

## 2012 Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions



### Statement on Clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### **Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

The total suspected area polluted by cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 12,3 km<sup>2</sup>. Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina received this data in 2011 from Norwegian Peoples' Aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina. NPA helped Bosnia and Herzegovina to conduct the first survey in cooperation with teams from Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This survey is subject to further processing by teams from Mine Action Center who also prepared conditions for opening tasks at the beginning of 2012.

We expect that out of the total area of 12,3 km<sup>2</sup>, the real area for clearance will be about 4 km<sup>2</sup>, while the rest of the area will be returned to local communities through general survey. According to the plan, clearance of cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be finished in 3 to 5 years. This will highly depend on the clearing of minefields, because about half of the cluster munitions contaminated areas overlap with areas contaminated by mines. Those minefields have to be cleared in order to conduct clearance process of cluster munitions or these two operations might be done together, but anyway it will require more time and resources.

Mine Action Center has also started with developing Standard and Standard Operational Procedures for cluster munitions survey and clearance, as well as creating conditions for accreditation of all interested companies who want to engage in cluster munitions removal in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We expect accreditation of 5 to 7 government, non-government and commercial companies during this year.

As a part of mine risk education activities, besides mines and UXO, emphasis was also put on cluster munitions which were treated through UXO risk education before ratification of the Convention. In the future we will continue with activities of risk education. Last year we started marking areas contaminated by cluster munitions where 42 marking signs were placed.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has started to develop database for cluster munitions. This database is very similar with database for mine action, but all characteristics of cluster munitions and its clearance will be integrated in this

new one. The data base will also include data on cluster munitions victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thank you for your attention!