

Annual Report | 2012



GICHD | CIDHG



The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is an international **expert organisation** based in Switzerland that works to eliminate mines, explosive remnants of war and other **explosive hazards**. By undertaking research, developing standards and disseminating knowledge, the GICHD supports **capacity development** in mine-affected countries. It works with national and local authorities to help them **plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate** mine action programmes. The GICHD also contributes to the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other relevant instruments of international law. The GICHD upholds the humanitarian principles of **humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence**.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The protection of civilians against all types of explosive weapons is at the core of the GICHD mandate. I am pleased to see that the United Nations Secretary-General, in his latest report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict of 22 May 2012, has urged relevant actors to undertake and support further collection and analysis of data related to the humanitarian impact caused by explosive weapons. In this vein, the GICHD has started to work on a classification scheme for explosive weapons.

In March 2012, a munitions depot exploded in the city centre of Brazzaville, resulting in hundreds of deaths and thousands of injured. This explosion was just one of many similar accidents that must be prevented in the future. Together with the Small Arms Survey, the GICHD evaluated the response from the international community to the unintended explosion.

Following on from this, the GICHD has enhanced its capacities in explosive ordnance disposal. We are currently developing a tool to assist in the low-cost implementation of ammunition safety management. This will also ensure that local people are trained, which will build each country's capacity to deal with its ammunition problem.

I am looking forward to the GICHD's enhanced involvement in humanitarian disarmament and armed violence prevention and reduction, and thank all our supporters and partners for their continuous trust.

Dr Barbara Haering | President of the GICHD Council of Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Haering', written in a cursive style.



FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR

In 2012, the GICHD's work was guided by the new Strategy 2012-2014 and its two key objectives, which are to accelerate progress towards global clarity on the extent of contamination and to enhance the capacities of national authorities in mine-affected countries.

Our aim at the GICHD is to offer increasingly integrated advice, training and solutions to partner countries. To better respond to the needs and requests of the national programmes, we have undertaken an internal reorganisation within the Centre. From January 2013, three sections - Information Management, Strategic Management and Operations - have merged into two divisions: Operations Consulting and Management Consulting.

GICHD programmes continue to focus on core activities and on delivering expert advice on the strategic orientation and management of mine action programmes, as well as on methods and techniques for land release and stockpile destruction. In addition, a number of new initiatives have been launched over the course of 2012, one of which relates to victim assistance. The GICHD will not become an expert centre on medical rehabilitation or social reintegration, but we will factor victim assistance into strategic planning and information management.

Although States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) have made efforts to strengthen victim assistance programmes, they have often been challenged when coordinating, monitoring and evaluating their activities. Therefore a new version of the GICHD's primary software package, Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), is being developed in response to these needs. This is the first complete overhaul since 2005, and the new version will be released in the second half of 2013. The enhanced software will have the capacity to store and analyse vast amounts of accident, survivor and victim assistance data. It will enable affected states to report better on victim assistance, as required by the relevant treaties, and could serve as a platform for an information management system to support broader disability programmes, in line with the obligations of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

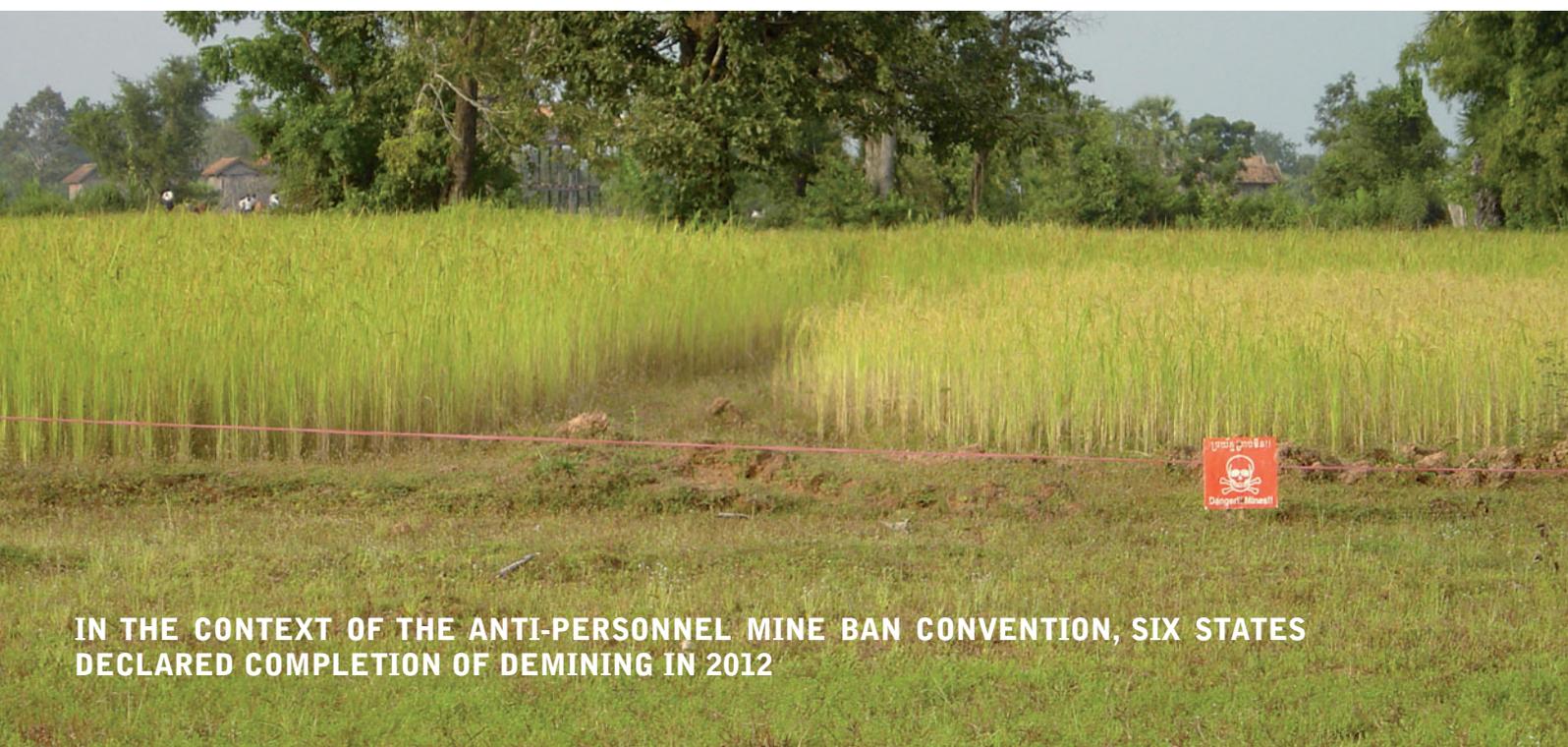
This clearly demonstrates how we are involved in all pillars of mine action without losing sight of our comparative advantages. The support of the partners and donors throughout the year is instrumental in the GICHD delivering on its commitments.

Ambassador Stephan Husy | GICHD Director

WORKING CONTEXT

More than one-third of the world's countries are contaminated by anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (ERW)

In war contexts, these weapons are planted or dropped on roads, footpaths, farms, forests, deserts and beaches, along borders, near houses and schools and in other places frequented by people on a daily basis. They affect innocent civilians indiscriminately and impede development long after the armed conflict has ended. They inhibit freedom of movement and prevent access to food, water, firewood and infrastructures, including schools and hospitals. In the context of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, six states declared completion of demining in 2012. The adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008 and its quick entry into force is another achievement which should also prevent future use of these weapons.



IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION, SIX STATES DECLARED COMPLETION OF DEMINING IN 2012

Nevertheless, a number of challenges still need to be addressed and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is committed to contributing to overcome them. For the Centre, 2012 marked the first year of the 2012-2014 Strategy. Taking into account the changing context of mine action, this strategy sets two main objectives:

- > To contribute to better clarity on the extent of global contamination
- > To strengthen the performance of national authorities and promote national ownership.

In order to achieve these objectives, our experts continue to develop new approaches and methods, provide advice to affected countries, and organise training workshops for mine action centres and operators.

WORKING METHODS

The GICHD works to eliminate mines, explosive remnants of war and illegal and unsafe munition stockpiles. Combining experience and research, we provide advice and capacity development support to mine action centres. We disseminate knowledge and best practice and develop standards.

Our aim is to help national and local authorities in mine-affected countries to plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate safe mine action programmes, so that they function as effectively and efficiently as possible



Demining site briefing | Ethiopia

We work with governments, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other international, regional and national organisations, operators and research institutions. We support the implementation of relevant instruments of international law such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In 2012, GICHD staff visited 61 countries and areas worldwide to deliver training, conduct research, hold workshops and provide professional advice on mine action (see pages 6 and 7).



Missions & Meetings

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 Afghanistan | 22 Iraq | 43 Qatar |
| 2 Albania | 23 Israel | 44 Saudi Arabia |
| 3 Algeria | 24 Italy | 45 Serbia |
| 4 Australia | 25 Ivory Coast | 46 Slovenia |
| 5 Austria | 26 Jordan | 47 Somalia/Somaliland |
| 6 Azerbaijan | 27 Kenya | 48 South Sudan |
| 7 Belgium | 28 Kosovo | 49 Sweden |
| 8 Benin | 29 Lao PDR | 50 Switzerland |
| 9 Bosnia and Herzegovina | 30 Lebanon | 51 Tajikistan |
| 10 Burundi | 31 Libya | 52 Thailand |
| 11 Cambodia | 32 Luxembourg | 53 The Former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia |
| 12 Colombia | 33 Mauritania | 54 Turkey |
| 13 Congo-Brazzaville | 34 Montenegro | 55 Uganda |
| 14 Croatia | 35 Mozambique | 56 Ukraine |
| 15 Ecuador | 36 Myanmar | 57 United Arab Emirates |
| 16 Egypt | 37 Nepal | 58 United Kingdom |
| 17 Finland | 38 Netherlands | 59 United States of America |
| 18 Georgia | 39 Norway | 60 Vietnam |
| 19 Germany | 40 Palau | 61 Western Sahara |
| 20 Guatemala | 41 Palestine | |
| 21 Iran | 42 Peru | |

GICHD | WORKING AROUND THE WORLD

The GICHD works with affected communities around the world. In 2012, GICHD staff went to 61 countries and areas to deliver training, conduct research, hold workshops and provide advice and expertise on mine action. This map illustrates the places GICHD staff worked in during 2012, including donor countries visited.



STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Improving how mine action programmes are managed is a key aim of the GICHD, which is why we focus on strengthening strategic management capabilities in mine-affected countries

In 2012, the focus was on enhancing project design, monitoring, evaluation and quality management. Our publications centred on how mine action programmes manage transition to national ownership and address land rights.

Security and development

The GICHD's Mine Action, Security and Development programme provides mine action and development practitioners with information and tools to link mine action with the broader development priorities of the government and the international community.

For example, land rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts are an increasing area of concern. Conflict often stems from disputes over land and causes dramatic changes to a country's land tenure regime and administration, threatening land rights even after the conflict has ended. Secure land rights are therefore a critical issue when it comes to humanitarian response, sustainable peace-building, restorative justice and longer-term economic recovery.

In mine-affected countries the situation can be even more complex, as mine/ERW contamination can make land inaccessible for decades. As part of the GICHD's Mine Action and Land Rights project, technical guidance was provided to help mine action organisations in Afghanistan and Somaliland ensure that their operations do not create or exacerbate land-related disputes.

In 2012, strategic planning activities were undertaken in a number of countries with a focus on Myanmar, South Sudan and Vietnam.

Myanmar

- > Preliminary meetings with government officials from Myanmar were held to present the services the GICHD can offer to the country's newly established mine action programme.

South Sudan

- > A strategic planning workshop was held to assist national authorities in preparing a draft strategic plan. The GICHD assisted in finalising this strategy in May 2012, and it was subsequently adopted by the Government of South Sudan.
- > A transition workshop was held which led to an updated transition plan.
- > Upon request of the Government of South Sudan, an assessment of the institutional set-up of the South Sudan National Mine Action Authority, and the capacity development support provided by Norwegian People's Aid and UNMAS was undertaken. The GICHD presented recommendations for the way forward.

Vietnam

- > On behalf of the Government of Vietnam, the national mine action programme was assessed and the results presented at the second annual Vietnam Mine Action Forum.



Guidance was provided to mine action organisations to ensure that their operations do not cause or worsen land disputes

Quality management, monitoring and evaluation

When carrying out evaluations in mine-affected countries, the GICHD considers whether or not a policy, programme or project is sustainable and relevant to local needs. It also measures whether humanitarian work and security, reconstruction and development priorities are being promoted effectively.

In 2012, the GICHD conducted evaluations of the UN Mine Action Programme in Nepal, and of projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Mauritania. The report from the second landmines and livelihoods survey in Afghanistan was also drafted, in collaboration with the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA) and the Afghan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD).

We continued to focus on developing national evaluation capacities to ensure greater ownership and sustainability

Following a GICHD training-of-trainers workshop, the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan achieved a notable milestone when it delivered its first Evaluating Mine Action workshop in Dari.

Additional activities included the following training workshops:

- > *Evaluating Mine Action* in Colombia (March).
- > *Evaluating Conflict, Security and Development* in Geneva (September). This was done in partnership with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Small Arms Survey (SAS) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).
- > *National Quality Management* in Tajikistan (April), Thailand (June) and Vietnam (October), as well as *Quality Management* in Geneva as part of the Swiss contribution to the NATO Partnership for Peace.

The workshops provided practitioners working in the fields of conflict, security and development with the opportunity to be familiarised with monitoring and evaluation concepts. They also helped deepen knowledge of processes, methods and results-based management.

DELIVERING IN DARI

The GICHD has had a long and fruitful involvement with mine action in Afghanistan. One of the most recent GICHD initiatives in the country has been its support for the delivery of an Evaluating Mine Action workshop, conducted for the first time in Dari, one of the official languages. This workshop, which took place in Kabul in October 2012, was the culmination of three years of cooperation between the Mine Action Coordination Centre in Afghanistan (MACCA) and the GICHD.

Some 35 participants took part from MACCA, the Department of Mine Clearance, six of the implementing partners and the ministries of Public Health, and Education and Social Affairs. Four MACCA managers delivered the workshop modules and facilitated the group work. Both the trainers and the participating delegates responded very positively, providing excellent feedback at the conclusion of the event.

MACCA now intends to build upon this success by delivering Dari-language workshops annually for mine action organisations and government departments, non-governmental organisations and other groups.



Demining operations near Bagram air base | Afghanistan

OPERATIONS

The Operations Section of the GICHD supports the mine action sector by increasing its efficiency and effectiveness globally. This includes accelerating the destruction of stockpiles and improving the safe management and storage of ammunition.

In 2012, the Operations Section increased its capacity. We expanded our programmes of assistance, including: guidance on land release concepts, best practice in operational planning, survey and clearance methods, and specialist advice on mine action techniques and ammunition safety management.

Land release

Land release describes a series of activities that better define areas of contamination and promote efficient mine/ERW clearance

Land release encourages a greater focus on surveys and information management to support decision making. The process of land release has become enshrined in mine action through the development of three International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

In 2012, the GICHD reviewed the Land Release IMAS. Approval of the new standards is expected in April 2013. In parallel, workshops were conducted to better formulate land release policies and operational approaches in Cambodia, Colombia, Lao PDR, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the USA and Vietnam.

To develop more efficient quality assurance and quality control procedures in survey and clearance, a GICHD study on external post-clearance inspection practices was published in the first quarter of 2012 and a review of relevant Quality Management IMAS initiated.

Animal detection systems

Animal detection systems can accelerate progress in operations and support efficient land release practices. A global review of animal detection systems used in mine action was undertaken in 2012 to map the extent of the use of animals in mine action operations and accreditation arrangements. This information will be used by the GICHD to better support activities of the sector in the future.

The GICHD now focuses on strengthening test and licensing procedures and on increasing confidence in regard to the usefulness of animals in operations. The first phase of the establishment of a test and licensing site was completed in 2012 in Cambodia, with a second final stage planned for 2013.

Mechanical demining systems

Machines are used widely in field operations to support survey and clearance activities. Mechanical demining systems are typically expensive investments, but when managed well can contribute significantly to increasing the rate of land release activities. The GICHD has developed training packages to promote the efficient use of mechanical tools. In 2012 we provided training to programmes in Colombia, Iran, Israel and Jordan.

In addition, the GICHD has designed a software management tool for demining operations to assist in identifying and addressing reasons for the 'downtime' of mechanical assets. 'Downtime' refers to time when a machine could be operational but when it is not in use. It reduces the productivity and cost-effectiveness of demining operations.

In 2012, manual and animal assets were incorporated into the tool, and adjustments were made to make it more user-friendly. The tool and the operator manual have been integrated into GICHD training packages and are downloadable from the GICHD website.



Mechanical demining | Angola

Legal efficiency

Promotion of better contracting arrangements and understanding liability and insurance in mine action remained a focus in 2012. Training and workshop activities were conducted at regional and national levels in the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Switzerland and the USA.

Explosive ordnance disposal and stockpile destruction

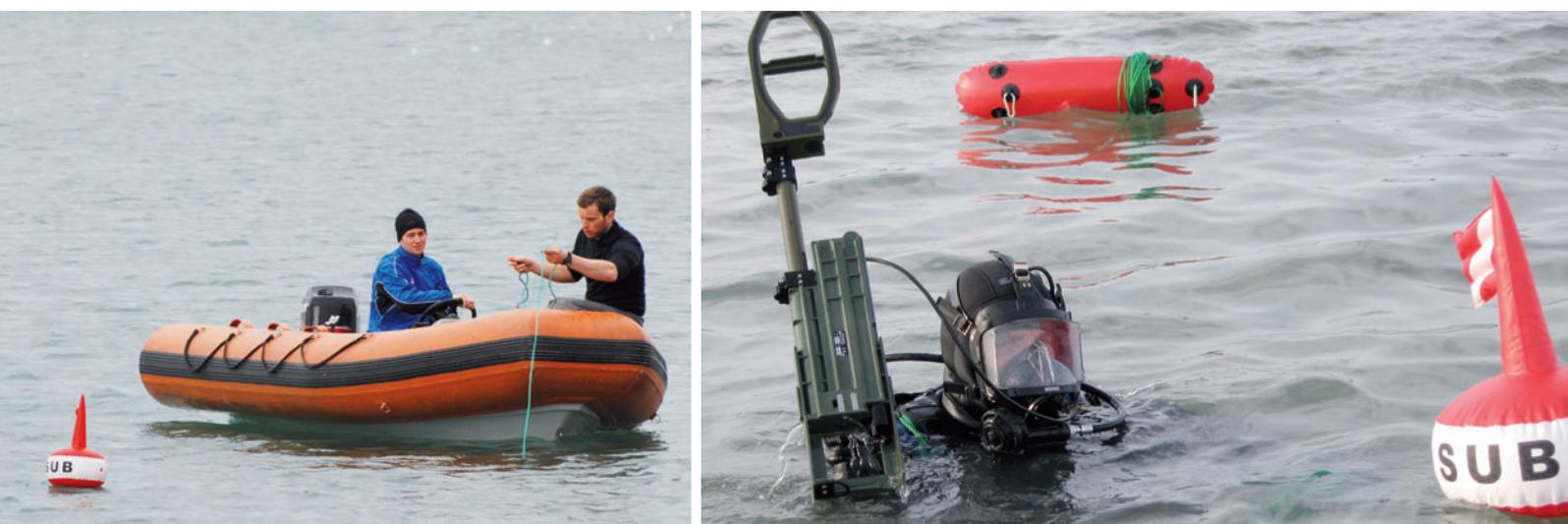
Increasingly, the GICHD's focus is on promoting safe ammunition storage facilities, as well as on the efficient destruction of banned, excessive or unstable ammunition stockpiles. In 2012 we formed a user focus group comprised of UN representatives, operators and national authorities to help steer GICHD activities, including the development of an ammunition safety management tool.

General advice on explosive ordnance disposal was provided to Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. Presentations on ammunition safety management were given at international mine action meetings. In addition, work has started on a classification scheme to advance the explosive weapons agenda.

UNDERWATER DEMINING

The harbours, territorial waters and inland waterways of a number of countries have mines, ammunition and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) left behind from past conflicts and as a result of sea dumping of surplus stores.

Underwater ammunition and ERW become increasingly corroded and unstable over time. The result is environmental damage to reefs, corals, sea creatures and the seabed, not to mention to harbours, boats and fishing equipment, all of which impact directly upon people's lives and livelihoods. In addition, ammunition at relatively shallow depths can be retrieved, fall into the wrong hands, and be used to make other, improvised explosive devices, so there is a risk of the cycle of violence perpetuating itself. It is important to identify and remove these hazards as quickly and efficiently as possible.



Underwater clearance operations | Poti harbour, Georgia

However, locating, removing and destroying these underwater hazards create challenges. Good quality and reliable diving equipment is necessary, and demining equipment must be adapted for underwater use. Other factors to consider include diving time, visibility, temperature, diving depth and the strength of the current. The harder the conditions, the more advanced the training needs to be.

The GICHD will produce a draft IMAS on underwater clearance operations in 2013. This will contribute to the safety, quality and cost-effectiveness of such operations. It will be based on a study of best practice in underwater clearance operations, and will include an evaluation of existing standards for diving and explosive ordnance, to be used as a normative reference.

Our website LIMA contains an electronic catalogue that includes metal detectors for underwater clearance operations. In 2013, we will expand this to provide an overview of sensor and sonar technology available for such use. We are also investigating the possibility of adapting the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) to enable planning, recording and reporting of clearance in underwater operations.

Technology

The GICHD plays a vital role in facilitating discussions and disseminating technical knowledge.

The biennial UNMAS/GICHD technology workshop was held in September and it brought together some 100 manufacturers and practitioners. The workshop included two new themes: ammunition safety management and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in support of mine action. This strengthened the interface among field organisations, the producers and developers of mine action equipment.

In 2012, the GICHD provided advice on personal protective equipment (PPE) to Latin American countries, as well as independent advice to Lao PDR on the use of machines. Our Links and Information for Mine Action (LIMA) database was also complemented by e-catalogues for machines, detectors and PPE.

Military liaison

Civil-military cooperation in a peace operations setting and the roles of national military and police in broader mine action activities does not always receive appropriate attention.

In 2012, the GICHD prepared a study on civil-military cooperation in mine action. It focused on transition processes and sustainable national ownership for the management of longer term residual contamination. Activities will continue in 2013 and be closely linked to the GICHD's involvement in advising on the development of strategies and transition plans rather than a standalone civil-military study.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The information management section went through a transition in 2012 that has positioned the GICHD in 2013 for the delivery of some of the largest projects to date.

Key achievements in 2012 included the finalisation of the user requirements analysis for IMSMA^{NG 6} – the first completely new version of IMSMA since 2005.

A pilot of an interactive web-based reporting tool was launched at the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) in Jordan. This software is a business intelligence tool that connects directly to IMSMA, permitting mine action programmes to browse statistics and indicators via intuitive and secure web pages. The tool is now being re-engineered and its installation package will be available for all users in the second half of 2013.



Photos from UAVs could provide a cheaper and more precise option than satellite images to map the extent of minefields.

A milestone achievement in 2012 which has increased the efficiency of the IMSMA support is that virtually all users have the same version of IMSMA installed. The number of IMSMA installations continues to increase rapidly. It is estimated that 300 workstations were installed in 2012, making 1,500 in total worldwide. In 2012 we saw the addition of Libya, Myanmar and Syria with other countries showing a keen interest.

When made available in late 2013, the IMSMA^{NG} 6 will vastly expand the capacity of the system to manage information relating to victim assistance activities, such as tracking the needs of individual victims, family members and communities, as well as the causes of the accidents and the assistance provided. A 2012 study for rights-based victim assistance showed that if the system was adapted to include more comprehensive victim assistance, there would be an increased demand for installations. Certain countries, like Vietnam, would, through its decentralised institutional set-up of the health sector, need several hundred installations.

More than 65 countries use IMSMA

Consequently, the licence ceiling agreed with Esri has been raised to 6,000 installations to give room for more growth. There is a resulting need to make the GICHD support more efficient to be able to cope with the increasing demand without increasing the number of staff. This can be done by, for instance, limiting onsite support to when it is absolutely necessary, by reducing the complexity of the software tools and by enabling capacity development through other means than traditional classroom training. Work on all these points started in 2012 and projects will be delivered in 2013.

Significant progress was made in increasing the quantity and quality of information management training. On average one training event was organised every month in 2012. All curricula are following the GICHD Mine Action Information Management Qualification standard, which includes a certification exam to ensure the skill levels of the students. New for 2012 was that the majority of events were organised regionally rather than in Geneva as in the past.

To enable users to build their capacity without attending courses, we started to develop an interactive website based on Web 2.0 technology. This will encourage collaboration between IMSMA users and build an online community of mine action information management practitioners. The website will host all IMSMA documentation and enable practitioners to study and discuss topics like mapping and information management. It will be launched in the second half of 2013 when all the core material has been entered into the system. Technically it is not an e-learning tool as the material is not delivered in classes or followed by tests. The website will nevertheless enable and encourage increased self-learning. With reference to e-learning, the trial started by the GICHD in 2011 in partnership with Esri has proven successful. At the end of 2012, more than 1,200 students around the world had taken the course with about a third of them completing all modules successfully and receiving a certificate.

Work with the University of Geneva continues in the first half of 2013, and the project will be concluded with an issue brief on good practice for the use of the Geographical Information System (GIS) in mine action. In 2012, the joint research programme produced two draft handbooks: one for Geodetics in mine action and the other for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for mapping and reporting. These two handbooks will be refined and published in the first half of 2013.

The GICHD has an agreement with Esri as a not-for-profit partner. This gives full access to Esri software for a small annual administrative fee. Esri waives all annual maintenance fees that normally should be paid for each IMSMA installation. The value of the annual cost reduction as compared to market prices is around CHF 200,000. Esri and GICHD work closely on a range of symbiotic projects, ranging from the development of training tools to software adaptation. This collaboration carries great value for both partners.

MINE ACTION STANDARDS

On behalf of the UN, the GICHD develops and maintains the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). This is one of the core activities of the Centre.

These standards provide guidelines to the global mine action community for the safe and efficient implementation of mine action programmes and projects. Along with technical notes, they are reviewed, developed and disseminated regularly. They form a framework for national mine action standards (NMAS) and operational procedures.

In 2012, regular online support, training and presentations were provided to IMAS users, and the IMAS website was maintained and updated. Jordan, Mozambique and Vietnam were supported in the development and revision of national mine action standards, and outreach missions were carried out in Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Thailand, Ukraine, UAE and the USA.

Other activities included the:

- > Development of IMAS 05.10 information management for mine action
- > Review and update of the IMAS series to include issues related to the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG)
- > Analysis of IMAS stakeholders and the strengthening of IMAS management
- > Organisation of an IMAS work plan at the annual review board meeting in Geneva
- > Continuation of the coordination and liaison with the UN and other standardisation bodies such as ISO
- > Release of the IMAS CD – Issue 8, 2012 – and its circulation to the mine action community
- > Translation of the IMAS and technical notes to French and Spanish

RAPID - an IMSMA based deminer accident reporting system

Over the years there have been a number of attempts to gather and record data on workplace demining accidents. This has been difficult for a number of reasons, including the necessary sensitivity when dealing with workplace accidents.

A new system based on IMSMA was designed. Known as the Recording, Analysis and Reporting of Accidents in Demining (RAPID), it was launched early in 2012. Currently there are 1,375 records of accidents and 1,726 corresponding victims in the database. However, data collection from affected countries remains a challenge. It is managed by the GICHD on the request of UNMAS, and does not contain personal information. The information will be used to study accident trends, assess the suitability of equipment and improve safety procedures.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

The GICHD contributes to the development and implementation of instruments of international law that address the problem of explosive hazards through technical, logistical and administrative support

Expert input to the development and implementation of IHL

To facilitate informed discussions and negotiations in meetings related to humanitarian disarmament treaties and processes, the GICHD regularly provides expert input. 2012 was no exception and we advised on many aspects of mine action under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

The GICHD published an Issue Brief in March 2012 on the humanitarian impact of anti-vehicle mines. This helped facilitate discussions on mines other than anti-personnel mines in the framework of the CCW. We also assisted Belgium in revising reporting templates for the APMBC and in drafting a guide to reporting under the CCM.

In its advisory role, the GICHD assisted the governments of affected states to comply with treaty obligations in the most efficient, effective and sustainable ways. The scope of our activities covered:

- > Methods and techniques of land release (survey and clearance)
- > Strategic management of national mine action programmes
- > Quality management and information management
- > Stockpile destruction

The GICHD is also involved in other international processes and initiatives such as the ongoing discussion on the impact of explosive weapons on the civilian population.

Hosting and supporting treaty mechanisms

In 2012, in addition to general administrative services provided to the ISU-APMBC throughout the year, the GICHD assisted in the organisation of the intersessional work programme. For the Intersessional Meetings of the APMBC Standing Committees, GICHD services included conference management, conference facilities and interpretation services (English, French, Russian, Spanish). Similar support was also provided to the CCM intersessional work programme in 2012.

As part of its financial support services, the GICHD administered several trust funds such as the ISU-APMBC Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programmes Trust Funds of the APMBC, CCW and CCM.

At the Third Meeting of States Parties to the CCM in 2012, the President of the Convention was mandated to continue negotiations in regard to the conclusion of an agreement between the States Parties and the GICHD on the hosting of the Implementation Support Unit.

CLUSTER MUNITIONS IDENTIFICATION TOOL

Generally delivered by air or fired from artillery, cluster munitions are weapons of war that contain large numbers of bomblets. Thousands of civilians have been injured or killed by cluster munitions. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is a treaty that prohibits cluster munitions and requires states to address the humanitarian consequences of them. In May 2008, 107 States adopted the CCM.

Cluster munitions identification

Identifying cluster munitions can be a complex task. Article 2 of the Convention defines such weapons as 'a conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms, and includes those explosive submunitions'. It also includes descriptions of, for example, specific design features which exclude certain weapons from the Convention.

Non-technical reporting staff from States Parties to the CCM may find it more difficult than technical expert personnel to understand the significant differences in definitions, resulting in uncertainty about which stockpiled weapons must be reported on. Weapons within any one country can come from a variety of sources – purchased from several foreign countries over many years or left behind when allies withdraw or conflicts end.



Cluster munitions contain large numbers of submunitions.

Knowledge gap

To date, there has been no comprehensive grouping of information on cluster munitions and how to identify them. It became clear that the development of such a resource could provide significant support to those who must implement Convention requirements.

The GICHD created a software identification tool, the CM ID Tool, to address this knowledge gap. As a result, managers and administrators can now access information to help them identify which types of cluster munitions are in their possession and to assess whether these weapons are within the categories banned under the CCM.

The CM ID Tool provides an easily accessible and searchable database with graphic navigation. The identification of cluster munitions is based on weapon categories. An additional overview database is integrated within the tool, showing types and combinations of explosive submunitions which can be carried by such cluster munitions. Descriptions, technical data, weight, line drawings and dimensions are incorporated along with photographs, packing information, hazardous materials and special information on all relevant cluster munitions produced worldwide.

Next steps

The aim of the CM ID Tool, to assist those who are implementing the CCM, will be further reinforced by the inclusion of a guide to determining the footprint of a cluster munition weapon type, images which describe the marking system, a listing of the manufacturer wherever possible, the type of explosives and ammunition components found post-detonation. The GICHD expects to launch this latest stage of development in Zambia at the 4th Meeting of the States Parties to the CCM in September 2013. The CM ID Tool can be downloaded from the Publications and Tools section of the GICHD website in its current form. Potential users can also sign up for updates.

OUTREACH

As a knowledge hub for mine action, sharing information is a core part of the GICHD's work. In September 2012, we commissioned an external evaluation on the communications function within the organisation. The recommendations of the evaluation provide a basis to develop a communications strategy that aims to support programmes and position the GICHD more effectively as a source of information and expertise in mine action.

Our website and publications in different languages remain central to the dissemination of our knowledge.

New publications released in 2012 include:

- > Mine Action Support for Armed Violence Reduction
- > Land Rights and Mine Action: Frequently Asked Questions for Mine Action Organisations
- > A Guide to Contracting in Mine Action - Second Edition
- > A Review of External Post-clearance Inspection in Mine Action
- > Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines Issue Brief
- > International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) - Issue 8
- > A fifth Issue Brief on Priority-Setting in Mine Action covering gender and prioritisation
- > Case studies on transitioning mine action programmes to national ownership
- > Case studies on how mine action organisations contribute to armed violence reduction and a policy brief summarising the findings

All of our publications and information can be downloaded or ordered online at www.gichd.org/publications.

GICHD website

The GICHD website is continually updated technically and with new content. New technical features include RSS feeds and e-mail alerts on various topics. New content includes the posting of our latest publications, a new section about the Arabic Outreach Programme and a new weekly international media review.

Links and information for mine action

In 2011, the GICHD launched Links and Information for Mine Action (LIMA). LIMA is an easy-to-use resource suited to those new to mine action as well as those requiring detailed technical information on specific aspects of mine action activity. It includes reports and publications of various types, a comprehensive mine action equipment catalogue and the former database of the International Test and Evaluation Programme for Humanitarian Demining. It also includes a list of contacts and links to mine action organisations. Improvements to LIMA include a new section for Mine Action Databases and Tools as well as a new section in the equipment catalogue for mechanical demining equipment. It is now also possible to subscribe to email alerts and RSS feeds for regular updates concerning LIMA. Please go to www.gichd.org/lima for more details.

Website support to partners

The GICHD supports various partners in hosting, maintaining and developing their websites:

- > www.apminebanconvention.org
- > www.mineactionstandards.org
- > www.bibliomines.org

In 2012, support was also provided to the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR) in the form of an online registration form for, respectively, the 15th Meeting of the National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers and the CCM Intersessional meeting.

Gathering mine action organisations together

In 2012, the GICHD was central in gathering together mine action actors from the many different communities. The 15th Annual International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisers took place from 26 to 30 March 2012. The meeting was hosted by the GICHD on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action. National directors and senior staff of mine action programmes, along with UN officials and NGO representatives attended the meeting. Substantive discussions on some of the most important current mine action issues took place, providing a good platform to exchange experiences, compare notes, join in a common understanding and find solutions to problems.

The GICHD also supported and hosted the Intersessional Work Programme of the CCM and APMBC.

Linguistic outreach

The GICHD is focusing on promoting linguistic programmes in order to better reach out to people in their countries of origin. Following the successful Francophone programme and its transition to the regional partners, the GICHD initiated an Arabic-language Outreach Programme for mine action in partnership with the Arab States and the Arab League (see article on page 21).

On the back of this project's success, in partnership with Persian-speaking countries and regional organisations, we have also initiated a Persian-language Outreach Programme for mine action to best meet the needs of the people of Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan. In this context, a regional workshop on National Mine Action Standards was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in February 2013. It was organised in partnership with the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre (TMAC), UNDP and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) office in Tajikistan.

ARABIC OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Some 18 Arabic-speaking countries are affected by explosive remnants of war (ERW). This mainly includes parts of the Middle East and North Africa, where Egypt, for example, has a long history of ERW, and Libya and Syria have experienced armed conflict more recently.

There is however, no collective mine action service in place for this region, and many of the mine clearance manuals and training courses available are conducted only in English. This excludes the majority of mine action personnel, many of whom can speak and read only in Arabic, and puts barriers in the way of progress and development on many levels.

For this reason, the GICHD organised a three-day conference to launch the Arabic-language Outreach Programme (AOP) for Mine Action in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in November 2012. It was an important occasion, gathering together 40 participants from these countries to discuss mine action challenges and identify their needs. Representatives of national mine action programmes, international and non-governmental organisations, research centres, militaries and commercial operators took part.



Participants of the first workshop of the Arabic-language Outreach Programme for Mine Action in Dubai | United Arab Emirates

By raising awareness of current best practice in mine action, the AOP aims to improve the safety, quality and efficiency of mine action programmes in the region. The conference provided an opportunity to identify collective needs, and to improve coordination and cooperation among Arabic-speaking mine/ERW-affected countries. The AOP also aims to significantly reduce the resources spent on training, translation and capacity development by individual mine-affected states in the region.

In the wake of the success of this first gathering, two workshops have already been planned for 2013. A workshop on Land Release - Operational Efficiency is planned to take place in Jordan in May, and another on Information Management in Lebanon in the second half of the year. There are plans to translate the most-needed mine action documents and publications into Arabic, in particular the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Building a website for the Arabic-speaking communities is also underway, and it will serve as an online platform for information sharing and support.

The AOP marks a significant step towards streamlining mine action activities in the Arabic-speaking regions, by enabling easy access to the tools and support needed for safe and effective mine action.

RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

The GICHD was able to deliver its mandate and implement its planned activities in 2012 through strong partnerships with a number of donors and organisations.

Contributions

During 2012, we received core contributions, project and programme funding, as well as remunerations for contracted work from 21 governments and organisations.

List of governments

- > Australia
- > Denmark
- > Finland
- > Germany
- > Italy
- > Japan
- > Jordan
- > Norway
- > Qatar
- > Sweden
- > Switzerland
- > United Arab Emirates
- > United States of America

List of organisations

- > Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
- > Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- > Mines Advisory Group (DFID-UK)
- > Norwegian People's Aid
- > Organization of American States
- > Small Arms Survey
- > United Nations Mine Action Service
- > United Nations Office for Project Services

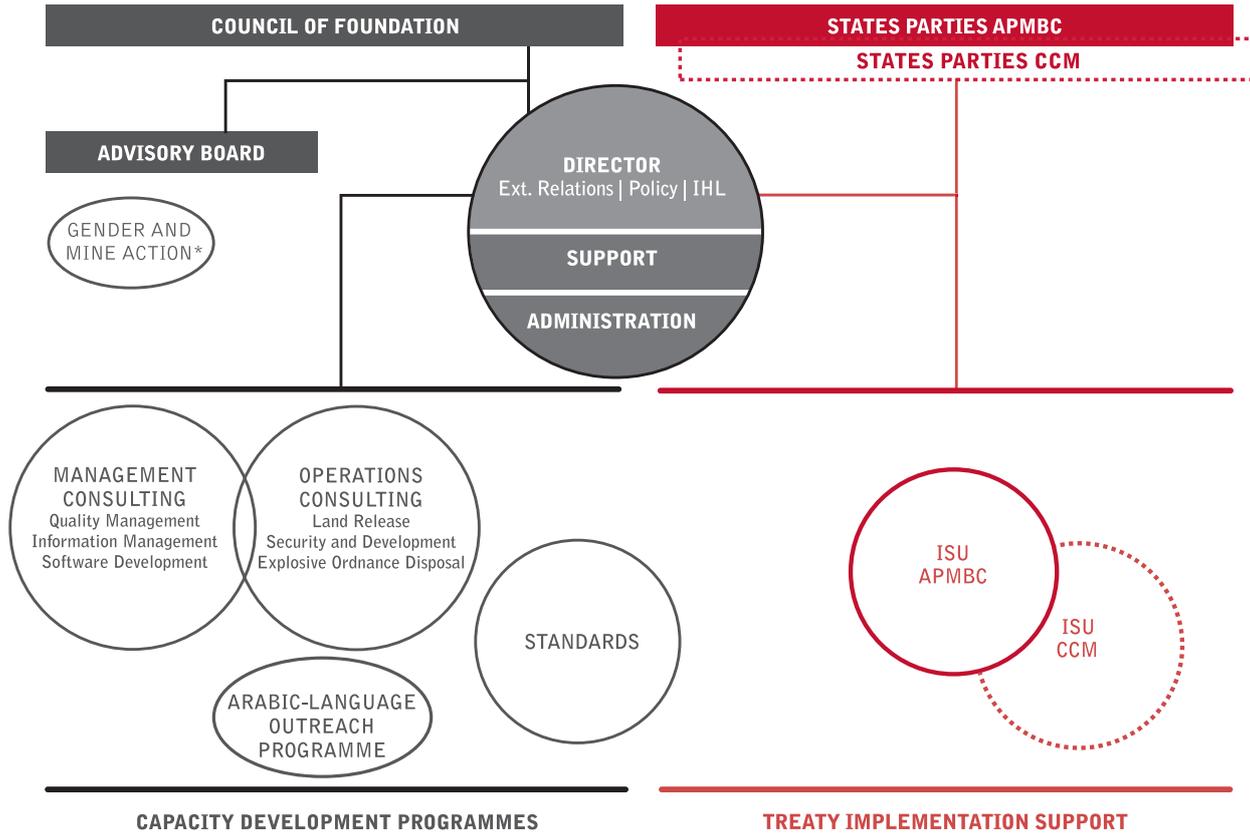
Expenditures and revenues statement (CHF)

		2012	2011
Operations	Production of publications publishing, editing, printing, layout	135,164	188,275
	Travel GICHD staff	659,347	699,382
	Assistance consultants	2,853,787	3,031,068
	Travel by third persons	365,350	374,203
Staff	Salaries	4,258,507	4,174,254
	Social contributions	813,214	801,096
	Internal staff training	18,381	29,685
	Other staff expenses	60,703	190,605
General services	Maintenance	62,201	127,305
	Acquisition	85,786	179,240
	Communications	122,957	135,308
	Office supplies	25,672	28,740
Miscellaneous	Various expenses (including WMO in-kind office rent 2012)	687,911	105,197
	Foreign currency exchange loss (gain), net	121,708	38,253
	Extraordinary	17,486	85,675
Total expenditures		10,288,173	10,188,287
Contributions	Contributions received	10,404,210	10,455,055
	Contributions outstanding deferred to next year	16,594	20,995
	Activities contributions deferred to next year	(2,059,362)	(1,599,437)
	Contributions outstanding deferred from previous year	(20,995)	—
	Activities contributions deferred from previous year	1,599,437	1,541,560
Total contributions for the year		9,939,885	10,391,173
Other income	Miscellaneous income (including WMO in-kind office rent 2012)	563,289	185,701
	Restatement of carry-over	—	(2,889)
Total revenues		10,503,173	10,573,985
Surplus		215,000	385,698

Human resources

The GICHD rely on highly skilled and experienced mine action experts. The variety of profiles and expertise within the staff allows us to fulfil our mandate. 2012 brought us new colleagues from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Pakistan, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

GICHD Governance and Organisation | Strategic Chart



* Independent programme hosted by GICHD

Council of Foundation

The Council of Foundation is the governing body of the GICHD. It defines the general orientation of the Centre, supervises the activities of the GICHD and decides on the allocation of the resources made available to the Centre. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Barbara Haering, the Council of Foundation unites 23 members.

President

Dr. Barbara Haering

Honorary President

Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga

Members of the Council

Afghanistan | **Ambassador Nangyalai Tarzi** | Permanent Representative of Afghanistan in Geneva

Albania | **Ambassador Gazmend Turdiu** | Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania

Australia | **Ambassador Peter Woolcott** | Permanent Representative of Australia in Geneva

Cambodia | **H.E. Prak Sokhonn** | Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Vice-Chair of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority

Canada | **Ambassador Elissa Golberg** | Permanent Representative of Canada in Geneva

Colombia | **Ambassador Alicia Arango Olmos** | Permanent Representative of Colombia in Geneva

European Union | **Mr Andras Kos** | Minister Counsellor | Permanent Delegation of the European Union in Geneva

Finland | **Ambassador Päivi Kairamo** | Permanent Representative of Finland in Geneva

France | **Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel** | Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament

Germany | **Ambassador Hellmut Hoffmann** | Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament

Italy | **Ambassador Cosimo Risi** | Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

Japan | **Ambassador Takashi Okada** | Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan in Geneva

Lebanon | **Ambassador Najla Riachi Assaker** | Permanent Representative of Lebanon in Geneva

Mozambique | **Ambassador Pedro Comissário** | Permanent Representative of Mozambique in Geneva

Netherlands | **Ambassador Paul Van den Ijssel** | Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament

Senegal | **Ambassador Fodé Seck** | Permanent Representative of Senegal in Geneva

Sweden | **Ambassador Jan Knutsson** | Permanent Representative of Sweden in Geneva

Switzerland | **Ambassador Alexandre Fasel** | Treasurer of the Council of Foundation | Permanent Representative of Switzerland in Geneva

Tajikistan | **Ambassador Salohiddin Nasriddinov** | Permanent Representative of Tajikistan in Geneva

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

United States of America | **Ambassador Laura Kennedy** | Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament

Vietnam | **Ambassador Trung Thanh Nguyen** | Permanent Representative of Vietnam in Geneva

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides advice to both the Council of Foundation and the management of the GICHD. It is a group of 22 distinguished practitioners involved in mine action and humanitarian disarmament in various roles and organisations. The Advisory Board is chaired by the Director of the GICHD.

Members of the Advisory Board

Havard Bach | Senior Adviser | Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

Arianna Calza Bini | Director | Gender and Mine Action Programme Association (GMAP)

Kerry Brinkert | Director | Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Carl Case | Director | Humanitarian Mine Action | Organization of American States (OAS)

Elisabeth Decrey Warner | President | Geneva Call

Mark Downes | Head of International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) and Assistant Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Hansjoerg Eberle | Director General | Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

Judy Grayson | Senior Advisor | United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Timothy Horner | Head of UNDP-Mine Action | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Rasmus Stuhr Jakobsen | Head of the Danish Demining Group (DDG) | Danish Refugee Council

Keith Krause | Director of Small Arms Survey | Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Ben Lark | Head of ERW/Mine Action Sector | International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Gustavo Laurie | Acting Senior Liaison Officer in Geneva | United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Dorijan Marsic | Director | ITF Enhancing Human Security | Slovenia

Dave McDonnell | Vice President and Director Mine Action | Olive Group

Marie Mills | Mine Action Advisor | Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

Chris Pearce | Director Ordnance Management | G4S Risk Management Ltd.

Heng Rattana | Director General | Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

Nick Roseveare | Executive Director | Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Rashid Mohammed Sediq | Chief of Operations | Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

Paul Vermeulen | Head of Federal Advocacy and Institutional Relations | Handicap International Federation

Guy Willoughby | Chief Executive | The HALO Trust



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