



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

1998 - 2018

TWENTY YEARS OF SUPPORTING
MINE ACTION

Cover: Clearance activities by DanChurchAid, Lebanon, 2018.

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GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

Twenty years of supporting mine action, GICHD, Geneva, December 2018

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Publication coordination: Fanny Chavaz, GICHD Communication Officer.

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THE BIRTH OF MINE ACTION

Until the 1980s, tens of thousands of people every year across the world were killed and maimed by millions of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war abandoned after conflicts. These indiscriminate weapons were also hampering humanitarian action, post-conflict recovery and development efforts.

In 1988, for the first time ever, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Assistance to Afghanistan appealed for funds for humanitarian demining operations to be carried out by civilians. Following these initial steps, various United Nations agencies were subsequently requested or mandated to provide humanitarian demining assistance in countries like Angola, Cambodia and Mozambique. A number of newly-established international NGOs undertook activities such as mine risk education, survey and landmine clearance.

The broader concept of mine action was beginning to develop. The aim was to help governments and communities build on their own capacity to eliminate the risks of mines and unexploded ordnance, and to address the socio-economic aspects of explosive contamination.

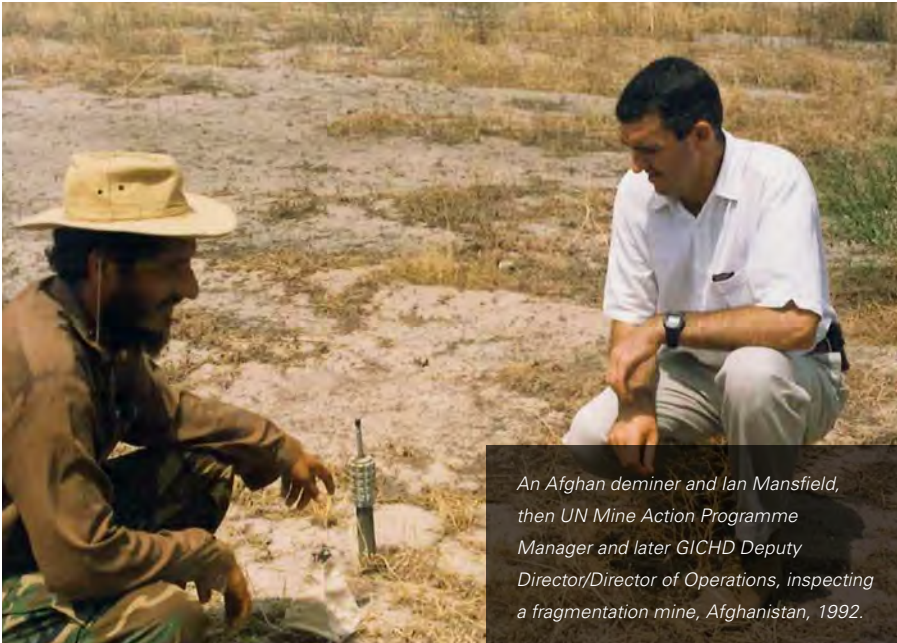
Since the 1990s, the mine action sector has rapidly evolved to better meet operational needs, with a shift of responsibility in the leadership role from the United Nations to national governments. The creation of national mine action authorities, the establishment of numerous operators, the development of information management tools, survey methods and techniques and the definition of standards to guide mine action activities have also pushed the sector forward. Today, mine action has grown into a specific and widely recognised area of work within the broader area of relief, peacebuilding and development efforts.

“These days you wouldn’t dream of taking anyone into a minefield without wearing protective equipment, but 25 years ago, not even the deminers had any to wear.”

Ian Mansfield, former GICHD Deputy
Director/Director of Operations



Guy Rhodes, GICHD Director of Operations, responding to a UXO reported by a farmer in Angola, 1997. Prior to IMAS, the Standard Operating Procedures of organisations did not always embrace protective equipment.



An Afghan deminer and Ian Mansfield, then UN Mine Action Programme Manager and later GICHD Deputy Director/Director of Operations, inspecting a fragmentation mine, Afghanistan, 1992.

90

countries and territories
affected by landmines and
unexploded ordnance

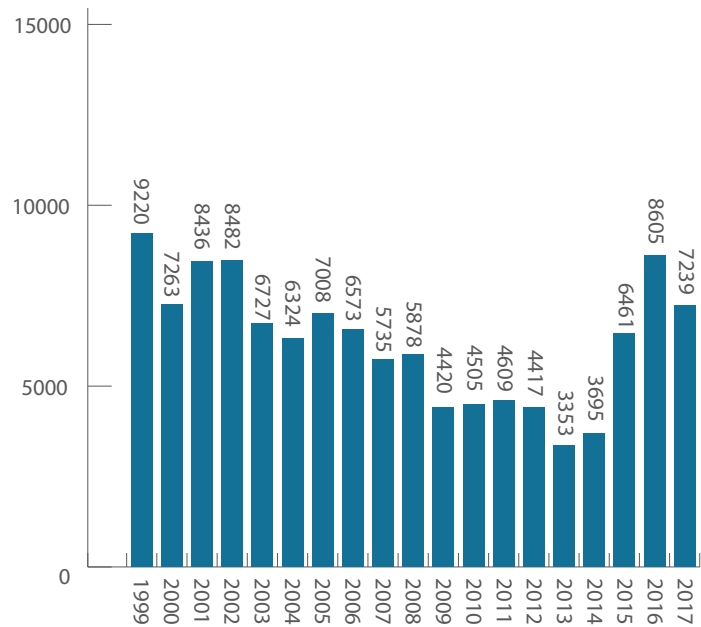
in 2001*

60

countries and territories
affected by landmines and
unexploded ordnance

in 2017*

NUMBER OF MINE/ERW CASUALTIES PER YEAR (1999-2017)*



After years of steady decline, new conflicts have caused the number of casualties to increase again.

*(source: Landmine Monitor)



THE MOVEMENT TO BAN LANDMINES

The emergence of the movement to ban landmines came from the humanitarian imperative to stop the thousands of new landmine victims occurring each year in war-torn countries all over the world.

AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVEMENT

In the 1990s, a group of non-governmental organisations created the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), a coalition that would later win the Nobel Peace Prize for their determination in calling for the convention to ban anti-personnel landmines. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations also undertook exceptional efforts to promote the adoption of a global ban.

Prior efforts by some members of the international community to strengthen existing legal instruments during the mid-1990s, in particular Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), did not meet the expectations of the movement. This Protocol regulated the use of landmines, but did not ban them.

THE BIRTH OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION

The ICBL therefore called for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines which, after several years of efforts, led to a conference organised by Canada in 1996,

entitled “Towards a global ban on anti-personnel landmines”. Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, challenged the participants to come back, a year later, to adopt the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

On December 3rd and 4th, 1997, hundreds of world leaders and civil society representatives gathered to witness the signature of the APMBC, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and stipulates their destruction. The APMBC has since become a primary reference in both humanitarian and disarmament affairs and was the first instrument to address the needs of survivors.

In 2018, 164 countries are party to the convention, representing 80% of world states. Even a majority of the states that have not yet joined the convention have halted the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. Of the 61 States Parties that had reported mined areas since the convention came into being, 30 have declared having completed clearance.

This movement inspired efforts in other disarmament fields and led to the signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008.



On December 3rd and 4th, 1997, world leaders met in Ottawa to sign the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. From left to right: Nobel Prize co-Laureate Jody Williams, President of the ICRC Cornelio Sommaruga, Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

“There was a window of opportunity and we at the Federal Council started to engage immediately in the cause to ban landmines. It was in the interest of Switzerland, of its image, and important for our humanitarian tradition.”

Dr Adolf Ogi, former Swiss Federal Councillor and Minister of Defence

“The GICHD has been an invaluable partner for the international treaties dealing with landmines and cluster munitions. The Centre has done this through hosting the Implementation Support Units and providing technical inputs into the various discussions. These treaties would not have been as successful as they are today without the support of the GICHD.”

HRH Prince Mired bin Raad Zeid al-Hussein of Jordan, former President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 2007-2008, former member of the Council of Foundation of the GICHD



THE CREATION OF THE GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD)

Whilst the adoption of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in 1997 had created a political and legal framework, a wide range of organisations were becoming involved with mine action and significant funding became available. However, there was a perceived lack of agreement on the best equipment, practices and techniques to deploy for efficient and effective operational activities. Mine action operators reported their progress in different ways and there were no common formats for data storage nor any form of standardization within the sector.

SWITZERLAND CREATES THE GICHD

The Swiss government, after commissioning a feasibility study, decided to create a centre of technical expertise and training in humanitarian demining. This centre would be designed to help implement the APMBC and

bring greater professionalism to the sector. The project was initially developed by the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, under the initiative of Federal Councillor and Minister of Defence, Dr Adolf Ogi.

Switzerland officially announced its intention to create the Centre at the signing of the APMBC in Ottawa in December 1997. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian demining (GICHD) was established just four months later, on 28 April 1998, in Geneva. The Council of Foundation, the Centre's governing body, met for the first time on 28 October 1998, at the Château of Coppet near Geneva, with representatives from 17 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.



The signing of the Deed of Foundation of the GICHD on 28 April 1998 in Geneva. From left: Dr Cornelio Sommaruga (ICRC President, currently GICHD Honorary President), Gérard Ramseyer (President of the Geneva State Council), Adolf Ogi (Swiss Federal Councillor in charge of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports, former President of the Swiss Confederation), René Felber (GICHD president and former president of the Confederation), Martine Brunshwig Graf (Geneva State Councillor).

1998 also saw the creation of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to coordinate the mine action work of the different UN agencies. Since then the GICHD has supported UNMAS with technical expertise, the development and maintenance of mine action standards and the facilitation of international meetings.

CENTRAL ROLE OF GENEVA

The city of Geneva, as a point of convergence of humanitarian and disarmament affairs, was a natural choice for the location of the GICHD. It contributed to the rapid development of the Centre as an effective partner for affected states, the United Nations, NGOs and other organisations engaged in mine action. Geneva has been, and continues to be at the forefront of efforts seeking to end the suffering caused by landmines.

EVOLUTION OF THE GICHD LOGO 1998, 2006 AND 2013

Geneva International Centre for
Humanitarian Demining
Centre International de
Démunage Humainitaire - Genève



GICHD | CIDHG



“I would like to see the Centre evolve as it has been up to now, through the training of experts and the development of technical means to improve the efficiency of operations. I also hope that all countries will ratify the Ottawa Convention.”

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, former ICRC President, GICHD Honorary President

THE EVOLUTION OF THE GICHD

The GICHD was created to help develop and professionalise mine action. It increasingly sharpened its mandate and expanded its role to add ever more value to the entire mine action sector.

Since its creation, the Centre has stayed true to its way of operating, by way of three distinct lines of service that were upheld until today: field support focused on advice and training, multilateral work focused on norms and standards and research and development of innovative tools and approaches.

CONTINUOUSLY ADAPTING TO CHANGE

In its early years, the Centre focused its work mainly on the study and development of new tools, evaluations of mine action programmes, mine risk education, mine detection dogs and support to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The GICHD also very early on began to develop what would become its flagship tool: the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). With the goal of making mine action safer and more effective, many studies and research projects were undertaken and subsequently published to provide guidance for practitioners. In addition, the GICHD was tasked by the United Nations to help develop and maintain the international mine action standards.

In the second decade of its existence, the Centre has focused continuously on two objectives: to contribute to greater clarity on the extent of global contamination and to strengthen the performance of national mine action authorities. The GICHD has increasingly put its focus on methods and approaches rather than tools development. The engagement in linguistic outreach and

regional cooperation programmes also became more prominent. Greater emphasis was placed on strategies and policy to better frame the foundations of all mine action programmes. Gender and diversity efforts were implemented, mainly in partnership with the Gender and Mine Action Programme.

Responding to recent emerging needs, the GICHD has been more and more addressing a range of topics which go beyond those strictly related to mines, dealing with risks linked to all kinds of explosive ordnance, including ammunition.

TRAINING AS A CORE ACTIVITY

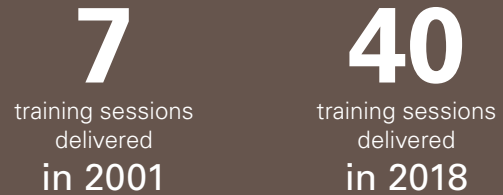
The GICHD has been providing operational assistance, including advice and training courses, since the year 2000. Adapting to the specific needs and priorities of its partners, the Centre has helped to develop national capacities in all fields of mine action. The first instructional courses delivered by the GICHD were on the use of IMSMA, the implementation of the International Mine Action Standards and mine risk education.

The training component of the Centre's work has grown today to over 40 training sessions and workshops delivered every year to mine action authorities and operators. The GICHD has also regularly been providing information workshops to visiting groups of governments officials, university students and other interested parties. Since 2013, an annual donor seminar allows relevant staff of donor countries to explore trends and priorities in mine action and to share experiences and perspectives. Donors also contact the GICHD on an ad hoc basis for advice and guidance on support to the sector.

SINCE 2000, TRAINING COURSES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Accreditation and contracting
Ammunition management
Armed violence reduction
Clearance
Environmental impact of landmine/ERW contamination and operations
Evaluating mine action
Geographic information systems
IMAS and the application of IMAS
IMSMA
Information management
Land release and operational efficiency
Land rights
Legal efficiency and liability
Management of residual explosive remnants of war
Mechanical demining and mine action technology
Mine action funding
Mine risk education
Monitoring and evaluation for peacebuilding
National standards
Non-technical survey
Technical survey
Quality management
Resource mobilisation
Security and development
Socio-economic approaches to mine action
Stockpile destruction
Strategic planning and prioritisation

NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS DELIVERED



MINE ACTION AS PART OF BROADER AGENDAS

In recent years, mine action has been characterized by a strong motivation to highlight and strengthen its contribution to broader agendas, such as humanitarian action, peace & security, and development. Transforming that impetus into reality has meant a closer orientation of mine action work towards impact rather than activities – that is towards making a positive and sustainable difference to people’s lives rather than just successfully conducting a specific activity.



RESULT-BASED MANAGEMENT

For the GICHD, that motivation has been pursued specifically through the introduction, starting in 2015, of a result-based management (RBM) system. In line with the International Mine Action Standards, RBM aims to ensure clarity on the Centre's results, including at country-level, to articulate the way in which its projects contribute to progress towards these results, as well as to establish a system to monitor and evaluate progress (or the absence thereof), draw lessons and adapt as necessary. The Centre's emphasis on impact

also directly supports the country-focused approaches that are emerging as key success factors towards the full and speedy implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.



Ambassador Martin Dahinden, former GICHD Director 2000-2004, addressing the UN Security Council in New York on the issue of mines, 2003.



Ambassador Stephan Nellen, former GICHD Director 2004-2008, visiting mine action partners in Mauritania, 2007



Ambassador Stephan Husy, former GICHD Director 2008-2014, visiting mine action partners in Peru, 2011



Scoping mission on technical survey with GICHD Director, Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2016

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
SUPPORTED OR VISITED

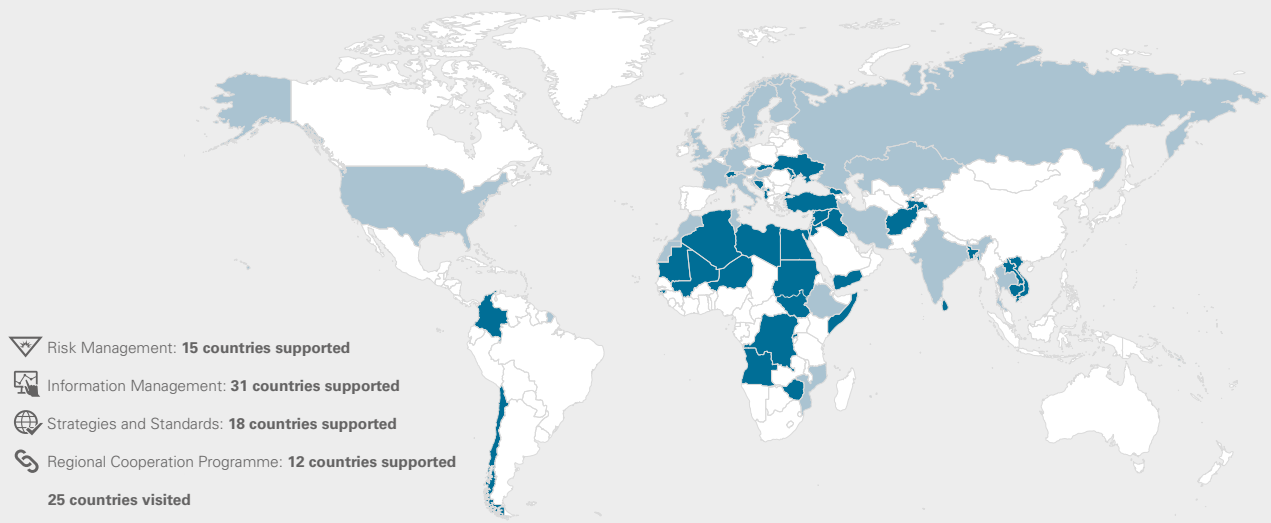
10

countries supported
in 2000

70

countries supported
or visited
in 2017

WHERE WE WORKED IN 2017



“The GICHD filled a gap in the mine action sector. Through its expert staff, field visits and the hosting of international meetings, the Centre was able to identify issues to be addressed, define good practices and then provide information and training in a neutral and impartial manner – for the benefit of the whole mine action sector.”

Ian Mansfield, former Deputy Director/Director of Operations, 2002-2011

**THE GICHD HAS
CONSTANTLY ADDED
NEW AREAS OF ACTIVITY
AND INTERVENTION
OVER THE YEARS:**

IMSMA (1999), mine detection dogs (1999), international standards (1999), mine risk education (2000), sponsorship programmes to conventions (2000), socio-economic approaches to mine action (2000), mechanical demining equipment (2001), evaluations

(2002), mines other than anti-personnel mines (2002), national standards (2003), insurance and liability (2004), mine action and environmental protection (since 2005), quality management (2006), land release (2006), mine action and development (2006), cluster munitions clearance (2007), regional cooperation (2007), strategic planning (2008), contracting in mine action (2009), landmines and livelihoods (2009), land rights (2010), stockpile

destruction (2010), gender and mine action (2010), transition to national ownership and priority-setting in mine action (2011), ammunition safety management (2013), residual contamination (2013), explosive weapons characterisation (2014), underwater EOD (2014), security sector reform (2015), peace mediation (2015), mine action and the Sustainable Development Goals (2016), Ageing of improvised mines (2017).

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS

MEETING OF NATIONAL MINE ACTION PROGRAMME DIRECTORS AND UNITED NATIONS ADVISORS

In the 1990s, the mine action sector was fragmented. There was a clear need for more coordination and for common standards and procedures. The International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors (NDM-UN), taking place every year in Geneva since 1998, has allowed the creation of a community of practice. Thanks to its operational orientation, it is providing an important opportunity to exchange know-how, good practice, and to discuss technical issues.

One of the earlier undertakings of the GICHD in 1998 was to host and organise the first NDM-UN in Geneva, on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). It was the first time that national directors and field operators were able to meet all together and share their own experiences in mine action. Facilitating international collaboration has since been at the core of our mandate. The National Directors' Meeting has cemented the role of the GICHD as a central and essential mine action hub, which identifies and furthers good practice.

From approximately 150 participants in 1998, to around 400 in 2018, this meeting began with just national

officials from affected countries and experts from United Nations' departments and agencies. It has since opened up to include donors, NGOs, commercial companies and equipment manufacturers. The agenda has also expanded beyond just clearance aspects and now considers the full range of mine action-related topics.

Today, the GICHD continues to be closely associated with the organisation of the most important annual mine action gatherings. Thanks to its partnership programme, it ensures the participation of a diverse audience.



“Close collaboration between the GICHD and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has been critical to the success of several important features of international mine action, including the International Mine Action Standards, the minefield record system IMSMA and the annual meetings of National Directors of Mine Action Programmes.”

Martin Barber, UNMAS Director 2000-2005



20th National Directors' Meeting, Geneva, 2017

STANDARDS

In the late 1990s, humanitarian mine clearance operators were using different forms of equipment and techniques. To enhance both the safety and efficiency of operations, there was a clear need to bring those experiences together and develop internationally recognised standards. This would also help States Parties to the APMBC to implement their treaty obligations.

The first standards for mine clearance were issued under the auspices of the United Nations in 1997. Since 1999, under the mandate of, and guidance from, UNMAS, the GICHD has been contributing to the development and maintenance process of new standards, the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The Centre has been providing technical input to the Review Board of IMAS and performing the role of Secretariat to the Review Board, established to oversee the continuous review process of the standards. Since 2001, workshops were conducted for humanitarian demining organisations and national authorities to ensure appropriate understanding and application of the standards.

Currently, there are 44 IMAS standards in force for all UN mine action operations. Changes are made to those already issued, and new standards are completed and approved on a regular basis. The GICHD continues to work to encapsulate relevant mine action methods and tools in these international guidelines. Since 2003, the GICHD has also been assisting national authorities with the adaptation of IMAS into national standards, and with the translation of IMAS into various languages.

The work on IMAS was an important element in establishing the GICHD as a hub for mine action knowledge. The Centre is regarded as an independent, impartial and authoritative centre within the domain of mine action, and has, since its creation, provided substantial technical contribution to setting the stage for efficient and effective operational activities. With almost 20 years of experience in the development and implementation of IMAS, the Centre is well positioned to support the development and application of more recent frameworks, such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), thus helping accelerate operational progress on the ground.

INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS OUTREACH

IMAS website hosted by the GICHD since 2010; new IMAS website launched in 2018

Translation of IMAS into Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, French, Persian, Russian, Spanish and Ukrainian

500 multi-language IMAS memory cards distributed to participants in training sessions as an offline digital resource

“Before IMAS, the whole sector lacked a common vocabulary, a common understanding, a common way of discussing problems and issues. It would have been impossible to get to the point we have reached today in mine action without the work on norms and standards undertaken in IMAS.”

Robert Diethelm, Deputy Director International Relations Defence, Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport; member of the Council of Foundation and the Bureau of GICHD



Workshop on International mine action standards, with Faiz Paktian, former GICHD Head of Standards and Quality Management, Tajikistan, 2013

“For almost 20 years now, the GICHD has been developing a comprehensive set of international standards, and continuously improving them, to ensure their relevance in a rapidly changing environment.”

Steinar Essen, Special Advisor and former Head, Department for Humanitarian Disarmament, NPA



National mine action standards workshop, with Inna Cruz, Rory Logan and Gianluca Maspoli, GICHD Advisors, Ukraine, 2018

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Mine action is inherently geographic. To locate hazardous areas and record mine action activities, information management is crucial. Information management tools are designed to collect, analyse, share quality information and prioritise mine clearance operations more effectively.

CAPTURING AND ANALYSING INFORMATION

In 1999, at a time when information management was heavily underutilized in the mine action sector, the GICHD began developing the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). IMSMA was designed specifically to fill a gap in available technical solutions for capturing mine action information. Initially, the development of the system was outsourced to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ). Later on, it was developed further by the GICHD information management team in Geneva, revised and updated many times with new functionalities.

IMSMA was first deployed to the field in 1999 in Kosovo, Azerbaijan and Yemen. By 2018, it had reached over 250 installations in 65 countries. Intended for national mine action programmes in its first years, IMSMA has been, since 2008, provided to a wider range of partners, including NGOs working on the ground.

BESPOKE SOLUTIONS

IMSMA is different from installation to installation. The type of data collected differs from one country to another, as does the level of adaptation required. Consequently, technical support is continuously required.

From the year 2000 onwards, training courses have been delivered both in Geneva and mine-affected countries on the use of IMSMA and the overall information management architecture.

A fundamental redesign was carried out in 2003, leading to a new generation of IMSMA. Between 2003 and 2013, IMSMA new generation (NG) went through a number of upgrades while retaining a consistent technical architecture and user interface.

Between 2016 and 2018, the latest version of the system, IMSMA Core was created, representing a radical shift in the way the GICHD approaches information management. IMSMA Core doesn't place the focus on the tools, but rather on the information management architecture as a whole. IMSMA Core improves planning and operation management by connecting different tools and data sources. It offers mobile data collection and Geographic Information System mapping tools to better visualise, analyse and share data.

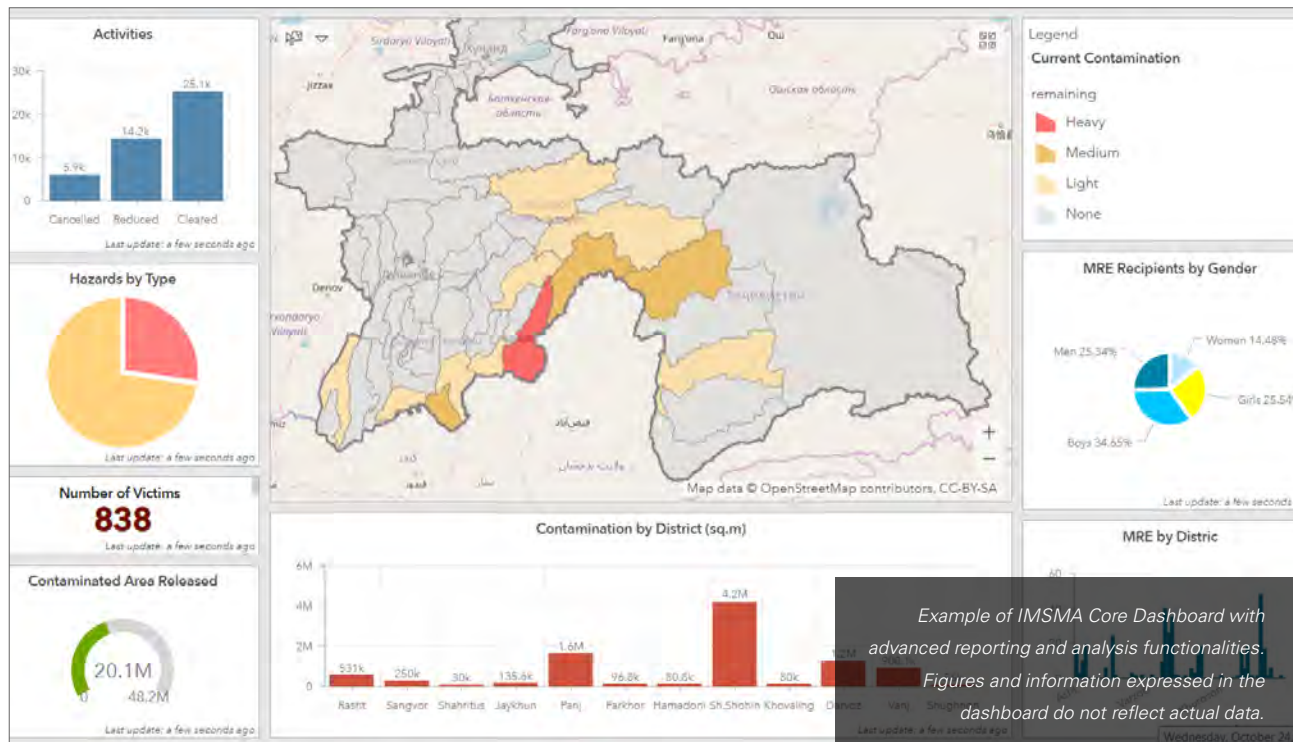
Thanks to its strategic partnership with Esri, the leading Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software company worldwide, since 1999, the Centre has access to such tools at significantly reduced prices.

APPLICATION OF TOOLS BEYOND MINE ACTION

The tools and applications developed by the GICHD are enhancing the capacity to collect, store and analyse information for not only the traditional mine action community, but also other human security actors. For example, the Centre developed an information management tool together with the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. The tool helps the mission collect and store information on the current conflict, improve data processing on existing risks and enhance the safety and security of monitors.

“IMSMA Core will allow us to conduct our risk assessments ahead of rubble removal and reconstruction four times faster than with previous methods.”

Mark Frankish, UNMAS Ammunition and Weapons Management Advisor





Geographic information system training with Jean-Paul Rychener, former GICHD Information Management Advisor, Chile, 2005



IMSMA course with Jean-Paul Rychener, former GICHD Information Management Advisor, Burundi, 2005



UC ESRI USER CONFERENCE 2017
Special Achievement in GIS

Esri SAG award, USA, 2017, with Olivier Cottray, Head of GICHD Information Management, and Olivier Demars, GICHD Information Management Advisor



*IMSMA training with Jürg Hug, GICHD
Information Management Capacity
Development, Geneva, 2018*



*UAV testing, Iraq, 2013, with Inna Cruz, GICHD
GIS and Information Management Advisor*

DEMINING TOOLS

Since the early days of demining, the tools used to detect and clear mines have remained fundamentally the same: the demining toolbox is comprised of manual, mechanical and animal techniques.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Manual demining was and remains central to mine and UXO clearance, with mechanical and animal demining tools increasingly used. Appropriate use of the latter two techniques was always a topic of debate and the subject of several applied research projects. The GICHD has been involved in these developments for 20 years. It has been supporting the research for new techniques and tools to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of survey and clearance operations.

In 2001, the Centre started a major study on mechanical demining equipment following a request from UNMAS. With a multitude of systems available on the market to locate, identify, destroy and detonate mines, the GICHD was asked to evaluate the performance and cost-effectiveness of mechanical systems to allow users to compare them. In 2002, the first mechanical demining equipment catalogue was published, as well as the first metal detector catalogue. The catalogues have been regularly updated, evolving from printed versions to the current e-catalogue available on the GICHD website.

After 2007, studies were also published on mechanical road clearance based on extensive field research. At the same time, mechanical demining training sessions were delivered to mine action programmes to promote the efficient use of mechanical tools.

FOCUS ON ANIMAL DETECTION SYSTEMS

The rich discussions around the use of detection animals such as dogs, rats and bees have always been closely followed by the Centre. For almost 20 years, the GICHD has been looking into animal assets, especially of dogs, to understand better their skills and limitations, optimising their deployment and performance and raising confidence in their work.

In 1999, the GICHD undertook its first research studies into the use of mine detection dogs. Then different studies focused on improving the operational application of dogs, such as training methods, deployment techniques and operating procedures. The Centre also began developing training packages and drafting international standards in relation to dogs. From 2000 to 2010, the GICHD has evaluated and supported animal detection programmes in a range of countries, including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Mozambique. In Afghanistan, the GICHD was closely involved in the use of dogs and in the accreditation of dogs and dog handlers. The Centre also supplied fully trained dogs to enhance the programme and set a standard in terms of how dogs should be trained.

Harnessing the advances in technology, in 2015 the GICHD and Digger DTR started the development of the Mine Detection Dog SMART system, a dog harness fitted with a GPS device to allow the live tracking of free-running detection dogs. Results can be recorded directly into IMSMA, helping operational planning and decision making. The system is currently being tested.

“Dogs and rats offer reliable and extremely fast detection of mines and other explosive remnants when trained and managed properly. But few organisations have the resources and proficiency to train animals to a professional level, and the shortfalls have caused mistrust in the reliability of these animals. The GICHD has good reasons to be proud of its efforts to improve animal detection and to lead the process to promote the right global balance between animals, machines and manual deminers.”

Håvard Bach, former GICHD Head of Operational Methods



Conny Aakerblom, former GICHD Mine Detection Dogs Specialist, on an evaluation mission, Afghanistan, 2004



Detectors trial in Georgia, 2010, with Erik Tollefsen, former Advisor, Stockpile Destruction & Technology



*Håvard Bach, former GICHD Head of Operational Methods,
with MECHEM roller operations staff, Afghanistan, 2004*

EXAMPLES OF TOOLS DEVELOPED BY THE GICHD:

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMAS)

Mine Action Reporting System (MARS)

Priority Setting Tool for Mine Action (PriSMA)

Ammunition Safety Management Tool

Anti-vehicle mine incidents and impact monitoring tool

Cluster Munitions Identification Tool

Collaborative ORDNance data repository (CORD)

Reporting, Analysis, and Prevention of Incidents in Demining (RAPID) database

SMART Mine Detection Dog system

Outreach tools: Animated films on mine action and non-technical survey approach, a virtual reality experience on the impact of IEDs

EVALUATION SERVICES

In comparison with other humanitarian and development sectors, mine action has been at the forefront of evaluating its impact. The evaluation of mine action programmes was embraced very early by the GICHD to assess their safety, efficiency and relevance. A number of these evaluations were made publicly available and contributed to informing the sector.

IMPARTIAL AND IMPACT-ORIENTED EVALUATION

Since 2002, the GICHD has been offering a wide range of evaluation services, at the request of donors and organisations such as the United Nations and NGOs involved in mine action. A standard methodology for impartial and more rigorous field evaluations in the humanitarian demining sector was published in 2006. It helped to improve the quality of evaluations and enhanced the Centre's capacity to meet the rising demand for evaluations from partners. Since 2010, the GICHD has worked within a broader definition of quality management, evaluating the fitness of programmes to promote reconstruction and development.

By 2013, the GICHD had carried out the evaluation of mine action programmes in over 25 countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Laos, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Somaliland, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vietnam and Yemen.

The Centre's active role in performing mine action evaluations has also included the development of specific mine action evaluation training packages. A number of regional workshops have been delivered to mine action specialists to contribute to the development of a local evaluation capacity. This has resulted in the GICHD being able to establish a pool of experts who can be drawn upon to conduct high-quality evaluations when needed. This also allowed the Centre to collect mine action good practice and compare and contrast a variety of mine action programmes.

“The GICHD staff is well connected to the mine action community on all levels: global, national, local, governmental and non-governmental. The Centre is well positioned to conduct independent and impartial evaluations of mine action programmes and has an impressive track record.”

Stephan Husy, former GICHD Director, 2008-2014



Evaluation mission with Vera Bohle, former GICHD Advisor, Evaluation and Quality Management, and Paddy Blagden, former GICHD Technical Director, Sudan, 2008



“The GICHD provides the technical expertise training required especially by national programmes that often lack the requisite technical skills to conduct mine action programmes effectively and efficiently.”

Ms. Sheila Mweemba, Director of the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

*Evaluation mission with Ted Paterson, former GICHD
Senior Advisor, Strategic Management, Laos, 2008*



LAND RELEASE

A growing awareness that the extent of contamination by mines or other explosive remnants of war (ERW) was not always clear led in the early 2000s to research into more appropriate land release methods. Clearance tasks were often prioritised in an inaccurate way, using expensive and resource-intensive methods with incomplete evidence of contamination.

NEW METHODS SAVE TIME AND RESOURCES

The ways surveys were undertaken needed to improve. Proper survey, as a key component of land release, indicates the presence or absence of mines and ERW, and allows accurately to delineate contaminated areas, thus diminishing the need for lengthy, expensive clearance activities. Improved non-technical survey (NTS) approaches have since contributed, more than any other operational activity, to cost savings in mine action.

NEW STANDARDS IMPROVE THE SECTOR

In 2007, the GICHD issued its first publication on the subject – *A Guide to Land Release* – based on six case studies in mine-affected countries, including extensive field research in Cambodia, Iraq and Yemen. In 2008, it was complemented by *A Guide to Land Release: non-technical methods*, and in 2011, by *A Guide to Land Release: technical methods*.

Starting in 2009, the GICHD led the discussion for the development of land release standards. The aim was to promote operational efficiency so that national authorities would deploy their assets more efficiently. Three IMAS on land release were introduced that same year. Ensuring these IMAS are outreached to national authorities, the UN and mine action operators, continues to be an important and challenging task for the GICHD.

Formulated around good practice and what has proven to work, the GICHD organises several land release training courses and workshops every year specific to regions and countries for 10 years now. These facilitate a greater understanding of land release principles and help states develop their own national land release policies. In 2014, the GICHD developed a non-technical survey training package, including a field exercise based on real-life scenarios to enhance the land release process. This course is continuously being refined and is regularly taught to national mine action authorities and operators across the globe.

The land release approach is now firmly anchored within the mine action sector and gradually being implemented by national authorities and operators. Land release has contributed decisively to a more efficient and effective allocation of clearance resources.

“Thanks to the GICHD, we have fulfilled three chapters of the land release standard in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They assist us in obtaining as much information as possible on how to best plan our operations, and we collaborate very well together and very closely. We can see how far we have come; we have successfully returned larger areas of land to the population.”

Sasa Obradovic, Director BHMACH, Bosnia-Herzegovina





First regional non-technical survey course, with Gary Breen, former GICHD Land Release Advisor, Lebanon, 2018

“Around 2006, the GICHD Operations Methodology team coined the term ‘land release’. Although it had been applied in the field for some years by operators, the term helped explain one of the major problems of mine action: the over-reporting of contaminated land.”

Erik Tollefsen, former GICHD Stockpile Destruction & Technology Advisor

Land release and the introduction of related standards represented a shift in the sector, leading to significant savings in time and money.”

Guy Rhodes, GICHD Director of Operations



Land release mission with Helen Gray, former GICHD Advisor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014



*Land release mission with NPA and Helen Gray,
former GICHD Advisor, Thailand, 2018*

“The training was of tremendous help in developing non-technical survey (NTS) training packages and enhancing teams’ ability to conduct NTS operations effectively and efficiently in the field. I have seen the signs of this improvement while visiting the teams and receiving their reports.”

Abdul Qudos, Mine Action Coordination Centre, Afghanistan



*Non-technical survey global course, with Jörg Lobert,
GICHD Military Liaison Germany, 2016*

STRATEGIES

A solid national strategy is the basis for all mine action actors within a given country to be aligned on the way ahead and to work together better. The strategy sets the direction for the structured and results-oriented implementation of national mine action programmes. It sets priorities and helps identify the resources needed.

PROMOTING NATIONAL OWNERSHIP

In response to the limited amount of specific guidance available on how to plan effectively and transparently and implement mine action activities, the GICHD began to study strategic planning processes. The aim was to identify and document key challenges, good practice and lessons learnt. The GICHD's strategic planning support for mine-affected countries began with Cambodia in 2008. Our support focused on how to develop, implement and monitor national mine action strategies, ensuring a large contribution to national ownership.

Strategic planning enables countries to meet more effectively their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Furthermore, a national strategy is of utmost importance to attract donors and funding, ensuring that the implementation of treaty obligations follows a clear path.

LESSONS LEARNT GUIDE STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2011, strategic planning became a priority for the Centre and, in the following year, advisory missions, assessments and workshops took place in a number of countries. In 2014 the publication of a *Guide to Strategic Planning in Mine Action*, which was based on key findings from six strategic planning country case studies, attracted much attention from the mine action community. The guide, the first of its kind, provides concrete recommendations to the sector on how to develop, implement and review national mine action strategies that are appropriate, inclusive and realistic.

To date, the GICHD has helped 14 countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war develop and implement national strategies, based on good practice: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

“Right from the beginning, when we were defining the mine action strategy in Colombia, the help we received from the GICHD has been really important. The Centre has helped us from the public policy angle, and to design an intervention strategy.”

Sergio Bueno, former Director, Descontamina Colombia



Field visit on the occasion of a strategic planning workshop, with, on the right, Åsa Massleberg, GICHD Strategic Management Advisor, Kosovo, 2018

Sri Lanka mid-term strategy review with Rob White, Strategic Management Advisor (3rd from the right), Sri Lanka, 2018



“The GICHD’s support to Sri Lanka’s mine action programme has been incredible. We would never have had the strategy if it hadn’t been for GICHD. They are always in touch with us, e-mailing, calling, following up on work. We appreciate their collaboration so much.”

Dr Suresh, the former Secretary of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs and the NMAC Acting Director



SAFE AND SECURE MANAGEMENT OF AMMUNITION

Unplanned explosions in ammunition storage areas occur frequently and with great loss of life and damage to property, livelihoods and the environment. In addition, diversion from stockpiles and uncontrolled proliferation of ammunition fuels insecurity in many countries. The international community has been paying increased attention to these risks. In 2011, it adopted the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), standards required to achieve effective safety and security of ammunition.

ADDRESSING THE RISKS OF UNINTENDED EXPLOSIONS AND DIVERSION OF STOCKPILES

In recent years, the Centre has been expanding its support for the management of ammunition to address the risks related to unintended explosions of ammunition depots and the diversion of ammunition stockpiles.

In 2010, the GICHD conducted its first advisory missions and training courses on the destruction of stockpiles of mines and cluster munitions in Ukraine, Lebanon, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Two years later, the Centre was

propelled to the international stage when it contributed to the evaluation of the response from the international community to the explosion of a munitions depot in Brazzaville, Congo, resulting in 2,500 casualties.

Since 2013, the programme for the safe management and destruction of stockpiles of banned, excessive or ageing ammunition has been further developed at the Centre, providing advice and training both to civilian and military operators. A toolset was developed to enable local staff to make their country's ammunition safe with minimal external assistance, in compliance with the IATG.

MULTILATERAL INVOLVEMENT

On the policy side, a first consultative meeting on Safe and Secure Management of Conventional Ammunition, hosted by Switzerland and supported by the GICHD, was held in Geneva in 2015. In all, delegates from 18 organisations and 66 countries attended. The meeting provided a platform for multilateral and open discussions on the international efforts to address the issue and on

“We are well positioned to look into new areas of work such as ammunition management and urban contamination. I’m absolutely convinced that our unique way of operating that combines work in the field, work at a multilateral level and research & development is applicable with success to areas of work that go beyond mine action but that are related to the broader disarmament undertaking.”

Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director

possible ways forward. This initiative is being pursued further, together with ongoing efforts within the United Nations General Assembly..

The GICHD is today intensifying its activities to help states manage ammunition according to good practice, through the provision of targeted and sustained technical advice and training. A comprehensive ammunition safety management training and guidance package is being developed.

The Centre is also collaborating with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to promote the dissemination and implementation of the IATG and enhance coherence of international assistance in the area of ammunition management. An Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT) is currently being established together with UNODA to support this effort.



Evaluation mission after the explosion of a munitions depot with John Rawson, GICHD Ammunition Safety Management Advisor, Congo, 2013

“Beyond the need for greater efforts to reduce the excessive accumulation of arms, it remains essential that States ensure effective physical security and management of their stockpiles.”

Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, extracted from “Securing Our Common Future”, UN agenda for disarmament



Explosive Remnants of War, Libya, 2013



Ammunition identification and disposal course, Afghanistan, 2015

RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

When mine action operations have ended, a risk referred to as 'residual contamination' remains. This refers to the possibility that a previously unknown mined area or deeper buried contamination such as bombs and other unexploded ordnance may be discovered later on.

Whilst residual contamination cannot be totally eliminated, the hazards associated with it can be mitigated through risk education, responsive local threat assessments and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). Deeply buried bombs for instance often become a challenge only after being discovered during construction and development activities.

Countries need to adjust their priorities and policy to manage this risk, which means moving from proactive operations to clear known areas of contamination to a reactive state, where operations respond to contamination as and if discovered. The ultimate responsibility for this task lies with the State, which needs to develop policies to best coordinate police, military and civil response. Since 2013, the GICHD has been advising States on how to best address and manage risk related to residual contamination, with first case studies being released in 2014.



An American Mk 82 aircraft bomb stemming from the Vietnam war found in Lao PDR, with Erik Tollefsen, former GICHD Advisor, 2013

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

The experience of several European countries, such as Germany and the United Kingdom, suffering from residual contamination dating back to the two world wars, can be usefully adapted and applied to countries recovering from more recent conflicts. This has been a major focus of the research carried out for the Management of Residual Explosive Remnants of War (MORE) project, which primarily focuses on delivering long-term risk management approaches for South East Asia and in particular heavily affected countries like Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR. The GICHD helps these countries develop a coherent set of standards, tools and guidance that aids national authorities in their decision making. In 2017, a documentary film on residual contamination was produced by the GICHD in collaboration with Vietnamese Defence TV to improve understanding of the issue in that country.

The MORE project has been brought to an even wider audience through a combination of outreach activities and communication tools. Greater awareness has increased the demand for bespoke advice to better address risks from residual contamination.

However, before residual contamination can be integrated into national strategies and programme management, the term 'residual contamination' needs to be formally defined and then included within IMAS. The GICHD and the IMAS Review Board are currently addressing it.



*Guy Rhodes, GICHD
Director of Operations,
with Vietnamese military
engineers, Vietnam, 2012*

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

One of the key roles of the GICHD is to support States Parties in the implementation of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

The Centre was granted formal observer status to these conventions and attends all formal and informal meetings, providing technical advice on a number of issues through statements, publications, presentations, side events and bilateral support. The Centre has also been providing logistical and administrative support to the meetings and manages delegate sponsorship programmes that enable the attendance of representatives from states with limited resources.

HOSTING THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNITS OF THE CONVENTIONS

In 2001, States Parties to the APMBC mandated the GICHD to establish an Implementation Support Unit (ISU), hosted by the Centre. An agreement was signed between the States Parties and the GICHD to that effect, strengthening the support of the GICHD to the treaty.

As of 2002, the GICHD began providing technical advice and support to the CCW meetings on the subjects of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and mines other than anti-personnel mines. The Centre was invited to chair

meetings of military and technical experts in 2004-2005. In 2006, the amended Protocol V of the CCW, regulating post-conflict remedial measures to minimize the impact of ERW, came into force. The Centre supported the implementation of the Protocol and began to administer the newly established CCW sponsorship programme. In 2012, the Centre maintained its involvement with the CCW with the impact study on anti-vehicle mines.

Since the adoption in 2008 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the GICHD has been supporting its implementation by providing advice on strategic, operational and information management to States Parties. As per an agreement with them, the GICHD has been hosting the ISU for the CCM since 2015 and providing support both for the organisation of meetings and the administration of the sponsorship programme.

PROMOTING FULFILMENT OF CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS

Today, the GICHD's dedication to supporting national partners towards the timely fulfilment of convention obligations and their own completion targets remains at the core of the Centre's work. At the same time, the Centre continues to instil field-based evidence on the impact of certain weapon systems into ongoing international disarmament processes and initiatives. This engagement has led the GICHD to build a solid bridge between the diplomatic arena and field work.

“The Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC was a very important step in achieving international recognition for the GICHD, not as an operational provider, but as a quasi-international organisation.”

Martin Dahinden, former GICHD Director 2002-2004



Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the APMBC Implementation Support Unit, and GICHD Director Stefano Toscano at APMBC intersessional meetings, Geneva, 2018



Launch of the third edition of A Guide to Cluster Munitions, published in collaboration with the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Geneva, 2016. From left: Ambassador Vinicio Mati, then Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament; Pascal Rapillard, GICHD Head of External Relations and Policy; Amb. Henk Cor van der Kwast, then President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions; Sheila Mweemba, Director of the CCM Implementation Support Unit.



Delegations of the GICHD and the APMBBC Implementation Support Unit at the APMBC Review Conference on a Mine-Free World, Mozambique, 2014

MINE ACTION'S CONTRIBUTION TO BROADER AGENDAS

As countries emerge from conflict, the focus is often on recovery, reconstruction and development. It is therefore essential that mine action programmes are closely aligned with these broader processes and priorities.

The GICHD has, since its early years, been linking mine action with broader security and development efforts. It has undertaken research projects and produced guidance on a wide range of issues, linking mine action with development, environmental protection, land rights, armed violence reduction, peace mediation, security sector reform, and mine action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MINE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The nexus between mine action and development has long been of particular focus for the GICHD. This began in the year 2000, with research into socio-economic approaches to mine action, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which also gave rise to workshops organised with UNDP. In 2010, the GICHD's work eventually culminated in a series of concrete guidelines for practitioners and policymakers, from both the mine action and development sectors, on how directly to link mine action with development early on in the recovery process. Understanding the socio-economic impact of mine

action helps mine action programmes set priorities and allocate resources more efficiently, generating greater impact.

Building on this project, and following the adoption of the landmark UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development goals (SDGs), the GICHD teamed up with UNDP to take this issue even further. A joint study, published in 2017, analyses the role of mine action as a catalyst for the achievement of the SDGs, such as those related to poverty reduction, food security, education, health and gender equality. The study formulates practical methods for a more coherent mainstreaming of mine action activities into national sustainable development efforts for their increased sustainability, relevance and impact.

INTEGRATED APPROACHES

In recent years, major developments in humanitarian action, peace & security, and development have underlined the strong interdependence between the complex challenges of today's world, calling for a more integrated and coherent approach across sectors. In response, the GICHD has, since 2015, enhanced its efforts to 'connect the dots', so that mine action is more clearly understood as a contribution to, and part of, broader agendas. To this effect, the GICHD has strengthened its partnerships with key expert organisations from outside the mine action sector.

“It is key that mine action is understood as part of broader agendas. Mine action will remain relevant in the future, because it really is part of a broader humanitarian effort, part of a broader reconstruction effort, and also part of a broader sustainable development effort. It truly is the stepping stone towards a better future.”

Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director



International talks on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, Geneva, 2018

“The profile of mine action has been reinforced since the beginning of the joint project with the GICHD [on sector security reform]. [...] DCAF can now more clearly situate mine action in a variety of democratic security sector governance contexts and can also draw on the experience and of issue-specific cooperation and programming.”

Eden Cole, Head of New Independent States Programme, DCAF



GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Landmines and explosive remnants of war affect women, girls, boys and men in different ways but mine action programmes do not always reach or benefit females and males equally.

By acknowledging the specific needs, priorities and capabilities of every member of an affected community, operational efficiency increases, so that everyone can benefit from risk reduction interventions on a more equal basis.

The Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) was launched by the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines in 2006. Since 2009, the GICHD has been intensifying the collaboration with the programme and hosting it since 2010.

First active steps of the GICHD to engage in gender and mine action concerns were taken in 2009 when the GMAP conducted a review of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) at the request of the Centre. The goal was to ensure that gender and diversity issues were taken into consideration in existing standards and guidance for the drafting of new IMAS be established.

In 2016, the GICHD established its own Gender and Diversity Policy, which aims to integrate such considerations into all aspects of its mandate. The policy is implemented via annual gender and diversity action plans. Ultimately, the Centre works with mine action authorities and organisations to ensure that salient aspects are embedded in mine action interventions and that women, girls, boys and men benefit equally from mine action activities.

GICHD Director, Ambassador Stefano Toscano became a member of the International Gender Champions network of leaders in 2016. This network pledges to uphold gender parity in all discussions, and to commit to advancing gender equality within the respective organisations of its members.



*Montaha Siblani, a deminer working
for DCA in Lebanon, 2018*

“Over the last ten years, the Gender and Mine Action Programme and the GICHD have collaborated to integrate the notion of gender and diversity into mine action. This has led to increased awareness, capacity and the adoption of good practices by the sector. Ultimately, this means better quality mine action that benefits all.”

Arianna Calza Bini, Gender and Mine Action Programme Director



REGIONAL COOPERATION

Since 2007, the GICHD has facilitated the exchange of good practice at regional level through linguistic and regional cooperation programmes. This initiative provides stakeholders with tailored platforms for dialogue, in-depth technical discussions, training and cooperation, all based on common language and geographical proximity. Regional platforms have proved extremely valuable in bringing affected states and other stakeholders together to share resources and experiences to help mine action programmes meet national targets.

FOUR PROGRAMMES ESTABLISHED

In 2007, the French-language outreach programme was launched, providing expertise in French to all French-speaking mine-affected countries. In 2008, the first seminar for African Francophone mine action stakeholders took place in Benin, organised by the GICHD and the CPADD (*Humanitarian Demining Training Centre*), and attended by representatives from 14 French-speaking countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war. Follow-up seminars for the Francophone countries were held in 2009 and 2010, in Senegal and Mauritania respectively. The meeting in 2010 included Lebanon for the first time. In 2011, the transition of the Francophone programme from the GICHD to its main partners in Benin, Senegal and Mauritania was agreed.

The launch of the Arabic-language outreach programme took place in 2012. One year later, the Persian-language outreach programme was launched and a first workshop took place in Tajikistan, organised by the GICHD, UNDP and the OSCE-Tajikistan (Organization for Safety and Co-operation in Europe).

2014 saw the initiation of the Russian-language outreach programme, covering Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In 2015, the first regional workshop was held in Minsk, in partnership with the Republic of Belarus. The meeting was attended by 35 participants from 11 countries that use Russian as an official or *de-facto* working language, along with international organisations active in the region.

Over the years, the translation of various key GICHD publications by the language and cooperation programme has brought essential knowledge closer to the mine action community and its practitioners.

“During my term as Director of the Centre, the GICHD moved from a supportive role to UN agencies and mine action centres dependent from the UN to supporting directly national mine action activities, including enhanced translation of its knowledge into different national languages.”

Stephan Nellen, former GICHD Director 2004-2008





MAISON DE LA PAIX AND ORGANISATIONS HOSTED BY THE GICHD

The GICHD establishes and nurtures strategic partnerships to enhance the exchange of knowledge and to foster cooperation between mine action and other humanitarian actors. These include organisations on the campus in which the Centre is located in Geneva, the *Maison de la paix*.

The GICHD moved to the *Maison de la paix* in 2014, sharing premises with some of its most important partners, such as the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and The Graduate Institute of International Relations and Development Studies. Mine action is set in an evolving working context, characterised by a growing interconnectedness of activities and objectives. This proximity to our partners enables us better to collaborate in achieving our shared objectives – the promotion of humanitarian action, peace & security, and development.

The GICHD sits on the working groups of several *Maison de la paix* ‘hubs’. These are inter-organisational groups that coordinate research projects and events on campus, such as the Gender and Diversity Hub and the Hub on Sustainable Development Goals. The

Centre also leads the joint Communication working group, which organises an annual event, ‘Bâisseurs de Paix’, that invites local schoolchildren to become peace builders for a day, with a view to understanding better the nature and importance of the work being undertaken by the organisations within the campus.

As part of our role as a knowledge hub for mine action, the Centre has also hosted and supported on its premises four partner organisations:

- ▼ the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since 2001;
- ▼ the Gender and Mine Action Programme since 2010;
- ▼ the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions since 2015;
- ▼ the Geneva Disarmament Platform since 2016.



“The Maison de la paix is first of all a political statement; it is the expression of the will to influence world affairs positively and to provide the necessary means and tools for that. And it brings a critical mass, meant to encourage cooperation between partners.”

Ambassador Theodor Winkler, former DCAF Director



From left: Amb. Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director with Amb. Thomas Guerber, Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and Amb. Christian Dussey, Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Maison de la paix, Geneva, 2017



In June 2018, nine organisations based at the Maison de la paix campus opened their doors to over 200 Geneva school children for the event "Bâtisseurs de Paix". Participating in the different organisations' activities for a day, the children and their teachers were able to gain first-hand experience. It also encouraged them to reflect on human security and peace, and on the role and importance of the organisations on the campus.

COMMUNICATION

As mine action is becoming increasingly interconnected, it has become crucial to accompany this process through targeted and coordinated outreach and communication efforts. Communication enhances the GICHD's visibility, recognition and influence, expanding its impact on the mine action sector and beyond.

NEW TARGET AUDIENCES AND CHANNELS

Whilst GICHD's communication initially focused mainly on publishing mine action guides and reports to support operations, it has evolved significantly in the last years.

Creating awareness for the cause allows the Centre to position the relevance of its work in a broader context and to a wider community. Outreach activities now follow a cross-media strategy using a variety of communication channels and supports, ranging from publications to websites and social media channels, the organisation of events and increased media presence. Audio-visual tools have been playing an increasingly important role, with different animations, films and virtual reality tools being implemented in the last couple of years.

RAISING AWARENESS

In 2016, the Centre has launched a worldwide awareness campaign, *#TogetherAgainstMines*, to increase understanding of the landmine problem around the world and to keep the issue on the international agenda. The campaign has since reached over 30 million people in more than 40 countries.



**#TOGETHER
AGAINST
MINES**



Public exhibition jointly organised with Handicap International / Humanity & Inclusion and the convention's Implementation Support Unit in Geneva in 2017, on the occasion of the 20-year anniversary of the Mine Ban Convention



On the 4th of April 2017, International Day of Mine Awareness, an event was organised on the Federal Square in Bern, the Swiss Capital, presenting a mock minefield.



"Home after War", virtual reality experience co-produced in 2018 with Oculus – VR for Good and directed by NowHere Media. The project was selected and presented at various film festivals; here at Venice Film Festival.



PUBLICATIONS

During the course of 20 years, the GICHD has published over 120 reports, guides and studies to generate knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the mine action sector on the following topics:

Ammunition management

Contracting and insurance

Demining accidents

Explosive weapons

Gender and diversity

Human security and development

Improvised Explosive Devices

Information management

International humanitarian law

Land release

Manual mine clearance

Management of mine programmes

Mine detection dogs

Mine risk education

Quality management

Strategic planning

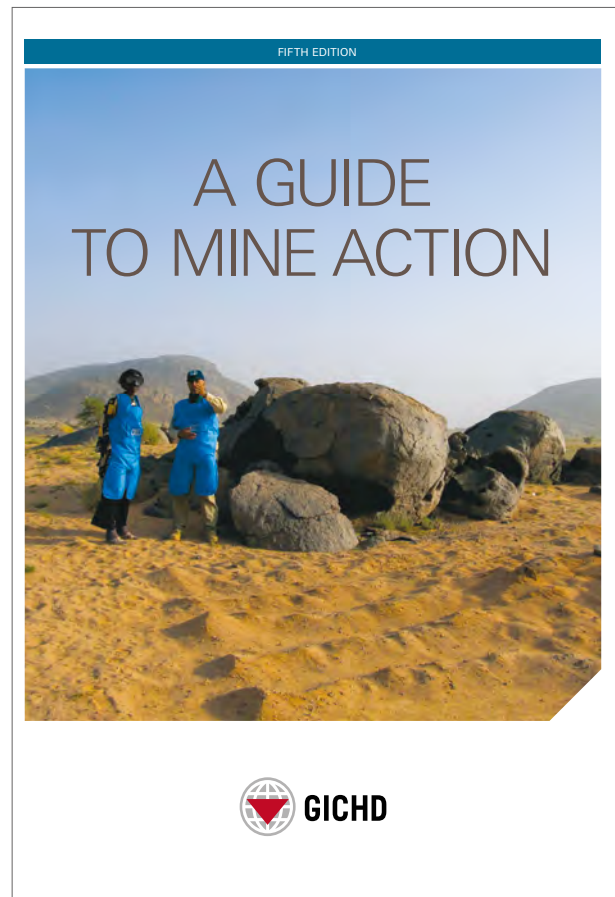
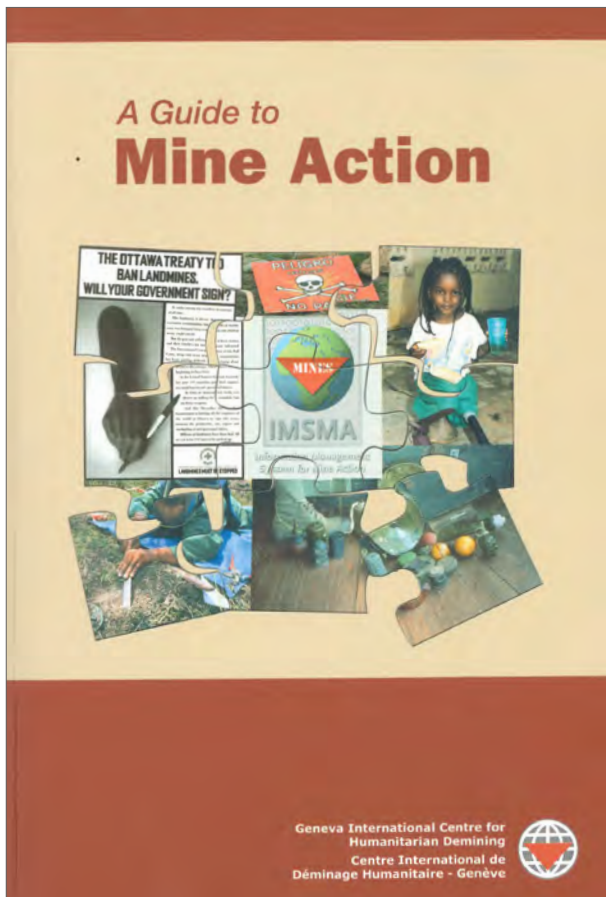
Standards

Technology, machines & demining equipment

Victim assistance

Mines other than anti-personnel mines

First edition of "A Guide to Mine action: Understanding landmines and unexploded ordnance", first single handbook providing basic information on the key aspects of mine action for diplomats, donors, lawyers, practitioners, scholars and journalists. Information source to assist in decision-making, programmes planning and research, published in 2003. On the right, fifth edition of the Guide to Mine Action, published in 2015.



SUPPORT

GICHD's work is made possible by core contributions, project funding, cost recovery and in-kind support from different governments as well as by public and private organisations. Since its creation in 1998, the Swiss government has remained the most important contributor.

A new scheme to encourage greater funding from the private sector was initiated in 2017.

GICHD's total budget has grown from CHF 1.4 million in 1998, to CHF 14.9 million in 2018.

GOVERNMENTS

Australia

Austria

Belgium

Canada

Czech Republic

Denmark

European Union

Finland

France

Germany

Iraq

Ireland

Italy

Japan

Korea, Republic of

Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Mexico

New Zealand

Norway

Qatar

Slovenia

South Africa

State of Geneva

Sweden

Switzerland

The Netherlands

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States of America

OTHERS

Anti-Personnel Landmines
Removal Product
Development (APOPO)

Arab Fund for Economic
and Social Development

Bridge Insurance Brokers

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

Danish Demining Group

Demeter Déminage

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Environmental Systems
Research Institute

Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Geneva Centre for the Democratic
Control of Armed Forces

Graduate Institute of International
and Development Studies

Helvetia Insurance

Handicap International /
Humanity & Inclusion

Humanitarian Demining
Training Centre

James Madison University

Mines Advisory Group

National Intersectorial
Commission for Humanitarian
Demining and Assistance

NATO Support and
Procurement Agency

National Committee for
Demining and Rehabilitation

Norwegian People's Aid

Organisation Internationale
de la Francophonie

Organisation of American States

Organisation for Security and
Co-Operation in Europe

Pro Victimis Foundation

Small Arms Survey

South Oil Company

Spinator AB

United Nations Development
Programme

United Nations International
Children's Emergency Fund

United Nations Office for
Disarmament Affairs

United Nations Office
for Project Services

United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

United Nations Mine
Action Service

United Nations Trust Fund to
End Violence against Women

World Without Mines Foundation

CONTINUED RELEVANCE

Despite the important achievements of the mine action sector, contamination from mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war remains significant. The situation is further exacerbated by the use of new types of explosive devices, often improvised in nature. This has caused the number of new victims to increase in the last years, after over a decade of steady decline.

WAR IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS, A NEW CHALLENGE

Current conflicts are fragmented, protracted and associated with recurrent violations of international humanitarian law. Conflicts are taking place in urban areas, increasing the impact on civilians and on infrastructure. Traditional approaches to dealing with explosive hazards are being challenged.

National ownership and capacity in addressing these challenges are still highly needed. More than ever, a trusted organisation like the GICHD, which enables its partners to do a better job, is necessary. The Centre is well equipped to help its partners reduce the risks of explosive ordnance by generating, codifying and disseminating knowledge, through research and development, normative and standardisation processes, as well as field support.

GICHD'S WAY OF OPERATING MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER

Over two decades of work, the Centre has been able to help the mine action community improve its performance, with a strong focus on quality, safety and effectiveness. Building relationships of trust with national authorities in affected countries remains at the centre of our work, allowing them to rely upon the GICHD for external, independent expert advice. The Centre will also continue to advocate for the inclusion of mine action within broader humanitarian action, peace & security, and development efforts.

“The Centre responds to new challenges in collaboration with national and local authorities as well as with our partners at international level. Having a good understanding of these new challenges will be crucial.”

Dr Barbara Haering,
President of GICHD Council of Foundation



*First regional NTS course, with Rana Elias, GICHD
Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Lebanon, 2018*



*Mine Action Reporting System trial with Sulaiman Mukahhal
and Jürg Hug, GICHD Advisors, Cambodia, 2017*

GICHD PARTNERS

The GICHD was created to help develop and professionalise the mine action sector for the benefit and with the support of its main partners.



“We are here to help our partners do a better job. We see what works and what works less, take the time to draw lessons and good practice and then share that knowledge with all our partners. Our partners then make that knowledge their own and just simply work better, more efficiently and more effectively.”

Guy Rhodes, GICHD Director of Operations



Ammunition identification and disposal course with Samuel Paunila, GICHD Ammunition Operations Advisor, Afghanistan, 2015

DEDICATED STAFF

For twenty years, the GICHD has been working to protect communities from the impact of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive hazards. Together with its partners, the Centre has helped to locate and clear them before they hurt and kill people. Our mandate is to save lives and restore livelihoods.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the great commitment and engagement of all GICHD staff members, past and present. The major strength of the Centre lies within its pool of experts

who are trusted by mine action authorities and organisations worldwide. The diversity of skills, ethnicities and perspectives that its staff and international consultants bring to the sector is an invaluable asset. Their combined competence and experience has allowed and continues to allow the GICHD to remain at the forefront of mine action and to make the world a safer place.



GICHD staff, 2005



GICHD staff, 2007



GICHD staff, on the occasion of the visit of Kofi Annan, then UN Secretary-General, 2008





GICHD staff, 2018

NUMBER OF STAFF OF THE GICHD AND HOSTED ORGANISATIONS

15

in 1999

27

in 2002

53

in 2008

70

in 2017

51% women, 49% men

52% women, 48% men

PRESIDENTS OF THE COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

1998-2000: Former Federal Councillor Mr René Felber

2000-2008: Dr Cornelio Sommaruga

Since 2008: Dr Barbara Haering

Honorary president since 2008: Dr Cornelio Sommaruga

DIRECTORS

1998-2000: Ambassador François Godet

2000-2004: Ambassador Martin Dahinden

2004-2008: Ambassador Stephan Nellen

2008-2014: Ambassador Stephan Husy

Since 2014: Ambassador Stefano Toscano



1997 - 2018 TIMELINE

- 1997** ● Signature of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Ottawa
Official announcement of the creation of the GICHD
- 1998** ● Creation of the GICHD and first meeting of the Council of Foundation
René Felber becomes President of the GICHD
François Godet becomes Director of the GICHD
- 1998** ● GICHD hosts and organises the first International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors
- 1999** ● Development work and field deployment starts on IMSMA
- 1999** ● Development of IMAS starts
- 2000** ● Dr Cornelio Sommaruga becomes President of the GICHD.
Ambassador Martin Dahinden becomes Director of the GICHD
- 2000** ● Starts of mine risk education activities
- 2001** ● First GICHD major study on socio-economic approaches
- 2002** ● Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC hosted and supported by the GICHD
- 2002** ● Start of Mechanical Equipment Study and first Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue produced
- 2002** ● GICHD starts conducting evaluations in mine-affected countries
- 2003** ● First edition of "A Guide to Mine Action"
- 2003** ● Starts of support to national standards development
- 2004** ● Ambassador Stephan Nellen becomes Director of the GICHD
- 2005** ● First studies published on manual mine clearance and on mine detection dogs training
- 2006** ● Launch of the land release project
- 2007** ● Launch of the Francophone Programme, first Regional Cooperation Programme
- 2008** ● Signature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
First edition of "A Guide to Cluster Munitions"
- 2008** ● Dr Barbara Haering becomes President of the GICHD
Ambassador Stephan Husy becomes Director of the GICHD
- 2008** ● Start of the strategic planning project
- 2008** ● First Mine Action Technology Workshop organised with UNMAS in Geneva
- 2009** ● IMAS on land release adopted

- 2010 ● Hosting of GMAP
- 2012 ● Launch of the Arabic Outreach Programme
- 2013 ● Ammunition safety management programme and ASM toolset launched
- 2013 ● Persian Language Outreach Programme launched
- 2013 ● Launch of the web-based Cluster Munitions Identification tool
- 2013 ● Start of management of residual explosive remnants of war contamination study begins
- 2014 ● Ambassador Stefano Toscano becomes Director of the GICHD
- 2014 ● GICHD premises move to the Maison de la paix
- 2014 ● Non-technical survey training package developed
- 2014 ● Initiation of the Russian-language outreach programme (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)
- 2014 ● Adoption of GICHD's first RBM-based strategy (2015-2018)
- 2015 ● 1st Afghanistan Donor Coordination Workshop for Mine Action held in Dubai
- 2015 ● Hosting of the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM
- 2015 ● OSCE signs a MoU with the GICHD and DCAF to support Ukraine
- 2015 ● 1st consultative Meeting on Safe and Secure Management of Conventional Ammunition in Geneva
- 2016 ● Worldwide awareness campaign #TogetherAgainstMines for the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- 2016 ● GICHD hosts Geneva Disarmament Platform
- 2016 ● First Gender and Diversity Action Plan adopted
- 2016 ● Joint GICHD-UNDP study to explore the contribution of mine action on achieving the SDGs
- 2017 ● Launch of the study and website on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas
- 2017 ● 20y anniversary of the APMBC and public exhibition in Geneva
- 2017 ● GICHD online training platform launched
- 2018 ● IMSMA Core launched and deployed
- 2018 ● Work on the revision IMAS on IEDs starts
- 2018 ● New GICHD corporate film produced
- 2018 ● VR experience "Home after War" produced
- 2018 ● 20y anniversary of the GICHD
- 2018 ● Adoption of GICHD new strategy (2019-2022), broadening its scope of work into the safe and secure management of ammunition

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