BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2026

KEY DATA

APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2027

Not on track to meet deadline
(Extension requested to 1 March 2032)

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 50KM^2

Heavy
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km^2)	Release in 2024 (km^2)
Clearance	0.75	0.17
Technical Survey	11.47	3.25
Non-Technical Survey	40.21	12.03

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
AP Mines destroyed	3,117 (incl. 848 in spot tasks)	574

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025:

- Armed Forces of BiH
- Civil Protection Administration of Republika Srpska (CPA RS)
- Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP)
- DCM Media
- Detektor
- In Demining
- N&N Ivsa
- Point
- UEM
- Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC)
- Stop Mines
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) still lacks a reliable estimate of anti-personnel (AP) mined area as the overall estimate reported by the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) significantly overstates the problem. The migration to Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core, which started in 2024, has not been completed, and BHMAC was planning to contract an external service provider to help the transition. The draft mine action law was still pending approval. If adopted, it should provide regular national funding and allow BHMAC to task accredited national operators with non-technical survey (NTS).

Both international operators, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), closed their programmes in 2025, primarily due to funding cuts. In March 2026, BiH submitted a fourth Article 5 deadline extension request seeking a further five years through to 2032. The request reduced BiH's future annual land release targets from 75km^2 to 55km^2, which is thought to be more realistic, but is still ambitious given BiH's slow pace of progress and the loss of capacity following the departure of MAG and NPA. Land release increased substantially to 52.43km^2 in 2025, but remained well below the 75km^2 target.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **BHMAC should present AP mined area data in line with international standards, clearly disaggregating suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) from confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs).**
- **BHMAC should complete the migration to IMSMA Core without further delay, supported by adequate training and change management measures to ensure adoption.**

- **BIH should adopt the new demining Law without further delay.**
- **BHMAC should give greater priority to NTS and evidence-based cancellation. Pending adoption of the new Law, BHMAC should allow accredited operators to conduct NTS under its oversight. BHMAC should also prioritise targeted rather than systematic technical survey (TS).**
- **BHMAC should continue to promote consistent application of land release methodology across its regional offices.**
- **BHMAC should accelerate certification of completed tasks to reduce backlogs and ensure national reporting reflects progress accurately.**
- **BHMAC should consider further clarifying the questions of "all reasonable efforts" and "liability" to provide a safer operating environment and legal certainty for itself and for operators.**
- **BHMAC should continue capitalising on the Board of Donor meetings as a platform to strengthen coordination and address challenges to its Article 5 implementation.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	4	4	BiH reported nearly 775km^2 of AP mined area at the end of 2025, down from nearly 823km^2 a year earlier. Contrary to the previous year, BiH did not disaggregate its contamination baseline into CHAs and SHAs.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	5	5	The process to adopt the amended demining law was restarted in 2022. As at July 2026, the law had passed public consultation and was pending further approvals. BiH continued to increase national funding to its mine action programme and adopted initiatives that encourage local communities (canton, municipality, or city) to allocate their own funding for mine action. Two technical working group (TWG) and two Board of Donors meeting were held in 2025. Both international operators, MAG and NPA, closed their programmes in BiH by the end of December 2025.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	4	4	The revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 aligns with the 2003 Law on Gender Equality. Women remained under represented in the sector, making up only 21% of the total personnel, and 12% of operational staff.
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	4	4	BiH does not have a national standard on environmental management. Laws and BHMAC procedures include some measures to minimise contamination, and use of machinery is restricted on sensitive land. Environmental considerations feature in a limited way in the revised mine action strategy. An environmental assessment was completed as part of the planned project of demining the right bank of the river Sava.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	4	5	BHMAC continued to rely on the outdated closed-system Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Information System (BHMAIS) database, which does not support geospatial data or online access to operators. A cyberattack in 2025 resulted in data loss, with data only partially recovered. The year-long migration to an online database has not been completed, and as at July 2026, BHMAC planned to contract the service to an external provider. BHMAC submitted a detailed Article 7 report covering 2025, but did not disaggregate mine action data into SHAs and CHAs.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	6	6	The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 was adopted in April 2025. It included new land release targets of 75km^2 for 2025 and 2026. An updated demining plan was approved in July 2025. BiH's 2026 Article 5 deadline extension request adjusted the annual targets to 55km^2 for 2027–32. Task dossiers require further verification by operators' community liaison teams before applying technical methods, and final task completion certificates often face delays due to administrative bottlenecks.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	6	6	A number of national standards, including on land release, NTS, technical survey, and clearance have been implemented since January 2025. Only BHMAC can conduct NTS, a situation that operators have been seeking to change but which was not possible under the legislation in force. The draft Mine Action Law, if and when adopted, would allow BHMAC to task NTS to accredited national operators.

Assessment of national programme performance continued

Criterion	Score (2025)	Score (2024)	Performance Commentary
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	5	4	BiH released 52.4km² in 2025, of which 77% was released through NTS, 22% through TS, and 1% was cleared. Although still below the annual 75km² target, this is a marked increase on the previous years and reflects a positive increase in land cancellation. BiH will not meet its March 2027 Article 5 deadline, and in March 2026, it submitted its fourth extension request seeking five additional years through to March 2032. BiH does not expect to meet this deadline either and is entering the new extension period with reduced capacity due to closure of MAG and NPA and weakened donor support. In order to meet its annual targets, BiH will need to increase its annual land release output significantly, with a particular focus on cancellation through NTS as well as greatly increased clearance.
Average Score	**4.7**	**4.6**	**Overall Programme Performance: POOR**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE 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)
- NGOs:
  - Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC)
  - Stop Mines
- Commercial demining companies:
  - DCM Media
  - Detektor
  - In Demining
  - N&N Ivsa
  - Point
  - UEM

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG) (programme closed in December 2025)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) (programme closed in December 2025)

OTHER ACTORS

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

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

BHMAC reported the presence of nearly 775km² of mine suspected area (MSA)[1] for the end of 2025 (see Table 1),[2] but without disaggregating the figures into CHAs and SHAs. This is an overall decrease from the 823km² of mined area reported by BiH a year earlier,[3] although the use of MSAs as a baseline measure results in largely inflated figures. It is estimated that actual contamination covers between 2% and 10% of this estimate.

Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2025)[4]

Canton	Total area (km²)
Bosansko-Podrinjski canton	42.26
Canton 10	58.24
Canton Sarajevo	48.68

1 MSA (mine suspected area) is a BiH-specific term that corresponds to one geographical area which lumps together several CHAs and SHAs under "one area of operation" that is subsequently subjected to land release process. This term is not consistent with IMAS.

2 Email from Mirjana Marić, Senior Officer for Analysis and Reporting, BHMAC, 5 June 2025.

3 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 10; and Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

4 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 5 June 2025.

Table 1 continued

Canton	Total area (km²)
Hercegovacko-Neretvanski canton	120.67
Posavski canton	13.34
Srednje-Bosanski canton	94.36
Tuzlanski canton	57.75
Unsko-Sanski canton	83.63
Zenicko Dobojski canton	105.57
Federation of BiH	**624.50**
Republika Srpska	**150.18**
Total BiH	**774.68**

In 2017, BHMAC, clearance operators, and the European Union (EU) formalised plans for a country assessment project to establish a more accurate baseline of mine contamination and improve clearance efficiency.[5] The project, conducted from 2018 to 2020, involved a nationwide NTS by BHMAC, the Armed Forces of BiH, and NPA. The project processed data for 143 municipalities, confirming mined areas in 118 of them. During the project, 103km² of land was released, reducing total mined area from 1,069km² to 966km².[6]

The remaining mined area was divided into MSAs, which average 1.94km² in size.[7] MSA is a BiH-specific term, not consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and defined locally 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".[8] In addition, some mine contamination outside the MSAs is assigned to operators for release. BHMAC has not specified how much of the contaminated area is within MSAs and how much is outside. It had been expected that the assessment project would result in a significant amount of cancellation, but in fact this amounted to less than 10% of the total mined area at the time.[9] Significant further cancellation is therefore expected during release of the MSAs.

A total area of 4.25km² of newly discovered AP mine contamination has been identified through NTS and added to the database in 2025. Of this total, BHMAC is preparing four new MSAs covering 3.82km²: Motka in Ilijaš (1.06km²), Čatići in Visoko (0.94km²), Odžak Zapad 2 in Odžak (0.81km²), and Rtanj in Kakanj (1km²). In addition to the MSAs, a further 0.43km² was added through NTS.[10]

Although mine contamination is broadly well mapped, BiH's contamination baseline cannot be considered accurate. While a national resurvey is not necessary given that much of the country had already been surveyed extensively, BiH should instead refine its remaining contamination by using survey, guided by risk assessments and available evidence.[11] The use of MSA methodology, which combines multiple CHAs and SHAs within large polygons that may include intervening mine-free land, largely inflates the national contamination estimate. In addition, BiH current information management system does not support establishing a reliable contamination baseline (See the section below, "Information Management and Reporting").[12]

More than three decades after the end of the 1992–95 conflict associated with the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, BiH remains heavily contaminated by mines. Mines were laid by all warring parties, largely along former confrontation lines. Mined areas generally contain relatively small numbers of mines, often laid in discernible patterns, although some appear to have been laid without a clear tactical purpose. In its Article 7 report covering 2020, BiH stated that it had collected 70% of all minefield records, but that approximately 30% were insufficiently accurate to establish the precise location and delineation of the affected areas. According to BHMAC officials, available records vary considerably in quality: some are illegible, incomplete, outdated, or exist in conflicting versions, while others consist only of sketches without defined coordinates. Moreover, reconstructing mine-laying from witness testimony has become increasingly difficult as many of those involved have died, migrated, or no longer remember events accurately. Meanwhile, three decades have also largely transformed the landscape, making wartime descriptions difficult to reconcile with present-day terrain.[13] BiH is reported to be affected by AP mines of an improvised nature of types Čapljinka and Goraždanka, but there is no reliable estimate of the scale of this contamination. BiH says it can easily detect the improvised mines through standard methods.[14]

Mine-related incidents have been on the decline during the last decade, with typically one to a few incidents recorded per year. One fatal AP mine incident occurred in 2025 when a 19-year old boy entered a marked minefield in Hodžići.[15] For more information on casualties, please see the country profile on BiH on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[16]

5 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 BHMAC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017.

6 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, Country Director, NPA, 26 March 2020.

7 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 5 and 10–11; and Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C.

8 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 6 and 16.

9 Based on BiH's draft Mine Action Report for 2020, p. 11.

10 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

11 Email from Braço Pandurevic, Operations Manager, NPA, 29 June 2026.

12 Emails from Elisa Radaelli, Programme Coordinator, MAG, 28 April 2026.

13 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form C; and interventions by Irfan Pehlić, Head of Tuzla BHMAC Regional Office, and Boris Đukić, Head of Banja Luka BHMAC Regional Office, "Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the APMBC by BiH" workshop, Sarajevo, 17–18 February 2026.

14 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C; and email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

15 EUFOR in BiH, Mine Information Coordination Cell, accessed 25 July 2026, https://shorturl.at/WpPfm; and email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

16 https://the-monitor.org.

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

BiH is also contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW). The last cluster munition remnants (CMR) were destroyed at the end of August 2023, and BHMAC declared completion of its Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 4 clearance obligations at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties (11 MSP) to the CCM in Geneva in September 2023.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

BHMAC was established in 1998, and the first Mine Action Law was passed in 2002.[17] The Demining Commission, under the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, supervises the State-wide BHMAC and represents BiH in its relations with the international community on mine-related issues.[18] The Demining Commission is composed of representatives from three ministries (Civil Affairs, Defence, and Security) elected to represent BiH's three main ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs). Whereas the Minister for Civil Affairs remains ultimately responsible for mine action, the Demining Commission is the body tasked with setting mine action policy on periodic re-accreditation of field operators, based on a recommendation from BHMAC. It also proposes appointment of BHMAC senior staff for approval by the Council of Ministers.[19]

BHMAC is responsible for regulating mine action and implementing BiH's survey and clearance plans.[20] It operates from its headquarters in Sarajevo, two main operations offices in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and eight regional offices (in Banja Luka, Bihac, Brčko, Mostar, Pale, Sarajevo, Travnik, and Tuzla).[21]

Since 2008, efforts have been made to adopt new mine action legislation in BiH with a view to creating a stable platform for mine action funding by the government and local authorities. The process was restarted in 2022, with adoption initially planned for June 2025. By July 2026, the Law had passed public consultations and received no objections from the Government of BiH or the Brcko district authority, but was still pending comments from the Government of Republika Srpska.[22]

The draft demining Law provides for 0.2% of the State and entity budgets to be allocated to mine action, which BHMAC estimates would cover 50 to 60% of the funding needed for BiH to fulfil its Article 5 obligations (BAM260 million, equivalent to US$152 million). Under the proposed law, BiH institutions would finance BHMAC's NTS survey as well as survey and clearance by the armed forces; entity government budgets would fund operations by the civil protection; and further funding would be provided by Brčko district, cantons, municipalities, and public and private companies.[23] The new law would also strengthen the legal protection of deminers through beneficial seniority and more favourable retirement conditions.[24] These measures are hoped to help address difficulties in recruiting and retaining deminers as the current increasingly ageing generation of experienced personnel approach retirement. Furthermore, the new Law would allow BHMAC to task NTS to accredited national operators,[25] contrary to the current legislation according to which only BHMAC is authorised to conduct NTS, a situation operators have long sought to change. BHMAC Director, Enis Horozović, told the media that adoption of the law would make completion of mine clearance by 2034 possible, and that failing to do so, "he was not optimistic that BiH would complete clearance even by 2045."[26]

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.[27] BHMAC has previously faced allegations and legal proceedings following the discovery of AP and AV mines on land that had already been released and quality-managed, or following incidents occurring on unmarked hazardous areas.[28]

Following decades of operation, both international demining NGOs—MAG and NPA—announced the closure of their programmes in BiH in 2025 due to global budget cuts.[29] All MAG's staff, both operational and support, were made redundant by the end of December 2025, and by February 2026, MAG was finalising sale and donation of equipment and the last administrative and financial steps.[30] As at July 2026, NPA's remaining staff members were supporting the formal closure of programme activities, including some reporting obligations.[31] NPA had been supporting capacity

17 CCM Article 4 Extension Request, September 2020, p. 7.

18 BHMAC Organisational chart, accessed 18 July 2026, https://shorturl.at/FsbGl.

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

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

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

22 "Horozović: New law on demining would enable BiH to be cleared of mines by 2034", (in Bosnian), *Federlana*, 4 April 2026, https://shorturl.at/a3zla; Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Public consultations on the Draft Law on Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina", (In Bosnian), 1 December 2025, https://shorturl.at/tOsl0; and Revised 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 28.

23 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

24 Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Minister Bošnjak in Sarajevo opened a two-day meeting dedicated to demining", 18 February 2026.

25 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026; and Revised 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18.

26 "Horozović: New law on demining would enable BiH to be cleared of mines by 2034", (in Bosnian), *Federlana*, 4 April 2026, https://shorturl.at/a3zla.

27 Email from the GICHD, 14 May 2021.

28 GICHD, "Guide to insurance", https://shorturl.at/bk2EI, pp. 14–16; and "Can Bosnia and Herzegovina be free of mines by 2025: They are also found in already demined areas", (in Croatian), *Radio Sarajevo*, 16 February 2019, https://shorturl.at/NQhdl.

29 MAG, "MAG announces the closure of its Bosnia and Herzegovina programme", 19 December 2025, bit.ly/3X5a40I; and "Demining process on the verge of collapse: Norwegian People's Aid shuts down program in BiH, dozens of workers lose their jobs" (in Bosnian), *Forbes*, 25 October 2025, https://shorturl.at/VaELo.

30 Email from Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026.

31 Email from Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

development in BiH since 2010, including capacity building of the Armed Forces' demining battalion.[32] MAG had also supported national capacity development through a digital risk education project.[33]

The EU Delegation in BiH, through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance III (IPA III) project, provided technical support to the BHMAC and the entity civil protection agencies by supplying new off-road vehicles, protective equipment, and GPS devices.[34]

After a 10-year hiatus, Board of Donors meetings resumed in September 2015.[35] BiH's Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 specifies that at least one such meeting should be organised every year. Two Board of Donor meetings took place in 2025, in May and December, organised by the Ministry of Civil affairs with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).[36]

A Country Coalition was established between BiH and Germany with the aim of providing a forum of regular dialogue and demonstrate national ownership. This Coalition never advanced beyond its initial meeting in 2020.[37]

Since the appointment of the new BHMAC director in June 2024, MAG and NPA have noted increased openness within BHMAC to reform and reinvigorate TWGs to foster dialogue between operators, BHMAC, and its regional offices.[38] Two TWG meetings were convened in 2025: the first, in June, dealt largely with administrative matters, and the second, in December, was attended by representative of eleven demining organisations. Discussions focused on improving cooperation, site visits, and challenges arising from the departure of MAG and NPA and the reduced donor support.[39] NPA did not attend the December meeting, while MAG described it as closer to a presentation than an actual working group.[40]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

National funding supports BHMAC and survey and clearance by the BiH Armed Forces, financed by the State budget through the Council of Ministers. The Federation of BiH funds the Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP), while the Republika Srpska government finances the Civil Protection Administration for Republika Srpska (CPA RS).[41] In 2025, BHMAC received BAM8.7 million (approximately US$5 million), an increase on the support provided the year before. Additionally, BAM2.9 million was allocated to the BiH Armed Forces, BAM5 million for the FACP, and BAM4 million for the CPA RS.[42]

In December 2024, the Council of Ministers approved the multi-year project "Co-financing of mine action", with a total budget of BAM2 million (US$1.17 million) for 2025–27. The project aims to co-finance mine action by providing State funding to local communities who allocate resources from their own budgets to demining, with each community (canton, municipality, or city) required to contribute at least 30% of the amount allocated by the State. The project allocated BAM650,000 (US$380,000) in both 2025 and 2026, and BAM700,000 (US$409,000) in 2027. In 2025, the State funds were distributed among seven local communities that had earmarked funding for demining in their own budgets.[43]

In 2025, funding for AP mine survey and clearance in BiH came from the United States, PayPal, the European Union, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Slovenia, and an individual donor, Dr René Schasse.[44]

In 2025, NPA was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), and MAG was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the US Department of State of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA). GFFO funding for MAG ended in March 2025, and all remaining funding for the two organisations' BiH programmes had ended by the close of the year.[45]

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on BiH on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.[46]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 specifies that: "Under BHMAC leadership, the relevant actors will include the issues of gender and diversity in all phases of planning, realisation and monitoring of all mine activities".[47] The revised mine action strategy reflects the 2003 Law on Gender Equality in BiH, which foresees equal treatment and equality

32 Email from Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
33 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.
34 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.
35 Interview with Tarik Serak, BHMAC, Sarajevo, 10 May 2017; and emails from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 19 June 2017; and Suad Baljak, Mine Action Officer, UNDP, 15 June 2017; and UNDP BiH, "Mine Action Board of Donors Meeting", 31 March 2016.
36 BiH, Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–27, p. 24; and emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 8 October 2025 and 27 April 2026.
37 Emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 5 June 2025 and 27 April 2026.
38 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 25 April 2024; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 9 May 2024.
39 Emails from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025; and Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.
40 Emails from Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.
41 Emails from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 22 March 2022; and Suad Baljak, UNDP, 18 September 2020.
42 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.
43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
45 Emails from Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.
46 https://the-monitor.org.
47 Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, p. 17.

of opportunity and prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination on the ground of gender. The Law on Gender Equality determines that equal representation of men and women exists when the percentage of either gender in bodies at all levels in BiH (State, entity, cantonal, and municipality level) is at least 40%.[48]

BHMAC, MAG and NPA all reported having a policy on gender for their work.[49]

Table 2: Gender composition of operators in 2025[50]

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
BHMAC	146	30 (21%)	23	5 (22%)	116	20 (17%)
FACP	191	41 (21%)	12	5 (42%)	142	14 (10%)
NPA	60	9 (15%)	13	3 (23%)	46	1 (2%)
MAG*	4	3 (75%)	2	1 (50%)	0	0 (0%)
Totals	**401**	**83 (21%)**	**50**	**14 (28%)**	**304**	**35 (12%)**

* Data as at December 2025 reflecting only staff who stay employed until 28 February 2026 to manage programme closure.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

BiH does not have an NMAS on environmental management. The NMAS provide for the development of a dedicated chapter, in accordance with IMAS 07.13, addressing environmental protection. BHMAC plans to develop the remaining NMAS chapters by the end of 2026 and throughout 2027.[51] BHMAC procedures, followed by the FACP, include guidelines for safe handling of explosives to prevent contamination, controlled detonations to limit harmful emissions, environmental impact assessments to identify protected areas and ecosystems, and post-demining land restoration.[52] Most demining in BiH is conducted using manual methods avoiding invasive consequences for the environment.

BiH excludes the use of flail machines on agricultural land that disturb soil deeper than 20cm because the impact of the hammers compacts the soil, making it impermeable to water and unsuitable for sowing for two to three years. Machinery is also not used on mountain pastures to protect long-established grass cover that may not recover after mechanical treatment. In forested areas, forestry enterprises are consulted to determine which vegetation may be removed and which tree species should be preserved, while still allowing metal detectors to be used at the required height. According to BHMAC, every processed MSA contains information about soil type, as well as data on potential negative environmental impacts, and statistical data on extreme weather conditions that can directly affect mine action activities.[53]

Environmental considerations are included in the Revised Mine Action Strategy but only in reference to the 2022 study on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[54] BiH's latest Article 5 deadline extension request makes general reference to the potential environmental benefits of land release, including enabling the safe return of communities and sustainable exploitation of natural resources.[55]

Environmental assessments are sometimes conducted to support the planning and delivery of demining projects. For example, an environmental study has been integrated in the tender process of project "The demining of the River Sava right bank", which has now been completed.[56]

In 2025, MAG conducted a baseline environmental assessment to measure and reduce the climate and environmental impact of its operations. MAG's plan to develop an environmental action plan in 2025 was cancelled due to the programme closure.[57]

48 Ibid.

49 Emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026; Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

50 Emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 24 April, 2026; Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

51 Revised 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 226 (on the PDF document).

52 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.

53 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

54 GICHD and UNDP, "The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 2 June 2022, https://bit.ly/3X9qv8z.

55 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 21.

56 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

57 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025.

Table 3: Environmental policies and action[58]

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
Demining Battalion*	No	No	No
NPA	Yes	Yes	Yes
MAG	Organisational, not country programme-specific	No	No

* Data are from 2024.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

BHMAC continues to use its Paradox-based information management system, BHMAIS.[59] BHMAIS is an in-house relational database whose technology dates back to the 1990s. While the closed system means that BHMAC has full control on the database and can easily tweak feed the data, the technology does not support geospatial data or online access for non-BHMAC personnel, let alone accommodating the upgrades needed to ensure data protection. In 2025, BHMAIS was subject to a cyberattack which resulted in loss of data. BHMAC says that some, but not all, of the lost data were recovered following the attack. The absence of geospatial capability also means that incident records could not be accurately located to support NTS mapping, weakening confidence in the survey evidence and subsequent land-release decisions.[60]

A migration from BHMAIS to IMSMA Core has been ongoing since 2019. Phase one was completed in 2020.[61] A follow-up project to migrate the data and workflows supported by the GFFO and conducted in partnership with the GICHD and NPA began in February 2023 and concluded in August 2024.[62] The migration, however, was never fully completed with BHMAC citing reasons related to the incompleteness of database forms, lack of preparation of the necessary tools for migration, challenges in training, and some resistance of long-serving BHMAC personnel who are accustomed to using the legacy system.[63]

BiH's mine action plan of 2025 had aimed for the correction of all data in BHMAIS and the creation of work flows and access control matrix for the new database. This, however, did not materialise.[64] The updated work plan of 2026 stated that completion of migration was approximately 70% complete, and concluded that the process required contracting a professional external service provider with competences in GIS and web-oriented database. BHMAC said it had allocated the necessary funds for contracting the service, but thought it unlikely that the new IMSMA Core system would be fully functioning in 2026.[65] As at July 2026, BHMAC said it would soon launch the tender for the service.[66]

Both MAG and NPA pointed out that institutional resistance to change within BHMAC has hampered the database migration. Decades of reliance on hard-copy records, physical archives, and hand-drawn maps during tasking, reporting, and land-release procedures required sustained change management efforts to secure adoption of new working practices. This was compounded by other technical limitations related to data validation and system adaptation. The continued reliance on BHMAIS is also an impediment to establishing an accurate contamination baseline in BiH, despite the extensive survey and resurvey efforts that have been carried out along the years.[67] Currently, Operators do not have access to BHMAC's information management database,[68] and rely solely on materials provided in task dossiers prepared by BHMAC from their old system (BHMAIS).[69]

In 2021, BHMAC with the support of UNDP, launched a mobile phone application for the use of public mapping the locations of all mine suspected areas. The application has been promoted on the webpage of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and has so far recorded only 12,000 downloads, below expectations.[70]

Information management is the first strategic goal in BiH's revised mine action strategy. Targets are to establish a staffed and trained Information Management Unit by the end of 2026; revise and implement relevant NMAS and standard

58 Emails from Operational Command of the Armed Forces of BiH, 4 June 2025; Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

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

60 Intervention by Tarik Serak, BHMAC, "Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the APMBC by BiH" workshop, Sarajevo, 17–18 February 2026.

61 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 5; and email from the GICHD, 27 April 2022.

62 Emails from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 6 April 2023; Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD, 25 May 2023; Henrik Rydberg, GICHD, 29 June 2023; and Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 12 April and 16 September 2024.

63 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026; and intervention by Tarik Serak, BHMAC, "Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the APMBC by BiH" workshop, Sarajevo, 17–18 February 2026.

64 Mine Action Activity Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2025 and 2026, pp. 45–46.

65 Demining Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2026 (Annex 5 of 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request), p. 44.

66 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

67 Emails from Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

68 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025 and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

69 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

70 Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, (In Croatian), "Application for mobile phones with BHMAC data on mine-suspected locations", 1 February 2021; and "Horozović: New law on demining would enable BiH to be cleared of mines by 2034", (in Bosnian), *Federlana*, 4 April 2026.

operating procedures (SOPs) as necessary in coordination with partners; define organisational structures to integrate information management across BHMAC by the end of 2026; and maintain IMSMA Core in line with future revisions to NMAS and SOPs.[71]

BiH continues to present contamination and land release figures using BiH-specific MSA terminology, which is not consistent with the IMAS, and does allow a clear understanding of the actual scale of the threat or the progress made. This was most recently evident in BHMAC's data provided in response to the Mine Action Review's questionnaire, as well as in BiH's 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request. In addition, BiH's latest extension request could not reconcile the baselines presented at end of each extension period, with the progress made in the intervening years. The current information management system appears to be at the heart of BiH's inability to align its reporting with the international standards, rather than a lack of commitment to reporting. It is therefore crucial that BHMAC follows through on its commitment to migrate to the new database without further delay.

PLANNING AND TASKING

BiH's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 sought to release all mine contamination. Planned revisions in 2020 and 2023 were delayed, with the first revision completed in 2024.[72] The revised strategy was adopted by the Council of Ministers in April 2025.[73]

The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 includes a comprehensive action plan for all five strategic goals, detailing operational objectives, indicators, and targets for 2025 and 2026. Strategic goal three is about survey and clearance with a target of releasing 75km^2, of which 60km^2 will be cancelled through NTS, 13.5km^2 reduced through TS, and 1.5km^2 cleared.[74] BiH missed this target by nearly 22km^2. By the time of submitting its latest Article 5 deadline extension request in March 2026, BiH revised down its annual land release targets to 55km^2 per year for the period 2027–32 with 44km^2 (80%) expected to be cancelled, 9.9km^2 (18%) reduced, and 1.1km^2 (1.1km^2) cleared. Following the departure of MAG and NPA, however, even these reduced targets may be difficult to achieve without a substantial expansion of national capacity. BiH does not foresee completion by the end of its newly requested extension, and estimates to be left with 425km^2 of AP mine contamination at the end of the extension period, i.e. March 2032.[75]

Previously, BHMAC had planned to release a total of 701km^2 (then revised down to 620.3km^2 in the revised strategy (see Table 4).[76] BiH has fallen well behind its land release targets each year since 2020.

BHMAC developed an updated demining plan, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in July 2025. The updated proposal set the goals of reduction of SHAs, removal of mines and ERW, reduction in the number of people exposed to threats, and enabling safe use of land. The updated proposal also features a detailed financial plan, and a list of equipment and resources needed to implement it.[77]

Table 4: Planned land release in 2023–32 (km^2)[78]

Year	Land release target in extension requests	Land release target in mine action strategy	Release achieved	Gap in implementation*
2020	71.8	-	16.2	55.6
2021	91.3	-	34.0	57.0
2022	110.3	-	52.8	57.5
2023	126.4	-	31.5	94.9
2024	145.5	-	15.5	130.0
2025	155.7	75	53.2	21.8
Totals (2020–2025)	**701**	**75**	**203.2**	**416.8**

71 Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025-2027, pp. 20–22.

72 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 34; and Statement of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 18–20 June 2024.

73 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.

74 Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, p. 29.

75 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 15, p. 31.

76 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24.

77 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Updated Demining Plan (Annex IV).

78 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table, p. 24; Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, pp. 27 and 29; email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 8 October 2025; and 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 15, p. 31.

Table 4 continued

Year	Land release target in extension requests	Land release target in mine action strategy	Release achieved	Gap in implementation*
2026	131.4	75	-	-
2027	**55	-	-	-
2028	55	-	-	-
2029	55	-	-	-
2030	55	-	-	-
2031	55	-	-	-
Totals (2026–2031)	**406.4**	**75**	**0**	**0**

* Calculated based on the most recently-set targets. ** Initially planned to release 134.6km^2 in the 2020 revised Article 5 deadline extension request, but then revised downwards to 55km^2 in the 2026 extension request.

In its latest 2026 Extension Request, BiH says that BHMAC and municipal authorities jointly prioritise MSAs for release. MSAs are classified as high, medium, or low risk. MSAs with higher probability of PROM-type mines, large confirmed CHAs, and high/medium level of impact are categorised as high or medium. All other MSAs are classified as low risk. Other prioritisation considerations include the extension to which the minefields prevent safe return, and whether an MSA is located up to 500 metres from inhabited areas.[79] Of the 478 MSAs established through the country assessment, 189 were deemed high risk, 274 medium, and 15 low risk.[80]

In 2025, BHMAC prepared 57 task dossiers and assigned them to operators.[81] Operators are assigned whole MSAs by BHMAC, inside which BHMAC designates specific areas (CHA or SHA polygons) for either systematic TS, based on "general, non-location-specific" evidence of contamination, or targeted TS, based on "location-specific" evidence of contamination, as well as clearance (if contamination is confirmed). Formally, only BHMAC can conduct NTS and cancel areas no longer suspected to contain mines.[82]

FACP reported that task dossiers were mostly issued on time, except in a few cases of delay due to project inspections by BHMAC.[83] MAG has faced delays with the issuance of task dossiers and final task completion certificates due to BHMAC's continued reliance on its outdated database and slow internal quality management procedures requiring multiple layers of central approval. These constraints also limit the number of survey and clearance tasks regional offices can oversee annually, especially when State operator activities occur in parallel.[84]

NPA reported that task dossiers for activities within the annual operational plan were generally issued on time, but they often lacked sufficiently detailed NTS information needed to support efficient survey and clearance. Information on earlier survey work and available evidence was sometimes incomplete, requiring operators to conduct additional survey and community liaison to supplement the dossiers and support BHMAC with updated information. BHMAC claimed that gaps or unverified information in initial NTS reports were to be expected since technical methods had not been applied. BHMAC regulations require accredited organisations to deploy community liaison teams to verify NTS reports and collect additional information after a task is opened, and then return it to BHMAC for analysis and final decision making.[85] According NPA, the issuance of task completion certificates also often faces delays, stemming from administrative bottlenecks and coordination challenges among regional offices and BHMAC headquarters.[86]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

In 2016, the Demining Commission adopted revised NMAS chapters on land release, NTS, and TS, developed with technical assistance from the European Union, UNDP, and the GICHD.[87] In 2024, BHMAC conducted a comprehensive revision of the NMAS with the revised NMAS formally adopted and published by May 2024.[88] The 2024 revisions included updated chapters on land release, NTS, TS and clearance, and quality management, aligning more closely with IMAS but also introducing additional administrative requirements for operators.[89] The updated standards have been implemented since January 2025.[90]

79 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 29–30; and email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.
80 Revised Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, p. 7.
81 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.
82 Emails from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 12 March 2021; Clement Meynier, MAG, 11 March 2021; and Jonas Zachrisson, NPA, 14 March 2021.
83 Email from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 24 April 2026.
84 Email from Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026.
85 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 21 August 2026.
86 Email from Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.
87 BHMAC, "Report on Mine Action in BiH for 2016", February 2017, p. 18.
88 Email from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June 2025.
89 Ibid.
90 Email from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025. The 2024 revised NMAS are available in Bosnian at https://shorturl.at/0IwnG.

In its last 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, BiH forecasted that during the extension period (2027–32), 80% of mined area will be cancelled through NTS, 18% reduced through TS, and only 2% will require clearance.[91] This estimate is based on the land release results of the preceding extension period (2021–25), whereby 76% was cancelled through NTS, 22% reduced through TS, and 2% cleared.[92] These results indicate that actual AP mine contamination in BiH is only a small proportion of the total hazardous area and therefore deployment of clearance assets is only required for relatively small areas.[93] It is thus crucial that NTS is used to identify the location of mined areas more accurately before TS and clearance are conducted. BHMAC conducts NTS and cancels some area before an MSA is assigned to an operator although, as previously mentioned, operators often need to conduct additional survey and/or community liaison to supplement the information provided. In practice, most cancellation by BHMAC occurs following completion of TS and clearance of all hazardous areas within an MSA.[94]

Land release practices often vary across BHMAC's regional offices, with some applying the methods more conservatively than others. Some heads of BHMAC offices expressed reluctance to cancel or reduce land where reliable minefield records or credible first-hand testimonies are unavailable.[95] As mentioned earlier, BHMAC has previously faced allegations and legal proceedings following the discovery of AP and AV mines on land that had already been released and quality-managed.[96] Such cases may partly explain the caution exerted by some regional offices and their reluctance to adopt more efficient land release approaches. It also demonstrates the need to address the issues of "all reasonable effort" and "liability" in the national legislation, including the point at which responsibility is transferred from BHMAC to the State. This issue, the GICHD argues, is not sufficiently tackled in the new draft Law.

MAG and NPA both strongly advocate for operators with adequate capacity and experience to take responsibility for cancellation through NTS.[97] However, the new proposal for the law would allow BHMAC to task NTS only to national operators, not to international ones. Subject to the law's adoption, BHMAC is considering delegating NTS to the BiH Armed Forces starting 2027.[98]

The difficulties to transition to standardised and consistent application of land release has been acknowledged by BHMAC Operations Manager who said that "We [BHMAC] have been transitioning to the land release concepts for nine years. It's difficult for people who have been using a methodology for 20 years to adopt the new concepts." BHMAC recognised the need to organise workshops, exchanges, and training to promote more consistent practice across its regional offices, and is developing a "Rulebook of accreditation of companies" to support this. BHMAC has previously pledged to ensure through quality management that all operators accredited for TS and clearance comply with the principles of land release.[99]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

In 2025, a total of 13 organisations were deployed for survey and clearance in BiH: three government organisations (Armed Forces of BiH, CPA RS, and FACP); six commercial organisations, all national (DCM Media, Detektor, In Demining, N&N IVSA, Point, and UEM); two national NGOs (Mine Detection Dog Centre (MDDC) and Stop Mines); and the two international NGOs (MAG and NPA).[100]

Table 5: Operational survey and clearance capacities deployed in 2025[101]

Operator	No. of teams	Total personnel	Dogs and handlers	Machines	Comments
Armed Forces BiH	28	231	5	4	TS and clearance
CPA RS	6	33	2	2	TS and clearance
DCM Media	1	10	2	0	TS and clearance
Detektor	1	10	0	1	TS and clearance
FACP	7	64	4	3	TS and clearance
In Demining	3	21	2	1	TS and clearance
MDDC	2	13	2	0	TS and clearance

91 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 15, p. 31.

92 Revised 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 2, p. 9.

93 BiH, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, pp. 6 and 11; and Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.

94 Emails from Clement Meynier, Country Director, MAG, 14 March 2022; and Charles Frisby, NPA, 11 April 2022.

95 Working group with Directors of BHMAC regional offices, "Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the APMBC by BiH" workshop, Sarajevo, 17–18 February 2026.

96 GICHD, "Guide to insurance", https://shorturl.at/bk2EI, pp. 14–16; and "Can Bosnia and Herzegovina be free of mines by 2025: They are also found in already demined areas", (in Croatian), *Radio Sarajevo*, 16 February 2019, https://shorturl.at/NQhdl.

97 Emails from Pauline Boyer, MAG, 4 June 2025; and Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June and 30 September 2025.

98 Revised 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 28.

99 Draft Demining plan in BiH for 2020, Annex 6 to the Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request, p. 20; and Intervention by Tarik Serak, BHMAC, "Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the APMBC by BiH" workshop, Sarajevo, 17–18 February 2026.

100 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

101 Emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April and 1 September 2026; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 24 April 2026; Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

Table 5 continued

Operator	No. of teams	Total personnel	Dogs and handlers	Machines	Comments
MAG	3	21	2	0	In January–March 2025, MAG deployed 8 teams of 52 deminers, 3 dogs and 2 handlers
N&N IVSA	1	8	2	1	TS and clearance
NPA	4	24	6	3	NPA also deployed 1 NTS team of 2 personnel
POINT	1	11	0	1	TS and clearance
Stop Mines	3	19	2	1	TS and clearance
UEM	2	9	2	2	TS and clearance
Totals	**62**	**474**	**31 teams of dogs and handlers**	**19**	

A clearance project along the Sava river's right bank, which is part of the wider "Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors Integrated Development Program", and funded by the European Union through the World Bank, has seen repeated delays. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Communications and Transport, with collaboration and technical oversight of BHMAC. It envisages clearing 5.29km² along a 40km corridor covering nine municipalities. Although the grant was approved in 2020 and financing agreement signed in 2024, the project had still not reached the tendering stage by July 2026, despite a planned completion date of November 2027.[102]

The EU IPA III started the implementation phase in 2025. Under this project, €10 million of funding has been allocated over three years covering 42 MSAs of 65.87km²: 24 in the Federation of BiH and 18 in Republika Srpska.[103] BHMAC had increased the numbers of its TS and clearance personnel in 2025 in anticipation of the implementation of both projects, although the former did not start in 2025. BHMAC conducted 2,245 inspections on 90 tasks, during which 98 metal detectors, 51 mine detection dogs (MDD) teams and 1 machine were tested.[104]

Following the decision to close of their programmes, MAG reduced its operational capacity from six mine action teams (MATs) to three, and from two community liaison teams to one. The remaining teams were made redundant by December 2025. NPA's number of personnel decreased by half in 2025 compared to the previous year, and as at July 2026, NPA's remaining staff members were finalising the closure of all activities.[105]

BHMAC integrated drones into NTS after their successful use in the country assessment project. Drone records help identify confrontation line trenches, roads, areas in use, and other crucial elements for demining project development. Targeted investigation is used to identify hazardous areas during NTS.[106] Clearance and TS in BiH involve mechanical ground preparation, manual clearance, and use of MDDs, depending on the conditions of the mined area.[107] Much of the remaining mined area is on hills or in mountains, which restricts machinery use.

With the exception of MAG and NPA, clearance operators in BiH typically compete for international tenders in order to secure funding. A UNDP evaluation found this resulted in considerable capacity being underused and recommended alternative contracting models that would be more appropriate for land release in BiH, either by having longer term contracts or by being contracted to clear larger areas. This could be more attractive to the demining organisations in terms of security and could make better use of capacity.[108] National demining NGOs, such as Stop Mines or Pro Vita, which are registered in a similar way to companies, have the ability to quickly mobilise additional resources and upscale operations.[109] According to the CPA RS, the lack of trained deminers was becoming a problem.[110]

The Demining Commission is responsible for periodic re-accreditation of field operators, based on a recommendation from BHMAC. Quality control and quality assurance are both conducted by BHMAC.[111]

102 The World Bank, "Restructuring Paper of Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors Development Program", https://shorturl.at/KHdnY; World Bank Investment Framework, "Rhine/Danube Corridor: Demining the Right Bank of the Sava River in Bosnia and Herzegovina", https://shorturl.at/0SUr7; Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Transport infrastructure, preparation and implementation of projects-vijesti", 23 July 2024; and email from BHMAC.

103 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 16 September 2024.

104 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

105 Emails from Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

106 Email from Ljiljana Ilić, BHMAC, 15 April 2022.

107 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 11.

108 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, p. 35.

109 Email from Fotini Antonopoulou, EU, 18 September 2017.

110 Email from Milisav Pantic, CPA RS, 23 September 2022.

111 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 8.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 6: Summary of land release outputs in 2025 (BHMAC data)

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2025 (km²)
Clearance	0.75
Technical survey	11.47
Non-technical survey	40.21
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2025**
AP mines destroyed	3,117

Mine Action Review has used the land release data reported by BHMAC but there are significant discrepancies with the data reported by operators as noted in the tables below. While operators report on their survey and clearance progress during 2025, BHMAC only reports this data once the whole MSA task is completed and certified. In addition, BHMAC database does not include the AP mines destroyed by FACP in spot tasks,[112] which are added up and noted separately below.

SURVEY IN 2025

In 2025, BHMAC released a total of 51.68km² through survey. Of this, 40.21km² was cancelled through NTS (33.21km² within MSAs and 7km² cancelled on individual tasks), and 11.47km² reduced through TS (including 10.48km² within the MSAs and 0.99km² in individual tasks).

Detailed survey data per operators are provided in Tables 7 and 8. There was a slight discrepancy between the total area cancelled through NTS data reported by BHMAC within the MSAs (33.21km²) and that in Table 7 (33.9km²).[113]

According to BHMAC data, a total of 33.9km² was cancelled through NTS on tasks assigned to operators in MSA. Of this, 16.3km² was cancelled on tasks assigned to MAG; 7.5km² was cancelled on tasks assigned to NPA; 3.9km² to the Armed Forces of BiH; 2.9km² to MDDC; 2.1km² to FACP; and 1.1km² to CPA RS (see Table 7). In addition, 10.5km² was reduced through TS in MSAs. Of this, 3.8km² was reduced by NPA; 2.8km² by MAG; 1.5km² by the Armed Forces of BiH; 1km² by CPA RS; 0.9km² by MDDC; and 0.5km² by FACP (see Table 8).[114] Data in Tables 7 and 8 are already included in the overall survey figures provided by BHMAC.

Since operators are not authorised to conduct NTS in BiH, the NTS attributed to operators in Table 7 is conducted by BHMAC on tasks assigned to the operators. While the legislation currently in force in BiH does not permit operators to cancel land. Operators do contribute to the cancellation by complementing the information provided in the initial NTS report prepared by BHMAC through their community liaison (CL) teams.[115]

Table 7: Release through NTS of AP mined area in 2025[116]

Canton	Operator	Area cancelled (m²)
Brcko District	MAG	4,015,729
	NPA	5,928,936
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	MAG	752,864
	MDDC	1,182,564
	FACP	1,404,173
Srednje Bosanski	MAG	1,071,941
Tuzlanski	NPA	1,073,047
	MAG	5,238,280
Unsko Sanski	Armed Forces of BiH	8,160,708
Zenicko Dobojski	MDDC	790,117
Total BiH Federation		**29,618,359**

112 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

113 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026; and BiH's Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.

114 Ibid.

115 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 11 August 2026.

116 Ibid.

Table 7 continued

Canton	Operator	Area cancelled (m²)
Republika Srpska	Armed forces of BiH	3,101,445
	CPA RS	890,832
	NPA	244,232
Total Republika Srpska		**4,236,509**
Grand Total		**33,854,868**

Table 8: Release through TS of AP mined area in 2025[117]

Canton	Operator	Area reduced (m²)
Brcko District	MAG	1,393,700
	NPA	1,490,204
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	MAG	1,061,997
	MDDC	377,534
	FACP	423,870
Srednje Bosanski	MAG	427,749
Tuzlanski	NPA	971,125
	MAG	1,924,296
Unsko Sanski	Armed Forces of BiH	961,542
Zenicko Dobojski	MDDC	471,677
Total BiH Federation		**9,503,694**
Republika Srpska	Armed forces of BiH	569,095
	CPA RS	101,197
	NPA	302,349
Total Republika Srpska		**972,641**
Grand Total		**10,476,335**

As mentioned, survey data provide by operators and reflecting progress made regardless of the task completion and certification differ from what is reported by BHMAC. According to operators' data, MAG reduced 1.4km² of AP mined area across four hazardous areas (HAs); NPA reduced 0.94km² across 23 HAs; and FACP reduced 0.24km² across 15 HAs. This brings the total of area reported as reduced through TS by operators to 2.58km².[118]

CLEARANCE IN 2025

In 2025, BHMAC reported the clearance of 0.75km² of AP mined area, of which 0.66km² was cleared in MSAs (see Table 9), and 0.09km² was cleared in individual tasks (see Table 10). A total of 3,117 AP mines were destroyed, including 217 AP mines destroyed in individual tasks, and 848 AP mines destroyed by FACP in spot tasks. In addition, 842 items of UXO were destroyed.[119] There is a discrepancy of 98 AP mines between the total number of AP mines reported as destroyed by BHMAC (2,269) and the totals in Tables 9 and 10 (2,171).

Of the 0.75km² cleared in MSAs: 343,038m² was cleared by MAG; 201,496m² by NPA; 66,552m² by the Armed Forces of BiH; 30,785m² by CPA RS; 10,773m² by MDDC; and 5,671m² by FACP. A total of 1,954 AP mines and 736 items of UXO were destroyed in the process (see Table 9).[120]

There were substantial differences between the clearance data reported by BHMAC and the data reported by operators. According to operators' data, a total of 616,136m² of AP mined area was cleared in 2025, during which, 1,321 AP mines were destroyed (including 848 AP mines destroyed in EOD spot tasks), 9 AV mines, and 190 items of UXO. Of this total, MAG cleared 513,139m² and destroyed 97 AP mines and 107 items of UXO; NPA cleared 60,726m² and destroyed 207 AP mines, 5 AV mines, and 31 items of UXO; and FACP cleared 42,271m², destroyed 1,017 AP mines (including 848 AP mines destroyed during EOD spot tasks), 4 AV mines, and 52 items of UXO.[121]

117 Ibid.

118 Emails from Muamer Husilović, FACP, 24 April 2026; Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; and Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026.

119 Emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026; Muamer Husilović, FACP, 24 April 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C. The total number of the destroyed items of UXO reported by BHMAC (842) is different than the total of Tables 9 and 10 (833).

120 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

121 Emails from Elisa Radaelli, MAG, 28 April 2026; Braço Pandurevic, NPA, 29 June 2026; and Muamer Husilović, FACP, 24 April 2026.

Table 9: AP mine clearance in 2025[122]

Canton	Operator	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Brcko District	MAG	54,684	229	115
	NPA	20,010	87	59
Hercegovacko Neretvanski	MAG	61,228	126	14
	MDDC	9,916	16	28
	FACP	17,645	22	13
Srednje Bosanski	MAG	19,635	35	21
Tuzlanski	NPA	30,785	139	108
	MAG	130,720	497	195
Unsko Sanski	Armed Forces of BiH	272,280	537	109
Zenicko Dobojski	MDDC	7,604	18	21
Totals BiH Federation		**624,507**	**1,706**	**683**
Republika Srpska	Armed Forces of BiH	7,963	51	10
	CPA RS	10,076	19	1
	NPA	15,770	178	42
Totals Republika Srpska		**33,809**	**248**	**53**
Grand totals		**658,316**	**1,954**	**736**

Table 10: AP mine clearance in individual tasks[123]

Canton	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
Srednjo-Bosanski	55,916	212	95
Posavski	17,190	4	0
Totals BiH Federation	**73,106**	**216**	**95**
Totals Republika Srpska	**20,709**	**1**	**2**
Grand totals	**93,815**	**217**	**97**

Land release outputs increased sharply in 2025 compared with the previous year. Land released through survey more than tripled, from 15.6km² in 2024 to 51.7km² in 2025, while clearance output increased from 0.2km² to 0.8km². The reason for this increase is the certification of many MSAs, some of which were worked on for several years, in addition to the completion of major projects including "Brčko – Mine-Free" and "Vukosavlje – Mine-Free".[124] For 2025, BHMAC reported that three AP mined area tasks, totalling 6,876m², were cleared with no mines being found, a substantial decrease on the 22 tasks totalling 702,229m² cleared in 2024 with no AP mines found.[125]

During the past years, NPA Analysis showed that when mechanical ground preparation were included in its calculations, NPA processed an average of 48% of the total area reduced through its TS work. As high as 27% of the reduced area was processed when only manual and MDD assets were included in the calculation. This is a higher proportion than in other countries where NPA operates which is believed to reflect a growing inability to direct operations in line with evidence on the ground. In particular, NPA believes that land release productivity could be improved through improved analysis and operational planning based on NTS results and greater use of targeted rather than "systematic" technical survey. Additional reductions in the percentage of reduced area requiring technical interventions could be achieved by reducing requirements from two MDD searches to a single MDD search on mechanically prepared land.[126]

122 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

123 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.

124 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023), Form C.

125 Emails from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 5 June 2025 and 27 April 2026.

126 Emails from Valerie Warmington, NPA, 25 June, 30 September, and 8 October 2025.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR BIH: 1 MARCH 1999

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2009

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (10-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 MARCH 2019

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (2-YEAR INTERIM EXTENSION): 1 MARCH 2021

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE (6-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 MARCH 2027

↓

FOURTH EXTENSION REQUESTED (5-YEAR EXTENSION): 1 MARCH 2032

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: EXTENSION REQUESTED

Under Article 5 of the APMBC and in line with the third extension of its deadline, BiH is required to destroy all AP mines under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2027. BiH will not meet this deadline, and in March 2026, it submitted a fourth extension request seeking a further five-years until March 2032. The request was due to be considered at the Twenty-Third Meeting of States Parties (23 MSP) in December 2026.

In its latest request, submitted in March 2026, BiH states that it does not foresee completion of its Article 5 obligations by the end of its five-year extension period in March 2032. Rather, it expects to use that period to improve its understanding of the remaining challenge, which will then inform the amount of time and resources needed to achieve completion.[127] BiH will need to submit another extension request by March 2031.

The 2020 extension request granted by the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties was also presented as mainly aiming to conduct NTS and TS "to better define the precise perimeter of mined areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina".[128] 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 extent of AP mined area remaining and plan more effectively for its release.[129]

Over the last five years, BiH has released 2.94km^2 through clearance (see Table 11). 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 feel disillusioned that the mines have not been cleared.[130] Land release outputs in 2025 were 70% higher than the previous year with 53.2km^2 released, making it a remarkably productive year. Yet, this achievement was still nearly 22km^2 below the 75km^2 target set in the revised National Mine Action Strategy. Moreover, this increased output appears to be a result of the completion of large MSAs, rather than an actual improvement in delivery capacity. It is therefore questionable whether BiH will be able to sustain this pace of progress going forward, particularly following departure of two major operators, MAG and NPA.

BiH had set very ambitious targets in its 2020 Article 5 deadline extension request, but has progressively recalibrated its targets from 75km^2 per year in its revised National Strategy, then further downwards to 55km^2 in its 2026 extension request. Indeed, the fact that one of BiH's strongest years of land release only narrowly approached the 55km^2 mark underlines that even these revised targets are unlikely to be attainable unless BiH significantly boosts its resources and implements meaningful changes to overcome challenges to efficient land release.

Table 11: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km^2)
2025	0.75
2024	0.17
2023	0.36
2022	0.92
2021	*0.69
Total	**2.89**

* Combined TS and clearance output for MSAs.

BHMAC officials have placed high hopes on the adoption of the draft Mine Action Law and expect it to unlock the resources and potential needed for BiH to keep up with its commitments. While a steady funding stream would certainly be beneficial, it is questionable whether that alone is sufficient to put BiH on a healthy trajectory. The years-long delays to complete the database transition, update legal frameworks, and launch tenders are all demonstrative of how institutional inertia and ineffective decision-making can impede progress, even when funding is readily available.

These institutional difficulties appear to be rooted in the fragmented and multi-layered political system in which BHMAC operates. This translates into a highly decentralised BHMAC, with difficulties in enforcing top-down decisions and applying procedures consistently across its regional offices. Processes requiring inter-institutional collaboration are more cumbersome still, and are frequently caught in prolonged

127 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 24.

128 Revised 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 17.

129 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", Geneva, 7 June 2018.

130 UNDP, Draft Mine Action Governance and Management Assessment for BiH, 13 May 2015, p. 14.

approvals and bottlenecks over which BHMAC has limited control. BHMAC also struggles with retaining its human resources as its experienced staff are reaching retirement age, and with new resources requiring two to three years of training and integration before they are fully operational.[131]

Another underlying constraint to progress is the lack of a reliable information management system despite years of investment and support, and without which BiH is unable to align its reporting and land release processes to international standards. This has long caused frustration and eroded confidence, and is thought to have contributed to the eventual withdrawal of international operators and donors' interest. While BHMAC possesses experienced and highly capable personnel, and has shown readiness to share information, these resources are not efficiently used to serve the programme. Completing the transition to IMSMA Core, accompanied by adequate change management and training efforts to support adoption among BHMAC staff, should therefore be regarded as a priority enabler for BiH's mine action programme.

Survey in BiH over recent years has determined that 80% of mined area can be cancelled through NTS. BHMAC should therefore give greater priority to strengthening NTS resources and capacity. While tasking NTS to operators is not possible before passing of the new Mine Action Law, an interim strategy would be to empower operators to conduct NTS, with BHMAC focusing on oversight and approval.

While the Country Coalition with Germany can now be considered as a missed opportunity, it is positive to see that BiH has picked up on the Board of Donor meetings in 2025, with representation from the Ministry of Civil Affairs signalling political will. BiH should capitalise on this platform as an opportunity to re-engage with donor community, strengthen coordination, and overcome the challenges to its Article 5 implementation.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

The Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027 states that as BiH progresses towards residual contamination, it will slowly transition from operations financed by international resources to the State structures and to be implemented by the national actors: the Armed Forces of BiH, FACP, and CRA RS.[132] The proposed mine action law foresees the allocation of 0.2% from State and entity budgets for mine action, which, if it is indeed adopted, should ensure long-term and stable financing of the sector.[133]

Chapter 1 of the BiH NMAS updated in 2024 integrates residual risk management into the land release process.[134] In its latest Article 7 report, BiH notes it still lacks a legal framework for a sustainable national capacity to address residual contamination. Nonetheless, BiH recognises that it has national capacity in place that could assume this role, and that planning for sustainable capacity will begin once clearance is completed.[135] BiH's revised Article 5 deadline extension request identifies BHMAC as coordinator of post-release responses and the Armed Forces and FACP as operators. It provides a description of protocols established for investigating contamination found on released land, reclassifying and marking land, informing communities, and re-tasking TS or clearance. A detailed residual risk workflow will be described in a future SOP.[136]

131 Intervention by Boris Đukić, head of BHMAC regional office in Banja Luka, "Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the APMBC by BiH" workshop, Sarajevo, 17–18 February 2026.

132 Revised National Mine Action Strategy 2025–2027, p. 36.

133 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 27 April 2026.

134 Email from Mirjana Marić, BHMAC, 1 September 2026.

135 Article 7 Report (covering 2025), Form C.

136 Revised 2026 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 14–15.