STRATEGY 2027–2030

GICHD



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Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Cover: A detection dog and its handler search for cluster munition remnants in Battambang province, as part of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)'s clearance efforts. June 2026. © GICHD

INTRODUCTION

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- WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR STRATEGY



GICHD field visit to Ukraine, 2024 © GICHD

FOREWORD

Landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive ordnance threaten people every day in more than 60 countries and territories. Armed conflicts are on the rise, and we live in one of the most conflict-intensive periods since World War II.

These developments reaffirm the importance of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) as an independent and trusted partner – and they require us to reflect on how we work. Some countries – such as Ukraine – have to address the threats posed by explosive ordnance in an ongoing conflict. In other countries – such as Syria – the end of a conflict has created the preconditions for mine action, but the necessary infrastructure and procedures are still in the process of being established. All these numerous challenging contexts require us to engage more closely with national authorities and partners on the ground. This is one of the reasons why the GICHD established a Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Amman in July 2026.

Our new Strategy sets out the direction for the period 2027–2030. It builds on the experience of previous strategic cycles and reflects what we have learned since our creation in 1998. We will support and enable effective national ownership, recognising that strong and accountable national institutions are the foundation of sustainable mine action.

We will further strengthen technical expertise and professional practice, and continue to contribute to the development and implementation of international normative frameworks. We will also promote greater coherence and complementarity across humanitarian, development and peace efforts, recognising the importance of integrated and context-sensitive responses.

The new GICHD Strategy reflects both ambition and commitment and is firmly anchored in our core mission: Supporting nationally owned mine action and ammunition management responses.

Inclusion and localization will remain key principles in this engagement.

In the new strategic period, we will also heavily invest in innovation, research and information management, ensuring that new approaches are informed by operational realities and contribute to tangible improvements in practice.

We are conscious that these objectives cannot be achieved by any one institution alone. The challenges posed by explosive ordnance are complex and interconnected, and addressing them requires strong partnerships and shared expertise.


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The GICHD will continue to connect operational experience with global dialogue, ensuring that knowledge is effectively translated into practical support for those working to reduce risk and protect communities.

In an uncertain environment, we remain committed to make a meaningful contribution to improving the safety, security and well-being of people affected by explosive ordnance.

Ambassador Tobias Privitelli
GICHD Director

WHO WE ARE

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is an international expert organization with the mandate to develop and reinforce the foundations which enable mine action and ammunition management to function effectively.

The GICHD works to reduce risks stemming from all types of explosive ordnance: landmines, cluster munitions, explosive remnants of war, and unsafely and insecurely managed conventional ammunition.

The GICHD supports States in establishing and enhancing national institutions, national and international frameworks, enhanced national capacities and practical systems that improve planning, coordination, and delivery. Working with over 40 affected States and territories each year, and in close partnership with national authorities, operators, the United Nations, international and regional organizations, NGOs, donors, academia, research institutions and technology providers, the GICHD connects field realities with international expertise.



Land release training, Syria, 2025 © Kareem Hallak

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CONFLICT AND CONTAMINATION

During the previous strategic period (2023–2026), armed conflicts have reached their highest levels in decades. Often, the work of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in mine action and ammunition management takes place in environments characterized by violence and instability. In 2024, a record 61 state-based conflicts were recorded across 36 countries – the highest number in seven decades. These conflicts have involved the extensive use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including in Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East, notably Lebanon and Gaza, contributing to a rise in contamination. At the same time, casualties caused by explosive ordnance have risen, increasing by approximately 22 per cent in 2023 and a further 9 per cent in 2024.*

* All external data used in this section are provided in Annex B.

61 state-based conflicts across **36** countries in 2024

22% increase in casualties caused by explosive ordnance in 2023 and **9%** in 2024

57 incidents associated with unsafe ammunition management between 2020 and 2024

1,259 casualties caused by unsafe ammunition management between 2020 and 2024

The use of mines and cluster munitions has continued, including that of anti-personnel mines by States and non-State armed groups, as well as the use of cluster munitions in conflicts such as in Ukraine, Syria, and Myanmar. The use of improvised explosive devices has also escalated sharply in some regions, with incidents recorded across the Sahel region tripling between 2020 and 2024.

These trends are exposing structural weaknesses in the control of explosive ordnance, particularly in the safe, secure and sustainable management of ammunition throughout its life cycle. The proportion of diverted ammunition traced to State custody rose from 7 per cent (2015–2018) to 41 per cent (2019–2022), underscoring the growing risk of diversion amid insecurity. At the same time, unplanned explosions at munitions sites continue to demonstrate the severe safety risks associated with unsafe ammunition management: between 2020 and 2024, 57 such incidents were recorded globally, resulting in 1,259 casualties.

Pressure on international norms and frameworks has increased. While initiatives such as the Global Framework for Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management (GFA) and the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) demonstrate continued international commitment to protection of civilians, 2025 marked a significant setback for other international norms, as countries

announced withdrawal from key instruments such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), an unprecedented development in recent decades.

Frameworks such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) remain central to the normative architecture governing explosive ordnance. Yet their success is being tested by uneven participation, evolving conflict dynamics, and persistent gaps between formal commitments and practice.

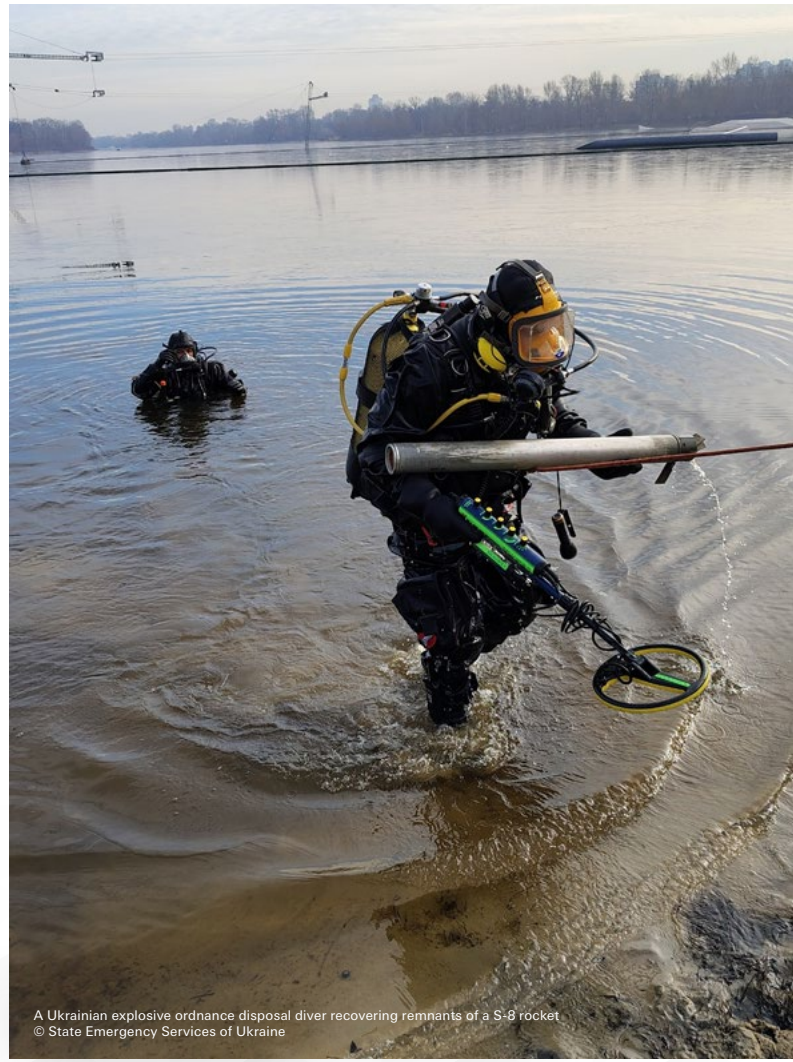
While funding for mine action has increased significantly since 2022, it remains highly uneven, with much of the growth driven by major conflicts such as those in Ukraine, Syria, and Gaza. This distribution leaves other regions, similarly concerned, without sustained or adequate support. Funding levels in some of the most affected countries declined significantly between 2020 and 2024 – most notably in Libya, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, where reductions of around 35–40% have been observed. At the same time, changes in timing, flexibility, and predictability of funding complicate long-term planning, increasing expectations to demonstrate clear results, strengthen the link between activities and outcomes, improve communication with donors, and mobilize more diverse sources of financing beyond traditional contributors.

Furthermore, only around 2 per cent of international donor funding in mine action in 2024 was channelled directly to national operators or authorities, highlighting a persistent gap between localization commitments and funding practice.

Explosive ordnance contamination undermines the safety and dignity of people in affected areas, but its impacts are not experienced equally. In contexts marked by ongoing conflict and insecurity, exposure to risk is shaped by where people live, their roles and daily activities, patterns of movement, access to information and services, as well as socio-economic conditions and structural inequalities. These same factors also influence access to services, livelihoods and opportunities, and the ability of individuals and communities to influence decisions affecting their future. As a result, recovery is often uneven, frequently weakening trust in state institutions.

Within this context, national ownership and localization remain central priorities for the GICHD, donors, and funding institutions. Effective national ownership depends on the ability of national institutions to lead, manage, and sustain responses to explosive ordnance. In many countries and territories, however, this capacity remains constrained by political instability, limited resources, and fragmented governance arrangements, affecting the ability of authorities to assume long-term responsibility for policy, regulation, and implementation. Strengthening national ownership is both a priority and an operational requirement to ensure continuity, effectiveness, and resilience.

Data, information management, and innovation are becoming indispensable preconditions for effective responses when funding is shrinking. Information management systems are expected to play a strategic enabling role by transforming data into actionable



A Ukrainian explosive ordnance disposal diver recovering remnants of a S-8 rocket
© State Emergency Services of Ukraine



GICHD's mission to Damascus, Syria, 2025 © GICHD

insights required to drive evidence-based prioritization, national planning, and decision-making. Interest is growing in the use of digital platforms, data analytics, and remote sensing technologies to improve survey, analysis and efficiency.

At the same time, innovation is most effective when clearly linked to operational needs and practical results, while ensuring the ethical use of data and technology that adheres to a "do no harm" approach.

The experience of the GICHD highlights growing demand for practical, tailor-made support. Stakeholders expect support that translates normative frameworks into tangible improvements in operations and institutional performance, such as practical tools and templates, decision-support systems, and targeted advisory support. These approaches complement broader convening efforts, which remain essential for coordination, governance, and policy dialogue.

The experience of the GICHD also underscores the importance of institutional coherence in delivery. Approaches that connect strategy, standards, information management, research, learning, innovation, and advisory support are more likely to generate sustained outcomes than fragmented interventions. Institutional and operational improvements often materialize gradually, sometimes years after outputs are delivered. Strengthening follow-up, coordination, and learning processes is therefore essential to track results, adapt approaches, and maintain relevance in a rapidly evolving environment.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR STRATEGY

In response to a complex and constrained operating environment, the GICHD will focus its 2027– 2030 Strategy on strengthening the institutions, frameworks, systems, capacities, and partnerships required to deliver effective and sustainable responses to explosive ordnance risks.

The GICHD will also focus on improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of responses globally, including by promoting innovation, strengthening professional practice, and ensuring that standards and technical guidance remain relevant and applied. In parallel, it will foster national ownership by engaging in multilateral and policy processes, helping to align global commitments with operational realities, and supporting affected States in navigating increasingly complex political and financing environments.

Building on lessons learnt over the previous strategies, our next strategic period will focus on three interlinked external objectives:

- Enabling effective national ownership of responses to explosive ordnance.
- Strengthening local, regional and global expertise and coordination to improve responses to explosive ordnance.
- Supporting the development and implementation of international normative frameworks and the integration of responses to explosive ordnance with humanitarian, development, and peace efforts.

These objectives reflect the GICHD's role as a trusted partner connecting national practice, global expertise, and international cooperation, while responding to increasing expectations for results, relevance, and sustainability.

We deliver this through five core areas of work:

1. We engage in **normative, policy and diplomatic processes** related to global and regional frameworks.
2. We support the **development and review of legislation, strategies, policies, standards, and guidelines**, as well as their **implementation** at **national, regional, and global levels**.
3. We enhance individual and institutional **capacities**, including through advisory support, tailored **learning** and peer **exchange**.
4. We provide s**ystems, tools, research, evidence, analysis and advice** to enable partners to manage responses to explosive ordnance and to inform effective **decision-making** at **national, regional, and global levels**.
5. We facilitate and promote **dialogue, coordination, and cooperation**, and foster **partnerships**, including across **humanitarian, development, and peace** sectors.



GICHD Innovation Conference 2025, Luxembourg
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VISION AND MISSION

- OUR VALUES
- OUR PRINCIPLES



GICHD field visit to Ukraine, 2024 © GICHD

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A deminer from the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) detecting cluster munition remnants in Veun Sai District, Ratanakiri province, Cambodia, June 2026. © GICHD

VISION AND MISSION

The GICHD's work is rooted in a people-centred approach, supporting responses that are nationally led, context-specific, and aligned with international frameworks and standards.

VISION

A world where people live free from the consequences of explosive ordnance.

MISSION

We support nationally owned, context-specific mine action and ammunition management responses.

OUR VALUES

Our core values guide how we work with each other, with our partners, and with the communities we serve. They shape our decisions, our behaviour, and the way we deliver our mission.



TRUST

We work with utmost integrity, communicating transparently and honestly.



RESPECT

We are collaborative, valuing diverse perspectives with a compassionate and empathetic mindset.



INCLUSION

Diversity, equality, and inclusion are central to who we are and how we work.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable to each other, our partners and those who support us, driven by needs and impact.



AGILITY

We adapt to changing environments, responding flexibly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities.



CREATIVITY

We embrace new ideas, encourage curiosity, challenge assumptions, and seek practical solutions to complex problems.

OUR PRINCIPLES

In delivering this Strategy, we will:

Uphold the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

Apply conflict-sensitive, age-, disability-, and gender-responsive approaches that reduce risks and do no harm.

Support inclusion, protection, prevention, and recovery.

Integrate environmental and climate considerations across the Centre's work, supporting sustainable approaches, where feasible.

Focus on achieving measurable results through an efficient use of resources and a results-based approach.

Promote innovation and strengthen competencies through high-quality, evidence-based approaches, learning, and responsible use of technology.



In Benin, GICHD Director Tobias Privitelli visits Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions post-conflictuelles de Déminage et de Dépollution, 2025 © GICHD

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- NATIONAL OWNERSHIP
- STRENGTHENED EXPERTISE
- NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS
- ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE

A deminer clearing in a coastal area, Sri Lanka, 2024 © GICHD

1 NATIONAL OWNERSHIP

Enable effective national ownership of responses to explosive ordnance

Effective national ownership depends on three foundations: clear frameworks, strong national institutions and capacities, and implementation that reflects the different needs and priorities. The GICHD supports affected countries and territories in establishing and sustaining these foundations, in line with international obligations, recognized standards and other commitments, and aligned with national priorities and local context. Through this work, we aim to strengthen frameworks, institutions, and capacities to address the consequences of explosive ordnance.

Result 1.1 – National frameworks are developed, adopted, revised and implemented

National ownership relies on clear and practical frameworks that set priorities, clarify roles and responsibilities, and identify the resources needed to act. These frameworks are designed to guide real decisions and day-to-day operations.

The GICHD will continue to support affected countries and territories to develop, update, and put into practice the national laws, strategies, policies, standards, guidelines, procedures and action plans that govern responses to explosive ordnance. We will also provide advice on national governance models that support effective oversight, coordination, and accountability across institutions involved in mine action and ammunition management.

Result 1.2 – National capacities and systems are established, enhanced and sustained

For national frameworks to be effective, institutions need practical systems and capacities in place to plan, manage, and sustain efforts to reduce the risks and consequences of explosive ordnance. These efforts should be aligned with national priorities for protecting civilians, preventing harm, and enabling recovery and development.

The GICHD will work with national authorities and their partners to strengthen and develop practical, sustainable systems. We will support national capacities through structured professional development opportunities, including the delivery of high-quality training and training-of-trainers, and through partnerships with academic institutions and recognized training centres.

We will facilitate regional and global learning and peer exchanges, where practitioners can share experience, discuss challenges, and develop common approaches.

Result 1.3 – National responses are inclusive and localized

For national ownership to be impactful, explosive ordnance responses must be delivered as closely as possible to those most affected. When explosive ordnance responses reflect the needs, priorities, and experiences of affected populations, they better protect civilians, enable participation, and support inclusive recovery and sustainable peace.

We will support our partners in promoting clear ways for affected populations and local organizations to participate in planning and decision-making, particularly where explosive ordnance affects access to land, services, and livelihoods. We will also help address barriers that prevent those facing social or economic exclusion from participating in and benefiting from explosive ordnance responses.

2 STRENGTHENED EXPERTISE

Strengthen local, regional, and global expertise, practice and coordination to improve responses to explosive ordnance

As conflicts evolve and contamination becomes more complex, strengthening local, regional and global expertise is essential to improving responses to explosive ordnance. Measurable progress depends on practical innovation, strong technical practice, trusted international standards and guidelines as well as sustainable and innovative funding solutions.

We will support the systems and partnerships that enable this, by promoting innovation and research, providing technical advice, including through our role in supporting international standards and guidance.

Result 2.1 – Innovation and research improve explosive ordnance responses

As contamination patterns shift, and methods that worked in the past may no longer be fit for purpose, responding to explosive ordnance risk requires constant learning and adaptation.

The GICHD will conduct research to generate evidence that informs policy and decision-making, strengthens or challenges good practice, and guides adaptation. We will also support practical innovation to test better ways of working and share proven approaches. Our focus will be on solutions that are realistic, responsible, and grounded in the needs of our partners.

Result 2.2 – Technical advice improves explosive ordnance responses

Our partners face constant pressure to deliver effective, efficient, and context-specific responses to explosive ordnance risks in complex and resource-constrained environments.

In navigating evolving threats, competing priorities, and increasing expectations to demonstrate results and impact, the GICHD will support improved operational performance, and inform policy and funding decisions. We will provide independent advice through assessments of capacities, analyses, and tailored recommendations that reflect each partner's operational and institutional context. We will foster the local, regional and global exchange of expertise by organizing and contributing to multistakeholder events. We will ensure the integration of key cross-cutting priorities, including conflict sensitivity, climate resilience, human rights, gender equality, and inclusive approaches.

Result 2.3 – International standards and guidelines remain up-to-date and relevant

Effective responses to explosive ordnance risks depend on international standards and guidelines and good practices that are practical, up to date, and founded on real field experience.

The GICHD will support the development, revision, and promotion of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). Our aim will be to ensure that they reflect operational lessons, new risks, and evolving good practice. Our support will include our role as secretariat to IMAS, support to IATG processes, facilitation of technical working groups, and the structured sharing of updated guidance so that changes are understood and applied in practice.

3 NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS

Support the development and implementation of international normative frameworks and link explosive ordnance responses with broader human rights, humanitarian, development, and peace frameworks

In the context of increasing pressure on normative frameworks concerning explosive ordnance, international cooperation remains central to how commitments related to explosive ordnance are agreed, understood, and applied.

The GICHD will continue to engage in humanitarian and disarmament conventions, as well as related international and regional processes linked to humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. Our role is to bring practical experience from national and local partners in affected countries and territories into these forums, helping ensure that commitments reflect real challenges, remain relevant as risks evolve, and can be effectively implemented.

Result 3.1 – International humanitarian law instruments and multilateral processes related to conventional arms and ammunition are informed by technical expertise

Explosive ordnance responses are governed by international humanitarian law treaties and political commitments, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Convention on Cluster Munitions, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. These frameworks play a key role in protecting civilians, promoting the rights of explosive ordnance victims, and supporting recovery and reconstruction.

We will provide legal, policy, and operational expertise to support their development and implementation, ensuring that they are informed by practice, remain relevant as contexts evolve, and can be effectively applied.

Result 3.2 – Mine action and ammunition management are integrated with human rights, humanitarian, development, and peace frameworks

Addressing risks posed by explosive ordnance contamination cannot be effectively addressed in isolation from broader human rights, humanitarian, development and peace efforts.

The GICHD will engage in global and regional policy dialogue and cross-sector platforms to ensure that mine action and ammunition management are reflected in wider policy frameworks and related initiatives. This is a two-way process: we help integrate responses to explosive ordnance into broader agendas, and we also bring lessons from those sectors back into mine action and ammunition management.

4 ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE

Ensure organizational efficiency and resilience

To provide high-quality support in complex and changing environments, the GICHD must remain a resilient, efficient, financially stable, and people-focused institution. Within this objective, we focus on sound governance, strong financial management, skilled staff, and effective organizational systems that support clear decision-making, and responsible risk management. This includes robust digital infrastructure, secure data management, and the responsible use of technology to support operations and decision-making. By reinforcing these areas, the Centre will be better equipped to adapt to change in line with our values.

Result 4.1 – Financial stability supports sustained delivery through diversified funding and responsible financial management

The Centre's long-term stability depends on predictable income, careful financial management, and realistic planning. We will strengthen financial sustainability by broadening our funding base, efficiently managing resources and improving financial planning and forecasting to better support strategic and operational decisions.

Result 4.2 – The Centre has a competent, engaged, and diverse workforce supported by an inclusive and enabling organizational culture

Our ability to deliver impact depends on our people. We will continue to build and retain a capable, engaged, and diverse workforce, supported by clear roles, effective organizational systems, and a culture of trust, respect, inclusion, accountability, agility, and creativity.

We will strengthen governance, leadership practices, and organizational systems to ensure staff have clarity on their roles, receive regular feedback, and have opportunities to learn and grow. This includes investing in staff well-being, secure and efficient digital systems,



GICHD's Offices at Maison de la Paix, Geneva, 2022 © Antoine Tardy / GICHD

strengthening data protection, and promoting the responsible use of technology to support collaboration and decision-making.

Particular attention will be given to ensuring equitable access to opportunities and strengthening pathways for women, labour market returnees and early-career professionals to advance into technical and leadership roles.

We will continue foster an organizational culture that supports psychological safety, empathy, and well-being. At the same time, we will strengthen talent development and learning, so staff have the skills and support needed to operate effectively in complex and multicultural environments.

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

- GLOBALLY CONNECTED, LOCALLY ENGAGED
- MANAGING RISKS AND ADAPTING TO CHANGE
- MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING
- COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Strategy review workshop, May 2025 © Valentyna Naumenko

GLOBALLY CONNECTED, LOCALLY ENGAGED

During the next strategic period, we will continue to strengthen our ability to work closer to affected countries and territories through flexible country-level engagement and regional approaches where appropriate. This will allow us to deepen our understanding of operational realities, build stronger relationships with national authorities and other partners, and provide more timely and tailored support.

Our engagement may take different forms, including through regional partnerships, the establishment of country or regional offices, or other forms of in-country presence, depending on context and needs.

This flexibility will enable us to respond to emerging challenges, support nationally led processes, and ensure that our work is informed by local realities while remaining adaptable over time.

At the same time, Geneva will remain our main hub. From International Geneva, we will continue to connect operational experience from affected countries and territories with global expertise. This positioning allows us not only to bring field realities into international processes, but also to translate global standards, guidance, and policy commitments into practical support for implementation. It also enables us to convene diverse actors, foster dialogue, and contribute to shaping coherent and evidence-based approaches across mine action and ammunition management.

Through this operating model – globally connected, locally engaged – we aim to combine proximity with a global perspective. This will allow us to remain agile and responsive to evolving contexts, while maintaining consistency and technical credibility. In doing so, we will continue to act as a trusted partner at national, regional, and international levels, supporting more effective, coordinated, and sustainable responses to explosive ordnance risks.



Training in Moldova, AMAT, 2025 © GICHD

MANAGING RISKS AND ADAPTING TO CHANGE

We work in environments characterized by political, security, financial, and legal uncertainty. To remain effective, we adopt a proactive and adaptive approach to risk management.

We systematically identify and monitor risks related to access, security, partnerships, funding, and compliance with applicable legal and regulatory frameworks. These risks are integrated into planning and decision-making processes, allowing us to adjust programmes, timelines, and modalities as needed.

We also align our commitments with available human and financial capacity, ensuring that programmes are realistic and include sufficient time for consolidation, follow-up, and learning. Strong partnerships, flexible planning, and continuous learning enable us to respond to changing conditions while maintaining relevance and effectiveness.



The GICHD and the Solomon Islands' EOD Team working with IMSMA in Honiara, 2024 © GICHD



Mine Action Managers Course, Switzerland, 2024 (c) GICHD

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

We use a results-based management approach to plan, monitor, and report on the delivery of our Strategy. This approach focuses on the results achieved through our work, helping ensure that activities contribute to meaningful and measurable improvements in policy, systems, and practice, and create tangible impact for affected populations.

The Strategy is supported by a Theory of Change that links our strategic objectives and expected results with the activities undertaken across our programmes. It provides a structured framework to assess progress, test assumptions, and understand how and why change occurs in different contexts.

We place strong emphasis on learning, including identifying what works, what does not, and why. This involves systematically using the findings of monitoring and evaluation to adapt approaches, strengthen effectiveness, and ensure that lessons learnt inform future programming and strategic decisions.

A monitoring and evaluation framework will track progress against these results using a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators. Data will be collected through programme activities and partnerships and will inform regular internal reviews and reporting to partners and donors. Monitoring is complemented by periodic reviews and evaluations that provide deeper analysis of the Centre's work in specific thematic areas or initiatives.

Information generated through monitoring and evaluation will support annual planning, internal learning, and external reporting. It will also allow us to identify emerging challenges, adapt where necessary, and respond to new opportunities or needs. Lessons generated through this process will be shared across programmes and with partners to strengthen practice and inform future work.

A mid-term review will be conducted two years after the launch of the Strategy and will assess progress and identify areas where adjustments may be required. Towards the end of the strategic period, a broader evaluation will be conducted to assess overall performance and to inform the development of the subsequent Strategy. Through this approach, we aim to ensure that our work remains evidence-based, responsive to evolving contexts, and focused on achieving lasting impact.

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Communication plays an important role in connecting our technical expertise with the people and institutions that shape policy, funding, and practice in mine action and ammunition management. Through clear and accessible messaging, we will continue to translate complex technical work into insights that support decision makers, partners, donors, the media, and the wider public. This helps us demonstrate how reducing explosive ordnance risks contributes to saving lives, supporting recovery, and strengthening long-term stability.

Our communications activities will support our Strategy by:

Strengthening our public positioning among decision makers, partners, and media in Switzerland and internationally.

Supporting a diverse and sustainable funding base through clear, evidence-based communication that demonstrates results, impact, and alignment with donor priorities.

Providing consistent communications support across programmes, ensuring that our work and achievements are clearly understood.

A key priority will be to make technical and specialized work accessible and relevant to experts, but also understandable for non-specialist audiences. We will communicate clearly and concisely, using straightforward and simple language, strong visuals, and evidence-based storytelling to show why reducing explosive ordnance risks matters for people and societies.



28th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors & UN Advisers, 2025 © GICHD/Antoine Tardy

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GICHD Innovation Conference 2025, Luxembourg © GICHD/PANCAKE! Photographie

ANNEX A: DEFINITIONS

National ownership

Refers to nationally led and managed responses to explosive ordnance, where national institutions exercise leadership and accountability, supported by national frameworks, systems, and capacities to plan, prioritize, coordinate, and implement activities, while ensuring alignment with the needs of affected populations.

National institutions

State bodies or entities that are mandated to govern, regulate, coordinate, oversee, or otherwise support mine action and ammunition management (e.g. national authorities, ministries, coordination centres).

National frameworks

The national laws, policies, strategies, standards, and guidelines that define priorities, roles, and responsibilities for mine action and ammunition management.

National capacities

The human and technical abilities and resources required to perform effectively, including skills, expertise, and organizational strength.

National systems

The operational processes, tools, and structures that support effective implementation, including information management, planning and prioritization, quality and risk management, coordination mechanisms, and resource management.

GICHD partners

These include national authorities, the United Nations, international and regional organizations, NGOs, donors, academia, research institutions and technology providers.

Localization

In the context of the GICHD Strategy, localization can be defined as an inclusive process that supports national ownership, empowers local actors such as local NGOs and operators, strengthens local partnerships, and sustainably enhances national and local capacities.

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Explosive remnants of war in Solomon Islands, 2024 © GICHD

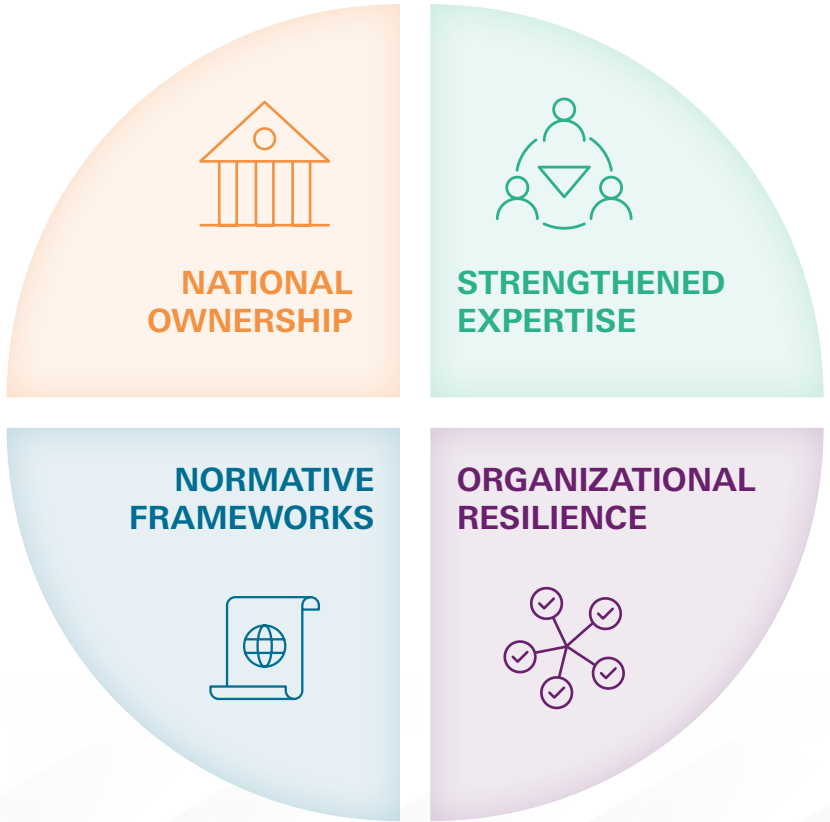
ANNEX C: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1 Enable effective national ownership of responses to explosive ordnance

1.1 National frameworks are developed, adopted, revised and implemented

1.2 National capacities and systems are established, enhanced and sustained

1.3 National responses are inclusive and localized



2 Strengthen local, regional, and global expertise, practice and coordination to improve responses to explosive ordnance

2.1 Innovation and research improve explosive ordnance responses

2.2 Technical advice improves explosive ordnance responses

2.3 International standards and guidelines remain up-to-date and relevant

3 Support the development and implementation of international normative frameworks and link explosive ordnance responses with broader human rights, humanitarian, development, and peace frameworks

3.1 International humanitarian law instruments and multilateral processes related to conventional arms and ammunition are informed by technical expertise

3.2 Mine action and ammunition management are integrated with human rights, humanitarian, development, and peace frameworks

4 Ensure organizational efficiency and resilience

4.1 Financial stability supports sustained delivery through diversified funding and responsible financial management

4.2 The Centre has a competent, engaged, and diverse workforce supported by an inclusive and enabling organizational culture

GICHD Strategy 2027–2030

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Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
Maison de la paix, Tower 3, Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2C
PO Box 1300, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland
info@gichd.org | gichd.org