November 2006

Geneva Diary: Report from the GICHD

Ian Mansfield
GICHD

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Available at: http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol10/iss2/36
also refer to being able to electronically trans-
mit data between regional centers and or-
nizations rather than traveling through con-
flict zones. Jordan discussed using v4 as a 
tool for improved quality management and 
organizational coordination activities.
In the case of the Falkland Islands, the 
use of v4 will allow Argentina and the United 
Kingdom to coordinate and share 
national data for clearance efforts. Uganda’s 
future goals for v4 highlighted the potential 
for IMSMA to not only operate within its 
national mine-action center but to also 
expand beyond mine action, with plans for the 
integration of health, refugee and develop-
ment data to collect and manage disaster-
management/early-recovery planning. In all 
these cases, the expanded language options 
were noted as important and useful.

Conclusion
Some of the changes in v4 offer poten-
tial improvements in mine-action informa-
tion management by allowing flexibility, 
creativity and linkage of different systems 
in IMSMA. The integration of a fully func-
tional GIS into the system allows users to 
navigate the database using the map rather 
than working directly in the database itself. 
Combined with the direct transfer of field 
data to IMSMA from the EOD IS-SURVEY 
software, users will find that IMSMA v4 can 
help reduce data-collection errors, speeds up 
the integration of new data from the field and 
makes it easier to visualize the threat situ-
ation in a country or region. The updated 
v4 allows for new languages, the freedom to 
create and modify forms and reports, and 
the ability to combine and link data in ad-
vanced ways. The pilot test results from five 
countries reinforced the potential that v4 has 
to address a variety of different mine-action 
situations with its new multilingual, custom-
able and innovative features.

The GICHD distributes IMSMA soft-
data at no charge and provides on-site train-
ing for its use. GICHD staff can transfer 
data from earlier versions of IMSMA to 
v4. New or updated equipment is not required 
for v4 and users do not need to pur-
chase GIS software or licenses in order to use 
the mapping features. The GICHD, in col-
laboration with FGMI, Inc., the University of 
Kansas and the Swedish explosives ordnance 
Disposal and Demining Centre have applied 
their efforts to create not just an updated 
version of IMSMA, but a different and in-
novative one.

Dansiee  Roester works as a 
Researcher, Writer and Assistant Editor for the Journal of Mine Action. She 
holds a Master of Science in conflict 
and development studies from the 
University of London’s School of 
Oriental and African Studies. She has 
studied in Switzerland as well, 
earning a Certificate for Applied Studies in 
peacekeeping. Dansiee has previ-
ously worked in Washington, D.C., 
and Seattle, Washington, in the field of 
conflict management, and has also 
lived in India and Kenya.

Dansiee Roester, MSc
Researcher / Assistant Editor 
Journal of Mine Action
Mine Action Information Center
Tel: +32 20 880 15 60
E-mail: d.r.ooster@jmu.edu
Web site: http://jmu.edu

Dr. Jerome Dobson
Professor, University of Kansas 
Department of Geography 
President, American Geographical 
Society
455-14 Hawkeye Blvd. 
Lawrence, KS 66544-7913 / USA
Tel: +1 913 864 5378
Fax: +1 913 864 5378
E-mail: a.arnold@gichd.ch
Web site: http://www.gichd.com

Daniele Ressler, MSc
Researcher / Assistant Editor 
Journal of Mine Action
Mine Action Information Center
Tel: +41 22 906 1674
E-mail: maic@jmu.edu
Web site: http://jmu.edu

Ian Mansfield is the Operations 
Director of the GICHD and is a respon-
sible for all operational, technical and 
research activities of the Centre. He is 
also responsible for assessing existing 
and potential areas of activity for the 
Centre, as well as its evaluation, as-
semblement and consultation activities. 
Mansfield holds a Master of Business 
Administration and a bachelor’s degree 
in civil engineering.

Daniele Ressler, MSc
Researcher / Assistant Editor 
Journal of Mine Action
Mine Action Information Center
Tel: +41 22 906 1674
E-mail: maic@jmu.edu
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Robyn Leslie 
Senior Management Assistant 
Swedish Armed Forces
E-mail: robyn.leslie@forsvaret.se
Web site: http://www.forsvaret.se

The Geneva International Centre for 
Humanitarian Demining provides 
operational assistance to mine-action programmes 
and operators, and disseminates knowledge, 
works to improve quality management and standards, 
and provides support to instruments of international law.

by Ian Mansfield | Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining |