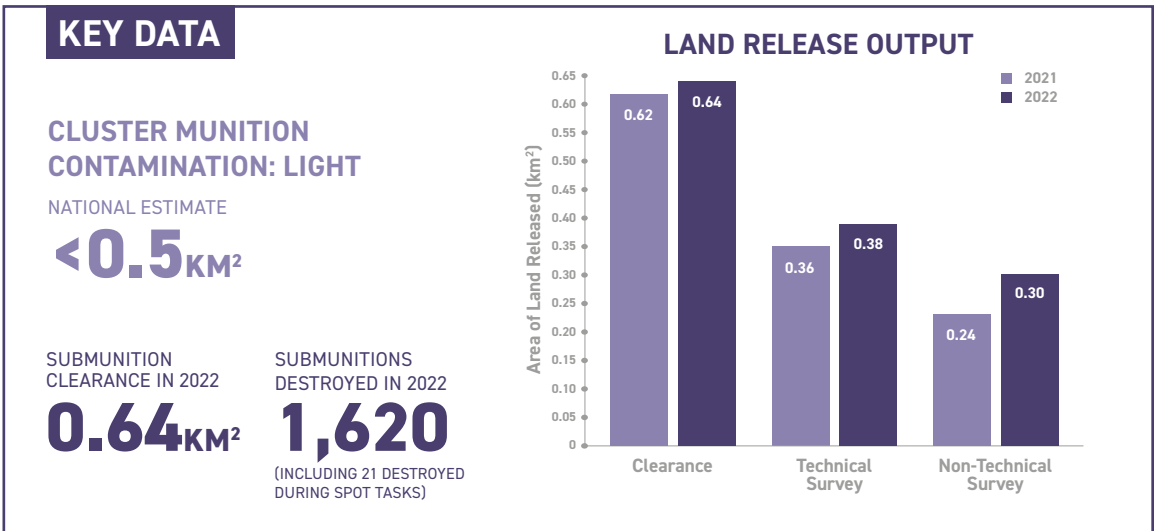


BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



CLEARING CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS 2023

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2023
ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was not able to complete clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) by 1 September 2022, due to the discovery of five previously unknown cluster munition-contaminated areas during 2022. BiH was granted a second, hopefully final, one-year extension to its deadline and at the time of writing was on track to complete clearance in time.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) should ensure it completes clearance of the remaining CMR-contaminated area without delay and well in advance of BiH's requested extended clearance deadline of 1 September 2023.
- BHMAC should provide details of its plans for addressing the discovery of any previously unknown CMR following completion.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion | Score (2022) | Score (2021) | Performance Commentary |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score) | 7 | 7 | BiH's baseline of CMR contamination totalled less than 0.5km ² at the end of 2022, with five previously unknown contaminated areas added to the database during the year. That previously unknown CMR contamination continues to be discovered so close to BiH's fulfilment of its Article 4 obligations suggests that BiH will face a residual CMR threat. |
| NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score) | 5 | 5 | National ownership of mine action in BiH falls under the responsibility of the Demining Commission and BHMAL, with a new Commission appointed in July 2022. The process to adopt the amended demining law (2017) was restarted in 2022 but, as at March 2023, had not yet concluded. Governance of the national mine action programme still needs to be strengthened and Article 4 implementation should be better coordinated if completion in time is to be ensured. |
| GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score) | 4 | 4 | BHMAL has stated that, under its leadership, relevant actors will reflect gender considerations in all phases of their mine action activities. Yet, within BHMAL'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) | 4 | 5 | BHMAL is in the process of migrating from its own information management system to the new web-based IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) Core. A new project to migrate the remaining data began in February 2023. BHMAL does not report accurately and consistently on the extent of CMR contamination and on land release output. |
| PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score) | 4 | 5 | According to the work plan submitted with BiH's Article 4 deadline extension request, CMR clearance was due to be completed by the end of 2022. An updated work plan was submitted at the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions with the same deadline, which was not met. |
| LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score) | 6 | 6 | BHMAL has in place national standards and standing operating procedures (SOPs) for CMR survey and clearance. Capacity is sufficient, with the BiH Armed Forces, entity Civil Protections, NPA, and other operators all accredited, but release of CMR-contaminated area has been insufficiently prioritised. |
| LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score) | 5 | 4 | There was a small increase in clearance and survey output in 2022 compared to 2021. BHMAL has reported it is on track to achieve completion by its extended Article 4 deadline and, as at March 2023, five tasks were still in progress, due to be completed in May 2023, and one task, which was said to be "in preparation", had been assigned to the BiH Armed Forces. |
| Average Score | 5.3 | 5.3 | 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 (BHMAL)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

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

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

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

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

As at the end of 2022, BHMAC reported that the total cluster munition-contaminated area was 0.45km².¹ This is a significant reduction from the 1.45km² of CMR-contaminated area reported as at the end of 2021. The 2021 total was inflated as it included both the remaining CMR tasks as well as completed tasks for which final documentation had yet to be issued.² During 2022, five previously unknown cluster munition-contaminated areas were added to the database totalling 246,230m². Of these five hazardous areas, one totalling 50,258m² was released by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in 2022 and the remaining four hazardous areas were due to be released in 2023.³

According to NPA, the baseline estimate is subjected to evidence-based adjustment through a coordination mechanism involving NPA, BHMAC, the European Union Force Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), the Armed Forces of BiH, and Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP).⁴

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by canton (at end 2022)⁵

| Canton | Municipality | CHAs | Area (m ²) | SHAs | Area (m ²) | Total areas | Total area (m ²) |
|------------------|----------------|----------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Zenica-doboj | Kopljari | 1 | 3,309 | 1 | *42,830 | 2 | 46,139 |
| Canton 10 | Paljenica | 1 | 58,099 | 1 | 86,890 | 2 | 144,989 |
| Tuzla | Bešići-Munjača | 1 | 18,421 | 1 | 51,140 | 2 | 69,561 |
| Republika Srpska | Kozila | 0 | 0 | 1 | *129,252 | 1 | 129,252 |
| Tuzla | Sapna-Vitnica | 0 | 0 | 1 | *2,540 | 1 | 2,540 |
| Tuzla | Sapna-Međeđa | 1 | 22,798 | 1 | *39,350 | 2 | 62,148 |
| Totals | | 4 | 102,627 | 6 | 352,002 | 10 | 454,629 |

* CMR tasks added in 2022. SHAs = suspected hazardous areas CHAs = confirmed hazardous areas

CMR contamination dates back to the conflicts of 1992-95 related to the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.⁶ A survey and initial general assessment of cluster munition contamination was jointly conducted by BHMAC and NPA in 2011, which estimated the total area containing CMR at more than 12km², scattered across 140 areas. This estimate was subsequently revised upwards to 14.6km² following the start of land release operations in 2012.⁷ Of this, around 5km² was deemed actually contaminated and marked for clearance.⁸

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

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

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Demining Commission, under the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, supervises the State-wide BHMAC and represents BiH in its relations with the international community on mine-related issues.⁹ 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 body responsible for setting mine action policy for considering the periodic re-accreditation of field operators, following the recommendation from BHMAC. It also proposes the appointment of BHMAC senior staff, for approval by the Council of Ministers.¹⁰ The mandate of the most recent Commission ended on 30 April 2022, and a new Commission was appointed on 28 July 2022.¹¹

1 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, Interpreter, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

2 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022; and CCM Article 7 Report (covering 2021), Form F.

3 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

4 Email from Valerie Warrington, Country Director, NPA, 6 April 2023.

5 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023. This differs from the figures provided in the Article 7 report where only the area of the SHAs has been provided, giving a total of 0.352km².

6 BHMAC website, "Mine Action Report in BiH for 2015 approved by the BH Ministry Council", 16 May 2016.

7 Statements of BiH, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015; High-level Segment, First CCM Review Conference, 7 September 2015; CCM Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2-4 September 2019; CCM Intersessional meetings, Geneva, 16 May 2022; and 2022 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.

8 Statement of BiH, High-level Segment, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 7 September 2015.

9 BHMAC Organisational chart, accessed 6 May 2022 at: <http://bit.ly/2Ycj4xl>.

10 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 22.

11 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 21 September 2022.

BHMAC is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH's survey and clearance plans.¹² BHMAC operates from its headquarters in Sarajevo, and two main offices in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and eight regional offices (Banja Luka, Bihac, Brčko, Mostar, Pale, Sarajevo, Travnik, and Tuzla).¹³

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. The process was restarted again in 2022 after being suspended the previous year but, as at March 2023, is not yet concluded.¹⁴ The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) believes the amended demining law should be revised further and re-submitted for adoption, with the topics of "all reasonable effort" and liability discussed in parallel to the revision.¹⁵ Clearer legislation on liabilities related to mine action activities would be beneficial to all mine action stakeholders in BiH.

Since 2010, NPA has been helping to build the capacity of the Armed Forces of BiH Demining Battalion.¹⁶ National capacity development remains NPA's strategic commitment, and in close cooperation with national stakeholders, it elaborated a Capacity Development plan for 2022–25. The plan, which will depend on available funding, focuses on capacity development of the BiH Demining Battalion as a key national stakeholder in implementation of BiH's Mine Action Strategy. NPA provides direct operational support for the Demining Battalion's clearance tasks, and in 2022 conducted an assessment of the Demining Battalion's information management system which identified a need to enhance the Battalion's data collection, processing, and analysis to improve the efficiency of its mine action activities. These activities were continuing into 2023.¹⁷

In 2022, the GICHD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delivered training on mine action and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) to BHMAC, the Demining Commission, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, demining operators, EUFOR, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in BiH. In addition, the GICHD and UNDP co-authored a study, "The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which was launched in June 2022.¹⁸

UNDP BiH, through the "MAGMA" project that aims to complete clearance,¹⁹ supported mine action in BiH during 2022 by providing training for BHMAC quality inspectors, procuring batteries for the Armed Forces of BiH, and conducting training on GPS system for BHMAC personnel.²⁰

It had been hoped that the "Country Coalition" established between BiH and Germany would provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders, help demonstrate national ownership, strengthen coordination of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 implementation, and identify and overcome challenges, and monitor progress against the 2018–25 strategy. The first Country Coalition meeting, convened jointly by BiH and Germany, took place in October 2020 and was attended by representatives from a wide range of mine action stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations (NGO) clearance operators and donors.²¹ Regrettably, as at March 2023, no further Country Coalition meetings had been convened.²²

National funding supports BHMAC and CMR survey and clearance. Operations of the BiH Armed Forces are supported by the Council of Ministers from the BiH national budget, while the Government of the Federation of BiH finances the operations of FACP.²³ The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska (CPA RS) is financed by the Government of Republika Srpska.²⁴ BiH stated that addressing the remaining CMR contamination between September 2022 and September 2023 would cost 0.7 million BAM (approximately €400,000), which had already been secured from national and international funding.²⁵

12 Bosnia and Herzegovina Official Gazette, Sarajevo, 17 March 2002.

13 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 8.

14 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

15 Email from GICHD, 14 May 2021.

16 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.

17 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023.

18 Email from Stanislav Damjanovic, Advisor, GICHD, 25 May 2023.

19 See: <https://bit.ly/3qELnYZ>.

20 Email from Sanja Corovic, UNDP, 14 June 2023.

21 BHMAC website, "Embassy of the Republic of Germany in Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, organized online Country Coalition conference", 14 October 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/2NwxatH>; and Statement of Germany, Second CCM Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25–27 November 2020.

22 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

23 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022.

24 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.

25 2022 CCM Article 4 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 12.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

BiH does not have a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management. BHMACH, however, said that, in general, existing humanitarian demining procedures (e.g. methods for vegetation removal, removal of metals and waste, and use of machinery) contribute to the management and protection of the environment. BHMACH also said that, in certain cases, procedures are modified in order to protect the environment and that when approving demining execution plans, it consults the local community as and where necessary.

The use of threshing machines has been banned on agricultural areas because the machines disturb soil deeper than 20cm and compacts the soil, leaving it impermeable to water and preventing sowing for up to three years. BHMACH also does not use machines on mountain pastures in order to help protect against removal of layers of grasses that have taken many years to grow and which do not renew fully after machines have been used. In forested areas, as part of its procedures to ensure the use of metal detectors at the required height, BHMACH consults landowners regarding which vegetation can be removed, and what density and type of trees should be left untouched.²⁶

The 2022 study on SDGs and mine action in Bosnia identified the direct contribution of land release to 12 SDGs and 35 of their associated targets, including relating to flood prevention.²⁷ Following the 2014 flood in BiH, a recovery

needs assessment was initiated by the government which found that landmines contaminated over 70% of the flood-affected zone and were a major safety hazard to implementing recovery efforts.²⁸ In Donji Svilaj and Novi Grad (FBiH) along the border with Croatia, mine contamination along the Sava River and very close to the road hindered flood protection and safe mobility. Contamination also presented an obstacle to accessing the land for the purpose of undergoing flood prevention measures. Thanks to clearance, these channels could be accessed to allow the construction of the first major motorway in BiH, connecting the country with Croatia and which also serves as a flood protection barrier.²⁹

NPA is implementing an Environmental Assessment and Management System (EAM) for its country programmes, starting with assessing offices and administration. In addition, NPA's BiH country programme has an Environment and Climate Country Policy in place.³⁰ NPA BiH is advocating for increased inclusion of environmental impacts in the forthcoming updates to the national mine action strategy. In 2022, NPA BiH staff attended training on environmental safeguarding in operations and promoted waste separation and litter removal at task sites. NPA BiH also worked to eradicate single-use plastic packaging waste among all personnel.³¹ The FACP takes the environment into consideration when drafting operational plans for the destruction of mines and UXO on site.³²

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 specifies that: “Under the leadership of BHMACH, relevant actors will include gender and diversity into all phases of planning, realisation and follow-up of all mine activities”.³³ 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 ground 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.³⁴

26 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 22 March 2022.

27 GICHD and UNDP, “The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, 2 June 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3X9qv8z>.

28 Ibid. p. 59.

29 Ibid. pp. 60–61.

30 Email from Charles Frisby, NPA, 19 March 2022.

31 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023.

32 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 23 March 2023.

33 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 14.

34 Ibid.

Table 2: Gender composition of operators in 2022³⁵

| Organisation | Total staff | Women employed | Total staff in managerial or supervisory positions | Women in managerial or supervisory positions | Total staff in operational positions | Women in operational positions |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BHMAC | 157 | 36 | 20 | 4 | 121 | 20 |
| FACP | 201 | 43 | 9 | 5 | 148 | 16 |
| NPA | 124 | 15 | 18 | 4 | 102 | 8 |

As at the end of 2022, however, as Table 2 illustrates, only 23% of BHMAC's employees were female, with women employed in 20% of managerial or supervisory positions and 11% of operational positions.³⁶ Largely the same proportion as 2021. BHMAC reported having a gender and diversity policy in place and stated that BHMAC upholds the Law on Gender Equality and routinely includes it in the development of strategies and standards.³⁷ A new Demining Commission was appointed on 28 July 2022, in which one of the three new members is female.³⁸

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. Relevant mine action data are disaggregated by gender and age.³⁹ However, except for one reference to the provision of adequate gender- and age-sensitive mine risk education,⁴⁰ there was no mention of either gender or diversity in BiH's Article 4 deadline extension request submitted in June 2022.

As at July 2022, the Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH had a workforce of 455 personnel, including 28 women (6% of the total). This included 1 (2%) of the 55 managerial/supervisory positions and 27 (7%) of the 391 operations positions.⁴¹ FACP reported that 21% of its employees are female, with women filling 56% of managerial/supervisory positions and 11% of operational positions.⁴²

NPA reported that the overall gender split of its staff in 2022 was 12% female, with eight (8%) women employed in operational roles and four (22%) women holding managerial positions.⁴³ This is largely the same as the proportion of women overall working for NPA in 2021. In 2022, NPA BiH continued implementing NPA's Global Gender Equality Policy through its annual workplans, with access to equal opportunities for all staff regardless of gender, age, ethnic and religious background. NPA BiH remains the only demining organisation in BiH with a woman deminer in its clearance teams. NPA BiH gender focal points undertook a capacity development programme and NPA encouraged women to apply to join the Council of Employees, a labour union, which led to a 30% rise in female membership.⁴⁴

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

BHMAC currently uses its own paradox-based information management system, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Information System (BHMAIS),⁴⁵ but implementation of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core has been ongoing since 2019. The first phase of IMSMA Core implementation was completed in May 2020.⁴⁶ A new project to migrate the remaining data and workflows from BHMAIS to IMSMA Core, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and in partnership with the GICHD and NPA, started in February 2023 and is due to be completed by mid 2024.⁴⁷

35 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 23 March 2023; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023.

36 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

37 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019.

38 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 6 October 2022.

39 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 24 April 2019; Goran Šehić, Deputy Programme Manager, NPA, 25 February 2019; and GICHD, 27 April 2022; and BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 52.

40 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, June 2022, p. 8.

41 Email from Brig. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, 13 July 2022.

42 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 23 March 2023.

43 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 29 June 2023.

44 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023.

45 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022.

46 2020 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; and email from GICHD, 27 April 2022.

47 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023; Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023; Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May 2023; and Henrik Rydberg, GICHD, 29 June 2023.

BiH's national information management system needs to improve in terms of accuracy and sustainability. During the implementation and migration from BHMAIS to IMSMA Core, data quality will be checked and improved wherever feasible. Data-collection forms will be also reviewed and improved as part of the process.⁴⁸ NPA believes that IMSMA Core will help to ensure BiH has accurate, transparent, and reliable mine action data, all of which are stored and managed by BHMAL. It will also contribute to better operational planning, including for fulfilment of BiH's APMBL and CCM obligations.⁴⁹

In addition, UNDP developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) mobile application, which allows the general public to access information on the location of hazardous areas through their mobile electronic devices.⁵⁰

In the revised 2022 Article 4 deadline extension request, BHMAL provided detailed information on the location and size of the remaining CMR-contaminated area and a clear work plan for their release, although the tasks were not completed in the timeframes in the request.⁵¹ There continue, however, to be inaccuracies in BHMAL reporting on land release, with unexplained differences in data reported by BHMAL compared to the same data reported by clearance operators. In its CCM Article 7 report covering 2022, BHMAL did not report CMR contamination by SHAs and CHAs, in a manner consistent with IMAS and only reported the SHA contamination. Although BHMAL did disaggregate land release output by non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey (TS), and clearance.

PLANNING AND TASKING

BiH's national mine action strategy for 2018–25 addresses all mine and CMR contamination. The strategy contained a strategic goal on survey and clearance that included a commitment to complete CMR clearance obligations by 1 March 2021, in line with BiH's initial CCM Article 4 deadline.⁵² However, the strategy did not contain an action plan or concrete milestones towards completion of CMR clearance.⁵³ BHMAL also elaborates annual work plans.⁵⁴

BHMAL is working in collaboration with donors and implementing agencies, including EUFOR, BiH Armed Forces, NPA, and FACP, to implement Article 4. Allocation of the remaining CMR tasks has been split between the BiH Armed Forces, FACP, and NPA, and BHMAL said that it was holding monthly meetings with NPA and government institutions to report on progress and plan CMR operations.⁵⁵

BiH submitted work plans for completion of all remaining tasks as part of its 2022 Article 4 deadline extension request. As five previously unknown cluster munition-contaminated areas were discovered during 2022, the work plans were updated and resubmitted. At the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM in August 2022, BiH submitted a work plan to address total contaminated area of 611,465m² with six tasks in progress and one task "in preparation" and all but one task due to be completed by November 2022.⁵⁶ As at March 2023, however, BHMAL reported that five tasks were still in progress, all of which were due to be completed in May 2023, with one task "in preparation" that has been assigned to the BiH Armed Forces.⁵⁷

According to BHMAL, cluster munition-contaminated areas are prioritised for clearance based on agreement with local communities and municipalities.⁵⁸

48 Email from GICHD, 27 April 2022.

49 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023.

50 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 February 2021.

51 2022 APMBL Article 4 deadline Extension Request, May 2022, p. 10 and Annex 2.

52 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 26.

53 Ibid., pp. 21–26.

54 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 22 March 2022.

55 Statement of BiH, CCM 10MSP, Geneva, 30 August 2022.

56 Current task status, CCM 10MSP, Geneva, 30 August 2022.

57 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 23 March 2023.

58 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In 2016, the Demining Commission formally adopted three revised chapters of the NMAS on land release, NTS, and TS, drafted in cooperation with EU technical assistance through the Land Release pilot project, UNDP, and the GICHD.⁵⁹ The Demining Commission adopted new standards for CMR at the beginning of 2017.⁶⁰ Plans for revising the NMAS and further development of relevant chapters was planned by BHMAL for 2020. As at June 2023, the NMAS had been updated and they were under review by BHMAL.⁶¹

BHMAL reported that survey or resurvey of hazardous areas suspected to contain CMR is conducted systematically in all land release operations.⁶²

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Technical survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated area in 2022 were conducted by NPA, the BiH Armed Forces and the FACP, and NTS were conducted by BHMAL and NPA.⁶³

Table 3: Operational NTS, TS, and clearance capacities deployed in 2022⁶⁴

| Operator | NTS teams | Total NTS personnel* | TS and clearance teams | Total TS and clearance personnel* |
|------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| BHMAL | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| NPA | 1 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| BiH Armed Forces | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| FACP | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| Totals | 5 | 10 | 6 | 36 |

* Excluding team leaders, medics, drivers, etc.

Quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) are conducted by BHMAL.⁶⁵

No animal detection systems or mechanical assets are used in CMR survey or clearance operations in BiH. This is despite the fact that in 2017, BiH announced that TS and CMR clearance would also be conducted with the use of special detection dogs (SDDs), through NPA.⁶⁶ In 2014, NPA successfully piloted the use of SDDs for technical survey and clearance of CMR-contaminated areas.⁶⁷ It recommended using detection dogs in TS (both targeted and systematic investigation), which it believes can be extremely beneficial.⁶⁸ However, as at April 2023, BHMAL had yet to make the necessary amendments to the national standards.

Following the use of drones to assist in the EU-funded "country assessment" project, BHMAL has begun to integrate procedures for the use of drones in NTS for all its NTS teams. BHMAL's use of drones during survey is proving to be useful as it reduces time to revisit some of the remotely located hazardous areas.⁶⁹

59 BHMAL, "Report on Mine Action in BiH for 2016", February 2017, p. 18; and Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 01-02-03-10-16-1-1101/16, October 2016, p. 26; BHMAL, "Adoption of three new chapters of Mine Action Standard for land release, the new approach for solving the mine problem", 28 January 2016; and email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.

60 Interview with Saša Obradovic, Director, BHMAL, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.

61 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 7 June 2023.

62 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019.

63 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 23 March 2023.

64 Ibid.

65 2020 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

66 Statement of BiH, CCM Seventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 4–6 September 2017.

67 Email from Amela Balić, NPA Bosnia, 15 April 2015.

68 Emails from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 5 June 2019; and Charles Frisby, NPA, 19 March 2022.

69 Email from GICHD, 27 April 2022.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

Based on data reported by BHMAC to Mine Action Review, a total of nearly 1.33km² of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2022: more than 0.30km² through NTS, more than 0.38km² through TS, and over 0.64km² through clearance, during which a total of 1,599 submunitions were destroyed. A further 21 submunitions were destroyed in spot tasks.

SURVEY IN 2022

In 2022, 0.30km² was cancelled through NTS (see Table 4) and 0.38km² of CMR-contaminated area was reduced through TS (see Table 5), as reported by BHMAC to Mine Action Review.⁷⁰ This is an increase from the 0.24km² of CMR-contaminated area cancelled through NTS and 0.36km² of CMR-contaminated area reduced through TS in 2021.⁷¹

Table 4: Cancellation through NTS in 2022⁷²

| Canton | Operator | Area reduced (m ²) |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Tuzla | BHMAC/NPA | 20,160 |
| Tuzla | BHMAC/NPA | 39,300 |
| Canton 10 | BHMAC/NPA | 143,177 |
| Canton 10 | BHMAC/NPA | 100,607 |
| Total | | 303,244 |

Table 5: Reduction through TS in 2022⁷³

| Canton | Operator | Area reduced (m ²) |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hercegovacko Neretvanski | FACP | 7,492 |
| Zanicko-Dobojski | BiH Armed Forces | 97,761 |
| Tuzla | BiH Armed Forces | 79,932 |
| Tuzla | NPA | 126,827 |
| Republika Srpska | NPA | 64,235 |
| Total | | 376,247 |

CLEARANCE IN 2022

In 2022, over 0.64km² of CMR-contaminated area was cleared, with the destruction of 1,599 submunitions (see Table 6).⁷⁴ This is an increase from the nearly 0.62km² of CMR-contaminated area cleared in 2021, with the destruction of 704 submunitions.⁷⁵ In addition, FACP reported destroying 21 submunitions during explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks in 2022, which were not reported by BHMAC. The FACP believes this is because BHMAC reports these as UXO.⁷⁶

According to BHMAC, there was one CMR task in Canton 10 in the municipality of Glamoč, at a shooting range, totalling 33,740m² which was cleared in 2022 and in which no submunitions were found.⁷⁷ The FACP reported that they released through a mixture of TS and clearance one task of 9,996m² in the Herzegovina-Neretva canton in the municipality of Mostar with no submunitions found.⁷⁸

⁷⁰ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

⁷¹ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022.

⁷² Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023; and Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form F. NPA reported cancelling 244,678m² in Republika Srpska. To NPAs knowledge, survey data is still not entered accurately into the BHMAC database.

⁷³ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023; and Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form F. NPA reported reducing 89,800m² in Republika Srpska. The difference is due to the slow process of certification of completed projects by BHMAC.

⁷⁴ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

⁷⁵ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022.

⁷⁶ Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 23 March 2023.

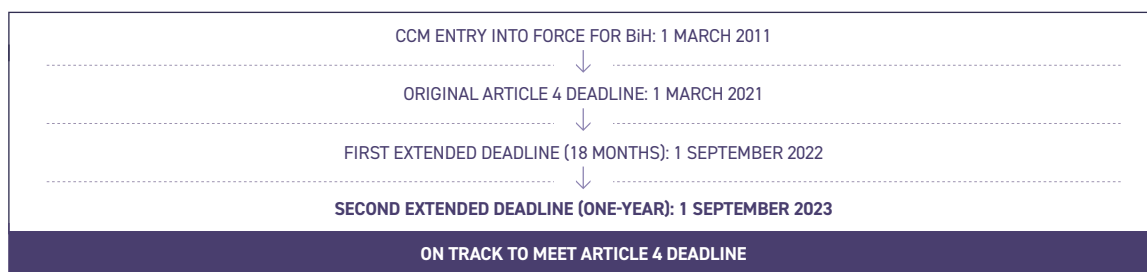
⁷⁷ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.

⁷⁸ Emails from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 23 March and 8 June 2023.

Table 6: CMR clearance in 2022⁷⁹

| Canton | Operator | Area cleared (m ²) | Submunitions destroyed |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Herzegovina-Neretva | FACP | 2,503 | 0 |
| Zenica-Doboj | NPA/BiH Armed Forces | 202,252 | 715 |
| Tuzla Canton | NPA | 149,831 | 56 |
| Tuzla Canton | BiH Armed Forces | 135,330 | 725 |
| Canton 10 | NPA | 41,909 | 88 |
| Republic of Srpska | NPA | 108,539 | 15 |
| Sub totals | | 640,364 | 1,599 |
| Spot tasks | | | 21 |
| Totals | | 640,364 | 1,620 |

ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 4 of the CCM, BiH is required to destroy all CMR in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 September 2023, having been granted a one-year extension. BHMAC has reported that it is currently on track to achieve completion by the extended deadline, with three of the six remaining tasks completed as at 5 June 2023, with two remaining tasks due to be completed by the end of June and the final task by the end of July.⁸⁰ BHMAC has been holding regular coordination meetings with NPA, the BiH Armed Forces, and FACP, supported by EUFOR, to follow up on potential risks to task completion and NPA was standing ready with operational capacity support as needed in 2023.⁸¹

BiH's first request to extend its Article 4 deadline was granted by States Parties in February 2021.⁸² Prior to the unexpected discovery of the five new CMR-contaminated areas, BHMAC had been aiming to complete CMR clearance by September 2022, however, a further one-year extension to its clearance deadline was sought.⁸³ However, even if the previously unknown additional CMR-contaminated areas had not been discovered, BiH's 2022 deadline would still have been extremely tight, leaving no margin for unforeseen delays or for BHMAC to prepare final documentation and issue land release certificates. This issue highlights the importance of affected states establishing evidence-based and accurate baselines as soon as possible in order to be able to plan for completion concretely and successfully. It also highlights the importance of affected states having an accurate national information management system, as well as sustainable national capacity to deal with residual contamination post-completion.

⁷⁹ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023 and Article 7 report (covering 2022), Form F. NPA did not report any clearance in Zenica-Doboj canton in 2022. In Canton 10, FACP reported clearing 77,365m² and destroying 440 submunitions although BHMAC have not included this as CMR clearance as they report that the 440 items found were not submunitions. In Republika Srpska, NPA reported clearing 41,700m² and destroying 8 submunitions.

⁸⁰ Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March and 7 June 2023.

⁸¹ Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023.

⁸² Email from the CCM Secretariat to States Parties to the CCM, 1 March 2021.

⁸³ Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022.

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 (1 March 2021), had there been greater political will, national ownership, and commitment from BHMAC, the Demining Commission, and their superiors in the government. Only 2.5km² of CMR-contamination has been cleared in the last five years (see Table 7).

Table 7: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

| Year | Area cleared (km ²) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 2022 | 0.64 |
| 2021 | 0.62 |
| 2020 | 0.35 |
| 2019 | 0.45 |
| 2018 | *0.44 |
| Total | 2.50 |

*Includes area released through both clearance and TS

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

The National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 required the development of a strategy for the management of residual contamination by 2022. As at April 2023, the strategy had still to be elaborated but according to BHMAC an NMAS on management of residual contamination will be included in the updated standards once they are launched.⁸⁴

84 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 23 March 2023.