

GICHD UPDATE – MASG MEETING – 20 OCTOBER 2022

UPDATE ON UKRAINE

Since the beginning of the military attack in February 2022, the GICHD's priority remains to provide support to the country in order to get a clear picture of the extent of contamination and types of explosive ordnance found there, as well as to ensure that the Ukrainian population is informed of the dangers resulting from explosive devices and behave appropriately in order to avoid accidents. In this context, the Centre published in September 2022 the second edition of the GICHD Ukraine Ordnance Guide, which intends to provide a basic explosive ordnance recognition guide for qualified EOD operators in Ukraine conducting mine action activities

At the same time, the extent of the contamination and its impact on the population require further support to the national mine action authorities in Ukraine. To this end, the GICHD is working towards a donor coordination workshop in Geneva from 28 to 30 November 2022. This is envisaged as technical event that seeks to help ensure that international mine action assistance is targeted to the needs of the Ukrainian government. Through this workshop, the GICHD aims to facilitate an open and transparent discussion on the operational challenges and needs of Ukraine's mine action programme. We hope to promote better cooperation between the Ukrainian authorities, donors and operators on the ground to address these challenges, based on a common understanding of the national priorities and available international support.

ASSESSMENT MISSION IN ARMENIA

Based on a request from the Director of the Armenia's Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE), a GICHD delegation travelled to Armenia in September 2022 to conduct an assessment mission of Armenia's mine action programme.

This assessment, conducted jointly by the GICHD and the CHDE, aimed to (i) determine CHDEs' strengths and possible areas for improvements, against standardised criteria and indicators, (ii) record a baseline against which future progress can be measured and (iii) identify areas where capacity development activities are most likely to increase the national capacity, enhance operational efficiency and improve resource utilization.

The following areas were examined:

- CHDE's governance, mandate and roles and responsibilities.
- CHDE's strategic plans, work-plans and their progress.
- CHDE's activities in the fulfilment of its mandate and relevant obligations.

The GICHD has developed a list of observations and recommendations on the national law, strategy, standards, operation and structures that was sent to the CHDE for feedback. In the immediate future, and in response to the above-mentioned recommendations that have been made, the GICHD will start working with the CHDE and UNDP on strategic programming for Mine Action in Armenia, which will start in December 2022.

TECHNICAL SURVEY COURSE IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The GICHD Technical Survey (TS) Training course was held in the NPA Global Training Centre on 26-30 September 2022 in Bosnia-Herzegovina. 15 participants attended this course, coming from national mine action authorities, non-governmental organisations, donor representative, EUFOR and BiH Armed Forces. It provided an excellent platform for exchange of experience between several programmes. The technical simulator TSIM tool, developed by GICHD, was used and several organisations and programmes requested it for their own use. The course covered the following topics :

- Introduction to Land Release and Operational Efficiency
- Introduction to IMAS terminology used in TS
- General Requirements – Principles of TS and TS Process
- Targeted and systematic approaches to TS
- Different Assets available for TS
- Expected Outputs from TS
- Terrain and Threat Analysis Prior to TS
- All Reasonable Effort and Liability Issues surrounding land release
- IM Principles /IM in MA; From data to information: maps and dashboards
- QM Processes for TS
- Cluster Munition Remnant Survey (CMRS)
- New challenges and new technologies in TS

The training course also included the following exercises: Practical data collection (using iPads), TSIM exercise, practical TS scenarios. NPA also delivered a practical demo of SMART system and CMRS.

All participants successfully completed the course. They have also set their own objectives at the beginning of the course and the GICHD will do a follow-up in six months to check to which extent these objectives will have been achieved and how the knowledge and skills acquired during the training practically will have been applied.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN MALI

Since 2019, the GICHD has been supporting UNMAS with the rollout of their Information Management System (IMS). The UNMAS IMS is based on the GICHD's tailored version of Esri's cloud-based products, which are pre-configured for use in a mine action context, called "IMSMA Core". The objective of this project is to harness the potential of Information Management through an integrated and standardised solution for UNMAS programmes, with flexible workflows to account for unique programme needs and mandates.

As part of this overall project, the UNMAS Mali programme has benefitted from GICHD's support. A initial workshop took place in 2019 to identify the programme's user requirements and business workflows, and served as a kick-off for the technical implementation of their IMS. In September 2022, a stakeholder workshop took place to measure progress and take stock of the current state of the implementation. All departments interacting with the system have participated, as well as all involved Implementing Partners. Challenges and solutions were discussed, user requirements were further refined and the implementation plan was adapted. As a result, current operational workflows will be adjusted as per feedback and the implementation of remaining workflows will continue as per the revised plan.