The CRPD does not identify new rights, but provides guidance on how to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their existing rights without discrimination. This includes the rights of survivors of mines and ERW. In Article 4 of the Convention, states are obliged to implement legislation that guarantees the rights enumerated in the Convention and to abolish all legislation and regulations that discriminate against persons with disabilities.

The Convention also provides for states to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and promote respect for their inherent dignity. States are required to ensure that persons with disabilities have full and fair access to:

- education at all levels;
- healthcare and rehabilitation;
- vocational training;
- public facilities;
- employment opportunities and entrepreneurship; and
- a range of other social and economic rights.

The Convention also provides in Article 11 that 'States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.'

REPORTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Information management is an integral part of all activities in mine action, cluster munitions and ERW.

Efficient and accurate information management ensures that national authorities, mine action managers and other stakeholders have access to optimal information when making decisions.

Without accurate information for land release, stockpile destruction, victim assistance and mine risk education, it is difficult to carry out the activities required under the various treaties and conventions, and states are unable to accurately report on the progress being made.

CCW Amended Protocol II and Protocol V

CCW Amended Protocol II under Article 13(4) says that States Parties are required to submit annual reports covering:

- mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;
- steps taken to meet the technical requirements of the Protocol;
- legislation related to the Protocol; and
- measures taken on international technical information exchange or on international cooperation on mine clearance.

In the CCW Protocol V, there are specific obligations on the recording, retaining and transmission of information. Article 4 requires States Parties and parties to an armed conflict 'to the maximum extent possible and as far as practicable, record and retain information on the use of explosive ordnance or abandonment of explosive ordnance.'

These obligations are supplemented by a non-legally-binding technical annex. It establishes that a state should record the following information as accurately as possible for explosive ordnance that may have become a UXO:

- the location of areas targeted using explosive ordnance;
- the approximate number of explosive ordnance used in the areas targeted;
- the type and nature of explosive ordnance used in areas targeted; and
- the general location of known and probable UXO.

In addition, when a state has been obliged to abandon explosive ordnance in the course of operations, it should endeavour to leave AXO in a safe and secure manner and record:

- the location of the AXO; and
- the approximate number and types of AXO at each specific site.

The implementation of Article 4 and the reporting on it has been disappointing by some States. To help clarify what is required, the ICRC has released a report of an expert meeting held in 2012 on Article 4 implementation.[48]

APMBC and CCM

Both the APMBC and CCM include reporting requirements under Article 7 – Transparency Measures.

The information required includes:

- the amounts and types of mines and cluster munitions in their stockpiles; and
- the location of mined areas along with the types of mines.

In addition, States Parties are required to report on:

- status of programmes for the destruction of stockpiles;
- types of mines and cluster munitions destroyed from stockpiles;
- measures taken to notify the population about the hazards of mines and cluster munitions; and
- any other issues, on a voluntary basis, such as funding and gender considerations.

The CCM also requires that States Parties report on the national implementation of the Convention's obligations. These reports are to be updated and submitted to the Secretary General annually. In addition, the CCM includes a data collection requirement with regard to victim assistance. Under the CCM States Parties are required to make every effort to collect reliable relevant data with respect to cluster munition victims.

IMAS

The IMAS on Information Management (IMAS 5.10) emphasises the need to integrate all aspects of mine action so that all initiatives are integrated, interactive and mutually supportive. It is also important for MACs to collect information on:

- mine action;
- cluster munitions and ERW;
- mine/UXO and cluster munition awareness education; and
- victim assistance.

IMAS 07.11 Land Release establishes minimum data collection requirements during survey and clearance operations. It states that, in addition to recording the boundaries of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), organisations should record:

- what was found, where and when; and
- what was done, where and when.

The standard also states that when hazard items are discovered mine action organisations should record:

- type of munition (as specifically as possible);
- location of the item (in absolute terms and in relation to other associated items);
- depth at which it was discovered; and
- condition of the item.

Information management challenges

There are several major challenges to information management which affect objective and accurate reporting required under the CCW, APMBC and CCM:

1. The APMBC requires reporting on the number of mines and minefields and area cleared. It is difficult to find good baseline data on contamination and progress made in clearance.
2. There are cases of double counting when different clearance techniques are used. For instance, the same area can be covered by a manual demining contractor and by mine detection dogs. If both operators report the same number of square metres of clearance, there is a good chance that confusing information will be entered into the database.
3. Other questions about what data to collect, and how to report it, are associated with the CCM which requires States Parties to 'collect reliable relevant data with respect to cluster munition victims'. The CCM includes 'family members' in its definition of victims, raising questions about who to count. In many countries there are extended families beyond the traditional nuclear family, leading to uncertainty and a lack of standardisation in the way victims are counted.

A key component of RBM is performance measurement – the process of objectively measuring how well an agency is meeting its stated goals or objectives. It typically involves:

- articulating and agreeing objectives;
- selecting indicators and setting targets;
- monitoring performance (collecting data on results); and
- analysing and reporting those results in relation to the targets.

Performance measurement is concerned specifically with the production or supply of performance data. Performance management is the broad management strategy aimed at achieving important changes in the way government agencies operate, with improving performance (achieving better results) as the central purpose. In an effective performance management system, achieving results and continual improvement based on performance measurement is central to the management process.[10]

There is a clear connection between QM and RBM. Performance measurement is concerned with measuring both implementation progress and results achieved. Implementation measurement addresses whether or not project inputs and activities are in compliance with designed budgets, workplans, and schedules. Results measurement considers whether planned results are actually achieved.

Results are usually measured at three levels – immediate outputs, intermediate outcomes and long-term impacts. This helps build agreement around objectives and commitment to the performance measurement process.[11]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Role of Information Management in mine action

Information management (IM) is fundamental to all mine action activities. Indeed it can be argued that land release is entirely an information management process, other than at the point of physical removal or destruction of devices when they are discovered. Everything else revolves around the collection of information, through non-technical and technical means, and its analysis to support decisions about which land is safe and which requires further investigation/action before it can be released.

From this perspective a mine detector is simply a tool for information collection about land to support a decision as to whether it contains hazard items or whether

it can be declared clear. Other aspects of mine action (survey, risk education, victim assistance) all rely upon the availability of reliable information that provides a picture of problems that need solving, and of progress towards their solution.

IM aims to supply decision makers throughout the mine action organisation with reliable, valid information on which to base their decisions. It is directly linked to the concept of evidence-based decision making – one of the fundamental principles of QM.

IM comprises the process of continually specifying information requirements, and the collection, analysis and timely provision of required information to all mine action stakeholders. That information contributes to understanding of and decision-making about:

- the nature, characteristics and distribution of contamination;
- performance of organisations and programmes in responding to contamination;
- implications of contamination for affected populations, organisations and governments;
- the needs, requirements and preferences of affected populations;
- prioritisation of action and allocation of resources; and
- progress towards compliance with treaty obligations.

Understanding what information is for and who needs it, how they will analyse it and what they intend to do with it, is essential to the success of any IM system. Different users may need the same data for different purposes. That in turn may influence the accuracy, frequency and format in which data is collected and reported. IM is not the sole responsibility of an IM department. Responsibility lies with those who will use it (and who must specify their requirements), those who collect it (and who must comply with requirements), and those who store it, secure it, analyse it and disseminate it.

Ineffective IM can force decision-making in ignorance based on intuition rather than evidence. Lack of information discourages decision-makers from taking efficient decisions, steering them towards unnecessarily cautious positions. Ignorance, a lack of comprehensive information and the inability to measure performance impedes transparency and opens the door to corruption and inefficiency.

It is common to see IM as an isolated task of the IT department – limited to archiving; it is a mistake to do so. IM is a basic function of any decision-maker

and manager at every level in an organisation, and especially so in mine action. All those who come into contact with information have a role to play.

Stakeholders are encouraged to use the data in databases and to look for errors. Providing feedback to database administrators allows them to correct those errors and, in the IM cycle, plan how to prevent future errors. If data is not used, or if feedback is not provided, errors go uncorrected and stakeholders become less interested in using the data or in contributing to data collection – a vicious circle.

All data is collected for a purpose. If it does not satisfy that purpose then the system fails. Combining operational, quality and information management as facets of a single activity is increasingly recognised within mine action programmes. The future will see an increasing emphasis on a common understanding of the interconnectedness of these functions and the need for mine action managers to understand, and apply, principles of all three (operational, quality and information management) throughout their work.

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

The GICHD started developing IMSMA in the late 1990s with the goal of providing the mine action community with one comprehensive IM package. IMSMA is now in use in over 65 countries. It is arguably the most successful information management achievement, not only in mine action, but also in the wider humanitarian and sustainable development context.

IMSMA was always intended as a tool that is user friendly and flexible. It should support and encourage the capacity development of its users, providing them with an easy start, followed by the adoption of increasingly powerful decision-support tools. The GICHD provides certifications for Administrators of IMSMA at three levels of complexity. The majority of mine action programmes will not need administrators with more than a foundation certification, which requires two weeks of training. The administrators are then capable of setting up and customising the system, as well as training all the users across their organisation.

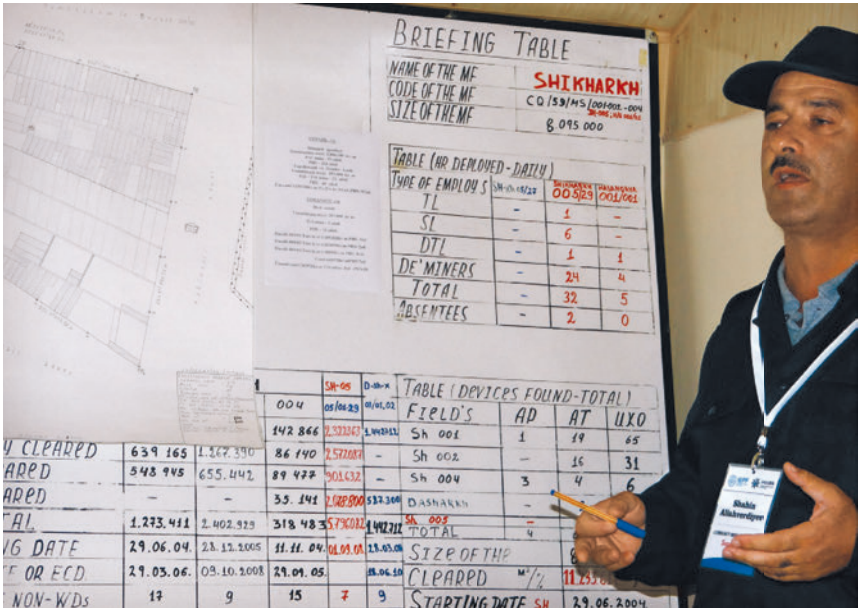
The system is installed and in use on about 2,000 computers, a figure that is still growing rapidly. The core IMSMA is part of an ecosystem of software solutions provided by the GICHD to cover the needs of the mine action community. This includes tools external to IMSMA such as:

- the online Mine Action INTelligence tool (MINT);
- the Collaborative ORDnance data repository (CORD); and
- add-ons to other software such as the mine action toolbars for Esri ArcGIS.

IMSMA allows for data exports, and live connections to the data, using a wide range of analytical tools including Excel. Giving users a regular export of IMSMA data into an analysis tool of their choosing minimizes their need to develop duplicate databases and helps maintain the quality of the IMSMA data.

Important system developments which support demining operations include GICHD's Tool for Management of Demining Operations, GIS Geo Portal, and Mine Action Intelligence Tool. The former two will serve to quickly identify and address the reasons for operational downtime. The latter is designed to conduct a sophisticated computer analysis to improve efficiency in a mine action programme.

There is nothing wrong with using tools other than IMSMA, indeed most programmes are likely to require other software tools to help address wider aspects of project management, but for IMSMA to work it needs to be used, questioned and analysed by stakeholders to prevent its data quality from deteriorating. Setting up parallel databases and spread sheets containing mine action information introduces risks of incoherent statistics and poor quality of information. It is not generally recommended. Combined with the functionality of MINT, IMSMA will provide most features offered by Microsoft Excel, but on a centralised platform that eases standardisation and dissemination of statistics.



IM workshop (Azerbaijan, 2013)