

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS 2021

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2022  
UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

## KEY DATA

### CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION: LIGHT

NATIONAL MINE ACTION CENTRE ESTIMATE

**2.05** KM<sup>2</sup>

SUBMUNITION CLEARANCE IN 2020

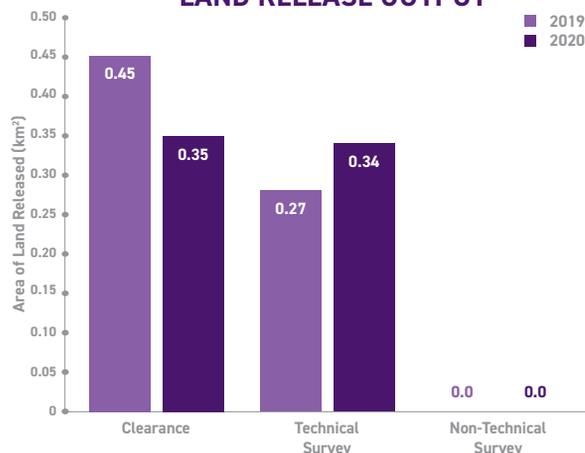
**0.35** KM<sup>2</sup>

SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED IN 2020

**166**

(INCLUDING 4 SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED DURING SPOT TASKS)

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was not able to complete clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) by 1 March 2021, and was granted an 18-month extension to its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 deadline, to 1 September 2022. However, in order to achieve this BiH must release all CMR-contaminated area by the requested deadline, including CMR-contaminated area that also contains contamination from depleted uranium munitions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The amended demining law drafted in 2017, which has still to be adopted, should be revised further and re-submitted to Parliament for adoption. Liability policy and clearly defining “all reasonable effort” in the context of BiH should be discussed in parallel with the revision of the amended draft law.
- 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,<sup>1</sup> both of which remain valid. In particular, BiH should continue reforming and strengthening the governance and management of the mine action programme.
- The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) should strive to ensure that its Article 4 completion plan targets for the release of all remaining CMR-contaminated area by the September 2022 deadline are reached by all implementing partners, including the BiH Armed Forces, Civil Protection entities, and Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA).
- BHMAC should secure an appropriate solution and funding for the CMR task containing depleted uranium, and then commence with clearance without delay, so that it does not prevent completion within the extended deadline.
- BHMAC should also prioritise clearance of the hazardous areas which contain both CMR and anti-personnel mines, in order to release these areas of mixed contaminated by BiH’s 1 September 2022 deadline. Any area contaminated by CMR falls under the obligations of the CCM, irrespective of whether it also contains anti-personnel mines or other explosive ordnance.

- If BiH begins to fall behind schedule on its CMR clearance completion plan, it should seek to increase clearance capacity immediately, in order to meet its deadline. However, if at any stage and for whatever reason, BiH believes it might not be in a position to complete CMR clearance by 1 September 2022, it should submit an Article 4 extension request for consideration by States Parties well in advance of its deadline.
- BHM MAC should report more accurately and consistently on the extent of CMR contamination and on release of CMR-contaminated areas. This should be done using the classification of suspected hazardous area (SHA) and confirmed hazardous area (CHA), and by disaggregating CMR-contaminated area reduced through technical survey from area released through clearance, consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- 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.
- BHM MAC should provide information on what steps it plans to further mainstream gender and diversity within its mine action programme and 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.
- BHM MAC should provide details of its plans for addressing the discovery of previously unknown cluster munition contamination following completion (i.e. residual contamination).

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	6	6	BiH's baseline of CMR contamination totalled 2km <sup>2</sup> as at the end of 2020 and is not classified into CHA and SHA, consistent with IMAS. Some areas of CMR contamination also contain anti-personnel mines and one CMR-contaminated area also contains depleted uranium, which poses additional complications for its release.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	6	6	National ownership of mine action in BiH falls under the responsibility of the Demining Commission and BHM MAC. BiH's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 was adopted in January 2019, but as at July 2021, the amended demining law (2017) was still awaiting parliamentary adoption. Governance of the national mine action programme needs to be strengthened and Article 4 implementation better coordinated to ensure early completion. It is hoped that the Country Coalition established between BiH and Germany in 2020, and which was convened for the first time in October of that year, will provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders, help demonstrate national ownership, strengthen coordination of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 and CCM Article 4 implementation, and monitor progress against the 2018–25 strategy.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 supports the 2003 Law on Gender Equality. BHM MAC 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 appointed Demining Commission are women. However, within BHM MAC'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.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	5	5	BHM MAC is in the process of migrating from its own information management system to the new web-based system, IMSMA [Information Management System for Mine Action] Core, with the support of UNDP and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). In addition, UNDP has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) mobile application, which was released in November 2020. BHM MAC does not report accurately and consistently on the extent of CMR contamination or on survey and clearance output.
Table continued...			

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	5	6	BiH adopted its National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 in January 2019, which foresees fulfilment of Article 4 by 1 March 2021. However, BHMAC failed to effectively plan for completion of CMR clearance early enough. A “completion initiative” to address CMR contamination was finally elaborated in 2019, with BiH Armed Forces, entity Civil Protections, and Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) tasked to release CMR-contaminated area. However, output was insufficient for BiH to meet its deadline and the COVID-19 pandemic also negatively impacted survey and clearance of CMR. BiH therefore requested and was granted an 18-month extension to 1 September 2022.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	6	6	BHMAC has in place national standards and standing operating procedures (SOPs) for survey and clearance of CMR, which are adapted to the local threat and context. Capacity for survey and clearance of CMR is sufficient, with the BiH Armed Forces, entity Civil Protections, NPA, and other operators all accredited, but release of CMR-contaminated area has been insufficiently prioritised.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	4	5	The rate of CMR clearance has been unacceptably slow, with less than 2km <sup>2</sup> of CMR-contamination cleared in the last five years. In comparison to landmine contamination, CMR in BiH was far less extensive and could have easily been addressed within the initial 10-year treaty deadline given sufficient political will and commitment. However, planning for CMR completion came too late to meet its original Article 4 deadline and BiH was granted an 18-month extension to 1 September 2022.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE</b>

## CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

- 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 (BHMAC)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Armed Forces of BiH
- BHMAC
- Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska (CPA RS)
- Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP)

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA)

### OTHER ACTORS

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

## UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2020, BiH reported a total of 2.05km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area (see Table 1), with no disaggregation of CMR-contaminated area into CHA and SHA.<sup>2</sup> This compares to CMR contamination of 2.31km<sup>2</sup> as at the end of 2019.<sup>3</sup> BHMAC also reported that previously unrecorded CMR contamination was added to BiH's database in 2020, but did not specify the size of the area added.<sup>4</sup>

According to BiH's Statement at Part 1 of the CCM Second Review Conference in November 2020, the total cluster munition-contaminated area in BiH in 2020 was 2.24km<sup>2</sup> across 36 areas. However, within the same CCM statement it was also reported CMR contamination as standing at 2.14km<sup>2</sup> (in line with BiH's Article 4 deadline extension request), highlighting the lack of consistency in BiH's reporting.<sup>5</sup>

BiH's remaining CMR to be addressed under Article 4 includes a cluster munition-contaminated area that also contains depleted uranium, located in Japaga – Han Pijesak in Republika Srpska.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by canton (at end 2020)<sup>7</sup>**

Canton	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
Tuzlanski	0.40
Zanicko-Dobojski	0.61
Srednje Bosanski (Central Bosnia)	0.01
Hercegovačko Neretvanski	0.02
Sarajevo	0.23
Zapadno Hercegovački	0.20
<b>Total Federation BiH</b>	<b>1.47</b>
<b>Total Republika Srpska</b>	<b>0.58</b>
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2.05</b>

A total of 0.65km<sup>2</sup> of remaining CMR contamination, across six locations, is in areas which also contain mines. These areas containing mixed CMR and anti-personnel mine contamination fall under the obligations of both the CCM and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). BiH has said previously that the areas will be cleared of mines first and then cluster munition remnants.<sup>8</sup> The tasks with mixed CMR and mine contamination should be prioritised for clearance, in order to release them by BiH's CCM Article 4 deadline of 1 September 2022.

In 2019, 3.6km<sup>2</sup> of items projected in an improvised manner was removed from BiH's baseline of CMR-contaminated area.<sup>9</sup> This contamination was the result of individually launched KB-1 submunitions fired from modified AK-47 rifles,<sup>10</sup> and was originally reported as 2.7km<sup>2</sup>,<sup>11</sup> and then as 2.1km<sup>2</sup>, but was subsequently confirmed as 3.6km<sup>2</sup> through non-technical survey by NPA and BHMAC.<sup>12</sup> When used in this way, individual KB-1 submunitions do not fall within the definition of a cluster munition covered by the CCM, and, as such, are not governed by the treaty clearance obligations.<sup>13</sup> BHMAC included reference to this contamination in its National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025,<sup>14</sup> and legitimately removed it from its Article 7 transparency reporting covering 2019.

CMR contamination dates back to the conflicts of 1992–95 related to the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.<sup>15</sup> A survey and initial general assessment of cluster munition contamination was jointly conducted by BHMAC and NPA in 2011, which estimated the total area containing CMR at more than 12km<sup>2</sup>, scattered across 140 areas. This estimate was subsequently revised upwards to 14.6km<sup>2</sup> following the start of land release operations in 2012.<sup>16</sup> Of this, around 5km<sup>2</sup> was deemed actually contaminated and marked for clearance.<sup>17</sup>

### OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

BiH is also contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) other than unexploded submunitions and by anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on BiH for further information).

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND 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.<sup>18</sup> 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 BHMAC senior staff, for approval by the Council of Ministers.<sup>19</sup>

According to a 2016 audit office report, however, "The Commission has not developed a methodology on how to monitor the work of the BHMAC".<sup>20</sup> BHMAC, established by a 2002 Decree of the Council of Ministers, is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH's survey and clearance plans.<sup>21</sup> 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).<sup>22</sup>

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. As at June 2020, however, an amended text from 2017 was still awaiting parliamentary adoption. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) believes the amended demining law should be revised further and re-submitted for adoption, with the topics of "All Reasonable Effort" and liability discussed in parallel to the revision.<sup>23</sup> Clearer legislation on liabilities related to mine action activities would be beneficial to all mine action stakeholders in BiH.

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 technical working groups (TWGs), which provide a platform for operators to discuss, learn from each other, and work in synergies on matters related to operations.

It is hoped that the "Country Coalition" established between BiH and Germany, will provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders, help demonstrate national ownership, strengthen coordination of APMB Article 5 and CCM Article 4 implementation, and identify and overcome challenges, and monitor progress against the 2018–25 strategy. The first Country Coalition meeting, convened jointly by BiH and Germany, took place on 13 October 2020. The online forum was attended by over 40 participants including representatives from a wide range of mine action stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations (NGO) clearance operators and donors. The conference was focused on the political aspects of mine action in BiH, as well as on the technical challenges in the release of remaining contaminated areas.<sup>24</sup> It provided

an opportunity for participants to highlight the progress being made in BiH and underline remaining challenges and obstacles towards completion.<sup>25</sup>

BHMAC is funded by the common institutions of BiH and other institutions at State level.<sup>26</sup> BiH 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 (FACP).<sup>27</sup> The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska (CPA RS) is financed by the Government of Republika Srpska.<sup>28</sup>

On 7 April 2020, it was announced that €10 million of European Union (EU) funding under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) 2018–20 programme, which had been intended for humanitarian demining, had been diverted to COVID-19 and migration issues. The EU funds had been intended for support of mine action in BiH, including the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies for BHMAC's work, the entity Civil Protections, as well as financing of demining projects of priority areas.<sup>29</sup>

BiH has said that it requires funds totalling 4.5 million BAM (approximately US\$2.68 million) in order to fulfil its Article 4 obligations by its requested deadline of 1 September 2022. Part of the funding will be allocated from State budgets for the Armed Forces of BiH and the entity Civil Protections, and part will be sought from donors.<sup>30</sup>

In 2020, a total of almost 6.22 million BAM (approximately US\$3.86 million) was allocated to releasing CMR-contaminated areas, of which more than 4.19 million BAM (approximately US\$2.60 million) was from national institutions.<sup>31</sup>

## 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".<sup>32</sup> 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.<sup>33</sup> However, as at June 2021, 25% of BHMAC's employees were female, with women employed in 8% of managerial/supervisory positions and 10% of operations positions.<sup>34</sup> 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.<sup>35</sup>

BHMAC has reported that it consults all groups affected by CMR, 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 are disaggregated by gender and age.<sup>36</sup> In a

welcome development, two of the three new members of BiH's Demining Commission, adopted on 30 April 2020, are women.<sup>37</sup> However, except for one reference to the provision of adequate gender- and age-sensitive mine risk education,<sup>38</sup> there was no other mention of either gender or diversity in BiH's Article 4 deadline extension request submitted in September 2020.

The CPA RS reported that nearly 24% of its staff were female, including 30% of managerial/supervisory positions. CPA RS has six female medics, but none of its operations staff is a woman.<sup>39</sup> During survey and community liaison activities, it cooperates with the local population, regardless of ethnicity, and where needed has representatives from different ethnic groups.<sup>40</sup>

As at June 2021, the Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH had a workforce of 535 personnel, including 27 women (5% of the total). Three of these women were in managerial/supervisory positions and the remainder were working in operations.<sup>41</sup>

FACP reported that of its 139 employees deployed in demining and destruction of UXO, 17 (12%) are women, including three (43%) of the seven managerial positions.<sup>42</sup>

NPA reports promoting 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.<sup>43</sup> That said, NPA reported that the overall gender split of its staff as at February 2021 was 107 men and 16 women, which represents 13% female staff. Women only accounted for 7 of NPA's 92 (8%) operational staff deployed in the field.<sup>44</sup> NPA explained that it rarely received applications from women for vacant operational roles. NPA says it is working to achieve a gender balance, and that the programme encourages the employment of women,

including into managerial and operational staff positions.<sup>45</sup> Three of the five (60%) managerial positions in the NPA BiH programme are held by women.<sup>46</sup> 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.<sup>47</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

BHMAC is in the process of migrating from its own information management system, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Information System (BHMAIS), to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core, with the support of UNDP and the GICHD, and with financing from the EU.<sup>48</sup>

The joint development of IMSMA Core in BiH began in 2019. Data from the country assessment project were originally expected to be transferred in March/April 2020 and the new database operational by mid 2020.<sup>49</sup> As at May 2020, however, the transition from BHMAIS to IMSMA Core was only partially complete and the target was then set for final completion by the end of the year.<sup>50</sup> GICHD training on the new system was also planned for BHMAC staff, which will take place once the situation with COVID-19 permits.<sup>51</sup> According to the GICHD, IMSMA CORE has been implemented to be used for managing information resulting from Country Assessment project in BiH and it is ready for use by BHMAC.<sup>52</sup> As at February 2021, BHMAC was using both databases and was in the process of training its staff. UNDP expected it to take a further six months to fully migrate to BHMAC using only IMSMA

Core.<sup>53</sup> Once in place, the database should be sustainable according to the GICHD, although the programme will still be susceptible to potential challenges stemming from turnover of key staff positions in the BHMAC IM department.<sup>54</sup>

Information in BHMAC's information management system is made available to clearance operators.<sup>55</sup> In addition, UNDP has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) mobile application, which was released in November 2020. This allows the general public to access information on locations of hazardous areas, as well as other features, through Android and iOS Apple devices.<sup>56</sup>

BHMAC does not report consistently on CMR contamination by SHAs and CHAs, in a manner consistent with IMAS. In addition, there are frequent inaccuracies in BHMAC reporting on land release. In its September 2020 Article 4 extension request BHMAC did, however, provide more detailed information on the location and size of the remaining CMR-contaminated area.<sup>57</sup>

As at June 2021, BiH had yet to submit a CCM Article 7 report covering 2020.

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## 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 previous BiH Mine Action Strategy for 2009–19 guided mine action in BiH, but did not mention CMR clearance specifically.

The new strategy 2018–25 was formally adopted in January 2019.<sup>58</sup> Strategic goal three on survey and clearance includes a commitment to complete CMR clearance obligations by 1 March 2021, in line with BiH's initial CCM Article 4 deadline.<sup>59</sup> However, the strategy did not contain an action plan or concrete milestones towards completion of CMR clearance.<sup>60</sup> In November 2020, the Demining Commission reported that a request would be sent to the Council of Ministers to initiate a first revision of the Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25, in line with the latest information.<sup>61</sup> According to the strategy, a second revision is planned for 2023.<sup>62</sup>

A "completion initiative" plan, agreed with BHMAC, the BiH Armed Forces, the FACP, and NPA, aimed to complete clearance of all remaining CMR-contaminated areas by 1 March 2020.<sup>63</sup> The completion initiative received support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Government, and Norwegian cooperative COOP Norge SA.<sup>64</sup> But the national survey and clearance capacities planned under the completion initiative were not fully realised.<sup>65</sup> Progress in implementing the initiative was also slowed as

a result of the failure of the Council of Ministers to appoint a Demining Commission to renew demining accreditations, including those of the BiH Armed Forces, the FACP, and NPA.<sup>66</sup> It was further negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>67</sup> which caused survey and clearance operations to be paused from mid-March until June, and operations were then impacted again in October. COVID-19 also impacted BHMAC, which worked at reduced capacity.<sup>68</sup>

Furthermore, the completion initiative did not include the CMR-contaminated area with depleted uranium contamination,<sup>69</sup> which is, however, still covered under BiH's Article 4 obligations. The 2020 Article 4 deadline extension request did refer to the CMR task that has contamination from depleted uranium, but without saying how BiH intends to address it.<sup>70</sup> BHMAC said that the project was prepared and reserved by NPA, and is the only remaining CMR task under the responsibility of the Pale regional office.<sup>71</sup> As at March 2021, NPA said that an adequate solution had yet to be found for release of this task.<sup>72</sup>

The completion plan fell behind schedule and BiH requested to extend its deadline by 18 months to 1 September 2022. The 2020 extension request included a work plan for release of remaining CMR-contaminated areas,<sup>73</sup> but lacked concrete milestones. The CMR-contaminated areas which also contain anti-personnel mine contamination, will be cleared of mines

first and then of CMR.<sup>74</sup> These areas of mixed contamination fall under BiH's CCM Article 4 obligations and should be prioritised for clearance, in order to release the contaminated areas before the 1 September 2022 deadline.

BHMAC also elaborates annual work plans. The 2021 work plan included planned CMR clearance of 0.5km<sup>2</sup> and planned reduction through technical survey of 1.5km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>75</sup> NPA reported that it had been tasked to release a total of up to 1.35km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area in 2021 and that addressing the remaining CMR contamination would largely depend on governmental commitment and greater participation of national capacities.<sup>76</sup>

In 2020, the Demining Battalion had planned to conduct five demining projects in Federation BiH, covering a total area of 245,041m<sup>2</sup>. It completed three of the five planned projects in 2020, clearing a total of 271,712m<sup>2</sup> during the year. The amount of CMR-contaminated area cleared in 2020 was greater than the planned clearance output, despite only three of the five projects having been completed. This was because

the clearance in some areas had to be expanded compared to the original task size.<sup>77</sup>

The two cluster munition projects planned, but not completed in 2020, have been moved to the Demining Battalion's 2021 work plan. In 2021, the Demining Battalion planned to clear 341,108m<sup>2</sup> across seven projects, including the two projects postponed from 2020. The seven projects are in Federation of BiH in the cantons of Sarajevski, Tuzlanski, and Zanicco-Dobojski. As at June 2021, one of the two tasks moved from 2020, had been finished and the other was in progress.<sup>78</sup>

BHMAC should ensure that CMR clearance tasks allocated to all implementing partners, including the Armed Forces of BiH, FACP, and NPA are fully implemented and released by BiH's 1 September 2022 deadline.

According to BHMAC, cluster munition-contaminated areas are prioritised for clearance based on agreement with local communities and municipalities.<sup>79</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In 2016, the Demining Commission formally adopted three revised chapters of the national mine action standards (NMAS) on land release, non-technical survey, and technical survey, drafted in cooperation with EU technical assistance through the Land Release pilot project, UNDP, and the GICHD.<sup>80</sup> The Demining Commission adopted new standards for CMR at the beginning of 2017.<sup>81</sup> According to NPA, national mine action standards in BiH are suitably adapted to the local threat and context, and enable efficient evidence-based survey and clearance of CMR.<sup>82</sup>

In 2015, BHMAC adopted a new national SOP for non-technical survey of areas suspected to contain CMR, based on NPA's own SOP.<sup>83</sup> In October 2016, BHMAC made updates and improvements to national SOPs for CMR clearance and technical survey, also based on NPA's SOPs.<sup>84</sup> In April 2018, the new SOP for non-technical survey was adopted by the Demining Commission.<sup>85</sup>

GICHD considers the current CMR baseline in BiH as a good foundation. It appears that BHMAC made good efforts to visit all the known hazardous areas and to document them.

However, it is not clear whether the sizes of those areas are accurate enough for proper planning and whether more cancellation could be done.<sup>86</sup>

Plans for revising the NMAS and further development of relevant chapters was planned by BHMAC for 2020, but no significant progress was made. This remains in BHMAC's plans for 2021 and beyond.<sup>87</sup>

The GICHD organised a one-day workshop in 2020 titled "technical survey – current methodologies and possibilities for enhancement", with a view to identifying gaps and possibilities for improving the technical survey in BiH, in a broader context, including operations, information management, standards, and legal framework. In agreement with the BHMAC and dependent on funding, GICHD will attempt to support BiH with development of several National Mine Action Standards, giving the priority to technical survey, information management, and quality management.<sup>88</sup>

BHMAC reported that survey or resurvey of hazardous areas suspected to contain CMR is conducted as standard, as part of all land release operations.<sup>89</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Land release operations on CMR-contaminated area in 2020 were conducted by non-governmental organisation NPA; entity Civil Protections; and the BiH Armed Forces.<sup>90</sup> In its Article 4 deadline extension request, BHMAC said that the remaining CMR contamination will be released by these same entities. However, it also stated that CMR operations can be performed by Centar za humanitarno razminiranje, Detektor, In Demining NGO, and Stop Mines NGO, and that these organisations could be accredited and engaged, if and when a tender is issued for removal of the remaining CMR contamination.<sup>91</sup>

BHMAC asserts that the BiH Armed Forces and the FACP are equipped with necessary demining equipment and capable, trained personnel for CMR clearance.<sup>92</sup> However,

both have suffered from logistical challenges and equipment deficits in the past, which prevent them from working at full capacity.<sup>93</sup> 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 mine detection dogs (MDDs) and equipment, among other things.<sup>94</sup> The BiH Armed Forces require ongoing support to secure PPE, batteries for detectors, and fuel for demining machinery, since the Army's own complex procurement system often cannot ensure delivery in time.<sup>95</sup> In August 2020, the Demining Battalion received a donation of 180 demining visors from the US government, enabling 18 manual clearance teams to be

equipped.<sup>96</sup> The BiH demining battalion would like to upgrade PPE and demining equipment, and cautioned that it could face 25% reduction in capacity without this equipment.<sup>97</sup>

In 2020, the BiH Armed Forces had three teams specialised and deployed in CMR clearance.<sup>98</sup> This was an increase of one team compared to 2019, with the third team having been equipped for CMR survey and clearance operations, as part of the completion initiative. NPA provided eight magnetic detectors, under a Swiss-funded contract. NPA also loaned the Demining Battalion its Digger D-250 and provided direct operational support for mechanical ground preparation.<sup>99</sup> 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.<sup>100</sup>

The FACP had a combined technical survey and clearance capacity in 2020 of 11 teams, totalling 63 personnel. It expected to maintain the same capacity in 2021.<sup>101</sup>

The CPA RS conducts survey and clearance of mines, CMR, and other explosive remnants of war (ERW CPA RS did not conduct any CMR operations in 2020, but it did the previous year.<sup>102</sup>

In 2020, NPA had three manual clearance teams totalling 14 deminers for technical survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated area in BiH. However, of the 14 deminers, only eight were deployed for a period of five months. As mentioned above, since 2010, NPA also continued helping to build the capacity of the Armed Forces Demining Battalion.<sup>103</sup>

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) received operational accreditation in April 2017, and began demining in May 2017, but is engaged in landmine survey and clearance only.

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.<sup>104</sup> This was the case for a six month period from late October 2019, when the previous Demining Commission's term expired, until 30 April 2020, when the new Demining Commission was put in place and accreditations could again be renewed or approved. The delay in appointing the new Demining Commission negatively impacted CMR operations, in some instances preventing the initiation of CMR clearance at the start of the demining season.<sup>105</sup>

In October 2020, the BHMAL invited operators to consult and comment on the new draft rules for the accreditation process, which had been posted online. In addition to the online consultation, the BHMAL plans to invite operators to a meeting to discuss and address comments and questions on these new rules. This participatory approach is welcomed by international NGO clearance operators.<sup>106</sup>

Quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) are conducted by BHMAL.<sup>107</sup>

No animal detection systems or mechanical assets were used in CMR survey or clearance operations in BiH in 2020 (or 2019). This is despite the fact that in 2017, BiH announced that technical survey and CMR clearance would also be conducted with the use of special detection dogs (SDDs), through NPA.<sup>108</sup> In 2014, NPA successfully piloted using SDDs for technical survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated areas.<sup>109</sup> It recommended the use of detection dogs in technical survey (both targeted and systematic investigation).<sup>110</sup> However, as at August 2020, BHMAL had yet to make the necessary amendments to the national standards.

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

Based on data reported by BHMAL to Mine Action Review, a total of 0.69km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2020: 0.34km<sup>2</sup> through technical survey and 0.35km<sup>2</sup> through clearance, during which a total of 162 submunitions were destroyed. This total includes four submunitions destroyed during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks. No area was cancelled through non-technical survey.<sup>111</sup>

While BHMAL did provide disaggregated data to Mine Action Review, BiH did not disaggregate land reduced through technical survey from land released through clearance in its Article 7 report covering 2020, in which the technical survey and clearance outputs were reported as a combined total of 0.68km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>112</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2020

In 2020, 0.34km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was reduced through technical survey, as reported by BHMAL to Mine Action Review.<sup>113</sup> This is a slight increase on the 0.27km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area reduced through technical survey in 2019.<sup>114</sup> No CMR-contaminated area was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2020.

**Table 2: Reduction through technical survey in 2020<sup>115</sup>**

Canton	Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	25,908
Sarajevo	12,686
Tuzlanski	68,814
Unsko Sanski	21,573
<b>Total Federation BiH</b>	<b>128,981</b>
<b>Total Republika Srpska</b>	<b>212,363</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>341,344</b>

## CLEARANCE IN 2020

In 2020, more than 0.35km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was cleared, with the destruction of 162 submunitions, with a further 4 submunitions destroyed during EOD spot tasks, as reported by BHMAC to Mine Action Review.<sup>116</sup>

The 2020 land release output was, overall, a slight decrease on 2019, when 0.45km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was cleared, as reported by BHMAC to Mine Action Review.<sup>117</sup> According to BHMAC the decrease in clearance was due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>118</sup>

**Table 3: CMR clearance in 2020<sup>119\*</sup>**

Canton	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	Submunitions destroyed
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	24,440	20
Sarajevo	16,900	0
Tuzlanski	98,050	20
Unsko Sanski	44,380	99
<b>Total Federation BiH</b>	<b>183,770</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Total Republika Srpska</b>	<b>170,469</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>National Totals</b>	<b>354,239</b>	<b>162</b>

\* The combined amount of CMR-contaminated area cleared in 2020, as reported by the Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces (271,712m<sup>2</sup> cleared and 18 submunitions destroyed) and NPA (246,232m<sup>2</sup> cleared and 137 submunitions destroyed), exceeded the total area reported as cleared by BHMAC for 2020 (see endnote for further details).

## ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 4 of the CCM, BiH is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 September 2022, having been granted an 18-month extension. Based on current progress in CMR clearance, it was unclear whether BiH would achieve completion by the extended deadline.

The decision on BiH's extension request was due to be formally adopted during the Part 2 of the Review Conference, planned to take place in a hybrid format in February 2021. However, Part 2 of the Review Conference was postponed, due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing a hybrid meeting in Switzerland, and BiH's request to extend its Article 4 deadline was instead granted by States Parties through a new "silence procedure" in February 2021.<sup>120</sup> As at March 2021, BHMAC said it was on track to complete CMR by its extended deadline.<sup>121</sup> However, this is highly debatable based on land release output in 2020 and the fact that less than 2km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contamination was cleared in the last five years (see Table 4).

**Table 4: Five-year summary of CMR clearance**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2020	0.35
2019	0.45
2018	0.44
2017	0.27
2016	0.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.61</b>

A "completion initiative" plan was developed in 2019, between BHMAC, BiH Armed Forces, FACP, and NPA, aimed at fulfilling BiH's obligations by the 1 March 2021 Article 4 deadline. However, as it was only elaborated in 2019, it left very little margin for delay. Delays to operations caused by the failure to appoint the Demining Commission (which renews accreditations) in a timely fashion, along with the impact of COVID-19, meant that the completion initiative was not realised by the clearance deadline.

BHMAC reported that COVID-19 resulted in a significant reduction in the realisation of CMR tasks in 2020, due to the impact on deployment of clearance capacity.<sup>122</sup> COVID-19 also impacted BHMAC, which worked at reduced capacity.<sup>123</sup> COVID-19 caused NPA's survey and clearance operations to be paused from 17 March to 1 June 2020, and two manual demining teams were also stood down in October.<sup>124</sup> However, both NPA and the FACP reported achieving their respective CMR land release targets as per their 2020 work plans, despite the impact of COVID-19.<sup>125</sup> The Demining Battalion of the BiH Armed Forces completed two of three of its CMR tasks in 2020, clearing more land than had been planned for the two tasks.<sup>126</sup> CMR clearance by the Armed Forces is an essential component of BiH's completion plan for Article 4 implementation.

BHMAC faces the additional obstacle of a cluster munition clearance task in the municipality of Han Pijesak, in the Republika Srpska, which also contains depleted uranium munitions remaining from NATO air strikes. The presence of depleted uranium complicates cluster munition clearance as deminers must be adequately trained and protected against exposure to the uranium. While this task is referred to in BiH's September 2020 Article 4 deadline extension request,

no details are provided on how BiH plans to address the mixed threat.<sup>127</sup> Previously, in February 2020, BHMAC had said it was discussing the possibility of seeking assistance from NATO to clear this area.<sup>128</sup>

Given the relatively small scale of CMR contamination in BiH, especially compared to the far greater contamination from mines, BiH could have completed clearance within its original 10-year Article 4 deadline, had there been greater political will, national ownership, and commitment from BHMAC, the Demining Commission, and their superiors in the government.

BiH has said that in order to fulfil its obligations under Article 4, during the 18-month extension period from 1 March 2021 to 1 September 2022, funds totalling US\$2.73 million are necessary. Part of the funds will be provided by governmental organisations (Armed Forces of BiH, Civil Protection entities, and BHMAC) through State budgets, while part of the funds will be sought from donors.<sup>129</sup>

#### PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

The National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 requires the development of a strategy for the management of residual contamination by 2022. As at July 2021, BHMAC had still to begin development of the strategy.<sup>130</sup>

- 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 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 31 March 2021.
- 3 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 4 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 31 March 2021.
- 5 Statement of BiH, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020; and 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, pp. 9 and 11.
- 6 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, Country Director, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 7 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 31 March 2021; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 8 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 2 September 2020; 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 9; and Statement of BiH, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.
- 9 Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 10 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019; and Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 11 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 26.
- 12 Statements of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019; and CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.
- 13 According to Article 2(2) of the CCM, "'Cluster munition' means a conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms, and includes those explosive submunitions" [emphasis added].
- 14 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 26.
- 15 BHMAC website, "Mine Action Report in BiH for 2015 approved by the BH Ministry Council", 16 May 2016.
- 16 Statements of BiH, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015; High-level Segment, First CCM Review Conference, 7 September 2015 and CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 17 Statement of BiH, High-level Segment, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 7 September 2015.
- 18 BHMAC Organisational chart, accessed 17 July 2019 at: <http://bit.ly/2Ycj4xl>.
- 19 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 22.
- 20 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.
- 21 Bosnia and Herzegovina Official Gazette, Sarajevo, 17 March 2002.
- 22 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 8.
- 23 Email from GICHD, 14 May 2021.
- 24 BHMAC website, "Embassy of the Republic of Germany in Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, organized online Country Coalition conference", 14 October 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/2NwxatH>; and Statement of Germany, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.
- 25 Email from Clement Meynier, Country Director, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 26 Emails from Goran Zdrale, BHMAC, 17 May 2017; and Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019.
- 27 Ibid.; and email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 23 July 2018.
- 28 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.
- 29 BHMAC website, "Ten million EUR intended for humanitarian demining projects in BiH diverted to COVID-19 and migration issues", 10 April 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/37X1Wlq>; and email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.
- 30 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, pp. 5 and 10; and email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 31 March 2021.
- 31 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 31 March 2021.
- 32 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 14.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Email from Zeljko Djogo, BHMAC, 17 June 2021.
- 35 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019.
- 36 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019; and Goran Šehić, Deputy Programme Manager, NPA, 25 February 2019; and BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 52.
- 37 2020 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.
- 38 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 7.
- 39 Email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021.
- 40 Email from Dragan Kos, Assistant Director, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 2 April 2020.
- 41 Email from Brig. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, 11 June 2021.
- 42 Email from Muamer Husilović, Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), 12 March 2021.
- 43 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 44 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 45 Emails from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020 and 14 March 2021.
- 46 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 47 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 48 2020 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
- 49 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March 2020.
- 50 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 51 Emails from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March and 14 July 2020.
- 52 Email from GICHD, 14 May 2021.
- 53 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 February 2021.
- 54 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 55 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 56 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 February 2021.
- 57 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 9.
- 58 BHMAC website, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Strategy 2019–2025 adopted by the Council of Ministers", available at: <http://bit.ly/2VnPNDJ>.
- 59 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 26.
- 60 Ibid., pp. 21–26.

- 61 Statement of BiH, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties, 16 to 20 November 2020.
- 62 BiH, "National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025", p. 34.
- 63 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020; and Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 64 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 65 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 66 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020; 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 5; and Statement of BiH, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.
- 67 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020; 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 5; and Statement of BiH, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.
- 68 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, pp. 4, 5, and 11; Statement of BiH, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020; and email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 69 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 70 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 9.
- 71 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 72 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 73 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, Annex 3.
- 74 Ibid., p. 11.
- 75 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 76 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 77 Email from Brig. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, 11 June 2021.
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019.
- 80 BHMAL, "Report on Mine Action in BiH for 2016", February 2017, p. 18; 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, October 2016, p. 26; BHMAL, "Adoption of three new chapters of Mine Action Standard for land release, the new approach for solving the mine problem", 28 January 2016; and email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
- 81 Interview with Saša Obradovic, Director, BHMAL, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 82 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 83 Emails from Darvin Lisica, NPA, 11 August 2015; and Tarik Serak, BHMAL, 26 May 2016; and Statement of BiH, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015.
- 84 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 85 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 10 June 2019.
- 86 Email from GICHD, 14 May 2021.
- 87 Ibid.
- 88 Ibid.
- 89 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019.
- 90 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 91 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 12.
- 92 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019.
- 93 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, BHMAL, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 94 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 95 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.
- 96 "Vlada SAD-a donirala zaštitne vizire Deminerskom bataljONU OSBiH", Sarajevograd, 26 August 2020.
- 97 Presentation online by Brig. General Kenan Dautovic, Head of BiH Demining Battalion, 13 October 2020.
- 98 Ibid.
- 99 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 100 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
- 101 Email from Muamer Husilović, Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), 12 March 2021.
- 102 Email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021.
- 103 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 104 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 105 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 5.
- 106 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 107 2020 APMBAC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
- 108 Statement of BiH, CCM Seventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 4–6 September 2017.
- 109 Email from Amela Batic, NPA Bosnia, 15 April 2015.
- 110 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 5 June 2019.
- 111 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 112 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F. There was a small discrepancy in BiH's Article 7 report, which reported the total area released through clearance and technical survey as 680,790m<sup>2</sup>, though the different geographical areas actually totalled 680,430m<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, the combined clearance and technical survey total of 14,793m<sup>2</sup> reported for the canton of Sarajevo in BiH's Article 7 report, was lower than the equivalent combined total of 29,586m<sup>2</sup> for Sarajevo reported to Mine Action Review.
- 113 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 114 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 18 September 2020; and 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 6.
- 115 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021. NPA reported reducing a total of 317,492m<sup>2</sup> in 2020 (Hercegovacko Neretvanski (16,690m<sup>2</sup>); Tuzlanski (62,610m<sup>2</sup>); Zanicco-Dobojski (102,080m<sup>2</sup>); and Republika Srpska (136,112m<sup>2</sup>)). Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 116 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 117 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 18 September 2020; and 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 6.
- 118 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 119 Ibid. There were some discrepancies in BHMAL data on cluster munition-contaminated area cleared in 2020 compared to that reported to Mine Action Review by the implementing partners directly. The Demining Battalion of the BiH Armed Forces reported completing three of the five CMR projects planned for 2020, during which it cleared a total of 271,712m<sup>2</sup>, with the destruction of 18 submunitions and 2 anti-personnel mines. Emails from Brig. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, 11 and 28 June 2021. NPA reported clearing a total of 246,232m<sup>2</sup> in 2020, with the destruction of 137 submunitions and 8 items of other UXO (Hercegovacko Neretvanski (53,750m<sup>2</sup> cleared, 14 submunitions destroyed); Tuzlanski (50,602m<sup>2</sup> cleared, 51 submunitions destroyed); Zanicco-Dobojski (108,700m<sup>2</sup> cleared, 71 submunitions destroyed); and Republika Srpska (33,180m<sup>2</sup> cleared, 1 submunition destroyed)). Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021. The Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP) reported releasing a combined total of 132,903m<sup>2</sup> through technical survey and clearance in Sarajevo Canton in 2020, with the destruction of 45 submunitions, on tasks relating to individually fired submunitions. This contamination does not fall under the CCM and is therefore not part of BiH's Article 4 obligations. Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021. BiH did not disaggregate land reduced through technical survey from land released through clearance in its Article 7 report covering 2020, in which the technical survey and clearance output were reported as a combined total of 680,790m<sup>2</sup>. CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 120 Email from the CCM Secretariat to CCM States Parties, 1 March 2021.
- 121 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 31 March 2021.
- 122 Ibid.
- 123 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, pp. 4, 5, and 11; Statement of BiH, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020; and email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 124 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 125 Emails from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 126 Email from Brig. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, 11 June 2021.
- 127 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 9.
- 128 Interview with Saša Obradovic, BHMAL, Geneva, 11 February 2020.
- 129 Statement of BiH, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.
- 130 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 2 July 2021.