GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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FOREWORDS

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT



Building global connections between mine action and broader human security actors is particularly important at a time when a fragmented response is no longer sufficient to deal with the complex situations on the ground. The need for us all to steer our work towards greater impact, efficiency and economies of scale, and to reinforce preventive efforts, requires different human security fields to cooperate even more closely, especially given the multiple risks specific to current conflicts. Mine action helps initiate or strengthen peace dynamics in some situations. The ongoing peace process in Colombia illustrates mine action's potential to develop mutual trust between parties to the conflict. I am convinced that this asset of our field of activity may benefit other processes in the future. It is in this spirit that we have launched our support to Ukraine – together with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) – thus benefitting from the value of sharing the Maison de la paix campus in Geneva with other human security actors.

At the 2014 Third Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention in Maputo, the States Parties affirmed their commitment to complete implementation of their obligations by 2025. Although this target is ambitious, an encouraging sign of its potential was manifested in 2015, when Mozambique, once one of the most affected countries, completed its clearance obligation. The GICHD will continue to operate towards the achievement of this target, to sustain local and national authorities in gaining clarity on the extent of contamination, planning and coordinating mine action operations, and linking them with national development priorities. Furthermore, we continue to emphasise the importance of using scarce resources in the right place, which requires swift, systematic and universal implementation of the land release approach.

The Centre's activities are made possible by the continuous support of our donors and by the strong commitment of our team. My sincere thanks to all of you!

P. Haeing Dr Barbara Haering

FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR



2015 was the first year of implementation of GICHD's 2015-2018 Strategy, a document strongly rooted in a Results-based Management (RBM) approach. During the past year, the RBM process within the Centre was developed further, laying the foundation for better understanding and measuring the impact of our work, drawing lessons and steering future activities and budget allocations.

During 2015, the GICHD completed operational missions to 50 countries and carried out 50 training courses in various topics. The Centre hosted dozens of smaller workshops and provided distance support to national authorities, operators and donors. It trained, advised and interacted with governments and national authorities, commercial and non-profit organisations, universities and think tanks.

All of these activities – guided by our strategy – supported both countries and the mine action community in mine action operations, and contributed to the achievement of affected countries' national objectives.

New information management tools were established, thus helping to create conditions for national programmes to become more transparent, manageable and effective. In the field of technological innovation, the development of our SMART system for mine detection dogs was a major achievement. The system will significantly change the way technical survey is conducted, allowing for better allocation of tight financial resources and speeding up the land release process.

There were some highlights in 2015 where the GICHD was proud to have played a significant role. These included Mozambique's declaration of being mine-free after completing implementation of Article 5 of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC); providing multi-faceted assistance to Ukraine and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission with the aim of developing a mine action framework compliant with international standards; as well as assisting with the development of Sri Lanka's new mine action strategy. Furthermore, the GICHD carried out capacity development in a number of countries, helping develop national standards and best survey practices. The Centre also provided policy advisory and training services for effective release of land and management of residual contamination in Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR. The GICHD's regional outreach programmes, particularly in Arabic, Russian and Persian, accomplished success through collaborative achievements and national ownership.

The Centre has also increased its interaction with fellow mine action partner organisations in communications efforts. This culminated in the launch of the awareness campaign #TogetherAgainstMines, which reached almost 25 million people in over 40 countries. A single message from the mine action community and general public was broadcasted around the world, calling for increased international engagement to complete the return to productive use of all contaminated land by 2025.

Ambassador Stefano Toscano

WHO WE ARE



The GICHD is an expert organisation working to reduce the impact of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive hazards, in close partnership with mine action and other human security organisations. We support the ultimate goal of mine action: saving lives, returning land to productive use and promoting development.

The Centre also acts as the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Secretariat. It hosts and supports the Implementation Support Units of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (APMBC) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as well as the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP).

In 2015, the GICHD employed 70 individuals in total, including trainees and interns. Women account for 56% of our personnel.

With nationals from 19 countries mastering 14 languages, the GICHD is a unique and international hub of mine action expertise and knowledge.



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WHAT WE DO

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

Our advisors visited more than 50 countries in 2015. The assistance they provided included 50 training courses and dozens of smaller workshops. National authorities, operators and donors also received remote support from the GICHD. Nearly 650 people were trained, enabling them to tackle explosive hazard contamination safely, effectively and efficiently.



THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS

RETURNING CONTAMINATED LAND TO PRODUCTIVE USE

INNOVATING FOR HUMAN SECURITY



WHERE WE WORKED IN 2015





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.

STRATEGY 2015-2018

2015 was the first year of implementation of our new strategy 2015-2018, based on results-based management (RBM). As laid out in the strategic objectives, the GICHD is working towards three goals:

- Firstly, the fulfilment of convention obligations and/or reaching of completions targets. Many countries still face considerable challenges to clear their territories of explosive hazard contamination and/or fulfil clearance obligations under various conventions.
- Secondly, there is growing recognition of the need to effectively manage residual contamination after completion is achieved. Appropriate responses should be nationally owned, sustainable and in line with domestic priorities.
- Thirdly, greater integration of mine action into the wider context of human security is pursued, for the sake of development, peace and security as well as the environment. Through such an approach, the Centre contributes to the sustainable development of countries, ensuring that mine action remains relevant, efficient and sustainable.

The GICHD is committed to ensuring that the results achieved through its work contribute to bring about the desired changes on the ground. The implementation of an appropriate RBM approach within the GICHD is instrumental to that, focusing on the Centre's internal performance and results, but also on the changes the GICHD contributes to in the lives and livelihoods of communities. The approach is dynamic and transformative, so that results inform decision-making and lead to continuous adaptation and improvement. Progressing towards such an approach calls for new attitudes and practices as well as for sustainable capacity-development of staff.





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS ARE FULFILLED AND/OR COMPLETION TARGETS REACHED.

In spite of much progress in the last three decades, many countries still face considerable challenges to clear their territories of contamination by explosive hazards. The GICHD works towards the fulfilment of conventional obligations and/or the reaching of national completion targets.

The GICHD pursues this objective by providing support on the development and implementation of national mine action strategies, on the adoption of sound information management practices and on the application of up-to-date standards, methods and tools.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2015, the GICHD assisted countries to develop and improve their own national mine action strategies, which in turn promotes more effective, efficient and inclusive mine action operations. Through our strategic planning workshops, we helped strengthen national ownership and increase awareness of relevant strategic challenges. Ultimately, the implementation of strategic plans strengthens affected States' ability to clear their territories of explosive hazard contamination.

Our "Guide to Strategic Planning in Mine Action" presents the strategic planning process and provides key recommendations for the development, implementation, review and improvement of a national strategy.



GICHD and NPA staff discussing the process of technical survey and clearance of hazardous areas near Doboj in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

LAND RELEASE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Land release (LR) is the process of identifying and removing threats of mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW). LR comprises three elements: Non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey (TS), and clearance. While clearance is generally well understood, the same does not apply to survey. The GICHD focuses on strengthening mechanisms that cancel and reduce land that would otherwise have required clearance. This is achieved through welldesigned and well-run surveys. The GICHD develops and tests methods to identify and define contaminated areas more accurately through improved survey techniques and information systems.

Proper application of the LR process allows costly clearance assets to be deployed more effectively, which leads to significant savings in time and financial resources.



Taking a bearing during the non-technical survey skills training in Colombia, held in the Engineering School in Bogota.

Improved non-technical survey allows for significant cancellation

In March 2016, Sri Lanka announced its intention to accede the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). This is an important step towards recovery from the country's 26-year civil war, which left suspected 64 km² of land contaminated. Sri Lanka has developed plans to make the country mine free by 2020.

As part of the clearance plan, the Sri Lankan Mine Action Centre trained with the GICHD on the application of non-technical survey (NTS). After a successful pilot project in Mannar district, 85% of previously suspected areas were released and handed over. This started the application of NTS throughout the country. To date, 4 of 10 contaminated provinces have completed a NTS survey, resulting in the cancellation of 39.9 km2 (89.5% of all land previously considered potentially hazardous areas). The process is ongoing in the remaining provinces and should lead to even more significant reduction of suspected hazardous areas in the months to come.

New mine action strategy

The GICHD supported Sri Lanka in developing a national mine action strategy, facilitating land release. Through a workshop on strategic planning organised by the GICHD, the Sri Lankan Mine Action Centre addressed its strategic challenges related coordination, information management and to operational efficiency. The Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, and Hindu Religious Affairs gave participants the chance to discuss issues related to mine action, such as the benefits of Sri Lanka signing the APMBC. By accompanying this process and advocating its importance directly with national authorities, the GICHD contributed to the country's subsequent consideration to accede to the APMBC

Mine action priority-setting

The National Mine Action Center has been using the Priority Settings Tool (PriSMA) to prioritise operational planning for contaminated districts and land. The tool has proven its ability to facilitate the prioritisation process and decision making (see geoservices section in information management on page 17).



Mr. M.M. Nayeemudeen, Additional Secretary/NMAC Director; His Excellency D.M. Swaminathan, Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, and Hindu Religious Affairs; and Asa Massleberg, GICHD Advisor.



"Non-technical survey has allowed us to cancel almost 90% of all suspected hazardous areas in four provinces. The experience and knowledge which we obtained from the GICHD were very helpful to implement this successful process in Sri Lanka. We can now get a much clearer picture on real mine and ERW location in the country."

Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, Assistant Director Operation, QM and Planning & Chairman Accreditation Committee, National Mine Action Centre of Sri Lanka.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The GICHD enables national authorities and other mine action actors to leverage data and turn it into useful and usable information. The evidence allows for greater clarity on the extent and impact of explosive hazards. As a result, a stronger decision-making process leads to more effective and efficient operational planning and/or land release, resulting in the fulfilment of convention obligations.

Information management (IM) capacity development

The technical support provided by the Centre now encompasses implementation processes and organisational considerations. The GICHD helps IM units within mine action programmes to develop their capacity to use technology and to define clear processes that support an organisation's evidencebased decision making.

Throughout 2015, the GICHD defined and implemented an IM capacity development framework based on experience gained during the first assessments. The workplan details specific actions to be carried out in a set timeframe under a pre-determined responsibility. With this workplan, it is possible to better measure the progress of IM units in different programmes and to ensure that GICHD's resources are used in an efficient and targeted manner. While overall assessment scores will only be obtained every two or three years for a given country, the workplan and deliverables by national counterparts offer an opportunity for continuous monitoring of progress towards the capacity indicators.

Since 2014, IM assessments have been carried out in sixteen countries. IM workplans have been established for most of these and are being followed up to monitor progress. They are developed and implemented under a national programme that reinforces national ownership.

In 2015, IM assessments were carried out in Albania, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Chile, Laos, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The GICHD also supported Albania, Azerbaijan, Laos PDR, Tajikistan and Ukraine in the development of IM workplans, to be implemented in 2016. In Tajikistan, the GICHD supported the national mine action centre (TNMAC) in defining concrete actions based on the IM assessment recommendations. TNMAC and UNDP staff have been trained to enhance and broaden their reporting and data analysis capacities, using the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and the Mine Action Intelligence tool (MINT). The IM capacity development framework tightens the integration of IM and operations. It allows a streamlined, standardised approach to IM support, providing visibility on progress and allowing other organisations to become partners in IM assessments.

Data collection over mobile applications

Rapidly growing use of mobile technologies has increased demand for mobile-based data collection solutions. Such data can not only bridge information gaps in mine action programmes, but also replace paper forms through customised data entry forms and digital data collection tools. Launched in 2015, the main goal of the IMSMA Mobile project is to provide a mobile data collection tool for data providers within mine action programmes in the field, e.g. national and international operators, contractors and possibly commercial companies.

The immediate benefit of applying mobile data collection technology is immediate data sharing and analysis as well as real-time tracking of deployed assets. This enables decision makers within organisations to better implement activities and ontime project delivery. Mine action operators and contractors can now digitally collect quality data with fewer errors and migrate collected data to the main IMSMA database of their country's national mine action authorities. These tasks are done with ease and without the extra overhead cost and manpower for double entry, which often leads to data discrepancies.



Training participants learning how to use mobile technology for data collection.

Geoservices

In 2015, the GICHD focused on developing enhanced mapping and analysis tools for evidence-based decision-making and reporting. Development of the Priority Settings Tool (PriSMA) for mine action was completed in partnership with ESRI. PriSMA helps to enhance the ability of mine action stakeholders and partners in the broader human security sector to improve clarity on hazard impact, thereby leading to more informed and effective hazard reduction decisions.

A successful pilot project of PriSMA has been conducted in Sri Lanka by the National Mine Action Center, using the tool to prioritise contaminated districts as well as contaminated lands within those districts for operational planning. The pilot project demonstrated the tool's user-friendly interface and its ability to facilitate decision-making, in addition to providing an effective, easily accessible means for stakeholders to visualise factors considered in the prioritisation process. Through pilot feedback and future projects in Colombia and Tajikistan, the GICHD will continue to improve the tool in 2016 to best suit the requirements of the mine action community.



Map generated by Sri Lankan Mine Action Centre using PriSMA

Prioritization of contaminated districts with hazards in close proximity to settlements, schools, dense populations and water sources in Sri Lanka.

International standards

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) are global guidelines for mine action, designed to improve safety and efficiency and ensure quality in operations. On behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the GICHD develops, reviews and promotes the IMAS. A formal Review Board, composed of 33 individuals representing the broader mine action community, was established as the highest authority to debate and approve the IMAS.

In 2015, the GICHD trained 85 individuals from 25 countries representing four global regions on up-to-date IMAS and their application. Through the consultative processes with the review board, we released:

- New editions of standards for accreditation and monitoring of mine action organisations (IMAS 07.30 and 07.40), providing guidelines for accreditation and monitoring to all levels of MA organisations and activities undertaken, beyond clearance operations.
- New version of IMAS 09.30 on explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) as well as a new Test and Evaluation Protocol on EOD competencies. These help mine action, and in particular training organisations, to better define EOD qualifications and in the delivery of IMAS-compliant EOD training required for mine action personnel.

A focus group meeting was also convened to define how IMAS should address management of residual contamination. An IMAS and Technical Note will be produced in 2016.

National standards

The IMAS help national authorities develop National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) that fit the environment and context of a particular country. The GICHD provides training and advice on the design and development of NMAS, or the review and revision of the existing ones on request.

In 2015, the GICHD surveyed over 35 countries as part of a global assessment of national standards in order to establish a global baseline for NMAS. This will facilitate measuring progress in adopting IMAScompliant national standards in the future.

We supported a number of countries to develop or improve their national standards, in particular in operational planning and land release: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Mozambique and Ukraine. This work was carried out with operators and authorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Colombia, Lao PDR and Vietnam.



Land release map symbols

In 2015, the GICHD developed a set of symbols to represent the main attribute values for hazard categories and mine action activities on maps. The symbols allow for a clear and standardized representation of the land release process on maps.

This sample map shows a released land composed of cancelled, reduced and cleared areas.

INNOVATION: MINE DETECTION DOG SMART SYSTEM

2015 saw the birth of a significant technological innovation that challenges the traditional role of mine detection dogs (MDD). The SMART dog harness, developed by the GICHD together with DIGGER DTR, proposes an entirely new methodology that will permit more effective deployment and use of MDD in technical survey, using free-running operating dogs.

Significant acceleration of evidence-based survey thanks to free-running dogs

Deployment of such dogs accelerates the search of large areas in a systematic and/or targeted approach, significantly reducing excess use of clearance resources in areas that may not contain landmines and/or explosive remnants of war. Through this new approach, large hazardous areas can be reduced and direct evidence of explosive hazards found, thus providing a starting point for clearance.

Traditionally, MDDs have only marginally been used in technical survey because of various terrain and deployment constraints. Lengthy and expensive ground preparations, which enable dog access, are no longer compulsory. Vegetation obstruction does not limit the dog's mobility or impact its ability to detect explosives. Actually, vegetation enhances explosive vapours from landmines and so increases the dog's detection ability. This also allows using the dogs as well in mountainous and rocky areas as well as places that are otherwise hard to reach. While a traditional dog leash method is restricted to a maximum distance of 10m, this innovative system allows information exchange over a wireless network where the dog handler is capable of both controlling and monitoring the free running dog via a smartphone up to a distance of 100m.

Live tracking over smartphone, full IMSMA integration

The system comprises a wireless network that connects the computer with the dog harness and the handler's smart phone for monitoring and control. The map view gives the real time location of the dog's activities. The MDD SMART system is fully compatible with the GICHD-developed IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) tool for reporting and mapping. Results can be recorded directly into IMSMA, helping operational planning and decision making.



The SMART harness for mine detection dogs only weighs 700 grams, with its battery running up to 4 hours.

The MDD SMART system will allow to better define the nature and actual extent of contamination, prioritising the right areas for clearance. This will allow better decision-making about how resources can most appropriately be used. The first ten SMART sets, sponsored by the foundation WORLD WITHOUT MINES, will be deployed in Cambodia starting in autumn 2016. The system is not limited to detecting landmines but also cluster munitions and other explosive hazards; it is further applicable and beneficial for a wide array of search and rescue operations.

Field testing

In 2014, the GICHD launched a research and development project in Cambodia in cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)'s Global Training Centre for Mine Detection Dogs and DIGGER DTR. So far, five free running dogs have been trained for this innovative and unique technical survey application in Cambodia.

Field testing, conducted throughout 2015, proved the GPS location accuracy and indication of the dog is +/- 5m (10x10m box) for direct evidence. This is a strong result, since the amount of land cleared to identify a landmine is more than 1'600m² on average (40x40m box). Following testing, further improvements to the prototypes were made, addressing bugs in the operating system. A better camera providing an increased vision range was identified, resulting in the final prototype in November 2015. It is made of flexible material and uses a normal GPS to reduce cost and weight. It weighs around 0,7 kg, compared to the 2,7 kg of the first prototype built in 2014. The weight was also lowered by incorporating a much improved battery capacity, which now lasts up to 4 hours.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION IS EFFECTIVELY MANAGED THROUGH SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL PROCESSES.

As national capacities are developed with international support and countries approach completion, transition to full national ownership becomes essential to ensure sustainability and alignment with domestic agendas. Appropriate national systems and capacities to manage residual contamination are required.

MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION (MORE)

The MORE project helps countries to address challenges posed by residual contamination. This work is done by encouraging relevant data collection, analysing topics ranging from the ageing of munitions to contamination and recovery numbers, and offering comparative knowledge from other countries. Examples and practices from countries affected by residual contamination from WWI and WWII, such as Germany, France, UK, and Japan, are analysed to that effect.

Sharing of experiences in response to explosive remnants of war (ERW)

In June 2015, a symposium was organised by the GICHD and the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, to highlight similarities between South-East Asian and European experiences in managing ERW contamination. 131 participants from 21 countries had an opportunity to increase regional cooperation and contribute to development of effective and efficient national policies, strategies and practices. Three issue briefs were released: on residual contamination, risk management and a policy guide.

A clearer definition of residual contamination is required to develop policies for effective management of this type of contamination. The GICHD convened a subgroup to provide recommendations to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) review board. The management of residual contamination will be integrated in all relevant IMAS and a technical note drafted. "Contamination exists at various depths [in Dresden/Germany]. Instead of trying to clear the entire area of the province, action must only be taken when a risk is present, namely when UXO could impede normal human activity. Almost 3 million munitions have been recovered over the past ten years in Saxony alone. In Germany, more than 13 thousand tons of munitions were disposed of in the past ten years - more than 70 years after the end of World War II."

Mr. Thomas Lange, Chief of EOD in Saxony, Germany

Through a combination of outreach activities and communication tools – such as the GICHD animation "Beyond the Battlefield", illustrating contamination at different depths and consequent risks – MORE has been brought to a wider audience. Greater awareness has increased the demand for bespoke advice to better address risks from residual contamination: a GICHD priority area for 2016.



Approximate depths of penetration for various UXO.

CASE STUDY: MOZAMBIQUE



A team leader from NPA briefing GICHD staff on the clearance of mines laid along the border with Zimbabwe.

In 2015, Mozambique became the 29th State to declare itself free of all known antipersonnel mines, and had its first year in decades without landmine casualties.

The GICHD has, over the years, supported Mozambique in its efforts towards completion of Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). The Centre has worked alongside the national mine action authority (National Demining Institute of Mozambique - IND) and UNDP, providing assistance in developing strategic planning and a completion plan. Furthermore, the Centre has trained operators in non-technical survey to help resurvey and process land classification schemes based on evidence to assist the completion process.

Accompanying transition phase

With the completion obligation now attained, the GICHD continues to assist Mozambique in a transition phase. We are helping the country develop a national strategy for residual contamination management of explosive remnants of war. This allows mine action stakeholders to establish appropriate structures and manage the problem in the most effective and efficient manner. Mozambique is now on track for implementing a national plan and practices to respond to residual contamination.

Advice was given to United States African Command (AFRICOM) and IND to train police in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) activities, providing reactive sustainable capacities to manage residual contamination. The purpose was to support the adaptation of the EOD curriculum to the Mozambican context, by developing better background and contextual material as well as the addition of survey and mapping material. IND aims to improve EOD training by incorporating background, survey and mapping material.



A deminer from NPA demonstrating clearance drills.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: MINE ACTION IS FULLY INTEGRATED INTO BROADER EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE HUMAN SECURITY.

Mine action contributes to the broader objective of achieving human security and also benefits from other sectors' experiences and expertise. Mine action supports explosive weapons management and security sector reform, reduces violence and promotes development.

At the same time, mine action should respect the "do no harm" principle, including with regard to land rights and the environment.

The Maison de la paix in Geneva, where the GICHD is located, has the potential to be a significant platform for strengthening linkages and intersectoral cooperation with other humanitarian and development actors.

AMMUNITION SAFETY MANAGEMENT AND STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

The GICHD's objective is to help bring safety and humanitarian practices into routine weapons and ammunition management. To achieve this, the Centre has introduced the ammunition safety management (ASM) concept, developed accompanying tools for practitioners, and promoted International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

The false perception that ammunition and weapons can be stored under similar conditions where the emphasis is on area and warehouse security instead of stock safety is still prevalent among many countries and organisations. Such practices do not take into account specific requirements for ammunition safety and often lead to explosions in ammunition storage areas and diversion from stockpiles. These lead to devastating effects on people, civil infrastructure and the environment.

The GICHD provided ASM courses to develop national capacities. We trained ammunition officers from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the regional Bangladeshi Institute for Peace Support Operations Training centre in ASM and offered technical advice on the integrity, safety and security of stockpiled ammunition near Dhaka and for their peace-keeping theatres abroad. Similar training was carried out in Switzerland for expert representatives from authorities of at-risk countries and international NGOs – one of them under the NATO Partnership for Peace framework.

Consultative Meeting on Safe and Secure Management of Conventional Ammunition

The first international Consultative Meeting on Safe and Secure Management of Conventional Ammunition was held in 2015 in Geneva. Hosted by Switzerland with the support of the GICHD and Small Arms Survey, it was attended by 66 states and more than 30 civil and military organisations. Its purpose was to raise awareness of inadequate ammunition management practices and their consequences. Solutions were introduced to prevent and reduce the impact of ammunition storage area explosions and dispersal of ammunition to the wrong hands, including terrorist groups.

Following this Meeting, the GICHD now cooperates with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs to promote worldwide IATG implementation through development of an IATG implementer's certification scheme.

Further development of the ASM toolset

The 2nd Edition of the ASM toolset, completed in 2015, comprises a guide and teaching method for safe ammunition storage and management. It provides guidance for rehabilitation of unsafe ammunition storage areas, clearance of land contaminated with abandoned and unexploded ordnance (AXO/UXO), demolition of unsafe ammunition and accurate accounting of stockpiles. The ASM tool set also sets guidelines to secure ammunition storage areas, ensuring that the risk of an explosion is reduced and/ or mitigated.

The ASM tool set is now ready for global, Englishlanguage distribution as a free-to-use, professional online guide for ammunition management, up to and including the depot level. It will be field tested in 2016.



Ammunition safety management training in Switzerland.



Ammunition safety management toolset, step 2F: How to rehabilitate an existing ammunition storage area.

CASE STUDY: UKRAINE

The GICHD provides multi-faceted assistance to Ukraine: supporting national authorities in the development of national mine action legislation, institutions, programme and capacities; helping the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMMU) in reducing risks caused by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and increasing the mission's capacity to collect information on contamination.

Ukraine's current security, humanitarian demining and ERW challenges

In 2015, a conference was held in Geneva by the GICHD, in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (OSCE PCU).

The conference provided expert input to the ministries and agencies involved in mine action. Recommendations from this conference included the strengthening of civilian oversight as a facilitating factor for the development of mine action capacities and the involvement of the Parliament; the improvement of coordination mechanisms through the establishment of a legislation on national mine action institutions; and the need to support development of a mine action policy, strategy, programme as well as national standards.

Recommendations on mine action legislation

As a follow-up of the conference, the GICHD assisted Ukraine in drafting a legislation to establish necessary national institutions to address humanitarian mine action. A workshop was organised in Kiev and recommendations on the draft legislation text were provided to the relevant ministries and agencies. In addition, a seminar was organised in Kiev to raise awareness about humanitarian demining among members of Parliament and civil society organisations.

Currently, plans are under way to support Ukraine in the development of a national programme and national standards in 2016.

Information management capacity development

The Ukrainian State Emergency Services have decided to implement the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) in all regions after the successful pilot project. IMSMA administrators trained by the GICHD organised user training for participants from three ministries involved in mine action activities. The GICHD also assessed the needs and capacities of the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission (OSCE SMMU) in data collection and reporting. Based on identified requirements, the GICHD set up a project to develop and implement an information management system, linked with a basic GIS platform, to collect, store, and analyse data. System testing will start mid 2016 with one survey team; full deployment by end 2016.

Explosive hazards risk mitigation training for the OSCE SMMU staff

The GICHD provided expert support and mine/ERW awareness training to fifteen SMMU staff, serving in the East of Ukraine and exposed to landmines and ERW during their daily patrols. This training contributed to enhancing the mission's capacity to reduce risks and collect information in mine/ERW affected areas during their mission in the conflict zone. It is a unique occasion to preserve information and evidence by eye witnesses immediately after contamination occurs. It can be used for non-technical survey when the security situation allows for Land Release operations. Further training will focus on developing self-sustainable training capacities in the patrol hubs.



Armoured fighting vehicle after an explosion in the region of Mariupol.



Directed fragmentation mine MON-100 attached to a tree, spotted during a landmine impact assessment at a contact-line crossing point, Ukraine

"The collaboration between OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the GICHD and DCAF facilitated the contribution of international expertise and experience into the drafted national mine action legislation and standards, providing a discussion platform on the institutional and legal architecture in a multistakeholder format."

"The approach of addressing mine action from the perspective of security sector reform is very promising. Integrating mine action into the broader national security sector thus contributes to its increased coherence."

Anton Shevchenko, National Project Officer, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and other instruments of international law such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) provide a strong framework to prevent casualties and reduce victims of explosive hazards. However, the remaining challenges are significant, as confirmed and alleged use of mines and other explosive hazards in areas of protracted conflicts illustrates. A number of countries have not yet joined these conventions and some States Parties still have important convention obligations to complete.

Observer input to International Humanitarian Law

The GICHD has maintained its engagement by providing bilateral support to affected States and expertise to international fora - in statements, presentations and publications, and in workshops and side events. In 2015, the focus was on the multi-dimensional challenges and risks posed by protracted crises and working towards providing assistance and integrating mine action into broader human security efforts. Challenges, such as the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices, will remain in the foreground for mine action actors.

We actively participated in the 14th Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC as well as in Intersessional Meetings as an observer delegation. We organised a side event on South-South cooperation within mine action through linguistic platforms. Speakers included representatives from Cambodian, Croatian and Afghan national mine action institutions.

As the sole international instrument on cluster munitions, the CCM has succeeded, in a relatively short time, in strengthening the argument against use of these weapons and contributed towards their global stigmatisation. The Convention's First Review Conference took place in September 2015 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, ending successfully with the adoption of the Dubrovnik Declaration and the Dubrovnik Action Plan, to which the GICHD had substantially contributed.

The GICHD provides strategic, operational and information management advice to States Parties to the APMBC and contributes to achieving the goal of clearing all known mined areas by 2025, as outlined in the Maputo Action Plan.

"The United States wishes to express its appreciation of hosting the one-day informal meeting on MOTAPM [mines other than anti-personnel mines]. This meeting, along with the global study from GICHD and SIPRI last year, demonstrates clearly that the indiscriminate use of certain MOTAPM creates humanitarian problems that should be addressed."

Opening Statement by the U.S. Delegation at the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW, 12 November 2015



Cluster bombs in fig orchard in Yaroun, Lebanon.

Collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit, APMBC

The APMBC Implementation Support Unit was established in 2001. It derives its mandate from the States Parties and is hosted by the GICHD. We provide infrastructure and administrative support to the Unit.

Collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit, CCM

As agreed between the States Parties and the GICHD, the Centre hosts the ISU of the CCM since May 2015, providing infrastructure and administrative support for ISU operations. As a joint collaboration of the GICHD and the ISU CCM, the third edition of the "Guide to Cluster Munitions" was released in April 2016.

Monitoring and mapping of anti-vehicle mine incidents

Reliable and disaggregated data on the impact of anti-vehicle mines (AVM) incidents were largely unavailable until the GICHD and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) began a long-term monitoring and mapping study.

A live, interactive map showing confirmed or suspected AVM incidents is now available on the GICHD website and is updated regularly with recent field data. Using ESRI mapping technology, it allows users to see global or country statistics and zoom in for more information about individual incidents. 2015 findings and an analysis of incident patterns were also released, continuing from the 2014 GICHD/SIPRI study "The humanitarian and developmental impact of anti-vehicle mines".

Countries and organisations were able to use direct evidence in discussions of AVM impact, for instance at the informal meeting on mines other than anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM), jointly organised by UNODA, UNMAS and the GICHD, as well as within the CCW. During these meetings, approximately 20 delegations cited this research in their interventions, demonstrating its value in evidence-based discussions. The technical aspect of the interactive platform has also received significant attention. It is the first time that impact has been visualised, and the interactive map was promoted at the 2016 National Directors' Meeting as an innovative tool for mine action.

The collaboration between the GICHD and SIPRI brought knowledge of conflict and peace studies to AVM research and, through SIPRI's strong network, a wider human security audience was informed about the humanitarian impact of AVMs.



Key findings on anti-vehicle mine incidents in 2015 by the GICHD and SIPRI.

OUTREACH

Regional Outreach Programmes

Linguistic approaches and regional platforms have proved extremely valuable in bringing affected states and other stakeholders together to share resources and experiences to help mine action programmes meet national targets.

The GICHD promotes dialogue between affected countries in local languages, fostering regional cooperation. The Centre's language outreach programmes, in particular in Arabic (AOP), Russian (EECCA) and Persian (POP), accomplished success through collaborative achievements and programme ownership by the member countries.

New Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Outreach Programme (EECCA-OP)

The GICHD has established a new platform of affected states and regional organisations in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region to advance human security through improvements in the mine action sector. This potentially serves fifteen mine/ ERW affected states in the EECCA region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Its purpose is to promote safe and efficient implementation of mine/ERW action projects and programmes and to enhance regional cooperation. The EECCA-OP assists national mine action authorities and local operators to accelerate capacity development through access to international standards, training material and advisory services.

The GICHD, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus, organised the first regional workshop in Minsk in 2015. It was attended by thirty-five participants from 10 countries and representatives from international organisations active in the region. It was an opportunity to understand current challenges in mine/ERW action programmes as well as the role and activities of the international organisations in the region. It also enhanced participants' knowledge of best practice and experiences of countries with regard to ammunition safety management, underwater clearance of ERW and stockpile destruction. To promote common mine action terminology and best practices in the region, making mine action information available in Russian is essential. Upon the request of the EECCA member countries, the GICHD is creating a website and is translating a series of publications and documents. The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) as well as the International Ammunition Technical Standards (IATGs) and associated documents and tools will be available in Russian in 2016.

Communications

The GICHD increased its engagement with the mine action community and a wider audience through the development and improvement of communication channels, including print and digital publications, social media and websites.

By focusing on our social media presence, we broadened communication partnerships with other mine action actors and built a stronger following to inform the general public about mine action goals. As a result, and in the lead up to April 4, the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, our Facebook following increased by over 80% and by 70% on Twitter.

In autumn 2015, in preparation for a series of awareness events for 4 April 2016, the GICHD worked with partners to launch a social media campaign with the hashtag #TogetherAgainstMines, allowing people around the world to demonstrate their engagement for a world free of mines.

Translating key GICHD publications was another priority. The 5th Edition of the "Guide to Mine Action" was translated into French and Arabic, with a Farsi version planned for 2016, giving both policymakers and practitioners access to resources and best practices in mine action in their local language. Another publication, "The Guide to Strategic Planning in Mine Action", outlining the entire planning process from development to evaluation, was translated into Spanish and Arabic. Finally, four case studies on "National Capacities and Residual Contamination" were completed and published in English, as well as in the national language of each case study.

Pope Francis calls for a world without mines

Leading up to April 4, Pope Francis called for the need to rid the world of mines. During his sermon on 3 April, 2016, from St. Peter's square in Rome, he declared the following:

"And whilst we pray for peace, we remember that tomorrow we celebrate the world day against anti-personnel mines. Too many people continue to be killed or maimed by these terrible devices. And courageous men and women risk their lives to clear mined land. Please let's renew the engagement for a world without mines."

#TogetherAgainstMines reaches 25 million people

- #TogetherAgainstMines posted from social media accounts in over 40 countries
- Ministers, delegates and opinion leaders, mine action organisations and the general public alike engaged in the campaign
- 1 Tweet every minute was posted somewhere in the world with the #TogetherAgainstMines on April 4
- Messages and photos with the hashtag were delivered to nearly 23 million Twitter timelines
- The hashtag was delivered to 24.7 million social media timelines on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram





RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

PERFORMANCE REPORT

The GICHD Foundation shall promote international co-operation in the field of mine action by training practitioners, by developing methods and by providing the required information to the different actors. In this context, the Centre shall, in particular, undertake the following activities:

- Establish and maintain a group of internationally recognised experts in charge of analysing the field experience made in different contexts to identify current problems, and to propose solutions in 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.

The GICHD is subject to the laws of Switzerland. It is directly supervised by the section of the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs "Surveillance fédérale des fondations – Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations". All powers of the Foundation are exercised by or under the authority of the Council of Foundation and of the GICHD Director.



The Council of Foundation is the governing body of the GICHD. It defines the general orientation of the Centre, supervises its activities and decides on how to allocate its resources. Under the chairmanship of Dr Barbara Haering, President, there are 25 members including the President and the Honorary President. The Bureau of the Council of Foundation manages the current affairs of the Foundation unless such affairs have been delegated to the Director. The Bureau is composed of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and three Delegates of the Council of Foundation.

The Advisory Board provides advice to 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. The Advisory Board is chaired by the Director of the GICHD.

The Director is responsible for the operational, financial and administrative management of the Centre under the strategic guidance of the Council of Foundation. The Director is appointed by the Council of Foundation and has the right to commit the Foundation.

The external auditor performs an audit of the financial statements of the organisation and ensures compliance with Swiss legal requirements. Deloitte SA was appointed as the external auditor for the fiscal year 2015.

The GICHD annual financial statements are subject to a full voluntary ordinary statutory audit as per a decision of the GICHD Council of Foundation. The audit is carried out in accordance with Swiss Auditing Standards.

The objectives of an ordinary audit are to perform audit procedures to obtain a reasonable assurance on the financial statements which are subject to audit and to confirm the existence of a system of internal control (designed, documented and implemented by 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 (ISA). These are issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

The Council of Foundation is the governing body of the GICHD. It defines the general orientation of the Centre, supervises its activities and decides on how to allocate its resources. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Barbara Haering, it comprises 25 members. The term of office of a member is four years, renewable.

Members of the Council of Foundation

(as of 31 December 2015)

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

Cambodia

H.E. Prak Sokhon Minister of Posts and Telecommunications and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority

Canada

Ambassador Rosemary McCarney Permanent Representative of Canada in Geneva

Colombia

Ambassador Beatrix Londoño Soto Permanent Representative of Colombia in Geneva

European Union Mr Andras Kos

Head of Section, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Security, Permanent Mission of the European Union in Geneva

Finland

Ambassador Päivi Kairamo Permanent Representative of Finland in Geneva

France

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

Germany

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

Italy

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

Japan

Ambassador Takashi Okada Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan in Geneva

Lebanon

Ambassador Najla Riachi Assaker Permanent Representative of Lebanon in Geneva

Mozambique

Ambassador Pedro Comissario Afonso Permanent Representative of Mozambique in Geneva

Netherlands

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

Senegal

Ambassador Bassirou Sene Permanent Representative of Senegal in Geneva

Sweden

Ambassador Veronika Bard Permanent Representative of Sweden in Geneva

Switzerland

Ambassador Urs Schmid Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference

on Disarmament, Treasurer of

the Council of Foundation

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

Tajikistan

Ambassador Jamshed Khamidov

Permanent Representative of Tajikistan in Geneva

UNMAS

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

United States of America

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

Vietnam

Ambassador Trung Thanh Nguyen Permanent Representative

of Vietnam in Geneva

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board provides advice to both the Council of Foundation and the management of the GICHD. It is 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 term of individual membership is four years.

Members of the Advisory Board

(as of 31 December 2015)

Mr Havard Bach, Senior Adviser, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

Ambassador Damjan Bergant, Director, ITF Enhancing Human Security, Slovenia

Mr Kerry Brinkert, Director, Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

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

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

Ms Elisabeth Decrey Warner, President, Geneva Call

Mr Gilles Delecourt, Director Mines Department, Handicap International Federation

Mr Bruno Donat, Chief of Geneva Office, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) **Mr Mark Downes**, Head of International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF)

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

Mr Hansjoerg Eberle, Director General, Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

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

Ms Tammy Hall, Head of Danish Demining Group (DDG), Danish Refugee Council

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

Mr Rashid Khalikov, Director of Geneva Office, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) **Professor Keith Krause**, Programme Director, Small Arms Survey

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

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

Mr Nick Roseveare, Chief Executive, Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Mr Rashid Mohammed Sediq, Chief Operations Manager, Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

Ms Sara Sekkenes, Conflict Prevention and Recovery Adviser -Partnerships, UNDP

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



CONTRIBUTIONS

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Governments

- Australia
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Italy
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States of America



Organisations

- ▼ Ароро
- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC)
- Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
- Executive Secretariat for Demining and Development of the Northwest Coast in Egypt
- Foundation World Without Mines
- Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- ▼ Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- ▼ Humanitarian Demining Training Center
- Islamic Republic of the Iran Mine Action Center (IRMAC)
- ▼ Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC)
- ▼ Small Arms Survey (SAS)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES STATEMENT

| | All amounts in CHF | 2015 |
|------------------|--|------------|
| Operations | Production of publications (publishing, editing, printing, layout) | 127'710 |
| | Travel GICHD staff | 488'285 |
| | Assistance (consultants) | 2'591'688 |
| | Travel by third persons | 447'506 |
| Staff | Staff costs | 6'153'416 |
| General Services | Maintenance | 15'031 |
| | Acquisition | 172'655 |
| | Communications | 84'831 |
| | Office supplies | 48'291 |
| Miscellaneous | Various expenses (rent of offices and service apartments, provisions, bank charges and insurance premiums) | 718'600 |
| | In kind (ESRI Licences, ICT investment & running costs) | 619'600 |
| | TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES | 11'467'613 |
| | Foreign currency exchange loss (gain), net | 106'228 |
| | Extraordinary | 3'660 |
| | TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 11'577'501 |
| | Contributions received | 11'817'304 |
| Contributions | Activities / contributions deferred to 2016 | - 879'931 |
| | Activities / contributions deferred from 2014 | 1'154'380 |
| | TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR | 12'091'752 |
| | Miscellaneous income (including WMO in-kind office rent) | 41'282 |
| Other Income | In Kind (ESRI Licences, FDFA Evaluation, ICT Investment & running costs) | 619'600 |
| | Restatement of carry-over GICHD | - |
| | TOTAL REVENUES | 12'752'634 |
| | Allocation to reserve IMSMA | 250'000 |
| | SURPLUS | 925'132 |

Photo captions: Cover: Mine detection dog, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Page 2: Ammunition identification and disposal course, Afghanistan. Page 11: Military Experts on Mission trained by the GICHD and the Ecuadorian Peacekeeping Operation Centre, Ecuador.

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