

Statement delivered by  
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*CLEARANCE SEGMENT*

Thank you Chair,

Efficiency and effectiveness of clearance operations are underpinned by accurate surveys that define the nature and the extent of mine and ERW contamination, and on Information Management processes and systems which support necessary decision-making and reporting requirements.

Regarding the latter, most mine action programmes utilise GICHD supported tools and specifically IMSMA – the Information Management System for Mine Action – to store and manage data. Indeed about 40 countries and territories use IMSMA worldwide.

The GICHD is pleased to announce that it will launch a new version of IMSMA (called IMSMA Core) during the upcoming UN Advisors and National Directors Meeting in February next year in Geneva.

IMSMA Core is much more than just a software upgrade; it is an entirely new approach to Information Management Systems. Its design was steered by a user group drawn from the sector and is based on off-the-shelf software that can be configured to fit national programmes' specific operational and reporting requirements.

The software tools are state-of-the-art Geographic Information Systems (GIS for short), provided by the GIS market leader Esri. These allow the delivery and sharing of near-real time maps and reports on the extent of land contamination that can also be



easily integrated with other humanitarian and development datasets and additional mapping information.

Major improvements have been seen in survey approaches and tools in recent years. For instance, many of the challenges of managing paper processes have been addressed through the use of mobile technologies such as smart phones and tablets and through Unmanned Aerial Systems. IMSMA Core has the ability to embrace these technologies into seamless information management processes.

Thanks to the strategic partnership between the GICHD and Esri, the Centre has access to GIS tools at significantly reduced prices. The net effect is that the sector will have access to a more powerful IMSMA at a lower overall cost.

IMSMA Core is currently being trialled by the Mines Advisory Group in Iraq, by Handicap International in Syria and by UNMAS in Gaza. There is a planned roll-out of the new system in 2018 and beyond.

We believe that IMSMA Core will provide the mine action community with a significantly improved means to support the process of clearing all *known* and *suspected areas* of contamination in a country and to manage any residual contamination that may remain after States have met their clearance obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty.

Thank you.