

Request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 4 - Convention on Cluster Munitions

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Executive Summary

Bosnia and Herzegovina is heavily contaminated with mines, and nearly twenty-four years after the end of the conflict, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains the most heavily mined country in Europe. BIH is also contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munition remnants.

From 1992 to 1995 warring factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina laid a huge number of minefields throughout the country. All warring factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Army of BH, Army of Republic of Srpska, Croatian Defence Council) laid minefields and primarily between confrontation lines, in order to prevent or slow down the movement of military units of one fraction into the area controlled by another fraction. Minefields were also laid in front of strategic points of all warring factions and military facilities. Geographically speaking, minefields were laid throughout the country, from Herzegovina to the south and south/west, over the mountains, canyons, and gorges of Central Bosnia to the flat areas to the north of the country. Minefields are present on the ground with all types of vegetation typical for Bosnia and Herzegovina (high grass and forest) at all types of ground (stone, karst).

A general assessment of the impact of mines / UXOs / cluster munitions in 129 cities / municipalities in BiH, identified 1,388 mine / UXO / cluster munitions impacted communities. Micro-location contaminated with mines / UXO / cluster munitions directly affects the safety of 545.603 inhabitants or 15% of the total population of BiH.

In December 2008, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions and ratified it in September 2010, thus accepting the responsibility and obligation to clear the country of cluster munition, provide assistance for cluster munition victims, and destroy all existing cluster munitions stocks. The Convention on Cluster Munition came into effect in March 2011. In August 2011, BiH submitted its first report arising from Article 7 of the Convention (Transparency measures) and it has been delivering annual reports in accordance to the obligations from the Convention ever since. The deadline for Bosnia and Herzegovina as per Article 4. (1) of the Convention is Sep 1, 2023.

1. The Extension Request Period

When the war ended, Bosnia and Herzegovina was faced with mine contamination, cluster munitions remnants and UXO. One of the key prerequisites for Bosnia and Herzegovina in dealing with issues concerning presence of cluster munitions within its territory is the assessment of resources required for fulfilment of commitments under the Convention. It is vital for Bosnia and Herzegovina to identify available resources: financial, human, and institutional – in order to manage them in the way best suited for fulfilment of commitments arising from the Convention.

Since 2011, Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina and Norwegian People's Aid joined their efforts in non-technical survey of areas in BiH contaminated with cluster munitions. The preliminary results from 2011 indicated that there were 140 locations contaminated with cluster munition, with the total area of 12,17km². The cluster munitions clearance and release of the land to local population commenced in 2012.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's duty under the Convention was to solve the problem of cluster munitions in 2021. But the problem in clearance of areas contaminated with cluster munitions was further complicated by COVID-19 global pandemic crisis that delayed the demining season normally set for March 1st, in line with the climate conditions. Similar to the rest of the world, Bosnia and Herzegovina was caught in COVID-19 pandemic which caused either a cessation of, or hindrance to the work of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions. This reflected onto the process of mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from March to June 2020, since Mine Action Centre BiH worked with reduced capacities as well. It also caused cessation or serious deceleration of work performed by companies on the ground. After appointment of the Demining Commission in BiH (April 30 2020), all companies that submitted request were accredited and field work continued.

Along with the delayed demining season, problems developed also with the accreditations for demining organisations that perform cluster munitions disposal. The term of office of the Demining Commission in BiH expired in October 2019 and the new members of the Demining Commission were not appointed until April 30th, 2020. The Demining Commission in BiH, being the body responsible for the conduct of mine action, which entails accreditations for demining organizations, the conduct of foreign policy, adoption of new Standards and SOP as well as amendments to the existing Standards and SOP, the delay led to the expiration of mine clearance organizations' accreditations at the beginning of 2020, in some cases preventing the start of the demining season and, in others, preventing the engagement of the full capacities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina had previously aimed to complete the clearance of cluster munition contaminated areas and destruction of cluster munition remnants by its first deadline of 1 March 2021. Based on this clearance rate and human resource capacity, Bosnia and Herzegovina expects clearance to be completed 1 September 2022 (first extension) scoping all known contaminated areas that were included into our country extension request. In the spring of 2022, BHMAC identified 6 new locations that are currently being processed as part of non-technical survey operations, conducted in cooperation with NPA teams. After non-technical survey operations and target investigation BHMAC and NPA teams identified 2 new locations contaminated with cluster munition.

In order to fulfil the obligations under Article 4 of the Convention in requested timeframe (12 months) from 1 September 2022 to 1 September 2023, the funds totalling 0,7 million BAM are necessary.

2. Achievements

The preliminary results from 2011 indicated that there were 140 locations contaminated with cluster munition, with the total area of 12.17 km². The cluster munition clearance and release of the land to local population commenced in 2012.

During this process, in the period of 2012-2019., it has been found out that additional 2.43 km² were contaminated with cluster munitions at additional 35 locations, which makes total cluster munition contaminated area of 14.61 km².

In the same period, from 2012-2019, through cluster munitions clearance and release of the land, 8.81 km² of land was handed over to the population. During non-technical survey operations, Mine Action Centre BiH teams cooperated with NPA teams, which resulted in separation of areas contaminated with non-conventional devices, i.e. areas contaminated with improvised items. Such areas will be treated as clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and the total size of those areas is 3.6 km². These areas were separated from the recorded areas contaminated with cluster munitions and were contaminated with locally produced grenades fired from a rifle M93 with modified KB-1 and cluster munitions KB-2 (not covered by the Convention on Cluster Munitions).

Operations on the ground are conducted by Norwegian People's Aid, Civil Protection agencies and Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH).

In spring 2022 Regional office Tuzla during operations of collecting information for Land Release found out some information of existing remnants of bomblets KB1 and MK 1. According to experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were a lot of grenades fired from a rifle in non-conventional way. Approach for every

single case is the same, conduct research locations and information through technical and non-technical survey operations. After all these operations have been finished the result was founding 6 new locations and 4 of them are not covered by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Cluster munitions remnants land release from 2013 – 2021:

- a) Total amount released through clearance and technical survey (TS): 6.858.125 m² (a.1+a.2.)
 a.1. Total amount released through clearance: 3.338.103 m²
 - a.2. Total amount cancelled through technical survey (TS): 3.520.022 m²
- b) Total amount reduced through non-technical survey (NTS): 3.853.784 m²
- c) Total number of cluster munitions remnants cleared and destroyed: 5.935

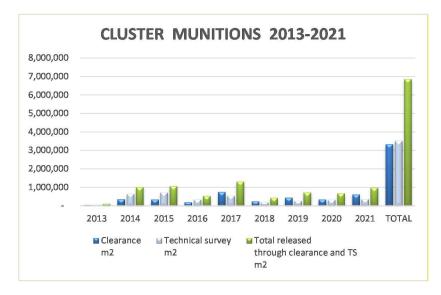
Types of cleared and destroyed cluster munition:

- BL 755/MK-1, MK -3
- R-262 M87/KB-1, KB-2

Overview of cluster munitions removal through clearance and technical survey for the period 2013-2021 is laid out in Table 1 and Chart 1.

Year	Clearance m ²	Technical survey m ²	Total released through clearance and TS m ²	CM cleared and destroyed
2013	44,037	69,655	113,692	28
2014	359,522	653,267	1,012,789	397
2015	341,760	726,989	1,068,748	252
2016	189,489	344,529	534,017	369
2017	753,933	557,166	1,311,099	627
2018	240,567	194,969	435,536	960
2019	446,737	273,697	720,433	146
2020	345,789	335,001	680,790	161
2021	616,270	364,750	981,020	2995
TOTAL	3,338,103	3,520,022	6,858,125	5935

Table 1 - Cluster munition remnants land release clearance and technical survey from 2013 – 2021

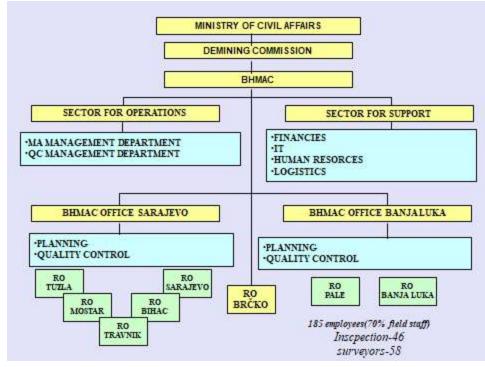


Graph 1 – Cluster munition 2013 - 2021

3. Mine Action Structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Mine action program in Bosnia and Herzegovina commenced in 1996 through the establishment of UNMAC and in order to build local structure and capacities for mine action. Entity centres for mine action (MAC RS and FED MAC), along with the state level coordination centre (BHMAC) were established in 1998. With the passing of the Law on Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2002, mine action structure had been transformed. The central body of the State is represented by the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, operating within the Ministry of Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The expert Commission's body for demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mine Action Centre BiH (BHMAC) was founded by the Decision of the Council of Ministers and based upon the Law on Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina. BHMAC structure includes the following departments (Annex 1 - Mine Action Structure in Bosna and Herzegovina):

- Operations
- Quality Assurance/Control (QA/QC)
- Information Management (IM)
- Mine Risk Education (MRE)
- Mine Victim Assistance (MVA)
- 8 Regional offices



Mine Action Structure in Bosna and Herzegovina

3.1. Strategy and Standards

By late 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) formed 4 expert groups to work on the amendments and supplements to all the chapters of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Standard, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for humanitarian demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Amendments and supplements to Chapter XVI of the Standard related to Clearance and Technical Survey of Area Contaminated with Non-Exploded Cluster Ammunition, and SOPs for survey of locations contaminated with cluster ammunition. As for the working methods and changes, the use of explosive detection dogs in technical survey and cluster ammunition clearance was introduced in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of support provided by Norwegian People's Aid. In 2017, amendments and supplements to Non-Technical Survey of Cluster Munitions SOP were adopted.

In 2017, Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina worked with GICHD in drafting the 2018-2025 Mine Action Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After it had been endorsed by the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Strategy was adopted by Council of Ministers. The document encompasses strategic and operational as they relate to the plan for mobilizing financial resources and elaborates on recommended ways of maintaining the interest of traditional donors while also inviting new ones (Annex 1 -Mine Action Strategy 2018 – 2025).

3.2. Risk education

Activities of mine/ERW risk education are continuously conducted through public communication, education of the affected population groups, and liaising with the affected community/municipality. Mine Action Centre BiH identifies and prioritises affected groups continuously, and provides adequate gender and age sensitive Mine Risk Education. BHMAC data show that most accidents occur in the spring and autumn when agricultural works and the collection of firewood and other raw materials are ongoing. They also show that most new mine/ERW victims knowingly enter known mined areas for economic reasons. Analysis of the people affected by mines, the consequences of accidents and blocked resources has shown that there is a significant impact of remained cluster munitions on society, economy and the environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This helps us to identify affected groups in a way that takes into account risk exposure by gender and other diversities. In this case, the population of farmers, woodmen, mountaineers and hunters who move around these areas and use this land would have a direct benefit from clearing this area of remained cluster munitions. It is necessary to provide sources of livelihood for groups that knowingly enter minefields for existential reasons, and to further develop awareness of the dangers and consequences of cluster munition accidents. BHMAC and mine action organizations will work directly with development stakeholders and development organizations to identify alternative and sustainable livelihood activities that do not expose residents to the dangers of cluster munitions.

BHMAC-conducted mine risk education/mine awareness is part of non-technical survey operations, while accredited organizations conduct their own separate projects.

Continuous implementation of Mine Risk Education including all other lethal remnants of war is vital in preventing casualties among the population in BiH caused by any and all explosive items, including cluster munitions, and small arms and light weapons ammunition. Since 2012, Mine Action Centre in BiH is constantly working on marking the areas contaminated with cluster munitions. At present, 764 signs are in place warning the population of cluster munitions.

3.3. Victim Assistance

Cluster ammunition victims exercise their rights in accordance with the pertaining regulations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and are equal to all other persons with disabilities.

Since 1992, a total of 195 persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina were victims of cluster munitions, 35 of whom suffered deadly injuries. The highest number of casualties occurred in the period from 1992-95, during the war: a total of 172, of which 31 fatalities. In 2020 and 2021, there were no casualties from cluster munitions.

In 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina established a Mine Victims Assistance Coordination Body tasked with assisting all victims of mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war. The Coordination Body was appointed by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, consisting of 22 members from the government sector, non-government organizations, ministries from state and entity levels, and international organizations.

Members of the Coordination Body perform the following tasks:

- a) Coordination of activities from the area of mine/cluster munitions/ERW assistance and ensuring cooperation between authorized state, entity, Brčko District institutions, and the non-government sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and international institutions;
- b) Raising awareness about issues and needs of mine victims, and the promotion of mine victims issues within the society, initiating mine victims assistance at domestic and international level;
- c) Assessment of international conventions' implementation status from the area of mine victims assistance, which Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified, as well as encouragement of adoption of measures for the improvement of that status and better cooperation with international organizations;
- Creation of projects, plans and documents with the aim of improvement of social status of victims, promotion of victims human rights as well as providing assistance to all the actors in the area of mine victims assistance and the follow-up of their implementation;
- e) Participation in the preparation of the report on the status of mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the participation in the preparation of the report on the implementation of international conventions pertaining to the rights of victims from Article 2 of this Decision.
- f) Issuing recommendations, suggestions and opinions pertaining to laws and bylaws, and projects pertaining to the victims' rights.

(Lausane Action Plan (LAP): Actions 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37)

4. Remaining Challenges

4.1. Current Contamination Level

The current contamination level with cluster munition consists of finished field work (waiting for final control and certification) and the remaining cluster munition contaminated area. The area size of the remaining area contaminated with cluster munition is **530,855** m².

Review of the remaining area contaminated by cluster munition in Bosnia and Herzegovina is shown in Table 2.

No.	Entity	Canton	Municipality	Local community	Location name	Regional Office	Cluster munition SHA/CHA m ²	Organization	Status	Realitzation	Estimated date of LR
1	FED	Zeničko Dobojski	Zavidovići	Naselje Krivaja	Naselje Krivaja	RO Tuzla	47,490	OS BiH	Field operations finished	100%	Jul-22
2	FED	Tuzla Canton	Gradačac	Mionica	Parcela KO Mionica 2	RO Tuzla	67,851	NPA	Field operations finished	100%	Jul-22
3	FED	Tuzla Canton	Tuzla	Kužići	Kužići 1-Tuzla	RO Tuzla	54,340	OS BiH	Field operations finished	100%	Jul-22
4	FED	Tuzla Canton	Tuzla	Tuzla	Paša Bunar	RO Tuzla	57,210	NPA	Field operations finished	100%	Aug-Sep 2022
5	FED	Tuzla Canton	Kladanj	Kladanj	Kladanj KM-Tuholj	RO Tuzla	27,760	NPA	Field operations finished	100%	Aug-Sep 2022
6	FED	Zeničko Dobojski	Vareš	Mijakovići	Mijakovići	RO Sarajevo	135,700	OSBiH	Field operations finished	100%	Aug-Sep 2022
SUBTOTAL (FIELD OPERATIONS FINISHED)					390,351						
7	FED	Tuzla Canton	Kladanj	Kladanj	Kladanj KM-centar	RO Tuzla	55,090	NPA	In progres	50%	Sept.2022
8	FED	Kanton 10	Glamoč	Prijani	Prijani-Paripovac	RO Mostar	33,740	FUCZ	In progres	50%	Sept.2022
9	RS	RS	Han Pijesak	Japaga	Japaga	RO Pale	151,485	NPA	In progres	20%	Sept.2022
10	FED	Zeničko Dobojski	Zenica	Vranovići	Vranovići-Lijeske	RO Tuzla	43,990	OS BiH	Project prepared	0	Sept.2022
11	FED	Tuzla Canton	Banovići	Cubrići	Podgorje-Čubrići	RO Tuzla	39,670	OS BiH	Project prepared	0	Sept.2022
12	FED	Canton 10	Glamoč	Koričina	Paljenica	RO Mostar	86,890	FUCZ	Project prepared	0	Sept.2022
NEW PROJECTS											
13	FED	Tuzla Canton	Sapna	Sapna	Bešići-Munjača	RO Tuzla	51,140	NPA	Project prepared	0	Mart 2023
14	FED	Tuzla Canton	Sapna	Sapna	Zečija kosa	RO Tuzla	68,850	NPA	Project prepared	0	Mart 2023
	SUBTOTAL (REMAINING CLUSTER MUNITION AREA)					530,855					
	TOTAL						921,206				

Table 2 - Cluster munition – current contamination level

The tasks, listed in Table 2 (7-12), should be completed in the field in August 2022. September 2022 is planned for the preparation of final documentation and issuing certificates.

Two new tasks (13 and 14), should be completed in the field no later than December 31, 2022. March 2023 is the planned deadline for final documentation and the issuance of certificate.

Based on past experience and depending on weather conditions, delays are possible and deadlines can be postponed. The rest of the time for fulfilling the obligations under the Request of Extension (September 1, 2023) will be used for the finalization of the Convention report, submitting to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions for evaluation and adoption. Also, based on previous experience is very often that confirmed risk areas can be increased because of a lack of information about the number of fired missiles.



Type of cluster munition used and found in Bosnia and Herzegovina

4.2. A Particular Problem – Depleted Uranium Contamination in Han Pijesak

In the Municipality of Han Pijesak, RS there is a project titled Japaga where - other than cluster munitions – there is also a DU contamination remaining from NATO air campaign against the positions of the Army of the Republika Srpska (VRS). The DU contamination makes this a particular problem as it poses a threat to health of the local population who inhabit the area in its immediate vicinity. The threat is not only to the local population but also to anyone undertaking operations at this site. This specific task is currently in the process of implementation by non-governmental organisation NPA and it is expected to be finished by September 2022.

5. Benefits of clearance CCM

5.1. Socio-economic benefits

It is estimated that most communities whose land is contaminated with mines/cluster munitions are located in rural areas of BiH and the rural population is economically dependent on the access to land that can be contaminated with mines/cluster munitions. Also, the analysis of accidents caused by mines/cluster munitions in BiH shows that people with difficult economic situation are more exposed to mine/cluster munition contamination, so they often consciously enter contaminated areas for existential needs. By removing cluster munitions, the population can reuse land for agriculture and livestock, which is the existential basis for sustainability of the population in rural areas.

In addition to most of the locations in the rural areas, parts of the cluster munitions can still be found near the urban areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Photo 1 – Cluster munitions found on the agricultural land



Photo 2 and 3 – Everyday life close to the area contaminated by cluster munitions

5.2. Planning for the extension period

In 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to work toward resolving of the cluster munitions problem although with a reduced scope of operations due to the effects of the pandemic felt in our country as well. All operations were paused in the spring but continued since mid-year.

In 2021, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to act in the face of the threat of cluster munitions with the intention of resolving the issue of cluster munitions within the approved deadline for fulfillment of commitments, which was September 1, 2022. In the spring of 2022, new findings were made on field and it was clear that Bosnia and Herzegovina would seek a new extension.

The remaining cluster munition contamination size is **530.855** m². The removal of cluster munitions will be continued until the goal is met, which means until Bosnia and Herzegovina is completely free from contamination with cluster munitions as we anticipate by **September 1, 2023**. According to the prognosis of the duration of cluster munition removal, and based on previous experience and accessibility of the terrain, the average daily productivity per operator is **136** m² on projects contaminated with cluster munitions. The prognosis of cluster munition clearance on projects contaminated with cluster munitions is shown in Table 3.

Prognosis Clearance Duration				
	SHA / Chuster			
Avarage daily clearance	136 m ² /Person/Day			
Clearance personnel (efective)	40 Personnel			
Clearance duration (shown in months/workdays)	4 Months = 72 Workdays			
Annual personnel workdays	2.880 Personnel workdays			
Annual Clearance	Hectares			
Required duration in years for 53,09 hectares	ca. 4 months			
Expected finalization of clearance	12/31/2022			
Expected end of project (accounting and documentation)	09/01/2023			

Table 3 – Prognosis clearance duration for extension period

5.3. Needed funds

The total cost of remaining cluster munitions disposal – including the tasks which combine the problem with mines – is assessed at BAM 0,7 Million. Funds shall be provided by donors and local sources. Part of the funds will be provided for governmental organizations (Armed Forces of BiH and Civil Protections) through state budgets, while part of the funds will be provided through donor funds (NPA). Financial funds are already allocated for all projects.

6. Resource Mobilization Plan

6.1. Resources

Cluster munitions disposal operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina have in the past been conducted by governmental organisations (Armed Forces BiH, Federal Administration of Civil Protection, Civil Protection of Republika Srpska) and non-governmental organisation, i.e. NPA. Cooperation and coordination between governmental organizations and the NPA as key actors in solving problems of cluster munitions is reflected in meetings held on a monthly basis under the patronage of the BiH Mine Action Center to report on progress in cluster munition removal and planning further activities. In addition to holding these meetings, the NPA and governmental organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The remaining cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall continue to be resolved through engagement of the same companies as it was the case in the past: the Armed Forces BiH; Federal Civil Protection i.e. the state/government capacities; Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), i.e. international NGO.

Glossary:

Mine Action Centre BiH – BHMAC established by the Decision of the Council of Ministers, based on the Demining Law in BiH (Official Gazette BiH, No: 5/02) as the expert body of the Demining Commission in BiH;

Quality control (CC) – is a part of quality management, with the goal of fulfilling the request for quality (ISO 9000: 2000). Quality control relates to the inspection of the final product. In the case of humanitarian demining, the final product is the cleared area;

Quality Assurance (QA) – is a part of quality management, with the goal of building trust that conditions set for quality will be met (ISO 9000:2000). The purpose of quality assurance in humanitarian demining is the confirmation that managerial and operational procedures are applied properly, and that prescribed precondition can be met safely, efficiently and effectively. Internal quality assurance is conducted by the organization itself, while Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina conducts external control;

Cluster munitions – According to the Convention on Cluster Munitions a cluster munition is: "A conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms, and includes those submunitions." Cluster munitions consist of containers and submunitions. Launched from the ground or air, the containers open and disperse submunitions (bomblets) over a wide area. Submunitions are typically designed to pierce armour, kill personnel, or both.

Convention on Cluster Munitions – An international convention adopted in May 2008 and opened for signature in December 2008. The convention prohibits the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions. It also requires stockpile destruction, clearance, and victim assistance.

Explosive remnants of war – Under Protocol V to the Convention on Conventional Weapons, explosive remnants of war are defined as unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance. Mines are explicitly excluded from the definition.

Non-technical survey (NTS) – Activity for gathering and analysis of presence, type and layout of mines without the use of technical methods. Although non-technical methods are used in non-technical survey, there is a strong connection with technical methods. Non-technical survey defines the areas to be cancelled, reduced and cleared;

Technical survey (TS) – The process of gathering and analysing information on existence, type and layout of mines, used to clarify whether the contamination is present or not.

Acronyms

CCM	2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions
BHMAC	Mine Action Centre BiH
СМ	Cluster Munition
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal
ERW	Explosive remnants from war
EUFOR	European Union Forces
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for humanitarian demining
IMAS	International standards
MRE	Mine risk education
NGO	Non-government organizations
NTS	Non-technical survey
SOP	Standard operational procedures
MVA	Mine victims assistance
TS	Technical survey
UN	United Nations
NPA	Norwegian Peoples Aid