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The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining’s mission is to serve as a leading center of mine-action excellence, and to help States Parties implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (also known as the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention or APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other relevant instruments of humanitarian law. GICHD bridges the gaps between research, lessons learned and practice. It promotes evidence-based policies and develops standards, making mine action faster, cheaper, safer, more effective, sustainable and inclusive.

Following extensive consultation with partners, GICHD published a new strategy for 2012–2014. It focuses on two strategic objectives: (1) global clarity on explosive hazards and (2) high-performing national authorities and national ownership. The first strategic objective is centered on accelerating progress toward a complete and accurate understanding of the extent of the explosive-hazards problem, and of the impact on countries, communities and people. To achieve this, GICHD supports partner countries in adopting effective survey and reporting methods, implementing sound information-management practices and documenting both the impact of contamination from explosives and mine-action results.

High-performing national authorities and national ownership are the focus of the second strategic objective. Achieving results and documenting success requires a clear understanding of costs and benefits, planned and delivered. GICHD activities enhance the capacities of partner countries in designing and implementing program-based resource-allocation systems to improve performance, based on decision-support and quality-management solutions at operational and strategic levels.

GICHD activities in support of these two objectives are undertaken through several programs which support national mine-action authorities in their strategic management, operations and information-management efforts, along with support to the International Mine Action Standards and international law, including extensive outreach activities.

GICHD has 50 staff members from many countries, funding from 12 governments and several organizations, and visits approximately 70 countries per year, while working very closely with partner organizations to achieve its goals.

Composed by Lesley Macinnes-Gillies, Head of Communications, Deputy Support Director GICHD with assistance from Megan Reichert, CISR staff.