



REDUCING RISK FROM EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE
MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFE



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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2020

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING
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FOREWORD

In 2020, the GICHD continued providing its services to national and international partners, with the ultimate goal of reducing risk from explosive ordnance and making communities safe. Faced with the challenges and limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre put much effort into adapting to the new context and ensuring the delivery of its services through remote means. This process paid off to a significant extent and proved the Centre's flexibility and adaptability, whilst also generating lessons that are still being evaluated and that will influence its future way of operating.

Meanwhile, the GICHD reached the mid-term of its strategy 2019-2022, consolidating its traditional areas of work, but also developing new programmes. For example, the need for the GICHD to support affected states in developing strategic plans to address mine-action challenges has grown exponentially. Thus, in 2020, the GICHD decided to strengthen its strategic planning programme and reinforce the team. Also, the Centre worked towards enabling a more coherent approach to the delivery of projects at country level, ensuring in particular the correct timing and sequencing between the development and adoption of national standards and the operational follow-up, such as training.

In 2020, particular attention and efforts have been devoted to the roll-out of the GICHD Ammunition Management Advisory Team in response to requests for technical assistance to states in the safe and secure management of ammunition, to the integration of gender and diversity dimensions throughout all activities of the Centre and to the further study of linkages between mine action and sustainable development. Mine action is a precondition and a catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, such as those related to poverty reduction, food security, education, health and gender equality. It is therefore essential for national authorities to integrate mine action into their broader national efforts related to humanitarian action, peace building and development.

Mine action is needed more than ever. At the GICHD, we are convinced that through the combination of political will, international solidarity and the implementation of good practices, a world in which societies can thrive free from explosive ordnance is possible and within reach.

Dr Barbara Haering
GICHD President



Ambassador Stefano Toscano
GICHD Director



Mission of the Ammunition Management Advisory Team in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, where a munitions depot caught fire, leading to several explosions which killed and injured hundreds, 2021

THE IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Over 60 states and territories are contaminated by landmines, cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance. Many regions also face the risk of accidental explosions and illicit diversion from poorly managed ammunition stockpiles.

Despite significant efforts over the past two decades to limit the impact of explosive ordnance, recent armed conflicts have caused a sharp rise in the number of casualties, although many accidents go unreported, especially in conflict areas. A new, more complex contamination, that includes improvised explosive devices, has a severe impact on civilians and infrastructure.

Over 5,800 casualties caused by landmines, particularly those of an improvised nature, cluster munitions, and explosive remnants of war were reported in 2019. An estimated 80% of mine victims were civilians, of whom 43% were children.

30 accidental ammunition stockpile explosions were reported in 2019. An average of 748 casualties per year, from such explosions, was reported between 1979 and 2019.

Source: Landmine Monitor 2020, Cluster Munition Monitor 2020, Small Arms Survey

WHO WE ARE

The GICHD works towards reducing risk to communities caused by explosive ordnance, with a focus on landmines, cluster munitions and ammunition stockpiles.

The GICHD helps national authorities, international and regional organisations, NGOs and commercial operators in around 40 affected states and territories every year to develop and professionalise mine action and ammunition management.



ADVICE AND TRAINING

Field support to develop national capacities and national ownership of programmes



KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

Technical and policy research to develop or adapt concepts, methods and tools for mine action and ammunition management operations



DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

Facilitating the exchange of good practice and regional cooperation between affected countries



NORMS AND STANDARDS

Support for the development and implementation of standardisation processes and of instruments of international humanitarian law



OUR PARTNERS

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

The GICHD helps national authorities to plan and manage mine action programmes and to implement their treaty obligations. National capacities and local ownership are key to enabling successful and sustainable programmes.

HUMAN SECURITY ACTORS

The GICHD nurtures partnerships with other actors in the field of human security, peace and disarmament, including within the Maison de la paix campus in Geneva where the Centre is located.

MINE ACTION OPERATORS

The GICHD collaborates closely with local, national and international operators through advisory services, training courses, policy projects and outreach activities.

HOSTING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The GICHD hosts and provides support to the Implementation Support Units of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as per agreements with the States Parties.

AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT ACTORS

The GICHD's Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT) collaborates with states' government departments and armed forces, agencies of the United Nations, and specialised organisations, to enhance the safety and security of stockpiled ammunition and explosive materials.

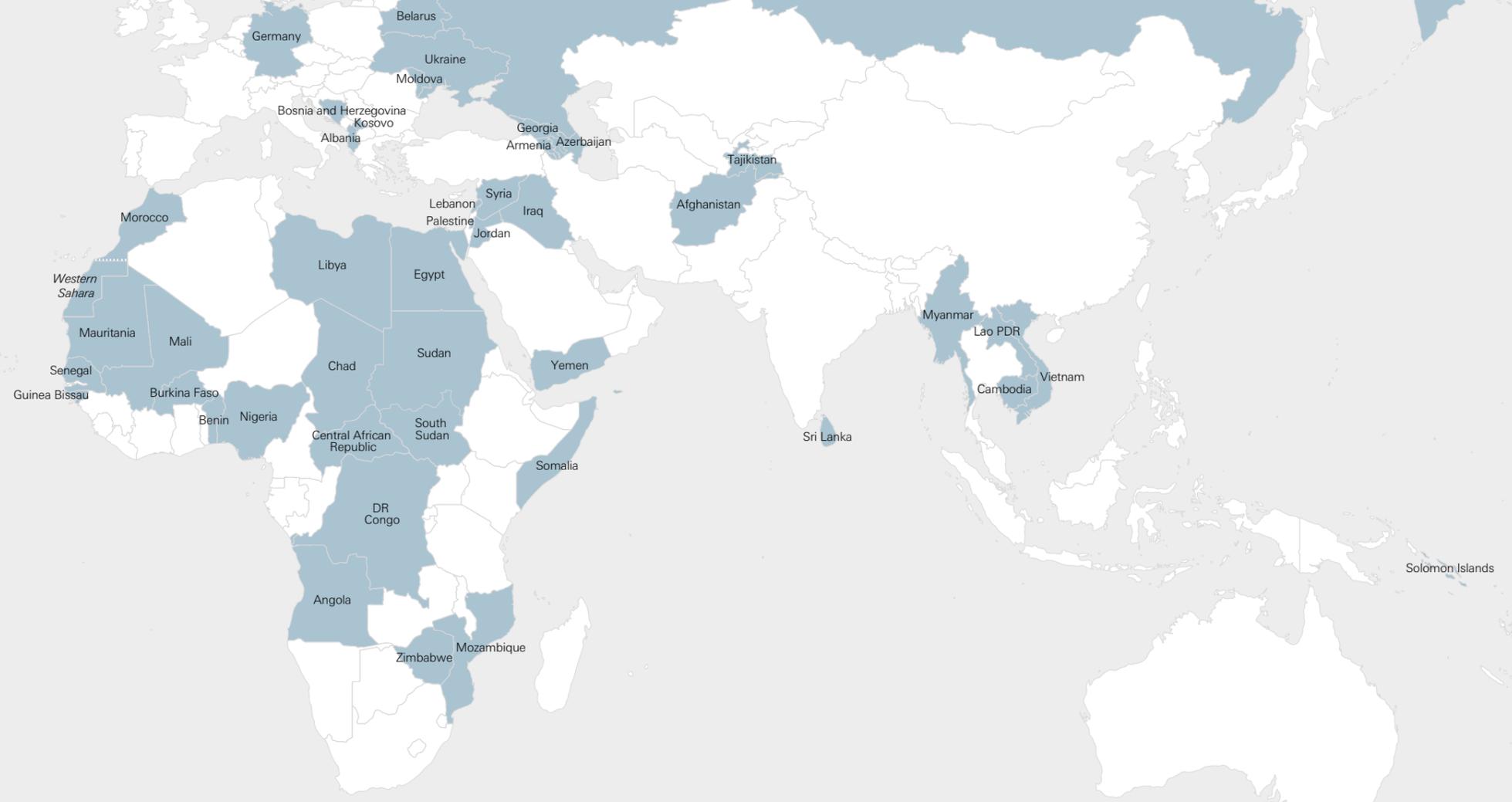


Clearance site, Colombia, 2018

49 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SUPPORTED IN 2020

In 2020, the GICHD supported national authorities, international and regional organisations, and NGOs in 49 countries and territories.

The GICHD adapted to the COVID-19 crisis by increasing its remote support. However, when in-person contact was deemed essential and destinations were accessible, GICHD staff travelled to provide on-site support, liaise with partners and donors, and organise workshops and training courses.



This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the GICHD concerning the legal status of any country or territory, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.



Online Technical Survey course delivered remotely, in partnership with the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC), GICHD premises in Geneva, 2020

RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

For the GICHD to continue with its operations in 2020, it was crucial to look at the methods it uses to conduct its work. It became apparent that our traditional model of work, which heavily relies on our staff's ability to travel and operate safely, needed to evolve to take account of the new realities presented by the pandemic. This alone had a consequential effect on our ability to deliver on our objectives and the partners' needs.

In its efforts to evolve its delivery methods, the GICHD considered the delivery of services online, via a hybrid method (partly online and partly in-person) and in-person (where possible).

Much of our work needed to migrate to remote delivery to enable us to maintain operational continuity. Building on the successful work done to develop and launch the online e-learning course on Gender, Diversity and Inclusion in 2019, the GICHD relied on similar tools and platforms to migrate other areas of its work. Over the course of 2020, some of our traditional training courses such as Technical Survey and Quality Management migrated fully or partially online. These courses were then delivered remotely to our partners. The feedback received was generally very positive.

With the evolution of our working modalities, it was important that the in-house capabilities and infrastructure evolved, too. Equally important was the recognition that both the quantity and the quality of our work had to go through a period of adjustment due to new delivery methods. On the whole the new methods have proven to work satisfactorily and have allowed the GICHD to deliver on most of its 2020 objectives. Still, not all of our work with external partners lent itself to be executed remotely. As a result, the GICHD staff travelled to several places in 2020, where this was safe and possible to do so.

2020 RESULTS



2020 RESULTS IN A NUTSHELL

TRAINING

- 5** workshops delivered
- 8** training courses delivered
- 280** participants in total (54 women, 226 men)
- 1** e-learning course
- 1,432** participants



ARCP Quality Management Course, Lebanon

101

National strategies are developed, adopted and implemented by states, according to good practice

1 national strategy developed, with gender and diversity considerations integrated

Afghanistan

2 national and donor strategies revised

GFFO, South Sudan

1 national strategy improved

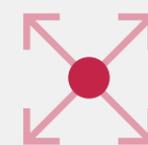
Angola

4 national strategies implemented

Kosovo, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe

1 national strategy assessment conducted

Afghanistan



102

National standards are developed, adopted and implemented by states, according to international standards

3 targeted NMAS assessments completed

Cambodia, Vietnam, Yemen

3 countries where NMAS reviewed and updated

Cambodia, Vietnam, Yemen

1 country where NMAS related to IED response updated

Yemen

1 workshop conducted; **1** workshop supported

Afghanistan, Yemen

1 publication developed

IED Clearance Good Practice Guide

78% of participants that responded, reported that they acquired practical and theoretical knowledge



103

States and other partners use quality information to support their programming and operational management

4 states improved their IM system as per the GICHD's IM capacity development framework

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon

5 assessments conducted

Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Iraq, Lebanon

4 states and

5 partners adopted GICHD information management tools

Afghanistan, Libya, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan; Mayday Rescue for Syria, UNMAS in Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Somalia



2020 RESULTS IN A NUTSHELL

104

Land release is implemented by states and other partners, according to good practice

2 tools developed

Technical Simulator (TSIM), Demining Accidents Database (DAD)

4 training courses;

3 workshops conducted for 120 participants (25 women, 95 men)

Ops Analyst (Colombia), NTS (Afghanistan), Accident Investigation (global), Quality Management (SEA-region); Operational Efficiency (Ukraine), TS (Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

2 studies developed

- ▼ Land release (Afghanistan)
- ▼ Technical survey (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



105

Regional cooperation furthers the exchange, and dissemination and adoption of good practice

21 countries exchanged good practice through regional cooperation

Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Russia, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Yemen

6 NMAA adopted good practice

Armenia, Georgia, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Ukraine

42 translations of IMAS in national/regional languages delivered

14 IMAS (French), 14 IMAS and T&EP (Russian), 14 IMAS (Arabic)



106

Risks from explosive ordnance are reduced in a gender and diversity sensitive and responsive manner

3 gender and diversity baseline assessments completed

Afghanistan, HALO Trust Afghanistan, HALO Trust Somalia

13 countries and/or partners equipped with a dedicated capacity on gender and diversity

Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Vietnam

60% of countries improved their gender and diversity response system and practices

10 countries and/or partners formalised their gender and diversity mainstreaming frameworks

Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Vietnam



107

Ammunition is managed by states according to good practice

2 states completed a baseline assessment

Mauritania, Moldova

1 state;

2 partners assisted in improving the SSMA based on good practice

Guinea Bissau, UNODA, UN SaferGuard

1 online course,

1 workshop to which AMAT contributed

UNODA-DPO's DDR WAM course, OAS regional workshop on PSSM

1 video,

1 publication and

1 e-book developed

- ▼ Security Sector Reform and Ammunition Management: Lessons Learned from Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▼ Reducing Risks Associated with Ammonium Nitrate
- ▼ Ammunition Safety Management



2020 RESULTS IN A NUTSHELL

108

Implementation of Conventions is fostered through the provision of expertise and logistical support

19 references to GICHD substantive and logistical support

by States Parties during APMBC, CCM and CCW meetings

5 extension requests under the APMBC and CCM supported by the GICHD

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Lebanon, South Sudan

3 States Parties the subject of a country-focused and individualised approach (APMBC/CCM) supported

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon



109

Relevant concepts, methods and tools are captured in international standards

9 IMAS and TNMA submitted for consideration and approved by the IMAS Review Board

100% of new standards include G&D considerations

1 global training course conducted with 20 participants (5 women, 15 men)



1010

International normative and policy processes are informed by evidence

2 international and policy processes that received advice

1 reference to GICHD's expertise

EWIPA discussions



1011

The reduction of risks from explosive ordnance contributes to humanitarian action and sustainable development

1 tool adapted under EGIS to benefit gender equality, humanitarian, peace, security and development stakeholders

7 cross-thematic partnerships engaged

UNDP, OSCE SMM, Mdp Gender and Diversity Hub, International Gender Champions, CEOBS, SIPRI, and GCSP

3 national strategies aligned with the SDGs

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Lao PDR

3 interventions in external training courses

- ▼ GPC Global Protection Forum 2020
- ▼ 18th MSP, organised by NPA and CEOBS
- ▼ Leadership in International Security Course (LISC) – GCSP

2 publications developed linking mine action and broader agendas

- ▼ Linking mine action and the 2020 Agenda: Insights from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lao PDR
- ▼ The sustainable development outcomes of mine action in Jordan



2020 RESULTS

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

OUTCOME 1

Panels organised or participated in by GICHD staff are gender mixed

100%

of panels organised were gender mixed

OUTCOME 2

Participants in workshops and training sessions organised by the GICHD are gender mixed

280

training and workshop participants:

54 women (19%)

226 men (81%)

27

sponsorship for GICHD training courses and workshops:

5 given to women (19%)

22 given to men (81%)

OUTCOME 3

GICHD representation is gender mixed and diverse at international conferences and during engagements with strategic partners

45

members of GICHD delegations present at meetings of the Conventions:

13 women (29%)

32 men (71%)

OUTCOME 4

GICHD staff composition is gender balanced and diverse

79

staff members:

46 women (58%)

33 men (42%)

9

executive level functions:

3 women in an executive level function (33%)

1 man from an explosive ordnance affected country (11%)

6 men in an executive level function (67%)

OUTCOME 5

GICHD staff members are accountable for mainstreaming gender and diversity in their work

91%

staff members completed the 'Introduction to gender and diversity in mine action' eLearning course:

72 staff in total

41 women (52% of total staff)

31 men (39% of total staff)

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



MINE ACTION STRATEGIES

Appropriate strategies are central to facilitating effective and efficient mine action operations

In 2020, the GICHD supported eight explosive ordnance-affected countries and Germany, a donor country, to develop, resource, implement and monitor national mine action strategies in accordance with good practice. Strategic planning advice and support was provided to Afghanistan, Angola, DRC, Germany, Iraq, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

The GICHD supported the mid-term review of South Sudan's national strategy through a stakeholder workshop in Juba. The workshop gave the national mine action authority, the UNMAS and NGOs the opportunity to take stock of progress made and consider changes needed to work the mine action programme's broader vision of an EO-free environment, where communities can engage safely in livelihoods activities. Another example of GICHD's strategic planning support is our collaboration with German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) to conduct a mid-term review of GFFO's Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy. This took place through a series of stakeholder consultations and an online context analysis workshop.

The GICHD also collaborated with Afghanistan to support the development of its new national strategy, through the organisation of a hybrid strategy stakeholder workshop online and in situ, in Kabul. All this planning support initiatives provide stakeholders with a platform to discuss achievements, challenges and opportunities, and to identify context-specific solutions.

The convening power of inclusive and participatory strategic planning processes allows countries further to strengthen ownership of mine action, including the coordination and management of their national programmes. As a neutral and external partner, the GICHD plays a unique and valued role as a facilitator.

➔ Resource: [Strategic planning support](#)



South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy Mid-Term Review, Juba, 2020

“In 2020, Germany and the GICHD worked together on the mid-term review of the Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy. GICHD's workshops and support gave us a clear overview about next steps to increase our effectivity and efficiency as donors in humanitarian mine action.”

Sibylle Katharina Sorg, Director General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peace Building and Humanitarian Assistance, German Federal Foreign Office



Improved explosive device clearance investigation mission

MINE ACTION STANDARDS

The normative framework of mine action (International Mine Action Standards and national standards) is designed to enhance the safety, efficiency and quality of operations

In 2020, the GICHD continued to support the development of mine action standards, by facilitating technical discussions and drafting of new content. Six IMAS chapters and one Technical Note for Mine Action were revised, in addition to new definitions contained in the IMAS Glossary (04.10); these are now available and provide additional guidance for practitioners. The GICHD also organised a training course for representatives of national authorities, to enhance their understanding of the most recent developments within the IMAS framework and on how to develop IMAS-compliant national standards.

In 2020, the GICHD assisted Cambodia, Vietnam and Yemen in reviewing and developing their national standards. Through an evidence-based and nationally led approach, mine action standards are tailored to the national context, ensuring that all mine action actors make effective decisions, whilst using appropriate methodologies and equipment.

The support provided by the GICHD to Yemen on standards in relation to work with improvised explosive devices (IEDs), as well as the publication of the Improved Explosive Device Clearance Good Practice Guide, contributed to a drop in casualty rates among operators. The Good Practice Guide was launched at a gathering of 145 stakeholders, including representatives from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, UNMAS, UNDP, Norwegian People's Aid and the Directorate of Mine Action Iraq, in December 2020. [Watch the launch event online](#)

➔ Resource: [Improved Explosive Device Clearance Good Practice Guide](#)

“Our role is to translate the international, more general guidance, bring it to the national level and bridge the gap between the two. We developed in particular a good practice guide on IED clearance that provides very detailed explanations and illustrations on what the processes are, those that are represented at the higher international guidance level.”

Tammy Hall, Head, Strategies and Standards, GICHD

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Turning raw data into useful and usable information contributes to reducing the risk caused by explosive ordnance

The GICHD continues to enable national mine action authorities and organisations to collect and use quality information in support of their programming and operational management. A cornerstone of the Centre's support to the mine action sector is the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).

In recognising that the latest version of the management system, IMSMA Core, represents a generational shift in information management, in 2020 the GICHD launched the IMSMA expert working group which is comprised of leaders from 15 organisations, and ensures that the system is responsive to the needs and requirements of states and other partners. The priorities of the IMSMA expert group are to assess the information management landscape and evaluate capacities, to establish platforms for information exchange, and to establish dashboards to promote transparency.

2020 was a year dedicated to the deployment of IMSMA Core in eight national mine action centres and 17 UNMAS country programmes, helping these partners to make evidence-based operational and strategic decisions. IMSMA serves as the home for information on explosive ordnance and where it has been removed. It is a powerful digital platform that enables advanced analytics, workflows, image processing, machine learning, AI and more.

Last year, we reached a significant milestone by contributing to the definitions, within IMAS, of a common language on data exchange for the mine action sector. These definitions include minimum data requirements and structure, and were adopted by the IMAS. The sector is now better positioned to share information globally, compare data and outcomes, and aggregate results.

➔ **Resources:** [What is IMSMA Core?](#)
[IMAS 5.10 Information Management for Mine Action](#)



IMSMA Core administrator training course, Switzerland, 2020

'I am very happy having IMSMA Core in Tajikistan National Mine Action Center. It is not only the place for storing data but also a very powerful tool to make right decisions at the right time for decision makers.'

Shuhrat Sherafgandov, IMSMA Officer,
Tajikistan National Mine Action Center



NTS training course Afghanistan © APOPO

LAND RELEASE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Land release aims to identify where explosive ordnance is to be found and to determine how best to allocate resources, resulting in considerable time and cost savings

The GICHD helps states and other partners to follow good practice in land release, which has a direct and positive impact on safety and efficiency.

In 2020, specific research on land release was carried out in Afghanistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing concrete recommendations to national mine action authorities on how improvements in land release methodology could be achieved.

Building on Afghanistan's assessment of the land release process, we provided tailored advice to its national mine action sector. We also supported the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan in developing a policy to address the complex issues surrounding liability, and enable it to be mainstreamed into the relevant Afghanistan national mine action standards. In addition, non-technical survey and technical survey training courses were delivered in collaboration with the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination, providing guidance on how to allocate limited resources more efficiently. Similar courses were also delivered to Colombia, Lebanon, South East Asia and Ukraine during the year.

New tools to help facilitate analysis and decision-making were developed and made available for users, including a technical simulator (TSIM), an accident database, and a mobile application for information on explosive ordnance.

➔ **Resource:** Check out [GICHD's catalogue of the demining equipment](#) that is currently available for the mine action community. Now also available on Apple Store and Google Play.

'Through a case study and an assessment in Afghanistan, we could identify that there was a need to improve land release processes. In Kabul, our training participants learnt how to allocate limited resources more efficiently.'

Armen Harutyunyan, Operational
Efficiency Advisor, GICHD

COOPERATION

Regional cooperation provides a space for the exchange of experiences and dialogue between national authorities

The GICHD organises forums on cooperation and facilitates visits between affected countries who share similar languages, with a view to strengthening dialogue and cooperation in mine action and ammunition management. The regional cooperation platforms have been benefitting the regions of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well as that of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Such regional approaches are instrumental in fostering south-south cooperation.

In 2020, the GICHD conducted a regional quality management (QM) training course – the first of its kind – in Lebanon, for the MENA region. Participants and instructors had the opportunity to learn from one another about QM systems established in national programmes, to share information about challenges encountered across the region and ways to address them. In addition, a meeting took place with African francophone countries, organised by the GICHD, which called for greater regional cooperation on issues such as IEDs and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), for which new international standards have been recently developed.

The GICHD also started its first remote gender equality and inclusion capacity development programme for national mine action authorities and NGOs in the MENA region. Through live sessions and online platforms in English and Arabic, the authorities were advised on how to mainstream gender and diversity into their working systems and practices.

➔ **Resource:** Translation of the latest relevant guidance on mine action, notably 14 IMAS chapters, are now available in Arabic, Russian and French: www.mineactionstandards.org



ARCP Quality Management Course, Lebanon, 2020

‘Continuous development of quality management is our goal. Through regional cooperation of exchanging experience and expertise with strategic partners, we would achieve an amazing job.’

Colonel Ahmad Moukhtar Allababidi,
LMAC ARCP Manager & Coordinator



Field study on the socio-economic impact of employing female deminers, Sri Lanka, 2020

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Building partners’ knowledge and skills to mainstream gender and diversity considerations increases the impact of mine action interventions

The GICHD continues to work towards gender equality and inclusion in mine action, through the research, training courses, and online technical assistance it carries out.

The Centre supported several organisations, national authorities and operators in the field, in terms of technical assistance, in 2020. Applying good practice and lessons learnt, it supported processes to assess, develop, review and implement gender and diversity mainstreaming in action plans, with partners in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lebanon and Somalia. The HALO Trust in Somalia, for example, has successfully deployed women in explosive ordnance disposal team leader roles, following recommendations made by the GICHD.

The GICHD also contributes to generating and disseminating knowledge through research projects and training. It published a study on the socio-economic impact of employment of women in Sri Lanka, showing that employment has transformed female and male deminers’ capacity to access and own resources and services, as well as bring about changes in female deminers’ decision-making capacities. The GICHD e-learning course on gender and diversity in mine action was also launched in 2020. To date, the course has been completed by over 1,400 people.

➔ **Resource:** [The Socioeconomic Impact of Employing Female Deminers in Sri Lanka](#)

‘Working in mine action has made me more aware about women’s rights. I now realise that my sons and daughters should be treated equally. Earlier I was living in a box, from which I have now come out of. I am now encouraging my female friends to do the same, to believe that women can be breadwinners too.’

Section leader, Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH)

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

Risk education enhances the resilience of people and communities to the risk posed by explosive ordnance by promoting safe behaviour

Concerned about the recent increase in explosive ordnance casualties, the GICHD joined with partners in 2019 to establish the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (EORE AG), comprised of 15 international organisations and UN agencies.

A recent stakeholder survey showed that the EORE sector increased its profile in 2020 and that significant work was done to identify new methodologies and ways of working better with other sectors on this issue. The GICHD has contributed to this process through its role as secretariat of the EORE AG and core member, and through the publication, in 2020, of *Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts*, in various languages.

The IMAS Review Board completed a holistic review of IMAS 12.10 (previously titled *Mine Risk Education*), and renamed it *Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)*. This was based on a collaborative effort by EORE stakeholders across the sector¹ and represented the most comprehensive review of this Standard since 2009. The document was endorsed by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action in December 2020.

Another significant achievement was the mainstreaming of gender and diversity in the updated IMAS 12.10. The Centre recognises that for EORE efforts to be truly inclusive, effective and transformative, gender and diversity considerations must be integrated throughout the programme cycle.

➔ **Resource:** [Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education \(EORE\) in Challenging Contexts](#)

¹ The Review Board recognised support from the EORE AG; see minutes of the 2020 annual IMAS Review Board meeting: www.mineactionstandards.org/fileadmin/MAS/review-board/Meeting_Minutes/20200310_Minutes_IMAS_Review_Board_Meeting_Feb_2020_FINAL.pdf



Explosive ordnance risk education session, Iraq © Sean Sutton

‘The EORE sector is evolving rapidly and risk education practitioners need more resources to explore innovative methodologies and technologies to respond to the different needs of at-risk communities.’

Kaitlin Hodge, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Officer, GICHD



AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT

Ageing, unstable and surplus ammunition stockpiles pose a dual risk of accidental explosions and illicit diversion of ammunition

The GICHD established the Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT) in 2019, in partnership with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2020, AMAT was fully operational in providing states with technical and strategic advice, and services for improving the safety and security of stockpiled ammunition and explosive materials. With its partners, AMAT is also developing methodologies, concepts and tools that align with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

In 2020 we worked with Moldova to review the country’s ammunition management practices, as well as its 2020–2024 national action plan on physical security and stockpile management. Further to a request for assistance, AMAT travelled to Moldova to conduct interviews with key stakeholders: representatives of the Ministry of Defence and officers of the armed forces. The team also carried out ammunition storage area site visits to examine how ammunition practices are implemented on the ground. AMAT’s recommendations led to an improved understanding of fundamental issues within Moldova regarding the implementation of the IATG, which in turn helped efforts in developing more efficient and effective national action plans.

In 2020, AMAT started to implement EU Council Decision 2020/979 in support of the establishment of an international arms and ammunition management validation system (AAMVS). AMAT is currently assessing the feasibility of developing such a system, with an expert working group comprised of EU member states’ representatives, and arms control and legal specialists. The AAMVS aims to make independent validation or certification of compliance possible, according to international good practice norms in the safe and secure management of national stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and ammunition. The AAMVS can also be used to inform decision-making processes within the EU, and globally.

➔ **Resource:** amat.gichd.org

‘The AMAT platform is a significant opportunity to exchange best practices and learn from each other in ammunition management and stockpile reduction, but also to reinforce relationships and promote regional cooperation in this area.’

Victor Galciuc, Defence Minister of the Republic of Moldova

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) provide for a robust international legal framework for mine action

Over the past two years, the Centre has worked closely with the Presidencies of both the APMBC and the CCM, including during the quinquennial Review Conferences of these Conventions. The technical advice provided by the Centre has contributed to the development of strategic documents, such as the Oslo Action Plan (4th Review Conference of the APMBC States Parties) and the draft Lausanne Action Plan (2nd Review Conference of the CCM States Parties). These action plans give direction to the States Parties and help ensure progress can be measured, a remarkable new development that the GICHD fully supports. Upon request, the GICHD also reviewed extension requests related to Article 5 of the APMBC, and Article 4 of the CCM, in an effort to ensure that the work of the state-led committees was based on evidence.

In 2020, due to the global pandemic, the mine action community held formal and informal multilateral meetings via online platforms, thereby ensuring that key political decisions could be made. Logistical support to this effect was provided by the GICHD to the Presidencies, Committees and Implementation Support Units.

The APMBC held the 18th Meeting of the States Parties from 16 to 20 November 2020. More than 400 delegates gathered together in a virtual format, due to COVID-19 restrictions in place in Geneva. The meeting was an opportunity to take stock of what had been achieved over the last year and set a baseline for the coming years. The GICHD participated in discussions and hosted an online side-event entitled, Enabling Best Practice Through National Standards. The GICHD Chief of Mine Action Programmes, Valon Kumnova, highlighted the progress that had been made in terms of the survey and clearance of landmines across many affected states and the key issues in Article 5 implementation.

➔ **Resource:** Watch [Valon Kumnova's speech](#) now

'The Convention [APMBC] is now is now well equipped to benefit from a virtual circle whereby transparency and accountability lead to the identification of lessons learnt, which in turn, when taken into account, lead to better performances.'

Ambassador Stefano Toscano,
GICHD Director



APMBC meeting of States Parties opening, Geneva, 2020 © AP Mine Ban Convention ISU



Demining activities in Aqaba, Jordan, 2019

POLICY

To enhance its relevance, efficiency and sustainability, mine action should be understood and operationalised as a contribution to and part of broader agendas

In recent years, the GICHD and the UN Development Programme have considered the role of mine action as a catalyst for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as those related to poverty reduction, food security, education, health, and gender equality. In 2020, we combined capacity development activities, policy work and research to support better connections between mine action and the SDGs. Today, there is general agreement about the transformational role of mine action.

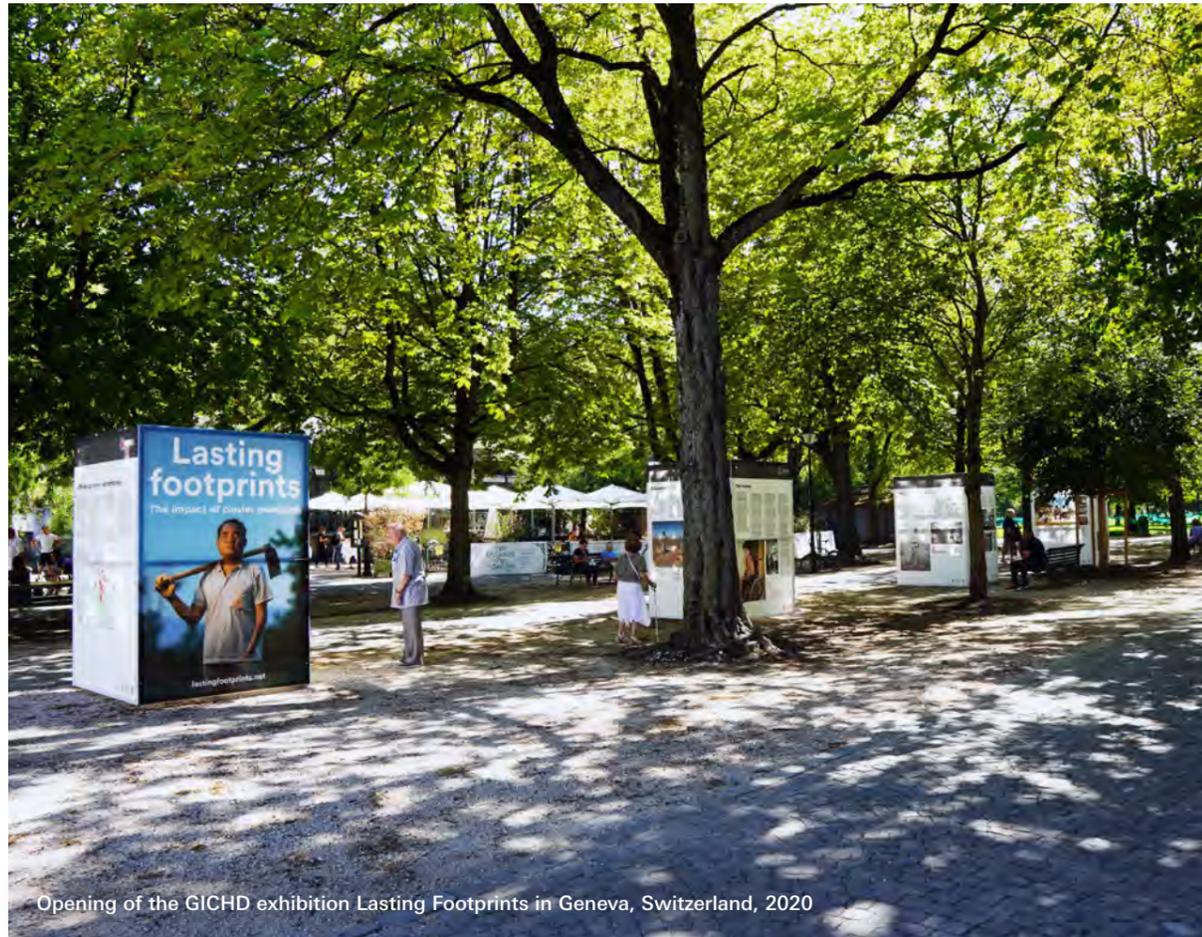
The GICHD's support to Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted, for the first time, in the inclusion of the achievements of mine action in the country's national reports on SDG implementation, illustrating the direct contribution of mine action in attaining sustainable development.

The GICHD also cooperated with Jordan to assess how mine action has helped the country achieve sustainable development. Findings clearly show that mine action has contributed to 16 out of the 17 SDGs in Jordan. They demonstrate how mine action efforts, including land release, victim assistance, EORE, gender and diversity mainstreaming, and partnerships, play a key role in transforming the lives of affected communities. For example, land release was crucial for access to natural resources, including water, with the construction of an important dam, and it facilitates safe mobility and migration as well as the preservation of cultural heritage.

➔ **Resource:** [The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Jordan](#)

'We are grateful to the outstanding partnership with the GICHD, which led to the analysis of the outcomes of mine action in the medium and long term. We hope that this will serve as an inspiration to better connect mine action and sustainable development in many other countries.'

Mohammad Breikat, Director
of The National Committee for
Demining and Rehabilitation



Opening of the GICHD exhibition Lasting Footprints in Geneva, Switzerland, 2020

COMMUNICATION

Lasting Footprints exhibition

Every five years, the Convention on Cluster Munitions convenes a Review Conference to assess progress and address the challenges of implementing the Convention and how to render it more universal. The Second Review Conference of the CCM is presided by Switzerland, with the first part held virtually in November 2020 and a second part planned for 2021.

Leading up to the Second Review Conference, the GICHD and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs jointly organised a photo exhibition in the cities of Geneva, Bern, Lugano and Lausanne. The panels showed the devastating impact that cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war still have on communities around the world. It shed light on the people whose lives have been impacted by these weapons and those who dedicate their lives to eliminating the threat they pose.

➔ **Resources:** Learn more | [What are cluster munitions?](#)
Visit the virtual exhibition: www.lastingfootprints.net/

PUBLICATIONS, DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND TOOLS

The research, publications and online resources produced and maintained by the GICHD each year in multiple languages are a key component of the Centre's support to mine action. These resources provide examples of good practice, support advisory missions and training courses, and give national authorities and operators the tools they need to improve mine action.

2020 PUBLICATIONS

A Guide to Developing National Standards for Ammunition Management (Spanish)

A Critical Path Guide to the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (Spanish)

Guidance on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (Arabic, English, Russian and Spanish)

Improvised Explosive Device Clearance Good Practice Guide

Insights, Issue 1 | Reducing Risks Associated with Ammonium Nitrate

Land Release in Afghanistan | Case study

Linking Mine Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Insights from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lao PDR

Long-Term Risk Management Tools and Protocols for Residual Explosive Ordnance Mitigation (Vietnam)

Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts (English, French, Spanish and Ukrainian)

The Socioeconomic Impact of Employing Female Deminers in Sri Lanka (English, Sinhala and Tamil)

www.gichd.org/resources/publications

2020 JOURNAL ARTICLES

The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Issue 23.3

▼ A Twenty-Minute Walk Through Fallujah: Using Virtual Reality to Raise Awareness about IEDs in Iraq

▼ Long-Term Risk Management Tools and Protocols for Residual Explosive Ordnance Mitigation: A Pretest in Vietnam

The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Issue 24.1

▼ Disposal of Explosive Ordnance and Environmental Risk Mitigation

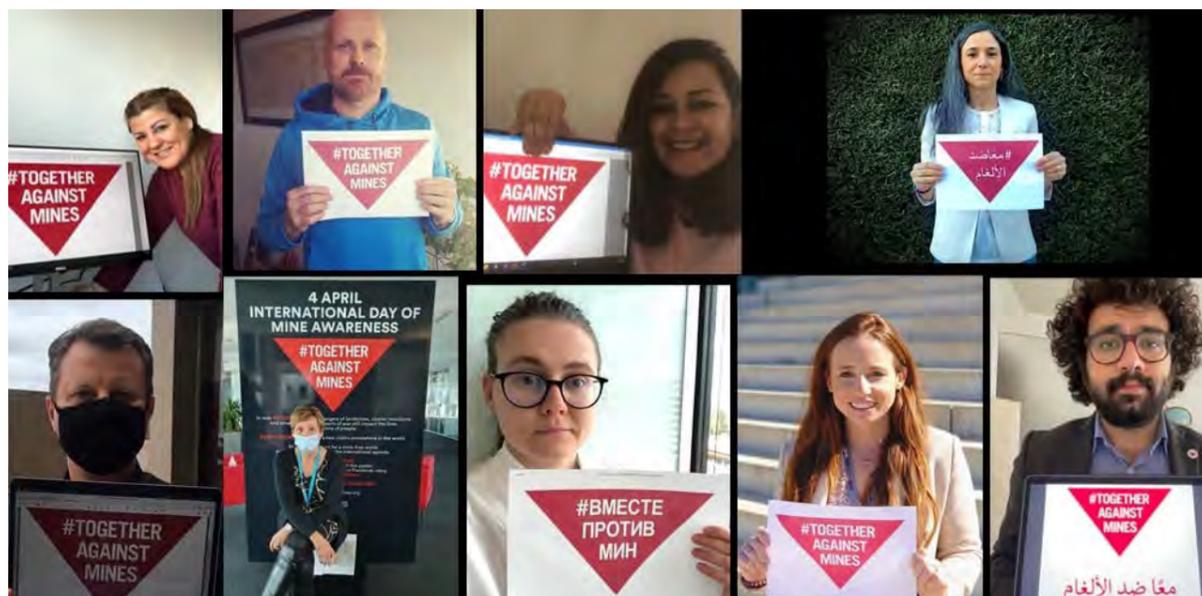
▼ Seventh Mine Action Technology Workshop: A Space for Innovation

▼ Developing a Sustainable National Training Capacity: Non-Technical Survey Training in Colombia

The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction, Issue 24.2

▼ International Mine Action Standard 10.60 | Safety & Occupational Health – Investigation and Reporting of Accidents and Incidents | Notes on the Revised Second Edition

▼ Strengthening a Sustainable National Capacity for Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in Mine Action



GICHD WEBSITES

GICHD main website:

www.gichd.org

GICHD online training platform:

training.gichd.org

Ammunition Management Advisory Team of the GICHD:

amat.gichd.org

Characterisation of explosive weapons research project:

www.characterisationexplosiveweapons.org

Explosive ordnance risk education project:

www.eore.org

Gender and Mine Action Programme:

www.gmap.ch

Together Against Mines campaign:

www.togetheragainstmynes.org

The Bâtisseurs de Paix competition:

www.batisseursdepaix.org

A VR experience made by the GICHD and NowHere Media:

www.homeafterwar.net

After a long and successful festival run, Home After War – VR Experience is now available to download for free on the Oculus Quest store. View the piece from the comfort of your home or office and leave us a review! A big thank you to all who made this happen!

[Click here to access it](#)

OTHER PLATFORMS HOSTED / MANAGED

International Ammunition Technical Guidelines/UN SaferGuard Programme:

unsafeguard.org/

International Mine Action Standards:

www.mineactionstandards.org

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention:

www.apminebanconvention.org

The Convention on Cluster Munitions:

www.clusterconvention.org

Maison de la paix:

www.maisondelapaix.ch

Maison de la paix Gender and Diversity Hub:

www.gdhub.ch

SOCIAL MEDIA

 @gichd • 23,970 followers

 @thegichd • 3,384 followers
@theAMATeam • 339 followers

 @thegichd • 953 followers

 gichd • 11,697 followers

GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The GICHD is subject to the laws of Switzerland. It is directly supervised by the federal supervisory board for foundations (*Autorité fédérale de surveillance des fondations*), which is a section of the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs. The GICHD Foundation's powers are exercised by, or are under the authority of, the Council of Foundation and the Director of the GICHD.

The Council of Foundation is the GICHD's governing body. It defines the Centre's general direction, supervises its activities and decides how to allocate its resources. Serving alongside the President, Dr Barbara Haering, who was re-elected for another four-year mandate in 2020, there are 24 Council of Foundation members and the Honorary President, Dr Cornelio Sommaruga. The Bureau of the Council of Foundation, composed of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and three delegates from the Council of Foundation, manages the Foundation's current affairs, unless otherwise delegated to the Director.

In addition to the governance bodies, the Advisory Board and the Advisory Council of the Ammunition Management Advisory Team provide advice to the Director on the strategy and programmes of the GICHD. Both advisory entities consist of groups of practitioners, states and organisations involved in mine action, human security and ammunition management.

The Director is responsible for the Centre's operational, financial and administrative management under the strategic guidance of the Council of Foundation. The Director is appointed by the Council of Foundation and has the right to act on behalf of the Foundation.

An external auditor reviews the Centre's financial reports and ensures their compliance with Swiss law. Mazars SA was appointed by the Council of Foundation as the external auditor for the 2020 fiscal year. The GICHD's annual financial statements are subject to a voluntary ordinary statutory audit as per a decision by the GICHD's Council of Foundation. The audit is carried out in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law and Swiss auditing standards.

The objectives of an ordinary statutory audit are to obtain reasonable assurances on whether the financial statements of the GICHD are prepared in accordance with Swiss law and the statutes of the Foundation and whether they give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations, and cash flows, in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER (core FER), in particular FER 21. The ordinary audit of the financial statements also aims to provide an opinion as to whether an internal control system (ICS, design and implementation) exists with regard to the preparation of the financial statements. The procedures performed for an ordinary audit are described in the Swiss auditing standards that were developed from, and are to be considered as equivalent to, the International Standards on Auditing. These are issued by the International Federation of Accountants.

COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

President

Dr Barbara Haering
President of the Council of Foundation

Honorary President

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga
Honorary President of the
Council of Foundation

Afghanistan

Ambassador Nasir Ahmad Andisha,
Permanent Representative of
Afghanistan in Geneva

Albania

Ambassador Ravesa Lleshi, Permanent
Representative of Albania in Geneva

Australia

Ambassador Sally Mansfield, Permanent
Representative of Australia in Geneva

Austria

Dr Arnold Kammel, Director,
Directorate for Security Policy, Federal
Ministry of Defence, Austria

Cambodia

Ambassador An Sokkheurn, Permanent
Representative of Cambodia in Geneva

Colombia

Ambassador Adriana Mendoza
Agudelo, Permanent Representative
of Colombia in Geneva

European Union

Ms Marketa Homolkova, Minister
Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
of the European Union in Geneva

Finland

Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi, Permanent
Representative of Finland in Geneva

France

Ambassador Yann Hwang, Permanent
Representative of France to the
Conference on Disarmament

Germany

Ambassador Peter Beerwerth,
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament

Italy

Ambassador Gianfranco Incarnato,
Permanent Representative of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament

Japan

Ambassador Ken Okaniwa,
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Japan in Geneva

Lebanon

Ambassador Salim Baddoura, Permanent
Representative of Lebanon in Geneva

Netherlands

Ambassador Robbert Gabriëlse,
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the
Conference on Disarmament

Norway

Ambassador Tine Mørch Smith,
Permanent Representative
of Norway in Geneva

Senegal

Ambassador Coly Seck, Permanent
Representative of Senegal in Geneva

Sweden

Ambassador Anna Jardfelt, Permanent
Representative of Sweden in Geneva

Switzerland

Ambassador Felix Baumann, Permanent
Representative of Switzerland to
the Conference on Disarmament

Dr Robert Diethelm, Deputy Director
International Relations Defence,
Swiss Federal Department for
Defence, Civil Protection and Sport

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Ambassador Aidan Liddle, Permanent
Representative of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the Conference on Disarmament

United Nations Mine Action Service

Ms Ilene Cohn, Deputy Director
and Officer-in-Charge of UNMAS

United States of America

Ambassador Robert Wood,
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
Conference on Disarmament

Vietnam

Ambassador Thi Thyet Mai
LE, Permanent Representative
of Vietnam in Geneva

FINANCE

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

The GICHD is grateful to all contributors who make its work possible. In 2020, the Centre benefitted from core contributions, project funding and in-kind support from 40 governments and organisations.

GOVERNMENTS



ORGANISATIONS AND OTHERS



In-kind contributions from governments and organisations:

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre, Austrian Ministry of Defence, Cambodian Mine Action Centre, City of Geneva, Descontamina Colombia, Directorate of Mine Action Coordination, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Facebook, Fondation Suisse de Déminage, Government of Germany, Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding, Humanity & Inclusion, International Committee of the Red Cross, Janus Global Operations, Lebanon Mine Action Center, Microsoft Azure, Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Safe Software Inc., Slido, Survey Monkey, Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Tetra Tech, The HALO Trust, United Nations Development Programme and Wix.com.

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES STATEMENT

		All amounts in CHF	2020
OPERATIONS	Publications and outreach		228'164
	Travel costs		130'108
	Professional fees (events & consultants)		2 120'549
STAFF	Travel costs for third parties		89'745
	Personnel expenses		10'772'670
GENERAL SERVICES	ICT and furniture maintenance		228'287
	ICT and furniture acquisitions		624'322
	ICT running costs		153'657
MISCELLANEOUS	Office supplies		20'595
	Miscellaneous expenses (office rent, bank charges and insurance premiums)		736'679
	In-kind expenditures		524'969
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES			15'629'745
	Financial results		291'344
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			15'921'089
CONTRIBUTIONS	Contributions received		16'212'053
	Activities / contributions deferred to next year		(1'991'256)
	Activities / contributions deferred from previous year		1'092'852
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR			15'313'648
OTHER INCOME	Miscellaneous income		82'972
	In-kind contributions		524'469
TOTAL REVENUES			15'921'089
SURPLUS			-

Full financial statements available upon request.

AUDIT REPORT

mazars

Mazars SA
Chemin de Blandonnet 2
CH-1214 Vernier-Geneva

Tel: +41 22 708 10 80
www.mazars.ch

Report of the Statutory Auditor on the financial statements to the Council of Foundation of Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Geneva

Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Financial Statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, which comprise the balance sheet, the statement of income and expenditures, the statement of changes in capital, the statement of cash flow and notes for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Council of the Foundation's Responsibility

The Council of the Foundation is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER (core FER), in particular FER 21, the requirements of Swiss law and the statutes of the Foundation. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Council of the Foundation is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER (core FER), in particular FER 21, and comply with Swiss law and the statutes of the foundation.

mazars

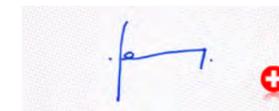
Report on Other Legal Requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 728 CO) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

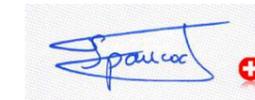
In accordance with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Council of the Foundation.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

MAZARS SA



Jean-Marc Jenny
Licensed Audit Expert
(Auditor in Charge)



Franck Paucod
Licensed Audit Expert

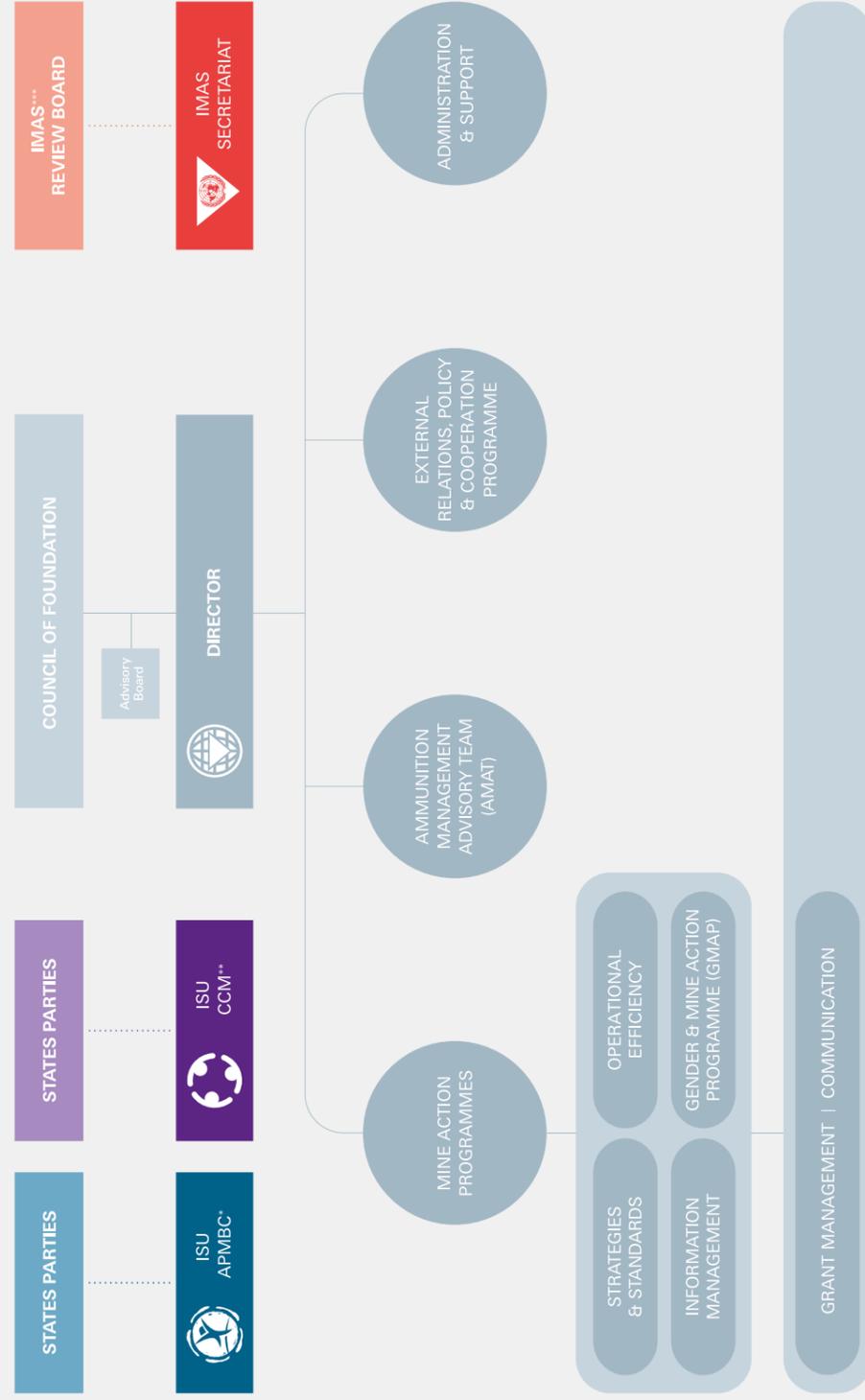
Geneva, 20 May 2021

Enclosures

- Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (balance sheet, statement of income and expenditures, statement of changes in capital, statement of cash flow and notes)

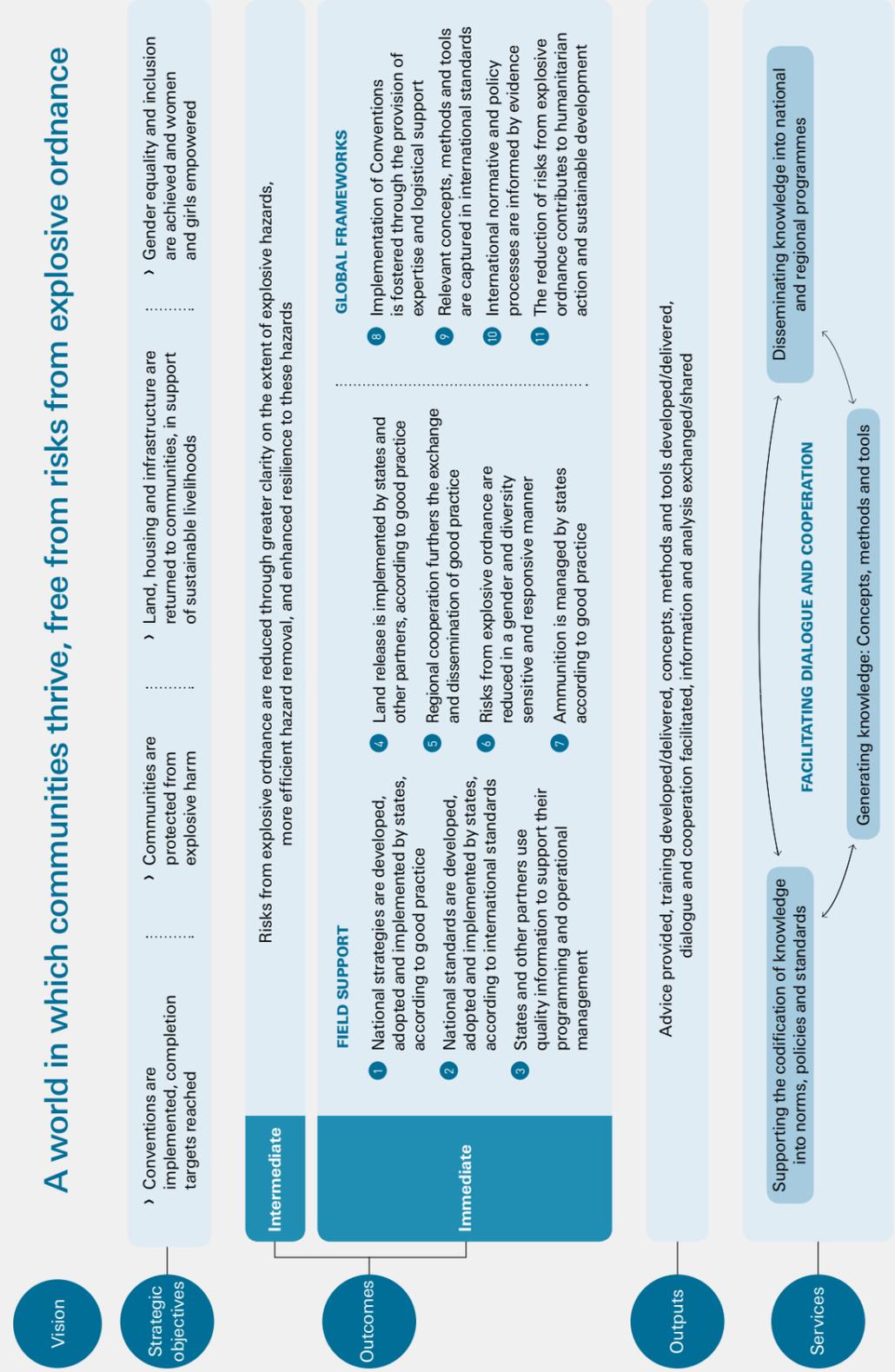
ANNEXES

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



* Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention ** Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions *** International Mine Action Standards

STRATEGY 2019-2022 – AN OVERVIEW





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