

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- While formal accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is not currently possible for Kosovo, as it is not yet recognised as a state by the depository to the Convention, Kosovo should submit a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) stating that it intends to fully comply, on a voluntary basis, with the CCM.
- This should include the submission of a voluntary Article 7 transparency report on an annual basis, as Kosovo has proposed in its Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024.
- The Kosovo Mine Action Centre (KMAC) should continue its efforts to ensure timely and efficient clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR), in line with the objectives in its latest mine action strategy and complete clearance by the end of 2024.
- KMAC should promote the implementation of its mine action strategy and mine action programme across the Kosovo government.
- KMAC and international mine action operators should increase their collaboration to seek additional funding and greater financial stability for mine action.

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2019, contamination from CMR in Kosovo was estimated to cover a total of almost 14.36km<sup>2</sup> across 45 areas, according to KMAC.<sup>1</sup> This is a decrease compared to the estimated 15.37km<sup>2</sup> across 48 areas as at the end of 2018.<sup>2</sup>

Kosovo has gained a reasonably accurate assessment of CMR contamination remaining on its territory, as a result of two decades of mine action activities, including surveys in 2013 and 2015. The location of most of the contamination is well known across Kosovo's seven districts, with the exception of the northern district of Mitrovica, where operator Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) was in the process of conducting technical survey of all tasks to convert suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) to confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) based on evidence points, to help determine a more accurate and evidence-based estimation of remaining CMR contamination in this region.<sup>3</sup> NPA expected technical survey in Mitrovica will result in previously unrecorded CMR-contaminated areas being added to the mine action database.<sup>4</sup>

The HALO Trust believes Kosovo's current baseline reflects a relatively accurate picture of the remaining contamination, but suggests that it would benefit from a critical review and further assessment of the existing 2013 survey data. This would inform future targeting of survey and clearance of remaining contamination, in order to achieve completion by the target date of 2024.<sup>5</sup> HALO also believes that access to NATO bombing data is critical to the sector as a means of verifying clearance, without the requirement for costly, extensive re-survey, but has experienced challenges in obtaining it.<sup>6</sup>

Contamination is primarily a result of conflict between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in the late 1990s; and between the FRY and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999.<sup>7</sup> During Operation Allied Force, NATO aircraft bombed 333 locations between 24 March and 10 June 1999, dropping 1,392 bombs that released more than 295,700 submunitions.<sup>8</sup> Forces of the FRY also used cluster munitions during the 1998–99 conflict in Kosovo.<sup>9</sup> The failure rate of the submunitions was typically between 10% and 15%, resulting in tens of thousands of unexploded submunitions lying on and under the ground. A large clearance programme followed in 1999 under a UN mandate, but this ended prematurely in 2001, leaving many CMR-contaminated areas still needing to be cleared.<sup>10</sup>

In 2013, The HALO Trust and KMAC conducted a joint non-technical survey of cluster munition strikes and minefields across Kosovo, with the exception of four municipalities in the north. The survey identified 130 CHAs: 51 cluster munition strikes, covering 7.63km<sup>2</sup>, and 79 mined areas over 2.76km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>11</sup> In 2015, NPA, in coordination with KMAC and local municipality authorities, conducted non-technical survey of the four northern municipalities.<sup>12</sup> The NPA survey confirmed 8.9km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contamination in three of the four municipalities surveyed (Leposavic, Zubin Potok, and Zvecan). No CMR contamination was found in the fourth (Mitrovica North).<sup>13</sup> On the basis of available evidence, NPA believed that 83 cluster bombs were dropped in this region, dispersing a total of 17,041 submunitions.<sup>14</sup> In 2020–21, NPA was conducting technical survey of all CMR tasks in the northern municipalities.<sup>15</sup>

## OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Kosovo is contaminated with anti-personnel mines (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines 2020* report on Kosovo for further information). It also remains affected by explosive remnants of war (ERW) other than CMR.

Most ERW consists of unexploded aircraft bombs and items of abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). However, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams continue to encounter items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) dating back to World War II.<sup>16</sup> Kosovo Protection Force (KFOR) and Kosovo Security Force (KSF) EOD teams regularly dispose of ERW in response to information provided by the public and demining organisations.<sup>17</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In January 2011, the EOD Coordination Management Section became KMAC, responsible for managing survey and clearance of mines and ERW throughout Kosovo. KMAC prepares an annual work plan in cooperation with international demining non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and coordinates their operations along with the national demining teams of the KSF. It also coordinates survey, quality assurance (QA), risk education, public information, and victim assistance activities.<sup>18</sup> KMAC's role and responsibilities as head of the national mine action programme under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence were established and institutionalised by Kosovo's 2012 Law on Humanitarian Demining.<sup>19</sup>

In 2019, KMAC had five permanent staff: a Director, a Senior QA Officer, a QA Inspector, a Mine Risk Education (MRE) Officer, and a Public Information Officer.<sup>20</sup>

Kosovo's mine action programme is fully nationally owned, with a strong, longstanding commitment from the national government. The dedicated team of permanent national staff have been employed by KMAC since its creation. This has benefitted the programme with the retention of experience and institutional memory.<sup>21</sup>

NGO operators in Kosovo report having a constructive and proactive working relationship with KMAC. HALO Trust staff meet with the director of KMAC for monthly coordination meetings,<sup>22</sup> and, in addition, KMAC's QA officers visit HALO Trust on a quarterly basis to discuss operations planning, along with conducting unannounced weekly field visits to tasks.<sup>23</sup>

In 2019, the Kosovo government provided €990,000 in financial support to KMAC and to the KSF for mine and CMR clearance.<sup>24</sup> Kosovo's current Mine Action Strategy 2019–24 sets out the objective of intensifying resource mobilisation efforts in order to gain greater financial stability.<sup>25</sup> While a specific resource mobilisation strategy does not exist, operators reported that coordinated approaches with KMAC were made to potential donors such as the United States and the European Union.<sup>26</sup>

Unfortunately, the misperception persists that mine, CMR, and other ERW clearance in Kosovo was completed in 2001, whereas the reality is that significant contamination remains. Kosovo remains a poor country and needs economic assistance to help it complete clearance in a timely manner, hopefully in less than five years if sufficient support is provided. In 2019, KMAC identified funding and logistical support as the two primary areas where it could most benefit from assistance from international donors and mine action operators.<sup>27</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Kosovo's Mine Action Strategy 2019–24 reflects the commitment of the mine action programme to ensure that gender is taken into consideration in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of all mine action projects, with a view to promoting equality and quality.<sup>28</sup> The Strategy stipulates that all mine action activities and assistance must reflect the needs of different ages and gender in a targeted and non-discriminatory manner, and that mine action and community liaison data are also to be collected and systematically disaggregated according to sex and age.<sup>29</sup>

Both KMAC and KSF have gender policies in place. KMAC reported that the KSF's gender policy aims to facilitate the consultation of all groups affected by mines and ERW, expressly women and children. Within KMAC, one of its five staff (the MRE Officer) is a woman. A total of 5% of KSF staff employed in operational mine action roles were women, but none is in a managerial or supervisory position.<sup>30</sup>

Kosovo's mine action strategy recognises the barriers that exist against equal employment in Kosovo society, including significant differences in employment levels between men and women, despite the number of men and women of working age being broadly similar. The Strategy notes that, as at 2019, more than four-fifths of women of working age were not employed in Kosovo's labour market, and less than one in eight women of working age has been employed annually over the past five years. The primary reasons given by women for unemployment are child and family care obligations, which traditionally fall on women in Kosovo society.

The Strategy notes the efforts of mine action operators to overcome these challenges and barriers to employment, such as through child care and parental leave, and gender-sensitive recruitment practices that encourage women to apply for positions traditionally seen as jobs for men. It further recalls the importance of employment of not only multi-gender, but also multi-ethnic survey and clearance teams and the particular benefits of recruitment in areas affected by high unemployment and poor socio-economic conditions.<sup>31</sup>

In 2018, The HALO Trust developed a gender policy in consultation with the Kosovo Women's Network, an advocacy network of more than 140 member organisations, including women's organisations of all ethnic backgrounds from throughout Kosovo, which was adopted in February. The policy aims both at increasing the recruitment of women, as well as retention of existing female employees. In 2019, HALO further developed this policy to include provision for increased family leave and child-care allowances for those taking care of children, in order to remove barriers to women's employment. Through the Dutch Government, HALO Trust contracted the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP, a part of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, GICHD) to conduct gender sensitivity and leadership training in July 2019 to more than 20 managers in the Kosovo programme, to address issues of unconscious bias and inclusion.<sup>32</sup>

In HALO Trust's Kosovo programme, 17% of employees are women, including in 14% of operational roles in survey and clearance teams, although there were no women in operational management positions in 2019. HALO also ensures that community liaison teams are gender balanced and include senior personnel fluent in relevant languages, to ensure that community liaison activities are inclusive for ethnic or minority groups.<sup>33</sup>

Although HALO Trust is committed to increasing the number of women in the organisation generally and specifically in management roles, without recruitment or expansion opportunities, this has proved difficult. In May 2019, however, HALO trained and promoted four women to operate Handheld Stand-off Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS)

detectors – a first for the programme. In 2020, HALO was planning to train and promote Assistant Team Leaders, and sees this as an opportunity to increase the representation of women in operational management.<sup>34</sup> Relevant mine action data are disaggregated by gender and age, and data collected post-clearance is also disaggregated to ensure the understanding and analysis of impact of mine action activities takes gender into consideration.<sup>35</sup>

NPA reported that a target of 25% female staff was in place, and in 2019, 21% of its staff were women, including one of four team leaders, two of six medics, and one of four staff in the management team. The proportion of women had subsequently increased to 27% by September 2020, with more women in management positions. Women were especially encouraged to apply for staff positions, and given priority over male applicants with equivalent skills and experience. NPA confirmed its survey and community liaison teams were gender balanced and ensured that the participation of all relevant social groups is always taken into account when conducting activities in local communities.<sup>36</sup> NPA's efforts to recruit and train multi-ethnic survey and clearance teams was also been a critical factor in allowing the deployment of teams in areas of particular ethnic and political sensitivities, extending the reach of mine action operations in north Kosovo, while also building bridges and friendships between the individual staff members and through their community liaison activities.<sup>37</sup>

According to KMAC, Kosovo's baseline of CMR contamination has been established through inclusive consultation with women, girls, boys, and men, including, where relevant, from minority groups.<sup>38</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

KMAC uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation version for its national mine action database. Data are disaggregated between mines, CMR, and other ERW.<sup>39</sup> Operators were positive in their assessments of the quality and accessibility of data contained in the database and of KMAC's information management systems in general. Operators report to KMAC on a weekly basis.<sup>40</sup> However, there continued to be discrepancies between land release data reported to Mine Action Review by clearance operators, compared to data reported by KMAC.

According to its most recent mine action strategy, KMAC intended, as a means to show its commitment to the CCM, to submit voluntary Article 7 transparency reports on an annual basis.<sup>41</sup> In disappointing news, KMAC subsequently advised Mine Action Review that Kosovo would only start submitting Article 7 reports when it becomes a member of the UN.<sup>42</sup>

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## PLANNING AND TASKING

The GICHD supported the development of Kosovo's new Mine Action Strategy for 2019–24. The strategy, formally approved in January 2019 and launched by the Ministry of Kosovo Security Services on 4 April 2019, has three goals:

- Mine/ERW threats managed and reduced
- Communication and awareness raising
- Management of residual contamination.

The strategy declares that all known mined and CMR-contaminated areas will be addressed by the end of 2024, leaving only residual contamination to be managed accordingly. It contains annual projections for CMR clearance, including:

- all high-priority CMR tasks (four as at October 2018) will be cleared by 2020;
- all medium-priority CMR tasks (thirty as at October 2018) will be cleared by 2022; and
- all low-priority CMR tasks (sixteen as at October 2018) will be completed by 2024.<sup>43</sup>

NPA reported that it had changed its approach in 2020 to focus on technical survey of all tasks and therefore would not clear all the high-impact CMR tasks in 2020.<sup>44</sup>

The strategy states it is based on a number of assumptions, including that the necessary funding will be secured and that no new mined or CMR-contaminated areas are identified. It notes, however, that “so far each year 3–4 different affected areas have been reported” and that should this trend continue, capacity and progress will need to be reassessed with regards to the 2024 deadline.<sup>45</sup>

As per the strategy, KMAC will develop annual operational work plans to implement the strategy’s goals.<sup>46</sup> KMAC will also request an external mid-term review of the strategy in 2022 to evaluate progress and make any adaptations according to contextual changes if required.<sup>47</sup>

In 2019, KMAC confirmed that it had developed annual operational work plans to target anti-personnel mined areas, according to impact-based criteria, including risk reduction, development priorities, and poverty reduction, along with the findings of a nationwide baseline socio-economic impact assessment carried out in 2018 by KMAC, with the support

of The HALO Trust.<sup>48</sup> The mine action strategy for 2019–24 is in alignment with the objectives of Kosovo’s National Development Strategy 2016–2021.<sup>49</sup>

In 2019, The HALO Trust developed a new prioritisation system that takes into account the “community profile” for a task. This system draws on several factors, such as socio-economic status, planned land use, government development plans, and demographics. All information is collected from government and public data as well as from extensive community survey.<sup>50</sup>

While NPA confirmed that its operations in northern Kosovo continued to focus on high-impacted areas, it noted that it was also important for NPA to ensure both ethnic Serbian- and Albanian-populated areas are prioritised equally, with sensitivity towards political, cultural, and ethnic affiliations.<sup>51</sup>

KMAC reported that it planned to conduct technical survey with NPA in 2020 of 21 tasks in the northern municipalities, in addition to clearance of eight CMR-contaminated areas.<sup>52</sup> However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting halting of operations for several months, means that technical survey will continue into 2020.<sup>53</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

National mine action standards for land release are in place in Kosovo, which according to KMAC are in accord with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).<sup>54</sup>

Kosovo’s national mine action standards set the standard clearance depth for battle area clearance (BAC) at 50cm.<sup>55</sup> There has been a discussion over whether this standard clearance depth could be reduced to 30cm in certain forested and stony areas, which would enable detectors to be set to a medium- rather than high-sensitivity setting and potentially result in fewer false indicators needing to be investigated.<sup>56</sup> However, KMAC informed Mine Action Review in 2019 that the BAC clearance depth of 50cm is necessary as many of the areas targeted with cluster munitions were especially wet and muddy, as the bombing campaign took place during a period of heavy rain, making it possible for submunitions to penetrate to higher than normally expected depths.<sup>57</sup> It did, though, state that on certain tasks where the ground was entirely stony, a reduction in search depth could be considered.<sup>58</sup>

Data from NPA and HALO Trust largely support KMAC’s caution. The HALO Trust’s analysis of devices found by depth in 2008–18 show that 22% of all items found by HALO Trust teams were at a depth of 30cm or deeper, but this included buried cluster bomb units with submunitions still inside.<sup>59</sup> When removing full containers from the analysis, HALO found that 96% of items were found 30cm or above and that the average depth of items found through clearance was 12.4cm.<sup>60</sup> NPA’s clearance statistics show that 12% of all submunitions found in its operations were found at depths greater than 30cm. At the same time, NPA raised the issue of the potential threat that explosive items located deeper than 30cm might pose and whether the expected future ground use could be considered when setting the search depth.<sup>61</sup> HALO agrees on this issue and has collected data on planned post-clearance land use, including crop cultivation depth.<sup>62</sup>

A 2014 evaluation of Kosovo’s mine action programme, conducted on behalf of the International Trust Fund (ITF) Enhancing Human Security, concluded that an increase in capacity and improvements to land release methodology and equipment deployed would be necessary if Kosovo were to complete clearance operations by 2024. Since the 2014 evaluation, a number of significant improvements have been introduced to the mine action programme, including the introduction of HSTAMID detectors by The HALO Trust, which have advanced operational productivity.<sup>63</sup> Both The HALO Trust and NPA were also using large-loop detectors on certain CMR tasks, which enabled further productivity increases.<sup>64</sup>

In 2018, in another significant advancement in land release efficiency, KMAC formally approved the implementation of Cluster Munition Remnants Survey (CMRS) methodology by NPA to carry out technical survey activities on CMR-contaminated areas in Kosovo. According to this methodology, which NPA has modified to take into account the specific conditions in Kosovo, and in line with the IMAS, operators are permitted to enter a cluster munition strike area and to walk on ground with subsurface contamination, increasing the efficiency of the survey process and offering the ability to accurately define confirmed hazardous areas.<sup>65</sup>

HALO Trust, which displayed some hesitancy to implement a CMRS approach in 2017, reported in 2019 that it was interested in defining evidence-based clearance standards and felt there could be scope to explore and improve survey and clearance standards for addressing CMR, especially in regard to recent developments with the implementation of CMRS methodology in South-East Asia.<sup>66</sup> It believed, however, that as general survey has already been conducted in HALO Trust’s areas of operations, implementing CMRS would duplicate work already carried out to define confirmed hazardous areas.<sup>67</sup>

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2019, Kosovo's national mine action programme's capacity consisted of two international operators, The HALO Trust and NPA, and national operator, the KSF. HALO Trust and NPA continued to conduct BAC in 2019, along with the KSF, which also provided a round-the-clock EOD emergency response.<sup>68</sup> KFOR also supports the KSF and Kosovo Police with EOD response tasks and organising mine and ERW demolitions in Mitrovica and the north of Kosovo, including NPA's areas of operations.<sup>69</sup> The demining season is from the end of March to the end of November, due to weather conditions.<sup>70</sup>

HALO Trust's operational personnel are cross-trained for mine clearance and BAC and can move readily between activities. On average, in 2019, HALO Trust deployed three clearance teams totalling 27 deminers to CMR clearance tasks – an overall decrease of 1.2 teams compared to the previous year, as a result of donor requirements.<sup>71</sup>

NPA's area of operations cover Kosovo's five northern municipalities of Leposavic, Mitrovica, Podujevo, Zubin Potok, and Zvecan.<sup>72</sup> In 2019, NPA deployed four teams: one six-person team dedicated to technical survey and three six-person teams to both technical survey and clearance. This represented a doubling of the number of teams, from two to four, but as the team size in 2019 decreased from 8 to 6, overall operational capacity only increased from 16 in 2018 to 24 in 2019.<sup>73</sup> NPA deploys local teams of mixed ethnicities, making it possible for NPA to work in previously inaccessible areas in north Kosovo and deploy teams to both ethnic Serbian and ethnic Albanian areas through the multi-ethnic composition of the teams.<sup>74</sup>

KSF operated five manual clearance teams in 2019, totalling 60 deminers.<sup>75</sup> KFOR supports the KSF and Kosovo Police with EOD response tasks and organising mine and ERW demolitions in Mitrovica and the north of Kosovo.<sup>76</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2019

A total of more than 2.2km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2019: nearly 1.3km<sup>2</sup> through clearance; 0.4km<sup>2</sup> through technical survey; and 0.5km<sup>2</sup> through non-technical survey.<sup>77</sup>

KMAC reported that one CHA containing CMR, of 60,000m<sup>2</sup> in size, was added to the database in 2019.<sup>78</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2019

A total of 911,795m<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area was released through survey in 2019, by NPA in north of Kosovo. Of this, 542,100m<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through non-technical survey and 369,695m<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey in 2019.<sup>79</sup>

The total amount of CMR-contaminated area released through survey in 2019 was an increase on 2018, when 436,685m<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey, but when no area was cancelled through non-technical survey.<sup>80</sup>

As noted above, KMAC reported that an CHA of 60,000m<sup>2</sup> was added to the database of CMR contamination in 2019.<sup>81</sup>

### CLEARANCE IN 2019

Collectively, the KSF, The HALO Trust, and NPA cleared 1.26km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contamination in 2019, with the destruction of 155 submunitions (see Table 1).<sup>82</sup> One additional submunition was destroyed by KSF in 2019, during an EOD response task.<sup>83</sup>

This represents a small increase on the 1.24km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contamination cleared in 2018, when 212 submunitions were destroyed.<sup>84</sup>

**Table 1: CMR clearance in 2019<sup>85</sup>**

Operator	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
KSF	135,910	4	707
HALO	614,203	133	0
NPA	510,104	18	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,260,217</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>712</b>

According to KMAC, one CMR task cleared in 2019 was found not to contain CMR.<sup>86</sup>

The HALO Trust saw a 13% decrease on its CMR clearance output in 2019, compared to the previous year, due to a reduction in clearance personnel.<sup>87</sup>

NPA saw an increase of nearly 48% on the area of CMR-contaminated cleared in 2018, due to increased clearance capacity. However, the number of submunitions found and destroyed decreased in 2019, due to NPA no longer working in the core area of cluster munition attacks, as it had in 2018.<sup>88</sup>

As Kosovo has robust national procedures for the management of explosives, the KSF, with support from KFOR in northern Kosovo, carries out the demolition of CMR and items of UXO found by both The HALO Trust and NPA.<sup>89</sup>

## PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

Kosovo cannot formally adhere to the CCM and therefore does not have a specific clearance deadline under Article 4. Nonetheless, it has obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR as soon as possible.

As stated in Kosovo's Mine Action Strategy 2019–24, which sets completion of mine and cluster munition clearance by the end of 2024, completion will only be achievable if sustained funding is secured.<sup>90</sup> Specific concerns are elaborated in the strategy about the need to upgrade old equipment, including vehicles to proceed without unnecessary stand-downs or costly repairs.<sup>91</sup>

The HALO Trust highlighted the need for a review of the current data on CMR-contaminated areas, including an evaluation of survey polygons, and application of efficient land release methodologies, in order to ensure coordinated and cost-effective targeting of clearance.<sup>92</sup>

As at April 2020, KMAC reported that it still expects to clear all known CMR-contaminated areas by the end of 2024.<sup>93</sup> However, less than 5km<sup>2</sup> of CMR has been cleared in the last five years (see Table 2) and international clearance operators caution that capacity will need to be increased and sustained over the strategy period, in order to meet the 2024 target date.<sup>94</sup>

HALO Trust was doubling its CMR clearance capacity to six teams in 2020, starting in March 2020, primarily due to a multi-year contract for US funding.<sup>95</sup> Similarly, NPA was also increasing technical survey/clearance capacity from four teams to seven in 2019, thanks to a US contract for 2020–23, and it also had two personnel dedicated to non-technical survey in 2020.<sup>96</sup>

While increasing and sustaining funding remained the primary obstacle, challenges were also posed by poor weather and difficult terrain, according to NPA. It also noted that additional CMR-contaminated areas were still being recorded in its areas of operations as a result of ongoing survey.<sup>97</sup>

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted Kosovo's mine action programme. From mid-March to mid-May the entire mine action sector was closed at the direction of KMAC, as the government implemented strict lock-down measures across the country, resulting in lost productivity which will impact targets. Operators were able to partially phase back operations in early May and fully by June 2020. HALO is also avoiding use of remote camps due to the COVID-19 pandemic which will also affect its original 2020 work plan.<sup>98</sup>

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

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2019	1.26
2018	1.24
2017	0.88
2016	0.47
2015	0.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.19</b>

Assuming the target is met, completion of CMR clearance in 2024 would be 25 years after the end of the conflict between the FRY forces and NATO and more than 20 years after the UN claimed that clearance was largely complete.

## PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

According to Kosovo's Mine Action Strategy 2019–24, a separate national strategy on the management of residual contamination will be developed by KMAC by 2023, in collaboration with other national actors. This will clarify roles and responsibilities in order to manage what is expected to be a long-term residual contamination problem.<sup>99</sup> HALO Trust highlighted the importance of establishing a common definition for residual risk – an existing priority for KMAC in its national strategy.<sup>100</sup>

1 Email from Ahmet Sallova, Head, KMAC, 16 April 2020.

2 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.

3 Emails from Terje Eldøen, Country Director, NPA, 26 August 2020; and Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.

4 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 26 August 2020.

5 Email from Olivia Meader, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.

6 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May and 3 September 2020.

7 See United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), "UNMIK OKPCC EOD Management Section Annual Report 2005", Pristina, 18 January 2006, p. 2; and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), *Explosive Remnants of War, Cluster Bombs and Landmines in Kosovo*, Geneva, rev. June 2001, p. 6.

8 ICRC, *Explosive Remnants of War, Cluster Bombs and Landmines in Kosovo*, rev. June 2001, pp. 4 and 6; and The HALO Trust, "Action on cluster munitions in Kosovo", 10 September 2015, at: [bit.ly/30P1X70](http://bit.ly/30P1X70).

9 Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Landmine Action, *Banning Cluster Munitions Government Policy and Practice*, Mines Action Canada, Ottawa, 2009, p. 238; and ICRC, *Explosive Remnants of War, Cluster Bombs and Landmines in Kosovo*, rev. June 2001, p. 6.

10 A. Moore, The HALO Trust, "Action on cluster munitions in Kosovo", Side event, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 10 September 2015.

11 Ibid.

12 NPA, *Cluster Munition Remnants in Northern Kosovo: non-technical survey of contamination and impact*, September 2015; and email from Goran Peršić, NPA Bosnia and Herzegovina, 13 May 2016.

13 Ibid.

14 NPA, *Cluster Munition Remnants in Northern Kosovo: non-technical survey of contamination and impact*, September 2015.

15 Emails from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 26 August and 1 September 2020.

16 UNMIK, "OKPCC EOD Management Section Annual Report 2008", Pristina, 12 January 2009, p. 4.

17 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 1 August 2012.

18 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 1 August 2012.

19 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 June and 3 July 2017; and Ministry of Defence, "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.

- 20 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 21 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, pp. 5–6.
- 22 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020; and Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 23 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 24 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 25 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 14.
- 26 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 27 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 28 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 8.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 31 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, pp. 8–9.
- 32 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 33 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019 and 22 May 2020.
- 34 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 35 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 8.
- 36 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 37 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019 and 1 September 2020.
- 38 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 39 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 40 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 41 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 13.
- 42 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 43 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 12.
- 44 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 1 September 2020.
- 45 Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, pp. 9–10.
- 46 Ibid.
- 47 Ibid., p. 16.
- 48 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019; and Tom Welling, HALO Trust, 7 May 2018.
- 49 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 1.
- 50 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 51 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 52 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 53 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 1 September 2020.
- 54 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 55 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 4 May 2018.
- 56 Ibid.
- 57 Interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 58 Ibid.
- 59 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 21 June 2019.
- 60 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 3 September 2020.
- 61 Emails from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 62 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 3 September 2020.
- 63 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 Interview with Terje Eldøen, NPA, Pristina, 5 April 2019; and email, 25 April 2019.
- 66 Emails from Ash Boddy, HALO Trust, 5 May 2017; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 67 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 21 June 2019.
- 68 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020; and "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.
- 69 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 4; and interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 70 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.
- 71 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 72 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 26 August 2020.
- 73 Ibid.
- 74 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 4.
- 75 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 76 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 4; and interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 77 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 26 August and 1 September 2020. In addition, HALO Trust reported reducing 5,765m<sup>2</sup> on tasks in Gjakove, following the completion of clearance. Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 80 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April and 17 June 2019; Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019. According to HALO Trust, "it should be noted that HALO does not employ technical survey as used in the CMRS. The above statistics only refer to those areas released by reduction from technical survey". NPA reported a total of 407,859m<sup>2</sup> reduced by technical survey in 2018, of which only 22,848m<sup>2</sup> was reported as completed, in a task in Gazi Voda lake. NPA reported that the other 385,011m<sup>2</sup> reduced by technical survey were part of tasks not yet completed at the end of 2018.
- 81 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 82 Ibid.
- 83 Ibid.
- 84 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 85 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020 and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020. NPA reported clearing 495,827m<sup>2</sup>, with the destruction of 22 submunitions and 13 items of other UXO. Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 26 August 2020.
- 86 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 87 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 88 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 26 August 2020.
- 89 Interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 90 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 6.
- 91 Ibid.
- 92 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 93 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 April 2020.
- 94 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 95 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.
- 96 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 26 August 2020.
- 97 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 98 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 3 September 2020.
- 99 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 15.
- 100 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 22 May 2020.