

Foreword

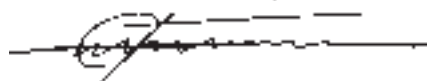
In the global effort against landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) the international mine action community is constantly striving to improve the safety, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of clearance methods. It is widely recognised that machines can contribute to this endeavour and accordingly their use has increased and expanded dramatically in recent years.

In addition to the ability of machines to clear land faster than manual methods, they also offer new approaches to humanitarian demining that can reduce the total amount of land requiring full clearance. This study looks in detail at these new approaches with a view to increasing the future efficiency of demining operations.

To further this objective, the study has also generated a software model to measure the cost-effectiveness of machines in demining. Users of this model, which is known as CEMOD, are encouraged to share results and experiences so that, collectively, the machine user community can learn more about which mechanical systems, procedures or deployment methods are working better and why.

At the same time, it must be recognised that the operational methodology of machinery in demining is still very much evolving. Considerable further research is needed to enhance our collective understanding. Nonetheless, it is hoped that the research conducted offers useful perspectives on machine employment and development. The CEMOD software is available free of charge from the GICHD upon request.

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Amb. Martin Dahinden
Director
Geneva International Centre for
Humanitarian Demining