



FBD/REP/F

## Update on Activities Between January and July 2005

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### GENERAL OVERVIEW

1. During the first seven months of the year 2005, the GICHD continued its activities in operational assistance, its research work and its support to instruments of international law. In addition, the Centre started its training initiative linked to the development of IMSMA Version 4.

### OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE

2. The first core activity of the GICHD is the provision of specific operational support and assistance to on-going mine action activities and programmes of national authorities in mine affected countries, the UN, and NGOs.

3. The Centre is active in the fields of information management, standardisation, technical assistance and training, evaluation, and the facilitation of the exchange of information.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

4. Information management is one of the key elements required for success in mine action programmes. The GICHD has focused its efforts in this area on the development and deployment of the Information Management for Mine Action (IMSMA). IMSMA is currently being used in 41 programmes world-wide and has become a de facto standard in this field of mine action.

5. In order to maximise the impact of information management in mine affected countries and take advantage of the synergies between IMSMA and other systems, the Centre is no longer focussing on the specifics of the IMSMA technology, but provides a systems approach to the overall management of information of all kinds in mine action. The goal of the programme is to assure the successful integration of proven information management techniques, systems such as IMSMA and other tools into day-to-day operations in the field.

### *INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MINE ACTION (IMSMA)*

6. During the reporting period, the **IMSMA system was installed** in Jordan, the 41<sup>st</sup> operational installation.

7. As of 31 August 2005, IMSMA was being used in 41 field programmes: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (for the National Impact Survey), Burundi, Chad, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Congo (DRC), Costa Rica (by OAS), Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon (National Demining Organisation), Macedonia, Mauritania, with MINURSO in Western Sahara, in Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Russian Federation (Chechnya, Ingushetia, Northern Ossetia), Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, with UNFICYP, UNIFIL, UNMEE, in Yemen and Zambia. Additional versions are running at various training sites at locations in France, Switzerland, the UK, and the US.

8. The **IMSMA Version 4 Project**, started in summer 2004, aims to incorporate the latest technology advancements, improvements in data transfer methods (such as maXML) and – most importantly – the lessons learned by users in the field into an improved and easier to use information management tool for the field. During the reporting period, work on the Pilot Evaluation and Test version of IMSMA Version 4 progressed according to schedule. The official acceptance test for this first release of IMSMA Version 4 is scheduled for early September 2005.

9. IMSMA Version 4 will be provided in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic. **Translation** of the baseline user screens and error message text used in Version 4 was completed in June.

10. The development of IMSMA Version 4 and relevant translation work is funded by Switzerland.

#### *INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND OUTREACH*

11. During the reporting period, the GICHD carried out five editions of the **“Introduction Course to Information Management in Mine Action”**. These courses aim to assist operations and management staff of local mine action centres with understanding the role and implementation of integration of information management into their daily operations, with an emphasis on the sustainable use and support of IMSMA in the field. In total, 29 participants from Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Peru, Thailand and Zambia attended these courses.

12. A sixth course was provided within NATO’s Partnership for Peace framework. This course served the above aims, and the participation six of trainees from Argentina, Azerbaijan, France and Switzerland.

13. Furthermore, the first course entitled **“Introduction to Information Management for Operations in Mine Action”** was held in late June. The goal of this training is to familiarise operations staff with key information that is needed in order to make the use of the IMSMA system possible and also with what IMSMA can offer in relation to their specific tasks within a mine action operation. Seven participants from Argentina, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon were present.

14. Finally, the GICHD organised and carried out two **Regional IMSMA Outreach Meetings** for mine action programme managers and their operations officers. Participants were provided a comprehensive update on the status of the IMSMA re-engineering project and a demonstration of the new system (Version 4). The meeting also included a training session focused on information management in mine action and the successful integration of IMSMA into mine action operations.

- a) The first of these meetings was held in Panama City, Panama and included representatives from Nicaragua, Colombia, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Argentina.
- b) The second meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya and included representatives from Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Uganda, Mauritania, Rwanda, Somaliland and Zambia.

15. Other on-site training is carried out by the Regional Support Centres (see para. 19 et sqq. below).

#### *MINE ACTION DATA SHARING PROJECT*

16. The **Mine Action Data Sharing Project** aims to expand both the range of data transfer tasks and the operational use of the mechanism to new data sharing projects. Now that an operational package using maXML as its data transfer mechanism is available in the field, the project will begin to concentrate on a data sharing project involving the transfer of mine threat data to domains outside the immediate mine action community.

17. During the reporting period, work was undertaken to **update the maXML data specification**. This task is being performed in conjunction with the development of IMSMA Version 4. Early release versions are already being used to

perform data transfers from the currently fielded IMSMA version to the new Version 4. Current activities are focused on transfers between hand-held data collection devices and IMSMA Version 4. These transfers will be made in the form of files containing maXML coded data.

18. The purpose of the **Hand-held Field Data Collection Tool Project** is to introduce an automated system to aid in the collection of field survey data and its transfer to centralised information management systems. This could improve actual data collecting procedures, which are paper-based and need to be inserted manually into central databases. During the period covered by this report, the consolidation of data collected during field trials was terminated and work has begun to expand the data collection capability of the hand-held systems in use through the adoption of a generic forms transfer and handling capability. This project is funded by Switzerland and the UK.

#### *REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTRES (RSCs)*

19. The GICHD established the Regional Support Centre (RSC) concept in 2002 as a way to address the need for on-going support to its IMSMA installations in the field. The RSCs provide first level user support, assist mine action centres in reviewing their internal information management processes as well as their information exchange and communication procedures, and with general support to information management. The RSCs also organise regional user focus group meetings, training courses, and facilitate general contacts between interested countries and the GICHD. Each RSC is staffed with one person. Over the next two years the RSCs will be challenged with completing a total upgrade of all of the existing IMSMA installations.

20. The Centre currently supports four Regional Support Centres:

- a) The **RSC Latin America**, established in 2002 and based in Managua (Nicaragua) covers Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru. It maintains technical contacts with the humanitarian demining programmes of the United States, the United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS).
- b) The **RSC Europe/Central Asia**, established in 2003 and based in Geneva covers Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Kosovo, Macedonia, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. The RSC Europe/Central Asia also maintains technical contacts with the International Trust Fund (ITF), the South-East Europe Mine Action Co-ordination Council (SEEMACC), NATO and France.
- c) The **RSC Africa**, established in 2003 and based in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) covers Angola, Burundi, Chad, Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. The RSC Africa also maintains technical contacts with the African Union and other humanitarian demining programmes and projects in the region.
- d) The **RSC Middle East/Northern Africa**, established in late 2003 in Beirut (Lebanon) covers the following countries and territories: Eri-

trea, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Puntland, Somaliland, Sudan, Western Sahara, and Yemen.

21. During the reporting period, and besides routine work within the framework indicated above, the RSCs

- a) provided assistance to a regional mine action conference in Cartagena, Colombia, in February;
- b) conducted a workshop on information management in Bogota, which reviewed internal management processes and relevant information management strategies. This four day workshop was attended by 29 participants;
- c) supported the Landmine Impact Survey conducted by the Survey Action Centre (SAC) in Angola;
- d) supported the Puntland Mine Action Centre with regard to the Landmine Impact Survey;
- e) assisted the UNMACC in Burundi in planning the respective general community survey,
- f) made an assessment visit to the Zambia Mine Action Centre (ZAMAC).

#### STANDARDISATION

##### *INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS (IMAS)*

22. The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) are prepared by the GICHD under a mandate from UNMAS. IMAS provide practitioners with an updated and regularly revised framework of technical and procedural prescriptions for safe and effective mine action. A total of 38 IMAS have been endorsed so far.

23. The **IMAS management cycle** reviews each IMAS at least once every three years. The IMAS Review Board, at its February 2005 meeting, made substantive amendments on 14 IMAS and made minor amendments on 18 other IMAS. The updated versions are available at [www.mineactionstandards.org](http://www.mineactionstandards.org).

24. Work continued on the **development of new IMAS** as follows:

- a) The IMAS on contracts has been agreed by the Review Board, it is awaiting final approval from the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG);
- b) The IMAS on national programmes and projects is awaiting comments from the Review Board;
- c) The IMAS on mechanical equipment is being finalised for distribution to the Review Board;
- d) The IMAS on evaluation is to follow completion of the GICHD Evaluation Study;
- e) The IMAS on training has been suspended, pending a training needs analysis study being developed by UNMAS;
- f) The IMAS on environmental factors will be amended with regard to performance indicators and quality management;
- g) The IMAS on accreditation of MRE organisations will be edited in a second edition.

25. The overall objective of the **IMAS Outreach Programme** is to assist mine affected countries to establish their own National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) based on the application of IMAS. During the reporting period, the GICHD

- a) worked with the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan in February to complete a comprehensive second draft of Afghanistan Mine Action Standards (25 chapters);
- b) introduced IMAS and its philosophy at a Mines Advisory Group (MAG) programme managers meeting held in Bangkok in February, and to the Iraqi Mine Action Centre middle management training course in Amman in March;
- c) undertook information missions to Jordan and Cambodia to discuss assistance packages on the preparation and application of national standards;

26. IMAS-related activities are funded from contributions received from the UK, the Czech Republic and Finland.

#### *PROVISION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION*

27. The 2005 version of the **“Metal Detectors and PPE Catalogue 2005”** (ISBN 2-88487-024-5) became available during the reporting period. This publication provides an overview on existing technologies as well as important technical specifications, i.a. to facilitate assessments at field programme level. This project is funded by Germany, which also provides funding for a new edition.

28. In order to facilitate the understanding of study results on the use of mine dog detection in operational systems, on environmental factors, and on the REST approach, the GICHD produced a DVD, which can now be ordered over the GICHD website.

29. Following a request from EUDEM, the GICHD continued to integrate the specialist technical EUDEM website into its own web-based information system (*www.gichd.ch*). Work will be completed in late 2006.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

##### *MECHANICAL AND MANUAL MINE CLEARANCE*

30. The **Mechanical Application in Demining Outreach Programme** aims to bring knowledge on the application of machines in demining to interested mine affected countries. Results of current research work carried out by the GICHD (see also para. 51 below) are included in this programme. During the reporting period, relevant workshops were held – bringing together organisation from within each region to exchange information and experience, and to receive information on the use of machines – in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon and Sudan, including local mine action authorities, the UN and NGOs (e.g. FSD, MAG, NPA) This activity is funded by Norway, Sweden and the UK.

### *MINE DOG DETECTION (MDD)*

31. The use of mine detection dogs has become a common methodology and can be a fast and efficient tool if implemented correctly. The use of animals for scent detection is, however, complex and difficult. History has shown that the use of dogs can become a costly and frustrating burden beyond what demining organisations are willing to risk, and MDD was discredited when expectations were not met. For this reason, the GICHD started its MDD programme in 2000.

32. The **MDD Operational Support Project** aims to assist the Afghan Mine Dog Centre (MDC) in Kabul in the preparation of new MDD training, licensing, test and evaluation facilities. The project is funding the creation of a new training building and test field. In addition, the GICHD assists the Afghanistan Mine Action Centre in the upgrading of its Quality Assurance inspections in the field. During the reporting period, staff members of the GICHD were deployed to Afghanistan with this regard in May and June. This project is funded by Norway, Sweden and the UN.

33. In the **Afghanistan MDD Quality Control Project**, the GICHD carries out external quality control of the Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST) programme in this country. During the reporting period, and despite to delays due to the security situation, missions were undertaken in May and June. This project is commissioned by UNMAS.

34. At the request of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the GICHD continued with the **SIDA PAT Project** that consists of a regular monitoring of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC), its MDD programme, and the wider mine action sector in Cambodia. An additional evaluation mission took place in April 2005.

35. At the request of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the GICHD provides regular technical support to the **NPA REST Programme in Angola**. During the reporting period, GICHD staff trained a field sampling team in June, introduced new filter technology for sampling, and contributed to a number of improvements at the REST analysis centre in Lubango. In addition, work on the development of the analysis software continued. Due to the latest results, NPA and GICHD are currently discussing future developments of this project.

### *SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND MINE RISK EDUCATION*

36. The **MRE Outreach Training** aims to provide basic and advanced level instruction in current MRE best practice. These training workshops are offered to country programmes, the United Nations and local and international NGOs. This undertaking is financed with contributions received from Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and private sources. During the reporting period, the Centre carried out special training courses

- a) for staff of the Iraqi Mine Action. This course focused on national mine risk education (MRE) standards and strategic planning for 2005 and took place in January;
- b) in Colombia at the request of the Colombian Government;
- c) in Italy at the request of the Italian NGO "Intersos".

37. The **Socio-economic Outreach Training** provides basic and advanced level instruction on socio-economic approaches to mine action management. These training workshops, financed out of contributions received from Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and private sources, are offered to country programmes, the United Nations and NGOs. During the reporting period, the Centre carried out a special training course for regional UN staff and their national counterparts for Africa. The training was conducted in Nairobi. In attendance were representatives from Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Senegal.

#### *TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION*

38. The **Technology Officer Project** aims to provide an interface between field users and the research and development communities. The focus of this project is on the review of appropriate technologies and the requirements for mine action; on providing advice on priorities for test and evaluation of equipment; on assistance to test and evaluation efforts being undertaken in mine-affected countries; and on providing outreach on equipment requirements, capabilities and limitations.

39. During the reporting period, the Technology Officer

- a) participated in the trial and demonstration of a US handheld multi-sensor mine detection system in Namibia in March;
- b) completed a feature article entitled “Problem Soils and Their Effect on Metal Detector Performance”;
- c) provided technical advice on a wide variety of subjects including equipment requirements, proposal reviews, and specific studies;
- d) prepared, together with UNMAS, the second edition of the “Technology Bulletin” published in May;
- e) participated in reliability trials for metal detectors in Croatia in May;
- f) participated in an ITEP-sponsored workshop for the drafting of a test and evaluation protocol for metal detector arrays in July.

#### *EVALUATION*

40. The electronic version of the final report on the **Evaluation of the Mine Action Co-ordination Centre of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia** was accepted by UNMAS in July, and printed copies are currently being prepared. This evaluation was undertaken through a contract from UNOPS, which had selected the Centre in a competitive tender process.

41. A draft of the report on the **Review of Ten Years Assistance to Mine Action in Mozambique**, incorporating UNDP comments, was prepared in March for wider distribution. Comments on this from donors, NGOs, and the Government of Mozambique have been received at the end of this reporting period. This evaluation was commissioned by UNDP Mozambique, which selected the GICHD in a competitive tender process.

42. At the request of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), the Centre performed an **evaluation of the Ethiopian Mine Risk Education (MRE) pro-**

**gramme**, examining past and current MRE interventions in April. It also made general comments and recommendations for the upcoming three year plan.

43. The **evaluation of the “School in a Box” MRE programme in Laos** was requested by UNICEF. In addition, the Centre was asked to examine the overall impact of MRE nationally. Further, and as part of the overriding MRE issue, the GICHD examined the role that scrap metal collection plays in victim rates. The relevant mission took place in July, and reports will be presented in late summer.

44. For the third year in a row, Germany requested GICHD to conduct **evaluations of German-funded projects** in a number of countries. Missions to Afghanistan and Jordan have been completed, and reports on five German-funded projects have been submitted. Missions to Somaliland, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are planned to start in September.

45. The French Government requested the GICHD to conduct **evaluations of French-financed projects** in Mozambique and Cambodia. During the reporting period, missions were completed to both Mozambique and Cambodia, and a draft report was submitted to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for review and comment prior to finalisation.

46. In its effort to contribute to the developing of local evaluation capacities, the Centre designed and delivered a **Workshop on Evaluating Mine Action** for the International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET), a co-operation between the World Bank and Carleton University (Canada). This activity, together with the necessary funds for a sponsorship programme for seven participants from six mine-affected countries, were provided by the UK.

47. At the request of UNDP-Yemen, GICHD conducted the **Mid-term Evaluation of UNDP Support to Yemen’s Mine Action Programme**. The relevant report was submitted during the reporting period, and UNDP has started to implement recommendations.

#### *ADVISORY SERVICES*

48. During the reporting period, the GICHD provided advice to
- a) the ITEP (Executive Committee and Work Plan Review meetings);
  - b) KODE Design in Oslo for improving personal protective equipment (PPE) of deminers in June;
  - c) to the UNDP Senior Management Course at JMU in July.

#### *GENERAL INFORMATION*

49. The publication **“A Guide to Mine Action”**, which reflects the current situation in the mine action sector and serves as a source of information for decision-making, programme planning and research, became available in the period covered by this report in Arabic (ISBN 2-88487-029-6) and Russian (ISBN 2-88487-028-8).

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

50. The Centre continued to undertake a series of research projects with the aim of improving quality, and to make mine action safer and more cost-effective. The results of these research projects form the basis for specific recommendations and guidelines for dissemination to the field in the form of special handbooks, training courses, etc.

### MECHANICAL AND MANUAL MINE CLEARANCE

51. The results of a research project on the practical use and management of mechanical demining systems will be published in the Technical Notes on Mine Action (TNMA) Series of the Centre. Abridged versions will be included into the publication “A Guide for Mechanical Application in Demining”. This research was requested by UNMAS and is funded by Norway, Sweden, and the UK:

- a) The project “**Management of Mechanical Systems**” aims to design a software tool to help programme managers establish specific causes why their mechanical assets might not be performing at optimum productivity. A narrative description of current procedures used in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Thailand to assist the management of operations was completed during the reporting period;
- b) The **Study on the Use of Anti-Mine Rollers in Mechanical Demining** will look at the best uses for rollers. Considering their relatively low purchase and maintenance costs, rollers are an attractive option for demining practitioners who are not prepared to spend huge sums on a tiller or flail system. Guidance on purchasing and fitting of rollers will also be given. Results from field studies in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Thailand were analysed during the period covered by this report;
- c) The study entitled “**Magnets: A Tool for Mechanical Demining**” will provide practical advice on the purchase and application of magnets to existing models of mechanical demining system. This is important as the most time consuming obstacle a manual deminer faces within his line are scrap metal fragments. During the reporting period, a particular magnet configuration was tested by SWEDEC on behalf of the Centre. This test report will be published as indicated above;
- d) The study “**Mechanical Assistance: Residual Munitions Hazard**” investigates possible circumstances where machines might leave residual hazards, and to determine if they add further risk to subsequent clearance activities carried out by manual deminers and dog teams. During the reporting period, research work carried on in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, South Africa, and the UK;
- e) The study “**Mechanical Application in Route Verification**” looks into route clearance practices used to quickly clear routes and open them for essential supplies transports. Research was carried out in South Africa and Southern Sudan during the period covered by this report;

- f) The study “ **The Environmental Effects of Mechanical Application in Demining**” investigates cases where significant environmental damage from machine use has occurred, the nature of such damage, and ways of avoiding damage in the first place, as well as the amelioration of damage if it has been inflicted. During the reporting period, research work was carried out in Cambodia and in the Balkans.

52. The **Study on Manual Mine Clearance** aims to address efficiency and cost-effectiveness of manual demining. After a meeting of the Study Advisory Group in April, the study itself and related work were completed. This major study will be launched at the up-coming International Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisors. The project has been requested by UNMAS and is financed by Denmark, Finland, Italy and the UK.

53. Research work for the next edition of the “**Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue**” started during the reporting period. This project is funded by Germany and will be published in 2007.

#### MINE DOG DETECTION (MDD)

54. The Centre continued its research work on the Remote Explosive Scent Tracing (REST) method in 2005. REST is a process of taking scent from a source for remote analysis. The scent is obtained by using a pump to draw air containing scent or particles from the soil surface through an absorbent filter. Filters are analysed remotely using specially trained dogs or rats, or other natural or artificial odour sensing system. REST has the advantage of determining areas with no mine/UXO contamination.

55. The **REST test and licensing methodology development project** aims at developing a methodology that can be used when carrying out quality assurance and test/licensing of REST projects. During the reporting period, a report as well as a handbook on Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures was prepared. In addition, a shortened version of the handbook will be used as an annex to IMAS 09.43 on REST. The project is funded by the UK.

56. The **Rat REST Project** aims to explore the use of rats as a mine detection technology. This project is carried out in conjunction with APOPO, which become operational with their animals in Mozambique. During the reporting period, APOPO and the GICHD continued preparing a publication that will summarise the state of knowledge on REST, and which will include an overview of the work performed by APOPO to date. This project is funded by Norway and Sweden.

57. In the **REST Research Project**, the GICHD aims to optimise scent trapping during sampling, release during analysis, and to prevent scent loss and cross contamination during storage and transportation. Test undertaken during the reporting period confirm the increased quality of newly developed filter material and storage containers. As a result, new filter equipment was deployed to Angola to replace the previously used system.

58. The **Environmental Factors Study** explores the relationship between MDD success and environmental factors (e.g. weather, soil chemistry). Analysis of relevant data sets was completed during the reporting period, and the respec-

tive report is in the final draft preparation stage. This project is commissioned by the UN.

59. The **Operations Study** uses time and motion procedures to explore the ways in which MDD are used operationally. Four case studies were analysed, and the final report is currently being reviewed. This project is funded by Norway and Sweden.

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND MINE RISK EDUCATION

60. The study entitled “**The Role of Indigenous Organisations in Mine Action**” focuses on how best to create the conditions necessary for the formation of local mine action NGOs or commercial companies in mine-affected countries. The study was completed and is available on the GICHD website. Publication of the Guide book that complements the study is due in late 2005. The study was requested by UNMAS, and has been funded by Italy, the UK and UNMAS.

61. The study “**Mine Action: Lessons and Challenges**” aims to address questions on the success of international mine action over the past 15 years, on lessons learnt, the challenges for the future, etc. The study work is completed; publication is scheduled for late 2005. This study is funded by the UK.

62. The **Study of Capacity Development in Mine Action** will look into the development of indigenous capacities in mine action. The study is awaiting the addition of one outstanding country case study. Publication will initially on the Centre’s website, and it is planned to print a Guidebook before the end of 2005. The study has been requested by UNDP and is funded by the UK.

63. The **Study on the Role of Survey in Mine Action** analyses the various types of survey used in mine action and their respective applicability and value. The study work is completed; a final editorial process is underway and the study is slated for on-line publication in late 2005. The study has been requested by UNMAS and is funded by the UK.

64. The **Study on the Possible Synergies Between Mine Action and Small Arms Light Weapons Programmes (SALW)** analyses the various types of mine action and SALW programmatic approaches and the possible synergies/areas of co-operation between the two. Respective work, including the background documentation and fieldwork, continued during the reporting period. Completion is scheduled for autumn 2005. This study has been commissioned by the US Department of State.

65. The GICHD was contracted by UNICEF in early 2005 to produce **IMAS MRE Guidebooks**. All eleven parts have been written, edited, and laid out for publication, which will take place in autumn 2005.

#### EVALUATION

66. The **Study on the Evaluation of Field Programmes** will establish a basic framework and standard methodology for field evaluations. A draft handbook has been prepared that will become available in autumn 2005. The end result for the study is scheduled for late 2005.

## **SUPPORT OF INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

67. The GICHD supports the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention according to the mandate given by the States Parties in September 2001, which includes the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the preparation and support of meetings, the provision of independent professional advice and assistance, and the offering of a documentation and resource database facility.

68. The Centre also provides independent technical input into international efforts to minimise human suffering caused by weapons and/or explosive remnants of war, which is covered by the on-going work of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). It also follows the developments under CCW and was represented in relevant meetings in March.

### IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT (ISU)

69. The adoption by the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention of the Nairobi Action Plan has given the ISU clear and comprehensive direction for the post-Review Conference period. During this reporting period, the ISU commenced with support to the President, Co-Chairs, Contact Group Coordinators and individual States Parties in their pursuit of the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan. In particular, the ISU supported the Coordinating Committee in an ambitious effort to notify relevant States Parties of various opportunities to participate in the June meetings of the Standing Committees. The ISU also worked to compile the Co-Chairs' programmes and prepare a comprehensive package of background materials for these meetings.

70. Certain Co-Chairs and Contact Group Coordinators have launched particularly ambitious initiatives and the ISU has responded accordingly. For example, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance are attempting to assist the 24 most relevant States Parties in establishing concrete victim assistance objectives for the 2005-09 period. This has involved the ISU developing a comprehensive information gathering tool for these States Parties to use and has seen the ISU provide substantive and organizational support to two regional conferences. At the request of the Coordinator of the Resource Mobilization Contact Group, the ISU has been conducting research on the flow of mine action resources. In addition, for the Coordinator of the Universalisation Contact Group Coordinator, the ISU has proceeded in preparing a compilation of key documents from the First Review Conference.

71. Preparations for Sixth Meeting of the States Parties have commenced and the ISU has begun providing its traditional substantive and organizational support to the President-Designate. In addition, the ISU has worked closely with the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA) and the host country, Croatia.

72. Providing advice and information to individual States Parties on implementation matters continues to be a central feature of the work of the ISU. The ISU responds to an average of 20 to 40 such requests each month in addition to requests for information from States not parties, the media, and interested organizations and individuals.

73. During the reporting period, contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the ISU were received from Belgium, Canada, Chile, Hungary, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Mexico, and Turkey.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

74. The Centre continued its traditional support to the Intersessional Work Programme established by the States Parties to the Convention. It hosted the June session of the Standing Committees, taking place 13 and 17 June and attended by 586 participants.

#### SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

75. The Centre continued to administer the Sponsorship Programme on behalf of the Group of Donors. This group includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

76. The primary aim of this Programme is to support the attendance of States Parties with limited resources in order to strengthen the implementation process of the Convention. In addition, the Group of Donors aims to support the universalisation of the Convention by providing States not yet parties to the Convention with limited resources with an opportunity to get an impression on the work related to the Convention.

77. During the reporting period, the Centre executed the 14<sup>th</sup> Sponsorship Programme, which was linked to the June Intersessionals. This edition included 45 delegates from 38 countries.

#### WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

78. The Centre provides independent technical input into international efforts to minimise human suffering caused by weapons and/or explosive remnants of war, which is covered by the on-going work of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

79. In June 2005, the GICHD was requested to chair the meeting of the military and technical experts on ERW of the Group of Governmental Experts in the framework of the CCW.

### **GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION**

#### COUNCIL OF FOUNDATION

80. The Council of Foundation held its first meeting in 2005 on 3 June. During that meeting, the Council approved both the annual report and the Centre's finances of 2004. In addition, it took note of the management's report on the 2004 external evaluation and started discussions on a new strategy paper as well as on the composition of the Advisory Board and the Council itself.

#### CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS

81. On 26 January 2005, the GICHD concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mine Action Centre of Iran on areas of co-operation such as the translation of publications into Farsi, the provision of training courses to staff members of the Mine Action Centre, study tours, etc.

#### EXTERNAL RELATIONS

82. During the reporting period, the GICHD provided background information and articles on its activities in several newspapers in Iran, Japan, Jordan, Turkey and United Kingdom.

83. In addition, the GICHD and the Canadian International Development Agency co-hosted an informal dialogue on “Linking Mine Action to Development” in June 2005. The genesis of the informal dialogue lies in the Nairobi Plan of Action 2005 - 09 which highlights the need for mine action to be integrated more into the development process, rather than to be solely labelled as an element of humanitarian assistance. A second workshop is scheduled at the end of 2005.

#### INTERNAL ORGANISATION

84. On 31 July, the Centre consisted of 34 permanent staff members, including four persons seconded by the Governments of France, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland. In total, 14 nationalities are present at the Centre (including staff members having more than one citizenship): Switzerland (16 persons), Canada (7), UK (6), France (4), US (4), Norway (2), Australia, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, and Sweden.

Geneva, 25 August 2005

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*All publications of the GICHD are available on  
**[www.gichd.ch/publications](http://www.gichd.ch/publications)***

## List of Acronyms

CCW	Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
CMAC	Cambodia Mine Action Centre
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EMAO	Ethiopian Mine Action Organisation
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
EUDEM	European Union in Humanitarian Demining
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Demining
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
IACG	Inter-Agency Coordination Group
IPDET	International Programme for Development Evaluation Training
ISU	Implementation Support Unit
ITEP	International Test and Evaluation Programme
ITF	International Trust Fund
IMAS	International Mine Action Standard(s)
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
JMU	James Madison University
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MaXML	Mine action Extensible Mark-up Language
MDC	Mine Dog Centre
MDD	Mine Dog Detection
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NMAS	National Mine Action Standard(s)
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
OAS	Organisation of American States
PfP	Partnership for Peace
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
REST	Remote Explosive Scent Tracing
RSC	Regional Support Centre
SAC	Survey Action Centre
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SEEMACC	South-East Europe Mine Action Co-ordination Council
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SWEDEC	Swedish EOD and Demining Centre
TNMA	Technical Note on Mine Action
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDDA	United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFICYP	United Nations Forces in Cyprus
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
US	United States of America
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
ZAMAC	Zambia Mine Action Centre