



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Cover: Clearance activities by DanChurchAid, Lebanon, 2018.

© Johannes Müller

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

Annual report 2018, GICHD, Geneva, June 2019

© GICHD

The content of this publication, its presentation and the designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) regarding the legal status of any country, territory or armed group, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. All content remains the sole responsibility of the GICHD.

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Foreword | 5 |
| The impact of explosive ordnance | 6 |
| The GICHD | 8 |
| Who we work with | 10 |
| Where we worked in 2018 | 12 |
| Commitment to gender equality and diversity principles | 16 |
| Strategies | 17 |
| Standards | 21 |
| Information management | 25 |
| Risk management | 29 |
| Regional cooperation programme | 35 |
| Policy | 39 |
| International humanitarian law | 45 |
| Outreach | 49 |
| Resources and governance | 55 |

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

Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director

FOREWORD



20 YEARS OF ENGAGEMENT FOR A SAFER WORLD

In 2018, the GICHD celebrated its 20th anniversary. What a journey it has been! Over the past 20 years, we as a sector have worked tirelessly to make this world a safer place. Back in 1998, half of the world's countries were contaminated by landmines and other explosive remnants of war, tens of thousands of people were killed and maimed every year, communities and entire countries were severely hampered in their reconstruction and developmental efforts.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was born from a courageous and visionary movement determined to put an end to the humanitarian tragedy caused by mines. Founded by members of the Swiss government in 1998, the Centre was created to help transform the vision and norms embodied in the Convention into reality. With a mandate to help develop and professionalise the mine action sector, the Centre has remained true to this original purpose.

In the two decades since our creation, the sector has achieved significant results: 31 countries have declared themselves mine free; more than 53 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed; the new use of landmines by states, even those not yet party to the Convention, is rare; the International Mine Action Standards play a key role in ensuring safe, efficient and effective demining activities.

Despite these successes, much remains to be done. Today, we are witnessing new conflicts that are causing immense harm to communities in various parts of the world and extensive new contamination. There has been a sharp increase in the number of victims in the last five years, reaching levels of almost 20 years ago.

Our sector is also facing new distinct operational challenges: working in or close to conflict zones, working within a shrinking operational space, faced with a multitude of actors and a disconcerting lack of respect for international humanitarian law. Furthermore, we are also finding that contamination is increasingly affecting urban settings, which makes clearance much more complex and the return home exceedingly dangerous.

While challenges grow, we shall hold on to our collective aspiration to finish the job as soon as possible for the benefit of affected communities. The need for efficient and effective mine action is, therefore, undiminished. Demands for an enabling organisation like the GICHD are on the rise.

Mine action is a collective effort. Our work is about being stronger together! The GICHD will continue to play its part and stay true to what it is: a trusted organisation that enables partners to do a better job. We will continue to generate, help codify and disseminate knowledge, to help our partners and affected states, so as to make this world a safer and better place. Together, we can end this plague. A world without mines is possible, and within reach.

Dr Barbara Haering
GICHD President

Ambassador Stefano Toscano
GICHD Director



THE IMPACT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Over

60



states and territories contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war

In 2017, there were

7239

reported casualties from mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war



Over

87%

of victims are civilians, of which

50%

children



Daily life, resettlement for communities after conflict and development impeded



Explosive ordnance has a significant impact on people's lives and livelihoods, generating humanitarian crises and impeding development in affected countries.

Even decades after a conflict has ended, mines, cluster munitions, other explosive remnants of war (ERW) and poorly stored ammunition stockpiles continue to maim and kill. In 2017 alone, 7,239 victims were recorded worldwide – a total far higher than the annual casualty rate from five years ago – and many accidents go unreported, especially in countries experiencing conflict. Annual casualties caused by improvised mines (2,716) have also increased. 87% of the victims are civilians, of which almost 50% are children. Mines and other ERW hinder socio-economic development, restrict access to land and resources, and obstruct reconstruction after a conflict.

Over 60 states and territories still suffer from legacy mine and ERW contamination from past conflicts, and in some of them, ongoing armed conflicts are causing new contamination. This situation is further amplified by the growing use of mines of an improvised nature by non-state armed groups. The scale of urban contamination is also expanding, posing new challenges for the mine action community.



“Mine action has a real impact – it saves lives every day and gives dignity back to both affected communities and survivors.”

Marc Bonnet, Head of Operational Efficiency, GICHD

MINE CONTAMINATION 2018

60

states and territories are contaminated by antipersonnel mines

- High (>20 km²)
- Medium (5-19 km²)
- Light (<5 km²)
- No estimate provided or no accurate data
- Residual or suspected contamination
- Clearance reported complete*

*States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention that have reported having addressed all mined areas under their jurisdiction or control.

Source: Landmine Monitor 2018

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

© GICHD 2019

CLUSTER MUNITION CONTAMINATION 2018

29

states and territories are contaminated by cluster munitions remnants

- High (>1000 km²)
- Medium (100-1000 km²)
- Low (<100 km²)
- No estimate provided
- Clearance reported complete*

*States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions that have reported having cleared and destroyed the cluster munition remnants located in contaminated areas under their jurisdiction or control.

Source: Cluster Munition Monitor 2018

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

© GICHD 2019

THE GICHD



The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) works towards reducing risks to communities stemming from explosive ordnance, with particular focus on mines, cluster munitions, other explosive remnants of war and ammunition storage.

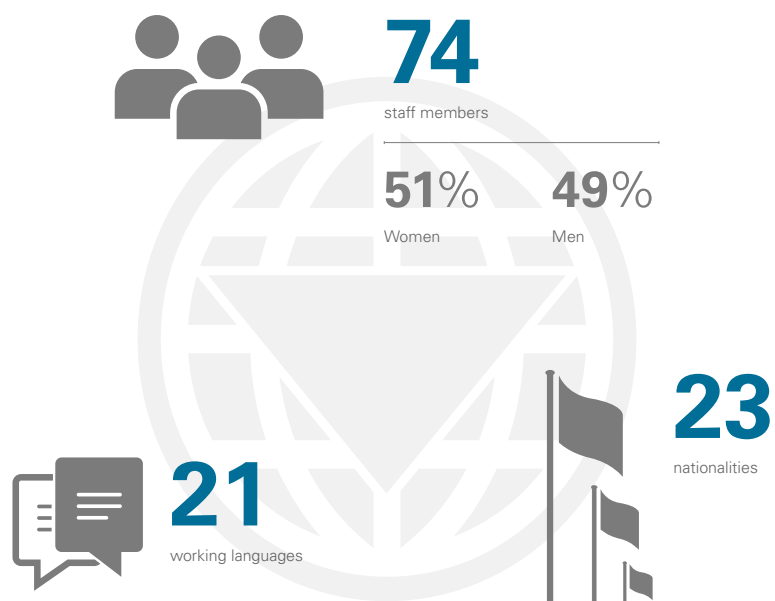
The unique combination of capacity development work at field level, multilateral engagement on norms and standards, and the promotion of innovative solutions through research and development have been crucial to achieve this objective.

“I do what I love and I can see a positive impact on so many lives in affected countries. I strongly feel that we need to do our best to ensure that the fear of explosive hazards soon becomes a thing of the past.”

Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD Advisor



Field visit with NPA, Bosnia, 2018



WHO WE WORK WITH

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

It is up to national authorities to plan and manage mine action programmes and to implement their treaty obligations. The GICHD equips them with the capacity to do so. National and local ownership is key to enabling successful and sustainable programmes.

MINE ACTION OPERATORS

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

HUMAN SECURITY ACTORS

The GICHD nurtures partnerships with other actors in the field of human security, including within the Maison de la paix campus where the Centre is located. These efforts enhance the exchange of knowledge and expertise and foster cooperation on human security, peace and disarmament.

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 the agreements between the States Parties and the Centre. The Centre also hosts the Gender and Mine Action Programme and the Geneva Disarmament Platform.

“The GICHD is very important for us; they support us in mine action on an ongoing basis.”

Brig. Gen. Ziad Nasr,
Lebanese Mine Action Center Director



Operational capacity assessment, APOPO training site, Cambodia, 2018



GICHD-UN COOPERATION

The GICHD was established to support the United Nations, and while it has broadened its scope of work, it still delivers on this original mandate.



68

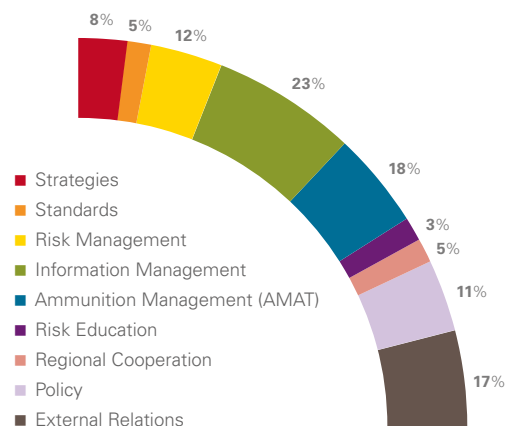
activities/projects in cooperation with the United Nations

36

with UNMAS/UNOPS

32

with other UN partners



WHERE WE WORKED IN 2018

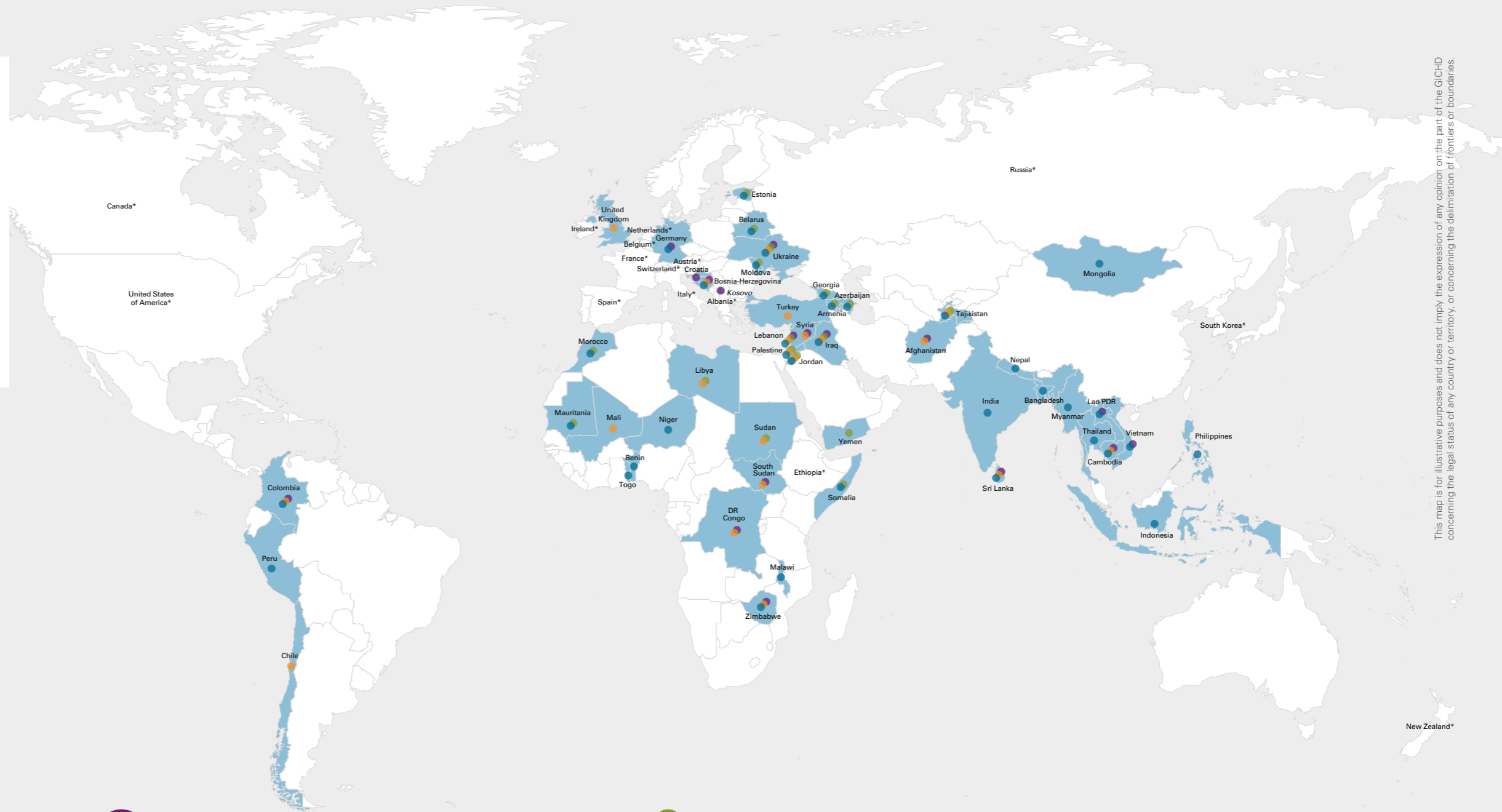
46

states and territories supported

In 2018, the GICHD's work directly benefited 46 states and territories, building national capacity through training and advisory services on all aspects of mine action.

33

workshops and training courses provided



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.



RISK MANAGEMENT

- ▼ Providing advice and training to national authorities and mine action organisations to increase the operational efficiency and effectiveness of mine action and ammunition safety management.
- ▼ Helping ensure the safe, fast and targeted release of land and underwater areas.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- ▼ Helping national authorities and mine action organisations with the collection, analysis and timely provision of information to support survey and clearance operations.
- ▼ Enabling the supply of quality information for evidence-based, accountable and efficient decision making.



STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS

- ▼ Supporting national authorities in establishing and implementing national mine action strategies.
- ▼ Supporting the development and promotion of the International Mine Action Standards and national mine action legislation and standards.



REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

- ▼ Fostering cooperation among national authorities at regional level.
- ▼ Providing access to standards, materials, training and advisory services in different languages.

* 15 ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES VISITED

GICHD's staff travelled to 15 additional countries for liaison visits, to participate in conferences and to organise regional workshops for the benefit of other affected countries.



COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PRINCIPLES

The GICHD mainstreams gender and diversity approaches in all its internal and external activities. Its work in this respect is guided by the Centre's gender and diversity policy and annual action plans.

In 2018, the GICHD adopted its third annual gender and diversity action plan, in which three overarching objectives were identified:

- ▼ To strive for gender balance and diversity in the panel events and training courses that GICHD staff participate in and organise;
- ▼ To mainstream gender and diversity considerations across the GICHD's work; and
- ▼ To ensure that GICHD staff composition, policies and procedures support the Centre's commitment to the principles of gender equality and diversity.

The implementation of the action plan was supported by a gender and diversity working group, including representatives from each of the GICHD divisions. In 2018, the GICHD was able to increase the proportion of women participating in its training courses by 10 per cent.

The Centre also actively participated in the Maison de la paix Gender and Diversity Hub, and GICHD Director, Ambassador Stefano Toscano, continues to serve as an International Gender Champion, a network of leaders who pledge to uphold gender parity and commit to advancing gender equality within their own organisations.

▼ RESOURCE

genderchampions.com/champions/stefano-toscano
www.gdhub.ch

“It is not only essential to strive for gender equity at headquarters, but also to promote it in mine action activities. The GICHD fully supports gender and diversity analysis and programming, which leads to more productive and sustainable mine action activities.”

Ambassador Stefano Toscano, GICHD Director

STRATEGIES

The GICHD supports national authorities in developing and implementing national mine action strategies and plans, which promote more effective and efficient mine action operations. The strategic planning processes also provide a unique opportunity to bring together a variety of stakeholders to discuss challenges and solutions and reach agreements.



Appropriate and context-specific national mine action strategies ultimately enable countries to meet their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MINE ACTION OPERATIONS THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2018 and early 2019, four national mine action strategies developed with the support of the GICHD were formally approved: in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in Kosovo and in South Sudan. These national authorities are now equipped to define their vision, strategic goals, quality management concepts and operating principles. The Centre has also been monitoring the implementation of strategies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

KOSOVO

In 2018, the GICHD facilitated a strategy stakeholder workshop to develop a national strategy in Kosovo, which was formally adopted in April 2019. The country envisages to be landmine and cluster munition remnant-free by 2024 and the strategy provides concrete targets and a roadmap to reach this goal. The engagement of the Kosovo Mine Action Centre as well as a number of national and international partners in the process, including the Kosovo Security Force, The HALO Trust and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), has greatly contributed to this achievement.

ZIMBABWE

After facilitating the process that led to the development of Zimbabwe's first ever national mine action strategy, 2017 saw its formal adoption by the Minister of Defence. This success was the result of a successful collaboration with the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC), the National Mine Clearance Unit as well as international partners such as Mines Advisory Group, The HALO Trust, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Norwegian People's Aid and APOPO. Zimbabwe is now equipped with a clear strategy for achieving its clearance obligations by 2025.

In 2018, continued collaboration with ZIMAC allowed for a strategy implementation workshop to be held in Zimbabwe, bringing together all stakeholders to standardise impact assessment criteria and develop a resource mobilisation and communications strategy.



Field visit on the occasion of a strategic planning workshop, Kosovo, 2018



Sri Lanka mid-term strategy review, 2018

SRI LANKA

The GICHD has been supporting the Sri Lankan government since 2015 in developing and implementing a national mine action strategy. In 2018, the GICHD facilitated a mid-term review of the national mine action strategy through a stakeholder workshop, with the aim of updating it. A wide range of national and international stakeholders jointly identified key challenges and opportunities, determined progress made and agreed on the way forward to facilitate the achievement of strategic objectives and completion targets under the APMBC, to be achieved by 2020. By facilitating this process, the GICHD is contributing to Sri Lanka's fulfilment of its Convention obligations.

GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

In 2018, the GICHD supported the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) with the development of its new donor mine action strategy 2019-2021. As part of this process, a number of countries affected by mines and ERW were assessed, using a framework developed specifically for this request. This helped the GFFO gain an overview of country-specific mine action challenges and needs, and select its priority countries.

RESOURCE

Our "Guide to Strategic Planning in Mine Action" can be found here:
www.gichd.org/resources/publications

RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION IS EFFECTIVELY MANAGED

When a country declares itself mine free, a risk remains that some explosive devices may be found later on. This is the case for example in many European countries facing explosive remnants from the First and Second World Wars, and in more and more countries that move towards the post-completion phase.

To address this residual contamination, it is essential to plan for the existence of long-term risk and to ensure that sustainable national capacities are in place to manage it.

In 2018, the GICHD continued its work to facilitate effective national management of residual contamination by implementing three steps: evaluation of the residual contamination and related risks; development of national policies, procedures and practices; and adaptation of national structures to address residual contamination.

The Cambodian Mine Action Authority adopted a new national mine action strategy and policy in 2018, that now includes specific and detailed objectives for the management of residual contamination. In part due to the work completed over the last few years in the framework of the management of residual ERW (MORE) project, a number of other countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, DRC, Kosovo, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka) have also integrated residual contamination into their national strategic plans and policies.

MORE is all about understanding risk, primarily considering the potential for interaction between people and explosive ordnance. In 2018, the GICHD studied the effects of ageing of explosive devices. This is key to evaluating the hazard posed by munitions and, importantly, understanding the future “residual” risk as the ammunition continues to age.



EOD operators move an Mk 84 bomb after cutting trials in Vietnam, 2018

STANDARDS

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) form part of the normative framework of mine action and are designed to enhance the safety, efficiency and quality of operations.

The GICHD contributes to the development, review and promotion of IMAS within the mine action community, as a member of the IMAS review board and as the secretariat for the same board. In addition, the GICHD provides expert advice and training on the application of IMAS at country level.



DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS (IMAS)

In 2018, 8 standards and technical notes were developed or revised with the support of the GICHD, to reflect operational realities on the ground:

▼ **2 new IMAS approved by the IMAS review board**

- 07.12 Quality Management in Mine Action
- 07.13 Environmental Management in Mine Action

▼ **2 new IMAS drafted**

- 09.13 Building Clearance
- 09.31 Improvised Explosive Device Disposal

▼ **4 new technical notes for mine action approved by the IMAS review board**

- 07.11/01 Land Release Symbology
- 09.30/02 Clearance of Depleted Uranium Hazards
- 10.10/03 Explosive Hazard Risk Assessment in Debris Management (Rubble Removal) Operations
- 12.10/01 Risk Education for Improvised Explosive Devices

DEFINITION OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION ADOPTED

The work carried out by the GICHD on residual contamination has stimulated a global debate on the issue. Since 2017, the IMAS review board has been working to reflect the concept of residual risk management within the revised IMAS 07.10 Guide for the management of Land Release and Residual Contamination Operations, including a definition of residual contamination. In 2018, IMAS 07.10 was formally approved by the review board and became fully operational, bringing more clarity to the issue.

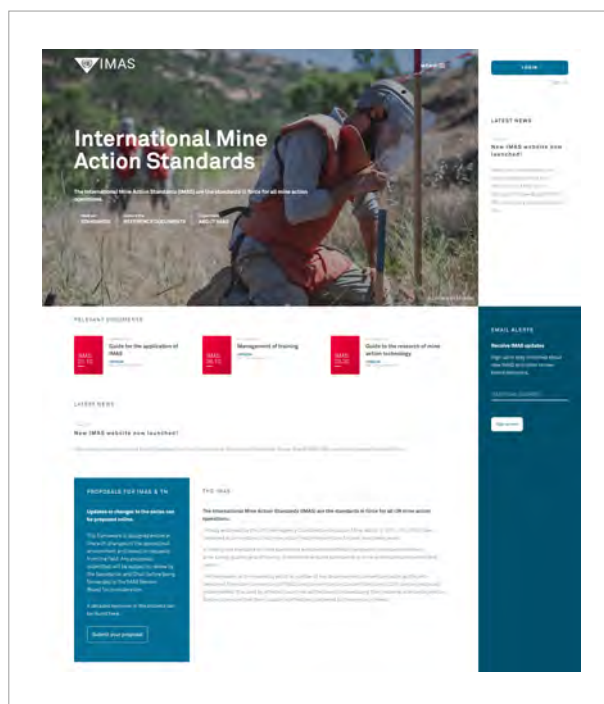
IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IEDs)

The increased use of IEDs in recent conflicts poses a series of complex challenges to the mine action sector, as they are often more unstable, harder to find and, due to their improvised nature, sometimes disguised as everyday items. A significant focus was therefore placed on revising the standards to enhance existing guidance related to the survey and clearance of IEDs in a humanitarian context.

In 2018, the GICHD held consultations with mine action implementing partners and other technical experts, and with sub-groups working on various thematic issues related to IEDs. Terminology related to IEDs was also a key focus, as existing terms and definitions – many of which have been developed for a military/security context – were deemed to be a significant source of confusion between stakeholders dealing with IEDs in conflict and post-conflict settings.

▼ **RESOURCE**

IMAS new website! You can now search, filter and save all the standards: www.mineactionstandards.org



DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS (NMAS)

NMAS are the pillar of national quality management structure and form the basis of standard operating procedures used by mine action operators to deliver their services. The GICHD provides advice and support to countries to develop and review their standards, ensuring the safety, quality and efficiency of national programmes.

In 2018, assistance focused mainly on Iraq, Lebanon and Ukraine. Since a significant quantity of new IEDs is laid in urban settings, the GICHD's support to urban operations has increased to help improve national standards and quality management in this field.

In Iraq, a workshop on how national standards relate to IEDs was organised jointly by the GICHD and the Directorate of Mine Action of Iraq. The workshop welcomed over 60 participants from the United Nations Mine Action Service, NGOs, commercial operators, the Iraqi government, the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Authority, donor governments and other key stakeholders. The objectives were to look at the mine action response to the threat posed by IEDs in the country, to review current practices and to inform the ongoing work on defining guidance and revising

standards. The results from the two-day workshop are helping to shape the revision of the IMAS on improvised explosive devices.

In Lebanon, the GICHD provided recommendations on NMAS relating to operational efficiency. The national authority has shown strong ownership towards improving standards and, as a result, Lebanon adopted land release, information management and quality management standards, compliant with IMAS.

In Ukraine, national standards were established for the first time with the support of the GICHD, following a series of workshops and consultations, and were subsequently adopted by the government. The GICHD also provided assistance for the development of a mine action law, which defines legal and organisational principles for the implementation of mine action in the country, taking into account the peculiarities of state regulation in this area. Based on the guidelines provided by the GICHD and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (OSCE PCU), the law was adopted in parliament in 2018.



National mine action standards workshop, Ukraine, 2018

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Information management tools help in compiling, storing, analysing and disseminating accurate, timely and relevant information on explosive ordnance and mine action.

The GICHD develops, configures and customises a range of information management tools and implements them within mine action programmes. The Centre ensures that the mine action community has an adequate pool of skilled information management personnel.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES ASSESSED AND STRENGTHENED

In 2018, the GICHD supported 20 mine action programmes to further develop their information management capacity: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Syria, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Western Sahara and Zimbabwe. This support included assessments of the current capacities of a national mine action authority, workplan development and implementation, thematic and stakeholder workshops, as well as intensive on-site and remote technical support. Information management workplans are closely monitored and followed-up to track progress efficiently at any given time.

The same year, reassessments were conducted in eight countries to evaluate changes and results. Cambodia, Colombia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Zimbabwe showed improvements.

THE POWER OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT THE SERVICE OF MINE ACTION

The GICHD developed the newest iteration of IMSMA as a web-based geographic information system (GIS) environment. Called IMSMA Core, it is configured to fit national programmes' specific operational and reporting requirements. It provides mine action programmes all over the world with access to information for a wide range of stakeholders, fosters information sharing, provides near-real-time maps and reports on the extent of contamination. IMSMA Core gives the mine action community enhanced decision support, spatial analysis, coordination, and reporting capabilities to increase the efficiency of demining activities. In 2018, GICHD efforts focused on further extending IMSMA Core functionalities.

Equipped with IMSMA, mine action actors can analyse, monitor and use the collected data more effectively. This allows for greater clarity on the extent of contamination and its impact. Evidence-based decisions can be taken, leading to more effective and efficient operational planning and land release. Ultimately, this enables countries to comply more quickly with their clearance obligations.



Side event on IMSMA Core update – data standardisation and visualisation – at the 17th APMBBC Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2018

“With IMSMA Core, we now have at our fingertips a state-of-the-art GIS that we can adapt and conform to the requirements of mine action.”

Olivier Cottray, Head of Information Management, GICHD.

IMSMA CORE DEPLOYED IN CRITICAL CONTEXTS

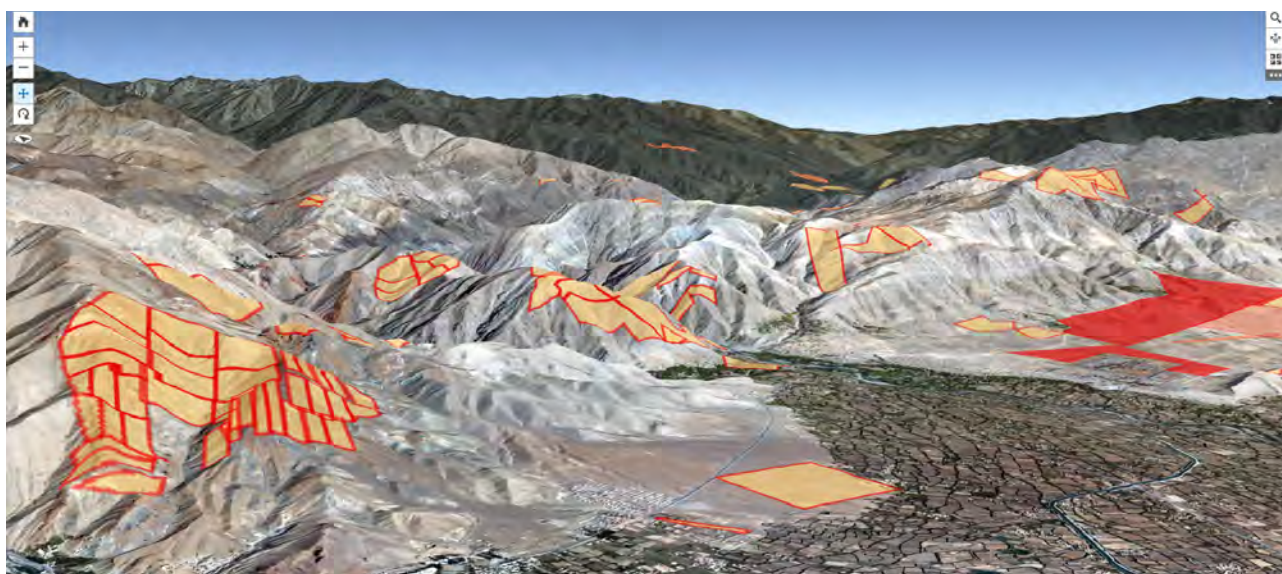
2018 marked an acceleration in IMSMA Core roll-outs. Implementation was initiated and/or continued with the following mine action organisations and contexts: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in DRC, UNMAS in Palestine and UNMAS in Syria, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Iraq, as well as the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre. Additionally, the IMSMA Core implementation for Humanity and Inclusion/Handicap International in Syria was fully handed over.

Many United Nations bodies and NGOs are already using the same GIS platform (ArcGIS) for different aspects of humanitarian work, including human rights monitoring, refugee support, food distribution, education, finance, agriculture, peacekeeping and disarmament. IMSMA Core is therefore completely compatible with these systems and allows all involved stakeholders in the wider human security realm to share vital operational information with one another more easily.

The GICHD also provided training and support to national authorities and operators on an ongoing basis, for their use of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). In 2018, three IMSMA global courses were given in Switzerland, and several information management workshops organised at country level.

Through the delivery of courses, the reporting and data analysis capacity of mine action programmes are enhanced and broadened. The GICHD’s information management tools and related training allow contaminated areas to be identified and defined more accurately, the implementation of a more effective decision-making process, and lead to more effective and efficient operational planning and/or land release.

To simplify the training process, the GICHD created the Mine Action Information Management Qualification Scheme, standardising roles and specifying levels of IMSMA expertise needed to manage mine action data. This helps determine the level of skill in every country and improves capacity in a targeted manner in the countries that need it most.



IMSMA Core provides all the ArcGIS capabilities to the service of mine action so that organisations can visualise hazardous areas and previously completed hazard reduction activities, using satellite imagery and elevation for context.

📌 RESOURCE

Learn more about IMSMA Core:

www.gichd.org/ismmacore

ENHANCING HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION WITH HIGH-RESOLUTION UAS IMAGERY

There are numerous unmanned aerial systems (UAS) applications currently used in humanitarian mine action, environmental research and survey, and urban infrastructure management and maintenance.

Together with The HALO Trust and MAG, the GICHD conducted a case study in Angola, illustrating how UAS imagery, when infrastructure and permissions allow this data to be collected, helps to better plan and monitor humanitarian mine action operations. The collected imagery can also be used to record proof of cancellation for suspected hazardous areas, and to help teams prepare routes for demining machines, therefore improving operational efficiency. The fact that UAS can be used to accurately document land use changes, such as urbanisation and agricultural development, is also of great help in communicating the success of demining programmes to donors.

The GICHD has developed a UAS Portal where the results of various case studies carried out around the world are presented. Built as a knowledge exchange platform, it disseminates unmanned aerial systems case study results from different organisations.

UAS imagery products are easy to integrate into the IMSMA Core environment and are a valuable source of information on contaminated terrain, priority settings, geolocation of contaminated areas, and post-clearance analysis.

➤ RESOURCE

UAS Portal: training.gichd.org/all-training



GICHD Information Management Advisor at a technical survey course, Bosnia, 2019

RISK MANAGEMENT

Traditionally, clearance was the first response to suspected explosive ordnance. However, surveying the land first is a more efficient approach. The improvement and implementation of the land release process has made it possible to deploy costly clearance assets more effectively, resulting in considerable time and cost savings.

The GICHD provides advice and shares good practice across the mine sector to help ensure safe, fast and targeted release of land and underwater areas.



OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND LAND RELEASE

NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY (NTS)

Through proper NTS, scarce clearance assets can be used more precisely in the areas that actually contain contamination, therefore promoting better priority setting and a more efficient use of operational resources.

In 2018, the GICHD supported the improvement of global survey quality in accordance with IMAS land release guidelines. The Centre developed and delivered country-tailored courses to enhance the national capacity of 14 countries. An online survey conducted in 2018 showed that 95% of participants considered that the training addressed the most important topics of NTS and of the land release process; 80% confirmed that they will adopt and adapt GICHD training material in their own NTS programmes.

“The GICHD non-technical survey courses have been very important and very valuable for us in our organisation. I applied last year’s course to a training session for two non-technical survey teams. The exchange of experiences and ideas from other organisations with our colleagues is enriching and really makes you grow.”

Arles Dávila, Colombia national supervisor for non-technical survey, Danish Demining Group

The annual global NTS course was delivered at the German Army UN Training Centre in Hammelburg. 20 representatives of national mine action authorities and operators from 12 mine-affected countries were awarded the qualification. The course teaches participants how to identify, gather and record evidence to be used as part of the land release process and includes field exercises based on real-life scenarios. This allows them to significantly improve their capacity to lead, train and implement efficient land release practices, with the ultimate objective of further disseminating these skills within their own mine action programmes.

RESOURCE

Watch the GICHD animation “Non-technical survey: The foundation to getting land release right” (available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic) on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/GICHD1



Non-technical survey course, Lebanon, 2018



Non-technical survey course, Lebanon, 2018

TECHNICAL SURVEY (TS)

Once hazardous areas are identified through the NTS process, TS ensures that operational assets are deployed to reduce their size. In 2018, the GICHD carried out various visits to Cambodia, Iraq and Zimbabwe to conduct a general overview of TS field practices. The findings were used to develop a new course based on good practice and lessons learned. Supported with a new tool developed by the GICHD, the Technical Simulator, the course will be piloted in 2019.

URBAN CONTAMINATION POSING NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE SECTOR

Due to the spike in armed conflicts in recent years, the scale of urban contamination with explosive ordnance has massively increased, posing a real challenge to the mine action sector. There is a clear need to clarify and standardise the survey and clearance procedures for such contamination. The GICHD has been investigating previous approaches, practices and lessons learned

in addressing urban contamination. The objective is to propose clear and useful methods, tools and standards to accelerate the return to normality, making it possible for infrastructure to be rebuilt and for displaced people to come back home safely.

In 2018, the GICHD carried out several case studies in cooperation with the national authorities of affected countries, and operators dealing with urban explosive weapons contamination. Within this framework, the GICHD conducted a series of field visits, interviews and operational research activities in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. A workshop organised in Iraq with the support of the national authorities helped gather valuable information about how mine action authorities and implementing partners are conducting clearance operations and managing quality in urban settings. Due to a series of different methodologies, survey processes, terminology and criteria used by different operators, the overall assessment of operational efficiency is difficult, reinforcing the need for more clearly defined threat reduction in urban contexts.

INCREASED SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STOCKPILED AMMUNITION

The diversion of ammunition from stockpiles and the resulting, uncontrolled proliferation of ammunition fuel insecurity in many regions. On the other hand, unplanned explosions in ammunition sites still occur frequently and often result in a high number of people being killed, injured or displaced.

The recognition of this dual risk has placed the safe and secure management of ammunition ever more firmly on the international political and normative agenda. Operationally, international cooperation and assistance is being stepped up to strengthen national efforts to contain and manage these risks.

The GICHD trains ammunition practitioners and improves the knowledge of international standards and guidelines among ammunition authorities and regulators to enable national authorities to make their ammunition safer.

HELPING COUNTRIES MAKE THEIR AMMUNITION MORE SECURE

The GICHD has developed a comprehensive ammunition safety management (ASM) training and guidance package on how the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) can be implemented, especially in settings where financing, equipment and facilities are insufficient. The package contains a guide, which provides step-by-step processes, and two courses, User and Train the Trainer, both equipped with relevant training, management and logistics plans.



The ASM package was tested in Niger in 2018 and members of the Niger Armed Forces took the ASM User course. These tests were successful: the contents of the ASM Guide were validated and the sustainability in the use of the method was ensured through the qualification of the most advanced students to act as instructors for the Guide.

In 2018, the GICHD also provided a series of weapons and ammunition management training courses aimed at assisting states in applying good ammunition safety management practices to their ammunition stocks and facilities. The objective was also to enhance regional awareness on the issue of ASM according to the IATG: in Togo in the context of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration operations, in Moldova in the context of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia regional cooperation programme, and in Jordan where ammunition operators and managers from seven countries from the MENA region were trained.

RESOURCES

[Ammunition safety management print guide \(in English and French\)](#)

[Ammunition safety management application: available on iTunes and Google Play](#)

[The State of Play in Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition \(in Arabic, French and Russian\) available on \[www.gichd.org/resources/publications\]\(http://www.gichd.org/resources/publications\)](#)

This report discusses current practices and remaining challenges, identifying bottlenecks and recommending further action to overcome the challenges more effectively, sustainably and in a coordinated manner in the future.



UN SAFERGUARD VALIDATION PROCESS FOR AMMUNITION EXPERTS

The UN SaferGuard validation process seeks to develop an impartial, standardised methodology for validating ammunition expertise in accordance with the IATG. In collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the GICHD has, since 2015, been engaged in developing this process, with a view to providing harmonized technical assistance requested by interested states.

In 2018, an assessment mission and training course were held in Vienna to validate IATG experts for inclusion on the SaferGuard Roster of Experts. A training course was conducted in Nepal, aimed at increasing awareness of the UN SaferGuard Programme and to encouraging participation of technical ammunition experts from Asia and the Pacific in future validation exercises.

The GICHD jointly organised a regional technical workshop under the UN SaferGuard in Lima, Peru, together with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and its UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Technical ammunition experts from 14 countries met to exchange views on good practice in ammunition management and to discuss regional trends in ammunition trafficking. To further support the validation process and to define the essential criteria for rostered ammunition experts, workshop participants engaged in a survey on national ammunition management systems.

PRACTICAL GUIDES PROMOTE SAFE AND SECURE MANAGEMENT OF AMMUNITION

In 2018, three new practical guides on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) were published by the UN SaferGuard Programme. Together with Small Arms Survey, the GICHD co-authored the following two of the three publications:

Critical Path Guide to the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines clarifies how measures within the IATG are to be interpreted and applied in practice and explains technical concepts and processes in a simple, clear and concise manner. It supports users in navigating the principles, methodology and technical content of the IATG.

A Guide to Developing National Standards for Ammunition Management aims to assist state authorities in the development of national standards based on the IATG and the implementation of these standards across state institutions. More specifically, it outlines the key considerations and processes involved in the development of national standards, providing advice for the development of an organisational framework necessary for effective, coordinated and sustainable national ammunition stockpile management.

➤ RESOURCE

Find these publications on our website
www.gichd.org/resources/publications



AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY TEAM CREATED

An Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT) was jointly established in late 2018 by the GICHD and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). AMAT is anchored within the GICHD and is financially supported by Switzerland and Germany.

AMAT's objective is to enhance the security and safety of ammunition, hence preventing diversion and accidental explosions, through the provision of technical advice and assistance for ammunition management in accordance with the IATG.

➤ RESOURCE

www.amat.org

REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The GICHD brings together national authorities of affected states and other stakeholders to increase the level and quality of cooperation at regional level.

The GICHD offers a platform to share resources, experience and good practice, based on linguistic commonality and geographic proximity, through liaison visits to national authorities and the organisation of regional conferences and workshops on various issues of mine action.

The regional cooperation platform helps build confidence among mine action stakeholders of the same region and increase understanding of national authorities on how to implement mine action good practice.



PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION

In 2018, the GICHD continued to facilitate dialogue and enhance cooperation among national mine action authorities and programmes to tackle mine action challenges and disseminate good practice.

The common struggle among countries in developing NMAS was highlighted in the IMAS outreach workshop in Mauritania. Through the regional platform, discussion of the recent consultative NMAS development process carried out by the Lebanese Mine Action Center focused on the importance of such a process and its impact on enhancing operational efficiency. Furthermore, this model was discussed in depth by various participating programmes, notably Iraq, as well as its application in relation to their own model.

ARAB REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

In 2018, the GICHD continued to foster regional cooperation on mine action issues through bringing countries together from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Targeting local and regional challenges, with the focus on mainstreaming gender and diversity,

a two-day workshop was organised in collaboration with the Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) and the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) in the Regional School for Humanitarian Demining in Lebanon. The GICHD helps promote the needs of diverse groups of women, men, girls and boys, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in particular.

Later in the year, the GICHD and LMAC co-organised another two-day regional workshop in Mauritania on International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) outreach, aimed at increasing and updating knowledge of the latest IMAS changes. This was followed by a three-day ammunition safety management workshop that was jointly organised by the GICHD, the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, and LMAC in Amman, Jordan. It focused on the safe and secure management of ammunition and stockpiles, in accordance with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). Furthermore, the GICHD supported a series of briefings on mine action for the Iraqi State Council and Directorate for Mine Action representatives. The briefings were comprised of various sessions on mine action law with specific examples from the MENA region, but also from other countries around the world.



First regional NTS course, Lebanon, 2018



Regional technical workshop of the GICHD Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme, Moldova, 2018

EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

In partnership with the National Army of the Republic of Moldova, the GICHD organised the first regional ammunition practitioner training course in Chisinau, Moldova, in March 2018. The course aimed to familiarise participants with good international practice of ammunition stockpile management, which should be implemented to reduce the risk of explosions at ammunition depots, in accordance with the IATG. The programme included topics regarding the causes of uncontrolled explosions at depots, conditions of ammunition storage and transportation, as well as techniques for identifying obsolete ammunition.

The training course was attended by representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine, who are responsible for the management of weapons and ammunition depots in their countries.

“It is important to understand and capitalise on how countries could learn from one another. Building capacity, sharing experiences.”

Rana Elias, Cooperation Programmes Coordinator, GICHD

IMAS TRANSLATIONS FURTHER MINE ACTION KNOWLEDGE

The GICHD helps clarify terminology and facilitates the translation and sharing of mine action documentation. Translating mine action standards into local languages is key to encouraging and enabling the sharing of documentation in a common language across a given region.

In 2018, standards, technical notes and tests, as well as evaluation protocols were translated into Arabic, English, French and Russian. They were published on the IMAS website and shared with mine action centres and the broader mine action community, to make sure that they are widely used and applied. These translations enhance the operational efficiency of mine action programmes, including in countries such as Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen, which all suffer from heavy explosive remnants of war contamination.

The GICHD conducts regular assessments on the need and importance of translating IMAS into various languages. Many programmes consider these key mine action documents and their subsequent translations, the cornerstone to achieving national humanitarian demining activities.

In 2018, the GICHD also translated the following key publications and documentation:

📄 In Arabic

A Guide to Cluster Munitions

10 Steps to a National Quality Management System

The State of Play in Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition

Leaving No One Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals

A Guide to Developing National Mine Action Standards

📄 In Russian

Guide to Strategic Planning in Mine Action and Quick Start Guide

The State of Play in Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition

📄 In Farsi

Guide to Mine Action

POLICY

Mine action operations occur alongside other humanitarian, development and peace and security programmes, whether to carve out humanitarian space, support peace mediation, or to ensure that mine action is aligned with reconstruction and development priorities. It is important to place mine action as an enabler of these broader efforts.



The GICHD therefore strives to build stronger links between mine action and the wider humanitarian, development and peace and security sectors, coherently mainstreaming knowledge, methods and tools. The Centre supports the development of sound national mine action architectures, whereby all relevant stakeholders are involved, to ensure that mine action is well embedded and understood as a part of a broader agenda.

MINE ACTION EXPERTISE CONTRIBUTES TO HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

New collaborations in policy work have been strengthened within the Maison de la paix and beyond in the area of security sector reform, peace mediation and on the topic of anti-vehicle mines. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the narrative to “go more connected” has facilitated the work of the GICHD in this regard. Human security actors were encouraged to adapt and use mine action standards, methods and tools.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The GICHD aims to understand how mine action activities can help accelerate progress towards the SDGs and how they can be more coherently mainstreamed into national sustainable development efforts. Such understanding helps mine action stakeholders adapt their planning, implementation and reporting to maximise the impact of their work and their contribution to achieving the SDGs.

Through this project, the GICHD and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) strive to support Bosnia and Herzegovina and Jordan as pilot countries. Project implementation is scheduled to begin in 2019. However, important progress was made in 2018 by ensuring that GICHD-supported national mine action strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina and South Sudan were aligned with the SDGs. The former was adopted by the Council of Ministers in early 2019, the latter in 2018. South Sudan’s strategy is now aligned with the SDGs and includes an entire section on the topic, with specific reference to the GICHD/UNDP publication (see below). Similarly, dedicated sessions on the SDGs were successfully included in two Partnership for Peace training courses (separately organised by the GICHD and UNICEF), equipping participants with the knowledge and understanding on how to successfully mainstream the SDGs into mine action programmes.

RESOURCE

Find the publication “Leaving No One Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals” (in English and in Arabic) on our website www.gichd.org/resources/publications



“In the post-agreement period, demining is crucial for communities to begin the process of returning to normal life. Civilians and former combatants are now working together to rebuild the social fabric and trust after decades of war.”

Sergio Bueno former Director, Descontamina, Colombia

A TOOL DEVELOPED FOR THE OSCE

Human security actors are encouraged to adapt and use GICHD-supported mine action standards, methods and tools. In Ukraine, the GICHD has successfully developed and tested a data collection tool, SOVA, for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Monitoring Mission. SOVA has enhanced the OSCE's capacity to collect, store and analyse information, and has improved data processing. The project continues towards establishing a comprehensive geographic information system for the OSCE to help survey, mark and eventually clear contaminated areas and enhance staff's safety.

PEACE MEDIATION

Mine action is a decisive step in building confidence in conflict-affected regions and it immediately benefits the population, as exemplified by the case of Colombia, where the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia agreed, in March 2015, to conduct a joint pilot project in humanitarian demining to strengthen confidence in the peace process. Research continued to be conducted throughout 2018 jointly with Swisspeace, investigating how mine action is integrated into ceasefire and peace agreements. It paved the way for the effective inclusion of mine action modules into peace mediation courses provided by Swisspeace.

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

The partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Project Coordinator in Ukraine (OSCE PCU) and the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) was reinforced with a memorandum of understanding in 2018. Activities focused on supporting the development of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and mine action legislation. In December 2018, a mine action law was adopted by the Ukrainian parliament, and the Ministry of Defence announced the release of NMAS. Assistance was also provided to both Iraq and Myanmar through workshops on mine action institutions. The ongoing conflict in south-eastern regions brought the focus to defence priorities, which made humanitarian and human security matters more politically sensitive and progress in the project more difficult. More time and flexibility are needed to establish effective and lasting working relations to achieve results in those contexts.

INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE AND POLICY PROCESSES ARE INFORMED BY EVIDENCE

Certain types of conventional weapons and ammunition are not prohibited, unlike in the case of anti-personnel mines or cluster munitions. This elevates the need for states to exchange on how best to address their possible negative consequences, particularly with regard to civilians. Discussions and decisions are grounded in evidence on the different impacts of these weapons. The GICHD has become a recognised source of field evidence in international policy and normative processes.

In 2018, the GICHD contributed to informed discussions within the context of international processes and initiatives.

ANTI-VEHICLE MINES (AVMs)

This multi-year project, conducted in collaboration with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), aims at strengthening the evidence of impact caused by AVMs. It directly contributes to the political process among states towards further mitigating the impact of AVMs on civilians. In 2018, the GICHD continued its research on the extent, geography and other patterns of incidents related or suspected to be

related to AVMs. The findings were shared at informal consultations on the topic held by the president-elect of the 2018 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). This process further benefited from an article on Mali, published on the Write Peace blog hosted by SIPRI. A mandate to further explore ways to include better discussions on good practice related to AVMs during the implementation period of the Protocol, was extended to the president-elect of the 2019 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW Amended Protocol II.

In 2018, the joint GICHD-SIPRI publication, *Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mine Incidents in 2017*, was released. This report follows up on and compares findings with earlier editions. Data stems from field reports from states, national mine action authorities/centres, mine action and other humanitarian organisations, as well as open-source media reviews in many different languages.

RESOURCE

Find the "Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mine Incidents in 2017" on our website www.gichd.org/resources/publications



A serviceman walks past anti-tank mines, Ukraine, 2015



Lebanon, 2018

TALKS ON EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

Motivated by its strategic goal to improve human security, and equipped with expertise in explosive ordnance, the GICHD established a research project in 2015 to characterise explosive weapons. The GICHD perceives the debate on explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) to be a humanitarian issue and this research project was conceived to help inform the ongoing discussions on EWIPA, intended to reduce the harm to civilians.

The project's Final Report - Explosive Weapons Effects, has now been published, as well as a series of five annexes on different weapons systems. A simulator showing the effects of different explosive weapons systems in a variety of settings was released. In addition, the GICHD is contributing its expert advice to the ongoing EWIPA policy discussions, organised

by the Permanent Mission of Germany in Geneva, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the GICHD. Two discussions were held in 2018, both titled, Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas: humanitarian, technical, legal and military considerations. With around 30 states and the European Union represented, as well as a broad range of civil society representatives, topics discussed included the wide range of detrimental impacts that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas has on civilians, legal frameworks applicable to the use of EWIPA, and the adaptation of military practices for urban operations.

▶ RESOURCE

characterisationexplosiveweapons.org

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) form the basis for and represent the legal framework through which most mine action interventions are funded, planned and implemented. States Parties meet regularly to assess progress and challenges in the implementation of these Conventions.



The GICHD promotes and supports the implementation of these Conventions by:

- ▼ Hosting and collaborating with the Implementation Support Units of the APMBC and the CCM;
- ▼ Supporting States Parties to fulfill their obligations, with technical advice and information;
- ▼ Facilitating international meetings and addressing the mine action community on key issues as an observer to the Conventions.

Experience and good practice from the field are brought to the attention of delegates in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Conventions.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is the international treaty binding more than 100 states and that addresses the humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm caused to civilians by cluster munitions, through a ban of cluster munitions and a framework for action. Today, 29 states and territories are still contaminated by cluster munitions remnants, and new use in current conflicts has increased the level of contamination and is impeding land release efforts.

30 May 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the CCM. As of December 2018, a total of 120 states have joined the Convention – 106 States Parties and 14 Signatories.

Since 2015, as agreed between the States Parties and the GICHD, the Centre hosts the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the CCM, providing infrastructure, administrative and other support for ISU operations. The GICHD has been supporting the implementation of the Convention by providing strategic, operational and information management advice to States Parties. In 2018, the Centre participated in the work of the CCM as an observer delegation at the Eighth Meeting of States Parties, held at the United Nations Office in Geneva.



The 10th anniversary of the CCM marked in the ISU premises, Geneva, 2018



Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM held at the United Nations Office in Geneva, 2018



Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the APMBC Implementation Support Unit, Ambassador Suraya Dalil, President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for 2018, and GICHD Director Ambassador Stefano Toscano at APMBC intersessional meetings, Geneva, 2018

PARTICIPATION IN THE APMBC MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

The Centre has been hosting the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC and providing implementation support to the Convention and its States Parties since 2001. The GICHD also actively participates in the work of the APMBC as an observer delegation at all of its formal and informal meetings. During the Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC in Geneva in November 2018, the GICHD organised a side event titled, "Negotiating Humanitarian Access for Mine Action in Conflict Situations", discussing for instance the challenges of including non-state actors in mine action processes. Specific examples were given of when mine action has helped in peace processes in different country contexts.

"Mine action can be a peacebuilding measure in Afghanistan",

explained Patrick Fruchet, UNMAS Head of Office and Programme Manager in Afghanistan, during the side event on "Negotiating Humanitarian Access for Mine Action in Conflict Situations"

THE 21ST INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL MINE ACTION PROGRAMME DIRECTORS AND UNITED NATIONS ADVISERS

As every year, the GICHD provided support to UNMAS for the planning and coordination of the International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers. The meeting took place in 2018 over four days at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. This mine action gathering provided an opportunity for delegates to network and exchange good practice and lessons learned in response to current trends in mine action. The theme of this year's meeting was, "Advancing Protection, Peace and Development."

➤ RESOURCE

GICHD at #NDMUN21 | Watch this video on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/GICHD1

In 2018, the GICHD hosted three side events:

- ▼ "Advancing Development and Building Sustainable Peace in Sri Lanka through Achieving Completion": the overall purpose was to raise awareness of Sri Lanka's mine action programme and to highlight the close link between mine action, peacebuilding and development.
- ▼ "Launch of IMSMA Core – the Power of GIS at the Service of Mine Action": presentation of stories of early IMSMA Core users, UNMAS, HI, MAG.
- ▼ "Let's Talk Business: Mine Action, the Private Sector and the SDGs": innovative, past and present partnerships in mine action were discussed.



GICHD Director, Ambassador Stefano Toscano, at the 21st National Directors Meeting in Geneva, 2018

OUTREACH

The GICHD enhances its visibility and influence by reporting on its impact on the mine action sector and beyond. Our outreach activities increasingly follow a cross-media strategy to reach targeted audiences through a variety of communications channels as well as through the organisation of events.

The GICHD also contributes, through its outreach work, to maintain mine action high on the agenda of states and other actors.





The signing of the Deed of Foundation of the GICHD on 28 April 1998 in Geneva.

GICHD'S 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 2018, the GICHD celebrated its 20-year anniversary. Founded in 1998 by the Swiss government to promote the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the GICHD was created as a centre of technical expertise and training in humanitarian demining to help bring greater professionalism to the sector. The city of Geneva, as a point of convergence of humanitarian and disarmament affairs, was a natural choice for the location of the Centre. The GICHD's Council of Foundation met for the first time on 28 October 1998 at the Château de Coppet near Geneva.

It is in this same historic location that we marked the anniversary with an event in December 2018. Over 120 friends, partners and colleagues – both past and present – gathered at the Château de Coppet to celebrate two decades of collective mine action work, and pay tribute to 20 years of partnerships in seeking to eliminate the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war.

A book, *Twenty Years of Supporting Mine Action*, was produced and published by the Centre on this occasion to commemorate and highlight the Centre's achievements since its founding, accompanied by pictures and quotes from past and present GICHD staff. In the 20 years of its existence, the GICHD has helped to professionalise the sector through capacity development work at field

level, multilateral engagement on norms and standards, and the promotion of innovative solutions through research and development. But despite the important achievements of the sector – over 30 countries cleared of mines in the last 20 years – contamination from mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war remains significant. This is why, more than ever, the work of the GICHD is necessary and relevant.

➤ RESOURCE

Read our anniversary book "20 years of supporting mine action," available here:

www.gichd.org/resources/publications



GICHD's 20-year event near Geneva, 2018

NEW CORPORATE FILM “HEARTS AND MINDS”

2018 saw the creation and release of the new GICHD corporate film, called Hearts and Minds. GICHD representatives and a film crew from al Dente Entertainment travelled to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia and Lebanon, where they encountered and filmed numerous partners, beneficiaries and mine victims, to tell the story of mine action. The aim was to illustrate the common, ultimate goal of mine action to our audiences, to illustrate why we do what we do, “we share the same mission - and our mission is to save lives,” as one quote from the film puts it. This powerful film reminds us that while mine action is ultimately about saving lives, it is also about restoring trust between former foes and in formerly treacherous land, and giving back dignity to people in affected countries.

The film premiered at the 20th anniversary event of the Centre in December 2018. It was awarded two World Medals at the prestigious New York Festivals Awards - TV & Film Awards, in April 2019: Silver World Medal for Best Editing, and Bronze World Medal for Best Corporate Social Responsibility/Not-for-profit.



📌 RESOURCE

Watch “Hearts and Minds” on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/GICHD1

VR EXPERIENCE “HOME AFTER WAR”

Home After War is an immersive virtual reality (VR) experience produced by the GICHD in cooperation with NowHere Media, as part of the Oculus VR for Good Creators Lab. The experience was filmed in Fallujah, Iraq, in early 2018 and premiered at the Venice International Film Festival later in the year. Viewers are virtually transported into the real home of Ahmaied Hamad Kalaf, an Iraqi father who tells the story of how he and his family returned home after fighting subsided, but with the fear that improvised explosive devices may be hidden in their home and community. Home After War has since been shown at 12 other film festivals and a number of mine action meetings. It has won four Social Impact Media Awards, including for Best VR experience, and the South by Southwest Jury Prize for Best Immersive Experience. It will continue to travel to other festivals and mine action meetings throughout 2019.

📌 RESOURCE

Watch the making of “Home After War” on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/GICHD1



20 film festivals

5 awards

11 award nominations

1500+ viewers

28 media mentions

4 high level presentations

Invitations from **7** partners to show experience at **9** events



BÂTISSEURS DE PAIX 2018

The second edition of the Bâtisseurs de Paix (“peace builders”) event, which is coordinated by the GICHD, brought over 230 school children from secondary schools across Geneva together with nine organisations, at the Maison de la paix campus. The children were able to participate in the work of the different organisations through interactive workshops, becoming peace builders themselves for half a day. A moderated plenary session helped the children gain insight into today’s challenges and how the work done at the campus is relevant to making this world safer and more inclusive. At this event, the GICHD offered a demining workshop that included the spotting and recognition of dangerous items and an introduction to manual detection and demining.

➤ RESOURCE

Have a look at this event on our YouTube channel
www.youtube.com/user/GICHD1

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES FOSTER KNOWLEDGE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

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 national authorities, international and regional organisations and NGOs. These resources compile examples of good practice, support advisory missions and training courses, and give national authorities and operators the tools they need to improve mine action.

📖 2018 PUBLICATIONS

www.gichd.org/resources/publications

Enhancing Humanitarian Mine Action in Angola with High-Resolution UAS Imagery (The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction)

GICHD anniversary book | Twenty Years of Supporting Mine Action

Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action | Powerful linkages for progress across the SDGs

A Guide to Developing National Mine Action Standards (Russian)

Guide to Mine Action (Farsi)

Increasing Efforts in Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition: What does it Take? (The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction)

Guide to Strategic Planning in Mine Action (Russian)

Quick Start Guide to Strategic Planning (Russian)

Guide to Cluster Munitions (Arabic)

Ten Steps to a National Quality Management System (Arabic)

Management of Residual Explosive Remnants of War in Cambodia

The State of Play in Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition (English, French, Arabic, Russian)

Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mine Incidents in 2017

🌐 GICHD WEBSITES

GICHD main website:

www.gichd.org

GICHD online training platform:

training.gichd.org

GICHD ammunition management advisory team:

www.amat.org

International Mine Action Standards:

www.mineactionstandards.org

Characterisation of explosive weapons research project:

www.characterisationexplosiveweapons.org

Together Against Mines campaign:

www.togetheragainstmines.org

The Bâtisseurs de paix competition:

www.batisseursdepaix.org

🌐 OTHER PLATFORMS HOSTED AND SUPPORTED

Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention:

www.apminebanconvention.org

Implementation Support Unit of 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

RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE GICHD – ACCORDING TO THE STATUTES

The GICHD's role is to promote international cooperation in mine action by training practitioners, developing new methods and providing different actors with the information they need.

Within this context, the Centre should undertake a series of activities, in particular:

- ▼ Establish and maintain a group of internationally recognised experts that analyse experiences from different contexts in the field, identify current problems and propose solutions in the form of standards or methodologies and methods;
- ▼ Create and maintain an information management system adapted to the needs of the United Nations and existing mine action centres;
- ▼ Organise periodic conferences allowing the persons in charge of mine action operations to exchange their experiences;
- ▼ Organise training courses for potential managers of mine action operations as well as for information management specialists.

The GICHD is subject to the laws of Switzerland. It is directly supervised by the *Autorité de Surveillance des fondations* (the Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations), 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 unanimously re-elected for another four-year mandate in 2016, there are 26 Council of Foundation members and the Honorary President, Dr Cornelio Sommaruga.

The Bureau of the Council of Foundation manages the Foundation's current affairs unless otherwise delegated to the Director. The Bureau is composed of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and three delegates from the Council of Foundation.

The Advisory Board provides advice to the management on the strategy and programmes of the GICHD. It consists of a group of practitioners involved in mine action and human security in various roles and organisations, chaired by the Director of the GICHD.

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. Deloitte SA was appointed as the external auditor for the 2018 fiscal year. The GICHD's annual financial statements are subject to a full, voluntary, ordinary statutory audit as per a decision by the GICHD's Council of Foundation. The audit is carried out in accordance with Swiss auditing standards.

The objectives of an ordinary statutory audit are to obtain reasonable assurances on the correctness of the financial statements that were subjected to audit and to confirm the existence of a system of internal control (designed, documented and implemented by the management). The audit 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

MEMBERS (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018)

President

Dr Barbara Haering
President of the Council of Foundation

Honorary President

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga
Honorary President of the
Council of Foundation

Afghanistan

Ambassador Suraya Dalil
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

Major General Dr Johann Frank
Directorate for Security Policy, Austrian
Federal Ministry for Defence and Sport

Cambodia

Ambassador Ney Samol
Permanent Representative
of Cambodia in Geneva

Canada

Ambassador Rosemary McCarney
Permanent Representative
of Canada in Geneva

Colombia

Ambassador Adriana del
Rosario Mendoza Agudelo
Permanent Representative
of Colombia in Geneva

European Union

Ms Anne Kemppainen
Head of Section, Permanent
Delegation of the European Union in
Geneva

Finland

Ambassador Terhi Hakala 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,
Secretary of the Council of Foundation

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

Senegal

Ambassador Coly Seck
Permanent Representative
of Senegal in Geneva

Sweden

Ambassador Veronika Bard
Permanent Representative
of Sweden in Geneva

Switzerland

Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior
Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the Conference on Disarmament,
Treasurer of the Council of Foundation

Switzerland

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

Tajikistan

Ambassador Jamshed Khamidov
Permanent Representative of
Tajikistan in Geneva

UNMAS

Ms Agnès Marcaillou
Director of the United Nations Mine
Action Service (UNMAS), New York

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 States of America

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

Vietnam

Ambassador Duong Chi Dung
Permanent Representative
of Vietnam in Geneva

ADVISORY BOARD

MEMBERS (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018)

Mr Håvard Bach
Head of Mine Action, APOPO
Mine Action Programme

Mr Eric Berman
Programme Director,
Small Arms Survey

Ms Arianna Calza Bini
Director, Gender and Mine
Action Programme (GMAP)

Mr Carl Case
Director, Office of Humanitarian
Mine Action, Organization of
American States (OAS)

Dr Jane Cocking
Chief Executive, Mines
Advisory Group (MAG)

Mr James Cowan
Chief Executive, The Halo Trust

Ambassador Christian Dussey
Director, Geneva Centre for
Security Policy (GCSP)

Mr Roger Fasth
Acting Director, Danish
Demining Group (DDG)

Dr Heiner Hänggi
Deputy Director and Head of
Policy and Research, Geneva
Centre for the Democratic Control
of the Armed Forces (DCAF)

Mr Olaf Juergensen
Advisor, United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

Mr Rashid Khalikov
Director of Geneva Office, United
Nations Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Mr Hugues Laurence
Senior Advisor, United Nations
Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Ambassador Tomaž Lovrencic
Acting Director, ITF Enhancing
Human Security, Slovenia

Ms Sarah Marshall
Chief of Geneva Office, United Nations
Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Mr Dave McDonnell
Vice President, Director of
Mine Action, Olive Group

Ms Marie Mills
Mine Action Adviser, Swedish Civil
Contingencies Agency (MSB)

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

Mr Heng Ratana
Director General, Cambodian
Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

Mr Hans Risser
Head of Operations, Norwegian
People's Aid (NPA)

Mr Juan Carlos Ruan
Director, Implementation Support
Unit of the Anti-Personnel
Mine Ban Convention

Ms Carla Ruta
Thematic Legal Adviser, Geneva Call

Mr Emmanuel Sauvage
Head of Armed Violence Reduction
Technical Unit, Handicap International

Ms Sara Sekkenes
Conflict Prevention and Partnerships
Advisor, United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

Ambassador Jürg Streuli
President, Fondation Suisse
de Déminage (FSD)

Mr Erik Tollefsen
Head of the Weapon Contamination
Unit, International Committee
of the Red Cross (ICRC)

CONTRIBUTIONS

GOVERNMENTS

- ▼ Australia
- ▼ Canada
- ▼ Finland
- ▼ Germany
- ▼ Italy
- ▼ Sweden
- ▼ Switzerland
- ▼ The Netherlands
- ▼ The United Kingdom
- ▼ The United States of America

ORGANISATIONS

- ▼ Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- ▼ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Int. Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- ▼ Geneva Disarmament Platform (GDP)
- ▼ Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- ▼ Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- ▼ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- ▼ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

PRIVATE DONORS

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▼ al Dente Entertainment
- ▼ Amazon Web Services
- ▼ Bureau de la promotion pour l'égalité et la prévention des violences
- ▼ City of Geneva
- ▼ Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri)
- ▼ Facebook
- ▼ Google
- ▼ ICT
- ▼ Oculus
- ▼ Slido
- ▼ Wix
- ▼ Other contributors

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES STATEMENT

| | | <i>All amounts in CHF</i> | 2018 |
|---|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| OPERATIONS | Publications and outreach | | 215'662 |
| | Travel costs | | 621'315 |
| | Professional fees (events & consultants) | | 2'585'884 |
| | Travel costs for third parties | | 452'410 |
| STAFF | Personnel expenses | | 8'089'668 |
| GENERAL SERVICES | ICT and furniture maintenance | | 65'304 |
| | ICT and furniture acquisitions | | 204'791 |
| | ICT running costs | | 179'570 |
| | Office supplies | | 35'039 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | Miscellaneous expenses (office rent, bank charges and insurance premiums) | | 794'641 |
| | In-kind expenditures | | 818'890 |
| TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES | | | 14'063'173 |
| | Financial results | | 1'516 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | | 14'064'689 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | Contributions received | | 12'797'112 |
| | Activities / contributions deferred to next year | | (1'274'792) |
| | Activities / contributions deferred from previous year | | 1'667'198 |
| TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR | | | 13'189'518 |
| OTHER INCOME | Miscellaneous income | | 56'281 |
| | In-kind contributions | | 818'890 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | | | 14'064'689 |
| SURPLUS | | | - |

Copyright : all photos GICHD, except :

page 5: Patrice Moullet

page 8: Loris von Siebenthal

page 9: Johannes Müller

page 10 : Antoine Tardy

page 16 : Johannes Müller

page 20: Fenix Insight Ltd

page 30 : Johannes Müller

page 32: Golden West Humanitarian Foundation

page 33 : PCM ERW Risk Management & MAT Kosovo LLC

page 36: Johannes Müller

page 37 : Moldovian Ministry of Defense

page 40: Patrice Moullet

page 42: Anatolii Stepanov (AFP)

page 43: Johannes Müller

page 46: Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on Cluster Munitions



Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Maison de la paix, Tower 3, Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2C
PO Box 1300, CH – 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland



info@gichd.org

gichd.org