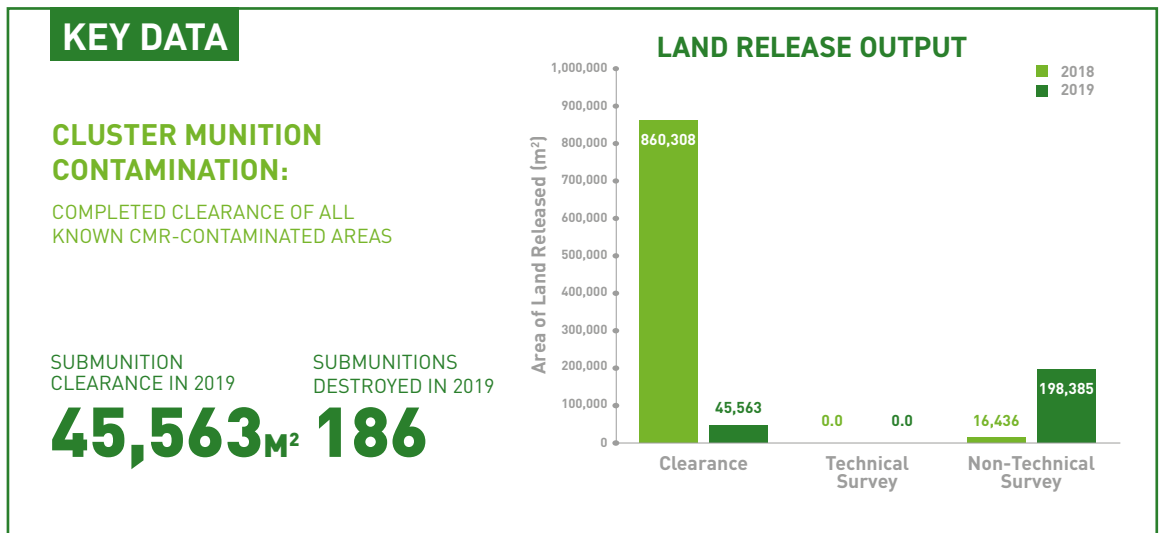


ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 AUGUST 2020 REPORTED FULFILMENT OF ARTICLE 4 OBLIGATIONS



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. Completion in time 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), and, as of writing, Croatia was planning for a sustainable capacity and systems to address this possibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Croatia should ensure that sustainable capacity and systems are in place to address any residual CMR threat that may be discovered.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2019)	Score (2018)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	9	8	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.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	9	9	Croatia demonstrated strong national ownership and political will to complete fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations within its initial 10-year deadline, and with 100% national funding for CMR survey and clearance operations in 2019. In January 2019, Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and the Office for Mine Action (OMA) were integrated within the Civil Protection Directorate under the Ministry of Interior.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	5	Gender policies and implementation regarding 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.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (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.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	9	9	Croatia has elaborated a new national mine action strategy, which it expected to adopt by the end of 2020 to replace the previous strategy that expired in 2019. In addition, Croatia had annual operational work plans for CMR survey and clearance.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	8	7	The 2015 law on mine action encompasses national mine action standards. CMR clearance in Croatia was focused on confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and Croatia maintained sufficient demining capacity to enable it to release remaining known CMR contamination in July 2020, ahead of its Article 4 deadline.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	9	8	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. In 2019, the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC cancelled all remaining cluster munition-contaminated area in Lika-Senj country and a further 45,563m ² was cleared by commercial operators in Sisak-Moslavina county, before completing land release operations in 2020. Croatia is planning how it will deal with residual risk and liability.
Average Score	8.3	7.8	Overall Programme Performance: VERY GOOD

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- Ministry of Interior, in which CROMAC and OMA were integrated within the Civil Protection Directorate, effective as at January 2019

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Forty-four commercial demining companies are accredited for mine and CMR clearance operations. Of these, five were engaged in CMR clearance operations in 2019: Alfa Razminiranje, Fas, Fas-pro, Fossio, Loco, and Taurus

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.¹ It completed clearance of its last known CMR contamination on 10 July 2020, thereby fulfilling its obligations under Article 4 of the CCM.²

At the end of 2019, Croatia had only three remaining confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) containing CMR, covering a total area of 33,079m², across four counties (see Table 1).³ This compared to reported contamination a year earlier of less than 266,116m².⁴ During 2019, the county of Lika-Senj was declared free of CMR, through non-technical survey by the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC.⁵ All remaining cluster munition-contaminated area was then released in 2020, ahead of Croatia's 1 August 2020 deadline. However, small areas of previously unrecorded CMR contamination continue to be discovered, such as the 10,911m² of previously unrecorded CMR contamination added to the database in 2019, and Croatia recognises the possibility of further unforeseen CMR findings.⁶

Table 1: Cluster munition- contaminated area by county (at end 2019)⁷

County	CHAs	Area (m ²)
Šibenik-Knin	1	19,551
Sisak-Moslavina	1	10,952
Zadar	1	2,576
Totals	3	33,079

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Croatia is heavily contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) other than submunitions and by anti-personnel mines (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines 2020* report on Croatia for further information on the mine problem).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In August 2018, the Croatian government formally concluded that some 54 government agencies, including Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and the Office for Mine Action (OMA), 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 2019.⁸ As a consequence of these laws, CROMAC and OMA ceased to exist as separate government entities and CROMAC became an "operational sector" within the Civil Protection Directorate, under the Ministry of Interior.⁹ 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".¹⁰

Prior to 2019, both CROMAC (established in 1998 as the umbrella organisation for mine action coordination),¹¹ and the OMA (created in 2012 as a government focal point for mine action),¹² had operated as independent entities.

A new law on mine action was adopted by the Croatian parliament on 21 October 2015.¹³ While the 2015 Law, which was initiated by the OMA with the text drafted by the Ministry of 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.¹⁴

Regarding accreditation, the Ministry of 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.¹⁵

In 2019, some €70,000 was spent on survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated area. Funding for CMR land release operations is said to have been fully resourced in Croatia's annual demining plan.¹⁶

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

As an integral part of the Ministry of 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.¹⁷

According to the national authorities, women, men, boys and girls are all effectively consulted during survey and community liaison activities.¹⁸ CROMAC survey data are not, however, disaggregated by sex and age.¹⁹

Within the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, CROMAC employs 91 people, of whom 12 (13.2%) are women. As at April 2020, no women were employed in managerial or supervisory level positions in CROMAC. Furthermore, CROMAC's 27 deminers and 2 auxiliary workers were all men.²⁰

As at 30 March 2020, there were 45 accredited commercial demining companies, employing 443 deminers. Only six deminers (1.4%) were female and of the 131 work-site leaders/deminers, just one was a woman. Of the 78 auxiliary workers, 6 (7.7%) were female.²¹

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.²²

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.

PLANNING AND TASKING

Croatia's national mine action strategy for 2009–19 was drafted by CROMAC with the agreement of concerned ministries, the OMA, the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, and local administration and self-administration bodies whose responsibility covers regions with hazardous areas.²³ The strategy, which was adopted by the Croatian Parliament, included among its main goals the completion of mine clearance by 2019, which was not achieved.²⁴

The Ministry of Interior has elaborated a new strategy, covering 2020–26 which it expected to be adopted by the Croatian Parliament by the end of 2020, assuming no unforeseen events.²⁵

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.²⁶ All CMR-contaminated areas were said to be cleared in accordance with county and State priorities.²⁷

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.²⁸ National mine action standards are also encompassed within it.²⁹

CMR clearance in Croatia was focused on releasing CHAs. In 2019, submunitions were discovered and destroyed in all CMR-contaminated areas that were cleared.³⁰

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Non-technical survey in Croatia is conducted by the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC. In 2019, it had one non-technical survey team with two personnel, for survey of cluster munition-contaminated areas.³¹ In 2018, CROMAC had deployed nine non-technical survey personnel.³² The decrease was the result of personnel employed by CROMAC not being taken on by the Ministry of Interior following CROMAC's integration within the Civil Protection Directorate at the start of 2019. Some of the survey personnel previously employed by CROMAC were retired or moved to other companies.³³

In 2019, 44 commercial companies were accredited to conduct mine and CMR clearance.³⁴ Of this, five companies were engaged in CMR clearance operations in 2019 (see Table 2).³⁵ Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are barred from competing for commercial tenders as CROMAC views their subsidy by other funds as unfair.³⁶

Table 2: Clearance capacity (at end 2019)³⁷

Operator	Manual teams	No. of deminers
Alfa Razminiranje	1	9
Fas	2	18
Fossio	1	9
Loco	1	9
Taurus	1	7
Totals	6	52

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

A total of 243,948m² of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2019, of which 45,563m² was cleared and 198,385m² was cancelled through non-technical survey. No CMR-contaminated area was reduced through technical survey in 2019. In addition, almost 10,911m² of previously unrecorded CMR contamination was added to the database in 2019.³⁸

Croatia completed clearance of all known CMR contamination on 10 July 2020.³⁹

SURVEY IN 2019

In 2019, 198,385m² was cancelled through non-technical survey in Lika-Senj county (see Table 3), resulting in the county becoming free of CMR. This was a significant increase on 2018, when 16,436m² of CMR-contaminated area was cancelled by non-technical survey.⁴⁰ No CMR-contaminated area was reduced through technical survey in 2019 or 2018.⁴¹

In addition, 10,911m² of previously unrecorded CMR contamination was added to the database in 2019.⁴²

Table 3: Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2019⁴³

County	Operator	Area cancelled (m ²)
Lika-Senj	Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	198,385
Total		198,385

Cancellation through non-technical survey in 2019 was the result of comprehensive analysis of the location of previous CMR and containers in the surrounding area, which were precisely defined, in addition to new information and data collected in the local community.⁴⁴

CLEARANCE IN 2019

In 2019, Croatia cleared 45,563m² of CMR-contaminated area in Sisak-Moslavina county, destroying 186 KB-1 submunitions and 1 other item of UXO (see Table 4).⁴⁵ This was a significant decrease in output on 2018, when 860,308m² of CMR-contaminated area was cleared, destroying a total of 571 KB-1 submunitions.⁴⁶

Table 4: CMR clearance in 2019⁴⁷

County	Operator	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed
Sisak-Moslavina	Alfa Razminiranje, Fas, Fas-pro, Fossio, Loco, and Taurus	45,563	186
Totals		45,563	186

All cluster munition-contaminated areas cleared in 2019 were found to have CMR.⁴⁸

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 12 submunitions, 103 anti-personnel mines, and 38 anti-vehicle mines, along with items of UXO and abandoned explosive ordnance. All munitions were transported to Croatian military facilities and destroyed.⁴⁹

PROGRESS IN 2020

Clearance of all remaining known CMR contamination was completed on 10 July 2020.⁵⁰ Detailed results of survey and clearance in 2020 have not yet been provided.

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

CCM ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR CROATIA: 1 AUGUST 2010



ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 AUGUST 2020

REPORTED HAVING FULFILLED ARTICLE 4 OBLIGATIONS ON 10 JULY 2020

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".⁵¹

Croatia cleared a total of approximately 3.55km² of CMR-contaminated area over the past five years (see Table 5). Challenges to CMR clearance were posed by rocky, forested, and mountainous areas, which prevented use of demining machines. In addition, use of demining machinery is not permitted in areas designated as protected for conservation.⁵²

Table 5: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2019	0.05
2018	0.86
2017	1.01
2016	1.20
2015	0.43
Total	3.55

PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

In 2019, 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 in Croatia" was published, documenting progress so far and highlighting the importance of a participatory and transparent long-term strategic planning progress.⁵³ The integration of CROMAC within the Ministry of Interior, 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 Ministry of Interior.⁵⁴ The integration also means that the challenge of residual risk will be handled within the responsibilities of the Ministry of Interior – Police Directorate EOD teams and the Civil Protection Directorate – CROMAC.⁵⁵

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- 1 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 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form F.
- 5 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 6 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 7 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 8 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).
- 9 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.
- 10 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 11 CROMAC, "National Mine Action Strategy of Croatia 2009–2019", Zagreb, June 2009, p. 2.
- 12 Interviews with Dijana Pleština, (then) Director, OMA, in Geneva, 23 May 2012 and 10 April 2014; and email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 4 July 2013.
- 13 OG No. 110/15; and Article 7 Report (covering 2017), Form A.
- 14 Interviews with Neven Karas, CROMAC; and Tomislav Ban, Assistant Director and Head of Sector for Operational Planning and Programming, CROMAC, Sisak, 18 May 2017.
- 15 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 24 August 2016.
- 16 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form I.
- 17 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.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 17 April 2020.
- 20 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 CROMAC website, "CROMAC's Mine Information System", accessed 26 June 2018.
- 23 2018 APMBBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 25.
- 24 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2015), Form B.
- 25 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.6.
- 26 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 27 Emails from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 10 June 2015; and Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 28 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016; and Article 7 Report (covering 2015), Form A.
- 29 Email from Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, 13 May 2016.
- 30 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 33 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 34 Ibid; and APMBBC Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 35 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 36 Interview with Miljenko Vahtarić, CROMAC, Sisak, 14 April 2014.
- 37 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and APMBBC Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.1.
- 38 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 39 Written communiqué by Croatia to the CCM Implementation Support Unit, 31 July 2020.
- 40 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form F.
- 41 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 42 Ibid.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 45 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; and Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 46 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019; and Article 7 Report (covering 2018), Form F.
- 47 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 48 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.
- 49 Ibid.; Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Form F.
- 50 Written communiqué by Croatia to the CCM Implementation Support Unit, 31 July 2020.
- 51 Written communiqué by Croatia to the CCM Implementation Support Unit, 31 July 2020.
- 52 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019.
- 53 GICHD, "National capacities and residual contamination in Croatia", August 2019, at: bit.ly/2EwKcTt.
- 54 Emails from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 23 May 2019 and 8 April 2020.
- 55 Email from Slavenka Ivšić, Civil Protection Directorate, 8 April 2020.