



## **Press Release**

Geneva, 6 November 2006

### **Identifying Synergies between Mine Action and Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The GICHD has published a new study titled *Identifying Synergies between Mine Action and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)*.

The aim of the study was to address the parallels between Mine Action and SALW, to determine where the mine action community could provide experience to SALW practitioners, and vice-versa, and to identify the potential benefits in developing a more integrated approach.

Based on available evidence, the study concluded that there are few examples of existing synergies between the two sectors. SALW mitigation is a more complex issue than Mine Action, and in the countries studied very little existing synergy was observed between Mine Action and SALW programmes at field level.

Nevertheless, both sectors have the potential to share a range of objectives, strategies and practices. Supporting analysis from other contexts, as well as widespread expert opinion gathered from within the mine action and SALW sectors, concluded that areas of possible synergy exist, like disposal of SALW and ERW; victim assistance; SALW awareness and mine risk education; management of SALW and Mine Action programmes; rule of law and export control legislation and regime.

The study resulted from a request by the United States Department of State. The study was done in collaboration with the Small Arms Survey (SAS) in Geneva.

Copies of the study can be ordered or downloaded via the GICHD web-site: <http://www.gichd.ch/898.0.html>.

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