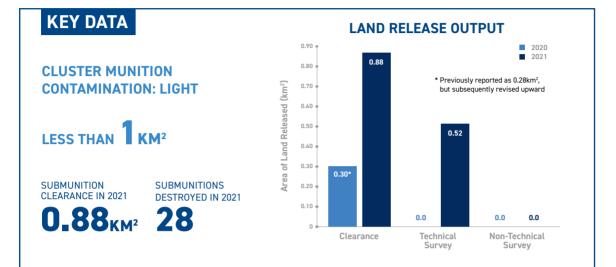




CLEARING CLUSTER MUNITION REMNANTS 2022



## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

- Serbia should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Serbia 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.
- Serbia should consider using its armed forces to conduct clearance of CMR as they are already clearing other unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- The Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) should conduct non-technical and technical survey, rather than full clearance, in instances where survey represents the most efficient means to release part or all of areas suspected or confirmed to contain CMR.
- SMAC should seek to develop National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), as soon as the new mine action decree is adopted.

# **CLUSTER MUNITION SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY**

### MANAGEMENT

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

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- In 2021, 11 companies/organisations (6 from Serbia and 5 from Bosnia and Herzegovina), were accredited for demining, but only four conducted clearance of CMR:
  - NGO Stop Mines
  - Millennium Team Ltd.
  - Nucleus Team Ltd.
  - Saturnia Ltd.

#### **OTHER ACTORS**

 Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

# UNDERSTANDING OF CMR CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2021, Serbia had a total of almost 1km<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated area, comprising one area confirmed to contain CMR covering more than 0.28km<sup>2</sup> and two areas suspected to contain CMR covering almost 0.72km<sup>2</sup> (see Table 1).<sup>1</sup> This is a decrease compared to the total of nearly 2.1km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contaminated areas (seven confirmed areas covering more than 0.71km<sup>2</sup> and three suspected areas covering over 1.38km<sup>2</sup>) as at the end of 2020,<sup>2</sup> which is the result of release through clearance and technical survey of CMR-contaminated area in 2021, as well as a slight reduction in the amount of CMR-contaminated area in Užice municipality following an "explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk reduction project", which included part of a CMR task.<sup>3</sup>

SMAC does not possess data on explosive ordnance contamination in any areas under the Ministry of Defence (MoD)'s responsibility in Serbia, including former military sites bombed in 1999.<sup>4</sup>

### Table 1: Cluster munition-contaminated area by municipality (at end 2021)<sup>5</sup>

Municipality	Village	CHAs	Area (m²)	SHAs	Area (m²)
Bujanovac	Borovac	1	281,169	0	0
Tutin	Istočni Mojstir	0	0	1	*131,900
Užice	Bioska	0	0	1	**584,567
Totals		1	281,169	2	716,467

CHAs = confirmed hazardous areas SHAs = suspected hazardous areas

\* New task added to the database following survey by NGO Stop Mines, during which a submunition was found.

\*\* Previously recorded contamination totalling 585,268m<sup>2</sup> was reduced to 584,567m<sup>2</sup>, as a result of completion of an ERW risk reduction project, which also included 701m<sup>2</sup> of this SHA.

CMR resulted from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air strikes in 1999. According to Serbia, cluster munitions struck 16 municipalities: Brus, Bujanovac, Čačak, Gadžin Han, Knić, Kraljevo, Kuršumlija, Niš City-municipality of Crveni Krst, Niš City-municipality of Medijana, Preševo, Raška, Sjenica, Sopot, Stara Pazova, Tutin, and Vladimirci.<sup>6</sup> Only three municipalities are considered to still contain contamination today.

### OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Serbia is also contaminated by other explosive remnants of war (ERW), including unexploded aircraft bombs, both on land and in its internal waterways, and by anti-personnel mines<sup>7</sup> (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Serbia for further information).

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

According to a Government Decree on Protection against Unexploded Ordnance, the Sector for Emergency Management, under the Ministry of Interior, acts as the national mine action authority (NMAA).<sup>®</sup> The NMAA is responsible for developing standard operating procedures (SOPs); accrediting demining operators; and supervising the work of SMAC.<sup>®</sup>

1 Email from Slađana Košutić, Senior Advisor for Planning, International Cooperation and European Integrations, Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC), 25 March 2022; and Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), pp. 28–29.

- 2 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
- 3 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 4 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 May 2021 and 25 March 2022.
- 5 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March and 3 June 2022.
- 6 SMAC, "Mine Situation", accessed 15 April 2022, at: http://bit.ly/1Nom1V7.
- 7 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 6.
- 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.

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 conduct risk education.<sup>10</sup> As from 1 January 2014, according to the Government Decree on Protection against Unexploded Ordnance, the Sector for Emergency Management, under the Ministry of Interior, was made responsible for accrediting demining operators. Previously, SMAC was responsible for doing so.<sup>11</sup>

A new director of SMAC was appointed by the Serbian government in July 2019.<sup>12</sup> As at March 2022, nine people were employed at SMAC – the Director, two assistant directors, and six other employees.<sup>13</sup>

In November 2020, representatives from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) visited SMAC. It was jointly concluded that the GICHD could usefully provide support to SMAC for the development of national mine action standards, through the provision of training and assistance with information management.<sup>14</sup>

SMAC is fully funded by Serbia, including salaries and running costs, as well as for survey activities, development of project tasks for demining and clearance of contaminated areas, follow-up on implementation of project tasks, and quality assurance (QA) and QC of demining. In 2021, Serbia reported that around €320,000 per annum was allocated from the national state budget for the work of SMAC,<sup>15</sup> an increase on the €270,000 provided in 2020.<sup>16</sup> In addition, the UXO disposal work of the Sector for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior is also State funded.<sup>17</sup>

National funding for survey and clearance remained at €260,000 for 2021 – as the same as the previous year – and was expected to be maintained at this level through to 2025, matched with available donor funds through ITF Enhancing Human Security. In addition to the €1,040,000 of total national funding pledged for 2022–25, Serbia estimated it will also need to secure an additional €2 million from international donors.<sup>18</sup> None of the national funding for survey and clearance in 2021 was allocated to CMR operations, as SMAC will continue to prioritise its national funding to mine survey and clearance with a view to meeting its obligations under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).<sup>19</sup> However, SMAC said that certain Ministries or public companies with a particular interest in certain areas being cleared may provide funding for CMR clearance operations – such as previous clearance projects in Niš funded by the Airports of Serbia Ltd.<sup>20</sup>

In March 2020, SMAC and the Serbian Ministry of Defence (MoD), signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of demining and UXO/ERW removal. The Agreement is reported to envisage, among others, the joint participation in training of personnel to conduct demining and ERW demolition operations, training certification, joint participation in survey, collection of data on ERW-suspected and contaminated areas, as well as implementation of ERW removal projects, with monitoring and implementation of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and regulations in the field of demining. The initial focus will reportedly be on the training of personnel in ERW demolition operations, including in CMR clearance.<sup>21</sup>

In late 2019, the Serbian government approved funds for the establishment of a training centre within SMAC. The training centre became operational in 2020. Together with experts from the Ministry of Interior, SMAC will provide different training modules, including on ERW recognition, IMAS, medical aspects, and risk reduction.<sup>22</sup> A train the trainers course for EOD levels 1 and 2 was held on 25 October–19 November 2021 at the training centre, in a cooperation between SMAC and the MoD, with financial support from the European Union (EU) delegation in Belgrade. The training involved both SMAC and MoD staff.<sup>23</sup>

In 2021, the United States (US) Department of State donated two terrain vehicles, a number of detectors and "multifunctional devices", and personal protective equipment to SMAC, through ITF.<sup>24</sup>

### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

SMAC said that it has been committed to taking environmental aspects into account and minimising potential harm from demining activities ever since its foundation. It reported that for each survey or clearance project task there is an obligation on the contractor (the demining operator) to include in its execution plan an environmental protection and a fire protection plan,

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 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension (2022) Request, p. 19.

- 11 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 20.
- 12 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020.
- 13 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 14 Statement of Serbia on International Cooperation and Assistance, APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021.
- 15 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 16 Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
- 17 SMAC, "Mine situation", accessed 8 May 2019, at: http://bit.ly/1Nom1V7.
- 18 Statement of Serbia on Clearance, APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), pp. 8 and 34.
- 19 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form H; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 May 2021.
- 22 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020 and 26 March 2021.
- 23 Statement of Serbia on International Cooperation and Assistance, APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021; APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 21; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 24 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 18.

together with a plan for health and safety at work. Illustrative examples related to environment being taken into consideration during CMR clearance operations include contaminated areas cleared in Kopaonik National Park. For these tasks, a special regime was required for the protection of native trees and other plant species. The chopping down of trees, and the cutting of tree branches and blueberry and juniper bushes, as well as the removal of plants could only be conducted in justified cases and after obtaining the consent of relevant authorities.<sup>25</sup>

SERBIA

## **GENDER AND DIVERSITY**

In 2014, following the initiative of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister of Construction, Transportation and Infrastructure, a Coordination Body for Gender Equality was formed as a national coordinating mechanism for gender equality in Serbia. The coordination body recognises the importance of improving the position of women, focusing in particular on increasing the number of female entrepreneurs, as well as their equal participation in management bodies in education, science, culture, information, sports, agriculture, and rural development, among others.<sup>26</sup>

SMAC does not have a gender policy in place and does not disaggregate relevant mine action data by sex and age. However, it does ensure women and children are consulted during survey and community liaison activities, and SMAC cooperates closely with the local authorities and other relevant stakeholders in this regard. SMAC also ensures ethnic or minority groups are consulted.<sup>27</sup>

Serbia reports there is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance operations.<sup>28</sup>

At SMAC, four of the nine employees (just over 44%) are women, with two of the women (22% of total employees) holding managerial/supervisory level positions and two (22% of total employees) in operations positions.<sup>29</sup>

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING**

SMAC currently uses its own information management system. In early 2020, following initial discussions several years previously, SMAC informally discussed with the GICHD the possibility of installing the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).<sup>30</sup> In 28 June–2 July 2021, representatives from the GICHD visited SMAC to assess SMAC's information management capabilities and needs, as well as to offer detailed recommendations to SMAC to advance its information management processes and systems.<sup>31</sup> As at March 2022, SMAC was in the final stage of completing an administrative procedure which will enable the GICHD to support SMAC to implement IMSMA Core.<sup>32</sup>

## **PLANNING AND TASKING**

The Government of Serbia adopts SMAC's annual work plans.<sup>33</sup> SMAC's 2022 work plan included one CMR clearance project in Bujanovac municipality totalling 281,169m<sup>2</sup> and one technical survey project in Tutin municipality totalling 131,900m<sup>2</sup>. The projects will be funded by the United States and the Republic of Korea, through ITF.<sup>34</sup>

Serbia prioritises the release of areas which directly affect the local population, such as those close to settlements where local people have abandoned their houses and stopped cultivating land due to fear of landmines and explosive ordnance.<sup>35</sup> SMAC also noted that donors themselves sometimes also influence the choice of the areas which will be cleared first, depending on availability and amount of their funds.<sup>36</sup>

- 25 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 26 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 20.
- 27 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020 and 26 March 2021.
- 28 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020.
- 29 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 30 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020.
- 31 Statement of Serbia on International Cooperation and Assistance, APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 32 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 33 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), pp. 18 and 21.
- 34 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 35 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2019.
- 36 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 12 April 2018.

# LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

According to SMAC, survey and clearance operations in Serbia are conducted in accordance with the IMAS.<sup>37</sup>

Serbia is planning to adopt a new decree on protection against ERW. The draft decree, developed by SMAC and the Ministry of Interior, foresees the development of national mine action standards (NMAS); formally introduces the concept of land release, which was not defined in the former decree; aims to improve the accreditation, monitoring, and evaluation process; and prohibits the previous practice of independent ammunition technicians being hired by infrastructure companies (which will instead be done through tasking and coordination from SMAC).<sup>38</sup> As at May 2022, the Decree was in the final stages of being adopted by the government.<sup>39</sup>

Under new directorship in late 2015, SMAC reassessed its land release methodology in order to prioritise full clearance over technical survey of hazardous areas.<sup>40</sup> This does not correspond to international best practice and is an inefficient use of scarce clearance assets. In February 2016, a new director of SMAC reported to Mine Action Review that while SMAC supports the use of high-quality non-technical survey to identify areas suspected of containing CMR, it will fully clear these areas, rather than using technical survey to identify the boundaries of contamination more accurately.<sup>41</sup>

As at March 2022, SMAC's position on its preferred land release methodology remained the same under the current Director, but there was a continued willingness to conduct technical survey in a form "adjusted to the context of Serbia", in response to the stated preference of international donors for technical survey above clearance, where appropriate.<sup>42</sup>

On 4–8 July 2021, as part of a study conducted by the GICHD on difficult terrain in mine action, which focuses on countries in the Balkans, the GICHD and SMAC jointly visited areas of "difficult terrain". The primary objective of the study is to support national authorities in their efforts to address explosive hazards and return land to safe and productive use.<sup>43</sup>

### **OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS**

SMAC does not itself conduct clearance or employ clearance personnel but does conduct survey of areas suspected to contain mines, CMR, or other ERW. Clearance is conducted by commercial companies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which are selected through public tender procedures executed by ITF, supported by international funding.<sup>44</sup>

The Ministry of Interior issues accreditation to mine action operators that is valid for one year. In 2021, 11 companies/ organisations (six from Serbia and five from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)), were accredited for demining,<sup>45</sup> but only four organisations conducted clearance of CMR (see Table 2).<sup>46</sup>

Table 2: Operational CMR clearance capaciti	ies deployed in 202147
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Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers*	Dogs and handlers	Machines**
NGO Stop Mines	3	25	0	0
Millennium Team Ltd.	2	16	0	0
Nucleus Team Ltd.	1	4	0	0
Saturnia Ltd.	1	7	0	0
Totals	7	52	0	0

\* Excluding team leaders, medics, and drivers. \*\* Excluding vegetation cutters and sifters.

Table 2 represents an increase in clearance capacity in 2021 compared to the previous year.

NGO Stop Mines also conducted technical survey in 2021, with two technical survey teams totalling 19 personnel.48

37 SMAC, "Mine Situation", accessed 15 April 2022, at: http://bit.ly/1Nom1V7; and APMBC Article 7 Report (covering 2019), Section 4.

38 Article 7 Report (covering 2020), Form D; and emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March and 26 July 2021.

39 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 20.

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

41 Ibid.

- 45 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 33.
- 46 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2018), p. 30; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.

<sup>43</sup> Statement of Serbia on International Cooperation and Assistance, APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.

<sup>44</sup> APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2018), p. 18.

An EOD department within the Sector for Emergency Management, in the Ministry of Interior, responds to call-outs for individual items of ERW, and is also responsible for demolition of items found by SMAC survey teams and by contractors/ operators during clearance.<sup>49</sup>

ERBIA

In 2021, SMAC representatives attended a global non-technical survey course organised by the GICHD in Switzerland in August;<sup>50</sup> a regional technical survey course organised by the GICHD in partnership with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in BiH in September; a regional quality management course organised by the GICHD in cooperation with SMAC in Serbia in November–December; and an online IMSMA training course organised by the GICHD in December.<sup>51</sup>

# LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2021

A total of more than 1.39km<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was released in 2021: nearly 0.52km<sup>2</sup> reduced through technical survey and nearly 0.88km<sup>2</sup> through clearance, during which a total of 28 submunitions and 392 items of UXO were destroyed.<sup>52</sup>

### SURVEY IN 2021

A total of 515,000m<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was reduced through technical survey by NGO Stop Mines in 2021, in the village of Istočni Mojstir, in Tutin municipality.<sup>53</sup> No land was reduced through technical survey in 2020.

No CMR-contaminated area was cancelled through non-technical survey in 2021 or 2020.54

### **CLEARANCE IN 2021**

A total of 877,738m<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was cleared in 2021, during which 28 submunitions and 392 items of other UXO were destroyed (see Table 3).<sup>55</sup> Clearance output in 2021 was nearly three times that of 2020, when 297,660m<sup>2</sup> of CMR-contaminated area was cleared (revised upwards from the 284,855m<sup>2</sup> clearance output previously reported for 2020, which excluded a 12,805m<sup>2</sup> clearance task that had been completed, but not reported).<sup>56</sup> Clearance operations in 2020, which were suspended due to lack of available deminers as a result of COVID-19, were resumed and completed in 2021.

#### Table 3: CMR clearance by municipality in 2021<sup>57</sup>

Municipality	Village	Operator	Area cleared (m²)	Submunitions destroyed	Other UXO destroyed
Bujanovac	Borovac	NGO IN Demining	101,968	1	0
Bujanovac	Borovac	NGO IN Demining	108,961	1	1
Niš	Crveni krst (Niš Airport)	Millennium Team Ltd.	84,750	0	1
Niš	Crveni krst (Niš Airport)	Nucleus Team Ltd.	10,179	0	0
Niš	Crveni krst (Niš Airport)	Millennium Team Ltd.	69,540	0	390
Sjenica	Vapa	NGO IN Demining	338,416	26	0
Sjenica	Čedovo	Saturnia Ltd.	89,450	0	0
Sjenica	Čedovo	Saturnia Ltd.	74,474	0	0
Totals			877,738	28	392

49 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.

- 56 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021 and 3 June 2022.
- 57 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.

<sup>50</sup> Statement of Serbia on International Cooperation and Assistance, APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties (virtual meeting), 15–19 November 2021; and APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 20.

<sup>51</sup> APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 20; and email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.

<sup>52</sup> Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.

<sup>53</sup> Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.

<sup>54</sup> Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.

<sup>55</sup> Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.

SMAC did not have available data on the number or type of individual items of cluster munition remnants destroyed by the EOD department within the Sector for Emergency Management during spot tasks in 2021.<sup>59</sup> SMAC also does not possess data on explosive ordnance contamination of military areas in Serbia.<sup>59</sup>

Five of the eight clearance project tasks in 2021, totalling 328,393m<sup>2</sup>, proved not to contain any cluster munition remnants.<sup>60</sup>

Included in 2021 clearance output were three cluster munition-contaminated areas in the municipality of Niš, totalling over 0.16km<sup>2</sup>, which had not been previously included in SMAC's database of CMR contamination. The three areas were previously owned by the MoD (near to Niš civilian airport), and were transferred to civilian ownership under the Airports of Serbia Niš. SMAC developed clearance projects and completed clearance of these three CMR projects in 2021.<sup>61</sup>

### PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

A total of 1.5km<sup>2</sup> has been cleared in the last five years (see Table 4). Clearance output has steadily increased over the last three years.

In its most recent APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request, dated 31 March 2022, Serbia had included a work plan for completion of all ERW clearance by 2025, at a predicted total cost of €20 million. CMR were not disaggregated from other ERW.<sup>42</sup> Progress in CMR clearance is said to be contingent on funding. Serbia has said that depending on the availability of funding and the global health situation caused by COVID-19, CMR clearance in the country could be finished within a year or so.<sup>63</sup>

However, SMAC said it had 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.<sup>64</sup> The compounds were targeted during the NATO strikes,<sup>65</sup> and so a number of these compounds may contain CMR.

In addition to CMR clearance, SMAC also implements multiple other ERW clearance projects which contribute to socio-economic development. A total of over  $2.92 \text{km}^2$  was cleared of ERW in 2021, with the destruction of 1,330 items of UX0.<sup>66</sup>

In its 2022 APMBC Article 5 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.<sup>767</sup>

#### Table 4: Five-year summary of CMR clearance

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2021	*0.88
2020	**0.30
2019	***0.14
2018	0.00
2017	0.18
Total	1.50

 Includes CMR clearance suspended in 2020 due to lack of deminers as a result of COVID-19 and which were completed in 2021. Excludes area reduced through technical survey.<sup>48</sup>

\*\* Previously reported as 0.28km<sup>2</sup>, but subsequently revised upwards, as the earlier figure excluded a 12,805m<sup>2</sup> clearance task that had been completed, but not reported.

\*\*\* Previously reported as 0.12km<sup>2</sup>, but subsequently revised upwards, as excluded a 22,280m<sup>2</sup> clearance task that had been completed, but not reported.

### 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.<sup>69</sup>

58 Ibid.

- 59 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 11 May 2021.
- 60 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021.
- 61 Emails from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 26 March 2021; and 25 March and 3 June 2022.
- 62 Ibid., pp. 37-38.
- 63 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 3 June 2022.
- 66 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 25 March 2022.
- 67 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 9.
- 68 APMBC Article 5 deadline Extension Request (2022), p. 14.
- 69 Email from Slađana Košutić, SMAC, 23 April 2020.