



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per
Article 5, Para 1 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their
Destruction**

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Executive Summary

The challenge in the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina dates back from the period 1992-1995. From 1992 to 1995 warring factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina laid a huge number of minefields throughout the country. All warring factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Army of BH, Army of Republic of Srpska, Croatian Defence Council) laid minefields and primarily between confrontation lines, in order to prevent or slow down the movement of military units of one fraction into the area controlled by another fraction. Minefields were also laid in front of strategic points of all warring factions and military facilities. Geographically speaking, minefields were laid throughout the country, from Herzegovina to the south and south/west, over the mountains, canyons, and gorges of Central Bosnia to the flat areas to the north of the country. Minefields are present on the ground with all types of vegetation typical for Bosnia and Herzegovina (high grass and forest) at all types of ground (stone, karst).

The Mine action program in Bosnia and Herzegovina commenced in 1996, through the establishment of UNMAC and in order to build local structure and capacities for mine action. Entity centres for mine action (MAC RS and FED MAC), along with the coordination centre on the state level (BHMAL) were established in 1998. With the passing of the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2002, the existing mine action structure has been transformed. The central body of the State is presented by the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, operating within the Ministry of Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The expert Commission's body for demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mine Action Centre BiH (BHMAL) has been established by the Decision of the Council of Ministers and based on the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 26 March 2008, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a request to extend its 1 March 2009 mine clearance deadline. The request was granted at the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties and a new deadline set for 1 March 2019. After nine (9) years of implementation Bosnia and Herzegovina was not able to fulfil obligations in accordance with the previous request. The circumstances that have prevented Bosnia and Herzegovina from submitting from meeting the deadline of 1 March 2019 are related to the following:

- **Lack of financial means**
- **The size of mine problem** in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Non-functional minefield records available.**
- **Prevailing climate conditions.**

On September 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted Interim Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

At the time when Interim Request was submitted the total remaining contamination in Bosnia and Herzegovina totals 8,967 SHAs measured 1,056,574,142 square meters and 935 CHAs measured 23.846.939 square meters.

In accordance with Article 5, Para 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina requested a two (2) years extension from 01 March 2019 to 01 March 2021, to carry out survey and clearance activities to better define the precise perimeter of mined areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following the better definition of the remaining challenge, Bosnia and Herzegovina is now in a better position to highlight the exact amount of time required to implement its obligations under Article 5. During the requested time period three main projects/activities were carried out:

1. **Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
2. **Mine Action Governance and Management Project**
3. **Land release operations: survey and clearance operations**

In the period from 2 July 2018 to 14 May 2020, the Mine Action Centre of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Armed Forces of BiH and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted a project entitled **“Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina”**. In the implementation of the project, with the support of authorities of local communities, the initial step was to establish MSAs or geographical areas which brought together a number of areas into one “area of operation” to be subsequently subjected to the land release process (NTS, TS and clearance). Activities of the project were directed towards the fulfilment of two specific objectives:

1. Reassessment of the suspect area in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and with a developed approach to the land release in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
2. Defining the indicators for the implementation of the new strategy of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina and development of midterm action plan for land release.

The end result of this project includes the creation of 488 MSAs (+10 MSAs in progress) for further operations and led to the cancelation of approximately 966,686,086 square meters.

Mine Action Governance and Management Project - The Ministry of civil affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAL), with UNDP support, has achieved the following results:

1. Re-establishment of the Board of donors in BiH;
2. The new National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, developed in partnership with stakeholders with the support of the GICHD, developed and accepted by the Council of ministers of BiH;
3. Development and design of the public awareness campaign (mobile application); to be published in the near future and available for all interested parties;
4. Development and design of the new web orientated information management (database) system for BHMAL, to replace the existing system and increase accessibility and transparency of mine action data. European Union ICSP Programme (Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace) financed this activity and national mine action authorities (Demining commission and BHMAL) agreed to accept the IM system developed by the GICHD (IMSMA Core) and adjust for the needs of BHMAL
5. Two chapters of Standard operating procedures, chapter for non-technical survey and chapter for Standard operational procedures for opening and follow-up of the task, are adopted by the Demining Commission of BiH in March 2018.

Land release operations: survey and clearance operations are continuing in line with the annual priorities presented by municipal authorities as well as in line with the financing available for implementation. As per the National Demining Law, these plans are developed on an annual basis.

During the conduct of the interim request, some challenges persisted and some new challenges manifested themselves:

1. **A delay in demining** – The term of office of the Demining Commission in BiH expired in October 2109
2. **Lack of financial means**
3. **Prevailing climate conditions**
4. **COVID-19 pandemic**

According to Oslo Action Plan mine risk education in the period 2020-2027 will be implemented through public information, education of affected population groups and through linking mine action with affected communities. Mine risk education will focus on the priority implementation of activities on the entire territory of BiH, primarily its conduct in rural communities ranked low at the priority list for other mine

action, where they might present threat for local population for a long period of time. This implies communities that will be technically surveyed and cleared only after 2023.

In the period from 2009 to 2019, 128 mine/ERW victims were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of the total, males constitute 95% and females 5%. Additionally, out of the total, adults constitute 88%, and children 12%. More than 80% percent of victims from this period occurred in mine accidents at areas qualified as 3rd category.

At their 143rd Session held on May 23rd 2018, the Council of Ministers has issued the Decision on the Establishing of Coordinating Body for mine/cluster munition/ERW victims.

Elimination of the risk caused by anti-personnel mines for the population in affected communities and for the social and economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina is resolved through integrated approach to mine action. Mine suspected areas (MSA)¹ are defined they are subjected to Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey and clearance with priorities being set in accordance with the needs of local communities and municipalities/cities in order to eliminate threat for population. These needs are assessed through integration of mine risk education activities with wider humanitarian, development, protection and education efforts, as well as with ongoing survey, clearance and victim assistance activities to reduce the risk to the affected population and decrease their need for risk-taking. (Oslo Action Plan: Action 28)

In accordance with the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, funds for the conduct of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be ensured via donors' sources, budgets of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions, entity budgets and other sources. In order to fulfil the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention in requested timeframe (six years) from 1 March 2021 to 1 March 2027, the funds totalling 336,2 million BAM are necessary. The finance plan according to the operational plan for 2020-2027 is prepared in accordance with the realistic financial frame of mine action.

Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided an insight into the scope of contamination and the size of the mine problem. In further works, evidence will be analysed and areas prepared for technical survey and clearance. Non-technical survey is also the final step in handover of the land to final users (in accordance with NMAS - National Mine Standards).

1. Remaining implementation challenge at the time of previous request submission

At the time of submission of the previous request, Bosnia and Herzegovina was the most mine contaminated country in Europe with mined areas measuring approximately 1,056,574,142 square meters (2 % of the total area of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

1.1. Obligations taken under the previous request and circumstances which prevented completion

During the period of the interim request implementation, there were following challenging circumstances that affected implementation:

Delay in demining - The term of office of the Demining Commission in BiH expired in October 2019 and the new members of the Demining Commission were not appointed until 30. April 2020. Given that the Demining Commission in BiH being the body responsible for the conduct of mine action, which entails accreditations

¹ An area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural, geographical, and other reasons, is selected as a logical unit. The MSA is selected by BHMIC in close cooperation with the municipal authorities. These areas are then treated comprehensively through the land release procedure. MSA represents an organizational task for a demining organization.

for demining organizations, the conduct of foreign policy, adoption of new Standards and SOP as well as amendments to the existing Standards and SOP, the delay led to the expiration of accreditation of mine clearance organization at the beginning of 2020, in some cases preventing the start of the demining season and, in other cases, preventing the deployment of the full available capacity.

Lack of financial means - The Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 adopted by the Council of Ministers required financial resources in the total amount of BAM 336.2 million to flow to the mine action programme. Unfortunately, available financial resources have not met the expectation of the Strategy which may not allow full realization of the set goals. For the beginning of 2021, it is predicted that remaining SHA will amount to approximately 857,000,000 m². From all of the above, we anticipate that we will need two more years to implement the Strategy and clear Bosnia and Herzegovina of mines. At the end of 2020, we will have the first revision of the Strategy based on the results of the Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina project and the results achieved so far. We believe that the projected amount of a total of 336.2 million BAM will be sufficient for the implementation of the Strategy.

Prevailing climate conditions. Demining season in most of Bosnia and Herzegovina lasts from mid-March to the beginning of December. On the south of BiH, demining works can be conducted during the winter season due to the mild climate conditions. Demining season lasts for 8 months.

COVID-19 pandemic. Similar to the rest of the world, Bosnia and Herzegovina was caught in COVID-19 pandemic which caused either a cessation of or hindrance to the work of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions. This reflected onto the process of mine action conduct in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from March to June 2020, since Mine Action Centre BiH worked with reduced capacities as well. It also caused cessation or serious deceleration of work that companies conduct on the ground. After appointment of the Demining Commission in BiH (April 30 2020), all companies that submitted request were accredited and ground activities continued.

2. Progress made regarding the previous request

2.1. Progress made during the previous extension period

Over the period of 2018-2019 the affected area in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been reduced from 1,056,574,142 square meters to 966.686.086 square meters. During this period a total of 94,555,274 square meters were addressed with 84,655,964 square meters of suspected hazardous area (SHA) cancelled through non-technical survey operations 8,342,881 square metres of SHA reduced through technical survey operations or technically surveyed locations and 1,556,429 square meters of CHAs cleared. A total of 3,064 anti-personnel mines, 76 anti-tank mines and 2,363 pieces of ERW, including cluster munitions were identified and destroyed.

Detailed information on the progress of non-technical and technical survey and mine clearance in the period from 2018 to 2019 is shown in the following table:

Time (2018-2019)	Plan (square metres)	Realization (square metres)	Percentage of realization %	Percentage per method %
Cancelled area (square metres) Non-technical survey	238,000,000	84,655,964	35.57	89.53
Reduced area (square metres) Technical Survey	8,000,000	8,342,881	104.29	8.82
Cleared area (square metres) Clearance of mines	4,000,000	1,556,429	38.91	1.65
Total area released (square metres)	250,000,000	94,555,274	37.82	100.00

Table 1: Review of non-technical and technical survey, and mine clearance

2.2. Methodologies and standards employed in the implementation of Article 5

Methods for release of the SHAs and CHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina are defined through national standards and standard operational procedures which are in accordance with the international standards for mine action (IMAS). In 2016, three chapters of the Standard were adopted: chapters for non-technical survey, technical survey and land release. In 2018, two chapters of the Standing Operational Procedures were adopted: chapters for non-technical survey and chapter for opening and follow-up of the issued tasks. Remaining chapters of Standard and SOP are currently under construction and their adoption is expected by the end of 2020.

Non-technical survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina (relation to IMAS 08.10) is an activity for collection and analysis of information on presence, type, and layout of mines without the use of technical methods. Non-technical survey permits the analysis of gathered information and allows for decisions to be made on further technical activities, if necessary. Through Non-Technical Survey methods, the affected area is more precisely defined for technical survey activities to take place should evidence of mines be discovered or cancellation of areas should there be no evidence of mines. Non-technical survey activities are conducted by the Mine Action Centre BiH, providing quality assurance and quality control (Standard for non-technical survey adopted 2016).

Technical survey is a process which collects and analyses information on presence, type and layout of mines with the assistance of appropriate technical methods, and confirms their presence. The goal of technical survey is the use of appropriate methods for defining the borders of the mined areas (if any) or removal of doubt about the existence of mines in the area to which the evidences points. Technical survey represents entry into the areas which are identified through non-technical survey activities, direct search and defining the presence of mines, specific characteristics of the soil, marking the borders of mined areas, and setting the parameters for further mine clearance operations. **Technical survey** will be conducted in order to check and verify the information collected through non-technical survey, as well as to determine the borders of mined areas more precisely, i.e. to define the CHAs.

Three methods are used in technical survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina: mechanical preparation of the land, MDD search by trained dogs, and manual method that implies the deminer working with his detector and his prodger (Standard operational procedures for humanitarian demining –Chapter V, adopted in 2003, Standard for technical survey, adopted in 2016).

Mine clearance implies physical removal of mines from the CHAs and their destruction. Methods used in mine clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina are: mechanical preparation of the ground, mine detection dog teams, and manual method which implies the deminer working with his detector and his prodger (Standard for mine clearance and UXO removal in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted in 2003). **Mine clearance** will be carried out with the aim of physically removing mines from the CHAs that are treated through the process of non-technical and technical survey. These activities will be carried out by accredited organizations.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Quality control is conducted by Mine Action Centre in BiH (Standard operational procedures for humanitarian demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Annex II, Chapter I, adopted in 2008). The Mine Action Centre BiH also conducts technical supervision/inspection over technical survey operations conducted by accredited organizations.

Quality assurance in humanitarian demining is a system of control and activities including organization, planning, screening of the equipment, training, procedures and activities of humanitarian demining on the ground which will confirm that controlled operational procedures of humanitarian demining are correct and adequate and that tasks are achieved in a safe, efficient and effective manner. Quality assurance system is a

significant factor for the trust in both demining personnel and users of demined area. Quality assurance in Bosnia and Herzegovina is conducted in accordance with the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Standard for mine clearance and UXO removal and Standard operational procedures for humanitarian demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The aim of quality assurance is implementation of prescribed norms and procedures that provide safety for people, and result in the quality of the area addressed. Quality assurance in Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of the following:

1. Technical inspection of humanitarian demining operations conducted by inspection bodies of Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance to the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Standard and approved SOPs. Technical inspection is conducted through:
 - a. Planning, including the project task, conduct plan for the technical survey and mine clearance tasks;
 - b. External quality control monitoring Of the humanitarian demining process conducted by Mine Action Centre BiH which enables the handover of the technically surveyed and cleared area;
 - c. Sampling of the cleared area,
 - d. Final technical inspection and issue of the quality assurance certificate,
2. Estimation and issue accreditation to organizations for the conduct of humanitarian demining in accordance with the Law, Standards and SOPs.
3. Process of training and testing including training and planning, approval of training plans for accredited organizations, control and participation in training, testing the personnel and readiness to work in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
4. Occupational safety and health.
5. Internal quality control over accredited organizations is conducted by the organization itself, i.e. team leader, site manager and quality assurance officer. Every internal quality control is recorded at site, in writing, with control samples of the situation, including sampling results, attached sketches and marking of the area. Through internal organization of work and through conduct of control within the accredited organization, maximum safety is achieved for deminers and users of demined area.
6. Monitoring by contractor over organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Monitoring represents the control of the contract between the contractor and the organization. Such monitoring is not obligatory and it is conducted per request of the contractor. Mine Action Centre issues the Quality Control Certificate, which is a confirmation that a certain location is demined in accordance with Article 36 of the Demining Law (Official Gazette BiH, no: 5/02) and Chapter VII of the Standard Operational Procedures for humanitarian demining (defined that a demined location is in accordance with IMAS, with the guarantee of 99,65%). Detailed information of quality assurance and quality control activities in the period 2018-2019 is shown below in table 3:

Operational plans are conducted in accordance with technical regulations compatible with international standards (IMAS):

- a. Chapter of Standard for Land Release,
- b. Chapter of Standard for non-technical survey,
- c. Chapter of Standard for technical survey,

- d. Chapter of Standard for mine clearance and UXO removal,
 - e. Standard Operating Procedures for humanitarian demining,
 - f. Standard Operating Procedures for non-technical survey,
 - g. Standard Operational Procedures for revision of suspect hazardous area,
 - h. Quality assurance and quality control guidelines necessary for conduct of "Land Release" project.
 - i. Accreditation Guide for Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Methods which will be used in technical survey and mine clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina are as follows: Mechanical preparation of the ground, EDD and Manual method.

In the period from 2018 to 2019, Mine Action Centre BiH inspection bodies have conducted 10,551 inspections at 339 humanitarian demining tasks (technical survey and mine clearance).

Quality assurance and Quality control (2018-2019)			
2018-2019	2018	2019	Total
Approved accreditations	244	233	477
Deminers licences issued	1,164	1,156	2,320
Metal detectors tested	949	690	1,639
EDD teams tested	110	106	216
Machines tested	29	11	40
Technical supervision/inspection	2,768	3,091	5,859
Total	10,551		

Table 3: Review of quality assurance and quality control

2.3. Organizational/coordination improvements

Mine Action Centre in BiH was amongst the first to introduce a standardized information management in the initial phase of humanitarian demining and served as an example to numerous similar organizations and institutions.

During the previous extension request period the following two activities were carried out:

1. **Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
2. **Mine Action Governance and Management Project**

Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the period from 2 July 2018 to 14 May 2020, the Mine Action Centre of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Armed Forces of BiH and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted a project entitled "Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

This project was approved and financed through EC emergency grants in the sum of 900,000 EUR. The aim of this project was to increase the efficiency in mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the application of non-technical and technical survey with the aim of setting a new baseline i.e. and aimed to establish a new foundation for realistic planning in mine action in order to plan for the realization of the Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 and preparation of the final request for the fulfilment of Bosnia and Herzegovina's obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. This project was carried out by 14 Non-Technical Survey Teams (9 of the BHMAL, 2 of the Armed Forces of BiH and 3 of Norwegian People's Aid).

In the implementation of the project, with the support of authorities of local communities, the initial step was to establish MSAs or geographical areas which brought together a number of areas into one “area of operation” to be subsequently subjected to the land release process (NTS, TS and clearance). MSAs cover former confrontation lines taking into consideration the character of the war and geographical characteristics of terrain. Priorities now reflect the level of impact of mines on residents, which is estimated through threat to the population and blocked resources. In this way it is expected that operations will better respond to the needs of the community through strengthening community liaison and ensuring that the needs of the communities are prioritized and addressed. It also simplifies the tasking procedure by assigning certain organizations a larger geographical area in which to conduct operations. In partnership with the Armed Forces BH and Norwegian People’s Aid, the Mine Action Centre BH conducted the assessment of suspect areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the developed assessment plan, on 1.030 km² of suspect area, defining a total of 488 polygons. Most suspect areas defined for releasing are adjusted to the optimal size - of 1,7 km² - 2,5 km² (2,1 km² on average).

Mine Action Governance and Management Project

The Mine Action Governance and Management (MAGMA) Project aimed to assist the mine action authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in increasing transparency, improve planning capabilities and implement contemporary mine action standards for an accelerated pace of mine clearance. It builds on the activities implemented in the past that resulted in reconvening the Board of Donors, improvements in human resource management processes and mine action standardization within BHMACH.

The aim of the MAGMA Project is to influence policy and build the capacity to instill greater organizational openness and adaptability to new methodologies. This aims to contribute towards re-establishing donor confidence through the formulation of a credible, realistic and achievable completion plan, which will provide the strategic framework and work plan necessary to clear all known mined areas in the country and comply with the country’s demining obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (hereafter referred to as the Ottawa Convention). A credible completion plan should generate greater support for mine action and land release projects in the country ensuring the required resources are available to achieve a mine-free country. Through the implementation of this project, Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the UNDP, aims to strengthen the institutions, policies, systems and by-laws to enable increased citizen security and delivery of basic services to contribute to efficient release of previously mine suspected land back to communities. This should enable inclusive growth and sustainable development increasing the productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded communities that currently live near landmine affected areas.

This project is anchored to the Board of Donors providing the forum with well-coordinated plans, timely and accurate reports and advice on strategic and operational developments in the mine action arena in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will establish a strong partnership with international partners including the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention’s Implementation Support Unit and Convention’s office holders, Demining Battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH, civil protection and national mine action authorities.

During 2016, GICHD conducted an estimation of information management quality in Mine Action Centre in BiH. In the same year, Mine Action Centre in BiH commenced the process of revision of all the mine action standards and SOPs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By the end of 2017, the draft has been completed for two chapters of Standard operating procedures, chapter for non-technical survey and chapter for Standard operational procedures for opening and follow-up of the task. These two documents are adopted by the Demining Commission of BiH in March 2018. Mine Action Centre in BiH collects, stores, analyses and updates all necessary information from the domain of mine action. They are available to all interested parties. Mine Action Centre in BiH is currently in the phase of defining its organizational structure which supports integration of information management within and between the organizational units.

2.4. Resources available for achieved goals

In the period from 2018 to 2019, mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina was financed with 77,84 million BAM (94% of planned 82,84 million). In this period, Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to find additional finance resources that would total 3,07 million BAM. Considering the bad economic situation in the country as well as the size of the mine problem, the fact remains that mine action is an exceptionally costly process could not have been adequately supported. Bosnia and Herzegovina ensured 56,88 million BAM or 73% out of total funds invested into mine action, from the budgets of the state, entities, cantons, municipalities as well as public and private sector budgets. Donors and partner countries provided 20,96 million BAM or 27% out of total invested means, for which Bosnia and Herzegovina is very grateful.

International donors in the period from 2018 – 2019 included: USA, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, EU, Japan, UNDP, UNICEF, EUFOR, MKCK, and Marshall Legacy Institute. Through the mediation of international fund for humanitarian demining and mine victims assistance for South-East Europe (ITF - Enhancing Human Security), 55% of donor funds were implemented. The review of mine action financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina in millions of BAM for the period from 2018-2019 is given in Table 3 below:

2018-2019	2018	2019	Total	%
Financial resources made available by the Bosnia and Herzegovina	25.34	31.54	56.88	94%
Financial resources made available by International Donors	12.76	8.20	20.96	
Total	38.10	39.74	77.84	
Not Ensure	3.32	1.68	5.00	6%

Table 3: Review of funds invested in mine action in the period 2018-2019

2.5. Efforts made on ensuring effective exclusion of civilians from mined areas

In the period from 2018 – 2019, continuous efforts were made in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to prevent civilians entering SHAs and CHAs. Mine risk education is an integral part of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Apart from Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina, MRE was conducted by accredited organizations under the supervision of Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina, all in order to inform the population in affected communities and to diminish the number of mine victims.

Mine risk education was conducted through public dissemination, education of affected groups and through liaising between mine action and affected communities. Mine risk education is a part of the regular school curriculum in elementary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the period since the submission of previous extension request, 23 mine risk education projects were realized in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 73,533 persons were educated on mine threat, most of them school children. Since 2020, planning, conduct of activities and reporting in MRE has been adjusted and disaggregated by gender and age.

The review of conducted MRE projects and educated persons in the period from 2018 to 2019 are stated below in Table 5:

2018-2019	2018	2019	Total
Number of implemented MRE projects	12	11	23
Number of people cover by MRE projects	36,608	36,925	73,533

Table 5: Review of mine risk education program 2018-2019

MRE methodology has been improving for years based on the exchange of experiences gained. Mine risk education is planned based on Standard for Mine Risk Education and Standing Operational Procedures for Mine Risk Education, and in accordance with capacities of local communities classified by the level of threat, Action plan, and within the conduct of other mine action activities – through community liaising, activities of public communication, education system in primary and secondary schools, general survey and emergency marking operations and within permanent marking projects.

Mine risk education plan is based on information gathered through general survey, Action plan and the number of inhabitants as per records and current census of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regional offices gather information on affected groups through the process of creation of the non-technical survey form for affected communities within the non-technical survey plan. As for the rest of affected communities, regional offices cooperate with local government to create propositions by affected groups which will be integrated within the mine risk education plan.

Mine risk education is conducted in accordance with jointly created plan, and focusing on the areas planned for humanitarian demining later on.

As for those areas where humanitarian demining operations are being conducted, mine risk education is conducted through community liaising and by the organization that conducts humanitarian demining, with assistance of MRE accredited organizations.

Analysis of mine victims information within BHMAIS database shows a pattern of accident occurrence, together with other patterns of habits and activities of population in local communities, and it is used for planning of mine risk education activities, where prioritization is administered based on information from the latest general assessment. Analysis of mine/ERW mine victims information shows that the patterns of accident occurrence are prevalingly seasonal, with peaking accidents during autumn and spring, during agricultural work and collecting of firewood. The second highest cause for accidents is collection of raw materials with economic value.

Analysis of mine/ERW information further shows a highly gender specific pattern where adult men consistently present the most affected group of direct victims.

Additional analysis conducted by BHMAL shows that a high number of accidents occur when males go into known hazardous areas to fulfil their existential needs. Although it is important to note that adult males constitute a vast majority of mine/ERW victims, it is also very important to know that once the family provider is either killed or seriously injured in an accident, other family members (sometimes referred to as „indirect victims”) generally become highly affected as the responsibility for earning and providing for the family often changes. It is also important to understand psychological and socio-economic consequences for mine survivors and affected family members, and in this regard, their needs must be encompassed within mine victims assistance services.

Emergency marking is a preventive measure of mine awareness, which is conducted through marking of the SHAs boundaries; marking is an integral part of non-technical survey and mine awareness, thus presenting a very effective risk reduction measure. Total number of placed emergency marking signs in the period from 2018 to 2019 is 4,091 (23% of the plan). The review of emergency marking signs places is shown in the Table

BHMAL in cooperation with Armed Forces BiH and EUFOR conducts emergency marking at the entire area of BiH. Once this task is completed, it is estimated that the entire suspect area will be marked. In all regional offices, the signs are being placed at all previously unmarked areas.

2018-2019	2018	2019	Total	Plan	%
Emergency marking activities	2,621	1,470	4,091	18,000	23%

Table 6: Review of emergency marking activities in the period from 2018 -2019

Emergency marking represents a preventive mine risk education measure, which is conducted through marking of boundaries of the SHA+CHAs. Placing of the signs at locations of III category priority was conducted at areas where humanitarian demining operations were planned in future, and it presented a very effective risk reduction measure. In the period from 2018 to 2019, 1,26 square kilometres of SHAs has been permanently marked. Review of permanent marking activities is given in Table 7 below:

2018-2019	2018		2019		TOTAL	
Permanent marking activities	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs
	0.89	121	0.37	50	1.26	171

Table 7: Review of permanent marking activities for the period 2018 - 2019

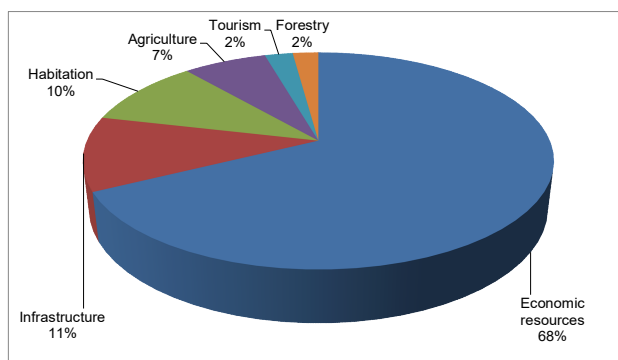
2.6. Social and economic aspects in the period since submission of the interim request

Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2020, has identified a total of 1,413 mine affected communities. It has been estimated that mine contaminated locations affect the safety of 825,053 residents or 22,68% of the total population. The micro-locations contaminated by mines directly affect the safety of 120,760 residents, which is 3,32% out of total number of Bosnia and Herzegovina residents. Total number of endangered men is 412,875 and total number of endangered women is 412,178. The number of directly endangered men is 61,661, while the number of directly endangered women is 59,099.

The first category in priority encompasses repatriation, demining of housing objects for people to return, reconstruction of settlements, educational and health facilities, agricultural land, industrial complexes, forests, tourist and forest locations away from inhabited areas, where both mine risk and mine threat are low.

The second category in priority encompassed areas in occasional use or areas that border with I category areas. They represent a minimum safety belt through already treated I category locations, and they are defined by logical geographic unit borders. Traditionally, such areas are neither interesting nor motivating the residents to move towards periphery areas treated as III category in priority.

The third category in priority encompasses SHAs with the least possible risk but with probable consequences dating from the war, since they were located between the confrontation lines. These are distant locations without traditional or any other recognizable motifs that would make people approach or move. They also do not contain strategically significant natural resources. The intentional use of the reduced area and area cleared through demining, i.e. technical survey and clearance is shown below in Graph 1:

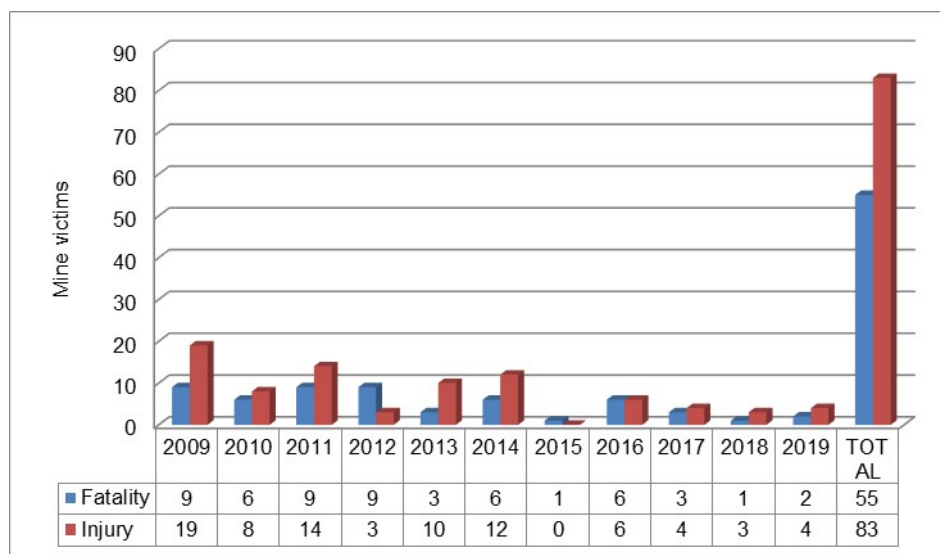


Graph 1: Intentional use for reduced and cleared area in the period 2018-2019

Analyses of mine accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina indicate that patterns are seasonal: most accidents occur in autumn and spring, which is the result of agricultural and firewood collecting activities (80% in third category). The second important cause of mine accidents is collection of raw materials of economic value. Analyses of mine victims reveal a high gender sample where adult males prevail as the most affected group. Most accidents with fatal outcome were the consequence of activation of PROM-1 mine, which is fragmentation bouncing mine. BHMIC conducted an analysis on accidents which revealed that great many accidents were the result of adult men entering the suspect minefields, where they intended to do activities related to survival or economic benefit. It is important to perceive that adult males constitute a great number of victims; however, the key is to perceive that death or disability of the bread winner greatly affects other family members, who are considered to be indirect victims. It is of critical significance to understand the psychological and psychosocial consequences for survivors and affected family members, and conditions must be ensured for the satisfaction of their needs. In the period from 2009 to 2019, 128 mine/ERW victims were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of the total, males constitute 95% and females 5%. Additionally, out of the total, adults constitute 88%, and children 12%. The review of victims as per gender and age in the period from 2009 to 2019 is given in Table 7 and Graph 2 below:

Mine victims	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Fatality	9	6	9	9	3	6	1	6	3	1	2	55
Injury	19	8	14	3	10	12	0	6	4	3	4	83
Men	25	14	22	11	12	18	1	12	6	3	5	129
Women	3		1	1	1				1			7
Adults	23	14	23	11	7	15	1	12	6	3	5	120
Children	5			1	6	3			1			16

Table 7: Review of mine/ERW victims in the period 2009-2019



Graph 2: Review of mine/ERW victims in the period 2009-2019

3. Remaining implementation challenge

3.1. Suspected hazardous areas and confirmed hazardous areas to contain anti-personnel mines

Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently the most mine affected country in Europe with a total of 488 SHAs measuring 945,938,493 square meters and 799 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 20,747,593 square metres. In Bosnia and Herzegovina SHAs are identified as the area between the zones of confrontation of the warring factions, for which there is information and probability of mine contamination. Unlike SHA, which is a wider term, CHA constitute smaller areas where following non-technical survey (including general survey) direct evidence of the presence of the minefield is identified. Through technical survey detailed information is collected for the conduct of clearance operations. The review of suspected and CHA is given in Table 8:

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL	CHA area (square metres)	Number of projects CHA	SHA area (square metres)	MSA= SHA+CHA (square metres)	Number of MSA
UNSKO SANSKI	2,603,992	125	95,806,345	98,410,337	49
POSAVSKI	211,251	6	13,571,234	13,782,485	7
TUZLANSKI	1,469,127	60	79,770,718	81,239,845	43
ZENICKO DOBOJSKI	1,879,721	63	112,223,720	114,103,441	50
BOSANSKO PODRINJSKI	785,051	14	46,015,957	46,801,008	19
SREDNJE BOSANSKI	2,863,902	94	108,829,348	111,693,250	57
HERCEGOVACKO NERETVANSKI	2,841,534	68	146,774,680	149,616,214	77
ZAPADNO HERCEGOVACKI	0	0	0	0	0
SARAJEVO	889,543	24	64,764,311	65,653,854	30
KANTON 10	1,001,512	36	75,717,329	76,718,841	32
BRCKO DISTRIKT	0	0	13,101,196	13,101,196	6
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA	6,201,958	309	189,363,657	195,565,615	118
Grand Total	20,747,593	799	945,938,493	966,686,086	488

Table 8: Review of SHAs and CHAs – May 2020

3.2. Relevant qualitative characteristics of remained challenge

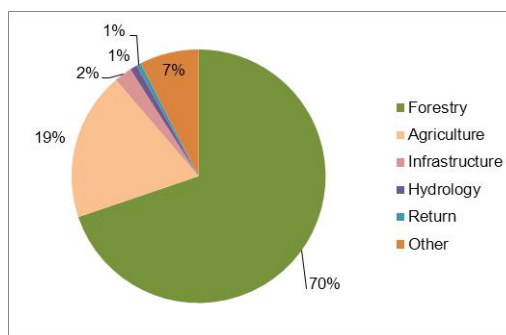
Elimination of risk for population and social and economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be resolved through integrated approach to mine action. Through the system of defining the mine suspect areas (MSA)², non-technical survey, technical survey, and clearance operations the mine situation will be defined on and addressed with the areas prioritised in accordance with the needs of local communities and municipalities/cities. In relatively sparsely inhabited hills and mountains of category III priority areas where the mine threat is low, the contamination problem will be dealt with in phases. The first phase will be conducted non-technical survey, marking of the SHA, and mine risk education. As indicated earlier mine action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are confronted with the challenge that weather condition are permissible for operations solely from mid mid-March to beginning of December.

The remaining SHA defined by potential use is shown below in table 9 and graph 3:

² A geographical area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural or geographical and other reasons is selected as a logical unit. The MSA is selected by BHMAL in close cooperation with the municipal authorities. These areas are then treated comprehensively through the land release procedure.

Intentional use of SHA	Area m ²
Forestry	641,524,712
Agriculture	174,269,208
Infrastructure	20,737,479
Hydrology	8,285,111
Return	5,339,681
Other	69,192,734
TOTAL:	919,348,925

Table 9: Intentional use of SHA



Graph 3: Intentional use of SHA

4. Timeframe requested for fulfilment of obligations and the justification

During the interim extension period, clearance operations have been also continued, following the better definition of the remaining challenge, Bosnia and Herzegovina is now in a better position to provide information on the remaining challenge and the amount of time required to implement Article 5.

Based on a more precise understanding of the remaining challenge, and in accordance with Article 5, Para 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina requests a **six (6) years** extension request from 01 March 2021 to 01 March 2027, to carry out non-technical and technical survey activities to better define the precise perimeter of mined areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Through the full application of land release SHAs will be identified through the collection of indirect evidence and CHAs will be identified where direct evidence exists, likewise, activities will lead to significant cancellation of areas where no evidence exists and reduction through technical survey. Non-technical survey effort will allow for efficient tasking in technical survey, which will include both systematic and targeted investigation in order to confirm or refute the presence of mines and ensure that mine clearance capacities are deployed to CHAs only. In order to ensure the quality of the efforts carried out in the next year, the BHMAL has developed and adopted three chapters in its new standards on non-technical survey, technical survey and land release. All three have been developed in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS 07.11).

The outline of the plan and milestones presented below is based on the results of the “Land Release” project which was realized in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period 2013-2017 and based on the assumption that sufficient financial resources will be mobilized during the requested period.

In accordance with the results of the General Assessment project and the Strategy timeline, three years can be defined as milestones in resolving the mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as follows:

1. Introduction and application of the results of the Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2020 and 2021 (the first revision of the Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2025).
2. The second revision of the Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2025, in 2023.
3. The completion of the Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2025, in 2025, status assessment and creation of the Exit Strategy and completion of the process, in 2027.

If we apply the results of the “Land Release” projects, it is possible to deduce that not all SHAs currently in the database of BHMAL are contaminated by mines and that mine clearance capacities will have to be deployed in relatively small areas. The results of the “Land Release” project represent the basis during the process of making the Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2025, created by Mine Action

Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with International centre for humanitarian demining in Geneva (GICHD) in the domain of Strategic goal 3 that relates to survey and mine clearance.

Strategic goals

Five strategic goals have been set in the Strategy; each strategic goal has several operational goals, starting points, indicators and targeted shapes.

1. Information quality management procedures ensure the gathering, storage, analysis, exchange of relevant information and their use for efficient and effective planning, setting priorities, tasking and implementation of mine action. (Oslo Action Plan: Actions 9, 22 and 35)
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina mine action program has been promoted on national and international level in order to increase its visibility and to enhance the responsibility, commitment and support of the state. (Oslo Action Plan: Actions 1 and 8)
3. The size and impact of mine/ERW contamination problems are specified and confirmed; the problem is being solved in accordance with BiH mine action standards, ensuring that safe areas are returned to impacted communities for use. (Oslo Action Plan: Actions 2, 3, 5, 6, 19, 20 and 27)
4. Safe proceeding is promoted through mine awareness measures that are gender sensitive and respect diversity in order to reduce the number of mine/ERW accidents and to support safe and sustainable activities necessary for life. (Oslo Action Plan: Actions 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32)
5. All mine/ERW victims participate in society on equal grounds with others; their needs are identified and fulfilled, and their existential opportunities promoted through rights-based assistance which recognizes diversity. (Oslo Action Plan: Actions 4, 33 and 34)

5. Social and economic implications in requested timeframe and prioritization

In the period of 2021-2027, the mission of all participants is to eliminate the risk posed by anti-personnel mines and create conditions for exploitation of blocked resources, setting up of the safe environment for affected population, and incentive for reconstruction, sustainable return and social and economic development in mine affected communities, i.e. municipalities/towns. In the period from 2021 to 2027, affected community will be in focus through the concept of municipality mine action activity, with increased participation of the local community in prioritization and acceptance of the “Land Release” concept results.

In cooperation with and taking as the lead the needs of the local community and municipality/town, prioritization of the different areas within and MSA will be addressed. The problem will then be dealt with in different phases depending on the impact and prioritization of the municipal authorities.

As proposed by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina at their emergency 18th session held April 30th 2020 made the decision to adopt the proposition for the nomination of new members of the Demining Commission. In accordance with Oslo Action Plan, Action 3, two out of three Commission members are female.

6. Detailed implementation plan for the requested timeframe

Mine Action Governance and Management Project

Goals moving forward

- Continuation of the provision of technical assistance and support to BHMAG and the Demining Commission for the formulation of BiH extension request to the demining deadline under the Ottawa Convention.
- Support to the national mine action authorities in drafting Land Release related standards and SOPs.
- Further improvement of the BHMAG information management system and the procurement of IT equipment for the easier daily activities of the operational personnel.

- Continuation on coordinate activities for the Board of Donors sessions and act as a co-chair of the Board.
- Engagement of the mine action advocates promoting implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

Annual Planning and Prioritization: an update of the Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the problem of landmines in Bosnia and Herzegovina was carried out in 2020 and this research included impact of mines and their socio - economic influence at inhabited places.

Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina identified the mine problem in 117 municipalities/towns, i.e. 1,413 affected communities. Areas suspected of or known to contain anti-personnel mines directly affect the safety of 120.760 inhabitants or 3,32% of the total population of Bosnia and Herzegovina (in accordance with the results of the last 2013 Population Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Mine suspected areas (MSAs) are categorized in three levels, high, medium and low impacted communities.³ Division according to the level of benefits is based on humanitarian and development considerations. A priority setting model is shown as Annex to SOPs related to NTS and Land Release.

Mine risk education

Activities of mine/ERW education is continuously conducted through public communication, education of the affected groups of population, and through the liaising mine action with the affected community/municipality. Mine Action Centre BiH conducts a continuous identification and prioritization of affected groups and within them it continuously conducts adequate measures of Mine Risk Education which are gender and age sensitive.

The focus of Mine/ERW Risk Education is the conduct of activities within affected communities/municipalities with large suspect area of II and III category in priority, i.e. it is aimed towards the most affected groups of population, as per the data from the general assessment of mines/ERW, which is in accordance with Action 30 of the Oslo Action Plan.

Mine Action Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina is authorized for the accreditation of all organizations involved in Mine Risk Education and all the coordination of Mine Risk Education activities, where the accreditations are signed by the Demining Commission in BiH. All the organizations that conduct Mine Risk Education activities deliver monthly reports to BHMAL, where the reports are in accordance with the procedures and registered within BHMAIS database. The Mine Risk Education program has been improving for years now, taking into consideration that all the lessons and good practices are well recorder, and it relies upon several key documents, including Standard for Mine Risk Education in BiH, Standard Operational Procedures BiH, Accreditation Guide for Mine Risk Education organizations BiH and Mine Risk Education Strategy for the period 2009 -2019.

In Mine Action Centre in BiH, all information on accidents are collected, analysed, and sex and age disaggregated in order to get a better understanding how population in affected communities, of different age, gender, and cultural habits, are exposed to the mine/ERW risk and for what reason. Collecting and analysis of sex and age disaggregated information enables the identification of mine accident patterns according to gender and age, and it enables organizations to come up with designs for their Mine Risk Education activities in a manner which takes into consideration the exposure to risk as per gender and other diversity aspects, which is in accordance with Action 29 of the Oslo Action Plan.

Mine Risk Education plays a key role in the conduct of mine action plans for communities/municipalities affected by mines/ERW, where mine risk education projects were realized through emergency and permanent marking, as well as placing the information billboards related to the mine situation. Mine Action Centre BiH and Armed Forces BH, in cooperation with EUFOR, conduct a joint permanent marking project of all suspect locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thus far, 5.621 emergency marking signs were placed. It is planned that 18.910 signs are placed by the end of 2020, thus marking all the suspect areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Pertaining to MSAs, Mine Risk Education is integrated within the Land Release concept. Experiences and work at this concept were used to liaise with the local community, which is in accordance with Action 28 of the Oslo Action Plan.

Mine Action Centre BiH information demonstrate that the highest number of accidents occurs in spring and autumn season, during with the agricultural work, collection of firewood, and other raw materials. Information also demonstrates that most new mine/ERW victims were adult men who enter the known mined areas to fulfil their existential needs, i.e. for economic reasons.

Mine Action Centre BiH and the organizations that conduct Mine Risk Education measures shall work directly with the maintenance development and development organizations to identify alternative and sustainable activities necessary for the existence but not exposing population to the mine/ERW risk. The close cooperation between organizations that conduct mine action (including mine risk education) and partners engaged in development would enable the realization of several sustainable development goals, which is in accordance with Action 28 of the Oslo Action Plan.

The measures of mine risk education will be more actively integrated into educational systems and they will be continuously conducted through gender and age sensitive materials, via coordination between BHMIC and the Ministry of Education. Organized by Red Cross Society BiH, "Think mines" competitions are also a continued activity in primary schools.

In cooperation with Armed Forces BH and EUFOR, Mine Action Centre BiH conducts mine risk education courses.

Following the contemporary technology, the application "Design of the Mine Suspected Areas / Mine Awareness Mobile Application" is being made for mobile phones, with the function of mine risk education on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Based on knowledge of illegal immigration on BiH territory, Mine Action Centre in BiH organized theme meetings on this issue, in cooperation with Border Police BiH, Norwegian People's Aid, International Red Cross Society and the Red Cross Society, in order to preventively take measures of mine/ERW risk education for immigrants. Regional Centres of Mine Action Centre BiH authorized for mine situation in the border areas of BiH have established cooperation with the regional units of the Border Police BiH in order to acquire knowledge on potential routes of immigrants movement in BiH, and reviewed accordingly the status of the mine signs in areas in close proximity to the migrants routes; in situations where warning signs were missing, they were renewed. Mine risk education for migrants is conducted by the Red Cross Society BiH.

Mine Victim Assistance

By the Decision of the 143th Session of the Councils of Ministers held May 23rd 2018, the Coordination Body for mine/cluster munition/ERW victims assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been established as a standing, technical and advisory body of the Ministry of Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Representatives of bodies and institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its entities and District Brčko were appointed into this coordination body, along with the representatives of the non-government sector, as follows:

Ministry of Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the organization of the amputees of Republic of Srpska “UDAS”; the Ministry for the Issues of Veterans from Hercegovacko-Neretvanski Canton; Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina; Republic of Srpska Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Ministry For Issues Of The Veterans and Disabled Veterans Of The Defensive-Liberation War; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ministry of Labor and Department of War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection; Ministry of Health Bosnia and Herzegovina; Federation BiH Red Cross; Red Cross of Republic of Srpska; Red Cross Society Bosnia and Herzegovina; Government of Brčko District Bosnia and Herzegovina – Department for health and other services; non-government organization “Stop Mines”; German humanitarian organization ASB (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund), Office Sarajevo; Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Fund, Republic of Srpska; Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Fund, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Council of Persons with Disabilities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and non-government organization “World Vision”.

The members of the Coordination Body perform the following tasks:

- a) Coordination of activities from the area of mine/cluster munition/ERW assistance and ensuring cooperation between authorized state, entity, Brčko District institutions, and the non-government sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and international institutions;
- b) Raising awareness about issues and needs of mine victims, and the promotion of mine victims issues within the society, initiating mine victims assistance at domestic and international level;
- c) Assessment of international conventions implementation status from the area of mine victims assistance, which Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified, as well as encouragement of adoption of measures for the improvement of that status and better cooperation with international organizations;
- d) Creation of projects, plans and documents with the aim of improvement of social status of victims, promotion of victims human rights as well as providing assistance to all the actors in the area of mine victims assistance and the follow-up of their implementation;
- e) Participation in the preparation of the report on the status of mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the participation in the preparation of the report on the implementation of international conventions pertaining to the rights of victims from Article 2 of this Decision.
- f) Issuing recommendations, suggestions and opinions pertaining to laws and bylaws, and projects pertaining to the victims' rights.

(Oslo Action Plan: Actions 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 40)

6.1. Prioritization and planning

Analysis of Mine Action Centre BH database and creation of MSAs

Local administration will agree with Mine Action Centre BH on the size and priority of MSA in accordance with humanitarian, developmental and safety needs of municipality and local communities, not neglecting the level of threat for each and every local community. (Oslo Action Plan: Action 23)

Level of threat in a community taken from Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina is used for prioritization of MSAs as well as information of previous mine action operations (clearance, technical survey, mine awareness, incidents and similar).

While creating MSA, particular attention is paid to the following:

- Average size of MSA is approximately 2,05 km². The chiefs of regional offices are making a final decision, consulting BH MAC Office. In exceptional cases when the size of the MSA is too large to process and for further conduct of technical methods.
- The MSAs encompass all confrontation lines in order to ensure that a comprehensive picture of contamination due to conflict activities, deployment of the units, minefields etc. is taken into account.
- Particular attention is paid to geographic characteristics of the ground in order to plan the starting points for targeted investigation.
- Mined areas are split if they belong to a whole or one minefield record,
- If possible, encompass entire communities with one MSA, with the exception of cases when there is a mine situation at various geographic sides of a community, belonging to a different context (time) of conflict.
- As an exception, MSA is spread over two or more neighbouring municipalities; in such cases, the activity carrier is the municipality with the greatest part of MSA.

Basic principles in the prioritization procedure

- Priorities reflect the size of the threat and their impact on population and inability to use area due to existence of mines.
- Priorities should enable efficient conduct of mine action in order to accomplish safety for citizens, strategic goals and interests of all levels of authority, from state to municipality level.
- Criteria for choosing a priority should be clear, quantifiable and transparent.
- The priority list should take into account the interests of all local communities.
- Priorities will be verified under the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the public and local communities will be informed about it.

Prioritization procedure

The creation of MSA is conducted by joint effort of Mine Action Centre BH and municipality authorities, within the process of creation or revision of existing municipality plans. In case there is no such plan, the municipality or other interested party will usually initiate a procedure for creation of MSA. The prioritization request should contain explanation on usefulness and need for certain MSA to be processed in accordance with humanitarian, developmental and safety needs of a municipality and local communities. The level of threat for each and every community should not be neglected.

The prioritization model is adjusted to specificity of mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The model defines criteria for quality measurement of the level of threat and the level of usefulness, including the said levels for all communities within one MSA. Liaising with local community is one of the key principles for setting the MSA priority. The municipalities with greater number of high and medium impact communities will have advantage in a region. Specific attention is focused on the elements of difference in needs and perspectives of women, girls and boys in an attempt to achieve the most inclusive approach, which is all based on complete removal of barriers, and on equal and gender balanced participation in mine actions.

Estimated level of threat

Regarding the level of threat, MSAs will be categorized into three categories: high medium and low risk MSAs. The estimation of level of threat is conducted based on available data which lead to Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. MSAs with higher probability of PROM, large confirmed minefields and high/medium level of impact taken from Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be categorized as high and medium risk MSAs within one municipality. All other MSAs will

be categorized as low risk. Since one MSA may encompass several impacted communities, the assessment is conducted based on community with highest risk.

SETTING THE RISK LEVEL OF MSA			
HIGH IMPACT	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK
MEDIUM IMPACT	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
LOW IMPACT	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	MEDIUM RISK
Community level of impact	Unknown minefields – INDIRECT EVIDENCE ONLY	Known and unknown minefields – DIRECT AND INDIRECT EVIDENCE	Known minefields – DIRECT EVIDENCE, PROM MINE EXISTENCE
Probability of minefields existence			

In accordance with Law on demining in BiH, humanitarian demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be carried out in accordance with lists of priority tasks which at yearly level are being adopted by entity governments (2018). Priority lists tasks will contain all tasks where there are existent mine records or where CHAs have been identified as well as contamination which blocks sustainable returns or are located up to 500 meters away from inhabited objects. When selecting projects in each affected community, the order of execution of each individual project will be defined according to the level of threat and development priorities. The list of priority tasks will also include all prepared MSAs.

Procedure for development of annual work plan

Operational and financial plan for the implementation of the Mine Action Strategy for the period 2018-2025 is adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The implementation of the Strategy is characterized by insufficient allocation of funds, the implementation of the project Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina ", as well as the COVID 19 pandemic, which will not allow full realization of the set goals. For the beginning of 2021, it is predicted that SHA will amount to approximately 857,000,000 m². From all of the above, we anticipate that we will need two more years to implement the Strategy and clear Bosnia and Herzegovina of mines. At the end of 2020, we will have the first revision of the Strategy based on the results of the Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina project and the results achieved so far. We believe that the projected amount of a total of 336.2 million BAM will be sufficient for the implementation of the Strategy.

Mine risk education will be implemented through public information, education of affected population groups and through linking mine action with an affected community. Mine risk education will focus on the priority implementation of activities in endangered communities that have large SHAs and the most affected target population groups. The emergency marking of SHAs will be carried out through non-technical survey operations by BHMAL surveying teams whereby the population will be educated and informed about mine danger at the local community level.

6.2. Finance plan

In accordance with the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, funds for the conduct of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be ensured via donors' sources, budgets of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions, entity budgets and other sources. In order to fulfil the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention in requested timeframe (six years), the funds totalling 336,2 million BAM are necessary, where the national participation will be 50% and donor' fund the other 50%.

Funds for non-technical survey activities by BHMACH will be ensured from the budgets of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions, and implemented through operational activities of Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina. Budgets of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions will also ensure funds for technical survey and mine clearance activities, to be implemented by Armed Forces. Entity governments' budgets will ensure funds for technical survey and mine clearance operations, to be implemented by entity civilian protections. Other funding resources from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Brčko District budget, budgets of cantons and municipalities, and budgets of public and private companies.

Funds from traditional donor countries to Bosnia and Herzegovina for technical survey and mine clearance activities will largely (approximately 55%) be implemented via the mediation of International fund for humanitarian demining and victims assistance in SE Europe (ITF - Enhancing Human security), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Delegation of European Union in BiH and other international institutions and organizations.

According with Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina operational plan for period 2021-2027 is shown below in Table 10:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
	Area in m ²								
Area at the beginning of the year	967,000,000	895,100,000	803,700,000	693,400,000	567,000,000	421,500,000	265,800,000	13,440,000	-
Cancelled area	58,400,000	75,100,000	92,900,000	107,800,000	124,000,000	132,800,000	111,700,000	11,490,000	817,600,000
Reduced area	12,700,000	15,400,000	16,400,000	17,600,000	20,400,000	21,800,000	18,700,000	18,700,000	141,700,000
Cleared area	0,800,000	0,900,000	0,900,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0,900,000	1,000,000	7,800,000
Total	71,800,000	91,300,000	110,300,000	126,400,000	145,500,000	155,700,000	131,400,000	134,600,000	967,000,000
Cancellation	81.20%	82.20%	84.20%	85.30%	85.20%	85.30%	85.10%	85.40%	84.50%
Reduction	17.70%	16.80%	14.90%	13.90%	14.00%	14.00%	14.20%	13.90%	14.70%
Clearance	1.10%	1.00%	0.90%	0.80%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.80%

Table 10: Operational plan for period 2021-2027

6.3. Resources and capacities for the realization of the plan

At the moment, there are 26 accredited organizations for mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Five of them are government organizations (Armed Forces, Fed. Administration of CP FBiH, Republic Administration of CP RS, Brčko District Civil Protection and Red Cross Society BiH), seven commercial organizations (all national) and fourteen non-government organizations (11 national and 3 international). Within accredited organizations, 1.200 persons are engaged, all accredited for the conduct of mine action and licensed for work, i.e. 900 deminers and 300 persons accredited for managerial and supervision tasks (team and site leaders, operational officers, quality assurance officers, EDD trainers, dog-handlers, operators etc.). Organizations accredited for mine actions have at their disposal 33 accredited machines (for vegetation removal, ground disturbance and removal of debris), 1.166 metal detectors and 68 accredited explosive detection dogs. Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina has at its disposal 44 surveyors, i.e. 22 survey teams for the conduct of non-technical survey (that includes general and systematic survey) and emergency marking, 8 officers for planning non-technical survey operations, 12 inspectors and 28 senior clerks for the conduct of quality control, i.e. technical supervision/inspection. Technical survey and mine clearance, as requested by the investors, are conducted by 3 monitor organizations with 18 monitors.

Resources accredited for technical survey and mine clearance per organization are shown below in Table 11:

ACCREDITED ORGANIZATION		Number of detectors	Number of dogs	Number of machines
Government organizations	ARMED FORCES	257	22	5
	FED.ADMINISTRATION CP FBIH	109	4	5
	REPUB.ADMINISTRATION CP RS	45	4	5
	CIVIL PROTECTION BRČKO DISTRIKT	7	0	0
	DRUŠTVO CRVENOG KRIŽA/KRSTA U BiH	0	0	0
	DEMIRA	42	2	1
	IN DEMINING	35	2	1
	EKO DEM	22	0	1
Non-government organizations	CENTAR ZA OBUKU PASA	21	2	0
	NPA	191	13	5
	PAZI MINE	35	0	1
	POSAVINA BEZ MINA	0	0	0
	PRO VITA	19	0	1
	STOP MINES	116	4	2
	UEM	27	2	1
	TRENING TIM	0	0	0
	MAG	52	2	0
	DETEKTOR	29	2	1
Commercial organizations	EKSPLORING	5	0	0
	MINEMON	10	0	0
	TROTIL	7	0	0
	POINT	26	2	1
	N&N IVŠA	58	3	2
	UEM d.o.o	30	2	1
	CHR	23	2	0
	TOTAL	1,166	68	33

Table 11: Review of accredited resources

Resource mobilization:

In order to address the issues concerning the resources required to address the remaining contamination. It is the expectation that the project, in particular the project on Governance will provide increased transparency to our partners and will build confidence in the BHMAs work.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2002, a Board of Donors mechanism was established based on Demining Law (Article 15.), which defined the role of the international organizations, donors and national institutions authorized for the conduct of mine action. Ministry of Civil Affairs is authorized for the coordination with the Board of Donors, and with the assistance of UNDP.

The BHMAs and the Demining Commission will also strive to increase its interaction with the donor community to ensure that partners are kept informed of progress in implementation of plans highlighted in this request.

In addition to the steps taken above, it is Bosnia and Herzegovina's intention to continue efforts to bring the challenges faced by Bosnia and Herzegovina to the international attention through the continued participation at international meetings and with donors and partners on the margins of these meetings (e.g. intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Meetings of the States Parties of the Cluster Munitions Convention).

In addition to these measures the BHMAC is considering its participation in the individualized approach of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.

6.4. Factors that might put the implementation plan at risk

Circumstances that might put implementation of the plan at risk and thus present as a threat definitely relate to potential loss of interest of traditional donors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which may result in reduced financial support for mine action. Continuous funding of the operational activities is the basic precondition for the realization of the set goals within the requested timeframe. In 2017, Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperated with GICHD and created the Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2025. After it is confirmed by the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Strategy is adopted by Council of Ministers. The adopted document encompasses strategic and operational aim related to the plan of mobilizing finance resources with annual sums of expected funds and explained manners to keep traditional and attract new donors.

Similar to the rest of the world, Bosnia and Herzegovina was caught in COVID-19 pandemic which caused either a cessation of or hindrance to the work of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions. This reflected onto the process of mine action conduct in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from March to June 2020, since Mine Action Centre BiH worked with reduced capacities as well. It also caused cessation or serious deceleration of work that companies conduct on the ground. After appointment of the Demining Commission in BiH (April 30 2020), all companies that submitted request were accredited and ground activities continued.

Glossary:

Mine Action Centre BiH – BHMAC established by the Decision of the Council of Ministers, based on the Demining Law in BiH (Official Gazette BiH, No: 5/02) as the expert body of the Demining Commission in BiH;

Quality control (CC) – is a part of quality management, with the goal of fulfilling the request for quality (ISO 9000: 2000). Quality control relates to the inspection of the final product. In the case of humanitarian demining, the final product is the cleared area;

Quality Assurance (QA) – is a part of quality management, with the goal of building trust that conditions set for quality will be met (ISO 9000:2000). The purpose of quality assurance in humanitarian demining is the confirmation that managerial and operational procedures are applied properly, and that prescribed precondition can be met safely, efficiently and effectively. Internal quality assurance is conducted by the organization itself, while Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina conducts external control;

Mine – is explosive device capable of killing, placed onto or under the surface of the ground or any other surface, with the purpose to explode due to pressure, proximity or contact with a person or a vehicle, with the ultimate goal of causing human victims and damage of property;

Mine suspected area (MSA) - Area that consists of SHA and CHA of one or more mine impacted communities covered in whole or in part, and which is chosen to be as one logical whole is treated through the "Land Release"; within its NMAS, Bosnia and Herzegovina defined that CHAs and SHAs should be processed together due to the nature of their contamination, large number of small mine fields or groups of mines with unknown layout within a SHA.

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) – are abandoned explosives (OES) and (UXO);

Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina covers the mine impact assessment process in order to determine their socio-economic impact on populated areas, endangered communities and updating systematic survey that identifies, records and processes data on SHAs as sources of risk.

Non-technical survey (NTS) – Activity for gathering and analysis of presence, type and layout of mines without the use of technical methods. Although non-technical methods are used in non-technical survey, there is a strong connection with technical methods. Non-technical survey defines the areas to be cancelled, reduced and cleared;

Confirmed hazardous area (CHA) – An area where the presence of mine/ERW contamination has been confirmed on the basis of direct evidence of the presence of mines/ERW;

Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) is an area where there is reasonable suspicion of mine/ERW contamination on the basis of indirect evidence of the presence of mine/ERW;

Technical survey (TS) – The process of gathering and analysing information on existence, type and layout of mines, used to clarify whether the contamination is present or not.

Acronyms

APMBC	„Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention “
AP	Anti-personnel mine
AT	Anti-tank mine
BHMAC	Mine Action Centre BiH
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants from war
EUFOR	European Union Forces
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for humanitarian demining
GMAP	Gender mine action program
IMAS	International standards
LIS	Landmine impact survey
MRE	Mine risk education
MSA	Mine suspected area
NVO	Non-government organizations
NMAS	National standards for mine action
NTS	Non-technical survey
SOP	Standard operational procedures
SOPO	Sumnjiva opasna površina (SHA -suspect hazardous area)
POPO	Potvrđena opasna površina (CHA – confirmed hazardous area)
MVA	Mine victims assistance
TS	Technical survey
UN	United Nations