Questions and Clarifications concerning the Request for Extension submitted by Serbia

Committee on Article 5 Implementation
(Algeria (Chair), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Norway)

The Committee welcomes Serbia's commitment to ensures continued implementation of the Convention and its obligations. In this regard, the Committee welcomes Serbia's submission of its Request for Extension of its Article 5 deadline. In order for the Committee to fulfil its mandate of preparing an analysis of the Request, the Committee would welcome additional information and clarifications of the information provided by Serbia on its Request for Extension.

Progress made and remaining challenge

1. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on available preliminary estimates of the size of the 11 Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHA).

The systematic Non-Technical Survey (NTS) undertaken since the submission of the Extension Request has refined the initial understanding of the 11 locations initially reported as suspected hazardous areas. As of July 2026, the NTS dataset covers 30 community councils and 59 villages in the Municipality of Bujanovac.

When the initial NTS project was developed in 2023, five project areas were identified. Following the introduction of the revised community council-by-community council NTS approach, and in consultation with the NTS Adviser, SMAC concluded that the available information was not sufficiently reliable to support their original delineation and that potential contamination could extend beyond those areas. The revised approach, together with increasing confidence among local communities, has enabled SMAC to collect additional information and to assess whether the initially reported locations should be confirmed or discredited on the basis of the available evidence.

Hazard claims are currently being investigated at 18 locations. Five of these locations have been verified as suspected hazardous areas (SHA), and Technical Survey is planned, while NTS remains ongoing at the other 13 locations. Additional hazard claims may be identified as the survey process continues and further information becomes available.

The implementation of further Technical Survey projects is also expected that will strengthen community confidence in the mine-action process, which may encourage additional informants to share relevant information with the NTS field team. With the exception of the five locations already verified as SHA, the current classifications remain provisional and should not be interpreted as confirmation of the presence or final extent of anti-personnel mine contamination.

On the basis of historical experience and the evidence collected to date, Serbia's preliminary planning estimate is that approximately 500,000–750,000 m² may require further investigation in Bujanovac. The estimate takes into account the Technical Survey methodology, under which approximately 30% of the total project area is subjected to full clearance, thereby providing a reasonable basis for estimating the potential extent of contamination. This range is not an estimate of confirmed contaminated land: it represents the area that may need additional NTS and/or targeted Technical Survey (TS) before evidence-based cancellation, reduction or confirmation can take place. The estimate will be progressively refined as All Reasonable Effort is applied and further evidence becomes available. As the NTS progresses, the estimate will be regularly updated and is expected to become more accurate through the application of the improved NTS methodology and the planned implementation of targeted TS, where appropriate.

The ongoing NTS has already generated sufficient evidence to develop three targeted TS projects:

- Technical Survey Project of Locations in Mali Trnovac (No. 0336/26) – 131,539 m²;
- Technical Survey Project of the Area in the Village of Djordjevac (No. 0337/26) – 151,900 m²;
- Technical Survey Project of the Bali Kamen Area in Veliki Trnovac (No. 0338/26) – 104,647 m².

These projects are evidence-led follow-up activities intended to verify the reported information, define the actual extent of contamination and establish more precise hazardous-area boundaries.

The remaining areas are predominantly hilly, wooded and difficult to access. The absence of reliable minefield records, changes in vegetation over approximately 26 years, irregular and low-density mine-laying patterns, and the fact that some informants remain cautious about sharing information make precise delineation particularly challenging. Even where first-hand informants are available, the significant changes in vegetation over this period can make it difficult for them to identify the exact locations concerned. In addition, much of the population is now concentrated in the town of Bujanovac, while a number of surrounding villages have experienced depopulation as residents have moved to larger urban centres, further limiting access to persons with direct knowledge of past events. Nevertheless, community confidence is gradually improving, enabling the NTS team to access previously difficult-to-reach communities and engage directly with a growing number of residents and potential informants. Serbia will therefore continue to update the preliminary estimate, the number and status of locations under examination, and any resulting TS or clearance requirements through the Article 7 transparency reports and updates at meetings of the Convention.

2. A revised Request would benefit from clarity concerning the progress made during the extension period, the land released, and the remaining contamination as the same area size presented in the previous extension request is repeated in the current submission.

The remaining confirmed suspected mined area of 268,100 m² presented in the Extension Request refers to the same remaining area identified in the previous extension request. At the time of submission, two Technical Survey projects covering this remaining area had already been prepared, tendered and funded, but their implementation had been delayed due to unfavourable weather conditions. For this reason, the remaining contamination presented in the Request reflects the situation as of March 2026.

Since submitting the Extension Request, both Technical Survey projects have been completed. Together with the Technical Survey project completed in 2024, Serbia has now released the entire previously known suspected hazardous area in Ravno Bučje.

The implementation of these projects resulted in the release of:

- 122,200 m² in Technical Survey Project " Ravno Bučje 1" – Bujanovac North finished in February 2024;
- 122,600 m² in Technical Survey Project "Ravno Bučje 2"– Bujanovac North finished in April 2026;
- 145,500 m² in Technical Survey Project "Ravno Bučje 3"– Bujanovac North finished in April 2026.

During the implementation of the two projects completed in 2026, one anti-personnel mine (PMA 2), two fragmentation anti-personnel mines (PMR 2A) and one anti-tank mine (TMA 3) were located and destroyed.

Following the completion of the previously known suspected area, Serbia's remaining Article 5 challenge now relates primarily to the newly identified hazard claims (locations requiring examination) in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which are currently being systematically addressed through Non-Technical Survey and subsequent targeted Technical Survey based on the evidence collected.

3. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on the proportion of community councils which have been surveyed and how many community council presidents have provided the required IMAS-compliant declarations.

The NTS is being implemented throughout the Municipality of Bujanovac using a community council-by-community council approach, in accordance with IMAS, SOP and the principle of All Reasonable Effort. As of July 2026, the survey dataset encompasses 30 community councils and 59 villages.

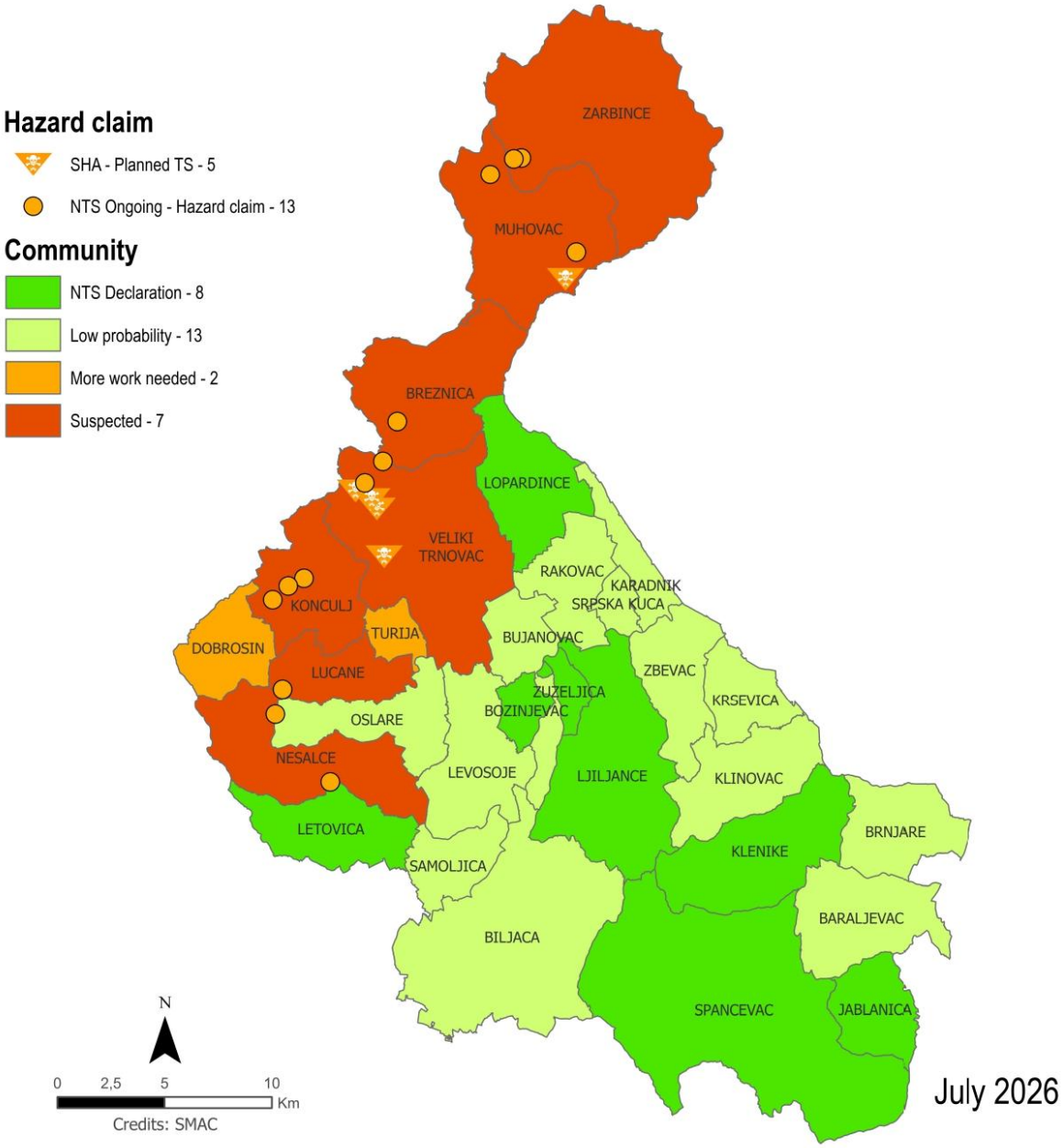
Declarations have been obtained for eight community councils, covering 20 villages. Following evidence-based assessment and the application of All Reasonable Effort, the respective community council presidents signed declarations confirming that no evidence of anti-personnel mine contamination had been identified in the areas covered by those declarations.

In addition, the July 2026 dataset classifies 22 villages within 14 community councils as having no indications of contamination identified to date; 15 villages within seven community councils as suspected and requiring further investigation; and two villages within two community councils as still to be explored. A total of 5 SHA and 13 hazard claims are currently recorded and remain subject to further evidence collection, verification and analysis through the ongoing NTS process and planned TS projects. These classifications are operational and will be reviewed and updated as further evidence becomes available.

The signed declarations and the supporting survey records form part of the documented evidence for land release through cancellation, where all applicable national and IMAS requirements have been met. Survey, evidence assessment and community engagement will continue in the remaining locations, and further declarations will be obtained where appropriate. Updated figures and the basis for any cancellation, reduction, TS or clearance decision will be reflected in the Article 7 transparency reports and updates at meetings of the Convention.

Republic of Serbia - Bujanovac

NTS Progress Map



The Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) is implementing a Community by Community NTS of the municipality of Bujanovac. This municipality has 30 local communities.

So far, credible claims of evidence of mines have been identified in 7 communities; 8 communities have been declared free of mines; 13 communities are expected to be declared free of mines due to the low probability of contamination and evidence is likely to be confirmed in the remaining two communities.

Claim of evidences have been inspecting in 18 areas. 5 of this areas have been verified has SHA and TS is planned. NTS is ongoing is the remaining 13 areas.

4. A revised Request would benefit from information concerning the suspected improvised devices referenced in the Sava River near Jamena Village. In particular a revised Request would benefit from information on whether these mines meet the definition of anti-personnel mines, and, if so, provide additional information on this suspected hazardous area.

The location in the Sava River near the village of Jamena is currently undergoing Non-Technical Survey and verification. Based on the information collected to date from local residents, together with an assessment of the physical characteristics, historical use and current use of the area, no evidence has so far been identified to indicate the presence of improvised explosive devices or otherwise substantiate the classification of the location as a suspected hazardous area.

SMAC will continue the survey, consultation with relevant stakeholders and collection and analysis of all available evidence in order to determine whether the location should remain classified as suspected or whether the suspicion can be cancelled through the land-release process. A final decision will be taken only after All Reasonable Effort has been applied, in accordance with IMAS and Serbia's national mine-action procedures.

Serbia will inform the Committee of the outcome through its Article 7 transparency reporting and/or other appropriate information-sharing channels established under the Convention.

5. A revise Request would benefit from confirming any known or suspected anti-personnel mined areas in MoD areas.

According to the official reports submitted by the Ministry of Defence, there are no known or suspected anti-personnel mined areas within the areas under responsibility of the Ministry of Defence that fall within the scope of Serbia's Article 5 obligations.

The Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces retain 3,134 anti-personnel mines for permitted training purposes and for testing arms and military equipment, in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention. These mines are stored in secured military warehouses under appropriate supervision and are not accessible to unauthorised personnel. They therefore constitute retained stocks and not known or suspected mined areas for the purposes of Article 5. No retained anti-personnel mines were consumed during 2025. The Serbian Armed Forces do not maintain any programme for the development or production of anti-personnel mines, booby traps or other devices prohibited under the Convention.

Plan and Projections

6. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on how the persistent, non-temporary factors affecting mine action operations have been incorporated into the planning of the requested extension.

The requested extension period has been planned taking into account the persistent operational factors that continue to affect the implementation of Article 5 obligations. These factors are not temporary in nature and have therefore been incorporated into operational planning, timelines and annual work plans.

The remaining mine contamination in Bujanovac is located relatively close to the administrative line and is associated primarily with mines laid by non-state armed groups during the conflict of 2000–2001. Available information indicates that mines were used mainly to block access routes used by Serbian security forces and to protect strategically important positions, including the locations of camps established and used by these groups. Analysis of previously completed projects suggests that mines are generally found in low-density clusters or as individual items along former strategic routes and in the vicinity of such positions, rather than in clearly defined or regularly patterned minefields.

The precise location and extent of the remaining contamination are difficult to establish due to the absence of reliable minefield records and significant changes in vegetation and terrain over the past 26 years. Testimonies indicate that, during the conflict period, members of the non-state armed groups that had originally laid the mines subsequently removed or relocated some of them for reuse at other locations or to sell them for profit. During the same period, Serbian forces removed mines when they encountered them or received reports of their presence. As some of these activities were not formally documented at the time, the historical record does not provide a complete picture of the original mine locations or their subsequent removal or relocation.

Consequently, even where first-hand informants are available, identifying the original locations of roads, paths, trenches and former tactical positions remains challenging. To address these constraints, SMAC combines systematic Non-Technical Survey with targeted Technical Survey, where required, and uses drone imagery and other geospatial technologies to reconstruct historical terrain features and support evidence-based operational planning.

In addition, the remaining areas are predominantly located in mountainous and densely vegetated terrain with limited accessibility. Seasonal weather conditions, including heavy rainfall, flooding, dense vegetation and reduced visibility, restrict the period during which field operations can be conducted safely and effectively.

To address these challenges, Serbia has established a dedicated NTS team, strengthened information management through IMSMA Core, introduced drone imagery and LiDAR-supported analysis, and adopted a community-by-community survey methodology. The use of Field Maps, Survey123, dashboards, web applications and three-dimensional mapping improves field-level data collection, traceability and analysis. As of July 2026, this approach has enabled the survey dataset to cover 30 community councils and 59 villages and has supported the identification and systematic assessment of 18 locations requiring examination.

The requested extension period has therefore been designed to accommodate these operational realities while ensuring that mine action activities continue without interruption and in accordance with IMAS.

7. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on annual projections, including the size of the areas to be treated, and provide annual targets for NTS, TS, and clearance, including the prioritisation of areas to be addressed each year.

As the remaining challenge is being addressed through evidence-based NTS, precise annual projections for TS and clearance cannot yet be expressed as fixed contaminated-area outputs. Based on the evidence available in July 2026, approximately 500,000–750,000 m² may require further investigation. This is a planning range rather than a confirmed contamination figure. The eventual TS and clearance requirements will depend on the results of NTS, the verification of the 5 SHA and 13 hazard claims (so far), and the subsequent delineation of any confirmed hazardous areas.

During the requested extension period, Serbia plans to:

- continue the systematic Non-Technical Survey of all remaining community councils within the Municipality of Bujanovac;
- develop additional targeted Technical Survey projects based on evidence collected through NTS;
- implement Technical Survey projects according to operational priorities and available evidence;
- undertake clearance activities where Technical Survey confirms the presence of anti-personnel mines requiring clearance.

Annual planning will be updated on a rolling basis using measurable outputs: community councils and villages surveyed; declarations obtained; hazard claims assessed; area subjected to TS; area cancelled, reduced or cleared; and mines or other explosive ordnance found and destroyed. Priority will be given to locations supported by credible evidence and to areas presenting the greatest humanitarian and socio-economic impact, particularly frequently used routes, livelihood areas and difficult-to-access terrain close to affected communities.

8. A revised Request would benefit from highlighting any implications the mined areas in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija have for Serbia's ability to declare completion of Article 5, once the mined areas in the Municipality of Bujanovac have been released.

In the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, there are mined areas, as well as areas contaminated with cluster bombs remaining after the armed conflicts.

"Pursuant to Resolution 1244 of the United Nations Security Council (Annex II, item 6), it is envisaged that after the withdrawal, an agreed number of the Republic of Serbia personnel, will be allowed to return to perform certain functions, including marking and clearing minefields. As this provision of Annex II has not been implemented, this issue is still within the competence of UNMIK in accordance with Resolution 1244"

Methodologies

9. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on the application of land-release methodology, including the integration of systematic NTS, targeted TS, the use of technology, and the possible deployment of MDDs where conditions permit.

Serbia applies the principles of evidence-based land release in accordance with IMAS, integrating systematic Non-Technical Survey, targeted Technical Survey and clearance, where required.

The current operational concept is based on systematic NTS across the Municipality of Bujanovac. Historical records, information from key informants, community liaison, field observations, accident information, land-use patterns and geospatial evidence are analysed in IMSMA Core.

Where Technical Survey confirms the presence of anti-personnel mines, clearance operations are subsequently planned and implemented in accordance with national mine action procedures and IMAS.

To strengthen survey quality and operational efficiency, Serbia uses IMSMA Core as its primary information-management system, supported by Field Maps, Survey123, dashboards, web applications and three-dimensional mapping. Drone imagery and LiDAR-supported analysis are used, where appropriate, to help identify historical roads, paths, trenches and other relevant terrain features, particularly in densely vegetated and difficult-to-access areas. These technologies support, but do not replace, evidence-based survey decisions and the application of All Reasonable Effort.

Serbia will continue to assess the potential use of Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) where operational conditions, terrain characteristics and available resources indicate that their deployment would provide operational benefit.

Funding

10. A revised Request would benefit from clearer information on annual national and international financial requirements, including whether funding constitutes a constraint in

meeting Serbia's Article 5 obligations and how potential funding limitations have been factored into planning.

Serbia has secured national funding for survey and clearance activities for 2026, 2027 and 2028, amounting to approximately EUR 220,000 annually. The core operational capacities of SMAC and supports the continued implementation of survey and coordination activities are covered by national budget.

At the same time, Serbia's ability to complete the implementation of Article 5 obligations within the requested extension period remains dependent on continued international financial support for Technical Survey, clearance operations, specialised equipment and other operational activities. Funding therefore continues to represent one of the factors affecting the pace of implementation.

Serbia will continue its resource mobilisation efforts with existing and potential international partners throughout the requested extension period.

11. A revised Request would also benefit from indicating if the current national and international funding is sufficient to support timely land release progress, how much additional national and international funding will be required to complete implementation within the extension period, and an indication of the national and international funding that has been secured and which remains outstanding, including the national financial contribution expected in 2029.

National financial resources of approximately EUR 220,000 annually have been secured by the Government of the Republic of Serbia for 2026, 2027 and 2028. These funds are intended to be combined with international donor contributions and used for the implementation of Technical Survey, clearance and other priority mine-action projects. While the national contribution provides an important and stable basis for co-financing planned activities, it is not sufficient on its own to cover the full costs of implementing Serbia’s Article 5 obligations within the requested extension period. Continued international financial support will therefore remain essential.

Based on the current planning assumptions, Serbia estimates that approximately 2 million EUR in international assistance will be required during the requested extension period. This estimate will be reviewed and refined as the Non-Technical Survey progresses and additional targeted Technical Survey projects are developed.

Serbia expects that national funding will continue throughout the requested extension period, including in 2029, subject to the annual approval of the national budget in accordance with national budgetary procedures.

12. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on any resource mobilization plans in place including likely funding sources for 2027-2029, and possible continued support from ITF, the United States and the Republic of Korea.
Serbia will continue to implement an active resource mobilisation approach throughout the requested extension period.

SMAC will continue to cooperate closely with existing international partners and donors, including ITF Enhancing Human Security, the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, while also seeking opportunities to broaden its donor base through engagement with other interested partners.

At present, discussions with international partners regarding possible future support are ongoing. As with previous mine action projects in Serbia, the implementation of future activities will depend on the availability of donor funding and the priorities of individual donors.

Serbia remains committed to maintaining close cooperation with international partners and providing timely project proposals based on operational priorities identified through the ongoing Non-Technical Survey programme.

13. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on the basis for its estimated €2 million requirement for international funding and, to the extent possible, provide a breakdown by cost category such as survey, clearance, MRE, equipment and operational costs. Furthermore, a revised Request would benefit from providing a clearer link between budget rationale and operational output.

The estimated requirement of approximately EUR 2 million represents a preliminary projection of the international financial resources considered necessary to support the implementation of Article 5 obligations throughout the requested extension period.

The estimate is based on the anticipated costs of:

- implementation of targeted Technical Survey projects;
- implementation of clearance operations where required;
- operational support for survey and clearance activities;
- maintenance and replacement of operational equipment;
- information management and survey support technologies;
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and community liaison activities;

Given that the ongoing Non-Technical Survey is expected to further define the extent and characteristics of the remaining contamination, it is not yet possible to provide a fully detailed cost allocation for each operational activity.

As additional evidence becomes available and further Technical Survey projects are developed, Serbia will refine both its operational projections and associated budget estimates in the revised Extension Request.

14. A revised Request would benefit from information on any additional support required for additional survey assets, MDDs, equipment, information-management capacity or other mine-action needs and specify which areas of support it considers most critical.

Serbia continues to strengthen its national mine action capacities through investments in survey capabilities, information management and operational equipment.

Additional international support would further enhance the efficiency and pace of implementation, particularly in the following areas:

- implementation of additional targeted Technical Survey projects;
- clearance operations where required;
- specialised survey equipment and field assets;
- further development of information management capacities, including IMSMA Core;
- continued application of drone and LiDAR technologies for survey activities;
- training and capacity development for survey and operational personnel.

Serbia will also continue to assess the potential operational value of Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) in areas where terrain conditions and operational requirements indicate that their deployment could provide additional efficiency.

Support in these areas would strengthen Serbia's ability to implement evidence-based land release in accordance with IMAS and contribute to the timely fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations.

Mine Risk Education

15. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on efforts to strengthen mine risk education and providing annual beneficiary targets, expected reach per activity, measurable outcome indicators, and how the effectiveness of these activities will be evaluated.

Serbia has further strengthened its Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) programme through the dedicated NTS team and closer cooperation with local communities, schools and relevant national institutions. EORE is integrated with NTS both to provide safety information and to identify additional key informants and evidence relevant to the survey process. This combined approach also improves community confidence in, and the visibility of, the NTS team.

As of July 2026, 16 EORE sessions had been delivered in 11 community councils in the Municipality of Bujanovac, reaching 244 beneficiaries: 14 women, 145 men, 53 girls and 32 boys. The sessions explain safe behaviour and reporting procedures in the event that new evidence of contamination is identified, while also supporting dialogue between the NTS team and affected communities.

Future annual EORE targets will be set and reviewed in line with NTS priorities and the identification of communities requiring engagement. The July 2026 results—16 sessions and 244 beneficiaries—provide an operational baseline for subsequent planning. Expected reach will be expressed through the number of sessions, communities covered and beneficiaries reached, disaggregated by sex and age.

The effectiveness of EORE will be evaluated through the number and geographic coverage of sessions; beneficiary data disaggregated by sex and age; community feedback; the identification of new key informants or relevant hazard information; evidence that participants understand safe behavior and reporting procedures; and continued cooperation with local authorities, schools and community representatives. Activity and beneficiary data are recorded in IMSMA Core to support monitoring, analysis and future prioritisation.

16. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on plans to formalise the prioritization of mine risk education, including the criteria used to weigh risk levels, casualty data, vulnerability and socio-economic impact in annual decisions.

EORE is planned and implemented as an integral part of the NTS process. Prioritisation is evidence-based and is reviewed as survey information evolves. The July 2026 activity pattern demonstrates this approach: sessions were delivered in 11 community councils, including locations with suspected contamination, locations undergoing community-level evidence collection and population centres where broader outreach was operationally justified.

Priority is given to communities where there are indications of suspected mine contamination, areas frequently accessed by the local population, locations where hazardous areas may affect livelihoods or infrastructure, and communities identified as particularly vulnerable through the NTS process.

In determining annual priorities, Serbia takes into account available information concerning hazard claims-locations requiring examination, patterns of land use, accessibility, population exposure, community feedback and the potential humanitarian and socio-economic impact of contamination.

As Serbia has not recorded recent mine accidents in the affected areas, casualty data currently has a limited influence on prioritisation.

Gender and Environment

17. A revised Request would benefit from Serbia aligning the information on beneficiaries with IMAS, particularly its classification of 18-year-olds as adults. A revised Request would also benefit from including EORE beneficiary data and victim data disaggregated by sex and age.

Row Labels	Sum of EORE	Sum of Woman	Sum of Man	Sum of Girls	Sum of Boys
BOZINJEVAC	1	3	10	2	1
BREZNICA	2	2	23	2	
BUJANOVAC	2		1	46	20
JABLANICA	1		3		
KLENIKE	3		16		2
LETOVICA	1		23		
LOPARDINCE	1	5	21	3	3
MUHOVAC	1		2		
SPANCEVAC	3	3	27		6
ZUZELJICA	1	1	19		
Grand Total	**16**	**14**	**145**	**53**	**32**

18. A revised Request would benefit from addition information on how Serbia ensures that risk-education activities reach the women, girls, boys and men. A revised Request would also benefit from including information on how gender and diversity sensitive approaches are reflected in SMAC's implementation efforts (e.g. NTS).

Serbia recognises the importance and ensures that EORE activities are accessible to women, girls, boys and men and records beneficiary data using IMAS-aligned sex- and age-disaggregated categories, with persons aged 18 years and above classified as adults. As of July 2026, the 244 beneficiaries comprised 14 women, 145 men, 53 girls and 32 boys. This disaggregation will continue to be used for monitoring reach and identifying gaps in participation.

EORE is delivered through direct engagement with communities and educational institutions and is adapted to the characteristics and needs of the target audience. Activities are conducted in Serbian and Albanian, as appropriate. The beneficiary profile is reviewed during planning so that future outreach can address underrepresented groups and ensure that risk-awareness messages reach all segments of affected communities.

Gender and diversity considerations are also integrated into NTS implementation. The dedicated team includes women and men and reflects the ethnic composition of the affected communities, enabling culturally and linguistically appropriate communication. This composition supports access to different groups of informants, strengthens community confidence and improves the collection of information from all segments of the population.

Residual contamination

19. A revised Request would benefit from additional information on Serbia's strategy for managing residual contamination after completion, including whether it anticipates requiring continued international support or intends to rely solely on national capacities, particularly those of SMAC.

Following completion of its Article 5 obligations, Serbia intends to manage residual contamination through its established national mine action system, building on the existing institutional, operational and financial mechanisms that already support responses to newly discovered explosive ordnance.

A recent GICHD assessment concluded that Serbia already possesses many of the institutional and operational elements required for sustainable residual contamination management, including strong national ownership, clearly allocated institutional responsibilities, established operational procedures, national information- and quality-management systems, and access to accredited operational capacities. Accordingly, Serbia does not envisage establishing an entirely new institutional structure following Article 5 completion, but rather formalising, strengthening and integrating the mechanisms that are already functioning into a coherent, long-term national residual contamination management framework.

Within this framework, the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) would retain a central coordinating and oversight role. Its responsibilities would include maintaining IMSMA Core and preserving historical and operational data; assessing newly reported explosive hazards; defining technical requirements; coordinating the preparation and implementation of appropriate responses; overseeing accreditation, quality assurance and quality control; providing technical advice to the competent authorities; and monitoring residual risk over the long term. Existing cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, accredited commercial operators and other competent institutions would continue in accordance with national legislation and IMAS.

To ensure the sustainability of this approach, Serbia will consider further formalising the national residual contamination management framework, including the relevant transition criteria, institutional responsibilities, reporting arrangements, quality-management requirements, long-term financing mechanisms and measures for retaining specialised national capacities and institutional knowledge.

International technical or financial assistance may continue to provide added value, particularly through targeted technical advice, peer exchange, capacity development and support for particularly complex situations. However, the GICHD assessment indicates that such assistance is not essential for maintaining Serbia’s core national mine-action capability. Primary responsibility for the long-term management of residual contamination will therefore remain with the national authorities, while international support may be sought when specialised expertise or additional capacities are required.