

## FOREWORD

Mine action is developing at a rapid pace and the sector has evolved in recent years with a continuous improvement of methodologies, the adoption of new approaches and a broadened scope.

This fifth edition of the *Guide to Mine Action* is the GICHD's response to these changes. It takes into account the most recent developments and covers all aspects of mine action. Shorter than former editions, the *Guide to Mine Action* includes numerous references and links to allow the reader to deepen its understanding on specific issues.

The guide is divided into two parts. The first explains what mine action is, and the second discusses how to deal with the problem. This includes: managing mine action programmes, survey and clearance operations, stockpile destruction, ammunition safety management, mine risk education, victim assistance and broader security and development issues.

This guide is a living document for which the community should feel a sense of ownership. There are references to our website ([www.gichd.org](http://www.gichd.org)) throughout the publication and feedback is always welcome. Please feel free to get in touch with us and interact on specific topics – we are looking forward to hearing from you.

We are grateful for the support from the Swiss government which was instrumental in making this publication a reality.



**Ambassador Stefano Toscano**  
GICHD Director