



Press Release

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A Guide to Socio-Economic Approaches to Mine Action – Planning and Management

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has published an updated version of the *Guide to Socio-Economic Approaches to Mine Action Planning and Management*, taking into account experiences in mine affected countries and research results over the last years.

“ The international mine action community has learned a great deal over the past fifteen years, particularly concerning efficiency and safety of clearance operations, setting up national mine action programmes, implementing landmine impact surveys and information management ” says Stephan Nellen, Director of the GICHD.

Since 2000, the GICHD has conducted in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) studies which have resulted in concrete recommendations for national mine action authorities, mine action centres and mine action organisations in improving their planning and management of mine action programmes. The particular focus was on the interrelationship between mine action and a country’s social and economic structures.

“ The Guide is based on two underlying principles. First, the objectives of the national mine action programme should support the overall development effort of a country. The ultimate impact of mine action activities on a nation’s development depends on how well they integrate with other development projects in order to magnify the benefits brought about by mine action alone ” says Eric Filippino - Head Socio-Economic Section.

“ Second, the true test for a mine action project is not whether it produces outputs – demined land, mine-aware people, and so on – efficiently, but whether these outputs lead to useful outcomes – productive use of land, safer behaviour by civilians, and so on – and have a lasting impact on lives of local households, communities and organisations. ”

The study has been commissioned by *United Nations Development Programme – Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery*.

For further information, please contact :

Davide Orifici

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining - GICHD

Phone : + 41 22 906 16 91 - Mobile : + 41 79 747 10 57

d.orifici@gichd.ch