



## **Press Release**

Geneva, 21 November 2005

### **First study on manual mine clearance**

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has recently published a study into manual mine clearance.

Whilst there has been considerable research into various areas of mine clearance such as the use of dogs or machines, thus far there has been no thorough analysis of the basic tenet of mine action – that of manual mine clearance.

Working in close coordination with the broader mine action community, the study analysed the management of mine action programmes, recorded and commented on a number of operational techniques and processes, ran trials to make recommendations for the improvement of efficiency of clearance, discussed risk assessment and risk management and the issues of costings related to mine action programmes. These issues were overlaid against a discussion that explained the development of manual mine clearance as an activity since the post Second World War clearance of mines and UXO in Europe and, more recently, the development of humanitarian mine clearance.

The study found that much has improved since the early days of manual mine clearance and that the safety of both the deminer and of the product (cleared land) has improved significantly. It identifies areas where there is still significant scope for improvement in the manual mine clearance process which would increase productivity and would provide not only better value for money for donors but, ultimately, a better quality of life for the populations of mine affected countries. The study also developed a risk based cost benefit model which showed that the delivery of a “100% clearance solution” was not necessarily the most practical or optimal solution for mine affected countries.

The study is available free of charge to the general public and to the mine action community and can be ordered online at <http://www.gichd.ch/482.0.html>.

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