



GICHD Strategy 2003 – 2005

This document lays out a strategy for the activities of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for the period 2003-2005. It defines the scope and content of its objectives, as well as the instruments to achieve them.

Mission Statement

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.

Principles

- 1 In pursuing its goals, the GICHD is committed to humanitarian principles. It acts as an independent and impartial centre of excellence.
- 2 The GICHD is committed to the Convention banning anti-personnel mines and to supporting its implementation. The GICHD also supports other international efforts regarding conventional weapons, which are excessively injurious, have indiscriminate effects, or can cause post-conflict hazard, in particular those covered by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
- 3 The primary responsibility for taking action against landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO's) lies with affected states and populations. Within this framework it shall remain the most important task of the GICHD to support on-going and emerging mine action operations. The GICHD provides instruments and services to support this effort. Contributions to local capacity building are of particular importance to achieve this objective.
- 4 Regarding its activities, the GICHD focuses on all aspects of mine action^[1], including: mine clearance (including planning, survey, mapping, and marking), information development, operational support, socio-economic effects, advocacy (to stigmatise the use of land mines and support a total ban on anti-personnel land mines), mine risk education, stockpile destruction and victim assistance.
- 5 The GICHD further develops and strengthens its co-operation with governments, international and non-governmental organisations. It avoids duplication with other actors and works closely together with all relevant actors.



Ways and Means

The output of the GICHD is in three core areas: (1) operational assistance, (2) research, and (3) support for the implementation of the Convention banning anti-personnel mines, and other relevant instruments of international law.

Operational Assistance

- 6 The GICHD supports mine action by making expertise available. It continues to develop a nucleus of highly qualified international staff with field experience.
- 7 The GICHD continues to develop and disseminate the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) in co-operation with UNMAS and other users.
- 8 The GICHD supports the UN in developing, reviewing and distributing the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). It produces and makes available to the field Technical Notes for Mine Action (TNMA) on subjects of special technical importance.
- 9 The GICHD prepares training packages in response to the needs of mine action programmes in the field.
- 10 The GICHD continues to develop a capacity to evaluate mine action programmes, and to provide specific advice.
- 11 The GICHD retains the capability to provide short-term operational assistance for mine action programmes by deploying members of its staff.
- 12 The GICHD provides a variety of platforms for discussion and information exchange among relevant key actors in mine action. It facilitates networking between mine affected countries. It continues to host the International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors, organised by UNMAS.

Research

- 13 The GICHD develops strategies and procedures for mine action, with the aim of improving quality and making mine action safer and more cost-effective.
- 14 The GICHD creates and disseminates knowledge to better understand and solve mine action problems.



- 15 The GICHD uses its expertise in research to produce accurate, impartial, objective and detailed studies. These studies provide guidance and support to mine action programmes in the field.
- 16 The results of such studies are transformed into specific recommendations and guidelines for dissemination to the field, backed up by practical instruments like field demonstrations, workshops, training courses, handbooks, software tools.

Implementation of the Convention banning anti-personnel mines, and other instruments of international law

- 17 The GICHD supports the Convention banning anti-personnel mines according to the mandate given by the States Parties, which includes (1) the preparation and the support of meetings, (2) providing independent professional advice and assistance, (3) offering a documentation and resource database facility.
- 18 The GICHD provides independent technical input into international efforts to minimise human suffering caused by weapons and/or remnants of war. It follows developments in relevant areas closely.

Governance, Organisation and Finances

- 19 The GICHD is primarily supported by the governments whose representatives form the Council of Foundation.
- 20 The Council of Foundation is the decision making body of the GICHD and determines the strategic perspectives and the direction of the Centre's work. It assures the independence and impartiality of the GICHD. In accordance with the statutes, it elects the members of the Bureau.
- 21 The Bureau prepares the Council's meetings and supports the Centre's management in preparing policy and strategic proposals for submission to the Council.
- 22 The Advisory Board unites personalities from within the mine action community. It provides advice on GICHD activities and projects.

^[1] Mine action addresses the issue of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO).