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Mine Action Progress Report CROATIA

According to the Humanitarian Demining Plan, in 2012 it is planned to remove mine danger from the area of **67.056.102 m²** by conducting all planned operations (demining, reduction, surveying). Demining operations are planned on the area of **28.776.102 m²**. Of the total area planned for demining in 2012, 50% is related to the security-related priorities, 46% is related to the socio-economic development, and 4% to environmental priorities.

Funds in the amount of **287.657.762,00 kn (38.3 million EUR)** have been secured in 2012 for demining operations from the following sources - State Budget (56%), legal entities – investors (25%), donations (7%) and EU funds (11%).

From January 1 - November 27, 2012, demining activities were conducted on the area that amounts to **29.191.171 m²**. In the same period through the general survey method, mine suspected area was reduced by **25.4 km²**. During the execution of demining projects, **4.388 mines** (2.065 AP and 2.323 AV) and **3.842 pieces of UXO** were found and destroyed.

CROMAC defined and marked the entire suspected hazardous area and on November 01, 2012 mine hazardous area totaled **695.3 km²**. The locations of mine danger signs are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) that is shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administrations and individuals that have requested maps on MSA situation. On November 01, 2012 the total mine suspected area was marked with **14.243** mine danger signs. In addition, areas contaminated exclusively with unexploded ordnances are marked with **383** danger signs.

Mine clearance capacities in Croatia include complete equipment of **32** demining companies that are authorized by the Croatian Ministry of Interior and accredited by the Croatian Mine Action Centre. The companies have: **627** deminers, **653** metal detectors, **52** demining machines including all types of machines (medium, light and heavy), excavators, machines for vegetation clearing and **20** mine detection dogs.

From 1st January to 1st December 2012, there were **3** mine incidents with **3** victims (2 civilian, 1 deminer - two killed). Croatian Mine Action Centre has been organizing the action «April-Month of Mine Protection» for the 11th year in a row, with the aim of preventing mine incidents since a number of analyses continue to show the need for constant reminding of people about present mine danger. The purpose of the April campaign is to draw attention to the still existing threat and informing the public on issues that mines bring, from economic development to mine incidents and constant care for mine victims along with reminding people of responsible behavior.

Different activities of mine risk education as well as marking of mine hazardous areas, informing the public on mine danger through mine contamination maps and use of CROMAC Mine Information System (MIS) web page, have a positive impact on mine incident prevention but they also demand additional activities of familiarizing media and public with mine action elements. There is an obvious

need for conduct of mine awareness campaign by implementing methods appropriate for particular context and target group – such as agriculturalist, hunters, children, tourists and media. That is why every target group is approached through special features and appropriate educational materials either through media campaign, picture books, brochures, billboards or TV and radio messages.