

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

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA ARTICLE 7 REPORT**

**APRIL 2017**

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

SUBMITTED 30 APRIL 2017 COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2016

**D. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines**

1. As of 1 April 2017, there are 13 areas in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,630,340 square metres. See Annex II for complete list of these areas. Areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines remain in 7 villages in the Municipality of Bujanovac as follows:

*Summary of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 1 April 2017*

Municipality	Village	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Total number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	/	3	3	/	572,020	572,020
	Končulj	/	5	5	/	1,181,820	1,181,820
	Dobrosin	/	1	1	/	248,000	248,000
	Breznica	/	1	1	/	275,800	145,100
	Đorđevac	/	1	1	/	145,100	145,100

Municipality	Village	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Total number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)
	Lučane	/	1	1	/	73,200	73,200
	Turija	/	1	1	/	131,400	131,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>2,630,340</b>	<b>2,630,340</b>

2. At the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction, which was held in the period 2-6 December 2013, Geneva, the Republic of Serbia was granted a 5-year extension of the deadline for fulfilment of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, which is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
3. Survey results in previous period showed that there are not sufficient indicators for the mine suspected areas to be classified as confirmed hazardous areas, so that the area in previous period regarded as such has been classified as suspected hazardous area.  
The Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) conducted non-technical survey throughout 2016 and early 2017, which resulted in an increase of suspected hazardous area for about 700.000 sqm in comparison to SHA in early 2016, which then totalled 1.936.080 sqm.
4. In 2016, the funds for demining operations were allocated from the Serbian State Budget, which SMAC intended to match with donor funds and use for the implementation of our demining projects. However, due to the fact that there were no available matching funds in 2016, our demining projects could not be implemented.
5. The Serbian Government allocated funds from the Serbian State Budget for the 2017 demining operations and hopefully, in addition to available donor funds in 2017, we will continue our demining operations in order to primarily provide safety of local population, safe exploitation of woods, safe use of road communications, environmental protection, as well as reduction of fire risks.
6. SMAC developed technical survey project totalling 995.920 m<sup>2</sup>. Technical survey of the project area will confirm or reject suspicion that the project area is contaminated with groups of mines and other UXO. Confirmed area will

be subject to clearance and those areas not confirmed to be mine contaminated will be cancelled.

SMAC submitted the project to ITF Enhancing Human Security in order to implement tender procedure for selection of an implementing agency.

The project will be funded by Serbian national funds matched with US or other donor funds and implemented throughout 2017.

*Summary of projections for the number of areas and the amount of area (square metres) suspected to contain anti-personnel mines to be released 2017-2019*

2017	Areas	5
	Area	995,920
2018	Areas	5
	Area	1,181,820
2019	Areas	3
	Area	452,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>Areas</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Area</b>	<b>2,630,340</b>

7. As has been stated in our Extension Request Plan, the dynamics of implementation of our demining projects might be affected by provision of funds, that is if the funds for implementation of our projects are not provided, our plan will be directly affected and more difficult to achieve. On the other hand, if funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in due time.
8. The funds from the Serbian State Budget have been provided to support the ongoing work of the SMAC - salaries of the staff, running costs (electricity, water, heating), office and consumption material costs, fuel costs, maintenance of vehicles, costs of the SMAC staff insurance - as well as survey activities, development of adequate project tasks for demining/clearance of locations confirmed to be contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO, follow-up of the implementation of project tasks and conduct of demining quality assurance and quality control.
- On an annual basis, from the Serbian State Budget is allocated around 150.000 EUR for the work of the SMAC.

9. The Republic of Serbia carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

-Marking;

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with "STOP UXO" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs - rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

-Risk education;

Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

10. The following methods have been employed in Serbia to release areas known or suspected to contain mines:

- Cancellation through survey
- Manual demining
- Mechanical demining
- Canine demining

In Serbia, an initial survey which includes collection of data and analysis of available documentation on mine emplacement is employed, as well as a non - technical survey (NTS), which follows after an analysis of previously collected data, conditions in the field, statements by local population, hunters, foresters, people dealing with exploitation of wood, representatives of Civil Protection and Police, amongst others. One significant indicator has been data on accidents that have occurred.

The use of the above methods enable the defining of confirmed hazardous areas for which the SMAC develops corresponding project tasks to commence demining operations. Critical to this is the cancellation of areas registered as mine suspected areas that, through a survey, are confirmed not to contain mines (in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards -IMAS).

Demining is conducted in accordance with the IMAS. Search of the terrain on project tasks is done by a manual method at the depth of 20 cm. Apart from a manual method, demining machines can be used, as well as dogs. The

productivity per a deminer is up to 100 sqm a day depending on mine situation, terrain configuration, land characteristics and vegetation, and one pair of MDD can demine up to 1500sqm a day.

11. In 2016, there were no demining accidents in the Republic of Serbia.

12. There are a number of circumstances that present challenges for Serbia in complying with its Article 5 deadline.

Particular issues faced by Serbia are as follows:

-Unregistered mine contaminated areas (groups of mines): The remaining areas contaminated by mines do not have registries and have not been planted in specific patterns, which aggravates demining efforts, namely survey results are subject to alterations.

-Climactic conditions: Contaminated areas are inaccessible during some periods of the year causing operation delays.

-Contamination other than mines: Specificity and complexity of the problem presents the fact that apart from mines still remaining in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia also encounters with numerous challenges related to clearance of the areas contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs - rockets and other UXO. All these unexploded ordnance are either remaining as a result of the 1999 bombing, or are caused by an explosion and fire in a military depot, or are remaining from previous wars.

## **E. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**

Please note that the areas in the Municipality of Bujanovac are contaminated with groups of mines of an unknown origin and types having been emplaced in accordance with no particular pattern and without any minefield records of it.

## **H. Cooperation and assistance**

The Republic of Serbia is a State Party, which is not in a position to provide financial assistance, but it is able to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations as concerns mine clearance. SMAC retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, quality control and governing of mine clearance project tasks.

### **Victim assistance**

The Government adopted in 2015 the Decision on establishment of the Intersectional Working group on application of the Ottawa Convention, which includes representatives of this Ministry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mine action Centre of the Republic of Serbia.

The purpose of the Working Group for Victims Assistance is to monitor the progress made in providing assistance to victims within national plans and legal framework.

The Working Group is dealing with the following:

- Proposing measures to enhance the position of the Anti - personal mine victims;
- Proposing measures to enhance the legislative framework for the protection of the anti-personal mine victims;
- Monitoring alignment with the applicable legislation regulating the protection of the APM victims with international legislation and national law;
- Proposing special programmes and measures to promote and make the APM victims capable for public life;
- Cooperation with the association of the APM victims and civil society organizations involved in enhancement of the position of the APM victims;
- Cooperation with relevant institutions from abroad, international organizations and national working groups of the equivalent or similar profile with view to experience and good practice sharing;

- Monitoring progress regarding the provision of assistance to the APW victims within wider national plans and legal framework;
- Mapping all the existing services;

When the Intersectional Working group was established it was agreed that there should be stronger coordination between victims and relevant authorities. It is further decided to ensure more intensive media engagement, holding of education sessions, conferences, and create a central database which would include the causes of injuries. As certain data exist in a number of national institutions, the research project needs to take this into accurate causes of wounds, traumas, and lesions of civilians disabled in war.

The Working Group has suggested the Government of Serbia's Coordinating Body for Gender Equality responsible for the supervision over the drafting of the National Action plan to implement UN Resolution 1325 - Women, Peace and Security to include the provision of support to women survivors of anti-personnel mines in the referred to Action Plan 2016-20 that is underway, under its component "Provision of Support to Victims of Armed Conflicts".

All municipalities in Serbia have services for the protection of veterans and the disabled that can be contacted by disabled civilian veterans for specific types of assistance. In remote rural areas, there are social protection services designed to extend quality assistance in the field of social welfare.

In the Republic of Serbia, the Strategy for promoting the status of persons with Disabilities 2007-2015 is in force. The Strategy recognizes their equal rights with those of other disabled persons (the rights of disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans).

The data available in the database of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs the number of survived civilian disabled veterans (victims of mines/ERW) is 1123.

In the Republic of Serbia, the Strategy for promoting the status of persons with disabilities, 2007-2015 is in force. The Strategy recognized their equal rights with those of other disabled persons (the rights of disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans).

The Republic of Serbia is also implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Under the Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of person with disabilities, the status of a person with disabilities is granted to disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans and civilian disabled veterans. This Law is based on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, in all spheres of social life - in accordance with their professional skills.

The Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disability was adopted in our country and it entered into force on May 23, 2009. Provisions of law relating to the duties of the employer who employs fifty (50) employees to engage one person with disability entered into force on May 24, 2010.

This law is based on the principles: respect for human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life on an equal basis - in accordance with professional skills; encourage employment of persons with disabilities in appropriate jobs and appropriate working conditions; prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities, in accordance with the law; equal rights and obligations; gender equality of persons with disabilities.

On the basis of the law, the Rulebook on closer conditions, criteria and standards for carrying all the measures and the activities in professional rehabilitation was adopted during year 2009.

Also, the Steering Committee of the National Employment Agency adopted the Rulebook on methods and criteria for the implementation of active labour market of a persons with disabilities.

## Annex II: Areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 1 April 2017, and the estimated date of completion

Municipality	Village	Longitude	Latitude	Area (square meters) known to contain anti-personnel mines	Area (square meters) suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Type and quantity of anti-personnel mines	Estimated period when mines were emplaced	Estimated date of completion (year - end)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	21°47'10"	42°35'13"	/	575,020	Unknown	2000-2001	2019
	Končulj	21°41'10"	42°28'17"	/	1.181.820	Unknown	2000-2001	2019
	Dobrosin	21°38'10"	42°26'58"	/	248,000	Unknown	2000-2001	2019
	Breznica	21°42'32"	42°32'07"	/	275,800	Unknown	2000-2001	2019
	Djordjevac	21°46'22"	42°34'14"	/	145,100	Unknown	2000-2001	2019
	Lučane	21°42'09"	42°26'29"	/	73.200	Unknown	2000-2001	2019
	Turija	21°43'05"	42°27'18"	/	131.400	Unknown	2000-2001	2019
<b>TOTAL</b>				/	2.630.340	Unknown	2000-2001	2019