

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2019
(INTERIM TWO-YEAR EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 MARCH 2021)

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	2017	2016
Problem understood	6	6
Target date for completion of mine clearance	4	5
Targeted clearance	7	7
Efficient clearance	6	6
National funding of programme	7	7
Timely clearance	3	3
Land-release system in place	7	7
National mine action standards	7	7
Reporting on progress	4	5
Improving performance	6	6
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	5.7	5.9

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Clearance output dropped by almost half in 2017 compared to the previous year, and there was also a notable decrease in the amount of land reduced by non-technical survey. The amount of land cancelled by non-technical survey in 2017 cannot be compared to that of 2016, as 2016 data included the results of the full three-and-a-half-year European Union (EU) pilot project, rather than the annual cancellation output for 2016. Information management in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continued to be a problem, including use of terminology not consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and reporting inconsistent survey and clearance data between different reporting forums for the same period.

Despite the decrease in land release output, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) continued to implement the adoption and roll-out of more land release methodology, primarily through using the results

of non-technical survey to more effectively target and task technical survey (both “systematic technical survey” and “technical survey with targeted investigation”), and thereby ensure that full clearance is only undertaken where the presence of mines is confirmed. As part of this process, the three revised national standards on non-technical survey, technical survey (including targeted investigation and systematic technical survey), and land release were adopted in January 2017.

In 2017, BHMAC developed a new National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25, with support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and BHMAC also completed amendments to BiH’s demining law. However, as at August 2018, neither the new strategy nor the amended demining law had been formally approved by parliament, calling into question BiH’s political commitment to mine action.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- BiH should formally adopt the amended demining law which was drafted in 2017, without further delay.
- The Council of Ministers should approve the National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025, without further delay.
- 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 In particular, BiH should continue reforming and strengthening the governance and management of the mine action programme.
- BHMAC should report more accurately and consistently on the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination, including using the classification of suspected hazardous area (SHA) and confirmed hazardous area (CHA) in a manner consistent with the IMAS.
- BHMAC should continue to fully operationalise evidence-based methods of land release throughout its mine action programme, including technical survey with targeted investigation, to more accurately identify and delineate areas of confirmed contamination, and cancel or reduce areas where evidence of mines is lacking.
- The BiH Armed Forces, the Federal Administration of Civil Protection, and the Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska should be provided with the necessary demining equipment, in a timely manner, to facilitate the full and efficient deployment of their respective demining capacities.

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.² It is also contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munition remnants (CMR) (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on BiH for further information). Most mined areas are in the zone of separation between BiH's two main political entities – the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). Twenty years after the end of the conflicts, BiH is still the most heavily mined country in Europe.

In its latest APMBC Article 7 transparency report, BiH claimed a total of 1,061km² of mined area, but it did not disaggregate SHA and CHA.³ This represents an improbably high 2.1% of the total area of BiH.⁴

The 1,061km² of mined area reported to Mine Action Review in Table 1 includes 1,039km² of area “suspected to contain mines” and a further 22km² of area “known to contain mines”.⁵ Somewhat confusingly, of the 1,039km² of “suspected mined area”, 306km² has reportedly been defined as “confirmed hazardous area” through non-technical survey and will be subject to technical survey and/or mine clearance. According to BHMAL, “it is not technically possible to show it within the same table as it is, and in accordance with BHMAL’s database”.⁶

The 1,061km² of overall mined area as at the end of 2017 represents a decrease of 30km² compared to the 1,091km² of mined area as at the end of 2016.

Table 1: Anti-personnel mine contamination by canton (at end 2017)⁷

Canton	Suspected mined areas	Area (km ²)	“Known” mined areas	Area (km ²)
Unsko-Sanki	640	100.81	132	3.00
Posavski	174	18.10	6	0.37
Tuzlanski	704	78.39	57	1.39
Zanicko-Dobojski	665	118.35	52	1.79
Bosansko-Podrinjski	222	47.00	19	1.14
Srednje-Bosanski	761	122.53	100	3.23
Hercegovacko-Neret	1,225	149.61	68	3.00
Zapadno-Hercegovacki	10	0.74	3	0.23
Sarajevo	285	73.33	29	1.02
Canton 10	475	85.63	36	1.07
Subtotal BiH Federation	5,161	794.49	502	16.24
Republika Srpska	2,834	229.46	303	5.79
Brčko district	146	15.22	2	0.05
Totals	8,141	1,039.17	807	22.08

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 BHMAL 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 formulated between BHMAL, clearance operators, and the EU, regarding a country assessment to establish a more accurate baseline of mine-contamination and improve the efficiency of demining operations¹⁰ (see the *Land Release* section of this report for further information).

According to BiH, mined and ERW contaminated areas are located in 129 municipalities/cities, with 1,389 affected communities/populated areas in total, of which 1,338 communities are affected by mines, 31 communities by mixed mine and CMR contamination, and 29 communities by CMR contamination. Mines and ERW directly impact the safety of approximately 545,600 people or 15% of the population of BiH (based on the last census in 2013).¹¹ Of the total SHA, 63% is forested, 26% agricultural land, and 11% infrastructure, housing, and other land use.¹²

Minefields in BiH generally contain relatively small numbers of mines, which are typically either “in groups or randomly laid”. Many minefield records (approximately 40%), 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.¹³ Furthermore, physical changes to mined areas (such as in vegetation), and a lack of witnesses to the laying of the mines, pose additional challenges.¹⁴

In 2017, three anti-personnel mine incidents were recorded, resulting in one injury and three fatalities, all of whom were adult males collecting firewood or hunting at the time of the incidents.¹⁵ According to BHMAC, most mine incidents now occur in forested areas,¹⁶ and those with a fatal outcome are mostly from

PROM-1 bounding fragmentation mines.¹⁷ An analysis of mine accidents in BiH shows that individuals that are more economically vulnerable are more exposed to mine/ERW contamination, as they often knowingly enter into contaminated areas for livelihood activities.¹⁸

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Demining Commission, under the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, supervises the state-wide BHMAC and represents BiH in its relations with the international community on mine-related issues.¹⁹ The Demining Commission is composed of representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Security, and Defence) elected from the three constituent “peoples” of BiH and representing BiH’s three majority ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs).²⁰ Three new Demining Commission members were given a two-year mandate on 23 July 2015,²¹ which expired in July 2017. A new Demining Commission was expected to be appointed imminently, but there was a delay during which the existing representatives served as an “acting” Demining Commission in the interim.²² Subsequently, the existing Demining Commission representatives were re-elected for a further two-year term, from October 2017 to October 2019.²³ Whereas the Minister for Civil Affairs remains ultimately responsible for mine action, the Demining Commission represents the strategic body responsible for setting mine action policy, and it proposes the appointment of BHMAC senior staff, for approval by the Council of Ministers.²⁴

One 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.²⁵ Furthermore, according to the 2016 audit office report, “The Commission has not developed a methodology on how to monitor the work of the BHMAC”.²⁶

BHMAC, established by a 2002 Decree of the Council of Ministers, is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH’s demining plan, including accreditation of all mine action organisations.²⁷ BHMAC 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).²⁸

A November 2016 national audit office report on the efficiency of the demining system in BiH concluded that: “The institutions of BiH have not undertaken all activities required to ensure efficiency of the demining system. A conclusion can be drawn that BiH is not committed to dealing seriously with the demining problem, which jeopardises the implementation of the BiH strategic goals and the fulfilment of international commitments assumed. The demining process has neither been analysed nor improved systematically in the past 15 years”.²⁹ This mirrors some of the strong criticism of BHMAC’s governance and management prior to 2015, (see “Clearing the Mines 2015” report on BiH). However, reforms are now being implemented, under

the leadership of a new acting director of BHMAC, who was appointed on 22 September 2015 by the Council of Ministers.³⁰ The Demining Commission has reportedly drafted an Action Plan to address the recommendations of the 2016 audit office report, though as at August 2018 the status of the Action Plan was unclear.³¹ As at September 2018, it is said by BHMAC that the Action Plan had been mostly realised and the Plan itself was in the process of being formally adopted.³²

After a 10-year hiatus, Board of Donor meetings resumed in September 2015,³³ and a second meeting took place in March 2016.³⁴ As the Board of Donors is one of the few platforms where international actors meet formally under law, international donors in BiH welcomed the resumption of the meetings, which provide a forum for improved coordination and communication with the national authorities.³⁵ As at August 2018, the last Board of Donor meeting had taken place in Sarajevo in November 2017.³⁶ BiH’s new National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, which has yet to be formally approved, specified that at least two board of donors meetings should be organised every year.³⁷

In May 2016, moves were made to reinstate expert working groups (EWGs), which used to meet until 2009, helping to address issues such as quality control (QC).³⁸ According to BHMAC, the EWGs, which were re-established in October 2016, will meet as often as needed.³⁹ One EWG meeting was held in 2016.⁴⁰ The BiH Armed Forces and clearance operators think regular EWG meetings would be of benefit to the mine action sector in BiH.⁴¹ As at June 2017, UNDP reported that it was planning to organise EWGs in coordination with BHMAC,⁴² but as at August 2018 no further EWG meetings had taken place.⁴³

Strategic Planning

In 2017, BiH developed a new National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025, with support from the GICHD, which addresses all contamination, including mines and CMR.⁴⁴ However, as at June 2018, it had not yet been formally approved.⁴⁵

The BiH previous Mine Action Strategy for 2009–19, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2008,⁴⁶ set the target of the country becoming free of mines by 2019. BHMAC conducted the first of three planned revisions of the strategy in 2012–13⁴⁷ (the other two were due in 2015 and 2017, respectively).⁴⁸ The 2012 revision asserted lack of funding as one of the major reasons for BiH’s slow progress to completion of its clearance goals.⁴⁹

In April 2015, while revision of the second strategy was ongoing, BHMAC stated that it could provisionally report that, after six years, only half of the strategy's scope had been implemented, primarily due to lack of funding for humanitarian demining.⁵⁰ The funding shortfall resulted in part from a failure to secure additional funds from government sources. The second revision of the BiH Mine Action Strategy 2009–19 was completed in 2015,⁵¹ in consultation with the Demining Commission and UNDP.⁵² Among the strategic and operational goals in the revised strategy, was to eliminate one third of the total suspected mined area in BiH through non-technical and technical survey, by the end of 2019.⁵³ The operational plan in the 2015 revision also envisaged that over the next two or three years all organisations would transition to conform to the new land release methodology.⁵⁴ The revision was endorsed by the Demining Commission in BiH in March 2016, but was not adopted by the Council of Ministers.⁵⁵

The third revision of the strategy was due to be concluded by the end of 2017. In 2016, BHMAC, in consultation with the GICHD, started the revision process. However, rather than revising the existing Mine Action Strategy 2009–19 (revision II, with proposed amendments), BiH, with support from the GICHD, produced an entirely new national mine action strategy for the period through to projected completion of mine and CMR clearance (2018–2025).⁵⁶ As part of this process, a first workshop was held in November 2016, followed by four National Mine Action Strategy Working Group Sessions, organised with the participation of relevant government ministries, clearance operators, and other stakeholders in Sarajevo in February 2017.⁵⁷

The new National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 contains a general plan and timeframe for the completion of mine clearance, as well as for CMR.⁵⁸ It includes a section on management of residual contamination and national capacities, after clearance of all contaminated areas is completed.⁵⁹ In June 2017, BiH reported that it was in the process of defining the final steps of the new strategy,⁶⁰ and on 13 September 2017, a meeting was held between BHMAC, the Demining Commission, the GICHD, and UNDP, during which the draft strategy was presented and comments provided. The draft strategy was then shared with the BiH Armed Forces, the entity Civil Protections, UNDP, and the EU for further comment.⁶¹ According to the new 2018–2025 strategy, "A resource mobilisation plan will be developed, clearly stating annual national and international funding targets", and in addition, "Strategy goal action plans with corresponding budgets will be developed, facilitating the implementation of the strategy." It is also stipulated that the strategy will be continuously monitored and reviewed to ensure its continued relevance, to enable the programme's strengths and weaknesses to be identified, and to allow BHMAC and partners to address problems, improve performance, build on success and adapt to changing circumstances.⁶²

In October 2017, a month following a validation meeting in Sarajevo, the GICHD submitted the first draft of the new strategy to BHMAC and the Demining Commission. The finalisation process took many months, with the finalised strategy being eventually submitted to the Council of Ministers for adoption in July 2018.⁶³ As at August 2018, the new strategy had yet to be formally adopted.⁶⁴

BiH's annual operational mine action plan for 2018, in accordance with the Article 16 of the Demining Law, was adopted by the Demining Commission at the fourth session in February 2018 and forwarded for adoption by the Council of Ministers in BiH.⁶⁵ As at August 2018, the demining law had not yet been adopted.⁶⁶

Mine action prioritisation and planning in BiH is based on socio-economic impact. However, a UNDP evaluation recommended that the system be reviewed to reflect changing circumstances as well to take account of the specific impact of particularly dangerous mines such as the PROM-1.⁶⁷ BHMAC conducted a general assessment in 2016 to help designate high-, medium-, and low-impact SHAs.⁶⁸

In May 2017, BHMAC asked Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to develop a planning tool for land release. The tool is based on indicators of productivity, resources, and successful land release. It supports implementation of the national mine action strategy and monitoring of BiH's mid-term land release action plans. On 22 August 2017, the tool was presented during a meeting of the BiH Land Release Board, together with representatives from the UNDP and EU delegations in BiH. The National Land Release Board is comprised of BHMAC, the BiH Armed Forces, the civil protection entities of the Federation of BiH and of the Republika Srpska, and NPA serves as an advisor to the board.⁶⁹ As part of a project entitled, "country assessment of mine-suspected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2019" (herein "country assessment" project), funded by the EU, a workshop was planned to be held with all relevant stakeholders to be consulted on the process of analysing and defining indicators. The resulting indicators will be used for the strategic planning tool for land release.⁷⁰

A proposed priorities list is created by BHMAC in cooperation with representatives from local authorities. The following, however, fall outside of the standard priority setting procedures: areas of mass graves, where demining is conducted upon request of the Commission for Missing Persons or a judicial body; the sites of plane crashes, fires, floods and other accidents, where demining is requested by authorised state bodies; military zones, demined by the BiH Armed Forces; and targeted demining projects for "insured funds under specific agreements not contained by the priorities list for a certain year".⁷¹

Legislation and Standards

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. A new draft demining law, first submitted to parliament in 2010, never received approval from the Council of Ministers.⁷² In 2015, the latest draft Bill failed to attract the support of the Council of Ministers, which concluded that instead of adopting a new law, the existing law on demining should be amended.⁷³

BiH demining authorities are following the recommendation to amend the existing law, but if amendments exceed 40% of an original Act a new law is needed.⁷⁴ In August 2016, the 68th session of the Council of Ministers of BiH issued a “Decision of the establishment of working group for the design of changes on the Demining law in BH”.⁷⁵ The 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.⁷⁶ As at June 2017, a public consultation had been completed, and the draft law sent, via the Ministry of Civil Affairs, to the Council of Ministers for adoption.⁷⁷ However, as at June 2018 the amended law was still awaiting parliamentary adoption.⁷⁸

A BHMAC official acknowledged that the lack of a new legal framework has contributed to BiH’s repeated failure to meet its funding targets under its own mine action strategy.⁷⁹ UNDP has highlighted the need for the existing draft to be amended to ensure a strategic management body exists for mine action; that BiH national standards on land release are referenced; and that no technical issues impede land release.⁸⁰ As the GICHD has observed: “In order to be able to fulfil its international obligations in a timely fashion, relevant authorities of BiH need to be able to make decisions more quickly and to foster an environment in which operations are not hindered.”⁸¹

BHMAC developed three new draft chapters of its mine action standards in 2013: on land release, non-technical survey, and technical survey. The standards were adopted by the Demining Commission in 2014.⁸²

Subsequent lessons learned from conducting non-technical survey, technical survey (including targeted investigation), and mine clearance resulted in BHMAC amending the three standards in 2015, in accordance with IMAS.⁸³ The revised chapters were adopted by the Demining Commission on 27 January 2016.⁸⁴ The Demining Commission adopted temporary guidelines for QA/QC for land release tasks in July 2017.⁸⁵

In 2016, in collaboration with the GICHD and UNDP, BHMAC held a workshop on “standards and SOP revisions”.⁸⁶ At the end of 2016, in order to further optimise efficiency and effectiveness, and ensure that the standards and SOPs allow for the optimal release of land through survey, including by technical survey, BHMAC created four expert working groups, to work on amendments and additional to all the chapters of the national mine action standards and SOPs.⁸⁷ The working groups expected to complete their work by the end of September 2017, after which recommendations were to be sent to the demining commission for adoption.⁸⁸ Two SOP chapters were adopted by the Demining Commission in April 2018: one on non-technical survey and the other on the opening and monitoring of tasks.⁸⁹ In addition, a specific SOP was approved by the Demining Commission for the new 18-month “country assessment” project.⁹⁰

Quality Management

BHMAC’S two main offices in Banja Luka and Sarajevo coordinate the activities of regional offices in planning, survey, and QC/quality assurance (QA). QA inspectors are based in the regional offices.⁹¹

The 2015 UNDP evaluation found that BHMAC’s QA of demining activities functions well, but recommended that BHMAC develop effective quality management mechanisms for the whole organisation to make processes more efficient and transparent.⁹² However, the 2016 national audit office report found that the quality control of demining carried out by BHMAC is not efficient and that a systematic improvement of the QC process has never been done. In addition, the report states that: “Despite several levels of control in the demining system, accidents and irregularities occur in the areas the BiH Mine Action Centre declared safe”.⁹³ In the report, “accidents” refer to blasts during demining activities and in areas that have been cleared and released; and “incidents” refer to mines and items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) detected in cleared areas after the completion of works and after the QC certificates had been issued by BHMAC. According to the audit office report, 23 irregularities and 32 accidents occurred between 2005 and 2016. Of the 32 accidents, 29 occurred during demining while the remainder involved civilians after demining had been completed.⁹⁴ The Director of BHMAC, however, confirmed in May 2017 that no irregularities or accidents on cleared/released land have occurred in the last two years.⁹⁵

In 2017, QC inspectors from BHMAC conducted 3,076 technical inspections at 225 tasks (of which 2,925 technical inspections at 201 tasks related to technical survey and clearance of mined area), and two decisions were issued which required repetition of technical survey operations and two which required repetition of clearance.⁹⁶

Information Management

BHMAC does not report accurately or consistently on land release data (disaggregated by product (cancelled, reduced and cleared), activity (non-technical survey, technical survey, and clearance), and classification (SHA and CHA), in a manner consistent with IMAS.

The first goal of BiH’s new National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 (yet to be formally approved as of writing) is that, “Sound IM standards, tools and processes ensure that relevant information is collected, stored, analysed, shared and used for efficient and effective planning, prioritisation, tasking and implementation of mine action activities”.⁹⁷

BHMAC, with support of the UNDP and financing from the EU will create a new web-based database to replace the existing system and increase accessibility and transparency of mine action data. The project, entitled “Mine Action Governance and Management Project”, will “aim to influence policy and build the capacity to instil greater organisational openness and adaptability to new methodologies. This will contribute towards re-establishing donor confidence through the formulation of a credible, realistic, and achievable completion plan, which will provide the strategic framework and work plan necessary to clear all known mined areas in the country and comply with the country’s demining obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.”⁹⁸

Operators

As at the beginning of 2018, 26 organisations were accredited for mine action in BiH: four government organisations (Armed Forces of BiH, Federal Administration of Civil Protection, Civil Protection Administration of Republic of Srpska, and Brčko District Civil Protection), the Red Cross Society of BiH; seven commercial organizations (all national); and 14 non-government organizations (NGOs) (11 national and 3 international). 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 37 accredited machines (for vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and removal of debris), 1,257 metal detectors, and 63 accredited explosive detection dogs. 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, 12 inspectors and 28 senior clerks for QC/technical supervision/inspection.⁹⁹

During 2017, 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 Republic of Srpska, and 14 other clearance organisations, comprising ten NGOs (DEMIRA, Dok-ing deminiranje N.H.O., EDD training centre, Eko Dem, NPA, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Pro Vita, Stop Mines, Udruga “Pazi Mine Vitez”, and Association UEM) and four commercial organisations (Detektor, N&N Ivsa, Point, and UEM).¹⁰⁰ BHMAC did not expect any major changes to demining capacity in 2018.¹⁰¹

The governmental operators – Civil Protection teams and the BiH Armed Forces’ Demining Battalion – constitute about 60% of the available operational capacity in BiH, though their total output in terms of land released by clearance and technical survey is proportionately much less.¹⁰² The general view is that the BiH Armed Forces and Civil Protection are both good partners, and have effective capacities, but have suffered from logistical challenges and equipment deficits, which prevent them from working at full capacity.¹⁰³

The BiH Armed Forces’ survey and clearance operations are fully engaged from March to November, and with reduced activity, predominantly in southern BiH, from December to February.¹⁰⁴ They also deploy machinery and explosive detection dogs during their survey

and clearance operations.¹⁰⁵ The BiH Armed Forces do, however, require ongoing support from external partners, such as NPA (with international funding from governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland, in addition to the Digger Foundation), 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.¹⁰⁶

Since 2010, NPA has increasingly focused on building the capacity of the Army’s Demining Battalion.¹⁰⁷ This involves transfer of knowledge through operational planning of clearance and technical survey operations; direct operational support; and provision of mine detection dogs (MDDs) and equipment, among other things.¹⁰⁸ The Demining Battalion also receives support from Austria, France, Italy, and the United States, as well as EUFOR, which alone provides 90% of support.¹⁰⁹

Furthermore, both the BiH Armed Forces and Civil Protection suffer recruitment challenges, but of a differing nature. Deminers in the BiH Armed Forces 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.¹¹⁰ The Federal Administration of Civil Protection, on the other hand, is unable to employ new deminers, as this is a Federal Government decision. Therefore, the capacity of the Federal Administration of Civil Protection has been reduced as pensioned deminers or those absent due to sickness have not been replaced.¹¹¹

The 2015 UN assessment recommended that BHMAC involve the BiH Armed Forces and Civil Protection teams more in conducting non-technical survey, technical survey, and clearance tasks, as part of the land release process.¹¹² 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.¹¹³

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.¹¹⁴ Both machines and dogs are integrated into NPA demining operations in BiH. Machines are used for mechanical ground preparation, but much of the remaining mined area is in hilly or mountainous terrain, which restricts the use of machinery. NPA uses MDD and special detection dogs (SDDs) for clearance and technical survey tasks, including targeted technical survey.¹¹⁵ NPA planned to expand the use of SDDs equipped with MDD harnesses, called the SMART system.¹¹⁶ NPA also supports BHMAC with non-technical survey, and has one non-technical survey team seconded to BHMAC.¹¹⁷ NPA mine clearance operations in the Srebrenica region, funded by the Netherlands, in support of the activities of the International Commission on Missing Persons, were completed in November 2017.¹¹⁸ As mentioned above, since 2010, NPA has increasingly focused on building the capacity of the Demining Battalion.¹¹⁹ NPA expected to receive increased funding in 2018.¹²⁰

MAG received operational accreditation in April 2017, and began technical survey and clearance operations in mid-May 2017, with funding from Austria and the United States.¹²¹ In 2017, MAG had two manual demining teams and two MDDs, and planned to increase capacity by two additional manual teams in 2018.¹²²

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.¹²³ 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.¹²⁴

LAND RELEASE

In 2017, BiH released almost 0.69km² by clearance and 6.68km² by technical survey.¹²⁵ A further 20.75km² was cancelled.¹²⁶

This is only a little more than half the clearance output of the previous year, when almost 1.34km² was cleared.¹²⁷ It is also a reduction on the 10.39km² reduced by technical survey in 2016. The amount cancelled in 2017 is not comparable to 2016, as the 46.94km² reported as cancelled by non-technical survey in 2016 included the results of the full three-and-a-half-year EU pilot project, rather than the annual cancellation output for 2016.¹²⁸

Survey in 2017

In 2017, more than 6.68km² was reduced through technical survey, conducted by various government organisations, NGOs, and commercial organisations (see Tables 2 and 3 below).¹²⁹ In addition, a further 20.75km² was cancelled by non-technical survey.¹³⁰

Table 2: Technical survey of mined area by Canton in 2017¹³¹

Canton	Area reduced (m ²)
Unsko-Sanki	510,807
Posavski	484,509
Tuzlanski	421,808
Zanicko-Dobojski	279,419
Bosansko-Podrinjski	250,837
Srednje-Bosanski	715,644
Hercegovacko-Neret	59,560
Zapadno-Hercegovacki	0
Sarajevo	674,365
Canton 10	339,319
Total Federation BiH	3,736,268
Total Republika Srpska	2,237,770
Total District Brčko	708,505
Sum total	6,682,543

Table 3: Technical survey of mined area by operator in 2017¹³²

	Operator	Area reduced (m ²)
Government	Federal Administration of Civil Protection	587,468
	BiH Armed Forces	2,380,007
	Civil Protection Administration of Republic of Srpska	196,626
NGOs	DEMIRA	82,796
	Dok-ing deminiranje N.H.O.	180,993
	EDD training centre	55,025
	Eko Dem	49,275
	NPA	834,318
	MAG	0
	Pro Vita	465,116
	Stop Mines	197,267
Commercial demining organisations	Udruga "Pazi Mine Vitez"	200,996
	Association UEM	352,618
	Detektor	39,906
	N&N Ivsa	485,477
	Point	318,279
	UEM	256,376
	Total	6,682,543

Clearance in 2017

A total of almost 0.69km² was cleared in 2017, during which 1,749 anti-personnel mines, 20 anti-vehicle mines, and 797 items of ERW were destroyed (see Table 4).¹³³

Mine clearance operations were conducted by the BiH Armed Forces, the Civil Protection of FBiH, the Civil Protection of RS, ten non-governmental organisations, and four commercial demining companies (see Table 5).

Table 4: Mine clearance by canton in 2017¹³⁴

Canton	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	ERW destroyed
Unsko-Sanki	21,237	250	0	31
Posavski	157,803	93	0	109
Tuzlanski	73,291	121	8	31
Zanicko-Dobojski	24,252	54	0	39
Bosansko-Podrinjski	7,107	133	0	29
Srednje-Bosanski	15,033	339	3	39
Hercegovacko-Neret	102,419	119	0	4
Sarajevo	26,415	430	4	212
Canton 10	1,529	24	0	7
Total Federation BiH	429,086	1,563	15	501
Total Republic Srpska	253,194	169	5	130
Total Brčko District	4,469	17	0	166
Sum Totals	686,749	1,749	20	797

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

Table 5: Mine clearance by operator in 2017¹³⁵

	Operator	No. of tasks	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	ERW destroyed
Government	Federal Administration of Civil Protection	8	103,303	100	8	86
	BiH Armed Forces	5	44,437	295	0	77
	Civil Protection Administration of RS	7	102,909	63	0	20
NGOs	DEMIRA	7	67,491	30	0	7
	Dok-ing deminiranje N.H.O.	1	81,539	89	0	156
	EDD training centre	0	396	117	0	4
	Eko Dem	0	400	9	0	4
	NPA	4	45,518	319	5	31
	MAG	0	0	5	0	0
	Pro Vita	2	20,331	408	1	37
	Stop Mines	0	719	132	0	73
	Udruga "Pazi Mine Vitez"	1	18,649	34	2	14
	Association UEM	7	85,327	15	0	1
Commercial demining organisations	Detektor	2	30,735	4	0	6
	N&N Ivsa	3	81,221	99	0	202
	Point	0	1,600	19	0	35
	UEM	1	2,174	11	4	44
	Totals	48	686,749	1,749	20	797

Clearance operations in BiH include mechanical preparation of land, manual clearance, and the use of MDDs and SDDs depending on the geographical conditions.¹³⁶

Land Release Projects and Methodology in 2012–19

Results of mine action in BiH show that the applied land release model was efficient in the period 2005–09, and prior to 2009, BHMIC cancelled significant amounts of land annually through non-technical survey.¹³⁷ There remains significant potential for further reduction in the size of the SHA. However, this will require strong implementation oversight by BHMIC and dedicated efforts and improved survey techniques to obtain additional information on mine contamination.¹³⁸ It will also require supplementing and combining non-technical survey with the use of technical interventions to confirm or deny the presence of mine contamination in SHAs.¹³⁹ BiH's plan is to achieve this through enhanced technical survey methodology, including, where possible, the use of technical survey with "targeted investigation" (also referred to as targeted technical survey), alongside the more traditional systematic technical survey approach, to more accurately determine the location of the confirmed mine contamination.¹⁴⁰

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 BHMIC.¹⁴¹ The resulting "IPA 2011 Land Release" was implemented from 2013 to 2016, with EU funding.¹⁴² The project enabled efficient tasking of systematic technical survey and technical survey with targeted investigation, helping ensure clearance assets were only directed into confirmed hazardous areas.¹⁴³ 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. Assuming the six tasks are representative of much of BiH's remaining SHAs, BHMIC predicts that only a minor proportion of the remaining SHAs contain actual contamination and deployment of clearance assets will therefore only be required for relatively small areas.¹⁴⁴ This has been factored into BiH's National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025, and it is hoped that the new land release concept will greatly speed up release of suspected mined area.¹⁴⁵

The application of technical survey with targeted investigation was also piloted by NPA in 2015, and has subsequently been expanded and implemented by other operators and state bodies, including the BiH Armed Forces and civil protection entities. The process consists of first applying elements of non-technical survey, including desk studies and collection of evidence of contamination. Field-based targeted investigations are then conducted, and the outputs analysed to assess any CHA identified. As part of this process, BHMIC and NPA identified new sources of information for inclusion, including from former soldiers and commanders, and members of the local population who provided valuable data on mine contamination. Several methodologies can then be applied as part of the technical survey to locate the target contamination, including the use of manual

clearance lane(s) towards a specific target, the use of detection dogs to search for a specific target, or the use of drones to help identify a specific target. Selection of techniques for each target is guided by several factors, including analysis of the characteristics of indirect evidence examined and environmental conditions (including the type of terrain and density of vegetation).¹⁴⁶

There is broad agreement that technical survey with targeted investigation could significantly improve the efficiency of land release in BiH.¹⁴⁷ It is hoped that targeted investigation could more accurately define CHA, and reduce the area treated through clearance to between 1% and 3% of the original SHA.¹⁴⁸ As part of ongoing efforts to refine and improve survey methodology in BiH, NPA reported that during 2017 it has introduced "scalable multi-phase systematic investigation", which had resulted in significantly less use of manual resources during the operations.¹⁴⁹

During 2017, plans were formulated for an EU-funded "country assessment" project, conducted jointly by BHMIC, NPA, BiH Armed Forces' Demining Battalion, to establish a more accurate baseline of mine-contamination and help and improve the efficiency of follow-on survey and clearance operations.¹⁵⁰ The proposed non-technical survey includes desk studies, analysis of war maps, and other materials, and would focus on finding evidence of mines, including analysing evidence of cases in which mines have been removed by locals in the intervening years since the end of the conflict. It also includes components of impact assessment, as the initial survey results date back many years and there is the need to re-determine the current impact of mine contamination.¹⁵¹

The "country assessment" project was approved by the EU and the contract signed on 15 August 2018, with an implementation period of 18 months.¹⁵² Under the project, non-technical survey will be conducted by BHMIC (nine non-technical survey teams), the BiH Armed Forces (two non-technical survey teams), and NPA (three non-technical survey teams), with EU€1.1 million (approx. US\$1.25 million) of EU funding. The nationwide assessment of the size and impact of mine and ERW contamination in BiH aims to determine a more accurate baseline of mine contamination and provide a new foundation for meaningful planning. Results of the assessment will enable BiH to plan for the realisation of the new National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 and preparation of its final Article 5 extension through to completion.¹⁵³

As part of its Article 5 implementation BiH will adopt an integrated approach to mine action, through defining "mine suspect areas" (MSA). As part of the "country assessment" project, 1,030km² of remaining mined area is expected to be subdivided into 500 +/-10% MSAs requiring further survey and clearance, and 30km² is expected to be cancelled.¹⁵⁴ The MSA polygons will be made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompass one or more impacted communities and which due to economic, cultural, geographical or other reasons form a logical geographical area on which comprehensive survey and clearance will be undertaken.¹⁵⁵ It is envisaged that the creation of MSAs will enable mine action operations to better respond to the needs of the community through

strengthening community liaison and ensuring that the needs of the communities are prioritised and addressed. It is also intended to simplify the tasking procedure by assigning specific organizations a larger geographical area in which to carry out operations.¹⁵⁶ Local administrations and BHMAC will together agree on the size and priority of MSAs in accordance with humanitarian, developmental, and safety needs of

municipality and local communities.¹⁵⁷ The MSAs will be categorised into three categories: high, medium, and low risk, based on available general assessment data. MSAs with a higher probability of containing PROM mines, large confirmed minefields, and high-/medium-impact MSAs based on general assessment, will be categorised as high- and medium-risk MSAs within one municipality. All other MSAs will be categorised as low risk.¹⁵⁸

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the ten-year extension request granted by states parties in 2008), BiH is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2019. BiH will not meet the deadline and has requested a two-year interim extension to 1 March 2021, in order to carry out survey activities to more accurately define the precise perimeter of mined areas. Following the more accurate definition of the remaining challenge, BiH believes it will be in a better position to calculate the time required to complete its Article 5 obligations. It has pledged to submit a final extension request, based on a more precise understanding of the challenge, by 31 March 2020.¹⁵⁹ Efforts to gain greater clarity of the extent of actual mine contamination are welcomed but long overdue, considering that BiH still does not have an accurate picture of baseline contamination more than 19 years after becoming a state party to the APMBC.

Previously, in May 2016, BHMAC claimed that analysis of the Mine Action Strategy 2009–19, showed that BiH was 3.5 years behind in fulfilling its Article 5 obligations, due to lack of funding.¹⁶⁰ In 2017, BHMAC reported that analysis showed that the fulfilment of BiH's 2019 Article 5 deadline was four years behind schedule "due to funding" issues.¹⁶¹

According to its 2018 interim Article 5 extension request, the next two years, will see a transition of working methodologies throughout BiH, with land release being intensively conducted through the application of new standards and SOPs to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.¹⁶² Results gained so far through application of more efficient evidence-based land release methodology to more accurately determine the location and extent of actual contamination, and cancel areas not contaminated, indicate the potential for large areas of uncontaminated SHA to be released through survey.¹⁶³ BiH has expressed its commitment to complete its Article 5 obligations by 2025, as detailed in BiH's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 (yet to be approved as at August 2018).¹⁶⁴

The "country assessment" project currently being undertaken in 2018 and 2019, is expected to result in the cancellation of 30km² through high-quality non-technical survey and should enable more accurate tasking of technical survey and clearance going forward. However, this represents less than 3% of BiH's total suspected mined area and it remains to be seen what the actual results of the assessment will be and how it will impact BHMAC's Article 5 completion planning. The ratio of technical investigation to non-technical investigation

methods will naturally reduce over time, as land wrongly suspected of being mined is cancelled/released through survey. The potential for technical survey with targeted investigation will also diminish with time, as additional information acquired through survey, including from informants, is obtained and applied.

Over the last five years, BiH has released less than 7.41km² thorough clearance (see Table 6). In 2017, as in all years since it was granted the ten-year extension to its initial Article 5 deadline, BiH fell far short of its land release targets.¹⁶⁵ The painfully slow pace of 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.¹⁶⁶

Table 6: Mine clearance in 2013–17¹⁶⁷

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2017	0.69
2016	1.34
2015	1.64
2014	1.85
2013	1.89
Total	7.41

BHMAC expected land release operations for 2019 and 2020 to continue in line with annual work plans, and predicted that a total of 237km² would be released: 179km² cancelled through non-technical survey by BHMAC; an additional 30km² cancelled through non-technical survey by BHMAC, BiH Armed Forces, and NPA as part of the "country assessment" project; 26km² reduced through technical survey by accredited organisations; and 2km² cleared. In addition, through non-technical survey BHMAC expected to prepare a total of approximately 120 MSAs, covering approximately 263km².¹⁶⁸

The new National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 presents an opportunity for BiH to communicate and outline the mine action programme's goals and objectives, both to national and international stakeholders. To implement the new strategy will, however, require strong oversight and commitment from BHMAC, and the Demining Commission and their superiors in the government. The ongoing delay in formal adoption of the new strategy arguably calls into question this commitment.

BHMAC is funded by the common institutions of BiH and other institutions at state level.¹⁶⁹ BiH national state funding also supports survey and clearance of CMR. Operations of the BiH Armed Forces are supported by the state budget of BiH, while the Government of the Federation of BiH finances the operations of Federal Administration of Civil Protection.¹⁷⁰ According to BHMAC, small-scale investments in equipment and training could significantly increase the capabilities of both the Federal Administration of Civil Protection and the Armed Forces.¹⁷¹

In 2017, more than BAM32 million (approx. US\$18.7 million) was allocated to mine action operations in BiH.¹⁷² Of this, 54% came from national sources while almost 46% from international donors.¹⁷³ Analysis shows that BiH has committed a larger proportion of its national budget to mine action than many other mine-affected countries.¹⁷⁴ Nevertheless, analysis by both NPA and UNDP shows that in the first five years of the 2009–19 strategy, while international donors maintained their planned funding

commitments, anticipated BiH government funding level were not met, especially with regard to planned “additional government” sources and consequently, by 2013, progress was way off target.¹⁷⁵ In the period 2006–17, only 50% of planned funds were available. The local and donor sources ensured the funds as planned, but unfortunately BiH did not provide additional funding due to its economic situation.¹⁷⁶ The Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Demining Commission, and BHMAC have highlighted the limited funds for demining and have requested funds from the national budget.¹⁷⁷

BiH has calculated that the required cost to fulfil its planned two-year interim extension request is almost 80 million BAM, of which 50% will be national funding and 50% donor funding.¹⁷⁸

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- 120 Email from Goran Sehić, NPA, 20 March 2018.
- 121 Interview with Josephine Dresner, MAG, Sarajevo, 9 May 2017; and email from Kathy Keary, MAG, 5 April 2018.
- 122 Email from Kathy Keary, MAG, 5 April 2018.
- 123 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, p. 35.
- 124 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
- 125 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018.
- 126 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form C; BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 25; and email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 28 September 2018.
- 127 Article 7 Report (for 2016), Form C; and email from Goran Zdrle, BHMIC, 17 May 2017.
- 128 Article 7 Report (for 2016), Form C; and emails from Goran Zdrle, BHMIC, 17 May 2017; and Tarik Serak, BHMIC, 24 October 2017.
- 129 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018
- 130 Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form C; and BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 25; and email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 28 September 2018.
- 131 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018 and 28 September 2018; and Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F; and BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 13.
- 132 BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, pp. 12 and 13. There was a discrepancy in data between BHMIC and MAG. BHMIC did not record any output from MAG technical survey in 2017, whereas MAG reported reducing 328,096m² through technical survey. Emails from Kathy Keary, MAG, 5 April and 31 August 2018.
- 133 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018; and APBMC Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F.
- 134 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018; APBMC Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F; and BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 14.
- 135 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018; APBMC Article 7 Report (for 2017), Form F; and BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 15. There was a discrepancy between clearance data provided by BHMIC for MAG and NPA, and that provided by the operators for 2017 operations. BHMIC did not record any output from MAG clearance in 2017, other than destruction of five anti-personnel mines. MAG itself reported clearing 109,180m² and destroying 134 anti-personnel mines and 19 items of ERW in 2017. Email from Kathy Keary, MAG, 5 April 2018. NPA reported that it had cleared 23 mined areas, totalling 38,346m², with the destruction of 118 anti-personnel mines, 5 anti-vehicle mines, and 34 items of ERW. Email from Goran Sehić, NPA, 30 March 2018.
- 136 Emails from Goran Zdrle, BHMIC, 17 May 2017; and Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018.
- 137 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.
- 138 Interview with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017.
- 139 Ibid.
- 140 Ibid.; 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"; and "Workshop conclusions: Evaluation of the results of projects technical survey with targeted investigation implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016", BHMIC and NPA, 2017.
- 141 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, pp. 19 and 20.
- 142 Statement of BiH, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2017; BHMIC, "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.
- 143 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 11.
- 144 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025", awaiting approval as at August 2018, pp. 6 and 11.
- 145 Interview with Saša Obradovic, BHMIC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 146 Interview with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017.
- 147 Interviews with Saša Obradovic and Tarik Serak, BHMIC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Haris Lokvancic, Swiss Embassy, Sarajevo, 9 May 2017; Muamer Husilović and Ahmet Dulović, Federal Civil Protection of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 148 Interview with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 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".
- 149 Email from Goran Sehić, NPA, 30 March 2018.
- 150 Interviews with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; and Saša Obradovic and Tarik Serak, BHMIC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and emails from Darvin Lisica, NPA, 31 August 2017; and Suad Baljak, Mine Action Officer, UNDP, 15 September 2017.
- 151 Interview with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017.
- 152 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, Country Director, NPA, 25 September 2018.
- 153 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018; BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 21; and 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7, 21, and 22.
- 154 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 17 May 2018; BHMIC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 21; and 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 7 and 23.
- 155 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6; and "BiH Statement on Interim Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5", 7 June 2018, Geneva.
- 156 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 22.
- 157 Ibid., p. 26.
- 158 Ibid., p. 27.
- 159 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 20; and "BiH Statement on Interim Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5", 7 June 2018, Geneva.
- 160 Email from Tarik Serak, BHMIC, 26 May 2016.
- 161 Email from Goran Zdrle, BHMIC, 17 May 2017.
- 162 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.
- 163 Statements of BiH, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2017; Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 20 December 2017; and 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request.
- 164 Statement of BiH, Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 20 December 2017; and BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025", awaiting approval as at August 2018, p. 24.
- 165 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 31.
- 166 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 14.
- 167 See Mine Action Review and Landmine Monitor reports on clearance in BiH covering 2013–17.

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- 169 Email from Goran Zdrale, BHMAC, 17 May 2017.
- 170 Ibid.; and email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 23 July 2018.
- 171 Statement of BiH, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015; and interview with Tarik, BHMAC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 172 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 17 May 2018; BHMAC, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Annual Report 2017", January 2018, p. 26.
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- 176 Statement of BiH, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2017.
- 177 Interview with Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Ministry of Defense, Chair of the Demining Commission, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 178 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 29; and "BIH Statement on Interim Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5", 7 June 2018, Geneva.