

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



## CLEARING THE MINES 2021

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2027  
UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

### KEY DATA

#### ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: HEAVY

MINE ACTION REVIEW ESTIMATE

**50** KM<sup>2</sup>

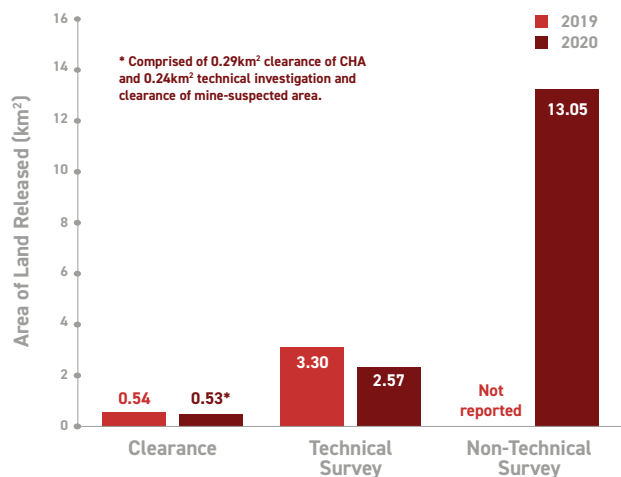
AP MINE  
CLEARANCE IN 2020

**0.53** KM<sup>2</sup>\*

AP MINES  
DESTROYED IN 2020

**1,342**

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): **LOW**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was granted a request to extend its Article 5 deadline by a further six years to 1 March 2027.

The European Union (EU)-funded country assessment project, which took place from July 2018 to May 2020, consisted of non-technical survey of all remaining areas suspected to be mined. The project grouped together suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) into logical units/polygons based on economic, cultural, geographical, or other reasons, encompassing one or more impacted communities, in what the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) terms "Mine Suspected Areas" (MSAs). The MSAs will then be assigned as single organisational tasks to clearance operators for land release.

However, despite one of the aims of the country assessment project being to improve BiH's baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination, the assessment did not result in a significant amount of cancellation of mined area. This appears to be largely the result of the decision by BHMIC to only cancel uncontaminated area once technical survey and clearance in each MSA has been fully completed.

According to targets in its 2020 Article 5 extension request, BiH had expected to release a total of 71.8km<sup>2</sup> in 2020. It appears that actual output has fallen far short, with only 0.53km<sup>2</sup> cleared in 2020 (29km<sup>2</sup> of CHA and 0.24km<sup>2</sup> of MSA released through combined technical investigation and clearance), 2.57km<sup>2</sup> reduced, and 13.04km<sup>2</sup> cancelled.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- The amended demining law drafted in 2017, which has still to be adopted, should be revised further and re-submitted to Parliament for adoption. Liability policy and clearly defining "all reasonable effort" in the context of BiH should be discussed in parallel with the revision of the amended draft law.
- BiH should implement the recommendations of both the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment, and the 2016 performance audit report of the Audit Office of the Institutions of BiH,<sup>1</sup> both of which remain valid. In particular, BiH should continue reforming and strengthening the governance and management of the mine action programme.

- BHMAC should fully adopt international best practice in land release and ensure that all stakeholders, in all parts of BiH (including BHMAC's regional offices), are consistent in their approach, in particular regarding the use of evidence-based survey to more accurately identify and delineate areas of actual contamination prior to clearance, releasing areas found not to be contaminated.
- As part of efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of land release operations, BHMAC should review and update relevant national mine action standards (NMAS) to bring them in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), in collaboration between demining organisations and other implementing partners. To facilitate this process, BHMAC should consider re-establishing technical working groups (TWGs).
- BHMAC should develop a detailed, costed, and multi-year Article 5 work plan with achievable and measurable milestones and update its national mine action strategy for 2018–25 accordingly.
- BiH should fully embrace the “Country Coalition” approach, in partnership with Germany, which can provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders to strengthen coordination and identify and overcome challenges.
- BHMAC should report more accurately and consistently on the extent of anti-personnel mine contamination, including using the classification of SHA and CHA in a manner consistent with IMAS.
- In its reporting, BHMAC should disaggregate release through technical survey from release through clearance, including with regard to processing of MSAs. Furthermore, BHMAC should ensure it reports the amount of mined area cancelled through non-technical survey upon completion of release of each MSP.
- BHMAC should provide information on what steps it plans to take to further mainstream gender and diversity within its mine action programme and strive to improve gender balance in the sector, at the least by meeting the target of 40% female staff set by the 2003 Law on Gender Equality.

## ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

| Criterion  | Score (2020) | Score (2019) | Performance Commentary   |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| <b>UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION</b><br>(20% of overall score)              | 5            | 5            | The EU-funded “country assessment” project, which was completed in May 2020, groups SHAs and CHAs together into logical units/polygons known as “MSAs”, which are then each tasked for land release. The results of the country assessment were expected to facilitate planning and tasking, however the understanding and accuracy of BiH's baseline of remaining anti-personnel mine contamination have not markedly improved, with less than 10% of mined area cancelled during implementation of the country assessment project. It is expected that many of the SHAs contained within the MSAs are still inflated and will be further reduced. However, only BHMAC can formally conduct and cancel area through non-technical survey in BiH, with operators restricted to release through technical survey and clearance only (see also, criterion on Land release system below).   |
| <b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b><br>(10% of overall score) | 5            | 5            | National ownership of mine action in BiH falls under the responsibility of the Demining Commission and BHMAC. BiH's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 was adopted in January 2019, but as at July 2021, the amended demining law (2017) was still awaiting parliamentary adoption. Governance of the national mine action programme needs to be strengthened and Article 5 implementation better coordinated. It is hoped that the Country Coalition established between BiH and Germany in 2020 will 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 monitor progress against the 2018–25 strategy. However, due to COVID-19, the Country Coalition has only met once so far, virtually, in October 2020. |
| <b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b><br>(10% of overall score)                        | 5            | 5            | The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 supports the 2003 Law on Gender Equality. BHMAC has stated that, under its leadership, relevant actors will include gender in all phases of all mine action activities. Two of the three members of the appointed Demining Commission are women. However, within BHMAC's own programme, and those of clearance operators too, women make up only a small proportion of the total number of staff, and an even smaller proportion of operations staff in the field.   |

| Criterion  | Score (2020) | Score (2019) | Performance Commentary  |
|--|--------------|--------------|---|
| <b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b><br>(10% of overall score)          | 5            | 6            | BHMAC is still in the process of migrating from its own information management system to the new web-based system, IMSMA [Information Management System for Mine Action] Core, with the support of UNDP and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). In addition, UNDP has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) mobile application, which was released in November 2020. Reporting appears to have become more complicated since the establishment of MSAs, with BiH's Article 7 report only specifying the amount of CHA cleared in 2020 and not the land released through technical investigation in MSA.  |
| <b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b><br>(10% of overall score)                          | 7            | 7            | In 2020, BHMAC was granted a request to extend its Article 5 deadline by six years to 1 March 2027. The EU-funded "country assessment" project, which was completed in May 2020, resulted in the creation of 478 "MSAs which will be tasked as single units for land release. The results of the project will inform the planning, prioritisation, and realisation of the Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 and of BiH's future Article 5 implementation, as outlined in its 2020 extension request. A first revision of BiH's Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25 was scheduled for 2020, but is reported to have been delayed until 2023.   |
| <b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b><br>(20% of overall score)                           | 7            | 8            | There is strong national and international demining capacity, and the full demining toolbox is deployed. It is now essential that all implementing partners, in all parts of the country, including BHMAC regional offices, apply efficient, evidenced-based land release methodology. Despite plans to do so, BHMAC did not review its national mine action standards in 2020. A review is urgently needed, to bring standards in line with international standards and best practice and to help ensure the efficiency of survey operations. In particular, non-technical and technical survey must be used to help confirm and better delineate mined areas prior to clearance.  |
| <b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b><br>(20% of overall score) | 4            | 5            | In 2020, BiH was granted a six-year extension to its Article 5 deadline to 1 March 2027. This target is achievable, with existing capacity, if efficient land release methodology is applied routinely by all clearance operators and annual targets are met. However, in 2020, BiH cleared under 0.53km <sup>2</sup> of mined area (including 29km <sup>2</sup> of CHA), similar to the previous year, and lower than the 0.8km <sup>2</sup> planned for clearance in 2020 according to BiH's extension request targets. Furthermore, the 2.57km <sup>2</sup> reduced through technical survey in 2020 was significantly less than the 12.7km <sup>2</sup> planned in its extension request. A total of 13.04km <sup>2</sup> was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2020. |
| <b>Average Score</b>   | <b>5.4</b>   | <b>5.9</b>   | <b>Overall Programme Performance: Average</b>   |

## DEMINEING CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- The Demining Commission (representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Security, and Defence) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs))
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Armed Forces of BiH
- BHMAC
- Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska (CPA RS)
- Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP)
- Non-governmental organisations:
  - DEMIRA
  - Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC)
  - Pro Vita
  - UEM

### Commercial demining companies:

- Detector
- Humanitarian Demining Centre
- In Demining N.H.O
- N&N Ivsa
- Point
- UEM d.o.o (UEM is also an NGO)

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

### OTHER ACTORS

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

## UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

BiH is heavily contaminated with mines, primarily as a result of the 1992–95 conflict related to the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. All warring factions in BiH laid mines, primarily between confrontation lines.<sup>2</sup> More than twenty-five years after the end of the conflict, BiH is still one of the most heavily mined countries in Europe. The country is also contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munition remnants (CMR) (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants* report on BiH for further information).

Minefields in BiH generally contain relatively small numbers of mines, which are typically either "in groups or randomly laid". The quality of approximately 30% of minefield records was not sufficiently accurate for the identification of the precise minefield location and shape. Furthermore, it seems that approximately 40% of minefield records were never made or handed over, and records were often destroyed or lost for several reasons, such as the death or emigration of the persons who created the minefield records.<sup>3</sup> Physical changes to mined areas (such as in vegetation), and a lack of witnesses to the laying of the mines, pose additional challenges.<sup>4</sup>

At the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties in November 2020, BiH reported that there were 478 "MSAs" (i.e. geographically grouped SHAs and CHAs) across 118 municipalities and that remaining mined area totalled 956.36km<sup>2</sup>, which equated to 1.88% of its total territory.<sup>5</sup>

As at July 2021, BiH had yet to submit an Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 7 transparency report covering 2020. However, BHMAC reported to Mine Action Review that as at the end of 2020, there was more than 956km<sup>2</sup> of mined area remaining in BiH (see Table 1). The mined area was broken down into categories for prioritisation, but not into SHA and CHA, as is best practice. Category I includes humanitarian and economic development projects (for example renovation and reconstruction of facilities, and construction of roads and electricity networks. Category II encompasses areas in occasional use or areas that border with Category I areas. Category III encompasses SHAs in occasional use that do not contain resources of strategic importance.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1: Suspected anti-personnel mined area (at end 2020)<sup>7</sup>**

| Canton                  | Category I (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Category II (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Category III (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Total (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Unsko-Sanki             | 38.89                         | 37.23                          | 18.96                           | 95.08                    |
| Posavski                | 3.40                          | 9.72                           | 1.86                            | 14.98                    |
| Tuzlanski               | 16.78                         | 18.32                          | 45.59                           | 80.69                    |
| Zenicko-Dobojski        | 28.48                         | 11.67                          | 74.52                           | 114.67                   |
| Bosansko-Podrinjski     | 4.91                          | 8.92                           | 33.00                           | 46.83                    |
| Srednje-Bosanski        | 24.42                         | 39.06                          | 47.48                           | 110.96                   |
| Hercegovacko-Neret      | 13.37                         | 25.35                          | 111.08                          | 149.80                   |
| Zapadno Hercegovacki    | 0.00                          | 0.00                           | 0.82                            | 0.82                     |
| Sarajevo                | 16.89                         | 12.48                          | 28.69                           | 58.06                    |
| Canton 10               | 10.24                         | 12.66                          | 56.07                           | 78.97                    |
| <b>BiH Federation</b>   | <b>157.38</b>                 | <b>175.41</b>                  | <b>418.07</b>                   | <b>750.86</b>            |
| <b>Brčko district</b>   | <b>0.91</b>                   | <b>9.36</b>                    | <b>2.72</b>                     | <b>12.99</b>             |
| <b>Republika Srpska</b> | <b>59.77</b>                  | <b>70.56</b>                   | <b>62.18</b>                    | <b>192.51</b>            |
| <b>Totals</b>           | <b>218.06</b>                 | <b>255.33</b>                  | <b>482.97</b>                   | <b>956.36</b>            |

A 2016 national audit office report on the efficiency of the demining system in BiH concluded that: "Twenty years after the war ended, the Mine Action Centre still does not have complete information on the locations of landmines in BiH, which is to say it does not know the total suspected hazardous area."<sup>8</sup> Similarly, a 2015 UNDP evaluation reported that BHMAC is aware that not all of the SHA is actually mined, but "without more efficient non-technical survey and technical survey procedures the exact extent of the problem cannot be quantified."<sup>9</sup>

During 2017, plans were formalised between BHMAC, clearance operators, and the EU for a country assessment to establish a more accurate baseline of mine contamination and improve the efficiency of clearance operations.<sup>10</sup> The resultant "Country assessment of mine-suspected areas

in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018–2019" project (hereafter, the "country assessment" project), was conducted between 16 August 2018 and 15 May 2020, and involved nationwide non-technical survey of mined areas conducted by BHMAC (nine non-technical survey teams), the Armed Forces of BiH (two teams), and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA, three teams). The project processed data for 143 municipalities, in which the mined areas were confirmed in 118.<sup>11</sup>

A total of 103km<sup>2</sup> was released during the period of implementation of the County Assessment Project (in 2018, 37km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled through non-technical methods and 6km<sup>2</sup> was reduced and cleared through operational activities of demining organisations; in 2019, 27km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled as a result of the project and an additional 22.5km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled by BHMAC and 3.5km<sup>2</sup> reduced by demining organisations;

and in the first five months of 2020 BHM MAC cancelled 7km<sup>2</sup> through non-technical means). Total mined area fell from 1,069km<sup>2</sup> in 2018 to 966m<sup>2</sup> at project completion (15 May 2020), with an estimated 180,000 mines and UXO remaining to be cleared.<sup>12</sup>

The mined area remaining at the end of the country assessment project was subdivided into 478 MSAs, averaging 1.94km<sup>2</sup> in size.<sup>13</sup> The 93.5km<sup>2</sup> cancelled during the country assessment project,<sup>14</sup> was less than 10% of the total mined area at the start of the project, although the amount of area cancelled varied between BHM MAC regional offices. Significant further cancellation of uncontaminated land is expected, but BHM MAC intends to only cancel area within each respective MSA once operators have fully completed technical survey and clearance.<sup>15</sup>

MSA is a BiH-specific term, not consistent with IMAS. It is defined by BHM MAC as "an area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural or geographical and other reasons is selected as a logical unit".<sup>16</sup> MSAs have been selected by BHM MAC in close cooperation with municipal authorities. It is hoped that their creation will simplify the tasking process by assigning clearance operators a larger geographical area in which to conduct land release operations (i.e. survey and clearance of the SHAs and CHAs within the MSAs), with MSAs each averaging 1.7/2.5km<sup>2</sup> in size.<sup>17</sup>

The country assessment was entirely based on non-technical survey, however it did not result in a significant amount of cancellation, as had been the external expectation of the international community. Therefore, it is crucial that non-technical survey is used effectively to identify the

location of mine contamination more accurately, before technical survey is subsequently conducted. However, current national mine action standards and SOPs in BiH stipulate that only BHM MAC can formally conduct non-technical survey and cancel land. Operators can, however, provide supplementary information collected during survey and community liaison to support BHM MAC's non-technical survey, but only BHM MAC can formally cancel uncontaminated land – something which it does at the end of the process, once technical survey and clearance of all hazardous areas within each MSA has been completed.

Non-technical survey field activities under the country assessment project were completed in December 2019. The overall project had originally planned to be completed in February 2020, but was subsequently extended until 15 May 2020 to allow sufficient time for verification and analysis of the large quantities of data generated.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, the mapping of the MSAs created during the country assessment, preparation of assessment reports for individual MSAs for affected communities, and quality assurance (QA) of documents/reports also required more time than originally planned.<sup>19</sup>

As a result of the non-technical survey, the GEO position of 1,151 minefields was corrected, 300 new minefield records were collected, and 6,023 minefield records were deleted from the database.<sup>20</sup> The project did not involve any technical interventions, so no area was reduced or cleared as part of it.

The intended use of the remaining mined area in BiH is as follows: 70% forest, 19% agriculture, 2% infrastructure, 1% water resources, and 8% other usages.<sup>21</sup>

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## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Demining Commission, under the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, supervises the State-wide BHM MAC and represents BiH in its relations with the international community on mine-related issues.<sup>22</sup> The Demining Commission is composed of representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Defence, and Security) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs). Whereas the Minister for Civil Affairs remains ultimately responsible for mine action, the Demining Commission is the strategic body responsible for setting mine action policy, and it proposes the appointment of BHM MAC senior staff, for approval by the Council of Ministers.<sup>23</sup>

While parliamentary elections in BiH were in October 2018, a new state-level government was only formed in December 2019. During this period, the mandate of the Demining Commission (the only body in BiH authorised to accredit and re-accredit demining organisations and to approve draft demining laws, work plans, and Article 5 deadline extension requests) expired in October 2019, affecting BiH's internal and external political representation. As there was no Demining Commission in place from late October 2019 to 19 April 2020, accreditations of clearance organisations that expired could not be renewed during this six-month period, thereby having a direct impact on survey and clearance efforts. By the time the new Demining Commission was commissioned on 30 April 2020, the accreditation for much of BiH's demining capacity had expired and required renewal, including that of the BiH Armed Forces and the Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP).<sup>24</sup>

According to a 2016 audit office report, "The Commission has not developed a methodology on how to monitor the work of the BHM MAC".<sup>25</sup> BHM MAC, established by a 2002 Decree of the Council of Ministers, is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH's survey and clearance plans.<sup>26</sup> BHM MAC 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).<sup>27</sup>

Since 2008, efforts have been made to adopt new mine action legislation in BiH with a view to creating a stable platform for mine action funding by the government and local authorities. As at June 2020, however, an amended text from 2017 was still awaiting parliamentary adoption, and in July 2021, BHM MAC reported that the process had been suspended.<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> Clearer legislation on liabilities related to mine action activities would be beneficial to all mine action stakeholders in BiH.

The governance of BiH's mine action programme needs to be strengthened and would benefit from improved communication and coordination with clearance operators, including through the re-establishment of TWGs, which provide a platform for operators to discuss, learn from each other, and work in synergies on matters related to operations.

After a 10-year hiatus, Board of Donor meetings resumed in September 2015.<sup>30</sup> As at July 2020, however, the last Board of Donor meeting had taken place in Sarajevo in November 2017.<sup>31</sup> BiH's new National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 specifies that at least two such meetings should be organised every year.<sup>32</sup>

However, while official Board of Donor meetings have not taken place recently, a number of important multi-stakeholder workshops have. A workshop on 28–30 January 2020, convened by BHMAC, and attended by operators, expert organisations, and donors, was convened to present the provisional results of the country assessment, discuss mid-term planning, and help inform the elaboration of BiH's Article 5 extension request.<sup>33</sup> A further workshop on BiH's Article 5 planning took place on 6 March 2020, organised by BHMAC in cooperation with the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC, and attended by State institutions, clearance operators, and non-government organisations (NGOs), and representatives of international organisations.<sup>34</sup> However, aside from this meeting, there was no further consultation with implementing partners during BiH's elaboration of its 2020 Article 5 extension request. On 28 April 2020, BHMAC convened an online meeting with donor representatives, in which it provided updates on recent progress in mine action, including plans to amend the NMAS. During the meeting, donors expressed concern because of the delay in demining process caused by the failure to form the Demining Commission;<sup>35</sup> something which has subsequently been addressed.

In its 2020 Article 5 extension request, BHMAC and the Demining Commission committed to strive to increase their interaction with the donor community to ensure that partners are kept informed of progress in implementation of plans.<sup>36</sup> It is hoped that the "Country Coalition" established between BiH and Germany, will provide a forum for regular dialogue among all mine action stakeholders, help demonstrate national ownership, strengthen coordination of APMBC Article 5 and CCM Article 4 implementation, 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 on 13 October 2020. The online forum was attended by over 40 participants including representatives from a wide range of mine action stakeholders, including NGO clearance operators and donors. The conference was focused on the political aspects of mine action in BiH, as well as on the technical challenges in the release of remaining contaminated areas.<sup>37</sup> It provided an opportunity for participants to highlight the progress being made in BiH and underline remaining challenges and obstacles towards completion.<sup>38</sup> However, as at July 2021, a follow-on Country Coalition meeting had yet to take place.

On 12 November 2020, BiH and the BHMAC, together with the APMBC Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, convened an "Individualised Approach Platform" virtual meeting, to openly discuss the current status of its mine action programme and approaches to overcoming challenges in implementation of Article 5.<sup>39</sup>

BHMAC is funded by the common institutions of BiH and other institutions at State level.<sup>40</sup> BiH State funding also supports survey and clearance of mines. Operations of the BiH Armed Forces are supported by the State budget of BiH, while the Government of the Federation of BiH finances the operations of Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP).<sup>41</sup> The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska is financed by the Government of Republika Srpska.<sup>42</sup>

BiH's second goal, in its National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, is that the "Mine action programme in BH is promoted on both national and international level to increase its visibility and improve liability, commitment and support of the state", and the strategy includes operational goals linked to this strategic goal.<sup>43</sup> As committed to in its national mine action strategy, BiH published a separate financial plan for implementation of the BiH mine action strategy for 2018–25. The plan sees BiH commit a national budget of 4.5 million BAM (over US\$2.5 million) per annum for the Armed Forces and 5.945 million BAM (US\$3.4 million) per annum for BHMAC, for 2019 and 2020. These amounts were forecast to increase to a total of 21.55 million BAM (over US\$12.3 million, at current exchange rates) per annum in 2025.<sup>44</sup> This national funding is in addition to forecast international funding, which is also budgeted in BiH's financial plan.<sup>45</sup>

In order to fulfil its Article 5 obligations by 1 March 2027, BiH claims to require a total of BAM 336 million.<sup>46</sup> Of the national funding contributions, funds for non-technical survey activities by BHMAC will be ensured from the budgets of BiH's institutions, and implemented through operational activities of BHMAC. Budgets of BiH's institutions will also ensure funds for technical survey and mine clearance activities, to be implemented by Armed Forces. Entity governments' budgets will also ensure funds for technical survey and mine clearance operations, to be implemented by entity civilian protections. In addition, national funding will be provided from Brčko District, cantons and municipalities, and public and private companies.<sup>47</sup> According to a statement of the Demining Commission in November 2020, the ratio of donor funds was 55% compared to 45% from national funding.<sup>48</sup>

On 7 April 2020, it was announced that €10 million of EU funding under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) 2018–20 programme, which had been intended for humanitarian demining, had been diverted to COVID-19 and migration issues. The EU funds had been intended for support of mine action in BiH, including the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies for BHMAC's work, the entity Civil Protections, as well as financing of demining projects of priority areas.<sup>49</sup>

According to BiH, as at 2020, available financial resources had not met the projected funding of the Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, which may not allow "full realisation" of the goals set.<sup>50</sup>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 specifies that: “Under the leadership of BHMAC, relevant actors will include gender and diversity into all phases of planning, realisation and follow-up of all mine activities”.<sup>51</sup> The mine action strategy considered and supported the 2003 Law on Gender Equality in BiH, which includes equal treatment of the genders and equality of opportunity, and prohibits direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of gender. The Law on Gender Equality determines that equal representation of men and women exists when the percentage of either gender in bodies at all levels in BiH (State, entity, cantonal, and municipality level) is at least 40%. BiH’s national mine action strategy also considered the 2017 Gender Equality Action Plan.<sup>52</sup> However, as at June 2021, 25% of BHMAC’s employees were female, with women employed in 8% of managerial/supervisory positions and 10% of operations positions.<sup>53</sup> BHMAC reported that it has a gender and diversity policy and that BHMAC upholds the Law on Gender Equality and routinely includes it in the development of strategies and standards.<sup>54</sup>

BHMAC has reported that it consults all groups affected by mines, including women and children, during survey and community liaison activities, and BHMAC’s survey and community liaison teams are inclusive with a view to facilitating this. BHMAC also reported that relevant mine action data is disaggregated by gender and age.<sup>55</sup> BiH’s Article 5 deadline extension request, granted in 2020, did not contain information on what steps BHMAC plans to take to mainstream gender and diversity within its survey and clearance programme.

In a welcome development, however, two out of three of the new members of BiH’s Demining Commission, adopted on 30 April 2020, are women.<sup>56</sup>

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska reported that nearly 24% of its staff were female, including 30% of managerial/supervisory positions. It has six female medics, but none of its operations staff is a woman.<sup>57</sup> During survey and community liaison activities, it cooperates with the local population, regardless of ethnicity, and where needed has representatives from different ethnic groups.<sup>58</sup>

As at June 2021, the Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH had a workforce of 535 personnel, including 27 women

(5% of the total). Three of these women were in managerial/supervisory positions and the remainder were working in operations.<sup>59</sup>

The FACP reported that of its 139 employees deployed in demining and destruction of UXO, 17 (12%) are women, including three (43%) of the seven managerial positions.<sup>60</sup>

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) has a gender policy and equal employment opportunities for suitably qualified females and males.<sup>61</sup> However, of MAG’s 80 staff in BiH, only eight are women (10%), including four (7%) of its survey and clearance personnel (including medics), and four (50%) of its managerial/supervisory positions.<sup>62</sup> MAG’s survey and clearance teams consult with women and men in communities neighbouring its operations, to obtain as much relevant data as possible for the conduct of land release activities.<sup>63</sup> MAG also conducts regular informant interviews with all entity groups, and its teams are mixed and include all three entity groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs).<sup>64</sup> MAG recruited a mixed community liaison capacity in October 2020, comprising two women and one man, of the different constituent groups, to support it to better take into consideration gender and diversity dynamics its land release work.<sup>65</sup>

NPA reports promoting gender equality in all aspects of its programme activities in BiH. Mixed gender representation is an obligation for NPA teams conducting community liaison and risk education.<sup>66</sup> That said, NPA reported that the overall gender split of its staff as at February 2021 was 107 men and 16 women, which represents 13% female staff. Women only accounted for 7 of NPA’s 92 (8%) operational staff deployed in the field.<sup>67</sup> NPA explained that it rarely received applications from women for vacant operational roles. NPA says it is working to achieve a gender balance, and that the programme encourages the employment of women, including into managerial and operational staff positions.<sup>68</sup> Three of the five (60%) managerial positions in the NPA BiH programme are held by women.<sup>69</sup> During the implementation of its activities, NPA teams organise meetings with female representatives in smaller groups, to provide a forum in which women may feel more comfortable to talk about potentially contaminated areas in their community and NPA’s interventions.<sup>70</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

BHMAC is in the process of migrating from its own information management system, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Information System (BHMAIS), to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core, with the support of UNDP and the GICHD, and with financing from the EU.<sup>71</sup>

The joint development of IMSMA Core in BiH began in 2019. GICHD training on the new system was also planned for BHMAC staff, which will take place once the situation with COVID-19 permits.<sup>72</sup> As at July 2021, only data from the country assessment project had been transferred from BHMAIS to IMSMA Core so far, and BHMAC did not expect to complete the full migration until 2022.<sup>73</sup> Once in place, the database should be sustainable according to the GICHD, although the programme will still be susceptible to potential

challenges stemming from turnover of key staff positions in the BHMAC IM department.<sup>74</sup>

In addition, UNDP has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) mobile application, which was released in November 2020. This allows the general public to access information on locations of hazardous areas, as well as other features, through Android and iOS Apple devices.<sup>75</sup>

At present, while clearance operators do have access to data on specific tasks being undertaken, they do not have access to BHMAC’s full Information Management database.<sup>76</sup>

The planned 2020 roll out of MAG’s new global Information Management System (GIS, and compatible with IMSMA Core) in BiH was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and was scheduled instead for 2021.<sup>77</sup>

BHMAC does not report consistently on anti-personnel mine contamination by SHAs and CHAs, in a manner consistent with IMAS. In addition, there are frequent inaccuracies in BHMAC reporting on land release. In its reporting to Mine Action Review, BHMAC did not disaggregate release through technical survey from release through clearance, with regards to processing of MSAs. Furthermore, cancellation of mined area can only reportedly be reported by BHMAC itself, at the end of the process, once technical survey and clearance have been completed.<sup>78</sup>

As at July 2021, BiH had yet to submit a APMBC Article 7 report covering 2020.

## PLANNING AND TASKING

In 2017, BiH developed a new national mine action strategy for 2018–25, with support from the GICHD, which addresses all mine and cluster munition remnant contamination. The strategy was formally adopted in January 2019.<sup>79</sup> The BiH previous Mine Action Strategy for 2009–19, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2008,<sup>80</sup> set the target of the country becoming free of mines by 2019. It failed by some distance to meet this target.

The new Strategy contains a general plan and timeframe for the completion of mine clearance, as well as for cluster munition remnants. BHMAC planned to have the first revision of the Strategy at the end of 2020, based on the results of the country assessment project and progress in implementation of the strategy to date,<sup>81</sup> and according to the strategy, a second revision is planned for 2023.<sup>82</sup> In November 2020, the Demining Commission reported that a request would be sent to the Council of Ministers to initiate a first revision of the Mine Action Strategy for 2018–25, in line with the latest information.<sup>83</sup> However, BHMAC subsequently reported that the *first* revision was only expected to be completed in 2023.<sup>84</sup>

BHMAC also elaborates and implements annual work plans, which are adopted by the Demining Commission. Political issues can result in delay in adoption of annual work plans, for example the six-month delay in the appointment of the new Demining Commission.

A three-day multi-stakeholder workshop took place on 28–30 January 2020 in Sarajevo, to present the preliminary results of the EU-funded country assessment project and discuss how they inform mid-term planning for Article 5 implementation.<sup>85</sup> During the workshop, working groups elaborated three mid-term action plans for 2020–25, based on low, medium, and high scenarios for Article 5 implementation (with completion targets of 2029, 2027, and 2026 respectively), based on different projected capacities.<sup>86</sup>

According to BiH's 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request, from 2020 to 2027 BiH plans to release a total of 967km<sup>2</sup>: 816.6km<sup>2</sup> through cancellation; 141.7km<sup>2</sup> through reduction; and 7.8km<sup>2</sup> through clearance.<sup>87</sup> Annually, BiH planned to release 71.8km<sup>2</sup> in 2020; 91.3km<sup>2</sup> in 2021; 110.3km<sup>2</sup> in 2022; 126.4km<sup>2</sup> in 2023; 145.5km<sup>2</sup> in 2024; 155.7km<sup>2</sup> in 2025; 131.4km<sup>2</sup> in 2026; and 134.6km<sup>2</sup> in 2027. While BiH did disaggregate the amount cancelled, reduced, and cleared each year, in its operational plan, the totals in several columns did not correctly sum to the annual total.<sup>88</sup>

The 478 MSAs created through the country assessment project, are intended to enable mine action operations to better respond to the needs of the community through the strengthening of community liaison and by ensuring that community needs are better prioritised and addressed.<sup>89</sup>

During the country assessment, local administrations and BHMAC agreed upon the size and priority of MSAs. In its extension request, BiH describes its prioritisation system for releasing MSAs, which is said to accord with humanitarian, developmental, and safety needs of municipality and local communities, as well as the level of threat (high, medium, or low).<sup>90</sup> Of the 478 MSAs created, 189 were high-risk MSAs, 274 medium-risk MSAs, and 15 low-risk MSAs.<sup>91</sup> Conversion of MSAs from “classic” to “land release” projects can reportedly take months at a central level.<sup>92</sup> As at July 2021, BHMAC had not yet finished preparing task dossiers of all 478 MSAs created during the country assessment.<sup>93</sup> However, in 2020, general / non-technical reconnaissance operations were performed on an area of 27.72km<sup>2</sup> and a total of 43 new projects (totalling 31.66km<sup>2</sup>) were prepared ready for land release.<sup>94</sup>

In 2020, the Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska was tasked with land release of MSAs generated as a result of the EU-funded country assessment, and reported that task dossiers were issued in a timely and effective manner.<sup>95</sup> The FACP also commenced land release of MSAs in Una Bihać National Park in 2020, and reported that some projects were not submitted on time, as the BHMAC assessment had not been completed on time.<sup>96</sup> NPA reported that while MSAs were tasked in a timely manner, task dossiers did not always contain comprehensive non-technical survey information required for efficient technical survey and clearance operations.<sup>97</sup>

Some MSAs that MAG opened in 2020 were divided into two parts (to be consistent with the average size of MSAs created by the country assessment).<sup>98</sup>

International NGOs (INGOs) reported that they are assigned whole MSAs by BHMAC, inside of which BHMAC then designates specific areas (CHA or SHA polygons) for either systematic technical survey or targeted technical survey, and clearance (if contamination is confirmed). Officially, only BHMAC can conduct non-technical survey and release mined area through cancellation. However, the INGOs do conduct supplementary non-technical survey/community liaison to help provide additional information to BHMAC. Upon completion of technical survey and clearance by the operators, BHMAC then cancels uncontaminated area.<sup>99</sup> NPA would, however, prefer to be allowed to formally conduct non-technical survey throughout the land release process, as is best practice. NPA feels that at present, the task dossiers received for SHAs/CHAs within the MSA are a little too prescriptive and that operators, in agreement with BHMAC, should be allowed to take responsibility for the entire MSA, including cancellation.



# LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

## STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Results of mine action in BiH show that the applied land release model was efficient in the period 2005–09, and prior to 2009, BHM MAC cancelled significant amounts of land annually through non-technical survey.<sup>100</sup> Since then, however, non-technical survey output has declined, but there remains very significant potential for further reduction in the size of the SHA through survey.

In December 2012, having recognised the need for more efficient land release in BiH, the EU, with pre-accession funding, started a pilot “land release” project with BHM MAC.<sup>101</sup> The resulting “IPA 2011 Land Release” was implemented from 2013 to 2016, with EU funding.<sup>102</sup> The project enabled efficient tasking of systematic technical survey and technical survey with targeted investigation, helping ensure clearance assets were only directed into CHAs.<sup>103</sup> Results from six completed tasks in the EU pilot project revealed that 91% of the total land released was cancelled through non-technical survey, 8.5% was reduced through technical survey, and 0.5% was cleared.<sup>104</sup> More recently, of the nearly 95km<sup>2</sup> released in 2018–19, over 89% was cancelled through non-technical survey, with almost 9% of the remainder reduced through technical survey, and less than 2% released through clearance.<sup>105</sup> This and previous land release data indicate that actual anti-personnel mine contamination in BiH is only a small proportion of the total hazardous area currently on the database and deployment of clearance assets will therefore only be required for relatively small areas.<sup>106</sup>

Plans for revising the NMAS and further development of relevant chapters was planned by BHM MAC for 2020, but no significant progress was made. This remains in BHM MAC’s plans for 2021 and beyond, including revising the chapters on QA and quality control (QC).<sup>107</sup> In 2020, BHM MAC organised a TWG, with representatives from difference demining organisations, with regards to the development of a new NMAS chapter on QA and QC, but no agreement on elaboration of the new chapter was reached.<sup>108</sup>

There is broad support among both international and national clearance operators for a review of standards, especially those relating to land release.<sup>109</sup> MAG and NPA believe that further development of the land release process and the use of advanced techniques for the assessment and identification of minefields in BiH is crucial to the country meeting its Article 5 obligations.<sup>110</sup> MAG also believes that there is scope to improve efficiency and effectiveness through a more integrated approach to land release, including on chapters governing the use of mechanical and animal assets, in addition to survey and clearance.<sup>111</sup> BHM MAC has publicly stated that it is “fully engaged and committed towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness” of its efforts.<sup>112</sup>

As previously mentioned, operators are assigned whole MSAs by BHM MAC, and within an MSA BHM MAC then designates specific areas (CHA or SHA polygons) for technical survey and clearance. Officially, only BHM MAC can conduct non-technical survey and release mined area through cancellation.<sup>113</sup>

However, this can result in inefficiencies. For example, task dossiers for release of MSAs generated as a result of the EU-funded Country Assessment Project often lack fully comprehensive information, and INGOs have found they also need to conduct additional survey/community liaison to collect and analyse additional or missing information to supplement contained in the task dossiers received.<sup>114</sup> NPA stressed the importance of BHM MAC enabling operators to effectively plan and implement land release projects in line with international best practice. NPA believes this requires further development and adaptation of QA procedures for the overall land release process and the adaptation of non-technical survey procedures, for which BHM MAC should consider the possibility of allowing operators with adequate capacity and experience to participate in the cancellation of area through non-technical survey, which is not currently permitted.<sup>115</sup>

The GICHD organised a one-day workshop in 2020 titled “technical survey – current methodologies and possibilities for enhancement”, with a view to identifying gaps and possibilities for improving the technical survey in BiH, in a broader context, including operations, information management, standards, and legal framework. In agreement with the BHM MAC and dependent on funding, the GICHD will attempt to support BiH with development of several National Mine Action Standards, giving the priority to technical survey, information management, and quality management.<sup>116</sup>

The revised NMAS should be clearly written, so that all implementing partners in all parts of BiH can update their standing operating procedures (SOPs) accordingly, and a QA process is required to ensure NMAS are being applied in all instances. The review and updating of the relevant NMAS need not be a protracted process and should not prevent efficient release of mined areas in the interim.

BHM MAC has stated that it will ensure through quality management that all organisations accredited for technical survey and clearance comply with the principles of land release.<sup>117</sup> However, there are reports of a lack of harmonisation of practices between different regional BHM MAC offices, including in the understanding and application of the release approach and standards.<sup>118</sup> Such inconsistencies result in different requirements for operational work plans, some of which have excessive requirements and were drafted prior to the introduction of the land release NMAS (which themselves now need further updating). In such instances, there is little flexibility for operators to change the approach detailed in the operational plan, which therefore impacts the efficiency and effectiveness of operations.<sup>119</sup> International operators believe a renewed dialogue among the mine action community would strengthen the sector, including through technical working group meetings between operators, the BHM MAC, and its regional offices, sharing lessons learned, challenges, and successes across the different parts of BiH.<sup>120</sup>

## OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

During the EU-funded country assessment project, which took place from 16 August 2018 to 15 May 2020, non-technical survey was conducted by the BiH Armed Forces, BHMAC, and NPA.<sup>121</sup> However, cancellation of mined area through non-technical survey in BiH can only be officially conducted by BHMAC.<sup>122</sup> While MAG does not conduct its own non-technical survey in BiH, it does contribute to non-technical survey through its community liaison capacity (one team of two personnel) in partnership with the BHMAC regional offices during technical survey and clearance operations, which includes identification and interviews with informants to collect additional evidence-based information.<sup>123</sup> Similarly, NPA has one non-technical survey team, of two personnel, which conducts additional non-technical survey and reports information collated to BHMAC to feed into BHMAC's non-technical survey data.<sup>124</sup>

In 2020, a total of 17 organisations are accredited for mine action in BiH: four government organisations (Armed Forces of BiH, Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, and Brčko District Civil Protection), the Red Cross Society of BiH; four commercial organisations (all national); and 8 NGOs (6 national and 2 international).<sup>125</sup> Overall demining capacity totalled 1,200 persons in accredited organisations, comprising 900 deminers and 300 others (including team leaders, site leader, operational officers, QA officers, and dog trainers). The accredited organisations also have at their disposal a total of 33 accredited machines (for vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and removal of debris), 1,166 metal detectors, and 68 accredited explosive detection dogs (MDDs). In addition, BHMAC has at its disposal 44 surveyors (i.e. 22 survey teams for non-technical survey and emergency marking), 8 officers for planning non-technical survey operations, and 12 inspectors and 28 senior clerks for QC/technical supervision/inspection.<sup>126</sup>

During 2020, technical survey and/or clearance of anti-personnel mines was conducted by the BiH Armed Forces, the Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), the Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, and eleven other clearance organisations, comprising six NGOs (DEMIRA, MAG, Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC), NPA, Pro Vita, and UEM) and six commercial organisations (Detector, Humanitarian Demining Centre, In Demining N.H.O, N&N Ivsa, Point, and UEM d.o.o.).<sup>127</sup> BHMAC had not expected any major changes to demining capacity in 2021.<sup>128</sup>

Both technical survey and clearance methodology in BiH will include deployment of manual, mechanical, and MDD assets.<sup>129</sup> BiH reported a decrease in operational capacity over recent years, with an average of 52 teams deployed in 2014–17 and 36 teams deployed in 2018 and 2019.<sup>130</sup> According to BiH, the problem of the ageing workforce is compounded by the reluctance of younger people to seek employment as deminers.<sup>131</sup> Clearance and technical survey operations in BiH include mechanical preparation of land, manual clearance, and the use of MDDs depending on the geographical conditions.<sup>132</sup> Much of the remaining mined area is in hilly or mountainous terrain, which restricts the use of machinery.

The BiH Armed Forces' survey and clearance operations, which include use of machinery and explosive detection dogs, are fully engaged from March to November, and with reduced activity, predominantly in southern BiH, from December to February.<sup>133</sup> Since 2010, NPA has increasingly focused on building the capacity of the Army's Demining Battalion. This

involves transfer of knowledge through the improvement of operational planning of clearance and technical survey operations and direct operational support to increase the Demining Battalion's toolbox, including through the provision of MDDs and equipment.<sup>134</sup>

The BiH Armed Forces require ongoing support to secure personal protective equipment, batteries for detectors, and fuel for demining machinery, since the Army's own complex procurement system often cannot deliver such items in sufficient time.<sup>135</sup> NPA supported the Demining Battalion with the provision of eight magnetic locators/detectors, under a Swiss-funded contract, enabling the Battalion to establish a third team within its organisational set-up. This is now fully operational for technical survey and clearance of areas contaminated with CMR. NPA also loaned the Demining Battalion its Digger D-250 and provided direct operational support for mechanical ground preparation.<sup>136</sup> The Demining Battalion also receives support from Austria, France, Italy, and the United States, as well as European Union Force Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), which alone provides 90% of total support.<sup>137</sup>

The State operators, the BiH Armed Forces' Demining Battalion and the Civil Protection, are both good partners and have effective capacities, but have suffered from logistical challenges and equipment deficits, which can prevent them from working at full capacity.<sup>138</sup> Deminers in the BiH Armed Forces, however, are forced to stop demining at the age of 38 (this upper limit, until recently, had been 35). This results in experienced deminers being forced to retire at a very early age and results in a high turnover of personnel.<sup>139</sup> In the opinion of a UNDP expert, the BiH Armed Forces have sufficient demining equipment, but could benefit from stronger management and better oversight of demining operations.<sup>140</sup>

In the Country Coalition meeting in October 2020, the head of the BiH Demining Battalion said that the Battalion had 34 manual demining teams (three of which are dedicated to cluster munition remnants), 9 MDDs, and 4 mechanical assets for ground preparation. The Battalion wants to upgrade its PPE and demining equipment. If the necessary equipment for the Battalion is not secured, it could potentially result in a 25% reduction in its capacity.<sup>141</sup>

Federal administration of civil protection (FACP) teams are spatially distributed to cover the entire territory of the Federation of BiH and are located in Bihac, Busovaca, Gorazde, Livno, Mostar, Orasje, Sarajevo, Travnik, Tuzla, and Zepce.<sup>142</sup> FACP's capacity for clearance and technical survey in 2020 was 11 demining teams totalling 73 personnel, four MDD handlers with four dogs, and two mechanical assets.<sup>143</sup> FACP believes the training system for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) would benefit from being strengthened in BiH's national standards, to make it in line with the CWA 15464:2005 system (the 'Humanitarian Mine Action - EOD Competency Standards', under CEN (European Committee for Standardization)).<sup>144</sup>

The teams of the FACP are trained in fast response to remove injured persons (both civilians and deminers) from mined areas. The FACP believes that accident and incident investigation, which is currently only conducted by BHMAC staff, should be expanded to include representatives from the wider demining community, such as the entities civil protection authorities, the Armed Forces, and EUFOR, to help improve the safety and quality of operations.<sup>145</sup> The FACP thinks it is

necessary "to establish two-way communication and exchange of information [with BHMACH] in order to treat the newly discovered mine contaminated area as efficiently as possible, without burdening the existing demining resources."<sup>146</sup>

The Civil Protection of Brčko District only conducts removal and destruction of ERW, not mine clearance.

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska conducts survey and clearance of mines, CMR, and other ERW. In 2020, it deployed six manual teams, totalling thirty-six deminers, and two MDDs and dog handlers, and one mechanical asset for technical survey and clearance of mined areas.<sup>147</sup>

MAG received operational accreditation in April 2017 and began technical survey and mine clearance operations in mid-May 2017.<sup>148</sup> In 2020, MAG deployed one community liaison team, totalling two personnel, for the first time and increased its manual clearance (including technical survey) teams from six to seven teams, totalling 49 deminers. It also doubled its MDD capacity to four MDDs and dog handlers, and deployed one mechanical asset rented from NPA. The increased capacity was thanks to additional funding from Germany. MAG expected its capacity in 2021 to remain constant.<sup>149</sup>

NPA deployed seven manual teams, totalling forty-two deminers; five MDDs and dog handlers; and two machines. Technical survey personnel are also clearance personnel.<sup>150</sup> NPA uses MDD for clearance and technical survey tasks, including targeted technical survey.<sup>151</sup> As mentioned above, since 2010, NPA has also focused on building the capacity of the Armed Forces Demining Battalion.

With the exception of MAG and NPA, clearance operators in BiH typically compete for international tenders in order to secure their funding. The UNDP evaluation suggested

that this resulted in considerable capacity being underused and recommended alternative contracting models more appropriate for land release (either by having longer term contracts or being contracted for the clearance of larger areas), which could be more attractive to the demining organisations in terms of security and could also make best use of capacity in the long run.<sup>152</sup> National demining NGOs, such as STOP Mines or PROVITA, which are registered in a similar way to companies, potentially have capacity to quickly mobilise additional resources and up-scale operations.<sup>153</sup>

The Demining Commission is responsible for considering the periodic re-accreditation of field operators, following the recommendation from BHMACH. Any delay in the appointment of the Demining Commission can therefore impact the re-accreditation process and have a knock-on impact on survey and clearance operations.<sup>154</sup> This was the case for a six-month period from late October 2019, when the previous Demining Commission's term expired, until 30 April 2020, when the new Demining Commission was put in place and accreditations could again be renewed or approved. The delay in appointing the new Demining Commission negatively impacted operations, in some instances preventing the initiation of clearance at the start of the demining season.<sup>155</sup>

In October 2020, the BHMACH invited operators to consult and comment on the new draft rules for the accreditation process, which had been posted online. In addition to the online consultation, the BHMACH plans to invite operators to a meeting to discuss and address comments and questions on these new rules. This participatory approach is welcomed by international NGO clearance operators.<sup>156</sup>

QC and QA is conducted by BHMACH.<sup>157</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2020

A total of more than 16km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was released in 2020, of which almost 0.53km<sup>2</sup> was cleared (0.29km<sup>2</sup> of CHA and 0.24km<sup>2</sup> released through technical investigation and clearance of MSA) (see Tables 6 and 7); 2.57km<sup>2</sup> of CHA was reduced through technical survey (see Table 4); and almost 13.04km<sup>2</sup> in MSAs was cancelled through non-technical means (see Tables 2 and 3).<sup>158</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2020

In 2020, nearly 2.57km<sup>2</sup> was reported to have been reduced through technical survey in CHAs, according to data disaggregated by canton (see Table 4) and reported in BiH's Article 7 report.<sup>159</sup> Data disaggregated by operator, reported the amount reduced through technical survey as slightly less (see Table 5). A further 13.05km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled in MSAs (see Tables 2 and 3).

Furthermore, for land release in MSAs, technical survey was reported combined with clearance (see Tables 6 and 7), and not disaggregated as best practice and IMAS require.

**Table 2: Cancellation in MSAs by canton<sup>160</sup>**

| Canton                        | No. of areas | Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Sarajevo                      | 5            | 6,214,233                        |
| Unsko-Sanski                  | 1            | 2,250,859                        |
| Hercegovačko-Neret            | 1            | 3,235,053                        |
| Zanicko-Dobojski              | 1            | 785,050                          |
| <b>Total BiH Federation</b>   | <b>8</b>     | <b>12,485,195</b>                |
| <b>Total Republika Srpska</b> | <b>1</b>     | <b>551,180</b>                   |
| <b>Grand totals</b>           | <b>9</b>     | <b>13,036,375</b>                |

Table 3: Cancellation in MSAs by organisation<sup>161</sup>

| Canton                           | No. of areas | Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC) | 4            | 3,226,967                        |
| UEM d.o.o.                       | 1            | 2,274,295                        |
| MAG                              | 1            | 3,235,053                        |
| NPA                              | 3            | 4,300,060                        |
| <b>Grand totals</b>              | <b>9</b>     | <b>13,030,375</b>                |

Table 4: Technical survey of CHA in 2020 by canton<sup>162</sup>

| Canton                  | No. of areas | Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Unsko-Sanki             | 6            | 113,474                        |
| Posavski                | 7            | 534,588                        |
| Tuzlanski               | 3            | 72,053                         |
| Zenicko-Dobojski        | 3            | 72,053                         |
| Srednje-Bosanski        | 6            | 198,735                        |
| Hercegovacko-Neret      | 11           | 211,587                        |
| Sarajevo                | 5            | 206,114                        |
| Bosansko-Podrinjski     | 1            | 96,366                         |
| Canton 10               | 5            | 118,768                        |
| <b>BiH Federation</b>   | <b>47</b>    | <b>1,623,738</b>               |
| <b>Republika Srpska</b> | <b>18</b>    | <b>789,059</b>                 |
| <b>Brčko District</b>   | <b>3</b>     | <b>160,289</b>                 |
| <b>Totals</b>           | <b>68</b>    | <b>2,573,086</b>               |

Table 5: Technical survey of CHA in 2020 by operator (based on BHMACH data)<sup>163</sup>

|                                | Demining entity                                     | No. of areas | Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Government organisation        | Federal Administration of Civil Protection          | 17           | 595,580                        |
|                                | Armed Forces BiH                                    | 29           | 1,252,925                      |
|                                | Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska | 5            | 101,116                        |
| <b>Totals</b>                  |   | <b>51</b>    | <b>1,949,621</b>               |
| Non-governmental organisations | Pro Vita  | 2            | 70,039                         |
|                                | DEMIRA  | 2            | 90,614                         |
| <b>Totals</b>                  |   | <b>4</b>     | <b>160,653</b>                 |
| Commercial organisations       | HN&H IVSA   | 5            | 280,943                        |
|                                | "Point" d.o.o.                                      | 4            | 114,890                        |
|                                | In Demining N.H.O                                   | 2            | 48,315                         |
|                                | UEM d.o.o.  | 2            | 54,236                         |
| <b>Totals</b>                  |   | <b>13</b>    | <b>498,384</b>                 |
| <b>Grand totals</b>            |   | <b>68</b>    | <b>2,608,658</b>               |

## CLEARANCE IN 2020

A total of 529,455m<sup>2</sup> of mined area was cleared in 2020, with the destruction of 1,342 anti-personnel mines, 22 anti-vehicle mines, and 192 ERW/UXO.<sup>164</sup> This includes 293,252m<sup>2</sup> of confirmed mined area cleared in 2020, during which 424 anti-personnel mines, 7 anti-vehicle mines, and 143 ERW were destroyed. In addition, there appears to be release of a further 236,203m<sup>2</sup> of MSA, through combined technical investigation and clearance, during which an additional 918 anti-personnel mines, 15 anti-vehicle mines, and 49 items of UXO were destroyed (see Tables 6 and 7).<sup>165</sup>

The 2020 total clearance output (including combined technical investigation and clearance of MSA) is roughly equivalent to the 0.54km<sup>2</sup> of mined area cleared and 963 anti-personnel mines destroyed in 2019.<sup>166</sup>

**Table 6: Mine clearance in CHAs in 2020 by canton; and combined mine clearance and technical survey in MSAs (BHMACH data)<sup>167</sup>**

| Canton                        | Areas cleared | Area cleared in CHAs (m <sup>2</sup> )                                       | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed | ERW           |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Unsko-Sanki                   | 2             | 23,074   | 68                 | 0                  | 3             |
| Posavski                      | 1             | 41,630   | 58                 | 0                  | 0             |
| Tuzlanski                     | 3             | 22,077   | 54                 | 0                  | 0             |
| Zanicko-Dobojski              | 2             | 33,773   | 0                  | 0                  | 0             |
| Srednje-Bosanski              | 5             | 62,326   | 44                 | 3                  | 18            |
| Hercegovačko-Neretvanski      | 1             | 39,500   | 0                  | 0                  | 0             |
| Sarajevo                      | 3             | 45,800   | 69                 | 0                  | 100           |
| Bosansko-Podrinjski           | 0             | 0  | 0                  | 0                  | 0             |
| Canton 10                     | 0             | 0  | 0                  | 0                  | 0             |
| <b>Total BiH Federation</b>   | <b>17</b>     | <b>268,180</b>   | <b>293</b>         | <b>3</b>           | <b>121</b>    |
| <b>Total Republika Srpska</b> | <b>3</b>      | <b>25,072</b>  | <b>131</b>         | <b>4</b>           | <b>22</b>     |
| <b>Subtotals</b>              | <b>20</b>     | <b>293,252</b>   | <b>424</b>         | <b>7</b>           | <b>143</b>    |
| Administrative level          | MSAs          | Area cleared during clearance and technical survey of MSAs (m <sup>2</sup> ) | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed | UXO destroyed |
| Sarajevo                      | 5             | 137,333  | 369                | 6                  | 6             |
| Unsko-Sanki                   | 1             | 15,393   | 60                 | 3                  | 12            |
| Hercegovacko-Neret            | 1             | 35,594   | 232                | 0                  | 3             |
| Zanicko-Dobojski              | 1             | 11,446   | 36                 | 3                  | 21            |
| <b>Total BiH Federation</b>   | <b>8</b>      | <b>199,766</b>   | <b>697</b>         | <b>12</b>          | <b>42</b>     |
| <b>Total Republika Srpska</b> | <b>1</b>      | <b>36,437</b>  | <b>221</b>         | <b>3</b>           | <b>7</b>      |
| <b>Subtotals</b>              | <b>9</b>      | <b>236,203</b>   | <b>918</b>         | <b>15</b>          | <b>49</b>     |
| <b>Grand totals</b>           |               | <b>529,455</b>   | <b>1,342</b>       | <b>22</b>          | <b>192</b>    |

**Table 7: Mine clearance in CHAs in 2020 by operator; and combined mine clearance and technical survey by operator in MSAs (BHMACH data)<sup>168</sup>**

|                          | Organisation                                   | Areas cleared | Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> ) | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed | ERW        |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Government organisation  | Federal Administration of Civil Protection BiH | 6             | 63,565                         | 25                 | 0                  | 29         |
|                          | Armed Forces BiH                               | 4             | 162,257                        | 271                | 7                  | 55         |
|                          | Civil protection of RS                         | 1             | 11,235                         | 75                 | 0                  | 35         |
| <b>Totals</b>            |  | <b>11</b>     | <b>237,057</b>                 | <b>371</b>         | <b>7</b>           | <b>119</b> |
| NGOs                     | NGO Pro Vita                                   | 1             | 3,765                          | 0                  | 0                  | 0          |
|                          | UEM d.o.o.                                     | 1             | 8,874                          | 42                 | 0                  | 20         |
| <b>Totals</b>            |  | <b>2</b>      | <b>12,639</b>                  | <b>42</b>          | <b>0</b>           | <b>20</b>  |
| Commercial organisations | Humanitarian Demining Centre                   | 1             | 395                            | 0                  | 0                  | 0          |
|                          | Detektor                                       | 5             | 43,159                         | 11                 | 0                  | 4          |
| <b>Totals</b>            |  | <b>6</b>      | <b>43,554</b>                  | <b>11</b>          | <b>0</b>           | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>Subtotals</b>         |  | <b>19</b>     | <b>293,250</b>                 | <b>424</b>         | <b>7</b>           | <b>143</b> |

Table 7 continued

| Organisation                     | MSAs     | Area cleared during clearance and technical survey of MSAs (m <sup>2</sup> ) | AP mines destroyed | AV mines destroyed | UXO destroyed |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC) | 4        | 152,711  | 408                | 3                  | 15            |
| UEM d.o.o.                       | 1        | 17,923   | 172                | 6                  | 8             |
| MAG                              | 1        | 35,594   | 232                | 0                  | 11            |
| NPA                              | 3        | 29,975   | 106                | 6                  | 15            |
| <b>Subtotals</b>                 | <b>9</b> | <b>236,203</b>   | <b>918</b>         | <b>15</b>          | <b>49</b>     |
| <b>Grand totals</b>              |          | <b>529,453</b>   | <b>1,342</b>       | <b>22</b>          | <b>192</b>    |

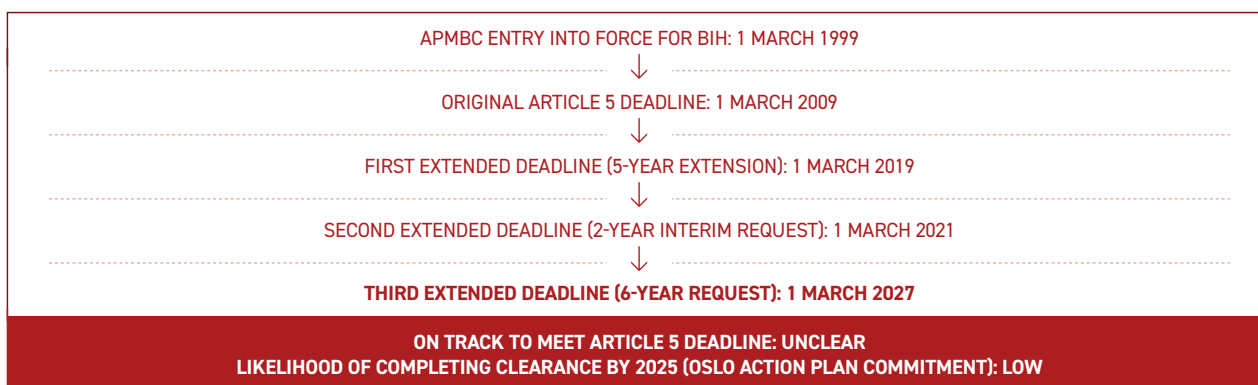
The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska itself reported clearing a total of 10,816m<sup>2</sup> in 2020, during which it destroyed 10 anti-personnel mines and 17 anti-vehicle mines.<sup>169</sup> The FACP itself reported clearing 10,582m<sup>2</sup> in 2020, with the destruction of six anti-personnel mines.<sup>170</sup>

In 2020, MAG worked across seven tasks in BiH, completing three. MAG itself reported reducing 814,042m<sup>2</sup> through technical survey and clearing a total of 541,760m<sup>2</sup> through clearance in 2020 (including 279,772m<sup>2</sup> of lanes cleared as part of technical survey), with the destruction of a total of 396 anti-personnel mines, 7 anti-vehicle mines, and 166 items

of UXO. While all “MSAs” proved to be contaminated, some micro-locations (polygons for investigation within the MSPs) did not contain any landmine contamination.<sup>171</sup>

NPA conducted technical survey and clearance of mined area in 2020, both in the Federation of BiH and in Republika Srpska. NPA reported that it reduced 868,038m<sup>2</sup> through technical survey and cleared 54,282m<sup>2</sup>, destroying 377 anti-personnel mines and 10 anti-vehicle mines. All of the areas in which NPA conducted clearance in 2020, contained mines.<sup>172</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC and in line with the third extension (for six years) of its clearance deadline, BiH is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2027.

The 2020 extension request, granted by the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties, was for the purpose of non-technical and technical survey “to better define the precise perimeter of mined areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.<sup>173</sup> It is, however, assumed that there was an accidental omission of land release through clearance, and that BiH intends to complete both survey and clearance of remaining mined areas by the requested deadline. Prior to this, BiH had been granted a second extension request in 2018, for an interim two-year extension to 1 March 2021, during which it conducted a “country assessment”, to better understand the remaining anti-personnel mine contamination and plan more effectively for its release.<sup>174</sup>

Over the last five years, BiH has released just over 4km<sup>2</sup> thorough clearance (see Table 6). Since the ten-year extension to its initial Article 5 deadline, granted in 2008, BiH has continuously fallen far short of its annual land release

targets. The painfully slow pace of survey and clearance has resulted in lack of confidence in the national mine action programme from donors but also from people living in mine-affected communities, who felt disillusioned that the mines have not been cleared.<sup>175</sup>

According to BiH’s 2020 Article 5 extension request, BiH planned to release 71.8km<sup>2</sup> in 2020 (58.4km<sup>2</sup> through cancellation; 12.7km<sup>2</sup> through reduction, and 0.8km<sup>2</sup> through clearance, although this sums to 71.9km<sup>2</sup>, and not 71.8km<sup>2</sup> as reported in the extension request).<sup>176</sup> BiH’s actual land release output in 2020 was 0.53km<sup>2</sup> cleared, 2.61km<sup>2</sup> reduced, and BHMACH did not report the amount of mined area cancelled in 2020.<sup>177</sup>

BiH reported that its ability to meet planned targets was impeded by a delay in accreditation for some demining organisations, due to the delay in appointing the new Demining Commission; financial resources having not met the expectation of the Strategy; climate conditions with the demining season lasting from mid-March to the beginning of December; and the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused either a cessation or hindrance to survey and clearance efforts between March and May 2020.<sup>178</sup>

**Table 6: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance**

| Year         | Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 2020         | *0.53                           |
| 2019         | 0.54                            |
| 2018         | 0.92                            |
| 2017         | 0.69                            |
| 2016         | 1.34                            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4.02</b>                     |

\* Combined technical survey and clearance output for MSAs

BHMAC reported that between February and May of 2020, most demining operations were halted, and only 10% of the capacities worked. This was due to COVID-19, but also because of BiH Demining Commission was not appointed on time and many demining companies had to halt operations while they waited for the Demining Commission to be appointed and to re-accredit them. From June 2020, demining operations continued as normal.<sup>179</sup>

The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska was not able to realise its demining plan for 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 on operations.<sup>180</sup> FACP reported that COVID-19 had a significant impact on implementation of its demining plan in 2020, as a significant part of the demining staff were engaged in mitigating the consequences of the pandemic. All demining activities were halted between 18 March and only recommenced in the start of June.<sup>181</sup> COVID-19 caused NPA's survey and clearance operations to be paused from 17 March to 1 June 2020, and two manual

teams were then forced to stand down again in October 2020, during the second wave of COVID-19. NPA redistributed working hours, annual leave, and engaged additional workforces to compensate and minimise the impact of implementation, and NPA was able to meet its targeted for 2020.<sup>182</sup> MAG stood down its demining operations on 21 March 2020, as requested by BHMAC. Following risk assessments and implementation of health and safety protocols, MAG re-deployed an initial team on 4 May, and then increased capacity weekly and was deploying its full capacity by June. One demining team was put on stand-down for seven days due to COVID-19, and other individuals were put in self isolation. Furthermore, staff shortages caused by COVID-19 at BHMAC regional offices, also caused some overstretch at the regional offices and therefore constraints to MAG's deployment plans.<sup>183</sup>

With the completion of the country assessment in 2020; a strong national mine action strategy; updates planned to the NMAS; the scheduled migration to a new information management system; and the establishment of a country coalition, supported by Germany, to help strengthen coordination of mine action, BiH is better placed to fulfil its Article 5 commitments by the requested March 2027 deadline. This will, however, require political will and strong oversight and commitment from BHMAC, the Demining Commission, and their superiors in the government, which is lacking at present. The national authorities must ensure stronger coordination and a more consistent and efficient approach to land release operations by all stakeholders across the country, including more efficient mobilisation of strategic national demining resources such as the Demining Battalion and Civil Protection entities, and an enabling operating environment (including accreditation rules).

## PLANNING FOR RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

The National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 requires the development of a strategy for the management of residual contamination by 2022. As at July 2021, BHMAC had still to begin development of the strategy.<sup>184</sup>

- 1 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015; and Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 01-02-03-10-16-1-1101/16, 4 November 2016, p. 22.
- 2 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 4.
- 3 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.
- 4 Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 4 November 2016, p. 26.
- 5 Statement of BiH, APMBC 18th Meeting of States Parties, 16 to 20 November 2020; and BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 3.
- 6 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 22 September 2021.
- 7 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 2 July 2021; and BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated, p. 5. In the Table provided by BHMAL and included in its draft Mine Action Report for 2020, the Category I total was reported as 218.07km<sup>2</sup> and the Category II total as 255.32km<sup>2</sup>. This is most likely due to rounding issues. Mine Action Review has used the actual totals for the BiH Federation.
- 8 Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 4 November 2016, p. 5.
- 9 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for Bosnia and Herzegovina, 13 May 2015, p. 17.
- 10 Interviews with Darvin Lisica, then Programme Manager and Regional Director, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; and Tarik Serak BHMAL, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 11 BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 11.
- 12 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 5 and 10-11; BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, pp. 3 and 13; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.
- 13 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 5 and 10-11; BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, pp. 3 and 13; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.
- 14 Based on BiH's draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 11. In BiH's 2020 Revised Article 5 extension request, August 2020, the amount of mined area cancelled was reported to be nearly 966.7km<sup>2</sup> (p. 5), but this figure is believed to be an error, given that 1,030km<sup>2</sup> mined area was addressed during the country assessment (p. 11) and remaining mined area as at the beginning of 2020 was nearly 966.7km<sup>2</sup> (p. 16 and Annex 2). The 966.7km<sup>2</sup> referred to incorrectly as cancelled on p. 5 is believed by Mine Action Review to refer to the total remaining mined area as at the end of the assessment at the beginning of 2020, as indicated on pp. 7 and 16, and in Annex 2.
- 15 Emails from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021; and Clement Meynier, MAG, 28 July 2021.
- 16 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 6 and 16.
- 17 Ibid., p. 11.
- 18 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, Country Director, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 "Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020", Annex 5 to the 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 4.
- 22 BHMAL Organisational chart, accessed 17 July 2019 at: <http://bit.ly/2Yc4xl>.
- 23 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 22.
- 24 BHMAL website, "New members of BiH Demining Commission appointed today", 30 April 2020, available at: <http://bit.ly/3dv7nco>; "The first session of BiH Demining Commission held today", 27 May 2020, at <http://bit.ly/2B3UdWO>; and 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 6 and 7; and email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021.
- 25 Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Performance Audit Report. Efficiency of the Demining System in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 4 November 2016, p. 8.
- 26 Bosnia and Herzegovina Official Gazette, Sarajevo, 17 March 2002.
- 27 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 8.
- 28 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 2 July 2021.
- 29 Email from GICHD, 14 May 2021.
- 30 Interview with Tarik Serak, BHMAL, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and emails from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 19 June 2017; and Suad Baljak, UNDP, 15 June 2017; and UNDP BiH, "Mine Action Board of Donors Meeting", 31 March 2016, at: <http://bit.ly/30of4lp>.
- 31 Emails from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 14 July 2020; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 17 July 2020.
- 32 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 20.
- 33 BHMAL website, "Workshop on Definitions of Productivity Indicators and Resources Required for Implementation of the Land Release Method and Development of a Medium-Term Action Plan", 30 January 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/37WS3UN>; and BiH Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 12.
- 34 BHMAL website, "Workshop "Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of AP Mines", 6 March 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/3hVCAZO>; and BiH Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 27.
- 35 BHMAL, "Online meeting with donors' representatives for Mine Action in BiH", 28 April 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/2VdFiQA>; and BiH Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 27.
- 36 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 25.
- 37 BHMAL 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, CCM Second Review Conference (Part 1), virtual format, 25-27 November 2020.
- 38 Email from Clement Meynier, Country Director, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 39 APMBIC Individualised Approach Meeting, virtual meeting, 12 November 2020; and BHMAL website, "Individual Approach to Resolving Remaining Challenges and Complying the Deadlines in Accordance with the Ottawa Convention", 13 November 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/2ZogUNQ>.
- 40 Emails from Goran Zdrate, BHMAL, 17 May 2017; and Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019.
- 41 Ibid.; and email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 23 July 2018.
- 42 Email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.
- 43 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, pp. 1 and 19-20.
- 44 BiH, Financial Plan for Implementation of the BiH Mine Action Strategy 2018-25, pp. 6-7.
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 6-7, and 23.
- 47 Ibid., pp. 23-24.
- 48 Statement of BiH, APMBIC 18th Meeting of States Parties, 16 to 20 November 2020.
- 49 BHMAL website, "Ten million EUR intended for humanitarian demining projects in BiH diverted to COVID-19 and migration issues", 10 April 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/37X1Wlq>; and email from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.
- 50 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 7.
- 51 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 14.
- 52 Ibid.
- 53 Email from Zeljko Djogo, BHMAL, 17 June 2021.
- 54 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019.
- 55 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAL, 24 April 2019; and Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019; and BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 52.
- 56 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 18.
- 57 Email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021.
- 58 Email from Dragan Kos, Assistant Director, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 2 April 2020.
- 59 Email from Brig. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, 11 June 2021.
- 60 Email from Muamer Husilović, Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), 12 March 2021.
- 61 Email from Clement Meynier, Country Director, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 62 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 63 Emails from Djadranka Gillesen, Regional Director for the Middle East and Europe, MAG, 27 August 2019; and Clement Meynier, MAG, 16 July 2020.
- 64 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 65 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 16 July 2020 and 28 July 2021.
- 66 Email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 25 February 2019.
- 67 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 68 Emails from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020 and 14 March 2021.
- 69 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 70 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.



- 71 2020 APMB Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
- 72 Emails from Suad Baljak, UNDP, 30 March and 14 July 2020.
- 73 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAG, 2 July 2021.
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- 76 Emails from Kristina Duric, NPA, 30 July 2021; and Clement Meynier, MAG, 30 July 2021.
- 77 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March and 28 July 2021.
- 78 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
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- 80 CCW Protocol V Article 10 Report (covering 2015), Form B.
- 81 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 7.
- 82 BiH, "National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025", p. 34.
- 83 Statement of BiH, APMB 18th Meeting of States Parties, 16 to 20 November 2020.
- 84 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAG, 2 July 2021.
- 85 BHMAG website, "Workshop on Definitions of Productivity Indicators and Resources Required for Implementation of the Land Release Method and Development of a Medium-Term Action Plan", 30 January 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/37WS3UN>.
- 86 Interview with Saša Obradovic, BHMAG, Geneva, 11 February 2020.
- 87 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 24.
- 88 Ibid., Table, p. 24.
- 89 Ibid., p. 11; and BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 11.
- 90 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, pp. 6 and 19–22.
- 91 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.
- 92 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 93 Email from Kristina Duric, NPA, 30 July 2021; and video interview with Clement Meynier, MAG, 30 July 2021.
- 94 BiH Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 14.
- 95 Email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021.
- 96 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021.
- 97 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 98 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 99 Emails from Kristina Duric, NPA, 30 July 2021; and Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 100 Email from Suad Baljak, Mine Action Officer, UNDP, 15 September 2017; and Darvin Lisica, "Application of targeted technical survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina: development of advanced techniques for data collection and assessment, standard operating procedures and building of national capacities", NPA, undated.
- 101 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, pp. 19 and 20.
- 102 Statement of BiH, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8 June 2017; BHMAG, "Analysis of implementation of mine action strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009–2019) and draft amendments", adopted by the Demining Commission on 28 March 2016, p. 6; and 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
- 103 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5.
- 104 Ibid., p. 10.
- 105 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 7.
- 106 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025", pp. 6 and 11; and 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 17.
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- 108 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 109 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
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- 111 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 3 April 2020.
- 112 Statement of BiH, Fourth APMB Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.
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- 117 Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020, Annex 6 to the 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 20.
- 118 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
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- 120 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 121 BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 9.
- 122 Emails from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021; Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 123 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 124 Emails from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021; and Kristina Duric, NPA, 30 July 2021.
- 125 BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 28.
- 126 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 24; and Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020, Annex 6 to the 2020 Revised Article 5 extension request, August 2020, p. 13.
- 127 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAG, 2 July 2021.
- 128 Ibid.
- 129 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline extension request, August 2020, p. 8.
- 130 Statement of BiH, Fourth APMB Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.
- 131 Ibid.
- 132 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.
- 133 Interview with Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
- 134 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 135 Interview with Lt.-Col. Dzevad Zenunovic, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and email from Goran Šehić, NPA, 18 October 2017.
- 136 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 26 March 2020.
- 137 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
- 138 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 29; and interviews with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017; Haris Lokvancic, Swiss Embassy, Sarajevo, 9 May 2017; and Tarik Serak, BHMAG, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.
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- 143 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021.
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- 147 Email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021.
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- 149 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 150 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 151 Emails from Goran Šehić, NPA, 10 July 2017 and 30 March 2018; and interview with Darvin Lisica, NPA, Sarajevo, 8 May 2017.
- 152 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, p. 35.
- 153 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.
- 154 Email from GICHD, 13 May 2020.
- 155 2020 Article 4 deadline Extension Request, September 2020, p. 5.
- 156 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.

- 157 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request, August 2020, p. 8.
- 158 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021; and BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft. In its Article 7 report (covering 2020) BiH reported that 2.57km<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical survey; 13.03km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled; and 029km<sup>2</sup> was cleared. According to BHMACH's Article 7 report, a further 3.54km<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous area was reduced and cleared by technical means (technical reconnaissance and mine clearance), but the amount of clearance was not disaggregated.
- 159 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.
- 160 Ibid.
- 161 Ibid. NPA reported to Mine Action Review that it cancelled 40.43km<sup>2</sup> in the first five months of 2020, as the result of three NPA non-technical survey teams engaged under the EU-funded Country Assessment project (email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021).
- 162 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021; Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C; and BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, pp. 16 and 17.
- 163 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021; and BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, p. 18. The Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska reduced 240,171m<sup>2</sup> through technical survey in 2020 (email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021). FACP reported reducing 810,260m<sup>2</sup> through technical survey in 2020 (email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021).
- 164 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021.
- 165 Ibid. The grand clearance and technical survey total by canton (529,455m<sup>2</sup>) is very slightly different to the grand clearance and technical survey total by organisation (529,453m<sup>2</sup>). Whereas BiH only reported the 293,252m<sup>2</sup> of clearance of confirmed mined area in its Article 7 Report covering 2020, Mine Action Review has also included the additional 236,203m<sup>2</sup> of MSA released through confirmed technical interventions and clearance.
- 166 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021.
- 167 Ibid.; and BiH draft Mine Action Report for 2020, undated draft, pp. 19 and 20.
- 168 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021.
- 169 Email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021.
- 170 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021.
- 171 Emails from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March and 28 July 2021.
- 172 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 173 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request estimate, August 2020, p. 17.
- 174 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 19; and "BiH Statement on Interim Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5", 7 June 2018, Geneva.
- 175 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 14.
- 176 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request estimate, August 2020, table, p. 24.
- 177 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021.
- 178 2020 Revised Article 5 deadline Extension Request estimate, August 2020, pp. 6 and 7.
- 179 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021.
- 180 Email from Milisav Pantic, on behalf of Dragan Kos, Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska, 3 June 2021.
- 181 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021.
- 182 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
- 183 Email from Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021.
- 184 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMACH, 2 July 2021.