

**ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 AUGUST 2020**  
REPORTED FULFILMENT OF ARTICLE 4 OBLIGATIONS

### KEY DATA

**CLUSTER MUNITION  
CONTAMINATION:  
COMPLETED CLEARANCE  
OF ALL KNOWN CMR-CONTAMINATED AREAS**

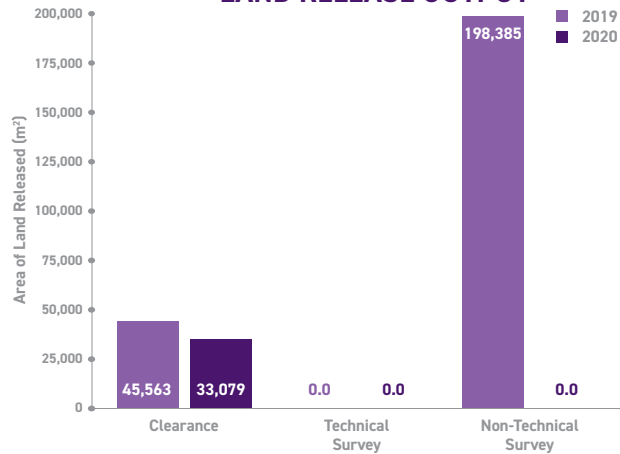
SUBMUNITION CLEARANCE IN 2020

**33,079<sub>M<sup>2</sup></sub>**

SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED IN 2020

**19** (INCLUDING 8 SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED  
AS PART OF THE "LESS ARMS, FEWER  
TRAGEDIES" PROGRAMME)

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia has reported fulfilling its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 obligations, completing clearance of remaining cluster munition remnants (CMR) on 10 July 2020, several weeks ahead of its 1 August deadline. Croatia submitted its Declaration of Compliance on 1 August 2020. Completion by its original 10-year deadline was the result of strong national ownership and political will, national funding, and effective planning. While Croatia has cleared all known CMR-contaminated areas, remnants may be discovered post completion (residual contamination). Addressing residual CMR will be the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior – Police Directorate explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams and the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2020)	Score (2019)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	9	9	On 10 July 2020, Croatia completed clearance of its last known CMR. As recently as 2019, however, areas of previously unrecorded CMR contamination continued to be discovered and Croatia recognises the importance of managing the residual risk from CMR. Addressing residual CMR will be the responsibility of the Police Directorate EOD teams and the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	9	9	Croatia demonstrated strong national ownership and political will to fulfil its Article 4 obligations within its initial 10-year deadline, and with 100% national funding for CMR survey and clearance operations in 2020.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	4	4	Gender policies and their implementation in mine action in Croatia are addressed under the national Gender Equality Act, which includes guidelines on gender equality and regulates against gender-based discrimination. However, the proportion of women employed in mine action, both at Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC and in the commercial demining companies, is extremely low. In addition, CROMAC survey data are not disaggregated by sex and age.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	9	9	Croatia has an information management system that is compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and which allows disaggregation by type of contamination and method of land release. Croatia provided regular, accurate, and consistent updates on its progress in Article 4 implementation at CCM meetings and in its Article 7 reports, but as at June 2021 had yet to submit its Article 7 report covering 2020.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	9	9	A "Mine Action Revised work plan 2020–26" has been adopted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. A new National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2026 was expected to be approved by the Croatian Parliament in the first half of 2021. In addition, Croatia had annual operational work plans for CMR survey and clearance.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (20% of overall score)	7	8	The 2015 law on mine action encompasses national mine action standards. CMR clearance in Croatia was focused on confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), yet two of the three CMR-contaminated areas cleared in 2020 did not contain CMR or other unexploded ordnance (UXO). Croatia ensured sufficient demining capacity to enable it to release remaining CMR-contaminated areas ahead of its Article 4 deadline.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	10	9	On 10 July 2020, Croatia completed clearance of the last known CMR-contaminated area, fulfilling its Article 4 commitments ahead of its 1 August 2020 deadline. Croatia submitted a Declaration of Compliance on 1 August 2020.
<b>Average Score</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>Overall Programme Performance: VERY GOOD</b>

## CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT

- Ministry of the Interior, in which CROMAC and the Government Office for Mine Action (GOMA) were integrated within the Civil Protection Directorate, effective as at January 2019.

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Forty-three commercial demining companies are accredited for mine and CMR clearance operations. Of these, three were engaged in CMR clearance operations in 2020: Capsula Interna, Istraživač, and Titan.

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

### OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

## UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

Croatia was contaminated with unexploded KB-1 and Mk-1 submunitions by the conflicts in the 1990s that followed the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.<sup>1</sup> It completed clearance of its last known CMR contamination on 10 July 2020, thereby fulfilling its obligations under Article 4 of the CCM.<sup>2</sup>

At the end of 2019, Croatia had only three remaining confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) containing CMR, covering a total area of 33,079m<sup>2</sup>, across four counties.<sup>3</sup> All remaining cluster munition-contaminated area was then released in 2020, ahead of the 1 August 2020 treaty deadline.

During fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations, Croatia released cluster munition-contaminated land in a total of eight counties and twenty-eight municipalities.<sup>4</sup> No areas of previously unrecorded CMR contamination were discovered in 2020, prior to completion of clearance in July,<sup>5</sup> but Croatia recognises the possibility of future unforeseen CMR findings (residual contamination).<sup>6</sup>

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### OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Croatia is heavily contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) other than submunitions as well as by anti-personnel mines (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Croatia for further information on the mine problem).

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## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In August 2018, the Croatian government formally concluded that some 54 government agencies, including the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and the Government Office for Mine Action (GOMA), were to be integrated within existing State administration bodies. This was formally concluded through two pieces of legislation enacted in December 2018 and which entered into force on 1 January 2019.<sup>7</sup> As a consequence of these laws, CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as separate government entities and CROMAC became an "operational sector" within the Civil Protection Directorate, under the Ministry of the Interior.<sup>8</sup> The main rationale for this was said to be "the establishment of a more relevant and operationally wider national institution (Civil Protection Directorate) that could more efficiently and effectively tackle all of the aspects of civil protection in the Republic of Croatia, including mine action activities".<sup>9</sup>

Prior to 2019, both CROMAC (established in 1998 as the umbrella organisation for mine action coordination),<sup>10</sup> and the GOMA (created in 2012 as a government focal point for mine action),<sup>11</sup> had operated as independent entities.

A new law on mine action was adopted by the Croatian parliament on 21 October 2015.<sup>12</sup> While the 2015 Law, which was initiated by the GOMA with the text drafted by the Ministry of the Interior, marked an improvement in certain respects (for instance, by permitting land release through technical survey), there were concerns that the new law would impede efficient and effective mine action.<sup>13</sup>

Regarding accreditation, the Ministry of the Interior now provides three separate permits: approval for manual mine detection; approval for mechanical mine detection; and approval for operations by mine and explosive detection dogs (MDDs and EDDs). This replaces the former unified accreditation licence.<sup>14</sup>

In 2020, some €52,000 was spent on clearance of CMR-contaminated area, all from national funding.<sup>15</sup>

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## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

As an integral part of the Ministry of the Interior, the Civil Protection Directorate implements the Gender Equality Act (Official Gazette 82/08 and 69/17), which establishes national guidelines for gender equality, regulates against gender-based discrimination, and creates equal opportunities for men and women, including with regard to employment.<sup>16</sup>

According to the national authorities, women, men, boys and girls are all effectively consulted during survey and community liaison activities.<sup>17</sup> CROMAC survey data are not, however, disaggregated by sex and age.<sup>18</sup>

Within the Civil Protection Directorate of the MoI, CROMAC employs 89 people, of whom 12% are women. As at April 2021, no women were employed in managerial or supervisory level positions in CROMAC, and only 2% of CROMAC field operations positions were held by women.<sup>19</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

For the purpose of information management, CROMAC established a mine information system (MIS), which is said to be compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and customised to meet CROMAC's needs. The MIS uses databases and a geographic information system (GIS) to deliver a fully integrated information management system.<sup>20</sup>

Croatia submitted accurate and consistent annual Article 7 transparency reports and provided valuable updates on its progress in Article 4 implementation at the CCM meetings of States Parties. As at June 2021, however, Croatia had yet to submit its Article 7 report covering 2020.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

Croatia's national mine action strategy for 2009–19 was drafted by CROMAC with the agreement of concerned ministries, the GOMA, the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, and local administration and self-administration bodies whose responsibility covers regions with hazardous areas.<sup>21</sup> The strategy, which was adopted by Parliament, included among its main goals the completion of mine clearance by 2019. This was not achieved.<sup>22</sup>

A "Mine Action Revised work plan 2020–26" has been adopted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. A new National Mine Action Strategy 2020–2026 was set to be approved by Parliament in the first half of 2021.<sup>23</sup>

Based on approved funding, the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC drafts annual work plans, which are submitted to the responsible ministries and other State bodies for comment and approval.<sup>24</sup> All CMR-contaminated areas were said to be cleared in accordance with county and State priorities.<sup>25</sup> Croatia declared its fulfilment of CCM Article 4 on 1 August 2020, having completed CMR clearance several weeks previously.<sup>26</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

The 2015 law eliminated the need for standing operating procedures (SOPs), as all aspects of mine action were defined in detail.<sup>27</sup> National mine action standards are also encompassed within it.<sup>28</sup>

CMR clearance in Croatia was focused on releasing CHAs, though two of the three CMR-contaminated areas cleared in 2020 did not contain CMR or other UXO. Croatia noted that the two cleared areas without contamination were small.<sup>29</sup>

### OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2020, 43 commercial companies were accredited to conduct mine and CMR clearance.<sup>30</sup> Of this, three companies were awarded tenders to conduct CMR clearance operations in 2020.<sup>31</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

A total of 33,079m<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2020, all through clearance. No cluster munition-contaminated area was cancelled through non-technical survey or reduced through technical survey.<sup>32</sup> Croatia completed clearance of all known CMR contamination on 10 July 2020.<sup>33</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2020

No CMR-contaminated area was cancelled through non-technical survey or reduced through technical survey in 2020, and no previously unrecorded CMR contamination was added to the database.<sup>34</sup> This compares to 2019, when 198,385m<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through non-technical survey and no CMR-contaminated area was reduced through technical survey.<sup>35</sup>

## CLEARANCE IN 2020

Croatia completed clearance of all known CMR contamination on 10 July 2020.<sup>36</sup>

Between January and July 2020, Croatia cleared the remaining 0.03km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area, destroying 11 KB-1 submunitions and 274 other item of UXO (see Table 1).<sup>37</sup> In 2019, 45,563m<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was cleared, destroying a total of 186 KB-1 submunitions.<sup>38</sup>

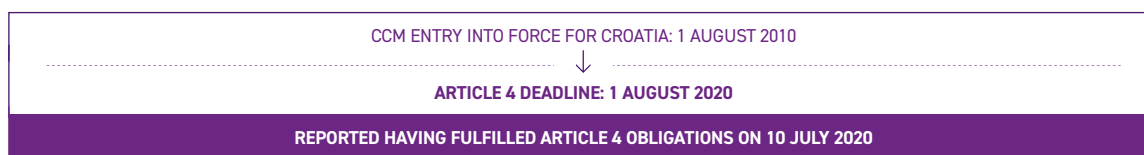
**Table 1: CMR clearance in 2020<sup>39</sup>**

County	Operator	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
Sisak-Moslavina	Capsula Interna	10,952	11	274
Šibenik-Knin	Titan	19,551	0	0
Zadar	Istraživač	2,576	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>33,079</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>274</b>

Two of the three cluster munition-contaminated areas cleared in 2020 were thus found not to have CMR or other UXO.<sup>40</sup>

As part of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks and the continued "less arms, fewer tragedies" programme, the Croatian police (under the Ministry of Interior), and in partnership with the UNDP, also collected 8 submunitions, 201 anti-personnel mines, and 34 anti-vehicle mines, along with items of UXO and abandoned explosive ordnance. All munitions were transported to Croatian military facilities and destroyed.<sup>41</sup>

## ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Croatia completed CMR clearance on 10 July 2020, fulfilling its obligations under Article 4 of the CCM, three weeks ahead of its 1 August 2020 deadline. In its communiqué to the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM, dated 31 July 2020, Croatia said that "due to the pandemic COVID-19, the Declaration of Compliance is still being finalized and will be officially transmitted at a later stage".<sup>42</sup> Croatia's Article 4 Declaration of Compliance, signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, was submitted on 1 August 2020.<sup>43</sup>

Croatia cleared a total of more than 3km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area over the past five years (see Table 2), and completed clearance of all known CMR-contaminated area in July 2020. Challenges to CMR clearance were posed by rocky, forested, and mountainous areas, which prevented use of demining machines. In addition, use of demining machinery was not permitted in areas designated as protected for conservation.<sup>44</sup>

In 2020, the impact of COVID-19 resulted in the shutdown of clearance operations from 23 March to 11 May (55 work days).<sup>45</sup>

**Table 2: Five-year summary of CMR clearance**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2020	0.03
2019	0.05
2018	0.86
2017	1.01
2016	1.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.15</b>

## PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

The Civil Protection Directorate continued research cooperation and discussions with the Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), on the issue of national survey and clearance capacity to address explosive ordnance discovered after the release of contaminated areas or post completion (i.e. residual contamination). In August 2019, a joint study entitled "National capacities and residual contamination – Croatia" was published, documenting the progress made on this issue so far and highlighting the importance of a participatory and transparent long-term strategic planning progress.<sup>46</sup>

The integration of CROMAC within the Mol, which took effect from January 2019, is reported to be one of the first steps to deal with residual risk and liability, and it is believed that this will elevate the importance of the issue within the Mol.<sup>47</sup> The integration also means that the challenge of residual risk

will be handled within the responsibilities of the Mol – Police Directorate EOD teams and the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC.<sup>48</sup> Activities which must be conducted upon discovery of residual contamination are predefined by the Act on Mine Action.<sup>49</sup> In its Article 4 declaration of compliance, Croatia has said that if areas unknown to have been contaminated by CMR are identified after completion, it will:

- accurately identify the extent of the contaminated areas and destroy all the cluster munitions found in those areas; ensure effective exclusion of civilians to those areas;
- report such areas under Article 7 of the CCM;
- share relevant information to the general public, stakeholders, and CCM States Parties; and
- submit an additional declaration of compliance once clearance of those contaminated areas has been completed.<sup>50</sup>

- 1 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form F.
- 2 Written communiqué by Croatia to the CCM Implementation Support Unit, 31 July 2020.
- 3 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Head of Unit, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Interior, 8 April 2020; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 4 Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1, virtual meeting), 25–27 November 2020.
- 5 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
- 6 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 7 Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act on Amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018).
- 8 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form J; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), p. 1.
- 9 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 10 CROMAC, "National Mine Action Strategy of Croatia 2009–2019", Zagreb, June 2009, p. 2.
- 11 Interviews with Dijana Pleština, Director, GOMA, in Geneva, 23 May 2012 and 10 April 2014; and email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 4 July 2013.
- 12 OG No. 110/15; and Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.
- 13 Interviews with Neven Karas, CROMAC; and Tomislav Ban, Assistant Director and Head of Sector for Operational Planning and Programming, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.
- 14 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 24 August 2016.
- 15 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
- 16 Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form C; Statement of Croatia, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7 June 2018; and email from Davor Laura, CROMAC, 6 April 2018.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 17 April 2020.
- 19 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
- 20 CROMAC website, "CROMAC's Mine Information System", accessed 26 June 2018.
- 21 2018 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.
- 22 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2015), Form B.
- 23 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
- 24 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 25 Emails from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 10 June 2015; and Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 26 Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1, virtual meeting), 25–27 November 2020; and Article 4 Declaration of Compliance, 1 August 2020.
- 27 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016; and Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form A.
- 28 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016.
- 29 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 7 July 2021.
- 30 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Written communiqué by Croatia to the CCM Implementation Support Unit, 31 July 2020.
- 34 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
- 35 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 36 Written communiqué by Croatia to the CCM Implementation Support Unit, 31 July 2020.
- 37 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 38 Ibid.
- 39 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F. There was a small discrepancy in Croatia's Article 7 report, which reported the total area released through clearance and technical survey as 33,259m<sup>2</sup>, though the different geographical areas actually totalled 33,079m<sup>2</sup>. The Civil Protection Directorate confirmed to Mine Action Review that 33,079m<sup>2</sup> was the correct total. Email from Ivana Odalj, Civil Protection Directorate, 9 August 2021.
- 40 Ibid.
- 41 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 42 Written communiqué by Croatia to the CCM Implementation Support Unit, 31 July 2020.
- 43 Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1, virtual meeting), 25–27 November 2020; and Article 4 Declaration of Compliance, 1 August 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/3vQWQIH>.
- 44 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 45 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 30 April 2021.
- 46 GICHD, "National capacities and residual contamination – Croatia", August 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/2EwKcTt>.
- 47 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F.
- 48 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form F; Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1, virtual meeting), 25–27 November 2020; and Croatia, Article 4 Declaration of Compliance, 1 August 2020.
- 49 Statement of Croatia on Clearance, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1, virtual meeting), 25–27 November 2020.
- 50 Ibid.; and Article 4 Declaration of Compliance, 1 August 2020.