



**14th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

Geneva, 30 November - 4 December 2015

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Mine risk education (MRE) for Syrian refugees in Jordan (March/April – October 2015)

Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training (CROMAC - CTDT) Ltd. conducted a two-phase project “Mine Action – Education of Syrian Refugees in Refugee Camps“, financed by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs through the official development assistance (ODA) of the Republic of Croatia.

The train-the-trainer courses on mine risk education (MRE) were conducted in cooperation with the National Centre for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) of Jordan in the town of Mafraq, for 80 trainees from Syrian refugee camps in Jordan, who were selected through gender and age-sensitive approach. The trainees are now qualified to transfer mine risk awareness messages among general population upon their return to Syria. After certificate award ceremony, newly trained trainees prepared a short theatre play in which they participated themselves, together with school headmasters and other prominent citizens of Mafraq.

Signing of MoU with the Colombian National Mine Action Centre (CENAM) (February 2015)

During the visit of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Ms. Vesna Pusić to Colombia in February 2015, the first ever visit of a senior Croatian official to Colombia since the establishment of bilateral relations, and after five years of cooperation in mine action projects, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in mine action and humanitarian demining between CROMAC and CENAM was signed in the presence of the Colombian Minister of Defense, Mr. Juan Carlos Pinzón Bueno and the Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs. We are hopeful that this MoU will further enhance and facilitate already excellent cooperation between our countries.

Given its recent history, Croatia well understands the state of affairs in Colombia, as well as the challenges of the peace process and post-conflict state building. The two countries therefore see mine clearance as crucial not only for safety of its people but for the economic development of mine suspected areas too. It is also important to emphasize that Colombia is a strategic partner to

Croatia and a selected point in Latin America with regard to the economy, but also with regard to cooperation in the post-conflict normalization and development assistance.

We are particularly pleased to say that our Colombian partners already had good experience with Croatian demining products (boots, vests and helmets) and demining machines produced by DOK-ING company.

Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) course (Level 1) for SEE countries (June/July 2015)

CROMAC – CTDT Ltd. conducted explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training for 9 participants from Serbia and Montenegro who have received certificates of qualification for performing UXO disposal of Level 1 according to IMAS.

Continuation of the project “Mine Action after the Floods – Regional Synergy in Emergency Response, Technology Development and Capacity Building” (1st half of 2015) – *financed through ODA of the Republic of Croatia*

After the aerial survey of flooded mine suspected areas (MSA) in Bosnia and Herzegovina was carried out last year, a specialist training for 14 surveyors, mostly from BHMAL, on application of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) in mine action, was prepared and conducted by CROMAC – CTDT Ltd. in Sarajevo, while the practical part of the training was performed by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) from Brussels. The training was conceived as a workshop in which trainees were solving practical tasks in intensive interaction with each other, after they had been taught basic elements of airborne survey in mine action. The trainees were given fundamental knowledge about the airborne survey of a mine suspected area, about electronic and optical sensors used, about images in visible wavelengths, the characteristics and analysis of long-wave infrared (thermal vision) images, about geo-coding of images on a large scale digital orthophoto map (1:1000), about calculation of needed spatial resolution for requested probability of surveying the objects on the ground in real situations, about selecting the flight height, overlapping the images in the flight direction for a given flight speed and about a width of a subject area and resolution.

In conclusion Mr. President, Croatia is ready to share experiences based on its national know-how in mine action; in particular, knowledge in establishing mine action centers (including organization, regulations and standards), establishing mine information systems, preparing national mine action programs and training and education in programs for rehabilitation and reintegration of mine/UXO survivors.

Thank you.