

## GICHD UPDATE – MASG MEETING – 21 JUNE 2023

### UPDATE ON UKRAINE

The GICHD has supported Ukraine for over ten years. It notably assisted the development of the 2020 Law of Ukraine “on Mine Action in Ukraine” establishing the national mine action authority and the mine action centres. Since February 2022, the GICHD has maintained its direct support to the Ukrainian national authorities and including through a dedicated Country Programme. Ukraine is one of the few countries where GICHD has established a forward based presence via recruitment of national experts/consultants.

The objective of the Centre is to adopt a “whole-of-GICHD” approach when it comes to its support to Ukraine. Therefore, the activities carried out in this country cover a large part of the Centre's service portfolio:

- **Information Management:** the GICHD-developed Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Core is used by Ukrainian national authorities. The system receives new information daily on identified explosive devices, surveyed areas, clearance undertaken and ongoing EORE activities. Data is collected from accredited operators and partners as well as a variety of national sources, and is then used by national authorities for operational planning.
- **EORE:** the GICHD participates as a member of the EORE Working Group for Ukraine, which developed a Q&A on EORE in Ukraine. The Centre also developed an EORE introductory e-learning course which was translated into Ukrainian in 2023 and is supporting the development of a podcast to be delivered by the GICHD with Ukraine’s National Institute for Strategic Studies. Finally, the Centre provided a session on EORE Quality Management during a training led by GICHD in May 2023.
- **Capacity Building/Operational Efficiency:** the Centre provides advice and training to national authorities and other partners on several topics, including NMAS, QM System, IM and NTS.
- **Publications:** the GICHD published the “Explosive Ordnance Guide for Ukraine” describing over 100 types of mines and explosive ordnance found in the country Ukraine. The Guide is available in English and Ukrainian and serves as a practical reference for humanitarian teams working in the field to identify explosive devices.
- **Coordination:** In November 2022, the GICHD organised a donor coordination workshop in Geneva, together with the Ukrainian national authorities, Germany and Switzerland. The meeting acted as an incubator for the concerted and needs-based development of practical solutions to challenges on the ground.

In 2023 and the next few years, the GICHD’s Ukraine Country Programme will be engaged mainly in (i) continuing to provide expert support and advice on strategic and technical issues, (ii) developing tailored “Train the Trainer” initiatives on QMS and NTS in cooperation with the Ukrainian national authorities, (iii) facilitating liaison and exchange visits between Ukrainian authorities and relevant counterparts in other countries and (iv) supporting ground-breaking solutions via the GICHD’s work on the elaboration of fit-for-purpose technical tools and the development of innovative operational processes and procedures in line with IMAS.

Finally, last week, the GICHD hosted a visit from the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Mr. Bogdan Drapiaty. Mr. Drapiaty sits on both the Ukrainian National Mine Action Authority and the Inter-ministerial working group on humanitarian demining. The visit allowed the GICHD to provide an overview of mine action globally, explore operational frameworks and existing good practice, and identify key challenges, opportunities and strategic questions for humanitarian demining in Ukraine.

## **GICHD'S SUPPORT TO ARMENIA**

Following an assessment mission that took place in September 2022, which recommended the development of Armenia's mine action strategy, the GICHD facilitated a strategy stakeholder workshop in-country in December 2022. The GICHD presented on this occasion the strategic planning process and international good practice and lessons learnt from strategic planning around the world. Participating stakeholders also conducted a series of context analysis exercises, findings of which supported the Armenia's Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) with developing its new strategy. The analysis of Armenia's mine action programme context led to lively and insightful discussions. Feedback from CHDE and other partners indicated that the workshop was fruitful, not least in suggesting new ways of thinking about strategic planning. The CHDE's new strategy was approved by the Government of Armenia in June 2023.

In addition, the GICHD and the Director of CHDE agreed to implement and use IMSMA Core as the new information management system for CHDE. As a result, the Centre completed in February 2023 the installation and configuration of IMSMA Core on CHDE's local server. The GICHD also took this opportunity to provide a refresher training on the key components of IMSMA Core to CHDE staff.

## **2022 WORKSHOP OF THE GICHD FRANCOPHONE REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (FRCP)**

After a first online edition in 2021 due to the health situation, the GICHD organised its annual FRCP workshop for the first time on-site, at the Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions de Déminage et de Dépollution (CPADD) in Benin, in 2022. Based on the results of the first workshop in 2021, this meeting focused on the question of the institutional structures to be put in place to deal with contamination by improvised explosive devices, the information management systems to deal with this threat and the EORE activities to be promoted among affected populations.

The workshop brought together some 25 participants representing national authorities, mine action programmes, national arms control commissions and operators active in the region. It was organised in close collaboration with the CPADD and was an excellent opportunity for the GICHD to strengthen its cooperation with this Centre. With the CPADD, the region has a recognised centre of expertise able to provide trainings and organize workshops for experts in the region.

Over the years, the FRCP has been able to position itself as a committed and reliable partner for national authorities, mine action programmes and operators active in the region. More importantly, through the two workshops organised in particular, the FRCP has developed the beginnings of a community of practice in the field of explosive ordnance risk reduction. This development has been reinforced by the fact that members of the programme are benefiting from an increasing number of documents in French. The 2023 FRCP workshop will take place on 17-19 October 2023 again at the CPADD in Bénin.