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**COVER PAGE**

**United Nations Development Programme  
Country: Croatia  
Project Document**

**Immediate response to 2014 floods in Croatia**

<b>Country:</b>	<b>Republic of Croatia</b>
<b>Executing entity/Implementing party:</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b>
<b>Project partners:</b>	<b>Government Office for Mine Action Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) National Protection and Rescue Directorate (DUZS) Vukovar-Sirmium County</b>

<p>Programme Period: May 2014 - May 2015</p> <p>Programme Component: Immediate response/Special development situations</p> <p>Project Title: Immediate response to 2014 floods in Croatia</p> <p>Project ID:</p> <p>Project Duration: 12 months</p> <p>Management Arrangement: DIM</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Total Budget</td> <td>USD 100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allocated resources:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Government</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Regular</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Other: TRAC 3.2</td> <td>USD 100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    ○ Donor</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    ○ Donor</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    ○ Donor</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• In kind contributions</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Unfunded budget:</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	Total Budget	USD 100,000	Allocated resources:		• Government	_____	• Regular	_____	• Other: TRAC 3.2	USD 100,000	○ Donor	_____	○ Donor	_____	○ Donor	_____	• In kind contributions	_____	• Unfunded budget:	_____
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• Unfunded budget:	_____																				

**Agreed by**

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):**

*S. Vlastić, OIC*

**Louisa Vinton, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative**

*SANDRA VLASTIĆ, OFFICER IN CHARGE*



**Zagreb, May 2014**

## 2. Situation Analysis

On 15 May, Croatia experienced the worst flooding the country has experienced since independence, with some sources calling it the worst flooding in Slavonia since record-keeping began in 1894. The cause was unprecedented rainfall. Heavy rain began falling on 14 May and continued until May 18. Some areas of Croatia received more than 100 liters of rainfall in just one day. **Three deaths have been confirmed** so far and **an estimated 15,000 people have been displaced**. The Sava River was the source of most flooding. Three counties in Slavonia were heavily affected: Pozega-Slavonia, Brod-Posavina and Vukovar-Sirmium. In addition, the town of Hrvatska Kostajnica in central Sisak-Moslavina County experienced flooding from the River Una.



*Picture 1. Satellite images of affected area in Vukovarsko-srijemska County before (May 17) and after (May 19) flooding*

In many cases, tributaries of the Sava River reached the highest level ever recorded in history. The rapid rise in water levels caught many residents unaware and was a cause of many problems. In Slavonia, all the rivers flowing into the River Sava from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Una, Vrbas, Bosna and Drina) pushed the water level to 936 cm in Slavonski Brod (Brod-Posavina County) and 1041 cm in Zupanja (Vukovar-Sirmium County). In just 24 hours, water levels rose more than 3.5 meters.

On 16 May, the Orljava River reached highest ever recorded water level of 531 cm and overflowed embankments in Pleternica, flooding more than 200 houses. The Croatian Army evacuated all 500 inhabitants of Gradac village and provided refuge in a sports hall.

On May 17, some 200 households were flooded in Hrvatska Kostajnica when the Una River reached its highest level ever of 469 cm. Water level of the Una River was rising extremely fast (almost 6 centimeters per one hour) which left many of the citizens unprepared for the incoming floods and many parts of the city were completely cut off. Some 4.5 km sq were flooded, much of it agricultural land. 60 families were in need of emergency supplies.

Temporary sandbags and protective embankments saved the city of Slavonski Brod (with 70,000 residents) from disaster, although the population remains on alert given fears that water-sodden embankments might still be breached. School was suspended and some parts of the city evacuated so in total some 500 people sought shelter in sports halls and schools whilst other

evacuated inhabitants have searched rescue with their families living outside of the endangered area. Some 700 people from suburbia municipalities of Bebrina, Zbjeg, Dubovac, Kaniza, banovci and Sumece were evacuated too.

Being on the very east side of Croatia i.e. downstream of the river Sava Vukovar-Sirmium County was hit hardest with these floods. Municipality of Slavonski Samac (population of 2500) and city of Zupanja (population of 12.000) were so far successfully defended and embankments are still withholding secured by additional sandbags. However, the chance of embankments collapsing still exists and therefore army troops, police and rescue protection HQ are still active.

Sava River embankments have collapsed downstream Zupanja in two separate locations (near Rajevo Selo and Racinovci villages) causing Rajevo Selo, Racinovci, Gunja, Djurici and Stitar villages to be completely flooded.

The biggest populated place that was hit by these floods was the multiethnic village of Gunja with 5.000 inhabitants living in 1.600 household in an area of 31 square km. The entire village, all the houses, farms, religious objects – churches and musk are completely flooded. The level of water in those flooded villages is rising over some roof tops.



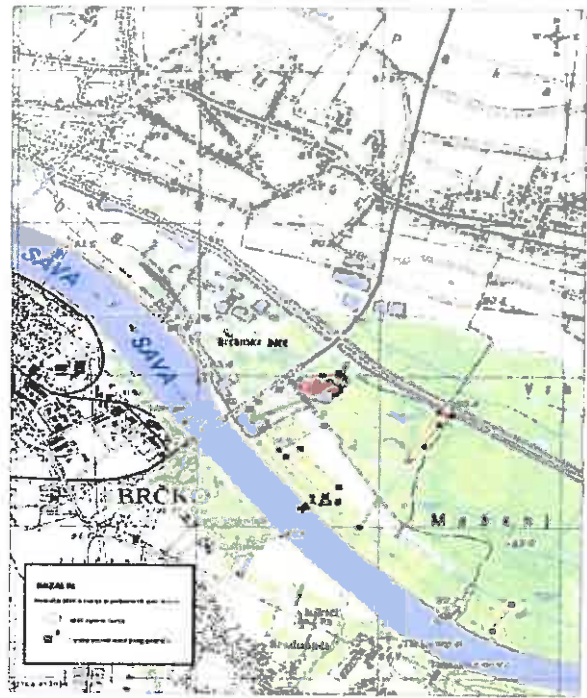
*Picture 2: Flooded Gunja village*

Additional problem to the overall situation is the fact that the flooded area is very farming oriented causing that many livestock are still in the area. According to the temporary information from the Ministry of Agriculture 2.520 cows, 3.900 pigs, 370 sheep and 20 horses have been evacuated however the images recorded in the flooded area are showing that many domestic animals are either dead or roaming free thus presenting a great danger of future infections and diseases as carcasses litter some agricultural areas.

The government is estimating the damages at hundreds of millions of euro. A special Government session was held on the field on Thursday, 22 May 2014, and Ministries are preparing individual action plans. The initial government response was prompt but with weaknesses in coordination.

### Overview of the specific area in need of assistance:

In the area of the municipality of Gunja there is a total of **162.017 square meters** of mine suspected and hazardous area. This area sits between the Sava River and the embankment east of the railway bridge Gunja – Brcko and is now flooded. Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) does not have records of the original mining plans, but it is estimated that anti-tank and anti-personnel mines are planted all over the forest roads. Mine suspected areas of the municipality Gunja was labeled with **29 warning signs** but there is a fear that those signs are now **destroyed/washed away** due to flash floods so this area now remains insecure and extremely dangerous for both people/aid workers and livestock.

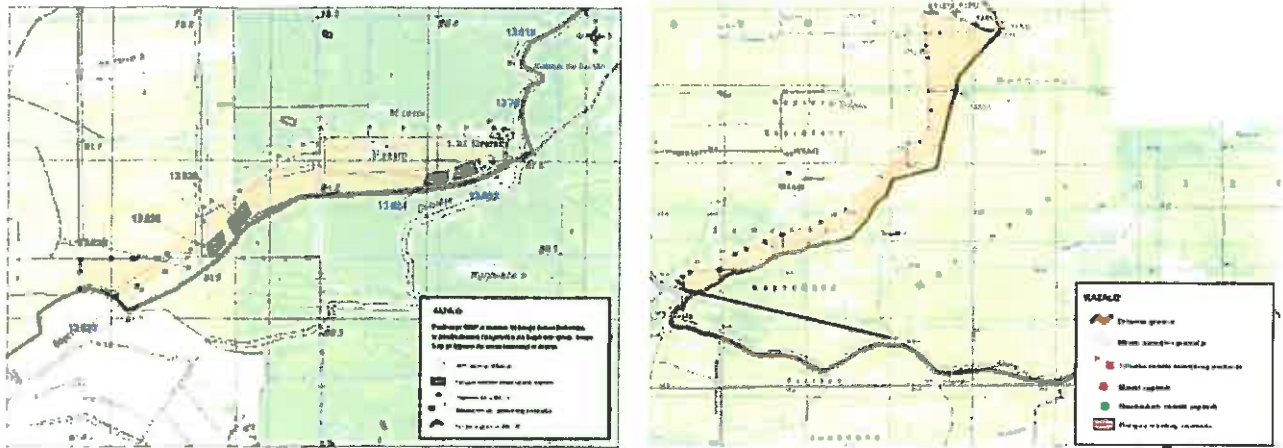


Picture 3. Mine suspected area near Gunja village

In the area of the municipality Vrbanja there is a total of **661.514 square meters** of mine suspected area mostly covering Debrinja forest. This area is also flooded, as the water rushed in from the flooded areas of the Republic of Serbia, coming from the direction of the village Jamena. CROMAC is in possession of four original mine record plans according to which this whole area is infested with **683 anti-personnel mines** PMA - 1, PMA - 2 and PMA - 3 and **48 anti-tank mines** TMA -3. However, there is a possibility that due to the flash floods and terrain specifics that the **water/mudflows carried away those UXO** towards the areas that were already previously cleared of mines. The exact area that is now infested by the mines is not possible to predict, given the unpredictability influx of floodwater. Prior to the floods, the mine suspected area of municipality Vrbanja was marked with **30 mine warning signs** (18 large and 12 small ones) which are now most likely **washed away**.

As the water influx and direction is still changing, latest mine suspected area that was flooded was the Somovac forest area near the Nijemci municipality some 4,5 kilometers southeast of the village of Lipovac, right next to the border with Serbia. This mine suspected area is **1.421.426 m<sup>2</sup>** in size with a length of approximately 4,5 kilometers and average width of 250-750 meters. Within this whole area CROMAC has record of a total of three minefields infested with **50 anti-personnel mines** and **78 anti-tank mines** whilst the area was marked with 28 mine warning signs. It is presumed that that there is a possibility that **mudflows have re-located remnants of UXO** and that **mine warning signs are destroyed/washed away**.





Picture 4. Flooded mine infested area near Vrbanja village and Somovac area

All three locations which are infested by the mines are in a close vicinity of the populated village (2-4 kilometers on average) so the fact that high water influx and flash floods have washed away/destroyed mine warning signs and more importantly the possibility that due to the mudflows some planted mines have most likely changed their position thus making it impossible for CROMAC officials to be fully certain of the minefield borders, is hampering safe environment for the arrival of aid worker and additionally preventing the return of the population to their homes. Additional problem might be posed by livestock animals that were left to roam free as a result of the flooding and who might, as soon as the water retrieves from the flooded mine infested area, happen to find themselves inside the minefields thus presenting a danger both to them and their owners/keepers.



Picture 5. Flooded minefield hampering safe return of evacuated population

### **Request for assistance:**

On May 26, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFA) have submitted Note Verbale to the United Nations Development Programme informing that “on May 22 Government of the Republic of Croatia, following the large-scale flooding which affected the Eastern part of the Country, issued an international humanitarian appeal in order to meet the short-, medium- and long-term needs of the affected population and regions”.

As part of the overall country needs, Government Office for Mine Action and Croatian Mine Action Centre have requested assistance in a very specific issue that is hampering the safe return of the affected population. Namely, “even though water levels have begun to recede there is a fear of new disaster as the area is contaminated with landmines and other UXO remnants of the war. Due to the flooding landmines may have been dislocated outside the previously marked locations, which makes the subsequent clearing and the reconstruction of the flooded area even more delicate and dangerous.”

### **UN Country Team response:**

So far, the UN Country Team responded in the following way:

- The UN RC office has an overall coordination role.
- UNDP is liaising with the counties, since disaster coordination sits with the County prefects, as well as with the National Protection and Rescue Directorate – DUZS (which coordinates nationally).
- UNICEF Croatia delivered 4 tons of emergency supplies to affected families in Vinkovci and Slavonski Brod. The supplies contain hygienic items for 500 families, including diapers, toothpaste, soaps, shampoos and more than 3,000 litres of drinking water.
- UNHCR will use USD 10,000 of its operational funds and, in coordination with Croatian Red Cross, procure the most urgently needed hygienic and sanitation items
- WHO has offered to help procure an assortment of emergency medical kits
- UN Staff have responded enthusiastically to an appeal for cash donations

As flooded areas are mostly multi-ethnic border villages in a tri-border area where the borders of three neighboring countries meet (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia) the response to this request for assistance has to include more of a regional dimension to the problem. The fact that mine-suspected areas from the 1991-95 conflict, that were well marked but not yet de-mined, are now feared to have been affected by the floods in a way that warning signs have been washed away and even possibly mines and UXO displaced creates a reason enough to provide assistance through a targeted project proposal to help the Croatian Mine Action Center (CROMAC) and Vukovar-Sirmium County address this challenge.

### **3. PROJECT OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Due to the scope of the mentioned natural disaster and emergency in the Republic of Croatia and a very particular and specific problem of flooded minefields which are hampering the safe return of population relevant national authority in charge of demining – Government Office for Mine Action / Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and local self government authorities (Vukovar-Sirmium County Rescue and Protection Headquarter) have requested UN support. Besides that, due to the fact that the affected area of Croatia is bordering with flooded area in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina coordinating mechanisms will have to be set up in order to deal with the problem of flooded minefields.

This project aims at assisting the national and local authorities in developing needs assessment for the mine suspected area therefore assuring preconditions for safe return of the affected population. These preconditions will, during the early recovery phase, include securing the mine suspected area with mine warning signs and short-term specific awareness raising/dissemination of information on UXO risks for the aid workers and affected population. These two mentioned project outputs will contribute to the overarching goal of establishing regional expert cooperation in this field and creation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) dealing with this specific situation that will be provided as a necessary input needed for Recovery Planning activities.

This project will boost the capacities of Croatian national and local authorities through technical assistance for helping with development of specific needs assessment and enhanced coordination both at national and regional level. These early recovery efforts will improve planning, and will allow better identification of further risks in the affected areas. This will enhance the effectiveness of existing rescue and protection services at all levels especially within the multi-sector early recovery planning at the local, national and regional level.

#### **Deliverable 1: Support to establishment of expert Coordination mechanism at local, national and regional level**

##### **Brief generic activities to be implemented:**

- Support to Government Office for Mine Action / Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) at local, national and regional level in coordination efforts related to emergency response and early recovery
- Provide support and enhance multi-sectoral cooperation between National Protection and Rescue Directorate (DUZS), Mountain Rescue Service, Croatian red Cross, Firefighters and other local partners on aid coordination in humanitarian settings focusing on early recovery needs
- Provide inputs for situation reports highlighting early recovery needs

## **Deliverable 2: Development of specific Needs Assessment and restoring/improving pre-disaster conditions in regards of mine affected areas**

### **Brief generic activities to be implemented:**

- Establish Group of Experts for needs assessment (development of ToRs, workplans, etc);
- Deployment of an Expert Team ( combination of experts from UNDP and CROMAC) to:
  - Conduct a needs assessment of affected locations and thus provide input for government's efforts in conducting further hazard and risk assessment of endangered areas
- Restoring/improving pre-disaster conditions in mine affected areas through setting up newly formed minefield perimeter borders and replenishment of washed away mine warning signs
- Ensuring safe working conditions for aid workers/volunteers engaged in debris clearance through dissemination of information on UXO risks and implementation of a specific, short-term and locally targeted awareness raising

## **Deliverable 3: Early Recovery Planning**

### **Brief generic activities to be implemented:**

- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on how to deal with specific issue of flooded mine affected areas
- Provide inputs for national Early Recovery contingency planning in regards of multi-risk issue covering flooded minefields
- Regional sharing of specific know-how in future early recovery efforts

In order to deliver these results and based on an assessment of the capacity currently available in the UNDP Croatia country office, the following inputs are required; Needs Assessment/Early Recovery Consultant, Coordination/Awareness raising Consultant, local travel/logistics for the above specialists.

Experts are needed for:

- expertise in the field for needs/risk and early recovery assessment and coordination work,
- expertise in coordination work, awareness raising.

## **4. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The funds will be managed through UNDP Croatia through 2014/2015 in accordance with the standard arrangements of Direct Implementation Modality.



**BUDGET**  
**Immediate Response to 2014 Floods in Croatia**

Intended Outputs	Planned Activities	Year	Responsible Parties	Inputs Required
<b>1. Support to establishment of expert Coordination mechanism at local, national and regional level</b>	<p>1.1.Support to Government Office for Mine Action/CROMAC at local, national and regional level</p> <p>1.2. Provide support and enhance multi-sectoral cooperation (DUZS/Vukovar-Sirmium County)</p> <p>1.3.Monitoring and Reporting (inputs for situation report)</p>	2014	UNDP	Technical assistance, Contractual services, travel, DSA,
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 25.000</b>
<b>2. Development of specific Needs Assessment including UXO hazard/risk component</b>	<p>2.1.Establish/Deploy Expert Team</p> <p>2.2.Prepare and conduct needs assesment includingUXO hazard/risk component</p> <p>2.3. Assist in Restoring/Improving pre-disaster conditions surrounding mine affected fields (replenishment of washed away mine warning signs)</p> <p>2.4.Implement locally targeted awareness raising (dissemination of immediate and present UXO risks)</p>	2014	UNDP	Consultancy & Technical Assistance, Contractual Services, travel, DSA , urgent supplies
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$55.000</b>
<b>3. Early Recovery Planning</b>	<p>3.1. Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) targeting flooded minefields</p> <p>3.2. Provide inputs for national Early Recovery contingency planning</p> <p>3.3.Regional sharing of specific know-how in future early recovery efforts</p>	2015	UNDP	Consultancy & Technical Assistance, Contractual Services, travel, DSA
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 20.000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 100.000</b>



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30 May 2014

Dear Ms. *Louisa* Vinton,

I am pleased to inform you that we have approved USD100,000 as an emergency response to severe floods in Croatia. In accordance with the TRAC 1.1.3 guidelines, please note that these funds should be utilized to support coordination efforts, needs assessments and initiating early recovery frameworks. Funding will be made available from the Response to Sudden Crisis category (II) of the TRAC 1.1.3 (Atlas fund code: 04120; donor code: 00012).

We have established an authorized spending limit (ASL) in the Atlas to facilitate immediate response. In accordance with our resource management guidelines, you are kindly requested to submit a signed final project document, including the detailed Annual Work Plan (AWP), within the next 30 (thirty) days. Please ensure that electronic copies of the signed project document, as well as quarterly progress reports are uploaded into the Atlas.

Kindly note that the project must be completed within 12 months of its approval date. If the project cannot be closed within this period of time, a request for extension, together with a justification, should be submitted at least three months in advance of the expiration date.

Please do not hesitate to contact your BCPR regional team ([bcpr.europe@undp.org](mailto:bcpr.europe@undp.org)), led by Mr. Michael Thurman, for any additional support you might require. We look forward to working with you and your team in supporting your office on crisis prevention and recovery.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jordan Ryan'.

Jordan Ryan  
Assistant Administrator and Director  
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Ms. Louisa Vinton  
UN Resident Coordinator  
UNDP Resident Representative  
Croatia

CC: Mr. Olivier Adam, Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS (RBEC)  
Mr. Vitalie Vremis, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Croatia  
Mrs. Sudha Srivastava, Resource Management Division, BCPR  
Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, Coordinator, Country Support Management Team, BCPR  
BCPR Europe Regional Team