



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING  
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# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

# CONTENTS

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List of abbreviations	5
Foreword	7
The impact of explosive hazards	8
The GICHD	10
Where we worked in 2017	12
Who we worked with	14
GICHD strategy 2015-2018	15
Commitment to gender equality and diversity principles	16
<b>STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS</b>	
Strategic planning	18
Mine action standards	21
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT</b>	
Information management technical support	24
Information management capacity development	27
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
Operational efficiency and land release	30
Safe and secure management of ammunition	33
<b>REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME</b>	
Promoting regional cooperation	36
IMAS translations furthers mine action knowledge	38
<b>POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW</b>	
Research projects in policy	40
20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	42
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
International Day of Mine Awareness celebrated in Bern	46
Publications and websites foster knowledge in multiple languages	48
<b>RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE</b>	
Performance report	50
Council of Foundation	51
Advisory Board	52
Contributions	53
Expenditures and Revenues Statement	54

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>APMBC</b>	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	<b>IMAS</b>	International Mine Action Standards
<b>ARCP</b>	Arab Regional Cooperation Programme	<b>IMSMA</b>	Information management system for mine action
<b>ASM</b>	Ammunition safety management	<b>MAG</b>	Mines Advisory Group
<b>CNAD</b>	Comisión Nacional de Desminado (Chile)	<b>MARS</b>	Mine action reporting system
<b>DCAF</b>	Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces	<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>EOD</b>	Explosive ordnance disposal	<b>NPA</b>	Norwegian People's Aid
<b>ERW</b>	Explosive remnants of war	<b>NTS</b>	Non-technical survey
<b>FARC</b>	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia	<b>OSCE SMM</b>	Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic information system	<b>RB</b>	Review Board
<b>IATG</b>	International Ammunition Technical Guidelines	<b>SALW</b>	Small arms and light weapons
<b>IED</b>	Improvised explosive device	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>IM</b>	Information management	<b>SSR</b>	Security sector reform
		<b>ZIMAC</b>	Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre

# FOREWORD

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2017 marked the 20-year anniversary of the signing of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which laid the ground for coordinated mine action efforts worldwide. This treaty has become a reference agreement in both the humanitarian and disarmament fields. Today still, it provides an example of how international law can effectively contribute to a safer and more secure world. It is in this spirit that the GICHD continues to promote the universalisation and implementation of the different treaties relevant to mine action. In fact, supporting national partners towards the timely fulfilment of convention obligations and completion targets remains a priority.

However, disarmament lies not only in the negotiation and adoption of treaties. The goal of disarmament is to save lives and promote safety and security, as well as sustainable development. Mine action, specifically, is much more than just removing mines; mine action is ultimately about enabling and building sustainable livelihoods. Throughout and beyond the disarmament sector there is much to learn from mine action, which has been a people-focused, needs-driven sector for more than 20 years. What truly matters in our work are not the square meters of released land, but the fact that land is given back to productive use.

As the GICHD and the mine action sector continue to strive towards this goal, a more comprehensive response to interconnected challenges is required, in line with the spirit of the agendas for sustainable development and for peace. Demining alone is not sufficient to rehabilitate a community: we need to plan, prioritise and work in closer coordination with all humanitarian, development and human security actors.

Supporting peace mediation processes that go hand in hand with mine action efforts to create lasting peace; addressing abandoned ordnance and diversion of ammunition to counter intensified and prolonged conflict and violence; furthering the use of new technological tools that have the power to guide mine action and other decision-makers towards truly holistic action: these are but a few examples of how mine action can unite sectors in the pursuit of the sustainable development goals.

This report looks back on a busy year in which the GICHD has continued to deepen its collaborations beyond the traditional mine action sector, creating opportunities to achieve true sustainability and lasting development. The Centre will continue to capitalise on synergies across different policies and sectors that truly multiply the impact of mine action interventions.

The achievements of the GICHD would not have been possible without the extraordinary engagement of its donors and the women and men working at and with the Centre, whom we thank wholeheartedly.



**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 2017, there were

**8605**

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



Over

**80%**

of victims are civilians, of which

**40%**

children



Daily life, resettlement for communities after conflict and development impeded



Explosive hazards left behind after armed conflicts have a significant impact on people's lives and livelihoods, generating humanitarian crises and impeding development in affected countries.

## HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Even decades after a conflict has ended, mines, cluster munitions, other explosive remnants of war and poorly stored ammunition stockpiles continue to maim and kill.

There were 8,605 victims in 2016 alone. Anti-personnel mines are indiscriminate weapons, making no distinction between a combatant and a civilian. In fact, nearly 80% of victims are civilians. Men and boys accounted for 84%, women and girls for 16%, and children for 42% of all civilian casualties.

Clearing land of explosive hazards helps to save lives and bring safety and security to the most vulnerable communities.

## DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT

In affected countries, people are often no longer able to farm their own land and feed their family, children are prevented from going to school and refugees cannot return home after the end of a conflict. The presence of mines and other explosive remnants of war limits access to livelihoods and obstructs reconstruction of infrastructure once a conflict has ended.

Development and agricultural activities are only possible when the land has been cleared of mines.









# THE GICHD

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**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 organisations and other human security actors.**

The GICHD supports national authorities, international and regional organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in their efforts to improve the relevance, performance, safety and sustainability of mine action operations.

Based at the Maison de la paix in Geneva, the GICHD employs around 70 staff members from 22 different nations. The Centre's advisors visited 68 countries in 2017.

What we do:

- ▼ Help assess the nature and extent of contamination as well as its exact location;
- ▼ Help gather and assess information to release contaminated land faster;
- ▼ Build national capacity through training and advisory services on all aspects of mine action;
- ▼ Train practitioners and advise policymakers for improved safety and security of stockpiled ammunition;
- ▼ Provide expertise, good practice and methods to develop innovative tools and technologies;
- ▼ Develop and promote international standards to improve safety and efficiency and to ensure quality in operations;
- ▼ Support the implementation of relevant instruments of international law;
- ▼ Promote dialogue between affected countries in local languages and foster regional cooperation.

## THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

PROTECTING  
COMMUNITIES FROM  
EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS



RETURNING  
CONTAMINATED LAND  
TO PRODUCTIVE USE

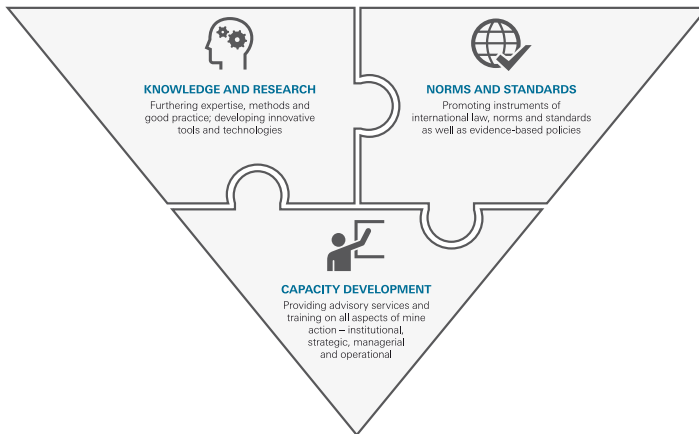


INNOVATING  
FOR HUMAN  
SECURITY



## WHAT WE DO

### IMPROVING MINE ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY



### WHERE WE WORKED



**68** countries visited and/or supported

### TRAINING AND ADVISORY SERVICES DELIVERED

**40**

training sessions and workshops delivered



**850**

course participants

Figures are for 2017

## WHO WE ARE

### STAFF

**70**



**52%**  
women

**48%**  
men

### LANGUAGES

**6**

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



### NATIONALITIES

**22**



### OUR EXPERTISE



Figures are for 2017

# WHERE WE WORKED IN 2017

## 43

countries supported

In 2017, the GICHD's work directly benefited 43 countries, helping to reduce the impact of explosive hazards on human security and development.

## 25

additional countries visited

The Centre's staff travelled to 25 additional countries for liaison visits, to participate in conferences and organise regional workshops for the benefit of more than one country.



## RISK MANAGEMENT

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



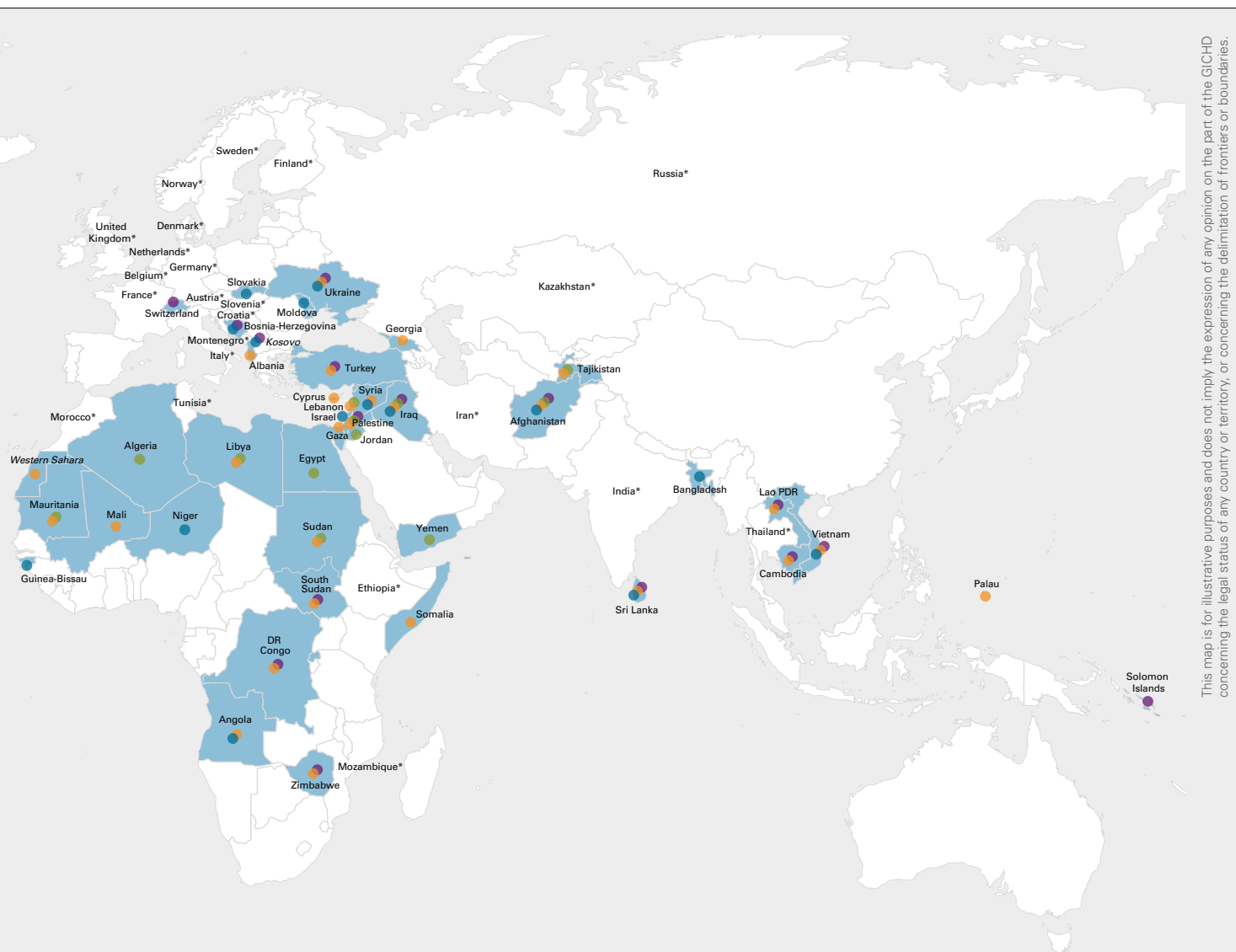
## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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



## STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS

- ▼ Supporting national authorities in establishing and implementing national mine action strategies.
- ▼ Developing, reviewing and promoting the International Mine Action Standards and national mine action legislation and standards.



This map is for illustrative purposes and does 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.



## REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

- ▼ Fostering cooperation on mine action among national authorities at a regional level.
- ▼ Improving mine action knowledge by providing access to standards, materials, training and advisory services in different languages.



## 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, promoting and increasing outreach of policy work.

©GICHD

# WHO WE WORKED WITH

The GICHD works in close partnership with national mine action authorities, the United Nations, other international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, research centres and private companies.

Many of these partners come together as members of the GICHD 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

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. National and local ownership is key to enabling successful and sustainable programmes.

## MINE ACTION OPERATORS

The GICHD collaborates closely with local, national and international mine action operators on advisory services, training courses, policy projects and communication activities, in order to offer more comprehensive support and better outreach to its stakeholders. In 2017, these included the Danish Demining Group, Fondation Suisse de Déminage, The HALO Trust, Handicap International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Development Programme.

## HUMAN SECURITY ACTORS

The GICHD establishes and nurtures 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 expertise, and foster cooperation on human security, peace and disarmament.

## HOSTING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The GICHD provides support to the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as per the agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD. This includes hosting and collaborating with the Implementation Support Units of the two Conventions.

As part of its role as a knowledge hub for mine action, the Centre also hosts the Gender and Mine Action Programme and the Geneva Disarmament Platform.

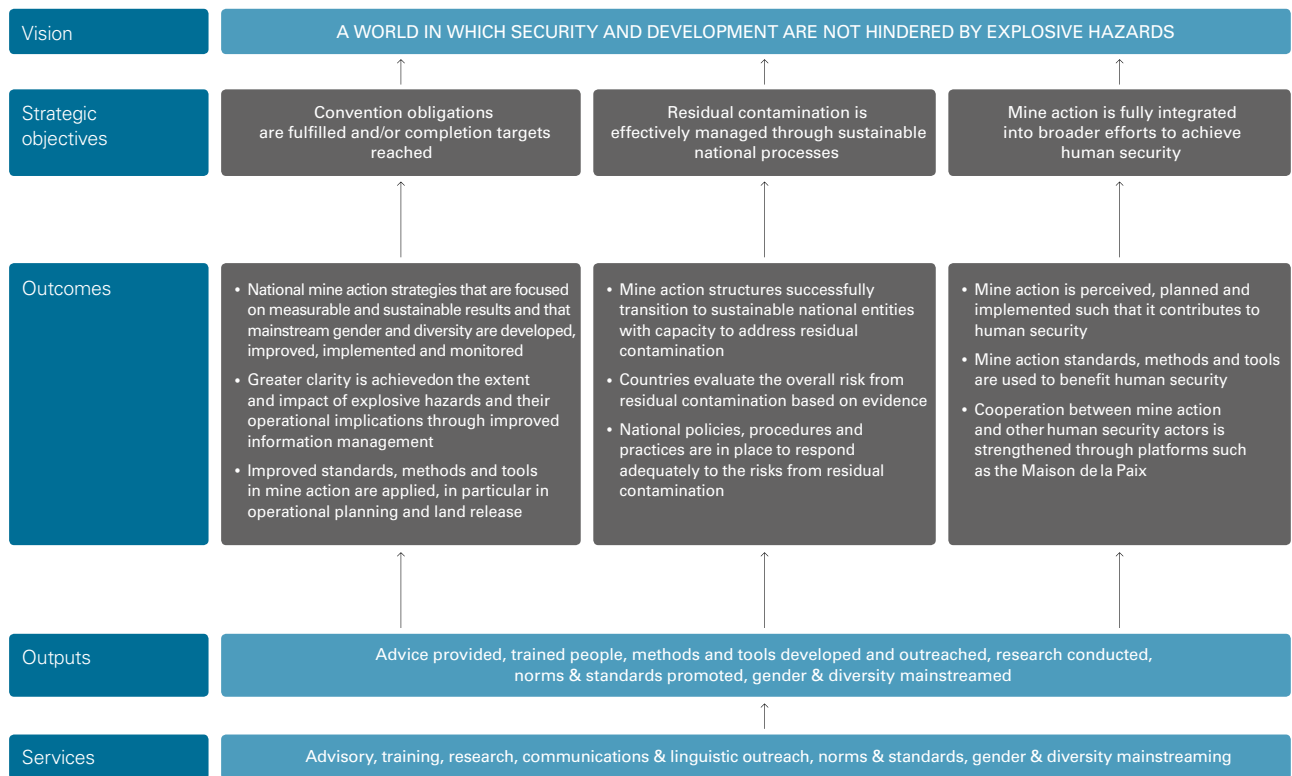




# GICHD STRATEGY 2015-2018

The GICHD is committed to ensuring that the results achieved through its work contribute to the outcomes identified under its 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.



# COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PRINCIPLES

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The GICHD mainstreams gender and diversity approaches in all internal and external activities. Its work in this respect is guided by the Centre's gender and diversity policy and annual action plans.

In 2017, the GICHD adopted its second annual gender and diversity action plan, building on good practice and lessons learned from the previous year, to ensure long-term sustainability. Key areas of focus were:

- ▼ Gender-balanced and diverse panels organised or participated in by GICHD staff;
- ▼ Gender-balanced and diverse participation in GICHD training and workshops;
- ▼ Ensuring GICHD staff are equipped with gender and diversity competencies; and
- ▼ Mainstreaming gender and diversity through setting individual objectives.

These action areas aligned with GICHD Director Ambassador Stefano Toscano's commitment as an International Gender Champion, a network of leaders who pledge to upholding gender parity in all discussions and commit to advancing gender equality within their own organisations.





# STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS

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The GICHD supports national authorities in developing and implementing national mine action strategies and plans. Strategic planning enables countries to meet their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions more effectively.



In addition, national authorities are better equipped to define their vision, strategic goals, quality management concepts and operating principles, which promote more effective and efficient mine action operations.

On behalf of the United Nations, the GICHD also develops, maintains and promotes the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and associated notes in the mine action community. Drafting, reviewing and revising the IMAS is managed and coordinated by the GICHD with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

## ZIMBABWE ADOPTS A NATIONAL MINE ACTION STRATEGY

Zimbabwe's mine contamination originates from the War of Liberation in the 1970s. Half of the country's provinces are contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war and the minefields are primarily located in rural areas, inhabited by poor subsistence communities whose livelihoods depend on farming and livestock rearing.

Since 2016, the GICHD has been working in close collaboration with the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) and organising a series of stakeholder strategy workshops to develop Zimbabwe's first ever national mine action strategy.

A core principle underpinning the development of Zimbabwe's national strategy was that it should be developed in an inclusive and participatory manner, based on lessons learned and good practice drawn from the global mine action sector.

Thanks to the excellent collaboration with ZIMAC and other national and international stakeholders, the strategic planning process resulted in the following key outcomes:

- ▼ Relevant national and international stakeholders applied good practice throughout the development of Zimbabwe's national mine action strategy;
- ▼ Key stakeholders had a common understanding of the mine action programme's overall purpose and desired results;
- ▼ Due to robust context analysis exercises, honest and constructive discussions during the workshops, Zimbabwe's national strategy addresses challenges and risks, and presents concrete, pragmatic ways to tackle them;
- ▼ The strategy further complies with the latest International Mine Action Standards and is expected to facilitate more effective and efficient survey and clearance operations, thereby enabling Zimbabwe's fulfilment of its Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Article 5 obligations.

The minister of defence formally approved Zimbabwe's national mine action strategy 2018-2025 in September 2017, followed by a formal strategy launch by the vice president in Harare. The possibility of completing clearance obligations by 2025 provides the government of Zimbabwe and the international community with an opportunity to be part of a truly inspiring success story; Zimbabwe is now equipped with a clear strategy for achieving this goal.

In addition to working closely with Zimbabwe, the GICHD supported the development of several new national mine action strategies throughout 2017: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Sudan.

### ▶ WEB RESOURCE

Zimbabwe national mine action strategy:  
[www.gichd.org/zimbabwenationalmastrategyreport](http://www.gichd.org/zimbabwenationalmastrategyreport)



"Today we are launching a strategy for tackling all mine action activities in Zimbabwe between 2018 and 2025, when we expect to complete the clearance of all mined areas in the country." - Zimbabwe Vice-President Dr. Constantino Chiwenga at the official strategy launch, Harare, Zimbabwe, 2018.



## COORDINATION FORUM FOR AFGHANISTAN

While 82% of the known minefields and battlefields in Afghanistan has been cleared, the remaining 18% still qualifies Afghanistan as one of the most contaminated countries with 1'500 affected communities across the country.

As Afghanistan strives to reach its goal of clearing all of the country's known minefields by 2023, enhanced coordination and partnership building among mine action actors can improve efficiency and targeted resource mobilisation; thus advancing progress towards achieving Afghanistan's mine action objectives.

In March 2017, the GICHD facilitated a three-day workshop with over 90 participants in Geneva to promote information exchange and cooperation between Afghanistan's Directorate for Mine Action Coordination, donors, mine action implementing partners (ten mine clearance organisations and five organisations working in victim assistance), as well as the United Nations Mine Action Service.

A coordination forum ensures that the needs and context of mine action are understood, and that donors are informed in greater detail about how mine action benefits from their support.

The platform also offered the opportunity to discuss the challenges involved in meeting Afghanistan's mine action targets, the national capacity for mine clearance, new contamination from recent and ongoing conflict, and engagement in assistance to victims of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Anti-vehicle mine contamination in Afghanistan was one critical issue highlighted by implementing partners and donors during the workshop. Following up on this, the GICHD has supported Afghanistan in developing a roadmap for the survey and clearance of this type of mines.



From left: Mohammad Wakil (UNMAS Afghanistan), Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi (Directorate of mine action coordination), Tammy Hall (GICHD).



## MANAGING RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

During and immediately after an armed conflict, governments adopt a proactive approach to removing mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). During this period, conflict analysis and surveys are conducted and all known contaminated areas are located and mapped, paving the way for clearance. However, once clearance work is completed, and no more contaminated areas are known to exist within a mine/ERW-affected state or a given region, a new reactive phase of mine action is established.

Given the reality of imperfect information gathered during the life cycle of a mine action programme, the risk remains that additional mines and ERW will be found at some point. This remaining ERW threat, referred to as residual contamination, raises the need for the state to readjust its priorities and response policy and adopt a reactive approach. This ensures that, despite the end of dedicated mine action programmes, the dangers of explosive ordnance can still be dealt with by the state in question in an effective and efficient manner if items are found.

In 2017, thanks to the GICHD's Management of Residual Explosive Remnants of War (MORE) project, the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam acknowledged the need to address the risk management aspects related to residual contamination. This issue is now fully included in the Cambodian national mine action strategy and mine action policy. In five other countries, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, DRC, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, the issue has already been integrated into national strategic plans and policies.

A pilot project on residual contamination in Vietnam was officially launched in December 2017 through a joint workshop hosted by the GICHD and the Vietnamese

Mine Action Centre (VNMAC). With 65 participants from VNMAC, the Ministry of Defence and Technology (Vietnam), the Technology Centre for Bomb and Mine Disposal (BOMICEN), national and international mine action operators and donors, there was strong representation and engagement across all stakeholder groups and implementers in Vietnam.

Three objectives have been set for this 9-month project: The first is to increase the understanding of the effects of ageing and the environment on the functionality of ERW. Second, information management tools will be piloted and finalised to support the decision-making process regarding long-term risk management of residual contamination. Finally, recommendations for long-term risk management policies will be developed.

Following the workshop in December, a documentary made by Vietnamese Defence TV with the support of the GICHD, was screened at the Swiss Ambassador's Residence in Hanoi. It shows how Germany, the UK and other European countries manage their unexploded ordnance from World War II and highlights how their experiences might help Vietnam manage its own residual contamination.

Vietnam authorities are increasingly embracing a risk management approach as demonstrated by their active participation in and support of discussions on this topic. The overall discourse on contamination is evolving in Vietnam with acknowledgement that proactive mine action will come to an end at some point and that long-term risk management policies must therefore be put in place.

### WEB RESOURCE

Watch the MORE documentary: *A shared experience | Striving for safety*  
<http://bit.ly/DocumentaryMORE>

Workshop on the long term risk management of explosive remnants of war, Hanoi, Vietnam, 2017



# MINE ACTION STANDARDS

## DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS

As the quality framework for mine action, the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) require constant revision so that they reflect the current reality on the ground and continue to be an important reference point for operations. The GICHD acts as secretariat for the IMAS Review Board (IMAS RB), providing support to the IMAS Steering Committee in ensuring regular meetings of the IMAS RB, maintaining the IMAS website, and disseminating the latest amendments brought forward to the IMAS RB, in coordination with UNMAS, Chair of the IMAS Review Board.

As a member of the IMAS RB, the GICHD contributed to a number of discussions in 2017 as detailed below:

- ▼ The IMAS RB has been working to reflect the concept of residual risk management within the IMAS. In particular, the IMAS 7.10 *Guide for the management of demining operations* was updated to include the issue of residual contamination and submitted for final approval by the IMAS RB. The board has also adopted a definition of residual contamination as follows: "Residual contamination refers to contamination which gives rise to residual risk."
- ▼ Given the challenges posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in recent conflicts, the GICHD strives to enhance existing guidance within the IMAS related to the survey and clearance of IEDs in a humanitarian context. Consultations between the GICHD, mine action implementing partners and other technical experts were carried out in 2017, and the GICHD contributed substantively to policy debates on how the quality of IED-related operations should be managed within the mine action sector. Terminology related to IEDs was also a key focus throughout 2017, as existing terms and definitions – many of which have been developed for a military/security context – were deemed to be a significant source of confusion between stakeholders dealing with IEDs in conflict and post-conflict settings.

- ▼ Clearance methods used by mine action organisations can have unintended negative consequences on the environment. To avoid longer-term vulnerability being heightened and to ensure that there is no threat to livelihoods, mine action organisations, like all humanitarian actors, should consider any possible adverse environmental impacts produced by their operations. In this regard, the GICHD developed and proposed a new standard, IMAS 07.13 *Environmental management in mine action*, which has now been approved by the IMAS RB.

### WEB RESOURCE

<https://www.mineactionstandards.org/>







Field visit during the first national UXO coordination workshop. From left: Paul Eldred (Golden West Humanitarian Foundation), Mactus Forau (Ministry of Police, Solomon Islands Government), Tanya Parkin (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia), Ian Mansfield (GICHD).

## COORDINATING CLEARANCE EFFORTS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The inhabitants of the Solomon Islands continue to live with the legacy of an unknown quantity of explosive remnants left over from World War II. Sporadic unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance has been undertaken, but the Solomon Islands are in need of more systematic and coordinated work.

Since 2017, the GICHD has been assisting the government to strengthen and coordinate mine action. Coordinating clearance projects at the national level is very important to set out priorities and responsibilities, and to proceed in the most efficient manner possible. The Centre is also helping to develop a legal framework to regulate and guide the sector. This includes drafting an UXO policy, an action plan and a set of national UXO standards that tap into existing processes and procedures.

After an assessment mission, the first ever national UXO coordination workshop was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in August 2017. It was hosted by the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services and facilitated by the GICHD. Over 40 people attended the workshop, including key mine action actors, government representatives, the police, NGOs, private companies and representatives from international organisations.

Two other workshops were conducted during the year and support is ongoing to review and consider a draft UXO policy and action plan, to draft and review national UXO standards.

# INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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Mine action operators need accurate and timely information on which to base their decisions. With this in view, the GICHD provides two types of support:

- ▼ **Technical support:** the GICHD develops, configures and customises a range of information management tools and implements them in mine action programmes. Up-to-date and fit-for-purpose information management systems allow for the compiling, storing, analysing and disseminating of accurate, timely and relevant information on explosive hazards and mine action.
- ▼ **Capacity development:** the GICHD ensures that the mine action community has an adequate pool of skilled information management personnel via assessments, workplan development/ implementation and training courses.





# INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

## 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, providing the mine action community with a system for the collection, storage, validation and analysis of data related to mine clearance operations.

In 2017, the GICHD launched the development of a new version of the system, IMSMA Core. It is built from state-of-the-art geographic information system (GIS) software provided by Esri, the GIS market leader. The system uses tools such as unmanned aerial-vehicle imaging and 3D mapping for spatial data analysis and data sharing.

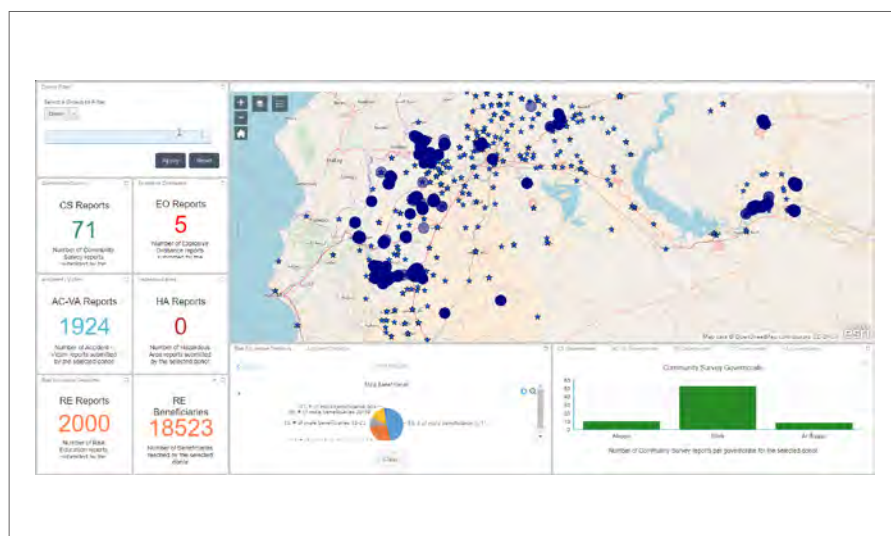
IMSMA Core tools and processes can be configured to fit national programmes' specific operational and reporting requirements as well as provide access to information for a wide range of stakeholders, fostering information sharing and providing near-real-time maps and reports on the extent of land contamination. Mine action operators can analyse and use the collected data more effectively and get greater clarity on the extent and impact of explosive hazards and their operational implications. By integrating a broad range of relevant contextual information, IMSMA Core also allows for more inclusive hazard-impact assessment and priority setting.



Field testing of IMSMA Core in Gaza, 2017

## SUCCESSFUL IMSMA CORE DEPLOYMENT IN FOUR COUNTRIES

At the end of 2017, the GICHD had developed IMSMA Core instances for three mine action programmes: the system was successfully implemented in Syria to support the work of Handicap International; in Gaza and Democratic Republic of the Congo with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS); and in Iraq with Mines Advisory Group (MAG).



Example of IMSMA Core dashboard used to monitor mine action operations

### ▶ WEB RESOURCE

Learn more about IMSMA Core:  
[www.gichd.org/IMSMACore](http://www.gichd.org/IMSMACore)



MARS trial with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, Cambodia, 2017

The issue of urban contamination has become more and more important in the mine action sector. In Gaza, the GICHD worked with UNMAS in implementing IMSMA Core to support their explosive risk assessment process. As a result, "the rate at which one can carry out risk assessments can be increased fourfold," reported Mark Frankish, Gaza Weapons and Ammunition Advisor, UNMAS, after observing field tests of the system.

Successful field tests have prompted a number of requests from different partners and programmes. One such request was from MAG, which the GICHD is supporting in developing its information management system globally. A roadmap was agreed to develop and deploy IMSMA Core for community liaison work in 2018 and subsequently for survey and clearance.

## DATA COLLECTION WITH MOBILE APPLICATIONS

In 2016, the GICHD started to develop a comprehensive mobile data collection tool, the mine action reporting system (MARS), to bridge the information gaps in mine action programmes and improve the data entry process in collaboration with mine action authorities. Paper forms are replaced with digital data collection tools; geo information can be collected from the field in a user-friendly manner and exported to IMSMA.

In 2017, MARS was successfully tested in the field, in Chile and in Cambodia. MARS is now functional in both countries and being used to collect and upload field data to the information management system for mine action.

In Chile, the mobile reporting system was adapted to the needs of the Comisión Nacional de Desminado (CNAD). Fourteen members of CNAD staff were trained on using MARS and IMSMA, to facilitate mine action data collection and management of databases between all regional offices. This partnership with the national authority in developing the mine action reporting system did not just provide technical feedback, but also developed CNAD ownership of the mobile application.

As part of preparations for use of the tool in the field, a BETA version of MARS was developed for deployment in Cambodia, in collaboration with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority. Collection of data from the local communities is now easier, quicker and safer, and helps Cambodia when surveying cleared minefields and released land to measure the socio-economic impact of land released, on affected communities.



## THE GICHD IS PRESENTED WITH ESRI SAG AWARD

Esri, the global leader in spatial analytics, presented the GICHD with Esri's Special Achievement in GIS - the SAG Award - on 12 July 2017, at the annual Esri User Conference in San Diego, USA.

Selected from over 300,000 eligible candidates, the GICHD received the award for its innovative application of technology, data collection, geospatial information visualisation, and thought leadership through geographical information systems in the field of mine action.

"We are bringing 20 years of practical experience in GIS into information management systems," said Olivier Cottray, Head of Information Management at the GICHD during the event. "Mine Action is inherently geographic: it is about identifying the location and extent of explosive hazard areas, as well as their proximity to villages, schools, hospitals, in order to evaluate their impact and thus prioritise clearance."



The GICHD presented with Esri's Special Achievement in GIS Award, San Diego, 2017



GICHD Director, Ambassador Stefano Toscano, officially handed over the SOVA information management system to The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Special Monitoring System (SMM) to Ukraine.

## DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR UKRAINE

On 14 November 2017 GICHD Director, Ambassador Stefano Toscano, officially handed over the SOVA information management system to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (OSCE SMM), active in the country since 2014, due to the crisis in the south-eastern regions where new contamination from landmines and explosive remnants of war has appeared.

SOVA is an information management tool developed and tested by the GICHD to enhance OSCE SMM's capacity to collect and store information in accordance with its mandate, improve data processing on existing risks and contribute to the safety and security of monitors. A more efficient management of data will help OSCE SMM survey, mark and eventually clear contaminated areas.

The Centre will continue collaborating with OSCE SMM, assisting the mission on how to use the different reporting tools efficiently, providing training on the technology and assisting on landmine-related issues.

# INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

## ASSESSMENTS AND WORKPLAN DEVELOPMENT

Collection, analysis and dissemination of quality information are crucial to support evidence-based planning and reporting in mine action. The GICHD supports mine action programmes in achieving quality information by providing support in the area of information management (IM). The process of IM support usually starts with an assessment of the current IM capacities of a national mine action authority (NMAA) and leads to the development of concrete recommendations and a workplan.

In 2017, information management assessments were conducted in Iraq, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. Concrete activities included workshops and training courses, as well as intensive on-site and remote technical support. In these countries, workplans are now being implemented by the NMAA, so that data, processes, organisation and resources are in place to collect, analyse and provide quality information to support mine action planning and reporting.

Reassessments were conducted the same year in Tajikistan and Lao PDR, to measure progress and ensure sustained capacity development.

In 2017, information management assessments, workshops, training and support were provided to 21 countries and territories, in partnership with national authorities and national/international organisations: Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Gaza, Iraq, Lao PDR, Libya, Mali, Republic of Palau, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, *Western Sahara* and Zimbabwe.

## TRAINING ON THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MINE ACTION (IMSMA)

IMSMA courses enhance and broaden the reporting and data analysis capacity of mine action programmes; they are centred on the use of the collected data for mapping, statistics and reporting, and as input to decision-making processes. Six training courses were provided in 2017: three in Switzerland with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS); and three regional courses for Colombia, Mali and Turkey. A total of 67 people were trained, 59 of whom successfully passed the respective level and obtained their certification.



Learning how to create maps and dashboards with ArcGIS online, during a *Mine Action Information Management Qualification at Administrator level 2* training, Geneva, Switzerland



IMSMA training course delivered to the Turkish Mine Action Centre, Turkey, 2017

## MALI AND TURKEY BETTER EQUIPPED WITH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES

In Mali, mainly contaminated by improvised explosive devices (IED) and explosive remnants of war (ERW), challenges include difficulties in collecting data due to the ongoing conflict. Standard IMSMA A1 training was delivered in French in Bamako and tailored to one specific programme, UNMAS Mali. The aim was to help them obtain and implement information, leading to more efficient strategic and operational decision making. Participants were trained on information management basics and what is needed to be an IMSMA administrator.

The course addressed the following: entering data into IMSMA, setting up and using data collection forms for casualties and accidents, for example, creating and exporting maps, and setting up the system to respond to specific requirements of a given programme. An action plan was jointly drafted by the participants to implement what they had learned during the training, as well as addressing the specific challenges of their programme in Mali.

In Turkey, an IMSMA training course organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was provided by the GICHD in Turkish to TURMAC (Turkish Mine Action Centre) representatives. The course was part of the TURMAC capacity building programme for participants who had not used IMSMA prior to the course.

They quickly learned how to install and work on IMSMA and how to design data entry forms suitable for operational needs and acquired knowledge on information management principles, concepts and standing operating procedures. Through this support, IM staff are also becoming aware of the need to communicate and coordinate with strategic and operational personnel within their respective organisations.

# RISK MANAGEMENT

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The GICHD works to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of mine action operations. It provides advice and shares good practice across the mine sector to help ensure safe, fast and targeted release of land and underwater areas.



The risk management team provides support on:

- ▼ Operational efficiency, including operational data analysis;
- ▼ Land release process, comprising survey, detection and clearance methods and tools;
- ▼ Stockpile destruction, explosive ordnance disposal, safe and secure management of ammunition;
- ▼ Resource mobilisation, contracting, insurance and liability.



# OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND LAND RELEASE

Land release is the use of non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey and clearance methods to identify and remove the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Traditionally, many governments employ clearance as a first response to suspected explosive hazards. However, surveying the land first is a more efficient approach and the first step of the land release method.

## NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY GLOBAL COURSE

The quality of non-technical survey defines the effectiveness of the land release process. NTS allows for increased precision in deployment of scarce clearance assets in the areas with actual contamination and promotes better priority settings. It is a prerequisite to the efficient use of operational resources.

The annual global NTS course was delivered in May at the German Army UN Training Centre in Hammelburg. This course brings together national mine action authorities and operators from different countries, improving their capacity to lead, train and implement efficient land release practices. It includes a field exercise based on

real-life scenarios, which aims to increase understanding of current operational methodologies and good practice in line with the International Mine Action Standards.

Twenty women and men from national mine action centres, international mine action operators and the military from eleven countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Colombia, Italy, Mali, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Myanmar, South Sudan) successfully completed the NTS course and subsequently confirmed, through a course satisfaction survey, that the training met their expectations and that they would be putting the knowledge and skills gained into practice.

NTS operators also need to collect evidence of contamination by identifying soil and vegetation disturbance. In 2017, the course featured a new component to cover this need: ground sign awareness. Participants learned how to inspect land claimed to be contaminated, by identifying signs of activity and movement that confirm the existence of an explosive hazard. Operators learned how to stay safe via the ability to identify and avoid terrain that presents a tactical advantage for the deployment of ordnance.

### ▶ WEB RESOURCE

Watch the video *Non-technical Survey: The foundation to getting land release right*

<http://bit.ly/nontechnicalsurvey>

Ground sign awareness training during the non-technical survey course in Hammelburg, Germany, 2017







Operational efficiency course delivered to mine action organisations in Colombia, 2017

## HOLISTIC SUPPORT TO COLOMBIA

As a result of more than five decades of civil war, Colombia is one of the most heavily landmine and ERW-contaminated countries. Since 1990 over 11,400 people have been killed or maimed by these devices in Colombia, with 1,120 being children.

At the end of 2016, the signing of the peace agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) directly influenced the mine action sector, with the government rapidly expanding its capacities, additional international operators entering the country, and the FARC announcing its plans to establish its own demining organisation, Humanicemos DH.

The GICHD has been assisting the national mine action authority, Descontamina, in its efforts towards reaching its clearance goals by 2021. Supported by the governments of Mexico and Germany, the GICHD was able to extend and intensify its ongoing mine action work in Colombia in 2017.

A study on the ageing of improvised landmines was launched with Descontamina, to improve understanding of the ageing process of improvised mines in two

regions of Colombia and the associated diminishing risks that these devices present over time. This can have significant implications for priority setting and strategic planning in mine action.

In addition to assessments, the GICHD successfully provided advisory and training services in quality management, non-technical survey and operational efficiency to a variety of representatives from mine action organisations active in Colombia. All relevant stakeholders were trained to use the information management system for mine action (IMSMA), with specific content relevant to the Colombian programme, mainly in the area of automatic data import into IMSMA. An information management workplan was developed. The GICHD is providing remote technical support and following up to ensure that the knowledge gained through this training can be put to practical use.

The GICHD also supported the first steps of the establishment of the FARC's demining organisation, Humanicemos DH, to ensure local ownership of operations.





Non-technical survey course delivered to mine action organisations in Colombia, 2017

## IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF MINE ACTION TERMINOLOGY IN UKRAINE

In 2017, the GICHD delivered the first Mine Action/EOD Subject Matter Interpreter Course in Ukraine, in cooperation with the Danish Demining Group and The HALO Trust, supported by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. Since a sufficiently high level of English amongst the various target groups cannot be assumed and the number of international mine action experts speaking the local languages is limited, interpreters play a crucial role for the success of mine action activities in Ukraine.

This course introduces professional interpreters and staff involved in technical training of Ukrainian governmental and international organisations, to the specific terminology used in mine action and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). It provides them with basic technical knowledge on ammunition, EOD and the main differences between post-Soviet and NATO ammunition categorisation.

After completing the course, participants are able to actively support mine action conferences and training activities conducted in the English language for a Ukrainian/Russian-speaking audience. This contributes to the improvement of mine action capacity in Ukraine.

# SAFE AND SECURE MANAGEMENT OF AMMUNITION

**Unplanned explosions in ammunition sites occur frequently and often result in a high number of people being killed, injured or displaced. Poor ammunition stockpile management presents a global risk with more than half of the countries in the world having experienced explosions since 1979.**

Research by the Small Arms Survey recorded 543 mass explosions in 103 countries and territories between 1979 and mid-2016. In addition to the significant humanitarian and socio-economic impact, diversion of ammunition from stockpiles and the resulting, uncontrolled proliferation of ammunition fuels insecurity in many regions. Ammunition in the wrong hands presents a key factor in the escalation of armed conflict, as well as in terrorism, crime and other forms of armed violence.

The GICHD works to improve the skillset of ammunition practitioners, knowledge of international standards and guidelines among ammunition regulators, and the safety and security of ammunition storage areas.

## COMPREHENSIVE AMMUNITION SAFETY MANAGEMENT TRAINING PACKAGE DEVELOPED

The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) set out an international standard of good practice to achieve and demonstrate effective levels of safety and security relating to ammunition stockpiles. They provide a coherent approach, are based on sound and accepted explosives science, recommend an integrated risk and quality management system, and allow for progressive, integrated improvement in safety and security, in line with available resources.

Using the IATG as a base, the GICHD has developed a comprehensive ammunition safety management (ASM) training and guidance package on how IATG can be implemented, especially in settings where financing, equipment and facilities are not sufficient. The ASM Guide consists of eight manuals which provide step-by-step processes to enable national authorities to make their ammunition safer and more secure. The package contains two courses: the ASM Guide User and Train the Trainer, both equipped with relevant training management and logistics plans.

The ASM Guide, available in English and French, provides corresponding toolsets aimed at reducing the implementation gap between what is sometimes the “reality on the ground” and the lowest IATG- acceptable level of conduct (Risk Reduction Process Level 1). Besides assisting with ammunition management to prevent and mitigate the effects of unplanned explosions in munition sites, it also considers the presence of abandoned and unexploded ordnance with the objective of significantly reducing explosive hazards for people, property and the environment, and reducing the risk of illicit ammunition proliferation.

The ASM Guide and associated training courses were tested in Niger at the beginning of 2018 and members of the Niger Armed Forces took the ASM User course. The objectives were reached in validating the ASM Guide contents on the one hand, and on the other, for sustainability in the use of the ASM method, qualifying the most advanced students to act as instructors for the ASM Guide.

### ➤ WEB RESOURCE

ASM tool application  
[Bit.ly/GICHD-ASMapp](http://Bit.ly/GICHD-ASMapp)

In 2017, the GICHD developed two new tools to enhance the organisation and outreach of GICHD training. The GICHD online training platform was launched and we began the process of modifying and populating the e-learning platform with GICHD course material.

Moreover, to improve GICHD training and to foster more effective work in the field, the GICHD is enhancing the content and layout of the online collaborative ordnance data repository (CORD). In 2017, CORD underwent substantial changes, including modifications to certain ordnance categories, removal of disposal instructions, gathering of improved imagery, and converting of the database to an intuitive user interface.

### ➤ WEB RESOURCE

OTP: [training.gichd.org](http://training.gichd.org)  
ELP: [gichd.litmos.com](http://gichd.litmos.com)  
CORD: [ordata.info](http://ordata.info)





Ammunition Safety Management training provided to members of the Guinea Bissau Armed Forces, Guinea Bissau, 2017

## VALIDATION PROCESS OF UN AMMUNITION EXPERTS

In collaboration with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and with the joint support of the Swiss Federal Department of Defence and the Small Arms Survey, the GICHD engaged in 2015 in a project to develop a validation process for the United Nations in recognition of ammunition expertise, in accordance with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

The GICHD was mandated to assist in the design and testing of processes and validation materials, with a view to regionalising the validation exercise in 2018 and 2019, as well as coaching selected experts onto the UN SaferGuard Roster of experts. In 2017, the project facilitated a first validation exercise for UN ammunition experts in Switzerland with six candidates. UNODA and GICHD staff were part of the validation team, whereas Swiss, German, Austrian and UK Ministry of Defence staff formed the observer team. The exercise verified a candidate's prior knowledge and expertise in managing stockpiled ammunition in an emergency, but also through respective life cycles, using practical ammunition management scenarios. For example, candidates had to plan a major ammunition storage facility from scratch during a comprehensive field exercise.

Based on feedback from the observers, the organisation and curriculum of the validation exercise have now been adjusted in preparation for the 2018 validation process, which will be held in Austria. The GICHD's e-learning platform has been used to accommodate distance learning for, and testing of, the UN expert candidates ahead of the validation exercise. The GICHD also works with the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG) and gets advice on fine-tuning the UN process.

## AFRICAN UNION AMMUNITION SAFETY MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

In 2017, in partnership with the African Union, the GICHD liaised with the Guinea Bissau authorities to prevent proliferation and explosions in ammunition storage areas by helping develop national capacity in its safe and secure management.

A technical assessment mission was carried out in Guinea Bissau in association with the African Union, the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States. A stakeholder workshop was held for 60 participants, furthering their knowledge on international and regional frameworks for ammunition management, unplanned explosions in munitions sites, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and national experiences.

Even though full access to storage facilities and cooperation with those working in the facilities will need more time, initial visits to five ammunition storage areas allowed some preparation for the technical assessment of ammunition storage facilities. This will help national authorities in identifying immediate and medium term enhancements required to improve the safety and security.

The initial scoping mission was followed-up with a course in ammunition safety management, organised by the African Union and provided by the GICHD to members of the Guinea Bissau Armed Forces. This course covered the basics of ammunition management, including how ammunition works, the UN classification coding system and how it affects storage and transport of ammunition to make all activities safer.

# REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

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The GICHD brings together national authorities of affected states and other stakeholders to increase the level and quality of cooperation on mine action at a regional level.



To date, four different regional cooperation programmes have been initiated:

- ▼ French Language Outreach Programme in 2006
- ▼ Arab Regional Cooperation Programme in 2012
- ▼ Persian Regional Cooperation Programme in 2013
- ▼ Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme in 2015

# PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION

The GICHD offers a platform to share resources, experiences and good practice, based on linguistic commonality and proximity.

## MINE RISK EDUCATION WORKSHOP IN SUDAN

At the end of 2017, the GICHD organised a regional risk education workshop in Khartoum, Sudan, in partnership and coordination with the Lebanon Mine Action Centre, the Sudan National Mine Action Centre, Handicap International and UNMAS Sudan.

In attendance were risk education officers from national mine action authorities and other stakeholders from Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine and Sudan. The Sudan National Director and State Minister for Defence, the Ambassadors of Italy and Japan to Sudan, UNMAS Programme Manager, the World Food Programme Country Director, representatives from USAID, UNAMID Ordnance Disposal Office and UNICEF were also present at the opening ceremony.

The workshop offered an opportunity for the participants to exchange good practice and identify the challenges within risk education in both legacy and new contamination contexts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The attendees identified the need for support in risk education, noted the decrease in funding in this area and highlighted the difficulties in reaching out to all communities and areas in certain countries.

The workshop was the result of a need assessment, gathered from national mine action authorities during the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) 6th annual conference, held in Beirut in October 2017. This workshop helped feed into the regional strategy drafted and agreed with the ARCP programmes at the conference.

The GICHD has supported regional events in the MENA region with funding from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, through a multi-year agreement and partnership.



Arab Regional Cooperation Programme workshop on risk education, Khartoum, Sudan, 2017





Persian Regional Cooperation Programme workshop on legal efficiency and liability, Tajikistan, 2017

## OTHER WORKSHOPS IN 2017

### **Strategic planning workshop, May, Egypt**

- ▼ 9 participating programmes from the MENA region (Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine, Sudan, Yemen). Hosted by Egypt.

### **6th ARCP annual conference, October, Lebanon**

- ▼ 6 participating programmes from the MENA region, represented by the directors of the national mine action authorities of Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Sudan and Yemen. Hosted by Lebanon.
- ▼ Representatives of UNMAS Syria Response and UNMAS Lebanon, several local and international NGOs such as DanChurchAid (DCA), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and Handicap International representatives of several embassies based in Lebanon such as Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, KSA, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, Tunis, Yemen, EU and Switzerland were also present.

### **Persian Regional Cooperation Programme workshop on legal efficiency and liability, November, Tajikistan**

- ▼ With the participation of the Afghanistan Directorate of Mine Action Coordination and Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (host). The Regional event gathered representatives from both Afghanistan and Tajikistan such as DDG, FSD, HALO Trust, NPA, UNMAS, and local NGOs in Afghanistan.



# IMAS TRANSLATIONS FURTHERS MINE ACTION KNOWLEDGE

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The GICHD provides access to standards, material, training and advisory services in different languages.

With support from UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services), UNMAS, the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, the Government of Finland and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the GICHD has translated standards, technical notes and test and evaluation protocols into different languages and clarified terminology. All of these documents are now up to date and translated into English, Russian, French and Arabic.

Translated standards are published on the IMAS website and shared with mine action centres and the broader mine action community, to make sure that they are widely used and applied in the mine action sector and training courses.

Having mine action standards translated into Arabic is key for documentation sharing in a common language across the region. This enhances the efficiency of mine action operations in the Middle East and North Africa programmes, including countries such as Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen.

## **Translation and review of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)**

- ▼ 26 IMAS translated into Arabic
- ▼ All 16 technical notes for mine action (TNMA) translated into Arabic and Russian
- ▼ 10 test and evaluation protocols translated into Arabic and Russian
- ▼ 19 IMAS revised in French
- ▼ Translation of IMAS 7.12 draft, first edition - Quality Management in Mine Action - into French and Russian
- ▼ 42 IMAS revised in Russian

## **Translation of International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG)**

- ▼ 45 International Ammunition Technical Guidelines translated into Russian and published on the UNODA website

## **➤ WEB RESOURCE**

[www.mineactionstandards.org/](http://www.mineactionstandards.org/)

# POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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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 enable them to fulfill 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 the Centre's support for international humanitarian law, the GICHD contributes to informed discussions within the context of international processes and initiatives and strives for stronger links between mine action and the broader security and development sectors, including peace mediation and security sector reform.

# RESEARCH PROJECTS IN POLICY

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## HOW MINE ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2016, the GICHD initiated a study with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to explore the contribution of mine action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The report, published in 2017, explores the catalytic role of mine action in the achievement of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as poverty reduction, food security, education, health, gender equality and peaceful societies. Showcasing country practice and exploring new pathways, it provides guidance to mine action organisations, authorities and donors to strengthen the coherence of their work, both within the mine action sector and with the broader peace and development communities. It illustrates how mine action can be mainstreamed into national sustainable development efforts, including SDG planning, implementation and reporting.

At the 21st International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers in Geneva, in February 2018, the GICHD co-hosted an event with UNDP *Let's Talk Business: Mine Action, the Private Sector and the SDGs*. As indicated during the event, public aid must be complemented by private investments to meet the SDGs, and many businesses and foundations have started to integrate the SDGs into their strategies. The event discussed past and current innovative partnerships in mine action aimed to engage new stakeholders. It also examined how the SDGs may be used by mine action stakeholders to boost collaboration with the private sector or philanthropic institutions in a more systematic way.

### 📄 WEB RESOURCE

Download the publication *Leaving No One Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals*  
[www.gichd.org/mineactionandsdgs](http://www.gichd.org/mineactionandsdgs)

## MINE ACTION AND SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

Since 2016, the GICHD has been studying the lessons learned and guidance on linkages between security sector reform (SSR) and mine action, to strengthen awareness of the benefits of a better interconnection between these two sectors. A partnership with the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine and the Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has also been established for delivery of support and advice in Ukraine on this matter.

A research paper written by the GICHD and published by DCAF explores avenues for a more coherent implementation of mine action and SSR in post-conflict contexts. In 2017, for the launch of this paper, DCAF and the GICHD jointly organised a panel of experts on security sector reform, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR), small arms and light weapons (SALW) control and mine action. The aim of the event was to identify good practice and examine the practical implications of linking these various peacebuilding programmes.

Even though differences exist between SSR, DDR, SALW and mine action, in terms of scope, timelines, perspective and types of funding, greater cooperation is favourable to all parties. Good governance and local ownership were identified as common preconditions, whereas a human rights-based approach and gender and diversity mainstreaming are common features. Likewise, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development creates a broader framework within which all these programmes fit and consequently should cooperate.

### 📄 WEB RESOURCES

*Linking mine action and SSR through human security*  
[http://bit.ly/DCAF\\_linkingMAandSSR](http://bit.ly/DCAF_linkingMAandSSR)

Event report: *Seeking more coherent implementation in post-conflict security: Can we better align SSR, DDR, SALW and Mine Action?*  
[www.gichd.org/postconflictsecuritystudy](http://www.gichd.org/postconflictsecuritystudy)



Panel discussion on “Seeking more coherent implementation in post-conflict security: Can we better align SSR, DDR, SALW and Mine Action?,” Maison de la paix, Geneva, 2017

## MINE ACTION AND PEACE MEDIATION

The number of violent conflicts has increased in recent years and this has resulted in more casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war. Since 2015 the GICHD has been exploring how mine action communities could benefit from working together more closely, and how mine action programmes and operations can support peace mediation and contribute to sustaining peace.

In 2017, the GICHD study *Mine Action and Peace Mediation* was translated into Russian and Spanish and was the basis for a side-event during the 16th Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC. This side-event brought together experts to identify when and how mine action should be addressed in a peace mediation process.

### WEB RESOURCE

Download the publication *Mine action and peace mediation*  
[www.gichd.org/mineactionpeacemediation](http://www.gichd.org/mineactionpeacemediation)

### Abstract from an interview with Dr. Christina Stenner, Mediation Support Officer from the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

On the occasion of this side-event, Dr. Christina Stenner commented that “[...] peace processes cannot be conducted only on a high level; more immediate impact is needed for affected populations. Mine action is a decisive step to build confidence in conflict-affected regions and it immediately benefits the population [...]. Therefore, it is really useful for mediators to include mine action into peace processes.” Dr. Christina Stenner also acknowledged that the GICHD study “covers aspects of neutrality and right timing very well and lays the ground for future enhanced collaboration. These kinds of publications and discussions help to raise awareness on your expertise amongst the mediation community.” The OSCE Mediation Support Officer added that, “The GICHD, as experts in mine action, should therefore brief our executive structures, feeding their knowledge through the Mediation Support Team into the mediation processes”, whereas “including mine action into peace agreements can help institutionalise and legitimise mine action efforts.”



# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

In 2017, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) commemorated twenty years of the process that concluded with the adoption and signing of the landmark humanitarian disarmament treaty. The Convention was adopted on 18 September 1997 in Oslo, signed in Ottawa on 3-4 December that same year, and entered into force on 1 March 1999. By the end of December 2017, 164 States Parties have agreed to be bound by the Convention's norms.

Since 1999, the GICHD has had a long-standing relationship with the Convention including by providing its expertise to States Parties implementing treaty obligations. At the Convention signing ceremony in 1997, Switzerland announced that it would establish an international centre for humanitarian demining in order "to facilitate cooperation between specialists, [to] gather practical information and [to] propose new methods and techniques of mine-clearing". Not long after that, the Centre began to actively support mine-affected States in strengthening their technical capacity to implement certain key provisions under the Convention.

In the early years, the GICHD also supported the Convention's Presidency and Chairs, providing administrative and logistical resources to assist the Intersessional Work Programme – support which the Centre currently provides to the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU). In 2001, this engagement reached a new level when the States Parties mandated the GICHD to establish a support unit within the Center.

The GICHD also provides implementation support through strategic, operational and information management advice to States Parties. In addition, the GICHD participates in the work of the Convention as Observer at formal and informal meetings. The ISU and the GICHD have worked in partnership supporting a number of states in developing mine action strategies, often serving as basis for and complement to Article 5 extension requests. Having a clear strategic plan in place provides measurable objectives to states seeking to fulfill their obligations under the Convention.

## ▶ WEB RESOURCE

[www.apminebanconvention.org](http://www.apminebanconvention.org)

## JOINT PUBLIC EXHIBITION IN GENEVA

To commemorate 20 years of treaty efforts to eradicate anti-personnel mines and the suffering caused by these weapons, the GICHD, the Convention Implementation Support Unit and Handicap International jointly organised a public photo exhibition in Geneva.

The exhibit highlighted the lingering history of the global landmine problem and ensuing process that brought states and civil society together in an unprecedented manner to formally ban these weapons. It also portrayed the role of mine action and the role that Geneva has had throughout the life of the Convention. The exhibition and opening ceremony celebrated the successes of the Convention while highlighting some of the remaining challenges. The 20 year anniversary was an opportunity to call States Parties to re-energise efforts to meet the Convention's ambition to achieve a world free of anti-personnel mines by 2025.

## ▶ WEB RESOURCES

Watch the virtual version of the exhibition:

[www.togetheragainstmimes.org/exhibition](http://www.togetheragainstmimes.org/exhibition)

[www.gichd.org/APMBC20](http://www.gichd.org/APMBC20)



From left: Dr Cornelio Sommaruga (former ICRC President, GICHD Honorary President), Juan Carlos Ruan (Director of the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention)



In December 2017, a public photo exhibition and opening was held in Geneva to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

# COMMUNICATIONS

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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.





# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MINE AWARENESS CELEBRATED IN BERN

Every year, the GICHD marks the 4<sup>th</sup> April - International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action - with the worldwide #TogetherAgainstMines campaign, to join forces across the entire mine action community and increase awareness of mine action. Opinion leaders, mine action organisations, mine survivors and the general public took part in the campaign on social media.



In 2017, the GICHD also organised an event on the Federal Square in the Swiss capital city of Bern under the slogan of its awareness campaign #TogetherAgainstMines. In a mock minefield, visitors could see a manual demining operation as well as a mine detection dog at work. Different types of mines and explosive remnants of war, as well as a 12-ton demining machine were displayed on the square. The GICHD invited six other Swiss organisations active in mine action to join them for the event, where they gave an insight into their respective activities: SWISSINT, Swiss EOD Centre, Handicap International Switzerland, Digger DTR, Fondation Suisse de Déminage and Geneva Call.

These initiatives address a wider audience – the general public, schools, politicians and the media – and together contribute to raising awareness on the landmine problem.

#TOGETHER  
AGAINST  
MINES

## WEB RESOURCES

[www.togetheragainstmines.org](http://www.togetheragainstmines.org)

Watch the video of the event:

[http://bit.ly/April4\\_mineawarenessday](http://bit.ly/April4_mineawarenessday)



The GICHD was honoured to welcome (from left): the Swiss Federal Councillor and Defence Minister, Guy Parmelin, the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the UN in Geneva, Ambassador Beatriz Londoño Soto, and the Director of Handicap International Switzerland, Mrs Petra Schroeter. Far end: Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director.





# PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES FOSTER KNOWLEDGE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

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The research, publications and online resources produced and maintained by the GICHD each 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 examples of good practice, support advisory missions and training courses, and give authorities and operators the tools they need to improve mine action.

## 📖 2017 PUBLICATIONS

[www.gichd.org/resources/publications](http://www.gichd.org/resources/publications)

*An Initial Study Into Mine Action and Improvised Explosive Devices*

*Explosive Weapon Effects*

*Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mines Incidents in 2017 (with SIPRI)*

*Improving Protection, Reducing Civilian Vulnerabilities: Interaction Between Mine/Explosive Remnants of War Action and Small Arms and Light Weapons Responses*

*Improvised Explosive Devices and the International Mine Action Standards*

*Leaving no one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals*

*Mine Action and Peace Mediation (Spanish and Russian versions)*

*Prioritisation Policy, Procedures and Practices Relating to UXO Clearance in Lao PDR (English and Lao versions)*

*Seeking more coherent implementation in post-conflict security: Can we better align SSR, DDR, SALW and Mine Action?*

*The Collaborative ORDnance Data Repository (CORD)*

*The Challenge of Long-term Risk Management in Mine Action*

*World War II Coastal Minefields in the United Kingdom*

*Zimbabwe National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025*

*GICHD brochure*

*Corporate Partnership Brochure*

## 🌐 GICHD WEBSITES

GICHD main website:

[www.gichd.org](http://www.gichd.org)

GICHD Online Training Platform:

[training.gichd.org](http://training.gichd.org)

International Mine Action Standards:

[www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org)

Characterisation of Explosive Weapons Research Project:

[characterisationexplosiveweapons.org](http://characterisationexplosiveweapons.org)

The annual Together Against Mines campaign:

[www.togetheragainstmines.org](http://www.togetheragainstmines.org)

The Bâtisseurs de paix competition:

[www.batisseursdepaix.org](http://www.batisseursdepaix.org)

## 🌐 OTHER PLATFORMS HOSTED AND SUPPORTED

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

[www.apminebanconvention.org](http://www.apminebanconvention.org)

Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions:

[www.clusterconvention.org](http://www.clusterconvention.org)

Maison de la paix:

[www.maisondelapaix.ch](http://www.maisondelapaix.ch)

Maison de la paix Gender and Diversity Hub:

[www.gdhub.ch](http://www.gdhub.ch)

# RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

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# PERFORMANCE REPORT

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## PURPOSE OF THE GICHD – ACCORDING TO THE STATUTES

The GICHD'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 analyse experiences from different contexts in the field, identify current problems and propose 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 *Autorité de Surveillance 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 alongside 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 the 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, 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 2017 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.



# COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

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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 27 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 2017)

### 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 Kempainen  
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 Gianfranco Incarnato  
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 Robbert Gabriëlse  
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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Ambassador Matthew Rowland  
Permanent Representative of  
the United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland to the  
Conference on Disarmament

### 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

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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 workplans and terms of reference as part of the evaluation of the GICHD's activities. The board is made up of 25 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 2017)

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

**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, Mines  
Advisory Group (MAG)

**Mr James Cowan**  
Chief Executive, The Halo Trust

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

**Mr Roger Fasth**  
Acting Director, Danish  
Demining Group (DDG)

**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)

**Mr Hugues Laurence**  
Senior Advisor, United Nations  
Children's Fund (UNICEF)

**Ambassador Tomaž Lovrencic**  
Acting Director, ITF Enhancing  
Human Security, Slovenia

**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

**Ms Carla Ruta**  
Thematic Legal Adviser, Geneva Call

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

**Ms Sara Sekkenes**  
Conflict Prevention and Partnerships  
Advisor, United Nations Development  
Programme (UNDP)

**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

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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
- ▼ Canada
- ▼ Denmark
- ▼ Finland
- ▼ Germany
- ▼ Italy
- ▼ Japan
- ▼ Norway
- ▼ Sweden
- ▼ Switzerland
- ▼ The Netherlands
- ▼ The United Kingdom
- ▼ The United States of America

## ORGANISATIONS

- ▼ Arab Fund For Economic And Social Development
- ▼ Bridges Insurance Brokers, United Kingdom
- ▼ City of Geneva
- ▼ Environmental Systems Resarch Institute (Esri)
- ▼ Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- ▼ Handicap International (HI)
- ▼ Helvetia Insurance, Switzerland
- ▼ James Madison University
- ▼ Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- ▼ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- ▼ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- ▼ Swiss Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS)
- ▼ Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
- ▼ United Kingdom - DFID/NPA
- ▼ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ▼ United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- ▼ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

# EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES STATEMENT

		<i>All amounts in CHF</i>	<b>2017</b>
OPERATIONS	Production of publications (publishing, editing, printing, layout)		178'762
	Travel GICHD staff		612'008
	Assistance (consultants)		3'361'967
	Travel by third persons		408'703
STAFF	Staff costs		7'622'476
GENERAL SERVICES	Maintenance		42'538
	Acquisition		309'996
	Communications		183'029
	Office supplies		52'637
MISCELLANEOUS	Various expenses / rent of offices and service apartments, provisions, bank charges and insurance premiums		748'741
	In kind (ESRI Licences, ICT investment & running costs)		453'950
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>			<b>13'974'806</b>
	Foreign currency exchange loss (gain), net		(46'722)
	Extraordinary		-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>			<b>13'928'084</b>
CONTRIBUTIONS	Contributions received		12'581'949
	Activities / contributions deferred to 2018		(1'666'466)
	Activities / contributions deferred from 2016		2'318'862
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>13'234'345</b>
OTHER INCOME	Miscellaneous income		66'448
	In kind (ESRI Licences, ICT Investment & City of Geneva)		627'291
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>			<b>13'928'084</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>			<b>-</b>



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