



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

MINE ACTION REVISED WORK PLAN

for meeting the
Article 5 obligations of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on
their Destruction

2024 – 2026



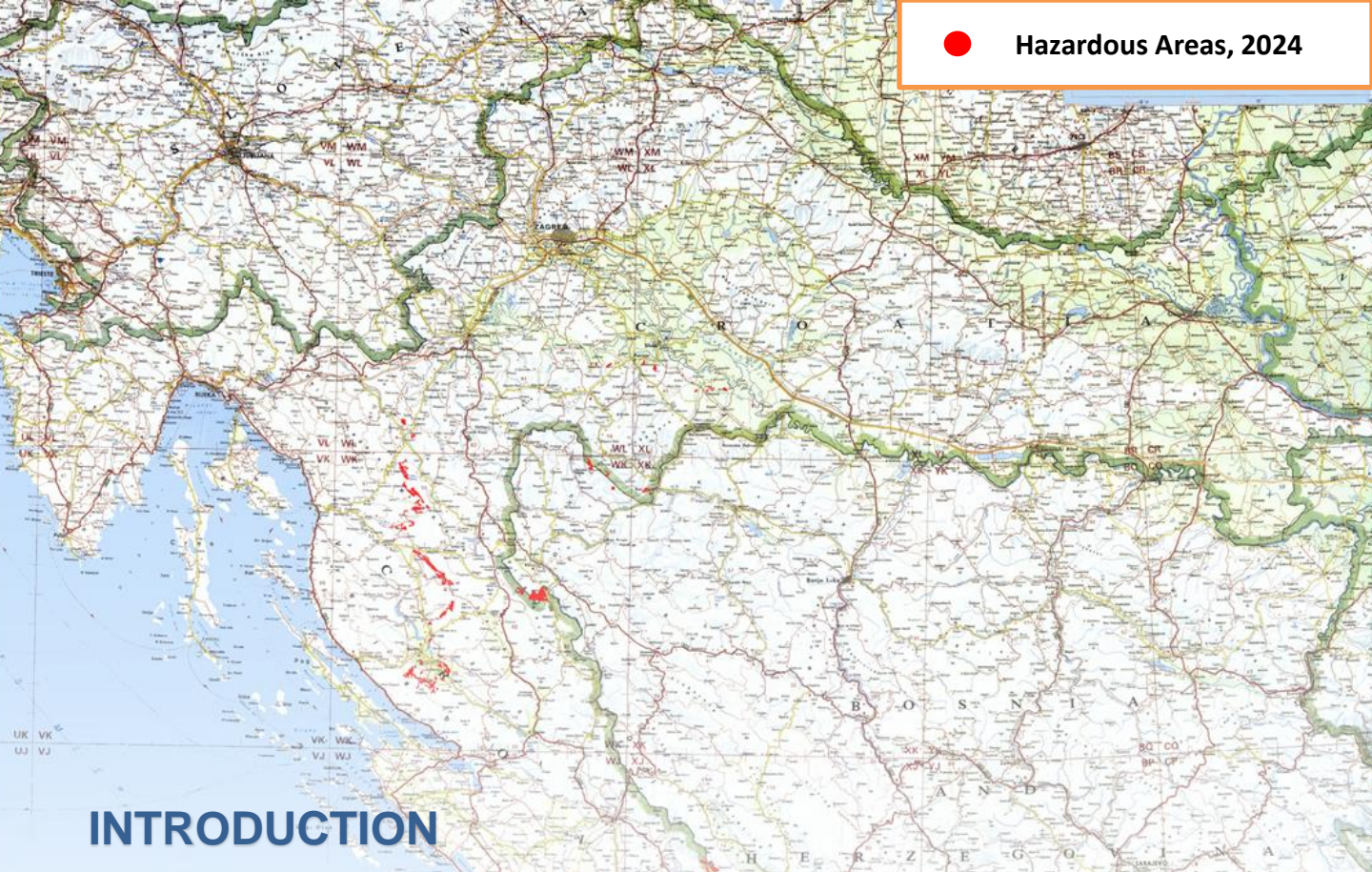
April, 2024



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INTRODUCTION

This document focuses on presenting the main updates of the Croatian Mine Action Programme efforts since the 2nd request of the Republic of Croatia for extension of the deadline regarding the Article 5.1 obligations of the Convention on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (hereinafter: the Convention) and is being submitted on the basis of the Decision by the States Parties to approve the 2nd request of the Republic of Croatia for extension of the deadline for completing the stated obligations by 1st March 2026.

These updates should be considered as milestones for the comparison with the 2nd request of the Republic of Croatia for extension of the deadline regarding the Article 5.1 obligations, previous work plans in the 2020-2024 period and have been developed by the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense (MoD), harmonized with the main strategic document, the National Mine Action Program of the Republic of Croatia for the period until 2026, adopted officially by the Croatian Parliament in February, 2023.

In accordance with the paragraph (iii) of the Decision on the request, this Plan contains an updated, detailed list of all known and suspected areas contaminated with mines (Anti-personnel mines), in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) terminology, with annual projections of the land release of the established hazardous areas (hereinafter: HAs) during the remaining period covered by the request along with a revised financial forecast. The plan also contains a two year review of the other activities of the Croatian Mine Action System highlighting the key aspects of Victim Assistance, Risk Education and International Cooperation and Assistance.

In the period since the adoption of the Decision of the States Parties, the Republic of Croatia had submitted annual reports in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention (for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) where all of the relevant Mine Action updates have been presented on an annual basis and in more detailed view, while this document should be regarded as an executive summary for the Mine Action community and respectable ISU, containing key elements and main changes in the previous and remaining timeframe.





BASE VALUES OF THE 2. REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION



Table 1. Hazardous Areas in the Republic of Croatia on January 1, 2019

County	No. of towns/Municipalities with HA	CHA (km ²)	SHA (km ²)	Total HA areas (km ²)
Karlovačka	8	15	31,4	46,4
Ličko-senjska	9	94,5	32,1	126,6
Osječko-baranjska	12	18,1	19,5	37,6
Požeško-slavonska	2	18,6	0,5	19,1
Splitsko-dalmatinska	3	36,2	28,3	64,5
Sisačko-moslavačka	10	15,9	3,3	19,2
Šibensko-kninska	7	12,1	5,7	17,8
Zadarska	8	11	13,1	24,1
Total (responsibility of the CPD / MoI/CROMAC)	59	221,4	133,9	355,3
Total MoD responsibility	/	32	/	32
TOTAL CROATIA		253,4	213,4	387,3

As displayed in the above table, the challenge in the period of the 2nd Request for an extension, included 59 Towns or Municipalities with Hazardous areas, out of which 57 Towns or Municipalities with confirmed contamination with landmines. Total hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia at noted time amounted to 355,3 square kilometers (under civilian jurisdiction and under the responsibility of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior), while additional 32 square kilometers were declared as hazardous under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Ministry of Defense. Overall, 2nd Request for an extension and corresponding efforts of the Republic of Croatia regarding the Article 5 obligations of the Convention have had a main target to remove danger from 387,3 square kilometers until the approved deadline set as March, 2026, with a reasonable intention to finalize all operational activities until the end of 2025.

MAIN TASKS

Complete all clearance activities and survey tasks by **December 31, 2025 (administratively by March 1, 2026)** and therefore fulfill the obligations from Article 5 in accordance with the goals of the member states and in line with the Maputo Declaration +15

The decision on the extension requested that the Republic of Croatia submits to the member states **updated work plans every two years** (ie by April 30, 2020, April 30, 2022, and April 30, 2024) for the remaining period covered by the Extension.

Transparently report on all other elements that were the subject of the Decision on granting the extension on an annual basis in accordance with **Article 7** of the Convention.



COMPARISON BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACHIEVED TARGETS

Table 2. Achieved vs. planned in the 2nd Request for an extension

2nd Extension - planned land release (m²)	54.400.000	53.700.000	55.500.000	57.200.000	58.600.000
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Land release (m ²)					
MoI / CPD / CROMAC					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Clearance	38.859.668	49.243.950	34.107.289	40.181.314	41.506.960
Non-Technical Survey	3.335.994	7.220.901	6.758.410	9.355.718	10.864.629
Technical Survey	3.894.443	4.169.222	4.973.645	5.681.726	5.606.360
Total survey	7.230.437	11.390.123	11.732.055	15.037.444	16.470.989
Inclusion NTS	223.165	310.931	770.121	482.897	426.619
TOTAL	45.866.940	60.323.146	45.054.302	54.701.348	57.551.315

MoD					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Clearance	300.147	280.040	375.961	488.200	396.156
Survey	0	135.716	267.803	9.361.948	165.521
TOTAL	300.147	415.756	643.764	9.850.148	561.677
	46.167.087	60.738.902	45.698.066	64.551.496	58.112.992

ANNUAL
DIFFERENCE (%)

17,83%	-11,59%	21,45%	-11,39%	0,84%
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Current data displayed in the above Table 2 in the period 2019-2024 indicates a **difference** in the total realization compared to the 2nd Request for an extension under Article 5 in the amount of **1.5%**. In the observed period, a total of **275.268.543 m²** was released in comparison with the **279.400.000 m²** planned / defined in the 2nd Request. The abovementioned suggests that the Republic of Croatia is **on track** to fulfill the planned release activities.



COMPARISON BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACHIEVED TARGETS

Table 3. Landmine and other Explosive ordnances found and destroyed in the period since the 2nd Request

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
MoI / CPD / CROMAC						
AP mines	2.415	4.883	1.214	1.098	790	
AT mines	2.863	493	48	25	19	
<i>Total landmines</i>	5.278	5.376	1.262	1.123	809	
UXO	3.006	4.047	810	2.400	3.328	
TOTAL	8.284	9.423	2.072	3.523	4.137	
MoD						
AP mines	12	70	18	9	7	
AT mines	0	0	0	1	0	
<i>Total landmines</i>	12	70	18	10	7	
UXO	929	184	1.328	711	888	
TOTAL	941	254	1.346	721	895	
Total APM	2.427	4.953	1.232	1.107	797	10.516
Total ATM	2.863	493	48	26	19	3.449
TOTAL UXO	3.935	4.231	2.138	3.111	4.216	16.743
	9.225	9.677	3.418	4.244	5.032	31.596



HA in the local or regional self-government administrative units



In total, **38 Municipalities and 5 Counties** were released from the HA in the observed period

In the 2019-2023 timeframe, there were:
10.516 Anti-Personnel mines,
3.449 Anti Tank mines,
 and
16.743 Unexploded Ordnances
 found and destroyed in the cleared areas



COMPARISON BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACHIEVED TARGETS

OTHER COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

- Timely submitted updated National Work Plans aligned with IMAS terminology for 2020-2022, 2022-2024.
- Timely submitted National annual reports in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 aligned with the IMAS terminology

In February 2023, the Croatian Parliament adopted the **NATIONAL MINE ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA UNTIL 2026** as the main strategic document that clearly presents the goals and guidelines of the Mine Action in the period until the obligations from Article 5 of the Convention are fulfilled, which is also one of the measurable indicators in the Decision on the approval of the 2nd extension (17MSP).

Main strategic goals of the National Mine Action Programme until 2026 (OG 21/2023):

Completely remove the risk of landmines from the territory of the Republic of Croatia by March 1, 2026 (at the latest), in line with the Republic of Croatia obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

Maintain and improve the marking of the entire Hazardous Area (HA) with the Mine warning signs

Inform and implement EO education programs for the entire population that lives and/or works in the nearness of HA areas or gravitates towards it concerning the dangers of mines, UXOs and other ERWs.

Continue to provide care and rehabilitation, including psycho-social rehabilitation and economic reintegration to all mine and other ERW victims

Encourage the export of Croatian skills, knowledge, experience and equipment used in Mine Action activities.

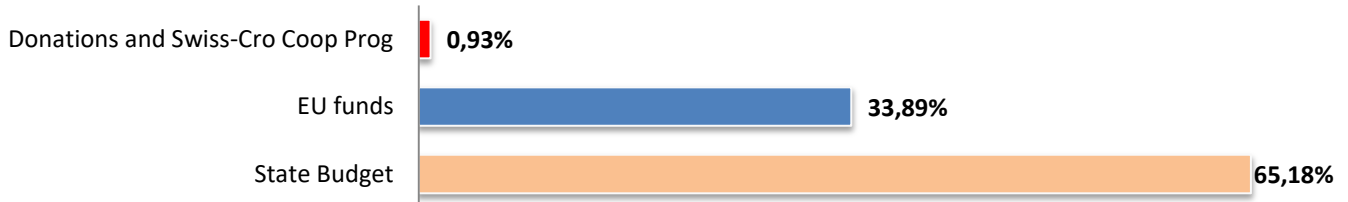


RESOURCES EMPLOYED IN IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE NEEDS

Table 4. Financial resources invested in Mine Action in the period since the 2nd Request

	2019.	2020.	2021.	2022.	2023.
State Budget	32.502.330,58 €	31.577.554,98 €	33.388.336,74 €	34.794.208,50 €	39.061.548,85 €
EU funds	20.324.049,41 €	23.858.469,04 €	14.397.030,61 €	15.195.116,12 €	15.314.738,43 €
Donations and Swiss-Cro Cooperation Programme	164.586,01 €	- €	- €	1.140.177,69 €	1.136.085,33 €
Total (per annum)	52.990.966,00 €	55.436.024,02 €	47.785.367,34 €	51.129.502,32 €	55.512.372,61 €
TOTAL 2019-2023	262.854.232,30 €				

Table 5. Sources of funding in the 2019-2023 period



In the observed period it is clear that there was a strong national ownership and motivation to continue with the clearance activities in accordance with the defined deadlines. The majority of funds invested in Mine Action (65,18%) were the National Budget funds, while the European Funds have continued with the positive and significant trend in supplementing clearance activities in Croatia with additional 33,9%. The Donations and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation funds, with a 0,93% of share seem rather limited, but nevertheless have had a significant impact towards Mine Victim support and socio-economic integration.

COMPLETELY DEFINED FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK UNTIL 2026

In the period 2024-2026, approx. EUR 165 million, of which EUR 129.4 million will be secured from the Competitiveness and Cohesion Program (EUR 80 million in grants), while the remaining funds will be designated from the State budget





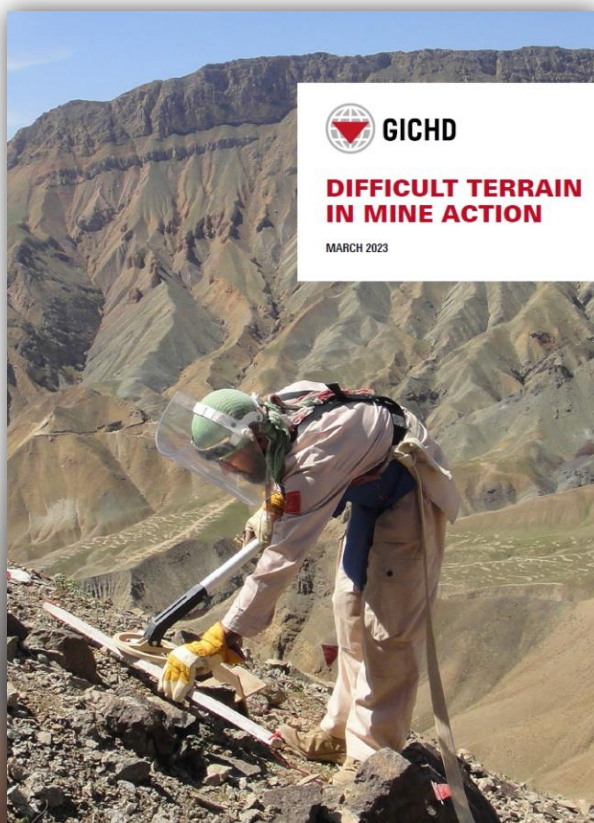
OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE APPROVAL OF THE 2nd REQUEST

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

The approval decision (17 MSP) suggested that the Republic of Croatia could benefit from cooperation in the technical challenges of surveying/demining forests and forest land with other States Parties that have experience and have faced similar challenges.

In response to the aforementioned suggestions, the Republic of Croatia participated in two studies conducted by the International Center for Humanitarian Demining from Geneva in the observed period on the subject:

- **National Capacities and Residual contamination**
- **Difficult terrain in Mine Action**



NATIONAL CAPACITIES
AND
RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION
CROATIA





OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SINCE THE LAST UPDATED WORK PLAN WAS SUBMITTED (2022)

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

Organization of the annual International Symposium "Mine Action,,

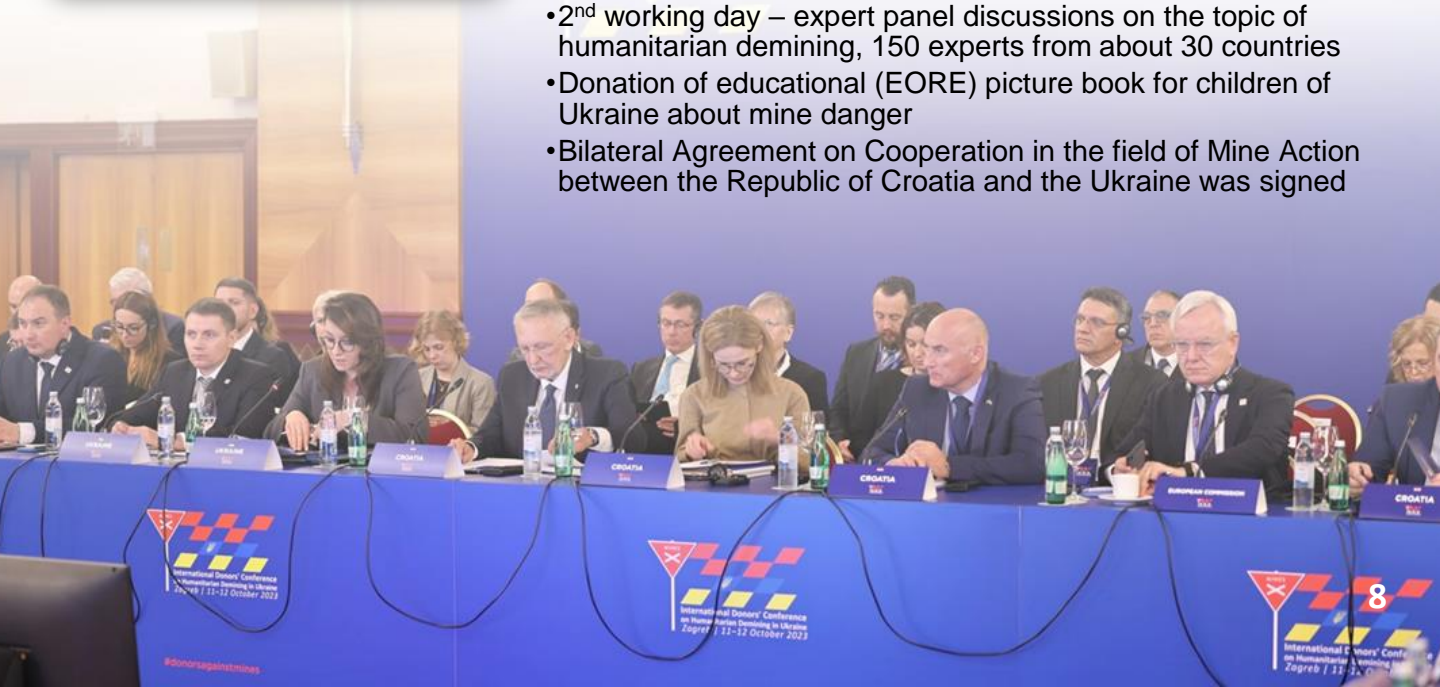
- 19th International Symposium (2023) – one of the main topics was the situation in Ukraine, it gathered more than 200 participants from 35 countries
- The 20th International Symposium is to be held from 9-11 April 2024 in Cavtat, Dubrovnik

Donation to Ukraine in partnership with UNDP – EUR 4 million; for capacity building, procurement of demining machines, engagement of experts

- Organization of winter and summer holidays in the Republic of Croatia for more than 160 children from the war zones of Ukraine, including EO risk education for them
- Appointment of Croatian expert (CROMAC) to the International Advisory Board of the Center for Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine and the operational visit of the representatives of the CPD/CROMAC to Ukraine, Kyiv in August 2023

11-12 October 2023, the first INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONFERENCE for humanitarian demining of Ukraine was held in Zagreb

- 1st working day - 34 participating countries, almost half a billion euros pledged for the humanitarian demining of Ukraine, the Republic of Croatia pledged - 5 million euros
- 2nd working day – expert panel discussions on the topic of humanitarian demining, 150 experts from about 30 countries
- Donation of educational (EORE) picture book for children of Ukraine about mine danger
- Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Mine Action between the Republic of Croatia and the Ukraine was signed





OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SINCE THE LAST UPDATED WORK PLAN WAS SUBMITTED (2022)

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

In 2022-2023, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational center of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector in the CPD. In the observed period, a total of **377 EO risk educations** were held in 8 Counties and 56 cities and municipalities, **involving 22,087 people**, predominately of preschool and school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. The trainings were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. In addition, a specific EORE education was created and conducted for the children from Ukraine which were staying in Croatia during 2022 as a part of broader, war relief, NGO and National partnership efforts. The number of activities related to the EORE were done in cooperation with the relevant Police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedy" public campaign, and city and municipal governments and other NGOs as well.

OPASNOST OD MINA



<https://misportal.hcr.hr>



MIS portal is a web application that provides information on hazardous areas and helps in the process of demining.

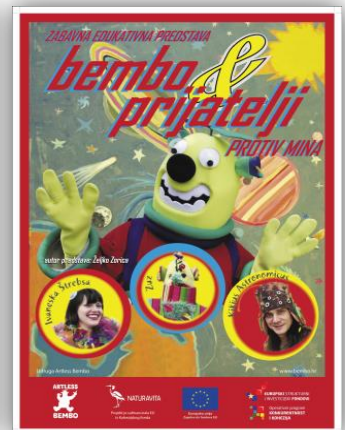
At its 60th session in December 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action, declaring 4 April as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.



Since 2002, at the initiative of the Croatian Mine Action Centre, April has been marked as the Mine Protection Month.

April is the month we usually spend in our gardens and backyards, clearing overgrown fields and organizing trips in nature. Therefore, it's a good idea in April to remind the world of the danger of mines.

Aside from mentioned educational ex cathedra activities, special EORE children theatre plays was organized as a part of EU funded project "Demining, restoration and protection of forest and forestland in protected and Natura 2000 sites in Danube-Drava regions – NATURAVITA" as one of the largest nature conservation projects in Croatia, financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds, which included 6 children theatre plays gathering **657 elementary school pupils** from Osijek-Baranja County.





OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SINCE THE LAST UPDATED WORK PLAN WAS SUBMITTED (2022)

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

MINE ACCIDENTS

Table 6. Casualties since the last request was submitted

	Girls	Women	Boys	Men	Total
Killed	0	1	0	3	4
Injured	0	0	0	11	11
Total	0	1	0	14	15

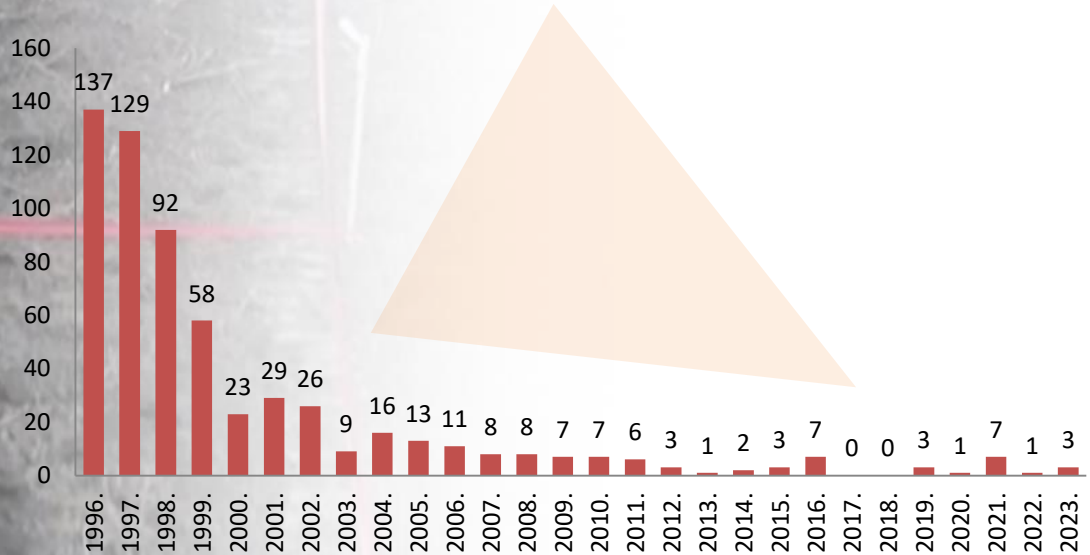


Table 7. Mine Victims in the 1996-2023 period

From 1996 (end of the Homeland war) till the end of 2023, the Republic of Croatia had accounted mine incidents where 610 people were harmed, out of which 207 with a fatal outcome. These unfortunate numbers also include 134 injured deminers, out of which 40 with a fatal outcome.

2022. - auxiliary worker activated landmine during mechanical clearance resulting with light injury
2023. – 2 fatal mine incidents with 3 deaths, one involving hunter, and other 2 deminers



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SINCE THE LAST UPDATED WORK PLAN WAS SUBMITTED (2022)

In line with the Article 6 of the Convention - International cooperation and assistance

MINE VICTIM SUPPORT

UPGRADED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO DIRECT AND INDIRECT MINE VICTIMS

Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War (Official Gazette 84/21) - provides better protection of the rights of mine victims and their family members

Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme



Demining and Socio-economic integration

Swiss - Croatian
Cooperation Programme

- the project includes two components - humanitarian demining and assistance to Mine Victims and their family members with a total value of 6.12 million CHF, of which the Swiss donation amounts to 5.2 million CHF
- By the middle of 2024, the project will demine a total of 3.36 km² of CHA areas of Sisak-Moslavina County
- throughout the project, a Mine Victim database was established, coupled with the implementation of various educational programs and retraining and psychosocial support workshops in 2022
- Additionally, a comprehensive new brochure was created with consolidated information on the legal rights and possibilities of Mine Victims and their family members
- In 2023 financial resources were allocated (Public Call) towards the **Mine Victims** in the amount of CHF 200,000.00, which financed the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurship for the 15 mine victims and members of their immediate families. (indirect victims)





REMAINING CHALLENGES

HAZARDOUS AREAS

Hazardous areas in the Republic of Croatia on January 1, 2024 remained on **21 Municipalities / 4 Counties** and amounted to **92.1 km² (78,5 km² CHA, 13,5 km² SHA)**, excluding the MoD areas of an additional **18.9 km²** of HA. Approximate number of AP/AT mines emplaced (Estimate according to number of minefield records in CPD/CROMAC sector database and Annual demining report) on Jan 1, 2024 reached **10.052 mines** (9.301 AP mines and 751 AT mines), excluding the areas under the MoD jurisdiction.

Table 8. Remaining challenges at County/Municipality level and CHA/SHA

County	No of Towns / Municipalities	CHA	SHA	Total HA
Karlovačka	Josipdol	3.400.402	0	3.400.402
	Plaški	10.264.105	76,762	10.340.867
	Rakovica	119,573	126,612	246,185
	Saborsko	482,417	0	482,417
Ličko-senjska	Brinje	399,877	5,995	405,872
	Donji Lapac	8.953.687	4.797.138	13.750.825
	GOSPIĆ	17.351.201	4.107.845	21.459.046
	OTOČAC	9.183.223	1.407.713	10.590.936
	Perušić	37,469	0	37,469
	Plitvička Jezera	1.594.125	0	1.594.125
	Udbina	338,509	678,716	1.017.225
	Vrhovine	10.411.396	0	10.411.396
Splitsko-dalmatinska	Hrvace	3.706.606	0	3.706.606
	VRLIKA	4.247.805	0	4.247.805
Sisačko-moslavačka	Dvor	3.616.635	1.692.688	5.309.323
	GLINA	593,48	15,639	609,119
	Gvozd	35,762	0	35,762
	PETRINJA	1.490.077	2,559	1.492.636
	SISAK	425,76	493,011	918,771
	Sunja	1.883.944	154,343	2.038.287
	Topusko	38,506	0	38,506
TOTAL	21	78.574.559	13.559.021	92.133.580



REMAINING CHALLENGES

Table 9. Remaining Hazardous situation according to the types of mines-explosive devices emplaced

County	No of Mine Field Records	No of Mines		Incomplete Mine field Records
		AP mines	AT mines	
Karlovačka	21	401	0	6
Ličko-senjska	177	3952	751	74
Splitsko-dalmatinska	10	0	0	10
Sisačko-moslavačka	44	4948	0	14
UKUPNO	252	9.301	751	104

Total number of emplaced mines in accordance with the available data

10.052

Table 10. Comparison of Mine Action System Capacities over the years

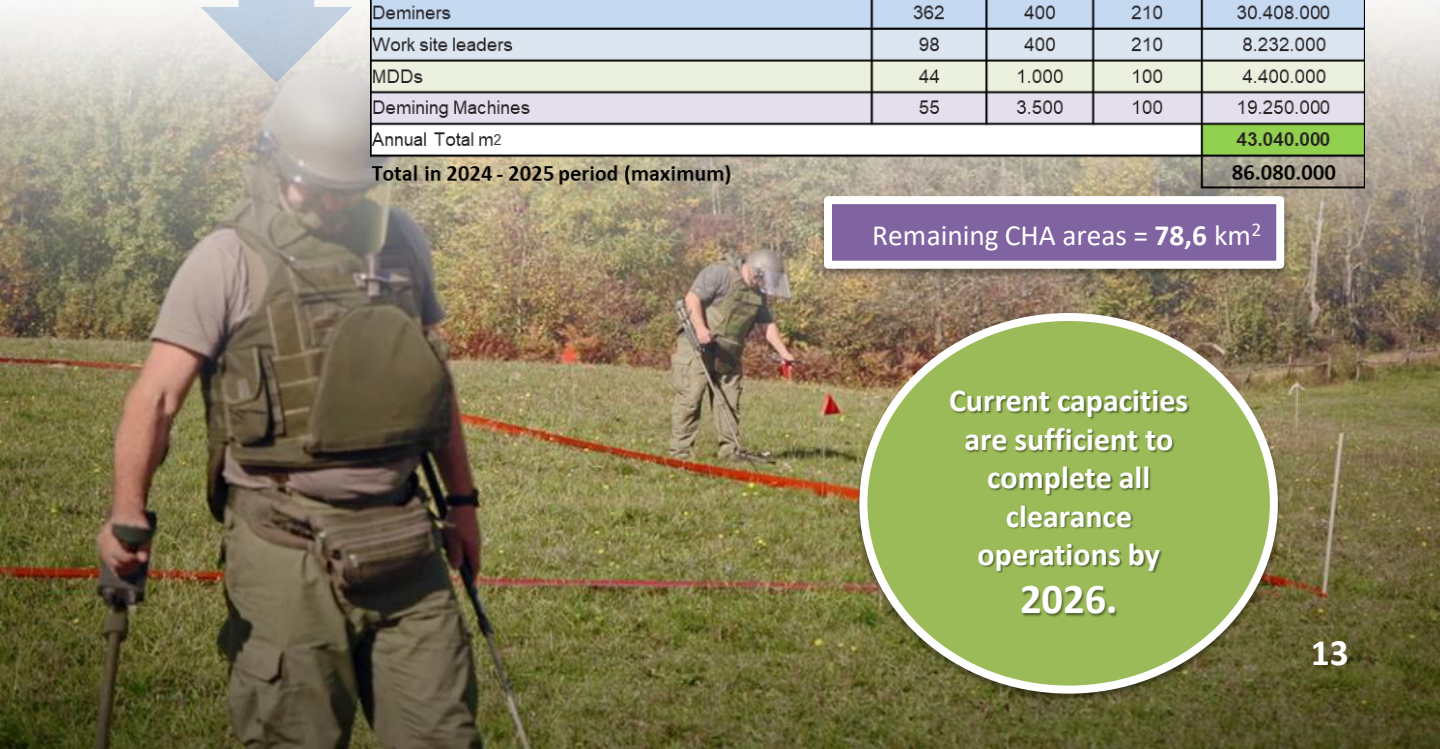
Type of Capacity	2018	2024
Deminers	676	362
Work site leaders	121	98
Auxiliary workers	101	52
Certified Equipment		
Metal detectors	796	728
MDDs	99	44
Demining Machines	45	55

Table 11. Clearance output in accordance with the current capacities available

Maximum effectiveness	No	Daily	Work days	TOTAL
Deminers	362	400	210	30.408.000
Work site leaders	98	400	210	8.232.000
MDDs	44	1.000	100	4.400.000
Demining Machines	55	3.500	100	19.250.000
Annual Total m2				43.040.000
Total in 2024 - 2025 period (maximum)				86.080.000

Remaining CHA areas = **78,6 km²**

Current capacities are sufficient to complete all clearance operations by **2026.**





REMAINING CHALLENGES

Land release plan in the 2024-2026 period

Table 12. Total Land Release of HA by clearance and survey operations until 2026

County	2024	2025	2026
Karlovačka	11,8	2,6	0,0
Ličko-senjska	22,0	37,3	0,0
Sisačko-moslavačka	9,3	1,1	0,0
Splitsko-dalmatinska	8,0	0,0	0,0
TOTAL	51,1	38,4	0,0
MoD – clearance and survey	7,1	11,8	0,0
OVERALL	58,2	50,2	0,0

* Karlovačka County – in 2024. remaining challenge is 2.6 km² of UXO contamination

In 2024 Karlovačka and Splitsko-dalmatinska Counties are expected to be completely released from landmines, while in 2025 remaining two Counties (Sisačko-moslavačka and Ličko-senjska) will be released.





CONCLUSION

The updated work plan 2024-2026 document displayed that Republic of Croatia is still firmly on track to completing the Article 5 obligations in line with the 2nd Request for an extension timeframe. This has been clearly communicated as a part of the updates to the annual land release outputs, with a strong indication that the current resources are in line with the established milestones, especially in the terms of invaluable EU and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme financial support.

The Republic of Croatia continues its activities according to all components of Mine Action for the successful implementation of obligations arising from relevant international agreements, especially the Mine Ban Convention.

The Republic of Croatia will continue to maintain Mine Action at a high level of interest and will strive to overcome all the challenges that need to be carried out in the aforementioned area by 2026 through optimal planning, but also after the deadline in terms of residual risk management.

All stakeholders of the Croatian Mine Action System will continue to support and develop partnership relations with the relevant international stakeholders such as the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Mines, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, along with domestic and international representatives of civil / non-governmental sector.

As part of its mine action operations, the Republic of Croatia will primarily invest further efforts and all available human and financial resources in order to make the entire national territory completely free of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war within the given deadline, i.e. by March 1, 2026.

At the same time, active support will be continued in other important areas of Mine Action, especially assistance to mine victims, EORE and international cooperation, especially in the context of much needed support towards Ukraine.

The Mine Action System of the Republic of Croatia will also continue to be based on the effective and efficient use of available resources, including the application of the latest methodologies and verified technological achievements in line with the International Mine Action Standards.



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

REVISED
MINE ACTION WORK PLAN
2024-2026



FINISH
THE **JOB** **2025**