



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AFFAIRS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
DEMINEING COMMISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINE ACTION CENTRE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR MINE ACTION
IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
for 2018**

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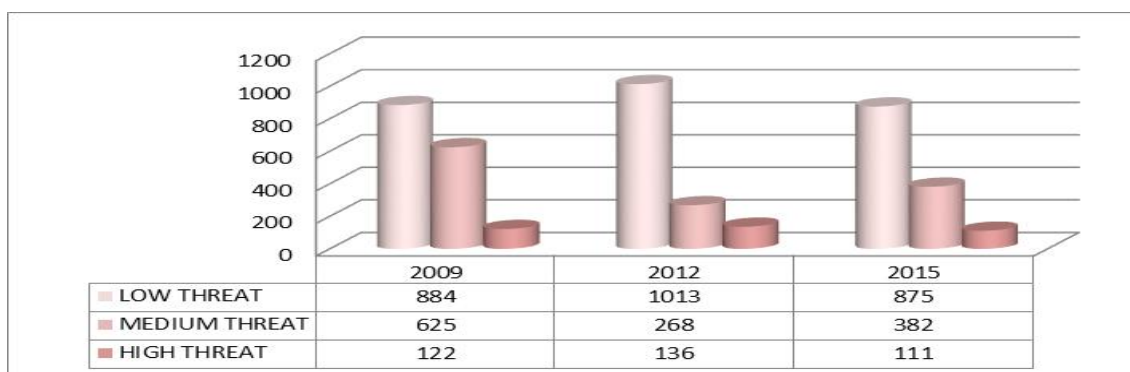
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1. GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF MINE SITUATION

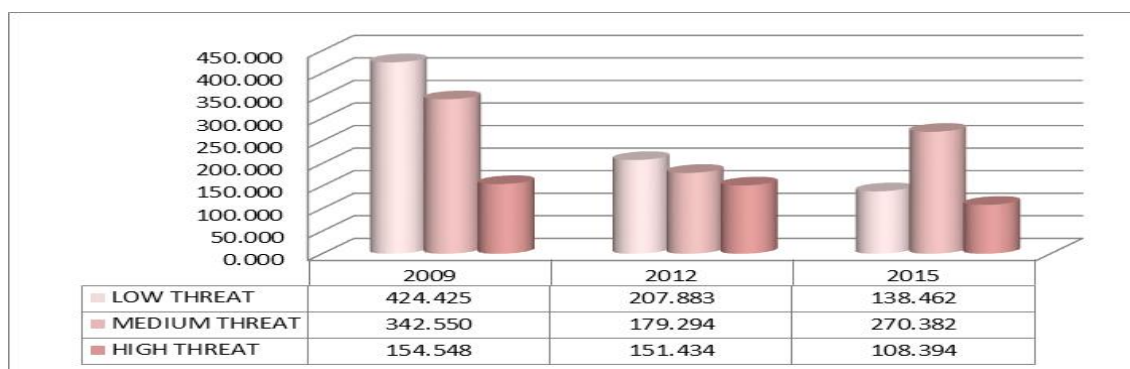
General assessment of mine situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the result of landmine impact survey related to mines and UXO, operations of the systematic surveys, as well as other effects of mine action, along with registered mine accidents.

1.1. Social and economic impact

The Study on General Assessment of Mine Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina identified in 2007 a total of 1.631 mine-affected communities. It is estimated that micro-locations contaminated by mines directly influence the safety of 921.513 persons. Through the updated general assessment on mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted in 2015, 1.398 contaminated communities were identified. Micro-locations contaminated by mines directly influence the safety of 517.238 people/inhabitants, which is 15% out of the total number of the residents of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the period 2009-2017, the number of affected persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been decreased for 404.275 persons. The review of contaminated communities is shown in graphs 1 and 2 below text.



Graph 1: Mine-affected communities



Graph 2: Endangered population

1.2. Characteristics of minefields and size of the suspect area and characteristics of minefields

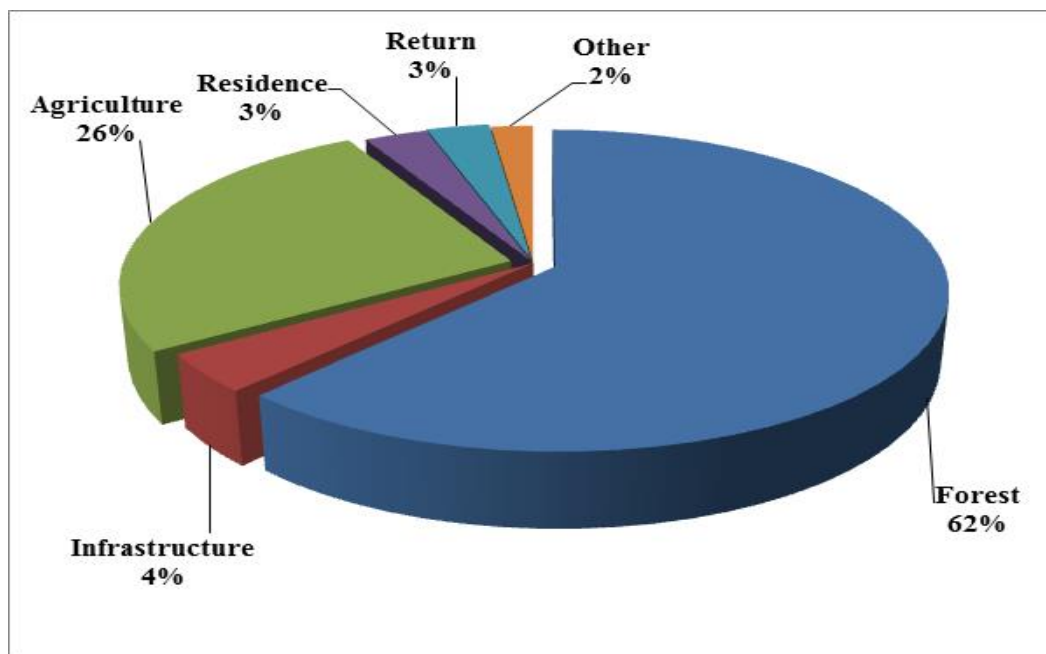
Information on the number of mines and minefields in Bosnia and Herzegovina are neither reliable nor complete. There are 19.000 minefield records registered in Mine Action Centre BH database. It is estimated that it is only a 50-60% in relation to their real number. The characteristic of minefields in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a relatively small number of mines. There are often groups of mines or individually placed mines with the unknown layout. The problem is presented in the quality of minefield records. According to those, a precise location of the minefield, its shape, and the layout of the mines on the ground cannot be precisely defined. Through the comparison of results from the systematic survey and landmine impact, the conditions were created for detailed and accurate classification of the suspect area in relation to priority categories and classification of mine-affected community. The size of the suspect area¹ and its reduction is followed through the systematic survey operations.² According to assessments conducted in January 2018, the suspect area in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 1061,32 km², which is 2,08% in relation to the total area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are 9,018 suspect micro-locations defined through the systematic survey where there are approximately 82.000 mines/ERW remained.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL	Total mine suspect hazardous area Km ²	Mine suspect hazardous area/categories of priority(km ²)			Cluster munition suspect hazardous area km ²
		I category	II category	III category	
UNSKO-SANSKI CANTON	103.85	44.69	39.95	19.21	0.07
POSAVSKI CANTON	17.64	5.28	10.33	2.03	0.00
TUZLANSKI CANTON	80.19	19.38	18.63	42.18	0.68
ZENIČKO-DOBOJSKI CANTON	120.70	30.79	15.33	74.58	2.08
BOSANSKO-PODRINJSKI CANTON	46.87	5.26	9.75	31.86	0.00
SREDNJE-BOSANSKI CANTON	123.74	26.97	39.62	57.15	1.78
HERCEGOVAČKO-NERETVANSKI CANTON	156.45	17.61	28.47	110.37	0.00
ZAPADNO-HERCEGOVAČKI CANTON	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00
CANTON SARAJEVO	73.40	21.50	13.52	38.38	0.38
CANTON 10	86.58	11.91	14.38	60.29	0.35
FEDERATION BIH	809.73	183.39	189.98	436.36	5.34
REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA	236.37	68.99	89.39	77.99	1.13
DISTRICT BRČKO	15.22	1.80	10.34	3.08	0.00
BOSNIA I HERZEGOVINA	1061.32	254.18	289.71	517.43	6.47

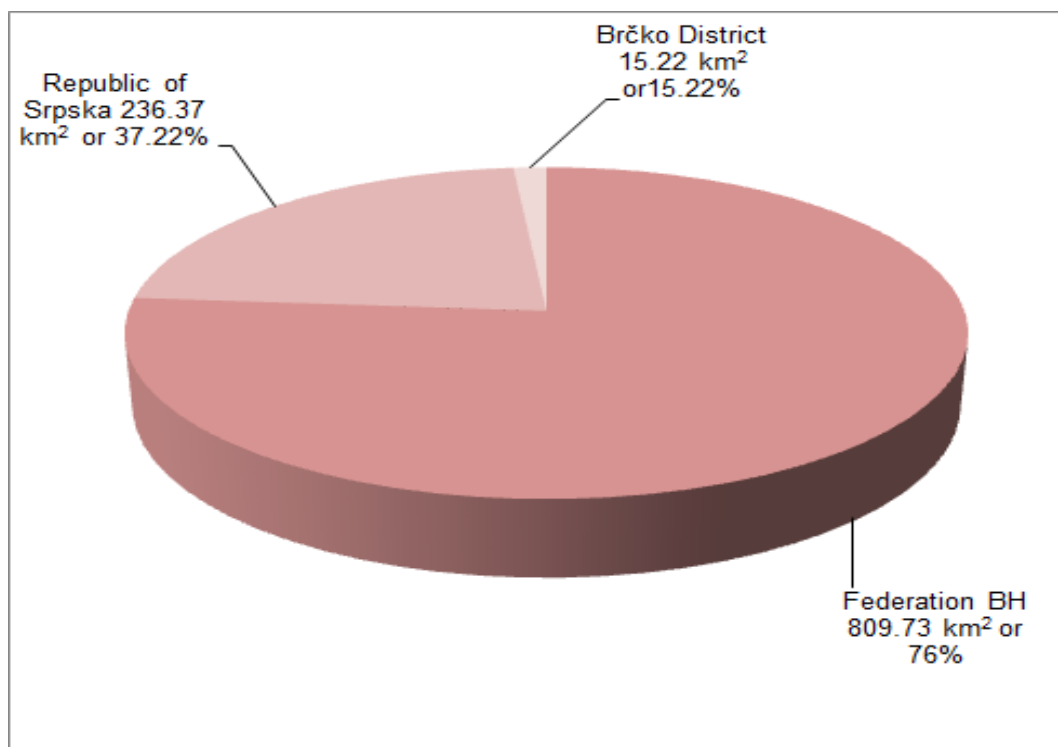
Table 1: Size of the suspect area

¹ Suspect area is defined as an area previously within the scope of combat activities, for which there are information on mining or possibility of mining.

² The systematic survey is an analytical research procedure which conducts the estimation of the suspect area which was in the scope of combat by activities of warring factions. The systematic survey represents a part of the general assessment in Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is conducted from the level of micro-locations and simultaneously represents a tool for measuring the reduction of the suspect area in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



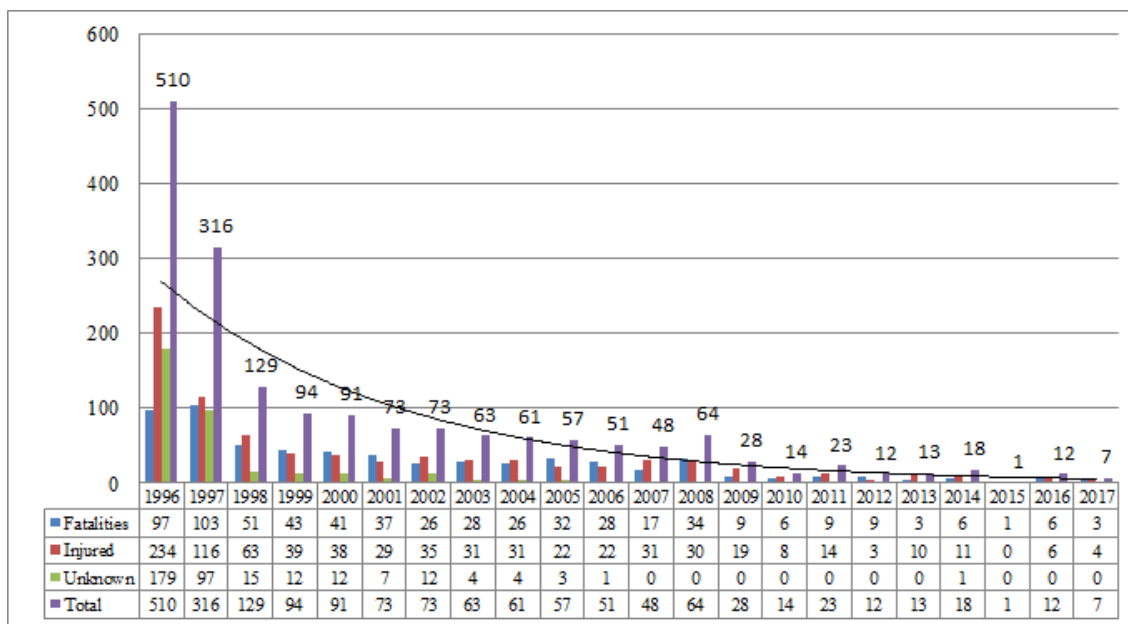
Graph 3: Suspect area as per intentional use



Graph 4: Suspect area as of January 2018

1.3. Mine victims

Since 1992, there were 8.389 casualties caused by mines/cluster munition/ERW. During the war period (1992-1995), there were 6.354 casualties, while after the war that number is 1.756, out of which there were 613 fatalities. There is no record for the year of the accident for 279 victims. Out of the total, 232 persons were casualties of cluster munition, out of which 43 fatalities. Out of the total number of casualties in the post-war period, 185 victims or 11% are female, and 250 casualties or 15% were children. During the conduct of humanitarian demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were 127 deminers casualties, out of which 51 fatalities.



Graph 5: Mine/ERW contamination, period 1996-2017

2. METHOD FOR REALISATION OF STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

2.1. Concept

„Concept of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina starts from a clear presumption that the problem of mine character requires more efficient risk management through continuous evaluation of mine situation, efficient planning, and coordination, and linking all the components of mine action into an integrated process”.

In 2009, the realization of Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2009 – 2019 has started, i.e. a continuous implementation of strategic and operational objectives. The Annual Mine

Action Operational Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2018 is in accordance with the Strategic plan mentioned above, with partial modifications and priorities for mine action in 2018. In the period from 2013 to 2016, Mine Action Center BH has been conducting IPA 2011 “Land Release” project with the focus of defining a new method for approaching the mine suspect and risk areas through targeted investigations. This concept has been integrated into mine action in 2016 and it is an integral part of operational plans at all levels in Mine Action Center BH.

The focus of mine action in Bosnia in Herzegovina during 2018 will remain on contaminated communities and their needs. The reduction of risk and its social and economic impact will be resolved through integrated approach to mine action at all levels within contaminated communities, and through the conduct of necessary grouped activities (groups of projects), all to reduce the risk to the acceptable level or to create conditions for: the use of specific resources, reconstruction, and sustainable return. Priority setting is adjusted to this problem-solving method. Through the coordination of work of the national and nongovernment demining organizations, a balance of Annual operational mine action plan for BH will be ensured in accordance with the defined concept.

3. HUMANITARIAN DEMINING OPERATIONS

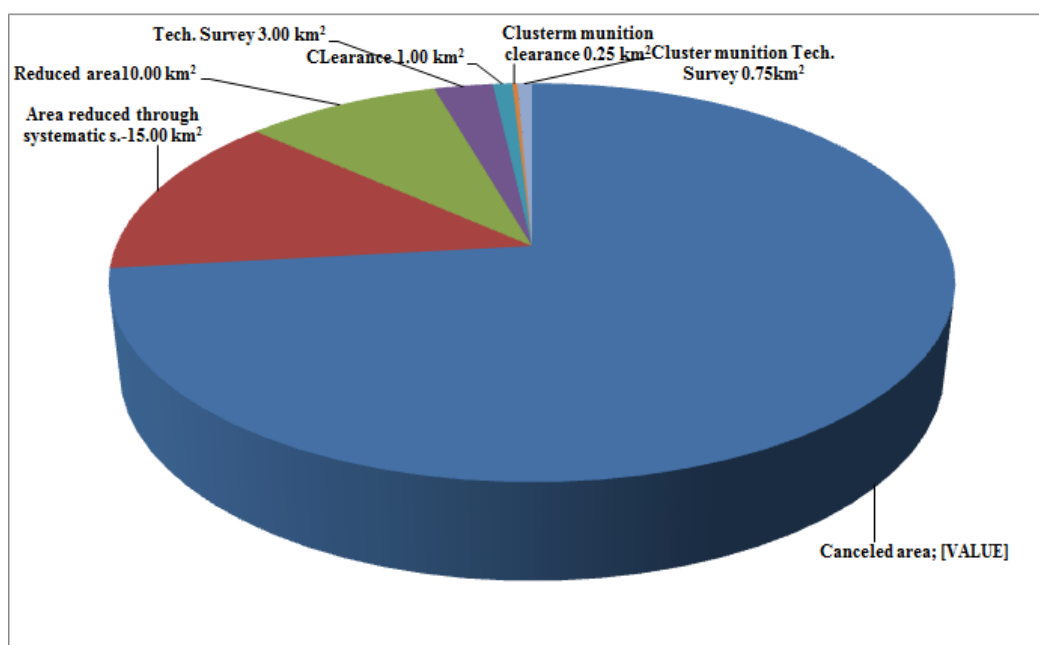
3.1. Systematic and general survey – nontechnical survey³

Humanitarian demining operations include general survey, nontechnical and technical survey, mine clearance, marking, preparation of maps, and project making.

Systematic survey – nontechnical survey of the suspect area will be a regular activity of Mine Action Center BH during 2018, and it will serve as a framework for the continuous evaluation of the mine situation. This evaluation of the mine situation will be conducted through visits to the suspect area and through more precise identification of the level of risk. The terrain activities of the systematic survey – nontechnical survey will be coordinated with collection and processing of data on the ground, which is conducted as a part of the general survey – nontechnical survey, to conduct control prior to the conduct of public tenders for demining activities, i.e. for the opening of humanitarian demining tasks. Equally, more precise areas reduced through the systematic survey – nontechnical survey will be conducted as a result of evaluation of specific areas outside general

³ Nontechnical survey is an activity for collecting and analysis of information on presence, type, and layout of mines, without the use of technical methods. Although the nontechnical survey does not imply the use of technical methods, there is a strong connection between technical and nontechnical survey. Nontechnical survey (NTS) defines the areas for the technical survey. In the nontechnical survey, all information gathered through the technical survey are analyzed and a decision is made on further activities.

survey – nontechnical survey in a smaller scope (reduced area), during resurvey and as an evaluation which follows up the general survey – nontechnical survey in a new concept of land release.



Graph 6: Planned structure of the reduced area in 2018

Cancelled area	82.00	Nontechnical methods
Area reduced through systematic survey - General assesment of the mine suspect areas	15.00	
Reduced area	10.00	Technical methods
Technical survey	3.00	
Clearance	1.00	
Cluster munition clearance	0.25	
Technical survey of cluster munition	0.75	
TOTAL	112.00	

Table 2: Reduction of the suspect area in 2018

In 2018, general (nontechnical) survey of minefields in Bosnia and Herzegovina will remain the basic activity of Mine Action Center BH, and it will be used to evaluate the risk to the detail, to analyze available information, gather and process information on the ground, conduct necessary measuring, define the borders of the risk areas, reduce the risk area, evaluate the social and economic landmine impact, and potential use coming out of demining operations. Based on results from general (technical) survey, the project documentation is created for humanitarian demining operations (targeted investigations, technical survey, mine clearance, permanent marking, the establishment of

no entry zones), preparation of priorities proposition, and the Annual Operational Plan for Mine Action in BH.

Specific attention should be paid to priority lists, and below instructions should be followed:

- For the priority list in 2018 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is necessary to prepare 60 km² of project areas, more precisely 35 km² in Federation, 18 km² in the Republic of Srpska, and 7 km² in Brčko District. This priority list should contain:
- all projects with identified minefield records or with confirmed information on mine existence.
- Projects which hinder the sustainable return (waterlines, roads etc.) or projects which are 500 meters away from inhabited objects.
- In selecting the projects, it is necessary to define the sequence of priority in each contaminated community for each individual project, in accordance with the level of threat and level of use.
- The list should contain all MSA already prepared but not yet in realization.
- Operations sector will conduct the control of the stated projects.

3.2. Technical survey and mine clearance

Technical survey and mine clearance operations will be conducted by accredited organizations, and based on the Annual Operational Plan for Mine Action in BiH for 2018. The schedule of areas for the conduct of humanitarian demining operations has been created according to administrative regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is adjusted to the size of their suspect area and planned level of humanitarian demining operation in contaminated communities.

The Plan for technical survey and clearance operations has not been realized in previous years, and reason can be found primarily in lacking financial support from authorized national institutions.

Technical survey and mine clearance will be conducted in three ways:

1. Within the conduct of integrated mine action plans for contaminated communities, which significantly reduce risk and its social and economic impact;
2. As groups of projects which are used to eliminate certain high-risk locations, or enables the use of certain natural and economic resources.
3. Through targeted and systematic investigations within the new concept.

All locations specified for humanitarian demining operations are processed through the projects of general (nontechnical) survey, targeted⁴ and systematic investigations⁵, with detailed information on location, proposed methods for humanitarian demining, and deadlines set by the dynamic plan.

3.3. Marking of the suspect area

In 2018, marking of the suspect area presents both permanent and emergency marking as risk reduction measures. Marking of the suspect area is conducted by municipalities, organizations involved in mine action and other organizations, in accordance to standard operational procedures. Emergency marking is an integral part of humanitarian demining operations and mine risk education. It is planned for 2018 to conduct emergency marking operations with 9.000 warning signs. Emergency marking will be conducted through general survey operations – nontechnical survey of the Mine Action Center BH survey teams and through realization of the project by accredited demining and mine risk education organizations, where the population will be educated about and informed of mine threat in their area.

Permanent marking of the suspect area is a part of the humanitarian demining operation conducted as a follow-up activity along clearance, technical survey, but also as a standalone activity within mine risk education on suspect areas of the second and third category of priority. It is planned for 2018 to conduct permanent marking operations with 1.500 signs, with the focus on the second category of priority.

PERMANENT MARKING (NUMBER OF SIGNS)													
BOSNIA I HERZEGOVINA		FEDERATION BIH		REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA		BRČKO DISTRICT		SARAJEVO OFFICE		BANJA LUKA OFFICE		REGIONAL OFFICE BRČKO	
BHMAC SURVEY TEAMS	7500	4875	65%	2250	30%	375	5%	4030	62%	1755	27%	715	11% (5% BD+3% FBIH+3% RS)
Accredited Mine Awareness organi	1500	975	65%	450	30%	75	5%	930	62%	405	27%	165	11% (5% BD+3% FBIH+3% RS)
TOTAL	9000	5850	65%	2700	30%	450	5%	4960	62%	2160	27%	880	11% (5% BD+3% FBIH+3% RS)
PERMANENT MARKING (NUMBER OF SIGNS)													
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA		FEDERATION BIH		REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA		BRČKO DISTRICT		OFFICE SARAJEVO		OFFICE BANJALUKA		Regional office Brčko	
TOTAL	1500	975	65%	450	30%	75	5%	930	62%	405	27%	165	11% (5% BD+3% FBIH+3% RS)

Table: 3 Schedule for emergency and permanent marking per administrative units

⁴ Targeted investigation is the activity of looking for signs of mine existence based on location defined evidence of mine existence in the suspect hazardous area and confirmed hazardous area, through the use of technical methods.

⁵ Systematic survey is the activity of looking for signs of mine existence based on location undefined evidence on mine existence in the suspect hazardous area and confirmed hazardous area, through the use of technical methods.

4. MINE RISK EDUCATION

In 2018, mine risk education will be realized through public dissemination, education of mine-affected groups and other categories of population, through the liaising of mine action and mine-affected community. Tasks to be realized through mine risk education in 2018 derive from strategic and operational objectives set by the sub-strategy for mine risk education in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2009-2019.

The mine risk education organizations, socially useful organizations, and citizens associations, all involved in education about mines, will focus their activities to priority conduct of mine risk education in communities with a large suspect area of III category in priority, as well as to the most endangered targeted groups of population. All BHMIC regional offices, in cooperation with Office BHMIC Sarajevo and Office BHMIC Banja Luka, should propose one municipality from their jurisdiction, for the creation of Municipality Mine Action Plan for 2018. The conduct of at least 8 Municipality Mine Action Plans are projected for 2018 on the territory of all regional offices and Offices of BHMIC. For the realization of this plan, and apart from Mine Action Center BH survey teams, it will be necessary to engage accredited demining organizations and mine risk education organizations. The coordination of activities will be conducted through the existing coordination system, i.e. meetings of the Policy Board, Implementation Board, and technical working group, all to ensure the exchange of information, assessment of needs and avoidance of overlapping activities. Mine risk education and community liaising will be conducted through the new concept of resolving mine situation in BH.

Through technical improvement in organizations and individuals for the realization of the mine risk education programs and projects, through courses, seminars, and symposiums, along with the development of new educational materials, a new knowledge will be gained for planning and better management of the program. During 2018, one course is planned for mine awareness instructors, which will be attended by 50 persons from various organizations involved in mine risk awareness. The main objective of quality assurance in mine awareness in 2018 will be the permanent follow-up of the quality assurance in organizations that conduct mine risk education, and the quality of their work will be reviewed. Specific attention will be given to the internal control by Mine Action Center BHMIC, to improve the quality of creation of individual mine clearance and mine risk education tasks, with the objective of their integration into a unique process.

Priority in public dissemination in relation to mine risk education in 2018 will be directed towards local media, targeting the problems of the populations in mine-affected communities, which contributes greatly to the reduction of risk.

5. MINE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Coordination with all organizations and institutions involved in mine victims assistance is realized through the coordination group that gathers all the active ones in the domain of mine victims assistance. In the first half of 2018, the Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina will adopt the decision on forming a working body for mine victims assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will finalize the process of its formalization. Fulfilment of this objective projects that mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina will finally be recognized in all the social structures of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Through the establishment of the coordination body, information on mine victims will be of better quality and easily available. In that tone, the assistance to victims will be better distributed and more transparent. Therefore, better results are expected towards the targeted groups of mine victims. Through the establishment of mechanisms for the exchange of information on mine victims, existing information will be updated and a complete picture of mine victims situation in BH will be gained, along with the impact of mine victims program.

A wider concept for mine victims database, which implies the integrated approach to information on the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will influence the adequate reporting and planning in the domain of Mine Victims Assistance.

Mine Activities plan for Mine Victims for 2018													
NO	Activities	Month											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Coordination working group for Mine Victims Assistance works in its formal capacity												
2	Participance is planned for several seminars related to MVA projects												
3	Decision of the Council of Ministers about establishing the Working Body for MVAa												
4	Planned creation of the group's procedure, as well as establishemnt of working bodies for specific areas in MVA process												
5	Creation of quarterly mine victims reports												
6	Collection of information for reporting according the Chapter 7 ICBL - Mine Ban Treaty												
7	Collecting information for reporting to IPAP - NATO Bruxelles												
8	Report on performance - for mine victims (Ottawa Treaty)												
9	Preparation of report on cluster munition												
10	Reporting on Article H for Cluster Munition Victims Assistance												
11	Reports and analyses of information on mine victims for third parties												
12	Conduct of the activities from the operational plan												
13	Creation of 2017 Report on Work												
14	Compliance and publishing of the Operational Plan for 2018												
15	Analysis of information from local community and storaging information into mine victims database												
16	Collection of information for the creation of the plan for 2019												
17	Creation of the plan for 2019												
18	Input of new incidents into BHMAL database												
19	Input of new victims into BHMAL database												
20	Updating existing information on incidents and mine victims												
21	Monitoring the legislation and collection of information about existing and new legal stipulations												
22	Preparation of mine victims information for the need of BHMAL website												
23	Maintenance of the mine victims information system												
24	BHMAL activities necessary for the realisation of the MVA projects												

Table 4: Mine Victims Assistance Action Plan for 2018

REVIEW OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

Ser	ORGANISATION		MACHINES	NO OF EDD TEAMS PREGA	DETECTORS
1	COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS	" Minemon " d.o.o. Pale	0	0	8
2		" Trotil " d.o.o. Sarajevo	0	0	7
3		"POINT" d.o.o.	1	2	30
4		DETEKTOR	1	2	38
5		EKSPLORING	0	0	5
6		N&N IVSA	2	4	88
7		UEM d.o.o.	1	2	30
8	NONGOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS	"DOK-ING DEMINIRANJE" N.H.O	2	0	52
9		Centar za obuku pasa za otkrivanje mina	0	0	21
10		NGO POSAVINA BEZ MINA Brčko DC BiH	0	0	0
11		NGO PRO VITA	1	3	70
12		NGO STOP MINES	2	4	113
13		NORWEGIAN PEOPLES AID (NPA)	6	11	192
14		SVIJET BEZ MINA	1	0	10
15		UDRUŽENJE ZA ELIMINACIJU MINA UEM	1	2	32
16		UG DEMIRA	1	2	33
17		UG EKO DEM	1	0	24
18		Udruga " Pazi mine "Vitez	1	0	35
19		MAG	0	0	18
20		GENESIS PROJECT	0	0	0
21		Udruženje za obuku pasa "Trening Tim"	0	0	0
22	GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS	FEDERAL CIVIL PROTECTION	6	6	135
23		DISTRICT BRČKO CIVIL PRORETCION	0	0	12
24		RED CROSS SOCIETY BH	0	0	0
25		ARMED FORCES BH	5	25	284
26		RS CIVIL PROTECTION	5	3	51
TOTAL			37	66	1288

Table 5: Accredited organizations will available material and technical resources

There are currently 26 accredited organizations for mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Seven of them are commercial, 14 are nongovernment, and five are government organizations (Armed Forces BH, Federal Administration of Civil Protection, the Republic of Srpska Administration for Civil Protection, Brčko District Civil Protection, and Red Cross Society BH). Within accredited organizations, there are 1.500 currently engaged persons who are accredited for demining activities and who possess authorization for work. This number involves 1100 trained deminers and 400 persons who are authorized for the conduct of managerial and supervision tasks (team leaders, site leaders, operations officers, quality assurance officers, EDD team trainers, dog handlers, operators etc.) Available technical capacities will increase the productivity of deminers, decrease the cost of demining and most importantly, they will improve safety and reliability of the demining process itself. Machines and EDD teams will be engaged depending on the configuration and conditions on the ground.

Based on currently available resources, it is possible to conduct demining operations at the area of approximately 44 km².

	Clearance m ²	Technical survey m ²	TOTAL m ²
Machines	1.500.000	30.000.000	30.000.000
EDD Teams	1.219.680	2.845.920	4.065.600
Deminers	2.904.000	6.776.000	9.680.000
TOTAL	4.123.680	39.621.920	43.745.600

Table 6: Review of productivity with available resources for 2018

In 2018, the Sector for quality management in Mine Action will conduct the training of inspection bodies to improve inspections; the Sector will also participate: in the training of personnel who are within demining, monitoring and MRE organizations, in the work of technical working group of the demining community in BH, and it will test the persons authorized for the conduct or management of Mine Action activities.

Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina has at their disposal 44 surveyors, i.e. 22 survey teams for the conduct of operations of the general survey, systematic survey, and permanent marking. It also has at their disposal 8 officers for the planning of general survey organizations, 12 inspectors and 28 senior clerks for quality control, i.e. the conduct of technical supervision/inspection. Such potential in personnel enables Mine Action Center BH to conduct technical supervision/inspection of 8.000 inspections, i.e. of approximately 100 tasks of humanitarian demining simultaneously.

6. TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

Project 1 – Training of persons employed in Mine Action in BiH

Objective: Ensure specialist education of existing and new personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the domain of Mine Action.

Activities:

1. Approval, supervision, and recording of additional training in accredited organizations for approximately 1100 deminers – participants.
Deadline: Jan - May 2018.
2. Approval, supervision, and recording of training in accredited organizations and BHMAL
Deadline: Jan – Dec 2018.
3. Updating BH MAC database on specialist professions.
Deadline: Jan – Dec 2018.
4. Amendments to the procedures for gaining specialist profession in Mine Action.
Deadline: Jan – Dec 2018
5. Accordance of training Standards of BH with the International Mine Action Standards.
Deadline: Jan – Dec 2018.

Project 2. – Research and Development

Objective: - Maintain and establish expert cooperation with appropriate national and foreign institutions and individuals, to improve Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to improve technical specialization of the personnel, all in accordance with the development of MA and new scientific and technical achievements.

Activities:

1. Participate in regional and international training, workshops and seminars.
Deadline: Jan – Dec 2018.
2. Maintain and establish expert cooperation with appropriate national and foreign institutions and individuals in order to improve Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to improve the technical specialization of the personnel, all in accordance with the development of MA and new technical achievements from around the world.
Deadline: Jan – Dec 2018.

3. Encourage cooperation of BHMAL, AFBH and Civilian protections with other organizations and institutions facing the mine contamination, to promote knowledge and experiences from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Deadline: Jan – Dec 2018.

7. COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY IN MINE ACTION

Having in consideration the basic objectives and tasks of Mine Action Center Bosnia and Herzegovina, regulations which ensure legal and timely conduct of mine action as well as faster and more efficient work of Mine Action Center Bosnia and Herzegovina, BHMAL cooperates with all the subjects included in this domain and takes over a series of activities to disseminate information and raise the level of understanding in both citizens and the Donors in mine action. In this manner, BHMAL improves both its image and the MA system in public and its position in society.

Having in mind the set strategic objectives, communications, and activities in public relations, on which BHMAL will focus in 2018, activities in communication and advocacy include:

- Dissemination of information to raise the level of understanding and interest of citizens in Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as raising the level of awareness and trust of national and international participants
- Promotion of Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its activity to inform public on the result of the institution, and promotion on achievements in mine action
- Consultations with relevant institutions and organizations which are involved in mine action, and responsible for the implementation of Ottawa Convention, all to improve work of the Centre and advocacy of Ottawa Convention principles.

Information activities:

- Regular updating of www.bhmal.org
- Presence at domestic and international conferences with the theme of mine action
- Media approach – adequate answers to requests and questions from national and local media, which includes appearance, conferences for media and timely and accurate articles and information on news from mine action
- Presentation of work of the Center and results in mine action to both national and international public
- Constant and continuous follow-up of public opinion, the analysis of press, printed and electronic press and media clippings

- Adequate mark of April 4, the International Mine Awareness Day, as an opportunity to use public appearance to increase awareness on the existence of mine threat and necessity of continuous contribution for resolving of this long-term problem
- Continuous cooperation with other mine action centers in the region and the world, to exchange experiences and improve cooperation in this domain

8. FINANCING

Article 18 of the Law on Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes: „The resources for the implementation of Demining Plan are ensured from the donors’ resources, Bosnia and Herzegovina budget and Entities’ budgets, as well as from other resources.”

MINE ACTION	2017		
	Planned area in m ²	Price in BAM per m ² (average)	TOTAL VALUE IN BAM KM
Clearance	3,000,000	4.20	12,600,000
Technical survey	9,000,000	2.20	19,800,000
Mine Risk Education			1,000,000
Mine Victims Assistance			2,000,000
Advocacy			100,000
Total			35,500,000

Table 7: Necessary financial means according to the type of activity for 2018

The table provides the financial review made based on the results from the completed “Land Release” IPA 2011 project. The costs of Mine Action Center BH totaling BAM **5.925.000** is not included in this review, and they will be spent on nontechnical survey operations, quality assurance and inspection. Total necessary financial means for 2018 are BAM **41.425.000**.

According to information collected from the main participants in mine action in BH, the total sum of BAM **36.400.000** is planned as below:

Resources from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Out of the budget of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions, BAM **5.925.000** will be allocated for the needs of Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Out of the budget of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions, and through the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces BH, approximately BAM **4.500.000** will be allocated to mine action.

Out of the budget of Federal Government Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the budget of Federal Administration of Civil Protection, BAM **6.000.000** will be allocated to mine action.

Out of the budget of Republic of Srpska, through the budget of Administration for Civil Protection of Republic of Srpska, BAM **3.000.000** will be allocated to mine action.

Out of the budget of Brčko District, approximately BAM **1.000.000** will be allocated to mine action.

Total ensured funds from the institutions will be approximately: BAM 20.425.000

Based on the query of Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina about the municipalities, cantons, and entities abilities for allocations of funds for demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2018, a total of 72 municipalities replied and stated their interest in allocating the total sum of approximately BAM **475.000**.

The Donors funds

Via the mediation of ITF (International Fund for Humanitarian Demining and Mine Victims Assistance in South-East Europe – Enhancing Human Security), approximately BAM **8.500.000** were allocated for mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Via the mediation of NGO NPA, expenditures are planned for BAM **4.500.000**.

The total of planned funds should be approximately BAM 13.000.000.

Out of the other donor resources for the realization of the Operational plan, it is anticipated to ensure additional BAM **2.500.000** (individual Donor countries, UNDP, ICRC etc.).

It is planned that out of all sources BAM 36.400.000 would be ensured, which is not enough for the conduct of this Plan. It is necessary to ensure additional BAM **5.025.000**.

9. CLUSTER MUNITION

In the period from 01.01.2011 - 30.6.2011, NPA realized the first phase of general survey of the areas contaminated by cluster munition in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which resulted in general assessment of the situation with remained cluster munition as follows: (1) threat assessment of remained cluster munition and (2) its social, economic, and environmental impact in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The general assessment of the situation with remained cluster ammunition is the basis for strategic planning and the measure of success in the application of the Convention on Cluster Munition, which was ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina on August 25, 2010. Bosnia and

Herzegovina took upon itself the obligations and deadlines given in the Convention. Through the realization of the first phase of the general survey, NPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina has realized its immediate objective – to provide help to government authorities in fulfilling their obligations taken upon the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munition.

Based on information from 2018, the suspect area has been identified in 60 local communities in 35 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Analysis of threat for population, consequences of accidents and blocked resources has shown that remained cluster munition has a significant impact on society, economy, and environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2018, NPA (Norwegian Peoples Aid), Armed Forces of BH and Federal Administration of Civil Protection are planning to work in 13 municipalities: Livno, Cazin, Ključ, Maglaj, Tešanj, Tuzla, Glamoč, Jajce, Zenica, Olovo, Kladanj, Čapljina and Hadžići). The current size of the cluster munition suspect area is 6,47 km².

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL	Cluster munition suspect hazardous area (km ²)
UNSKO-SANSKI KANTON	0.07
POSAVSKI KANTON	0.00
TUZLANSKI KANTON	0.68
ZENIČKO-DOBOJSKI KANTON	2.08
BOSANSKO-PODRINJSKI KANTON	0.00
SREDNJE-BOSANSKI KANTON	1.78
HERCEGOVAČKO-NERETVANSKI KANTON	0.00
ZAPADNO-HERCEGOVAČKI KANTON	0.00
KANTON SARAJEVO	0.38
KANTON 10	0.35
FEDERACIJA BIH	5.34
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA	1.13
DISTRIKT BRČKO	0.00
BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA	6.47

Table 8: The size of the area suspect for cluster munition

10. LAND RELEASE

Land Release is the new approach in resolving the mine problem. This approach is promoted in International Standards for Mine Action – IMAS. Bosnia and Herzegovina chose to apply this approach in resolving its mine problem.

This approach enables the efficient conduct of technical survey and clearance. The important difference in this approach in relation to those used so far is putting the focus on nontechnical survey methods in resolving the mine problem. As per this approach, the focus in resolving the mine problem is set on the nontechnical survey process (NTS), which is used to collect and analyze all information on mining without the use of technical methods. Technical survey (TS) is used for follow-up and confirmation of information collected through the nontechnical survey (NTs), and for defining of mined areas borders as precisely as possible. Clearance process removes mines/ERW from the areas defined through the processes of NTS and TS.

Land release approach applies the concept of all reasonable effort. All reasonable effort represents the level of effort necessary to achieve the wanted level of trust at the exit of the system. When applied to the land release process, this means that all reasonable effort has been made to ensure no mine threat on cleared, reduced, and canceled areas.

In cooperation with Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and UNDP, BHMACH organized the workshop for the creation of Standards for MA in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as standard operational procedures of BHMACH, all with the aim to introduce the concept of Land Release for resolving the mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During 2018, BHMACH is planning for working groups included into the creation of Standard and SOP to complete their work in order to provide the technical regulations for this new concept of land release.

11.1. Grouping of suspect areas into mine suspect areas (MSA)

The process of land release is based on collection and analysis of all information on mine existence, considering all the relevant information related to the wider area, such as the manner of conflict, the course of combat activities, most frequently used mines, the most ordinary manner of laying out the mines etc. For that reason, a wider area will be defined for the application of the land release process, which can be treated as a logical whole from the point of mine existence – as an MSA. This area includes one or more mine-affected communities.

With the support of authorized representatives from local communities, BHMACH conducts the grouping of the suspect areas on the territory of the said municipality into the logical wholes of individual MSAs and defines priorities, i.e. the sequence of conduct and release of MSA. In case there is a need for emergency resolving of smaller areas, they can be derogated from already defined MSA and then treated through the process of land release.

11. PROJECT “A Comprehensive Assessment of the Suspect Area for existence of mine and cluster munition threat in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2019“

Mine Action Center Bosnia and Herzegovina will accomplish “A Comprehensive Assessment of the Suspect Area for existence of mine and cluster munition threat in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2019“, as the leading organization for this project, along with its project partners: (1) Armed Forces BH – Demining Battalion and (2) Norwegian People’s Aid Program – disarmament program in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This assessment is the integral part of the efforts of society, governing institutions at all levels, and specialized structures of mine action; the objective of these efforts is to improve planning, organization and the conduct of mine action through improved mine threat assessment, all in order to enhance human security, decrease the negative impact of the mentioned risks and to fulfil remaining obligations Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook as a signatory of Ottawa Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munition.

The general objective of the project is to increase mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the application of improved general assessment of mine and cluster munition threat and their impact on affected communities. Inhabited places, households, and individuals who are at risk because of mines, cluster munition and other explosive remnants of war are in the center of this assessment.

Activities of the project are directed towards the fulfillment 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 conduct of the new strategy of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina and development of midterm action plan for land release.

To achieve the specific objectives of the Project, and in partnership with the Armed Forces BH and Norwegian People’s Aid, Mine Action Center BH is planning to conduct the assessment of suspect areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the developed assessment plan, on 1.030 km² of the suspect area, define a total of 500 +/- 10 % polygons of the suspect areas in the period from 01.03. 2018. - 31.08.2019. Most suspect areas defined for releasing will be adjusted to the optimal size on the level of 1,7-2,5 km² (2,1 km² on average).

The realization of this project will provide for the establishment of new grounds for the more realistic planning of mine action activities, bases for the development of new strategy in mine action and

preparations for the submission of the new request by Bosnia and Herzegovina for the extension of the deadline set by the Ottawa Treaty.

12. THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

A meeting was held in November 2017 with Mr. Juan Carlos Ruan, the director of the Implementation Support Unit of the Mine Ban Convention (ISUAPMBC – Ottawa Treaty). The meeting was initiated by APMBC ISU, with the topic of Bosnia and Herzegovina request for the extension of the deadline in relation to the Article 5. of the Treaty.

Mr. Ruan suggested the following: if Bosnia and Herzegovina were to submit the Request for Extension of Deadline in accordance with Article 5, the submission deadline would be March 31, 2018. It is also suggested that Bosnia and Herzegovina informally requested a meeting with the Committee for Article 5 of APMBC on intersession meeting that will be held in June 2018. After that, the Request would be officially considered on the 17. Meeting of the States Parties.

During the consideration of the request, it has been pointed out that there is a possibility for a temporary request of e.g. 2 years, for Bosnia and Herzegovina to analyze the situation on the ground to the detail, so the final request would be thorough and more precise in terms of new deadline and based on the reviewed terrain (which would be done in the period of temporary request.)

In accordance with the stated above, Mine Action Center Bosnia and Herzegovina has formed a team for the preparation of the proposition of the official Request of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Extension of the Deadline 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.

In the preparatory phase, the team has analyzed the previous request by Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2008, as well as the proposed concept for the creation of the request by ISU-International Support Unit, including the timeframe for the completion of this task. The starting point for work was the instruction by the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the Request should be prepared in accordance with Land Release concept and realistic financial frame, and that requested period should be two (2) years, which is the period from March 1, 2019 to March 1, 2021 in our case.

In relation to the stated above, and in December 2017, the Team has sent the proposition of the formal request of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the extension of the deadline to the Demining

Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina for comments, as well as to Mr. Juan Carlos Ruan, for them to be able to prepare the final proposition of the formal request of Bosnia. All activities related to the adoption of the formal Request of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Extension of the deadline, Article 5, para 1, of the Ottawa Treaty, should be completed by the end of 2018.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Annual Operational Mine Action Plan for 2018, in accordance with the Article 16 of the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina (“Official Gazette of BiH”, No:5/02) has been approved by Demining Commission, with their act No: _____ Dated: _____

Based on the Article 16 of the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina (“Official Gazette of BiH”, No:5/02), regulations of the Law on Administration (“Official Gazette of BiH”, No:32/02), and with the approval of the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the integral part of the Annual Operational Mine Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2018, No: _____

Dated: _____, the Council of Ministers, on their _____ session held _____ adopted the Annual Operational Mine Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for 2018.