

5th Review Conference, Siem Reap- Angkor Summit



24 – 29 november 2024

Statement - Mine Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr President

Twenty nine years after the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the most mine contaminated countries in the world and the most impacted country in the region. Size of mine suspect area is 826 km², which is approximately 1.6% of the total country size.

Based on a more precise understanding of the remaining challenge, and in accordance with Article 5, Para 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina requested and achieved a six (6) years extension request from **01 March 2021 to 01 March 2027**.

In year 2019, the Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 was adopted by the Council of Ministers and is based on Land Release concept. In 2024, the Strategy was revised. Five main goals are kept, individual sub-goals analyzed, and biennial operational and financial plans were adopted for the period of 2025–2026. The plan is based on the analysis of five-year results, and it represents a realistic basis for the implementation of the biennial plan. In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina will create a proposal for the extension of the implementation deadline as per Ottawa Convention, which will be forwarded into procedure in a timely manner, i.e. by the beginning of 2026.

In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina revised three existing chapters of national standard (NMAS) and created a new, fourth chapter Quality Management. New Accreditation Regulations document is issued for accreditations of organizations in mine action, adapted to the requirements of Land Release. Bosnia and Herzegovina revised the existing standard operational procedures for non-technical survey.

According with Oslo Action Plan **Mine Risk Education** in the period 2020–2027 will be implemented through public information, education of affected population groups and through linking mine action with affected communities. The focus of Mine/ERW Risk Education is the conduct of activities within affected communities/municipalities with large suspect area of II and III category in priority, i.e. it is aimed towards the most affected groups of population, as per the data from the general assessment of mines/ERW, which is in accordance with Action 30 of the Oslo Action Plan. Mine risk education will focus on the priority implementation of activities on the entire territory of BiH, primarily its conduct in rural communities ranked low at the priority list for other mine action affected communities/municipalities with large suspect area of II and III category in priority, i.e. it is aimed towards the most affected groups of population, where they might present threat for local population for a long period of time. This implies communities that will be technically surveyed and cleared only after 2025. Particular attention is paid to the education of children in primary and secondary schools, with a wide action of inclusion of mine risk education into the curriculum. Over 40,000 children in primary schools were educated so far.

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 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina started to implement project of EU Pre-Accession assistance (IPAIII) in the sum of 10 million EUR.

A demining project is expected by the beginning of 2025, of the right Sava riverbank, amounting to 8 million EUR. The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and transport, and the World Bank.

At the moment, there are **23 accredited organizations** for mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Five of them are government organizations, seven commercial organizations and fourteen non-government organizations. Within accredited organizations, 1.200 persons are engaged, i.e. 900 deminers and 300 persons accredited for managerial and supervision tasks. Organizations accredited for mine actions have at their disposal 24 accredited machines, 1.131 metal detectors and 31 accredited explosive detection dogs.

The trend of decreasing mine victims number is continued in comparison to former years, since Bosnia and Herzegovina puts in additional efforts in order to decrease the number of mine victims through all aspects of mine action. There were no mine accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina this year.