

GICHD UPDATE – MASG MEETING – 27 APRIL 2022

GICHD'S ENGAGEMENT IN UKRAINE

So far, communication with our colleagues and partners has been maintained. One of our consultants has been evacuated and continues to provide limited information management support, while the second has been called up for active military service and has since stopped communicating. Contact with the OSCE PCU has been maintained through an international expert who now manages their projects remotely from Croatia. The GICHD is also in close contact with the UNDP through the UN Global Protection sub-cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility. This platform is still active and is proving to be an effective forum for the coordination of activities.

Since 24 February, the GICHD has carefully assessed the viability of its support to Ukraine. In the immediate future, at the request of the SESU, support for information management and EORE activities is prioritised. The GICHD is thus facilitating the National Working Group on Information Management. This group met on 21 March and agreed on its two main objectives: to determine the types of explosive devices found in Ukraine and to create a new information management system, including the provision of a secure server. In addition, in its capacity as secretary of the EORE Advisory Group, the Centre organised a meeting on 8 March and discussed the urgency of developing EORE activities in Ukraine. As a follow-up, a working group developed EORE messages tailored to Ukraine.

The need for mine action in Ukraine will be considerable in the future. Specific short-term initiatives will need to be combined with a longer-term strategic approach. There will undoubtedly be a need to strengthen the capacities of the national mine action authority and mine action centres. In this regard, the Ukrainian Minister of the Interior stated on 16 March that several years of humanitarian demining will be needed after the conflict. Given its long history in the country, the GICHD will be well placed to support these efforts. Maintaining close partnerships with national, regional and international organisations will be an essential part of this.

CASE STUDIES ON HOW MINE ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COLOMBIA

While the mine action sector is at the early stage of integrating its work into national SDG efforts, donor and affected States have called for GICHD support. Jointly with UNDP, the GICHD is providing support and advice for better linking mine action contributions with broader national development frameworks and policy processes. Since the comprehensive analysis of how EO hampers the socio-economic and sustainable development outlook of communities in the medium and long term has often been overlooked, this project seeks to provide an evidence-based comprehensive analysis of the impact of mine action on sustainable development in the medium and long term.

As a result, the GICHD published four case studies that are assessing the impact of mine action on sustainable development in Colombia and Cambodia and the extent to which mine action efforts have been incorporated into national development planning in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lao PDR. These studies analyze and demonstrate with concrete examples the impact of mine action interventions and approaches towards sustainable development and the overarching principle of 'leaving no one behind'. They also present evidence of the multidimensional and transformative role of mine action by identifying its direct contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in support of humanitarian, developmental and sustaining

peace efforts. In addition, the findings related to the integration of mine action in national SDG frameworks underpin how a consistent approach serves to foster coherence in planning efforts, allowing mine-affected countries to showcase the contributions of mine action to sustainable development.

MID-TERM REVIEW OF ZIMBABWE'S NATIONAL MINE ACTION STRATEGY 2018-2025

In November 2021, the GICHD visited Zimbabwe for the mid-term strategy review workshop with ZIMAC, HALO Trust, MAG, NPA, and APOPO. The mid-term review revealed significant achievements in implementing Zimbabwe's strategy. All operators – Zimbabwe's National Mine Clearance Units (NMCUs), HALO Trust, NPA, MAG and APOPO participated in the mid-term review workshop. The review included SWOT and Mine action paradigm shift analyses at the strategic goal level, followed by assessing progress made in reaching strategic targets at the objective level.

While Zimbabwe's mine action programme continues to impress with its strong national ownership, great collaboration and coordination, and high operational efficiency, financial sustainability is a key challenge moving forward, with UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's withdrawal of all funding to Zimbabwe. The programme will continue to look into new funding opportunities and also ensure regular and transparent communication with donors moving forward.

REGIONAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR THE BALKANS

The GICHD conducted one-week Regional Quality Management (QM) Course for the Balkans in Belgrad from 24 November to 1 December 2021.

The training focused on building theoretical and practical knowledge through lectures, Q&A sessions, quizzes, polls and indoor and outdoor group exercises, covering the following topics: overview of land release, QM terminology, key QM principles, quality planning of NTS, TS and clearance, mechanical demining operations and QM, accreditation, testing and evaluation of mine action equipment and staff, quality assurance in mine action for operators and national mine action authorities, quality control (QC) in mine action for operators and national mine action authorities and, finally, instigating change in mine action organisations and applying new knowledge. A post-course assessment was conducted and all participants, including four women successfully reached or exceeded the passing threshold of 70% of the post-course assessment.