



Annual Report

on the Work of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

2000

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Introduction

The year 2000 was a year of profound transformation for the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. In May the implementation of the new Strategy started, which is just now beginning to produce results⁽¹⁾. Research and the support of the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty continued to be important activities. Operational support and assistance, in particular, was developed fast. And internally the Centre was significantly reorganised.

Humanitarian Demining continues to be a relatively new area of activity. Efficient and safe methodology still needs to be developed in many areas. Therefore, a comparatively small investment in **application-oriented research** can produce significant gains, which justifies research work. In 2000 the major project studies have come on well and are now beginning to release output and operational follow-on. The studies are supported by user focus groups populated with practitioners from the field, to assure their application-oriented nature. A significant number of international organisations and nations are sponsors or are funding this research work.

The most significant area of growth in 2000 **was operational support and assistance**. The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) was further refined and introduced in eight additional countries. Long term sustainability of the system, training opportunities and strong response to user needs are becoming increasingly important. The work on the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on behalf of the UN allowed us to use the broad experience available in the Centre and to create synergies with research work and other ongoing projects.

The Centre continued to provide experts for short time **deployments** and to carry out **consultancy** work. While participation in UN assessment missions and other UN deployments has diminished somewhat the mandates given by governments, NGOs and other institutions are increasingly important. Conceptual thinking on how make best available the expertise in the GICHD for on-going mine action activities has started and will produce results in 2001. Retaining rapid reaction capability remained an important objective despite increased activities and strategic reorientation.

On the basis of the Maputo and Geneva Declarations the GICHD continued to support the **intersessional work programme under the Mine Ban Treaty**. The GICHD provided the infrastructure for the meetings and made substantive contributions to the proceedings. The work under Amended Protocol II of the CCW was followed.

In 2000 **relations to other institutions** active in humanitarian demining were reviewed and reinforced. The Centre is now well integrated in the international network of mine action, with close relations to the UN (UNMAS, UNDP, UNICEF), to the Mine Ban Treaty, donor governments, governments in mine affected countries, demining organisations working in mine affected countries, including NGOs. As in previous years GICHD organised on behalf of the UN the annual Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors.

In 2000 capability gaps were filled. Today the specialists at the Centre cover the whole range of humanitarian demining, which is a precondition to provide more comprehensive support and to assure optimal input to the operational tools under development. By the end of 2000 some twenty permanent staff members worked at the GICHD. However a significant amount of work is carried out by contracted personnel or institutions.

The structures and procedures of the Centre were reorganised in 2000 to cope better with the tasks given under the Strategy 2000 – 2002. As the environment and the tasks of the GICHD will continue to change, further refinements will undoubtedly become necessary.

The Centre's budget totalled a sum of CHF 5.4 million, of which Switzerland covered some CHF 3.7 million. Some projects involved funding not channelled through the GICHD budget.

Geneva, 25 April 2001

Ambassador Martin Dahinden
Director

Activities of the Centre

General Overview

1. By approving the new strategy on 26 May, the Council of Foundation underlined the fact that the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining had concluded its initial setting-up period and was about to enter the next phase in its development. With this new strategy, the Council directed the Centre to focus its activities in the field of mine action strategies and procedures, on operational assistance and support and on providing services within the framework of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT).
2. The reporting period was also marked by the resignation of the President of the Council of Foundation, former Federal Councillor René Felber, and of Ambassador François Godet, the Centre's Director. In its May meeting, the Council expressed its gratitude for their work. In a unanimous decision, the Council elected Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as its new President and appointed Ambassador Martin Dahinden the new Director of the Centre.

Activities in Mine Action Strategies and Procedures

3. The main activity of the Centre in the field of mine action strategies and procedures consists of the formulation of detailed studies, which aim to provide guidance and support to mine action programmes in the field. These projects are carried out on demand and are funded to a considerable extent by different donors.

Completed Projects and Studies in Final Review

4. The **Socio-economic Study** analyses socio-economic factors in mine action and provides a framework for measuring socio-economic impact and value, to help Programme Managers on the assessment of those criteria for setting of priorities and for the efficient allocation of resources. The study is undertaken on behalf of UNMAS and UNDP and is funded through the latter. The results were presented to UNDP at the end of November 2000.
5. The **Equipment Procurement Guidelines Study** realised on behalf of UNMAS and financed by the UK aimed to set up a proper management procedure for the purchase of mine action equipment, in order to assist field managers and donors. This study was completed in late 2000, and the resulting standards were drawn into the International Standards Study mentioned in para. 7 below.
6. The **Balkans Project**, a study carried out for the European Commission, focused on mine action capabilities in the Balkans, in support of the South Eastern Europe Stability Pact. The paper analysed shortfalls in capability in the three main Mine Action Programmes in this region, and identified prioritised user needs in that area. The study was submitted in May 2000.

On-going Projects

7. The **Revision of International Standards Study** will review and update the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) of the UN originally drafted in 1997. This project is carried out on behalf of UNMAS and funded by the UK. A revised draft, reflecting discussion among stakeholders, is now available at the project website (www.mineclearancestandards.org). This project benefits from synergies created by other GICHD study projects as well as from the operational assistance activities of the Centre.

8. The **Mine Detection Dog Study** will lead to the framing of UN standards for the accreditation, training, evaluation and use of mine detection dogs. It will also lead to improved global mine dog detection due to increased knowledge about critical aspects related to the use of these animals. User Advisory Group meetings were held in March and October 2000, and field visits were made to relevant programmes in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Mozambique. Interim standards were forwarded to the User Advisory Group in December 2000 and the final version is scheduled for summer 2002. The study is carried out on behalf of UNMAS and currently funded by Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, UK, USA, UNOCHA and UNTF.

Examples of studies prepared by the Centre in 2000:

- The **Revision of International Standards Project (IMAS)** provides practitioners and donors with an updated and revised framework of technical and procedural prescriptions for safe and effective mine action.
- The **Mine Detection Dog Study** analyses existing problems related to mine detection dogs (e.g. training and evaluation) to allow a safe and efficient use of the very promising potential of these animals.
- The **Socio-economic Study** provides a framework for measuring socio-economic impact and value, to help Programme Managers to set priorities and to allocate resources most efficiently.

9. The **Operational Needs Study**, carried out on behalf of UNMAS and financed by the UK, identifies a priority list of global operational needs that could benefit from improved equipment, processes and procedures. The ultimate aim will be to encourage the design, development and manufacture of safer, better and more cost-effective equipment for humanitarian demining. A first draft was completed in December 2000. Additional funding allowed a follow-on in order to further refine and interpret output from the humanitarian demining model developed as part of the initial study. The results will be available by the end of May 2001 and will be integrated into the overall study.
10. The **Mine Awareness Media Study** focuses on media for mine awareness, and evaluates field-based media/communication tools and strategies for mine awareness education, with a view to confirming and increasing their relevance. The study is financed by the US and shall be finalised by mid 2001.

New Studies

11. The **Project on the Destruction of PFM-1 Mines** shall establish how best to destroy stockpiles of such mines, since their liquid explosive filling is toxic and corrosive. The terms of reference for this project have been agreed by UNMAS, and financial resources are provided by the UK. The project is scheduled to be completed in December 2001.
12. The **Victim Assistance Study**, through operationally-focused field-level research, will examine the role mine action practitioners play in providing assistance to mine and UXO victims. Further, it will present recommendations to the mine action community vis-à-vis its role in victim assistance activities.

13. The **Training Needs Analysis Study**, funded by the UK, aims to analyse the pre-deployment training needs of international experts filling the posts of Programme Managers, Technical Advisers or similar key positions in field programmes. A survey questionnaire has already been developed by the Centre, to start the needs assessment process. The first phase of this project should be concluded by spring 2001.
14. Advanced planning activities were undertaken with regard to a donor guidelines study, to a project aiming to examine the practicability of using military organisations, both international and local, for all forms of humanitarian mine action, and for two projects in the field of mechanical equipment.

Examples of studies prepared by the Centre in 2000:

- The **Training Needs Analysis Study** analyses predeployment training needs of international experts filling the posts of Programme Managers, Technical Advisers or similar key positions in field programmes. The results will lead to the creation of a special training package.
- The **Project on the destruction of PFM-1 mines** shall establish ways to destroy stockpiles of PFM-1 mines filled with toxic and corrosive liquid explosives.

15. Finally, the Centre is currently preparing the terms of reference for a remote sensing study, which aims to examine the needs for remote sensing in mine action, for mapping and mined area location, and related costs.

Operational Support and Assistance

16. The second core mission of the GICHD consists in providing specific operational support and assistance to on-going mine action programmes, mainly run by the United Nations. In 2000, the Centre was active in the field of mine information management, it participated in special UN missions and provided consultancy and advice to various organisations and Governments.

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

17. During the second half of the year 2000, the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) project was subject to **review**. In close co-operation with UNMAS, the Centre decided to give priority to the fast installation of the IMSMA "Field Module" in additional mine action programmes, including the provision of on-site training to users and system administrators. At the same time, programmes already working with IMSMA shall benefit from newly developed maintenance and support packages made available by ETH Zurich, the system developer.
18. After **installation** in Kosovo, Azerbaijan and Yemen in 1999, the IMSMA "Field Module" was provided successfully in 2000 to Chad (January), to Estonia (May), to Somaliland (June), to UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon (August), to Thailand (August), to UNMEE in Eritrea (September), to Nicaragua (September) and to a regional Mine Action Programme in Cambodia supported by the German Government (November).
19. In parallel, the Centre – together with ETH Zurich – continued to organise **special training** events, such as
 - a. Centralised Training Courses, taking place in February and October, which were attended by a total of 26 participants from more than ten different countries, selected by their relevant national agencies;
 - b. the first IMSMA Training Course within NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) framework. This course has been created based on experience from Kosovo, where the NATO led International Security Force (KFOR) uses the same IMSMA environment as the United Nations Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (MACC). The PfP course was offered by the Swiss Government and provided training to eleven participants from eight different countries;
 - c. special training events for database experts at the premises of ETH Zurich; and
 - d. other training activities, e.g. a special training course for the US Army Engineer School or a follow-up training for the MACC in Kosovo.

One of the key challenges in mine action is the provision of information (e.g. location of mined areas, types of mines used, location of incidents). The Centre - in close co-operation with UNMAS - develops and disseminates the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). IMSMA consists of

- the "Field Module", which provides a ready-to-use tool for Mine Action Centres at national and regional level, to cover their data collection and information management needs and
- the "Global Module", which refines and collates data from the field and provides the UN with improved capabilities for decision-making related to mine action. This part of IMSMA is currently under development.

20. The costs of most activities related to the development of IMSMA, to the installation of the system and to the provision of the necessary training are covered by the Swiss Government.

Assessment Missions and Deployments Abroad

21. After missions to Zimbabwe and Namibia in 1999, staff members of the Centre participated in 2000 in **UN Assessment Missions** in Egypt (February), Zambia (May/June) and Belarus (July/August). Such participation was carried out at the request of UNMAS. These missions are of considerable importance, as they aim to define the scope and nature of the landmine and UXO problem in the affected countries, and to identify constraints and opportunities relating to the development of mine action initiatives. Once completed, recommendations are put forward for a comprehensive response to the national mine problem, including institutional arrangements for the co-ordination and implementation of mine action activities.
22. Following the request of UNOPS, the Centre provided one expert for the setting-up of a mine action project within the **newly established UN mission** in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) between August and November 2000. After a similar deployment to Kosovo (UNMIK) in summer 1999, this was the second time that the Centre had provided this kind of service, enabling UN to accelerate the creation of the relevant structures in a very crucial phase.
23. In addition,
 - a. one staff member of the Centre was deployed as Technical Advisor to a mechanical demining project in Cambodia between March and May;
 - b. another staff member carried out a PMN Destruction Assessment Mission to Ukraine on behalf of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in December 2000.

Consultancy

24. Staff members of the Centre provided advice
 - a. on the evaluation of specific mine action projects in the field to the Governments of Germany and Switzerland;
 - b. on different aspects of the use of mine detection dogs to HALO Trust (Somaliland), to the Marshal Legacy Foundation (Bosnia and Herzegovina), to Norwegian People's Aid (Mozambique), to UNOCHA (Afghanistan) and to the Swiss General Staff;
 - c. on bomb damage assessment reports to the MACC in Kosovo;
 - d. on the military utility of landmines and on the interaction between weapons and injuries to the ICRC;
 - e. on remote sensing for mine action to the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission;
 - f. on the formulation of the International Test and Evaluation Programme (ITEP);
 - g. on various technical issues to the Canadian Government, the German Government, the Swiss Government, and SWEDEC;
 - h. on the contents and layout of the Canadian funded UN APM Stockpile Destruction website (www.stockpiles.org); and
 - i. on the development and provision of an Open Burning/Open Detonation Training Pack for the forthcoming Canadian technical support to Chad.
25. In addition, the Centre provided mine awareness training for Swiss troops serving with Peace Support Operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo.

International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors

26. The third International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors was held between 20 - 22 March and was attended by representatives of over twenty mine-affected countries, of UN agencies, NGOs and observers. The increasing number of participants as well as of programmes represented demonstrates the importance of such a forum in the framework of mine action. The keynote address was given by Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan. Besides the focus on information exchange and interchange, the *leitmotiv* of this year's conference was "integration" in relation to the planning, manner and conduct of the various mine action activities in their various forms. This topic was approached from an interactive standpoint: Panel discussions, presentations and working groups were held on issues such as updates from the field, resource mobilisation, international standards, information management, mine awareness, co-ordination of mine action efforts, transition process, relations between Mine Action Programmes and national authorities.

Mine Ban Treaty (MBT)

Second Meeting of States Parties

27. The Centre participated in the Second Meeting of the States Parties to the MBT, taking place in Geneva between 11 - 15 September. This was the first time that the Centre was represented at such a meeting with a delegation.

Declarations on behalf of the Centre were made by the President of the Council of Foundation as well as by the Director.

28. In the margins of the meeting, the Centre – together with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) – organised an academic event providing an overview on current research projects in the field of mine action. A presentation on IMSMA and its capabilities was also arranged.
29. The Centre also administered a sponsorship programme on behalf of a Group of Donors, which allowed 23 delegates from 14 different countries to participate at the Second Meeting of the States Parties. Finally, the Centre edited the documents of the meeting on its website (www.gichd.ch)

Intersessional Work

30. During the intersessional work leading to the Second Meeting of States Parties, the Standing Committees of Experts (SCE) meetings brought together representatives of States Parties, non-States Parties, of international organisations, the ICRC, NGOs and various experts who addressed key MBT issues in order to ensure its effective implementation. Each SCE has created a widespread interest in its area of expertise, gathering between 100 and 150 participants.
31. The Centre supported the intersessional work in two ways: first by making available the necessary organisation and venue for all SCE meetings; and second, by providing substantive input to the SCEs in the areas of mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and technology.
32. During the year 2000, the Centre organised SCE meetings in January (SCE on the general status and operation of the Convention), in March (SCE on mine clearance and on victims assistance, socio-economic re-integration and mine awareness) and in May (SCE on stockpile destruction, on technologies for mine action and on the general status and operation of the Convention).
33. As requested by the Second Meeting of the States Parties, the Centre continues to support the intersessional work in close co-operation with the current Presidency and the Co-chairs of the Standing Committees. The first round of Standing Committee meetings took place in Geneva between 4 - 8 December 2000. In addition, the Centre underlined its preparedness to assist the MBT process towards the Third Meeting of States Parties, which is scheduled to be held in Managua between 18 - 21 September 2001.
34. During the reporting period, the Centre undertook first steps towards the creation of a documentation service for the MBT process and for improving the on-line services on the Centre's webpage. In this context, a first project linked to the December session of Standing Committees was realised.
35. Finally, the Centre also administered a sponsorship programme on behalf of a Group of Donors, allowing 27 delegates from 17 different countries and from one regional organisation to participate at the work of the Standing Committees.

Other International Treaties

36. Responding to a request by the Presidency of the Second Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and based on guidelines received by the Council of Foundation, the Centre analysed possible fields of support and assistance to the process leading to the Review Conference. As a result, the Centre indicated its preparedness – upon request and in an appropriate environment – to provide information on its actual work, on selected studies and their results as well as on other activities in relation to humanitarian demining.
37. The Centre participated in the Second Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II, which was held between 11 - 13 December 2000. A declaration on behalf of the Centre was made by the Director during the plenary debate, and the Centre was represented in the Group of Experts.

External Contacts

38. During the whole reporting period, the Centre had continuous contacts with Governments, international organisations and other key players active within the international framework of mine action. In addition, staff members of the Centre attended a number of scientific events, presenting papers and/or participating in forums and discussions.

Governance and Organisation

Council of Foundation

39. The Council of Foundation held its first meeting of the year 2000 on 26 May. After the election and appointments already mentioned earlier, the Council, inter alia, took note of the annual report and the auditing report, approved the accounts for 1999 as well as the budget for 2000 and adopted the "règlement interne" governing staff issues of the Centre.
40. In its second meeting on 19 December, the Council, inter alia, took note of the Centre's interim activities report. In addition, the Council approved the budget for the year 2001, which foresees a balanced settlement with expenditures of some 7.5 million CHF.

Advisory Board

41. The Advisory Board met for the first time in the year 2000 on 23 March and discussed the on-going projects of the Centre. A presentation was also given on the SCEs, and the Board was briefed on the project to adjust the strategy of the Centre.
42. The second meeting of the Advisory Board took place on 8 September, during which different aspects of the future development of mine action and humanitarian demining were discussed. In addition, the participants provided their advice on possible areas for future exploitation of the Centre and were informed on the current status of the IMSMA project.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the **Council of Foundation** unites 23 members representing Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

The **Advisory Board** consists of 13 eminent persons active at various levels of the international mine action community. The Board is chaired by the Centre's Director and meets twice a year to share different views and experiences of different actors with the GICHD.

Internal Organisation

43. The growing number of activities forced the Centre to increase its staff. As a result, seven new positions were created during the reporting period. Two technical experts seconded by the Governments of Sweden and the UK joined the GICHD. Five new permanent staff members were recruited by the Centre to fill the positions of the Support Director, of the IMSMA Project Manager, of the Documentation and Archive Assistant (60 % position), of the Accounting Assistant as well as of the Web Editor (both 50 % positions).
44. In parallel, the Centre continued to assess its internal structures and decided not to refill two positions that had become vacant during the year. In the end, 22 persons worked for the Centre on 31 December, filling 20.6 full-time positions.
45. In total, ten nationalities were represented at the Centre (including staff members having more than one citizenship): Switzerland (10 persons), UK (5), France (2), USA (2), Canada, Colombia, Germany, Norway, Portugal and Sweden.
46. The continuous expansion encouraged the Centre to adapt and adjust its internal organisation and structure. The GICHD splits now into three main departments:
 - a. The **Technical Department** is the largest unit within the Centre and consists of ten permanent staff members. These experts are well experienced in the different fields of humanitarian demining and mine action. They are reinforced by a varying number of specialists contracted on a project-by-project basis.
 - b. The **IMSMA Department** unites two permanent staff members at the Centre's headquarters in Geneva. A group of up to ten specialists working with the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology (ETH) in Zurich, carry out most of the development, the training and the distribution tasks linked with IMSMA.
 - c. The **Service and Administration Department** provides a huge variety of services, including – inter alia – conference management, documentation and archive services for internal and external users (e.g. MBT), internal administration, public information, etc. This department is the smallest unit within the GICHD, uniting 5.6 permanent positions.
47. In addition, the Centre continued to develop an internal budgeting and accounting system tailored to its specific needs. This new system is to be implemented by spring 2001.

Financial Overview

Contributions

48. The Centre received in 2000 direct financial contributions to a total of some CHF 5.47 million, of which
 - a. Switzerland provided some CHF 3.72 million;
 - b. other members of the Council of Foundation provided a total of some CHF 1.57 million; and
 - c. various contributors (non-members of the Council of Foundation) provided some CHF 0.18 million.
49. Not included in the above mentioned sums are contributions in-kind, such as the secondment of staff members to the Centre or support provided directly to projects.

Expenditures

50. The Centre's expenditures may be summarised as follows (rounded figures):

- a. costs directly linked to core activities: CHF 3.20 million;
- b. salaries and social contributions: CHF 1.60 million;
- c. costs for administration and external services: CHF 0.38 million;
- d. costs for governance: CHF 0.10 million;
- e. sponsorship programme: CHF 0.18 million.

Settlement

51. Despite an environment marked by a high volatility of the Swiss Franc against all major currencies used by the Centre (U.S. Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling), a balance of some CHF 15'000 remains.

* * *

Footnote

1. Strategy Paper 2000-2002