

Impact and Implementation

Serbia

Impact Contamination

LANDMINE & CLUSTER MUNITION
MONITOR

International **TO BAN**
CAMPAIGN
LANDMINES

Article 5 deadline: 1 March 2019 (currently requesting an extended deadline).

History of contamination

The contamination remaining in the Republic of Serbia is a result of use of mines in 2000–2001 in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo by a non-state armed group, the Liberation Army of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja.¹ Contamination also exists in the area of Kosovo (see separate Landmine Monitor profile available online).

Extent of contamination

The estimate of mine contamination as of March 2018 was nearly 2.4 km².

Estimated extent of contamination: Light

Antipersonnel mine contamination by village (as of March 2018)²

Municipality	Village	SHAs	Area (m ²)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bucje	3	575,020
	Konculj	5	1,181,820
	Dobrosin	1	248,000
	Djordjevac	1	145,100
	Lucane	1	73,200
	Turija	1	131,400
Total		12	2,354,540

Note: SHAs = Suspected Hazardous Areas

Cluster munition contamination by village (as of March 2018)³

Municipality	Village	SHAs	Area (m ²)	CHA	Area (m ²)	Total
Uzice	Bioska	1	585,268			585,268
Raska	Lisina	1	190,359			190,359
Sjenica	Cedovo	2	74,474	2	89,450	163,924
Sjenica	Vapa	2	94,496	1	338,416	432,912
Tutin	Istocni Mojstir	1	514,682			514,682
Nis	Medosevac	1	119,344			119,344
Bujanovac	Borovac	1	281,169	2	210,881	492,050
Total		9	1,859,792	5	638,747	2,498,539

Casualties

The last landmine casualties in Serbia were recorded in the Monitor for 2005. Serbia reported that there have been no new mine casualties in the period between December 2013 and 2018.⁴

Mine/ERW casualties in Serbia 1999–2016															
Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Casualties	14	48	33	5	4	2	2	2	3	12	2	11	6	1	145

All known casualties (through 2016)			
Unknown, but significantly more than 1,000*			
Casualties in 2016			
Annual total	2		66% decrease from 6 in 2015
Survival outcome	2 injured		
Device type causing casualties	1 ERW; 1 unexploded submunition		
Civilian status	1 civilian, 1 deminer, 0 military		0 unknown
Age and gender	2 adults: 0 women, 2 men	0 children	

* In 2004, 1,360 casualties (24 killed; 1,336 injured) were reported between 1992 and 2000 by Serbia and Montenegro.⁵

Addressing the impact through treaty implementation

In its comments on Serbia's 2018 extension request, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines called on Serbia to identify funding, including from national sources, and then clear all remaining contamination as soon as possible. It encouraged Serbia to provide an update on the development of national mine action standards and to ensure these would conform to International Mine Action Standards.

Victim assistance action points

- Support the efforts of the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs (MLEVSA) to lead the working group on victim assistance, empowered to develop and implement a plan to improve access to assistance for mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) survivors.
- Pass and implement adequate legislation on the protection of civilian war victims and veterans with disabilities.
- Simplify the bureaucratic procedures that prevent mine/ERW survivors from accessing benefits.

Clearance

Land release in 2017	
Antipersonnel mines	In 2017, 275,800m ² was reduced through technical survey in Bujanovac municipality. This is an increase on 2016, when no mined area was released by survey or clearance ⁶

Mine action management	
National mine action management actors	<p>The Sector for Emergency Management, under the Ministry of Interior, acts as the mine action authority, according to the Decree on Protection against Unexploded Ordnance ("Official Gazette of RS," No. 70/13).⁷ It is responsible for developing standard operating procedures; accrediting demining operators; and supervising the work of the Serbian Mine Action Center (SMAC)⁸</p> <p>SMAC is responsible for the coordination of demining; collection and management of mine action information (including casualty data); and survey of SHAs. It also has a mandate to plan demining projects, conduct quality control and monitor operations, ensure implementation of international standards, license demining organizations, and conduct risk education⁹</p>
Mine action plan	Updated workplan provided in the Second Extension Request, dated 14 March 2018

Victim assistance planning and coordination	
Government focal point	Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs (MLEVSA), Sector for Protection of Veterans with Disabilities
Coordination mechanisms	Working Group on Victim Assistance
Plans/strategies	No progress on the creation of a specific victim-assistance plan had been reported by October 2017 ¹⁰
Disability sector integration	Government focal point is also responsible for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities
Survivor inclusion and participation	In 2016, survivors and survivor groups did not participate in meetings of the working group on victim assistance. The group planned to include survivors in upcoming meetings ¹¹
Reporting	Serbia submitted its Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 report for calendar year 2017, which includes information on victim assistance ¹²

In March 2018, Serbia submitted its second extension request, seeking a further four years to complete clearance of 2.35km². Serbia has committed to provide national funding to mine clearance for the second extension period – 35% of the planned budget for the extension period is from Serbia's own funds. An additional 1.6 million euro of international funding is required for the new extension period.¹³

Serbia is currently requesting an extended deadline until 2023 to complete clearance. It is Serbia's second extension request. Between 2012 and 2016, Serbia cleared less than one square kilometer (0.84 km²) of mined area. Serbia reported that it faced additional challenges in complying with its Article 5 deadline, noting that the remaining mine contamination is of an unknown origin, with mines having been emplaced with no particular pattern and without minefield records.¹⁴

Victim assistance

International commitments and obligations

Serbia is responsible for significant numbers of landmine survivors, cluster munition victims, and survivors of other ERW who are in need. Serbia has made commitments to provide victim assistance through the Mine Ban Treaty.

Laws and policies

Serbia has a Strategy for the Prevention and Protection from Discrimination (2013–2018) and an action plan including the protection of persons with disabilities (2014).¹⁵

Developments in victim assistance

Numerous local survivor associations exist to provide peer support and advocate for members' rights, though they have limited financial resources or none at all. Since 2010, Assistance Advocacy Access Serbia (AAAS) has worked with local survivor associations to strengthen their capacity to carry out national advocacy and work for improved victim assistance.¹⁶

Victim assistance providers and activities	
Name of organization	Type of activity
Government	
Military Medical Academy (VMA)	Medical services, physical rehabilitation, and psychological and psychiatric support
SHROP	Physical rehabilitation and psychological support
Sector for Protection of Veterans with Disability, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy	Support for physical and professional rehabilitation of disabled veterans
National	
Association of Disabled Veterans of War and Peace	Advocacy, psychological support, rehabilitation, legal aid, awareness-raising, coordination between associations, trainings
Civilian War Victims Association, Smederevo	Data collection, advocacy of rights and legal assistance, peer support, and social inclusion
Association of Veterans with Disabilities, Vlasotince	Psychological support and social inclusion; accessibility projects; advocacy
Association of Veterans with Disabilities, Gadzin Han	Home visits/peer support for veterans with disabilities and other persons with disabilities
Association of Veterans with Disabilities, Kragujavec	Sporting events, awareness-raising activities, training in rights and administrative procedures to obtain rights
Graditeljimira (Peace Builders)	Psychological support and social inclusion; physical rehabilitation; advocacy; peace and reconciliation
Amputee Association of Serbia	Referrals to available services; advocacy, cross-border cooperation
AAAS	Survivor needs assessment, advocacy, capacity-building of local survivors' groups and organizations, awareness-raising

Support

In 2016, the United States (US) contributed US\$350,000 to mine action in Serbia.¹⁸ Since 2012, international contributions to mine action activities in Serbia totaled \$5.1 million, most of which (78%) was provided in 2012–2013.

Summary of international contributions 2012–2016	
Year	Amount (US\$) ¹⁷
2016	350,000
2015	134,872
2014	626,594
2013	1,400,000
2012	2,580,127
Total	5,091,593

June 2018

Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor provides a global overview of the landmine situation. Chapters on developments in specific countries and other areas are available in online Country Profiles, found at: <http://www.the-monitor.org/cp>

Web: the-monitor.org • Email: monitor2@icblcmc • Twitter: @MineMonitor

The Monitor acknowledges the contributions of the Mine Action Review (www.mineactionreview.org), which has conducted the primary clearance and contamination mine action research in 2017 and shared all its country-level landmine reports (from “Clearing the Mines 2017”) and country-level cluster munition reports (from “Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2017”) with the Monitor. The Monitor is responsible for the findings presented online and in its print publications.

NOTES:

¹ Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 deadline Extension Request, March 2013, p. 5; and Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for calendar year 2014), Form C.

² Mine Ban Treaty Second Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received 14 March 2018, Executive Summary, pp. 7—8.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Mine Ban Treaty Second Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received 14 March 2018, Executive Summary, p. 24.

⁵ This figure includes 260 mine survivors registered in Montenegro. Presentation of Serbia and Montenegro, Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, Geneva, 10 February 2004; and Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form J, 25 October 2004.

⁶ Mine Ban Treaty Second Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received 14 March 2018, Executive Summary, p. 6.

⁷ Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 70/13.

⁸ Emails from Darvin Lisica, Regional Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 6 May and 12 June 2016.

⁹ "Law of Alterations and Supplementations of the Law of Ministries," Official Gazette, No. 84/04, August 2004; interview with Petar Mihajlovic, and Sladana Kosutic, SMAC, Belgrade, 26 April 2010; and SMAC, "About us," undated.

¹⁰ Statement of Serbia, Mine Ban Treaty Third Review Conference, Maputo, 24 June 2014; statement of Serbia, Mine Ban Treaty, Committee on Victim Assistance, Geneva, 25 June 2015; interviews with Tanja Pušonja, MLEVSA, 24 June 2015, and 17 May 2016; and response to Monitor questionnaire by Tanja Pusionja, MLEVSA, 29 March 2017; and email, 6 October 2017.

¹¹ Interview with Tanja Pušonja, MLEVSA, Belgrade, 2 April 2017.

¹² Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for calendar year 2016), Form H.

¹³ Mine Ban Treaty Second Article 5 deadline Extension Request, received 14 March 2018, p. 34.

¹⁴ Ibid., Forms D and E.

¹⁵ Report by Nils Muiznieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 8 July 2015, p. 15.

¹⁶ Response to Monitor questionnaire by Tanja Pusionja, MLEVSA, 29 March 2017.

¹⁷ See previous Monitor reports. Totals in 2015, 2014, and 2013 have been rectified as a result of revised US funding data.

¹⁸ Email from Steve Costner, Deputy Office Director, Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State, 30 October 2017.