 teams), and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA, 3 teams). The remaining mined area was subdivided into 488 "Mine Suspected Areas" (MSAs), plus a further 10 MSAs in progress.¹¹ It is unclear how much land was cancelled during the country assessment.¹²

MSA is a BiH-specific term, not consistent with IMAS. It is defined by BHMIC as "an area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural or geographical and other reasons is selected as a logical unit".¹³ MSAs have been selected by BHMIC in close cooperation with municipal authorities. It is hoped that their creation will simplify the tasking process by assigning clearance operators a larger geographical area in which to conduct land release operations (i.e. survey and clearance of the SHAs and CHAs within the MSAs), with MSAs each averaging 1.7/2.5km² in size.¹⁴

Table 1: Anti-personnel mined area (at start of 2020)¹⁵

Administrative level	CHAs	CHA area (m ²)	SHA area (m ²)	Total area of MSA (m ²)	Number of MSAs
Unsko-Sanki	125	2,603,992	95,806,345	98,410,337	49
Posavski	6	211,251	13,571,234	13,782,485	7
Tuzlanski	60	1,469,127	79,770,718	81,239,845	43
Zanicko-Dobojski	63	1,879,721	112,223,720	114,103,441	50
Bosansko-Podrinjski	14	785,051	46,015,957	46,801,008	19
Srednje-Bosanski	94	2,863,902	108,829,348	111,693,250	57
Hercegovačko-Neret	68	2,841,534	146,774,680	149,616,214	77
Sarajevo	24	889,543	64,764,311	65,653,854	30
Canton 10	36	1,001,512	75,717,329	76,718,841	32
BiH Federation	0	0	13,101,196	13,101,196	6
Republika Srpska	309	6,201,958	189,363,657	195,565,615	118
Totals	799	20,747,591	945,938,495	966,686,086	488

The country assessment was entirely based on non-technical survey and did not include any technical interventions, so technical survey of hazardous areas within each MSA will still be required to more accurately delineate mine contamination for clearance and reduce (or cancel) area found not to be contaminated. Non-technical survey field activities under the country assessment project were completed in December 2019. The overall project had originally planned to be completed in February 2020, but was subsequently extended until 15 May 2020 to allow sufficient time for verification and analysis of the large quantities of data generated.¹⁶ Additionally, the mapping of the MSAs created during the country assessment, preparation of assessment reports

for individual MSAs for affected communities, and quality assurance (QA) of documents/reports also required more time than originally planned.¹⁷

As a result of the non-technical survey, the GEO position of 1,151 minefields was corrected, 300 new minefield records were collected, and 6,023 minefield records were deleted from the database.¹⁸ The project did not involve any technical interventions, so no area was reduced or cleared as part of it.

The intended use of the remaining mined area in BiH is as follows: 70% forest, 19% agriculture, 2% infrastructure, 1% water resources, and 8% other usages.¹⁹

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Demining Commission, under the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, supervises the state-wide BHMAL and represents BiH in its relations with the international community on mine-related issues.²⁰ The Demining Commission is composed of representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Defence, and Security) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs). Whereas the Minister for Civil Affairs remains ultimately responsible for mine action, the Demining Commission is the strategic body responsible for setting mine action policy, and it proposes the appointment of BHMAL senior staff, for approval by the Council of Ministers.²¹

While parliamentary elections in BiH were in October 2018, a new state-level government was only formed in December 2019. During this period, the mandate of the Demining Commission (the only body in BiH authorised to accredit and re-accredit demining organisations and to approve draft demining laws, work plans, and Article 5 deadline extension requests) expired in October 2019, affecting BiH's internal and external political representation. As there was no Demining Commission in place from late October 2019 to 19 April 2020, accreditations of clearance organisations that expired could not be renewed during this six-month period, thereby having a direct impact on survey and clearance efforts. By the time the new Demining Commission was commissioned on 30 April

2020, the accreditation for much of BiH's demining capacity had expired and required renewal, including that of the BiH Armed Forces.²²

Furthermore, a problem posed by the structure of the Demining Commission is that each of the three represented ministries has separate portfolios in their respective ministries; and their work on the Demining Commission is only part-time in addition to their other responsibilities.²³ In addition, according to the 2016 audit office report, "The Commission has not developed a methodology on how to monitor the work of the BHMAL".²⁴

BHMAL, established by a 2002 Decree of the Council of Ministers, is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH's demining plans.²⁵ BHMAL operates from its headquarters in Sarajevo, and two main offices in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and eight regional offices (Banja Luka, Bihac, Brčko, Mostar, Pale, Sarajevo, Travnik, and Tuzla).²⁶

Since 2008, efforts have been made to adopt new mine action legislation in BiH with a view to creating a stable platform for mine action funding by the government and local authorities. BiH demining authorities are following the 2015 recommendation of the Council of Ministers to amend the existing law, instead of adopting a new law,²⁷ and a working group which consisted of representatives from the Ministry

of Civil Affairs, the Demining Commission, BHMAC, the Armed Forces, and the entity Civil Protections, created a first draft of the amended demining law.²⁸ As at June 2020, however, the amended text from 2017 was still awaiting parliamentary adoption. Clearer legislation on liabilities related to mine action activities would be beneficial to all mine action stakeholders in BiH.

After a 10-year hiatus, Board of Donor meetings resumed in September 2015.²⁹ As at July 2020, however, the last Board of Donor meeting had taken place in Sarajevo in November 2017.³⁰ BiH's new National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 specifies that at least two such meetings should be organised every year.³¹ However, while official Board of Donor meetings have not taken place recently, a number of important multi-stakeholder workshops have. A workshop on 28–30 January 2020, convened by BHMAC, and attended by operators, expert organisations, and donors, was convened to present the provisional results of the country assessment, discuss mid-term planning, and help inform the elaboration of BiH's Article 5 extension request.³² A further workshop on BiH's Article 5 planning took place on 6 March 2020, organised by BHMAC in cooperation with the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC, and attended by state institutions, clearance operators and non-government organisations (NGOs), and representatives of international and domestic organisations.³³ Furthermore, on 28 April 2020, BHMAC convened an online meeting with donor representatives, in which it provided updates on recent progress in mine action, including plans to amend the NMAS. During the meeting, donors expressed concern because of the delay in demining process caused by the failure to form the Demining Commission;³⁴ something which has subsequently been corrected.

The governance of BiH's mine action programme needs to be strengthened and would benefit from improved communication and coordination with clearance operators, including through the re-establishment of TWGs, which provide a platform for operators to discuss, learn from each other, and work in synergies on matters related to operations. In addition, it is hoped that the "Country Coalition" established between BiH and Germany, on which there was an introductory meeting in February 2020,³⁵ will provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders, help demonstrate national ownership, strengthen coordination of Article 5 implementation, and identify and overcome challenges, and monitor progress against the 2018–25 strategy. In its 2020 Article 5 extension request, BHMAC and the Demining Commission committed to strive to increase their interaction with the donor community to ensure that partners are kept informed of progress in implementation of plans.³⁶

BiH's second goal, in its National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, is that the "Mine action programme in BH is promoted on both national and international level to increase its visibility and improve liability, commitment and support of the state", and the strategy includes operational goals linked to this strategic goal.³⁷ As committed to in its national mine action strategy, BiH published a separate financial plan for implementation of the BiH mine action strategy for 2018–25. The plan sees BiH commit a national budget of 4.5 million BAM (over US\$2.5 million) per annum for the Armed Forces and 5.945 million BAM (US\$3.4 million) per annum for BHMAC, for 2019 and 2020; which is forecast to increase to a total of 21.55 million BAM (over US\$12.3 million, at current exchange rates) per annum in 2025.³⁸ This national funding is in addition to forecast international funding, which is also budgeted in BiH's financial plan.³⁹

According to BiH, as at 2020, available financial resources had not met the projected funding of the Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, which may not allow "full realisation" of the goals set.⁴⁰ During the two-year interim extension period, 2018–19, BiH only obtained BAM 77.84 million of the planned BAM 82.84 million; of which BAM 56.88 million was from the budgets of the state, entities, cantons, municipalities, and public and private sector budgets and BAM 20.96 million was from international cooperation and assistance.⁴¹

In order to fulfil its Article 5 obligations by 1 March 2027, BiH claims to require a total of BAM 336 million.⁴² Of the national funding contributions, funds for non-technical survey activities by BHMAC will be ensured from the budgets of BiH's institutions, and implemented through operational activities of BHMAC. Budgets of BiH's institutions will also ensure funds for technical survey and mine clearance activities, to be implemented by Armed Forces. Entity governments' budgets will also ensure funds for technical survey and mine clearance operations, to be implemented by entity civilian protections. In addition, national funding will also be provided from Brčko District, cantons and municipalities, and public and private companies.⁴³

On 7 April 2020, it was announced that €10 million of EU funding under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) 2018–20 programme, which had been intended for humanitarian demining, was diverted to COVID-19 and migration issues. The EU funds had been intended for support of mine action in BiH, including the procurement of protective equipment and supplies for BHMAC's work, Directorate for Civil Protection and Federal Directorate for Civil Protection, as well as financing of demining projects of priority areas.⁴⁴

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 specifies that: "Under the leadership of BHMAC, relevant actors will include gender and diversity into all phases of planning, realisation and follow-up of all mine activities".⁴⁵ The mine action strategy considered and supported the 2003 Law on Gender Equality in BiH, which includes equal treatment of the genders and equality of opportunity, and prohibits direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of gender. The Law on Gender Equality determines that equal representation of men and women exists when the percentage of either

gender in bodies at all levels in BiH (state, entity, cantonal, and municipality level) is at least 40%. BiH's national mine action strategy also considered the 2017 Gender Equality Action Plan.⁴⁶ However, as at April 2019, out of BHMAC's 171 employees, only 42 were women (25%). Of BHMAC's 107 operations staff in the field, 10 were women (9%).⁴⁷ BHMAC reported that it has a gender and diversity policy and that BHMAC upholds the Law on Gender Equality and routinely includes it in the development of strategies and standards.⁴⁸

BHMAC has reported that it consults all groups affected by mines, including women and children, during survey and community liaison activities, and BHMAC's survey and community liaison teams are inclusive with a view to facilitating this. BHMAC also reported that relevant mine action data is disaggregated by gender and age.⁴⁹ BiH's Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in 2020, did not contain information on what steps BHMAC plans to mainstream gender and diversity within its survey and clearance programme.

In a welcome development, however, two out of three of the new members of BiH's Demining Commission, adopted on 30 April 2020, are women.⁵⁰

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska reported that nearly 22% of its staff were female, including 20% of managerial/supervisory positions, but only 5% of operational roles. It reported that during survey and community liaison activities, it cooperates with the local population, regardless of ethnicity; and where needed has representatives from different ethnic groups.⁵¹

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) has a gender policy and equal employment opportunities for suitably qualified females and males. However, of MAG's 67 staff in BiH, only 6 are women (9%), including 3 of 54 (6%) of its survey and clearance personnel (including medics). Three women were in managerial/supervisory positions.⁵² MAG's survey and clearance teams consult with women and men in communities neighbouring its operations, to obtain as much relevant data as possible for the conduct of land release activities.⁵³ MAG also conducts regular informant interviews with all entity groups, and its teams are mixed and include all three entity groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs).⁵⁴ MAG was planning to recruit a mixed community liaison capacity in 2020, which will support it to better take into consideration gender dynamics its land release work.⁵⁵

NPA reported that it promotes gender equality in all aspects of its programme activities in BiH. Mixed gender representation is an obligation for NPA teams conducting community liaison and risk education.⁵⁶ NPA reported that the overall gender split of its staff as at March 2020 was 118 men and 10 women, which represents 8% female staff. Of its 82 operational staff deployed in the field, three medic positions and one community liaison position are held by women. NPA reported that it rarely received applications from women for vacant operational roles.⁵⁷ NPA reported that it is driving to achieve a gender balance, and that the programme encourages the employment of women, including into managerial and operational staff positions. Five managerial positions in the NPA BiH programme are held by women.⁵⁸

NPA seeks input from individuals representing all gender and age groups in each mine-affected community, during survey, clearance, and community liaison activities, including handover of released land. This includes collection and analysis of good quality gender and age-disaggregated data, and the active involvement of women, girls, boys, and men in the decision-making process for establishing preferences that influence priority-setting. During the implementation of its activities, NPA teams organise meetings with female representatives in smaller groups, to provide a forum in which women may feel more comfortable to talk about potentially contaminated areas in their community and NPA's interventions.⁵⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

As at June 2020, BHMAC was using its own information management system, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Information System (BHMAIS), but with the support of UNDP and the Geneva Institute for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and with financing from the EU, BHMAC was in the process of migrating to a new web-based information management system, IMSMA Core.⁶⁰

The joint development of IMSMA Core began in 2019. Data from the country assessment project was originally expected to be transferred in March/April 2020 and the new database operational by mid-2020.⁶¹ As at May 2020, the transition from BHMAIS to IMSMA Core was approximately 50% complete and was planned to be completed by the end of the year.⁶² The results of the country assessment project will be imported as the baseline dataset, after which records of operational activities will also be transferred.⁶³ GICHD training in the new system was also planned for BHMAC staff, but due

to the situation with COVID-19 in-person training will not be possible in 2020. Instead, options were being explored for internal BHMAC training with remote support from the GICHD.⁶⁴ Once in place the database should be sustainable; through the programme will still be susceptible to potential challenges stemming from turnover of key staff positions in the BHMAC IM department.⁶⁵

In addition, UNDP has developed a GIS mobile application which was also expected to be released in 2020.⁶⁶

MAG planned to roll out its new global Information Management System (GIS, and compatible with IMSMA-core) in BiH in mid-2020.⁶⁷

At present, BHMAC does not report consistently on mine contamination by SHAs and CHAs, in a manner consistent with IMAS. In addition, there are frequent inaccuracies in BHMAC reporting on land release.

PLANNING AND TASKING

In 2017, BiH developed a new national mine action strategy for 2018–25, with support from the GICHD, which addresses all mine and cluster munition remnant contamination. The strategy was formally adopted in January 2019.⁶⁸ The BiH previous Mine Action Strategy for 2009–19, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2008,⁶⁹ set the target of the country becoming free of mines by 2019. It failed by some distance to meet this target.

The new Strategy contains a general plan and timeframe for the completion of mine clearance, as well as for cluster munition remnants. BHMAC planned to have the first revision of the Strategy at the end of 2020, based on the results of the country assessment project and progress in implementation of the strategy to date.⁷⁰ The strategy revision should also reflect BiH's new Article 5 deadline of 1 March 2027. A second revision was planned for 2023.⁷¹

BHMAC also develops and implements annual work plans, which are adopted by the Demining Commission. Political issues can result in delay in adoption of annual work plans, for example the six-month delay in the appointment of the new Demining Commission.

A three-day multi-stakeholder workshop took place on 28–30 January 2020 in Sarajevo, to present the preliminary results of the EU-funded country assessment project and discuss how they inform mid-term planning for Article 5

implementation.⁷² During the workshop, working groups elaborated three mid-term action plans for 20–2025, based on low, medium, and high scenarios for Article 5 implementation (with completion targets of 2029, 2027, and 2026 respectively), based on different projected capacities.⁷³

In June 2020, BiH submitted an extension request to extend its Article 5 deadline to 1 March 2027. However, the extension request lacked a multi-year work plan for the extension period.

The 488 MSAs (plus an additional 10 MSAs in progress) created through the country assessment project, are intended to enable mine action operations to better respond to the needs of the community through the strengthening of community liaison and by ensuring that community needs are better prioritised and addressed.⁷⁴ During the country assessment, local administrations and BHMAC agreed upon the size and priority of MSAs. In its extension request, BiH describes its prioritisation system for releasing MSAs, which is said to accord with humanitarian, developmental, and safety needs of municipality and local communities, as well as the level of threat (high, medium, or low).⁷⁵

MAG would like to see the availability of information regarding MSAs made more easily accessible to clearance operators to enable long-term planning and for the prioritisation of tasks to be made more transparent, in line with good practice in the sector.⁷⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Results of mine action in BiH show that the applied land release model was efficient in the period 2005–09, and prior to 2009, BHMAC cancelled significant amounts of land annually through non-technical survey.⁷⁷ Since then, however, non-technical survey output has declined, but there remains very significant potential for further reduction in the size of the SHA through survey.

In December 2012, having recognised the need for more efficient land release in BiH, the EU, with pre-accession funding, started a pilot “land release” project with BHMAC.⁷⁸ The resulting “IPA 2011 Land Release” was implemented from 2013 to 2016, with EU funding.⁷⁹ The project enabled efficient tasking of systematic technical survey and technical survey with targeted investigation, helping ensure clearance assets were only directed into CHAs.⁸⁰ Results from six completed tasks in the EU pilot project revealed that 91% of the total land released was cancelled through non-technical survey, 8.5% was reduced through technical survey, and 0.5% was cleared.⁸¹ More recently, of the nearly 95km² released in 2018–19, over 89% was cancelled through non-technical survey, with almost 9% of the remainder reduced through technical survey, and less than 2% released through clearance.⁸² This and previous land release data indicate that actual anti-personnel mine contamination in BiH is only a small proportion of the total hazardous area currently on the database and deployment of clearance assets will therefore only be required for relatively small areas.⁸³

BHMAC planned to review and update the national standards and standing operating procedures (SOPs) in 2020, as well as develop missing chapters.⁸⁴ There is broad support among both international and national clearance operators for a review of standards, especially those relating to land release.⁸⁵ The GICHD believes that, following completion of the country assessment, it would be beneficial to focus on improving the efficiency of technical survey in BiH.⁸⁶ Similarly, MAG and NPA believe that further development of the land release process and the use of advanced techniques for the assessment and identification of minefields in BiH is crucial to the country meeting its Article 5 obligations.⁸⁷ MAG also believes that there is scope to improve efficiency and effectiveness through a more integrated approach to land release, including on chapters governing the use of mechanical and animal assets, in addition to survey and clearance.⁸⁸ BHMAC has publicly stated that it is “fully engaged and committed towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness” of its efforts.⁸⁹

BHMAC has stated that it will ensure through quality management that all organisations accredited for technical survey and clearance comply with the principles of land release.⁹⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Non-technical survey in 2019 was conducted by the BiH Armed Forces, BHMAC, and NPA.⁹¹ Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) (colloquially called drones) were used by NPA and the BHMAC for non-technical survey during the country-wide assessment of mined areas. MAG planned to deploy community liaison, starting in 2020.⁹²

A total of 26 organisations are accredited for mine action in BiH: four government organisations (Armed Forces of BiH, Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, and Brčko District Civil Protection), the Red Cross Society of BiH; seven commercial organisations (all national); and 14 NGOs (11 national and 3 international).⁹³ Overall demining capacity totalled 1,200 persons in accredited organisations, comprising 900 deminers and 300 others (including team leaders, site leader, operational officers, QA officers, and dog trainers). The accredited organisations also have at their disposal a total of 33 accredited machines (for vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and removal of debris), 1,166 metal detectors, and 68 accredited explosive detection dogs (MDDs). In addition, BHMAC has at its disposal 44 surveyors (i.e. 22 survey teams for non-technical survey and emergency marking), 8 officers for planning non-technical survey operations, and 12 inspectors and 28 senior clerks for QC/technical supervision/inspection.⁹⁴

During 2018, technical survey and/or clearance of anti-personnel mines was conducted by the BiH Armed Forces, the Federal Administration of Civil Protection, the Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, and twelve other clearance organisations, comprising nine NGOs (Association UEM, DEMIRA, Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC), MAG, NPA, Pro Vita, Stop Mines, Udruga "Pazi Mine Vitez", and WBE) and three commercial organisations (Detektor, N&N Ivsa, and In Demining N.H.O).⁹⁵ BHMAC had not expected any major changes to demining capacity in 2019.⁹⁶

Both technical survey and clearance methodology in BiH will include deployment of manual, mechanical, and MDD assets.⁹⁷ BiH reported a decrease in operational capacity over recent years, with an average of 52 teams deployed in 2014–17 and 36 teams deployed in 2018 and 2019.⁹⁸ According to BiH, the problem of the ageing workforce is compounded by the reluctance of younger people to seek employment as deminers.⁹⁹ Clearance and technical survey operations in BiH include mechanical preparation of land, manual clearance, and the use of MDDs and special detection dogs (SDDs) depending on the geographical conditions.¹⁰⁰ Much of the remaining mined area is in hilly or mountainous terrain, which restricts the use of machinery.

The BiH Armed Forces' survey and clearance operations, which include use of machinery and explosive detection dogs, are fully engaged from March to November, and with reduced activity, predominantly in southern BiH, from December to February.¹⁰¹ Since 2010, NPA has increasingly focused on building the capacity of the Army's Demining Battalion. This involves transfer of knowledge through operational planning of clearance and technical survey operations; direct operational support; and provision of MDDs and equipment, among other things.¹⁰² The BiH Armed Forces require ongoing support to secure personal protective equipment, batteries for detectors, and fuel for demining machinery, since the Army's own complex procurement

system often cannot deliver such items in sufficient time.¹⁰³ NPA supported the Demining Battalion with the provision of eight magnetic locators/detectors, under a Swiss-funded contract, enabling the Battalion to establish a third team within its organisational set-up. This is now fully operational for technical survey and clearance of areas contaminated with CMR. NPA also loaned the Demining Battalion its Digger D-250 and provided direct operational support for mechanical ground preparation.¹⁰⁴ The Demining Battalion also receives support from Austria, France, Italy, and the United States, as well as European Union Force Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), which alone provides 90% of total support.¹⁰⁵

The state operators, the BiH Armed Forces' Demining Battalion and the Civil Protections, are both good partners and have effective capacities, but have suffered from logistical challenges and equipment deficits, which can prevent them from working at full capacity.¹⁰⁶ Deminers in the BiH Armed Forces, however, are forced to stop demining at the age of 38 (this upper limit, until recently, had been 35). This results in experienced deminers being forced to retire at a very early age and results in a high turnover of personnel.¹⁰⁷ In the opinion of a UNDP expert, the BiH Armed Forces have sufficient demining equipment, but could benefit from stronger management and better oversight of demining operations.¹⁰⁸

Federal administration of civil protection (FACP) teams are spatially distributed to cover the entire territory of the Federation of BiH and are located in Bihac, Busovaca, Gorazde, Livno, Mostar, Orasje, Sarajevo, Travnik, Tuzla, and Zepce. Capacity as at August 2019, included 11 demining teams with 95 employees, 8 UXO teams with a total of 27 employees (solely responsible for removing UXOs in the Federation of BiH following reports from citizens and institutions), four MDD handlers with four dogs, a mechanical debris removal team that has one armoured excavator and two armoured trucks to remove UXO contaminated debris, and a demining team with two demining machines and four operators.¹⁰⁹ FACP believes the training system for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) would benefit from being strengthened in BiH's national standards, to make it in line with CWA 15464: 2005 system.¹¹⁰

The teams of the FACP are trained in fast response to remove injured persons (both civilians and deminers) from mined areas. The FACP believes that accident and incident investigation, which is currently only conducted by BHMAC staff, should be expanded to include representatives from the wider demining community, such as the entities civil protection authorities, the Armed Forces, and EUFOR, to help improve the safety and quality of operations.¹¹¹ During 2019, the FACP said it sent four reports to BHMAC of mines detected in locations not classified as suspected to contain mines. However, FACP did not receive feedback from BHMAC on what activities were undertaken as a consequence of the reports, which it believes highlights inadequate communication between BHMAC and FACP. The FACP thinks it is necessary "to establish two-way communication and exchange of information in order to treat the newly discovered mine contaminated area as efficiently as possible, without burdening the existing demining resources."¹¹²

The Civil Protection of Brčko District only conducts removal and destruction of ERW, and not demining.

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska conducts survey and clearance of mines, CMR, and other ERW. It deployed six manual teams, totalling thirty-six deminers, and two MDDs and dog handlers, for technical survey and clearance of mined areas in 2019. In terms of capacity development received, it reported that it used a demining machine from NPA and also that a number of its deminers were trained by the BiH Armed Forces.¹¹³

MAG received operational accreditation in April 2017 and began technical survey and clearance operations in mid-May 2017.¹¹⁴ MAG deployed 6 manual teams, totalling 42 deminers, and 2 MDDs and dog handlers technical survey and clearance of mined areas in 2019.¹¹⁵

NPA is, according to the 2015 UNDP evaluation, well respected in BiH and is treated almost like a national asset, even though it is international and independently donor funded.¹¹⁶ NPA deployed 6 manual teams, totalling 36 deminers, and 6 MDDs and dog handlers, and two machines.¹¹⁷ NPA uses MDD and SDDs for clearance and technical survey tasks, including targeted technical survey.¹¹⁸ As mentioned above, since 2010, NPA has also focused on building the capacity of the Armed Forces Demining Battalion.

With the exception of MAG and NPA, clearance operators in BiH typically compete for international tenders in order to secure their funding. The UNDP evaluation suggested that this resulted in considerable capacity being underused and recommended alternative contracting models more appropriate for land release (either by having longer term contracts or being contracted for the clearance of larger areas), which could be more attractive to the demining organisations in terms of security and could also make best use of capacity in the long run.¹¹⁹ National demining NGOs, such as STOP Mines or PROVITA, which are registered in a similar way to companies, potentially have capacity to quickly mobilise additional resources and up-scale operations.¹²⁰

The Demining Commission is responsible for considering the periodic re-accreditation of field operators, following the recommendation from BHMAL. Any delay in the appointment of the Demining Commission can therefore impact the re-accreditation process and have a knock-on impact on survey and clearance operations.¹²¹ This was the case from late October 2019, when the previous Demining Commission's term expired, until April 2020, when the new Demining Commission was put in place and accreditations could again be renewed or approved.

Quality control (QC) and QA is conducted by BHMAL.¹²²

DEMINER SAFETY

In 2019, two demining accidents in BiH resulted in two deaths and four people injured. The first accident occurred in Goražde municipality in June 2019, injuring two MAG personnel, and the second accident was in Kupres municipality in August 2019, injuring two personnel from the association "Pazi Mine" and killing two others.¹²³ The former accident involved clearance of a M60 HEAT rifle grenade (i.e. an item of ERW, not an anti-personnel mine), and the accident was investigated first by the police, then by BHMAL with a three-member board, and lessons learned were developed and shared by BHMAL with all operators in-country.¹²⁴

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

A total of at least 3.84km² of mined area was released in 2019, of which almost 0.54km² was cleared and 3.30km² was reduced through technical survey. BHMAL did not report on the amount of land cancelled through non-technical survey in 2019.¹²⁵

However, the above figures reported by BiH in its Article 7 report covering 2019, are not in keeping with the land release output reported by BiH in its 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request, submitted in June 2020, in which it reported that in 2018–19, a total of nearly 84.5km² was cancelled through non-technical survey, over 8.3km² was reduced through technical survey, and nearly 1.6km² was released through clearance.¹²⁶

SURVEY IN 2019

In 2019, 3.30km² was reported to have been reduced through technical survey,¹²⁷ but no breakdown was provided by geographical region or operator. This is a decrease on the 5.03km² reduced through technical survey in 2018.

According to data provided to Mine Action Review for 2019, the Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska reduced a total of 259,779m² through technical survey in 2019; of which 227,109m² was in the Republika Srpska and 32,670m² in the Hercegovacko-Neretvanski Canton of FBiH.¹²⁸ MAG reported reducing a total of 1,225,004m² through technical survey in 2019, across four cantons.¹²⁹ NPA reported reducing a total of 802,855m² through technical survey in 2019, across four cantons.¹³⁰

In its Article 7 report covering 2019, BHMAL did not report on the amount of land cancelled through non-technical survey in 2019.¹³¹ However, NPA reported to Mine Action Review, that as part of the EU-funded country assessment it conducted non-technical survey in 28 municipalities in 2019 over a total area of 179.95km², of which 3.91km² was cancelled, and 95 MSAs created.¹³² In addition, outside of the country assessment project, and jointly with BHMAL, NPA cancelled a further 3.55km² across three cantons (Unsko-Sanski, Hercegovacko-Neret and Zanicco-Dobojski).¹³³

CLEARANCE IN 2019

A total of almost nearly 0.54km² was cleared in 2019, during which 963 anti-personnel mines, 19 anti-vehicle mines, and 2,297 ERW were destroyed.¹³⁴ However, there was a discrepancy in BiH's Article 7 form covering 2019, in that the totals of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines listed in the table in the Article 5 form (580 anti-personnel mines and 28 anti-vehicle mines; see Table 2) were different to the totals listed in the text of the form (963 anti-personnel mines, 19 anti-vehicle mines, and 2,297 ERW destroyed). Mine Action Review has used the latter in the key data section.¹³⁵

The 2019 clearance output is a decrease on the 0.92km² of mined area cleared and 12,101 anti-personnel mines destroyed in 2018.

Table 2: Mine clearance in 2019¹³⁶

Canton	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed
Unsko-Sanski	5	63,047	97	0
Posavski	1	55,931	12	0
Tuzlanski	3	40,028	27	0
Zanicko-Dobojski	1	3,791	20	0
Srednje-Bosanski	6	42,417	79	6
Hercegovačko-Neretvanski	2	8,584	23	0
Sarajevo	2	67,722	56	5
Bosansko-Podrinjski	1	11,343	1	0
Canton 10	1	1,820	97	1
Total BiH Federation	22	294,683	412	12
Total Republika Srpska	16	191,193	152	1
Total Brčko district	1	49,188	16	15
Sum totals	39	535,064	580	28

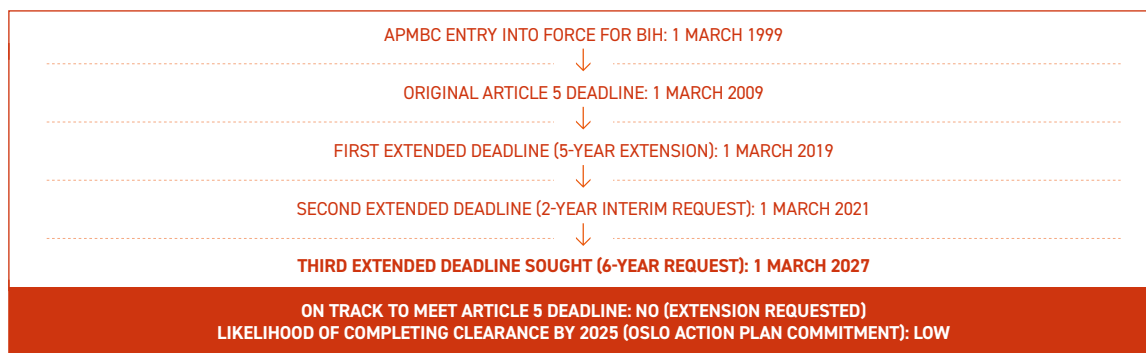
AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska reported clearing a total of 51,782m² in 2019; of which 48,981m² was in the Republika Srpska and 2,801m² in the Hercegovačko-Neretvanski Canton of FBiH, during which a total of 71 anti-personnel mines, 6 anti-vehicle mines, and 26 items of UXO were destroyed.¹³⁷

MAG reported clearing a total of 431,603m² through clearance in 2019 (134,621m² during clearance tasks and the remainder as clearance during technical survey), across four cantons, with the destruction of a total of 528 anti-personnel mines and 66 items of UXO. It reported a 38% increase in area cleared in 2019 compared to the previous year, and a 71% increase in area reduced through technical survey, which it said was due to a 45% increase in "team-months" in 2019 and an increased use of MDDs.¹³⁸

NPA reported releasing a total of 43,993m² through clearance in 2019, across four cantons, with the destruction of a total of 259 anti-personnel mines, 13 anti-vehicle mines, and 26 items of UXO. In NPA's 2019 operations, only 1% of mined area was released through clearance, 19% was reduced through technical survey, and 80% was cancelled through non-technical survey. On average, NPA BiH found 62 mines per hectare (0.01km²) in 2019, broadly the same as the previous year.¹³⁹

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC, BiH has requested a six-year extension to its Article 5 deadline up to 1 March 2027. The request is said to be for the purpose of non-technical and technical survey “to better define the precise perimeter of mined areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.¹⁴⁰ It is, however, assumed that there was an accidental omission of land release through clearance, and that BiH intends to complete both survey and clearance of remaining mined areas by the requested deadline. Prior to this, BiH had been granted a second extension request in 2018, for an interim two-year extension to 1 March 2021, during which it conducted a “country assessment”, to better understand the remaining anti-personnel mine contamination and plan more effectively for its release.¹⁴¹

Over the last five years, BiH has released just over 5km² thorough clearance (see Table 3). Since the ten-year extension to its initial Article 5 deadline, granted in 2008, BiH has continuously fallen far short of its annual land release targets. The painfully slow pace of survey and clearance has resulted in lack of confidence in the national mine action programme from donors but also from people living in mine-affected communities, who felt disillusioned that the mines have not been cleared.¹⁴²

In 2019, BiH cleared almost 0.54km² of mined area, considerably less than the 1km² planned for 2019, according to its 2018 interim Article 5 deadline extension request. In addition, the 3.3km² reduced through technical survey in 2019 was significantly less than the 13km² planned. BHMACH did not include in its Article 7 report the amount of land cancelled through non-technical survey in 2019, although it did report in its 2020 extension request that nearly 84.7km² was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2018–19.¹⁴³

In 2020, BiH planned to release 104km² of mined area through non-technical methods; reduce 4km² through technical survey, and clear 2km².¹⁴⁴ In order to achieve these 2020 targets, land release output will need to increase substantially compared to 2019. Furthermore, as at June 2020, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to-date had hindered demining operations in March to June 2020, which will impact land release outputs.¹⁴⁵

Table 3: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	0.54
2018	0.92
2017	0.69
2016	1.34
2015	1.64
Total	5.13

With the completion of the country assessment in 2020; a strong national mine action strategy; updates underway to the national mine action standards; migration to a new information management system; and the establishment of a country coalition, supported by Germany, to help assist coordination of mine action, BiH is well placed to fulfil its Article 5 commitments by the requested March 2027 deadline. However, along with continued funding, the element that will truly determine BiH's success is political will and national ownership. Successful Article 5 implementation will require strong oversight and commitment from BHMACH, the Demining Commission, and their superiors in the government.

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

The National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 includes a section on management of residual contamination, which requires the development of a strategy for the management of residual contamination by 2022.

- 1 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015; and Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 01-02-03-10-16-1-1101/16, 4 November 2016, p. 22.
- 2 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 4.
- 3 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
- 4 Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 4 November 2016, p. 26.
- 5 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form C.
- 6 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, Interpreter, BHMAC, 23 July 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form C.
- 7 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 16.
- 8 Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 4 November 2016, p. 5.
- 9 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for Bosnia and Herzegovina, 13 May 2015, p. 17.
- 10 Interviews with Darvin Lisica, then Programme Manager and Regional Director, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; and Tarik Serak BHMAC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 11 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 5 and 10-11.
- 12 In BiH's 2020 Revised Article 5 extension request, August 2020, the amount of mined area cancelled was reported to be nearly 966.7km² (p. 5), but this figure is believed to be an error, given that 1,030km² mined area was addressed during the country assessment (p. 11) and remaining mined area as at the beginning of 2020 was nearly 966.7km² (p. 16 and Annex 2). The 966.7km² referred to incorrectly as cancelled on p. 5 is believed by Mine Action Review to refer to the total remaining mined area as at the end of the assessment at the beginning of 2020, as indicated on pp. 7 and 16, and in Annex 2.
- 13 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 6 and 16.
- 14 Ibid. p. 11.
- 15 Ibid., p. 16 and Annex 2. The total CHA area in BiH's 2020 Article 5 extension request was reported in the table as 20,747,593m², but the correct total comes to 20,747,591m²; and total SHA area in BiH's 2020 Article 5 extension request was reported in the table as 945,938,493m², but the correct total comes to 945,938,495m². Also, in BiH's Draft operational plan for Mine Action in BiH for 2020, the amount of remaining mined area as at January is reported as the slightly lower value of 965.26km².
- 16 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, Country Director, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 "Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020", Annex 5 to the 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 4.
- 20 BHMAC Organisational chart, accessed 17 July 2019 at: bit.ly/2Ycj4xl.
- 21 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 22.
- 22 BHMAC website, "New members of BiH Demining Commission appointed today", 30 April 2020, available at: bit.ly/3dv7nco; "The first session of BiH Demining Commission held today", 27 May 2020, at bit.ly/2B3UdWQ; and 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 6 and 7.
- 23 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 22; and Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 01-02-03-10-16-1-1101/16, 4 November 2016, p. 22.
- 24 Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 4 November 2016, p. 8.
- 25 Bosnia and Herzegovina Official Gazette, Sarajevo, 17 March 2002.
- 26 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 8.
- 27 Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 4 November 2016, p. 23.
- 28 Statement of BiH, APMBC Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2017.
- 29 Interview with Tarik Serak, BHMAC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and emails from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 19 June 2017; and Suad Baljak, UNDP, 15 June 2017; and UNDP BiH, "Mine Action Board of Donors Meeting", 31 March 2016, at: bit.ly/300f4lp.
- 30 Emails from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 14 July 2020; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 17 July 2020.
- 31 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 20.
- 32 BHMAC website, "Workshop on Definitions of Productivity Indicators and Resources Required for Implementation of the Land Release Method and Development of a Medium-Term Action Plan", 30 January 2020, at: bit.ly/37WS3UN.
- 33 BHMAC website, "Workshop "Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of AP Mines", 6 March 2020, at: bit.ly/3hVCAZO.
- 34 BHMAC, "Online meeting with donors' representatives for Mine Action in BiH", 28 April 2020, at: bit.ly/2VdFIQA.
- 35 BHMAC website, "Director Sasa Obradovic participated in the Country Coalition meeting, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Germany", 12 February 2020, at: bit.ly/3fUjuBz.
- 36 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 25.
- 37 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, pp. 1 and 19-20.
- 38 BiH, Financial Plan for Implementation of the BiH Mine Action Strategy 2018-25, pp. 6-7.
- 39 Ibid.
- 40 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 7.
- 41 Ibid., p. 12.
- 42 Ibid., pp. 6-7, and 23.
- 43 Ibid., pp. 23-24.
- 44 BHMAC website, "Ten million EUR intended for humanitarian demining projects in BiH diverted to COVID-19 and migration issues", 10 April 2020, at: bit.ly/37X1Wlq.
- 45 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 14.
- 46 Ibid.
- 47 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019.
- 48 Ibid.
- 49 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019; and Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019; and BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 52.
- 50 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 18.
- 51 Email from Dragan Kos, Assistant Director, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 2 April 2020.
- 52 Email from Clement Meynier, Country Director, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 53 Emails from Djadranka Gillesen, Regional Director for the Middle East & Europe, MAG, 27 August 2019; and Clement Meynier, MAG, 16 July 2020.
- 54 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 55 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 16 July 2020.
- 56 Email from Goran Šehić, Deputy Programme Manager, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 57 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 58 Ibid.
- 59 Ibid.
- 60 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 5.
- 61 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March 2020.
- 62 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 63 Ibid.
- 64 Email from Stanislav Damjanovic, Advisor, GICHD, 19 August 2020.
- 65 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 66 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March 2020.
- 67 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 68 BHMAC website, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Strategy 2019-2025 adopted by the Council of Ministers", available at: bit.ly/2VnPNdj.
- 69 CCW Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2015), Form B.
- 70 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 7.
- 71 BiH, "National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025", p. 34.
- 72 BHMAC website, "Workshop on Definitions of Productivity Indicators and Resources Required for Implementation of the Land Release Method and Development of a Medium-Term Action Plan", 30 January 2020, at: bit.ly/37WS3UN.
- 73 Interview with Saša Obradovic, BHMAC, Geneva, 11 February 2020.
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- 75 Ibid., pp. 6 and 19-22.

- 76 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 77 Email from Suad Baljak, Mine Action Officer, UNDP, 15 September 2017; and Darvin Lisica, "Application of targeted technical survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina: development of advanced techniques for data collection and assessment, standard operating procedures and building of national capacities", NPA, undated.
- 78 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, pp. 19 and 20.
- 79 Statement of BiH, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2017; BHMAG, "Analysis of implementation of mine action strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009–2019) and draft amendments", adopted by the Demining Commission on 28 March 2016, p. 6; and 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
- 80 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
- 81 *Ibid.*, p. 10.
- 82 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 7.
- 83 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025", pp. 6 and 11; and 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 17.
- 84 Interview with Saša Obradovic, BHMAG, Geneva, 11 February 2020; Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 8; and Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020, Annex 6 to the 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 14.
- 85 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 86 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 87 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 88 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 89 Statement of BiH, Fourth APMBRC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.
- 90 Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020, Annex 6 to the 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 20.
- 91 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 92 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 93 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 24.
- 94 *Ibid.*; and Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020, Annex 6 to the 2020 Revised Article 5 extension request, August 2020, p. 13.
- 95 Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form C.
- 96 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAG, 9 July 2019.
- 97 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 8.
- 98 Statement of BiH, Fourth APMBRC Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.
- 99 *Ibid.*
- 100 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.
- 101 Interview with Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 102 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 103 Interview with Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 18 October 2017.
- 104 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 105 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
- 106 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 29; and interviews with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Haris Lokvancic, Swiss Embassy, Sarajevo, 9 May 2017; and Tarik Serak, BHMAG, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 107 Interview with Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 108 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 15 September 2017.
- 109 Email from the Cabinet, Federal Administration of Civil Protection, 29 August 2019.
- 110 *Ibid.*, 16 July 2020.
- 111 *Ibid.*, 29 August 2019.
- 112 *Ibid.*, 16 July 2020.
- 113 Email from Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 2 April 2020.
- 114 Interview with Josephine Dresner, MAG, Sarajevo, 9 May 2017; and email from Kathy Keary, MAG, 5 April 2018.
- 115 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 116 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, pp. 30–31.
- 117 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 118 Emails from Goran Šehić, NPA, 10 July 2017 and 30 March 2018; and interview with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017.
- 119 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, p. 35.
- 120 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
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