

KEY DATA

NO ARTICLE 4 DEADLINE:

State not party to the CCM

CMR CONTAMINATION:

25,570m²

Light
(national estimate, not including
areas under military control)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (km ²)	Release in 2024 (km ²)
Clearance	0.25	0.34
Technical Survey	0	0
Non-Technical Survey	0	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025	2024
Submunitions destroyed	14	11

MAIN CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2025

■ Stop Mines ■ IN Demining

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Serbia had planned to release all areas contaminated with cluster munition remnants (CMR) by the end of 2025 (excluding possible contamination at military sites), and came close to achieving this goal with only 25,570m² still remaining. Serbia expected to complete clearance of all known CMR contamination in civilian areas by the end of 2026, and has the funding and resources to meet this target. Serbia's mine action programme also strengthened its information management (IM) capacity in 2025 and started a non-technical survey (NTS) project to address the remaining explosive ordnance contamination in Bujanovac municipality, including from anti-personnel (AP) mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Serbia should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Serbia should complete clearance of CMR on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- SMAC should also prioritise survey of military areas where CMR are suspected.

CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Sector for Emergency Management, Ministry of Interior
- Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Stop Mines
- IN Demining

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2025, Serbia had a total of just over 0.02km² of cluster munition-contaminated area in one confirmed hazardous area (CHA) (see Table 1).¹ This is a significant decrease from the end of 2024 where Serbia reported over 0.27km² of contamination in one CHA covering almost 0.03m²

and one suspected hazardous area (SHA) of nearly 0.25km².² The reduction is entirely the result of Serbia's clearance of the SHA in 2025. SMAC does not hold data on contamination in any areas under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), including former military sites bombed in 1999.³

Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by municipality (at end 2025)⁴

Municipality	Village	CHAs	Area (m ²)
Bujanovac	Borovac	1	25,570
Totals		1	25,570

CMR resulted from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) airstrikes in 1999. According to Serbia, cluster munitions struck 16 municipalities: Brus, Bujanovac, Čačak, Gadžin Han, Knić, Kraljevo, Kuršumlja, Niš City-municipality of Crveni Krst, Niš City-municipality of Medijana, Preševo, Raška, Sjenica, Sopot, Stara Pazova, Tutin, and Vladimirci.⁵

At present, only one municipality—Bujanovac— remains contaminated. NATO forces used a wide range of cluster munitions including RBL-755, CBU-87, CBU-99, and AGM – 154/A, which contained BL-755, MK-1, MK-4, MK-118, BLU-97A, and BLU-97A/B submunitions.⁶

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Serbia is also contaminated by other ERW, including unexploded aircraft bombs, both on land and in its internal waterways, as well as by AP mines⁷ (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Serbia for further information on the mine threat).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

According to a government decree, the Sector for Emergency Management, under the Ministry of Interior, acts as the national mine action authority (NMAA).⁸ The NMAA is responsible for developing standard operating procedures (SOPs), accrediting demining operators, and supervising the work of the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC).⁹

SMAC was established on 7 March 2002, with a 2004 law making it responsible for coordinating survey and clearance;

collecting and managing mine action information (including casualty data); and surveying SHAs. It also has a mandate to plan demining projects, conduct quality control (QC) and monitor operations, ensure implementation of international standards, and provide risk education.¹⁰ Since 2014, the Sector for Emergency Management has been responsible for accrediting demining operators. Previously, SMAC was responsible for doing so.¹¹

1 Email from Ivana Stanišić, Advisor, SMAC, 9 April 2026.
2 Email from Slađana Košutić, Senior Advisor for Planning, International Cooperation and European Integrations, SMAC, 4 April 2025.
3 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.
4 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.
5 SMAC, "Mine Situation", accessed 21 April 2023, <https://shorturl.at/h4m4T>.
6 SMAC, "Mine Situation", accessed 11 May 2026.
7 SMAC, "Mine Situation", accessed 21 April 2023.
8 Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 70/13.
9 Emails from Darvin Lisica, Regional Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 6 May and 12 June 2016.
10 Law of Alterations and Supplementations of the Law of Ministries, Official Gazette, 84/04, August 2004; interview with Petar Mihajlović and Slađana Košutić, SMAC, Belgrade, 26 April 2010; and 2022 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 19.
11 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 20.

The current director of SMAC was appointed by the Serbian government in July 2019.¹² As at May 2026, 17 people were employed at SMAC: the director, two assistant directors, and 14 other employees.¹³

In addition to the above set-up, and with the support of an international NTS expert, SMAC established, trained, and certified a dedicated NTS team. The team, composed of three Albanian and two Serbian personnel, was embedded in the Municipality of Bujanovac. SMAC staff also received training of trainers and subsequently trained NTS survey teams.¹⁴

SMAC expanded its training portfolio to include an International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)-compliant Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) course in cooperation with the United Kingdom (UK)-based Drakon Group.¹⁵ It also introduced a specialised course on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for NTS, and began deploying UAVs equipped with Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology to support the assessment of SHAs.¹⁶

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) supported SMAC to set up the latest version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), IMSMA Core. The GICHD also supported SMAC personnel participation in regional mine action managers and land release courses, among others.¹⁷

ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF) supported Serbia's mine action programme by providing technical support and channelling funds for the procurement of equipment including four 4X4 vehicles, Geographic Positioning System (GPS) devices, rangefinders, compasses, and information technology (IT) equipment.¹⁸

There is no formal in-country national platform for dialogue in place, but SMAC organises an annual coordination meeting that brings together all relevant stakeholders, including ministries and other State authorities, donors, partners, and demining operators in Serbia. Coordination meetings are used to present results, discuss challenges, and review plans.¹⁹

FUNDING FOR CMR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

SMAC is fully funded by Serbia, including salaries and running costs, as well as for survey, development of project tasks for the demining of contaminated areas, follow-up on implementation of project tasks, and quality assurance (QA) and QC of demining. In 2025, Serbia allocated around €949,000 of the State budget for SMAC, a significant increase on the €590,000 provided in 2024.²⁰ The unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal work of the Sector for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior is also State-funded.²¹

National funding for survey and clearance operations was of €220,000 in 2025, an amount that was matched by donors through the ITF. The two donors that supported CMR survey and clearance in Serbia in 2024, the United States (US) and the Republic of Korea, continued their funding in 2025.²²

For more information on funding, please see the country profile on Serbia on the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* website.²³

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

SMAC said it does not directly influence the gender composition of recruitment in its main office, which depends on candidate interest and performance in the selection process. Gender and ethnic balance, however, were considered in the establishment of the new NTS team in Bujanovac, which comprises three women and two men – three ethnic Albanians and two ethnic Serbs. Serbia has also begun disaggregating some mine action data by sex, including in NTS and risk education reporting.²⁴

While SMAC does not currently have plans to develop a gender and diversity policy it said it applies a Gender Equality Risk Management Plan as part of its policies to protect gender equality principles in all mine action activities, and contributes to annual national reporting on gender equality within Serbia's public institutions.²⁵

At SMAC, 13 of the 25 employees (52%) are women. Women hold two of the four managerial/supervisory level positions (50%), and three of the eight operational positions (38%).²⁶

12 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020.

13 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.

14 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

15 Ibid.; and SMAC, "Completion of International EOD Level 3 Training", 3 October 2025, <https://bit.ly/4g30DUZ>.

16 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

17 Ibid.

18 Emails from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April and 3 July 2026.

19 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

20 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025 and 7 May 2024; and Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

21 SMAC, "Mine situation", 21 April 2023.

22 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

23 <https://the-monitor.org>.

24 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

25 Ibid.

26 Ibid.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

SMAC is committed to taking environmental aspects into account in its work and to minimising environmental harm from demining. For each survey or clearance task, the contractor (i.e. the demining operator) is required to include in its execution plan an environmental protection and a fire protection plan, together with a plan for health and safety at work. Environmental measures were also integrated in the

SOPs for the NTS project in Bujanovac. SMAC reported to Mine Action Review in 2024 that it was planning to develop a national mine action standard (NMAS) on environmental management in mine action, a process that was not complete at the time of writing.²⁷ SMAC does not have a dedicated environmental focal point.²⁸

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

SMAC had its own IM system until it decided to seek GICHD support for the installation of IMSMA Core.²⁹ A partnership agreement between SMAC and the GICHD for its development was renewed in 2025. IMSMA Core is being operationally used across various SMAC's projects. A centralised database, dashboards, and sketch maps have been developed. The system supports data collection, reporting, digitisation of historical records, particularly within the NTS project in Bujanovac, as well as various reporting functions. The migration of data from previous projects and historical data

into IMSMA Core has largely been completed, with most data now validated. Data collection forms are in use, and further development continues under the renewed cooperation with the GICHD.³⁰

SMAC is also currently running a recruitment process for a new IM Support Officer to support IMSMA Core operations.³¹ SMAC also conducted a training on IMSMA Core to the newly established survey team in Bujanovac.³²

PLANNING AND TASKING

The Government of Serbia adopts SMAC's annual work plans.³³ SMAC had annual work plans in place for 2024 and 2025.³⁴ None has been developed for 2026 as SMAC expects to complete clearance of all known CMR contamination in civilian areas through the clearance project in Bujanovac.³⁵ This does not include any CMR contamination in Kosovo and Metohija provinces, which remains under the responsibility of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).³⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

According to SMAC, and despite problems with land release methodology, survey and clearance are conducted in accordance with the IMAS.³⁷ SMAC, in cooperation with a consultant from Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), developed three new NMAS in 2023 on the glossary of terms, land release, and quality management.³⁸ Three additional chapters on land release, glossary, and quality management were developed in 2025. Subject to the availability of funds, SMAC plans further development of NMAS chapters, particularly on IM.³⁹

Serbia has plans to issue a new decree on protection against ERW. The draft decree, which is being developed by SMAC and the Ministry of Interior, will include a definition of land release (not defined in the existing decree), and supports the development of NMAS. As at May 2026, the decree was in the final stages of review by the government.⁴⁰

Under new directorship in late 2015, SMAC reassessed its land release methodology in order to prioritise full clearance over technical survey (TS) of hazardous areas.⁴¹ This did not correspond to international best practice and was an inefficient use of scarce clearance assets. In February

27 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 7 May 2024 and 4 April 2025.

28 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

29 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 April 2023; and GICHD, 26 May 2023.

30 Emails from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026; and the GICHD, 1 July 2026.

31 Email from Ivana Stanišić, 9 April 2026.

32 SMAC, "Training of Survey Team in Bujanovac as part of IMSMA Core System Enhancement", 28 August 2025.

33 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 18 and 21.

34 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.

35 Email from Ivana Stanišić, 9 April 2026.

36 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 3 July 2026.

37 SMAC, "Mine Situation", 21 April 2023; and APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.

38 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 7 May 2024 and 4 April 2025.

39 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

40 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.

41 Interview with Jovica Simonović, SMAC, in Geneva, 18 February 2016.

2016, SMAC reported to Mine Action Review that while SMAC supported the use of high-quality NTS to identify areas suspected of containing CMR, it will fully clear these areas rather than using TS to identify the boundaries of contamination more accurately.⁴² In July 2026, SMAC clarified that the previous methodologies prioritising full clearance were applicable to specific projects, such as in Užice (Bioska), which contained CHAs and therefore required full clearance. SMAC added that more recent projects, such as those in 2024 in Tutin and Bujanovac, applied the 50 metre land

release methodology, which identifies precise boundaries of contamination and reserves clearance to where there is evidence of the presence of CMR.⁴³

Serbia adopted an NTS team approach in Bujanovac to systematically collect, analyse, and verify contamination data, define boundaries of suspected areas, and inform TS and clearance planning. UAVs equipped with LiDAR were deployed to survey difficult or unsafe areas, which increased the efficiency of the operation.⁴⁴

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

SMAC does not itself conduct clearance or employ clearance personnel but does survey areas suspected to contain mines, CMR, or other ERW, and performs QA and QC on clearance tasks. Clearance is conducted by commercial companies and organisations selected through public tender procedures executed by the ITF and supported by international funding.⁴⁵

In 2025, 15 companies/organisations were accredited for demining but only two were operational on clearance projects (see Table 2).⁴⁶ Two additional organisations conducted monitoring.⁴⁷ The clearance capacity was of 22 personnel across two teams, a slight decrease on 2024 when 24 deminers worked in clearance.⁴⁸

Table 2: Operational Clearance capacities deployed in 2025⁴⁹

Operator	Clearance teams	Clearance personnel
Stop Mines	1	10
IN Demining	1	12
Totals	2	22

An explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) department within the Sector for Emergency Management responds to call-outs for individual items of ERW. It is also responsible for demolition of items found by SMAC survey teams and by contractors/operators during clearance.⁵⁰

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2025

Table 3: Land release outputs in 2025⁵¹

Release of cluster munition-contaminated area	Release in 2025 (m ²)
Clearance	248,767
Technical Survey	0
Non-Technical Survey	0
Destruction of submunitions during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2025
Submunitions destroyed	14

SURVEY IN 2025

As in the previous year, no CMR-contaminated area was released through survey in 2025.⁵²

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 3 July 2026.

⁴⁴ Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

⁴⁵ 2018 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 18; and email from Kinda Samra, GICHD, 27 June 2024.

⁴⁶ Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.

⁴⁷ Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.

⁴⁸ Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Interview with Jovica Simonović, SMAC, Belgrade, 16 May 2017; APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2018), p. 18; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 3 June 2022.

⁵¹ Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.

⁵² Ibid.

CLEARANCE IN 2025

In 2025, a total of 0.25km² was cleared across two tasks with 14 submunitions destroyed. A total of 278 items of other UXO were also destroyed in the process (See Table 4).⁵³ This is a decrease from 2024 when 0.34km² was cleared and 11 submunitions were destroyed.⁵⁴

Table 4: Clearance in 2025⁵⁵

Municipality	Village	Operator	Tasks	Area cleared (m ²)	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
Užice	Bioska	Stop Mines	1	129,667	9	274
Užice	Bioska	IN Demining	1	119,100	5	4
Totals			2	248,767	14	278

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

A total of 1.75km² has been cleared in Serbia during the last five years (see Table 5).

Table 5: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2025	0.25
2024	0.34
2023	0
2022	0.28
2021	0.88
Total	1.75

SMAC cleared 0.25km² of the 0.27km² planned in 2025, nearly achieving its annual target. In its 2022 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline extension request Serbia included a work plan for completion of all ERW clearance, including CMR, by 2025, at a predicted total cost of €20 million.⁵⁶ Serbia had planned to complete clearance of all known cluster munition-contaminated areas under civilian control (i.e. excluding military areas) in 2023, and then again in 2024.⁵⁷ The target has now moved to 2026 and is believed to be achievable given that only 0.025km² of known cluster munition contamination remains.

Alongside cluster munition clearance, Serbia continues to address contamination from other ERW from the World Wars and the 1999 NATO bombing. In 2025, SMAC implemented seven ERW clearance projects supporting infrastructure

works and the removal of Second World War wreckage from the Danube River. These activities consume operational resources and affect the pace of CMR survey and clearance.⁵⁸

In addition, SMAC has received a request from the MoD to clear former military compounds bombed during the NATO strikes, that are intended for civilian use, and which are not currently in SMAC's database.⁵⁹ A number of these compounds may contain CMR, which may delay Serbia's completion of CMR clearance.⁶⁰

In March 2025, SMAC director told the media that Serbia had largely been cleared its "scattered cluster munition contamination" and that the main remaining CMR locations were in the municipality of Bujanovac and around Ponikve airport near Užice. The latter location has since been cleared.⁶¹

In its 2022 APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request Serbia stated that: "In the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, there are mined areas, as well as areas contaminated with cluster bombs remaining after the armed conflicts. Pursuant to Resolution 1244 of the United Nations Security Council (Annex II, item 6), it is envisaged that after the withdrawal, an agreed number of the Republic of Serbia personnel will be allowed to return to perform certain functions, including marking and clearing minefields. As this provision of Annex II has not been implemented, this issue is still within the competence of UNMIK in accordance with Resolution 1244."⁶²

53 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.
54 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 4 April 2025.
55 Ibid.
56 2022 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 37–38.
57 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 April 2023 and 7 May 2024.
58 Email from Ivana Stanišić, SMAC, 9 April 2026.
59 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022 and 11 April 2023.
60 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 7 May 2024 and 4 April 2025.
61 "Glamoclija: Serbia largely cleared of cluster munitions, large aerial bombs at 150 locations", *Kosovo Online*, 16 March 2025, <https://shorturl.at/19Viz>.
62 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 9.

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

SMAC expects to need both national and international capacity to deal with any residual contamination that may be discovered following completion of planned CMR clearance.⁶³

As part of its support to Serbia's transition to residual contamination management (RCM), the GICHD conducted a mission in February 2026 to assess Serbia's preparedness to manage residual risks. The mission reviewed key national systems—including land release, quality management, information management, and regulatory compliance—and their readiness for a RCM approach, while also clarifying operational implications such as residual risk definition, prioritisation, and stakeholder roles.⁶⁴

⁶³ Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 7 May 2024.

⁶⁴ Email from the GICHD, 1 July 2026.