

Distinguished Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On this day, at the Twentieth International Meeting of the States Parties signatories of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and their Destruction, it is my honor to express a strong and great commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to further face the challenges presented by anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war, with the ultimate will and intention to resolve this long-term issue within the approved deadline for the fulfillment of obligations under the Article 5. of the Convention, March 2027.

Well aware of the fact that we are amongst those countries that face a huge mine issue, that presents a threat to the safety of our citizens, we identified the key segments that may, within this process, contribute to the achievement of what we have outlined nearly two decades ago, where new generations would not have to live under the constant threat presented by mines.

Regardless of all the difficulties, mainly the lack of finance, the contamination that is still extensive, the availability of non-functional minefield records, and unpredictable weather, all of them reasons for submitting the Requests of Deadline Extension for the fulfillment of obligations, we are still aiming towards a clear concept of mine action, assuming that the very character of mine problem requires the efficient risk management through continuous estimation of mine situation, effective planning and coordination, and integrating all the mine action components into one integrated process.

It is very important to point out that Bosnia and Herzegovina achieved exceptionally significant progress in all the areas of mine action, largely thanks to the fruitful and close cooperation with partner countries and donors. That is why I would like to express, on behalf of our country, our gratitude to all the donors, and all other esteemed institutions that helped us. However, it is necessary to achieve more.

In 2021, an area of 34 km<sup>2</sup> was released to the population for safe use. In demining operations, we found and destroyed 3.096 pieces of mines.

During the first ten months of the current year, the area of 39,31 square km was released to the population for safe use. Mine action activities on the ground have been completed at the area of 10 square km, and tasks in the area of 48,55 square km in total size are still in progress.

The stated results and indicators in the current year, expected realization of projects through ITF, and the realization of MSA projects financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, and the United States of America, give hope in the achievement of even better results in the next year. The realization is also in progress on two important big projects, “District Brcko without mines”, and the project “Majevisa Mountain” which involves five municipalities in the Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude, and emphasize the key role and significance of donors' help in the forthcoming times as well.

There are still many mine suspect areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with close to 133 000 persons under direct mine threat. The current size of the suspect area is 883 km<sup>2</sup> which is 1,7% of the total area of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regarding mine awareness, the established information system web platform is set in place, with the cooperation of UNDP, and the assistance of the EU. The platform is accessible to everybody, both the population, and participants in mine action, and it is largely contributing to education on mine threat, and mine awareness activities. We point out with regret that there was one accident in 2022 with a fatality. Mine awareness activities continue through independent projects as well, and also through integration along the existing mine action operations, to indicate mine threats, consequences, and risks people are taking and are exposed to in their daily activities.

Our common ultimate goal is a world free of mines as a pillar of stability and peace. If we continue working together, my country Bosnia and Herzegovina, among others, will be free of mines and explosive remnants of war. It will be the country where the entire population will conduct all the necessary livelihood activities without a threat to their safety.

Thank you for your attention.





# Presentation of progress in the implementation of Article 5 to the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MINE ACTION CENTRE**  
**SAŠA OBRADOVIĆ**  
Director

**BHMIC-Kasindolska 192 SARAJEVO**

tel. + 387 33 253 800

Mob.tel. + 387 66 283 002

E-mail : [sasa\\_0@bhmic.org](mailto:sasa_0@bhmic.org) [obradowic101@hotmail.com](mailto:obradowic101@hotmail.com)



# Progress made since the 2021

In 2021, SHA was reduced for 34 square km (additionally 9,81 square km cancelled through NTS).

Summary of area and areas released and devices destroyed, 1 January – 31 December 2021

Province	District	Cancelled area (square metres)	Reduced area (square metres)	Cleared area (square metres)	Total area released (square metres)	Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed
FBiH	Tuzlanski	2,192,369	1,614,789	89,025	3,896,183	576
	Posavski	1,001,178	97,381	397	1,098,956	1
	Sarajevo	2,650,089	1,302,489	47,194	3,999,772	281
	Zeničko- dobojski	308,395	328,649	28,854	665,898	64
	Kanton 10	5,841,317	2,398,840	418,519	8,658,675	1,717
	Bosansko- podrinjski	2,098,408	685,956	43,306	2,827,670	172
	Srednje- bosanski	0	59,922	5,200	65,122	2
	Hercegovačko- neretvanski	0	378,795	9,336	388,131	23
	Unsko-sanski	0	147,947	1,546	149,493	33
<b>Republika Srpska</b>		288,160	872,277	47,119	1,207,556	196
<b>Brčko Distrikt</b>		0	1,229,074	4,365	1,233,439	31
<b>Bosna i Hercegovina</b>	Total	14,379,916	9,116,119	694,860	24,190,895	3,096

# Task in progress

Completed in 2022

- 16 MSAs – released area of 39,31 square km
- Targeted and systematic investigation completed at 7 MSAs - 10 square km (database entry)
- 57 individual technical survey and clearance tasks - 1,36 square km

There is an ongoing realization of 29 MSAs with the area of 48,55 square km, and 13 individual tasks with the area of 0,64 square km.



# Remaining Challenge

Overview of suspect area size per administrative regions

Administrative unit	Area in square km
UNSKO SANSKI	88.59
POSAVSKI	14.68
TUZLANSKI	75.39
ZENICKO DOBOJSKI	111.84
BOSANSKO PODRINJSKI	44.05
SREDNJE BOSANSKI	102.88
HERCEGOVACKO NERETVANSKI	138.74
ZAPADNO HERCEGOVACKI	0.82
SARAJEVO	50.18
KANTON 10	63.27
FEDERACIJA BIH	690.46
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA	180.00
BRCKO DISTRIKT	13.05
BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA	883.50

# Circumstances impeding completion

- We are facing certain difficulties in the realization of the vision that entails Bosnia and Herzegovina free of mines and explosive remnants from war, and they relate to the following:
  - - Lack of financial means,
  - - Unexisting political will and support of higher instances of power on the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina (absence of law regulations, failure to appoint the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Board of Directors of Enhancing Human Security – ITF, certain projects for which the key role in their realization is held by the highest governing bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina),
  - - Unavailable, i.e. nonfunctioning minefield records, even harder identification of remaining minefields mainly located in mountainous areas
  - - Insufficient human resources



# Activities to be carried out

- Analyses of completed mine action activities, and the long-term application of positive experiences that would influence the efficiency of mine action, a faster and more effective manner of work, and achievement of strategic goals through improved and enhanced quality management,
- Application of all reasonable efforts into all the measures and activities within the framework of jurisdiction, to engage all available demining capacities (issuance and renewal of accreditations and certificates, review of equipment, etc.),
- Active participation in meetings to exchange experiences, and thoughts on solutions for technical and managerial issues, newest technologies, equipment, and methods of work on the ground.
- Contribution to the collective action of all state structures to timely act and develop imperative changes within laws and bylaws.

# Mine Risk Education and Reduction efforts

Various mine awareness programs for all impacted population, based on their needs and assessed threats, have been conducting targeted mine awareness through presentations and materials modified and gender-diversified for various age groups, according to data from the general assessment, or according to analyses of mine accidents that occurred in the recent period.

Integration of mine awareness and ongoing mine action operations is aiming to warn about threats, consequences, and risks that the impacted population faces in daily activities, to contribute through land release to the development of better living potentials where the inhabitants would not have to expose to risk out of existential reasons.

Coordination and integration of  
all mine action components  
into one integrated process

Lack of finance

Absence of law and finance regulations

Insufficient support of the highest instances of  
government in BiH

Insufficient human resources

Financial means

Equipment

Support from all the levels of power in Bosnia and  
Herzegovina