



FBD/REP/F

Annual Report

on the
Work of the
Geneva International
Centre for Humanitarian
Demining

2002

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Introduction

The year 2002 was of particular importance for the Centre, as it concluded the period of the first three-year-Strategy (2000-2002). It is therefore appropriate to address briefly the whole period, before highlighting specific developments in 2002.

Strategy 2000 - 2002

The Strategy 2000-2002 proved to be a strong guideline for the Centre. The three-pillar-approach, with its elements (1) Mine Action Strategies and Procedures, (2) Operational Support and Assistance, and (3) Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention/Amended Protocol II of the CCW, defined the mission of the Centre and served as the basis for operational decisions. While in many areas more specific policies were developed, no major changes to the Strategy itself were necessary.

During this period significant output in all areas of activities of the Centre were achieved, i.a. the publication of study reports, the elaboration of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) under a mandate from the United Nations, and the development of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) from a pilot project to a widely used international platform. Training started in many areas as a result of research. Specialists were frequently made available to field programmes and other stakeholders. Evaluations were carried out.

In the beginning, the Centre's role under the Convention banning anti-personnel mines was limited to administrative support. However, after the Managua Meeting of States Parties in 2001 the role changed fundamentally, with the mandate being given to establish an Implementation Support Unit (ISU). In addition, the rather unclear role of the Centre within the framework of the Amended Protocol II under the CCW in 2000 was clarified, and the Centre was able to contribute substantially in certain technical areas.

The interaction of the Centre with other institutions developed significantly. The role of the GICHD as an international player has become recognized; the tensions of the early days, particularly with UNMAS and NGOs, faded away and orderly working relations could be established. In some cases formal arrangements were concluded (OAS, UNDP), but the signing of agreements with institutions was not considered as a priority by the Centre.

Significant changes in the governance and organization of the Centre took place as well. As of early 2001, the GICHD developed new structure, and the internal procedures were streamlined accordingly. Both had the objective to enable the Centre to better cope with the goals defined in the Strategy. The unwritten corporate identity of the GICHD was to be a businesslike institution working for the benefit of people affected by landmines and UXOs. The staff almost doubled during the past three years as a result of the rapidly growing workload. During the same period the Centre's budget increased significantly as well.

In 2001, an internal planning and review process started to develop the Centre's new strategy for the period 2003 – 2005. During this process, the Council of Foundation expressed satisfaction with the development of the Centre, and the

Council agreed that no fundamental change was needed. Three incremental modifications of the strategy, however, were made: increased emphasis on operational output, a stronger focus on local capacity building, and an integration of the mandate received by the States Parties of the Convention banning anti-personnel mines, as well as of the role under the CCW. The new Strategy 2003 – 2005 was developed and approved by the Council in late 2002.

Year 2002

In 2002 there were a series of developments that merit particular attention:

More studies and research projects were concluded than in any other year before. This is reflected in the many publications now made available to the mine action community. Most of the research topics led to follow-up in the form of application oriented deliverables, like handbooks, standards, software applications or training. There are still a significant number of on-going projects, or work that is about to start.

IMSMA runs in some 28 countries/regions and covers 80 % of the mine action programmes world-wide. Support, maintenance and training are becoming increasingly important while the development of the software continues. IMSMA training activities have been transferred from Zurich to Geneva, and the planning for entirely new software has started (IMSMA.ng/new generation). The co-operation with the UN on information management is close and good. IMSMA is likely to remain the most important single project of the Centre for a long time to come.

By the end of 2002, 27 International Mine Action Standards elaborated by the GICHD have been endorsed by the relevant UN committee. Another five are currently nearing completion. An outreach programme provides information on the standards and their use to field practitioners. The standards have become a widely used tool. There is a significant interest in a “second generation” outreach programme focused on the adaptation of IMAS to specific regional or national situations.

This report also details an important number of consultancy services, assessments and evaluations. In 2002 the first Mechanical Equipment Catalogue was released.

The Implementation Support Unit for the Convention banning anti-personnel mines became operational in early 2002. The ISU has significantly changed and improved the support available to the States Parties. A Report by the Director to the Fourth Meeting of States Parties accounts in detail on its work. The usual support of the GICHD for the preparation of Intersessionals, other meetings, as well as for the sponsorship programme, has continued.

The role of the Centre regarding CCW has changed in the reporting period. The Centre contributed with presentations and working papers to the on-going work on explosive remnants of war, and mines other than anti-personnel mines. The role of the GICHD is not political, but rather to facilitate the work of the delegations by providing objective technical information.

Last year’s statement that the staff of the Centre is still modest and has grown less than the tasks or the budget, remains valid for 2002. Likewise co-operation

with other institutions remains crucial. A significant change in organisation was the establishment of a Regional Support Centre for the Americas in Managua. This Centre was a pilot project. An evaluation after six months of operation was positive, therefore the opening of additional Regional Support Centres are planned for 2003.

While it is sometimes difficult to find funding for specific tasks or projects, the financial basis of the Centre is solid. The accounts could be closed with a positive end-of-year-balance of CHF 5,398, and with a significant carry-over for projects still going on.

The Centre is well prepared to cope with the challenges defined under the new strategy. The excellent work and commitment of the staff will ensure that the goals can be successfully achieved.

Geneva, 28 March 2003

Ambassador Martin Dahinden
Director

General Overview

1. The year 2002 was marked by the setting-up of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and by the creation of the first Regional Support Centre (RSC) in Managua, Nicaragua. In addition, the GICHD consolidated its operational support and research activities, continued its efforts in disseminating the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), and carried evaluation and assessment missions. Furthermore, the Centre facilitated two sessions of the Standing Committees of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and hosted the fifth annual meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors organised by UNMAS.

Activities in Mine Action Strategies and Procedures

2. The GICHD continued its research work aimed at providing guidance and support to mine action programmes in the field. Such research studies are carried out on demand and are funded by donors on a project by project basis.

Completed Projects and Studies in Final Review

3. The **Socio-economic “Operational Handbook”** has been developed out of the socio-economic study completed in 2001. It is designed to simplify the analysis of socio-economic factors for field-based programme managers and other practitioners in mine action programmes.

The project was commissioned by UNDP. In addition, UNDP has requested GICHD assistance in formulating a relevant outreach programme.

4. The study **“Communication in Mine Awareness Programmes”** and the handbook **“Improving Communication in Mine Awareness Programmes”** provide practitioners with informal, practical advice on how they can improve communication in mine awareness/ mine risk education (MRE) programmes. This project was commissioned by the US Department of State.

5. The study **“Mine Action Equipment: Study of Global Operational Needs”** reviews equipment needs of mine action agencies and identifies a priority list of global operational needs that could benefit from improved equipment, processes and procedures. The study was requested by UNMAS and was funded by the UK.

6. The study **“Explosive Remnants of War – A Threat Analysis”** assesses explosive threats in post-conflict environments in order to develop a methodology that can identify objectively the risk to the community from generic ammunition groups. This study was prepared for the

New publications available:

- Socio-Economic Approaches to Mine Action: Operational Handbook (ISBN 92-1-126146-5)
- Communication in Mine Awareness Programmes (ISBN 2-88486-001-6)
- Improving Communication in Mine Awareness Programmes (handbook) (ISBN 2-88487-002-4)
- Mine Action Equipment: Study of Global Operational Needs (ISBN 2-88487-004-0)
- Explosive Remnants of War – A Threat Analysis (ISBN 2-88487-003-2)
- Explosive Remnants of War – Undesired Explosions in Ammunition Stockpiles (ISBN 2-88487-006-7)

Governmental Group of Experts meeting under CCW in conjunction with the ICRC, and was funded by the UK.

7. The Study “**Explosive Remnants of War – Undesired Explosions in Ammunition Stockpiles**” helps to assess the risks from ammunition stockpiles and storage facilities, and provide background information to assist States Parties in deciding whether ammunition stockpiles and storage is a legitimate concern for the Group of Governmental Experts meeting under CCW to include within discussions on explosive remnants of war. The study was presented to the CCW and distributed in December 2002. Funding was provided by the UK.

8. The **Benefits of Military-to-Military Co-operation in Mine Action Study**, commissioned by the US Department of State, aims to assess the long-term benefit of US military-to-military training. The project report has been finalised and submitted to the US Department of State.

On-going Projects

9. The **Mechanical Equipment Study** aims to establish the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of mechanical demining equipment. A series of case studies and missions have been conducted in mine-affected countries. Draft reports from this multi-faceted project have been completed and the results were presented to the relevant User Focus Group in December. A computerised cost-efficiency and comparison model has been produced and distributed to a limited group of experts for evaluation. The study has been requested by UNMAS and is funded by Norway, Sweden, and the UK.

10. The **Study on the Use of Military Organisations in Humanitarian Mine Action Projects** aims to examine the practicability of using military organisations, both international and local, for all forms of humanitarian mine action. This project has reached the final draft stage and is undergoing final review. The study has been requested by UNMAS, and is funded by the UK, France, and UNMAS.

11. The **Study on Development of Local Mine Action Organisations** is focusing on how best to create the conditions necessary for the formation of local mine action NGOs or commercial companies in mine-affected countries. This project has reached the final draft stage and awaits final review. The study has been requested by UNMAS and UNDP, and is funded by Italy, the UK and UNMAS.

12. The **Study on the Development of Guidelines for the Creation of Legislative Frameworks and National Management Structures** will assist mine-affected countries to establish effective national mine action programmes. The project has reached the draft stage. However, three additional countries will be researched and analysed. The study will then proceed to final review, scheduled for spring 2003. This project has been requested by UNDP, and funding is provided by the UK.

13. The **Study on the Evaluation of Field Programmes** will establish a basic framework and standard methodology for field evaluations, for use internally by the GICHD, and by other agencies. This framework will recognise that all programmes are different, but allow a more formal approach to evaluation, which will enable follow-up activities as well as appropriate inter-programme

comparison. Initial background research has been completed and an estimate of available and suitable methodologies will be presented by spring 2003. The study has been requested by UNMAS, and is funded by them and the UK.

Planned Studies

14. The **Study on the Use of Remote Sensing in Mine Action** aims to assist programme managers in obtaining appropriate and affordable satellite and air-borne data and imagery. This study has been included in the UN Portfolio of Projects. Donor funding is awaited.

15. The **Study on Symbols for Mine Action** will explore the need for standard symbols on maps and mapping products to represent humanitarian hazards, to amplify the information provided on threat assessment maps and overlays produced by information management software. The study will also examine the needs for other types of graphical information, such as terrain analysis. This project has been deferred until a suitable project partner is identified.

Operational Support and Assistance

16. The Centre's second core mission consists of providing specific operational support and assistance to on-going mine action activities and programmes, including those run by the UN. Since the beginning of the year, several new activities have been started.

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

17. One of the key problems in humanitarian demining is the lack of accurate information on mined areas. Information remains a key element throughout the whole demining process. To facilitate the collection and handling of relevant information, the GICHD provides the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). Based on standard computer technology, IMSMA covers information gathering, data storage, mapping and analysis needs of Mine Action Centres in the field. In addition, it facilitates the setting of priorities for future clearance activities, for the allocation of mine risk education resources, etc. The IMSMA project is carried out by the GICHD in close co-operation with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, the UN and users in the field.

18. During the reporting period, **new installations of IMSMA** were made by the GICHD in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Guatemala. Third parties installed IMSMA in Armenia (SAC/Star Mountain), Sri Lanka (UNDP/ HALO), and Sudan (VVAf).

As of 31 December 2002, IMSMA is running in the following programmes:

Africa

Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Sudan, UNMEE (TSZ)

Americas

Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru

Asia

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Lebanon, Northern Ossetia (Russian Federation), Sri Lanka, Thailand, Yemen

Europe

Albania, Cyprus, Kosovo, Macedonia (FYROM)

Training versions

France, Switzerland, UK, US

19. In total, IMSMA has been installed in 28 field programmes world-wide. Additional versions are running at various training sites at locations in France, Switzerland, the UK, and the US.

20. The Centre also started the implementation of its **Regional Support Centre** (RSC) initiative. The primary task of such RSCs – staffed with one person – is the provision of first level user support, including on-site training, technical advice and maintenance, for IMSMA users in a particular region. In addition, the RSCs organise regional user focus group meetings and training courses. Finally, they facilitate contacts between the relevant countries and the GICHD.

21. The **RSC Latin America** – the first RSC – was created in Managua, Nicaragua, in January 2002. During its first year of existence, it completed over 20 site visits, provided more than six weeks of local training and supported operations in nine countries (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, and the US). The RSC assisted the IMSMA development team by hosting the Pilot Field Test of IMSMA version 3.0 (see para. 26 below). This resulted in the first operational installation of this new IMSMA version in Nicaragua in November. The RSC Latin America co-operates closely with the Organisation of American States (OAS).

22. The **RSC Europe/Central Asia** started its setting-up process when the relevant Regional Co-ordinator was nominated in December 2002. Support will be provided from the GICHD Geneva offices due to the proximity of the locations being visited.

23. In 2002, the Centre started to relocate the IMSMA training and installation support from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich to the IMSMA Support Group at the GICHD. This move builds on the above mentioned RSC concept. Transition of these functions will be completed in autumn 2003.

24. During the reporting period, **training and technical advice** was provided to IMSMA users in Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nicaragua, and Somaliland.

25. The Centre held six central **IMSMA training courses**, namely

- a) a “Train the Trainer” course attended by twelve participants representing seven organisations from four countries, which took place in Geneva in February;
- b) the first “Regional IMSMA Workshop” in Tirana, Albania. This course saw the participation of eight trainees from four different countries;
- c) an “Advanced User Training Course” for seven participants from four different countries;
- d) two IMSMA Training Courses within NATO’s Partnership for Peace (PfP) framework. This course was offered by the Swiss Government and was open for PfP Member States, and for countries already using IMSMA. The first course (being the fifth in this on-going series), taking place in May, saw the participation of 14 trainees from eleven countries. In the second course (being the sixth in the series), which was held in November, 10 participants from five countries were trained;
- e) a one week “Train the Trainer Update Course” attended by ten participants representing five organisations and four countries in

December. This course covered installation and upgrade procedures for version 3.0 and its new functions (see para. 26 below).

26. Work was completed on the English edition of **IMSMA version 3.0** in December. This included a complete field installation and test sequence. The GICHD will begin distribution of the new software version in early 2003. On-site installation and training support will be provided by the GICHD Training Team to all field locations requesting the upgrade and for all new system installations. The upgrade programme is planned for completion by autumn 2003. The new version includes the SQL server data engine, improved task and area status tracking as well as a MRE function.

27. **Translation work** is well under way for version 3.0. Based on the version 2.2 release completed in 2002 in French, Portuguese, and Spanish, the new work is scheduled for completion by summer 2003.

28. The Swiss Government provides funding for these basic development and support tasks of IMSMA.

29. Besides IMSMA, the **XML Project** represents the second core activity of the Centre in the field of information management. The goal of this project is the provision of a mechanism for the exchange of data within the mine action community and between interested parties and domains outside of mine action. This would include UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF and other humanitarian relief and support organisations. Work has been completed and a first version of the “maXML registry document” has been delivered. Work on the XML initiative will continue under the XML Pilot Project mentioned in the next paragraph below. The project was funded by the US Department of State.

30. The **XML Pilot Project** will support the on-going work toward harmonization of mine action data in South-Eastern Europe. The Pilot is now well underway, having completed a critical design review of the proposed field support software in December 2002. Field work is scheduled to begin in early 2003. This project is funded by the International Trust Fund (ITF).

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)

31. The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), prepared by the GICHD under a mandate from UNMAS, provide practitioners and donors with an updated and revised framework of technical and procedural prescriptions for safe and effective mine action. In total, 27 IMAS have been endorsed by the relevant UN committee by the end of 2002. An additional five IMAS are currently being prepared (see para. 35 below).

32. In addition, the GICHD provided assistance to the European Union’s CEN Working Group 126 on mine action standards relating to competency standards, and a first tranche of equipment test and evaluation standards.

33. The Centre continued with the **IMAS Outreach Programme**, which consists of a series of workshops, seminars and desk exercises to ensure appropriate understanding and application of the new standards. Briefings were given in Africa, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. This programme is carried out on behalf of UNMAS and funded by the UK.

34. During the reporting period, briefings on IMAS were given at

- a) the Cranfield Senior Mine Action Managers Course in Slovenia in February, and at Cranfield in August;
- b) the UNICEF MRE workshop in Lyon in March;
- c) the Global Explosive Engineering/EOD Conference (Explo 2002) in April in the UK;
- d) the Swedish EOD School Mine Action Conference in April;
- e) the Regional Southeast Asia Mine Action Conference sponsored by the Thai Mine Action Centre in May;
- f) the UK sponsored NATO PfP Briefing on Mine Action in June;
- g) the Canadian-Armenian Mine Action Centre workshop in October 2002;
- h) NATO EOD Working Group in Brussels in November.

35. Work continued on the **development of new IMAS**: Further five standards are currently being prepared, i.a.

- a) IMAS on contracts;
- b) IMAS on training;
- c) IMAS on information management;
- d) IMAS on evaluation;
- e) IMAS on establishing a national programme.

These draft IMAS will be submitted to the IMAS Review Board in spring 2003. In addition, work continues on defining mechanical standards.

Provision of Technical Information

36. The GICHD continued to develop and disseminate the **Technical Notes for Mine Action** (TNMA). TNMAs are advisory documents designed to accompany or supplement the IMAS series, or act as an independent source of information. TNMAs provide principles, advice and information relevant to a specific IMAS or technical topic. TNMAs are advisory and are based on the best available current practises, field feedback and technical information. TNMAs can be obtained from the GICHD website (www.gichd.ch) or through the UN E-mine website (www.mineaction.org).

37. In addition, the Centre manages the **TRITON Reports** project, which contains information on cases where munitions (especially improvised devices

Available Technical Notes:

- TNMA 01.10/01: Guide to Technical Notes for Mine Action
- TNMA 07.30/01: Accreditation of mine action organisations – application documentation
- TNMA 08.20/01: PMN 3 anti-personnel mine – technical description
- TNMA 09.10/01: PROM 1 – Metal detector warning
- TNMA 09.30/01: EOD clearance of armoured fighting vehicles (AFV)
- TNMA 09.30/02: Clearance of depleted uranium (DU) hazards
- TNMA 09.30/03: Guidance on liquid propellant fuelled systems
- TNMA 09.30/04: Fuel air explosive (FAE) systems
- TNMA 09.50/01: Guide to mechanical mine clearance/ground preparation using commercial tractors and front loaders
- TNMA 10.10/01: Environmental management during mine and UXO clearance operations
- TNMA 10.20/01: Estimation of explosion danger areas.

and booby traps) have been used in post-conflict situations. These reports also include incidents where recovered UXO and mines are being used in association with sophisticated initiation systems. These trends present a potentially significant threat to demining organisations, which may also have to disarm them in the future. TRITON Reports are a system for warning deminers and EOD operators of potential future threats. Access to the TRITON reports can be obtained on request from the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University (www.hdic.jmu.edu).

38. TRITON reports continue to be disseminated on a monthly basis. Feedback from the mine action community has been supportive. The project will be continued until 2004 should funding be secured.

Mine Clearance Technology

39. With its **Mechanical Equipment Catalogue**, the Centre maintains a comprehensive catalogue on mechanical demining equipment. This programme is requested by UNMAS and funded by Germany. A first edition of a catalogue on mechanical equipment was distributed in January 2002. A second edition will be available in early 2003.

40. The Centre is currently finalising the first edition of the **Catalogue on Metal Detectors**. This project, which is also funded by Germany, will be available in spring 2003.

Mine Detection Dogs

41. The Mine Detection Dog research programme of the Centre follows a multi-faceted approach. The programme includes the framing of UN standards for the accreditation, training, evaluation and use of mine detection dogs, and a broad research programme on the use of such dogs. The research programme will lead to improved operational use of mine detection dogs due to increased knowledge about critical aspects of their use. The whole programme was requested by UNMAS and is funded by Germany, Norway, Sweden, the UK, the US, and UNMAS.

42. The study “**Designer Dogs: Improving the Quality of Mine Detection Dogs**” has been completed. It identifies and discusses the essential and optional characteristics of mine detection dogs, and identifies an alternative breed for development and testing as a mine detection dog – the Swedish Drever.

43. In the **Test of Swedish Drever Project**, the GICHD, acting on its own recommendation that alternative breeds should be used for mine detection, has purchased eight drevers for supply to dog training organisations. A South African and a Norwegian organisation are currently socialising and training these Drevers. Preliminary feedback suggests very promising results, leading to a greater interest in this breed among other organisations.

44. Several studies of the MDD programme have already been completed and are currently being compiled into a **book publication**, which will be available in spring 2003 and include

- a) an analysis of the theory behind MDD training, based on practical experience;

- b) a presentation of successful training concepts, such as a socialisation programme for puppies, experimental training of dogs using the Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST) method, and dog training to detect tripwires;
- c) an outline of training organisation skills;
- d) a review of special programmes such as the Mechem REST concept (MEDDS) and the Belgian APOPO rat project;
- e) an analysis of the theory and practice of odour detection.

45. The **Afghanistan Mine Dog Project** aims to determine why dogs may miss mines in certain cases. To establish if dog/handler errors or a lack of vapour lead to mines being missed, a study was initiated linking chemical analysis of soil samples, behavioural observation of dogs searching in test minefields and detailed climatic information. The programme was suspended after 11 September 2001 and has been revised; but the aims and objectives remain unchanged. The first testing of dogs and sampling of soil took place in October 2002. The study was commissioned by UNOCHA, and the final results of the study are expected in late 2003.

46. The **Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST) Area Reduction Application Project** aims to establish if the REST concept, already used successfully for road verification, can have application as an area reduction tool. Field tests producing over 4,000 filters are in progress in Angola, and the results from repeated sampling and filter analysis are being examined. Final results are expected in mid 2003.

47. The **Rat REST Project** aims to test whether rats perform as well as or better than dogs for analysis of REST filters. Provisional results indicate that rats achieve results at least as good as dogs when detecting low odour concentration. Rats have also proven to be well suited for REST investigation. The final research is currently being written and will be available in spring 2003.

48. The **Mine Flux Rate and Computer Modelling Project** aims to determine the leakage rate from 30 different landmine types. The results will add an important element to on-going research work on predicting the effects of environmental factors on the process of vapour transportation from landmines to the air at surface level. Flux rates will be analysed from landmine types used in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Tanzania. In addition, the development of a relevant computer model has started. The final results of these studies are scheduled for mid 2003.

49. The Centre developed **MDD standards and guidelines**, which were endorsed as part of the IMAS package by the relevant UN committee in December 2002 (see also para. 31 above).

50. Upon request by the external Advisory Group to the MDD Research Programme to support **MDD IMAS Outreach**, the GICHD has established the Standards Implementation Support Committee (SISC) to provide assistance for implementing the MDD IMAS in selected countries. The initial assessment phases were completed in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Croatia. Additional assessment missions are planned for Bosnia and Herzegovina, whereas a mission to Eritrea has been cancelled due to changes within the relevant UN programme.

51. Finally, the GICHD **evaluated MDD programmes** in Angola, Cambodia, and Mozambique on behalf of the national authorities or donors. In addition, UNMAS has requested a planning mission to Southern Sudan, which will be undertaken in early 2003.

Deployments

52. The GICHD deployed one of its staff members for two missions to Jenin (on the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip in support of the Swedish Rescue Service Agency (SRSA) in late April and early May. Tasks were the immediate EOD support to the UN in Jenin, and an EOD Threat Assessment of the West Bank and Gaza for the European Union. This resulted in a third mission in August/September in support of the EU to develop Standing Operation Procedures (SOPs), organisation and structure for the Palestinian Authority EOD organisation.

Evaluation and Assessment

53. The Centre also offers its services to Governments, the UN and other interested organisations to evaluate and assess actual projects and programmes, or components of such programmes. The Centre follows an impartial and independent methodology, and staff involved in such missions work in an as open and transparent a way, as allowed by the framework set by the relevant organisations and programmes.

54. During the reporting period, the GICHD

- a) evaluated the mine risk education (MRE) programmes of UNIFIL (Lebanon) and of the Thai Mine Action Centre (TMAC);
- b) evaluated the MRE programmes and national mine action strategy of the Colombian Government;
- c) evaluated the NATO PfP Stockpile Destruction Project in Albania upon request of the Canadian Government;
- d) carried out an assessment and evaluation of the Angolan mine action sector on behalf of UNDP;
- e) evaluated the St. Barbara Foundation mine action programme in Somaliland on behalf of the German Government;
- f) evaluated the FFG project using mechanical clearance equipment in Bosnia and Herzegovina on behalf of the German Government;
- g) assessed the German funded programmes in Eritrea, the mine detection dog programme in Yemen, and the mine action programme in Ethiopia on behalf of the German Government;
- h) evaluated the NPA MDD programmes in Mozambique and Angola;
- i) undertook three assessments/evaluations of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) MDD programme on behalf of Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA);
- j) participated in an assessment – together with Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) and Mine Advisory Group (MAG) – of the feasibility of supporting local mine action programmes in certain areas in Sri Lanka;
- k) assessed the feasibility of establishing a test and accreditation system for MDDs in Afghanistan;
- l) carried out an assessment and evaluation of the pilot County Mine Action Plan in Croatia, on behalf of UNDP.

Advisory Services

55. Staff members of the Centre, i.a.,

- a) provided analysis on the threat of explosive remnants of war to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- b) provided technical advice at the May, July, and December conferences of Government Experts in the CCW framework;
- c) provided advice on various aspects of demining to APOPO in Belgium;
- d) participated at two advisory panel meetings of EUDEM 2;
- e) joined the NPA Angola Steering Committee in order to improve and streamline the local operational demining concept of NPA;
- f) supported the Angolan Government in its attempts to revise and re-establish their centralised mine action centre capacity;
- g) held a one-day seminar on dog training issues at the South African (military) dog training centre;
- h) provided advice on MRE media via participation in a MRE workshop in Sudan at the request of the Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines and UNMAS;
- i) hosted a two-day seminar on data collection, verification, input and dissemination techniques at James Madison University;
- j) provided various lectures at the Cranfield Senior Mine Action Managers training course;
- k) conducted a technical assessment of the PFM-1 destruction project in Ukraine, in conjunction with the European Commission;
- l) provided technical support to the Swiss General Staff for the development and conduct of a course for the safe recovery and destruction of ammunition and explosives recovered during micro-disarmament operations;
- m) briefed the NATO Working Group in the US on Demining PPE on IMAS and the Database of Demining Accidents;
- n) conducted an advisory mission to the Underwater Humanitarian Demining School in Montenegro;
- o) provided advice on ICRC MRE Training Module via participation in a MRE workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the request of the ICRC;
- p) provided technical support to the International Rotary Conference, i.a. by chairing panel discussions on MRE and related topics at the conference at the request of the US Department of State;
- q) participated at the NDRF summer conference in Stockholm and gave presentations about vapour detection technology and evaluation methods;
- r) provided advice on various aspects of research at the NDRF seminar in Trondheim (Norway);
- s) provided technical advice to the Government of Ukraine for the development of project proposals to NATO and the EU for a Mine Action and Security Sector Training Establishment at the NATO PfP Training Centre in Lviv.

International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors

56. The fifth International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors, which is organised by UNMAS, took place between 25 and 28 February 2002 at the premises of the GICHD, and was attended by representatives of 24 mine-affected countries, UN agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and observers. The 163 participants exchanged views on current mine action strategies, analysed problems in the field of mine information management, and discussed issues linked to IMAS and advocacy efforts. In addition, the latest developments in technology and research were presented and lessons learned were exchanged. Finally, the participants identified topics for further research.

57. The meeting also provided donor countries with an opportunity to meet and discuss solutions directly with the programme directors responsible for mine action programmes in mine-affected countries. The 2002 version of the UN Portfolio of mine-related projects was also officially launched at the meeting.

58. Besides its technical and logistical input, the GICHD also covered travel and accommodation costs of 44 participants of 23 UN-supported national mine action programmes.

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Intersessional Work Programme 2001 – 2002

59. The Centre continued its traditional support to the Intersessional Work Programme established by the States Parties to the Convention by hosting meetings of the Standing Committees and related services. In addition, with the establishment in January 2002 of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), enhanced services were provided to the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees in the preparation of programmes for their meetings and in distributing detailed information on these meetings to participants. Over 470 participants attended the meetings of the Standing Committees in January, and over 440 in May.

Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

60. Following the mandate given to the Centre by the States Parties to the Convention in September 2001, the ISU became operational in January 2002. During the reporting period, the unit, i.a.,

- a) provided support to the work of the Co-ordinating Committee, particularly with respect to supporting the Co-ordinating Committee's efforts to enhance and ensure the on-going relevancy of the Intersessional Work Programme;
- b) provided professional advice and support to the President of the Third Meeting of States Parties with respect to all facets of its duties. In addition, the ISU supported the in-coming President's efforts to prepare the Fourth Meeting of States Parties (4MSP), in part by ensuring that draft documentation was distributed in a timely manner to all States Parties and other and by developing a web site on the 4MSP;

- c) began to establish itself as a means for the States Parties and others to obtain timely and comprehensive information on the Convention and the implementation of it. The ISU responded to dozens of information requests from States Parties, States not Parties and others, enhanced the GICHD web site's Convention-related content and made presentations on the implementation of the Convention at various workshops and seminars.

61. Pursuant to its mandate, the ISU began work to establish a documentation resource facility to house and make accessible documentation on the establishment of the Convention and its implementation.

62. Since the 4MSP, the ISU – in a manner consistent with the decisions actions taken by the States Parties at the 4MSP – has worked to encourage mine-affected States Parties to take full advantage of opportunities presented by the Convention's implementation mechanisms to share information on their challenges, plans and priorities for assistance. In this regard, on the invitation of various States Parties and organisations, the ISU has conducted outreach at conferences that focused on such regions as Southern Africa and South-eastern Europe.

63. A Voluntary Trust Fund for activities of the ISU, called for under the above mandate, was created in late 2001. Up to 31 December 2002, the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Mexico, Ireland, Italy, and of South Africa have contributed to the Fund.

Sponsorship Programme

64. The Centre continued to administer the Sponsorship Programme on behalf of the Group of Donors. The aim of this programme is to support widespread participation in meetings related to the Convention. This programme allowed

- a) 68 delegates and guest speakers from 39 mine-affected countries to participate in the January 2002 meetings of the Standing Committees;
- b) 72 delegates and guest speakers from 39 mine-affected countries to participate in the May 2002 meetings of the Standing Committees;
- c) 81 delegates to participate in the September 2002 4MSP.

65. The Group of Donors includes Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The Group was joined by Austria and Germany in 2002.

Governance and Organisation

Council of Foundation

66. The Council of Foundation held its first meeting for 2002 on 6 June, during which it approved the Annual Report 2001 as well as the Centre's accounts for that year. In addition, the Council discussed the draft strategy paper 2003 – 2005 and was briefed on the Centre's guidelines for setting-up and implementing GICHD studies and projects.

67. During its second meeting on 6 December, the Council adopted i.a. the Strategy 2003 – 05, which replaces the Strategy Paper of 28 May 2000. In addition, the Council approved the Centre’s budget for 2003 and authorised its President to sign the agreement negotiated with the Swiss Government on the Centre’s status on its behalf.

Advisory Board

68. The Advisory Board met for the first time in 2002 on 25 January and discussed the review of the Centre’s strategy since 2000. The participants were briefed on the on-going mechanical research carried out by the Centre, and provided advice for the development of a GICHD methodology on studies.

69. The second meeting of the Advisory Board took place on 13 September. The participants discussed on the Centre’s strategy for the years 2003 – 2005 and were briefed on the on-going research and operational assistance activities. In addition, the Centre gave an update on the IMSMA programme.

Co-operation Agreements

70. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNDP and the Centre in April. This Memorandum provides a framework of co-operation and facilitates collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Internal Organisation

71. On 12 July, Mr. Paddy Blagden retired from his post of Technical Director. Mr. Blagden has been with the Centre since its inception in 1998. He was replaced by Mr. Ian Mansfield, who was previously the Mine Action Team Leader for UNDP in New York. Mr. Mansfield’s title is “Operations Director”.

72. During the reporting period, the Centre saw also the departure of two seconded officers, who finished their two year term with the GICHD: Lt Col Fabrice Delaître (France) and Mr. Alan Bryden (UK). Both, the French as well as the UK Governments agreed to continue their support by seconding new staff: Lt Col Delaître was replaced by Lt Col Jean-Paul Rychener, who started his three year term in August, and Mr. Paul Ellis (UK) joined the Centre in April for a two year assignment.

73. The Centre currently consists of 27 (end of 2001: 23) permanent staff members, including a total of five persons seconded by the Governments of France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK. In total, 13 nationalities are represented at the Centre (including staff members having more than one citizenship): Switzerland (12 persons), UK (5), US (3), Canada (2), New Zealand (2), Australia, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, and Sweden.

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 once a year to share views and experiences.

Financial Overview

General Budget

74. For activities covered by the Strategy Paper adopted by the Council of Foundation on 26 May 2000, the Centre reports expenditures for the year 2002 of about CHF 17 million, in which a carry-over to the 2003 accounts of approx. CHF 4.9 million is included. Consequently, the Centre used approx. CHF 7.8 million to cover direct operational costs and spent about CHF 3 million for salaries and social contributions. An additional sum of approx. CHF 1.3 million was used for maintenance, acquisitions, services, administration and other costs.

75. During the reporting period, the Centre received approx. CHF 7.8 million from Switzerland, approx. CHF 2.3 million from the UK, nearly CHF 1 million from Sweden, about CHF 0.9 million from the US and a total of nearly CHF 1.1 million from Norway, Italy, Germany, France, Liechtenstein, Canada, and South Africa. In addition, various UN agencies contributed with a total of approx. CHF 0.4 million. The amount of approx. CHF 0.3 million was received from miscellaneous organisations, private donations or earned from other sources. In addition, a total of about CHF 3.2 million was carried over from the previous year. Not included in these sums are contributions in-kind, secondments of staff members to the Centre, or other support provided directly to project activities.

76. As a result, the Centre's accounts for the year 2002 closed with a positive remaining balance of some CHF 5,398.

Sponsorship Programme Fund

77. The Sponsorship Programme aims to ensure more widespread representation from mine-affected and other countries at meetings of the Standing Committees within the intersessional work programme and at meetings of the States Parties to the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention. The Centre administers this programme and the special Sponsorship Programme Fund on behalf of a Group of Donors. The relevant accounts closed with a positive remaining balance of CHF 232,271. This sum is also carried over to the relevant 2003 accounts.

Voluntary Trust Fund ISU

78. On 31 December 2002, the Voluntary Trust Fund in support of the activities of the ISU showed a positive remaining balance of CHF 245,402. This amount was carried over to the respective 2003 account.

External Auditing

79. The 2002 accounts of the Centre, as well as the Sponsorship Programme and the Voluntary Trust Fund ISU, were audited and certified by Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the external auditor appointed by the Council of Foundation.

List of Acronyms

AFV	Armoured fighting vehicle(s)
CEN	European Committee for Standardisation
CHF	Swiss Franc(s)
CMAC	Cambodia Mine Action Centre
CCW	Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
DU	Depleted uranium
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EU	European Union
EUDEM	European Union in Humanitarian Demining
FAE	Fuel air explosive(s)
FFG	Flensburger Fahrzeugbaugesellschaft
4MSP	Fourth Meeting of States Parties
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IMAS	International Mine Action Standard(s)
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
ISU	Implementation Support Unit
ITF	International Trust Fund
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MDD	Mine Detection Dog
MEDDS	Mechem Explosive and Drug Detection System
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NDRF	Nordic Demining Research Forum
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
OAS	Organisation of American States
PfP	Partnership for Peace
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
REST	Remote Explosive Scent Tracing
RSC	Regional Support Centre
SAC	Survey Action Center
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SISC	Standards Implementation Support Committee
SRSA	Swedish Rescue Service Agency
SOP	Standing Operating Procedures
SQL	Standard Query Language
TMAC	Thai Mine Action Centre
TNMA	Technical Note(s) on Mine Action
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFICYP	United Nations Force in Cyprus
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
US	United States
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VVAF	Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
WHO	World Health Organisation
XML	Extensible Mark-up Language