

**MASG Meeting  
9 February 2017  
Room XXVII, UN Palais des Nations, Geneva**

## GICHD Update

### Afghanistan Donor Coordination Workshop, 27-29 March 2017

The GICHD will facilitate the 2017 Afghanistan Donor Coordination Workshop, occurring from 27-29 March in Geneva. The Workshop is organised by the US Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) in partnership with Afghanistan's Ministry of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs. The event will bring together representatives of donor countries and Afghanistan's mine action implementing organisations (both national and international), to discuss the challenges and solutions for clearing Afghanistan of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and assisting survivors. The workshop will also provide a crucial venue for Afghanistan's Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) to address the critical issues affecting national mine action planning, as the National Authority works to address the threat to the population posed by mines and ERW while promoting stability and development. The Workshop will provide the context for enhancing effective partnerships between capacity on the ground in Afghanistan and the donor community supporting mine action efforts.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mine Action Donor Seminar, 3-5 April 2017

Today's conflicts see a resurgence of mines (particularly those that are improvised) and contamination from broader explosive remnants of war that contributes to a marked increase in victim numbers. The national and international response should be coordinated over both the short-term to support humanitarian and stabilisation initiatives, and over the longer-term to promote resettlement and development goals. The GICHD is organising the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mine Action Donor Seminar, which will bring together donor agencies involved in funding mine action-related activities. The seminar aims at:

- Strengthening basic knowledge on mine action
- Reviewing key mine action topics that are considered of particular importance (e.g. Completion Initiatives, Innovation, IEDs, SDGs, RBM/measuring success)
- Facilitating information sharing and providing an opportunity for participants to exchange views and explore synergies particularly in relation to strategies and priorities.

## Ageing of mines in Colombia

Understanding the ageing process of landmines in Colombia has greater importance than in many other country contexts, as most of the landmine-type devices in the country are improvised. These improvised explosive devices (IEDs) tend to age much more rapidly than standard industrially-manufactured mines which, in a majority of cases, reduce the risk presented by a device.

While the degradation of landmines is a phenomenon that is known in Colombia, most information on ageing is anecdotal. There has been no systematic compilation of evidence that can confidently be used in neither the land release process nor in strategic planning – including the planning of exit strategies for donors and operators.

In recognition of the significance of the subject, the GICHD is working with the Colombian civilian national mine action authority, the 'Dirección para la Acción Integral Contra Minas Antipersonal' (DAICMA) in investigating ageing and degradation of IEDs, with a focus on those used as anti-personnel mines. This research will engage a wide variety of civil and military, state and non-state actors, both national and international, and will ultimately contribute to Colombia's efforts to declare Colombia free of landmines by its treaty deadline in 2021. What is more, improved understanding of ageing processes gained in Colombia will be transferable to other country contexts and is thus expected to be instructive in dealing with improvised and industrially produced mines and other weapons on a global scale.

## National mine action strategies

### Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is on track to developing its first national mine action strategy. Following an interactive and successful workshop facilitated by the the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) and the GICHD in Harare between 13-16 December 2016 a combination of group work and presentations has laid the groundwork for drafting a national strategy with all relevant actors. ZIMAC anticipates that this strategy will be formally adopted by the government during the second half of 2017 and will provide a common roadmap for mine action activities in Zimbabwe.

### Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In 2017 the GICHD will support DRC's national MA authority (CCLAM) with developing the country's next national mine action strategy. This new national strategy will build on progress achieved with the previous National Strategic Plan of Mine Action (2012 – 2016) and will promote more effective and efficient operations, as well as DRC's timely completion of its APMBC Article 5 obligations. The GICHD will also support DRC to plan for the country's sustainable management of residual contamination.