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GICHD

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

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GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING
Annual report 2016, GICHD, Geneva, June 2017
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GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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FOREWORD



Mine action is at a critical juncture in its evolution. At a time of rising victim numbers yet downward trends in funding, mine action actors are facing rapidly changing working contexts. New and protracted conflicts, urban and mixed contamination, including improvised explosive devices, as well as challenging security situations are calling for different ways of working. Combining various sets of knowledge and experience will be key to providing holistic, adequate and effective responses. In fact, the contribution of mine action organisations to support the broader framework and goals of human security is increasingly recognised. With their unique experience and technical expertise in dealing with different forms of explosive hazards, as well as through their physical presence in complex environments, mine action organisations are well placed to partner with other actors to advance human security.

Longer-term perspectives and engagement are also required today, not only to face up to these new challenges, but also to echo the international community's commitment to meet their obligations by 2025 under the Mine Ban Treaty and by 2030 under the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The GICHD actively supports affected countries and communities with the necessary tools and know-how to create effective and efficient responses. The Centre also advocates full national ownership, so that countries are able to deal with both new and legacy contamination efficiently and effectively, creating lasting safety for affected communities.

This report covers the essence of our work in 2016. Throughout the year, the GICHD worked tirelessly to adapt its efforts to these new challenges, proactively developing shared outlooks through closer collaboration with many different organisations. The Centre also deepened collaborations on topics such as development, human security, peace mediation and ammunition safety management.

We have set ambitious targets for ourselves for the years to come and will continue to work determinedly to achieve our strategic goals. We will advance holistic support to affected states and nurture strategic partnerships, working ever more closely with other actors towards strengthening a mine action community based on expertise and experience – one which is fully committed to improving mine action every day.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the extraordinary engagement of our donors and of the women and men working at the Centre. We would like to give special thanks for your valued collaboration.



Dr Barbara Haering
GICHD President



Ambassador Stefano Toscano
GICHD Director

THE IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS

CONTAMINATION

Over

60

countries and territories contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war



IMPACT



In 2015, there were

6461

reported casualties from mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war

Daily life, resettlement for communities after conflict and development impeded



Armed conflicts leave behind dangerous unexploded ordnance and mines, posing a serious and lasting threat to civilians. Explosive hazards significantly impact people's lives and livelihoods, creating important humanitarian and developmental prejudice for affected countries, both during and after a conflict.

These situations not only force people to live in constant fear but also impede daily activities such as farming, obstruct access to critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, and jeopardise safe return home after a conflict.

Even decades after a conflict has ended, mines, cluster munitions, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and poorly managed ammunition stockpiles continue to maim and kill: there were 6,461 victims in 2015 alone. These weapons do not differentiate between military personnel or civilians. In fact, 80 per cent of their victims are civilians, of which almost 40 per cent are children.

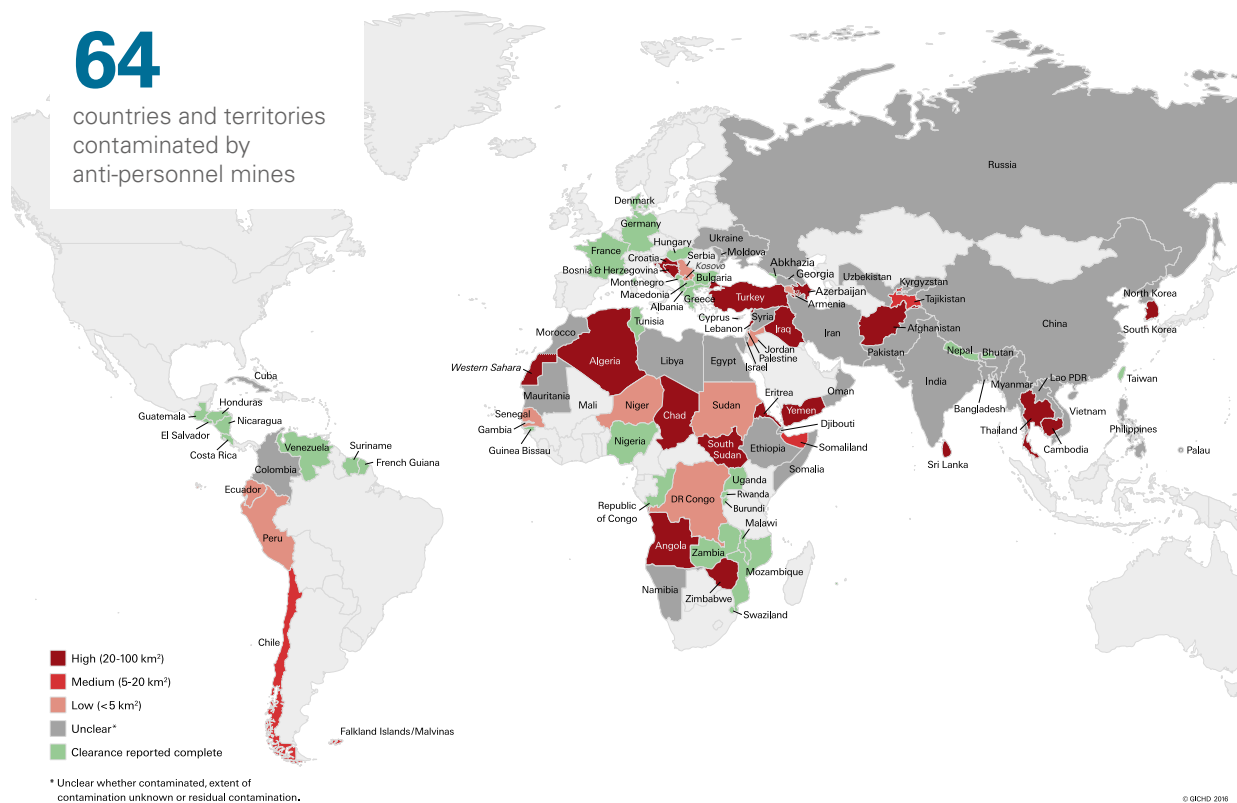
Today, 64 countries and territories are still contaminated by anti-personnel mines, and 27 countries and territories suffer the consequences of unexploded cluster munition remnants. In addition to legacy contamination, new contamination is happening throughout the world. Recent use of anti-personnel mines and improvised mines, often referred to as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) or booby-traps, was reported in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. Recent use of cluster munitions was reported in Sudan, Ukraine, Syria and Yemen, and allegedly in the area of Nagorno-Karabakh.



MINE CONTAMINATION

64

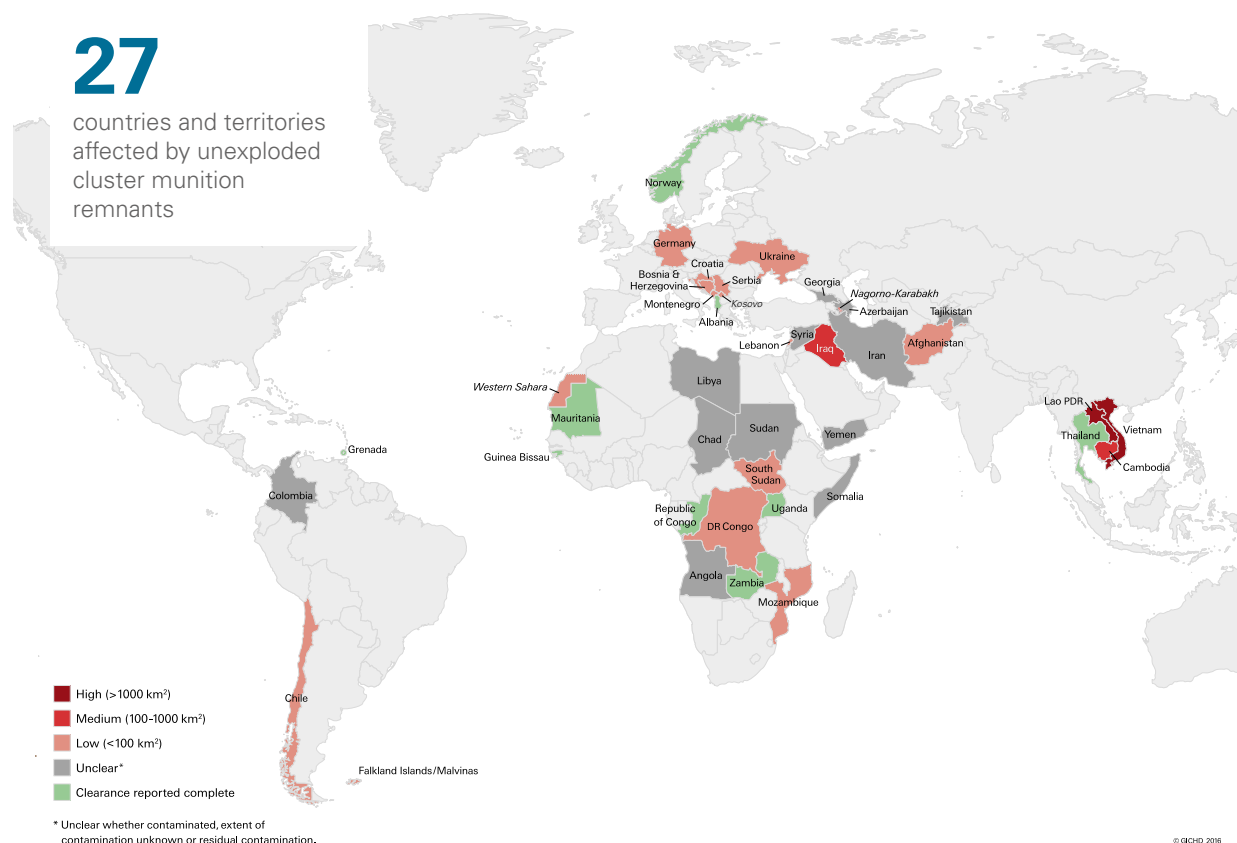
countries and territories
contaminated by
anti-personnel mines



CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION

27

countries and territories
affected by unexploded
cluster munition
remnants



Source: Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor 2015. These maps are for illustrative purposes and do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the GICHD concerning the legal status of any country or territory, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

THE GICHD



The GICHD is an expert organisation working to reduce the impact of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive hazards, in close partnership with mine action and other human security organisations.

In order to improve the relevance, performance, safety and sustainability of mine action, the GICHD:

- ▼ helps assess the nature and extent of contamination and its exact location;
- ▼ helps gather and assess information to determine the most targeted methods to release contaminated land;
- ▼ enables greater national ownership of mine action operations by building capacity through training and advisory services on all aspects of mine action;
- ▼ develops new technological and information management tools to support and improve the efficiency of all aspects of mine action operations;
- ▼ helps affected countries build strategies on how to deal with their contamination in an efficient and effective manner;
- ▼ provides international standards to guide and improve safety and efficiency and to ensure quality in operations;
- ▼ helps countries to tackle residual contamination efficiently after mine action operations have ended;
- ▼ gathers and furthers knowledge through research, training, advice and policy briefs;
- ▼ supports the universalisation and implementation of relevant instruments of international law;
- ▼ promotes dialogue between affected countries in local languages and fostering regional cooperation;
- ▼ furthers inclusive, gender- and diversity-sensitive approaches throughout the sector.

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

PROTECTING
COMMUNITIES FROM
EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS



RETURNING
CONTAMINATED LAND
TO PRODUCTIVE USE

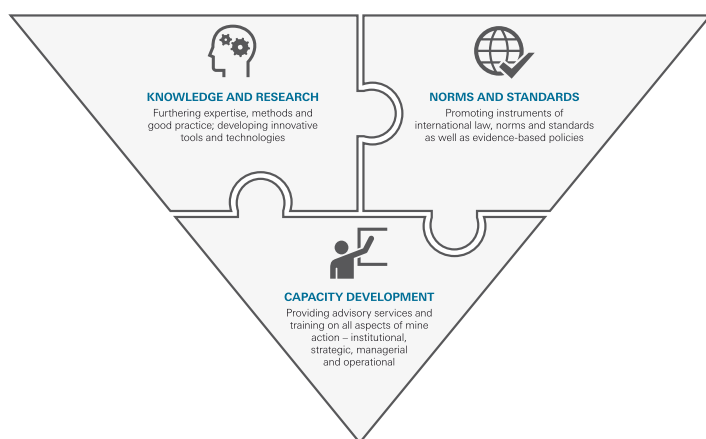


INNOVATING
FOR HUMAN
SECURITY



WHAT WE DO

IMPROVING MINE ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY



WHERE WE WORKED



57

countries visited
and/or supported

TRAINING AND ADVISORY SERVICES DELIVERED

40

training sessions
and workshops
delivered



870

course participants

1867

days on missions

Figures are for 2016

WHO WE ARE

STAFF

65



53%
women

47%
men

LANGUAGES

6

Communicating in English, French,
Arabic, Persian, Spanish, Russian



NATIONALITIES

19



OUR EXPERTISE



Figures are for 2016

Source: GICHD 2016, Landmine Monitor, 2016; Cluster Munition Monitor, 2016. The infographics above are for illustrative purposes and do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the GICHD concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

WHERE WE WORKED IN 2016

In 2016, the GICHD's work directly benefited 37 countries, helping them to reduce the impact of explosive hazards on human security and development.

The Centre's staff travelled to 20 additional countries for liaison visits, conference participation and workshop organisation for the benefit of other affected countries.



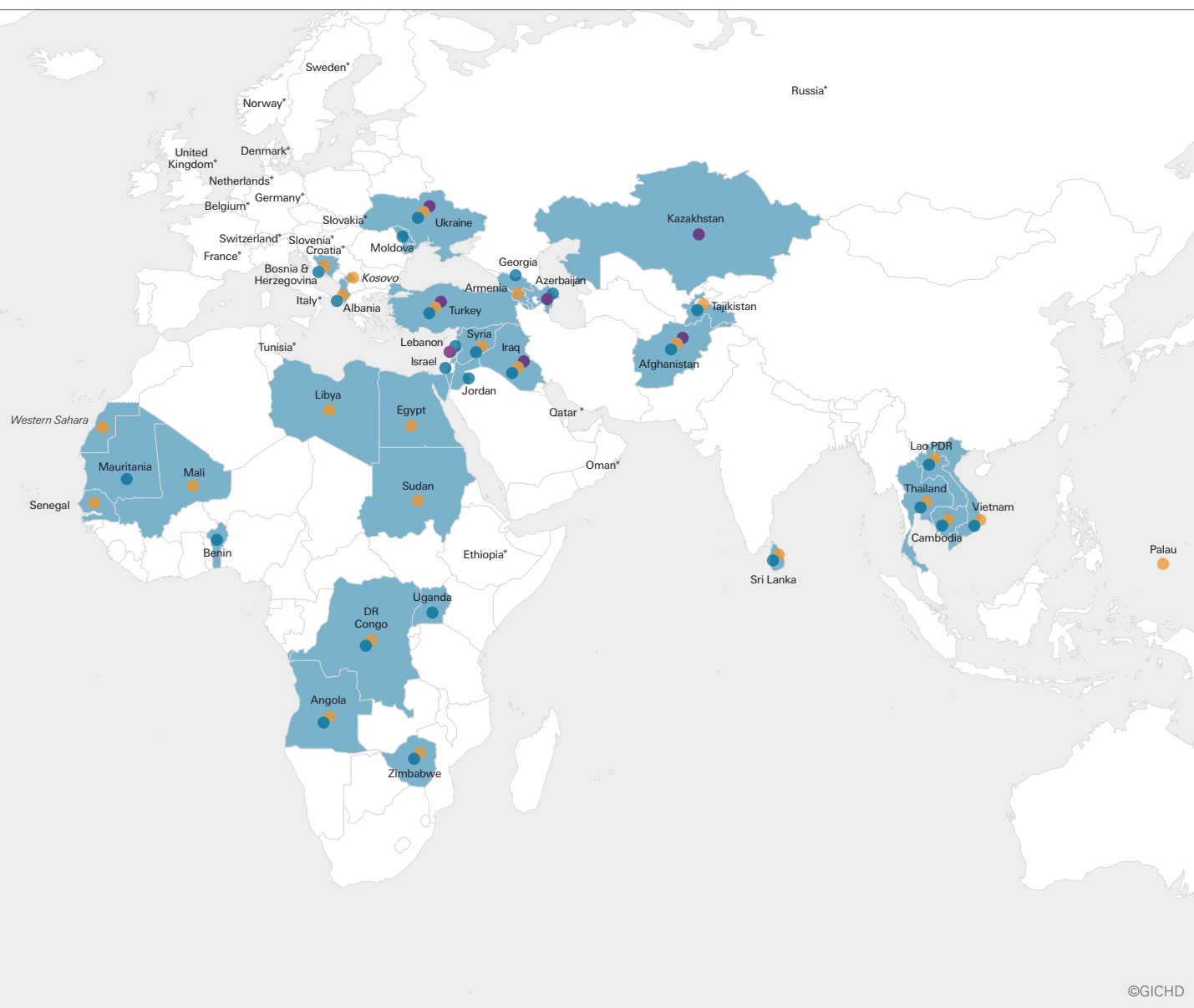
RISK MANAGEMENT

- ▼ Providing advice and training to national authorities and mine action organisations to increase the operational efficiency and effectiveness of mine action.
- ▼ Helping ensure the safe, fast and targeted release of land and waters.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- ▼ Helping national authorities and mine action organisations with the collection, analysis and timely provision of information to support survey and clearance operations.
- ▼ Enabling leverage of quality information for evidence-based, accountable and efficient decision making.



STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

- ▼ Developing, reviewing and promoting the International Mine Action Standards and associated documents, as well as national mine action legislation and standards.
- ▼ Promoting dialogue between affected countries in local languages and fostering regional cooperation.



LIAISON VISITS, IHL MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

- ▼ Meeting and liaising with partners and donors, attending international humanitarian law (IHL) meetings, participating in conferences, organising workshops and training courses for the benefit of other affected countries.

PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS REGIONS AND SECTORS

The GICHD works in close partnership with national mine action authorities and centres, the United Nations, other international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, research centres and commercial companies. Many of these partners come together as members of the GICHD's Advisory Board, whereas the GICHD Council of Foundation includes representatives from donor and mine-affected countries, the European Union and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

In spite of much progress over the last three decades, many countries still face considerable challenges to clearing their territories of explosive hazards and destroying stockpiles. It is up to national authorities to plan and manage mine action programmes and to implement their treaty obligations. The GICHD equips them with the capacity and ability to do so, building the capacity of local and national mine action actors. We believe that national ownership is key to enabling successful and sustainable programmes. In 2016, we collaborated with national authorities in 37 countries.

MINE ACTION OPERATORS

The GICHD also collaborates closely with local, national and international operators on policy projects, advisory services, training courses and outreach activities. In 2016, the Centre undertook numerous projects with our partners, such as Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Mines Advisory Group, The HALO Trust and the Fondation Suisse de Déminage.

One example was the renewal of the memorandum of understanding between the GICHD and NPA on collaboration in information management capacity development. Our joint capacity to support all levels of mine action will greatly enhance information management and, ultimately, operational efficiency in programmes where our two organisations work together. For example, in Thailand, GICHD staff train NPA staff on non-technical surveys, and in turn they pass on the lessons learnt to local staff.

OTHER HUMAN SECURITY ACTORS

The GICHD also establishes and nurtures strategic partnerships with other actors in the field of human security, including within the Maison de la paix campus where the Centre is located. These efforts enhance the exchange of knowledge and experiences and foster cooperation on human security, peace and disarmament.

As an example, 2016 marked the extension of a significant partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Initiated in 2014 to study the humanitarian and developmental impact of anti-vehicle mines, the GICHD - SIPRI partnership was strengthened to include the monitoring and analysis of trends in anti-vehicle mine incidents and, most recently, to carry out joint research on the use of Geographic Information Systems in peace efforts.

In 2016, the GICHD also explored the contribution of mine action to peace processes through a joint research project with swisspeace, a Swiss research institute, looking at the benefits of closer collaboration between mediators and demining operators.

HOSTED PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

As part of our role as a knowledge hub for mine action, the Centre hosts and supports four partner organisations: the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction; the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions; the Gender and Mine Action Programme; and, since the end of 2016, the Geneva Disarmament Platform.



STRATEGY 2015-2018

2016 was the second year of implementation of the Centre's strategy for 2015–2018. As laid out in our strategic objectives, the GICHD is working towards three long-term goals, to support the continual improvement of mine action performance and relevance:

- ▼ The fulfilment of convention obligations and/or reaching completion targets
- ▼ Effective management of residual contamination
- ▼ Greater integration of mine action into the wider context of human security

2016 focused on reviewing progress towards strategic outcomes, as well as transitioning towards a more country-focused orientation with regard to results.

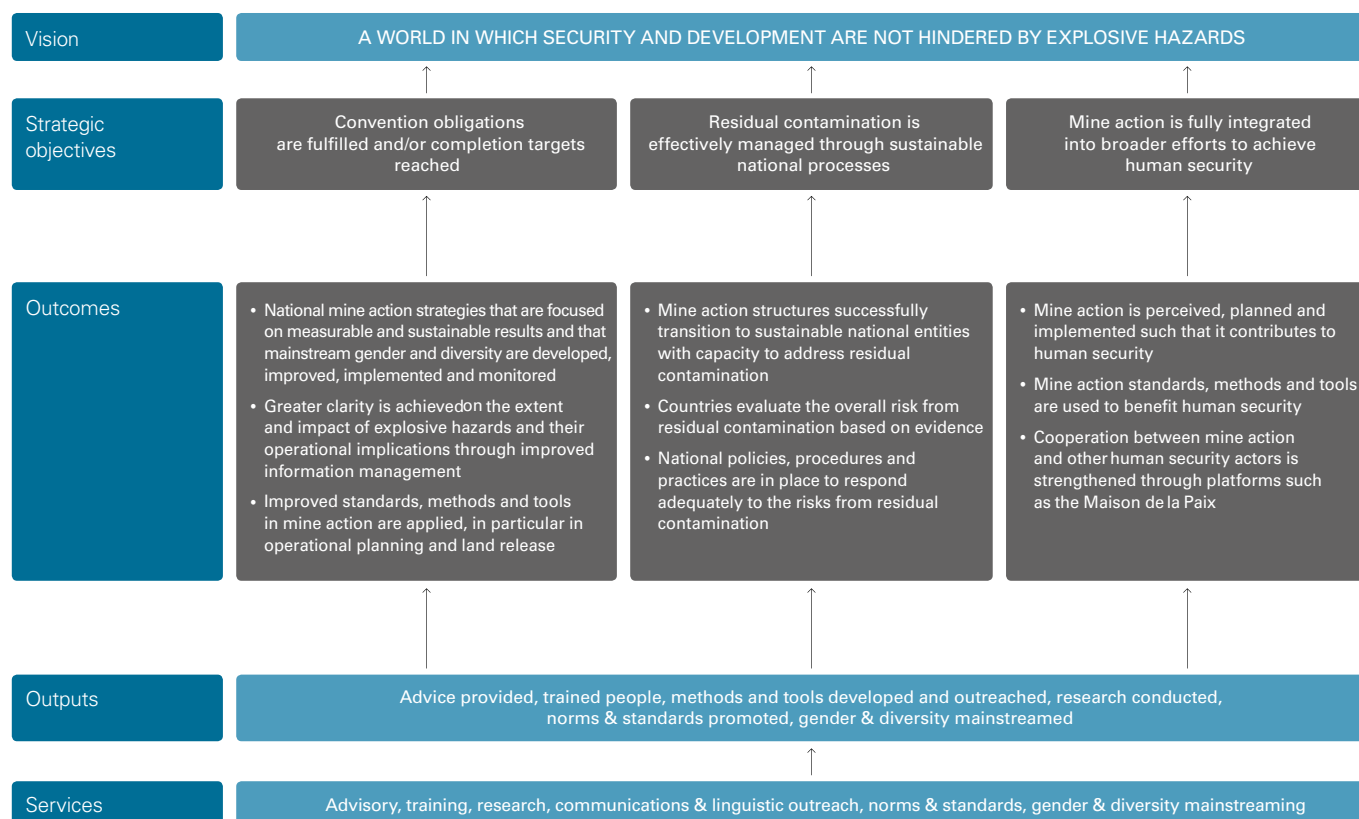
The GICHD is committed to ensuring that the results achieved through our work contribute to the outcomes identified under the three strategic objectives as well as to bringing about the desired changes on the ground. The implementation of an appropriate results-based management approach within the Centre is instrumental to this.

In 2016, the GICHD adopted its first Gender and Diversity Action Plan in order to mainstream gender issues at the Centre and support the integration of gender and diversity approaches in all our internal and external activities. For example, GICHD staff participated in a seminar on Gender Mainstreaming in Small Arms and Light Weapons, Mine Action, and Arms Control organised by NATO in Brussels. This gave them input for their soon-to-be-adopted guidelines.

2016 was also the year that the director of the GICHD, Ambassador Stefano Toscano, became a member of International Gender Champions, a network of leaders who pledge to uphold gender parity in all discussions and commit to advance gender equality within their own organisations.

WEB RESOURCE

GICHD Gender and Diversity annual report: bit.ly/GD-GICHD



STRATEGIES

The GICHD provides support for the development and improvement of national mine action strategies to help affected countries acquire the necessary knowledge and planning tools to best confront their contamination problem.



The countries are better equipped to define their overall visions, strategic goals, strategic objectives, quality-management concepts and operating principles, which in turn promote more effective and efficient mine action operations.

Through support in strategic planning, the Centre enables countries to meet their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention as well as the Convention on Cluster Munitions more effectively.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

During 2016, the GICHD has deepened its involvement into strategic planning processes in a number of countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Zimbabwe, helping them develop national mine action strategies on how to manage mine/ERW contamination in the most efficient and effective manner.

ZIMBABWE'S FIRST NATIONAL MINE ACTION STRATEGY UNDER WAY¹

Zimbabwe's mine contamination originates from the War of Liberation in the 1970s, and many minefields remain close to populated areas. As some of the most densely contaminated areas in the world, these areas have considerable humanitarian, social, environmental and economic impacts on communities.

Zimbabwe's mine action programme has seen significant achievements in the implementation of the land release process. Non-technical survey activities have resulted in more clarity and confirmation of the remaining mine problem. This will allow ZIMAC and operators to deploy clearance assets to confirmed hazardous areas, resulting in more effective and efficient operations. Out of the total land area cancelled, reduced and cleared between 2013 and 2016 (159,093,696 m²), operators cancelled 93 per cent through non-technical survey. As of March 2017, Zimbabwe's remaining contamination challenge was confirmed to be just over 66 km².



The Centre has also provided valuable support on information management, on operational efficiency and on the request process for the extension of its mine clearance deadline. Recognising that Zimbabwe has never had a national mine action strategy and that more international operators are becoming established in the country, the GICHD met with country representatives to highlight the importance of developing and implementing an appropriate and realistic national mine action strategy. In 2016, in close collaboration with ZIMAC, the GICHD conducted a strategic planning workshop in Harare, bringing together all key stakeholders (national authorities, government ministries, the ICRC, the ISU-APMBC, UNDP and mine action operators) to analyse the context and agree on the mine action programme's vision, mission, goals and objectives. The Centre is now working closely with the authorities to finalise their strategy and submit it for formal adoption. This strategy will allow the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) to take the lead in ensuring that all operators focus their resources on efficiently addressing confirmed hazardous areas. This will help Zimbabwe meet its mine clearance deadline, and thus fulfil its obligations with regard to Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

An appropriate and realistic strategy will add significant value to Zimbabwe's mine action programme, including:

- ▼ providing the programme with a common vision and mission;
- ▼ highlighting key challenges, threats and risks and presenting realistic solutions on how to address them;
- ▼ presenting clear goals and objectives to monitor progress, identify challenges, modify operations and report on achievements;
- ▼ facilitating Zimbabwe's progress towards completing its convention obligations;
- ▼ serving as a communication tool by increasing national and international awareness of the mine problem; and
- ▼ serving as a powerful resource mobilisation tool.

¹ For more details: Performance Report 2016, country review section (Zimbabwe) and progress review (Strategic Planning Project and contribution to the Strategy Outcomes 1.1 and 3.1), GICHD, 2017

ASSISTING BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO BETTER PLAN AND PRIORITISE MINE ACTION ACTIVITIES²

Large parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina are still heavily contaminated with mines and explosive remnants (ERW), primarily from the 1992–1995 conflict. Since the exact extent of contamination remains unclear, there is a need to put in place more efficient planning and survey procedures.

The GICHD has helped the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMACH) to assess better and more reliably the location of contamination and prioritise the areas in which clearance is most urgent. We helped improve the management of data through an information management assessment. Recommendations to update and clean databases will help the deployment of clearance assets to areas that do actually contain contamination, thus helping faster and more targeted release of land.

During 2016, the GICHD supported the drafting process of national standards on land release. The GICHD also worked closely with BHMACH, conducting a stakeholder workshop on strategic planning and prioritisation to support the development of Bosnia Herzegovina's next national mine action strategy. Key mine action stakeholders (ministries, NGOs and operators – including the BHMACH, the Civil Protection Agency, the Armed Forces and NPA) were brought together in a participatory process to address key challenges and agree on the mine action programme's vision, mission, goals and objectives.

The GICHD organised additional strategy stakeholder meetings in early 2017, in order to help Bosnia and Herzegovina develop this important strategic document, which will support the efforts to achieve the country's mine clearance obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

▮ WEB RESOURCE

Key recommendations for the development, implementation, review and improvement of a national mine action strategy can be found in our *Guide to Strategic Planning in Mine Action*: bit.ly/StrategicPlanningMA



Strategic planning workshop, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2016

² For more details: Performance Report 2016, country review section (BiH) and progress review (Strategic Planning Project and contribution to the Strategy Outcomes 1.1 and 3.1), GICHD, 2017

MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION - MORE PROJECT³

Governments adopt a proactive approach to removing mines and explosive remnants during and immediately after armed conflict. However, once the proactive clearance is finished, reduced threat from remaining ERW, referred to as residual contamination, raises the need for the country to readjust its priorities and response mechanisms to a reactive risk management approach.

Often there are no strategies in place for dealing with this contamination. The GICHD plays a key role in supporting countries to prepare to move from a proactive phase to a reactive one at the right time. We assist them in developing their capacities in long-term risk management.

Before residual contamination can be integrated into national strategies and programme management, a key step will be to formally define “residual contamination” and integrate the issue into the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The IMAS Review Board is currently working on this, as well as on a standard to be integrated into national legislation and policies.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

The experience gained by several European countries suffering from residual contamination, dating from the two world wars, can be usefully adapted and applied to countries recovering from more recent conflicts.

This has been a major focus of the research conducted for the MORE (Management of Residual ERW) project, which focuses primarily on delivering long-term risk management approaches for South East Asia, specifically countries most heavily affected by mines/ERW, namely Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR. The GICHD will help them develop a coherent set of standards, tools or guidance that national authorities can adopt to assist them in decision making. The Centre also promotes using robust data on contamination in order to make better-informed decisions and implement more effective and efficient response mechanisms.

DOCUMENTARY FILM MADE IN COLLABORATION WITH VIETNAMESE DEFENCE TV

The GICHD, in collaboration with Vietnamese Defence TV, has produced a documentary film on how to manage the risk posed by residual contamination. The film aims to improve understanding of residual contamination and compares the issues which Vietnam faces today with the situation which European countries, such as Germany and the UK, faced when managing their contamination dating from WWI and WWII.

The film was developed in partnership with Vietnamese Defence TV in order to ensure local ownership of the production and the message aimed at the Vietnamese audience. It was broadcast on 4 April 2017 on the occasion of the International Day of Mine Awareness.

▶ WEB RESOURCE

Watch the MORE documentary:

bit.ly/MOREdocumentary



British World War II air-dropped bomb found in Germany, 2011

³ For more details: Performance Report 2016, country review (Cambodia and Vietnam) and progress review (MORE project and contribution to the Strategy Outcome 2.3), GICHD, 2017

RISK MANAGEMENT

The GICHD works to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of mine action operations. We provide advice and share good practice to help ensure safe, fast and targeted release of land and waters.

The Centre focuses on strengthening national capacity to enable greater local ownership of operations, in line with national and global strategic priorities.



We provide expert support on:

- ▼ land release process comprising survey, detection and clearance methods and tools;
- ▼ operational efficiency, including operational data analysis;
- ▼ stockpile destruction, explosive ordnance disposal and ammunition safety management;
- ▼ resource mobilisation, contracting, insurance and liability.

LAND RELEASE

NEW LAND RELEASE PROCESS CREATES SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN TIME AND MONEY

Returning land to communities safely and efficiently is a long process comprising a three-step approach: non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey (TS) and subsequent clearance of areas contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

It is essential to determine how best to allocate scarce resources to actual contaminated areas. Proper application of the land release process allows costly clearance assets to be deployed more effectively and efficiently, leading to significant savings in time and money.

By means of a properly conducted NTS, the essential first step is to find the location of contamination and areas where TS and clearance activities can be cancelled because there is no evidence of explosive hazards. Dedicated and specially trained teams are deployed by operators to cover this very strategic step.

In collaboration with operators and national authorities, the GICHD is continuously developing and testing improved survey techniques and information systems, so that clearance is better targeted. Through this approach, more appropriate and inclusive methods for operational planning and land release are progressively adopted and systems are put in place to measure their impact.

THAILAND CANCELS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF LAND THANKS TO OPTIMISED SURVEY PROCESS

The GICHD conducted an important non-technical survey project in Thailand with the Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) and the organisation Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). Through training sessions and a follow-up mission with the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (ISU-APBMC), local staff were trained on how to optimise NTS processes. This has significantly helped to speed up the survey of existing suspected hazardous areas and the identification of confirmed hazardous areas.



Non-technical survey training,
Thailand, 2016



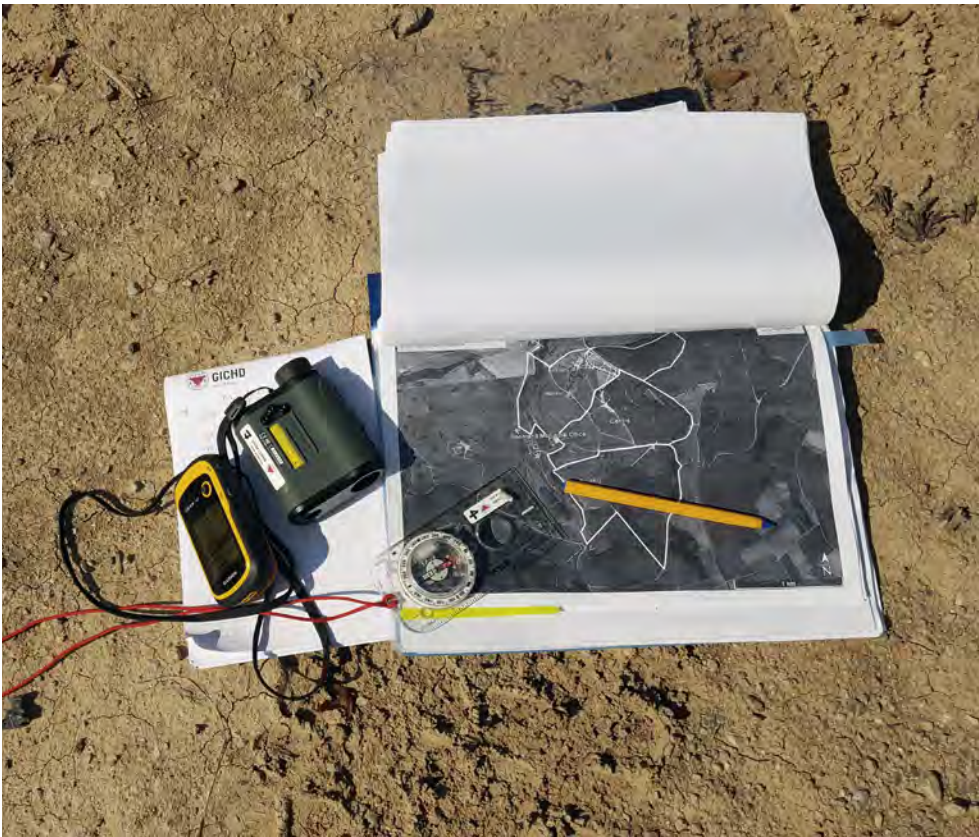
Non-technical survey training, Thailand, 2016

Through the implementation of systematic NTS methodology, interim results show that the real extent of contamination in Thailand is a lot lower than that perceived in past surveys. NTS methods have helped Thailand utilise and plan its limited resources efficiently and in a targeted manner. For example, the TMAC has made great progress by beginning to conduct a survey in the south of the country – in Chumphon and Yala provinces – in areas that have stayed untouched for considerable time. This has enabled the authorities to cancel a significant amount of land that had previously been suspected of containing contamination.

This successful project is the result of productive cooperation with GICHD's partners: the operator NPA and the TMAC. Sharing training knowledge is a good example of how local ownership can be created through proper handover processes. The goal of these joint trainings is a faster release of land to local communities and end users. With the current clearer view on contamination, it seems that Thailand will also be able to complete its clearance obligations under the APMBC within less than 10 years.

"It is clear that the NTS training has become the turning point or catalyst for Thailand to be able to finish the job very soon. From a hundred years, Thailand now can say that only 'a few years' are necessary to complete clearance."

Shushira Chonhenchob,
Programme Manager, Norwegian
People's Aid Humanitarian
Disarmament Programme, Thailand



Non-technical survey training,
Germany, 2016

50 MINE ACTION PROFESSIONALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TRAINED IN GERMANY EACH YEAR

In close relationship with mine action operators, the GICHD is constantly deepening its research and development in order to boost NTS efficiency in the field, which has a significant impact on the overall operational strategy of national programmes. We provide the targeted support needed in specific countries, but also global, comprehensive training on the fundamentals of mine action in an effort to replicate the successes achieved through improved NTS methods in a series of countries.

In 2016, as every year, the Centre held two global NTS training courses at the German Armed Forces United Nations Training Center in Germany. Built to train military and civilian personnel working in humanitarian operations, conflict prevention and crisis management, the training centre is particularly well suited to NTS field exercises and scenario-based training. It comprises an entire village, with actors and military personnel present in order to reproduce survey situations as realistically as possible. The learning experiences from these field exercises are completed with tailor-made classroom teaching and materials presented by the GICHD's specialist advisors.

Each year, around 50 mine action professionals from around the world are trained on the fundamentals of this important first step in the land release process. Participants are provided with up-to-date non-technical survey methodologies, techniques and technologies, and are given the opportunity to exchange their experiences and best practices with peers. They learn how to best use the latest tools, specifically the better integration of mobile technology, and how to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and inclusiveness of operational planning and land release. This course is run in collaboration with the Gender in Mine Action Programme and integrates strategy and information management modules.

At the end of each course, the participants establish action plans which the GICHD follows up with in due time. Surveys on course satisfaction and skills acquired are conducted on a constant basis to ensure a steady quality of the the course.

WEB RESOURCE

Watch our animation explaining the importance of NTS:
bit.ly/NTSanimations

AMMUNITION SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Improperly managed conventional ammunition stockpiles pose a grave risk to public safety and security.

In the past 35 years, over 520 ammunition storage explosions have been recorded in over 100 countries, resulting in thousands of victims. The number of situations where ammunition stocks are at risk is clearly on the rise, as are the proliferation and trafficking of ordnance. The urgent need for a reduction in ammunition stockpiles and their proper management has yet to be fully embraced by many states. Raising awareness along with implementing training methods not only protects lives and livelihoods but ultimately fosters peace and security.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IMPROVE SAFETY, SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY

The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) were developed under the UN SaferGuard programme to improve safety, security and efficiency in conventional ammunition stockpile management.

In order to mitigate these risks and build better ammunition expertise in affected states, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) launched the UN SaferGuard Validation Process project in 2016. It allows experts to be deployed rapidly to assist states in the urgent management of ammunition stockpiles, including in the aftermath of unintended explosions of ammunition. The GICHD has been heavily involved in the management of this process. Together with experts from the Small Arms Survey, the GICHD is mapping ammunition expertise around the world. We also set out recommendations to create standardised ammunition competencies to ensure high quality assistance to countries and adherence to the international standards provided in the IATG. In partnership with national authorities, it brings much needed competences and detailed requirements on ammunition life-cycle management to personnel across different specialisations through targeted training. Assessments are conducted regularly to test the levels of expertise to further develop and implement the IATG.

METHODOLOGY BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN REALITY AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES

The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines being applicable under circumstances where funding, facilities and competences are already at a good level, the GICHD has developed a method and a simple, pragmatic toolset. This helps to bridge the gap in implementation which exists between the reality on the ground in a number of countries and the basic IATG standard requirements (Risk Reduction Process Level 1 - RRPL 1).

The ammunition safety management (ASM) method is intended to provide practical, easy-to-understand help to practitioners in the field, helping them to make ammunition stocks safer while promoting the implementation of the IATG. The ASM tool provides guidance for clearance of land contaminated with abandoned and unexploded ordnance, the demolition of unsafe ammunition and the accurate accounting of stockpiles.

📄 WEB RESOURCE

ASM tool application:

bit.ly/GICHD-ASMapp

TRAINING PACKAGE FOR A STANDARDISED APPROACH

The GICHD encourages local capacity building in ammunition management by providing training to local operators and national authorities. We have developed a standardised ammunition training package that will be tested in Niger in 2017.

Our training courses concentrate on dealing with unsafe ammunition, and therefore potentially dangerous situations, in a structured, methodical manner, driven by continuous and dynamic risk assessments. Once any immediate danger is cleared, ASM assists in developing a safe environment for ammunition storage, either through the rehabilitation of existing, unmanaged ammunition storage areas or their relocation to a more appropriate site, at a safe distance from urban areas and vital infrastructure.

In 2016, among other training courses provided, the GICHD held the 4th Practitioner Course on Ammunition Safety Management under the NATO Partnership for Peace framework. This took place in an ammunition training facility in Switzerland, with trainees from mine action INGOs, international organisations, national authorities and armed forces. Twelve people from Cambodia, Vietnam, Estonia and Afghanistan, as well as UN staff, were taught the basics of ammunition categorisation, hazard classification, safe mixing, storage and licensing.

The GICHD also gave an advanced-level training course on ammunition identification and disposal to operators in Afghanistan. The course built on existing skill sets and improved knowledge of the characteristics of ammunition encountered in Afghanistan with a focus on NATO ordnance. Participants improved their ability to safely identify and dispose of these different types of munitions, whilst their explosive ordnance disposal knowledge was updated and improved.

A SWISS INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE AMMUNITION SAFETY PROCESSES INTERNATIONALLY

A workshop on the Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition, organised by the government of Switzerland, with the support of the GICHD and the Small Arms Survey, was held in Geneva in December 2016. Around 140 participants from over 80 countries and organisations discussed challenges related to the implementation of international standards on ammunition management and proposed solutions.

This workshop was the continuation of a multilateral initiative, launched by Switzerland in 2015 and aimed at promoting the safe and secure management of ammunition for non-proliferation and the prevention of explosions. Experience from various field projects shows that humanitarian risks and proliferation can only be sustainably lowered if adequate standards are implemented, upheld and accepted by the responsible actors.



Ammunition identification and disposal training, Afghanistan, 2016

NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE GICHD⁴

Mine action organisations increasingly recognise the value of their contribution to the broader framework and goals of human security.

With their unique experience and technical expertise in dealing with different forms of explosive hazards, as well as through their physical presence in complex environments, they are well placed to work closely and partner with actors in the field of human security.

NEW SETTINGS CALL FOR URGENT HOLISTIC RESPONSE AND COLLABORATION

Protracted conflicts lead to a greater presence of mine action organisations in the neighbouring areas. They all face considerable challenges in terms of access, safety, security and respect of humanitarian principles. Mine action actors are increasingly confronted with new contamination in urban areas, where several risks converge: mines, explosive remnants of war, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), looting of ammunition stocks and the spread of small arms and light weapons. These interconnected risks call for a more holistic response and for operators to be better prepared.

In 2016, the GICHD conducted a fact-finding mission in the Middle East (Jordan, Turkey and Iraq) to understand the developing situation concerning space, threats and opportunities for mine action interventions and to build partnerships that will contribute to stabilisation and increased human security in the region. The mission's visit to the northern part of Iraq assessed the challenges that mine action operators are facing on the ground, in terms of safety and security concerns, operational management and clearance methods. The scale of contamination in urban settings requires operators to urgently rethink and adapt their operational methodologies.

In the past, the GICHD has already provided support to the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA, the mine action coordinator in central and southern Iraq) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA, the mine action coordinator in Iraqi Kurdistan) in the field of programme management, operations and standards. In 2016, the Centre undertook information management assessments for both, supported by and in coordination

with iMMAP (Information Management and Mine Action Programs). It has identified a need for an integrated and joint information management infrastructure to capture the region's current mine action activities and map contaminated areas.

IEDs POSE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES TO CIVILIAN AGENCIES

A field study mission in Northern Iraqi Kurdistan assessed how humanitarian demining operators are dealing with improvised explosive devices with regard to threats profile, location (rural vs. built-up areas), security, equipment, staff competencies and how the local mine action authorities are coordinating these activities.

As a result, the GICHD published a study documenting and analysing how IED contamination is understood, defined and addressed and how the different actors relate to each other. We also looked into how the international mine action standards are relevant to humanitarian operations, in a complex political and humanitarian context and a shrinking space.

The main findings of this initial study on IEDs in Iraq highlight a number of key issues essential for the sector to continue progressing in building its response: the need for better terminology and a clear distinction between IED types, the strict implementation of risk management and quality management principles, the essential role of information management, the importance of specialised explosive ordnance disposal personnel, a clear identification of the humanitarian space, and the safety and security of the personnel involved in operations. It is also clear that the pressing needs of affected communities relayed by local authorities should be carefully prioritised and their expectations managed in view of the scale and the nature of the problem, the resources available and an unstable security environment.

WEB RESOURCE

IED study:
bit.ly/GICHD-IED-study

⁴ For more details: Performance Report 2016, country Review (Afghanistan and Iraq), GICHD, 2017

IMPROVING RESPONSES TO NEW CHALLENGES

At the GICHD we are working to adapt our efforts to these new challenges, proactively creating synergies and developing common outlooks through closer collaboration with many different organisations and stakeholders. We also actively support the development and use of new tools to create an effective and efficient response to each new challenge.

As part of our efforts to improve responses to these situations, the GICHD is deploying the SMART mine detection dog (MDD) system, allowing dogs to search for evidence of explosives more efficiently. The SMART dog harness, developed by the GICHD and Digger DTR, and funded by the Swiss Foundation World Without Mines allows mine detection dogs to be more effectively deployed and used in technical surveys. The use of free-running operating dogs wearing the GPS-integrated SMART harness allows a dog's every movement to be tracked over mobile devices and the data to be integrated into the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database in real time. For instance, mine detection dogs equipped with the SMART MDD system will also be used in northern Iraq to identify areas containing IEDs, thus providing a starting point for clearance.



Field study mission on IEDs, Iraq, 2016

📖 WEB RESOURCE

A Guide to Mine Action in Arabic:
bit.ly/GICHD-Guide-Arabic



Improvised explosive devices,
Iraq, 2016

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

To prioritise mine clearance operations effectively, it is crucial to collect, analyse and provide quality information to support evidence-based planning and reporting.

To this end, the GICHD has developed the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), which better enables mine action partners to leverage quality information for efficient, evidence-based decision making and reporting. IMSMA offers a series of inter-related tools, such as mobile data collection and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tools to better visualise and analyse data.



The Centre's support focuses on:

- ▼ capacity development: assessments, work plans and training;
- ▼ technical development: tools and user support;
- ▼ normative guidance: good practice and policy briefs.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT⁵

COLOMBIA IMPROVES DATA COLLECTION

Colombia's contamination is the result of decades of conflict with non-state armed groups. A ceasefire agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army) was signed in 2016, after more than 50 years of armed conflict.

The GICHD has been working in Colombia for several years, implementing IMSMA, management processes, non-technical survey and boosting operational efficiency at both strategic and operational levels. The operational capacity of the national mine action authority, the Dirección para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal (DAICMA), is continually increasing, making it easier to gain greater clarity on the location, extent and impact of explosive hazards.

In 2016, the GICHD continued to work closely with all Colombia's stakeholders – national authorities, international organisations and operators – to improve the efficiency of data collection through training on reporting and data analysis. Information management stakeholder workshops for humanitarian demining organisations, mine risk education and victim assistance organisations helped participants formulate their requirements, needs and problems with regard to information management systems. A clear work plan was designed in collaboration with NPA's technical advisor on information management, based at DAICMA.

The information workflow was reviewed and modified so that organisations can prevent double data entry and lower the overall workload through automation. The version of IMSMA used by the Colombian national authorities was updated to the latest version to benefit from improvements and corrections made over the last two years.

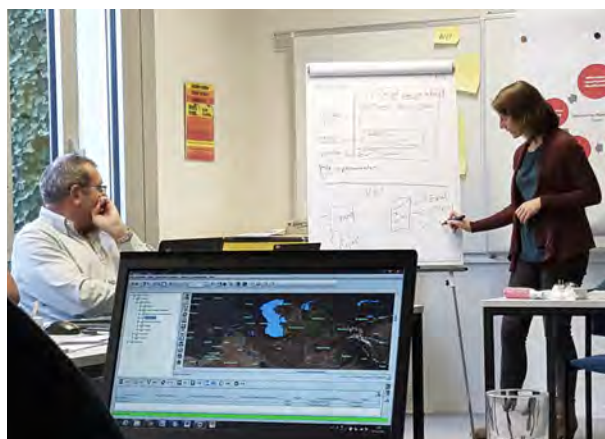
Furthermore, DAICMA successfully concluded a pilot test programme of the Priority Setting Tool for Mine Action (PrisMA) in 2016. This tool helps prioritise areas for survey and clearance according to factors such as proximity to settlements and critical infrastructure.

UKRAINE BETTER EQUIPPED TO ASSESS CONTAMINATION

The current conflict in the Donbass region has generated new contamination with anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines and ERW, including cluster munitions. The country's current overall contamination is unclear and the ongoing conflict has reportedly contributed to a growing number of victims since 2014.

The GICHD had been active in Ukraine before the crisis in 2014, providing multi-faceted assistance involving support to the national authorities in the development of national mine action legislation, institutions and capacities.

In the past year, the GICHD offered an IMSMA administrator training course to several countries from the region, bringing together not only Ukraine, but also Georgia, Armenia and Tajikistan to facilitate the exchange of experiences between them. Participants were trained to use the system at both managerial and technical levels, improving their understanding of the principles and concepts of information management, how to design data forms, and installing and working with the new version of IMSMA. Throughout the year, the GICHD has followed up on work plan implementation through intense remote support.



Information management training, Switzerland, 2015

⁵ For more details: Performance Report 2016, country Review (for all countries except for Vietnam) and progress review (Information Management Project and contribution to the Strategy Outcome 1.2 and 2.2), GICHD, 2017

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

THE POWER OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT THE SERVICE OF MINE ACTION

The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) has traditionally been a single, all-purpose tool to provide the mine action community with a system for the collection, storage, validation and analysis of data related to mine clearance operations. Since its initial development by the GICHD in the late 1990s, IMSMA has grown to become arguably the most advanced and widespread information management tool in the humanitarian sector.

The GICHD is now developing the next generation of this system, the new IMSMA Core. This software will be fully integrated with the latest GIS technology based on leading Esri technology. IMSMA uses tools such as unmanned aerial-vehicle imagery and 3D mapping for spatial data analysis and data sharing.

IMSMA Core will be powered by Esri's ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Portal and will be available for operational deployment in early 2018.

With IMSMA Core, mine action operators can analyse and use the collected data more effectively:

- ▼ improved visualisation for greater clarity and understanding of the extent of contamination by explosive hazards and their operational implications;
- ▼ tangible results for impact analysis through imagery comparison and history visualisation;
- ▼ advanced operational support with mobile data collection for real-time reporting;
- ▼ better targeted planning and effective use of resources via the prioritisation tool;
- ▼ facilitated measurement of operational efficiency and progress of mine action activities;
- ▼ improved efficiency throughout mine action and, potentially, other humanitarian sectors.



IMSMA Core is based on ESRI leading Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, thus benefiting from the latest developments; this includes 3D mapping, UAV imagery integration and data sharing.

➤ WEB RESOURCE

Watch the IMSMA Core video:
www.gichd.org/imsmacore

DATA COLLECTION WITH MOBILE APPLICATIONS

Mobile devices are increasingly vital for data collection and surveying in many humanitarian missions. However, due to their specific nature, many mobile tools have lacked the functionalities essential for mine action.

Different recent initiatives have developed mobile technology systems specifically for mine action purposes and offer advantages such as improved efficiency, speed and accuracy in reporting for these operations.

New technologies can significantly improve and simplify the collection of sophisticated geographical data of suspected hazardous areas and capture clearance operations progress. They also help collect data relative to risk education, victims and quality assurance. Mobile devices are increasingly becoming an integral part of surveying and mapping, helping to save time by eliminating the duplicate filing of reports, reducing errors and providing up-to-date data that helps to deliver the most recent information for decision makers and operational managers.



Non-technical survey training, Germany, 2016

MARS: REAL-TIME TRACKING AND PROGRESS OF DEPLOYABLE ASSETS

In 2016, the GICHD developed a new, comprehensive mobile data collection tool – the Mine Action Reporting System (MARS) – which bridges the information gaps in mine action programmes and replaces paper forms with digital data collection tools:

- ▼ MARS Mobile – a mobile App for data entry in the field
- ▼ MARS Web – a web-based data management and administration portal
- ▼ MARS Cloud – a cloud-based data warehouse

The MARS application can be run on mobile devices (tablets or smartphones) and linked to a web portal, allowing mine action programmes in the field to report the location of hazards for survey and clearance purposes more precisely. It can also provide information related to accidents and victim assistance. The application is not limited to mine action and can also be integrated into data collection for other human security programmes (e.g. food distribution, needs assessment). The benefits of MARS are immediate data sharing and analysis, as well as the real-time tracking of deployed assets. This better enables decision makers to implement activities and deliver their projects on time. Mine action operators and contractors can now digitally collect high-quality data with fewer errors and migrate collected data to their national mine action authority's main IMSMA database.

The initial MARS system was tested in Chile in 2016, which allowed the development of a functional system that meets field requirements. In conjunction with national authorities and operators, the beta version will be tested in Iraq and Cambodia in early 2017, with the aim of subsequent deployment of MARS to support data collection in various affected countries.



Mine action technology workshop, France, 2016

6TH MINE ACTION TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP DRAWS OVER A HUNDRED PARTICIPANTS

In November 2016, the GICHD and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), with support from Handicap International and the Nomad Consortium, hosted the 6th annual Mine Action Technology Workshop under the title *Harnessing Mobile Technology: Opportunities and Challenges*.

This event, held in Lyon/France, brought together more than 100 participants, which included humanitarian mine action operators, industry innovators, experts and developers, to discuss the latest innovations, challenges, concerns and opportunities in the field. In addition to a significant exchange of ideas, participants learned about and compared new developments in mobile technology.

The workshop's aim was to improve knowledge and encourage the adoption of different mobile technologies and tools. Ultimately, this is about harnessing the power

and convenience of new technologies to save lives and improve and accelerate mine clearance in the best way possible. The workshop also helped to highlight or bridge some of the gaps between operational requirements, the current capacities of the technology and ongoing research.

▀ WEB RESOURCE

Watch the technology workshop video on:
www.gichd.org/6thtechnologyworkshop

STANDARDS

Safety and efficiency standards for mine action operations require constant improvements and adaptations in order to uphold and improve their performance and quality in a changing environment.

To this end, the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the Technical Notes, Test and Evaluation Protocols have been developed to provide national authorities and mine action organisations with guidance on how to develop National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) as well as standard operating procedures.

The GICHD is mandated by the United Nations to act as the IMAS Secretariat. In addition to developing, reviewing and promoting the IMAS and associated documents, the Centre provides expert advice and training on:

- ▼ the application of the IMAS and associated documents;
- ▼ national mine action legislation;
- ▼ national mine action standards;
- ▼ quality management, monitoring and evaluation.



20 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS

The United Nations first issued a set of international standards for humanitarian mine clearance in 1997, compatible with the documentation of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In 2000, the standards were broadened beyond clearance to include other components of mine action, such as stockpile destruction, surveys and training, and renamed International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Since then, 42 IMAS chapters have been approved. New standards are periodically introduced, and existing ones are amended to respond to the changes in the sector.

Draft, review and revision of the IMAS are managed and coordinated by the GICHD with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. The IMAS Review Board is the highest level at which technical input to the IMAS is debated, agreed and forwarded to the UN for final endorsement. The Review Board is chaired by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), with the GICHD acting as its secretariat.

Over the years, safety has significantly improved as the mine action industry has implemented the minimum requirements of the IMAS. Setting standards in mine action has helped structure and professionalise the sector, establish a minimum standard for quality, and protect workers and beneficiaries. The IMAS and the accompanying National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) also provide the structure needed for the UN, governments and the commercial sector to manage the process of contracting mine action services, which involve a considerable element of risk and potential liability. The IMAS therefore provide a much needed framework for national authorities, the UN, donors and operators to manage liability without compromising efficiency. The IMAS have equally laid the ground, and provided a framework for evaluation of the state efforts to meet their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The IMAS are produced in eight different languages, providing a common professional language to the sector and reaching out to as many affected countries as possible.

ADOPTION OF A NEW STANDARD ON QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN MINE ACTION

The IMAS 07.12, providing guidelines for the implementation of a quality management system (QMS) for mine action programmes and organisations, was adopted by the IMAS Review Board in 2016. It is now awaiting approval by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action.

The success of a country to reach its mine action goals starts with a strategy to address threats based on evidence. This requires the setup of a comprehensive information management system which can help operators decide on appropriate methods, principles and priorities, with the ultimate goal of protecting its population from the risk of explosive hazards. However, resources allocated to remove these risks will always be under the shadow of doubt about quality and safety. This can only be mitigated through an appropriate QMS.

The adoption of a QMS is a strategic decision for an organisation which can significantly improve its overall performance and provide a sound basis for sustainable development initiatives. A well-defined QMS will support national mine action authorities in safely and efficiently implementing mine action operations, complementing risk management, information management and land release methods.

WEB RESOURCE

The latest version of each standard can be found under: www.mineactionstandards.org



NATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SAFER, BETTER COORDINATED AND MORE EFFICIENT PROGRAMMES⁶

Since mine action operations are carried out at a national level, governments have a responsibility to oversee and control quality, as well as to manage liability if accidents occur. National mine action authorities, or organisations acting on their behalf, therefore issue National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) to guide the management and implementation of mine action projects in a safe, coordinated and efficient manner.

The GICHD assists countries in the development of and transition to such national standards and legislation. Drafting national standards and getting them accredited is a challenging but very important process for the staff

of national mine action centres, because it is at the national level that standards take on a legal basis and can thus be enforced.

In 2016, the GICHD has published a *Guide to Developing National Mine Action Standards* to advise and assist national authorities on how to develop their NMAS so as to reflect the specific challenges posed by the hazards of landmines and ERW in their countries. This guide helps national authorities address the environmental impact of explosive hazards and clearance operations, as well as the situation of survivors and victims. It also aims to support the preparation of legislation to create a strategic response to hazards as well as to residual contamination.



PRB M3 mine disarmed by
MAG operator, DRC

⁶ For more details: Performance Report 2016, country review (for all countries except for Colombia, Vietnam and Zimbabwe) progress review (NMAS Project and contribution to the Strategy Outcome 1.3), GICHD, 2017

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The GICHD supports the universalisation and implementation of the relevant instruments of international humanitarian law by:

- ▼ hosting and collaborating with the Implementation Support Units of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
- ▼ providing States Parties with technical advice and information to fulfil their obligations and reach their completion targets;
- ▼ facilitating international meetings and addressing the mine action community on key issues as an observer to these conventions and to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.



In addition to our support for international humanitarian law, the GICHD contributes to informed discussions within the context of international processes and initiatives, and we strive for stronger links between mine action and the broader security and development sectors, including peace mediation and security sector reform.

COLLABORATION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNITS OF THE APMBC AND CCM

As agreed by the GICHD and the States Parties to both the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Implementation Support Units (ISUs) of these conventions are hosted by the GICHD. The Centre provides them with administrative, logistical and in-kind support, and the particular nature of these organisations' responsibilities lends itself to further forms of cooperation.

The ISU-APMBC and the GICHD have joined forces on several occasions to support states in the development of their mine action strategic plans, which serve as a basis for and complement their Article 5 extension requests. Indeed, having a strategic plan in place is instrumental in helping states to meet their completion targets under the APMBC.

In May 2016, the ISU-CCM and the GICHD joined forces to release the 3rd edition of the *Guide to Cluster Munitions*. This updated publication is particularly useful for new States Parties, or states considering accession to the CCM, which may be seeking further information, including specific responsibilities of States Parties. Finally, the GICHD also administers the sponsorship programmes of the APMBC, the CCM and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

The GICHD is always looking for ways to improve and strengthen these fruitful collaborations for the benefit of the Centre and the ISUs and – most importantly – for the efficient implementation of the Conventions.



Launch event of the *Guide to Cluster Munitions*, Switzerland, 2016

OBSERVER INPUT TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Twenty years after its entry into force, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has become one of the most important international disarmament and humanitarian treaties. In November 2016 an observer delegation from the GICHD participated in the 15th Meeting of States Parties to this convention in Chile.

Through statements in plenary and participation in side events, the Centre focused on three current issues in relation to the Convention:

- ▼ The promotion of quality non-technical surveys to better define contamination and ultimately accelerate progress towards the 2025 Maputo completion target
- ▼ The promotion of sound strategic planning incorporating completion targets and residual risks
- ▼ The importance of distinguishing Counter-IED (improvised explosive devices) operations from humanitarian interventions addressing IEDs and of considering improvised mines functioning like anti-personnel mines as part of the scope of the Mine Ban Treaty

In addition, the Centre chaired a side event on Mine Action Innovation in the Middle East, which discussed new tools and innovative approaches designed to deliver solutions for mine action activities in the region.

The 6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions took place in September 2016 in Geneva. At a side event, the GICHD highlighted mine action's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Centre is conducting a study on this theme together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on this very topic articulating the manifold links between mine action outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In December, the GICHD actively participated in the 5th Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in Geneva, where we took a clear position on the topic of IEDs and on MOTAPM (mines other than anti-personnel mines). On IEDs, the Centre stressed that humanitarian mine action actors should perform IED disposal in response to a clear humanitarian

need, for example when civilian populations are at significant risk, and within an appropriately defined humanitarian space, which is to be assessed on a case by case basis, taking into account access, safety and security, threat profile and the possibility to operate in a manner consistent with humanitarian principles. On MOTAPM, the Centre reminded participants that the joint research project with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) demonstrates that MOTAPM or anti-vehicle mines pose a significant humanitarian and developmental problem and committed to further developing a robust evidence base of their impact.

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT IN ISTANBUL

In May, a delegation headed by the GICHD Director attended the World Humanitarian Summit, in Turkey, where it contributed to the shared Agenda for Humanity. The Centre pledged to uphold two commitments outlined in the Agenda:

- ▼ The first commitment is to protect the norms that safeguard humanity, which include issues related to international humanitarian law and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The GICHD has collected data on direct civilian harm and the effects on civilians when wide-area explosive weapons in populated areas are used.
- ▼ The second commitment, "Changing people's lives: from delivering aid to ending need", commits us to empower local actors and increase national capacity for risk analysis. Providing capacity support on the request of national partners fulfills our mandate to act "as local as possible, as international as necessary" while also promoting national ownership.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN POLICY

THE VAST MAJORITY OF ANTI-VEHICLE MINE INCIDENTS HAPPEN IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Reliable and disaggregated data on the impact of anti-vehicle mine (AVM) incidents were largely unavailable until the GICHD and SIPRI began a long-term monitoring and mapping study. In 2015, both organisations began collecting global data on AVM incidents with a view to improving evidence, identifying trends and making the data available on interactive, regularly updated, online maps. In 2016, the GICHD and SIPRI recorded 181 incidents related or allegedly related to AVMs, in 22 states and territories. This represented a 2 per cent increase from 2015.

While the study's findings for 2016 testify to the sustained humanitarian and developmental impact of AVMs in post-conflict situations, the vast majority of casualties in 2016 happened, however, in conflict settings, bolstering previous observations: 80 per cent of incidents in 2016 (vs. 81 per cent in 2015) and 88 per cent of casualties (vs. 91 per cent in 2015) occurred in conflict situations.

WEB RESOURCE

The GICHD-SIPRI interactive maps are available on: www.gichd.org/avm

ASSESSING THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

Over the last few years, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas has increased significantly. These weapons, originally designed for use in open battlefields, have devastating effects on civilians and built structures.

In January 2015, the GICHD established a research project, in collaboration with other organisations, to examine the effects of the different weapons systems currently used in armed conflict in populated areas: rocket launchers, artillery guns, mortars, tank guns and air-launched bombs. The project was advised by a group of 18 experts in weapons-related research as well as by practitioners who address the implications of explosive weapons in the humanitarian, policy, advocacy and legal fields.

Explosive weapons are generally designed to kill and injure human beings and to destroy, or otherwise incapacitate, vehicles and infrastructure. When they are used in populated areas, the impact of their use is often amplified, as confirmed by the Centre's case studies. Besides the significant human cost, substantial physical damage is inflicted on essential infrastructure, homes and businesses. The extensive two-year study, which was launched at an event in February 2017, will be completed by a weapons effects simulator later in 2017.

The aim of this research into the characteristics of explosive weapons and their immediate, destructive effects on humans and structures is to help inform the ongoing humanitarian and political discussions on explosive weapons in populated areas and on reducing harm to civilians. The GICHD does not discuss the moral or legal implications of using explosive weapon systems in populated areas, but examines their effects from a technical perspective.

WEB RESOURCES

Read this study's key findings on: bit.ly/CEWstudies

Watch the launch event and its panel discussion on: bit.ly/CEWlaunch



Buildings destroyed by bombing, Lebanon, 2006

MINE ACTION PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN PEACE MEDIATION

Mine action is well positioned to promote cross-sectoral cooperation. Often a precondition for peace-building and socio-economic development, mine action can also actively support peace mediation by fostering trust between conflict parties and building a population's confidence in the peace process by delivering safer living conditions.

In 2016, the GICHD explored mine action's contribution to peace processes through joint research carried out with the research institute *swisspeace*. The research reached out to mediators and demining organisations, looked at the potential benefits of closer collaboration between the two groups and led to a publication which offers a number of recommendations. In particular, the publication points out the importance of including the topic of mine action in mediation processes - even though it may not be included in a final peace agreement - and distinguishing mine action before and after such an agreement. The study also shows the need to foster the interaction between demining organisations and peace mediators, as the two communities of practice are currently not familiar with each other. On this specific aspect, the research has already contributed to generating collaborations and its findings have been used in training courses, for instance, during the peacebuilding courses of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs implemented by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).

The recent Colombian peace agreement between the government and the FARC confirms the benefits of using mine action as a confidence-building measure. In 2017, the GICHD will continue to work jointly with *swisspeace*

to promote synergies between mine action and peace mediation by expanding the project to countries that present similar situations as the one in Colombia, with the purpose of identifying best practices to strengthen and implement this type of collaboration on a greater scale in the future.

MINE ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Since January 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have shaped global development efforts. In light of this changing policy landscape, the GICHD has initiated a study with the UNDP to explore current understandings of the contribution and impact that mine action is having on achieving the 2030 Agenda in mine-affected countries.

Based on consultative research into good practice and lessons learnt, this study also aims to provide guidance to mine action organisations, authorities and donors, such as on how to participate in the development of national SDG frameworks, how to identify the potential for mine action to catalyse progress across relevant SDGs or how to establish SDG-compatible mine action outcomes and indicators.

Preliminary findings were discussed at the 20th International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers, in Geneva in February 2017, and the study is expected to be published later in the year.



People collecting firewood,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

OUTREACH AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

As mine action becomes increasingly interconnected with the wider human security sector, it is crucial to accompany this process through targeted outreach and communication.

The GICHD enhances its visibility and influence by reporting on its impact on the mine action sector and beyond. Our outreach activities increasingly follow a cross-media strategy to reach targeted audiences through a variety of communications channels as well as through the organisation of events.

In the past year, the GICHD has continued to connect mine action national authorities through the Regional Cooperation Programme, increasing the level and quality of cooperation and exchange at a regional level.



COMMUNICATIONS

The GICHD has continued to reinforce its communication efforts regarding its activities, publications and research, across print and digital channels as well as through increased media presence. Over the year we have also deepened our exchanges with partner organisations with the aim of creating more visibility for the entire sector.

#TOGETHERAGAINSTMINES REACHES 25 MILLION PEOPLE

In the run-up to the International Day of Mine Awareness, on 4 April 2016, the GICHD launched a brand new social media campaign to increase awareness about mine action under the slogan *#TogetherAgainstMines*. People from over 40 countries were involved in the campaign, demonstrating their commitment to a world free of mines. Opinion leaders, mine action organisations, mine survivors and the general public took part in the campaign, which reached over 25 million people worldwide on social media. On 4 April, at least one tweet with the hashtag *#TogetherAgainstMines* was posted somewhere in the world every minute, making this campaign an unprecedented success and presenting a strong, united message on behalf of the entire mine action community.

DEMINING OPERATIONS ON THE PLACE DES NATIONS IN GENEVA ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MINE AWARENESS

On the International Day of Mine Awareness, 4 April, the GICHD organised a public demining event on Geneva's iconic Place des Nations, next to the *Broken Chair* sculpture created by artist Daniel Berset for Handicap International. The event, which attracted the attention of many visitors, simulated a manual demining operation and showcased a mine detection dog wearing a SMART harness. These activities were rounded off with the projection of a documentary, an interview with a mine survivor and an information session on different types of mines.



Public demining demonstration on the International Day of Mine Awareness, Switzerland, 2016

ENHANCING SYNERGIES AT THE MAISON DE LA PAIX CAMPUS

As one of the 13 organisations based at the Maison de la paix campus in the heart of the International Geneva, the GICHD strives to contribute to inter-organisational projects that reach out to the greater Geneva community. In June 2016, in order to increase the campus' visibility across the region, the GICHD, along with three other Maison de la paix partners, organised the competition *Bâtisseurs de Paix*, or peace builders. Secondary school students from Geneva were invited to make short videos on *what peace means to me*.

The GICHD also led the creation of two joint websites. The first is for the entire Maison de la paix which features the organisations, their common projects and the campus itself. The second is for the Gender and Diversity Hub which announces upcoming events at the Maison de la paix, provides relevant resources and links to the Hub members' own websites.

WEB RESOURCES

Maison de la paix website:
www.maisondelapaix.ch

Bâtisseurs de Paix website:
www.batisseursdepaix.org

Gender and Diversity Hub website:
www.gdhub.ch

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES FOSTER KNOWLEDGE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

The research, publications and online resources produced and maintained by the GICHD every year in multiple languages are a key component of the Centre's support to national authorities, international and regional organisations and NGOs. These resources compile good practice, support advisory missions and training courses, and give authorities and operators the tools they need to improve the relevance, performance, safety and sustainability of mine action.

2016 PUBLICATIONS

www.gichd.org/resources/publications

Explosive Weapon Effects:

bit.ly/ExplosiveWeaponsEffectsPublication

*10 Pasos hacia un sistema nacional de gestión de calidad
(Ten steps towards a national quality management system):*

bit.ly/GestionDeCalidadPublicacion

Mine Action and Peace Mediation (with swisspeace):

bit.ly/MAPeaceMediation

A Guide to Developing National Mine Action Standards:

bit.ly/DevelopingNMAStandards

*A Guide to Survey and Clearance of Underwater
Explosive Ordnance:*

bit.ly/GuideUnderwaterOrdnance

A Guide to Cluster Munitions (with ISU-CCM):

bit.ly/GuideToClusterMunitions

*Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mines
Incidents in 2016 (with SIPRI):*

bit.ly/2016AVMincidents

GICHD WEBSITES

GICHD main website:

www.gichd.org

GICHD Online Training Platform:

training.gichd.org

International Mine Action Standards:

www.mineactionstandards.org

Characterisation of Explosive Weapons Research Project:

characterisationexplosiveweapons.org

The annual Together Against Mines campaign:

www.togetheragainstmynes.org

The Bâtisseurs de paix competition:

www.batisseursdepaix.org

OTHER PLATFORMS HOSTED AND SUPPORTED

Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-personnel Mine
Ban Convention:

www.apminebanconvention.org

Maison de la paix:

www.maisondelapaix.ch

Maison de la paix Gender and Diversity Hub:

www.gdhub.ch



GICHD BROCHURE

English: bit.ly/GICHDBrochure

Arabic: bit.ly/GICHDBrochure-Arabic

Farsi: bit.ly/GICHDBrochure-Farsi

French: bit.ly/GICHDBrochure-French

German: bit.ly/GICHDBrochure-German

REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The Regional Cooperation Programme has been initiated by the GICHD in partnership with the national authorities of affected states and organisations to increase the level and quality of cooperation on mine action at a regional level. Through this programme, the GICHD brings the different stakeholders together to share resources and experiences based on linguistic commonality and proximity.

This programme serves national authorities and their staff members by improving their mine action knowledge by giving them access to terminology, standards, material, training and advisory services in their own languages.

The GICHD has four regional platforms: the French Language Outreach Programme; the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme; the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme; and the Persian Regional Cooperation Programme.

ARAB REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

In 2016, the GICHD, among other regional activities, organised a Resource Mobilisation workshop in partnership with the Lebanon Mine Action Center in Beirut. The objective was to enable the participants from national mine action authorities from across the Arabic-speaking region to understand the principles of resource mobilisation and communication with the goal of preparing their own resource mobilisation plan. The workshop focused on donor perspectives, policies and procedures relating to mine action, and on how to use this knowledge to equip participating programmes with the means to generate donor support.

The workshop assembled 10 national mine action authorities from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. It was funded by the Swiss government and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.



Resource mobilisation workshop, Lebanon, 2016

RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

PERFORMANCE REPORT⁷

PURPOSE OF THE GICHD – ACCORDING TO STATUS

The GICHD Foundation's role is to promote international cooperation in mine action by training practitioners, developing new methods and providing different actors with the information they need.

Within this context, the Centre should undertake a series of activities, in particular:

- ▼ establish and maintain a group of internationally recognised experts that analyses experiences from different contexts in the field, identifies current problems and proposes solutions in the form of standards or methodologies and methods;
- ▼ create and maintain an information management system adapted to the needs of the United Nations and existing mine action centres;
- ▼ organise periodic conferences allowing the persons in charge of mine action operations to exchange their experiences;
- ▼ organise training courses for potential managers of mine action operations as well as for information management specialists.

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The GICHD is subject to the laws of Switzerland. It is directly supervised by the Surveillance fédérale des fondations (the Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations), which is a section of the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs. The GICHD Foundation's powers are exercised by, or are under the authority of, the Council of Foundation and the Director of the GICHD.

The Council of Foundation is the GICHD's governing body. It defines the Centre's general direction, supervises its activities and decides how to allocate its resources. Serving along the President, Dr Barbara Haering, who was unanimously re-elected for another four-year mandate in 2016, there are 26 Council of Foundation members and an Honorary President, Dr Cornelio Sommaruga.

The Bureau of the Council of Foundation manages the Foundation's current affairs unless otherwise delegated to the Director. The Bureau is composed of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and three Delegates from the Council of Foundation. The Advisory Board advises on the management of the GICHD. It consists of a group of eminent persons involved in mine action and human security in various roles and organisations, and it is chaired by the Director of the GICHD. The Director is responsible for the Centre's operational, financial and administrative management under the strategic guidance of the Council of Foundation. The Director is appointed by the Council of Foundation and has the right to act on the behalf of the Foundation.

An external auditor reviews the Centre's financial reports and ensures their compliance with Swiss law. Deloitte SA was appointed as the external auditor for the 2016 fiscal year. The GICHD's annual financial statements are subject to a full, voluntary, ordinary statutory audit as per a decision by the GICHD's Council of Foundation. The audit is carried out in accordance with Swiss auditing standards.

The objectives of an ordinary statutory audit are to obtain reasonable assurances on the correctness of the financial statements that were subjected to audit and to confirm the existence of a system of internal control (designed, documented and implemented by the management). The audit procedures performed for an ordinary audit are described in the Swiss auditing standards that were developed from, and are to be considered as equivalent to, the International Standards on Auditing. These are issued by the International Federation of Accountants.

⁷ In reference to the Swiss GAAP RPC 21 standard for charitable and social non-profit organisations.

COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

The Council of Foundation is the GICHD's governing body and it defines the Centre's general direction, supervises its activities and decides how to allocate its resources. It comprises 26 members under the presidency of Dr Barbara Haering. Council members hold a four-year term of office.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2016)

President

Dr Barbara Haering
President of the Council of Foundation

Honorary President

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga
Honorary President of the
Council of Foundation

Afghanistan

Ambassador Suraya Dalil
Permanent Representative of
Afghanistan in Geneva

Albania

Ambassador Filloreta Kodra
Permanent Representative
of Albania in Geneva

Australia

Ambassador John Quinn
Permanent Representative
of Australia in Geneva

Austria

Major General Dr Johann Frank
Directorate for Security Policy, Federal
Ministry for National Defence and Sport

Cambodia

Ambassador Ney Samol
Permanent Representative
of Cambodia in Geneva

Canada

Ambassador Rosemary McCarney
Permanent Representative
of Canada in Geneva

Colombia

Ambassador Beatrix Londoño Soto
Permanent Representative
of Colombia in Geneva

European Union

Ms Anne Kemppainen
Head of Section, Permanent Mission
of the European Union in Geneva

Finland

Ambassador Terhi Hakala
Permanent Representative
of Finland in Geneva

France

Ambassador Alice Guitton
Permanent Representative of France
to the Conference on Disarmament

Germany

Ambassador Michael Biontino
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament,
Secretary of the Council of Foundation

Italy

Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament

Japan

Ambassador Mitsuko Shino
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Japan in Geneva

Lebanon

Ambassador Najla Riachi Assaker
Permanent Representative
of Lebanon in Geneva

Mozambique

Ambassador Pedro Comissário Afonso
Permanent Representative of
Mozambique in Geneva

Netherlands

Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the
Conference on Disarmament

Senegal

Ambassador Coly Seck
Permanent Representative
of Senegal in Geneva

Sweden

Ambassador Veronika Bard
Permanent Representative
of Sweden in Geneva

Switzerland

Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior
Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the Conference on Disarmament,
Treasurer of the Council of Foundation

Switzerland

Dr Robert Diethelm
Deputy Director, International Defence
Relations, Swiss Federal Department
for Defence, Civil Protection and Sport

Tajikistan

Ambassador Jamshed Khamidov
Permanent Representative of
Tajikistan in Geneva

UNMAS

Ms Agnès Marcaillou
Director of the United Nations Mine
Action Service (UNMAS), New York

United States of America

Ambassador Robert Wood
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
Conference on Disarmament

Vietnam

Ambassador Duong Chi Dung
Permanent Representative
of Vietnam in Geneva

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board provides advice to both the Council of Foundation and on the management of the GICHD. It reviews the Centre's strategy, annual work plans and terms of reference as part of the evaluations of the GICHD's activities. The Board is made up of 24 eminent persons involved in mine action and human security in various roles and organisations; it is chaired by the Director of the GICHD. Board members hold a four-year term of office.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2016)

Mr Håvard Bach
Head of Mine Action, APOPO
Mine Action Programme

Ambassador Damjan Bergant
Director, ITF Enhancing
Human Security, Slovenia

Mr Eric Berman
Programme Director,
Small Arms Survey

Ms Arianna Calza Bini
Director, Gender and Mine
Action Programme (GMAP)

Mr Carl Case
Director, Office of Humanitarian
Mine Action, Organization of
American States (OAS)

Dr Jane Cocking
Chief Executive Officer, Mines
Advisory Group (MAG)

Mr James Cowen
Chief Executive, The Halo Trust

Ambassador Christian Dussey
Director, Geneva Centre for
Security Policy (GCSP)

Mr Roger Fasth
Operations Manager, Danish
Demining Group (DDG)

Ms Judy Grayson
Senior Advisor, United Nations
Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Dr Heiner Hänggi
Deputy Director and Head of
Policy and Research, Geneva
Centre for the Democratic Control
of the Armed Forces (DCAF)

Mr Olaf Juergensen
Advisor, United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

Mr Rashid Khalikov
Director of Geneva Office, United
Nations Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Ms Katherine Kramer
Advisor, Geneva Call

Ms Sarah Marshall
Chief of Geneva Office, United Nations
Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Mr Dave McDonnell
Vice President, Director of
Mine Action, Olive Group

Ms Marie Mills
Mine Action Adviser, Swedish Civil
Contingencies Agency (MSB)

Ms Sheila Mweemba
Director, Implementation Support Unit
of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Mr Heng Ratana
Director General, Cambodian
Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

Mr Hans Risser
Head of Operations, Norwegian
People's Aid (NPA)

Mr Juan Carlos Ruan
Director, Implementation Support
Unit of the Anti-Personnel
Mine Ban Convention

Mr Emmanuel Sauvage
Head of Armed Violence Reduction
Technical Unit, Handicap International

Ambassador Jürg Streuli
President, Fondation Suisse
de Déminage (FSD)

Mr Erik Tollefsen
Head of the Weapon Contamination
Unit, International Committee
of the Red Cross (ICRC)

CONTRIBUTIONS

The GICHD's work is made possible by core contributions, project funding, cost recovery and in-kind support from 30 governments and organisations.

GOVERNMENTS

- ▼ Australia
- ▼ Germany
- ▼ Italy
- ▼ Japan
- ▼ Mexico
- ▼ Sweden
- ▼ Switzerland
- ▼ The Netherlands
- ▼ The United Kingdom
- ▼ The United States of America



ORGANISATIONS

- ▼ Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- ▼ City of Geneva
- ▼ Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri)
- ▼ Foundation World Without Mines
- ▼ Germany – OSCE
- ▼ Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- ▼ Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- ▼ Helvetia Insurance, Switzerland
- ▼ James Madison University, USA
- ▼ Small Arms Survey
- ▼ Spinator AB, Sweden
- ▼ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- ▼ Swiss Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS)
- ▼ Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
- ▼ Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID)
- ▼ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), NATO Support and Procurement Agency
- ▼ United Kingdom – DFID/NPA
- ▼ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ▼ United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- ▼ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES STATEMENT

All amounts in CHF		2016
OPERATIONS	Production of publications (publishing, editing, printing, layout)	110'412
	Travel GICHD staff	567'413
	Assistance (consultants)	3'395'886
	Travel by third persons	355'820
STAFF	Staff costs	6'631'598
GENERAL SERVICES	Maintenance	21'165
	Acquisition	187'018
	Communications	81'043
	Office supplies	42'641
MISCELLANEOUS	Various expenses /rent of offices and service apartments, provisions, bank charges and insurance premiums)	771'967
	In kind (ESRI Licences, ICT investment & running costs)	558'976
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		12'723'939
Foreign currency exchange loss (gain), net		(1'692)
Extraordinary		470
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		12'722'717
CONTRIBUTIONS	Contributions received	13'592'381
	Activities / contributions deferred to 2017	(2'318'862)
	Activities / contributions deferred from 2015	879'931
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR		12'153'449
OTHER INCOME	Miscellaneous income	32'736
	In kind (ESRI Licences, ICT Investment & City of Geneva)	558'976
TOTAL REVENUES		12'745'161
SURPLUS		22'444

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