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Croatia

by Adam Gonyee | Mine Action Information Center

Croatia signed the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention on 4 December 1997 and became a State Party in 1999. It completed its mine clearance activities in 2007, the year of its official candidate status. Prime Minister Ivo Sanader stated that 2007 is a critical year if Croatia wishes to become an EU member. While not all included mines in South Ossetia, Croatia's substantial mine-affected areas are seen as a humanitarian concern.

Mine/ERW Problem

The primary focus of mine action in Croatia centers upon agricultural land and areas near population centers, while most of the unexploded ordnance from the war re-sides within mountainous and high-wilder-ness areas. Since 1991, over 1,880 victims have suffered as a result of explosive remnant ordnance. In 2007 the number of ERW-related victims was 273, with 101 being killed. As of 2004, 14 of 21 counties were cleared of all known mine- contami-nated areas equaling 1,742 square kilome-ters (435 square miles). By the end of 2006, mine-surveys have reached 12 to 12 counties, covering an area of 1,844 square kilometers (403 square miles). Within that area, 250 soldiers and civilians (in some areas) are “high priority” and include agri-cultural areas, houses and yards, infrastruc-ture, and mining areas.

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