



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
STATEMENT
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
4th Review Conference
25/29.11.2019

Mr President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, at the 4th Review Conference, on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation, I am honored to once more reiterate Bosnia and Herzegovina strong and major commitment to continue further actions in addressing the threats of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war, by adopting the new Strategy paper for period 2018-2025, with final intention to resolve this long term issue in more efficient and effective manner, achieving much visible results, within requested timeframe.

And although BiH has cited a number of reasons as the basis for the request extension in form of less resources allocated for mine clearance than first envisioned, a still sizable contamination, non-functional minefield records available, and unforeseen weather conditions, it is important to emphasize that while we have requested additional time for survey and clearance efforts, we are fully engaged and committed towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our efforts in order to comply with the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.

BiH needs to be free of the threat of these weapons, since they are a threat to the security and safety of our citizens, and if we wish to properly handle this task, we need to clearly indicate how everybody involved in this process can contribute in achieving what we set out to do nearly two decades ago, so that new generations don't have to live under the constant threat of anti-personnel mines.

It is very important to stress out how extremely significant progress in all mine action areas has been achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina and how far we went until now, first of all thanks to fruitful and close cooperation with partner countries and donors. So on behalf of my country, I would like to extend appreciation, to all donors as well as to all other respected institutions that have helped us. However still much more has to be done.

In 24 Years post conflict period, there are still 8,050 suspected Hazardous Areas measuring 995.87km² and 917 Confirmed Hazardous Areas measuring 22.14km².

Since Bosnia and Herzegovina last Article V Extension Request we succeeded to release 158.5 km² in total, where we destroyed 8,992 AP mines and 9,992 of other Explosive Remnants of War.

As for the remaining number of confirmed hazardous or Suspected Hazardous Areas containing AP mines, it still remaining 1,018.00km².

BHMAC in cooperation with UNDP and EU assistance is coordinating Project titled "Creation of Information system web platform for BHMAC", in course to construct a web based database available to all users of mine action programs.

Bearing in mind project demands, we are now in process to define and document workflow for the system implementation and presentation of data imported in IMSMA Core.

BHMAC is currently implementing project titled "General Assessment of Mine Suspected Areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina" financed by the European Union, which is implemented by BHMAC, Armed Forces and non-governmental organization Norwegian People's Aid.

Project outcomes will be incorporated in Bosnia and Herzegovina final request for the extension according to Article V obligations.

In this year, unfortunately there were two demining accidents with 3 persons injured and 2 with fatal outcome. Nevertheless due to continuous mine risk education and marking activities, number of civilian victims is constantly reducing, since people are more informed and educated about the mine and UXO danger and how to avoid the potential risk. It is for us a moral obligation to continue to work to reduce the number of casualties and to assist landmine survivors, in particular since we are still facing serious challenges with our medical and rehabilitation facilities, as well as with the socio-economic reintegration. So we stay committed to strengthening our care, rehabilitation and alleviating mine victim suffering.

In past period, Bosnia and Herzegovina has received various types of the assistance and cooperation coming from large donor community, presenting major and essential infusion for the implementation of our strategic and operational goals. And whiles we are struggling to invest more in this process, I need to emphasize the importance of donor assistance and contribution in the upcoming period to reach the country free of landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

Final goal of all us here is a world free of mine, as a pillar of stability and peace. And if we continue to work together, my country along with others, has all the potential to be one of those who succeeded to achieve the fulfillment of the treaty obligations within the set deadlines.

Thank you.



Progress Made Since Bosnia & Hercegovina's Last Artical 5 Extension Request

	District	Area Cancelled (km ²)	Area Reduced (km ²)	Area Cleared (km ²)	Total Land Released (km ²)	Number of AP Mines Destroyed	Number of other Explosive Remnants of War Destroyed	Number of SHA's & CHA's Released
<i>Bosnia & Hercegovina</i>	<i>Distrikt Brčko</i>	0.33	4.83	0.24	5.39	483	376	92
	<i>Federacija BiH</i>	83.65	25.22	3.52	112.39	6,723	8,596	870
	<i>Republic of Srpska</i>	26.51	12.37	1.84	40.72	1,786	1,020	470
	Totals	110.48	42.42	5.60	158.5km2	8,992	9,992	1,432



Scale of the Problem 24 Years Post Conflict

- There are 8,050 Suspected Hazardous Areas measuring 995.87km² (Red)
- 917 Confirmed Hazardous Areas measuring 22.14km² (Red)

Note: Blue Areas on the map are completed HMA Projects



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Remaining Number of Confirmed Hazardous or Suspected Hazardous Areas

	District	Number of Areas Confirmed to Contain AP Mines	Number of Areas Suspected to Contain AP Mines	Total Number of Areas Confirmed or Suspected to Contain AP Mines	Size of Areas Confirmed to contain AP Mines (km ²)	Size of Areas Suspected to contain AP Mines (km ²)	Total Confirmed Areas or Suspected Areas to Contain AP Mines (km ²)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Distrikt Brčko	6	144	150	0.24	12.29	12.53
	Federacija BiH	556	5,105	5,661	15.22	769.89	785.11
	Republic of Srpska	355	2,801	3,156	6.67	213.69	220.36
TOTALS	BiH	917	8,050	8,967	22.14km²	995.87km²	1,018km²

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Subject to Funding & Deployable Operational Capacity BHM MAC's Projected Milestones

Bosnia and Herzegovina				
2020	<i># of Land Release Projects Completed</i>	65	2024	65
	<i>Area Remaining</i>	823km ²		285km ²
2021	<i># of Land Release Projects Completed</i>	65	2025	65
	<i>Area Remaining</i>	712km ²		142.4km ²
2022	<i># of Land Release Projects Completed</i>	65	TOTAL BiH	400
	<i>Area Remaining</i>	569.6km ²		Completion Residual Risk Only
2023	<i># of Land Release Projects Completed</i>	65		
	<i>Area Remaining</i>	427.2km ²		



Challenges and requirements

STRENGTHS

Country Wide Assessment will be Completed within the first 4 months of 2020 & IMSMA CORE will be introduced during 2020.
Blended approach for the implementation of HMA Activities within BiH.
Local Authorities receive Government Funding to support Mine Action Implementation at the Local Administration Level.
Coordination and Cooperation with Regional and International Mine Action Authorities/Agencies

WEAKNESSES

20 Accredited Demining Organisations within the Bosnian Mine Action Programme
Operational Capacity from 2014 to 2017 52 Teams were Deployed on Direct Delivery from 2018 & 2019 36 Teams have been Deployed on Direct Delivery -16 Teams
Ageing Workforce Compounded by the Reluctance of the Younger Generation to seek Employment as Deminers

OPPORTUNITIES

Review and Revision of current NMAS with the Aim to bring it inline with IMAS and accepted International Humanitarian Mine Action best practice
Provide Support & Advice to Regional Mine Action Agencies & or Authorities
Promote Operational Safety Efficiency & Effectiveness within the Bosnian Mine Action Programme through improved QMS
Coordination with BiH Governmental Ministries to ensure that wherever possible Clearance Activities are in line with Humanitarian & National Priorities through Annual Work Plans

THREATS

Competition with other Regional Mine Action Agencies and or National Mine Action Authorities
Unpredictable Events Natural and Man Made



