

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

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

## CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANT CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2018, contamination from CMR in Kosovo was estimated to cover a total of 15.37km<sup>2</sup> across 48 areas, according to KMAC.<sup>1</sup> This is almost the same as the 15.4km<sup>2</sup> across 49 areas reported for the end of 2017.<sup>2</sup>

Kosovo has gained an accurate assessment of CMR contamination remaining on its territory, as a result of two decades of mine action activities, including surveys in 2013 and 2015. The majority of the contamination is well known across Kosovo's seven districts, with the exception of Mitrovica, where operator Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) expected that additional CMR-contaminated areas would be identified and added to the mine action database in 2019, as it garnered additional information as its operations expanded in southern Mitrovica.<sup>3</sup>

Contamination is primarily a result of conflict between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in the late 1990s; and between the FRY and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999.<sup>4</sup> During Operation Allied Force, NATO aircraft bombed 333 locations between 24 March and 10 June 1999, dropping 1,392 bombs that released more than 295,700 submunitions.<sup>5</sup> Forces of the FRY also used cluster munitions during the 1998–99 conflict in Kosovo.<sup>6</sup> The failure rate of the submunitions was typically between 10% and 15%, resulting in tens of thousands

of unexploded submunitions lying on and under the ground. A large clearance programme followed in 1999 under a United Nations (UN) mandate, but this ended prematurely in 2001, leaving many CMR-contaminated areas still needing to be cleared.<sup>7</sup>

In 2013, The HALO Trust and KMAC conducted a joint non-technical survey of cluster munition strikes and minefields across Kosovo, with the exception of four municipalities in the north. The survey identified 130 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs): 51 cluster munition strikes, covering 7.63km<sup>2</sup>, and 79 mined areas over 2.76km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>8</sup>

In 2015, NPA, in coordination with KMAC and local municipality authorities, conducted non-technical survey of the four northern municipalities, which were not covered in the 2013 HALO Trust/KMAC survey.<sup>9</sup> The NPA survey confirmed 8.9km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contamination in three of the four municipalities surveyed [Leposavic, Zubin Potok, and Zvecan]. No CMR contamination was found in the fourth (Mitrovica North).<sup>10</sup> On the basis of available evidence, NPA believed that 83 cluster bombs were dropped in this region, dispersing a total of 17,041 submunitions.<sup>11</sup>

## OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

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

Most ERW consists of unexploded aircraft bombs (located mainly in the west of the province) and items

of abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). However, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams continue to encounter items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) dating back to World War II.<sup>12</sup> Kosovo Protection Force (KFOR) and Kosovo Security Force (KSF) EOD teams regularly dispose of ERW in response to information provided by the public and demining organisations.<sup>13</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

In January 2011, the EOD Coordination Management Section became KMAC, responsible for managing clearance of mines and ERW, including CMR. KMAC prepares an annual workplan in cooperation with international demining NGOs and coordinates their operations along with the national demining teams of the KSF. It also coordinates survey, quality assurance, risk education, public information, and victim assistance activities.<sup>14</sup> KMAC's role and responsibilities as head of the national mine action programme under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence were established and institutionalised by Kosovo's 2012 Law on Humanitarian Demining.<sup>15</sup>

In 2018, KMAC had a total of five permanent staff: a Director, a Senior Quality Assurance (QA) Officer, a QA Inspector, a Mine Risk Education (MRE) Officer, and a Public Information Officer.<sup>16</sup>

Kosovo's mine action programme is fully nationally owned, with a strong, longstanding commitment from the national government. Evidence of this can be seen in the ongoing support for KMAC and its small, but dedicated team of permanent national staff, which have been employed with KMAC since its creation. This has benefitted the programme with the retention of skilled and experienced staff and the retention of institutional memory and national capacity building. The national mine action programme is said to be efficient, effective, and collaborative.<sup>17</sup>

The Kosovo government provided approximately €135,000 in financial support to KMAC in 2018, consistent with the amount of funding for KMAC's operations provided in 2017. The KSF received €980,000 for mine and CMR clearance in 2018, also consistent with the funding it received from the Kosovo government the previous year.<sup>18</sup> KMAC reported that it expected similar levels of funding in 2019.<sup>19</sup>

Kosovo's current Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 sets out the objective of intensifying resource mobilisation efforts in order to gain greater financial stability.<sup>20</sup> While a specific resource mobilisation strategy did not exist in 2018, operators reported that coordinated approaches together with KMAC were made to donors such as the United States and European Union.<sup>21</sup>

Unfortunately, the misperception that CMR and mine clearance in Kosovo was completed in 2001 persists, whereas the reality is that significant contamination remains to be cleared. Kosovo remains a poor country and needs economic assistance to help it complete cluster munition clearance in a timely manner, otherwise completion risks being prolonged unnecessarily, when with sufficient resources it is possible to complete clearance of the CMR contamination in less than five years.

In 2019, KMAC identified funding and logistical support as the two primary areas where it could most benefit from assistance from international donors and mine action operators.<sup>22</sup>

## GENDER

Kosovo's Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 reflects the commitment of the mine action programme to ensure that gender are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of all mine action projects, with a view to promoting equality and quality.<sup>23</sup> The Strategy stipulates that all mine action activities and assistance must reflect the needs of different ages and gender in a targeted and non-discriminatory manner, and that mine action and community liaison data is also to be collected systematically disaggregated according to sex and age.<sup>24</sup>

Both KMAC and KSF had gender policies in place in 2018. KMAC reported that the KSF's gender policy aims to facilitate the consultation of all groups affected by CMR, mine, and ERW contamination, expressly women and children. In 2018, a total of 8% of KSF staff employed in operational mine action roles were women, along with 5% of staff in managerial or supervisory positions.

Within KMAC, 20% of its staff were women, including in both operational and managerial roles.<sup>25</sup>

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

encourage women to apply for positions traditionally seen as jobs for men. It further notes the importance of employment of not only multi-gender, but multi-ethnic, survey and clearance teams and the particular benefits of recruitment in areas affected by high unemployment and poor socio-economic conditions.<sup>26</sup>

In 2018, The HALO Trust developed a gender policy in consultation with the Kosovo Women's Network, an advocacy network of over 140 members, including women's organisations of all ethnic backgrounds from throughout Kosovo, which was adopted in February. The policy aims both at increasing the recruitment of women, as well as retention of existing female employees through the provision of extra maternity leave and child care allowances. Recognising the significant deterrents to women's employment of affordable child care and traditional gender roles as family caregivers, The HALO Trust's gender policy provides female employees and single parents of either sex with stipends covering 75% of child care costs and increased the paternity leave allowance from four days as stipulated by national law, to two weeks of paternity leave.<sup>27</sup> By the end of 2018, the number of women working for The HALO Trust in Kosovo increased to close to 15%, up from 3% at the start of the year.<sup>28</sup>

In 2018, The HALO Trust's dedicated Community Liaison Officer was female and the programme reported deploying a gender-balanced survey team which tried to reach male and female respondents equally, including girls and boys with permission of their parents. As men are most often the primary respondents of the household, added effort was placed on access to and inclusion of women and girls in all project phases. The HALO Trust expected that with increasing community liaison and a stronger female presence within demining teams, further progress would be made to overcome

the challenge of reaching women and encouraging women to take a greater interest in mine action in their communities. Data collected post-clearance is also disaggregated to ensure the understanding and analysis of impact of mine action activities also takes gender into consideration, it reported.<sup>29</sup>

While The HALO Trust reported that it did not have any women in operational management positions in 2018, it stated that it was a priority for the programme address upward mobility for women within the organisation and was partnering with the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) in 2019 to this end. Additionally, in 2019, the programme planned to train more women in the use of Handheld Stand-off Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) mine detectors and to introduce new junior management positions into which women will have the opportunity to be promoted.<sup>30</sup>

NPA reported that a target of 25% female staff was in place, and in 2018, 23% of its staff were women, including one out of four team leaders, two out of six medics, and one out of four staff in the management team. Women were especially encouraged to apply for staff positions, and given priority over male applicants with equivalent skills and experience. NPA confirmed its survey and community liaison teams were gender balanced and ensured that the participation of all relevant social groups is always taken into account when conducting activities in local communities.<sup>31</sup> NPA's efforts to recruit and train multi-ethnic survey and clearance teams was also been a critical factor in allowing for the deployment of teams in areas of particular ethnic and political sensitivities, extending the reach of mine action operations in north Kosovo, while also building bridges and friendships between the individual staff members and through their community liaison activities.<sup>32</sup>

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

KMAC uses the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, New Generation version. Data is clearly disaggregated between mine, cluster munition, and ERW contamination.<sup>33</sup> Operators were positive in their assessments of the quality and accessibility of data contained in the database and of KMAC's information management systems in general. Notably, operators report to KMAC on a weekly basis.<sup>34</sup>

Both NPA and The HALO Trust also emphasised the constructive and proactive working relationship with KMAC. Beyond weekly KMAC visits to operational sites, regular senior management coordination meetings between KMAC and mine action operators were held on a monthly basis in 2018, or more frequently when required, and quarterly meetings were also convened for operational planning.<sup>35</sup>

According to its most recent mine action strategy, KMAC intends, as a means to show its commitment to the CCM, to submit voluntary Article 7 transparency reports on an annual basis.<sup>36</sup>

## PLANNING AND TASKING

The GICHD supported the development of Kosovo's new Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024, bringing together a wide range of national and international stakeholders in a strategy stakeholder workshop in Pristina in October 2018. The strategy, formally approved in January 2019 and launched by the Ministry of Kosovo Security Services on 4 April 2019, has three goals:

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

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

- All high priority CMR tasks (four as at October 2018) will be cleared by 2020;
- All medium-priority CMR tasks (thirty as at October 2018) will be cleared by 2022; and
- All low-priority CMR tasks (sixteen as at October 2018) will be completed by 2024.<sup>37</sup>

The Strategy clearly states that it is based on a number of assumptions, including that the necessary funding will be secured and that no new mined or CMR-contaminated areas are identified. It notes, however, that “so far each year 3–4 different affected areas have been reported” and that should this trend continue, capacity and progress will need to be reassessed with regards to the 2024 deadline.<sup>38</sup> In June 2019, NPA informed Mine Action Review it was too soon to assess the implications of its technical survey activities for the identification or release of CMR-contaminated areas requiring release in Mitrovica.<sup>39</sup>

As per the Strategy, KMAC will develop annual operational workplans to implement the strategy's goals.<sup>40</sup> KMAC will also request an external mid-term review of the strategy in 2022 to evaluate progress and make any adaptations according to contextual changes if required.<sup>41</sup>

According to the strategy, a separate national strategy on the management of residual contamination will be developed by KMAC by 2023, in collaboration with other national actors, to clarify roles and responsibilities in order to manage a long-term residual contamination problem.<sup>42</sup>

In 2019, KMAC confirmed that it had developed annual operational workplans to target CMR-contaminated areas, according to impact-based criteria, including risk reduction, development priorities, and poverty reduction, along with the findings of a nationwide baseline socio-economic impact assessment carried out in 2018 by KMAC, with the support of The HALO Trust.<sup>43</sup> The mine action strategy for 2019–24 also is in alignment with the objectives of Kosovo's National Development Strategy 2016–2021.<sup>44</sup>

The HALO Trust reported prioritising in its areas of operations was based on impact, land use, seasonal access, and risk and contamination levels.<sup>45</sup> While NPA confirmed that its operations in northern Kosovo continued to focus on high-impacted areas, it noted that it was also important for NPA to ensure both Serbian and Albanian-populated areas are prioritised equally, with sensitivity towards political, cultural, and ethnic affiliations.<sup>46</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

National Mine Action Standards for land release are in place in Kosovo, which according to KMAC are in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).<sup>47</sup>

Kosovo's national mine action standards set the standard clearance depth for battle area clearance (BAC) at 50cm.<sup>48</sup> There has been a discussion over whether this standard clearance depth could be reduced to 30cm in certain forested and stony areas which would enable detectors to be set to a medium rather than high sensitivity setting and potentially result in fewer false indicators being investigated.<sup>49</sup> However, KMAC informed Mine Action Review in 2019 that the BAC clearance depth of 50cm is necessary as many of the areas targeted with cluster munitions were especially wet and muddy, as the bombing campaign took place during a period of heavy rain, making it possible for submunitions to penetrate to higher than normally expected depths.<sup>50</sup> It did, though, state that on certain tasks where the ground was entirely stony, a reduction in search depth could be considered.<sup>51</sup>

Data from NPA and HALO Trust largely support this assertion. The HALO Trust's analysis of devices found by depth in 2008–18 show that 22% of all items found by HALO Trust teams were at a depth of 30cm or deeper.<sup>52</sup> NPA's clearance statistics show that 12% of all submunitions found in its operations were found at depths greater than 30cm. At the same time, NPA raised the issue of the potential threat that explosive items located deeper than 30cm might pose, and whether the expected future ground use could be considered when setting the search depth.<sup>53</sup>

In accordance with the national mine action standards, KMAC deployed two QA officers in 2018 who visited sites at least once a week to ensure compliance with the national standards and standing operating procedures (SOPs).<sup>54</sup> NPA reported increasing its internal QA/quality control (QC) capacity during the year and confirmed that KMAC made frequent visits to its tasks, which it said provided highly valued input for QA.<sup>55</sup> The HALO Trust confirmed that KMAC made weekly QA visits to its operations and reported that it was exploring

opportunities to restructure team management with the aim of enabling more effective QA/QC.<sup>56</sup>

A 2014 evaluation of Kosovo's mine action programme, conducted on behalf of the International Trust Fund (ITF) Enhancing Human Security, concluded that an increase in capacity and improvements to land release methodology and equipment deployed would be necessary if Kosovo were to complete clearance operations by 2024. Since the 2014 evaluation a number of significant improvements have been introduced to the mine action programme, including the use of HSTAMID (Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System) detectors by the HALO Trust.<sup>57</sup> In 2018, both The HALO Trust and NPA were also using large-loop detectors on certain CMR tasks, which enabled further productivity increases.<sup>58</sup>

In 2018, in another significant advancement in land release efficiency, KMAC formally approved the implementation of Cluster Munition Remnants Survey (CMRS) methodology by NPA to carry out technical survey activities on CMR-contaminated areas in Kosovo. According to this methodology, which NPA has modified to take into account the specific conditions in Kosovo, and in line with the IMAS, operators are permitted to enter a cluster munition strike area and to walk on ground with subsurface contamination, increasing the efficiency of the survey process and offering the ability to accurately define confirmed hazardous areas.<sup>59</sup> HALO Trust, which displayed some hesitancy to implement a CMRS approach in 2017, reported in 2019 that it was interested in defining evidence-based clearance standards and that it felt there could be scope to explore and improve survey and clearance standards for addressing CMR, especially in regard to recent developments with the implementation of CMRS methodology in South-East Asia.<sup>60</sup> It believed, however, that as general survey has already been conducted in HALO Trust's areas of operations, implementing CMRS would duplicate work already carried out to define confirmed hazardous areas.<sup>61</sup>

## OPERATORS

In 2018, Kosovo's national mine action programme's capacity consisted of two international operators, The HALO Trust and NPA, and national operator, the KSF. The HALO Trust and NPA continued to conduct BAC in 2018, along with the KSF, which also provided a round-the-clock EOD emergency response.<sup>62</sup> KFOR also supports the KSF and Kosovo Police with EOD response tasks and organising mine and ERW demolitions in Mitrovica and the north of Kosovo, including NPA's areas of operations.<sup>63</sup> The demining season is from the end of March to the end of November, due to weather conditions.<sup>64</sup>

In 2018, The HALO Trust maintained a 10-team capacity to conduct both mine and CMR clearance. It reported that operational personnel are cross-trained and can move between activities, but generally the programme is split, with seven teams dedicated to mine clearance and three dedicated to cluster munition clearance. At the end of 2018, the programme employed 97 operations personnel, of whom 14% were women.<sup>65</sup>

In 2018, NPA deployed, for the first time, two BAC teams composed of only national staff. It deployed the teams, of eight operators each, from the start of the year, as opposed to 2017, when a team of experienced national deminers from NPA's Bosnia Herzegovina programme were deployed on clearance tasks and to mentor and train newly recruited national Kosovo demining staff teams. This mentoring and training made it possible to deploy two national BAC teams of ethnically mixed backgrounds, which also served to enhance national capacity and reduce costs of deploying expatriate personnel. Most notably, the deployment of local teams of mixed ethnicities made it possible for NPA to work in previously inaccessible areas in north Kosovo and deploy teams to both Serbian and Albanian ethnic areas through the multi-ethnic composition of the teams.<sup>66</sup>

KSF operated four platoons in 2018: three for demining and one for EOD. The demining platoons are divided into five teams with a total of 75 staff, and the EOD platoon consists of six teams of five persons each. Of these, three teams are on standby for EOD call-outs in Prizren and three teams in Pomozotin.<sup>67</sup> In 2018, KSF units conducted demining operations in five locations: Babaj i Bokës, Ferizaj, Ferizaj/Urosevac Park, Harilaq, and Paldenica.<sup>68</sup>

## OPERATIONAL TOOLS

As noted above, significant advances in operational productivity have been achieved by the introduction of the use of tools such as HSTAMID and large-loop detectors. NPA also sought to introduce the use of mine detection dogs (MDD) for a three-month pilot project to conduct targeted technical survey, however, their use in CMR operations was not formally approved by KMAC in 2018. As such, the MDD were deployed for survey and clearance of mine contamination instead. The presence of anti-personnel mine contamination was not found in any of the areas suspected and NPA discontinued plans for the use of MDD in its areas of operations in north Kosovo.<sup>69</sup> In 2019, KMAC informed Mine Action Review that the use of MDD could be considered for KSF operations in remaining minefield tasks along the Kosovo-Albanian border.<sup>70</sup>

## LAND RELEASE OUTPUT AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUT IN 2018

A total of just under 1.7km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2018: over 1.2km<sup>2</sup> by clearance, and 0.4km<sup>2</sup> by technical survey.<sup>71</sup>

During 2018, KMAC reported that two CMR-contaminated hazardous areas were added to the database with a total size of just over 155,750m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>72</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2018

According to KMAC, a total of 436,685m<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area was reduced by technical survey in 2018: 407,859m<sup>2</sup> reduced by NPA and 28,826m<sup>2</sup> by The HALO Trust.<sup>73</sup>

The total amount of CMR-contaminated area reduced by technical survey in 2018 was a decrease from 2017, when NPA reduced a total of 506,696m<sup>2</sup> by technical survey and cancelled a total of 2,290m<sup>2</sup> by non-technical survey.<sup>74</sup>

At the same time, as noted above, KMAC reported that two additional CMR-contaminated areas were confirmed by survey in 2018 with a size of 155,757m<sup>2</sup>, and NPA expected that additional CMR-contaminated areas would be identified and added to the mine action database in 2019 as it garnered additional information as its operations expanded in southern Mitrovica.<sup>75</sup>

### CLEARANCE IN 2018

Collectively, the KSF, The HALO Trust, and NPA cleared just over 1.24km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contamination in 2018, with the destruction of 212 submunitions (see Table 1).<sup>76</sup> This represents a significant increase on the almost 0.88km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contamination cleared in 2017 and 64 submunitions destroyed.<sup>77</sup> A further nine submunitions were destroyed in spot tasks.

The HALO Trust cleared close to 0.71km<sup>2</sup> in 2018 of area containing CMR in 2018 and destroyed 72 submunitions, an increase from 0.44km<sup>2</sup> cleared in 2017.<sup>78</sup> HALO reported that this increase in CMR clearance was due to working on more open and accessible tasks in 2018 where large-loop detectors could be applied extensively.<sup>79</sup>

NPA reported clearing close to 0.3km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contamination in 2018, with the destruction of almost 140 submunitions, an increase from the previous year when NPA cleared close to 0.25km<sup>2</sup> of area.<sup>80</sup>

In 2018, KSF cleared 196,300m<sup>2</sup> through BAC in five hazardous areas.<sup>81</sup> In the course of clearance, no submunitions were found, though 696 other items of UXO were destroyed.<sup>82</sup>

According to KMAC, an additional nine submunitions were destroyed by the KSF Explosive EOD teams in spot tasks in 2018.<sup>83</sup> The HALO Trust did not conduct EOD spot tasks during the year.<sup>84</sup>

As Kosovo has robust national procedures for the management of explosives, the KSF, with support from KFOR in northern Kosovo, carries out the demolition of CMR and items of UXO found by The HALO Trust and NPA.<sup>85</sup>

**Table 1: Clearance of CMR-contaminated area in 2018<sup>86</sup>**

Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
KSF	5	196,300	0	696
HALO	4	708,886	72	3
NPA	N/R	335,191	140	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,240,377</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>699</b>

### PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

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

As stated in Kosovo's Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024, which sets completion of mine and cluster munition clearance by the end of 2024, completion will only be achievable if sustained funding is secured.<sup>87</sup> Specific concerns are elaborated in the Strategy including the necessity of upgrading old equipment, including vehicles, which will entail significant financial costs to ensure that operations can continue at an optimal pace, without unnecessary stand-downs or costly repairs.<sup>88</sup>

With adequate funding, KMAC and The HALO Trust predict that clearance of CMR will be completed by the end of 2024.<sup>89</sup> This would be 25 years after the end of the conflict between the FRY forces and NATO and more than 20 years after the UN claimed that the clearance of the province was largely complete.

In 2019, HALO reported that it could complete clearance of remaining CMR contamination within its areas of responsibility with existing capacity by the end of 2024. It cautioned however that sustaining capacity over the Strategy period will prove to be a challenge, and any reductions in funding could impede progress towards meeting the 2024 target date.<sup>90</sup>

NPA reported, however, that it would need an increase from four teams to a total of nine teams if it was to complete clearance of CMR contamination in its areas of operations by 2024. Funding likewise remained the primary obstacle, followed by poor weather and difficult terrain, according to NPA. It also noted that additional CMR-contaminated areas were still being recorded in its areas of operations as a result of ongoing survey.<sup>91</sup>

**Table 2: Five-year summary of CMR clearance (2014–18)**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2018	1.24
2017	0.88
2016	0.47
2015	0.34
2014*	0.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.77</b>

\*Mine and CMR clearance

- 1 Email from Ahmet Sallova, Head, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 2 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 4 May 2018.
- 3 Email from Terje Eldøen, Country Director, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 4 See United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), "UNMIK OKPCC EOD Management Section Annual Report 2005", Pristina, 18 January 2006, p. 2; and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), *Explosive Remnants of War, Cluster Bombs and Landmines in Kosovo*, Geneva, rev. June 2001, p. 6.
- 5 ICRC, *Explosive Remnants of War, Cluster Bombs and Landmines in Kosovo*, rev. June 2001, pp. 4 and 6; and The HALO Trust, "Action on cluster munitions in Kosovo", 10 September 2015, at: <http://bit.ly/30P1X70>.
- 6 Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Landmine Action, *Banning Cluster Munitions Government Policy and Practice*, Mines Action Canada, Ottawa, 2009, p. 238; and ICRC, *Explosive Remnants of War, Cluster Bombs and Landmines in Kosovo*, rev. June 2001, p. 6.
- 7 A. Moore, The HALO Trust, "Action on cluster munitions in Kosovo", Side event, First CCM Review Conference, Dubrovnik, 10 September 2015.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 NPA, *Cluster Munition Remnants in Northern Kosovo: non-technical survey of contamination and impact*, September 2015; and email from Goran Peršić, NPA Bosnia and Herzegovina, 13 May 2016.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 NPA, *Cluster Munition Remnants in Northern Kosovo: non-technical survey of contamination and impact*, September 2015.
- 12 UNMIK, "OKPCC EOD Management Section Annual Report 2008", Pristina, 12 January 2009, p. 4.
- 13 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 1 August 2012.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 16 June and 3 July 2017; and Ministry of Defence, "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.
- 16 Interviews with Terje Eldøen, NPA, Pristina, 5 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, Gjakova, 2–3 April 2019; and "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.
- 17 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, pp. 5–6.
- 18 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019 and 4 May 2018.
- 19 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 20 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 14.
- 21 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 22 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 23 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 8.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 26 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, pp. 8–9.
- 27 Ibid., p. 8.
- 28 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 8.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 31 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 34 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 35 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 36 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 13.
- 37 Ibid., p. 12.
- 38 Ibid., pp. 9–10.
- 39 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 12 June 2019.
- 40 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, pp. 9–10.
- 41 Ibid., p. 16.
- 42 Ibid., p. 15.
- 43 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019; and Tom Welling, HALO Trust, 7 May 2018.
- 44 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 1.
- 45 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 46 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 47 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 48 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 4 May 2018.
- 49 Ibid.
- 50 Interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 51 Ibid.

- 52 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 21 June 2019.
- 53 Emails from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 54 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 55 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 56 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 57 Emails from Ash Boddy, Regional Director, HALO Trust, 5 May 2017; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 11 June 2018.
- 58 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 59 Interview with Terje Eldøen, NPA, Pristina, 5 April 2019; and email, 25 April 2019.
- 60 Emails from Ash Boddy, HALO Trust, 5 May 2017; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 61 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 21 June 2019.
- 62 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019; and "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.
- 63 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 4; and interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 64 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.
- 65 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 66 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 4.
- 67 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 4 May 2018.
- 68 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 3.
- 69 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 70 Interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 71 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 72 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 73 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April and 17 June 2019; Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019. According to HALO Trust, "it should be noted that HALO does not employ technical survey as used in the CMRS. The above statistics only refer to those areas released by reduction from technical survey". NPA reported a total of 407,859m<sup>2</sup> reduced by technical survey in 2018, of which only 22,848m<sup>2</sup> was reported as completed, in a task in Gazi Voda lake. NPA reported that the other 385,011m<sup>2</sup> reduced by technical survey were part of tasks not yet completed at the end of 2018.
- 74 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 11 June 2018. The HALO Trust did not report reduction of area through technical survey in 2017.
- 75 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.
- 76 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 77 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 20 February 2017 and 4 May 2018; Tom Welling, HALO Trust, 7 May 2018; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 7 May 2018.
- 78 Emails from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019; and Tom Welling, HALO Trust, 7 May 2018.
- 79 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 80 Emails from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019 and 11 June 2018.
- 81 Email from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April 2019.
- 82 Ibid.
- 83 Ibid.
- 84 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 85 Interview with Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, Pristina, 5 April 2019.
- 86 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 30 April and 17 June 2019; Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019; and Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019. The five areas where the KSF was conducting CMR clearance in 2018 were not completed and remained ongoing tasks in 2019. Of the four CMR-contaminated areas on which HALO Trust was conducting clearance in 2018, two were completed and two were ongoing in 2019.
- 87 "Mine Action Strategy 2019–2024 in Republic of Kosovo", 4 April 2019, p. 6.
- 88 Ibid.
- 89 Emails from Ahmet Sallova, KMAC, 4 May 2018; Tom Welling, HALO Trust, 7 May 2018; and Terje Eldøen, NPA, 7 May 2018.
- 90 Email from Olivia Meader, HALO Trust, 1 May 2019.
- 91 Email from Terje Eldøen, NPA, 25 April 2019.