



Information Management System for Mine Action

- New IMSMA[®] version 4 -

Introduction

IMSMA[®] is designed to provide demining operators in the field and other key-players in Mine Action with improved capability in decision-making and information policy related to Mine Action. It is developed on behalf of the main actors in humanitarian demining: NGOs, governments and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

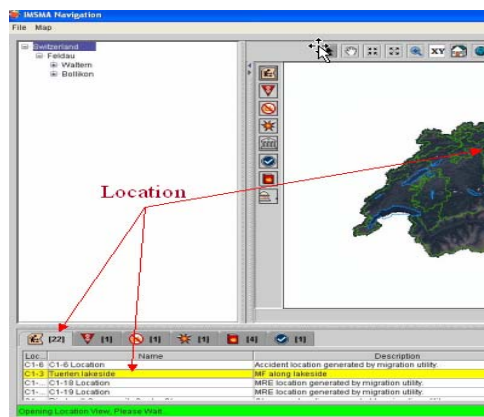
The following list of benefits illustrates possible achievements of the IMSMA[®] system:

- Start-up cost reduction due to an already developed Mine Action Centre (MAC) database with powerful Geographic Information System (GIS) functionality;
- Improves project overview;
- Improved opportunities for personnel allocation;
- Better information flow allowing users (and donors) to perform comparative analysis of programs;
- Improved information on progress of activity.

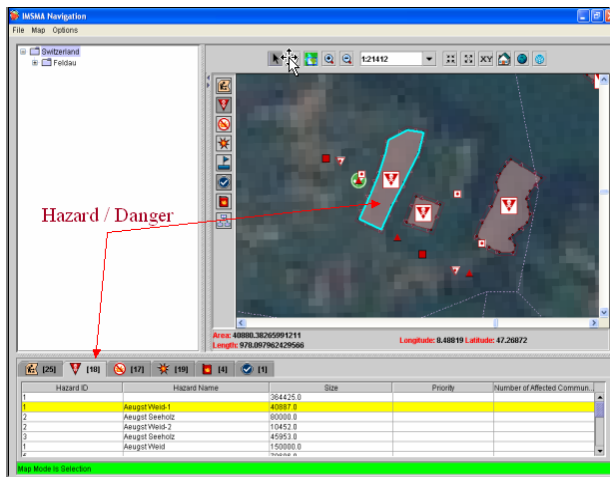
The IMSMA[®] system was used as a reference system for the new International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and it is the only system in operation to date that covers these standards. IMSMA[®] is today the designated quasi-UN standard for Information Management in Mine Action Centres worldwide. It is currently in use in 43 MACs and programmes.

In 2005, after 6 years in operation, it was time to review the IMSMA® system. GICHD tasked a group of developers to combine the successful elements of IMSMA® version 3 SP1 with new features such as better network capabilities in more complex operational settings, facilitation of multi-user access and easier merging of different data sources. Version 4.x will also be significantly easier to use than previous versions, making IMSMA® more accessible to decision makers and reducing dependence on IT staff. Complicated data synchronisation within the network will become obsolete with the new Java-based IMSMA® version 4.x system. The new version will come with an integrated GIS application (ArcEngine 9.1/9.2 by ESRI), which runs on various operating systems and will be designed to function ‘quasi-independently’ from Microsoft software and other external programs.

IMSMA® 4.x will integrate the full data set of version 3 SP1 and will easily allow local customisations. There are no more pre-set forms, templates or reports and there is no ‘chain of action’ or status concept anymore. The system will mainly layer all kinds of information related to Mine Action and display them in the GIS part - as long as the ‘information event’ is geo-referenced - and it will enable easy manual customization of forms for field work and/or reports to Headquarters or donors, etc.



IMSMA® version 4.x runs as a stand-alone system, containing on one (two) CD(s) all elements necessary to successfully install and use IMSMA® on any computer, provided it runs on a Windows 2000/ Windows XP or an Apple (soon available) operating system. No additional costly programs will be needed and the impact of software life cycles will be reduced.



The basic version of IMSMA® v. 4.x will be delivered by the GICHD in six languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic. It will include a translation tool, enabling users to locally translate the system into most languages.

Additional functions are designed to link IMSMA® with the hand-held survey kit EOD IS (a product of GICHD developed in cooperation with SWEDEC) and a variety of existing ammunition databases. The use of the maXML data format also facilitates better interfacing with many other database systems used in the demining world and development industry.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining will

continue to provide IMSMA® free of charge to the international Mine Action community, the cost for development, training and support being covered by the Swiss government.

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For updates on IMSMA, please refer to the IMSMA news section <http://www.gichd.ch/999.0.html> on the GICHD website or contact the IMSMA Integration Officer Thomas Bollinger: t.bollinger@gichd.ch

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