

## CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

### Article 4 Declaration of Compliance

**Submitted by:** Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Article 4 destruction deadline:** 01 September 2023

**Date of completion:** 31 August 2023

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Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions In December 2008 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 force in March 2011. Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its first report in August 2011 arising from Article 7 of the Convention (Transparency measures) and 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, paragraph (1) of the Convention was March 1, 2021. Along with COVID-19 global pandemic crisis and the delayed demining season, problems developed also with the capacities for cluster munitions disposal. In order to fulfil the obligations under Article 4 of the Convention in the second requested extension of the timeframe (18 months) from 1 March 2021 to 1 September 2022, BiH submitted a revised and improved extension request in July 2022 following feedback from the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group. Despite pledging to meet its extended deadline of September 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina was not on track to do so and has requested one more year to fulfil its CCM clearance obligations. In the spring of 2022, BHMACH identified six previously unreported cluster munition suspected and contaminated areas, Bosnia and Herzegovina was not able to complete clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) by 1 September 2022. In May 2022, BiH submitted a second request to extend the deadline for additional 12 months until 1 September 2023.

### **I. Declaration of compliance**

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina hereby declares that as at 31 August 2023 it made every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction and control contaminated by remnants of cluster munitions, in accordance with article 4.1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina hereby declares that as at 31 August 2023 it cleared and destroyed all remnants of cluster munitions found in the areas mentioned in paragraph 1, in accordance with article 4.1.
3. By taking the action described in paragraphs 1 and 2, Bosnia and Herzegovina has fulfilled its obligations under article 4.1 (a).

### **Location**

4. Bosnia and Herzegovina contamination with cluster munitions, landmines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) occurred during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina

between 1992 and 1995. Since 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) in cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted a non-technical survey (NTS) to determine the scope of cluster munition contamination in the country. The preliminary survey results in 2011 revealed that a total of 12.17 km<sup>2</sup> covering 140 locations was contaminated with cluster munitions. During the period 2012 to 2019, an additional 2.43 km<sup>2</sup> in 35 other locations were also found to be contaminated, which made the total cluster munition contaminated area in Bosnia and Herzegovina amount to 14.61 km<sup>2</sup>.

Types of cleared and destroyed cluster munition in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

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

## Methods

5. The cluster munition contaminated area was cleared by a non-governmental organization Norwegian People's Aid and governmental organisations BiH Armed Forces, Federal Administration of Civil Protection and Republic Administration of Civil Protection under the supervision of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC). Technical survey and clearance were carried out with locators following the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and national SOPs developed for non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance. Out of the estimated total area of 14,61 km<sup>2</sup>, a total of 9,30 km<sup>2</sup> was cleared, 7,932 pieces of cluster munitions were found and destroyed, while 1,71 km<sup>2</sup> was canceled through NTS in the process of targeted TS in order to identify the evidence point. The area of 3,6 km<sup>2</sup> had been separated out and identified as area contaminated with non-conventional/improvised weapons, which do not fall under the scope of the CCM.

## Contact information

6. The clearance operation was led by the Ministry of Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) as technical body, with support from Norwegian People's Aid. The Ministry of Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) as technical body is responsible for the implementation of the Convention on cluster munitions. It prepares and publishes the annual transparency reports required under this Disarmament Convention.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) can be reached by telephone (+387 33 221 073; +387 33 492 548; +387 33 253 800), by fax (+387 33 221 074; + 387 33 498 631; +387 33 494 565) or by e-mail ([kabinet.ministra@mcp.gov.ba](mailto:kabinet.ministra@mcp.gov.ba); [info@bhmic.org](mailto:info@bhmic.org)).

## Residual risk

7. The Programme conducted post-clearance quality control operations in the period from 2012 to 2023, as a result of which the land was released and the residual risk was confirmed to be acceptable under the national standards in force.

## II. Action to be taken if areas unknown to have been contaminated by cluster munitions are identified after completion

8. In the event that areas unknown to have been contaminated by cluster munitions are identified after 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina will, as soon as possible, take action:

To accurately identify the extent of the contaminated areas and destroy all cluster munitions found in those areas, using the most effective and efficient methods, including the ones described above;

To ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from those areas until they are no longer contaminated;

To report such contaminated areas in accordance with the obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina under article 7 of the Convention and to share any relevant information to the general public, stakeholders and States parties through other formal and informal means;

This is particularly reflected in the fact that there are still 860 km<sup>2</sup> of mine-suspected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and there is a possibility that cluster munitions may be found during the clearance of these areas. Bosnia and Herzegovina will report in case of finding some cluster munition according to the obligations from the Convention.

To submit an additional declaration of compliance to States parties when those contaminated areas are identified and all remnants of cluster munitions in those areas have been cleared and destroyed.

### Procedure for reporting sightings of possible explosive remnants of war, including remnants of cluster munitions

9. Bosnia and Herzegovina has been contaminated by unexploded remnants of war (with multiple types of ERW) during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995, with items of UXO discovered daily throughout the country. This is a middle-risk problem that mainly results in delays and extra costs for infrastructure projects in affected areas. To address the problem, there is a requirement to report sightings of possible explosive remnants of war.

The standard procedure is to contact the civil protections (Federal Administration of Civil Protection and Republic Administration of Civil Protection) and report any sighting or suspected explosive contamination. These authorities assess the situation and, if necessary, secure the area and contact the civil protections to clear the area. This is also the procedure for reporting possible contamination by cluster munitions. Such ordnance is disarmed and destroyed in accordance with existing national standards.

  
**Signature and official stamp**



The stamp is circular and contains the following text: "BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA" at the top, "MINISTARSTVO OBRANE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE" at the bottom, and "CENTAR ZA UKLONJENJE NEKORISNIH EKSPLOZIVNIH MATERIJALA" in the center. It also features the coat of arms of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

September 7, 2023 in Sarajevo