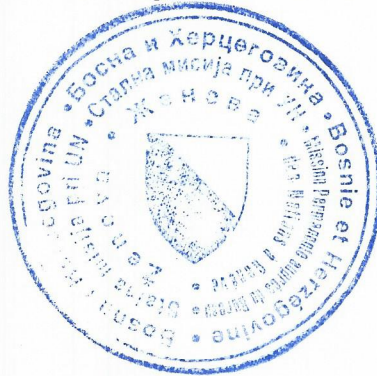




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The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the President of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and has the honor to submit Bosnia and Herzegovina's revised 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.

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the President of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, September 7, 2018

H.E. Ms. Suraya Dalil
President

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**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**

July 2018

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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.

A General assessment of mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina was carried out in the preparation of the previous request in 2007, where the Study identified 1.631 communities (inhabited places) contaminated with mines. It is estimated that mine contaminated micro-locations directly affect the safety of 921.513 persons, out of which 154.538 inhabitants in high threat communities, 342.550 in medium threat communities and 424.425 persons in low threat communities. Out of the total number of endangered communities, 122 or 7% were categorized as high threat communities, 625 or 38% as medium threat and 884 or 55% as low threat communities.

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 will not be able to fulfil obligations in accordance with the previous request.

The circumstances that have prevented Bosnia and Herzegovina 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.**

Nevertheless, over the course of the previous request the affected area has been reduced from 1,688,033,658 square meters to 1,080,207,829 square meters. During this period a total of 607,825,829 square meters were addressed (45% out of the plan) with 514,325,299 square meters of the SHA cancelled through non-technical survey operations (51% out of the plan), 77,800,000 square metres of SHA reduced through technical survey operations in 1,630 realized tasks or technically surveyed locations (30% out of the

plan) and 15,690,000 square meters of CHA cleared in 953 realized tasks or locations cleared (20% out of the plan). A total of 14,385 anti-personnel mines, 1,181 anti-tank mines and 15,105 pieces of ERW, including cluster munitions were identified and destroyed.

From 2013 to 2016 and in order to fulfil the obligations taken under the Article 5 of the Convention, Mine Action Centre in BiH realized "Land Release" project IPA 2011, with the support from Delegation of European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The said project promoted the full employment of the land release process with non-technical survey efforts resulting in either cancellation of the SHAs in case of insufficient evidence about the existence of mine/explosive devices or confirmation of hazardous areas. This process enabled efficient tasking in technical survey for the purpose of systematic and targeted investigation ensuring that clearance assets were directed onto confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) only.

Within the stated project, Mine Action Centre in BiH created the following first three chapters of the new Standards: Land Release, non-technical survey and technical survey. These chapters were drafted in accordance with IMAS and adopted by the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 2016.

The results of the project "Land Release" present 91% of the area cancelled through non-technical survey by Mine Action Centre BiH, out of total area released to final users (42.788.962m²), 8,5% of area reduced through technical survey¹ and 0,5% cleared by accredited organizations through mine clearance. This has proven that with the right application of non-technical and technical survey Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the financial support of partners, will be in a position to declare completion in a not too distant future.

The total remaining contamination in Bosnia and Herzegovina totals 8,967 SHAs measuring 1,056,574,142 square meters and 935 CHAs measuring 23.846.939 square meters. In accordance with Article 5, Para 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina is requesting 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 will be in a better position to highlight the exact amount of time required to implement its obligations under Article 5. Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit a final request for extension for completion based on a more precise understanding of the remaining challenge by 31 March 2020.

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. Once these areas are defined they will be 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.

The application of "land release", with evidence-based decision making will allow reliable definition of areas where technical survey activities will be needed. 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 provide 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 BHMIC 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).

² An 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 BHMIC in close cooperation with the municipal authorities. These areas are then treated comprehensively through the land release procedure.

During the requested time period three main activities will be carried out:

1. **Country assesment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armed Forces BiH and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) will carry out a project entitled "Country assesment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina" which will be carried out from 2 July 2018 – 31 December 2019. This project is approved and will be financed through EC emergency grants. The aim of this project is to increase the efficiency in mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim of setting a new baseline through the application of non-technical survey and technical survey i.e. it will aim to establish a new baseline 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 fulfilling the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.
2. **Mine Action Governance and Management Project:** the BHMIC with support of the UNDP and financing from the European Union will create a new web orientated database to replace the existing system and increase accessibility and transparency of mine action data. Project Title is "Mine Action Governance and Management Project". This project will aim to influence policy and build the capacity to instil greater organisational openness and adaptability to new implementation methodologies such as the country assessment project. The aim is to re-establish donor confidence through the formulation of a credible, realistic and achievable completion plan to clear all remaining mined areas in the country and comply with the country's obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
3. **Land release operations: survey and clearance opeations** will continue 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. It is expected that through these operations at total of 237,000,000 square meters will be addressed including 179,000,000 square meters cancelled through non-technical survey, 30,000,000 reduced through technical survey and 2,000,000 square meters cleared. In addition to this the BHMIC will prepare through non-technical survey a total of approximately 120 MSAs totalling approximately 263,200,000 square meters. Parallel to these activities marking of SHAs with 18,000 signs for emergency marking will take place.

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 37 accredited machines (for vegetation removal, ground disturbance and removal of debris), 1.257 metal detectors and 63 accredited explosive detection dogs.

Mine risk education in the period 2019-2020 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 communities that have a large SHAs of priority category III and the most affected target population groups.

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 (two years), the funds totalling 79,260,000 BAM (approximately USD47 million) are necessary. The finance plan according to the operational plan for 2019-2020 is prepared in accordance with the realistic financial frame of mine action, and in accordance with the analysis of financial plan for mine action in the period 2009-2017.

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 a total of 19,057 mined areas measuring approximately 1.688.000.000 square meters and it was 3,3% of the total area of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

Based on the previous request, Bosnia and Herzegovina should be in a position to declare completion of its Article 5 obligations by 1 March 2019. However, the following main circumstances have prevented Bosnia and Herzegovina from achieving completion:

- **Lack of financial means** Bosnia and Herzegovina did not pass the new Law on Mine Action in BiH which would see financial contributions budgeted by the State. No better conditions were created in the previous period for stable and continuous financing of humanitarian demining operations. The passing of the new Law on Mine Action in BiH has been in the parliamentary procedure for several times now. In 2016, activities commenced on the Amendments Act to the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The working group for creation of the act consisted of the representatives from the Ministry for Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mine Action Centre, Armed Forces, and entity civilian protections (RU CZRS and FU CZ FBiH). Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina defined the proposition for the stated law and the document was forwarded via Ministry of Civil Affairs to the Parliamentary Assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina for regular adoption procedure.

The fulfilment of the milestones highlighted in the initial request for extension, as well as under the Strategic Plan for period 2009-2016, required 673,37 million of BAM. Annual operational plans since 2009 should have enabled stable and continuous engagement of financial resources for mine action from all available resources. However, Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to find additional financial resources for this particular use. Financial plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina was also affected by the world economic crisis that overlapped with the beginning of the implementation of the obligations taken. In the period from 2009 to 2017, and due to the lack of financial means, the average engagement of operational capacities, i.e. resources accredited for technical survey and mine clearance was at 35% of expectations.

- **The size of mine problem** In accordance with the stated Strategy, Bosnia and Herzegovina was supposed to be mine free by 2019. Progress should have been as follows:
 - a) I and II priority category through non-technical (general), technical survey and clearance, through continued preventive instruments such as emergency and permanent marking, and mine risk education;
 - b) III priority category of SHAs were continuously treated through emergency and permanent marking, and mine risk education.

The SHAs at the beginning of 2009 should have been 1.573.000.000 square meters in accordance with the request. However, due to the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina did not fully implement the Operational Plan for Humanitarian Demining 2008, SHAs at the beginning of the implementation of the previous request was 1.688.000.000 square meters.

- **Non-functional minefield records available.** the quality of minefield records were not sufficiently accurate for the identification of the precise minefield location and shape (approximately 30%). Minefields in Bosnia and Herzegovina generally contain relatively small number of mines, whereas they might be either in groups or randomly laid. A large number of minefield records (approximately 40% of them) were never made or handed over; they were often destroyed or hidden for numerous reasons, such as the death of persons who created the minefield records, emigrating from Bosnia and Herzegovina and other unknown reasons.
- **Prevailing climate conditions.** Demining season in most of Bosnia and Herzegovina lasts from mid-March to the beginning of December. In such context, there is a fact that should not be ignored: during spring 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina was hit by natural disaster whereas Mine Action Centre diverted available operational capacities towards the removal of negative consequences of catastrophic natural disasters. Suspect hazardous areas in 33 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina affected 106.000.000 square meters of area caught in catastrophic natural disasters, with previously defined 41.000.000 square meters of the SHAs. The most significant result of operational activities conducted by Mine Action Centre BH with the assistance of accredited organizations is the fact that there were no accidents, incidents or injuries due to mines/ERW during the catastrophic natural disasters.

2. Progress made regarding the previous request

2.1. Progress made during the previous extension period

Over the period of 2009-2017 the affected area in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been reduced from 1.688.033.658 square meters to 1.080.207.829 square meters. During this period a total of 607.825.829 square meters were addressed (45% of the plan) with 514.325.299 square meters of suspected hazardous area (SHA) cancelled through non-technical survey operations (51% the plan) 77.800.000 square metres of SHA reduced through technical survey operations in 1.630 realized tasks or technically surveyed locations (30% of the plan) and 15.690.000 square meters of CHAs cleared in 953 realized tasks or locations cleared (20% of the plan). A total of 14.385 anti-personnel mines, 1.181 anti-tank mines and 15.105 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 2009 to 2017 is shown in the following 3 tables:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL	Situation during the submission of previous extension request		Cancelled area square meters	Reduced area square meters	Cleared area square meters	Released area square meters	AP mines found and destroyed	AT mines found and destroyed	ERW found and destroyed	No of released areas
	No of Suspected areas	SHA square meters								
UNSKO-SANSKI CANTON	826	136,845,937	23,307,230	7,537,082	701,625	31,545,937	1,108	21	337	156
POSAVSKI CANTON	353	44,165,441	16,861,440	6,959,529	1,114,472	24,935,441	640	446	803	169
TUZLANSKI CANTON	959	91,950,243		9,174,075	1,516,168	10,690,243	1,419	69	1,361	234
ZENICKO-DOBOJSKI CANTON	867	141,509,215	13,285,497	5,427,988	1,075,730	19,789,215	1,373	39	946	168
BOSANSKO-PODRINJSKI CANTON	348	71,744,463	19,941,306	1,252,053	131,104	21,324,463	154	1	116	95
SREDNJE-BOSANSKI CANTON	1,028	201,631,365	65,776,384	4,636,820	1,778,161	72,191,365	1,771	203	2,333	236
HERCEGOVACKO-NERETV. CANTON	1,684	229,943,457	69,252,829	4,299,473	1,346,155	74,898,457	675	12	262	416
ZAPADNO-HERCEGOVACKI CANTON	11	2,123,911	1,813,911			1,813,911				5
CANTON SARAJEVO	642	101,580,687	21,419,489	4,408,664	1,632,534	27,460,687	1,723	72	6,036	150
CANTON 10	582	177,611,039	89,009,701	2,806,577	454,761	92,271,039	1,008	76	236	289
FEDERATION OF BIH	7,300	1,199,105,758	320,667,787	46,502,261	9,750,710	376,920,758	9,871	939	12,430	1,918
REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA	4,496	450,316,700	184,805,968	18,713,546	4,777,186	208,296,700	3,791	160	2,100	1,545
DISTRICT BRCKO	371	38,611,200	8,851,544	12,589,293	1,167,534	22,608,371	723	82	575	222
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	12,167	1,688,033,658	514,325,299	77,805,100	15,695,430	607,825,829	14,385	1,181	15,105	3,685

Table 1: Review of released SHA and CHA

Year	Cancelled area square meters	Reduced area square meters	Cleared area square meters	Released area square meters	AP mines found and destroyed	AT mines found and destroyed	ERW found and destroyed
2009	115,320,000	10,800,000	1,940,000	128,060,000	2,112	150	977
2010	100,760,000	9,390,000	2,350,000	112,500,000	2,350	114	1340
2011	89,930,000	9,560,000	3,130,000	102,620,000	1,816	389	5,536
2012	68,480,000	7,460,000	1,300,000	77,240,000	904	75	736
2013	33,260,000	9,210,000	1,850,000	44,320,000	1,700	100	990
2014	30,130,000	10,120,000	1,850,000	42,100,000	1,901	135	2,582
2015	17,040,000	8,390,000	1,640,000	27,070,000	1,654	129	785
2016	56,950,000	10,390,000	1,330,000	68,670,000	1,313	63	1555
2017	2,455,299	2,480,000	300,000	5,235,299	635	26	604
Total	514,325,299	77,800,000	15,690,000	607,815,299	14,385	1,181	15,105

Table 2: Realization of the plan of for releasing the area, 2009-2017

Time (2009-2017)	Plan (square metres)	Realization (Square metres)	Percentage of realization	Realization per method
Cancelled area (square metres) Non-technical survey	1,001,110,000	514,325,299	51%	85%
Reduced area (square metres) Technical Survey	262,890,000	77,805,100	30%	13%
Cleared area (square metres) Clearance of mines	77,230,000	15,695,430	20%	3%
Total area released (square metres)	1,341,230,000	607,825,829	45%	100%

Table 3: Review of non-technical and technical survey, and mine clearance

Land Release project

From 2013 to 2016 and in order to fulfil the obligations taken under the Article 5 of the Convention, Mine Action Centre in BiH realized "Land Release" project IPA 2011, with the support from Delegation of European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project promoted the full employment of the land release

process with non-technical survey efforts resulting in either cancellation of the SHAs in case of insufficient evidence about the existence of mine/explosive devices or CHAs in the case of direct evidence. This process enabled efficient tasking in technical survey for the purpose of systematic and targeted investigation ensuring that clearance assets were directed onto CHAs only.

Within the stated project, Mine Action Centre in BiH created the following first three chapters of the new Standards: Land Release, non-technical survey and technical survey. These chapters were drafted in accordance with IMAS and adopted by the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 2016.

The results of the project “Land Release” included 91% of the area cancelled through non-technical survey by Mine Action Centre BiH, out of total area released to final users (42.788.962m²), 8,5% of area reduced through technical survey³ and 0,5% cleared by accredited organizations through mine clearance. Chart 1 below shows the results in percentage of “Land Release” project in the domain of releasing the land:

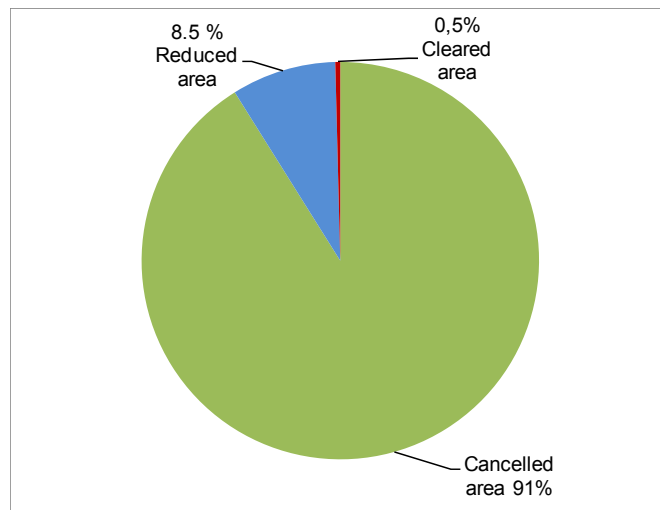


Chart 1: Results of the “Land Release” project

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

Methods for release of the suspect hazardous 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) including Standards and SoPs on non-technical survey, technical survey and mines clearance:

Non-technical survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina includes systematic and general survey. Non-technical survey (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).

Systematic survey is a process based on analysis and research, a process used to estimate the area that was subject to warring factions' activities. Systematic survey is a continuous activity of Mine Action Centre BiH, conducted through gathering, estimation, analysis and updating information on suspect locations and their characteristics (Standard operational procedures for humanitarian demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chapter X, adopted in 2003).

Systematic survey is a part of the general assessment with the goal of estimating the impact of mines based on all the available information on hazard and size, shape, and characteristics leading to the formation of a SHAs. Results of systematic survey are as follows:

1. Estimation of the size of the problem and mine impact;
2. Information on situation providing a precondition for general assessment;,,
3. Basis for long term planning for Non-Technical survey, Technical Survey and Clearance;
4. Source of information for the preparation of mine action plans in impacted communities.

Results of General Survey are as follows:

1. Gathering and processing information on SHAs,
2. Estimation of mine threat and creation of priorities for humanitarian demining,
3. Cancellation of SHAs,
4. Upgrading data base BHMAIS,
5. Planning of humanitarian demining,
6. Creation of the project documentation for technical survey and mine clearance.

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 dogs 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 2009-2017 is shown below in table 4:

Operational plan 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.
- 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 2009 to 2017, Mine Action Centre BiH inspection bodies have conducted 31.364 inspections at 2.583 humanitarian demining tasks (technical survey and mine clearance). Average number of inspections per humanitarian demining task was 12,2.

2009-2017	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Approved accreditations	1,839	1,509	2,257	1,395	1,529	1,460	1,328	1,233	626	13,176
Deminers licenses issued	293	221	266	227	306	196	265	161	65	2,000
Metal detectors tested	350	994	343	842	342	1,055	384	953	9	5,272
EDD teams tested	137	121	126	104	108	90	128	111	54	979
Machines tested	13	12	11	19	6	32	3	30	0	126
Technical supervision / inspection	4,467	4,165	4,718	2,910	3,223	3,767	3,291	3,833	1,260	31,634
Total	53,187									

Table 4: Review of quality assurance and quality control

2.3. Organizational/coordination improvements

In the period from 2009 to 2017, effective information management was of great significance with its clear reporting systems, quality coordination and cooperation with relevant parties. 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.

Quality information management in mine action guarantees that actors have access to information in order to make strategic and evidence based operational decisions. This is achievable providing the program has a sufficient number of technical personnel and updated and applicable methods, procedures, tools and processes for gathering, storing, analysis and dissemination of accurate, timely and relevant information.

The Mine Action Centre in BiH commenced the process of revision of all the mine action standard and SOP 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 opening and follow-up of tasks. The BHMIC has been working together with all its partners in developing a land release concept for Bosnia and Herzegovina which will lead to the implementation of a more efficient approach to addressing contamination. These chapters of SoP are adopted by the Demining Commission of BiH in March 2018.

During 2016, the BHMIC with the support of the GICHD conducted an assessment of information management. BHMIC collects, stores, analyses and updates all necessary information concerning mine action. This information is available to all interested parties. BHMIC 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 2009 to 2017, mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina was financed with 364,8 million BAM (51% of planned 714,8 million). In this period, Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to find additional finance resources that would total 350 million BAM. Considering the bad economic situation in the country as well as the size of mine problem, the fact remains that mine action as an exceptionally costly process could not have been adequately supported. Bosnia and Herzegovina ensured 188,59 million BAM or 52% 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 friend countries provided 176,21 million BAM or 48% out of total invested means, for which Bosnia and Herzegovina is very grateful. International donors in the period from 2006 – 2017 included: USA, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, EU, Japan, Holland, Italy, Canada, Slovenia, Turkey, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ireland, the Principality of Monaco, South Korea, UNDP, UNICEF, EUFOR, MKCK, Marshall Legacy Institute, CEB, Handicap International, SIDA, WOM and ICBL. 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 2009-2017 is given in Table 5 below:

2009-2017	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	%
Financial resources made available by the Bosnia and Herzegovina	26.59	30.78	20.12	16.88	16.73	21.48	19.51	18.97	17.53	188.59	51%
Financial resources made available by International Donors	29.47	27.05	20.53	16.63	16.88	20.49	15.63	14.76	14.77	176.21	
Total	56.06	57.83	40.65	33.51	33.61	41.97	35.14	33.73	32.30	364.80	
Not Ensure	23.37	21.34	39.34	46.61	44.46	64.53	71.31	29.91	9.13	350.00	49%

Table 5: Review of funds invested in mine action in the period 2009-2017.

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

In the period from 2009 – 2017, continuous efforts were made in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to prevent civilians entering the suspected 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, 178 mine risk education projects were realized in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 222.310 persons were educated on mine threat, most of them school children. The review of conducted MRE projects and educated persons in the period from 2009 to 2017 are stated below in Table 6:

2009-2017	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Number of implemented MRE projects	18	23	20	17	20	35	19	14	12	178
Number of people cover by MRE projects	22,918	37,215	26,307	15,097	24,296	35,397	26,158	22,888	12,034	222,310

Table 6: Review of mine risk education program 2009-2017

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 2009 to 2017 is 80,035 (74% of the plan). The review of emergency marking signs places is shown in the Table 7:

2009-2017	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	Plan	%
Emergency marking activities	9,796	12,068	13,543	11,563	9,749	11,521	5,973	4,921	901	80,035	107,966	74%

Table 7: Review of emergency marking activities in the period from 2009 to 2017

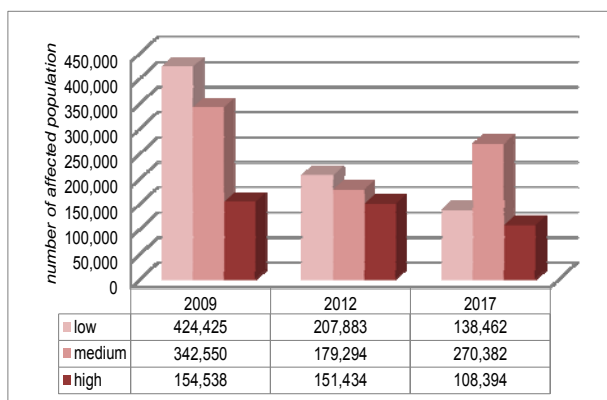
Emergency marking represents a preventive mine risk education measure, which is conducted through marking of boundaries of the CHAs. Placing of the signs at locations of III category priority was conducted at areas where humanitarian demining operations were planned in future, and it presented a very effective risk reduction measure. In the period from 2009 to 2017, 80,53 square kilometres of SHAs has been permanently marked (46% of plan), with 9,153 signs (28% of the plan). Review of permanent marking activities is given in Table 8 below:

2009-2017	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		TOTAL	
Permanent marking activities	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs	Areas km ²	Signs
		11.31	1,421	14.05	1,564	24.63	2,349	7.38	954	11.82	1,200	5.38	906	2.56	321	2.97	386	0.43	52	80.53

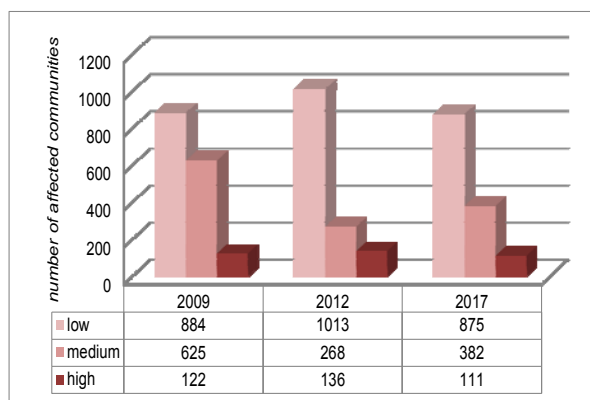
Table 8: Review of permanent marking activities for the period 2009 - 2017

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

General assessment of mine threat: a study conducted in 2007, has identified a total of 1.631 mine affected communities. It has been estimated that mine contaminated micro locations directly affect the safety of 921,513 residents. The general assessment update in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted in 2015 has identified 1,398 mine affected communities. The micro-locations contaminated by mines directly affect the safety of 517,238 residents, which is 15% out of total number of Bosnia and Herzegovina residents. In the period from 2009 to 2017, the number of affected residents in Bosnia and Herzegovina is reduced by 404,275 people. The review of affected communities and persons is shown in graphs 1 and two below:



Graph 2: Affected communities



Graph 3: Affected persons

In the period from 2009 to 2017, suspected and CHAs were released to final users according to categories of priority. The qualitative aspect of suspected and CHAs release in Bosnia and Herzegovina is shown below in Table 9:

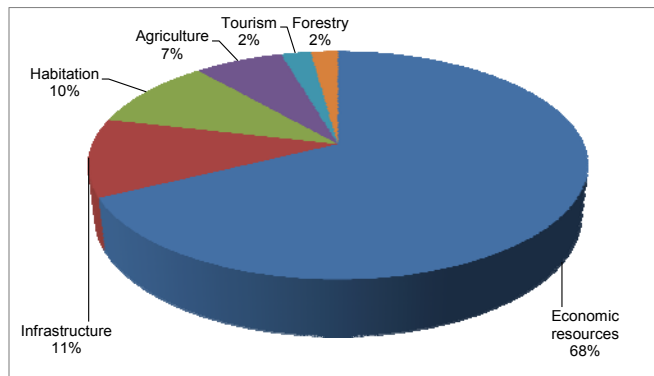
Priority category	Released Area (square meters)
I category	93,500,530
II category	134,070,442
III category	380,254,857
Total	607,825,829

Table 9: Release of suspected and confirmed suspect areas

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 3:



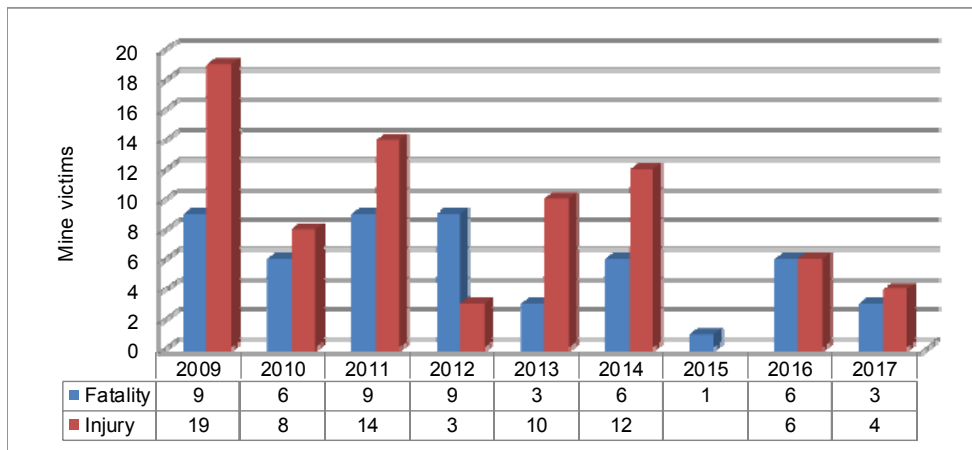
Graph 4: Intentional use for reduced and cleared area in the period 2009-2017

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. 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. BHMACH 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 psycho-social consequences for survivors and affected family members, and conditions must be ensured for the satisfaction of their needs. In the period from 2009 to 2017, 128 mine/ERW victims were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of the total, males constitute 94% and females 6%. Additionally, out of the total, adults constitute 87%, and children 13%. The review of victims as per gender and age in the period from 2009 to 2017 is given in Table 10 and Graph 5 below:

Mine victims	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Fatality	9	6	9	9	3	6	1	6	3	52
Injury	19	8	14	3	10	12		6	4	76
Men	25	14	22	11	12	18	1	12	6	121
Women	3		1	1	1				1	7
Adults	23	14	23	11	7	15	1	12	6	112
Children	5			1	6	3			1	16

Table 10: Review of mine/ERW victims in the period 2009-2017



Graph 5: Review of mine/ERW victims in the period 2009-2017

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 8,967 SHAs measuring 1.033.460.204 square meters and 917 confirmed hazardous areas measuring 23,113,938 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 11:

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL	Number of areas suspect to contain AP mines	Number of areas know to contain AP mines	Area suspected to contain AP mines (square metres)	Area known to contain AP mines (square metres)
UNSKO SANSKI	638	143	101.314.106	2.790.748
POSAVSKI	172	10	17.439.249	492.218
TUZLANSKI	706	65	78.545.195	1.495.028
ZENICKO DOBOJSKI	653	64	118.366.519	1.956.645
BOSANSKO PODRINJSKI	221	17	46.583.593	1.076.07
SREDNJE BOSANSKI	752	113	122.177.208	3.359.832
HERCEGOVACKO NERETVANSKI	1214	71	149.883.214	2.584.675
ZAPADNO HERCEGOVACKI	6	3	501.764	228.308
SARAJEVSKI	271	32	72.625.581	1.088.825
KANTON 10	472	38	84.979.709	1.120.001
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA	2801	355	226.324.121	6.675.017
DISTRIKT BRCKO	144	6	14.719.945	246.570
Grand Total	8050	917	1.033.460.204	23.113.938

Table 11: Review of SHAs and CHAs

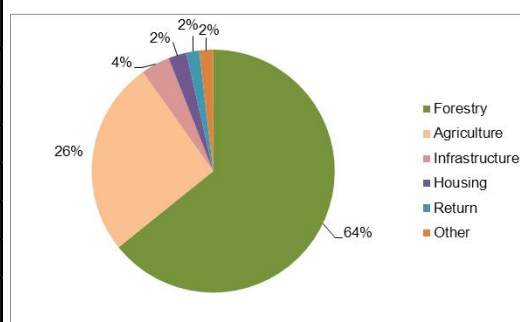
3.2. Relevant qualitative characteristics of remained challenge

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)⁴, 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 permissable for operations solely from mid mid-March to beginning of December.

The remaining SHA defined by potential use is shown below in table 12 and graph 5:

Intentional use of SHA	Area m ²
Forestry	663,576,338
Agriculture	268,494,309
Infrastructure	39,610,019
Housing	24,963,627
Return	17,792,834
Other	19,023,080
TOTAL:	1,033,460,204

Table 12: Intentional use of SHA



Graph 6: Intentional use of SHA

⁴ An 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 BHMIC in close cooperation with the municipal authorities. These areas are then treated comprehensively through the land release procedure.

4. Timeframe requested for fulfilment of obligations and the justification

In accordance with Article 5, Para 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina requests a **two (2) years** extension request from 01 March 2019 to 01 March 2021, to carry out non-technical and technical survey activities to better define the precise perimeter of mined areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the extension period, clearance operations will also continue. Following the better definition of the remaining challenge, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be in a better position to provide information on the remaining challenge and the amount of time required to implement Article 5. Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit a final request for extension for completion based on a more precise understanding of the remaining challenge by 31 March 2020.

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 BHMIC 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.

If we apply the results of the “Land Release” projects, it is possible to deduce that not all SHAs currently in the database of BHMIC are contaminated by mines and that mine clearance capacities will have to be deployed in a 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

Mine suspected area MSA	Suspected hazardous area /m ² /	Cancelled area /m ² /	Number of found and destroyed mines	Cleared /m ² /	Reduced /m ² /	Physically treated /investigation paths m ² /	Land released /m ² /	Number of mines / ha
Podvelež	5,990,000	5,675,011	23	8,660	190,631	44,876	5,990,000	27
Kupres	9,410,000	9,294,082	18	32,992	206,770	17,018	9,410,000	5
Avramovina	1,310,000	852,235	32	20,002	297,845	30,063	1,310,000	16
Tursanovo Brdo	1,550,000	1,243,770	46	12,894	274,629	40,765	1,550,000	36
Vlašić 1	2,500,000	2,000,738	258	23,881	211,267	24,768	2,500,000	108
Brežičani	3,380,000	2,726,101	36	3,173	651,187	72,234	3,380,000	113
Lukavica	6,770,000	2,291,617	40	9,366	305,056	53,133	6,770,000	43
Prača	2,141,221	1,746,520	132	26,959	381,791	53,638	2,141,221	49
Velika Drežnica - Šuička poljana	3,900,000	3,524,686	380	45,393	515,149	121,776	3,900,000	84
Mitrići	2,039,000	1,730,631	66	40,814	322,262	50,476	2,039,000	16
Jošanica - Turija	3,798,741	3,552,931	113	18,301	229,565	61,238	3,798,741	62
TOTAL	42,788,962	34,638,322	1144	242,432	3,586,153	569,985	42,788,962	47

Table 13: Results of "Land Release" project

The next two (2) years, will see a transition of working methodologies throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina with land release being intensively conducted through the application of new standards and SOPs to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5. Social and economic implications in requested timeframe and prioritization

In the period of 2019-2020, 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 2019 to 2020, 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.

6. Detailed implementation plan for the requested timeframe

During the requesting time period the following three activities will be ongoing:

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

These activities are highlighted in more detail below.

Project BHMAL /BiHAF/ NPA

During the requested time period, Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armed Forces BiH and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) will carry out a project entitled "Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina" which will be carried out from 2 July 2018 – 31 December 2019.

This project is approved and will be financed through EC emergency grants in the sum of 900,000 EUR. The aim of this project is 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. it will aim 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 fulfilling the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. This project will be carried out by 14 Non-Technical Survey Teams (9 of the BHMIC, 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 will be the establishing of MSAs or geographical areas which will bring together a number of areas into one "area of operation" to be subsequently subjected to the land release process (NTS, TS and clearance). MSAs will encompass former confrontation lines taking into consideration the character of the war and geographical characteristics of terrain. Priorities will 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. This will also simplify the tasking procedure by assigning specific organizations a larger geographical area in which to carry out operations.

Within the implementation of the project "Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina", reconnaissance teams of organizations that will implement the project will be hired, shown below in Table 14:

ORGANIZATION	No. Survey teams	No. Staff
BHMIC	9	27
ARMED FORCES BIH	2	6
NORWEGIAN PEOPLE AID (NPA)	3	9
TOTAL	14	42

Table 14: Review of survey teams

All preparatory activities (i.e. staffing, training, equipment procurement) for the implementation of the project will be completed by July, 2018. The training of operational staff will be held in the period from September 2018.

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 implementation 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 02.07.2018. - 31.12.2019. 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). Detail Plan is presented in Annex 8 – Operational plan for Country assessment of SHAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The end result of this projects includes the creation of approximately 500 MSAs for further operations and the cancelation of approximately 30.000.000 square meters.

Mine Action Governance and Management Project

The BHMIC with support of the UNDP and financing from the European Union will create the new web orientated database to replace the existing system and increase accessibility and transparency of mine action data. Project Title is “Mine Action Governance and Management Project”.

The Mine Action Governance and Management project will assist the mine action authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to increase 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 the human resource management processes and mine action standardization within BHMIC.

This project will aim to influence policy and build the capacity to instil greater organisational openness and adaptability to new methodologies. This will 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, 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 will be 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.

Annual Land release operations: survey and clearance operations 2019 – 2020

Finally, ongoing annual land release operations will continue 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.

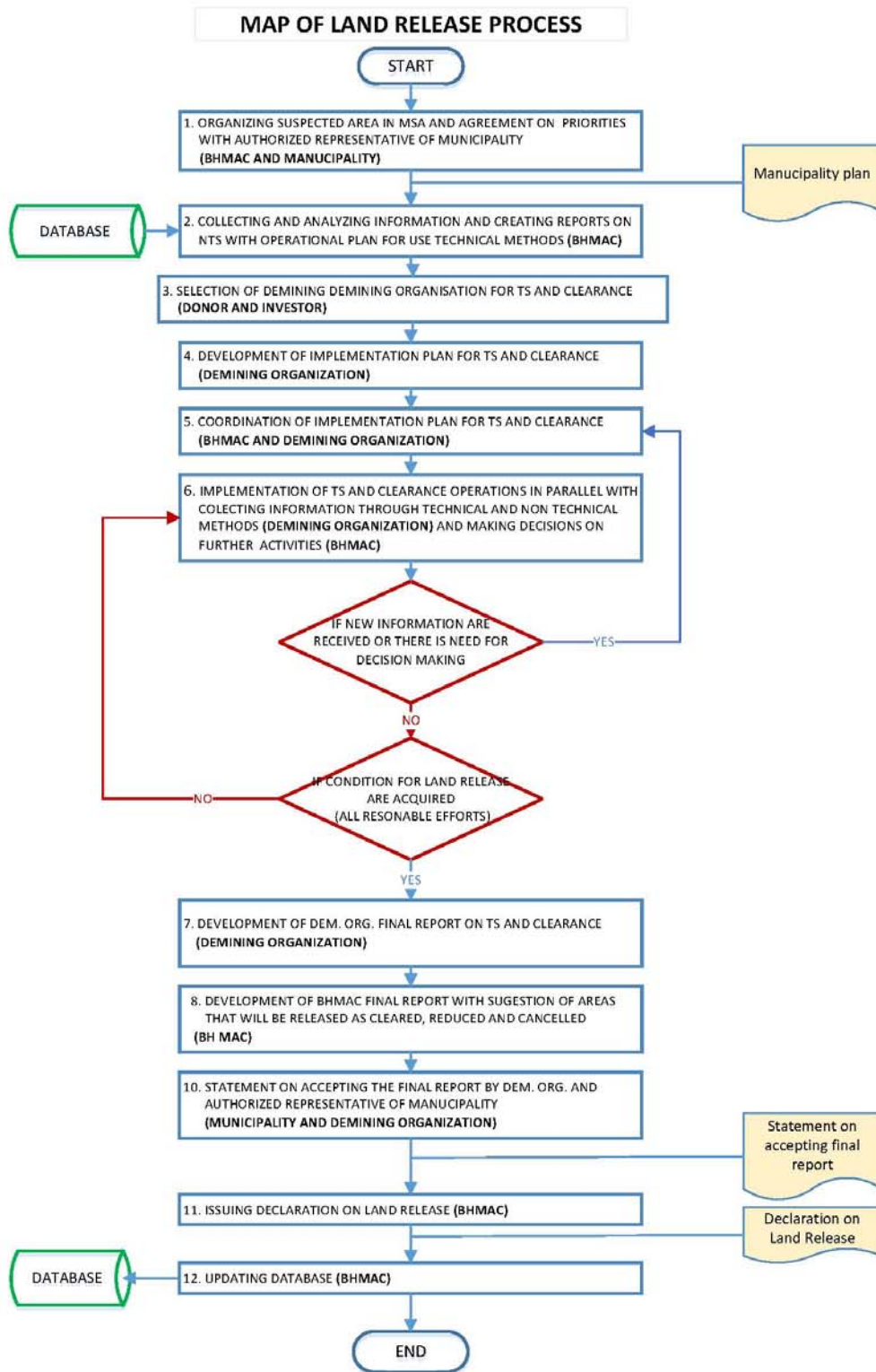
It is expected that through these operations at total of 237.000.000 square meters including 179.000.000 square meters cancelled through non-technical survey, 30.000.000 reduced through technical survey and 2.000.000 square meters cleared.

In addition to this the BHMIC will prepare through non-technical survey a total of approximately 120 MSAs approximately 263.200.000 square kilometres. Parallel to these activities marking of SHAs with 18.000 signs for emergency marking will take place.

In addressing the MSAs, Bosnia and Herzegovina will coordinate closely with municipality authorities and engage maximum efforts in addressing these areas through non-technical and technical survey and clearance efforts. MSAs will be subjected to survey (i.e. Non-technical survey and Technical Survey) to discard the presence of mined areas or identify the precise perimeter of mined areas through an evidence based approach. Parallel to this, clearance operations will take place in CHAs.

Comprehensive plans for addressing the MSA will ensure that these efforts eliminate specific high-risk locations or allows usage of certain natural and economic resources and through targeted and systematic investigation within the framework of the Land Release concept. Technical survey and mine clearance operations will be conducted by accredited organizations with the expert supervision of Mine Action Centre in BiH based on the Annual Operational Plans of mine action for 2019 and 2020.

The timetable of areas for implementation of survey and clearance operations has been established at administrative levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is in line with the impact of the SHAs and the planned levels of operations for affected communities. The time frame will be provided with concrete tasks in annual operational plans separately for each year, because the priorities are adopted annually on the level on Entity government nad District Brčko. Land Release proces is shown below in Scheme 1. In Annex 7 are shown Scheme 2 - Map of tehcnical survey in land release proces and Sceme 3 - Map of non-tehnical survey proces.



Scheme 1: Map of Land Release Process

Annual Planning and Prioritization: an update of the General assessment of the problem of landmines in Bosnia and Herzegovina was carried out in 2015 and this research included impact of mines and their socio-economic influence at inhabited places.

The general assessment of the mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina identified the mine problem in 129 municipalities/towns, i.e. 1,398 affected communities. Areas suspected of or known to contain anti-personnel mines directly affect the safety of 545,603 inhabitants or 15% of the total population of Bosnia and Herzegovina (in accordance with the results of the last 2013 Population Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The estimation of the levels of danger will be carried out from the date of the general assessments. Mine suspected areas (MSAs) will be categorized in three levels, high, medium and low impacted communities.⁵ Division according to the level of benefits will be based on humanitarian and development considerations. A priority setting model will be shown as Annex to SOPs related to NTS and Land Release.

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.

Level of threat in a community taken from the general assessment 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 to be paid to the following:

- Average size of MSA should be approximately 3 km². The chiefs of regional offices will make a final decision, consulting BH MAC Office. In exceptional cases when the size of the MSA would be too large to process and for further conduct of technical methods.
- The MSAs will 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 to be paid to geographic characteristics of the ground in order to plan the starting points for targeted investigation.
- Mined areas should not be 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 may spread over two or more neighboring 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.

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 general assessment. MSAs with higher probability of PROM, large confirmed minefields and high/medium level of impact taken from general assessment 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

The priorities areas to be addressed by municipality are attached in annexed Table 7.

Detailed operational plan of land released, as well as the plan of non-technical survey and marking for each year for the period 2019-2020 is shown below in Table 15:

LAND RELEASE		2018	2019	TOTAL SQUERE METERS
ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTER			
Cancelled area-non-tehcnical survey	BHMAC	82.000.000	97.000.000	179.000.000
Cancelled area-non-tehcnical survey	BHMAC,AFBH,NPA	30.000.000		30.000.000
Reduced area-tehcnical survey	Accredited organizations	13.000.000	13.000.000	26.000.000
Cleared area-mine clearence	Accredited organizations	1.000.000	1.000.000	2.000.000
		126.000.000	111.000.000	237.000.000
NON TEHNICAL SURVEY AND MARKING SHA (SQUARE METERS)/No:signs		2018	2019	TOTAL SQUERE METERS No:SIGNS
ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTER			
Survey SHA	BHMAC	131.600.000	131.600.000	263.000.000
Urgent marking	BHMAC	9.000	9.000	18.000

Table 15: Operational plan for period 2019-2020

Mine risk education in the period 2019-2020 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 communities that have a large SHAs of priority category III and the most affected target population groups. The emergency marking of SHAs will be carried out through non-technical survey operations by BHMAC 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 (two years), the funds totalling 79.260.000 BAM are necessary. The finance plan according to the operational plan for 2019-2020 is shown below in Table 16:

LAND RELEASE		2019	2020	TOTAL (million BAM)
ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTER			
Cancelled area-non-technical survey	BHMAC	2.950.000	2.950.000	5.900.000
Cancelled area-non-technical survey	BHMAC,AFBH,NPA	1.760.000		1.760.000
Reduced area-technical survey	Accredited organizations	28.600.000	28.600.000	57.200.000
Cleared area-mine clearance	Accredited organizations	4.200.000	4.200.000	8.400.000
TOTAL		37.510.000	37.750.000	73.260.000
NON TECHNICAL SURVEY AND MARKING SHA (million BAM)		2019	2020	TOTAL (million BAM)
ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTER			
Processed SHA-non technical survey	BHMAC	2.950.000	2.950.000	5.900.000
Urgent marking	BHMAC	50.000	50.000	100.000
TOTAL		3.000.000	3.000.000	6.000.000
GRAND TOTAL		40.510.000	38.750.000	79.260.000

Table 16: Finance plan according to operational plan 2019-2020

The finance plan is prepared in accordance with the realistic financial frame of mine action, and in accordance with the analysis of financial plan for mine action in the period 2009-2017. The finance plan per source and year is shown below in Table 17:

FINANCING PLAN (million BAM)		2019	2020	TOTAL (million BAM)
RESOURCE	BH resources (50%)	20.255.000	19.375.000	39.630.000
	Donors (50%)	20.255.000	19.375.000	39.630.000
TOTAL		40.510.000	38.750.000	79.260.000

Table 17: Finance plan per source

Funds for non-technical survey activities by BHMAC 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 through IPA II program, and other international institutions and organizations. The project "National assessment on remaining SHAs" will be financed by emergency grants of the European Commission.

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 37 accredited machines (for vegetation removal, ground disturbance and removal of debris), 1,257 metal detectors and 63 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 18:

ACCREDITED ORGANIZATION		Number of machines	Number of dogs	Number of detectors
Government organizations	ARMED FORCES BiH	5	25	284
	FED. ADMINISTRATION OF CP FBIH	6	4	120
	REPUB. ADMINISTRATION CP RS	5	2	42
	CIVIL PROTECTION BRČKO DISTRICT	0	0	12
	UKUPNO	16	31	458
Non-government organizations	NORWEGIANS PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)	6	10	186
	Udruga "Pazi mine Vitez"	1	0	35
	UDRUŽENJE ZA ELIMINACIJU MINA UEM	1	2	32
	UG DEMIRA	1	2	33
	NVO PRO VITA	1	2	60
	NVO STOP MINES	2	4	113
	UG EKO DEM	1	0	24
	CENTAR ZA OBUKU PASA ZA OTKR. MINA	0	2	15
	DOK-ING DEMINIRANJE N.H.O.	2	0	62
	The Mines Advisory Group MAG	0	0	18
	SVIJET BEZ MINA	1	0	10
	TOTAL	16	22	588
	Commercial organizations	N&N IVSA	2	4
DETEKTOR		1	2	38
UEM d.o.o.		1	2	30
MINEMON d.o.o. Pale		0	0	8
EKSPLORING		0	0	5
TROTIL d.o.o Sarajevo		0	0	7
POINT d.o.o.		1	2	35
TOTAL		5	10	211
GRAND TOTAL		37	63	1,257

Table 18: 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.

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 BHMIC 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 will be forwarded to Ministry of Civil Affairs and Council of Ministers for approval. The stated 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.

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";

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

General assessment 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
POPO	Potvrđena opasna površina
MVA	Mine victims assistance
TS	Technical survey
UN	United Nations