

GICHD

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in 2005



The **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining** (GICHD) supports the efforts of the international community in reducing the impact of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). The Centre provides operational assistance, is active in research and supports the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

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Foreword

The year 2005 was a particularly important year for the Centre. We developed a new strategy for the coming years; changed the statutes of the GICHD to gradually bring more representatives from mine-affected countries to the Council and to increase its ownership of our work; developed a new concept for the Advisory Board; and produced the first detailed annual work plan based on the strategy.

This lays the foundation of a more relevant, focused, coherent and result-oriented approach to meet future challenges – the work of the GICHD should contribute to making mine action safer, faster, cheaper and more effective.

In our operational work, we have picked up speed in the development of IMSMA Version 4, and have completed the basic module. This will create new opportunities for mine action authorities to fully understand their countries' problems, and to be able to set the necessary priorities. The next challenges will be field installation of the new version with our partners and the training of mine action managers.

Another important event was the publication of the study *Mine Action: Lessons and Challenges*, a comprehensive attempt to learn from the accumulated experience of the sector since its inception in the late 1980s.

2005 was the first year of implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan, and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) was busy in supporting the compilation of the Zagreb Progress Report. The objectives of the international community for the second review conference in 2009 are ambitious, and the challenges for the ISU are steadily growing.

The Centre tries to remain lean and flexible, to respond to the constantly changing needs of the mine action community. Strong support was given to developing important policy issues, mainly in promoting the linking of mine action into development. Two informal meetings on this topic were organised in cooperation with Canada.

The annual meeting of the mine action national directors and the United Nations technical advisors, co-organised with UNMAS, has now become a unique international gathering, bringing together the main actors from the field to exchange experiences.

Donor support for the GICHD remained strong and the financial situation is sound. This allows us to respond efficiently to the growing demands of our partners for assistance and advice, and to build up new partnerships in a comprehensive manner.



Amb. Stephan Nellen, Director

Geneva, 22 May 2006

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in 2005

Each year thousands of people are killed or maimed by landmines and other explosive remnants of war. These lethal reminders of conflicts, past and present, prevent the return of displaced persons to their homes, serve as a barrier to the social and economic development of nations and communities and impede reconciliation and the consolidation of peace between neighbours.

The international community has responded to this harmful situation by developing a comprehensive set of actions to end the human suffering caused by these devices.

Mine action activity involves:

- locating, removing and destroying mines, unexploded ordnance and abandoned ordnance,
- reducing the risk to communities in the affected areas,
- destroying existing stocks of mines,
- assisting victims,
- applying the international legal framework that governs landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

It is the responsibility of mine-affected countries to ensure that mine action and explosive remnants of war clearance takes place within their borders. Each State is not, however, alone in tackling the problem. A wide range of international, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations exists to assist these important efforts.

The **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining** is part of this international initiative. We work for the elimination of anti-personnel mines and to reduce the negative impact of other landmines and explosive remnants of war on people's lives across the world.

We work in partnership with other organisations, achieving our aims by

- providing operational assistance,
- creating and disseminating knowledge,
- improving quality management and standards,
- and supporting instruments of international law.

Our activity

This report illustrates the work of the GICHD during the year of 2005 and shows how much we have achieved in meeting our organisational goals within the field of mine action.

During the year major advances were made by the Centre in pursuing its mission. We continued our efforts in developing standards for humanitarian demining on behalf of the United Nations – the International Mine Action Standards, and through our ongoing development and support of our software, IMSMA, the Information Management System for Mine Action. This is now available to 43 programmes around the world.

We released two major new publications. The first is the *Study on Manual Mine Clearance* which addresses quality issues, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of this important tool in mine action. The second, *Mine Action: Lessons and Challenges*, analyses the trends in mine action and contributes to the debate on the future of mine action and its role within relief and development work.

The GICHD Implementation Support Unit provides an ongoing service to the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (more widely known as the “Ottawa Convention”). The adoption of the Nairobi Action Plan of December 2004 is significant in its positive impact on the work of the unit.

We gave further support to the advancement of the international legal framework concerning mines and other explosive remnants of war through technical advice provided to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

This is just some of the activity undertaken by the GICHD during 2005 – the following pages give a more detailed insight into what we do, why we do it and the benefits our efforts bring to the world of mine action.



Rehabilitation centre in Cambodia ©P. Williams

Knowledge is power – information management

Good management of information is one of the key elements required for success in mine action programmes. Reporting and mapping mine clearance activity can, for example, prevent duplication of effort. Reporting and mapping mine risk education activities can help us to understand its effectiveness. Creating a standardised information management system is of vital importance in understanding the tasks of mine action and learning from what has already taken place.

The Centre has focused its efforts in this field on the development and deployment of its software IMSMA (the Information Management System for Mine Action).

Software development

IMSMA is currently in use in 43 mine action programmes around the world. Based on the requirements of users in the field, IMSMA has become the industry standard in mine action information management. Continuous development of an important tool like this is necessary to reflect the changing needs of the sector – Version 4 is currently being tested and prepared for release in 2006.

A central new feature is a map driven navigation system that significantly improves both data entry and retrieval operations. The new system combines a full featured geographic information system (GIS) with a powerful relational database to produce a simple and easily maintained information management tool. IMSMA V4 provides mine action managers and practitioners with a complete set of up-to-date information management capabilities that can be easily tailored to meet local needs. Field testing of this pilot system – with promising results – was carried out in Burundi in November 2005.

All mine-affected countries, UN peacekeeping operations with mine action activities and demining training centres can receive this system free of charge, upon request from GICHD.

Training needs

A system is only as good as the people who implement it. In order to support the effective use of IMSMA in the field, the GICHD has created a training programme for staff from mine-affected countries. This is focused on the implementation of information

management techniques and tools designed to facilitate the use of available information in the field.

During 2005 ten information management training courses were undertaken by 64 practitioners from 22 countries. The Centre also held two regional IMSMA outreach meetings providing participants with a comprehensive update on the status of the IMSMA Version 4, as well as training sessions on information management in mine action and the successful operational integration of IMSMA. These meetings took place in Panama City for Latin American attendees and in Nairobi for African organisations.

Hardware development

The collection of field survey data, so vital to the mine action information management system, has previously been paper-based, followed by lengthy manual insertion of the gathered material into central databases. Recognising this as a potential block to further advancement of the system the Centre has continued its work on developing a hand-held field data collection tool.

This will support and ease the collection of field data survey and its transfer to relevant databases.

Regional assistance

Support for the system and its users is vital. The GICHD provides the necessary assistance through four Regional Support Centres (RSC). These are based in Managua for Latin American needs and in Geneva for organisations in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Those in the Middle East and Northern Africa receive their support from our RSC in Beirut, and Geneva is the source of help for African mine action colleagues.

The RSCs are the first source of assistance for IMSMA users. A broad range of support is available – mine action centres can review their internal information management process as well as their information exchanges and communication procedures with the help of GICHD. Regional user meetings and training courses are also held.

Knowledge is power – but only when effectively understood. All of the work of our IMSMA team is designed to help our colleagues from other mine action organisations collate, understand and implement the knowledge gained through mine action activity – and to share their knowledge and experience with each other.

Improving quality — International Mine Action Standards

During the past few years mine action has become a distinct and refined discipline. This has occurred, in part, because working procedures, vocabularies, training programmes and other aspects of mine action have been standardised through the application of International Mine Action Standards, usually referred to as IMAS.

Practitioners receive an updated and regularly revised framework of technical and procedural prescriptions for safe and effective mine action. The GICHD prepares and develops these standards under a mandate from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Each IMAS is reviewed at least once every three years by the IMAS Review Board. This group represents practitioners from the UN and mine-affected countries as well as implementing agencies. The updated IMAS, as well as reports of the Review Board, can be seen on www.mineactionstandards.org. We have recently published an updated version of our document, *A Guide to IMAS*, which can be accessed, as with all our publications, on our website, www.gichd.ch.

Creating understanding of these standards is an important part of our role. The GICHD undertakes an outreach programme to help create that understanding. The key aim is to assist mine-affected countries to establish their own National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) based on the application of IMAS. During 2005, the Centre assisted mine action programmes in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Jordan, and Sri Lanka. Input on IMAS was delivered to two UNDP senior management courses at James Madison University (JMU) and to one middle management course in Bangkok.

One area covered by IMAS is the mine risk education activity undertaken in mine-affected countries. The IMAS for mine risk education (MRE) were formally adopted in 2004, after their development by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Following quickly on from this, the GICHD produced IMAS MRE Guidebooks under a contract provided by UNICEF. Step-by-step guidance to all aspects of these particular IMAS is provided by this comprehensive and substantial publication. All 11 parts have been published in hard copy and production of the accompanying CD-ROM took place in early 2006.

Making way for the future – manual and mechanical mine clearance

Provision of technical information

Our Mechanical Application in Demining Outreach Programme brings knowledge of the application of machines in demining to practitioners in mine-affected countries. Outreach presentations were conducted in 11 mine-affected countries in 2005. These workshops bring together organisations from within each region to exchange information and experience, and to receive information on the use of machines from GICHD experts.

The development of research is key to the effective choice and use of mechanical demining equipment. We, for example, published a paper, through our website, entitled *Throwing Out Mines: Effects of a Flail*. This explores the proportion of mines that are not initiated, broken up or destroyed by demining machines using flails, and analyses the pattern of throw-out of mines.



Diana 40T flail unit in action ©Hontstav S.R.O.

The GICHD also disseminates technical information based on the best available current practices and field feedback. The *Metal Detectors and PPE Catalogue 2005* provides an overview of existing technologies as well as important technical specifications. This helps assessments at field programme level.

Connected knowledge — technology, applications and research

GICHD activities in the field of technology application provide a useful interface between field users and the research and development communities. Our focus is on the review of appropriate technologies and the requirements for mine action; on providing advice on priorities for test and evaluation of equipment; on assisting test and evaluation efforts being undertaken in mine-affected countries; and on providing support and information on equipment requirements, capabilities and limitations.

Research

The Centre undertakes a series of research projects with the aim of improving quality, and to make mine action safer and more cost-effective. The results form the basis of specific recommendations and guidelines to those operating in the field. We deliver these in special handbooks, training courses and other means of communication.

In the field of manual and mechanical mine clearance, the Centre issued two publications dealing with different aspects of clearing activities in 2005:

- The *Study on Manual Mine Clearance* addresses efficiency and cost-effectiveness of manual demining. In particular, it considers the impact of management on demining operations, the basic techniques and processes used in the field, as well as the costs of demining and the issue of risk to both the deminers and those who reclaim the land after demining is completed.
- The guide *Time and Motion – Studies for Demining: Snapshots of Operations* provides a methodology for conducting quantitative analyses of operational demining programmes. Using the results of such a study, the details of operational procedures can be explored, for example, in order to assess how resources are being used, to make comparisons between different operational situations, or to test new procedures.



Demining kit and metal detector. ©GICHD

We also started a project, in which we will clearly define the process of land release in mine action and the application of risk management approaches to that process. In addition, we will look into the best use of rollers. Their relatively low purchase and maintenance costs make them an attractive option, under certain environmental conditions, for demining practitioners who are not in a position to spend large sums on a tiller or flail system.

Another continuing project is based on one of the most time-consuming obstacles faced by a manual deminer – scrap metal fragments within his lane. Tests demonstrated that with the addition of a simple magnet, over 80 per cent of metal fragments can be removed prior to manual demining. The study on magnets will provide practical advice on the purchase and application of magnets to existing models of mechanical demining systems.



A deminer in Afghanistan.
©ICRC/Zalmá

The GICHD also investigates, on an ongoing basis, possible circumstances where machines might leave residual hazards, and determines if they add further risk to subsequent clearance activities carried out by manual deminers and dog teams. We analyse situations where the use of machines may have created significant environmental damage, and ways of avoiding damage in the first place, as well as the amelioration of damage if it has been inflicted.

Beyond manual demining — animal detection

The use of animals for scent detection of mines has become a common method and can be a fast and efficient tool if implemented correctly. It is, however, complex and difficult. History has shown that the use of dogs and rats can become a costly and frustrating burden beyond the level demining organisations are willing to risk. Animal detection was discredited when expectations were not met.

For these reasons, the GICHD started its animal detection programme of research and outreach in 2000.

Field work

In 2005, the Centre assisted mine dog detection programmes in Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia. In particular, we helped in the preparation of new mine dog detection training, test and evaluation facilities as well as the upgrading of quality assurance inspections in Afghanistan. Our monitoring missions continued, providing ongoing support and guidance to practitioners in the field.

In order to facilitate the understanding of study results in this field, we produced a DVD entitled *Mine Action Animals*. This provides information on the integration of animals in operations systems, analyses the different environmental factors linked with animal mine detection, and explains the Remote Explosive Scent Tracing approach.

Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST)

During 2005 our main research focus in the field of mine dog detection was on Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST). This is a process of taking scent from a source for remote analysis. A pump is used to draw air containing scent or particles from the soil surface through an absorbent filter. Filters are analysed remotely using specially trained dogs or rats, or other natural or artificial odour sensing systems. REST has the advantage of quickly determining areas with no mine/UXO contamination.

We worked on a methodology that can be used when carrying out quality assurance and test/licensing of REST projects. The use of rats as a mine detection technology was also explored. Current work focuses on filter technology, sampling procedures, and environmental conditions during sampling. Another project aims to optimise scent trapping during sampling, release during analysis, and to prevent scent loss and cross contamination during storage and transportation.

Building local structures — education and capacity development

Socio-economic approaches and mine risk education

The purpose of the socio-economic team within GICHD is clear — it seeks to improve decision-making in mine action. Priority setting and creating conditions to increase effectiveness and efficiency is of particular concern. It is widely accepted today that merely reporting on the number of mines/UXO or square meters cleared is not an adequate assessment of work performed. This type of assessment fails to capture the impact of clearance operations on affected communities.

Training and outreach

GICHD provides basic and advanced level training on socio-economic approaches to mine action management. These workshops are offered to country programmes, the United Nations and NGOs. In 2005, the Centre conducted three trainings in Kenya, Sweden and Uganda.

In the field of mine risk education, we carried out a training programme providing basic and advanced level instruction in current MRE best practice. These training workshops are offered to country programmes, the United Nations and local and international NGOs. In 2005, the Centre carried out 10 special training courses in Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Italy, Laos, Nepal, and Viet Nam.

At the request of the Jordanian National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR), the GICHD carried out an assessment of the current MRE needs as well as an overview of existing efforts/capacities in 2005. The relevant report was submitted in October and the NCDR has subsequently started to implement recommendations.

Research

The 2005 GICHD research activities in the field of socio-economics and mine risk education cover a broad range of topics:

- **Local capacity-building:** The *Study of Local Organisations in Mine Action* focuses on how best to create the conditions necessary for the formation of local mine action NGOs or commercial companies in mine-affected countries.

We published the study *Regional Cooperation in Mine Action: The Case of South-East Europe* in 2005. It analyses whether a regional approach can bring greater effectiveness and efficiency to mine action projects and programmes.

- **Lessons and challenges:** The study entitled *Mine Action: Lessons and Challenges* reviews the success of international mine action over the past 15 years, and outlines the lessons learnt and the challenges for the future.
- **Synergies with small arms and light weapons (SALW) control programmes:** This study analyses the various types of mine action and SALW control programmatic approaches and the possible synergies/areas of co-operation between the two.

In the context of a pilot project “European Action on Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosive Remnants of War” undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the European Commission (EC), the Centre produced the report entitled *Technical Aspects of ERW*. Based on this report, we discussed EC support for programmatic responses to an ERW threat.

- **Analysis of local situation:** in response to an increase in the number of reported UXO casualties in Laos in 2004, UNICEF asked the GICHD to undertake an investigation. In our report entitled *Study of Scrap Metal Collection in Lao PDR*, the GICHD identified certain key decision-making areas which will determine the way forward.

Where are we now? — evaluations

In mine action, as in any field, we must measure our progress towards our goals — how far have we reached and how far must we go? The evaluation activities of the GICHD help the mine action community to take these measurements.

We follow a four-fold evaluation approach: adapting evaluation methodologies to mine action requirements and developing standards; conducting evaluation missions upon request, invitation, or tender; developing local evaluation capacities; and developing a global repository for evaluation reports and lessons learned.

Evaluation activities

In 2005, the GICHD:

- carried out an evaluation of the Mine Action Co-ordination Centre of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) on behalf of UNMAS;
- reviewed 10 years of assistance to mine action in Mozambique for the United Nations Development Programme;
- evaluated the Ethiopian mine risk education programme at the request of the Ethiopian Government;
- analysed the MRE programme “School in a Box” for UNICEF Laos;
- undertook evaluations for the German government in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Somaliland and Sudan and for the French government in Cambodia and Mozambique;
- and carried out a mid-term evaluation of UNDP support to Yemen’s mine action programme.

To contribute to the development of local evaluation capacities, the Centre designed and delivered a Workshop on Evaluating Mine Action for the International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET), a co-operation between the World Bank and Carleton University (Canada).

Methodology

The *Study on the Evaluation of Field Programmes* will establish a basic framework and standard methodology for field evaluations. In 2005, work on a draft handbook continued. This will be published electronically in 2006.

International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors

The 8th International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors, organised by UNMAS and the GICHD, took place in September. This meeting brought together representatives of mine-affected countries, UN agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and observers. The 166 participants discussed topics such as responsibilities of mine-affected States and the UN, how to ensure efficient and cost-effective mine action, risk management, the new version of IMSMA, and the GICHD study on manual demining.

The meeting also provided donor countries with an opportunity to meet and hold discussions directly with programme directors responsible for mine action programmes in mine-affected countries. Besides technical and logistical input, the GICHD also covered travel and accommodation costs of 46 participants from 33 UN-supported national mine action programmes.

Support for instruments of international law

An international legal framework is fundamental to the efforts to end human suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war.

The GICHD supports the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (often referred to as the Ottawa Treaty) according to the mandate given by the States Parties in September 2001, principally through the Implementation Support Unit. The Centre also provides independent technical input into international efforts to minimise human suffering caused by weapons and/or ERW, which are covered by the ongoing work of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

The adoption by the States Parties of the Nairobi Action Plan of December 2004 gave the ISU clear and comprehensive direction for the post-Review Conference period. In 2005, the ISU supported the President, Co-Chairs, Contact Group Coordinators and individual States Parties in their pursuit of the Convention's aims.

Certain Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators launched particularly ambitious initiatives and the ISU responded accordingly, including in some instances by entering into project agreements with such actors.

In one example of this, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance sought to assist the 24 most relevant States Parties in establishing concrete victim assistance objectives for the 2005-09 period. The ISU developed a comprehensive information gathering tool for these States Parties to use, and provided substantive and organisational support to two regional conferences.

At the request of the Coordinator of the Resource Mobilisation Contact Group, the ISU also conducted research on the flow of mine action resources.

The ISU also provided its traditional substantive and organisational support to the President-Designate of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties (6MSP), working closely with the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA).

A large number of pertinent documents for the Convention's Documentation Centre have been collected, which is maintained by the ISU as part of its mandate. The Documentation Centre currently contains over 5,000 records and continues to be used by States Parties and other interested actors as an important source of information on the Convention.

The ISU is funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In 2005, contributions were received from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

Support for the Intersessional Work Programme

The Centre continued its traditional support for the Intersessional Work Programme established by the States Parties to the Convention. It hosted the June session of the Standing Committees, which was attended by 586 participants.

Sponsorship Programme

The Centre administers the Sponsorship Programme on behalf of a Group of Donors, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

The primary aim of this Programme is to support the attendance by States Parties with limited resources. This participation strengthens the implementation process of the Convention. In addition, the Group of Donors aims to support the universalisation of the Convention by providing States who are not yet parties to the Convention, and who have limited resources, with an opportunity to provide updates of their progress towards accession to the Convention.

During the reporting period, the Centre executed two Sponsorship Programmes, including 109 delegates from 54 countries.

Work under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

The CCW is a framework convention with five protocols, which ban or restrict the use of various types of weapons that are deemed to cause unnecessary suffering or affect soldiers and civilians indiscriminately. The weapons covered include: weapons that leave undetectable fragments in the body (Protocol I), mines, booby-traps and other devices (Protocol II, Amended in 1996), incendiary weapons (Protocol III), blinding laser weapons (Protocol IV), and explosive remnants of war (Protocol V).

Following a request by the Indian Coordinator of the ERW Working Group in April 2005, the GICHD chaired two meetings of the Military and Technical Experts on ERW of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in the framework of the CCW. It further provided technical input to the discussions on Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM).

GICHD governance — internal organisation and finances

The Centre is governed by its Council of Foundation, which defines the general orientation of the Centre, supervises the activities of the GICHD and decides on the allocation of the resources made available to the Centre.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the Council of Foundation unites 21 members — at the end of 2005 — nominated by States who contribute significantly or participate in the Centre's immediate activities.

On 31 December, the Centre consisted of 33 permanent staff members, including four persons seconded by the Governments of Germany, Sweden and Switzerland. In total, 14 nationalities are present at the Centre: Switzerland (17 persons), Canada (4), UK (4), France (3), Norway (2), USA (2), Australia, Chile, Colombia, Eritrea, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

The Centre's 2005 accounts report financial resources of CHF 21.3 million. These were allocated as follows: 75.8 per cent for operational assistance, 12.5 per cent for research activities and 1.1 per cent for ISU-related projects and support provided to the Intersessional Work Programme of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The remaining sum was used for administration and governance related costs.

In 2005, the Centre received contributions of over CHF 8 million from Switzerland, CHF 1 million from Norway, CHF 1 million from Sweden, CHF 0.68 million from the UK, and a total of almost CHF 1.0 million from Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Italy. In addition, various UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Norwegian People's Aid and other organisations, as well as private sources, contributed with a total of nearly CHF 1.1 million. Not included in these sums are contributions in-kind, secondments of staff members to the Centre, or other support provided directly to project activities.

Frequently asked questions

How many countries are affected by mines?

Approximately 60 countries are affected worldwide by the hazards of landmines.

What is Mine Action?

Mine action includes activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO):

- mine and UXO awareness and risk reduction education;
- minefield survey, mapping, marking, and clearance;
- victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration;
- advocacy to stigmatise the use of landmines and support a total ban on anti-personnel landmines;
- stockpile destruction, to ensure that stockpiles of landmines are destroyed.

What is the role of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in mine action?

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) works towards a world free of anti-personnel landmines and for the reduction of the humanitarian impact of remnants of war by providing operational assistance, creating and sharing knowledge, and supporting instruments of international law.

How many countries are signatories to the international Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (the "Ottawa Convention")?

There are currently 151 States who have agreed their role and responsibilities under this international treaty. Each State Party undertakes:

- never under any circumstances to use anti-personnel mines (APMs);
- never under any circumstances to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, APMs;
- never under any circumstances to assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under the AP Mine Ban Convention;
- to destroy or ensure the destruction of all APMs in accordance with the provisions of the AP Mine Ban Convention.

GICHD publications

These titles are available as either hard copy or CD, or as downloadable files, from our website www.gichd.ch. Our publications are available in a variety of languages.

- *Communication in Mine Awareness Programmes*
- *Database of Demining Accidents*
- *Designer Dogs: Improving the Quality of Mine Detection Dogs*
- *Developing Mine Action Legislation – A Guide*
- *Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) – A Threat Analysis*
- *Explosive Remnants of War – Information Requirements*
- *Explosive Remnants of War – Undesired Explosive Events in Ammunition Storage Areas*
- *Explosive Remnants of War – Warnings and Risk Education*
- *Guidebook on Detection Technologies and Systems for Humanitarian Demining*
- *Guide to the International Mine Action Standards*
- *Guide to Improving Communication in Mine Risk Education Programmes*
- *Guide to Insurance for Mine Action Operators*
- *Guide to Mine Action*
- *Guide to Socio-economic Approaches to Mine Action Planning and Management*
- *Guide to International Mine Action Standards*
- *Humanitarian Impact from Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines*
- *International Mine Action Standards*
- *International Mine Action Standards for Mine Risk Education – Best Practice Guidebooks*
- *Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue 2005*
- *Metal Detectors and PPE Catalogue*
- *Mine Action Animals (DVD)*
- *Mine Action Equipment: Study of Global Operational Needs*

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- *Mine Action: Lessons and Challenges*
 - *Mine Detection Dog Bibliography*
 - *Mine Detection Dogs: Training, Operations and Odour Detection*
 - *Regional Cooperation in Mine Action: The Case of South-Eastern Europe*
 - *Role of Mine Action in Victim Assistance*
 - *Role of the Military in Mine Action*
 - *Socio-economic Approaches to Mine Action – An Operational Handbook*
 - *Study of Local Organisations in Mine Action*
 - *Study of Manual Mine Clearance*
 - *Study of Mechanical Application in Demining*
 - *Study of Scrap Metal Collection in Lao PDR*
 - *Study of Socio-economic Approaches to Mine Action*
 - *Study of the Development of National Mine Action Legislation*
 - *Study of the Role of Survey in Mine Action*
 - *Time and Motion Studies in Demining: Snapshots of Operations*
 - *Training of Mine Detection Dogs in Bosnia and Herzegovina (NPA Global Training Centre)*

List of acronyms

APM	anti-personnel mine
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
EC	European Commission
ERW	explosive remnants of war
GGE	Governmental Group of Experts
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GIS	geographic information system
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IMAS	International Mine Action Standard(s)
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IPDET	International Programme for Development Evaluation Training
ISU	Implementation Support Unit
JMU	James Madison University
MOTAPM	mines other than anti-personnel mines
MRE	mine risk education
NCDR	National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (Jordan)
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NMAS	national mine action standard(s)
PPE	personal protective equipment
REST	Remote Explosive Scent Tracing
RSC	Regional Support Centre
SALW	small arms and light weapons
6MSP	Sixth Meeting of States Parties
UN	United Nations
UNDDA	United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia
UXO	unexploded ordnance