



**Statement of the Republic of Croatia
on clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants and risk
reduction education**

**Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on
Cluster Munitions**

Geneva, 3 – 5 September 2018

Thank you Mr. President.

Cluster munitions remnants contamination in the Republic of Croatia currently stands at 0.5 km² (576.783 m²) with contaminated area stretching through five counties (Lika-Senj, Zadar, Šibenik-Knin, Osijek-Baranja and Sisak-Moslavina). The mentioned area is clearly and visibly marked with 86 warning signs.

Cluster munitions remnants clearance operations in 2018 resulted in the reduction of the contaminated area by 0.5 km² (525.725 m²), while noting that at the same time there were some discoveries of previously unknown areas that are cluster munitions-contaminated. Clearance of cluster munitions remnants was conducted by a manual method, a combination of a machine and manual methods and by mine detection dogs.

Here, it is also important to emphasize that the cluster munitions clearance is focused specifically on the Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA), not on the Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA). Thus, in 2018 all areas that were cleared resulted in findings of cluster munitions remnants, i.e. 571 KB-1 submunitions in total, which were destroyed on site.

In addition to this, in the first eight months of 2018, the Police Department collected and destroyed 7 submunitions (6 KB-1 and 1 MK-1). Police officers also discovered 2.218 pieces (weighing almost 3 tons) of different explosive ordnance (hand grenades, mortar and artillery shells, anti-tank rocket-propelled grenades, etc.). At the same time, the Police Department destroyed 2.588 pieces of different explosive ordnance (including the above mentioned cluster submunitions) weighing over 4 tons.

The fact that we did not record cluster munitions-related incidents for more than ten years, besides clearance of contaminated areas, is largely due to the systematic and continuous mine risk education activities annually conducted by a variety of GO (CROMAC; MoI; regional and municipal authorities) and NGO (Croatian Red Cross; Association “Croatia Helps”; Croatian Hunting Federation; Disability Volleyball Club “Zagreb” etc.) stakeholders.

Thus, so far in 2018 through 128 events held in 40 towns and municipalities in 12 counties in Croatia more than 8.600 persons were educated and informed about the dangers of mines, UXO and ERW.

Finally, with regard to Croatia’s Article 4 obligations, the process of cluster munitions remnants clearance, as planned in the Annual Mine Action Plan for 2018, should be completed until the end of 2018. However, this will depend on the extent of possible discoveries (and subsequent inclusions) of previously unknown cluster munitions-contaminated areas, as well as on available financial resources in the second half of this year.

Thank you.