

The Republic of Croatia

2012 CLEARANCE UPDATE STATEMENT

The Republic of Croatia is one of the State Parties to the Convention that have been granted an extension on clearance deadline which now stands at March 01, 2019. At the end of last year, 745,5 km² of the Croatian territory was still left for clearance, reduction by surveys and release for the use of civilian population.

During the first 4 months of this year and time period of January 01st to April 30th. 61 demining project was conducted and completed in the Republic of Croatia. A total of 11.939.684 m² was cleared, which represents 36% of the Demining Plan for 2012. During the same period, by general survey additional 5.962.494 m² of mine suspected area was reduced, which means that the total reduction of the MSA since the beginning of the year amounts to 17.902.180 m².

The biggest amounts of MSA cleared were in Vukovar-Srijem County, about. 3 km², Osijek-Baranja County with about 2.8 km² and Sibenik-Knin County with approximately 2.2 km² cleared. During demining activities a total of 1.224 antipersonnel mines, 1.239 antitank mines and 1.942 UXO's were found and destroyed.

Some important projects are completed including the clearance of future motorway Tromilja – border with Bosnia and Herzegovina and demining of the entire Prokljan tourist area.

2012 Mine Action Plan includes a budget of 38,3 million EUR (287 million HRK). The biggest part comes from the State Budget 56.3%, followed by legal entities - investors 24.9%, EU IPA2010 funds come up to 11.1% and donations represents 7.7%.

So far this year total funds contracted and spent for demining activities amount to € 17,2 million. 10,0 million Euros of State Budget funds were used, 4,3 million Euros from investors, 2,7 million from EU IPA2010 and 0,2 million Euros from different donations.

During this year two mine incidents were recorded with two fatalities; 1 deminer and 1 civilian. Croatian Mine Action Center is continuing regular coordination meetings with organizations and institutions involved in conducting Mine Risk Education and Mine Victim Assistance

The Ministry of Interior is continuing its humanitarian action "Less weapons-less tragedies" and in the process collecting large amounts of munitions, small arms and weapons left from the Homeland War period.

April 4th was marked as the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action for the seventh year in a row. "April - Month of Protection against Mines" action was also conducted.

On September 13th last year a local fire helped by strong winds spread and engulfed the military storage complex Pađane, near the town of Knin. The fire triggered several explosions inside the complex where part of Croatian cluster munitions stocks as well as other out of date ordinance was stored. As a result of the incident, an area of 5 km radius was contaminated with large amounts of exploded and unexploded ordinance. Members of Support Command, AF and AD units and members of the Engineering regiment are all involved in clearance activities. Currently, they have reduced the contaminated area to less than 3 km radius. At the time of the incident there were no casualties and so far there have not been any during the clearance process. *However, the area is still very large and important civilian area in Croatia that needs to be sanitized ASAP, so the personnel of the Engineering regiment can return to their main function of demining Croatia's military facilities, as they still have 2,5 km² of very difficult terrain to clear.*

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