

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



CLEARING CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS 2020

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2021

DEADLINE EXTENSION REQUESTED TO 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

KEY DATA

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION: LIGHT

NATIONAL ESTIMATE

2.31 KM²

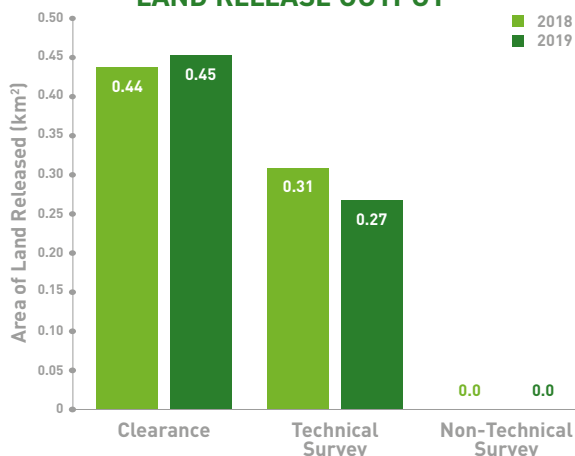
SUBMUNITION CLEARANCE IN 2019

0.45 KM²

SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED IN 2019

85

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)'s new national mine action strategy for 2018–25 was adopted by the Council of Ministers in January 2019. It included the operational goal of completing cluster munition remnants (CMR) clearance by BiH's Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 clearance deadline 1 March 2021. However, BiH will not meet its clearance deadline and submitted an 18-month deadline extension request to 1 September 2022, which will be considered by States Parties at the Second Review Conference of the CCM in November 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- BiH should adopt, without further delay, the amended demining law drafted in 2017.
- BiH should implement the recommendations of both the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment, and the 2016 performance audit report of the Audit Office of the Institutions of BiH,¹ which remain valid. In particular, BiH should continue reforming and strengthening the governance and management of the mine action programme.
- The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) should develop a detailed and costed Article 4 work plan, with concrete milestones for the release of all remaining CMR-contaminated area, including the area that is also contaminated with depleted uranium.
- BHMAC 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.
- BHMAC should strive to improve gender balance in the sector, at the least by meeting the target of 40% female staff set by the 2003 Law on Gender Equality.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	6	5	In 2019, BiH removed 3.6km ² of contamination from individually fired submunitions from its CCM reporting (as this does not fall under the provisions of the Convention), thereby reducing the contaminated area remaining to be addressed under its Article 4 obligation. BiH's national baseline of CMR contamination is not classified into CHA and SHA, consistent with IMAS.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	6	7	National ownership of mine action in BiH falls under the responsibility of the Demining Commission and BHMAC. BiH's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 was adopted in January 2019, but as at August 2020, 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.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	5	6	The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 supports the 2003 Law on Gender Equality. BHMAC has stated that, under its leadership, relevant actors will include gender in all phases of all mine action activities. Two of the three members of the newly appointed Demining Commission are women. However, within BHMAC's own programme, and those of clearance operators too, women make up only a small proportion of the total number of staff, and an even smaller proportion of operations staff in the field.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	5	6	BHMAC 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). BHMAC does not report accurately and consistently on the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination or on survey and clearance output. BiH's Article 7 report covering 2019, contained errors in table totals for both contamination and clearance data. In addition, land released through technical survey was not disaggregated from release through clearance in the BiH's reporting, as best practice demands.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	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; and it appears to have been accorded less priority than mine clearance, which does represent by far the greater challenge in BiH. 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 has not been sufficient for BiH to be able to meet its deadline. Furthermore, progress in survey and clearance of CMR contamination in 2020 was being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. BiH will not complete CMR clearance by its March 2021 Article 4 deadline and has requested an 18-month extension to 1 September 2022.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (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. There is sufficient available capacity for survey and clearance of CMR, with the BiH Armed Forces, entity Civil Protections, NPA, and other operators all accredited, but release of CMR-contaminated area has been insufficiently prioritised and BiH will not meet its March 2021 deadline.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	5	The rate of CMR clearance has been unacceptably slow, with less than 1.75km ² 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 deadline given sufficient political will and commitment. However, planning for CMR completion came too late to meet its original Article 4 deadline and BiH has requested an extension to 1 September 2022.
Average Score	5.4	5.7	Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE

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
- 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 2019, BiH reported a total of 2.31km² of CMR-contaminated area (see Table 1), with no disaggregation of CMR-contaminated area into CHA and SHA.² In its Article 4 deadline extension request, submitted in September 2020, it was stated that CMR-contaminated area had been reduced to below 2.14km².³

This compares to 2.9km² of contamination reported in September 2019 at the Ninth Meeting of States Parties,⁴ and contamination as at the end of 2018 of 6.3km².⁵ The reduction in the estimate of contamination since the end of 2018 is mostly explained by the removal of 3.6km² of contamination from items projected in an improvised manner from BiH's baseline of CMR-contaminated area.⁶ This contamination was the result of individually launched KB-1 submunitions fired from modified AK-47 rifles,⁷ and was originally reported as 2.7km²,⁸ and then as 2.1km², but was subsequently confirmed as 3.6km² through non-technical survey by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and BHMAL.⁹ 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.¹⁰ BHMAL included reference to this contamination in its National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025,¹¹ and legitimately removed it from its Article 7 transparency reporting covering 2019.

BiH's remaining CMR to be addressed under Article 4 does, however, include a CMR-contaminated area that also contains depleted uranium, located in Japaga – Han Pijesak in Republika Srpska.¹²

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by canton (at end 2019)¹³

Canton	Area (km ²)
Unsko-Sanski	0.07
Tuzlanski	0.41
Zenicko-Dobojski	0.41
Central Bosnia Canton	0.48
Neretva	0.04
Sarajevo	0.22
Canton 10	0.18
Total Federation BiH	1.81
Total Republika Srpska	0.49
Total	2.30

A total of 0.65km² of remaining CMR contamination is in areas which also contain mines.¹⁴

CMR contamination dates back to the conflicts of 1992–95 related to the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.¹⁵ A survey and initial general assessment of cluster munition contamination was jointly conducted by BHMAL and NPA in 2011, which estimated the total area containing CMR at more than 12km², scattered across 140 areas. This estimate was subsequently revised upwards to 14.6km² following the start of land release operations in 2012.¹⁶ Of this, around 5km² was deemed actually contaminated and marked for clearance.¹⁷

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 2020* 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 BHMAL and represents BiH in its relations with the international community on mine-related issues.¹⁸ The Demining Commission is composed of representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Defence, and Security) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs). Whereas the Minister for Civil Affairs remains ultimately responsible for mine action, the Demining Commission is the strategic body responsible for setting mine action policy, and it proposes the appointment of BHMAL senior staff, for approval by the Council of Ministers.¹⁹

According to a 2016 audit office report, however, "The Commission has not developed a methodology on how to monitor the work of the BHMAL".²⁰ BHMAL, established by a 2002 Decree of the Council of Ministers, is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH's survey and clearance plans.²¹ BHMAL operates from its headquarters in Sarajevo, and two main offices in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and eight regional offices (Banja Luka, Bihac, Brčko, Mostar, Pale, Sarajevo, Travnik, and Tuzla).²²

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. 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. In addition, it is hoped that the "Country Coalition" established between BiH and Germany, on which there was an introductory meeting in February 2020,²³ 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.

BHMAC is funded by the common institutions of BiH and other institutions at State level.²⁴ 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 (FACP).²⁵ The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska is financed by the Government of Republika Srpska.²⁶

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 protective equipment and supplies for BHMAC's work, the entity Civil Protections, as well as financing of demining projects of priority areas.²⁷

In its 2020 Article 4 extension request, 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.²⁸

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".²⁹ 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.³⁰ However, as at August 2020, of BHMAC's 171 employees, only 42 were women (25%).³¹ Of BHMAC's 107 operations staff in the field, 10 were women (9%).³² 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.³³

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 is disaggregated by gender and age.³⁴ In a welcome development, two out of three of the new members of BiH's Demining Commission, adopted on 30 April 2020, are women.³⁵ Except for one reference to the provision of adequate gender- and age-sensitive mine risk education,³⁶ there was no other mention of either gender or diversity in BiH's Article 4 deadline extension request submitted in September 2020.

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska reported that nearly 22% of its staff were female, including 20% of managerial/supervisory positions, but only 5% of operational roles. It reported that during survey and community liaison activities, it cooperates with the local population, regardless of ethnicity; and where needed has representatives from different ethnic groups.³⁷

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.³⁸ That said, NPA reported that the overall gender split of its staff as at March 2020 was 118 men and 10 women, which represents only 8% female staff. Of its 82 operational staff deployed in the field, three medic positions and one community liaison position are held by women. NPA explained that it rarely received applications from women for vacant operational roles.³⁹ NPA says it is driving to achieve a gender balance, and that the programme encourages the employment of women, including into managerial and operational staff positions. Five managerial positions in the NPA BiH programme are held by women.⁴⁰ 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.⁴¹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

As at June 2020, BHMAC was using its own information management system, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Information System (BHMAIS), but with the support of UNDP and the Geneva Institute for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and with financing from the EU, BHMAC was in the process of migrating to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core.⁴²

The joint development of IMSMA Core in BiH began in 2019. Data from the country assessment project was originally expected to be transferred in March/April 2020 and the new database operational by mid 2020.⁴³ As at May 2020, however, the transition from BHMAIS to IMSMA Core was only partially complete and the target was then set for completion by the end of the year.⁴⁴ GICHD training in the new system was also planned for BHMAC staff, and will take place once the situation with COVID-19 permits.⁴⁵ Once in place the database should be sustainable, through the programme will still be susceptible to potential challenges stemming from turnover of key staff positions in the BHMAC IM department.⁴⁶

In addition, UNDP has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) mobile application, which was also expected to be released in the course of 2020.⁴⁷

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.

Information in BHMAC's information management system is made available to clearance operators.⁴⁸ However, NPA reported in March 2020 that data relating to CMR SHAs was being reviewed, with its support, and that BHMAC data on CMR-contaminated areas was neither accurate nor up to date.⁴⁹ In its September 2019 Article 4 extension request BHMAC did, however, provide more detailed information on the location and size of the remaining CMR-contaminated area.⁵⁰

BiH submitted a CCM Article 7 report covering 2019, but failed to submit an Article 7 report the previous year, covering 2018.

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 2019.⁵¹ Strategic goal three of the strategy on survey and clearance, includes a commitment to complete CMR clearance obligations by 1 March 2021, in line with BiH's CCM Article 4 deadline.⁵² However, the strategy did not contain an action plan or concrete milestones towards completion of CMR clearance.⁵³ The strategy was due to be revised in 2020 and 2023, to consider progress and adjust for any changes in context.⁵⁴

There was a "completion initiative" plan, agreed with BHMAC, the BiH Armed Forces, the FACP, and NPA, which aims to complete clearance of all remaining CMR-contaminated areas by 1 March 2020.⁵⁵ The completion initiative received support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Government, and Norwegian cooperative COOP Norge SA.⁵⁶ However, progress in implementing the completion initiative was slowed by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and 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.⁵⁷ The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted survey and clearance operations, which were paused in the Spring and only recommenced in mid 2020. It also impacted BHMAC, which worked at reduced capacity.⁵⁸ Furthermore, the completion initiative did not include the CMR-contaminated area with depleted uranium contamination,⁵⁹ which is, however, still covered under BiH's Article 4 obligations.

The completion plan fell behind schedule and BiH will not fulfil its Article 4 commitments before the March 2021 deadline. BHMAC has requested to extend its deadline by 18 months to 1 September 2022. The extension request, submitted for consideration and approval by States Parties in November 2020, included a work plan for release of remaining CMR-contaminated areas,⁶⁰ but it lacks concrete milestones. The six CMR-contaminated areas, totalling 651,480m², which also have anti-personnel mine contamination, will be cleared of mines first and then of CMR.⁶¹

The 2020 Article 4 extension request also includes reference to the CMR task that has contamination from depleted uranium, but does not say how BiH intends to address this task.⁶²

According to BHMAC, cluster munition-contaminated areas are prioritised for clearance based on agreement with local communities and municipalities.⁶³

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.⁶⁴ The Demining Commission adopted new standards for CMR at the beginning of 2017.⁶⁵

In 2015, BHMAC adopted a new national SOP for non-technical survey of areas suspected to contain CMR, based on NPA's own SOP.⁶⁶ In October 2016, BHMAC made updates and improvements to national SOPs for CMR clearance and technical survey, also based on NPA's SOPs.⁶⁷ In April 2018, the new SOP for non-technical survey was adopted by the Demining Commission.⁶⁸

BHMAC reported that survey or resurvey of hazardous areas suspected to contain CMR is conducted as standard, as part of all land release operations.⁶⁹ 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.⁷⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Land release operations on CMR-contaminated area in 2019 were conducted by non-governmental organisation NPA; entity Civil Protections; and the BiH Armed Forces.⁷¹ 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.⁷²

BHMAC asserts that the BiH Armed Forces and the FACP are equipped with necessary demining equipment and capable, trained personnel for CMR clearance.⁷³ However, both have suffered from logistical challenges and equipment deficits in the past, which prevent them from working at full capacity.⁷⁴ 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.⁷⁵ The BiH Armed Forces require ongoing support to secure personal protective equipment, batteries for detectors, and fuel for demining machinery, since the Army's own complex procurement system often cannot ensure delivery in time.⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷

As at June 2019, two of the thirty-four BiH Armed Forces' ten-strong demining teams (eight deminers, plus a team leader and a medic) were specialised and deployed in CMR clearance.⁷⁸ Under the completion initiative, a third team was equipped for CMR survey and clearance operations, thanks to the provision by NPA of 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.⁷⁹ 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.⁸⁰ Furthermore, 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.⁸¹

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska conducts survey and clearance of mines, CMR, and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). One manual clearance team, of eight deminers, was used for technical survey of CMR in 2019, as well as for mines.⁸²

In 2019, NPA deployed two manual teams (each with 10 clearance personnel), for technical survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated area in BiH.⁸³ As mentioned above, since 2010, NPA has also focused on building the capacity of the Armed Forces Demining Battalion.

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 BHMAC. 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.⁸⁴ This was the case 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.⁸⁵

Quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) is conducted by BHMAC.⁸⁶

No animal detection systems or mechanical assets were used in CMR survey or clearance operations in BiH in 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.⁸⁷

In 2014, NPA successfully piloted using SDDs for technical survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated areas.⁸⁸ It recommended the use of detection dogs in technical survey (both targeted and systematic investigation).⁸⁹ However, as at August 2020, BHMAC had yet to make the necessary amendments to the national standards.

No cluster munition-contaminated area was reported to have been released by the FACP in 2019.⁹⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

A total of 0.72km² of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2019: 0.27km² through technical survey and 0.45km² through clearance, during which 85 submunitions were destroyed. No area was cancelled through non-technical survey.⁹¹

SURVEY IN 2019

In 2019, 0.27km² of CMR-contaminated area was reduced through technical survey, as reported by BHMIC to Mine Action Review and included in BHMIC's Article 4 deadline extension request.⁹² In BiH's Article 7 report, however, the amount of land released in 2019 was reported as a combined total of technical survey and clearance (see Table 2), rather than disaggregated and reported separately, as Article 7(1)(i) of the CCM and international best practice require.⁹³ No CMR-contaminated area was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2019.

CLEARANCE IN 2019

In 2019, 0.45km² of CMR-contaminated area was cleared, as reported by BHMIC to Mine Action Review and included in BHMIC's Article 4 deadline extension request.⁹⁴ In BiH's Article 7 report, however, the amount of land released in 2019 was reported by BiH as a combined total of technical survey and clearance (see Table 2), rather than disaggregated and reported separately, as best practice requires.⁹⁵

A total of 85 unexploded submunitions and 13 items of other UXO were destroyed during technical survey and clearance (see Table 2).⁹⁶

The 2019 land release output was, overall, a slight decrease on 2018, when a combined 0.75km² was released (0.44km² through clearance and 0.31km² through technical survey).⁹⁷

Table 2: CMR-contaminated area released through technical survey and clearance in 2019⁹⁸

Canton	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
Neretva	388,504	57	8
Tuzlanski	187,866	4	0
Total Federation BiH	576,370	61	8
Total Republika Srpska	144,063	24	5
Totals	720,433	85	13

BHMIC reported that all cluster munition-contaminated area cleared in 2019 contained CMR.⁹⁹

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 March 2021. BiH will not meet this deadline and has requested an Article 4 deadline extension to 1 September 2022 for consideration at the Second CCM Review Conference in November 2020.¹⁰⁰

The rate of CMR clearance has been unacceptably slow, with less than 2km² of CMR-contamination cleared in the last five years (see Table 3).

Table 3: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	0.45
2018	0.44
2017	0.27
2016	0.10
2015	0.23
Total	1.49

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. The impact of COVID-19 and delays to operations caused by the failure to appoint the Demining Commission in a timely fashion, which renews accreditations, means that the completion initiative will not be realised by the clearance deadline.

BiH's September 2020 Article 4 deadline extension request includes reference to the CMR task in the municipality of Han Pijesak, in the Republika Srpska, which also contains depleted uranium munitions remaining from NATO air strikes. However, it does not provide details of how BiH plans to address this contamination.¹⁰¹ The presence of depleted uranium complicates CMR clearance as deminers must be adequately trained and protected against exposure to the uranium. Previously, in February 2020, BHMAC had said it was discussing the possibility of assistance from NATO to clear this area.¹⁰²

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.

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

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

- 1 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015; and Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, “Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, No. 01-02-03-10-16-1-1101/16, 4 November 2016, p. 22.
- 2 CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 3 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, pp. 9 and 11.
- 4 Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019. BiH reported 2.8km² as suspected to contain CMR at “40 identified contaminated areas - micro-locations”.
- 5 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, Interpreter, BHMAC, 24 April 2019.
- 6 Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 7 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019; and Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 8 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 26.
- 9 Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 10 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].
- 11 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 26.
- 12 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, Country Director, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 13 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F; and email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 2 September 2020. In BiH's CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F, the total contaminated area for the Federation BiH is reported as 1.82km², however, the total sum of the Cantons comes to 1.71km². BHMAC confirmed the corrected figures as reflected in Table 1 above.
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- 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.
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- 18 BHMAC Organisational chart, accessed 17 July 2019 at: 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 BHMAC website, “Director Sasa Obradovic participated in the Country Coalition meeting, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Germany”, 12 February 2020, at: bit.ly/3fUjuBz.
- 24 Emails from Goran Zdrale, BHMAC, 17 May 2017; and Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019.
- 25 Ibid., and email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 23 July 2018.
- 26 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.
- 27 BHMAC website, “Ten million EUR intended for humanitarian demining projects in BiH diverted to COVID-19 and migration issues”, 10 April 2020, at: bit.ly/37X1Wlq; and email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.
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- 29 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 14.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 2 September 2020.

- 32 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 24 April 2019.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 24 April 2019; and Goran Šehić, Deputy Programme Manager, NPA, 25 February 2019; and BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 52.
- 35 2020 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.
- 36 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 7.
- 37 Email from Dragan Kos, Assistant Director, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 2 April 2020.
- 38 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 39 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 40 Ibid.
- 41 Ibid.
- 42 2020 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
- 43 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March 2020.
- 44 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 45 Emails from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March and 14 July 2020.
- 46 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 47 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March 2020.
- 48 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 49 Emails from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 50 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 9.
- 51 BHMIC website, "Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Strategy 2019–2025 adopted by the Council of Ministers", available at: bit.ly/2VnPNdJ.
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- 53 Ibid., pp. 21–26.
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- 55 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020; and Statement of BiH, CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2–4 September 2019.
- 56 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
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- 65 Interview with Saša Obradovic, Director, BHMIC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 66 Emails from Darvin Lisica, NPA, 11 August 2015; and Tarik Serak, BHMIC, 26 May 2016; and Statement of BiH, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015.
- 67 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 68 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 10 June 2019.
- 69 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 24 April 2019.
- 70 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
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- 74 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, BHMIC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 75 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 76 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.
- 77 "Vlada SAD-a donirala zaštitne vizire Deminerskom bataljonu OSBiH", Sarajevograd, 26 August 2020.
- 78 Interview with Blažen Kovač, Ministry of Defence, Chair of the Demining Commission, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and emails from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 23 July 2018; and Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 14 June 2019.
- 79 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 80 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
- 81 Interview with Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 82 Email from Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 2 April 2020.
- 83 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 84 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 85 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 5.
- 86 2020 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
- 87 Statement of BiH, CCM Seventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 4–6 September 2017.
- 88 Email from Amela Balic, NPA Bosnia, 15 April 2015.
- 89 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 5 June 2019.
- 90 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 2 September 2020.
- 91 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F; 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 6; and email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 18 September 2020. However, while BiH's Article 7 report covering 2019 said 85 submunitions were destroyed in 2019, BiH's Article 4 extension request said that 146 submunitions were destroyed during clearance and technical survey in 2019.
- 92 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 18 September 2020; and 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 6. NPA reported reducing 425,433m² in 2019 in the Federation BiH (Neretva canton (61,724m²), the Central Bosnia Canton (157,151m², during which NPA conducted technical survey with a targeted investigation in order to find an evidence point and after completion of NPA activities, BHMIC cancelled the area through non-technical survey), Tuzlanski canton (37,302m², during which NPA conducted technical survey with a targeted investigation in order to find an evidence point and after completion of NPA activities, BHMIC cancelled the area through non-technical survey), and in Republika Srpska (169,256m²). Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020. The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska reported reducing 43,584m² through technical survey in 2019, during which one submunition was destroyed, in Koraće, Brod municipality, Republika Srpska. Email from Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 2 April 2020.
- 93 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F. BiH reported a combined total for land released through technical survey and clearance.
- 94 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 18 September 2020; and 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 6.
- 95 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F. BiH reported a combined total for land released through technical survey and clearance.
- 96 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F. However, while BiH's Article 7 report covering 2019 says 85 submunitions were destroyed in 2019, BiH's Article 4 deadline extension request (page 6) reports that 146 submunitions were destroyed during clearance and technical survey in 2019.
- 97 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 24 April 2019.
- 98 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F; and email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 2 September 2020. In BiH's CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F, the total clearance is reported as 730,433m², however, the total correctly sums to 729,393km². BHMIC clarified the corrected figures in Table 2 above. NPA reported clearing 262,036m² of CMR-contaminated area in 2019, destroying a total of 41 submunitions (92,045m² in Neretva canton with 34 submunitions destroyed and 169,991m² in Republika Srpska, with 7 submunitions destroyed). Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 99 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 2 September 2020.
- 100 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMIC, 18 September 2020; and 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 5.
- 101 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 9.
- 102 Interview with Saša Obradovic, BHMIC, Geneva, 11 February 2020.