

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING PLAN AND FINANCIAL MEANS SPENT IN 2009

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian Demining Plan 2009 (hereinafter: Plan) is made based on the Law on Humanitarian Demining (Narodne novine (National Gazette) 153/05, 63/07 and 152/08). The Plan is made by the Croatian Mine Action Centre as the central body for management and co-ordination of all mine action-related activities in the Republic of Croatia. The Government of the Republic of Croatia passed the Plan on the 73rd session held on March 18, 2009.

I. BASIC TASKS OF PLAN 2009

The basis for Plan drafting were the defined mine suspected area (MSA) of 954,5 km² on January 1, 2009 and planned financial means in the amount of 370.266.811,00 HRK out of which 318.157.000,00 HRK for demining operations¹.

The Plan defined the following basic tasks:

1. to remove mine danger from the area of 37,4 km² by humanitarian demining of mine suspected areas and reduce mine suspected area for 20,0 km² through general survey operations;
2. to maintain the marking status of the entire mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia;
3. To co-ordinate mine risk education and mine victim assistance activities;
4. to strengthen the international co-operation.

II. REALIZATION OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING PLAN AND FINANCIAL MEANS SPENT IN 2009

II.1. REDUCTION OF MINE SUSPECTED AREA IN 2009

By humanitarian demining operations performed as per 213 mine search and demining projects, mine danger was removed from the area of 37.869.420 m². By implementation of general survey with the purpose of updating mine suspected area (MSA) of the Republic of Croatia and preparation of project documentation, mine suspected area (MSA) was reduced for 24.708.774 m² what all together resulted in reduction of mine suspected area in 2009 for 62.578.194 m².

Until December 31, 2009, apart from mine suspected area, Croatian Mine Action Centre identified the areas contaminated solely by unexploded ordnances totalling 4.267.489 m². Stated areas covering the territory of 6 counties and 19 towns and municipalities are marked according to CROMAC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP); SOP 01.02.01 – MARKING OF AREAS OF POTENTIAL UXO DETECTION.

¹ The term "deminig operations" covers the operations of mine search and demining of mine suspected area.

According to the above-mentioned, on December 31, 2009, mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia amounted to 887,7 km².

II.1.1. REDUCTION OF MINE SUSPECTED AREA IN 2009 BY CONDUCT OF DEMINING OPERATIONS

Mine search and demining operations in 2009 resulted in releasing the area of 37.869.420 m² out of which 22.685.248 m² through mine search and 15.184.172 m² through demining what represents the realization of 101,1 % in relation to the Plan.

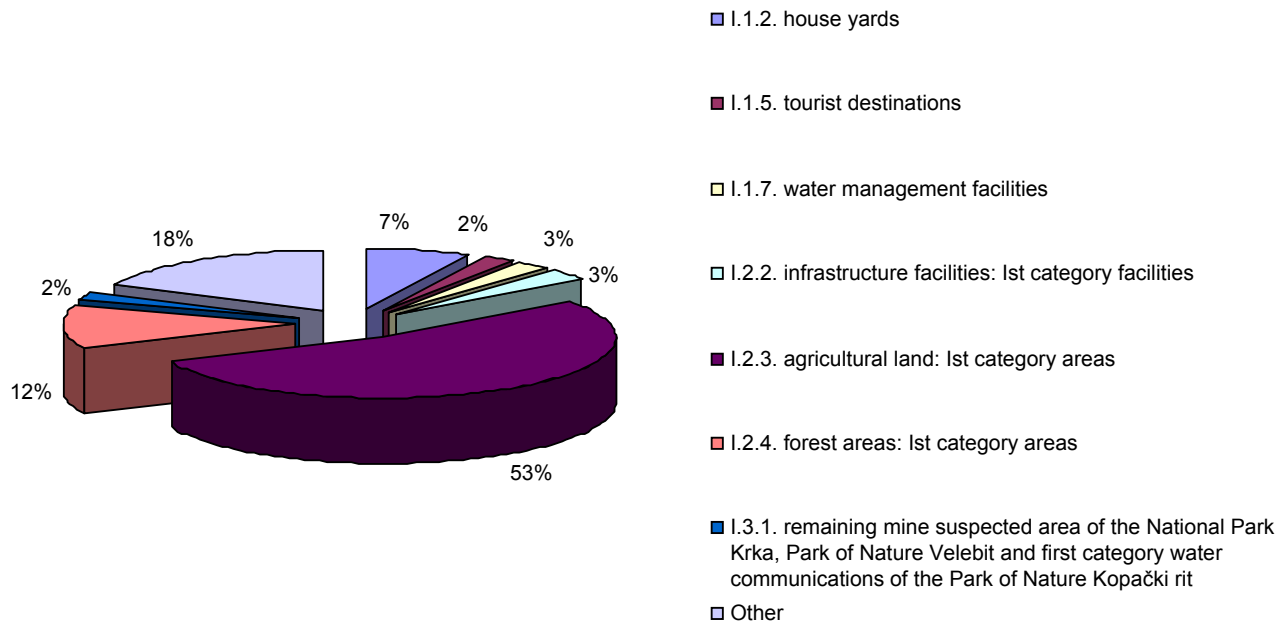
Table no. 2. The illustration of demined, searched and contracted mine suspected area per counties

No	County	Planned realization in 2009 (m ²)	Demined in 2009 (m ²)	Realization (%)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Brod-Posavina	1.256.145	1.112.338	88,55
2	Dubrovnik-Neretva	1.740.713	1.740.867	100,01
3	Karlovac	2.429.829	2.206.834	90,82
4	Lika-Senj	3.838.377	2.774.430	72,28
5	Osijek-Baranja	9.422.352	10.524.763	111,70
6	Požega-Slavonia	2.400.363	1.408.384	58,67
7	Sisak-Moslavina	4.099.670	3.792.689	92,51
8	Split-Dalmatia	650.936	612.831	94,15
9	Šibenik-Knin	2.519.232	3.096.151	122,90
10	Virovitica-Podravina	806.220	617.951	76,65
11	Vukovar-Srijem	5.603.617	5.755.429	102,71
12	Zadar	2.677.516	4.226.753	157,86
TOTAL:		37.444.970	37.869.420	101,13

From the total realization in 2009, it is important to mention the fact that mine danger has been removed from the territory of the Town of Biograd na moru and Zadar in Zadar County, Slunj in Karlovac County and municipalities of Erdut in Osijek-Baranja County and Vojnić in Karlovac County. In 2009, the entire mine suspected area of the National Park Krka was demined as well.

The Structure of Searched Area per Counties

Graph no.1. The structure of demined areas per counties – realization:



II.1.2. AREAS CANCELLED FROM MINE SUSPECTED AREA (MSA) BY CONDUCT OF GENERAL SURVEY

Parallel with demining of mine suspected areas conducted by accredited legal entities, survey teams of the Croatian Mine Action Centre have been systematically performing additional surveys for the purpose of updating the MSA status and collecting data required for drafting mine search and demining projects.

By implementing criteria defined by Standard Operating Procedure; SOP 01.01 – GENERAL SURVEY OF MSA on the above-mentioned area, mine suspected area has been reduced for 24,7 km².

II.2. QUALITY ASSURANCE

In 2009, there were 28 legal entities (27 commercial companies and one non-governmental organization "Norwegian People's Aid") with 623 deminers (610 local deminers and 13 foreign deminers with working license), 56 demining machines and 34 mine detection dogs being accredited and performing demining operations.

In 2009, there were 307 quality assurances performed over completed mine search and demining operations on 4.247 control samples totalling 571.134 m² what makes 1,55% of the total demined area.

Quality assurances were conducted by 12 QA Officers and 27 QC Monitors.

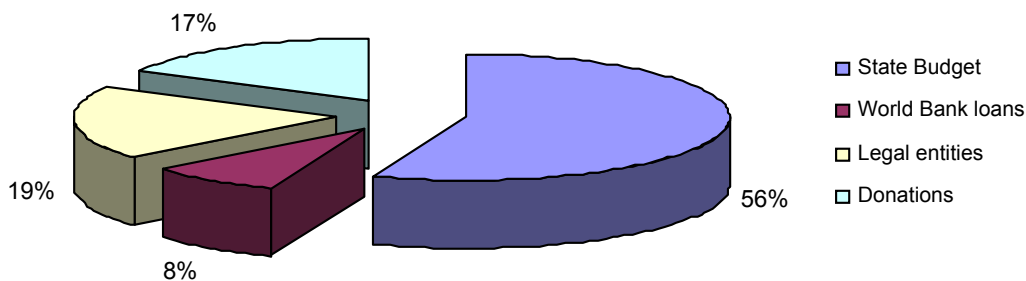
In 2009, there were 3.395 anti-personnel mines, 5.276 anti-tank mines and 1.186 pieces of UXO found and destroyed.

II.3 FINANCING

Since 1998, demining operations since have been financed from the following sources:

- State Budget,
- Legal entities and state administration bodies (investors),
- World Bank loans and
- Donors.

Graph no. 2: Share in financing demining in the period 1998-2009



Since the establishment of Croatian Mine Action Centre until December 31, 2009, 3,1 billion HRK have been invested into demining from the State Budget. Allocations from the State Budget have been increasing over the years. From the initial 83 million HRK in 1998 they grew to 196 million HRK in 2009. Last two years and the year 2002 are years with biggest investments into demining operations.

Table no. 5: Financial realization in 2009 – all funding sources

No.	Funding source	Plan	Realized and contracted	Realization
1. a)	State Budget - demining	175.977.000	175.977.000,00	100,0
b)	State Budget – share in the loan IBRD-7283	20.350.000	20.350.000,00	100,0
2.	Legal entities - investors	56.450.000	51.246.221,08	90,8
3.	Donations	43.630.000	43.825.448,24	100,4
4.	Loan IBRD-7283	21.750.000	26.801.093,79	123,2
TOTAL:		318.157.000	318.199.763,11	100,0

II.3.5. DEMINING PRICE

Average price of all contracted demining operations in 2009 was 8,18 HRK/m², no VAT what represents an increase for 5,1% in relation to the 2008.

III. SUSTAINING MARKING OF THE ENTIRE MINE SUSPECTED AREA OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Parallel with the implementation of general survey and mine search and demining operations, there has been the control of marking performed. There were additional markings performed where necessary in order to create a clear boundary between safe and mine suspected area.

The position of mine warning signs is one of the basic elements of mine information system presented on mine-contamination maps submitted to state administration bodies, local and regional self-administration, police administrations and other natural and legal entities upon request.

On December 31, 2009, mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia was marked with 16.027 mine warning signs.

Apart from that, areas contaminated solely by unexploded ordinances were marked with 283 warning signs.

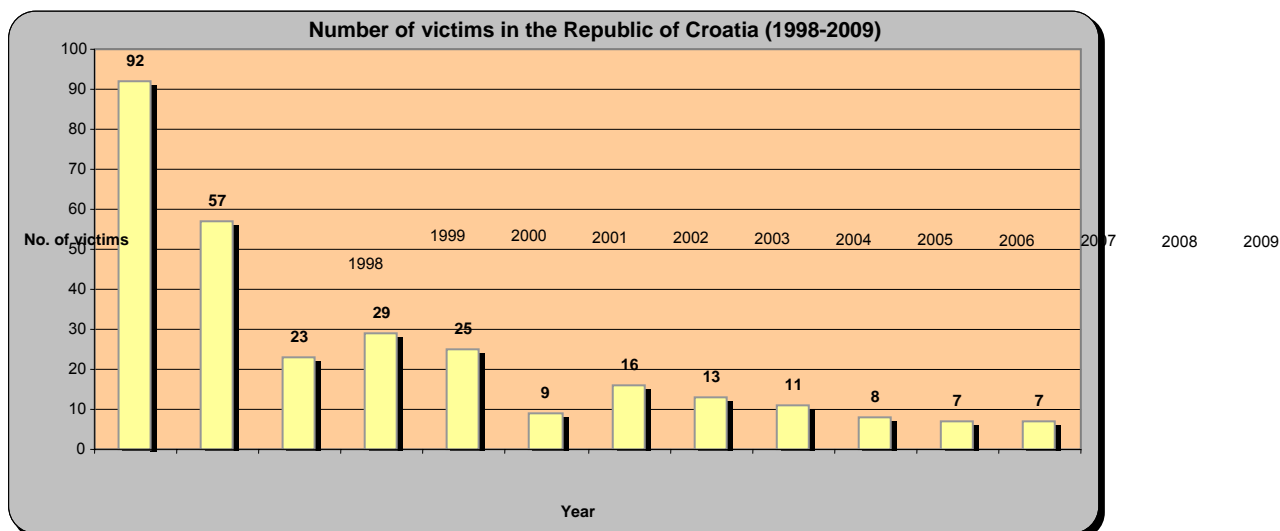
IV. CO-ORDINATION OF MINE RISK EDUCATION AND MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

In line with the Law on Humanitarian Demining, mine risk education and mine victims assistance were conducted during 2009 with co-coordinative role of the Croatian Mine Action Centre and co-operation with state administration bodies in line with their authority, different domestic institutions and international organizations and associations.

IV.2. MINE VICTIMS

In the period from 1 January 2009, there were 6 mine incidents registered involving 7 persons out of which three were deminers. In 2009, there was the same number of incidents registered as in 2008.

Since the establishment of the Croatian Mine Action Centre in 1998 until today, 218 mine incidents happened that have so far involved 296 persons. 110 persons were killed, 123 suffered major bodily injuries while 64 suffered minor bodily injuries. Out of this number, 59 persons were deminers (22 killed), and 22 victims were younger than 18 (5 killed). Joint actions of mine risk education, marking and informing the citizens about mine danger resulted in blocking the incidents involving children (the last one happened in 2004).



IV.2.1. MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

In 2009, mine victim assistance was being provided according to legal regulations through state administration bodies and non-governmental organizations with co-ordinative role of CROMAC. CROMAC has been preparing a brochure consisting of listed relevant laws and regulations stipulating the rights of mine victims and their families.

The process of merging the existing data for the purpose of creating a unique mine victim database started in 2009.

Relevant state administration authorities were involved in solving the problems of mine victims relating to medical rehabilitation. Other forms of assistance were conducted mostly by nongovernmental sector and financing was ensured by different donations of the international or domestic subjects.

In 2009, there were different one-time projects of financial support and education (scholarships, legal and psycho-social and medical support, orthopaedic aids) realized with the purpose of mine victims assistance. There were also summer and winter workshops organized for children and young people mine victims.

V. STRENGTHENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

In 2009, one of the basic goals of the international co-operation was the presentation of Croatian experience in mine action within the international mine action community and diplomatic posts in the Republic of Croatia but especially the diplomatic posts of the Republic of Croatia in the countries affected by mine problem.

On the trace of that goal, the activities of the international co-operation were intensified in 2009. Currently, there is an intensive co-operation in progress with eight countries. Co-operation Agreements have been signed with four countries (Azerbaijan, Yemen, Libya and Ukraine) and another two agreements with Egypt and Georgia are expected to be signed very soon. The co-operation with Sri

Lanka and Turkey will be conducted directly through the Cluster for Humanitarian Demining. CROMAC is putting his efforts into involving as many Croatian demining machine and equipment manufacturers into the co-operation process via the Cluster.

Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC-Centre for Testing, Development and Training have been organizing international symposiums since 2004. The Symposiums are attended by representatives of the national mine action centres, UN, non-governmental institutions, scientific institutions, demining companies and equipment manufacturers.

In 2009, there was the 6th International Symposium "Humanitarian Demining 2009" held from 27 to 30 April in Šibenik. Besides main topics, general and technical survey, science and mine action, symposium program also included the presentation of work of demining machines and a new metal detector with dual sensors. Such field part of the Symposium with the demonstration of the work of demining machines seemed to have drawn a lot of attention of mine action community members in Croatia and worldwide due to its practical value and realistic display. Apart from that, during three days of work, 130 participants from 35 countries had an opportunity to see the exhibition of 14 exhibitors from the field of equipment for mine detection, demining and personal protective equipment.