

ANNEX 1**to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Kosovo* for 2021****Action Document for “Demining Action”****1. SYNOPSIS****1.1. Action Summary Table**

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| Title | Action 01. Demining Action IPA III Annual Action Plan in favour of Kosovo* for 2021 |
| CRIS number | 043-659/1 |
| Basic Act | Financed under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) |
| Team Europe Initiative | No |
| Zone benefiting from the action | The action shall be carried out in Kosovo |
| Programming document | IPA III Programming Framework |
| PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION | |
| Window and thematic priority | Window 1 - Rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy Thematic Priority 3: Fight against organised crime / security |
| Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | <p>Main SDG (1 only): <u>SDG Goal 1: No Poverty</u>. Future beneficiaries report that clearance is expected to increase incomes and decrease losses caused by contamination and the land restriction it presents to some of the most vulnerable communities in Kosovo.</p> <p>Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets:</p> <p><u>SDG Goal 5: Gender Equality</u>: While explosive remnants of war contamination is indifferent to gender, the ways in which contaminated areas affect people’s lives are not. By seeking out women during all of our interactions, this project will ensure that women reap the same degree of benefits from the clearance process as do men, even if their perceived types of benefits differ.</p> <p><u>SDG Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</u>. This project will provide employment to local men and women, providing training and jobs with a liveable wage. Future beneficiaries of land release owning small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will benefit from clearance.</p> <p><u>SDG Goal 10: Reduced inequalities</u>. Socio-economic data suggests the majority of future beneficiaries are particularly vulnerable, with 50 per cent reporting that they cannot meet their monthly household needs.</p> |

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

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| | <p><u>SDG Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and forest.</u> Increased access to protected areas to regulate and ensure they are sustainably managed.</p> <p><u>SDG Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.</u> Finally, by clearing the land of explosive remnant of war , humanitarian mine action operators can reduce the risk of injury or death due to such items, showing demonstrable progress toward target</p> | | | |
| DAC code(s) | 15250: Removal of land mines and explosive remnants of war – 100% | | | |
| Main Delivery Channel | Main channel: 12000 – Recipient government | | | |
| Markers (from DAC form) | General policy objective | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| | Participation development/good governance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Aid to environment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Trade development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Disaster Risk Reduction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Inclusion of persons with Disabilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Nutrition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | RIO Convention markers | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| | Biological diversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Combat desertification | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Climate change mitigation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Climate change adaptation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Internal markers | Policy objectives | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| | Digitalisation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Migration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | COVID-19 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BUDGET INFORMATION | | | | |
| Amounts concerned | <p>Budget line: 15.020101.01</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 3 900 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 3 900 000</p> | | | |

| MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION | |
|---|--|
| Type of financing and method(s) of implementation | Project Modality Direct management through: Grants |
| Relevant priorities and flagships from Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans [only for the Western Balkans] | Priority: “Governance, Rule of Law, PAR” |
| Final Date for conclusion of Financing Agreement | At the latest by 31 December N+1 |
| Final date for concluding contribution / delegation agreements, procurement and grant contracts | 3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 114(2) of the Financial Regulation |
| Indicative operational implementation period | 72 months following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement |
| Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement | 12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement |

1.2. Summary of the Action

The action aims to return land previously contaminated by cluster munitions and landmines in Kosovo back to local communities for their safe and productive use, thus protecting women and men civilians and securing their livelihoods and further enabling sustainable development and growth. The action will contribute to the Kosovo government’s pronounced goal of making Kosovo mine free by 2024.

It is envisaged that the action will be implemented by Norwegian People’s Aid and the Hazardous Area Life-support Organization Trust (HALO Trust), in close cooperation with beneficiary institutions and competent authority. Norwegian People’s Aid and HALO have already previously worked with the Kosovo government to remove mines in Kosovo and is well placed to support the implementation of Kosovo’s own ambitious strategy and goal to make Kosovo mine free by 2024.

The beneficiaries’ physical security, socio-economic stability, and perceptions of safety are assessed before and after all clearance activities. Assessments will make sure to highlight potential differences between women and men and adapt accordingly. A detailed understanding of the benefits that clearance achieves forms an essential part of this action even though the scope of activities are limited to demining.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context Analysis

Twenty years after the war between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia armed forces, and the Kosovo Liberation Army, and the subsequent NATO bombing, numerous areas of Kosovo remain contaminated with mines, cluster munition remnants and other explosive remnants of war. The government has a strategy in place with the ambitious target of making Kosovo mine free by 2024. Norwegian People's Aid and HALO have been active in demining in Kosovo for many years and is the authorities' key partner in the implementation of their demining strategy. The Kosovo government does not possess sufficient resources in order to accomplish the strategy targets, therefore, the assistance of the highly specialised partners is required. Several donors have been active in this area in the past and currently, but they all use Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust as their main implementing partner. By using Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust, this action contributes to ongoing efforts of demining in line with the structures in place. The government is steering the process and ensuring donor coordination in this area.

2.2. Problem analysis by areas of support

There is only one area of support included in this action, and it is removal of land mines and explosive remnants of war. Mines and cluster munition remnants continue to pose a threat to lives and livelihoods, inhibiting access, reconciliation, and development across Kosovo. The contamination blocks access to vital services, prevents the collection of firewood and natural resource gathering forest fruits, foraging livestock, and hinders community spaces, for recreation. To date, 1.3 million square meters of minefields, and 15.5 million square meters of cluster strike locations remain to be released through clearance.

Through the implementation of the action 23% of the total remaining area contaminated by Cluster Munition Remnants (CMR) will be released and 30% of the total remaining area contaminated by landmines will be cleared.

2.3. Relevance and complementarity with strategies supported by key stakeholders

This Mine Action Strategy presents the strategic orientation for Kosovo's mine action programme for the period 2019–2024. It replaces Kosovo's Medium Term Strategic Plan for the Mine Action Programme 2015–2018 and builds on accomplishments and experiences since the mine action programme's establishment in 1999. The strategy reflects Kosovo's 2012 Demining Law 04/L-089 and will support Kosovo's overarching development and humanitarian objectives, as outlined in the Kosovo's National Development Strategy 2016–2021.

As stated in Kosovo's Mine Action Strategy 2019–24, which sets completion of mine and cluster munition clearance by the end of 2024, completion will only be achievable if sustained funding is secured.

The mine action strategy for 2019–24 is in alignment with the objectives of Kosovo's National Development Strategy 2016–2021. The mine action strategy further highlights that all mine action activities and assistance must reflect the needs of different ages and genders in a targeted and non-discriminatory manner. It also highlights that mine action and community liaison data are to be collected and disaggregated by gender and age.

Kosovo's mine action programme is managed by the Kosovo Mine Action Centre who coordinates operations across the Kosovo. The key stakeholders conducting mine action activities in Kosovo include the Kosovo Security Force and two international operators, namely the Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust. The action will work closely with the Kosovo Security Force to ensure coordinated actions and proposes the two active international operators as implementing partners in order not to disrupt the ongoing work on demining or engage in parallel and uncoordinated activities in this narrow field in Kosovo.

The Kosovo Security Force, in addition to conducting its own clearance operations, works in close collaboration with NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) explosive ordnance disposal units and the Kosovo Police for organising demolitions across Kosovo.

The action aims to return land previously contaminated by cluster munitions and landmines in Kosovo back to local communities for their safe and productive use in line with Kosovo's own mine action strategy and programme, thus protecting civilians and securing their livelihoods and further enabling sustainable development and growth. The Kosovo Security Force and KFOR teams are also responsible for demolishing all items found by Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust's teams across Kosovo.

Donors drive mine action projects by determining project priorities and execution. This action directly contributes to moving Kosovo closer to removing the threat of explosive remnants of war, and will be implemented in complementarity with other ongoing projects including a multi-year US State Department grant, which serves the same overall goal, while targeting different contaminated areas and activities.

The safety of the communities is the main objective of the demining action. Women and men in affected communities are engaged throughout the design, planning and execution of all activities to ensure their needs are clearly being met, and to ensure operators continue feeding lessons learned back into future planning processes. Beneficiaries' physical security, socio-economic stability, and perceptions of safety are assessed before and after all clearance activities. A detailed understanding of the benefits that clearance achieves forms an essential part of this activity.

Business owners anticipate both direct and indirect benefits of clearance, that range from an increase in productive land to cultivate, numbers of livestock owned, and an increase in tourism or other traffic in their areas after clearance. Several business owners reported that they also anticipate being able to hire more people as a direct result of clearance, which may lead to an increase in the employment of women in affected areas.

2.4. Relevance and complementarity with EU policy and EU and other donors' assistance

The action will be implemented in complementarity with other ongoing projects and initiatives.

In this respect, US Department of State committed \$8.7 million to the same consortium (HALO Trust & Norwegian People's Aid) for the conventional weapons destruction efforts in Kosovo. The demining action will be implemented over five years (2020-2024), this assistance is expected to return approximately 4.3 million square meters (1,060 acres) of hazardous land back to the people of Kosovo.

Both demining actions serve the same overall goal, by targeting different contaminated areas and activities.

Before the official starting date of the project, EU Office would sign a cooperation agreement / Memorandum of Understanding with US State Department in order to enhance synergies and complementarities between both demining actions.

The Action will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III, "Promoting Economic and Social rights and empowering women and girls", Specific Objective 1: "Increased access for women, in all their diversity, to decent work, including women's transition to the formal economy and coverage by non-discriminatory and inclusive social protection systems."

2.5. Lessons learned and links with previous financial assistance

The consortium will identify priority areas for the initial activities based on existing threat assessments and data collected from local communities. This will allow for transparent prioritisation and an appropriate targeted response to address specific contaminated areas. The prioritisation methods used by the consortium uphold humanitarian principles of solidarity and do no harm, with the protection of civilians from explosive weapons remaining the first priority of the consortium partners.

Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust use internal systems to continuously monitor and evaluate our interventions for the purpose of optimising effectiveness and efficiency. The consortium highlights the following two lessons learned, as these are taken into account by both organisations in the design and implementation of any project.

Weather conditions affect the ability of the consortium partners to operate in the winter months. The consortium partners have developed an operational schedule in order to mitigate against any potential lost productivity. This is discussed in detail under section 3.5 Conditions for Implementation.

Demining activities in Kosovo have suffered from funding gaps in the past as these activities have traditionally not been included in the budget, but rather relied on donor funding. At the same time, Kosovo is not prioritised as a beneficiary as other countries have more pressing humanitarian needs related to demining. These funding gaps damage the sustainability of the humanitarian programmes and the retention of staff. In order to mitigate this, for most contracts Norwegian People's Aid and the HALO Trust allocate 'team months' to a specific donor, instead of

allocating a dedicated team to a specific donor. The ‘team month’-system creates flexibility throughout the year and compensates for funding gaps, optimising the work conditions for their staff, as well as sustainability of operations.

Lastly, this project incorporates lessons learned from the EU analytical report, Scoping Exercise on Landmines’ Removal in the Western Balkans (2020), which makes recommendations for the EU’s engagement with mine action in the region.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Planned results and intervention logic

The intervention has the expected impact of improving the protection of women and men civilians, as a contribution to public safety and security in Kosovo. The activities and their outputs are described in brief below, and link directly to the outcomes and subsequent impact. The evaluation of the project, as planned, will critically assess the success of these linkages.

Battle Area Clearance of the confirmed hazardous areas will be conducted in order to achieve the projected output of 3,600,000m² of land release. On successful completion of the task(s) the land will be handed over to local communities. The planned output has significant outcomes in that 23% of the known remaining minefield area will be released, at the national level. There will be improvement to livelihoods and there will be improved feelings of safety

Mine-clearance of confirmed mine-contaminated areas will be conducted in order to achieve the projected output of 400,000m² of land release. On successful completion of the task(s), with the land will be handed over to the local communities. The planned output has significant outcomes in that 30% of the known remaining minefield area will be released, at the national level. In accordance with the requirements of the Mine Action Strategy, impact assessments will collect and analyse data disaggregated by gender, pointing to potential differences in the actions impact on women and men.

Impact: To improve protection of human rights, gender equality and public safety and security in Kosovo.

Outcome 1: To provide clearance and release of minefields and cluster strike areas for safe and productive use in support of the Kosovo Government’s 2019-2024 strategic plan for Mine Action which aims to address the remaining contamination in Kosovo by 2024.

Outcome 2: Enhanced safety and resilience for women, men and children in communities affected by explosive remnants of war in Kosovo.

Output: 400 000 m² of mine affected areas and 3 600 000 m² of cluster munition remnants affected areas released

The area of support anticipates that by clearing/releasing large mine and cluster munition remnants affected areas, then these fields will be safe for productive use and the feeling of safety will be increased.

Assumptions:

1. Kosovo institutions support the action through all the decision making needed for its implementation as well as through facilitating its implementation.
2. The remaining area identified as needing clearance by the start of 2021 is accurate. No new Dangerous Areas are identified during the course of the contract, and anticipated clearance rates remain accurate.
3. COVID-19 will not substantially impact the implementation of the activities. The staff employed through this project can be deployed in compliance with Kosovo epidemiological protocols and internal safety standards which are monitored by the Kosovo government.
4. If village-level population data are updated between proposal submission and contract end, indirect beneficiary estimates are affected.

3.2. Indicative type of activities

Output 1: 400 000 m² of mine affected areas and 3 600 000 m² of cluster munition remnants affected areas cleared and released

Activity 1 – output 1 Clearance of cluster munition remnants contaminated areas:

During the project, Norwegian People’s Aid will focus the efforts on clearance of cluster munition remnants in the contaminated areas. This is an activity typically conducted by teams of eight to ten persons, systematically searching areas suspected of containing cluster munitions using hand-held metal detectors, to identify evidence points, investigate, and safely destroy cluster munition bomblets. Staff will be composed by mixed gender teams. The safety procedures and clearance depths required are governed and quality assured through Kosovo and international mine action standards.

Activity 2 - output 1 Clearance of mine contaminated areas: During this project, clearance of mine contaminated areas will be conducted by HALO Trust manual demining teams of eight persons systematically deploying hand-held metal detectors to detect minimum metal mines at the standard depth. The safety procedures and clearance depths required are governed and quality assured through Kosovo and international mine action standards. All items identified by HALO Trust are destroyed same-day by the Kosovo Security Force explosive ordnance disposal teams.

Land release describes the process of applying all reasonable effort to identify, define, and remove all presence and suspicion of landmines and other explosive remnants of war through technical and non-technical interventions. During this project, clearance and survey will be applied to hazardous areas suspected of having landmine and/or cluster submunition contamination. These interventions will result in the release of land back to communities, based on findings on the ground. All processes involve quality assurance from the national authority before the land can be released.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

| Risks | Risk level (H/M/L) | Mitigating measures |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Extreme weather conditions reduce operational effectiveness | M | Winter weather is anticipated during planning and the maximum number of work days are scheduled for the spring, summer and autumn months. Specific lower altitude tasks are identified for the winter months. |
| Conflict/instability in northern Kosovo | M | Close contact is kept with local authorities. The consortium partners maintain updated security plans and have in place alternative tasks in areas where the tension is expected to be lower. |
| Injury/Death of Employee due to demining accidents | M | Standard Operating Procedures are designed in consideration of local risks; all personnel are trained and tested before employment; regular internal Quality Assurance inspections are regularly conducted with refresher training and disciplinary measures established. |
| Loss or damage of equipment disrupts implementation | M | Comprehensive stock keeping and asset tracking measures are in place; sufficient budget is allocated for equipment maintenance. |
| Insufficient number of women apply to ensure mixed gender clearance teams | L | The action will minimize the risk of women not applying by using several strategies, including: Using gender inclusive language in employment advertisements, ensuring that advertisements include a communication strategy targeting women specifically. The action will also use affirmative measures in accordance with the Law on Protection from Discrimination and the Law on Gender Equality. |
| Assumptions (to be reflected in the Logical Framework Matrix above) – grouped by outputs and outcomes | | |
| Kosovo institutions support the action through all the decision making needed for its implementation as well as through facilitating its implementation. The remaining area in need of clearance by the start of 2021 is accurate. No new Dangerous Areas are identified during the course of the contract. Qualified demining staff is retained, continued deployment of clearance and disposal teams is possible despite COVID-19 restrictions, types of contamination and | | |

geography of contaminated areas are as expected through the Non-Technical Survey so anticipated clearance rates remain. Women obtain the information and are interested in joining mixed gender clearance teams.

Assumptions relating to the outcome 1 / output 1:

- Kosovo institutions support the action through all the decision-making needed for its implementation as well as through facilitating its implementation.
- The remaining mine and CMR contaminated areas by the start of 2021 is accurately defined.
- No new contaminated areas are identified during the course of the contract.
- Qualified demining staff is retained, continued deployment of operations teams is possible despite COVID-19 restrictions
- Types of contamination and geography of contaminated areas are as expected through the Non-Technical Survey report so anticipated operational outputs remain accurate.

Assumptions relating to the activities:

- Activity 1: NPA to recruit, train, equip and deploy 4 x teams in a timely manner
- Activity 2: HALO Trust to recruit, train, equip and deploy 4 x teams in a timely manner

3.4. Mainstreaming

How does this Action contribute to Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (in line with the EU gender equality strategy 2020-2025)?

The Action is a Gender Marker 1 action, meaning that gender equality is a significant objective of its implementation. It is designed based on gender analysis and indicators disaggregated by gender. The action has mainstreamed a gender perspective throughout its design, implementation, and logical framework, and will ensure that women benefit from the action equally to men, considering gendered differences. The action takes several steps towards mainstreaming a gender perspective and ensuring the equal inclusion of women and men:

- 1) A Gender perspective has been mainstreamed throughout the document in close consultation with gender expert. This includes gender analysis in the background section, policy analysis, and intervention logic.
- 2) In line with the EU Gender Action Plan, the Kosovo Law on Gender Equality, and the Kosovo Law on Protection from Discrimination, the action will ensure that women as well as men are included in clearance teams, acknowledging that women have been traditionally underrepresented in the demining sector. International best practices, in line with EU and Kosovo policies will be used, including but not limited to: using gender inclusive language in employment advertisements, encouraging both women and men to apply; ensuring that advertisements for joining teams include a communication strategy targeting women specifically, using affirmative measures, giving priority to women candidates in cases where they are equally qualified to men candidates; ensuring appropriate trainings for newly recruited teams.
- 3) The action will ensure the retainment of mixed gender teams by including adaptations for mixed gender teams, to allow both women and men to their full potential considering gender norms.
- 4) The action will ensure that women participate in handover ceremonies by actively encouraging local leadership to include women and by ensuring that communication strategies target women specifically, towards addressing existing inequalities in property rights and land use.
- 5) Impact assessments planned under the action will consider its impact on diverse women and men.
- 6) Clearance will take into account routes used by women and men

This Action is in line with the EU GAP III, under the area “Promoting Economic and Social rights and empowering women and girls”, Specific Objective 1: “Increased access for women, in all their diversity, to decent work, including women’s transition to the formal economy and coverage by non-discriminatory and inclusive social protection systems”.

The consortium currently employs 25% of women in their staff (data reflects the number of applications submitted by women for the vacancies). The HALO Trust has developed a gender policy in 2018 in consultation with the Kosovo

Women's Network. The policy aims to simultaneously increase the recruitment of women as well as retain existing women employees through different provisions including child-care and family leave.

How does this Action address Environment and Climate change?

Much of the remaining contamination in Kosovo is inside national parks and other environmentally protected areas. Data collected by the consortium partners suggests that people continue to cut wood in these areas, due to both the economic pressures they are facing. Clearance efforts will promote an environment in which the forested areas of Kosovo can be sustainably managed.

How does this Action Address the Rights Based Approach?

Both the Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust are guided by international Human Rights Law, with consideration of equal rights for all, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and social status embedded in all the activities that we do.

The action aligns to a number of human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1947) including (at the preamble), the aspiration for a 'world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want'. The life-saving aspect of the work aligns to the right to life, liberty and security of the person (Article 3). The land release component, in support of the Kosovo Mine Action Strategy, programmes aligns to the right to work (Article 23), the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and his/her family, and the right to education (Article 26). The gender component of the project relates directly to the right to non-discrimination (Article 2), as expanded in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979).

Community Liaison will be a key component of the intervention. Activities will only be implemented with the feedback and consent of, the rights-holders, ensuring that all interventions are tailored to reflect the distinct needs of the different age groups, genders in the area of operation. In the course of information-gathering, data will be disaggregated according to sex, age and where feasible disability. The Kosovo Mine Action Centre will promote the active participation of rights-holders in the prioritisation process and, in doing so, strengthen the accountability of the duty bearers.

The implementing partners and stakeholders are committed to respect the key principles of Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Transparency, and respect for Human dignity, through the whole implementation period.

The integration of human rights law and principles will be tangible in all phases of the project. The result will contribute to the right of Kosovo Communities to live in safe environment.

How does this Action promote the systematic engagement with Civil Society?

Civil society organisations would be engaged for other complementarities activities such as advocacy, risk education and disability support. Women's CSOs will be engaged to communicate and engage with women in local communities, including during handover ceremonies and to encourage women to apply to clearance teams. The consortium will promote a solid partnership with civil society involved in development, recovery, natural resources management, disability support and gender issues.

Others (such as Resilience and Conflict Sensitivity, Roma, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups)

The elimination of fatalities due to landmines and cluster bombs will avoid sentiments of revenge against those that are considered responsible for past conflicts, and will help in the reconciliation and dialogue between communities and minorities.

Given the acute vulnerability experienced by these future beneficiaries of clearance, the humanitarian activities to be conducted under this project are particularly important to reduce the risk of injury or death, and to open safe land for to use towards improving their livelihoods.

Humanitarian explosive remnants of war clearance is proven to increase improve livelihoods of affected communities. With the remaining contamination concentrated in rural areas of Kosovo, the direct and immediate impact of clearance will contribute to poverty alleviation, improved food security, and economic equality among beneficiary households.

Given the recent history of ethnic violence in Kosovo, it is important to ensure the voices of all ethnic groups, including minority groups are being taken into consideration during the planning and implementation of humanitarian projects. Working within the heavily mixed ethnicity region of Northern Mitrovica, Norwegian People's Aid People has also made great concerted efforts to ensure mixed gender and ethnic diversity in its teams. Operating in the north of Kosovo has meant that Norwegian People's Aid continually balances the interests of local administration of both Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians, as well as the central government in Pristina. Outside of Northern Mitrovica, many of HALO's staff have been working with the organisation for almost 20 years, and the ethnic balance within the teams matches that of the areas where HALO works; in addition, efforts are made in the recruitment process to target minority groups.

3.5. Conditions for implementation

The Consortium shall work according the Demining Law Nr.04/L-089.

The Kosovo Government shall grant the necessary authorisation and access to the Consortium in the contaminated area. Both implementing partners shall be formally authorised by Kosovo government after they fulfil criteria for Accreditation in order to execute the operations. In addition, Kosovo Government shall facilitate the cooperation with local communities and municipalities.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under the current programme

3.6 Logical Framework

| Results | Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) | Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result) | Baselines (year) | Targets (year) | Sources of data (1 per indicator) | Assumptions |
|------------------|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Impact | To improve protection of human rights, gender equality and public safety and security in Kosovo. | | | | | <i>Not applicable</i> |
| Outcome 1 | Minefields and cluster strike areas cleared and released for safe and productive use in support of the Kosovo Government's 2019-2024 strategic plan for Mine Action which aims to address the remaining contamination in Kosovo by 2024. | <p>% of known remaining minefield area released through survey or clearance and removed from the local Kosovo database</p> <p>% of known remaining cluster strike area released through survey or clearance and removed from the local Kosovo database</p> | <p>1.3 million m² of minefield left to be cleared (September 2020)</p> <p>15.5 million m² of cluster strike clearance left to be cleared (September 2020)</p> | <p>400,000 m² (30% of total minefield contamination) (2025)</p> <p>3,600,000 m² (23% of total cluster strike contamination) (2025)</p> | <p>Kosovo Mine Action Centre's database over remaining contamination.</p> | <p>Kosovo institutions support the action through all the decision making needed for its implementation as well as through facilitating its implementation.</p> <p>The remaining area in need of clearance by the start of 2021 is accurate.</p> <p>No new Dangerous Areas are identified during the course of the contract.</p> <p>Qualified demining staff is retained, continued deployment of clearance and disposal teams is possible despite COVID-19 restrictions</p> <p>Types of contamination and geography of contaminated areas are as expected through the Non-Technical Survey</p> |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|--|---|------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | report so anticipated clearance rates remain accurate. |
| Outcome 2 | Enhanced safety and resilience for women, men and children in communities affected by explosive remnants of war in Kosovo. | 2.1: % of direct beneficiaries reporting improved livelihoods 2.2: % of direct beneficiaries reporting improved feelings of safety | 0 0 | Estimated beneficiaries: - 760 direct and 3,900 indirect beneficiaries of CMR land released disaggregated by age and sex - 130 direct and 8,340 indirect of mine contamination land released, disaggregated by age and sex 2.1: 25% of direct beneficiaries reporting improved livelihoods 2.2: 75% of direct beneficiaries reporting improved feelings of safety | NPA / HALO post-clearance survey with local communities | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Output related to | 400 000 m ² of mine affected areas and 3 600 000 m ² of cluster | m ² of minefield returned to local communities through clearance or survey | 0 m ² (2020) | 400,000 m ² (2025) | Signed statement of acceptance of the works and equipment. | |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Outcome 1 and 2 | munition remnants affected areas cleared | m ² of cluster strike areas returned to local communities through clearance or survey | 0 m ² (2020) | 3,600,000 m ² ¹ (2025) | Reports on Mineactionreview.org “Clearing the mines” and “Clearing cluster munition remnants” the Kosovo Mine Action Centre Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database | |
|------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|--|---|--|

¹ Note a technical difference between land release and clearance. Land release includes both survey and clearance, thus increasing the total amount of square meters released compared to clearance only. Survey teams can cancel a suspected hazardous area, or reduce a confirmed hazardous area, when no evidence of the presence of mines or other explosive remnant of war the area is found. Clearance will be conducted on those areas where mines and other explosive remnant of war are present.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with Kosovo.

4.2. Implementation modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures³.

4.2.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant will financially support the release of 400 000 m² of mine affected areas and 3 600 000 m² cluster munition remnant affected areas back to local communities for their safe and productive use, in line with the Kosovo Mine Action Centre's 2019-2024 multi-year strategic plan.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The action targets the direct award of a grant to consortium composed by Norwegian Peoples Aid and HALO Trust Europe, according to Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, case f):

“The action has specific characteristics (demining) that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, the actions concerned will not fall within the scope of a future call for proposals”.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the consortium composed by Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust Europe, in compliance with Article 195 of EU financial regulations: (f)“for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals”.

The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because Norwegian People's Aid is the labour movement's humanitarian organisation for solidarity. It is a non-profit organisation and HALO Trust is the world's largest non-profit humanitarian mine clearance organisation. Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust have extensive competence and geographical expertise for the demining action. Both implementing partners have successfully managed EU funded projects and they carried out demining actions in the whole Western Balkans Area. Both implementing partners started operations in Kosovo immediately after the war as first organisations to establish the Humanitarian Disarmament programme in the country.

In 1999, there were 18 mine clearance agencies working in Kosovo. At the current stage, Halo Trust and NPA are the sole active organisations in demining sector in Kosovo and it is implementing ongoing demining project funded by other Donor(s) in Kosovo. EU contribution shall partially cover the overall financial resources, in order to clear and release all contaminated area in Kosovo, by 2024.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.2.2. Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and viceversa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In exceptional circumstances and upon authorisation of the European Commission, changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) are possible, as well as other changes in the management and procurement modes. In addition, in some unpredicted and emergency situations, with prior approval of the European Commission, support to unforeseen and ad hoc actions may also be possible.

4.3. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

4.4. Indicative budget

| | EU contribution (amount in EUR) | Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified |
|---|--|--|
| Output 1: To release of 400 000 m ² of mine affected areas and 3 600 000 m ² cluster munition remnants affected areas back to local communities for their safe and productive use; <i>composed of:</i> | 3 900 000 | N.A. |
| <i>Direct management (Grants) – cf section 4.2.1</i> | N.A. | N.A. |
| Grants – total envelope under section 4.2.1 | 3 900 000 | N.A. |
| Evaluation, (cf. section 5.3) | will be covered by another decision | N.A. |
| Audit/Expenditure verification(cf. section 6) | will be covered by another decision | N.A. |
| Communication and visibility (cf. section 7) | N.A. | N.A. |
| Contingencies | N.A. | N.A. |
| Total | 3 900 000 | N.A. |

4.5. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This project consists of a consortium partnership composed by Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust as implementing partners. Both organisations work formally through the Kosovo Mine Action Centre and maintain regular coordination with Kosovo Mine Action Centre and all other relevant stakeholders. Implementation will be guided as per the consortium arrangement of this project, with Norwegian People's Aid as a lead and in good faith and spirit of partnership.

5. PERFORMANCE/RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

5.1. Internal monitoring

Internal and external monitoring will be conducted by the project team on the field in order to assess the progress of delivery of specific action results and towards achievement of action objectives.

Additional support is available from the extensive network of both implementing partners in finance, logistics, human resources, medical support, data management and impact monitoring, and operational research and development. These specialists serve to support the project with oversight and technical advice and they can be mobilised when needed.

5.2. Roles & responsibilities for data collection, analysis & reporting

Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust will evaluate the performance and impact of the project activities throughout the performance period using monitoring and evaluation systems and measurement tools, including post-clearance impact assessments and community surveys, in addition to regular review and audit of our operational data. Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust conform to the internationally adopted Standard Beneficiaries Definitions Guidelines which govern the ways in which beneficiary data is collected and reported, ensuring all information is disaggregated by sex and age, and where feasible, disability. The evaluation process will be ongoing throughout the project, and findings will be shared within the consortium, coordinated with Kosovo Mine Action Centre, and reported to the EU Office through regular reporting processes.

5.3. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term or final evaluations will be carried out for this action via independent consultants contracted by the Commission or via an implementing partner. The evaluations will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to the nature of the intervention.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner beneficiary and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner beneficiary, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Evaluation services shall be covered by another support measure.

6. AUDIT

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing Decision.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Visibility of EU funding and communication about objectives and impact of Actions are a legal obligation for all Actions funded by the EU, as set out in the EU communication and visibility requirements in force.

In particular, the recipients of EU funding shall acknowledge the origin of the EU funding and ensure its proper visibility by:

- Providing a statement highlighting the support received from the EU in a visible manner on all documents and communication material relating to the implementation of the funds, including on an official website and social media accounts, where these exist; and
- Promoting the actions and their results by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media.

Visibility and communication measures shall be implemented, as relevant, by the Kosovo administration (for instance, concerning the reforms linked to EU budget support), entrusted entities, contractors and grant beneficiaries. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included, respectively, in financing agreements, delegation agreements, and procurement and grant contracts.

Visibility and communication measures specific to this Action shall be complementary to the broader communication activities implemented directly by the European Commission services and/or the EU Delegations and Offices. The European Commission and the EU Delegations and Offices should be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities, notably with respect to the communication narrative and master messages.

In line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions, the Norwegian People's Aid and the HALO Trust will show recognition to the EU wherever possible for the funding that has allowed implementation of this project. Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust will ensure to clearly display the EU emblem on all operations sites, uniforms, vehicles and other donated equipment, as well as within our respective offices in Kosovo. They will regularly update their followers on social media of the progress of the EU-funded project, with thanks and appropriate visibility and recognition given to the EU as a donor and Kosovo authorities for cooperation and facilitation support. Moreover, they will publish about the project on their respective websites and give appropriate credits to the EU and the Kosovo government. Any *ad hoc* media and communications request will be treated with care and full donor and partner visibility from both sides.

Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust liaison officers will maintain relationships with communities and authorities and inform relevant stakeholders about the EU support of the project's funding. The programme's objectives and progress towards the European perspective will also be communicated to the public by liaison officers. The achievement of a landmine and cluster munition free Kosovo by 2024 represents a highly marketable milestone in Kosovo's development. Being instrumental in achieving this accomplishment, IPA III will be able to showcase this milestone as part of its funding portfolio and achieve considerable visibility as a result. Case studies and impact stories will regularly be published by the consortium partners illustrating the direct effect EU funding has on the beneficiaries of clearance, and the benefits of the action's employment of local staff. These case studies will be disseminated to the EU Office through reports and publicised on HALO Trust's/Norwegian People's Aid's websites or via social media.

Additionally, the action will involve efforts to reach diverse women and men with information, considering gender differences

8. SUSTAINABILITY

Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust will release and clear the land previously contaminated by cluster munitions and landmines in Kosovo back to local communities for their safe and productive use, thus protecting civilians and securing their livelihoods and further enabling sustainable development and economic growth. Though immediate benefits are captured through post-clearance surveys conducted six to twelve months after land has been returned to communities, the benefits of clearance compound over time.

The sustainability of the action will be achieved as follows:

Previously contaminated area provides livelihood opportunities and generates income, unlocking communities from poverty; safe access to economic and natural resources; released of the contaminated area for agricultural purpose will improve the food security and nutrition; mine and cluster munition clearance will enable safe access to natural resources, promoting economic growth and sustainable tourism in Kosovo; the removal of explosive hazards will contribute to the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure; mine and cluster munition free roads will provide access to safe transportation systems; mine and cluster munition clearance will contribute to the protection and safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage.