

## **MASG MEETING – GICHD WRITTEN UPDATE – 4 DECEMBER 2025**

### **GICHD INNOVATION CONFERENCE 2025**

The GICHD Innovation Conference 2025 was held on 28-30 October 2025 in Luxembourg, bringing together 323 participants from 177 organizations across more than 50 countries, with women representing 25% of attendees. The programme was designed with the inputs of the GICHD Innovation Hub / Innovation Technical Group (ITG), with each session focusing on concrete problem statements driven by field needs, supported by data, and shaping the debates for practical impact. It included five plenary sessions as well as 12 breakout sessions. In addition, more than 15 speed pitches and over 30 exhibitors provided opportunities for highlighting practical solutions and fostering networking.

The conference emphasized that innovation extends beyond technology. Operational integration, human-centred design, and inclusive approaches were identified as critical for sustainable impact. Cost-effectiveness and limited funding remain key challenges, highlighting the need for funding models that support risk-taking, scaling, and human capital. Approaches discussed included leveraging existing humanitarian innovation funding, co-investment schemes with public and private partners, and national and regional innovation funds. The need to place further efforts in transferring innovative tools into practice through test & evaluation and accreditation, developing context specific procedures that turn into practice the guidelines set in IMAS and NMAS was highlighted as a very important step in the process of innovation. Promising results from field tests of UAV-based sensing systems, robotics, explosive substance detection, and environmentally safe disposal of explosives are some of the highlights. Subsurface detection, clutter discrimination, operational analysis and information management remain challenging areas demanding further work.

In 2026, GICHD will conduct new iterations of the Innovation Session and the Innovation Award. These efforts are part of GICHD's broader Innovation Hub, a collaborative space that fosters evidence-based problem-solving, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing to enable sustainable innovation in mine action and ammunition management.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING SUPPORT TO SRI LANKA**

The GICHD has worked closely with Sri Lanka's National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) on strategic planning since early 2015. Since then, the GICHD has contributed to several mid-term strategy reviews, supported the development of implementation plans, and facilitated strategy stock-taking exercises. The GICHD has also collaborated with NMAC to organise donor coordination meetings, bringing together international donors and government representatives to strengthen dialogue, align priorities, and enhance resource mobilisation.

Since 2021, the GICHD has worked with NMAC, the Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian Demining Units (HDU), and national and international operators to develop Sri Lanka's completion process. This support has included drafting a completion process SOP, creating completion survey forms, and developing a completion survey dashboard. The GICHD has also assisted the programme in designing a completion scenario planning tool. Drawing on data from secured funding, land release outputs, and completion survey results, the tool enables evidence-based planning for completion and strengthens transparency and accountability with the Government of Sri Lanka and international donors. Building on the high-level strategic engagement of 2025 – including direct collaboration with the President, the Prime Minister, and several Ministers – the GICHD will

continue to support strategy reviews and stock-taking exercises, contributing to the consolidation of the updated national strategy launched in 2025.

In 2026, the GICHD's support will focus on further reinforcing accountability, transparency, and national ownership. It will also facilitate workshops with regional government representatives to increase their understanding of the mine action programme. By promoting open communication between the Government of Sri Lanka, national stakeholders, and international partners, these efforts aim to build confidence in the programme, enhance cooperation, and help sustain Sri Lanka's leadership and long-term commitment to managing its mine action programme effectively and independently.

## **CLIMATE RESILIENCE PRIORITY-SETTING IN MINE ACTION – METHODOLOGY GUIDE**

The purpose of the Climate Resilience Priority-Setting in Mine Action – Methodology Guide is to support NMAAs and NMACs in incorporating climate resilience considerations within existing national mine action priority-setting and tasking processes, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of mine action programmes, in areas vulnerable to climate related events. It also provides relevant guidance for mine action organizations regarding the link between climate resilience and priority-setting. The methodology responds directly to climate impacts that increasingly affect contaminated regions and aligns with IMAS 07.13, which requires mine action programmes to consider climate and environmental factors early in planning and tasking processes.

The methodology consists of two main tools:

- **Tool I** supports the assessment of the level of integration of climate resilience considerations within existing national mine action priority-setting and tasking processes.
- **Tool II** provides an exhaustive list of climate resilience criteria and indicators that can be tailored to the national context and used to prioritize suspected and confirmed hazardous areas.

The methodology has been piloted in Iraq and Vietnam, generating best-practice examples. The guide begins with an overview of the methodology process and its tools. Key aspects for applying the methodology are presented, followed by detailed guidance of how to use each tool. Its application follows a stepwise cycle: desktop review, assessment using **Tool I**, selection and refinement of climate resilience related criteria/indicators through **Tool II**, weighting, integration into existing processes, and continuous re-evaluation through a multi-stakeholder approach. This supports NMAAs/NMACs in adapting prioritization over time, linking land release directly with climate resilience outcomes and national development policies, and related international obligations.

## **GICHD REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

In 2026 and beyond, at least one quarter of the GICHD activities will take place in the MENA region. To support the effective delivery of GICHD support and ensure agile and sustained engagement across the MENA region, the GICHD will establish a forward-based office in Amman, Jordan. This small office will serve as a regional coordination, advisory and implementation hub, enhancing the GICHD's ability to respond promptly to evolving needs, maintain close partnerships with national and international actors, and support in-country and cross-border activities. In close coordination with the GICHD headquarters in Geneva, this regional office will cover GICHD activities in the following seven contexts: Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza/oPt, Lebanon, Jordan and Libya. The opening of this new regional office is anticipated for spring 2026.