

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE ACTIVITIES – IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT **DEMINING AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

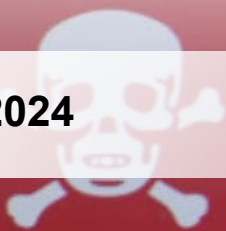
SWISS-CROATIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

August, 2024

OPREZ MINE!

**ZABRANJEN
PRISTUP**

-PIROTEHNIČKI RADOVI-



Marta Kovačić, MUP RH, RCZ
Dejan Rendulić, MUP RH, RCZ



Demining and Socio-economic Integration

Project Factsheet

the project includes two components - humanitarian demining and establishment of comprehensive assistance to direct and indirect Mine Victims in Croatia with a total value of 6.12 million CHF, of which the Swiss donation amounts to 5.2 million CHF. Implementation timeframe was from June 2017 to June 2024.

Key Activities

- Demining of Kotar forest in Sisak-Moslavina County
- Establishing evidence-based and updated Mine Victim database
- Performing national wide survey and needs analysis of current mine victims
- Provision of relevant educational and empowerment measures that are not already performed as a part of broader national framework activities in Croatia
- Provision of additional economic empowerment opportunities to direct or indirect mine victims

Main Goal

A safe and protected environment for people living in mine contaminated areas with greater socio-economic chances and economic opportunities from using the land.

Target Groups

- Institutions working with Mine Victims
- Political decision makers
- People living in mine-contaminated areas
- Direct and Indirect Mine Victims

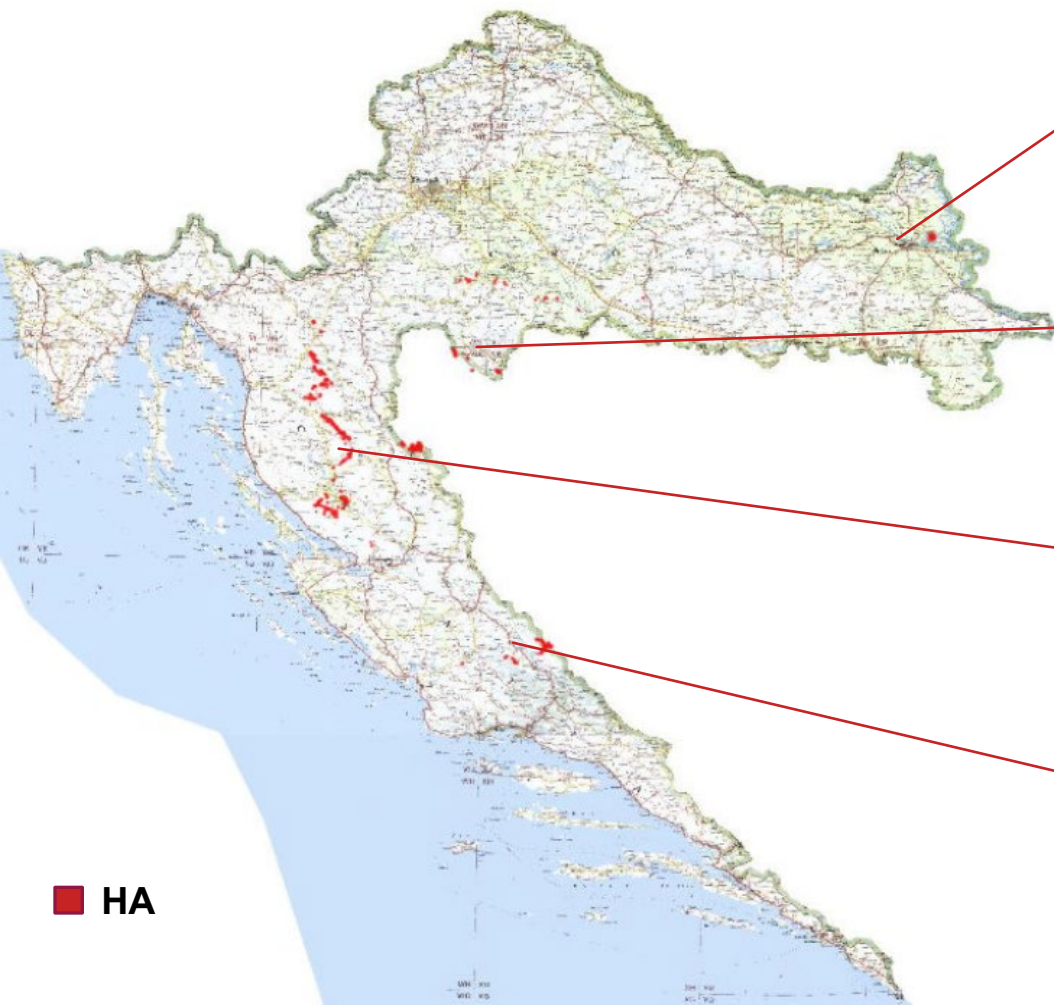


Swiss - Croatian
Cooperation Programme



Updated mine contamination situation in Croatia

(August, 2024)



Hazardous areas (HA - CHA + SHA)
73 km²

4 Counties
23 Towns and Municipalities

Contamination by approx. 9.600
landmines

HA marked with 3.253 Mine
Warning Signs





PROJECT ACTIVITY – clearance of mine contaminated parts of Kotar forest

CHALLENGES

SIZE OF PROJECT AREA – engagement of considerable human and technical capacities

Close vicinity of the POPULATED AREA - Since 1996, in the Kotar forest area, 16 mine accidents have happened resulting with ten deaths and six serious injuries

Difficult terrain for clearance - SOIL STRUCTURE (forest and forest land)

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES in a period of over 25 years after landmine emplacement

Line of combat - Extreme contamination by landmines and other explosive remnants of war along with HIGH DIVERSITY of emplaced explosive devices





PROJECT ACTIVITY – clearance of mine contaminated parts of Kotar forest

- **Clearance of Kotar forest area**

Planned 3.26 km²

TOTAL 3.28 km² land released areas in Kotar forest

- conditions have been created that will enable forest management in accordance with forest management plans, and improve forest protection and promotion of forest ecosystem services

- **Number of found and destroyed landmines and ERWs**

Expected: 582 landmines and UXOs

TOTAL 2.773 AP mines / 7 AT mines / 835 UXOs

- Established safe environment for the local population as a prerequisite for increasing economic opportunities in terms of land use and individual socio-economic empowerment



PROJECT ACTIVITY – socio-economic integration

KEY COMPONENTS

Establishment of a comprehensive national Mine Victim database

Performance of needs assessment during field survey and database analysis

Development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counseling and educational activities

Publishing updated document which contains all the rights and opportunities available to Mine Victims in the Republic of Croatia

Small scale investment opportunities aimed at empowering Mine Victims that are not part of broader national framework activities in Croatia



Establishment of a comprehensive national Mine Victim database and needs assessment

- After significant results in the clearance project, one of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive **Mine Victim database**, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages.
- Field survey and needs assessment was conducted by IPSOS Ltd and was completed with a very good response rate of **82.6%** of the available households (data was gathered from **423 direct victims** and **473** indirect victims – base value was established on former CROMAC Mine Accidents database which counts 610 Mine victims from 1996)
- The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an **integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database**, together with the analysis base value that will serve in future project activities / VA activities.





Swiss - Croatian
Cooperation Programme



Development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counseling and educational activities

- During 2022 as a part of Psychosocial workshops, **9 assistance workshops** were held gathering **39 participants**, while within Training, Counseling and Employability increase workshops, **4 workshops and 12 specific trainings** were held with a total of **36 participants**.



Small scale investment opportunities aimed at empowering Mine Victims

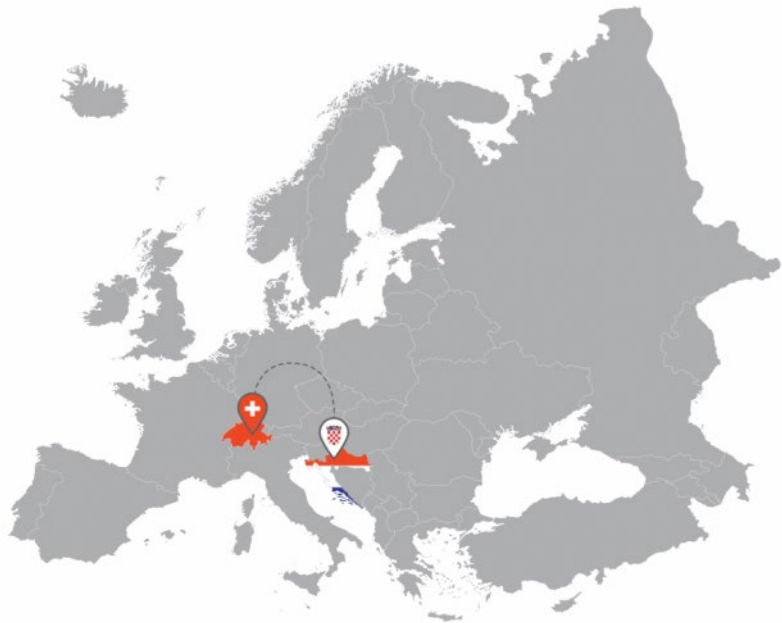
- During 2023 an activity of small scale investment opportunities to mine victims aimed at increasing their economic welfare and employment capacities has been carried out.
- Financial resources were allocated (Public Call by the Ministry of the Interior) towards the Mine Victims in the Republic of Croatia in the amount of **CHF 200,000.00**, which was intended for financing the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurships for the 15 direct or indirect mine victims
- Applications included **3 new entrepreneurships** that were established, along with **12 entrepreneurships that were enhanced**

Small scale investment opportunities aimed at empowering Mine Victims

ACTIVITIES THAT WERE SUPPORTED

Honey production, chokeberry production, manufacturing of small household appliances, agriculture, cattle breeding, physical rehabilitation and therapy, etc....





Swiss - Croatian
Cooperation Programme



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
Ministarstvo unutarnjih poslova
Ravnateljstvo civilne zaštite

Thank you for your attention

