

THE GICHD FRANCOPHONE PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA

A significant number of mine affected countries in Africa are French-speaking, so in October 2006 the GICHD decided to create a francophone programme, in order to increase its cooperation with them. By means of this programme, the Centre wants to provide assistance to the francophone countries and organisations who work in mine action, and to increase the exchanges between French-speaking expertise and the GICHD.

The African French-speaking authorities and other francophone actors often have difficulties to obtain information on mine action subjects. This is because the majority of documents available are written in English, and the ones which are in French are scattered and not easily accessible. The programme objective is therefore to bring together the francophone expertise and to facilitate the access of the French-speaking actors to the Mine Action mainstream.

To this end, different activities have been initiated, notably the creation of a French-speaking network which is used to transmit information electronically. Thanks to this system, the GICHD sends information about its website or the publication of documents in French. (Several publications are already available in French and can be seen [here](#)). This network is useful as well, to poll the francophone community's expectations and needs on mine action.

The network involves different actors; such as national mine action authorities, training centres, experts from International Organisations, NGOs and business firms. These organisations care about having documentation in French to implement mine action programmes effectively and efficiently, both at the national and field level.

For more information, please contact Mr. René Faure (Head of Military and Francophone Programme) at r.faure@gichd.org or Ms. Maud Bonnet at m.bonnet@gichd.org.