

# Forensic recovery of Human remains in mine/ERW contaminated areas

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ICRC WEC AND FORENSIC TEAMS IN THE PROCESS OF SEARCH AND RECOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS IN ABKHAZIA

VALESKA MARTINEZ LEMUS

FORENSIC SPECIALIST- INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)



- •Georgia and Abkhazia Armed Conflict (1992 1993)
- More than 2200 still missing
- •ICRC Chair of the Bipartite Coordination Mechanism mandated to clarify the fate and whereabouts of the missing and to inform families accordingly
- •ICRC lead in the processes of search, recovery and identification of the remains of the missing
- 5-year Strategy







Excavation / Exhumation process



Analysis of the remains/Identification process



# WeC support: Assessment and Safe recovery









#### WeC and Forensic in the field









## Mechanical / Manual Exploration







### Local Pattern?: Civilian v/s Military cases









#### WeC – Forensic Challenges

- Application of the protocols for the side of Non-specialized personnel in ERW participating in the recovery of the remains
- 2. Identify the patterns of ERW associated to the remains, taking into consideration the context and the background for the coming cases
- 3. Local Capacity building in ERW manipulation:
- To support the operation and
- To support to the authorities and the local population when items are found.