



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**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 March 1, 2021.

### **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 12,17km<sup>2</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

In order to fulfil the obligations under Article 4 of the Convention in requested timeframe (18 months) from 1 March 2021 to 1 September 2022, the funds totalling 4,5 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 km<sup>2</sup> were contaminated with cluster munitions at additional 35 locations, which makes total cluster munition contaminated area of 14.61 km<sup>2</sup>.

In the same period, from 2012-2019, through cluster munitions clearance and release of the land, 8.81 km<sup>2</sup> 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). The total size of those areas is 3.6 km<sup>2</sup>.

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

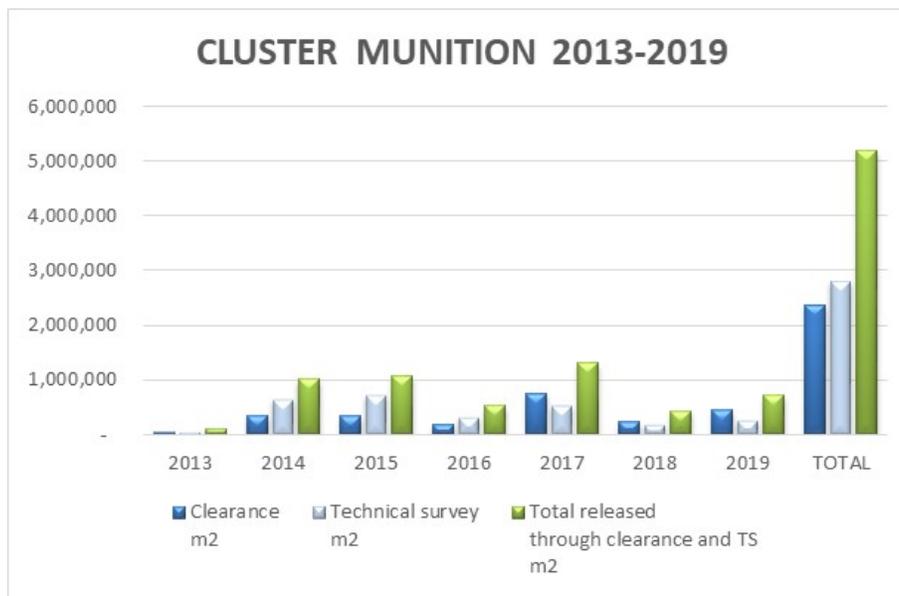
Cluster munitions remnants land release from 2013 – 2019:

- a) Total amount released through clearance and technical survey (TS): 5,196,315 m<sup>2</sup> (a.1+a.2.)
  - a.1. Total amount released through clearance: 2,375,044 m<sup>2</sup>
  - a.2. Total amount cancelled through technical survey (TS): 2,820,271 m<sup>2</sup>
- b) Total amount reduced through non-technical survey (NTS): 3,610,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- c) Total number of cluster munitions remnants cleared and destroyed: 2,779

Overview of cluster munitions removal through clearance and technical survey for the period 2013-2019 is laid out in Table 1 and Chart 1.

Year	Clearance m <sup>2</sup>	Technical survey m <sup>2</sup>	Total released through clearance and TS m <sup>2</sup>	KB 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,376,044</b>	<b>2,820,271</b>	<b>5,196,315</b>	<b>2779</b>

Table 1 - Cluster munition remnants land release clearance and technical survey from 2013 – 2019

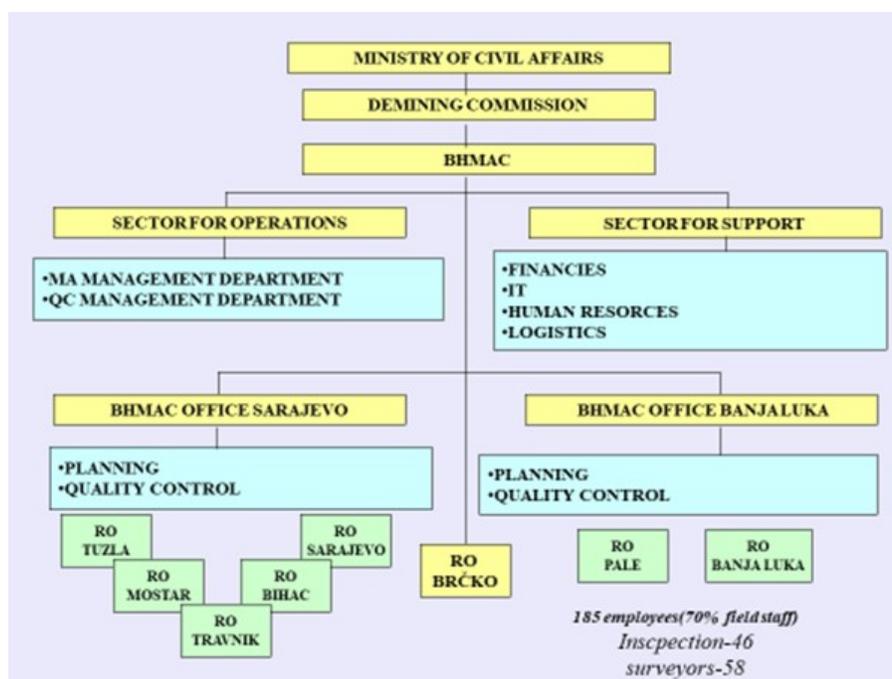


Graph 1 – Cluster munition 2013 -2019

### 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 (BHMACH) 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 (BHMACH) was founded by the Decision of the Council of Ministers and based upon the Law on Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina. BHMACH structure includes the following departments (Annex 1 - Mine Action Structure in Bosnia 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina

### 3.1. Strategy and Standards

By late 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) 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.

BHMIC-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, 721 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 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;
- d) 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.

(Oslo Action Plan: Actions 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 40)

## 4. Remaining Challenges

### 4.1. Current Contamination Level

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

No	Entity	Canton	Municipality	Local community	Location name	Regional Office	Cluster munition na Minski sumnjivoj površini m <sup>2</sup>	Cluster munition area m <sup>2</sup>	Organization
1	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Vares	Okruglica	-	RO Sarajevo	199,601	0	Project prepared
2	FED	Sarajevski	Ilijas	Mosevici	Moševidi	RO Sarajevo	114,758	0	Project prepared
3	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Olovo	Krizevici	Križevci	RO Sarajevo	95,222	0	Project prepared
4	FED	Sarajevski	Hadzici	Kasatici	-	RO Sarajevo	30,896	0	Project prepared
5	FED	Tuzlanski	Sapna	Sapna	Sapna	RO Tuzla	124,137	0	Project prepared
6	FED	Hercegovačko Bosanski	Glamoc	Koricina	Paljenica	RO Mostar	86,866	0	Project prepared
7	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Vares	Mijakovici	Mijakovici	RO Sarajevo		65,756	Project prepared
8	FED	Sarajevski	Hadzici	Pazaric	-	RO Sarajevo		110,515	Project prepared
9	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Zavidovici	Dubravica	-	RO Tuzla		47,773	Project prepared
10	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Zenica	Smetovi	Smetovi	RO Tuzla		42,605	Project prepared
11	RS	RS	Han Pijesak	Japaga	Japaga	RO Pale		376,178	Project prepared
12	RS	RS	Krupa na Uni	Donji Petrovici	Rejon - Grabovac	RO Banja Luka		43,611	RU CZ RS
13	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Olovo	Solun	Crni potok	RO Sarajevo		11,117	OSBiH 2020
14	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Zavidovici	Ribnica	Ribnica; Ribnica 2	RO Tuzla		42,002	OSBiH 2020
15	FED	Tuzlanski	Banovici	Čatici	-	RO Tuzla		23,194	OSBiH 2020
16	FED	Tuzlanski	Sapna	Sapna	Sapna	RO Tuzla		79,527	NPA in progress
17	FED	Tuzlanski	Kalesija	Tojsici	Tojšići	RO Tuzla		25,120	NPA in progress
18	FED	Tuzlanski	Kalesija	Tojsici	Tojšići bare	RO Tuzla		1,955	NPA in progress
19	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Zavidovici	Naselje Krivaja	-	RO Tuzla		45,919	NPA
20	FED	Tuzlanski	Gradacac	Mionica	Mionica	RO Tuzla		0	NPA in progress
21	FED	Tuzlanski	Kladanj	Kladanj	Zorin potok	RO Tuzla		41,742	NPA
22	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Zavidovici	Zavidovici	-	RO Tuzla		30,189	NPA
23	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Zavidovici	Novo naselje	Novo naselje	RO Tuzla		0	NPA in progress
24	FED	Zenicko Dobojski	Tesanj	Tesanj	Školjića brdo	RO Tuzla		42,214	NPA
25	FED	Hercegovačko Bosanski	Tomislavgrad	Vinica	Vlake	RO Mostar		109,170	NPA-CI završena
26	FED	Srednje Bosanski	Travnik	Travnik - centar	Travnik - grad	RO Travnik		13,138	NPA
27	FED	RS	Bratunac	Pobudje	Zaseok Krke - nastavak	RO Pale		100,692	NPA
28	RS	RS	Brod	Novo Selo	Novo Selo	RO Banja Luka		233,171	Project prepared
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>651,480</b>	<b>1,485,588</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>2,137,068</b>		

Table 2 - Cluster munition – current contamination level



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.

## 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. Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to deal with the remaining cluster munitions problem in two ways – considering that some of the areas are also contaminated with AP mines. To be exact, there are 6 micro locations that cover a total of 651,480 m<sup>2</sup>. These locations are planned to be treated for mines first, followed by clearance of cluster munitions. In order to provide continuity, as well as deal with both types of contamination within a single task, Bosnia and Herzegovina shall contract companies that have capabilities to deal with both issues: mines and cluster munitions.

The remaining cluster munition contamination size is 2.137.068 m<sup>2</sup>. 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, 2022. 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 220 m<sup>2</sup> on projects contaminated only with cluster munitions while the average daily productivity is much lower on projects contaminated with combined mines and cluster munitions and it is only 60 m<sup>2</sup>. The prognosis of cluster munition clearance on projects contaminated only with cluster munitions and a combination of mines and cluster munitions is shown in Table 3.

Prognosis Clearance Duration		
	SHA / Cluster	SHA / Cluster and Mines
Average daily clearance	220 m <sup>2</sup> /Person/Day	60 m <sup>2</sup> /Person/Day
Clearance personnel (effective)	12 Personnel	40 Personnel
Clearance duration (shown in months/workdays)	18 Months = 303 Workdays	18 Months = 291 Workdays
Annual personnel workdays	3,636 Personnel workdays	11,640 Personnel workdays
Annual Clearance	Hectares	Hectares
Required duration in years for 195 hectares	cca. 1.5 Years	
Expected finalization of clearance	01/08/2022	
Expected end of project (accounting and documentation)	01/09/2022	

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 4.5 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.

## **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.

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; entity Civil Protection Agencies, i.e. the state/government capacities; Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), i.e. international NGO.

Based on experiences of neighbouring countries, Serbia and Kosovo, and looking at the resources available to them – cluster munitions disposal operations can be performed by the following demining organisations: Centar za humanitarno razminiranje, Detektor, In Demining NGO and Stop Mines NGO. These organisations could be accredited and engaged if and when a tender is issued for removal of the remaining cluster munitions.

**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
CM	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