



Press Release

Geneva, 26 April 2007

A Guide to Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War – 3rd revised edition : understanding the scourge caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance

The GICHD has published a third revised edition of the *Guide to Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War* (ERW) as a single handbook providing **basic information for diplomats, donors, lawyers, practitioners, scholars, and journalists in the key aspects of landmines and ERW**. This revised handbook reflects twenty years of mine action, which has developed rapidly as a specific sector of expertise within broader relief and development efforts.

The Guide is a rich information source that can assist in decision making, program planning and research. It is intended to reflect current realities in a fast developing humanitarian and development environment. To ensure that it remains a standard reference within the ERW and mine action sector, the Guide has been significantly expanded and up-dated to reflect recent developments and trends. Thus, there are new sections on the role of mine action in peacebuilding, reconstruction and development, as well as on the effective evaluation of mine action programmes.

The origin of mine action can be traced to 1988, when, for the first time, the United Nations agencies appealed for funds to carry out civilian demining activities in Afghanistan. Nowadays, there are national programs in over forty countries, covering the **five core components of Mine Action** :

- mine risk education
- humanitarian demining
- victim assistance
- stockpile destruction, and
- advocacy.

The Guide will be a useful tool for the newcomer to understand the complexities and inter-relationships of the different Mine Action components. Moreover, specialists in one area of the discipline may become aware of developments in another.

Free copies of the Guide can be ordered via : <http://www.gichd.org/publications>

For further information, please contact :

Davide Orifici

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
Phone : + 41 22 906 16 91 – Mobile : + 41 79 747 10 57
d.orifici@gichd.org