

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Based on Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 mine victims assistance is one of five key goals for implementation of this Strategy.

Primary goal in Bosnia and Herzegovina is that mine/ERW victims have access to services which are gender sensitive and have respect for diversity, through which they achieve their own rights, as well as opportunities that make easier their participation and inclusion in society on equal basis with others.

BHMAC as governmental body continuously works in accordance with its own competencies on collection and analysis of all data on mine/ERW victims classified by gender and age and delivers those data to relevant institutions with the aim to ensure their reintegration into the wider world data systems of persons with disabilities.

Since 1992, there were 8,390 mine/ERW/ cluster munitions victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the war period (1992-1995), there were 6,354 victims, while in the post-war period, there were 1,770 victims, of which 620 died. The exact year of accident is not known for 347 people. Of the total number of victims in the post-war period, 185 victims were women or 10% and 251 victims were children or 14%. 134 deminers had mine accidents while carrying out humanitarian demining operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, of which 53 deminers died.

In 2022, on June 26 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the municipality of Lukavac, there was registered one mine accident in which one male adult person died. He activated PROM-1 mine in suspected hazardous area which was treated through non-technical survey (MSA " Trepela "). The accident happened during collecting firewood.

When we speak about implementation of the projects directed to mine victims, we want to express our big gratitude to donors and partner countries who support these projects.

In October 2022, Federal Republic of Germany signed agreement with the NGO "MDDC" worth 95,000 euros intended to victims of landmines in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a total of 16 victims who will get the most modern leg prosthesis. The project aims to enable mine victims to live life without difficulties and pain, as well as reintegration into the work process. The project is significant contribution to social equality of mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is also necessary to point out realization of the project "Beekeeping as a tool in empowerment of mine victims in BiH " implemented by organization of amputees "UDAS" in partnership with ITF and Beekeeping Academy from of Slovenia with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. Purpose of the project is empowerment of beekeepers who are mine victims from BiH to share the knowledge which will help them to improve efficiency and profitability in beekeeping activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The accent is on promotion of beekeeping among mine victims in order to make possible source of income which includes 30 mine victims.

Regarding mine risk education activities and prevention of population from entering into risk areas, it was established web platform information system, in cooperation with UNDP and supported by EU. Mobile application with mine suspected areas in BiH is available to everyone and it contributes to mine risk education activities.

It is very important to point out that mine victims deserve continuous attention of all relevant factors which has to be present even when our country is free of mines.

Thank you for your attention !