

**Intersessional Meeting on the Convention on Cluster
Munitions 2013**



Statement – Cluster Munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted and ratified Convention on Cluster Munitions in June, 2010 and took over the obligation to clear the country of cluster munitions, assist to cluster munitions victims and destroy all stockpiles of cluster munitions.

Total suspected area on cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 13km². Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina received these 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. Meanwhile, BHMAC's teams found several areas of action that were not known in 2011 and implemented the re-survey of existing locations, so it's the main reason for this slight increase in suspected hazard area in 2012.

We expect that out of the total area of 13 km², the real area for clearance will be about 3 - 4 km², while the rest of the area will be returned to local communities through non technical survey. According to the plan, clearance of cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be finished until the end of 2015. This is supported by the fact that, in 2012, NPA teams opened 10 tasks and cleaned and returned to use over 800,000 m² of the area contaminated by cluster munitions. 4 tasks with the total area of 400,000 m² are currently in progress. BHMAC team through non technical method returned to use over 2,4km² of the areas suspected of cluster munitions.

Mine Action Center has also reached the final stage of drafting Standard and Standard Operational Procedures for cluster munitions survey and clearance. Conditions for accreditation have been created by adopting the rules for accreditation. The teams of Civil Protection Service and the Armed Forces are currently being trained. Their accreditation and the beginning of work are expected at mid of this year. We expect accreditation of 3 to 5 non-governmental 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 with marking the areas contaminated by cluster munitions and we placed 400 marking signs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has started to develop database for cluster munitions. This database is very similar to the database for mine action, but all characteristics of cluster munitions and its clearance will be built in this new one. The data base will also include data on cluster munitions victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thank you for your attention!

Presented by

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