

GICHD UPDATE – MASG MEETING – 24 JUNE 2022

UPDATE ON UKRAINE

A GICHD delegation travelled to Ukraine mid-June 2022. The delegation notably met with the Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine, Mr. Vyacheslav Shapovalov. Specific requests shared by the deputy Minister included increased support on information management with an even greater focus on data security, as well as the delivery of more technical training courses in Ukraine, delivered in Ukrainian.

Additional separate meetings were held with representatives of the national mine action authorities who requested support on thematic areas such as strategic planning, information management, standards, non-technical survey and explosive ordnance risk education.

The GICHD further shared copies of the first edition of GICHD's Explosive Ordnance Guide for Ukraine. The Guide identifies over 100 separate items of explosive ordnance, such as anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, explosive submunitions, and grenades, reported to be found in Ukraine since the conflict began. Drafted over three weeks, it provides urgent guidance to operators conducting mine action activities in Ukraine. The GICHD will continue to update the guide as more explosive ordnance is identified, aiming to assist mine action operators to manage the risks they face in their humanitarian work.

ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS WORKSHOP

The technical note for mine action (TNMA) 07.11/03 on All Reasonable Effort (ARE) has been released in March 2021, with the objective to further detail key elements that are necessary to ensure that ARE is being applied. Following the adoption of this new TNMA, the GICHD consulted 12 countries and 6 operators to better understand good practices and remaining challenges in implementing an ARE approach in land release. As a result, the GICHD organised from 30 May to 3 June 2022 a global workshop which gathered 29 participants, including representatives from 15 national mine action authorities, 6 mine action operators, in addition to representative of two donor countries.

This workshop aimed at ensuring a common understanding of the concept of ARE as well as to promote the use of TNMAS 07.11/03. Key ARE principles and practical implementation of the TNMA was discussed, promoting sound management of mine action and application of land release principles. Sharing good practices, challenges and experience was supported with presentations from various countries and organisations as well as group exercises. The GICHD also took this opportunity to remind some IMAS requirements and also to present an ARE self-assessment tool which has been piloted in Angola. Overall, a strong level of participation has been observed, which contributed to foster cooperation and dialogue on land release. The need for more exchange of experience on such matter was raised.

Moving forward, further efforts need to be done to ensure sound management of mine action programmes and to fully implement land release principles, while making sure that country-specific requirements are clearly defined in national standards. GICHD will continue to support the sector in

those areas with a focus on the intersect between ARE and issues such as liability and residual contamination.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

The GICHD conducted a needs assessment in Yemen in May 2022. This mission was a joint initiative between the GICHD and the Yemen Mine Action Authorities to draw a comprehensive understanding of Yemen's mine action programme capacities and accordingly, better target the support that GICHD can provide to Yemen.

The assessment examined the following areas: governance, mandate as well as roles and responsibilities of the mine action authorities and mine action centre; strategic plans, annual work-plans and progress achieved.

The future steps following this assessment are the following:

1. Exploring the national authorities' strengths and possible areas for improvements, against standardised criteria and indicators;
2. Establishment of a baseline against which future progress can be measured;
3. Identifying areas where capacity development activities are most likely to increase national capacity, enhance operational efficiency and improve resource allocation.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA LONG-TERM RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

From 14 to 16 June 2022, the GICHD and the ASEAN Mine Action Center (ARMAC) organised a workshop in Phnom Penh, to discuss management of residual contamination and risk management in South East Asia, where the national authorities and partners had an opportunity to share success stories, challenges and good practices in the region. The GICHD will continue supporting the NMAAs and other regional and national partners in developing legal and operational frameworks to support mine affected countries in:

- The integration of risk management and management of residual contamination into national policies, legal frameworks and work plans to support improvements in effective programming;
- The development of relevant tools and methods for national authorities and relevant stakeholders, which will support the management of residual explosive risk based on evidence;
- The improvement in the capacity of national authorities and relevant stakeholders to address operational challenges associated with residual risk and help them adopt sustainable management practices;
- The enhancement of regional cooperation by facilitating regional collaboration and exchanges that explore synergies between countries and promote a sustainable technical capacity at the regional level.