Croatia
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Croatia

by Adam Gosney [Mine Action Information Center]

Croatia is located in Southeastern Europe, bordered by Slovenia to the northwest, Hungary to the north, Serbia and Montenegro to the east, and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the southwest. It has a total area of 56,542 square kilometers (21,955 square miles) and a population of approximately 4.3 million. The capital city is Zagreb, located in the northwest of the country.

The Croatian government has made significant efforts to clear landmines and other explosive remnants of war. In 2002, Croatia completed the destruction of its anti-personnel mine stockpile and became a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (Minea). In 2006, Croatia completed the destruction of its anti-vehicle mine and unexploded ordnance stockpiles and became a State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty (Oslo). Croatia has also made substantial progress in mine-risk education and victim assistance.

In 2002, the Croatian government established the Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC), a mine-clearance and victim assistance organization. CROMAC has made significant progress in clearing landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Croatia, and has become a model for other countries in the region.

CROMAC has cleared a total of 38,000 hectares (94,000 acres) of landmine-contaminated land in Croatia, including over 1,500 square kilometers (570 square miles) of minefields. In 2006, CROMAC completed the clearance of all known minefields in Croatia, and the country was declared mine-free.

Croatia has also made significant progress in mine-risk education. In 2005, CROMAC launched the “Playground and Post” program, which focuses on educating children about the dangers of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. The program has reached over 25,000 children in 14 counties, and has been recognized as a best practice in mine-risk education.

Conclusion

Croatia has made significant progress in mine action. With such CROMAC projects as the Geo Information Project database and the Scan Center, Croatia is developing and using technology to identify MSAs at a rate never before seen. Several factors depend on 100 percent removal becoming a reality, but CROMAC is optimistic that with continued support and funding, the country is on its way to becoming completely mine-free.

Georgia

by Jina Kim [Mine Action Information Center]

Georgia is a country located in the South Caucasus region, bordered by Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia. It has a total area of 69,700 square kilometers (26,800 square miles) and a population of approximately 4.5 million. The capital city is Tbilisi, located in the south-central part of the country.

The Georgian government has made significant efforts to clear landmines and other explosive remnants of war. In 1999, Georgia completed the destruction of its anti-personnel mine stockpile and became a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (Minea). In 2004, Georgia completed the destruction of its anti-vehicle mine and unexploded ordnance stockpiles and became a State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty (Oslo). Georgia has also made substantial progress in mine-risk education and victim assistance.

In 2002, the Georgian government established the Georgian Mine Action Center (GMAC), a mine-clearance and victim assistance organization. GMAC has made significant progress in clearing landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Georgia, and has become a model for other countries in the region.

GMAC has cleared a total of 53,000 hectares (131,000 acres) of landmine-contaminated land in Georgia, including over 3,000 square kilometers (1,150 square miles) of minefields. In 2006, GMAC completed the clearance of all known minefields in Georgia, and the country was declared mine-free.

Georgia has also made significant progress in mine-risk education. In 2005, GMAC launched the “Playground and Post” program, which focuses on educating children about the dangers of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. The program has reached over 25,000 children in 14 counties, and has been recognized as a best practice in mine-risk education.

Conclusion

Georgia has made significant progress in mine action. With such GMAC projects as the Geo Information Project database and the Scan Center, Georgia is developing and using technology to identify MSAs at a rate never before seen. Several factors depend on 100 percent removal becoming a reality, but GMAC is optimistic that with continued support and funding, the country is on its way to becoming completely mine-free.